

GHB 1980

NWHI
NEWSCLIPPING AND OTHERS



Underwater Explosion

Eric Stein's Sept. 24 letter, "Bombing Fish Sanctuary," questions the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Navy's decision for the recent detonation of bombs at Molokini Island, a state Marine Life Conservation District. He and your readers deserve to know all the considerations involved in the matter.

We accept that there was damage to some coral and fishes killed. But our decision to accept the Navy's method to detonate the bombs was not hard for us to make knowing beforehand what would happen if the ordnance should explode with people diving in the area. The circumstances clearly left no practical alternative for us.

The bombs posed a direct hazard to the safety of our residents and visitors. As a charter captain and apparent eyewitness to the "devastation," Capt. Stein must also be aware of the large number of people who snorkel and dive at Molokini each year increasing the probability of an accidental detonation. He has

also seen direct evidence that these bombs (which were fused) were "live" and damage occurred because the bombs could and did explode. It is rumored that people handled the bombs, posed for pictures with them, and even picked them up.

Stein insists "where there is a will there is a way," but gives no indication of professional training or experience in handling live ordnance. The department, not staffed to handle live ordnance, depended on the Navy's expertise to dispose of the hazard. We asked and the Navy agreed to remove the bombs without exploding them at Molokini, if it was at all possible. However, in assessing the bombs' condition, its best professional judgment deemed it too dangerous to move the bombs. There were only two alternatives: leave the bombs to remain a hazard or detonate them in place. The final choice remains obvious. Under the same circumstances we would make the same decision again.

Stein also claims that there was "almost no" advance warning. As a responsible charter captain, no doubt he listens routinely to the operation.

In June of this year, when the disposal operation was originally planned, the division did make specific efforts to warn charter captains well in advance. We feel that the second notice was probably insufficient, and we have met with the Navy (with a representative of a charter boat association sitting in) to discuss ways to improve our coordination. We appreciate the assistance of the Navy and its expertise in ordnance disposal technology.

We would welcome the opportunity to sit down with anyone who would offer practical and positive suggestions.

Henry M. Sakuda

Director
Division of Aquatic Resources
State Department of
Land and Natural Resources

4-28-85
HAWAIIA Bay
C15" green turtle -
spear hole jaw ventral
24 hours decay -
found "in dead
file fish"

Scientists still mystified by

The first of the dead file fish were noticed late last spring. Large clusters of the four-inch fish were seen floating belly up by people on fishing boats several miles off the Windward and Leeward shores of Oahu. A few months later, the fish started to appear on Island beaches and today cover the sands of Oahu by the millions.

This small species is found only in Island waters. The ancient Hawaiians called them o'illuwiwi (literally "o'ili" means "to make a sudden appearance.")

They believed them to foretell the death of a king or chief. Those who believe in this theory point out that the latest file fish arrival coincided with the death of the Russian leader Konstantin Chernenko. A previous influx in 1944 preceded the death of President Franklin Roosevelt and a large one in 1975 occurred prior to Mao Tse-tung's death.

Although many scientists today would consider such connections coincidental, there is little scientific evidence to provide a better explanation as to why these large fish kills occur.

Bishop Museum fish expert Jack Randall said he has never seen a file fish inundation as big as this. Randall said the fish lay eggs that drift with the current. The small fish then drift with currents until they near Island waters, where they look for places to feed and take shelter.

According to Bob Schroeder, a University of Hawaii zoology student, the file fish have increased 100 fold over the past four years. Schroeder, who is currently completing his doctorate in reef ecology, said he had seen dramatic increases in the number of file fish appearing on a reef on Midway Island for the past four years. He said he has seen the number of fish in his reef study area increase from three to four at a time to more than 400 during the period.



from the sea

Mike Markrich

According to Waikiki Aquarium curator Bruce Carlson, the influx has occurred not only on Midway and Oahu but throughout the Island chain. Although large numbers of file fish washed ashore before, what has surprised both biologists and people who fish this time are the hundreds of larger fish such as uhu (parrot fish), yellow tang, aweoweo, trumpet fish, humuhumunukunukuapua'a and at least 10 other species that have washed ashore with the file fish.

"In all my life I've never seen anything like it," said longtime fisherman Ernest Steiner. Veteran trap fisherman Sam Kaolulo said he remembered the large inundation of file fish in 1944 but has never seen large numbers of other fish die with them.

State aquatic veterinarian Dr. Jim Brock has been studying the phenomenon since the file fish started appearing on the beaches in early March. He said 98 percent of the fish that wash ashore are file fish, but he is as mystified as anyone about why the larger fish are dying.

"I have a theory that the carrying capacity of the reef is being greatly exceeded — reef fish are competing with file fish for food and space" and some of them are dying, he said. Brock said he has dissected other species that have washed

up and found that several had lower than normal liver-to-body-weight ratios. He interprets this to mean that "the fish were not getting enough (food) to meet their needs."

He examined the tissue of puffer fish, he said, and found signs of emaciation. Brock said he thinks that hunger has weakened the reef fish and made them more susceptible to disease and predators.

Brock said the wide distribution of the fish makes it unlikely that fish died from chemicals or toxins from a specific source.

He suggested that some of the uhu may have been so weakened by competition for food or by disease that they were unable to cope with the large storm waves that hit the island over the past few months. Brock says he has noticed a significant drop in large fish washing up on the beaches since the waters have become calmer. He asks anyone who sees large fish such as uhu on the beach to call him at 845-9561 so that he can examine them.

Randall said the answer may be more complicated. He said there are now so many file fish that they have moved from their regular habitats on the reef to deeper waters.

But he added that not all of the food is being eaten. During a recent 100-foot dive off Makua, he noticed a large school of what appeared to be hungry file fish swimming around but saw enough sea grass and algae on nearby rocks to feed other fish.

Randall said he believes three factors are at work — a successful spawning of fish out at sea, favorable currents that

death of Island file fish



The o'liuwiwi —
the file fish.



A school of file fish washed up dead on the shore.

take the young fish to Hawaii and a shortage of predators. He said tuna normally eat the file fish young when they are out at sea.

But, as Randall pointed out, "We don't have the aku and the ahi down here that we did before that would eat the file fish . . . If the high spawning

rate continues, it's possible that if we have fewer predators we are going to see large numbers of file fish on the beaches every year."

Fight over fishing method

In at least two incidents last fall, gunfire erupted as Big Island and Honolulu fishing boats fought over the ahi grounds in the waters near Hilo.

John Romero, owner of one of Hilo's largest fishing fleets, said a Big Island fishing boat was nearly run down off Pepeekeo

Point and its parachute sea anchor was cut when the device was found drifting near the Honolulu boat's main line. He said the two Hilo fishermen fired their guns to force the Honolulu boat to back off. Romero said he didn't witness the incident but learned of it when his captains brought their boats in the following morning.

"There is no reason to come that close except to intimidate," said April Romero, John's wife and partner in the fishing business. "They (the crew on the Honolulu boat) were running over the Hilo boat's chute (sea anchor). What if you run into the boat? Then you're history, man . . . If your lights are on and they don't see you, you don't have any alternative but to shoot."

In another incident, involving a boat owned by Honolulu fishermen Jim Cook and Sean Martin, a shotgun was fired in warning at their vessel by a Big Islander while they were bringing up their line in the waters near Hilo.

John Romero said the conflict stems from Honolulu-based longliners moving into near-shore Big Island waters to fish. Longliners are ahi fishing boats 50 to 80 feet long that lay out as many as 1,500 baited hooks suspended from long lines made of heavy-gauge nylon filament and supported by large floaters.

Romero said the long lines interfere with the ability of the Big Island ika-shibi (squid-tuna) boats to maneuver in their fishing areas. Ika-shibi boats are

20- to 30-foot fiberglass boats that use hand lines baited with squid to catch ahi at night.

Romero said the smaller boats are limited to waters within 10 miles of shore. They usually put baited hooks over the side, set a sea anchor behind the boat and fish while drifting slowly with the current. When the long lines are set where his boats fish, Romero said, the vessels cannot avoid running into the lines.

But Honolulu longliner operator Martin said the conflict is not simply a question of one group drifting into another. He said all longliners follow the direction of their main line at 2 miles per hour and, while pulling the line up, are in no position to steer toward anybody.

His partner Cook added that by 11 p.m., when his longliner is finishing pulling up its line, there can be as many as 15 ika-shibi boats drifting in the waters nearby — often without the legally required running lights, so as not to give away their positions. If the longliners come too close to the ika-shibi boats, it is only because they don't see the vessels, said Smith.

John Romero said there is no reason the two groups cannot co-exist. The Honolulu boats set lines early in the morning and recover them before midnight; the ika-shibi boats work through the night.

He said longliners have a greater range and unlimited season, in that ika-shibi operations take place from March to October. He said longliners could stay farther offshore while ika-shibi boats work near shore.

But as catch rates have dropped in recent years, the only available schools of tuna near Honolulu have been found in the waters near Hilo. Both groups scramble for fewer fish. Schedules overlap, causing competition and conflict.

"It can get pretty nasty out there," admitted Cook. He said he, like other longliners in the Honolulu fleet, has had lines and floaters cut by ika-shibi



Honolulu boats like these are in

boats. The replacement cost of a line is \$30,000, he said.

Martin agreed. "There is an area three to 15 miles from the shore that is considered traditional ika-shibi grounds. We stay out of it because we think it's not worth the heartache of losing gear . . . Having those guys mad at us doesn't do us any good."

State laws guarantee equal ocean access to all, but state and county jurisdiction extends only three miles offshore and the state has no ocean enforcement capability. (Enforcement beyond three miles of shoreline

ls triggers violence at sea



involved in the dispute with Hilo.

must be done by the Coast Guard because that area falls under federal jurisdiction.)

One Honolulu fisherman from another boat, who asked not to be identified, said he resents being kept out of an area by "Johnny-come-latelys." He said the area off the Kumukahi coast near Hilo has been fished by Honolulu boats since the end of World War II, while the large-scale ika-shibi fishery is less than 10 years old.

"Those guys think they own the ocean," he said. But he added that the real problem is "too many guys trying to catch

not too many fish."

"It used to be that 20 guys would go out and each one would catch 10 fish," he said. "Now you've got 40 boats out there and only three catch anything."

As a result of a state-sponsored effort to provide low-interest loans to owners of small boats, the number of ika-shibi boats increased rapidly. While there were fewer than 20 boats in the early 1970s, there are now, according to state officials, more than 100 boats working there full-time.

As ika-shibi boats struggled

to survive, the number of Honolulu-based longliners increased. Many West Coast boats came to Hawaii in 1980-82 to fish for albacore when the fisheries off California stopped being productive. When the Honolulu Bumble Bee tuna cannery stopped buying albacore last year, many West Coast boats converted to longlining and entered the fresh-fish market to survive.

Last fall's incidents were not reported to Big Island police, to the state Division of Aquatic Resources or to the Coast Guard. Romero said that there is little rapport between people who fish and the law. Out at sea, he said, you can't call the police; you must depend on other boats for help.

You can't afford to alienate anyone by reporting the offender to the police, he said, because you might have to turn to that same person in a life-and-death situation.

Cook said his company has done everything possible since the incident to stay out of the disputed area. Now his boat fishes for ahi 300 miles from Honolulu and Martin says the catch rate is steady.

But there still is tension on the Big Island and, as the ika-shibi boats prepare for the new season, few believe that the incidents are at an end.

Said April Romero: "Everybody was screaming about whether so-and-so did this or whether somebody else didn't do that. Then it was, 'If you're going to do that, I'll cut your line.' It goes on and on — and nothing ever gets solved."

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Bottom fish nearly depleted — intensive overfishing is

"Here it comes, and it's yellow just like the other one," said Phil Kelly as his motor boat Silver Star heeled — tipped — to one side and he pulled on his trap line.

The heavy steel and chicken wire trap was one of four Kelly had set three days earlier along a steep underwater ledge off the Waianae Coast. The traps had been baited with fresh aku but as crew members Kale Smith and Alex Toro pulled the heavy trap up into the boat, all that could be seen inside were a moray eel and 20 to 30 of the small yellow Tahitian perch known locally as taape.

The moray eel was released over the side but what was left of the catch looked as if it could barely cover expenses. Although the next trap would bring in several palani and a large slipper lobster, Kelly said he "wouldn't make a dime" off the taape he had caught.

After a day's work in setting and pulling up the traps, the taape would bring less than 40 cents a pound — almost enough to pay for the \$10 worth of aku he had bought and the \$25 he spent for gas.

Kelly's problems are like those of other trappers who have found the bottom fish grounds off Oahu so overfished that, as one man said, "There's nothing left out there." Although it might seem difficult to overfish areas 50 to 900 feet deep, both marine biologists and people in the fishing business say it has been done in the waters around Oahu.

National Marine Fisheries Service expert Steve Ralston

said his research has found that intensive overfishing has depleted Oahu's bottom fish population to the point where every time one fish is caught, it makes it that much more difficult for another fish to grow and reproduce.

Unlike reef fish, he said, bottom fish grow to maturity slowly. If too many are taken and their numbers drop off, so, too, do their chances for reproduction. The problem on Oahu and some of the Neighbor Islands is that the fish are easily taken with the right equipment.

Ralston said different types of bottom fish, such as opakapaka, can be found on undersea ledges at particular depths. A person fishing with a depth sounder can pinpoint these locations and, because the fish population is so concentrated, take more than half of it with handlines in two trips. Other means, such as traps or scuba gear, can bring in even more fish in less time if conditions are right, he said.

Another theory given for the low levels of bottom fish is that as the fish are selectively removed from their habitats, they are replaced by the taape who live and feed where the bottom fish once did. Taape, a yellow fish imported from Tahiti in the mid-1950s, grows quickly because it has few natural predators in Hawaiian waters.

Kelly uses his depth sounder to locate points where he can lay his traps. He explained that he must do this with great care because he fears that if he lays his traps in too accessible a location they may be emptied

or stolen by scuba divers who compete with him for fish.

And the stakes can be high. A trap full of kumu once brought him \$300. He hopes for that to happen again, but said conditions are so bad that if he had better job opportunities than fishing he would do something else. He is now considering trap fishing off the Neighbor Islands.

Veteran Waianae trapper Samuel Kaolulo, 63, who has trapped fish off Waianae since the 1930s, believes the problem is simply that "there are more fishermen than fish."

Although Ralston said a fishing ban in certain areas might enable the fish to replenish themselves, Kaolulo is not optimistic.

"They've been hit too hard already. I don't think the fish will ever get a chance to grow back," he said.

Why then do so many people continue to go after bottom fish?

"Some don't have respect. Some are ignorant," he said. "Some just catch what they need while others try to flood the market. I just can't give you the right answer."

ed here blamed



**from
the sea**
mike markrich

Alex Toro, Kale Smith and Phil Kelly bring up a fish trap off the Waianae Coast.

Advertiser photo

\$16.50

\$10.00

\$17.00

634 Post-it Note Pad

634 Post-it Note Pad

City Planners Set Sights on Tiny Islands

It may be just a windswept rock covered with guano but city planners believe Mokolua Island off Kailua Bay should be part of a new planning district.

So, for that matter, should all the islets, reefs and shoals within three miles of Oahu and among the remote Northwest Hawaiian Islands beyond Kauai, they say.

By statute, all of these unpeopled isles are part of the City and County of Honolulu. Federal wildlife agencies, however, have had effective jurisdiction over them.

The city's general planning department recommends the offshore possessions be included in the Oahu General Plan — in case the responsibility of administering them is some day transferred to the city government.

The City Planning Commission is now reviewing the recommendation and will hold a public hearing on the matter, according to Chief Planning Officer Donald Clegg.

The City Council will make the final decision after holding a second public hearing, Clegg said.

The Northwest Hawaiian Islands stretch from Nihoa Island to Kure Island, which is almost 1,400 miles from Oahu.

THE LARGEST is the chain is Kaula, southwest of Niihau and used by the U.S. Navy for target practice.

The Coast Guard mans a navigational station on Kure but other islands, rocks, volcanic cones and other landmarks host only turtles, seals and millions of birds with big feet.

The Council in 1983 requested the Northwest Hawaiian Islands be considered for a ninth development district. Oahu now is divided into eight planning districts.

The following year, the Council asked Oahu's offshore islands be included in the new district.

1983

NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, extending in a long chain northwest from Kauai, are a little-known part of the State. With the exception of the Midway Islands, all the islands are included in the City and County of Honolulu. The Midway Islands are under control of the federal government and are not part of the State of Hawaii. In 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt established the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge under Executive Order No. 1019. The refuge includes all the islands and reefs from Nihoa Island to Pearl and Hermes Reef and places them under the management of the Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The boundaries are currently disputed by the State.

Geographically, the archipelago begins at Nihoa and extends 1,091 miles (1,756 kilometers) to Kure Atoll. A series of submarine peaks, the Emperor Seamounts, extends beyond Kure to the Aleutian Islands. Collectively, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands comprise 3,328 acres (13.5 square kilometers) of emerged land. The largest group of islands are the Midway Islands having a total land area of 1,280 acres (about 5 square kilometers). Some of the submerged reefs rival the main islands in size. The islands receive 20 to 30 inches of rain per year, and annual average temperatures vary between 50° and 90°F. Although most of the vegetation is typical of pantropical strand communities, unique terrestrial and marine ecological communities comprise the last near-pristine environments in Hawaii. Eighteen species of seabirds breed on the islands, with a total estimated population of 10 million birds. There are also three endemic species of land birds, and the endangered Hawaiian monk seal and the threatened green sea turtle breed onshore.

The islands have a history of exploitation by guano miners, feather hunters, mother-of-pearl divers, sealers, and fishermen. Laysan Island was completely denuded by introduced rabbits in 1913. The Midway Islands have been vastly altered by introduced vegetation and rats. Despite these disruptions to wildlife habitats, extensive seabird rookeries exist on both islands. Only the relatively inaccessible island of Nihoa retains much of its endemic biota in spite of extensive terracing by ancient Polynesian settlers. A Tahitian-like culture, isolated from the rest of Hawaii, once existed on Nihoa and the Necker Islands.

Most of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands were discovered by accident. French Frigate, Maro, Pearl and Hermes, Lisianski, and Kure are names of ships or captains of ships that grounded on the treacherous

modern navigation.

Currently, three of these islands or island groups are inhabited: French Frigate Shoals has a U.S. Fish and Wildlife field station on Tern Island; Midway Islands, with a Naval Air Station, had a military and civilian population of 468 in 1980; and a U.S. Coast Guard LORANCE base on Kure Atoll is manned by about 20 persons. Researchers and fishermen visit the area with increasing frequency. Permission to land on any of the islands must be obtained from federal and state regulatory agencies.

The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are unique natural laboratories ideal for the study of island and reef biogeography and ecology. The relatively undisturbed biotic populations recall an earlier period when Hawaii was less affected by human development. Pressures to harvest the marine resources need to be kept in check with continued wildlife management and research to insure that these fragile environments are conserved.

M.J. RAUZZON

Northwestern Hawaiian Islands

Island	Area		Elevation		Western Date of Discovery	Notes
	(acres)	(hectares)	(feet)	(meters)		
Nihoa	190.7	77.2	910	277.4	1789	Southernmost of the NWHI, settled by Polynesians in prehistoric times.
Necker	58.2	23.6	277	84.4	1786	Settled by Polynesians in prehistoric times; has extensive <i>hinu</i> .
French Frigate Shoals	56.3	22.8	135	41.2	1786	Twelve islets; has the largest monk seal population in NWHI.
Gardner Pinnacles	2.6	1.0	190	57.9	1820	Volcanic plug.
Maro Reef	awash	awash	awash	awash	1820	Partially submerged.
Laysan	981.1	397.0	35	10.7	1828	Largest seabird population in NWHI.
Lisianski	452.0	174.8	20	6.1	1805	Emerged atoll.
Pearl and Hermes Atoll	78.1	31.6	10	3.3	1822	Classic atoll with seven islets.
Midway Islands	1280.0	518.0	12	3.7	1859	Not part of the NWHI; under federal government control; U.S. Navy air base.
Kure Atoll	237.4	96.1	20	6.1	1823	Northernmost of the NWHI; U.S. Coast Guard Base.



Nihoa Island with an elevation of 910 feet is the highest of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Drawing by John A. Dixon

10/25/84

Surprise layoff of fishermen leaves shrimp firm in limbo

By Nina Berglund
Advertiser Business Writer

Hawaiian Shrimp Co., formed last year in a pioneering effort to catch deep sea shrimp for sale here and overseas, has laid off most of its fleet's crew members in an attempt to reorganize production operations.

Included in the surprise ouster this week was longtime local fisherman Gary "Skip" Naftel, a senior executive of the shrimp company who also skippered the four-vessel shrimp fleet.

Robert Thren, chief financial officer at Hawaiian Shrimp, yesterday confirmed that about 35 crew members who work aboard the firm's fleet were let go when the four vessels returned from a five-week shrimp catching expedition Monday.

"We've made the determination we needed some changes in the production side of the company," Thren said. "We just want to rethink and retool."

Several crew members, however, said the layoff resulted

from a stormy disagreement between Naftel and other company officials over the use of a so-called "chemical dip" meant to prevent discoloration of the shrimp.

Naftel, crew members said, opposed using the dip and preferred keeping the shrimp fresh through refrigeration.

At issue is whether the chemical dip — used in the last two shrimp expeditions — or faulty refrigeration techniques caused possible spoilage among an estimated 42,000 pounds of shrimp hauled in during the most recent fishing trip.

Thren confirmed that "some packages" of shrimp "have shown discoloration," and that "obviously, they're not marketable now." He declined to say how much of the total catch was affected, and said it was "too early to tell" what kind of financial losses may be involved.

Thren blamed the discoloration — which occurs when oxygenation takes place under the shell — on inadequate re-

frigeration used on board the fishing vessel of which Naftel was captain. Crew members, who supported Naftel's anti-chemical position, blame the discoloration on the chemical dip.

Despite repeated attempts, Naftel could not be reached for comment.

Naftel was the major force behind creation of a deep sea shrimp industry in Hawaii. A former owner of the state's largest lobster fleet, Naftel switched his energies to deep sea shrimp two years ago and claimed at the time that plentiful offshore shrimp fields could one day yield the state's most important fishery.

His own shrimp venture, however, spurred several debts. So last year Naftel teamed up with an investor group headed by Taco Bell founder Glen Bell Jr. to found Hawaiian Shrimp Co.

Naftel, who apparently gave up much of his control of the shrimp venture when he brought in other investors, became chief operating officer of the new company under chairman Bell and chief executive officer Elliott Broidy.

Hawaiian Shrimp began operations 16 months ago to catch Red Hawaiian Sea Shrimp, a large variety found at depths of 1,800 to 3,000 feet and best used for scampi dishes or in a raw form in sushi. The shrimp are marketed primarily to restaurants in Japan and on the Mainland.

Thren insisted that the layoff and discoloration problem will not have long-lasting ill effects on the shrimp company. He said he expects the fleet to return to the sea under a new skipper within three weeks and that some of the crew members may be rehired.

"We're making our biggest attempt to make this thing succeed," Thren said. "We are still

Coast Guard's Mellon and Munro Will Swap Ports

Coast Guard cutters Mellon and Munro will be swapped but not the crews who will remain at Sand Island and Seattle.

The reason for the unusual move, planned for later in the year, is that since the Munro is in the same class as the Jarvis it makes more sense, from a training and spare parts standpoint, to have two ships of the same class in the same port.

The Mellon had a decade at Sand Island but found time to fight in Vietnam and cruise around Ocean Station November, between here and San Francisco, until officials decided it no longer was necessary.

Jarvis, incidentally had a hand in hauling in two South Korean fishing boats fishing illegally in Alaskan waters, bringing to 11 the number of foreign flags seized in that area. In Hawaiian waters (out to Midway and Kure) the box score for the Coast Guard has been zero.

THE 80-FOOT fishing boat San Inez, was in French Frigate Shoals waters recently when it went aground. Following a "Mayday" the Easy Rider took her in tow toward Honolulu and on March 25 the San Inez sank.

Then there's Total Army Day which means all the parts of the Army pie will put on a show for the public at 8:30 a.m. April 26 at Fort DeRussy.

That includes Junior ROTC personnel on parade and in competition, plus youngsters from Guam who often win, parachuting, Loyal Garner, a new Army Museum show and so forth.

On Guam the Army Reserve's 368th Military Police Company was activated yesterday and Brig. Gen. Walter K. Tagawa of the Reserves and Maj. Gen. Herbert E. Wolff of Western Command took in the event. The recruiting command in

The Armed Forces

By Lyle Nelson



Honolulu did the job, starting from scratch and finding 100 to man the company.

Guam already has D Company of the 411th Engineers whose B Company on Maui will train on Oahu in July.

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The Armed Forces

By Lyle Nelson



Honolulu did the job, starting from scratch and finding 100 to man the company.

Guam already has D Company of the 411th Engineers whose B Company on Maui will train on Oahu in July.

ROTC commissioning ceremonies at the University of Hawaii are set for Kennedy Theater at 11 a.m. May 18 and the annual Governor's Day parade and awarding of medals will be at 2:30 p.m. May 1 at Bachman Field, a new site for this event.

CALLING UP retirees under an emergency mobilization scenario was front page news the other day, but not for these parts.

A test program for Army retirees will involve four Mainland bases next month. After evaluation, Western Command at Fort Shafter reports, the program will be expanded to include every state but Hawaii and Alaska.

Under the Mobilization Designation Program, Shafter has slots for 30 individual ready reserves who would be called in a hurry if something happens.

But the pilot program excludes us, and our National Guard and Army Reserve.

Shafter officials are pleased that Sally A. Schneider became the 100th woman warrant officer in the Army. Her background is Minot, N.D., and criminal investigation work.

The National Guard Bureau has selected Napua N. Sugal of the 150th Aircraft Control team at Kokee as one of its outstanding airmen of the year.

THERE MAY BE beer to drink aboard the aircraft carrier Nimitz in Iran waters but the Pacific Fleet says no such beer party is shaping up for sailors in this fleet.

Military Airlift Command says one of its new C-141D stretch jobs will touch down at Hickam at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

Navy Relief could use kokua and reminds all that it will get \$1 out of every \$2 general admission ticket sold for the May 4 Islander-Spokane baseball game at Aloha Stadium and that Navy communicators from Whitmore will take on the University of Hawaii football team in a softball game at 3:30 p.m. before the PCL contest at 6.

Persuant to the flap over draft registration, here are figures for the number of men from Hawaii drafted by Selective Service in past wars: 5,446 for World War I; 31,899 for World War II; 7,783 for Korea, and 4,947 for Vietnam.

