

PIFSC Report on the Logbook Program for the American Samoa Longline Fishery April-June 2009¹

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Summary statistics of American Samoa longline catch and effort for the second quarter of 2009, based on date of haul, are shown in Table 1. The table is derived from all logbook data submitted as of August 27, 2009. As of this date, the documented delinquency rate for the second quarter of 2009 was less than 1%; data from one of 84 large longline vessel trips was not received or entered in the database and that trip had some of its sets in the second quarter.

According to the longline logbook data, 25 vessels turned in some or all of their longline logs for sets made during the second quarter of 2009. These 25 vessels made 1,238 sets and deployed 3,750,741 hooks. The second quarter of 2009 showed a slight increase in both effort and catch for most species over the second quarter of last year. Compared to the second quarter of 2008, the number of vessels turning in logs this quarter increased by 4% from 24 vessels to 25 (Fig. 1), the number of sets increased by 1.8% (Fig. 2) and the number of hooks used increased by 2.4% (Fig. 3). The average number of hooks used per set also increased by 0.6%, from 3012 to 3030, reflecting an almost completed trend toward a fishing fleet of larger vessels deploying more hooks per set.

The total catch for all species combined was 87,630 fish (Fig. 4) which is an increase of 9.3% compared to the second quarter of last year. Albacore continued to dominate the catch with 61,314 fish caught in the second quarter of 2009 (Fig. 5), a 18.9% increase over the 51,558 albacore caught in the second quarter of 2008. The catch of bigeye tuna (Fig. 6) showed a slight decrease of 1.2% and the yellowfin tuna catch (Fig. 8) showed a slight increase of 2.8%. The catch of skipjack tuna (Fig. 7) decreased to 57.3% of its value in the second quarter of 2008 but was still above the long term average for second quarter landings. The incidental catch of non-tuna species showed increases with the mahimahi catch (Fig. 9) increasing by 65% and the wahoo catch (Fig. 10) and billfish catch (Fig. 11) both up by 55%; the billfish catch set a new second quarter record. The sharks catch (Fig. 12) showed a slight decrease of 2.6%.

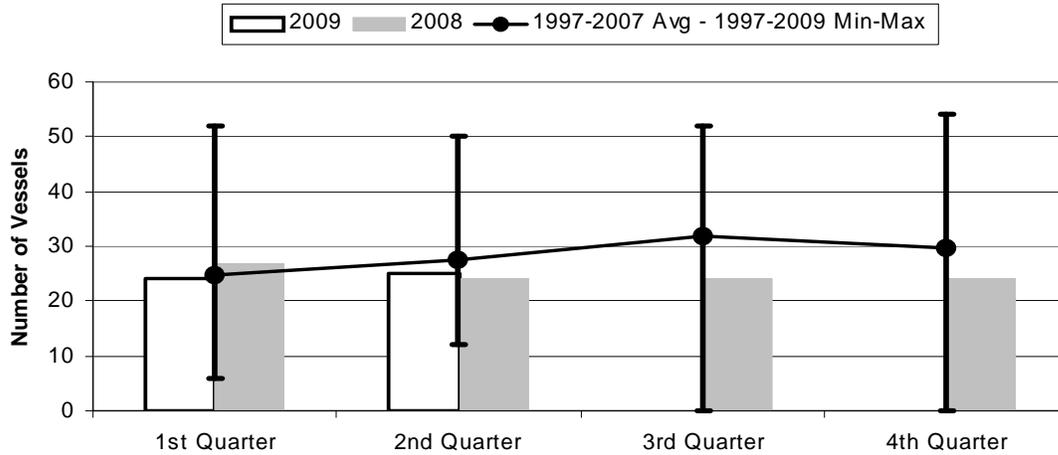
Since both the catch and the number of hooks increased, the catch per 1000 hooks (CPUE) showed a pattern similar to the catch but down slightly. The catch per 1000 hooks of albacore (Fig. 13) increased by 16%. The catch per 1000 hooks of bigeye tuna (Fig. 14) showed a slight decrease of 4.6%, the yellowfin tuna catch per 1000 hooks (Fig. 16) was unchanged, and the catch per 1000 hooks of skipjack tuna (Fig. 15) decreased to 55.9% of its value in the second quarter of 2008. The non-tuna species showed dramatic increases in catch per 1000 hooks with the mahimahi CPUE (Fig. 17) increasing by 64%, the wahoo CPUE (Fig. 18) increasing by 52% and the billfish CPUE (Fig. 19) up by 50%. The sharks catch per 1000 hooks (Fig. 20) showed a decrease of 6%.

¹ PIFSC Data Report DR-09-009
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Table 1. Summary of fish catch and nominal fishing effort by American Samoa Longline vessels during the second quarter of 2009 based on longline logbooks submitted before Sept. 4, 2008

