



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
PACIFIC OCEANIC FISHERY INVESTIGATIONS
P. O. Box 3830, HONOLULU, T. H.



PACIFIC OCEANIC FISHERY INVESTIGATIONS
2570 DOLE STREET
HONOLULU, T. H.



PACIFIC OCEANIC FISHERY INVESTIGATIONS

A. Origin of investigations.

Authorized by Public Law 329 (80th Congress) in 1947 which directed the Secretary of the Interior, through the Fish and Wildlife Service, to conduct fishing explorations and related oceanographical and biological studies to insure maximum development and utilization of the high seas fishery resources of our territories and island possessions in the tropical and subtropical Pacific.

To effectuate this directive, the Service has set up the unit known as Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations at Honolulu, the base of operations.

B. Financing.

Original appropriations - \$970,000, to cover vessel conversion and laboratory construction, and equipment for vessels and laboratory.

Current operating budget - \$760,000 per year.

C. Facilities.

1. Our three vessels are:

- a. The HUGH M. SMITH - 128 foot tuna clipper type vessel equipped for oceanographical and biological research as well as live-bait and long-line tuna fishing.
- b. ~~The HENRY O'MALLEY - 128 foot tuna clipper type vessel outfitted mainly for live bait tuna fishing.~~
- c. The JOHN R. MANNING - 85 foot purse seine type vessel designed particularly for purse-seining tuna according to the California method.

2. The laboratory - built on land contributed by the Territory in a location adjacent to the University of Hawaii. Construction was completed June 9, 1950; installation of equipment is now practically complete.

3. Personnel:

- a. Scientific and technical staff - 20 persons.
- b. Vessel crews and clerical personnel - 75 persons.

D. What we plan to do.

1. Find where and at what seasons tuna are abundant enough to support large-scale commercial fishing.

2. Learn what types of gear are most effective and, if necessary, develop improved types to do the job better.

3. Gain the scientific facts necessary to maintain the productivity of tuna stocks in perpetuity.

E. Where we plan to do it.

1. Initially we will work in the area reaching from Hawaii and Line Islands on the east to Midway and Phoenix Islands on the west.

2. Eventually we will cover the area westward as far as the Marianas and Carolines and southward to American Samoa.

F. How we plan to do it.

1. By exploratory fishing with standard types of commercial fishing.

2. By experimental fishing with new or modified gear and methods.

3. By studying the oceanography to learn what conditions make good fishing.

4. By studying the tunas themselves to find out:

a. Their food habits.

b. Their reactions to various water conditions.

c. Their reactions to various types of fishing gear.

d. The limits of the home grounds of each segment of the tuna population.

e. Their migrations.

f. Their spawning times and places.

g. Their growth.

h. Their rates of natural replenishment.