

American Samoa Commercial Fisheries Biosampling Program

Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources,
American Samoa



Background

Congress funds NOAA Fisheries to expand data requirements consistent with Magnuson-Stevens Act

NOAA Fisheries have funded Commercial Fish Biosampling to expand data monitoring, fisheries statistics, and biological information

Biosampling Goals:

- (1) to obtain length-weight data of landed catch,
- (2) that is identified to species;
- (3) target 10 species for life history sampling of otoliths/gonads;
- (4) expand capacity of staff to in sampling/lab studies

Data Outcomes: otoliths/gonads to be used to determine growth and maturity; fisheries data to support stock assessments & ACLs



Biosampling Data Collected:

Name of fisherman

Date

Area fished

Number of hours fishing

Car or boat?

How many fisherman in boat

How much bait used (bottomfishing)

How much fuel used

How much ice (supplied)

Fish species (length, weight)

Otoliths and Gonads

Processing the Catch



Top fish species caught (number) by commercial spearfishing

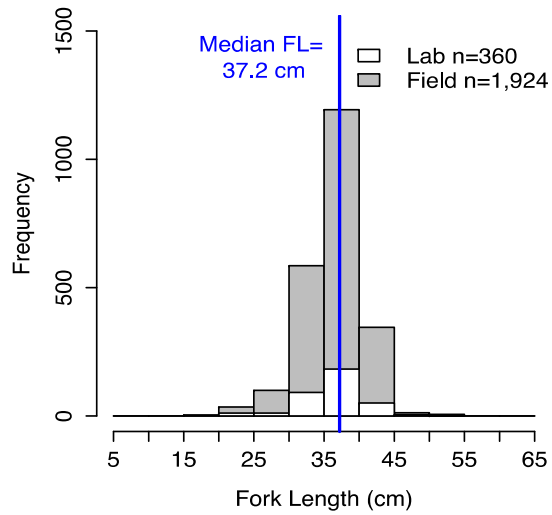
	Species	Total	%
1	<i>Acanthurus lineatus</i>	79,305	54.9
2	<i>Ctenochaetus striatus</i>	6,554	4.5
3	<i>Naso lituratus</i>	5,573	3.9
4	<i>Sargocentron tiera</i>	5,300	3.7
5	<i>Chlorurus japanensis</i>	4,555	3.2
6	<i>Naso unicornis</i>	3,563	2.5
7	<i>Scarus rubroviolaceus</i>	3,179	2.2
8	<i>Panulirus pencillatus</i>	2,975	2.1
9	<i>Scarus oviceps</i>	2,590	1.8
10	<i>Myripristis berndti</i>	2,177	1.5

Top fish species caught (number) by commercial bottomfishing

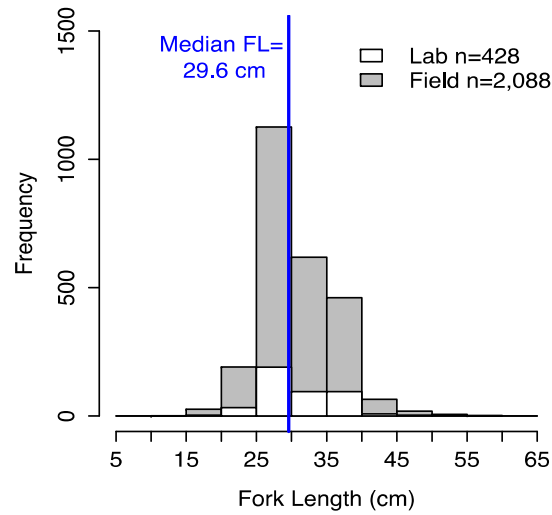
	Species	Grand Total	%
1	<i>Lutjanus kasmira</i>	5558	27.1
2	<i>Lethrinus rubrioperculatus</i>	4102	20.0
3	<i>Lethrinus xanthochilus</i>	1974	9.6
4	<i>Lutjanus gibbus</i>	1879	9.2
5	<i>Aprion virescens</i>	865	4.2
6	<i>Variola albimarginata</i>	821	4.0
7	<i>Lutjanus rufolineatus</i>	529	2.6
8	<i>Lethrinus harak</i>	302	1.5
9	<i>Sphyraena forsteri</i>	280	1.4
10	<i>Lethrinus amboinensis</i>	229	1.1