Overlooked in the RIMPAC 80 exercise conducted by 3rd Fleet is the fact that its staff at Ford Island includes exchange officers that represent Australia, Britain, Canada and New Zealand here on a permanent basis.

AFTER RETIRED Gen. Fred Weyand escorted members of the Association of the U.S. Army to see troops of the 25th Division in training, he remarked that the downtown civilians now knew more about the Army than 90 percent of all Americans.

The Veterans Administration will reach its 50th birthday July 21.

For those keeping tabs on Johnston Island the last military population count from the state's research division of the Department of Planning and Economic Development shows 116 soldiers, 11 Air Force and 11 Coast Guard personnel based there.

Governor's Programs Outlined

A key line in Gov. Ariyoshi's state-of-the-state message yesterday was this one:

"It is my conviction that we in Hawaii have reached that stage in our development where government no longer can continue to undertake all of the new or expanded activities people demand at the rate we have in recent years."

The governor then spelled out highlights of his recommendations to the 10th Legislature and made it clear his policy is far from one of simply "holding the line."

Following are programs that he recommended:

1—Crime

"The single most pressing problem facing our communities," he said, is making them safe and secure.

He recommended:

— Continuation of the program to focus special prosecution efforts on career criminals.

naole Highway between Aiea Koa and Lunalilo Home Road.

— Widening of Fort Weaver Road for two to four lanes.

3—Health Care

— Provision of basic staffing in hospital critical care units statewide "regardless of the daily patient count of the hospital as a whole." The governor recommended 154.5 new state positions for this program in the year starting July 1 and another 186.5 the following year at a biennial cost of \$4 million.

— Construction of a new hospital at Hilo with a \$15 million appropriation for the first increment.

— \$800,000 for physical and occupational therapy services for handicapped youngsters.

— Statewide implementation of the Emergency Medical Services Program to provide quick, skilled emergency aid.

— A program to upgrade management proficiency of hospital staffs.

leadership responsibilities in "establishing reasonable and achievable goals" in line with the greater international autonomy given them by 1978 constitutional amendments.

6—Future Planning

Ariyoshi asked further legislative steps to implement the State Plan adopted in 1978 and supporting functional plans to be recommended for agriculture, housing, tourism and transportation.

He waved a "go slow" flag on implementing some of the mandates of the 1978 constitutional revision. He suggested some be delayed for joint executive-legislative review between the 1979 and 1980 legislative sessions.

The governor said he will request "a modest sum of money" for an August celebration of the 20th anniversary of Statehood.

7—Pacific



Gov. Ariyoshi

Continued funding of the state Crime Commission.

— A meeting that he promised to convene soon of top level state and county leaders who have a responsibility for the criminal justice system.

Highlights of Ariyoshi's recommendations.

tem. At the very least, he said, it should produce a common understanding of the problem, an agreement on overall objectives, and the start of an action program.

2—Economic Growth

— Stimulation of agriculture through loans for deserving enterprises, development of water resources, assuring quality and marketability of products, and more agricultural parks.

— Creation of a permanent state staff to stimulate aquaculture under direction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources

— Continued joint public-private promotions to support the garment industry and promote the "made in Hawaii" label

— Further development of the

"rich potential" of the Leeward Hawaiian islands for commercial and recreational fishing.

— Setting a goal for Hawaii to be the first state to become self-sufficient in the generation of electrical power from renewable energy resources. Designating the Big Island as the first island in the state to achieve the goal.

— Providing a permanent staff and additional basic funding for energy research and development.

— Identifying and modifying public structures where energy consumption can be reduced.

— Redevelopment of the Kakaako area as the "heart" of Honolulu.

— Relocation of the foreign trade zone to a site (intended to be Pier 2 after container operations are moved to Sand Island) where it will have adequate expansion room.

— Allocation of \$8.5 million in the fiscal year starting July 1 to develop the first increment of a World Trade Center at the Aloha Tower complex.

— Funding a new interisland air terminal rear of the present site at Honolulu International Airport.

— A new air terminal for Lahue, Kauai, and expanded facilities at Kahului, Maui.

— Increased capacity for Kala-

4—Aid to the Distressed

The governor said the state has attained its goal of providing essential medical and monetary aid to children, the elderly, the immigrant, the family, the blind and the disabled.

He said the state also has had a successful start in prosecuting welfare cheaters, in one year collected over \$1.5 million from parents capable of child support, and through tougher standards has substantially reduced welfare aid to single able-bodied adults. He said total cases are down 15 percent and new applications are off 50 percent.

5—Education

— Ariyoshi asked \$5.7 million in 1979-81 for new personnel to serve students with special needs and \$1 million for 34 diagnostic personnel work with the same program.

— He said funds also will be sought for gifted and talented children, and those for whom English is not their primary language.

— Funding for several new schools and public libraries will be sought, he said.

He indicated the Board of Education and the University of Hawaii Board of regents should assume

Crossroads

Ariyoshi asserted Hawaii "stands on the threshold of realizing its destiny as a cultural and economic link to Asia and the Pacific."

He cited efforts to get multi-national businesses to locate regional headquarters here, trade contacts with China, and plans for a World Trade Center at the Aloha Tower complex. "I want us to put increasing emphasis on this subject — both from business and cultural standpoints — in the years ahead," he said.

8—Miscellaneous

The governor also said, "There are many other areas of importance, too, for which we will seek your support."

— "The development and staffing of our parks

— "The operation of Iolani Palace.

— "The continuation of our school security aide program.

— "The establishment of an affirmative action-civil rights program.

— "Increased staffing and facilities for our correctional system.

— "The coastal zone management program.

— "Our very successful Hawaiian homes programs, public housing projects, culture and the arts, the physical rehabilitation of Kahoolawe, and other necessary conservation efforts."

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\$2.5 Million Vessel May Revolutionize Isle Fishing Operations

Easy Rider Too Is Able to Catch, Pro

By Helen Altonn
Star-Bulletin Writer

Island consumers within a few months will be able to buy flash-frozen fresh fish supplied by the Easy Rider Too — the first vessel in the United States equipped to catch, process and package fish.

The largest and newest ship in Hawaii's rapidly developing fishing fleet was conceived about four years ago by Gary "Skip" Naftel, skipper of the Easy Rider, a research and fishing vessel.

Naftel's idea was to pour a big investment into a mother boat which could serve smaller boats that otherwise can't afford to make the 1,000-mile round trip to Hawaii's Leeward Islands fishing grounds.

week on its first fishing trip — a new type of venture which could revolutionize island fishing operations.

Naftel believes the use of a mother ship with processing capabilities is the only economical means of tapping the fisheries potential in Hawaii's Leeward Islands.

ALTHOUGH IT'S a new concept to American fisheries, Naftel points out that foreign nations have long used processing ships because of the economics.

He said Easy Rider Too has generated a lot of excitement in the fishing industry because of increasingly high costs of fuel and the lure of undeveloped fisheries resources in the leeward Hawaiian area.

The economies for a boat to run



The result is tied up temporarily at Pier 41 — a \$2.5 million, 126-foot commercial fishing and processing ship built by Halter Marine Inc., in Calumet, La., with the latest in navigational, fishing and conservation technology.

Easy Rider Too was blessed in ceremonies after arrival two weeks ago and is preparing to leave next

the Professional's favorite

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500 miles up and back with fresh fish are not there," he said in an interview.

"With a boat like this, we can utilize the existing fleet and open up the leeward area (for fishing). This is the infrastructure — the plant and market — going to sea."

Naftel said the ship was financed with a federal loan and funds from local investors, mostly doctors. He expects a substantial return on the investment.

"I feel this is for the state," he said. "It's going to help the fishermen, the consumers and the economic base of the state."

The ship has amenities undreamed of by Hawaii's traditional sampan fishermen, with kos paneling in the captain's cabin and galley, stereo music, a water fountain, dishwasher, laundromat, trash compactor and garbage disposal.

But the compactor and disposal are more than conveniences — they are ecological tools. The compactor will dispose of plastic items and other shipboard debris instead of littering the ocean with it. And the disposal will be used to grind up all garbage for use as fish meal.

"WE WILL BE feeding at the same time as we are harvesting.



Naftel and Easy Rider Too.

putting food back into the ecological system," said Naftel.

One of Hawaii's leading and most vocal fisheries conservationists, Naftel filed three class-action complaints under federal laws concerning endangered birds and mammals after the Easy Rider crew saw military practice bombs hitting Kaula Island off Niihau two years ago.

Easy Rider Too has a number of innovations reflecting his concern with conservation, including the first feeding system in the nation which relies strictly on cold air instead of gas, which Naftel says "is ecologically disastrous."

He also has specially designed lobster traps with small funnels to prevent monk seal pups from getting into them.

Naftel said Easy Rider Too is built to support five boats about the size of the 80-foot Easy Rider. It can hold 50,000 gallons of fuel and produce 960 gallons of fresh water daily.

About one ton of fish per day can



Star-Bulletin Photo.

be flash-frozen in the ship's processing plant.

Within 22 minutes, a lobster trapped on the bottom of the ocean can be frozen, boxed and ready to go to the consumer, he said.

"WE CAN PROCESS 4,000 pounds of lobster a day and 8,000 pounds of shrimp filets."

Paul Struhsaker, a National Marine Fisheries Service crustacean biologist, is in charge of the processing room and will be involved in research projects which Naftel plans to conduct along with the commercial fishing operations.

The ship also will carry a federal observer to collect data in a cooperative state-federal program to assess the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands fisheries and draft regulations for fisheries development.

Initially, Easy Rider Too will catch and process its own fish as well as the catches of the Easy Rider, Naftel said. Later on he ex-

cess, Package Fish

pects the ship to service three or four other small boats.

"All it is is a fish auction going to sea, except with a fixed price," he said. "We will buy the fish and process it and they can stay out and fish."

Most boats now can only stay out about 10 days, even if they have modern refrigeration, he said. And if they are washed out by stormy weather, the minimum cost of returning is \$10,000, with no fish to help pay the bills, he said.

He expects Easy Rider Too to make 60-day trips, returning home with packaged fish ready for the consumer.

HE SAID THE fish will be marketed through the auction system, using local brokers, "but they will buy a case of frozen fish instead of a bucket of fresh fish.

"The beauty of this boat," he said, "is that it won't interfere with the traditional fresh fish industry. This is a new product, a new economic base. We will give the brokers something else to market — more variety of fish — instead of having to import it."

He hopes not only to fill a niche in the local market, but to export fish to meet increasing demands on the Mainland and in Asian and European markets.

He said the ship will concentrate first on lobsters and deep-water shrimp. But he said there are many other species of fish in the leeward waters which haven't been exploited. He hopes to introduce some of them to Hawaii residents.

Naftel has a crew of 10 local residents and eight graduates of the fisheries college in Korea. He said the Koreans will train the other crew members in fish-processing techniques — an area in which Hawaii lacks the know-how.

The ship has been inspected by the Food and Drug Administration and the state Health Department. "We have a clean bill of health," Naftel said.

The only problem is that the FDA has never dealt with a ship processing plant, he said. "They said it is beautiful, but where are you going to be every week so we can inspect it?"

He is hoping to get a ruling from Washington on the inspection procedures before the ship's departure, scheduled Tuesday. He said the Easy Rider left Sunday to do some exploratory fishing before being joined by the mother ship.



Henry A. Hansen



John Craven

Hawaii and U.S. in a Tug-of-War

Continued from Page A-12

Wildlife Service has an agreement with the state Department of Land and Natural Resources to hold off any action to clarify the boundaries "until the study is done and until attempts to formulate a joint management agreement for use of the entire area is done."

"Until that is determined . . . we are at complete loggerheads."

JOHN CRAVEN, state marine affairs coordinator, said, "The state will be firm in pressing its notion of jurisdiction."

However, he said, "the state, and we would hope the federal government, does not want to make a case out of this over trivial, insignificant issues . . . We look toward cooperation with the federal government in resolving management issues as long as we can."

He said, "In essence, what we would like to see is a term called 'condominium' over disputed areas. You have it in the New Hebrides Islands. You've got two governments over the same area and the people in that area can choose either government. It works out perfectly as long as both governments give the same orders."

"We'd like to find some way both the state and federal government could engage in exactly the same management directions and orders in disputed areas, for example in management of coral . . .

yond Interior Department recommendations.

"Congress drafted the wilderness bill when we decided not to pursue the boundary issue," they said.

They said the assistant secretary for fish, wildlife and parks recommended to the secretary of interior that 255,000 acres be included as wilderness. But the secretary of interior recommended to the president that 1,769 acres of fastland be designated until the boundary dispute is resolved and add other acreage later if suitable, the officials explained.

They said the president forwarded the recommendation to Congress but Congress independently drafted legislation to include 302,435 acres.

"PEOPLE GET the feeling Hawaii is being picked on, but that's not the case," Hansen said. "All states are affected. It's part of a national scheme to protect the resources of the nation."

The federal officials point out that their job is to protect the resources.

"If it comes down to choosing between economic development and protection of the resource, we opt for the resource," Giezentanner said.

"We don't have to make short-term decisions for political considerations," he added. "We're not against fishing, but only if it adversely affects the other resources for a few dollars today."

He said the Leeward Islands are particularly vulnerable.

"Seeds in a pants cuff could completely alter the ecology of an island

"WE FEEL THAT if you want to

up there on a daily basis, those is-lands are pretty appealing. "Things are not done maliciously, but people don't know their effects," THE WILD LIFE officials said they hope to get their own vessel in the next few years for research and enforcement purposes.

The Western Regional Fishery Management Council has the job of developing and recommending fisheries plans in the 200-mile conservation zone around Hawaii, Guam and American Samoa.

W.G. Van Campen, council executive director, said the state-federal arguments largely concern waters within three miles, which is the inner limit of the council's jurisdiction.

"In the Leeward Islands, at the present time, we don't know if the limit of state authority is there, or the limit of another agency's authority is there — the refuge people — or whether there's a no-man's land there," he said.

He said the council is making management plans for some of the resources there, like spiny lobsters, found both inside and outside the three-mile limit.

ALTHOUGH THE council isn't taking an active role in fisheries development, Van Campen said it is interested in fisheries development.

"We're on record that the existence of this dispute where fishermen may fish and may not is holding back fisheries development in the Leeward Islands," he said.

"We've gone to the state attorney general and asked him to try to expedite a solution of the question with the Department of Interior just where the boundary is.

"The council also has gone on record with a resolution asking that any change in the refuge, in the direction of making it a wilderness area, not be carried out in any way that would interfere with development and expansion of fisheries in the area."

Next: State accuses Fish and Wildlife Service of empire-building.

Judge Laureta's Resignation Takes Effect July 15

Kauai Circuit Judge Alfred Laureta has submitted his resignation to Gov. George R. Ariyoshi, effective July 15, to accept the appointment as first federal judge for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana. Laureta said he leaves the bench with "some degree of reluctance and regret."

He served as judge on Oahu and Kauai for 11 years.

government, it's best done by the coastal state in the vicinity of the resource. Managing either the resource or environment from Washington, D.C., is not effective. It wouldn't serve the best interests of the people of the state or the United States.

"Management of these resources and protection of environment ought to be a state problem," Craven said a number of areas are of concern: "One, for example, is the habitat of the monk seal. The state has every desire to protect and preserve the monk seal, but at the present time an apparent federal ruling is so conservative in favor of the monk seal, not for the total problem, so they are overly conservative and overprotective."

CRAVEN SAID a "broader viewpoint" is needed to protect the monk seal and at the same time allow environmentally sound fishing.

He noted that "there was no need to fight these jurisdictional ambiguities all these years because there wasn't anything going on up the Leeward chain."

"But with the change of population, technology and modern understanding of the ocean, resources and environment, these issues have to be resolved.

"There is no reason they can't be resolved amicably, if both the state and federal government agree to negotiate amicably, but there is always a danger that on some issues we'll come head-on and end up with major jurisdictional confrontation," he said.

"We feel it would be wise for both the state and federal governments to resolve or defer differences until the study is completed . . . but we will not defer them at the expense of surrendering the state's position.

"A LOT RESTS on this study," Craven said, "and a lot rests on negotiations going on now on Pacific issues.

"The difficulty right now with precious coral is that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has declared jurisdiction, the state has declared jurisdiction and the U.S. Commerce Department claims jurisdiction.

"The ramifications are very large and relate to the Law of Sea Treaty in Geneva, and what they come up with there will have a profound effect on Hawaii and state-federal relations," Craven said.

"What's happening here is we're entering a whole new era like the Louisiana Purchase — acquiring 600,000 square miles of jurisdiction in the Hawaiian Archipelago, the 200-mile fisheries zone which is 400 miles wide by 1,500 miles long."

THE FISH AND WILDLIFE officials said the wilderness designation for the 302,435 acres in the refuge — giving "tighter and more specific protection" to the area — goes beyond

Wildlife Service Seeks to Buy Officials Lament

By Helen Altom
Star-Bulletin Writer

H.A. Hansen has a spectacular view of the coastline stretching to Diamond Head from his U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in the Honolulu Federal Building, but he doesn't particularly enjoy it.

"The whole area used to be one solid marsh to Diamond Head with rice paddies and taro," said the

Last of a Series

Honolulu administrator for the federal service.

"Now it's solid pavement and buildings."

"You don't raise too many birds in that kind of habitat," said J. Brent Giezantanner, manager of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is under fire from state legislators and government officials for "empire-building" with acquisition of lands on the Neighbor Islands for addition to the refuge system.

The federal officials say, "We look at federal acquisition more or less as a last resort."

But Hansen stressed, "We're talking about the protection of the habitat, by whatever means, as essential to the existence and maintenance of these birds. The state must have a willingness to do it and the ability to manage it," he said.

"Which they don't now," Giezantanner added.

The federal agency is negotiating with private landowners to buy the 500-acre Kealia Pond on Maui and the 35-acre Opaepaia Pond on the Big Island for waterbird habitats.

"WE'RE TRYING to cooperate in the acquisition with the counties and the state Department of Land and Natural Resources," Giezantanner said. "We do have powers of eminent domain but we're trying for an atmosphere of cooperation."

"We do feel the areas must be pre-

tion." When conditions aren't right there, the birds shift to Kealia, they said.

"If we don't have both (as refuges), we'll probably lose a lot of what is there," they contend.

Hansen pointed out that the wildlife service expedited a permit for an experimental bait fishing project at the edge of Kealia Pond and the private fish farm has been assured it can remain there.

"We not only feel Hawaii aquaculture efforts can be compatible with endangered species, but can enhance them. They are a buffer to people coming in," Hansen said.

The service filed an environmental impact statement for Kealia Pond but not for Opaepaia, which is in the middle of a lava flow. "We just want to preserve it in its natural state," they said.

However, Land Chairman Thompson has requested an EIS for Opaepaia, saying in a letter to the Interior Department:

"PAST ENCOUNTERS with federal requirements and regulations following the establishment of said wildlife refuges and sanctuaries have, on a number of occasions, resulted to the detriment or near detriment of the local community...."

The federal wildlife officials point to the benefits of an actively managed refuge area, not only for the present but for future generations.

"It doesn't do any good to get it if you don't get into active management," Hansen said. "You're obligating yourself to the future—money, people and programs."

For example, he said the wildlife service plans to spend \$1.5 million dollars on the Hanalei Valley refuge in the next two years.

Giezantanner said they are preserving the taro farming and rehabilitating the ditches, which will help the farmers who have suffered a shortage of water for years.

"We're spending a lot of money to preserve the traditional Hawaiian lifestyle over there," he said.

"I'm not sure the state has the willingness or capability for such a program," Hansen said, noting the state's financial constraints.

served and I would recommend eminent domain if necessary."

Hansen said the agency has the highest priority for endangered Hawaiian waterbird refuges.

He noted that Opaepa was identified years ago as a critical waterbird area and the state was interested in acquiring it for a refuge. "We said 'Fine, go do it,' but it wasn't done," he said.

"We feel endangered waterbirds must be protected and if no one else does it, we'll do it."

Gov. George R. Ariyoshi and state legislators are fighting the federal pond purchases, arguing that the program conflicts with the state's goal to expand aquaculture and the state's responsibilities for bird habitats.

State Land Board Chairman William Y. Thompson said it was hoped that Bishop Estate would give Opaepa Pond to the state for a bird sanctuary, but along came the wildlife service "offering dollars."

STATE OFFICIALS don't believe Kealia Pond should be turned into a bird refuge because of the fish farm operations and because there already is a bird habitat at Kahana Pond on Maui.

The federal officials said they are pleased that the state is protecting Kahana Pond on Maui although "it probably could have better protec-

He also observed, "A guy making a decision on the local level may be considering the short-term effect. On the federal level, he can consider long-term benefits for the resource."

IN OTHER WORDS, he said, it may be a matter of "filling in a pond for a condominium for a quick dollar now, rather than preserving the area for birds ever more."

As a graphic example, he gestured to the view from his office.

"There are very few areas left in a natural state even to study," Giezantanner said.

"There are just little bitty amounts when you consider what used to be here. We're barraged with requests to develop what's left, and what's left is so minute. We've already compromised to this extent."

While the emphasis has been on waterbird areas, Giezantanner said a survey also is under way by fish and wildlife specialists to determine the status, distribution and critical habitat for forest birds. It will be finished this year with recommendations for their protection.

"We are not actively pursuing acquisition of land for forest birds now, but you never know from day to day what opportunities lie ahead or what the needs will be," Hansen said.



Hawaii Fishing Industry's Future?

Areas for Refuge System

Loss of Land to Developments

HE SAID THE Fish and Wildlife Service has been accused of being "an exclusive, single-use agency... but that is not necessarily so."

He said multiple uses, including grazing and timber operations and recreational activities, are allowed

on refuges on the Mainland.

But some of them are as large as 10,000 acres, he said. "We can't allow a lot on 35 acres (such as Opaeha). The mere presence (of people) would be detrimental."

He said environmental education,

recreation and interpretation will be allowed where the resource won't be jeopardized.

Glezentanner noted that the service has been charged with being "unreasonable."

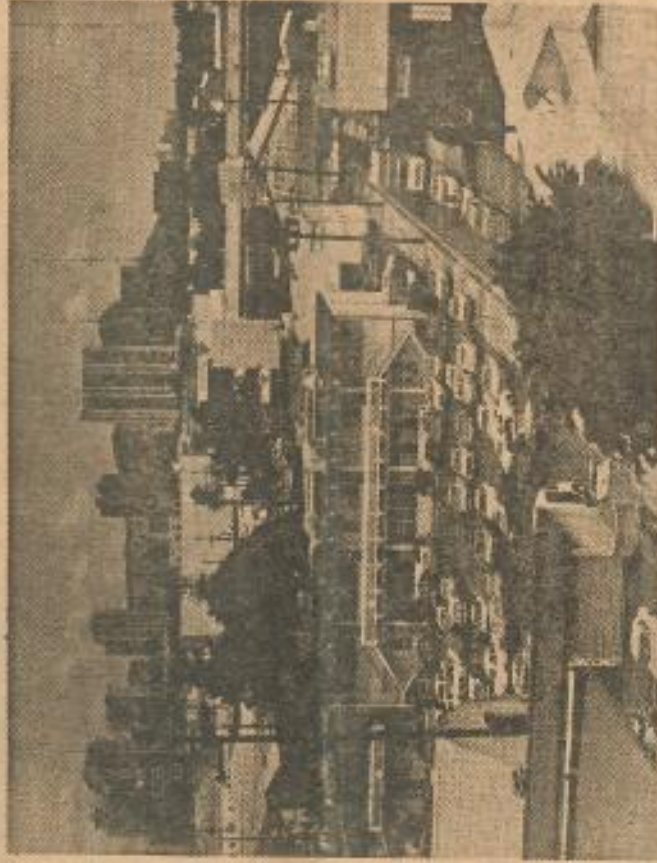
"We are unreasonable to people

who feel there ought to be a condominium on every square foot of ground, and to people who feel other animals don't have a right to exist," he said.

"But, in our view, those people are a little unreasonable."



LONG AGO—The area stretching from Honolulu Harbor to Diamond Head once was all marsh land with rice and taro fields.



TODAY—Building developments have pushed birds out of the coastal area from Honolulu to Waikiki.

State Fights Takeover of Shoals, Isles

By Gregg K. Kakesako
Star-Bulletin Writer

At the urging of the Ariyoshi administration, Hawaii's two freshmen congressmen yesterday said they will try to get the U.S. House to postpone action on a bill which would place 302,435 acres of state land under the jurisdiction of a National Wilderness Preservation System.

The state now is participating in a five-year study with the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Interior to study and assess the natural resources of a series of islands, reefs and atolls about 1,800 miles north of Oahu.

The islands are now part of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1909.

THE REFUGE stretches for 800 miles and includes the islands of Nihoa, Necker, French Frigate Shoals, Gardner Pinnacles, Maro Reef, Laysan and Lisianski Islands and Pearl and Hermes Reef.

J. Brent Giezantner of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said the refuge is the home of 10 million seabirds of 18 species. It also is the home of four endangered land birds found nowhere else in the world.

"The refuge also provides the only home for the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, the entire population of which occurs within the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands," he added.

"The entire Hawaiian stock of green

sea turtles also breed within the refuge boundaries primarily at French Frigate Shoals."

GOV. GEORGE R. Ariyoshi and state Land Director **Bill Thompson**, however, dispute the federal government's claim to the 302,435 acres of submerged land.

Testifying before the House Indian Affairs and Public Lands Subcommittee yesterday, Thompson said that passage of any bill which would include the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge as part of a federal system would amount to "a confiscation of the Leeward Islands' natural resources and their uses — commercial, recreational and esthetic pursuits — that belong to the people of this state."

The Ariyoshi administration wants to be able to use the natural resources of the Leeward Islands to bolster the state's economy.

"AS THE NATION'S only island state with relatively limited land resources, the fishery resources especially in the Leeward Islands will play an increasingly major role in the future economy of this state," Thompson said.

He said that some of the "major natural resources" found there include bait fish, essential for the harvest of tuna, and spiny lobsters.

"During this past year, a total of about 71,518 pounds of spiny lobsters has been reportedly harvested," Thompson said.

In addition, akule, one of the major fish catches in Hawaii, has been reported in abundance near certain Leeward Islands, he added.

BUT GIEZENTANNER warned that the ecosystems of the Leeward Islands are very fragile and any type of visitation by man could be devastating.

He noted that already there are traces of oil on all the beaches of the islands.

"This is from ships pumping their bilges offshore or in some cases the results of shipwrecks. Three oil tankers have been shipwrecked in that area and traces of oil still remain."

'Economics Were Just Not There'

Isle Fishing Project Falls Apart

By Helen Altom
Star-Bulletin Writer

The state's highly acclaimed albacore fisheries project—launched last year off Midway Island with expectations of big economic benefits for Hawaii—has fallen apart this year, the Star-Bulletin learned this week.

