

STATUS OF FISHERIES INDUSTRIES

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Control of the fisheries industry in the Territory is vested in the Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries, the Director of which is the sole licensing authority (see Appendix A* for structure and organization of the relevant sections of the Department).

The salient government policies relating to fisheries management and development are briefly:

1. Improvement of fishing techniques at the subsistence level.
2. Development of local commercial fisheries by the indigenous population based on improved traditional methods, i.e. gill netting, hand lining and trolling, using canoes, motorised canoes and small outboard powered dinghies.
3. Encouragement of indigenous participation in off-shore fishing by the development of suitable craft in the 35' range.
4. Employment and training of local people in expatriate operations in the Territory.
5. Encouragement of expatriate joint venture operations in the Territory (the general guideline for this type of activity is set out in Appendix B*).

In the management and development of fisheries, all expatriate owned fishing boats are licensed by the Director, Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries who may incorporate any limitations or constraints which may be appropriate to ensure:

1. Traditional fishing grounds are protected.
2. The rights to harvest specific resources are reserved to local groups. e.g. the Barramundi run at Daru to the Kawai, and Spiny Lobster run to the Yule Island groups.
3. Control of excessive exploitation of specific resources by expatriate enterprises. e.g. prawns and skip-jack tuna by limitation of the number of boats licensed and the control of their area of operation.

It should be noted that the Papua New Guinea Fisheries Ordinance only operates within the 3-mile limit and that the Commonwealth of Australia Fisheries Act applies to those waters between the 3 and 12-mile limit (the Territory of Papua and New Guinea Fisheries

(licensing) Ordinance 1966 together with regulations and amendments is attached as Appendix C*).

The Department's fisheries research programme is attached as Appendix D*.

Attached as Appendix E* is a resumé of expatriate commercial fisheries activity for the calendar year 1969. In addition to this a joint venture operation between Australian and Japanese interests has been carrying out a commercial survey of skip-jack tuna resources in the New Ireland area since March 1970, and their export to date is 3,000 tons.

No satisfactory statistics are available for subsistence and quasi commercial production although estimates based on limited sampling indicates that some 17,000 tons per annum is harvested.

Appendix F* gives details of imports and exports of fish products for the financial year 1968/69.

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NOTE: Appendices A - F retained by Secretariat.