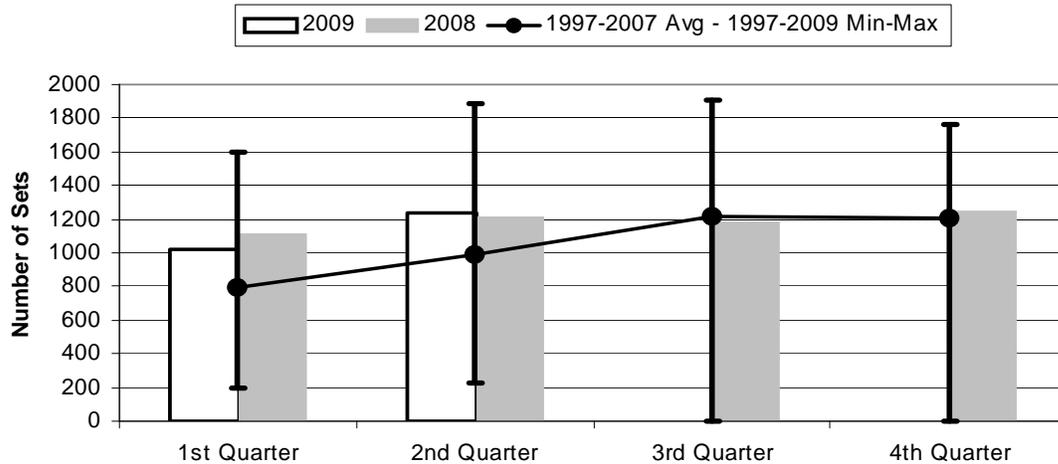
TRIP INFORMATION				
	Number of Vessels:		25	
	Number of Trips:		84	
	Number of Sets:		1,238	
	1000's of Hooks Set:		3,751	
	Number of Light Sticks Used:		77	
CATCH INFORMATION				
Species	Number Caught	Number Kept	Number Released	Number Caught per 1000 Hooks
BILLFISH				
Black marlin	9	0	9	0.00
Blue marlin	920	169	751	0.25
Striped marlin	93	46	47	0.02
Sailfish	208	36	172	0.06
Spearfish	611	114	497	0.16
Swordfish	87	44	43	0.02
TOTAL BILLFISH	1,928	409	1,519	0.51
SHARKS				
Blue shark	1,239	10	1,229	0.33
Shortfin mako shark	63	1	62	0.02
Thresher shark	131	0	131	0.03
White tip oceanic shark	299	0	299	0.08
Sharks (unknown)	45	0	45	0.01
TOTAL SHARKS	1,777	11	1,766	0.47
TUNA				
Albacore tuna	61,314	61,047	267	16.35
Bigeye tuna	1,547	1,384	163	0.41
Bluefin tuna	2	2	0	0.00
Skipjack tuna	7,796	6,195	1,601	2.08
Yellowfin tuna	6,610	6,363	247	1.76
TOTAL TUNA	77,269	74,991	2,278	20.60
OTHER PELAGICS				
Mahimahi	852	499	353	0.23
Moonfish	171	20	151	0.05
Oilfish	1,955	77	1,878	0.52
Pomfret	446	42	404	0.12
Wahoo	3,083	2,321	762	0.82
TOTAL OTHER PELAGICS	6,507	2,959	3,548	1.73
NON-PMUS				
Pelagic fishes (unknown)	149	0	149	0.04
TOTAL NON-PMUS	149	0	149	0.04
TOTAL ALL SPECIES	87,630	78,370	9,260	23.36

Figure 1. American Samoa Longline Vessels Submitting Logs by Quarter for



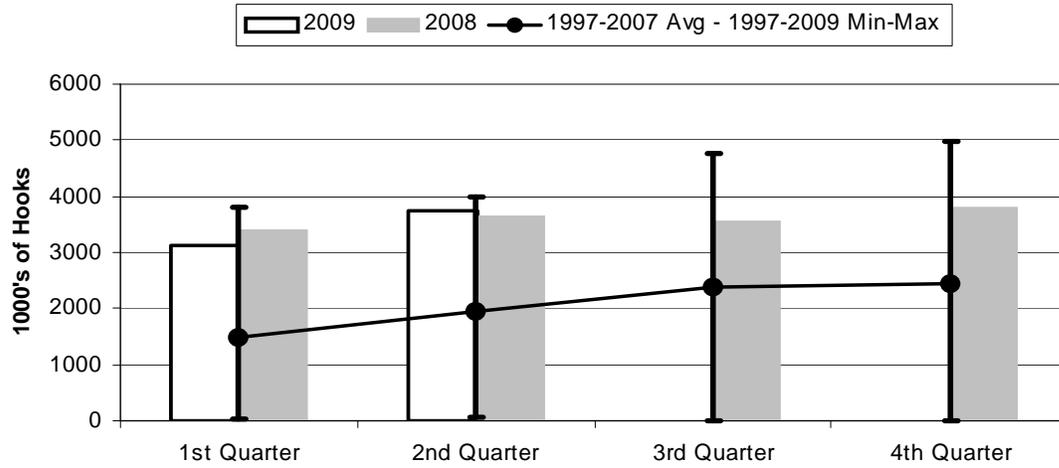
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	24	25	0	0
2008	27	24	24	24
1997-2009 Max	52	50	52	54
1997-2007 Avg	25	27	32	30
1997-2009 Min	6	12	0	0