The albacore season is beginning and about 45 Mainland and local boats are preparing to chase after the highly lucrative fish business, but it's questionable how many of them will return here with their fish.

Castle & Cooke, Inc., which operates Bumble Bee Seafoods and Hawaiian Tuna Packers, has decided it would not be economical to continue its participation in the program.

Operators of some albacore boats which tied up in Hawaii through the

winter also feel they haven't been welcome here, despite the state's interest in developing a major fishing industry. The skippers said they may take their albacore to Alaska.

The state initiated the albacore project in April last year to prove the economic value of a Pacific albacore fishery to the United States and reduce Hawaii's tuna imports.

THE PROGRAM was carried out under an agreement between the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawaiian Tuna Packers and the Navy.

The Navy gave the state a permit to use Midway Island as a base for the fishery project and Hawaiian Tuna Packers sent a troller fleet of 20 vessels and a mother ship to the fishing grounds.

But Jay Puffinburger, general manager of the Bumble Bee tuna cannery, said yesterday, "The economics were just not there."

State officials considered the project successful because fishermen netted about \$2.6 million and Hawaii received about \$13.4 million in related economic benefits.

However, Puffinburger said, "They (the state) didn't have money in it. They just paid lip service to it."

"IT WAS extremely successful from the boats' standpoint," said Stanley Swerdlhoff, who has spearheaded development of a state fisheries master plan for the state under contract with the land department.

"How successful it was from a transportation standpoint is un-

clear," he said. However, he said Castle & Cooke "was not willing to put up risk capital" to repeat the venture.

The idea this year was to run barges back and forth from Honolulu and Midway with 20-ton containers of fish, rather than station a mother ship at the fishing grounds to load the fish and bring it back here.

Swerdlhoff said it would have cost Castle & Cooke \$500,000 to provide needed facilities at Midway for the operations, including conversion of a barge for fuel storage and living quarters.

"That's where the rub came in," he said.

Puffinburger said, "It was a matter of what the fishermen want to

Turn to Page A-2, Col. 5

Fishing Project Is Sinking Here

Continued from Page One

pay for trans-shipment." He said they weren't willing to pay \$275 a ton, the company's asking price for shipping charges.

ALBACORE fishing captains said they made a counter offer of \$200 a ton, and that's the last they heard of the matter. They said they paid \$150 a ton last year.

Puffinburger denied reports that the company chose not to participate in the project because it is likely to get the fish anyway, without any investment. "No one can say we're guaranteed of getting fish," he said.

The fish usually are closer to Hawaii early in the season and then move north, closer to Alaska.

Puffinburger anticipates that the boats will make two trips during the season, bringing the first load here and taking the second load to the West Coast or Alaska. Bumble Bee has a receiving station at Dutch Harbor, Alaska. Starkist also is expected to have someone there to buy fish for trans-shipment.

"Nobody knows how many boats are going to go to Dutch Harbor or come here or go to the West Coast.

We have to wait and see what happens," Puffinburger said.

IN A BID to get the Midway project from the state last year, Tuna Packers said a total catch of 2,000 tons, an optimistic goal, would reduce the company's dependency on the world tuna market and result in a U.S. balance of payment savings of up to \$3.5 million.

The mother ship made three trips to Honolulu with 1,750 to 1,800 tons of fish for the local cannery and the rest of the catch went to the West Coast.

Even without the support of a mother ship or container barges, Puffinburger said, more fish will be caught this year because of a larger number of boats.

Large tuna tonnages brought back here could mean a second shift and more employment at the cannery, he said. But at this stage of development, he said the Midway fishery "really doesn't have that much effect on fish imports...Nobody knows just how big it is..."

Land Board Chairman Susumu Ono expressed disappointment that "this year's project will not take place." But he said he is optimistic that it can be planned and carried out next year to capitalize on the potential economic benefits for Hawaii.

Gov. George R. Ariyoshi and Hawaii's congressional delegates were involved in this year's negotiations between the state, the Navy and Bumble Bee, Ono said.

He said the Navy agreed to initial requests by the tuna company, allowing more liberal use of Midway and facilities than it did last year.

"But as the planning continued, Bumble Bee did submit another set of requests which the Navy seriously reviewed but did not agree with." He said these requests involved use of Navy power, water, fuel and living quarters on the island.

HE SAID discussions with the Navy have been "very positive" and will be renewed with the prospect of a cooperative effort next year.

"We are very disappointed that all the fish will not be coming here," Swerdloff said. "There is no question that some ill will was created when Bumble Bee pulled out."

He said other canneries were contacted to participate in this year's project but they would have taken the fish to the West Coast "so there would have been no net proceeds to Hawaii in terms of processing."

Efforts also were made to find another mother ship, "but we just couldn't do it," he said.

Planner Sees Bright Fisheries Future

By Helen Ahonn
Star-Bulletin Writer

Despite a bad season for island fishermen, there is "a tremendous amount of movement" reflecting a bright future for the industry, says the state's chief fisheries planner.

Stanley Swardloff, consultant to the Division of Fish and Game of the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, developed the state fisheries masterplan and is now seeing it come to life with immediate support from the state administration and the Legislature.

"It was a terrible fishing season," Swardloff said. "The aku never showed up and it was a bad yellowfin season."

But he said this is a natural phenomenon, apparently related to ocean current patterns, and "there still is a sense of optimism and a feeling of expansion" in the fishing industry.

AMONG THE DEVELOPMENTS:

- A Hawaii Fisheries Coordinating Council — one of the major recommendations of the masterplan — has been formed under a law passed by the last Legislature.
- The Pacific Tuna Development Foundation (PTDF) has recommended \$280,000 in federal funds for four Hawaii fisheries research projects during the next year, and matching state funds are available.
- At least three fishing vessels are under construction for the Hawaii fleet.
- An innovative program has been designed to trap and process deep sea small shrimp resources in

Hawaii's northwest fishing grounds. Swardloff and Susumu Ono, state land chairman who succeeded Andrew J. Gerakas as chairman-president of the Tuna Development Foundation in March, discussed the progress and problems of the island fishing industry in separate interviews.

They said one of their big concerns is when foundation-supported projects may be funded since the proposals must be approved on a federal level.

Ono said the foundation's projects may not be funded until February, March or possibly even June 1981.

"IF FEDERAL approval comes that late in our (state) fiscal year, it will cause all kinds of problems for us," he said.

He said ongoing projects may have to be curtailed or even stopped, and matching state appropriations of \$400,000 to \$500,000 may lapse if they aren't used by July.

Aside from this worry, Ono agreed that things are looking up for Hawaii's fishing interests. "We have identified the major problems. It just takes chipping away," he said.

A variety of organizations are "chipping" at the problems, working both on development and management of Pacific fisheries resources.

Besides the new Hawaii Fisheries Coordinating Council, they include the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, the Pacific Basin Development Council and the Pacific Tuna Development Foundation. The latter three organizations represent broad Pacific fishing

interests, with representatives from Pacific Island governments.

The Tuna Development Foundation was established through congressional action in 1974, spurred by government and industry members who were concerned with development of tuna and other fisheries resources.

RECENTLY MEETING in Honolulu, the foundation members approved Pacific-wide research and development projects totaling \$2.5 million for federal funding requests.

Ono said Hawaii's fisheries plan meshes well with the Tuna Development Foundation's other projects, and it has served as an impetus for other island governments involved with the foundation — Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Trust Territory of the Pacific.

Swardloff said there is a great deal of interest throughout the Pacific in Hawaii's aggregate buoy system. One of the major projects in the local fisheries development, it involves a string of buoys installed offshore around the Islands to attract fish for the boats.

Tuna Development Foundation representatives have met with state technicians to discuss the system and meetings will be scheduled with Pacific fishery officers, Swardloff said.

Other research efforts underway include surveys to study the extent and economics of fishing bottom resources in the leeward Hawaiian Islands and to determine if catch rates at distances far from Hawaii would justify distant longline fishing by Hawaii-based boats.

CONSIDERABLE WORK also is underway on new tuna baitfish species at the Oceanic Institute at Makapuu and Maui County's pilot baitfish hatchery.

Swardloff said a number of Mainland boats are expected to move here to work in conjunction with the

local industry and at least three new fishing vessels are under construction for the local fleet.

They include an innovative motor-sailer, an 80-foot fiberglass sampan hull — adapting the old sampan design to a modern fishing vessel — and a 185-foot vessel being converted on the West Coast as a combination catcher-processor ship.

The state's big hopes for the Hawaii industry lie in the rich albacore tuna grounds off Midway, but the venture's success depends upon use of Midway as a base for the trolling vessels.

The state sponsored an experimental project with Hawaiian Tuna Packers last year under a cooperative arrangement with the Navy to use Midway, and it was hailed as a huge success.

But agreements couldn't be worked out this year and most of the albacore boats took their fish to Alaska. Swardloff said the catch per vessel was lower than the previous year because the boats weren't in the prime fishing grounds, which are closer to Hawaii.

"BUT IT WAS still encouraging and they have come back with an even stronger request for Midway," he said.

Ono said negotiations are continuing with the Navy in an effort to renew the Midway project next year.

The state also is looking at "moderate resources" of deep sea shrimp in leeward Hawaiian waters which Swardloff said have never been fished seriously because there is no processing capability here.

In an innovative approach to fishing in an innopment by government,

Swardloff said the state plans to invite proposals from established processors and will put up the money to lease the necessary equipment and construct traps for the first year.

"It's a one-year shot. Either the industry goes or it doesn't go," he said.

Saturday, April 8, 1978

House Fights U.S. Wildlife Controls

By Gregg K. Kakesako
Star-Bulletin Writer

House lawmakers made it clear yesterday that they are unhappy with congressional attempts to place a large portion of the northwest section of the Hawaiian Archipelago under the national wilderness preservation system.

The objections were outlined in a strongly worded resolution, drafted by Kauai Rep. Richard Kawakami, and adopted by the House by a voice vote. Kawakami's resolution now goes to the Senate for further consideration.

The resolution calls on Hawaii's congressional delegation to oppose legislation that would include 302,435 acres of the Leeward Islands of the state in a federal wildlife preserve.

The proposed action is just a small part of a national wildlife bill introduced in Congress by Rep. Morris Udall, D-Ariz.

MOST OF THE congressional debate has centered on the future of Alaskan wilderness areas and the results have been a classic confrontation between conservationists and those who believe the lands should be used to further the development of the 49th state.

A similar debate took place on the floor of the state House yesterday with the opponents of Kawakami's resolution saying that destruction of these remote reefs and islands is "inevitable" without federal protection.

Supporters of Kawakami's resolution pointed to the report, drafted by the Water, Land Use and Hawaiian Homes Committee, which said the proposed move is "tantamount to federal confiscation of the northwestern Hawaiian Islands' natural resources and their uses that belong to the residents of the state."

IN HIS FLOOR remarks, Kawakami said the federal government is infringing upon the state's right to determine what lands should be preserved.

The Kauai Democrat said the state should be allowed to control this area because its resources and

potential uses are crucial to the future diversification of the state's economy, especially its fishing industry.

"This area will help an industry here with new fishing, processing and marketing techniques," Kawakami said.

"It will give the state the opportunity to harvest some of its resources and give our local industry at least the possibility of survival."

HOWEVER, Rep. John Carroll, R-11th Dist. (Ala Moana-Waikiki), argued that he knew of only one local company which has a boat equipped to travel the 2,200 miles from Honolulu to fish in those waters.

"The real detrimental effect of this resolution," Carroll said, "is that it is an open invitation for a Mainland company to come here and take advantage of the situation."

"Commercial vessels in this area will mean landings on the island," Carroll added. "A single wrecked vessel with rats aboard could completely change the island's ecosystem and mean the destruction of the entire bird population."

"We have in this resolution a myopic vision of riches just waiting to be harvested. It is a vehicle for exploitation that is blind to the problems and apparently insensitive to the consequences."

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A-22

Friday, February 29, 1980

Fishing Industry's Bright Future

The relative insignificance of Hawaii's fishing industry always has been incongruous.

Hawaii residents are estimated to consume twice as much seafood per capita as the national average — but 75 percent of it is imported. Even that famous "island fish," the mahimahi, comes primarily from Taiwan and Ecuador.

The fishing industry in total is estimated to account for less than 1 percent of the gross state product despite our mid-ocean location. Catches have been relatively static for years and were not much more in 1975 than in 1900.

Now there are signs of a change. Discovery of the rich Hancock Seamount fishing grounds near Midway has opened up new potential. Four million pounds of albacore were taken in the Midway area in 1979, compared to total state catches of all species of only 13 million pounds in

state catches of all species of fish
1978.

The Midway fishing potential helped spur the addition of 12 new long-range vessels to the Hawaii fishing fleet in 1979 with eight more under construction at year's end.

A state-funded report, now before the Ariyoshi administration and the Legislature, estimates that catches in the next 20 years could grow to as much as 86 million pounds, more than six times the 1978 catch. Most of it would be tuna but potential is also seen in increased takes of bottom-fish, lobster, shrimp, akule, opelu, alfonsons and armor-heads. The report says the outside potential of the Hawaiian fisheries area might go as high as 117.5 million pounds a year, or nine times the 1978 catch.

A fishing industry of such size would rival the pineapple industry in its economic contribution to the state. It would, the report notes, fit well with the state plan of encouraging environmentally compatible industries that take advantage of Hawaii's unique geographic location.

Most of the fishing grounds lie in the islands stretching 1,500 miles northwest from Kauai to Midway, but the state report suggests support facilities for the fishing fleet on all four major Islands — Oahu, Hawaii, Maui and Kauai.

The fishing fleet is visualized as expanding to 185 vessels by the year 2000 compared to about 50 before 1980 is out and far fewer a few years ago.

What happens to the present center of fish boat activity at Kewalo Basin is sure to be influenced by what happens to the Hawaiian Tuna Packers Plant at Kewalo Basin when its lease on state land expires in 1989. That, in turn, may be influenced by Kakaako area redevelopment plans now under study. A relocation could shuffle facilities statewide.

The pending Hawaii Fisheries Development Plan, prepared for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, is well-filled with data on existing facilities and estimated potential. It leads Lands Department Chairman Susumu Ono to the conclusion: "For the first time in many years we can view the future of Hawaii's fishing industry with considerable optimism."

To develop a fishing industry of greater magnitude in Hawaii seems long overdue. If it can be done successfully, despite the competition we will be getting from other Pacific island areas, it will be a highly desirable addition to the state's economy.

No dock space for any more fishing boats

By Barbara Hastings
Advertiser Science Writer

There was, once upon a time, a community that had a voracious appetite for fish — so voracious, indeed, that each person there ate two times more fish than the average person consumed in the rest of the country.

But although this place was surrounded by water, the people of these islands supplied themselves with only a tiny fraction of the fish they consumed. They depended on other places to send them fish, less fresh and at high prices.

Other countries came and fished in the waters near the islands, taking many times more fish than the people in the islands took.

There were people in the islands who saw the flaws in this system, men and women of vision who said: "Wait, let's catch our own fish, giving our own people jobs and money. What we need are more fishing boats."

Simple as the solution sounded, however, there were problems — not the least of which was that there wasn't anywhere to put one single new fishing boat, if they got one.

Undeterred, they did a study — a fisheries development plan, a blueprint for a bigger fishing fleet. And then they tried to implement it.

Now if this was a true story, which of course it is, implementation of this fishing plan would get bogged down in bureaucracy, funding and facts of life.

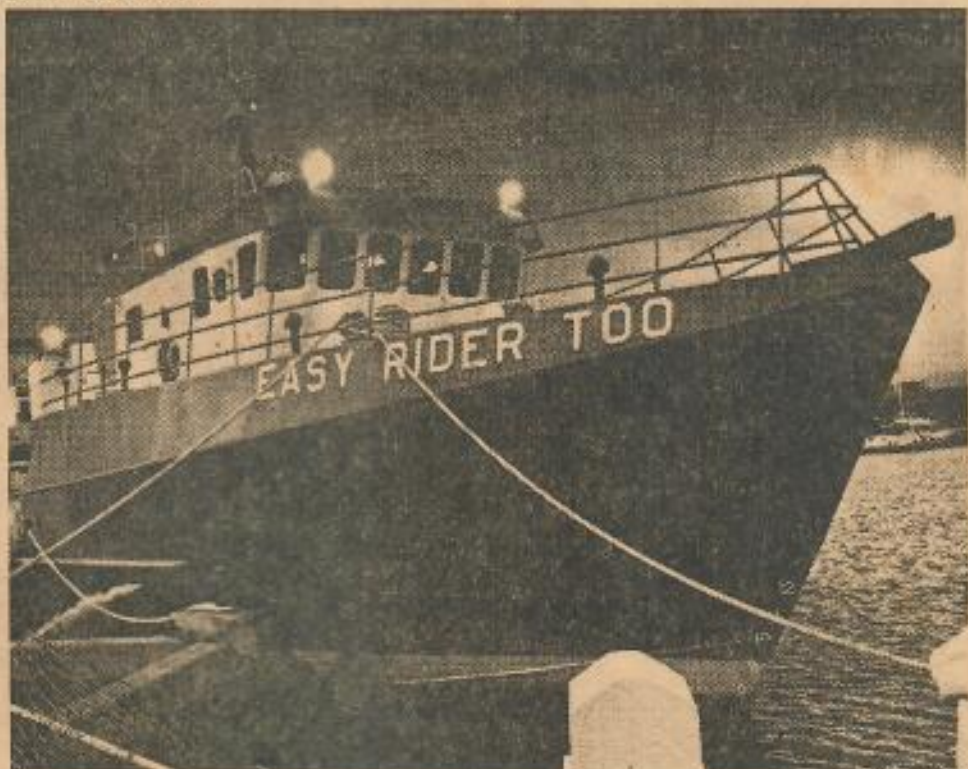
But before we get to that, let's plug some facts into our fairy tale.

The people of the Hawaiian Islands consume about 30 million pounds of fish every year. About 23 million pounds of that come from somewhere else, the Mainland or foreign sources.

Last year, Hawaii fishers landed 4,000 tons of aku or skipjack tuna. Japanese fishers, working basically the same area within two or three days of Honolulu, took 25,000 tons of the skipjack home.

Most of the mahimahi we eat, despite the Hawaiian name used for the fish, is coming in frozen from Taiwan and Ecuador. Our fishing fleet, with a few exceptions, is antiquated and lacks long-range capability.

And while Hawaii could use an increase of 100 new vessels to start bringing in its own fish supply, "right now,



Advertiser photo

Easy Rider Too, Hawaii's only process-aboard fishing boat, rides at anchor at Kewalo Basin.

there's not one additional dock space for a commercial vessel," said Stanley Swerdloff, project manager for the Hawaii Fisheries Development Plan.

Swerdloff, speaking last week as part of a Hawaii Ocean Law Association lecture series, wasn't pessimistic, stressing that over the last four years or so, the Hawaii fish landings have increased sharply. But it's nothing compared to its potential, he explained.

The development plan has been on the books for half a year or so now, but other than \$500,000 appropriated by the Legislature to help in implementation, not too much has happened.

Fishers here are bringing in about 13 million pounds a year, he said — but the potential for a Hawaii fishing fleet is, conservatively, he says, 60 million to 104 million pounds more than that. Swerdloff said this would be six to nine times greater than what's being caught without depleting the fishery resource.

There's limited dock space on Oahu for all kinds of craft. As the commercial fishing fleet is beginning to expand, so are the charter fishing boat and the tour boat fleets expanding. These boats all must compete for what dock space becomes available.

The Department of Transportation is working on expansion of the dock facilities, and plans space for fishing boats at Pier 16, Swerdloff said, but that's still a few years away.

Even if dock space were available,

Swerdloff said, there are other problems, like vessel financing, that are going to require government solutions. Modern, long-range fishing boats are very expensive, he said — \$250,000 for a smaller one or \$2.5 million for one like Easy Rider Too, the only processing-on-board ship working out of Hawaii.

"Financing has been a tough proposition in recent years," he said; normal lending institutions view fishing as a pretty high-risk venture. Hawaii is going to have to provide loan guarantees if a major fishing industry is to be created for the Islands, Swerdloff said.

If the state can get that industry moving, though, he added, it can provide \$42 million of direct income by 1990 and \$73 million by 2000.

If the fish take reaches 100 million pounds a year, according to Swerdloff, fishing will be an industry on a par with pineapple.

Of course, fuel costs are a major constraint on a fishing industry, he said. A year ago, fuel costs accounted for 40 to 60 percent of the operating costs of a fishing boat; today, it's 80 percent.

There's a potential positive to that, however, Swerdloff pointed out. It takes the Japanese 14 days to run each way from Japan to the skipjack fields within 1,000 miles of Hawaii.

"With the cost of fuel, that gives us one heck of an economic advantage," Swerdloff said, because those same grounds are only two or three days from Honolulu.

Fishermen to Test Leeward Islands

The Keola, a 75-foot West Coast fishing vessel under contract to California-Hawaii Seafoods Inc., will head for French Frigate Shoals within a few days seeking lobster, opakapaka, ulua, and black sea bass for local markets.

"The waters there are very rough, so the Keola may not be able to go much beyond French Frigate Shoals. But we are very hopeful. All indications are that the resources are there," said Fred "Drum" Inouye, operations manager of the new company.

This will be the first time a vessel as modern and well-equipped as the Keola has tried out the huge stretch of leeward waters between Nihoa and Kure Island, he said.

THE KEOLA carries 13,000 gallons of fuel—enough to make two round trips to the Mainland—and could spend four to six weeks in the leeward islands, compared with most local vessels' limit of four or five days.

The vessel cost more than \$1 million, and its blast-freezer cost more than \$100,000. The latter is a big advantage, Inouye said, because quality and freshness are preserved by freezing fish the day it's caught.

"This could be a big thing for Hawaii," helping to solve the problem of "sometimes ridiculous prices" and frequent shortages of Hawaii families' favorite fishes, he said.

The Keola's skipper, Seiko Hamabata, is a veteran of more than 30 years' experience, and was the company's first choice for the job, according to Inouye, another industry veteran and owner of Seafood Hawaii and the Aku House.

HIS SON JED J. Inouye is president of California-Hawaii Seafoods.

The extent of the leeward fisheries resource is largely unknown, but surveys by the Honolulu Laboratory of the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, and pioneering efforts by commercial fishermen Leo Ohai, Bill Shinasato and Skip Naftel all point to significant lobster, bottom-fish and tuna stocks, according to the Inouyes.

They said that the state administration and Legislature are providing "a very favorable climate for expansion of the fishing industry" through the Office of Marine Affairs and the Division of Fish and Game.

5 Are Rescued but Stuck on Another Isle

Five persons who were marooned on tiny Little Gin Island in the French Frigate Shoals for 13 days were rescued yesterday, but it may be a while before they get back to Oahu, a Coast Guard spokesman said today.

The survivors were identified as Alan Stringer, 37; Jennifer Scafe, 20; Chris Kalama, 23; Alan Reis, 28; and Llawona Corbit, 26.

They were taken off the island by Fish and Wildlife personnel in a 16-foot Boston whaler and taken to nearby Tern Island, where a U.S. Fish and Wildlife station is located.

The group was described as being in good shape. They were on Little Gin because the 75-foot fishing vessel Keola, skippered by Stringer, ran aground and sank in bad weather, the spokesman said.

Since they are in no danger, they will have to find commercial transportation back to Oahu. The quickest way would be to take a 10-seat Hawaiian Sky Tours plane which lands on Tern Island a couple of times a week. But that would cost a total of more than \$2,000 for the five survivors, and they don't have that much money, the spokesman said.

A tugboat on its way to Honolulu is scheduled to stop at Tern Island on Friday, and the former castaways may "hitch a ride" on it, the spokesman said.

Coast Guard Tries Again to Rescue Five on Isle

Another attempt was to be made today to rescue five persons marooned on a tiny island in the French Frigate Shoals when their Honolulu-based fishing boat ran aground and broke up Jan. 7.

The Coast Guard said rough water and strong winds prevented their rescue yesterday from Little Gin Island, which is about the size of a football field.

Flares fired by the stranded crew of the 75-foot boat Keola, out of Kewalo Basin, were seen Sunday by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Division personnel on nearby Tern Island and the Coast Guard was called.

A Coast Guard aircraft from Hono-

lulu flew over Little Gin yesterday, saw an S.O.S. message in the sand and dropped supplies and a radio to the marooned party, who radioed that they were all well.

THE 63-FOOT fishing boat Archer was unable to land a rescue party yesterday and the Coast Guard said the crew of that vessel would try again today, using two small boats operated by the fisheries group on Tern Island.

Aboard the Keola when it left Honolulu Jan. 5 were Alan M. Stringer, 37, the boat owner, Chris Kalama, 23, Alan Reis, 28, Llawona Corbit, 26 and Jeanne Skaff.

Isles' Fishing Industry Appears to Be on Move

Continued from Page One

a fishery takes money, perseverance, good management and luck... Most past attempts to expand the Hawaii aku fishery have lacked at least two of the four elements, and as a result have not met with appreciable success."

HE RECOMMENDED the establishment of a state fishery development office to be responsible for fisheries development. He also recommended a five-year development program which would cost about \$3.8 million, but would pay off in terms of jobs and tax revenues.

He said the program should emphasize culture of bait for the existing fleet and new boats and chartering of boats for exploratory fishing to expand the area and season of the Hawaii fishery—some of which the Tuna Development Foundation already is doing.

Gerakas said the foundation has

chartered purse seiners and bait boats as well as albacore trollers. Seiners appear to offer the most potential because of environmental problems experienced by the tuna industry in eastern fishery grounds, he said.

THE FOUNDATION developed a fast-sinking, one-mile-long net for purse-seine operations, made for \$200,000 in Japan. It was used by an American tuna vessel chartered by the foundation last year and worked very well, Gerakas said.

The foundation has chartered four albacore trollers and a purse seiner for exploratory fishing this year.

Gerakas envisions 100 to 150 small albacore boats coming here eventually from the Mainland to fish and supply the local cannery.

"But this poses problems for Hawaii. What do we do with 150 vessels that might want to come here? There is no pier space."

He said the foundation has asked for federal funds to study sites for a fishery complex, including a cannery, auction and berthing facilities.

Nawiliwili, Kauai, is a possible location, Gerakas said.

Tomorrow: Fish at lower prices for Hawaii.

**Hawaii Fishing
Industry's
Future?**



Hon. STAR-BULLETIN
MAY 23, 1938

Industry Appears to Be on the Move

Isles' Fish Story Is Improving

By Helen Alhorn
Star-Bulletin Writer

Hawaii's fishing industry appears at long last to be on the move, with millions of dollars at stake in the exploitation of vast tuna resources in neighboring Pacific waters.

