

TERRITORY STATEMENTSCOOK ISLANDSREQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

It would be appreciated if the Commission could give very favourable consideration to the following requests from this Government.

REQUEST (1): That the SPC ensure that a market survey covering Mother of Pearl and Trochus shells be undertaken.

BACKGROUND: Recognising that the expansion of the valuable Mother of Pearl shell and Trochus shell fishery in the Cook Islands depends on the vagaries and fluctuations of the world market it is requested that SPC undertake a market survey designed to provide future guidelines in planning for this very valuable industry.

REQUEST (2): That SPIFDA provide technical aid to the fisheries programme of the Cook Islands by securing two (2) Tahitian expert "Bonito" fishermen to the Cook Islands for demonstration of the Tahitian Mother of Pearl shell lure technique for skipjack tuna fishing.

BACKGROUND: Early in October the Fisheries Section of the Cook Islands Government will be ordering four "Bonito" type fishing boats for delivery in March 1971.

It would be of immeasurable help to the fisheries development of the Cook Islands if SPIFDA would provide, for a period of at least two (2) months, (2) Tahitian fishermen expert in the use of the Mother of Pearl shell lure technique for skipjack tuna to train local Cook Islands fishermen in this method of fishing.

If such technical aid is forthcoming it is recommended that the arrival of the Tahitian expert coincide with the arrival of the new Cook Islands fishing boats, namely mid March, 1971. It is further requested that if it is at all possible the above Tahitian fishermen speak some English.

REQUEST (3): That SPIFDA provide technical aid to the fisheries programme of the Cook Islands by assigning Dr H. Hirth, Turtle Biologist, to the Cook Islands to advise on turtle hatcheries and turtle conservation measures.

BACKGROUND: To ensure the future propagation of the Green Turtle (Chelonia mydas) and to provide a valuable food reserve, it is requested that SPIFDA assign Dr H. Hirth to advise the Fisheries Section of the Government of the Cook Islands on turtle conservation measures and to demonstrate the techniques required for the establishment of turtle hatcheries.

**REQUEST (4):** That SPIFDA provide technical aid to the fisheries programme of the Cook Islands by providing an expert in the field of artificial pearl cultivation to train local Cook Islanders in this technique.

**BACKGROUND:** Realizing the potential value of an industry based on the cultivation of artificial pearls in relation to the planned tourist influx into the Cook Islands in the future, it is requested that SPIFDA provide an expert in artificial pearl cultivation, for the necessary period of time, to the Fisheries Section of the Government of the Cook Islands.

It is planned that an artificial pearl cultivation project could be introduced in conjunction with the existing MOP shell fishery at Manihiki.

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