



*Secretariat of the Pacific Community*

# Fisheries Education and TRAINING

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**I N F O R M A T I O N   B U L L E T I N**



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## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The focus of this 23rd issue of our information bulletin is enterprise management training, with reports on two recent initiatives coordinated by the SPC Fisheries Training Section.

The first initiative consists of exporting the innovative “Start Your Fishing Business” (SYFB) programme from Papua New Guinea to other Pacific Island countries. After the establishment of a network of certified trainers in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands last year, SPC and the Commonwealth Secretariat will be looking at introducing the SYFB programme to other countries in 2006. Training in the management of larger seafood enterprises took place at Nelson, New Zealand in October 2005. You will learn more about this popular programme (this was the fourth course of its type) thanks to the report from the New Zealand School of Fisheries.

Of potential interest to fisheries training providers in the region is an update on the resource materials recently produced at SPC.

I wish you well in your 2006 training activities and look forward to your contributions for the next bulletin.

Michel Blanc

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## FEATURES



### **"Start Your Fishing Business" training in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu - an update**

As part of an ongoing collaboration between several national and regional institutions — the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) and the National Fisheries Authority (NFA) of Papua New Guinea, and the Commonwealth Secretariat — a training programme on how to "Start Your Fishing Business" has been introduced in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The Start Your Fishing Business (SYFB) course and materials, based on the International Labour Organization (ILO) "Start Your Business" model, were tailor-made to suit the specific needs of the PNG artisanal fisheries sector and have been successfully delivered in PNG since 2003. Acknowledging the success of this innovative programme, SPC and the Commonwealth Secretariat decided in 2004 to facilitate the introduction of SYFB training in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, two countries with socioeconomic and cultural situations similar to those of PNG.

With funding support from the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC), SPC conducted a training needs analysis (TNA) in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands in August 2004. The TNA identified a need in both countries for training fishing communities in small fishing business planning and management. It also reported on the commitment of local institutions and government to sustain training in this area once initial funding support from aid donors terminated. The TNA concluded that a combined training of trainers (TOT) course would be the best option for establishing a network of competent SYFB trainers in both countries.

The initial phase of the project took place in June 2005 at Santo, Vanuatu, where a TOT course was run by SBDC Master Trainers (13–29 June). Eleven future trainers from Vanuatu (Department of Cooperatives, Fisheries Division, Vanuatu Maritime College and the

Vanuatu Women Development Scheme—VANWOD—Microfinance) as well as four participants from the Solomon Islands (Fisheries Division and the Small Enterprise and Business Centre) completed the course and received their certificate of attendance. In order to become accredited by ILO as SYFB trainers, each apprentice-trainer was required to deliver one SYFB course to their target audience, under the supervision of Master Trainers (phase 2 of the project). Once accredited, the trainers are available to run additional SYFB courses on their own (phase 3).

As part of the TOT course in June 2005, participants from both countries produced an action plan for the subsequent phases of the project. From mid-August to October 2005, the 11 participants to the initial TOT course successfully ran their trial courses in Honiara (Solomon Islands), Efate, Malakula and Santo (Vanuatu). This made possible their accreditation as ILO/SYFB trainers by their supervisors, the Master Trainers from SBDC. In 2006, the third phase of the project will consist of a series of SYFB courses in most provinces of Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. Participants will include fishermen and prospective operators of small fishing businesses.

Relevant institutions in both countries are fully supportive of the present initiative and had agreed to support an ongoing SYFB training programme past SPC/CFTC's financial and logistical assistance, which ended in October 2005. While future SYFB training in both countries requires a financial commitment from local institutions, it is envisaged that SPC and SBDC will continue to monitor the delivery of subsequent SYFB training, acting as facilitators and quality controllers in the process. SPC, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and their counterpart institutions in PNG are now keen to further export the SYFB training concept to other Pacific Island countries. A similar



gradual training methodology will be used and, for cost-effectiveness, a sub-regional approach will be taken. Provided funding is available early in 2006, a Training Needs Analysis will be undertaken around April in several countries, prior to the training of potential SYFDB trainers before the end of 2006.

SPC and the Commonwealth Secretariat acknowledge and thank the contribution of NFA and the PNG

SBDC in the development of networks of SYFB trainers in the Pacific region. Both organizations are also grateful to the individuals and the local institutions that are supporting and making possible the delivery of SYFB training in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.



### Seafood company managers upgrade skills

In October 2005, 14 participants from 11 Pacific Island countries traveled to Nelson, New Zealand to begin the fourth regional course for managers of medium-to-large size fisheries enterprises. Since these short courses began in 1997, over 100 seafood company managers, fishing skippers and marine engineers have benefited from the available expertise in the fishing port of Nelson. With funding from the New Zealand Government, the course is jointly run by the SPC Fisheries Training Section and the New Zealand School of Fisheries, with a major contribution from the School of Business at the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology.