Fleets from foreign and Mainland ports are racing to tap the resources because of an increasing world demand and rising prices—and all of the fishing interests in Hawaii, private and public, are pulling together for the first time in hopes of getting a big piece of the action.

Last week, Gov. George R. Ariyoshi announced that the Navy has agreed to let tuna fishermen from Hawaii use Midway Island's facilities so that they can extend their range to lucrative fishing grounds northwest of the Islands.

The economic potential of a state fisheries development has long been discussed. But despite the efforts of various agencies, the industry's growth has been retarded by lack of money, bait, adequate vessels, crewmen and a host of other problems.

STATE OFFICIALS now are optimistic because of several factors, including:

—A hefty boost from the last Legislature, which adopted the entire package proposed by a legisla-

tive committee representing all segments of the fishing industry.

—The success of American fishing boats chartered by the Pacific Tuna Development Foundation to explore and develop tuna fisheries.

Andrew Gerakas, foundation president who is with the state Department of Planning and Economic Development, said, "We're very

First of a Series

fortunate. It's rare that you'd have good success so quickly in the developmental field."

He said two boats chartered by the organization last year to fish off Midway "found more albacore than they had ever seen in their lives. They came in full..."

"Our boat early last month landed over 800 tons of fish in American Samoa," he added. In fact, when the charter was completed, the boat stayed for more fishing, a clear sign of success, he said. "The whole idea is to encourage boats to get out there."

THE FOUNDATION was established in 1914 as part of the Pacific Islands Development Commission. It is a cooperative effort between five American island areas, the U.S.

West Coast tuna canners, fishboat owners' organizations and a fisherman's union.

The foundation receives 80 percent of its money from the federal government and the rest from the industry for practical, developmental work done under commercial conditions.

"We're not filled with a lot of bureaucracy," Gerakas said. "If we get money, we do it fast. If it doesn't work, we scratch it. If it works, we run with it."

"It's a pioneering thing. We've got the resource—it's there. But it's a fight between us and foreign countries. We spend one dollar and they spend \$10. We send one seiner and they send 10."

THE PROBLEMS and potential of a Hawaiian tuna fishery are outlined in a comprehensive development plan prepared last October for the DPED by Frank Hester, formerly with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

He was assisted by an advisory panel of the Pacific Islands Fisheries Development Committee, affiliated with the Pacific Tuna Development Foundation.

He said the advisory group emphasized the necessity of maintaining a cannery in Hawaii, and concluded

that the bait problem is the greatest single problem with the fishery.

He said it's estimated that between 100,000 and one million additional metric tons of skipjack tuna, worth from \$75 million to \$750 million to the fishermen, can be taken annually from Pacific waters without affecting the resource.

Besides skipjack tuna, or aku, he said there are stocks of other tuna in the central Pacific which are underfished biologically. These include yellowfin tuna and albacore.

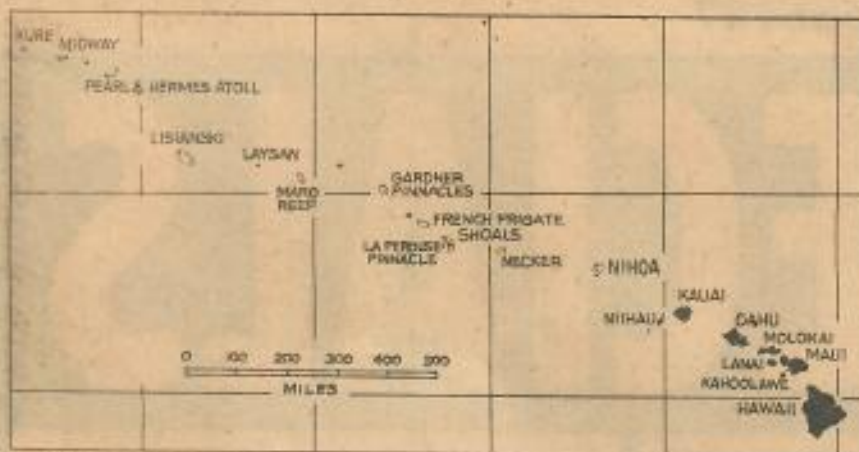
HAWAII'S aku boats are tied to the fresh-fish market, essentially a sashimi market. All but one, the Anela, are limited to local fishing because they are dependent upon live bait. The prime bait, an ichthyoid called nehu, is in short supply and dies within a few days aboard ship, Hester said.

He said there is potential for a tuna fishery within 1,500 miles of the major Hawaiian Islands, but it must develop independent of the fresh-fish market.

If a fishery doesn't develop within 10 years, "the cannery probably will not find it profitable to continue operations upon expiration of the present lease," he said, pointing out that more than 500 jobs are involved.

Said Hester, "The development of

Turn to Page A-4, Col. 2



BOUNDARY STRUGGLE—Hawaii is wrestling with the federal government for control of fishing areas in the northwest islands of the Hawaiian Archipelago.

Hawaii and U.S. in a Tug-of-War

By Helen Altom
Star-Bulletin Writer

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At issue in the dispute over the northwest region of the Hawaiian Archipelago is a potentially lucrative state fishing development versus protection of wildlife habitats.

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"WE HAVE WHAT we consider to be refuge boundaries backed by the Interior Department solicitor's opinion," said H.A. Hansen, Honolulu administrator of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

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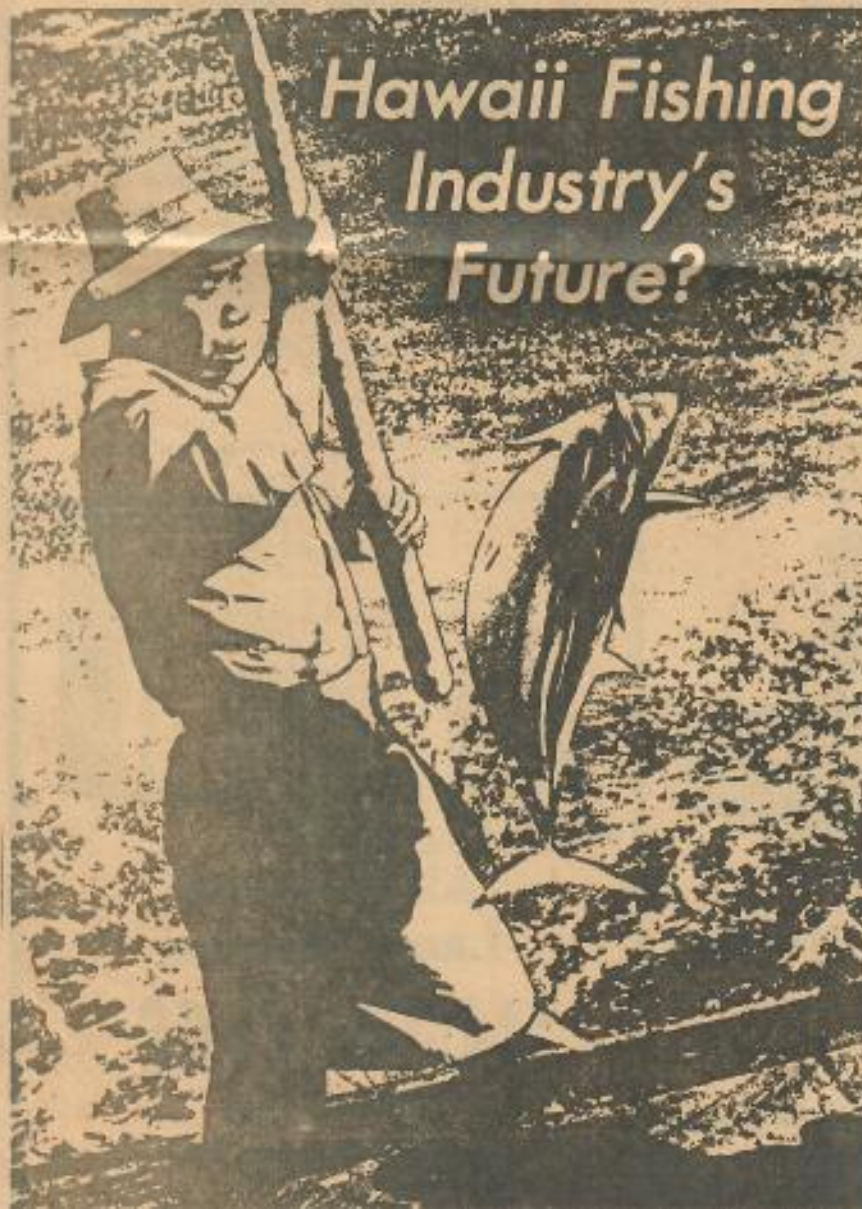
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Giezentanner said the Fish and

Turn to Page A-13, Col. 1





FISH MARKET—State officials hope to provide residents with a bigger choice of fish and better prices through expansion of the fishing industry.

Huge Potential Cited

Leeward Isles Linked to Fishing Expansion

By Helen Altom
Star-Bulletin Writer

Stanley N. Swerdloff, deputy state marine affairs coordinator, said he watches people sorting through fish in their markets to find something they can afford and he "would like to see an end to that."

He believes this is now possible because of a legislative package aimed at developing the industry beyond a sashimi market—reaching out to the huge fishery resources of the central and western Pacific to increase the catch for Island consumers.

"Just about everybody in the fishing industry was involved..." in drafting the legislation, with his office coordinating the activities, Swerdloff said. The Legislature adopted the entire program. "It's an exciting step for the industry," he said.

"We're not just talking about areas around the islands but nearly one-half-million square miles, as far as the leewards are concerned," he said.

However, he pointed out that there is a jurisdictional dispute between the state and federal governments over the leeward areas in the National Wildlife Refuge. "That matter has to be resolved," he said. "We're talking about 300,000 acres of submerged lands under dispute."

Swerdloff also noted the jurisdictional problems, which were addressed by several legislative resolutions.

"These problems essentially revolve around federal control of what we consider to be state territorial waters," he said.

HE CITED PROBLEMS with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which moved to extend its boundary jurisdiction in the refuge area through establishment of a critical

port due before the 1980 session, he said.

"What we need is to take a look at the whole spectrum of fisheries potential," he said. "We feel we're at a critical point right now."

"The sophistication of the local fishing industry, including the market people and others, has increased tremendously. For the first time, we're getting various segments of the industry to work together."

"From our end, we hope to get various agencies, state and federal, working together in a coordinated effort."

Swerdloff said there is a possibility of large amounts of federal money becoming available for harbors, processing plants and other facilities involved in a fisheries development.

The legislation includes one bill and 10 resolutions, generally aimed at resolving problems in developing the industry and expanding fishing to Hawaii's Leeward Islands.

SWERDLOFF SAID, "The key to the whole package is going to be a fisheries development master plan," to be drafted by the state Division of Fish and Game with a \$150,000 appropriation.

Division Director Kenji Ego said his staff will work with the state Department of Planning and Economic Development and other organizations in developing the plan.

He said, "There are two areas in which to move. There are the pelagic species, such as aku, on the high seas, where we're just skimming the top, and we're talking about albacore beyond the Midway area.

"The second thing is the Leeward Islands, and when we talk about the Leeward Islands, we're talking about all the fish species presently harvested within the major Hawaiian Islands, associated with the land mass."

HE SAID resources in the Leeward Islands, which he described as "virgin territory," include akule, spiny lobsters, ulua, papio, moi, wholehole, various snappers and groupers such as opakapaka, and other things such as Kona crab and precious coral.

Second of a Series

habitat for monk seals, and problems with the state department "giving away fishing rights in the Leeward Islands."

"What it all points to is we feel the fishery in the leewards should be reserved for our local fleet which is going to develop, and our big potential is in the Leeward Islands," he said.

Basic problems also must be resolved on the home front, he said, including holding and processing of fish, vessel financing, marketing of fish—particularly export marketing—development of new types of bait fish or supplemental bait for the aku fleet, and fishing industry involvement in planning for harbor facilities.

These are among problems covered by the legislative resolutions and directed largely to the DPED to find solutions, he said.

HE SAID, "WE feel the Legislature is going to support a coherent program if it is well laid out."

The master plan study is geared for 18 months, with a progress re-

HE SAID, "ONE of the first steps we are recommending to the state Department of Land and Natural Resources (which administers the Division of Fish and Game) is that it develop a state fisheries development commission, or something of that sort, as an advisory body. The main thing is to get input from industry.

He said so far no one has taken a good look at fisheries products, and there is a potential problem here with surplus fish.

"If fisheries develop in the leeward area, we will have much more fish than the local market can handle. We've got to get a good handle on the export potential."

He said vessel financing is also a serious problem. State funds for vessels are nearly depleted and the industry feels additional financing should be provided "possibly through a guarantee program, rather than outright loans from the state," he said.

"Stronger policing action also is needed to collect delinquent loans, so the money can get back in the system," he said.

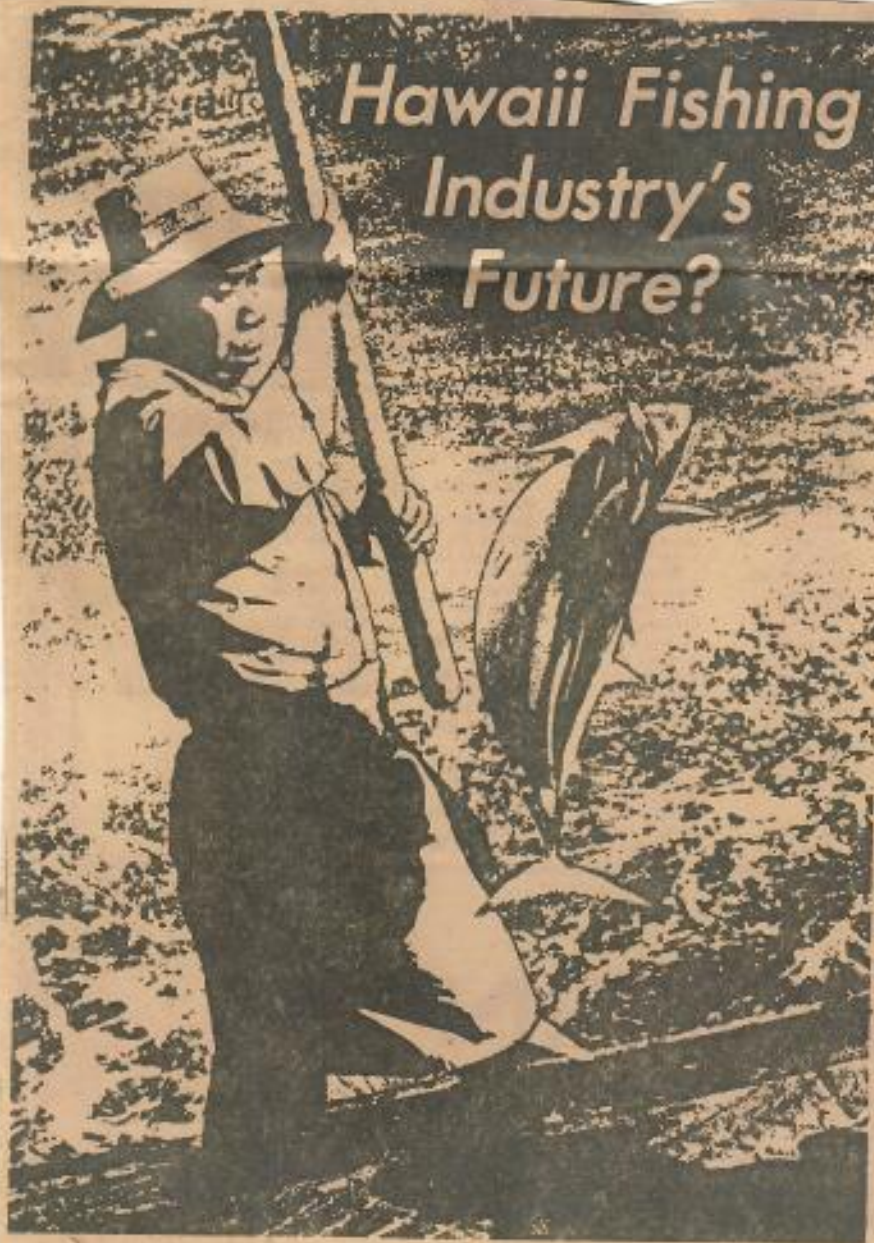
HE SAID HIS office is working with Maui County on a baitfish program using top minnows and other types of fish as substitutes to nehu as aku bait. The nehu resource in Kaneohe Bay is just about dried up and the bait situation, a longtime problem, is becoming even more critical, Swerdloff said.

Swerdloff said Hawaii's aku fleet now has 14 boats, with 12 on Oahu and two on Maui. This is a decline from 32 boats in 1948. The only boat in the fleet capable of long trips is the Anela. Six other Hawaii boats are engaged in extended tuna fishing activities but are not in the aku fleet.

Boats in the aku fleet have dwindled over the years because of high replacement costs, the difficulty of finding fishermen and the shortage of bait, according to a tuna development study for the state by Frank Hester, former federal fisheries official.

The aku fleet has had several bad seasons but has averaged about 9.5 million pounds of aku annually, Hester said.

Hawaii Fishing Industry's Future?



HE SAID IF a fishery development office is established, one of its initial projects should be the financing of a pilot bait fish facility capable of supplying 50,000 pounds of bait fish annually.

Andrew Gerakas, head of the Pacific Tuna Development Foundation, said the foundation is seeking federal funds to build such a facility on Molokai to rear top minnows.

"We envision long-range bait boats coming out from the West Coast but the boats would be based here, use our hardy bait, and drop fish off in our cannery. We could envision another cannery," he said.

In a recent status report on its activities, the foundation said a catch of 200,000 tons of tuna valued at approximately \$160 million annually "is a reasonable goal" for the U.S. tuna fishery development in the central and western Pacific.

"We've got to have vision and a concept and work toward that," Gerakas said. "We know it can be done...."

New Hawaii-based boat catches (and packs) fish

By BARBARA HASTINGS
Advertiser Science Writer

There's a boat moored at a dock down at Kewalo Basin destined to alter the commercial fishing habits of its Hawaii home base — and of the United States as well.

Easy Rider Too, spanking clean and new, rests easily in the basin waters, waiting to be blessed tomorrow as the first catcher/processor boat in the country.

The Russians have them, the Japanese have them, so do the Norwegians and the West Germans. But until Easy Rider Too, the United States fishing fleet has never had a single boat with the capability of both catching and fully processing fish at sea.

Easy Rider Too will deliver fish to the dock cleaned, filleted (or tailed if lobster), blast frozen, wrapped in plastic and boxed. No other U.S.-owned or registered ship does this, its skipper says.

The boat can stay out at sea longer, travel farther to find fish, and yet bring it back almost as fresh as fresh. Blast freezing is done when the fish is less than an hour out of the water, and is so quick that when defrosted, advocates say, it's hard to tell the difference between it and the fresh-caught kind.

Gary "Skip" Naftel is both the skipper and the power behind Easy Rider Too. With the backing of a 17-member hui, including a number of Kaiser Hospital doctors, Naftel got the 125-foot boat built in New Orleans for \$3 million. A National Marine Fisheries loan guarantee helped secure \$1.7 million of the construction price, the rest came from the hui, Naftel said.

The boat is built to the specifications of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and Naftel, who has been outspoken on conservation issues in the past, says his crew

will follow Hawaii laws on size and type of lobster it will take, even though the ship will be catching far outside state jurisdiction.

Naftel's ship is designed to carry 150 tons of individually packaged finished product. For at least the first trip out, which will be in about two weeks, that product will be lobster tails.

Easy Rider Too will be at sea for 50-day stretches, Naftel says, and then will bring its packaged product "right through the auction like normal fish."

His boat has a range of about 10,000 miles — virtually the entire Pacific Basin — and can play what's generally called "mother ship" to five other boats. That means five other fishing craft can work around the Easy Rider Too, and toss over their catches to the mother ship for processing.

For its first trips, however, Easy Rider Too will be accompanied by only one boat, Easy Rider. Between the two of them, they'll put down 1,700 lobster traps.

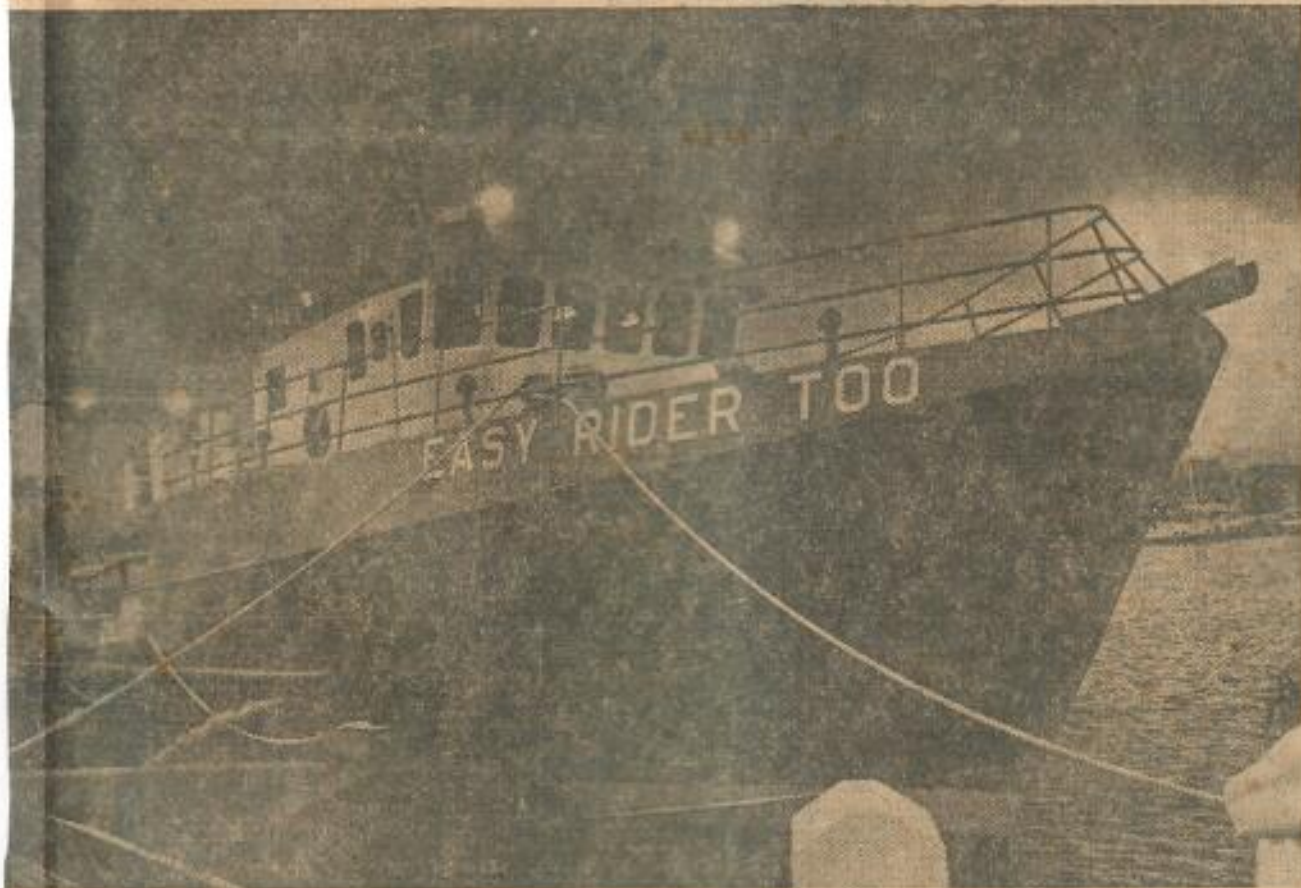
Easy Rider Too will have a crew of 17, Easy Rider another eight. Between them, about a million pounds of fish are expected to be caught and processed a year, and Naftel expects the operation to gross \$3 million to \$4 million. Operating costs are expected to run about \$1 million, he says.

The process will run something like this for lobster catch:

The animals will be brought up on board from their traps, dropped down a chute to the stainless steel and molded plastic processing room on the lower deck.

The lobster will be cleaned and tailed, the waste gobbled up by the garbage disposal and fed back into the sea.

The tails will be dropped into a brine (salty water) tank for cleaning, and for the first step of temperature



Advertiser photo by T. Umada

The Easy Rider Too after docking late yesterday afternoon at Kewalo Basin.

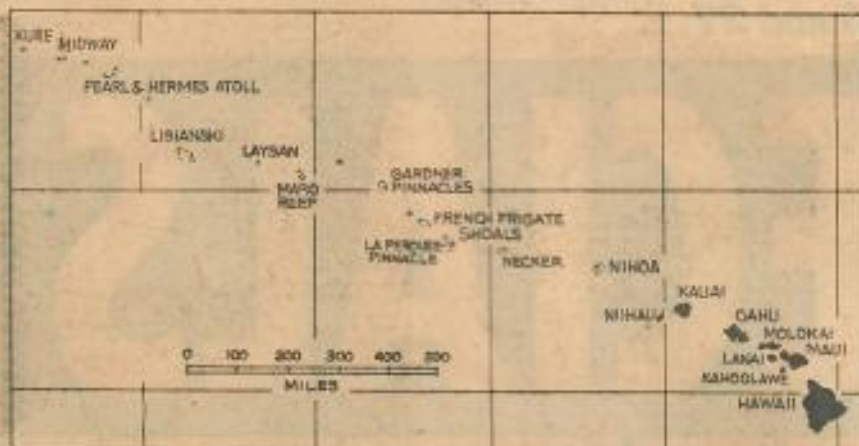
lowering.

Then they'll be bagged, lined on stainless steel trays, and slipped into the blast tunnel. In there, where temperatures are about 80 degrees below zero, the lobster tails will be blast-frozen to about 50 degrees below zero — in 13 minutes or so.

Then the frozen tails will be boxed and stored in the freezer fish hold, a huge walk-in room.

All this — from sea to freezer shelf — in less than 45 minutes, according to Naftel's publicist, Rick Gaffney.

Easy Rider is an efficient ship, which happens to also be designed for the comfort of its crew. Koa paneling graces the galley and the captain's cabin. Video cassettes will provide the crew members with entertainment, and there's a stereo system piped throughout the living quarters.



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*Hawaii Fishing
Industry's
Future?*



The Birds and Flies of Laysan

LAYSAN, AN ATOLL 790 miles northwest of Honolulu, has been exploited by feather hunters and guano miners. One man considered establishing a coconut plantation and a rabbit canning business there.

Today this island, part of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, has no permanent human inhabitants. It is home to vast numbers of birds and flies and lesser numbers of Hawaiian monk seals. It measures a bit over a mile in width and less than two miles in length and still contains one of the largest lakes in Hawaii, a very salty body of water occupying about 160 acres.

