

# PIFSC Report on the American Samoa Longline Fishery Calendar Year 2009<sup>1</sup>

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The American Samoa federal longline logbook data are summarized by date of haul as shown in Table 1. All longline logbook data submitted by holders of federal limited entry longline permits for fishing activities during 2009 have been processed by staff at the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) and are reported in this report. As of January 28, 2010, the documented delinquency rate for 2009 was 2.2% with data from only 4 out of 175 longline vessel trips not included in this report. Therefore, the data in this report are preliminary and are from the logs submitted to DMWR as of January 28, 2010.

During calendar year 2009, 26 vessels turned in longline logs for sets made during the year (Figure 1). The logbooks submitted by the 26 vessels indicated they made 4,601 sets and set 14,206,794 hooks. Even though the number of vessels turning in logs decreased by 7% from 2008 (2 fewer boats in 2009), the number of sets decreased by only 2.7% (Figure 2) and the number of hooks set decreased by only 1.1% (Figure 3). This is fairly remarkable considering the significant negative impact to shore-based facilities and infrastructure in American Samoa caused by the September 29, 2009 tsunami, and we note that the majority of the decreases in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter were offset by increases in effort earlier in the year.

Albacore continued to dominate the catch with 211,220 fish caught in 2009 (Figure 4) which is a 3.3% increase over the catch of last year. Catches of skipjack tuna decreased by 6% from last year, while catches of yellowfin tuna increased by 9% and bigeye tuna increased by 20% (Figure 5). Catches of mahimahi, wahoo and billfish for 2009 increased by 65%, 28%, and 26%, respectively, while the catch of sharks decreased by 5% compared to 2008 (Figure 6).

The albacore catch per unit of effort (CPUE) decreased slightly to 14.87 fish per 1000 hooks in 2009 compared to a CPUE of 14.21 fish per 1000 hooks in 2008 (Figure 7). The catch per 1000 hooks of skipjack tuna decreased by 5% while the catch per 1000 hooks for yellowfin tuna increased by 10% and the catch per 1000 hooks for bigeye tuna increased by 20% when compared to their 2008 values (Figure 8). The catch per 1000 hooks of mahimahi, wahoo and billfish increased by 69%, 30%, and 29%, respectively, while the catch per 1000 hooks of sharks decreased by 5% compared to 2008 (Figure 9).

