Technical Assistance to the Porpoise Predation Project, By Eric Shiota, Hcc - MOP April 1983.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

My work involvement at the Kewalo Research Facility included the giving of my time and technical assistance to the porpoise predation control project, the skipjack tuna spawn project, and the facility in general.

The major project, to date, was a research office which would also double as sleeping quarters for the scientists on watch with an observation platform topside. I felt that this would be an excellent opportunity to apply my architectural drafting skills learned at H.C.C. towards the project.

Plans for the structure were done in consultation with Dr. A. Dizon and R. Chang. Cost was to be kept at a minimum. Material take-off was made (see enclosed copy), and materials were ordered and delivered. Treated lumber was used in an attempt to contend with the termite problem and humid environment. U.B.C. (Uniform Building Code) standards were applied to the best of my knowledge. Setbacks from boundaries were not followed due to the fact that the structure was built on government property and considered portable.

With my carpentry skills and the help of my fellow workers, the structure was completed in about two and a half months on a part-time basis, approximately 160 manhours of my time.

As far as the predation control project was concerned, the office structure and observation platform proved to be adequate; very well designed and constructed. (See enclosed photos). The structure was used as a research lab and doubled as sleeping quarters at night. This was when the porpoise, which had just been captured, was in its initial transition stages from the wild and had to be babysat around the clock. The porpoise, named "Kuuipo", would not take food for several weeks and had to be force fed in order to insure her survival. Because of the feeding problem and a severe infection, the experiment was hampered and eventually the project had to be scrapped because of restricted funding and timesharing of the tank at Kewalo. Thus, "Kuuipo" was moved to Ocean Institute where it was learned that all that was wrong was that she was really lonesome; upon being put in a tank with some of her own kind, she immediately started feeding on her own. Thus the porpoise was given to Ocean Institute, where she now resides for further training and experimentation.

The project that followed the construction of the research office involved the splash tower; a tower that provides oxygenated water to the holding tanks. Said tower was esthetically unpleasant and in dire need of a coat of paint to improve its appearance and to protect it from the marine environment. The original lead base enamel paint was badly peeling due to the salt air and humid environment. Also, the structural members showed signs of surface deterioration. Since a coat of paint would only be as sound as the surface upon which it is put, I decided to use a coat of solid-body stain that would penetrate deeply into the wood and act as a waterproofing and protecting agent; one that would breathe with the high humidity. There was also much bare wood and new redwood paneling that would accept the stain much more readily. I felt that stain would be a more permanent type of coating for that type of environment. I chose leather brown, being that it is more of an earth tone and more in keeping with the color scheme of most of the surrounding area and buildings.

Following the splash tower, lab facilities were desperately needed for support of the tuna spawn project. Plans for renovation of an abandoned existing machine shop were done in consultation with the project scientist. An enclosed lab and work area that could be both temperature and light controlled was needed. With a limited budget, a mezzanine was erected under which two labs were created by interior partitioning. An office and reception area was also added. With the help of fellow workers and research assistants, the lab was fully functional within two months. Insulation was added to help with temperature control of the lab. Both tuna and mahimahi have been successfully spawned, but beyond the 90-day period only the mahimahi have survived. It was learned that in the larval stages, baby skipjack tuna go through three critical stages; one of which is that stage when the egg or yolk sac is consumed and the fry must depend on outside sources of food for survival. If conditions aren't right, the tuna can't survive. A combination of light, temperature, salinity, and food source and supply in the right proportions seems to be the deciding factor in tuna spawn survival. Up to this point in time, they have been raised to fingerling size about 3 to 4 inches long, which in the scientific world is a terrific success. The project is still in its infancy. It can take many side avenues from here; such as tuna fingerlings for restocking, a cultured 40 lb. adult raised in captivity, or a study on metabolism. The possibilities are infinite.

In closing, I would like to note that technical support of a research facility is high priority and invaluable when it comes to project support and maintenance.



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Interior view showing open stud wall and roof framing

Roof framing- ceiling joists sized for use as upper level observation platform

## INITIAL CONSTRUCTION PHASE



Exterior view showing paneling and footing stone foundation



Front view showing doubled top plate and rough framed



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EXTERIOR VIEWS









# VIEWS FROM OBSERVATION PLATFORM



"Kuuipo" the porpoise



Exterior view of lab showing new corrugated fiberglass panelled partition enclosing outside work area

# LAB RENOVATION



Interior view of lab, showing partial new mezzanine floor joists from beneath, sink counter and work area.



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Interior view showing rotifer culture tanks against new wall partition enclosing spawn hatching tanks.



Interior view of hatching room showing hooded spawn tanks, under controlled light & temperature conditions.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory P. 0. Box 3830 Honolulu, Hawali 96812

Dear Dr. Gopalarishnan,

I have read Eric Shito's report and it is an accurate description of the work performed for us. I would like to add that the work, in fact all of Eric's work, is performed to very high standards. We are quite fortunate to have his services. I only hope that the tasks performed for us are of value to his continuing education.

Sinc elv Andrew Dizon

Fishery Biologist

January 21,1981

Thank you for the opportunity to detail my involvement with the **Rewain** Basin Matche Mammal Facility in connection with the Ocean Special Studies course couring the Fall 1980 Semester.

Der Dr. Completedeliner.

In September, I inquired at the Kewalo Facility and was informed of the Dolphin Predation Control by Aversion Conditioning Program. Hawailan commercial fishermen have become increasingly concerned with the loss of bait and catches to dolphins. The problem has developed to the point where it is adversely affecting the economics of Hawaiian fishing.

Different approaches have been made in an attempt to control the problem including underwater distress signals and wire rigged baits thought to interfere with dolphin sonar. These techniques may have temporarily deterred the dolphins but have not eliminated the problem. Since any solution to this problem must conform to the Marine Mammal Act, which protects all marine mammals, it was suggested that the predation of bait and catch lost by dolphins could be diminished by a learned tasts aversion and, consequently, resulted in the adoption of the project.

The Kewalo Facility included an existing marine mammal tank, but lacked adequate support facilities. Construction of a small building to house research offices with sleeping quarters and an observation deck was deemed neccessary. As I have had both carpentry and architectural training, I volunteered my services.

Neccessary appropriations were obtained and construction of the building under my direction and supervision commenced in October. Completion was delayed until January, due to my illness.

Attached are plans, progress photos, and pertinent information regarding the above mentioned project and satellite projects.

Thank you for your time and kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Givla

Eric A. Shiota

Eric A. Shiota 354 Paliku Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96825 Phone: (808)395-3529

## Personal Data

Born in Honolulu, HI - May 25, 1951 Single; in good health.

### Education

Honolulu Community College, Honolulu, HI Architectural Drafting Technology major Graduated with honors A.S. Degree - May 14, 1982

#### Work Experience

10/82 Hawaiian Dredging and Construction Company Power and Industrial Construction Division Honolulu, HI

Project Engineering Technician, Mechanical

7/82 Master Plumbers, Inc. Honolulu, HI

Design Engineer

10/79 Ferris & Hamig, Inc., Consulting Engineers Honolulu, HI

Mechanical Draftsman

11/73 HC & D Concrete Engineering Department Honolulu, HI

Carpenter

## Related Interests

Aquaculture, Marine Studies, Commercial Fishing, Marine Piping Design



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