



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE/NOAA FISHERIES

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CRUISE REPORT¹

VESSEL: F/V *Marie M*, Cruise NC-06-01

CRUISE PERIOD: 08 June 2006 – 07 July 2006

AREA OF OPERATION: Necker Island and Gardner Pinnacles, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) (Fig. 1)

TYPE OF OPERATION: Personnel from the Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research (JIMAR) conducted lobster trapping and tagging in the waters around Necker Island and Gardner Pinnacles, NWHI from June 8 to July 7, 2006.

ITINERARY:

- 08 June Start of cruise. On board Anthony Santos. Departed Pier 35, Honolulu, Oahu at 1000; transited to Necker Island.
- 10 June Arrived Necker Island. Transferred J. O'Malley and Garrett McNulty from NOAA ship *Oscar Elton Sette*. Transited to Gardner Pinnacles.
- 11 June Arrived Gardner Pinnacles. Commenced lobster trapping and tagging operations.
- 12 June Continued lobster trapping and tagging operations.
- 22 June Hauled lobster traps and departed Gardner Pinnacles. Transited to Necker Island.
- 23 June Arrived Necker Island. Commenced lobster trapping and tagging operations.
- 24 June Continued lobster trapping and tagging operations.
- 05 July Hauled lobster traps and departed Necker Island; transited to Honolulu, Oahu.

¹ PIFSC Cruise Report CR-06-021
Issued 12 July 2006



07 July Arrived Pier 35, Honolulu, Oahu at 1300. End of cruise.

MISSIONS AND RESULTS:

2.1 The missions and results of the cruise are:

- A. Collect, tag, and release live trap-captured Hawaiian spiny lobster (*Panulirus marginatus*) and scaly slipper lobster (*Scyllarides squammosus*) to provide data necessary for reestimation of key biological and population parameters for the Necker Island and Gardner Pinnacles lobster stock.

A total of 330 trapping stations were fished with black plastic lobster traps. Each trapping station consisted of a string of 20 traps. Traps, set between 0930 and 1900 hours, were baited with mackerel and allowed to soak overnight. A total of 300 traps were set each night. In addition to collecting the tag number from previously tagged *P. marginatus* and *S. squammosus*, sex, carapace length, and reproductive information were collected from each lobster caught. All untagged *P. marginatus* and *S. squammosus* were tagged. All tagged lobsters were released.

- B. Collect data on abundance and species composition of trap-captured lobsters at Necker Island and Gardner Pinnacles.

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- C. Obtain lobster length-frequency data to compare with previous research and commercial fishery data.

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- D. Collect 25 spiny and 25 slipper lobster from each bank for nutritional and genetic analysis.

Twenty-five spiny and 25 slipper lobsters were collected from each bank for nutritional and genetic analysis.

**SCIENTIFIC
PERSONNEL:**

Garrett McNulty, Cooperating Scientist, Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric
Research (JIMAR), University of Hawaii (UH)

Joseph O'Malley, Chief Scientist, JIMAR, UH

Anthony Santos, Cooperating Scientist, Northwest Observers, Inc.

Submitted by: (/s/Joseph M. O'Malley)
Joseph M. O'Malley
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Approved by: (/s/Samuel G. Pooley)
Samuel G. Pooley, Ph.D.
Science Director
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

Attachments

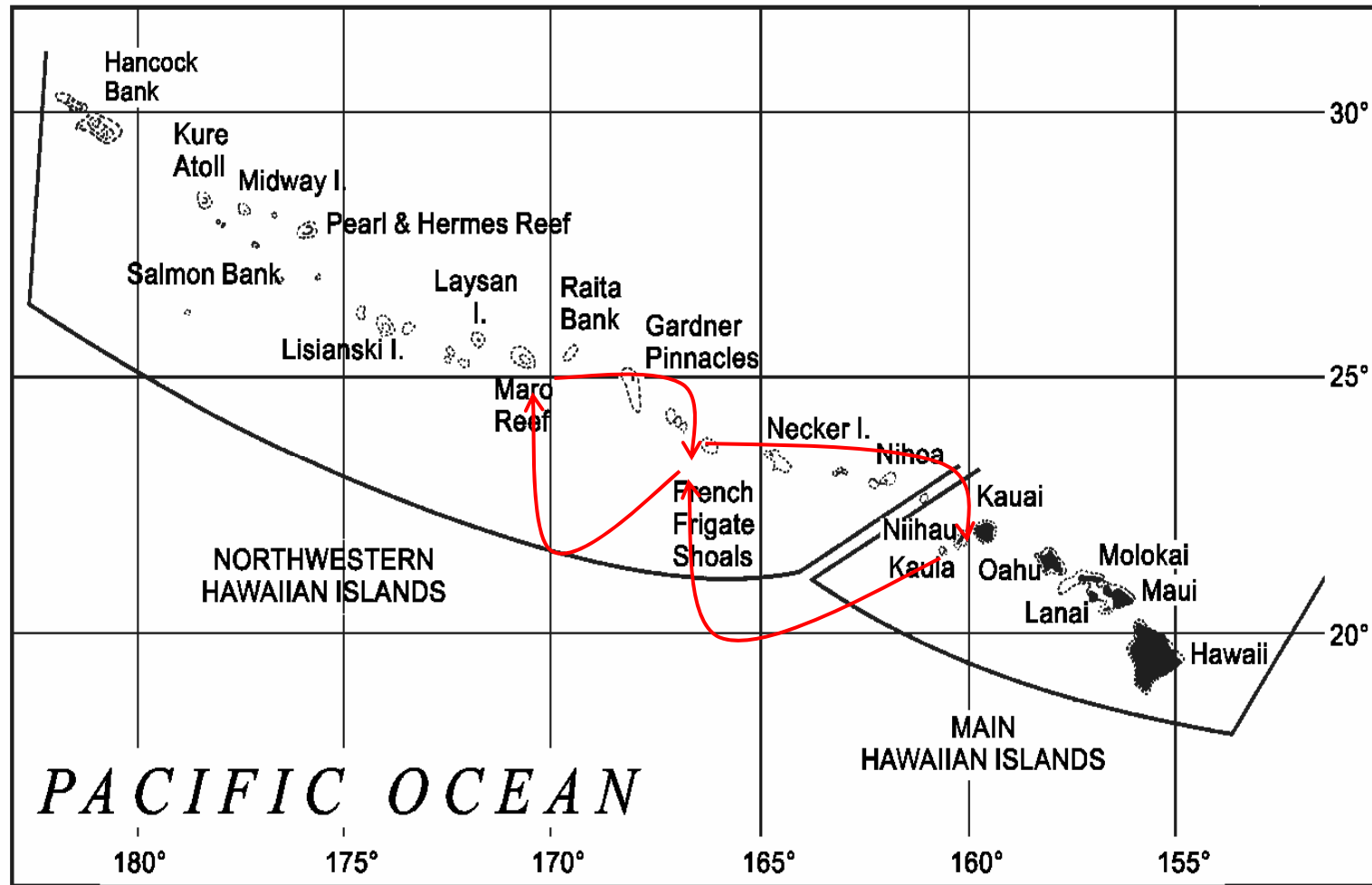


Figure 1. Track of the *Marie M*, NOAA Charter Cruise NC0601, June 8 to July 7, 2006.