

8 July 1981

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSIONTHIRTEENTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 24 - 28 August 1981)

COUNTRY STATEMENT - NIUE

1. Niue, covering an area of over 100 sq. miles is an isolated coral island located in the South Pacific, roughly at latitude 19°S, longitude 170°W and supports a population of over  $3\frac{1}{2}$  thousand people.
2. Fishing is a traditional skill, but this has always been on a subsistence basis. Most of the fishing has been done by part-time fishermen in local dug-out canoes but recently preference for outboard powered dinghys are becoming more apparent. The Fisheries Division was established in 1977 following a request to New Zealand from the Niue Government in which a bilateral aid scheme was set up consisting of 1-28 feet G.R.P. "Karitane" fishing boat, a Fisheries Advisor and a range of suitable fishing gear.
3. Due to the islands geographical configuration - a coastline comprised of sheer cliffs devoid of natural harbours or shelter, no central or fringing lagoons, no existing continental shelf with fish concentrations, presents physical constraints that limit fishing efforts primarily to trolling seasonal runs of pelagic fish and hand line for bottom fish species. In 1979 "Cyclone Ofa" struck Niue resulting in loosing the fishing boat, freezers and a wide range of fishing gear and equipment.
4. Fishing operations did not resumed until February 1980 when a fishing catamaran "Alia" arrived from Western Samoa. Two more "Alias" being an aid from the UNDP arrived in June 1980.
5. Present fishing operations are restricted to trolling for pelagic species and deep bottom hand lining for bottom species. Daily catches were sold direct to the local retailers at \$2.00/kg and these were then retailed to the people at a 25% mark up.
6. A 2-drum buoy fish aggregating device is presently under construction and is expected to be installed during this year. Two more F.A.D. were proposed for 1982.