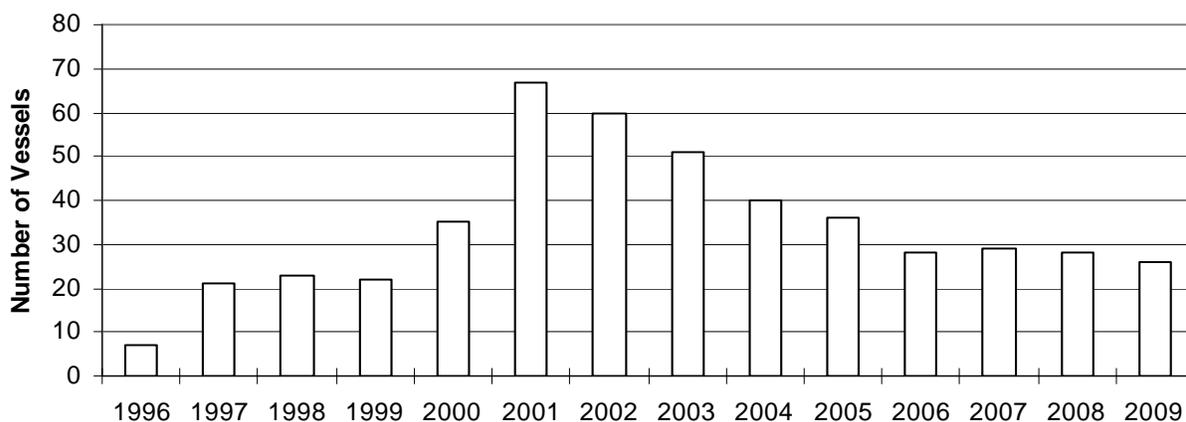
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<sup>1</sup> PIFSC Data Report DR-10-003  
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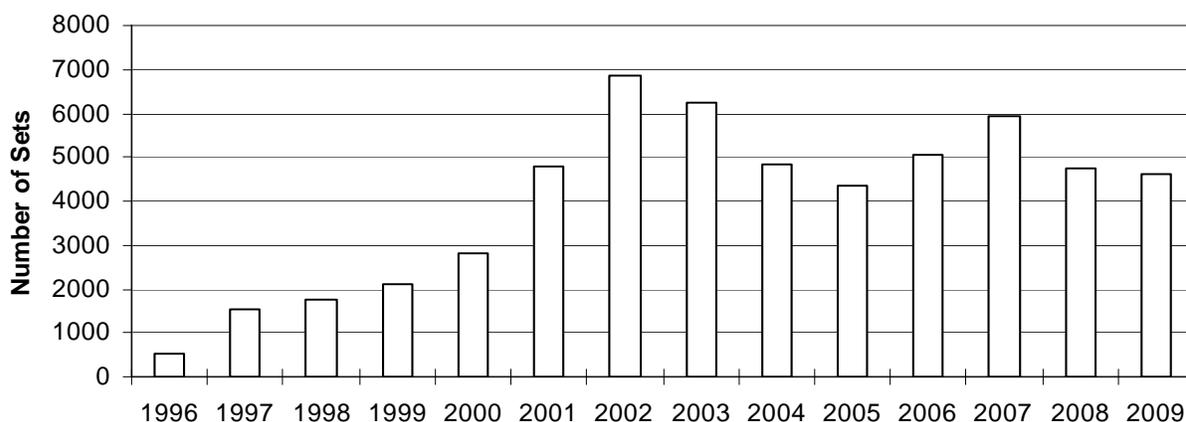
**Table 1. Summary of fish catch and nominal fishing effort by American Samoa longline vessels during calendar year 2009 based on longline logbooks submitted before January 28, 2010**

<b>TRIP INFORMATION</b>				
	Number of Vessels:		26	
	Number of Trips:		175	
	Number of Sets:		4,601	
	1000's of Hooks Set:		14,207	
	Number of Light Sticks Used:		714	
<b>CATCH INFORMATION</b>				
<b>Species</b>	<b>Number Caught</b>	<b>Number Kept</b>	<b>Number Released</b>	<b>Number Caught per 1000 Hooks</b>
<b>BILLFISH</b>				
Black marlin	28	2	26	0.00
Blue marlin	3,146	660	2,486	0.22
Striped marlin	331	116	215	0.02
Sailfish	629	64	565	0.04
Spearfish	1,254	145	1,109	0.09
Swordfish	289	205	84	0.02
<b>TOTAL BILLFISH</b>	<b>5,677</b>	<b>1,192</b>	<b>4,485</b>	<b>0.40</b>
<b>SHARKS</b>				
Blue shark	3,858	18	3,840	0.27
Shortfin mako shark	334	7	327	0.02
Thresher shark	318	2	316	0.02
White tip oceanic shark	870	8	862	0.06
Sharks (unknown)	190	2	188	0.01
<b>TOTAL SHARKS</b>	<b>5,570</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>5,533</b>	<b>0.39</b>
<b>TUNA</b>				
Albacore tuna	211,220	210,547	673	14.87
Bigeye tuna	8,444	7,881	563	0.59
Bluefin tuna	13	2	11	0.00
Skipjack tuna	32,972	25,662	7,310	2.32
Yellowfin tuna	16,124	15,248	876	1.13
<b>TOTAL TUNA</b>	<b>268,773</b>	<b>259,340</b>	<b>9,433</b>	<b>18.92</b>
<b>OTHER PELAGICS</b>				
Mahimahi	3,187	1,596	1,591	0.22
Moonfish	685	124	561	0.05
Oilfish	6,877	323	6,554	0.48
Pomfret	1,333	131	1,202	0.09
Wahoo	13,660	10,164	3,496	0.96
<b>TOTAL OTHER PELAGICS</b>	<b>25,742</b>	<b>12,338</b>	<b>13,404</b>	<b>1.81</b>
<b>NON-PMUS</b>				
Pelagic fishes (unknown)	719	2	717	0.05
<b>TOTAL NON-PMUS</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>0.05</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL SPECIES</b>	<b>306,481</b>	<b>272,909</b>	<b>33,572</b>	<b>21.57</b>