Figure 2. Number of Sets by American Samoa Longline Vessels by Quarter for



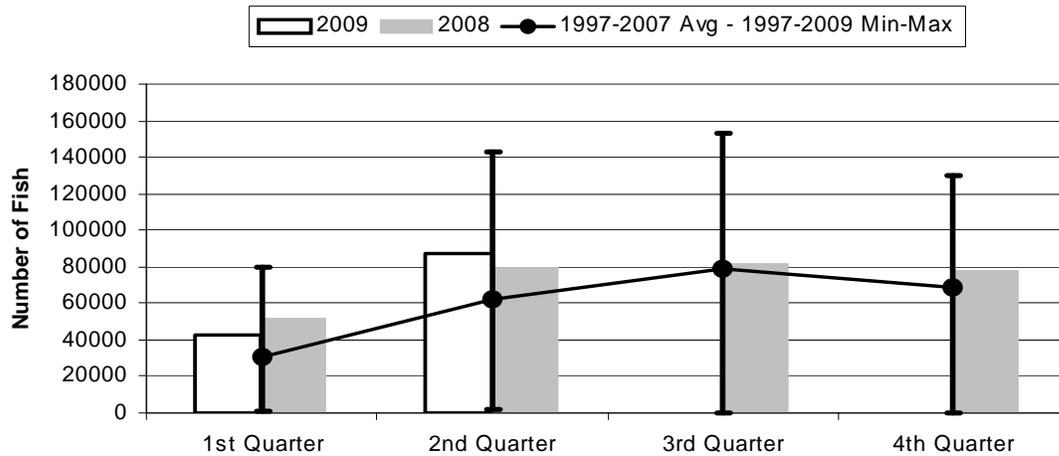
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	1,021	1,238	0	0
2008	1,109	1,215	1,184	1,246
1997-2009 Max	1,602	1,886	1,903	1,758
1997-2007 Avg	794	991	1,220	1,206
1997-2009 Min	192	223	0	0

Figure 3. Number of Hooks Set by the American Samoa Longline Fleet by Quarter for



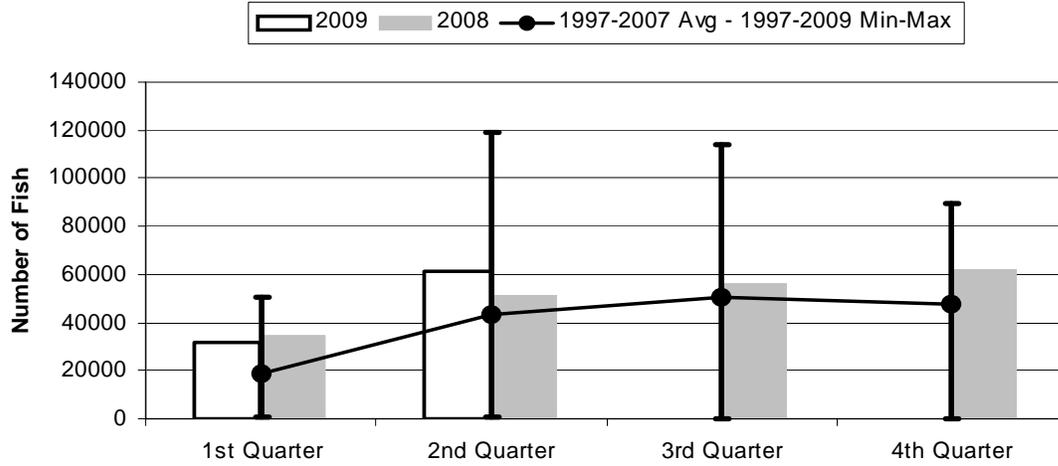
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	3,117	3,751	0	0
2008	3,402	3,660	3,566	3,818
1997-2009 Max	3,805	3,993	4,769	4,985
1997-2007 Avg	1,493	1,963	2,390	2,443
1997-2009 Min	41	51	0	0

Figure 4. American Samoa Longline Total Catch (All Species) by Quarter for



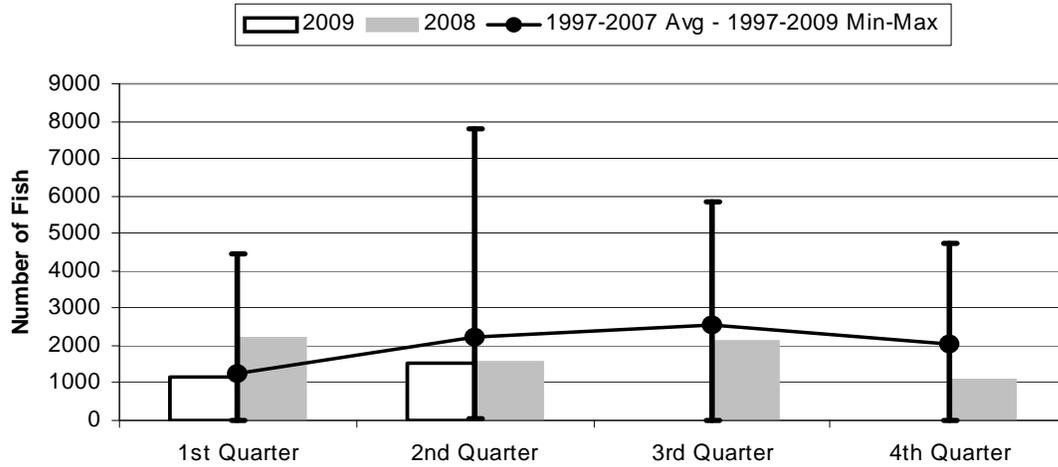
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	42,840	87,630	0	0
2008	52,273	80,171	81,287	78,353
1997-2009 Max	79,567	142,603	153,301	130,238
1997-2007 Avg	30,987	61,968	78,960	68,445
1997-2009 Min	1,315	1,416	0	0

