
American Samoa FADs Program

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Résumé

The American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources Fish Aggregating Devices Program started in 2004. It is funded by the Sportfish Restoration and Enhancement grant from the United States Fishery and Wildlife Service. American Samoa uses the aluminum raft design believed to be originated in Samoa. Because of the high cost associated with the FAD program (personnel, materials, mooring, and anchor plus deployment expenses), the DMWR management wanted to deploy and maintain only six FADs – five FADs around the main island of Tutuila and one FAD around the Manu'a islands. Most FADs are deployed at the south part of Tutuila Island where most people reside and where the Pago Harbor, the canneries, boat ramps, and the marina for the artisanal fishery are located. All FADs are deployed offshore at three or more miles from land. Maintenance checks of the FADs are in position, check the mooring line, the connections, and the raft itself – are carried out by the FAD technicians every quarter using a chartered alia or the Office boat. These trips are recorded in a maintenance form, and if there is a problem, it is noted on the check list form and it will be used to plan out activities for the next quarter. The recreational fishery, the alia troll fishery, and the local alia longline boat fish around the FADs or in the vicinity of the FADs on almost a daily basis. The fishing trips by these boats are recorded on the participation form during a boat count run. We will check out which boat is not in port and if a boat is missing, it is assumed to be out fishing. When a fishing trip returns, the fishermen are interviewed to collect information about the time they went fishing, how long they were fishing, number

Mots-Clés: American Samoa FAD DMWR

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