These features have resulted in much scientific interest, with entomologists, ornithologists, zoologists and a limnologist conducting studies on the inhospitable island within the last few weeks. Some of the studies are continuing.

John Henderson, of the Marine Mammals and Endangered Species Program of the Honolulu Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service, is one of four biologists studying behavior of male monk seals. Adult males outnumber the females, so there is competition for access to females, with the females sometimes being fatally injured.

THE SCIENTISTS are trying to determine if there is a hierarchy among the males. As part of the study, all seal pups are being tagged. Adult males are marked by a number placed on their backs with hair bleach when they are asleep.

The studies on Laysan will continue through August and are also being conducted on Lisianski, Pearl and Hermes Reef, Kure and French Frigate Shoals.

Sheila Conant, of the University of Hawaii, is interested in Laysan finches, to be found on Pearl and Hermes Reef, as well as Laysan. The two populations have been isolated for only 18 years, and Conant wonders if they are starting to differ in body and bill size.

A major food for the Pearl and Hermes birds is the puncture vine or nohu, which has seeds that are hard to crack. Conant's hypothesis is that these birds may be developing bigger bills because they have to crack hard seeds. A study of birds on



Harry Whitten

Galapagos Islands during a drought showed that only the birds with big bills survived.

FOR HER STUDY, Conant is banding birds. She worked on Pearl and Hermes Reef last summer and will return there this summer to check on birds she banded.

Darcy Hu, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, was on Laysan monitoring two seabird species, black noddies and red-footed boobies. The studies are to check on what the birds are

An interesting place in the Hawaiian chain for scientists who want to study ducks, seals and other inhabitants.

eating, how fast chicks are growing, and if anything other than natural variation affects reproductive success. Ed Bean, another Fish and Wildlife biologist, is staying on Laysan until July to continue the studies.

Wayne Gagne, Bishop museum entomologist, and Petra Lenz, of Kapiolani Community College, had a grant from the National Geographic Society for their study of brine flies in the Laysan lake. Lenz is a limnologist, a person who studies lakes or ponds.

Gagne and Lenz found that the endangered Laysan duck feeds mostly on brine flies which breed in a very salty place, such as the lake that is six times saltier than sea water during a dry period. Because of the flies, the ducks survived during the 20 years when rabbits overran the island and destroyed almost all the vegetation. The

vegetation returned after the last rabbits were exterminated in 1923.

Plovers, tattlers, turnstones and other birds also feed on the flies.

Bob Pyle, also of the Bishop Museum, tried to get a good count of the ducks but found it very difficult because the ducks were hard to find in the vegetation around the lake. He saw enough ducklings to indicate that reproduction is going well.

Laysan has no airstrip, so researchers have to depend on boats to reach the island, either the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Townsend Cromwell or boats chartered by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

There is no fresh water. All supplies including food and water have to be brought in. Sometimes the Coast Guard air-drops supplies from its planes going to Kure. Researchers live in tents. High winds in recent weeks added to the difficulty in studying the ecosystem.

Honored

BEATRICE H. KRAUSS was presented with the Kukui O Lota Award of the Moanalua Gardens Foundation recently for "her distinguished lifetime of selfless work as an educator, ethnobotanist, historian and friend of all environmentalists."

Krauss, 82, has spent almost 60 years in teaching, research and writing and continues active volunteer work.

Kawainui

AN "OPEN HOUSE on the Marsh" will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday by the Kawai Nui Heritage Foundation, which invites people to visit Kawainui Marsh. The program includes entertainment, lectures, exhibits, marsh tours, Hawaiian craft demonstrations, art and plant sales.

Entrances will be at the Windward YMCA, 1200 Kailua Road, and at the ITT property, where there is a "Welcome to Kailua" sign. A \$1 donation is asked of persons older than 16.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

PLANNING UPDATE



No. 5

May 1985



GREETINGS:

This is the fifth in a series of "Planning Update" newsletters concerning the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's master planning effort for the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge (HINWR). The purpose of this issue is to keep you informed of our progress in preparing the Master Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the HINWR.

MUCH HAS HAPPENED SINCE OUR LAST PLANNING UPDATE

The following is a brief summary of the major events associated with the HINWR Master Plan/EIS which have occurred since Planning Update No. 4 (August 1984):

1. The second HINWR Master Planning Workshop was held on September 12, 1984 in Honolulu at the McCoy Pavilion in Ala Moana Park. The workshop was attended by 41 participants which included commercial fishermen, environmentalists, members of the academic and research community, environmental educators, resource management students and representatives from various state and federal resource management agencies. Overall, the group was in general agreement with most strategies outlined in our preferred management alternative. Numerous suggestions were made to refine, broaden or clarify certain strategies within our proposal.
2. Over 130 copies of the draft HINWR Master Plan/EIS were distributed in August 1984 to various agencies, organizations, libraries and individuals for review and comment. As a result of this public review opportunity, we received 26 letters commenting on our draft proposal.
3. The draft Master Plan/EIS was revised on the basis of comments made during the second workshop and contained in the 26 letters. Written responses were prepared addressing each suggestion or comment included in the letters. Our responses along with the incoming letters will be included in the appendix of the final Master Plan/EIS.

4. On February 27, 1985 we sent a revised and updated version of the Master Plan/EIS to the National Marine Fisheries Service, seeking their review with regard to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The purpose of this review is to ensure that our proposed actions will not jeopardize endangered or threatened species or adversely affect their "critical habitat." The National Marine Fisheries Service is involved in this review because they share management responsibility for the Hawaiian monk seal and green sea turtle. As a related note, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted a separate Section 7 review of the draft Master Plan/EIS in December of 1984 and concluded that the actions proposed in the plan would promote conservation of all six species of endangered and threatened wildlife inhabiting the refuge.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

When we receive the findings of the National Marine Fisheries Service Section 7 review (expected in July 1985), we will make any necessary changes to the Master Plan/EIS then distribute it to the same concerned agencies, organizations, libraries and individuals that received the first draft. Reviewers will have approximately thirty days to examine the plan. Assuming no substantive comments are received, we will finalize the report, file a Record of Decision and conclude the planning effort. Then, as resources become available, we will move from a planning to an action mode and begin to implement those high priority strategies recommended in the preferred management alternative.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, would like additional information, or would like a copy of the final Master Plan/EIS, please contact Richard C. Wass, Refuge Manager, Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 5302, P. O. Box 50167, Honolulu, HI 96850; telephone 808-546-5608.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 5302
P. O. Box 50167
Honolulu, HI 96850



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TO:

George Balazs
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 3830
Honolulu, HI 96812

THC
Twenty years ago, a team of Smithsonian researchers landed on a string of remote Pacific islands to study the comings and goings of sea birds—terns, albatrosses, gulls. But there was another reason they were there, one stamped "Secret." The leaders of this scholarly band of curators and ecologists reported their findings to military scientists whose interest was not birds but biological weapons.

The Pacific project was two separate missions existing side by side: the Smithsonian's and the Pentagon's. The Smithsonian was only too eager to be given funds to study bird migratory patterns and the military was eager to find "safe" sites for atmospheric testing of biological weapons in the Pacific. Such sites could be determined from the Smithsonian research.

An Army spokesman says military scientists wanted to be certain germs would not be spread beyond the test sites by migrating birds. Other military scientists also wanted to know if sea birds could be used as carriers of biological weapons winging deadly disease across borders. In military terms, birds could be "avian vectors of disease."

The secret contract was an odd departure for the Smithsonian Institution, beloved

and benign. Although the Smithsonian has for decades had unclassified research contracts with the Department of Defense, as it has with other federal departments and agencies, the Pacific Ocean Bird Project was not just another contract.

Smithsonian researchers burned copies of some project notes and correspondence with the military, but many of their originals are preserved in acid-free boxes deep within the Smithsonian's own archives, which are open to the public. Forgotten by many, consulted by few, the 17 square feet of records contain day-by-day accounts, maps, photos and correspondence with the military. All are pieces of a puzzle that show the Pacific Ocean Bird Project was one of the largest and most mysterious undertakings in the institution's 139-year history.

The Smithsonian said at the time that no part of the project was classified "secret." It was. The Smithsonian questioned how its scientists could know the military would use its study for biological weapons research. Some of those in charge of the project did know. In the end, the bird study caused a major self-examination within the Smithsonian that brought about a rededication to never again take on a secret study.

And today, 15 years after the project ended, a timeless question remains: What responsibility do scientists and institutions have to weigh how research—even basic research—will be used?

THE PACIFIC project spanned eight years, cost the Pentagon \$3 million, and involved dozens of Smithsonian staffers and Defense Department workers. From the first, the Smithsonian knew the contract was with the controversial Fort Detrick biological warfare research center in Frederick, Md. And even that fact was classified secret. The Smithsonian was prohibited from divulging anything about its work without clearance from Fort Detrick.

Early letters to Smithsonian contract officers made it clear the Army's interest went beyond ornithology. On Oct. 1, 1963, the Army Biological Laboratories at Fort Detrick wrote to Smithsonian administrators about "Material containing Biological Weapons System information which reveals the nondescriptive code designations for BW [Biologic Weapons] agents . . ."

Although the pairing of the Smithsonian and Fort Detrick seems unlikely, in the early 1960s there were numerous ties between the military and research institutions. The Smithsonian's con-

TED GUP is a Washington Post staff writer.

THE SMITHSONIAN SECRET

Why an innocent bird study went straight to biological warfare experts at Fort Detrick ■ By Ted Gup

WASHINGTON POST
MAGAZINE
MAY 12, 1985

tract was signed in October 1962, the same month that President Kennedy announced that Soviet missiles were in Cuba. Military exotica flourished: mind control through drugs, porpoises as animate torpedoes, new concoctions of chemical and biological weapons, turning life against life. It was a macabre time of Strangelovean fantasies when even one of God's gentlest creatures, a gull, could be considered for a doomsday assignment.

And there was another, simpler reason the Smithsonian took the contract. Money. The Smithsonian wanted more research funds.

The risks were great. If word got out that the revered Smithsonian was working on a classified project sponsored by the Army's biological warfare branch, the institution's entree to other countries might be lost, and its image blemished. There was a legal question as well. Smithsonian officials have long considered secret research to be contrary to the spirit, if not the letter, of the 19th century trust establishing the institution. The trust mandates that the Smithsonian would be "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men." Because of that, some at the Smithsonian have refused to believe that the institution ever could have undertaken a classified project.

"Never," said David Challinor in a 1983 interview. The Smithsonian's respected assistant secretary for science, who has been with the institution since 1971, said: "Why, by our very nature we cannot do classified work. It would violate the trust. This is what the Smithsonian Institution is all about. We have to publish what we do. If we don't, we are living a lie."

But last year, Challinor learned that parts of the Pacific project had been classified. "It is only recently that I got the inside scoop on that myself," he said. "... it didn't smell right to me in the first place."

If it was not a lie that the Smithsonian lived during that period, then it was a selective rendering of the truth. The Smithsonian touted the project as a measure of its devotion to the environment. "The project which surpasses all others in number of personnel and size of the geographical area covered," said the Smithsonian's 1965 annual report. With a certain irony, the report warned of the hazards man posed to his environment and himself:

"... man, in his struggle to advance himself, ... is subjecting the total environment—water, atmosphere, and living tissues—to physical and chemical influences which need to be measured now and in the future. For unless these fundamental

changes in his environment can be assessed, man himself, through ignorance, may fall victim to his own progress." That was written by Philip S. Humphrey, then the Smithsonian's chairman of the Department of Vertebrate Zoology and head of the Pacific project.

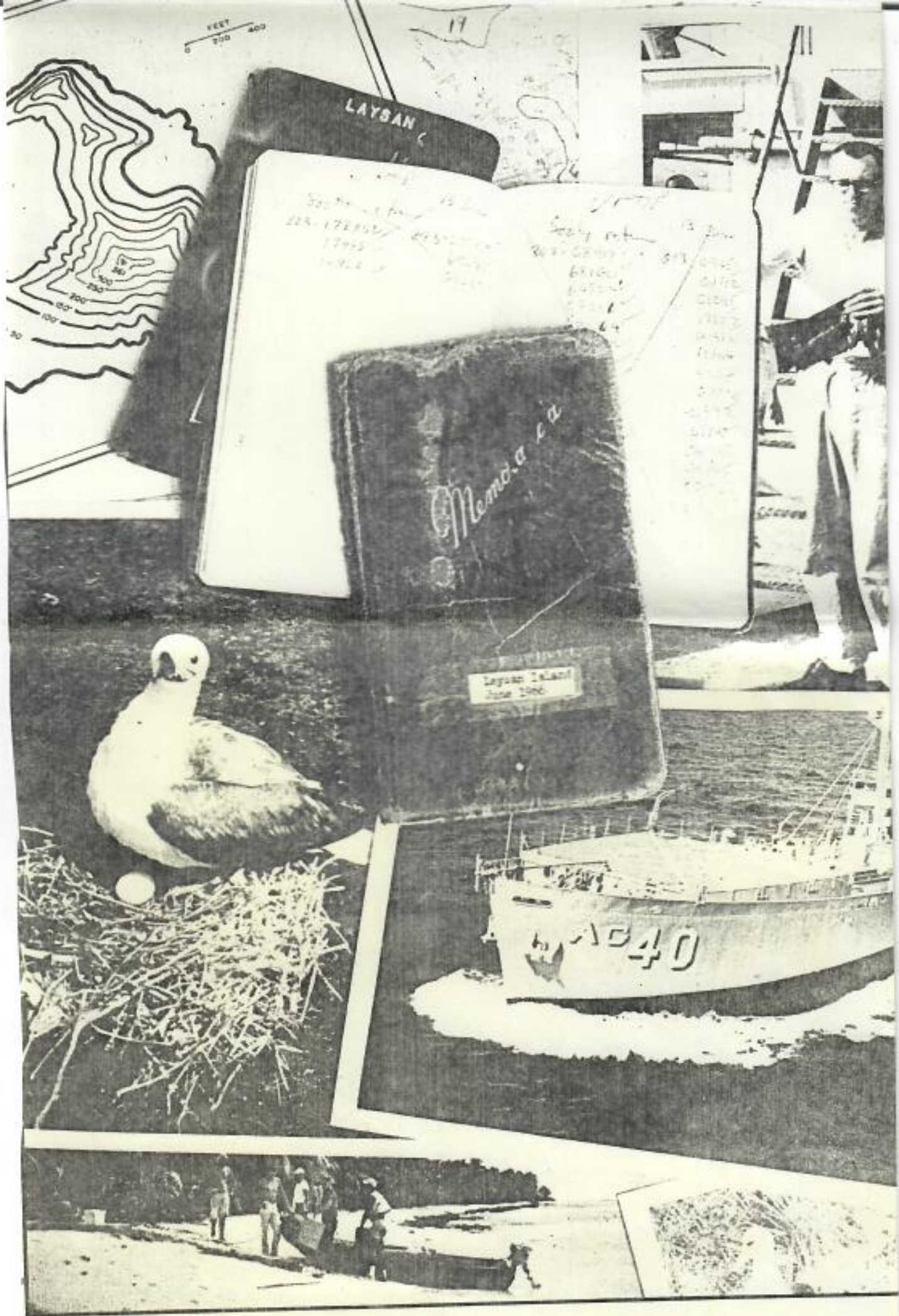
Smithsonian researchers did study the migratory patterns of birds and the rich ecological mix of species on the islands. They published reports detailing their findings for the scientific community. And there is no evidence that Smithsonian personnel took part in testing biological weapons.

Said the project's research curator, Arthur Binion Amer-son: "The Pacific program was one of the most successful modern day field studies ever done. We were not involved in any military activities. What they [the Depart-

Continued on page 12

PORTRAITS of the Pacific Ocean Bird Project from the Smithsonian's archives: clockwise from top left, maps of Rabbit and Sand islands where some studies were conducted; Charles Ely, a Smithsonian researcher, examines a bird at sea; the USS Granville S. Hall was one of several Navy ships used by Smithsonian and military researchers. Notebooks record bird bandings and sightings.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARGARET THOMAS



The Pacific Ocean Bird Project

Birds, from page 9

ment of Defense] did with it was their business."

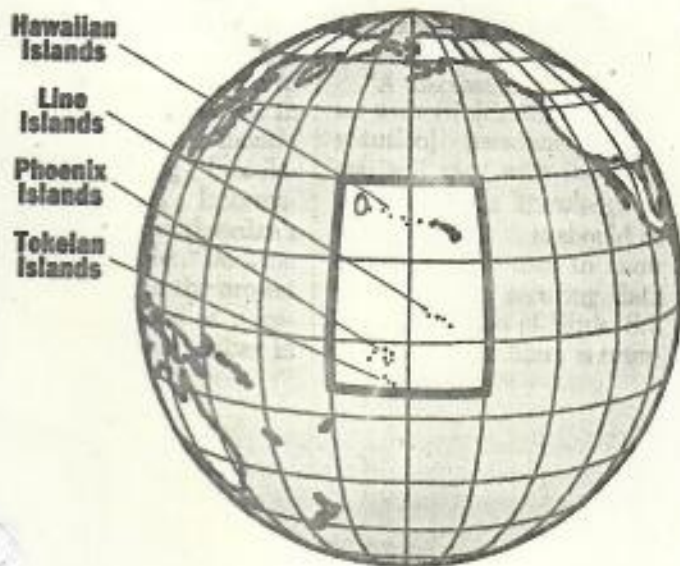
THE PACIFIC study had projects within projects. One was Operation Starbrite, described in a 1964 Smithsonian report classified "Confidential" by the Army. The Starbrite program consisted of monthly 15-day cruises aboard U.S. Navy vessels operating out of Pearl Harbor. Cruising a 50,000-square-mile grid of ocean and atolls, the Smithsonian personnel were to record "all visible animal life." From sunrise to sunset, they were to note the activity of birds, the species and numbers, and their every movement.

Officers from Utah's Fort Deseret Test Center, where biological weapons research was conducted, accompanied Smithsonian scientists on many "Starbrite cruises" to islands with names like French Frigate Shoals, Christmas Island and the Phoenix Islands.

"Attempts were made to collect as many specimens as possible," noted a progress report. "This was accomplished with 12-gauge shotguns [a common method of collecting birds for research] from the helicopter deck or from a whaleboat." Parasites and stomach contents were preserved for further study.

Another 1964 report details a biological survey of Sand Island and Johnston Atoll, described as an island "naturally favored by birds as a breeding site and stopping off place." Johnston, 700 miles southwest of Hawaii, was used between 1958 and 1962 as a nuclear testing site. Since 1970, thousands of tons of nerve gas have been stored there.

Much of what the Smithsonian researchers did was standard procedure. But against the background of the military's interest, their reports read like passages out



HIGHLIGHTED area shows major concentration of bird migratory study and includes areas where the Army tested biological weapons. Between 1962 and 1970 the research covered 4 million square miles of the Pacific.

MAP BY BRAD WYE

Bird blood samples were taken within 20 minutes of capture, placed in glass vials, frozen, then shipped to Fort Detrick.

Before the project was over, 2 million birds were banded—Masked Boobies, Great Frigatebirds, Sooty Terns. Some had orange streamers tied to their legs so that their flight patterns could be seen at sea. Many were tracked by radar. Their dates of arrival and departure were recorded, as were their areas of origin.

By 1964, less than two years into the study, security measures were increased at the urging of the military. Cryptic messages were exchanged among the expeditions in the Pacific, the Smithsonian and Fort Deseret Test Center.

In April of that year, Smithsonian researchers were told they needed a series of inoculations. Some received their shots at Fort Detrick. In a memo written that month, under the heading "Inoculations (Classified Information)," the Smithsonian's Charles Ely wrote: "Decision to get everyone in the project immunized as soon as possi-

people from the field. Must be very careful about the approach and consider it a routine matter. Specifics may not be discussed by phone." A later memo spoke of personnel getting "antigen [sic] immunization" at Fort Detrick. (Humphrey speculates that the Army did not want Smithsonian personnel to contract diseases from the test areas.)

Documents now a part of the Smithsonian archives show Ely was particularly concerned with security. In April of 1964 he wrote: "As a result of a recent security meeting in Washington some aspects of our program have been classified by the military. It therefore becomes important that our people be even more careful about discussing the project with outside people. No one wants to be branded a security risk as a result of idle conversation.

"A discussion of this matter with SI [Smithsonian Institution] personnel under you will vary with the individual and his knowledge of the program . . . It should be enough for our men to know that they are securing data for the Division of Birds, S.I.

ested in learning the ECOLOGY (or environment) of areas in which they may someday be committed. Military and ecology are both nice vague terms . . .

"Forget the term Starbrite . . . Don't use any naval ship names with term S [Smithsonian] . . . don't associate DTC [Deseret Test Center] with S [Smithsonian] . . . Don't mention the Eastern organization (or live bird shipments) in any connection . . ."

On April 23, 1964, Ely wrote a colleague: "I've started a procedure of burning all project notes, carbon papers, etc. keeping only the original and carbons to be transmitted whether potentially classified or not . . . Also I'd appreciate receiving out here only the minimum classified information needed to keep me abreast of developments . . . This cloak and dagger business is not for me."

In a recent interview, Ely, an ornithologist lecturing in zoology at Fort Hays State University in Kansas, said he could not discuss the specifics of the project: "If they [the military] told me exactly what they were going to do and it were a secret, I wouldn't tell you. That's what it boils down to."

Research curator Arthur Binion Amerson said he never asked what the military's interests were. "We knew what Detrick was supposed to do, but we didn't know what they were doing . . . Yes, we heard rumors, but we had no physical evidence of what was going on."

Project head Humphrey is director of the Museum of Natural History at the University of Kansas. In a recent interview, he said: "What I knew was that the military was planning certain biological weapons testing in the central Pacific and basically they wanted to know whether it was safe. So it seemed to me then, as now, there was a clear distinction between the

basic ecological work done by the Smithsonian and how that information was subsequently used by the military."

Humphrey said he remembers the names of two "candidate agents" to be tested by the military—VEE and Q Fever. VEE is Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis, a highly infectious virus that causes an acute influenza-like syndrome. One medical manual describes the symptoms as "severe headache, chills, fever, and explosive vomiting and diarrhea." VEE viruses, it says, "have produced more human illness in the Western Hemisphere than any other arbovirus." Q Fever is an acute infectious disease that can linger for months though it is rarely fatal. Humphrey said the biological agents were tested in aerosol form. Humphrey said the Army needed the information to prevent the spread of the biological agents by birds, but was not aware of any military interest in using birds as carriers of agents.

He said he was uncomfortable with the notion of letting them loose. "The more we learned about the tropical ecology," he said, "the more complicated it seemed to be and the less feasible it seemed to me biological weapons testing became. I made this point to various people including to the President's Scientific Advisory Committee. I have no idea as to the outcome of my expression of concern."

Nevertheless, Humphrey says, "I think that was at that time an appropriate function for the Smithsonian and, even today, I think it would be an appropriate function for the Smithsonian in the national interest. I personally don't happen to agree with the notion of biological warfare. I think it's hideous, but it's a fact of life."

The military's project officer was John B. Bushman, then stationed at Fort Deseret Test Center in Fort

Douglas, Utah. He now works in Washington with the Environmental Projects Branch of the Army Corps of Engineers. He declined to be interviewed.

IN 1969, the secret escaped for a time as television and newspaper reporters got suspicious, but their stories were met with public disbelief and the Smithsonian's own indignant protestations. A study of birds and nothing more, the Smithsonian told the Audubon Society, senators and puzzled museum patrons.

Once before, in December 1964, there had been a brush with the press. Ely wrote in a memo that he received a phone call from a local paper inquiring about their work and asking about a tie-in with the Atomic Energy Commission. "The reporter also copied a lot of misunderstood tripe from various books and previous articles, some of which I changed . . . All this further convinced him that we are with AEC—which I guess at least throws him on a cold trail."

Four years later, in December 1968, the press posed a more serious threat. A project memo notes: "The National Broadcasting Company continued to make inquiries of present and former Program employees concerning work accomplished on the Program."

A letter from a researcher to a Smithsonian administrator notes: "The ship's name and our location are particularly touchy. Now NBC can tie up the Smithsonian and the Hall [the USS Granville S. Hall] and no telling what else."

The NBC report aired Feb. 5, 1969. The next day inside The New York Times, The Washington Post and other papers, articles suggested a link between the Smithsonian project and chemical or biological weapons. The Defense Department denied any "military

THE SMITHSONIAN'S DEFENSE CONTRACTS

IN AN ALEXANDRIA OFFICE, miles from the Mall and the familiar Castle, is a side to the Smithsonian Institution few know exists.

Behind a door marked "Manpower Research and Advisory Services Smithsonian Institution" works Dr. H. Wallace Sinaiko. He is a Smithsonian researcher working under a \$190,000 a year contract with the Office of Naval Research. His subject: psychological studies on how to enhance recruitment, re-enlistment and quality of life in the volunteer Navy.

Sinaiko is one of several Smithsonian researchers working with the Department of Defense; over the past decade Defense Department contracts with the Smithsonian have totaled \$10 million. The Smithsonian has had contracts with many government agencies. With the exception of the Pacific project, says the Smithsonian's assistant secretary of science, none of the contracts were classified.

Among the dozens of contracts with the military, the Smithsonian has conducted a study of dolphins with a Navy grant, an Air Force study of the Demilitarized Zone in Korea focusing on "diseases of man transmitted by animal vectors," and a 1966-1968 Army study on mosquitoes as vectors of disease in Southeast Asia.

Throughout the early 1960s, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO), a network of observatories funded in part by NASA, did work for the U.S. Air Force as part of the observatory's routine Satellite Tracking Program. A memo in the Smithsonian archives reads: ". . . At NORAD's request, several Soviet satellites have been tracked and on occasion, reduced films have been sent to USAF. . . . Several SAO personnel travelled to NORAD (Colorado Springs) to consult on operational and communication techniques. . . ."

A December 1972 report notes: "Cosmos 520 (1972 72-A) was tracked for four days by special request of the U.S. Air Force."

In one instance, the SAO request was declined by a foreign researcher. On Nov. 11, 1964, an Indian scientist wrote from an observatory in that country: "While we shall be too happy to track such NORAD satellites in which SAO or other agencies, including NORAD, may have a scientific interest, it would put us in a rather embarrassing situation if we were asked to track NORAD or any other satellites on behalf of military agencies. . . . You will appreciate that as a young scientific institution in a non-aligned country it would be best for us to keep away from such controversies."

Much Defense-related work was initiated in the days when Leonard Carmichael was the Smithsonian's secretary—1953 to 1964. Carmichael felt deeply about issues of national interest. Smithsonian archives contain an inventory list of Carmichael's locked file cabinets. The list refers to several secret reports, including one of April 6, 1953, the "Final report of the Advisory Group on Psychological and Unconventional Warfare to the Research and Development Board." The reports were destroyed by the Defense Department in 1960.