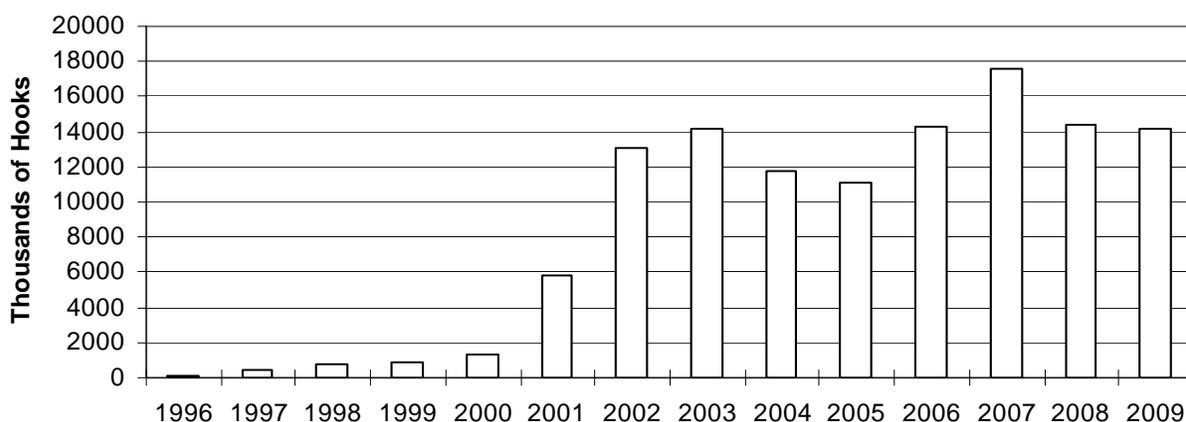
**Figure 1. American Samoa Longline Vessels by Year**



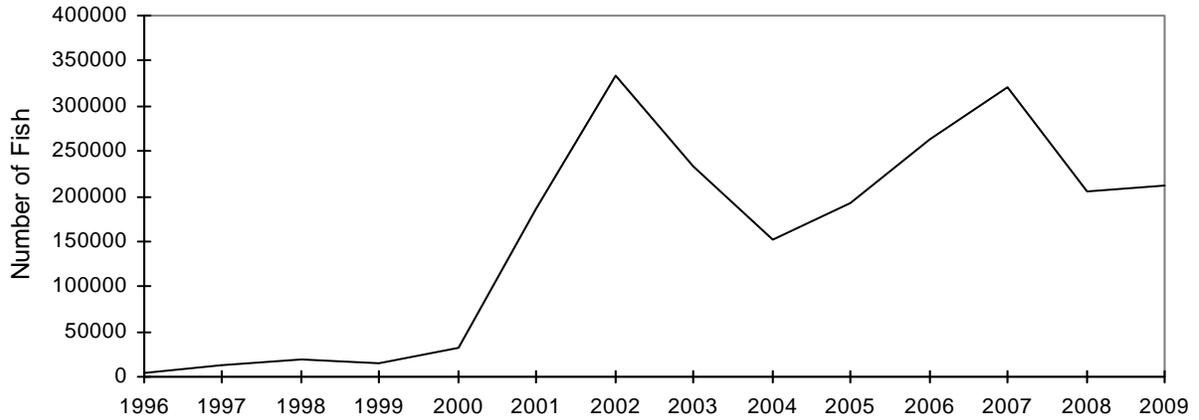
**Figure 2. Number of Sets by American Samoa Longline Vessels by Year**