Figure 5. American Samoa Longline Albacore Catch by Quarter for



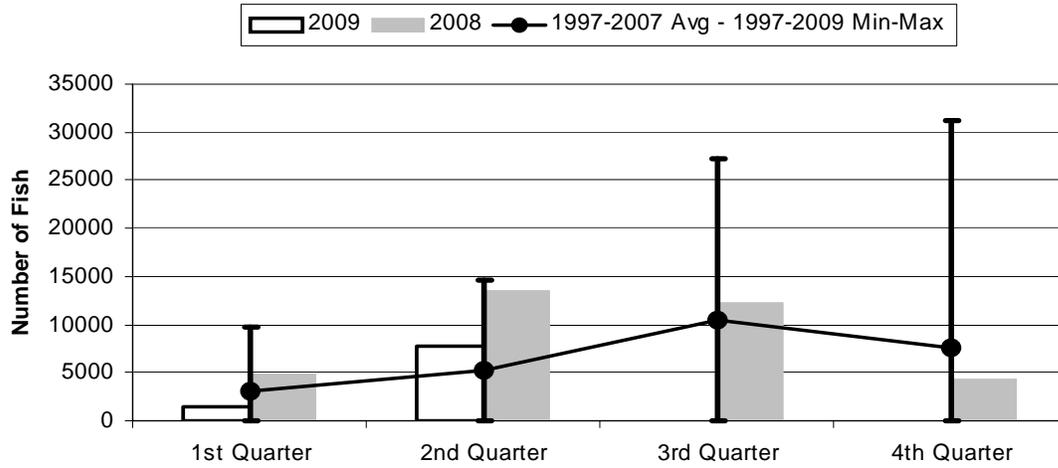
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	31,558	61,314	0	0
2008	34,945	51,558	56,148	62,104
1997-2009 Max	50,382	118,994	113,831	89,389
1997-2007 Avg	19,114	43,317	50,399	47,411
1997-2009 Min	940	851	0	0

Figure 6. American Samoa Longline Bigeye Tuna Catch by Quarter for



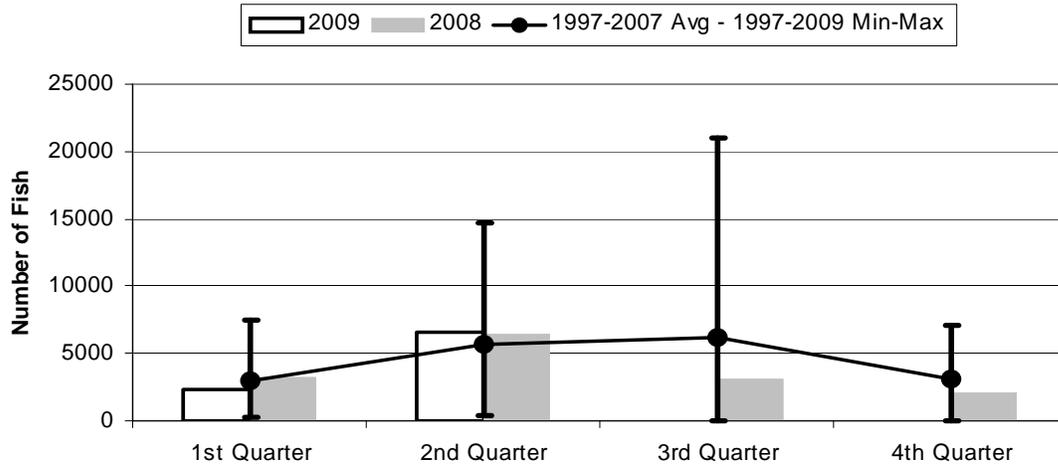
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	1,146	1,547	0	0
2008	2,225	1,565	2,138	1,118
1997-2009 Max	4,466	7,785	5,824	4,728
1997-2007 Avg	1,267	2,209	2,535	2,057
1997-2009 Min	6	26	0	0

Figure 7. American Samoa Longline Skipjack Tuna Catch by Quarter for



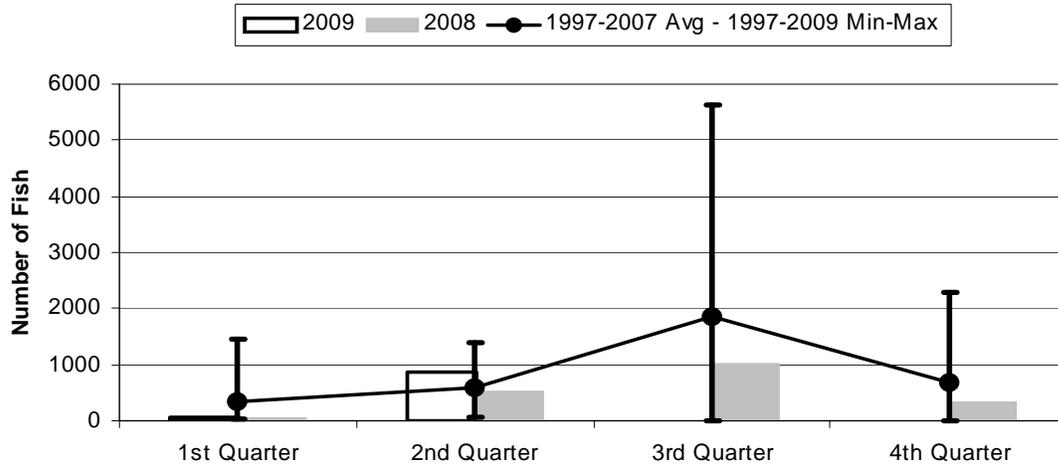
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	1,383	7,796	0	0
2008	4,943	13,617	12,188	4,350
1997-2009 Max	9,809	14,606	27,234	31,191
1997-2007 Avg	3,009	5,261	10,517	7,631
1997-2009 Min	0	6	0	0