Between 1959 and 1963, Carmichael served as a director of the Human Ecology Fund (HEF), a

research board funded by the Central Intelligence Agency, and a conduit for a variety of CIA projects — part of the MKULTRA program. According to two former CIA employees who worked for the fund, Carmichael signed a secrecy agreement not to disclose its CIA funding.

A former executive director of the HEF said Carmichael "was brought on because he had a fantastic image. Anybody of that caliber would not be involved in any hanky panky. That was exactly the image we wanted to project." A former CIA employee said Carmichael evaluated HEF research proposals but did not participate in any CIA research.

Carmichael's activity on the HEF was in a personal capacity, and not as a Smithsonian official. However, one letter evaluating a CIA project for HEF was written on Smithsonian stationery, and Carmichael's appointment book cites numerous meetings with HEF personnel at his Smithsonian office.

The CIA under Project MKULTRA was working on its own bird study related to biological weapons. In 1977 the Smithsonian was asked by a reporter about possible links between the CIA's project and the Smithsonian's. On Aug. 23, 1977, Smithsonian officials met with a CIA attorney to inquire about the Smithsonian's possible role in CIA-sponsored work, according to an internal memo. They were told that "there was no official Smithsonian role" although "someone associated with the Institution served as a consultant to the CIA-front organization which passed as a research funding agency."

That information was released in a 1977 Smithsonian statement, but the unnamed "someone" associated with the Smithsonian was Leonard Carmichael, its former secretary.

Then the CIA gave the Smithsonian more information. On Nov. 7, 1977, CIA General Counsel Anthony A. Lapham wrote Smithsonian Secretary S. Dillon Ripley that "newly-discovered documents evidenced some type of involvement, direct or indirect, between your institution and Agency-sponsored research in the 1950s and 1960s into various aspects of human behavioral control." Lapham wrote the Smithsonian asking "whether you believe the identity of the Smithsonian should continue to be protected against disclosure by this Agency."

The Smithsonian chose not to release the new information. In a Nov. 18, 1977, letter to the CIA, Ripley wrote: "Because the Smithsonian in no way participated in this program, I believe it would be unfair and improper to disclose the institution's name in connection with it. . . . It would, I believe, be a tragic disservice to the people of the United States and the world should the Smithsonian's ability to carry out its congressional mandate of 'increase and diffusion of knowledge among men' be impaired. Therefore I request that the Central Intelligence Agency not disclose the Smithsonian's name in any context as being involved in Agency-sponsored research into human behavioral control."

Nothing has been released under a Freedom of Information Act request to the CIA filed by The Washington Post in 1982 asking about links between the agency and the Smithsonian. The request is still being processed, says the CIA. —Ted Gup

motive behind its sponsorship." The Smithsonian "insisted that it had no knowledge that its migratory bird study was in any way related to chemical-biological warfare research."

The Smithsonian attacked the reports.

Science magazine wrote an extensive article and quoted a senior Smithsonian official who "told Science 'unequivocally' that the Smithsonian 'has never engaged in any kind of biological warfare research.' He said there is 'no evidence' that the Smithsonian has served as 'an unwitting dupe or cloak for some kind of biological warfare research.'"

In a March 10, 1969, letter to Rep. William F. Ryan, Smithsonian Secretary S. Dillon Ripley wrote: "the Smithsonian Institution does not attempt to ascertain reasons why an agency decides to offer support for our scientific efforts . . . Rarely, if ever, are scientists or institutions in a position to predict how or where the data arrived at from their studies may be utilized. The line between the utilization of research information for health-oriented objectives and other applications, (biological warfare for example) is too fine to be discernible."

Smithsonian records do not make it clear what senior officials at the institution knew about the project.

DURING THE YEARS of the Pacific project, there were many at the Smithsonian with interests in both science and national security. Sidney R. Galler worked at the Office of Naval Research from 1948 until 1965, when he joined the institution. While with the Navy, Galler oversaw projects related to what he called in a recent interview "environmental warfare" and was "instrumental" in helping Humphrey get a contract to do research similar to that which was later expanded into the Pacific project.

"I wasn't interested in the germs," said Galler, "I was interested in the animals and their behavior that could be

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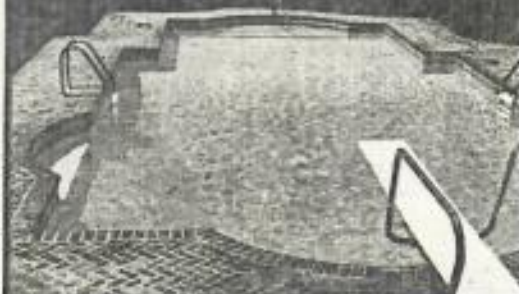
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On the sixth floor of the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, the ornithology department, are thousands of bird skins—terns, boobies and shearwaters—researchers brought back from the Pacific project. They are stacked drawer on top of drawer, cabinet on top of cabinet, creating a scene reminiscent of the closing shot in "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

utilized by an enemy to carry the germs." Some Pacific oceanic birds, he said, can "migrate tremendous distances and reach target areas with about 97 percent accuracies." He said the Department of Defense was interested in "the development of defensive capabilities."

Galler said he was not aware that the Smithsonian contract was classified or that actual agents had been tested. Today Galler continues to work as a "consultant on environmental warfare defensive strategies."

At the time the Smithsonian contract was signed the late Leonard Carmichael, a psychologist, headed the Smithsonian. During the early 1960s—while the Pacific bird study was under way—Carmichael served on the board of a CIA-front organization called the Human Ecology Fund. That body channeled money to various programs of interest to the CIA under "Project MKULTRA," which, according to 1977 congressional testimony, conducted the CIA's chemical and biological research. There is no evidence Carmichael was involved in any such studies.

In October 1961, the CIA funded a project titled, "Role of Avian Vectors in Transmission of Disease," according to agency documents released in the 1970s. Whether there was a connection between the Smithsonian's bird project and the CIA's is unclear. A Freedom of Information Act request filed with the CIA in 1982 is still "awaiting processing" according to a CIA spokesman.

CARMICHAEL was succeeded in 1964 by S. Dillon Ripley, an ornithologist. During World War II, Ripley was on assignment in the Far East with the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA. In a 1983 interview, Ripley said he was certain

the Pacific project was not classified. Shown various documents from the Smithsonian's archives that were marked "secret," Ripley said:

"I can't say that I have ever seen this kind of document before. No, I've never seen these things. I can't help you on that because it doesn't ring a bell with me at all . . . to me as a bird man, this was a wonderful breakthrough because it was a source of funds. That's all I know about it."

MILITARY FUNDING for the Pacific Ocean Bird Project came to an end on June 30, 1970, seven months after President Richard Nixon renounced the use of biological weapons.

On the sixth floor of the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, the ornithology department, are thousands of bird skins—terns, boobies and shearwaters—researchers brought back from the Pacific project. They are stacked drawer on top of drawer, cabinet on top of cabinet, creating a scene reminiscent of the closing shot in "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

Some scientists and researchers at the Smithsonian were incensed over the Pacific project. In a Nov. 17, 1969, memo the National Museum of Natural History Senate of Scientists attacked the project and reaffirmed the Smithsonian's founding principles:

"This issue is of such controversial nature that the Senate officers will keep themselves informed of developments to insure that neither this project nor any other is allowed to affect the scientific climate, access to data and specimens, or the good name of the Smithsonian Institution in national and international science. The points are as follows:

"1. The Pacific Ocean Bird Project,
Continued on page 20

with Philip Humphrey as Principal Investigator . . . will terminate without reservations of any sort on June 30, 1970. Simultaneous termination of Philip Humphrey as Research Associate in the Department of Vertebrate Zoology would also be viewed with favor by the NMNH [National Museum of Natural History] Senate members

"The goal of the NMNH Senate of Scientists regarding any scientific project, past or present, in which SI [Smithsonian Institution] staff members are involved is to insure the complete, free exchange of scientific data, specimens and publications to all qualified scientists throughout the world, regardless of sex, religion, ethnic group or nationality. No NMNH staff member shall engage in research or seek funds from any sources that have any restrictive clauses in it that violate the above principles."

The project was concluded. But a final word belonged to those responsible for storing the safe containing documents on the project. In a Feb. 12, 1971, letter to the Defense Supply Agency, Smithsonian General Counsel Peter G. Powers wrote: "When the Pacific Project terminated on June 30, 1970, it was necessary to find a place to put the two drawer Diebold container. It was moved to 1242-24th Street, N.W. and will be kept there until such time as another classified project is obtained by the Smithsonian."

"BY GOD, it would be over my dead body if that thing were ever cranked up again," said David Challinor, who since 1971 has directed the Smithsonian's scientific research efforts. As a result of the Pacific project and the turmoil it caused, the Smithsonian Institution has, since 1970, inserted a clause into its contracts specifically prohibiting classified work and requiring all findings to be published in the open scientific literature. ■

Many fishermen, scientists favor minimum catch size

Henry Pelekai is not a complainer. He has been a commercial fisherman in Waianae for eight years and says he is not out to criticize anyone.

Everybody, he says, has to make a living.

But when he saw the big pile of undersized opelu (mackerel scad) for sale at Honolulu fish markets several weeks ago, he became upset. He thought that the taking of such small fish with what could only have been undersized nets was illegal and harmful to the fishery.

But according to state law, there are no minimum size limits on opelu or restrictions of any kind on the mesh size of nets used to catch them.

"Legal or not, it's wrong," Pelekai says. "Opelu don't reproduce before they grow to a certain size. These fish were under four inches. You needed a (fine-mesh) shrimp net to catch them. If we keep taking fish before they are able to reproduce, pretty soon there won't be any more."

Pelekai worries that if the laws aren't changed to protect small fish of all kinds, his days as a commercial fisherman will be numbered.

He said that over the years he has seen schools of small fish such as opelu, halalu and moi grow smaller due to fishing pressure. He said the demand for opelu and akule is so strong that their scarcity drives up



from the sea

mike markrich

prices — encouraging more people to fish even harder for them.

A similar point was made by Abraham Pianaia, a professor at the University of Hawaii who is also a fisherman. He said that fishing has become so competitive that people have to struggle to survive. He said some people who fish would prefer not to take the younger fish but do so because they have to feed their families.

He said the feeling is that since it is legal to catch the small fish, if they don't, someone else will.

Western Pacific Fishery Council member Louis "Buzzy" Agard said it's difficult for him to see why anybody would want the undersized fish in the first place.

"The trouble with cigar (undersized) opelu is that it is highly susceptible to decay that small stuff breaks down real fast."

Agard agrees with Pelekai that the constant taking of undersized fish depletes the resource. But he added that the

decline is due to several factors.

He said he thinks other things, such as pollution and the disturbance of traditional fishing grounds, have affected the ability of the fish to reproduce.

"These fish are semi-pelagics. They go out to sea and then come in shore to lay their eggs. Well, 20 or 30 years ago there wasn't that much activity out there. Well, now they are constantly harrassed. There are boats with nets out there all day long. There is constant pressure of the airplanes overhead looking at them. And when they do gather in a ball to reproduce, there is somebody with a net waiting to scoop them up. So what kind of reproduction are you going to get in the future? I'll tell you: zero, zero, zero."

(A fish ball or grouping is created when the female throws out roe and the males fertilize it while they move.)

Although not much research has been done on the habits of fish such as opelu, there is agreement among fish scientists that imposing size limits is a good idea. Canadian fish scientist David Jones, who works with the National Marine Fisheries Service Lab at Kewalo Basin, said Canada and most countries in Europe have passed strict laws that prevent tak-

See Minimum on A-11



Advertiser photo by David Yamada

Opelu being scooped into a bag for \$3.50 a pound at Oahu Market.

Minimum fish size rules favored for Isle fishery

from page A-10

ing fish before they reach reproductive size.

Henry Sakuda, director of aquatic resources, said he is not in a position to question good or bad points of any laws. But he said he does believe that exaggerations have been made about the bad state of the fishery. He said while it is true that strong fishing pressure has been placed on the opelu and other fish on Oahu, he does not think there is reason for im-

mediate concern.

Sakuda said the effects of competition must be balanced with the good things that have been done by the state to encourage recreational and commercial fishing. He said that judging from his own experience, information gathered through his office and from fishing reports in the media, the fishery appears to be generally healthy.

Agard doesn't want to take chances. He thinks the state should pass size laws on the taking of opelu and create fish conservation areas around the island where they and other fish can reproduce without disturbance.

"I don't want my grandchildren to have to look these fish up in a book because they're extinct like the DoDo bird," Agard said. "I want them to be able to see them for themselves."

Dwindling of spiny

Fishing boat captain Bruce Mounier admits that he has made a good living fishing for lobster in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands for several years. But when his catch of spiny lobsters dropped by half in the past year, he began to worry that he was becoming a victim of his own success.

"I hate to see what is happening to this fishery," said an angry Mounier. "There is no closed season during the animals' mating season, and we are wiping it out. It's simple birds and bees. If you interrupt the mating ritual of any species and constantly catch the egg-bearing females, drag them onto a boat and then drop them over the side, a lot of them are going to die. And if you're taking males at the same time, it doesn't take a genius to know that your (lobster) population is going to be damaged."

Mounier's concerns are shared by others in the \$3.5 million lobster fishery, which accounts for nearly 15 percent of Hawaii's \$24 million a year fishing industry. According to information released by the National Marine Fisheries Service last month, the number of spiny lobsters caught in traps there has dropped by more than 50 percent since 1983, while the number of boats actively fishing is roughly triple that of 1984 during the same period.

The report states that fishing boats in the area set traps 4½ times as many days as they did three years ago to catch the same number of spiny lobsters.

Since the opening of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands fishery five years ago, boats such as Mounier's Magic Dragon have come to Hawaii to fish for lobster from as far away as Florida. The arriving vessels found a virtually untouched fishery and, with the aid of more efficient plastic



from
the sea

mike markrich

traps (rather than the traditional West Coast lobster traps), were able to make substantial profits.

As more boats came, said fisherman Jay Hebert of Kauai, the spiny lobster catch began to fall off. Reasoning that the catch rate would decline further if more boats were allowed to enter the fishery, Hebert and others asked the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (the federal agency charged with managing the fishery) to place a ban on new boats.

The council subsequently acted to limit access to the 24 boats now holding licenses, and Hebert and most of the other lobster boat owners there were pleased.

But the council's other decision — to reduce the minimum size limit on lobster — created controversy. Citing the need to make Hawaii frozen lobster products more competitive on the world market, the council in an experimental measure lowered the legal minimum size of lobster tail from 5.0 centimeters (about two inches) to 4.8. (Scientists measure lobsters across the tail; a lobster with a 5.0 centimeter tail weighs about 5 ounces and is about 3 years old.)

The change, which is in effect pending approval from Washington, allows the taking of smaller lobsters for one year.

The council's own Scientific and Statistics Committee advised against the decision, saying that lowering the minimum

Lobster poses pointed problem



Lobster traps rest beneath netting aboard the Datro at Kewalo Basin.

Advertiser photo by Charles Okamura

could reduce the number of sexually mature animals and affect the ability of the population to maintain itself.

Lobster specialist Craig MacDonald said other countries also want to sell smaller lobsters but are reluctant to do so for fear they will jeopardize their entire lobster fishery. MacDonald said only Brazil and Cuba allow the taking of lobsters smaller than Hawaii does.

"It doesn't make any sense to me if people disregard the scientific end of this business," said Gene Witham, a National Marine Fisheries Service officer. "It's an economic decision rather than a biological one. It's whatever the traffic will bear. The philosophy is when we run out of lobsters, we run out of fishermen. And that may be

Use, or it's quite a risk."

Council Chairman Wadsworth Yee, a veteran fisherman, defended the decision. He said part of the council's responsibility is to provide for economic development. Yee said fishermen have indicated the need to take the smaller ones because they are more marketable. (It is easier for restaurants to sell a 4-ounce lobster tail on a plate with steak for \$20 than a two-pound lobster dinner for \$50.)

Yee said scientists know that many of the smaller lobsters get eaten by predators without apparent effect on the lobsters' ability to reproduce. He said it would benefit everyone if some lobsters, which otherwise

would go to waste, were caught.

Yee said the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are carefully controlled and that the lobster stock is in no danger.

Justin Rutka, staff economist for the management council, said the decline in spiny lobsters may not be as great as people fear. He said that, although the catches are down, the catch of two types of slipper lobsters in the area has increased tenfold. Rutka said this may be because the design of the new traps has caused them to attract more slipper lobsters. He said there may be a strong stock of spiny lobsters but that they are not showing up in the data because the traps are

catching more slippers.

John Bardach, a fisheries expert with the East-West Center who has studied fishing all over the world, said he has heard all of these arguments before.

"It is all the same old notion that the bounty of the sea is limitless, but it's like cutting off your nose to spite your face. First, you say that it's OK to take lobsters that are 5.0, then 4.8 is OK, then they run out and you say 4.7 is OK, then you say 4.6, and you keep making excuses until the lobster population runs down. And when that happens, sooner or later you have to apply restrictions to protect the fishery, and then everybody suffers."

2-15-86

letters

Honolulu Advertiser

Fishing or ocean center?

The most expensive aquarium in the world is being foisted on the people of Hawaii because of the dream of one man to have his name etched in history. We don't need a \$52 million "world class" aquarium.

We would spend our money more wisely if the state built 16 or 17 fishing boats at \$3 million each. Even if the state went into the fishing business for itself, it would create a demand for 15 fishermen positions for each fishing boat or a total of at least 240 new jobs. These fishing boats would be utilized to catch fish such as ahi for our people.

Hawaii has vast potential seafood resources but our present antiquated fishing fleet and fishermen are unable to fish more than a few miles offshore. We need fishing boats with a capacity to go out 2,000 to 3,000 miles for two months at a time with the capacity to process and quick freeze and store the catch.

Only then can we supply our people with fish at reasonable prices, particularly at Christmas and New Year's holidays. The reason ahi prices go up to \$18 and \$20 per pound at New Year's and aku is non-existent is that our fishing boats do not have the capability to go out and catch the fish.

Feeding our people is more important than having a "world class" aquarium to show tourists. Please consider the following questions:

Why should we be importing the bulk of fish for Hawaii consumption from Japan, whose fishing fleet operates close to Hawaiian waters?

Why, when we did have a cannery, did our canning industry have to buy fish from Japan?

Why, when our Hawaiian waters extend past the Leeward Islands, are we 40 years behind Japan as far as fishing equipment, technology and results?

Why can't government subsidize our fishing industry in somewhat similar fashion as is done in Japan?

Shouldn't Hawaii aspire to become our country's leading exporter of seafood products?

A strong commercial fishing industry must be established and it can only be established with state government's full support, even to the extent of government owned and operated fishery operations.

KENNETH H. NAKAMURA

Fishing

In most of the United States, the idea of paying for a fishing license is taken for granted. People pay their \$5 to \$10 and go fishing when trout or abalone season opens.

Most of those who buy the licenses know that the money is used to pay for doing things that make it possible to catch fish: paying game wardens a decent wage, stocking ponds with fish, making sure that good fishing areas are not cleaned out by a few people with big nets.

State governments like licenses because they are an



from
the sea

mike markrich
an easy way to collect revenue and monitor how many people are fishing. They are, in fact, so popular as a revenue generator that President Reagan recently proposed a national recreational fishing fee of \$10 — with the idea that the money go to support ocean programs.

However, in Hawaii the idea of any kind of recreational salt-water fishing license brings strong reactions.

"The ocean is a like a public park," said Gov. George Ariyoshi, who does not believe in charging any kind of license fee. "I don't believe that people should have to pay a fee to use it."

Ariyoshi explained that access to the ocean and to fish in Hawaii is a public right.

Not all agree. Fisherman and TV personality Stan Wright says open access to fishing areas is not the issue. Each year more people take up fishing here, he said, but the area of reef that can sustain fish life remains the same.

"The problem is there aren't any fish (in near-shore waters)," Wright said, "and they (the state) tell us there's nothing they can do about it because there isn't any money. Well, charging a license fee is a way to solve that problem."

The irony is that Hawaii once had a comprehensive fishing licensing system that covered everything from netfishing to food preparation. But today the state has only two kinds of fishing licenses — a recreational fresh-water fishing license and a commercial fishing license.

Both are bargains. Eric Onizuka of the state Division of Aquatic Resources says the cost of a freshwater license has dropped from \$5 in 1927 to \$3.75 in 1986. Taking inflation into account, the real cost has dropped nearly 88 percent in that time. This gives Hawaii the dubious distinction of having the lowest recreational fishing license cost in the country.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, fresh-water fishing licenses are bought by just 5 percent of the state's fishing population of 175,000. The remaining

License idea nets mixed bag of reaction here

75 percent who fish do so for fun — and for free — in the ocean.

The charge for an in-state commercial fishing license is \$25, up from \$10 last year. But it's still the cheapest commercial salt-water fishing license of its kind.

Hilde Cherry, whose son

Lance is a commercial fisherman in Kona, says the low price is part of the problem. She complains that the state's reluctance to charge a high commercial license fee (as other states do) makes it harder to manage the fishery because it is difficult to differentiate between recreational and com-

mercial fishing interests. (State officials say only 1 percent of the 2,500 people now holding commercial fishing licenses depend on fishing to make a living.)

Cherry said most of those who hold commercial licenses are "weekend warriors" — people who fish for fun but sell

their catch to cover their gasoline and other costs.

Cherry said the lax licensing rules also attract commercial fishing boats from more prosperous states such as Alaska or California because they only have to pay \$50 for an out-of-state license. In their home

states, they sometimes pay

\$5,000 or more for a seasonal license.

Cherry said her son tells her that fishermen from Alaska come to Hawaii every year to spend the winter fishing here.

Do they think they are getting a bargain?

"They think we're nuts," she said.

Environmentalists Sue for Monk Seals

By Helen Altonn
Star-Bulletin Writer

Two environmental groups have charged in a lawsuit that the federal agency responsible for protecting Hawaiian monk seals has failed to take certain steps to safeguard the endangered animals.

Greenpeace International, the Sierra Club and Greenpeace members Sharon Sue Difloure White and Vivian Boe filed the lawsuit yesterday in the U.S. District Court in Honolulu.

They claim the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is violating two federal laws because it hasn't designated critical habitat for Hawaiian monk seals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Critical habitat includes major land and water areas used by the seals for feeding and breeding.

The fisheries service is responsible under the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act for protecting and building up the declining seal population.

The Marine Mammal Commission appointed by Congress urged NMFS 10 years ago to designate critical habitat for the seals.

THE FISHERIES service's Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Team recommended twice in the past six years that the critical habitat be designated to a depth of 20 fathoms — 120 feet — around Northwestern Hawaiian Island beaches.

The recommendation was changed to 10 fathoms — 60 feet — at the NMFS regional office at Terminal Island, Calif., and no further action has been taken.

"It has been held up in various levels of review," an official at the California office told the Star-Bulletin in a telephone interview yesterday.

White described the delay as "an unreasonable example of bureaucratic foot-dragging over something their own scientists say is imperative for the recovery of the species."

Named in the lawsuit are: Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige, Anthony S. Calio, administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); William G. Gordon, assistant administrator for

was the recovery team's opinion that if we want to try to recover the species, we should try to protect the feeding habitat as well as the pupping habitat and nearshore areas where they learn to feed."

The team recommended the critical habitat in 1980, and in December 1984, Gilmar-tin said, "we restated our position and formally submitted it to the regional director."

Public hearings were held here in January and the proposal was sent in April to the Southwest Region office at Terminal Island, Gates said.

However, he said some Western Pacific Fisheries Council members and some state agencies "are not enamored" by any designation of a critical seal habitat.

THE REGIONAL OFFICE subsequently designated 10 fathoms for the habitat. The proposal went to Washington last August and was returned to the regional office in September for some adjustments.

Gates didn't know the status of the matter yesterday. "We were not a party to actions after it left my office," he said.

The critical habitat recommendation was sent to the NMFS director in Washington Wednesday, said Jim Lecky, protective species program leader at the regional office in California.

He said it must clear several levels of NOAA and the Commerce Department and then the budget office before it takes effect.

Lecky said the delay the past year was due to the review process. "Everybody wants to put their little bit in and ask for different information."

Asked why the regional office is overriding recommendations of the NMFS—appointed recovery team to protect seals down to 120-foot depths, Lecky said:

"We felt the information available supports 10 fathoms...it's a matter of interpretation of some information and...what the law says should be designated as critical habitat."

Also, he said, "It's a national agency. Decisions are made based on consistency with national policy."



ENDANGERED NATIVE—Environmental groups have taken legal action to seek more protection for the Hawaiian monk seal. —Star-Bulletin Photo by Craig T. Kojima.

Fisheries, NMFS; E. Charles Fullerton, director, Southwest Region, NMFS, and Doyle Gates, administrator of the Western Pacific Program Office for NMFS.

Gates said he can't comment on the suit, but he acknowledged that the critical habitat designation has been a "contentious issue...The real problem is a misunderstanding as to what critical habitat really does."

It would give the fisheries service added authority to protect the seals' environment from construction or projects planned by other federal agencies, he said.

BUT FEDERAL agencies already are required to consult with NMFS about any construction or changes of areas inhabited by endangered species, he said.

NMFS scientist William Gilmar-tin, the recovery team leader, said the habitat designation is a high priority of the team because it defines boundaries within which the monk seal must be considered. "Without that, it's a little more loose."

He said, "We know the animals are diving and feeding well beyond 20 fathoms. It

Commerce Dept. Reopens

By June Watanabe
Star-Bulletin Writer

Because of "a lot of accusations and rumors," the U.S. Commerce Department's inspector general has been asked to review — again — the operations of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council.

The inspector general's office renewed its investigation Monday at the request of E. Charles Fullerton, southwest regional director of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The fisheries service directly oversees the eight regional fishery councils set up in the U.S. and the Caribbean.

The Western Pacific council has an annual federal budget of about \$550,000 and is responsible for managing fishery resources in federal waters surrounding Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.

"THIS IS A requested review to see if everything is as it should be," Fullerton said in a telephone interview from his California office yesterday.

"There have been a lot of accusations and rumors flying around. It was the feeling of the National Marine Fisheries Services that these things should be cleared up."

Fullerton said he took over as head of the southwest region two years ago and just wanted to make sure every-

thing "was operating right."

He said he requested the review sometime last year, but that "it takes time" to get an investigation going.

WADSWORTH Yee, chairman of the council, was out of town and not available for comment. However, Rose "Kitty" Simonds, the executive director, confirmed yesterday that "we have been contacted."

(Simonds is the wife of Star-Bulletin executive editor John E. Simonds.)