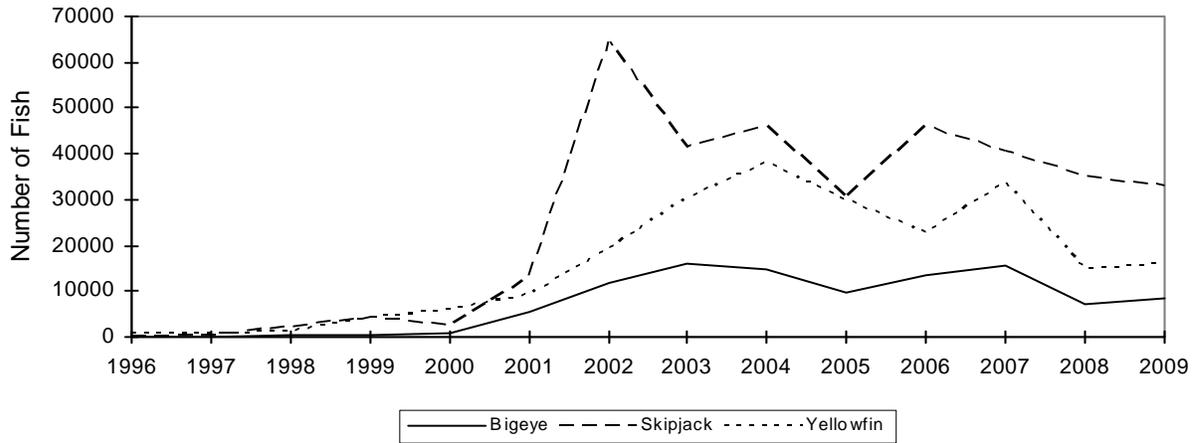
**Figure 3. Number of Hooks Set by the American Samoa Longline Fleet by Year**



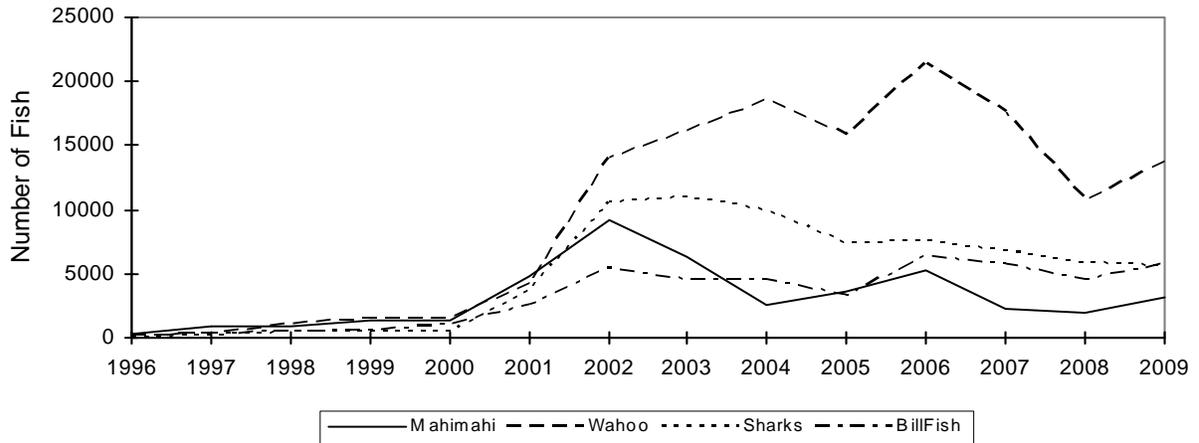
**Figure 4. American Samoa Longline Albacore Catch by Year**



