

Environmental Business Leadership

Guam Fishermen's Cooperative
Association

Overview

- 5-10% of Pacific-Wide Fish Catch is by US Fishermen
- 40 Million lb Caught Annually by US Pacific Island Fishermen
- 1% (480,000 lb) by Guam Fishermen
- Guam Among Highest Per Capita Fish Consumption in US (130 lb/year)
- Focal Point is Guam Co-op

Fishing Impacts on Environment (1)

- Impacts on Target Fish Resources
 - Shift fishing offshore away from reefs (Co-op longline demonstration)
 - Shift consumption to pelagic fish (Co-op product promotion)
- Impacts on Non-Target Fish Resources
 - Co-op markets multi-species catches, so little there is bycatch or waste

Fishing Impacts on Environment (2)

- Impacts on Protected Species
 - -- Co-op longline project will apply latest techniques to avoid accidental sea turtle, seabird catches
- Impacts Related to Vessel Operation
 - --Co-op facility expansion will add capacity to recycle oil, batteries, trash that might otherwise be discarded at sea

Environmental Impacts on Fishing

- Large % of Local Fish Eaten Raw
 - So Quality of Fish and Their Environments Must be High
- Threats
 - Ciguatera – Co-op routinely tests
 - Chemical Pollution – Avoid affected areas
 - Fish Habitat Damage – Co-op favors “ecosystem reserves” including mountain-to-sea restoration

Ecosystem Perspective

- Over 90% of seafood consumed on Guam is imported
- Imported seafood has associated environmental impacts
- Consumers endorse these impacts when they eat imports
- “Responsible seafood consumption” requires:
 - Awareness of product origins and related impacts
 - Marketing low environmental impacts as “value added”