

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

FOURTEENTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 2 - 6 August 1982)

COUNTRY STATEMENT - SOLOMON ISLANDS

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

1. One of the most notable achievements in the commercial tuna fisheries field during 1981 was the signing of the second Joint Venture Agreement (J.V.A.2) between Solomon Islands Government and Taiyo Fishing company of Japan. The first agreement was due to expire in November 1982, however the parties mutually agreed to negotiate in 1981, and the J.V.A.2 was signed on 20th November 1981, lasting until 1992.
2. The JVA 2 increased the Solomon Island Government shares (now held by the Government shareholding agency) from 49 per cent to 50 per cent. In 1986, this share will increase by a further 1 per cent, giving Solomon Island Government majority shareholding.
3. Under the JVA 2, Solomon Taiyo (STL) are subject to conduct its business operations as laid down in a long-term Corporate Plan. This Corporate Plan, which is the first one, was prepared jointly by the shareholders and sets out agreed policies, an investment programme and operational objectives for STL. The Board of Directors are required to work within its framework. The Corporate Plan will be reviewed, in future, annually, and submitted to the Board of Directors.
4. In October 1981, the Solomon Islands Government took receipt of two longline vessels, which are now chartered to National Fisheries Development (NFD). As there are no cold storage facilities to take longline species, the catch for the first trip, completed at the end of 1981, was unloaded in Japan. The two vessels operating for STL ceased operating in August and December 1981.
5. National Fisheries Development completed their third ferro-cement pole and line vessel in April 1982, and it has proved to be fishing efficiently for its class.
6. The catch and catch utilization during 1981 for Solomon Taiyo and NFD are shown in the tables below. The total catch from the purse-seine and pole and line fleets were 25,533.2 metric tons; whilst the longline vessels caught 662.3 mt of longline species.

Table 1. *Annual catch by fleets working for Solomon Taiyo Ltd. and National Fisheries Development 1981

<u>Vessel fleet</u>	<u>No. of Vessels</u>	<u>Total Catch (mt)</u>
pole and line (NFD) and STL)	23	22,624.7
payao purse seine (STL)	1 (+ 2 support vessels)	2,908.5
long line STL:	2	569.5
NFD:	2	92.8

Table 2. *Number of buckets of baitfish caught by pole and line fleet by month by province 1981

PROVINCE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Eastern	20289			13878	36231	55516	43556	57724	47483	47166	40338	23333	385514
Central	7763			874	433	1894	704	3783	353	12596	17601	5610	51611
Isabel	4165			12236	23273	29390	12337	16586	10429	21904	18140	13716	162176
Malaita	2504							146		23	544	284	3501
Total	34721			26988	59937	86800	56597	78239	58265	81689	76623	42943	602802

Table 3. *Annual summary of catch utilization (mt)

frozen/exported	frozen/local sale	canned	**smoked	**other
23,246	291	2060	843	154

** This constitutes the total amount of fish that went into the cannery and for smoking.

Exports of Marine Products during 1981

7. A total of 24,964 mt of marine products were exported in 1981, an increase of 9 per cent over 1980. The total value of the exports were \$22,393,394. The breakdown of the exports are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. *Exports of Marine Products 1981

	Quantity (MT)	Value (\$)
Fish fresh/frozen	23,720	19,047,398
Fish smoked	70	344,601
Fish canned	752	2,573,256
Trochus shell	396.9	309,992
Blacklip	9.0	5,965
Green snail	6.7	14,850
Other	8.4	72,150
Turtles shell	0.6	15,767
sharkfin	Not available	9,415

* The 1981 figures are provisional and subject to change.

8. Another payao purse agreement, supplementary to the JVA 2, was signed in September. The payao purse seine trials will continue until September 1982, when the survey will be fully appraised.

9. The Fisheries Regulations 1972 (as amended 1977) were reviewed in respect of the terms and condition of licencing for Foreign Fishing and local Fishing vessels. The regulations lay down the licencing procedures, and conditions of the licences if approved. The new regulations are:

- (a) Fisheries (Foreign Fishing Vessel) Regulations 1981
- (b) Fisheries (Local Fishing Vessel) Regulation 1981.

10. With the declaration of the two hundred mile Fishery Zone in 1978, access agreements have since been successfully negotiated for vessels from Japan, Korea and the South Pacific Fishing Company (based in Vanuatu). In 1981 the Japanese vessels entered the second year of their two year access agreement (valid from October 1980 to September 1982). Solomon Islands Government also successfully negotiated another access agreement with the Koreans. Unfortunately, due to misreporting by the Taiwanese vessels on charter to the SPFC at Santo and other intrusions by non-registered Taiwanese fishing craft, the Government has decided not to renew this Agreement but to attempt to negotiate directly with the Taiwanese vessel owners.