Figure 8. American Samoa Longline Yellowfin Tuna Catch by Quarter for



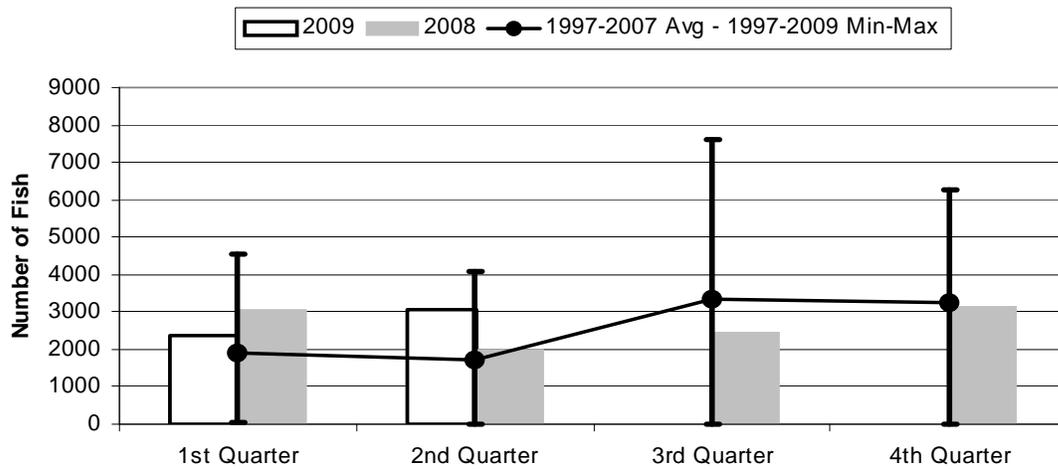
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	2,316	6,610	0	0
2008	3,197	6,427	3,128	2,081
1997-2009 Max	7,428	14,681	20,993	7,104
1997-2007 Avg	2,932	5,612	6,205	3,140
1997-2009 Min	213	356	0	0

Figure 9. American Samoa Mahimahi Catch by Quarter for



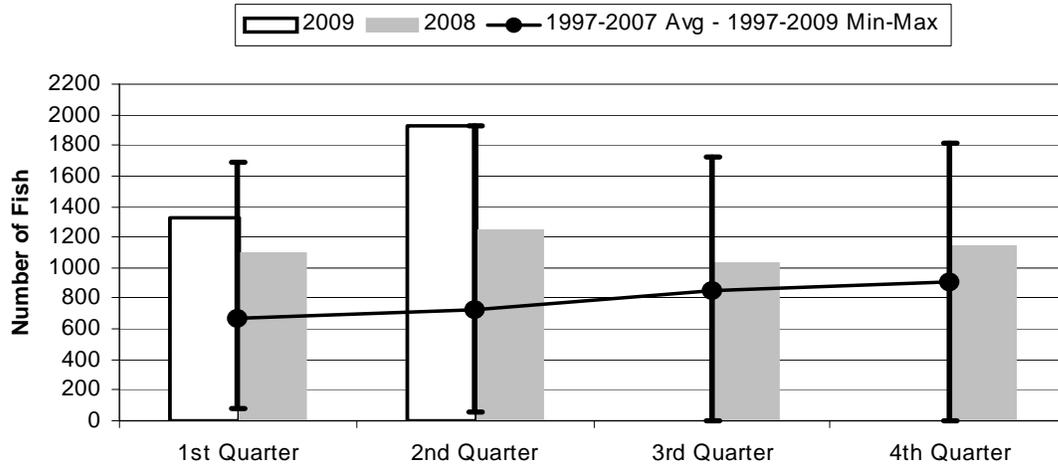
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	65	852	0	0
2008	55	516	1,013	345
1997-2009 Max	1,455	1,391	5,642	2,297
1997-2007 Avg	352	598	1,863	675
1997-2009 Min	30	59	0	0

Figure 10. American Samoa Wahoo Catch by Quarter for



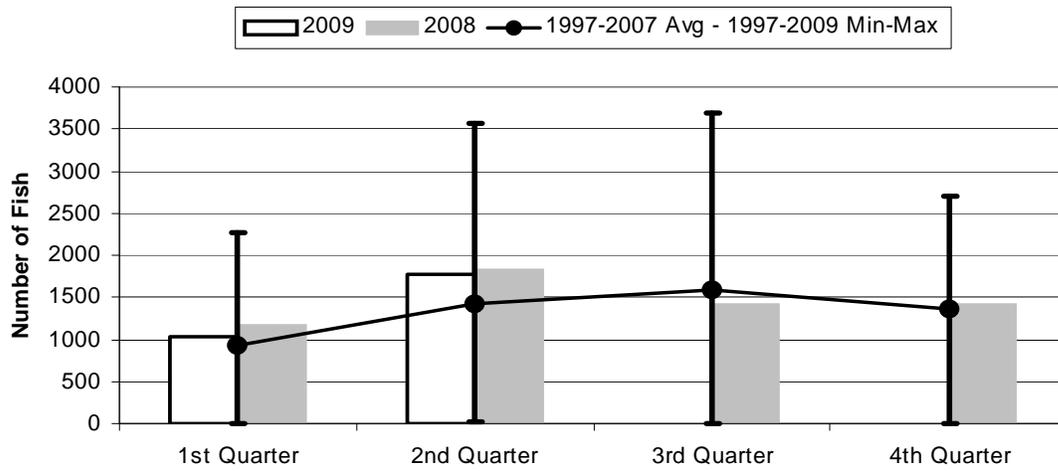
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	2,384	3,083	0	0
2008	3,078	1,981	2,451	3,174
1997-2009 Max	4,524	4,076	7,629	6,281
1997-2007 Avg	1,879	1,717	3,329	3,248
1997-2009 Min	27	20	0	0