She said the council recently received a letter from the inspector general's office saying someone would be coming to Honolulu for the review. She declined to say what else the letter said.

However, the chairmen of the eight regional fishery councils — including the Western Pacific council — had asked the inspector general to visit each organization for a first-hand look at each operation, she said.

That request was made after the inspector general released an audit last year criticizing the councils, without having visited some of the agencies being scrutinized, she said.

THE AUDIT, titled "Opportunities for Cost Reductions and Operational Efficiencies in Managing Fishery Resources," became public this week.

In the case of the Western Pacific council, auditors concluded that it has been largely ineffective and recom-

Its Review of Fishery Council

mended it either be disbanded or consolidated with another council based on the West Coast — findings vociferously challenged by Yee as being "misleading" and "misguided."

The current audit is "probably" a combination of the request by the Western Pacific council for a more personal look at its operations, plus Fullerton's request for the special financial audit, Simonds said today.

She called the audit "routine" and part of a regular "financial and compliance audit under (U.S.) General Accounting Office guidelines."

Simonds maintained, "It's not an investigation, because that implies criminal things."

The auditor, Nicholas Pascal, has been going over the Council's records since Monday. He said today he could not comment on the scope or intent of his review.

Fullerton said his request for a review was prompted partly by an April 1983, memorandum by Gregory Lee, the Western Pacific council's former fiscal officer. The memorandum raises questions about repayment of personal travel expenses by Simonds and others in connection with a 1983 official business trip.

HE SAID HIS request was made before he heard of alleged council improprieties made by Jane Nakamura, who

was fired from her secretarial job last July after six years on the staff.

Fullerton declined to say what some of the other "accusations and rumors" were.

The eight regional fishery councils were set up by the federal Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, which gave the U.S. government exclusive jurisdiction over all fish — except highly migratory ones — in the Fishery Conservation Zone.

The zone encompasses waters beyond the three-mile territorial zone surrounding U.S. land and its possessions and within a 200-mile radius.

The regional councils are supposed to develop plans for the management of fish and other marine animals within U.S. jurisdiction.

YEE, A MEMBER of the Legislature until he lost his Senate seat in 1982, has been with the Western Pacific council since its inception and its chairman nearly as long. The council has 11 voting members and four non-voting members nominated by the governor and appointed by the Commerce secretary.

The council's budget has been set at around \$550,000 for the past three years, including staff salaries of about \$228,000, plus fringe benefits of about \$55,500. The salaries reflect a 22.5 percent cost-of-living allowance given to federal employees in Hawaii.

Simonds, as executive director, gets paid about \$57,000. Yee and other council members do not receive salaries but do receive an average of about \$300 a day whenever they perform council duties.

ABOUT \$35,500 has been budgeted this year for per diem expenses for council members and about \$41,000 to cover expenses for non-salaried scientific/statistical experts and advisors.

A big chunk of the budget — \$84,800 — has been earmarked for travel expenses this year, down nearly \$25,000 from the travel budget last year.

Yee said that travel takes up a big portion of the council's budget because its jurisdiction is so far-ranging. Each of the four meetings the council holds each year has averaged \$20,000 to \$25,000, he said.

"Our budget is submitted to the Southwest Region of the National Marine Fisheries Service and they go over it in detail before submitting it to Washington (the Commerce Department) for approval," Yee said.

The budget was decreased this year "because of Reagan economics." He said the Western Pacific council's budget is "the lowest of all eight councils . . . Some go up to \$1.5 million a year."

Involving travel expenses, hiring

Fisheries officials come under fire

By James Dooley

Advertiser Staff Writer

A onetime political associate of former state Sen. Wadsworth Yee has accused Yee and the executive director of a federal fisheries agency here of abusing federal travel privileges and of "political favoritism" in agency hiring.

The allegations center on operation of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, established in 1977 under federal law to manage marine resources within a 200-mile "economic zone" surrounding the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana.

Yee, a former GOP state senator and a nephew-in-law and business associate of former U.S. Sen. Hiram Fong Sr., has chaired the council since its inception. The executive director of the council since 1983 has been Rose "Kitty" Simonds, a former Fong employee in Washington, D.C.

In an interview last week, Yee denied any wrongdoing. Simonds declined comment because of potential litigation about the matter.

The charges come from attorney Kenneth Nakamura, a former political campaign manager for Yee and onetime administrative aide to Fong in Washington.

Nakamura last year filed a complaint against the council with the U.S. Commerce Department alleging that Nakamura's sister, Jane, was wrongfully terminated last year from her job as council secretary. The complaint was denied by the Commerce Department but Nakamura now says he is preparing a federal court lawsuit against the council.

Nakamura alleged in the complaint, and in a recent interview, that Yee and Simonds failed to act on a 1983 internal report from council fiscal officer Gregory Lee concerning "possible financial irregularities pertaining to council travel."

The report stated that three council

members, including Yee, traveled to Korea and Japan in 1983 prior to attending a council meeting in Saipan. They were accompanied by Simonds and a council adviser. (Numerous scientific and fishing industry personnel serve on unpaid "advisory panels" to the staff.)

The Korea-Japan leg of the trip was not intended to be council-related and the five covered the expenses involved when they returned to Honolulu.

However, according to the report, council members Louis Agard Jr. and Gertrude Nishihara were informed by council staffers that their portion of the bill was \$457 each, while Simonds and the council adviser paid just \$37 each.

Yee traveled first class on the trip and the council only pays for coach fares. So he repaid \$1,512, which, according to the council's computations, represented the full cost of his first-class flight on the Korea-Japan trip and the difference be-

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Agency travel cost questioned

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tween first class and coach from Saipan to Honolulu.

Yee told The Advertiser that fiscal officer Lee came to talk to him about the matter shortly before Lee left the council for another job.

"Greg came to talk to me before he left about unauthorized spending by Kitty Simonds on a trip to Korea," Yee said. "I brought out the data, I explained everything to the council."

He said the "side trip" to Korea and Japan was not supposed to involve council funds, "but when we got there, I found we were doing council work." The work involved discussions with Korean and Japanese fisheries officials, Yee said.

Because the three council members performed council-related work on the side trip, Yee said, he authorized compensation to them. Council members are compensated only when they perform council work. They get \$300 per day.

All transportation costs are paid by the council for members, staff and advisory personnel. In addition, ground expenses for hotels and meals are covered by federal per diem allowances.

Yee said he authorized payment of \$900 each to himself and the other two council members, Agard and Nishihara, for two days of council work in Korea and Japan.

When it came time to divide up the travel expenses among Agard, Nishihara, Simonds and the council adviser, Kenji Ego, Yee said, Agard and Nishihara were asked to pay more than the others because they had received the extra \$900.

Yee was asked if Simonds was paid her normal salary while on the side trip. He said he didn't know, that she might have taken vacation time.

Nakamura also alleged that Yee and Simonds have used "political and personal" criteria in hiring part-time council employees. (No council staff members are federal civil service employees.)

The part-time employees include Kinau "Dutchie" Saffery, a former Fong employee in Washington, and Karen Hong, daughter of financier Chinn Ho and wife of Stanley Hong, head of the Hawaii Vis-



Wadsworth Yee
Chairman, 'totally false'

The Advertiser also learned that Beth DuPont, wife of Clyde DuPont, another former Fong aide and now a member of the state Public Utilities Commission, has also worked on a part-time basis for the council.

Yee said Nakamura's assertion that any employees were hired because of political or personal considerations was "totally false." He said they were hired on the same basis that Jane Nakamura was hired. "We felt the person could do the work."

Yee also noted that "Jane Nakamura worked for Sen. Fong for eight years. How can she say that we played politics (in hiring the others) when we hired her, too?"

Nakamura also said that Yee's son accompanied him, at council expense, on a 1983 trip to Biloxi, Miss. At the time, another council member who wanted to

go was told he could not because the funds were not available.

Yee acknowledged that Nakamura's allegation was true, but added an explanation. He said federal officials suggested that Yee's son, who is a council adviser but not a member, travel to Biloxi to study that area's shrimp industry facilities.

Jeffrey Yee had recently joined a private firm here that was trying to develop the Hawaii shrimp industry, so it was felt that he could share what he learned on the trip with others in the industry here, benefiting the state, Yee said.

The air fare is believed to have cost the council approximately \$1,000.

But the federal government's flat per diem allowance was not enough to cover the younger Yee's ground expenses, so he ended up paying some of those costs from his own pocket, Yee said.

Yee told The Advertiser that the council's annual budget, provided by the federal government, is about \$550,000. He said more than half goes for travel expenses.

The bill is quite large, he said, because of the huge geographical area covered by the council. There are now four appointed Hawaii members, two from American Samoa and one from Guam. Members are nominated by their respective governors and approved by the secretary of commerce.

Yee said that as chairman he travels more than other members. He said he always travels first class, paying the difference between that and coach fare from his own pocket.

In 1978, when Yee was still in the state Senate, he reported that his income from the council — the total of \$300-per-day payments he received that year for council work — came to \$6,400. He said last week his annual council income still averages between \$6,000 and \$7,000, meaning that he works some 20 to 23 days a year on council business.

Yee has extensive business interests in Hawaii and throughout the western Pacific. His principal business is Grand Pacific Life Insurance Co. Ltd.

Council documents show Simonds is paid a salary of approximately \$97,000 per year and fringe benefits being her total compensation to between \$60,000 and \$70,000.

Audit critical of Pacific Fishing Council

Yee: 'No conflict of interest'

By James Dooley
Advertiser Staff Writer

According to a 1985 federal audit, the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council here spent \$3.8 million during 1977-85 but did little to manage the limited fishery resources within its jurisdiction.

And votes by council Chairman Wadsworth Yee on measures affecting the local lobster industry appear to have benefited his son, Jeffrey, a lobster wholesaler, according to the results of an Advertiser investigation.

The auditors' report was written by the Inspector General's Office of the U.S. Department of Commerce. It recommended that the council be consolidated with a West Coast Council or otherwise replaced.

Yee, a former state senator, disputed the audit's findings and said the council's efforts here have been hampered by slow-moving and arbitrary bureaucrats in Washington.

And he said his votes on the lobster issue did not represent a conflict of interest. Even if it did, he pointed out, council members are exempted from federal conflict of interest restrictions.

The Western Pacific Council (WestPac) is one of eight councils created around the country by a 1976 federal law that extended U.S. control of fishery resources beyond the traditional three-mile limit to a 200-mile economic zone surrounding the United States and its territories.

The councils are obligated to develop Fishery Management Plans that both protect and develop marine resources within the 200-mile zone.

WestPac has jurisdiction over an extremely large area: the 200-mile zones surrounding the Hawaiian Island archipelago (which extends all the way to Midway); American Samoa; Guam; and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas.

The inspector general's audit said of the WestPac council: "(It) has implemented only two (plans) since 1977, and both were

for fisheries which have minimal or no fishing activity.

"Moreover, the council's responsibility covers such a vast ocean area that enforcement of any of its plans is impractical," the report said.

The two plans developed by the council and approved by Washington cover precious corals and Hawaiian spiny lobsters, a unique, indigenous crustacean found only in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

The auditors noted that there is virtually no harvesting of precious corals within the area managed by the council.

And the spiny lobster plan was unenforceable, because it allowed fishermen a 15 percent "tolerance" below the minimum size of lobsters they legally could harvest, the report said.

"The Coast Guard representative to the council advised against regulations such as these, but the council incorporated them

See U.S. audit on Page A-4



Wadsworth Yee
Son a lobster wholesaler

U.S. audit critical of fishing panel

from page one

in the (plan) anyway," the auditors said.

Enforcement personnel have since complained that the only way to apply the law was to physically measure every single lobster in a boat's catch, an impossible task.

A third plan to manage billfish was developed by the council in 1981 but was disapproved by Washington "because it was not based on the best scientific information available," the auditors reported.

The lobster plan has been plagued by similar problems with scientific information.

Scientific experts have advised the council not to lower the minimum size of lobsters harvested by fishermen below a 5-centimeter (about 2-inch) tailwidth.

Fishermen and lobster processors and wholesalers objected strenuously and the council last year compromised on a 4.8-centimeter tail width, despite warnings from some scientists that allowing the taking of smaller lobsters could endanger the unique species.

Two weeks ago, Anthony Calio, acting administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Washington, overturned the WestPac council's decision and raised the minimum once again to 5 centimeters.

Yee called Calio's action "arbitrary" and said Calio has failed to act for six months on another council proposal to place a moratorium on the number of boats taking lobsters.

"He's refused to sign it. No reason at all. And yet the Inspector General criticizes us," Yee said. "We get criticized for what Washington doesn't do. I don't think it's

fair."

He went on to say that the dispute over lobster size has placed the council in a crossfire between the commercial and scientific communities.

"The scientific people have said, 'We cannot tell you if the stock is being depleted beyond the recovery stage.' The scientists are just telling us 'we're worried,'" he said.

"If you're going to make it so difficult for the fishermen to harvest your resource, nobody's going to harvest," he said.

The theory of the federal law that established the council was "to develop the domestic fishing industry," said Yee. But the law also requires the councils first of all to protect the resource and to make decisions based on the "best available scientific information."

Yee said that the scientists "play games with you." On one hand, he said, "They say, 'We're worried.' By the same token they say, 'The stock is not endangered yet.' We're laymen. We have to make a value judgment."

And the scientific community has done little to make "positive" recommendations about how to conserve the lobsters, Yee said.

"That's why I say I don't completely have faith in their evaluations," said Yee.

One of the strongest industry proponents of the lower lobster size has been Jed Inouye, a lobster processor and wholesaler and a business partner of Yee's son, Jeffrey. Both Inouye and the younger Yee are members of the council's advisory panel.

Wadsworth Yee said he saw no conflict in that situation, because his votes have affected the entire industry. "You're making a judgment for the entire industry,

you're not making it for him," he said.

And Yee said Louis "Buzzy" Agard Jr., another council member, is also in the lobster business.

"He's a middleman. You talk about conflict, he's in conflict, too," Yee said. "Everybody knows my son is in the wholesale business."

"Everything is above board, everybody knows what everybody else is doing," said Yee.

And he said Agard and all the other council members have consistently voted unanimously for the lower minimum sizes.

However, Agard told The Advertiser that he and another council member voted against the lower size at the last meeting in which the matter was discussed, last year in American Samoa.

"I spoke strongly against it and I voted against it," Agard said.

"I just want to be sure that the lobsters are going to be there in the foreseeable future for everybody. And, based on what the scientists are telling us, I cannot support the smaller size."

He said he formally declared his involvement in the lobster business during a council meeting, "but I do not remember the chairman (Yee) ever declaring that he or his family are involved in the business."

But a legal opinion written by Department of Commerce attorneys in 1983 states that council members are exempt from almost all conflict of interest restrictions in federal law.

The 1976 law creating the councils required that fishing industry personnel be appointed to the councils. That created an "implied exemption" to conflict of interest laws, the opinion said.

The opinion overturned previous government legal opinions on the matter.

IN HAWAII

Fishery Council Faces

By June Watanabe
Star-Bulletin Writer

The usually unobtrusive Western Pacific Fishery Management Council suddenly has found itself in the spotlight because of a critical federal audit and a threatened lawsuit over the firing of an employee last July.

The firing of secretary Jane Nakamura has led to allegations that the council's chairman, Wadsworth Yee, and executive director, Rose "Kitty" Simonds, hire and fire people on the basis of political cronyism, and have taken advantage of federally paid trips.

The charges have been made by Nakamura's brother, Kenneth, an attorney and one-time campaign manager for Yee, a member of the Legislature for 24 years before losing his Senate seat in 1982.

Yee denies charges of favoritism regarding the hiring of full-time and temporary staff members, as well as charges of a possible misuse of travel funds earmarked for council-related trips.

Simonds declines to comment on the Nakamura case, citing the potential lawsuit.

A 1985 inspector general's report made public this week suggested that the Hawaii-based council has been largely ineffective and could be consolidated with Mainland councils. (See accompanying story.)

IN THE PERSONNEL dispute, Kenneth Nakamura said yesterday that he is planning to file a federal court lawsuit next week in which the major thrust is that his sister was arbitrarily and capriciously fired by Simonds after six years.

Jane Nakamura had no recourse to appeal the firing because there was no grievance procedure set up by the council, Nakamura said.

(Nakamura initially refused to discuss the case with the Star-Bulletin, saying he did not feel his sister's position would be treated fairly. Kitty Simonds is the wife of John E. Simonds, the newspaper's executive editor.)

The Nakamuras filed a claim over the firing with the Commerce Department last August.

Tim Connor, an attorney with the department, said in an interview from Washington, D.C., yesterday that the claim was found not to be "the type . . . actionable under the Federal Tort Claims Act" because no "negligence or a wrongful act" by a federal employee could be found.

Such a claim is considered "a precursor" to the filing of a lawsuit, he said, allowing the government "to evaluate the claim and see if we want to settle prior to litigation."

Connor said the claim was denied, but he could not discuss the specifics of the case.

KENNETH Nakamura said yesterday that, in the lawsuit he is now preparing, "We're (also) alleging that Yee hired Rose Simonds, who was unqualified and incompetent to be executive director of the council and that's negligent hiring."

Nakamura also accused Simonds of engaging in "discrimination — you retain your friends and fire your enemies."

Asked why his sister would be considered an "enemy," he said it was because "she knew too much . . . such as improper dealings of the executive director and the chairman."

Pressed to be more specific, Nakamura referred to what he said are questionable travel-related activities.

He referred to an April 29, 1983,

memorandum prepared by Gregory W.H. Lee, then the council's fiscal officer, which he said Yee never acted on.

Lee left the council about the time the memo was filed. He did not return telephone calls to the Star-Bulletin.

IN THE MEMO, Lee brings up an "unexplained discrepancy" in the reimbursement of council funds involving a side trip made in early 1983 by Yee, Simonds, and council members Louis Agard and Gertrude Nishihara and council advisor Kenji Ego.

The side trip was made between Japan and Korea during a business trip the five made to Saipan and Guam for one of four annual meetings held by the council.

The two days in Korea and half-day in Japan were not intended to involve council work, so the five had to reimburse the council for costs incurred during that leg of the trip.

However, in Lee's report, Agard and Nishihara were told to repay the council \$457 each, while Simonds and Ego were told to pay \$37 each.

Because Yee prefers to travel first class, he repaid \$1,512, which includes the difference between first class and economy class flights.

IN THE MEMO, Lee suggested that Agard and Nishihara and Simonds each should have paid \$317.

Although Japan and Korea were not on the official itinerary, the five did engage in council activity during the

Amateur Radio
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All

Suit for Firing Employee

Yee Disputes Inspector General's Criticism of Council

Wadsworth Yee, chairman of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, has disputed a federal inspector general's report criticizing the council for costing too much.

The findings of the U.S. Commerce Department study were released last year and publicized this week. The Hawaii-based council was among several sharply criticized in the report.

The inspector general's report led to recommendations that the Western Pacific council be abolished or consolidated with one of seven other regional

fishery councils based on the Mainland.

THE WESTERN Pacific Council was set up in 1977 to oversee fishery resources in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. It has an annual federal budget of about \$550,000 and a staff of six.

Yee said yesterday that a special task force set up by the Commerce Department's director of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration — which oversees the fishery

councils — has since recommended that the eight councils be retained, although there also were recommendations on how to make their operations more efficient.

Congress, meanwhile, which could abolish the councils and which provides them with funding, has yet to take definitive action on their status.

The Senate has approved extending the life of the councils for another two years — until mid-1987 — but the House has yet to take similar action, Yee said.

paid between \$10 and \$15 an hour, according to Yee — have included Karen Hong, daughter of businessman Chin Ho and wife of Stanley Hong, the president of the Hawaii Visitors Bureau. Hong was hired to help with the council's first meeting this year, which ended yesterday at the Ala Moana Americana Hotel.

Yee also acknowledged previous part-time hirings of Kinan "Dutchie" Safer, who once worked for former U.S. Sen. Hiram Fong Sr., who is Yee's relative by marriage and a business associate; as well as Beth Dupont, the wife of another former Fong aide.

It turns out that Kenneth Nakamura and Yee also had close ties dating back to the mid-1940s. Nakamura worked for Yee "about 15 to 20 years ago" as his campaign manager, and Yee said it was he who recommended that Fong hire Nakamura as an administrative aide when Fong first went to Congress. Jane Nakamura also once worked for Fong in Washington.)

YEE SAID, "THE discretion (on hiring temporary staff) is left to Kitty" and that she has hired people whose "competence we know about." Responding to another allegation, Yee acknowledged that he allowed his son, Jeffrey, to go on a council-paid trip to Biloxi, Miss., in 1963. But he said it was with the council's knowledge and approval because the younger Yee acts as one of many unpaid council advisers.

Yee said he sent his son, who is involved in the local shrimp industry, to Biloxi to see what kind of shrimp facilities had been set up there.

Yee declined to go into details on that case, except to say that it is "discretionary with the chairman (Yee)" as to whether the council can benefit from sending special advisers to different areas on fishery-related matters. In the nine years that the council has been operating, Jeffrey Yee took part in four trips, Yee said.

Overall, Yee said Jane Nakamura never talked to him about improprieties while she worked for the council. "All they are complaining about has been done with the full knowledge of the council," Yee said.

two days involved, Yee said, so he authorized \$300-a-day per diem expenses for himself, Agard and Nishimura.

Yee maintains that there was nothing irregular about the trip or the way the repayments were divided, and that the five properly reimbursed the council all it was due.

Nakamura said Yee never acted on Lee's recommendation that the differences in repayment be explained and that further reviews might be made by either an independent accounting firm or the inspector general.

YEE AND SIMONDS maintain they never saw Lee's memo.

Yee said Lee talked to him only once about his concerns regarding Simonds' travel expenses and, at that time, he told Lee that he could find no irregularities.

Yee said the council has been fully informed of and has approved all travel expenses, which generally comes to about 25 percent of the council's budget.

For the 1986 fiscal year, \$84,800 of the total \$351,000 budget has been allocated for travel.

AS FOR CHARGES by Nakamura of "cronyism," Yee said people have been hired "because we know of their abilities to perform work. They were hired only as we needed them."

The part-time/temporary hires —

Ghost fishing' is result

As Gary Watanabe and I snorkled over the reef off Magic Island, we watched a small fish struggle for life.

It was caught in one of the piles of old nylon filament nets that stretch for hundreds of yards there like garbage on the shallow reef.

"They are every place I go diving: Waimanalo, Waianae, Diamond Head. I see them all over," Watanabe said. "Guys lose them and they don't think twice about it. Sometimes they set their nets in the wrong place and they get swept out, and sometimes they're just too lazy to go get them. They figure that they'll just buy another one."

Although the abandoned nets appear harmless, they continue to collect fish in a wasteful process scientists call "ghost fishing."

This phrase was coined to describe a relatively recent phenomenon that has occurred because the new materials used to make gill nets and lobster traps do not rot underwater.

Gill nets are special lightweight nets that have been used by people for many years to catch fish as they swim in the water. With floaters on top and weights on the bottom, the nets are designed so that they can sit on the bottom and catch fish by the gills as they swim by.

They are popular because, if set in the right places, they can catch large quantities of fish very easily.

These nets were once made of twine or linen, but now are made almost entirely of nylon monofilament. This makes the nets easier to handle, but creates problems for marine animals if the nets are lost or abandoned.

"When we thought of the old nets, we were thinking of nets that were biodegradable and which, if lost, would disappear over time," said Richard Shomura, the director of the Hawaii National Marine Fisheries Service Laboratory. "But these nets are made from monofilament nylon and they will go on and on catching fish. One study demonstrated that gill nets could go on catching fish for six years by themselves.

"It's like overfishing except that these are fish that people don't benefit from. It's a waste," he said.

But lost nets are not the only

The Sunday Star-Bulletin & Advertiser
Honolulu, September 21, 1986

This section prepared by the
staff of The Honolulu Advertiser.

B



from the sea

mike markrich

problem, he said. Plastic debris, which can last from five to 50 years before breaking down, causes many problems for ocean animals.

They either get caught in the debris or eat it and become disabled, he said. For example, Hawaii sea turtles sometimes mistake floating plastic trash bags for jelly fish, and try to gobble them up.

"This is a major problem of the future," said Shomura. "The fish eat this stuff and then they find they can't live and reproduce."

Several states have launched efforts to fight the net and de-

bris problem. For example, California spent nearly \$1 million to determine what impact gill nets were having on the state's fish and seabird population.

In Hawaii, no comparable effort exists.

"We understand that it (ghost fishing) is a problem but we haven't got the time or the money to deal with it," said Henry Sakuda, director of the Aquatic Resources Division. "We've got a lot of other concerns."

He said that Hawaii's relatively small recreational net fishing should not be compared with other states that have large commercial net fishing industries with trawlers and other vessels.

After being contacted about the problem, the division sent divers to look for nets at Magic Island.

of lost nylon gill nets



Advertiser photo by Gregory Yamamoto

Divers surface with abandoned net off Magic Island.

Environmental Update

Mating dance — in color

If there is an underwater chameleon, it might be a Hawaiian goby whose color changes to Halloween shades during courtship.

The goby, known to science as *Lentipes concolor*, is the rarest of Hawaii's five freshwater fishes. The females are generally a gray-brown in color, and for much of the time, the males are the same color. But when mating time comes, the males undergo a dramatic color change.

The fronts of their bodies become black, from the head halfway to the tail. From there to the end of the tail, they become bright orange.

Their blue eyes don't change color.

The fishes were studied by biologist Robert T. Nishimoto of the University of Hawaii-Hilo campus and J. Michael Fitzsimons of the Museum of Natural Science at Louisiana State Uni-



Jan
TenBruggencate
Kauai Bureau

versity. Their results were presented in a paper called "Courtship, Territoriality and Coloration in the Endemic Hawaiian Freshwater Goby, *Lentipes concolor*."

They studied the gobies in Manoloa Stream on the Big Island and Hanakapiai Stream on Kauai.

Non-courting males are distinguished from females by the blue eyes and a slight orange tint to the lower tail area. When a female approaches, the fish is able almost instantly to flash its tail half to a brick red color.