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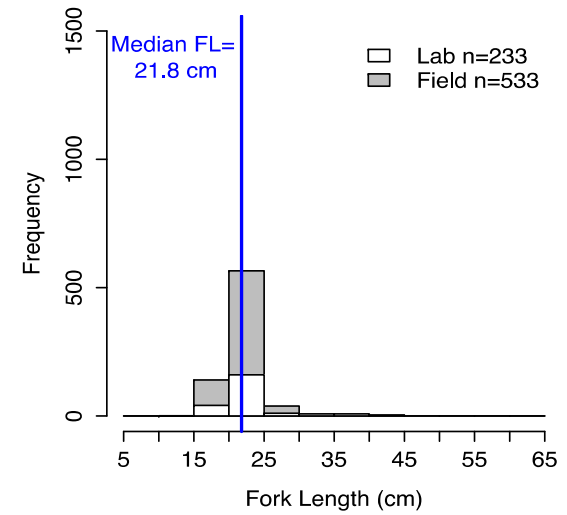
Lethrinus xanthurus



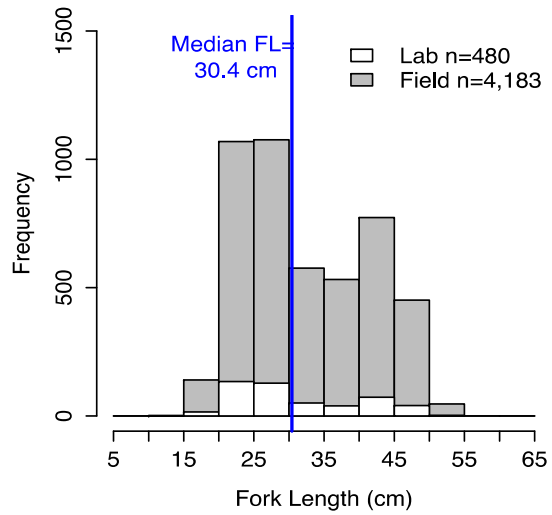
Lutjanus gibbus



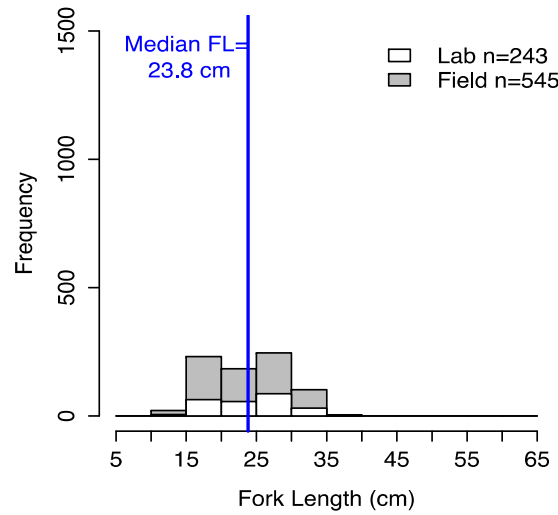
Lutjanus rufolineatus



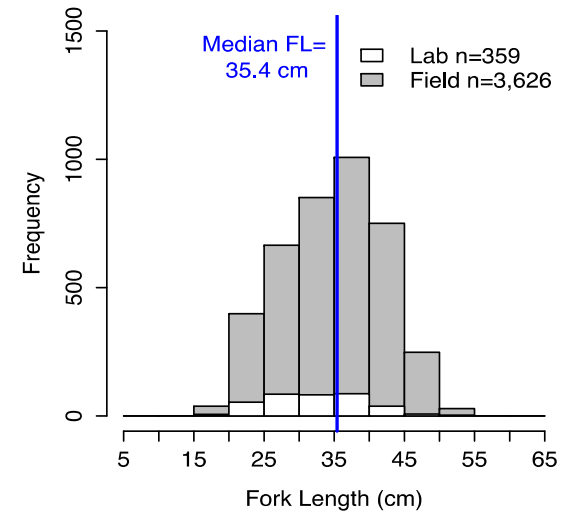
Naso unicornis



Sargocentron spiniferum

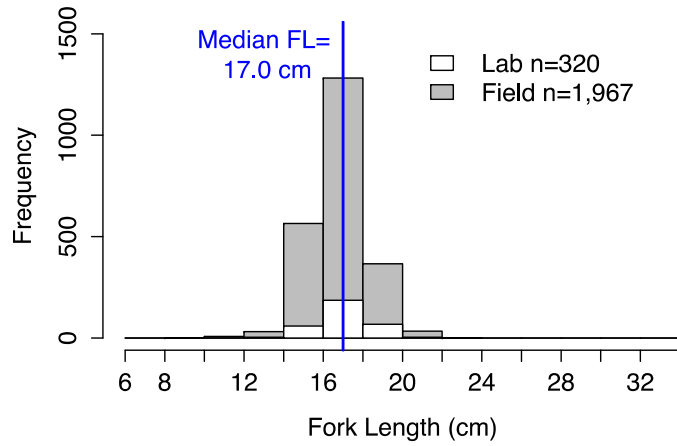


Scarus rubroviolaceus

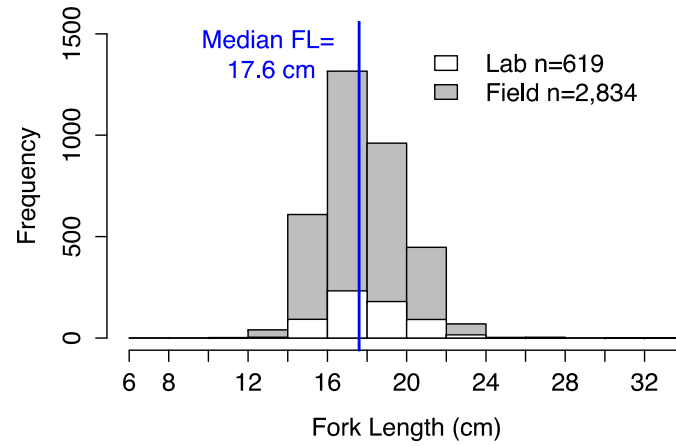


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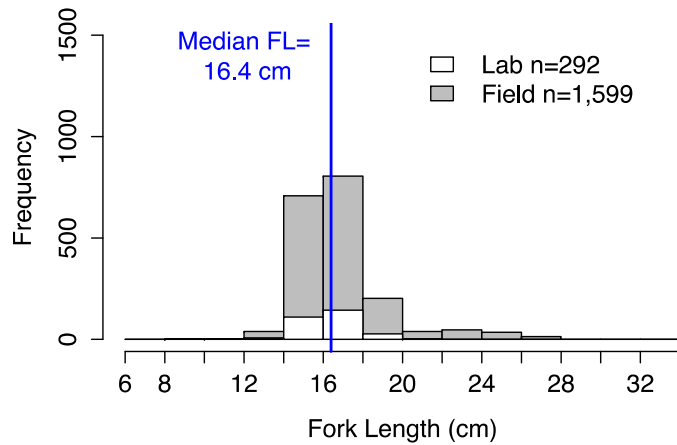
Myripristis amaena



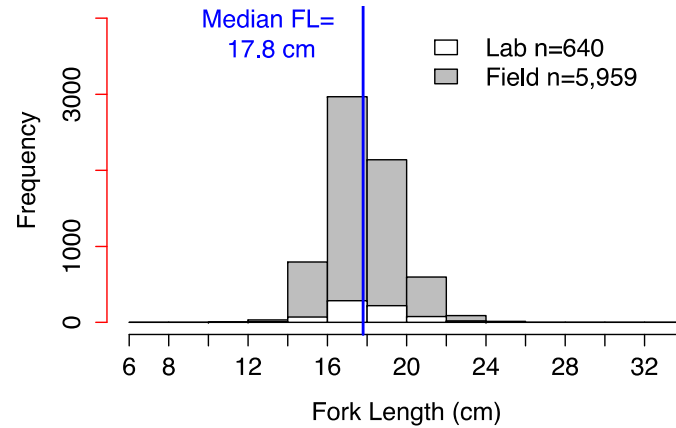
Myripristis berndti



Myripristis murdjan



Sargocentron tiera



Milestones

- We have 7 DMWR staff trained to identify fish species ID of catch
- We work with 15 spearfishermen, 6 bottomfishing boats, and 2 handlining fishermen.
- Measured over 216,000 fish lengths, over 209,000 lbs fish
- Collected almost 4,000 otoliths and gonads from 10 fish species for life-history data; and over 200 fin slips for barcode of life project.
- Collected AS specific L-W coefficients
- Species level fish catch summaries



Fa'afaetai tele lava!

Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga, Director DMWR

TeeJay Letalie, Auva'a Soonalo, Poasa Tofaeono
Alama Tua, Ekueta Schuster, Faleselau Tuilagi

Numerous fishermen who have supported
Biosampling
Mamani and Talavou

NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center