Figure 11. American Samoa Billfish Catch by Quarter for



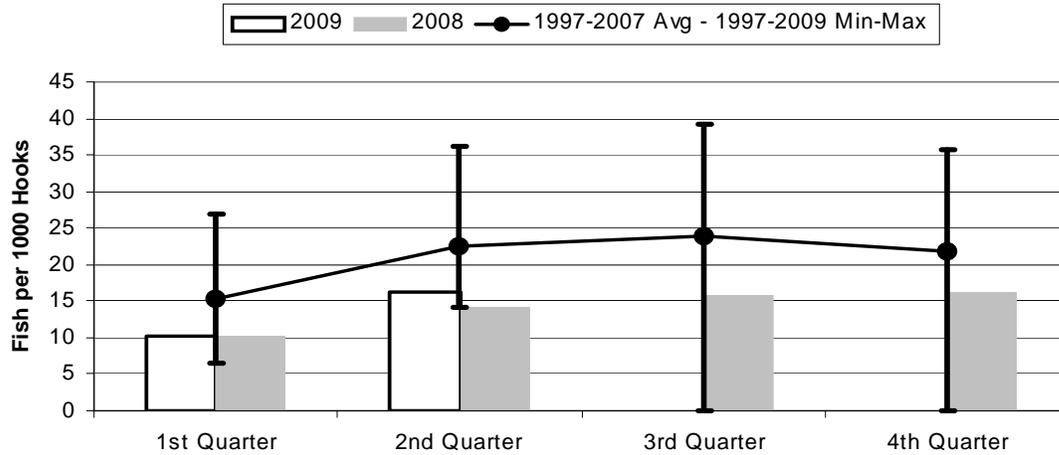
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	1,322	1,928	0	0
2008	1,100	1,242	1,029	1,148
1997-2009 Max	1,692	1,928	1,729	1,819
1997-2007 Avg	674	729	845	912
1997-2009 Min	83	58	0	0

Figure 12. American Samoa Shark Catch by Quarter for



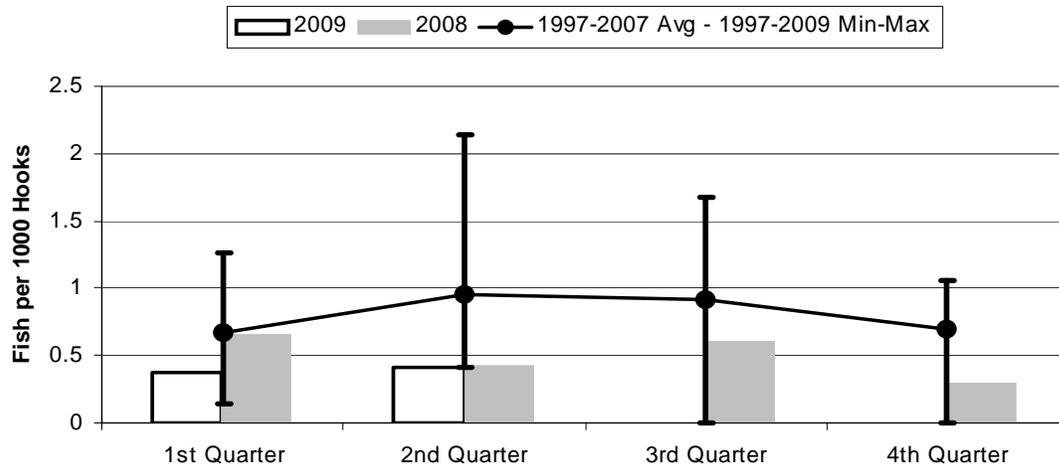
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	1,034	1,777	0	0
2008	1,174	1,826	1,428	1,421
1997-2009 Max	2,262	3,562	3,686	2,695
1997-2007 Avg	920	1,415	1,589	1,371
1997-2009 Min	5	16	0	0

Figure 13. American Samoa Longline Albacore Catch per 1000 Hooks by Quarter for



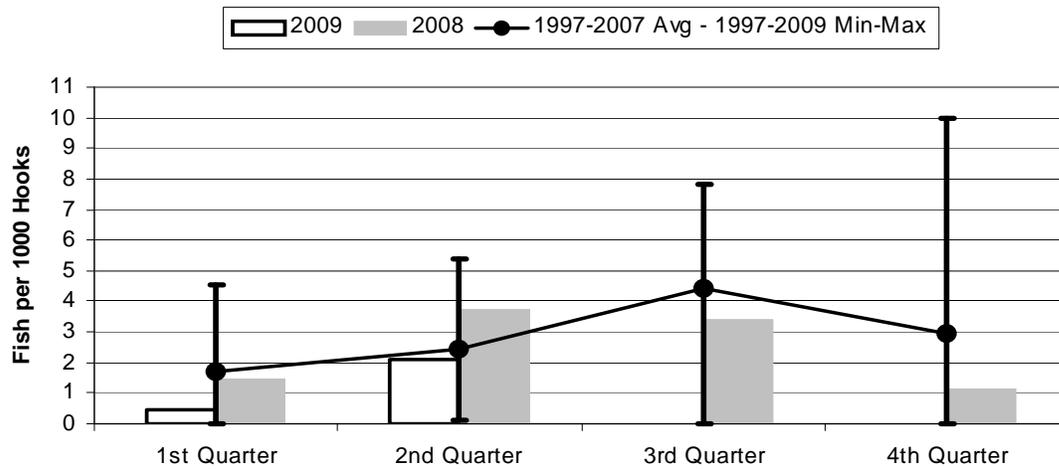
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	10.12	16.35	0.00	0.00
2008	10.27	14.09	15.75	16.27
1997-2009 Max	27.01	36.18	39.13	35.75
1997-2007 Avg	15.42	22.52	23.91	21.74
1997-2009 Min	6.58	14.09	0.00	0.00