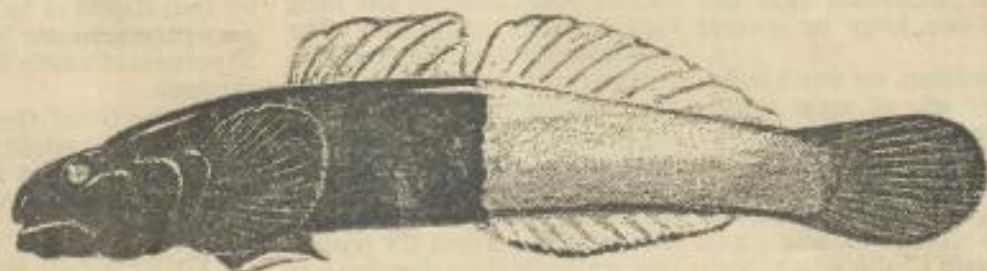
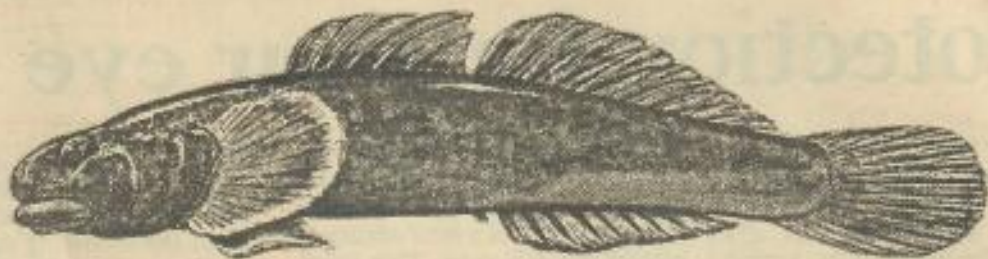
As the male moves toward the female, the tail color goes to a glowing red, sometimes tinged with a chalky white color. The area from the head halfway down the body becomes jet black. The top and bottom fins become white.

When the courtship is over, the colors fade in three to 10 minutes, the researchers said.

The males of the species go through less dramatic color changes when protecting their territories from intruding males. The one whose home ground is being invaded often grows darker and begins an agitated flicking of its fins. That's normally enough to chase the intruder away, Nishimoto and Fitzsimons said.

If the intruder is wearing his courtship colors, however, the resident male will immediately attack and bite the intruder.

If the intruder wearing his col-



Gobies have that afterglow look after courting. At top is the coloration of a goby in a normal state. At bottom is its color after courtship.

ors chases a female into the resident's area, the resident will himself court the female before chasing away the intruding male.

When the gobies are in their non-courtship colors, they often look much like the rocks on

which they spend their time. But when they are black and orange, they can be easy to see. The scientists said the ability to turn the colors quickly on and off may be a defense against predators.

If the fishes remained brightly colored too much of the time,

birds and shrimp would have an easier time locating and eating them, Nishimoto and Fitzsimons said.

The scientists said there was no appreciable difference in the behavior of the gobies on the Big Island and Kauai.

Police & Fire

Man lost ^{8/24/87} from Isle boat _{HSB}

One of four persons who were aboard a Honolulu-based fishing boat that ran aground on Maro Reef near Midway Island is still missing.

U.S. Coast Guard aircraft from Honolulu has been sent to the area to look for a 35-year-old man who with three companions was tossed into the water when the vessel broke up on the reef on Wednesday.

The other three were found and picked up by another boat, the Ipo Kai, which is bringing them to Honolulu.

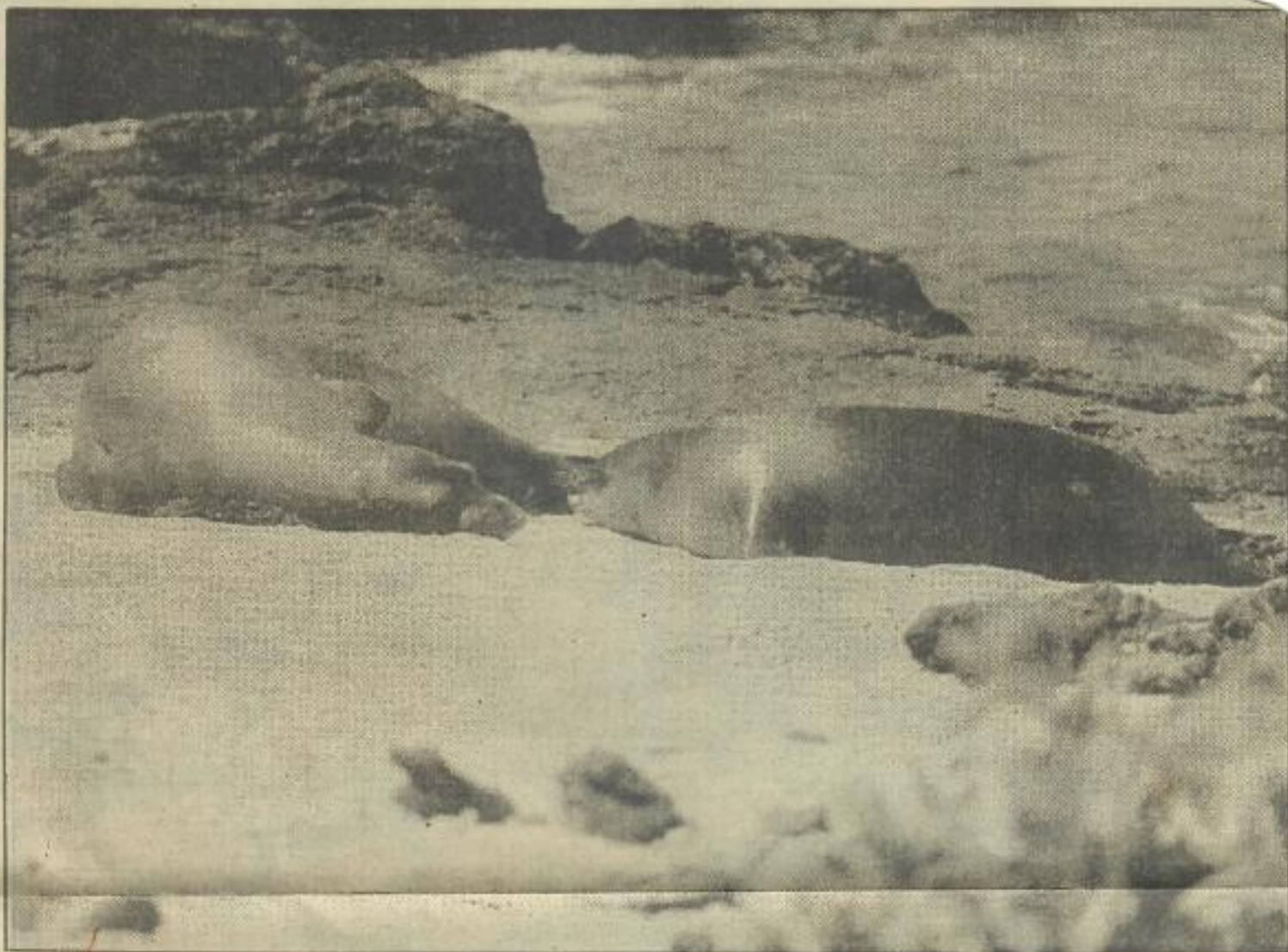
A Coast Guard spokesman said, "We have been told that the four of them were asleep when their boat ran aground."

He added he has no information on the condition of the three persons who were rescued. But, he said, "We would have been told if they were in bad shape."



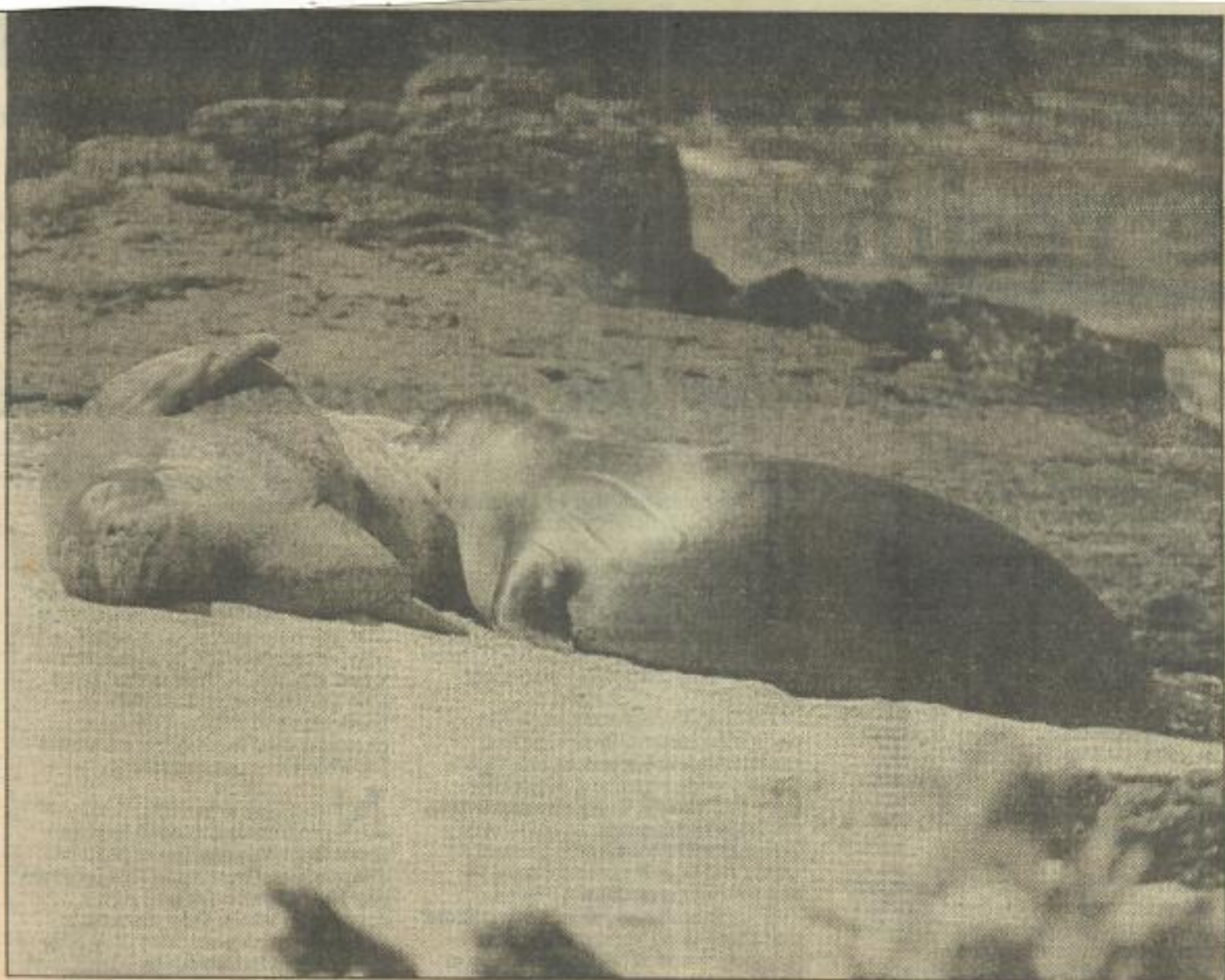
**Jan
TenBruggencate**

Environment Writer



Advertiser photos by Jan TenBruggencate

Monk seal pup, right, approaches mom on a remote Kauai North Shore beach . . .



...and snuggles up for lunch under a bright Hawaiian sky. The pup is near weaning time.

9/25/88

SSB & A

D-2

Environmental Update

History-making monk seal pup fat and healthy

LIHUE — The Hawaiian monk seal pup has ballooned from 30 pounds to about 200 pounds in the 45 days since birth.

It's fat, apparently healthy, and very near weaning age.

The female pup, which lies alongside its mother on an isolated Kauai beach, is the first Hawaiian monk seal to have been born in the main Hawaiian Islands in recorded history.

"It is very exciting," said Don Heacock, Kauai-based aquatic biologist with the state Division of Aquatic Resources.

The young seal was born in the second week of August, of a mother who has been seen for the past year on beaches all around Kauai. Most of that time she has been alone, although a few reports indicated a second seal was seen nearby.

Heacock said the pup's only food has been mother's milk during its first 40 days. And since the mother hasn't been feeding, she has gone from a sleek estimated 600 pounds to a comparatively gaunt estimated 400 pounds.

The two spend most of their time appearing to sleep in the tidepools and just up on the sand. Now and then the pup begins snapping at the mother. The big seal moves away at first, then rolls over to allow the pup to feed.

At weaning time, when the mother stops allowing feeding, the pup will lose weight while it learns to fish.

National Marine Fisheries Service personnel have been on the island to see the seal, but don't want to say where it is. Any disturbance by humans could be dangerous to the pup — mothers have been known to abandon pups after being disturbed — and could be dangerous to the humans. Seals are big, can be aggressive and have teeth.

Hawaiian monk seals are on the federal endangered species list, and it's also a violation of federal law to bother them.

The reason for all the concern is the extreme sensitivity of the mammals to human activity. They readily abandon areas used by humans. That's one of the reasons they are believed to be so rare in the main Hawaiian Islands.

Individual seals are occasionally spotted on the main islands, but most don't stay long. They are seen with some regularity on quiet Niihau and its neighboring islet, Lehua.

But most of the population of 500 to 1,000 is on the atolls of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, where they are under the protection of the federal government, which maintains the islands as part of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

There have been only three species of monk seals. The Hawaiian and Mediterranean monk seals are both critically endangered and have about the same populations. The Caribbean monk seal, last seen in the early 1950s, is believed to be extinct.

Kauai now has three seals in regular attendance: the mother and pup, and another seal on a North Kauai beach.

Reader's Journal

ANNABEL CHOTZEN

Door opened to spirit of Christmas

I teach at Hawaii Pacific University, which is known for attracting students from countries all over the world. In my public speaking class, students tell the most wonderful stories about their lives, cultures and families.

For those who think we don't celebrate Christmas, oh, yes, we do. We say "Mele Kalikimaka," rush around buying gifts and going to parties and put up lights just as people do

Saturday, December 19, 1998 •
City Desk: 525-8090

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Navy drops

Niihau, Kauai remain on list for proposed missile program

By Jan TenBruggencate
Advertiser Kauai Bureau

LIHUE, Kauai — The Navy has dropped Johnston and Tern islands as proposed rocket launch sites in its theater ballistic missile defense

program.

Both islands are within atolls that are wildlife refuges. They were initially considered launch and instrumentation sites, but were dropped from the program's final environmental impact statement,

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HAWAII

B

two launch sites

which was released yesterday.

Niihau and Kauai are the remaining land-based proposed launch sites. The program also envisions possible ship-based launches.

The Navy is working with the Air Force, Army and other organizations to conduct the missile defense work at the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai. The research would involve launching target rockets and testing other weapons

that could intercept them in flight.

The theater missile defense program gained momentum after the Gulf War in 1991, when Iraqi SCUD missiles targeted U.S. troops and their allies, and U.S. weaponry was unable to destroy the incoming missiles in flight.

The Navy has reportedly separated a controversial issue over the use of Niihau from the environmental impact

statement, so it can proceed while state and federal agencies work with the island's owners to resolve the issue.

The state Division of Historic Preservation insists on interviews with residents about the history of parts of the island, while the landowners say completed archaeological surveys meet the require-

See Missile, Page B2

over

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ADVISOR 7567R

Fishing



By BRUCE CARTER

Hawaiian Monk Seal Caught

Biggest news of the fishing weekend . . . surpassing many fine marlin catches . . . was the almost unbelievable feat performed by Malli's Angel Ibanez who brought in an extremely rare Hawaiian Monk Seal on one cast of his 10-foot throw net from the shore.

Although the powerful animal . . . close to 170 pounds in weight . . . tore the net to shreds, Ibanez and partners Blackie Coronel and Wendell Davis managed to get it out of the water and wrestle it into their station wagon and back to the Ibanez home. Released in the backyard, it led them a wild chase until tired when it flopped beside the garage to rest.

Ibanez called Sea Life Park officials who immediately sent a crew to pick up the animal which they reported to be unhurt. The Curator advises it to be an animal under one year of age, in excellent condition. It is now on display in the Park's Leeward Isle pool where it has already started to eat and adapt itself to its new environment.

In deference to the area where it was caught, Sea Life Park officials have aptly named it "Malli."

The Hawaiian Monk Seal which is plentiful far up the Hawaiian Archipelago towards French Frigate, is almost non-existent in this area and verified sightings are few and far between.

Ibanez, who was the surprised throw-net fisherman making the unusual catch, is employed at Lualualei Naval Ammunition Depot.

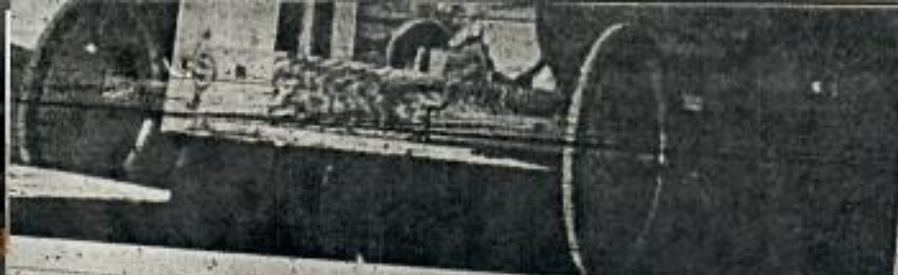
★ ★ ★ Marlin Christens Diamond S

Isami Okumura's new 44-foot Diamond S received its marlin christening Sunday . . . blood of a billfish on its decks for the first time.



Making the catch was Okumura's son Sus Fujita . . . incidentally his first experience with a fighting game fish as well. It weighed 85 pounds and was caught off Lualualei Radio Towers.

They swung alongside my berth Sunday afternoon at Waikiki Yacht Club and I took films of the boat.



Advertiser Photo by T. Umeda

Y-CHECK—Chuck Lee (left), Soap Box Derby chief inspector, and Roger De Hay, 13, of 21 Palione Pl., Kailua. The July 1 Derby is sponsored by The Advertiser, Aloha Motors, Service Motors and the Dept. of Parks and Recreation.

APRIL 19, 1962

Car Can't Rely On Doors, Locks

A woman cared for his car in his driveway last night, then she checked to see if the car was there. She found it missing. She called the police and they searched for it. The car was found near Sand Island Access Road, near Halfway House. Its wheels and tires were stolen. So were its manifold, four-barreled carburetor, water pump, crankshaft pulley, generator, distributor cap, top radiator hose and valve covers.

Zoo Unable To Take Gift Of Baby Seal

Honolulu Zoo director Paul Breese had to turn down a rare baby Hawaiian monk seal yesterday because it was too tiny to survive among the zoo's present seal population. **THE BABY SEAL** was found on the beach at Polihale, Kauai, yesterday afternoon by Deputy Game Warden James Gonsalves and a companion, Joseph Andrade. It apparently had been abandoned by its mother. The pair carried the 40-pound seal, which was about three feet long, to Andrade's house.

THEY MADE a "bed" for it in an old icebox which was filled with water. But the little seal wouldn't eat, so they decided to ship it by air to Honolulu as a gift to the zoo. Breese said last night he had to turn down the offer. The State Fish and Game division was to take charge of the baby seal after its arrival.

Company Will Close I Refinery

Calif. (UPI) — A company said it has already diverted a cargo of raw sugar to the East Coast and canceled the loading of two Matson ships in Hawaii. Meanwhile, Federal mediator V. Wayne Kenaston called a joint bargaining session for this morning. A major issue in the dispute is a C&H proposal for rescheduling maintenance work.

Company Considers Service Here

Company is on the Canadian route to Europe. "MAYBE IT'S a result of statehood and an increased awareness of U.S. commitment."

Electrical Assn. Slates Conference

The Pacific Coast Electrical Assn. (Hawaii) will hold a workshop-business development conference April 27 at Pounane, Maui. Speakers will be J. F. Ogden.



Schell Paid His To Academy

By EARL WILSON
NEW YORK—Eddie Fisher joined Audrey Hepburn and Mel Ferrer at 21 for coffee. They're all part of the Swiss Colony—or were. Are the Ferrers hopeful of receiving the Fishers?

Jackie Gleason phoned Shor. "Slob, the real winner was I. I'm reporting award was I. I'm to win the big one next and it wouldn't look like it." Johnny Carson met his new NBC boss at a sales confab in Chicago and said, "Look here, Hoff and Kintner, about vacations. Tammy Grimes, tonight."

JACOB FEUERRING
takes pleasure in presenting
LUI TSUN-YUEN
PIPA and CHIN RECITAL
Chinese classical music
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PUNAHOU SCHOOL
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7:30 PM
Misero Hiberi—Toketura Kanaka
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KING PALACE PHONE 57959 59 S KING DOWNTOWN Today—9:45 A.M. Continuous	PALACE PHONE 94303 SEKETANIA, KEEAUMOKU Today—9:45 A.M. Continuous	WAIALAE DRIVE IN PHONE 72158 WAIALAE AT 21st Gates open at 6:30 Kids under 12, FREE
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A LEGEND ABOUT THE WINGING OF THE WEST SURGES INTO A HEROIC LIFE... AS TWO GREAT STARS APPEAR TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME!

JAMES STEWART **JOHN WAYNE**

The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance

JOHN FORD
VERA MILES - LEE MARVIN - EDMOND O'BRIEN - DENVER - MARYJO

MAY 21, 1970 B-1

The Honolulu Advertiser

2nd FRONT

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1970

Orphan seal nursed to adulthood

By TIM TONER
Advertiser Staff Writer

A group of Coast Guardsmen found an abandoned baby Hawaiian monk seal on the beach at Kure last January, and nursed him back to health.

The story of the Coast Guardsmen and the seal—which is one of an endangered species—was described by the seal's constant companion, Electronics Technician Third-Class Robert E. Curry, in a letter to the State Wildlife Division.

Kure, 1700 miles northwest of Oahu, is a State Wildlife Refuge. The Coast Guardsmen stationed there saw the seal on the beach and five days later he was still there—alone.

They decided then to adopt him.

CURRY APPROACHED the baby seal and began to feed him milk. The seal, a timid animal, took a little and seemed to want affection as much as nourishment, Curry said in a letter.

Curry had to leave him to meet a Navy flight. But when he got to the runway, he looked around and saw that the seal—by then, they had nicknamed him "Dog"—had hopped along after him and followed him all the way from the beach.

He took the seal back with him to barracks.

The seal spent three months with the men in barracks. They even made a "nipple" to make it easier for him to feed. But he seemed always to want affection and attention. "He would cry for as long as 30 minutes and attempt to follow the last person to be with him," Curry wrote.

Coast Guardsmen "baby-sat" with the seal for as much as 12 hours a day during the first few weeks.

SOMETHING HAPPENED by the end of the fourth week. Dog stopped eating for some reason and his heart-beat rate dropped alarmingly.

Curry had to force-feed the seal with a mixture of tuna fish, salmon and milk once a week. He used a copper tube, coated with rubber, and curved to the shape of Dog's throat. The seal regained his appetite, while Curry suffered "a rash of very painfully bitten fingers."

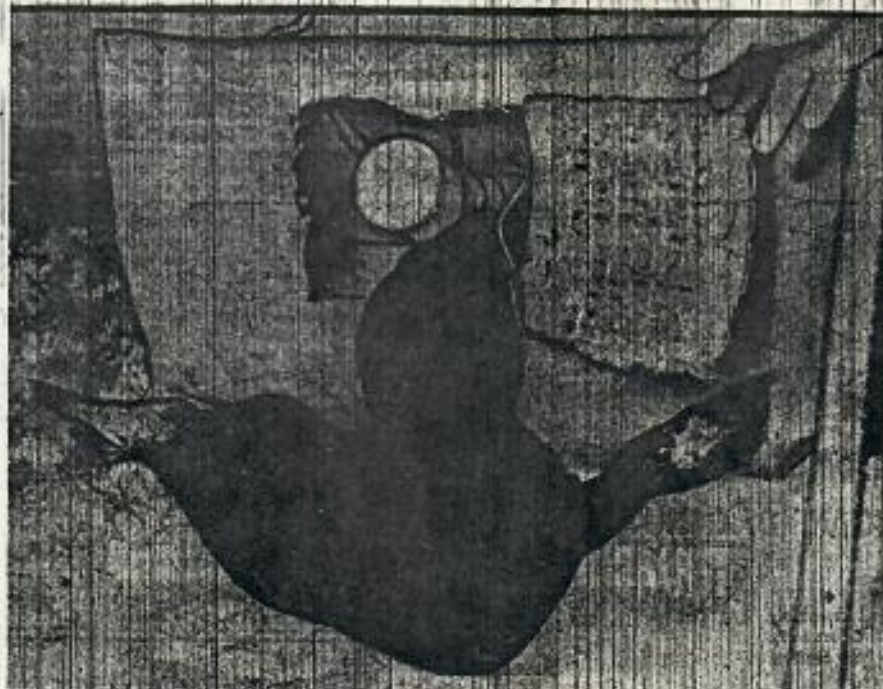
It was always a problem to feed him. Curry tried giving him milk through a rubber glove, but this didn't work too well. Then he tried a sponge soaked with milk, through a tube, but much of the milk was spilled.

Then Curry built a box with an artificial nipple device placed at the end of a surgical tube. The tube was connected to a bottle of milk held upside down and the force of gravity sent the milk through the tube, into the nipple, and into the seal's mouth.

To keep the milk nice and warm on cool nights a light bulb was installed inside the box and the light turned on.

Dog now had enough chow to keep him happy.

CURRY INVENTED what was called the "Kure Island Monk Seal Sauce" for the seal. It was made up of eggs, whole and evaporated milk, cheese, molasses, honey, butter, and sometimes bacon grease.



U.S. Coast Guard Photo

"Dog" feeds out of "feed box." Note bottle of milk, surgical tube which ends with a nipple.

The seal was still underweight, but Curry thought he looked "more mature" than any other seal he had ever seen.

On trips to the beach, Dog would go swimming, like any other seal, but only when a Coast Guardsman accompanied him. "All during the time he was in the water, he would attempt to nurse on his swimming partner," said Curry.

"When they allowed him to, he would cling to a sailor's arm, or just cling to his entire body. He would gladly accept a free ride anywhere."

ONE DAY CURRY was out swimming with Dog when they encountered a large female seal. She swam between Curry and Dog. They seemed to be getting along fine, but when the big female seal tried to swim ashore with Dog in her company, a big male seal stood on the shore and wouldn't let them come in. The female seal had to leave Dog.

By age 14 weeks, Dog began to look good. He had

replaced his baby fur with a black coat streaked on the belly with silver. No longer was he on a milk diet (seven quarts a day), but was eating a natural diet of fresh fish.

It was inevitable, of course, that Dog would someday heed the call of the wild. Soon after, he began flisking with other seals.

One day he swam off with a large female seal and has not been seen since.

BUT THIS STORY may not have a happy ending. Curry said he feared that Dog might have ran into danger since he was a "house-bred" seal and didn't know how to hunt for food for himself and had just come through a trying infancy.

"I do not know what happened to Dog, but I am not too optimistic," he wrote. "He was not ready to go it alone."

"Unless he found another seal to protect him, I am afraid that he never made it past the sharks."