11. In August 1981, Fisheries Division jointly with the police successfully apprehended and prosecuted a Japanese longliner for breach of permit conditions.

12. A second Gem Coral Survey was undertaken in 1981, funded by the United Nations Development Programme. A consultant from the New Zealand Oceanographic Institute, conducted the survey using the Fisheries Research Vessel, F.R.V. Walo, with the help of a Fisheries Officer. Areas around Malaita and Marau Sound were surveyed and, although corallium samples were obtained, insufficient quantities were obtained to indicate that it could be commercially exploited.

RURAL FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

13. In 1981, a rural Fisheries Development Project was approved by the Governments of Australia and Japan.

14. The project was developed to overcome the marketing and transport constraints to development, and to provide facilities for the successful implementation of training and extension programmes. The components of the project require the supply of twenty block ice-making machines, 500 insulated ice-boxes, 8 fisheries centres, 2 fish collection and distribution vehicles and 1 fish transportation vessel.

15. The project covers the needs of all seven provinces of Solomon Islands, taking into account their fish resources, fishing population, available markets and alternative income-earning opportunities. The focus of this project is in conformity with Solomon Islands' objectives of de-centralisation and income distribution, improved access to economic growth, increased job opportunities and greater self-reliance. Administration and control of the project will be in the hands of fisheries officers attached to, and responsible to, Provincial Governments. The Fisheries Division of the Central Government will assist and co-ordinate the efforts of the Provinces, and provide the necessary research and support facilities where required. Ownership of the capital equipment provided will be vested in the Fisheries Division of the Central Government.

16. The total cost of the project is SI\$956,000 of which approximately 90 per cent is foreign exchange cost. This is comprised of twenty ice-machines \$177,000, five hundred insulated ice-boxes \$149,000, eight fisheries centres \$552,000, two vehicles totalling \$20,000 and one fish collection vessel \$58,000. Half of the building, ice-machines and insulated ice boxes, as well as the fish collection vessel, will be supplied in the first year, whilst the remainder, including the two vehicles, will be supplied in the second year.

17. Overseas aid amounting to \$779,000 is being sought for the fisheries centres, insulated ice boxes, fish collection vessel and vehicles over a two year period, whilst \$177,000 will be required for the purchase of the ice-machines.

18. When fully operative, the project is expected to enable 1,200 tonnes of ice to be produced and result in the marketing of 840 tonnes of fish annually. Employment provided by the project will be in the region of 4,200 persons, being divided into approximately 375 fishing groups located throughout the seven Provinces.

19. With an expected value-added of \$0.60 per kg of fish produced, the Internal Rate of Return of the project, based on a fifteen year life is estimated at 37 per cent, whilst at the lower price level of \$0.50 per kg and higher price level of \$0.75 per kg, the IRR estimates were 26 per cent and 55 per cent respectively.

20. Two substations were opened during 1981 at Afio in Malaita and Kia in Isabel. Ice machines were also put in place at Afio, Marau, Tulagi, Takwa and Kia. An extra ice machine is now operating in Gizo.

21. The 23 ft. plywood catamaran, run by Fisheries Division, finished a survey in May around Malaita, and in Marau, Guadalcanal, using hand reels. The survey averaged 300 lbs. of mixed species of fish each fishing night, at depths between 80 to 120 fathoms. Red Emperor, red snapper, white snapper and coral cod were amongst some of the species caught.

22. The Fisheries Stations continued to send fish into Siaco, Honiara for sale. The total weights by district are shown in the table below.

23. It must be noted that this does not include fish that is actually sold at the Fisheries station.

Table. Fish purchased by Siaco during 1981, by district and species.

District	Mixed fish kgs	Kingfish kgs	Crayfish kgs	Fish fillets kgs	Coconut Crab kgs
Marau Fisheries	8,761.5	5.5	64.3	-	
Rennell Bellona	442.0	-	995.9	319.5	18.0
Tulagi Fisheries	13,926.5	378.5	55.5	-	
Guadalcanal	2,366.5	72.0	38.9	-	
Nggela Island	7,935.0	14.0	17.2	-	
Marovo	26,456.5	478.5	43.9	-	
Gizo Fisheries	27,524.5	-	-	-	
Isabel Island	8,393.5	559.2	86.1	-	
Malaita	316.0	2.5	-	-	
Russell Island	55.5	-	40.7	-	

24. The Fisheries Officers continued to expand the number of fishing groups, fishing to the locally established market or for freighting to Siaco in Honiara. The officers also conducted training courses on new fishing methods, rigging nets, maintenance of outboard engines.