Figure 14. American Samoa Longline Bigeye Tuna Catch per 1000 Hooks by Quarter for



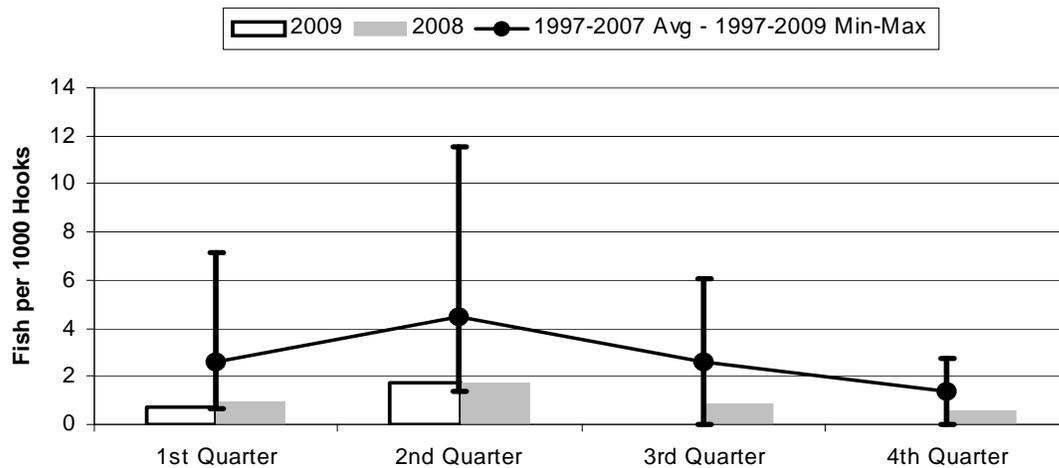
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	0.37	0.41	0.00	0.00
2008	0.65	0.43	0.60	0.29
1997-2009 Max	1.27	2.15	1.68	1.05
1997-2007 Avg	0.66	0.96	0.91	0.69
1997-2009 Min	0.15	0.41	0.00	0.00

Figure 15. American Samoa Longline Skipjack Tuna Catch per 1000 Hooks by Quarter for



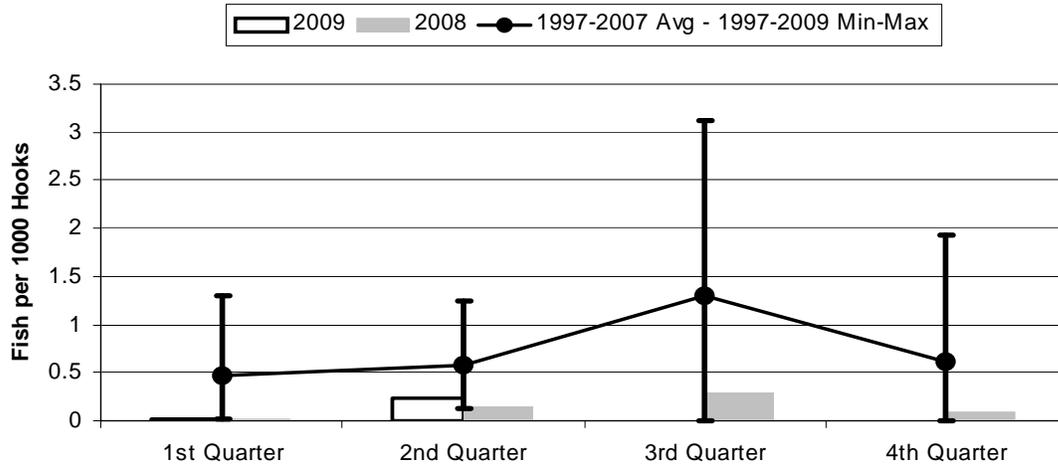
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	0.44	2.08	0.00	0.00
2008	1.45	3.72	3.42	1.14
1997-2009 Max	4.56	5.39	7.84	9.98
1997-2007 Avg	1.72	2.46	4.40	2.97
1997-2009 Min	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00

Figure 16. American Samoa Yellowfin Tuna Catch per 1000 Hooks by Quarter for



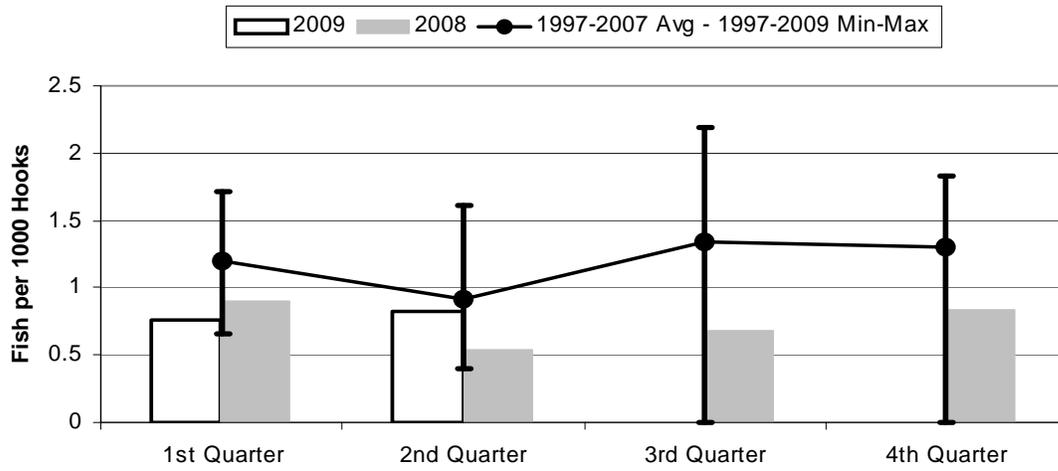
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	0.74	1.76	0.00	0.00
2008	0.94	1.76	0.88	0.55
1997-2009 Max	7.12	11.51	6.04	2.76
1997-2007 Avg	2.63	4.49	2.62	1.35
1997-2009 Min	0.66	1.34	0.00	0.00

