SECOND PACIFIC COMMUNITY
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 12-16 October 1998)

FISHING VESSEL SAFETY

By Captain Angus Scotland,
Regional Marine Training Adviser,
Secretariat of the Pacific Community
Suva, Fiji
For the past 5 years, the Regional Maritime Programme in consultation with regulatory authorities of Pacific Islands has been discussing ways of improving safety standards on merchant vessels and fishing vessels. We are only looking at safety training for all vessels not fisheries training.

The region has traditionally used the South Pacific Maritime Code for a layman’s guide to international conventions. As previously explained, large portions of the SPMC are out of date and have been superseded by the new STCW Regulations (STCW-95) or conventions that the Code simplified.

If we look at each country’s primary legislation (Shipping Act) this will make reference to the type of vessel that it affects. We have recently circulated PICs regulatory offices and asked them if fishing vessels are included in their primary legislation or intending including fishing vessels in their primary legislation.
### Status of Primary Legislation in respect of Fishing and Merchant Vessels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Merchant vessels</th>
<th>Fishing vessels</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>All fishing vessels need to be included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>All fishing vessels need to be included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federated States of Micronesia</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niue</td>
<td>No Shipping Act</td>
<td>(Small Boat Safety Regulation)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>No Shipping Act</td>
<td>(Has Small Boat Safety Regulation)</td>
<td>Fishing vessels need to be included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes (but limited by size)</td>
<td>All fishing vessels to be included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes (Small Boat Safety Regulation)</td>
<td>Larger fishing vessels need to be included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>All fishing vessels need to be included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
<td>Yes (but there is a division in Act)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>(Act being revised).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Islands</td>
<td>(Current legislation not clear)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
South Pacific Maritime Code

A NEW MARITIME REGIME FOR THE PACIFIC

SHIPPING

PRIMARY LEGISLATION
SHIPPING ACT

SECONDARY LEGISLATION
REGULATIONS

SOUTH PACIFIC MARITIME CODE
SAFETY CONVENTION
LOAD LINE CONVENTION
COLLISIONS CONVENTION
TONNAGE CONVENTION
STCW CONVENTION

SAFETY
SOLAS
NON-CONVENTION <500 gross tonnage - 15 metres
SMALL BOATS < 15 metres
FISHING VESSELS >24 metres
SMALL FISHING VESSELS <24 metres

STCW
REGULATIONS
RULES

COLREGS COPY
LOAD LINE COPY
TONNAGE COPY

POLLUTION

PRIMARY LEGISLATION

MARPOL 73/78
LONDON
INTERVENTION
CLC
FUND
OPRC
A NEW MARITIME REGIME FOR THE PACIFIC

SHIPPING ACT

REGULATIONS

RULES

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CONVENTIONS