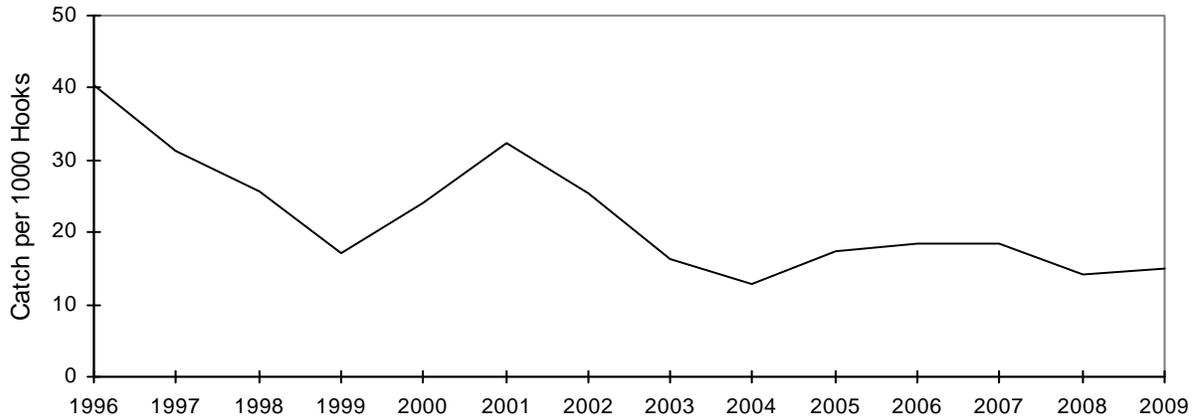
**Figure 5. American Samoa Longline Tuna Catch by Year**



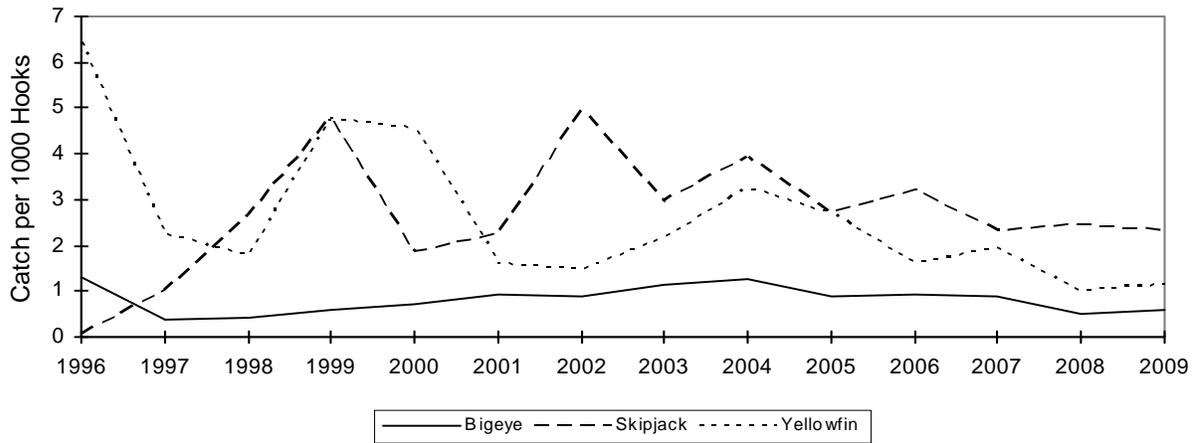
**Figure 6. American Samoa Longline Catch of Miscellaneous Pelagic Fish by Year**



**Figure 7. American Samoa Longline Albacore Catch per 1000 Hooks by Year**



**Figure 8. American Samoa Longline Tuna Catch per 1000 Hooks by Year**



**Figure 9. American Samoa Longline Catch of Other Pelagic Fish per 1000 Hooks by Year**