Figure 17. American Samoa Longline Mahimahi Catch per 1000 Hooks by Quarter for



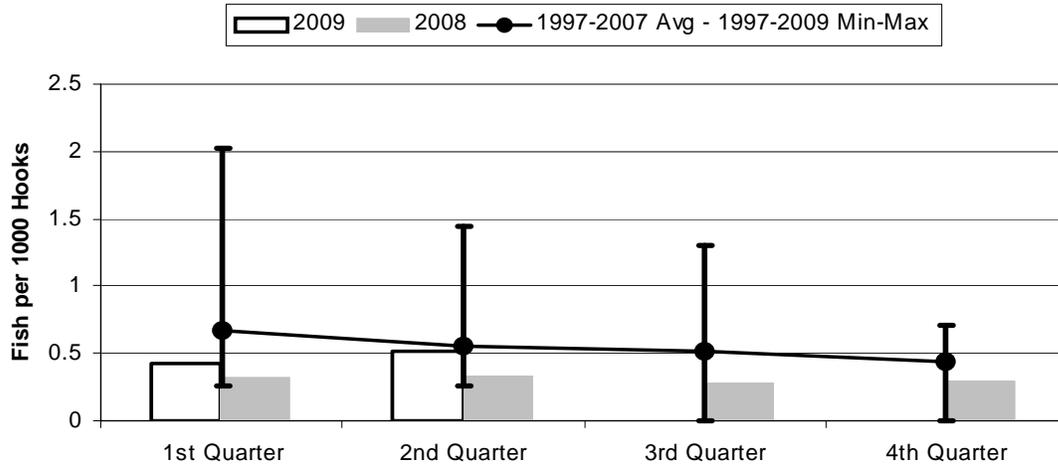
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	0.02	0.23	0.00	0.00
2008	0.02	0.14	0.28	0.09
1997-2009 Max	1.30	1.25	3.13	1.93
1997-2007 Avg	0.47	0.58	1.30	0.61
1997-2009 Min	0.02	0.12	0.00	0.00

Figure 18. American Samoa Wahoo Catch per 1000 Hooks by Quarter for



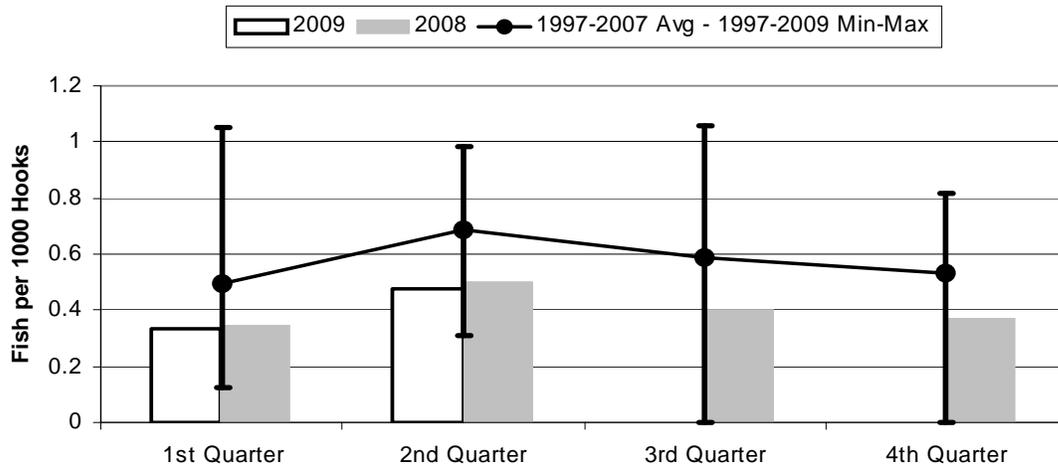
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	0.76	0.82	0.00	0.00
2008	0.90	0.54	0.69	0.83
1997-2009 Max	1.71	1.62	2.20	1.83
1997-2007 Avg	1.20	0.91	1.33	1.31
1997-2009 Min	0.66	0.39	0.00	0.00

Figure 19. American Samoa Billfish Catch per 1000 Hooks by Quarter for



	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	0.42	0.51	0.00	0.00
2008	0.32	0.34	0.29	0.30
1997-2009 Max	2.02	1.44	1.31	0.71
1997-2007 Avg	0.68	0.56	0.52	0.44
1997-2009 Min	0.25	0.26	0.00	0.00

Figure 20. American Samoa Shark Catch per 1000 Hooks by Quarter for



	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2009	0.33	0.47	0.00	0.00
2008	0.35	0.50	0.40	0.37
1997-2009 Max	1.05	0.99	1.06	0.82
1997-2007 Avg	0.50	0.68	0.59	0.53
1997-2009 Min	0.12	0.31	0.00	0.00