The course commenced with a trip to Motueka where the group was greeted with a traditional Maori welcome at Te Awhina *marae*. Following this warm welcome, participants continued to the processing plant at Talley's Fisheries, where an in-depth tour was given of the site's operations. Because it was the first day of the scallop season, "the openers" (staff whose job it is to pry open scallop shells) were a big attraction, but there was also the coated product line to view, hoki and shark were being filleted and inshore species were being packed for chilled transport to both domestic and export markets. After visiting an ice cream manufacturing plant, 14 rather chilly managers headed back to Nelson where the day concluded with a social hour and welcoming BBQ.

The pattern for the remainder of the course was similar to that of previous courses. In the morning sessions, the Business School developed a theme of enhancing management skills and developing strategies designed to improve the commercial viability of seafood businesses. In the afternoon sessions, the School of Fisheries invited local industry leaders and experts, representing a range of topics and themes, to share their experiences with the participants.

Highlights for those attending the course included the chance to learn more about New Zealand's Quota Management System and the importance of the value of "downstream processing", or adding value and utilizing byproducts. As in previous courses, Tim Masters at MacCure Seafoods guided the group around his factory and explained the processes as an illustration to the presentation on HACCP given earlier by Cushla Hogarth of Seafood Solutions Ltd. This plant represents an excellent example because it is simple in processing terms yet produces a range of well presented "ready to eat" products using strict quality standards backed up with comprehensive staff training.

Beverly Levi, a participant from Samoa, was intrigued to see the numbers of women in New Zealand that were employed at sea. It is not usual to see women at sea on New Zealand factory vessels where they will often hold senior roles, either as factory managers, shift supervisors or QCs. Beverly got a taste of a sea-going career on the Saturday when the group embarked on the *Marie Antoinette* for half a day's scalloping in Tasman Bay. The group came returned with enough scallops to feed the entire gathering at the excellent function put on in honour of the group by the local Pacific Island community.

Ian Lister and his team from the School of Business covered a range of topics during the course, including strategic planning, human resource issues, staff performance management, accounting for non-accountants, budget planning and project management. Topics were discussed with special reference to the participants' unique situations. In the second week of the course, more speakers from industry shared their experiences. Mike Wells and Tad Krogulec talked about post-harvest handling of long-line caught tuna, Darren Guard (president of the Port Nelson Fishermen's

Association) talked about fuel prices and ways to reduce vessel running costs, and Fred Te Miha described the workings of the fisheries allocation process and how that was impacting on Maori-owned fishing businesses. Louisa Sifakula from the Pacific Island Trade and Investment Commission explained how the commission could assist companies in finding and developing new markets for their products. On the final day, Charles Hufflet of Solander Fisheries (who had just returned from a southern bluefin tuna meeting in Taipei), gave the group a few lessons on how *not* to run a fishing business. He also pointed out some of the perils of joint ventures and the need to have top rate negotiators on your side when determining how catches should be allocated among nations.

It is a tradition that when a visit from a group of Pacific Islanders coincides with a sporting event organized by the Students' Association, the group enters whatever it is (and usually wins!). This time was no exception. The Fisheries Enterprise Managers cleaned up the opposition and took away the title of Champion Tug of War team to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. We won't go into detail about who won the actual battle, other than to say that a chap with one eye and a funny hat presented our group with their medals!

By Friday, 21 October, some of the participants began to depart, having first made their presentation to the rest of the group. For some of those who remained, there was one last invitation to accept. Fred Te Miha invited the group to the opening of the *whare kai* at Whakatu *marae* early on Saturday morning. So, at an early (and rather chilly) hour, a group representing Fiji and PNG gathered at the *marae* and were welcomed on by Dr John Mitchell, Ngati Tama elder and ex-Waitangi Fisheries Commissioner. The group was asked to present a musical performance and obliged, ably led by Sunia Logo. Following this, the group was summoned into the new dining room and treated to a feast of traditional food. Afterwards, it was time to leave, but not before meeting and talking to Maori Queen, Te Atairangikaahu. This event was a fitting way to end a course that had seen people representing different cultures come together to discuss challenges in common, to share new ideas, and to make new friendships. The consensus seemed to be: "Let's do it again soon".

(Contribution from Alec Woods, SPC course coordinator, Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology)



## AROUND THE TRAINING AND EDUCATION CENTRES

### First Prize to Vanuatu Maritime College!

Vanuatu Maritime College (VMC) is known for its high standards, but the prize it won on 30 July 2005 was for something quite unusual in the college's history.

July 30 was a special date for Vanuatu – the 25th anniversary or Silver Jubilee of the nation's independence. Included in the week-long Silver Jubilee celebrations in Luganville, Santo were displays and competitions of many different kinds: culture, sports, music, dancing ...

A major feature of the displays and parade on 30 July was a float competition. VMC entered the good ship L/V *Jubilee*, registered in Luganville and captained by Nare Wolu (better known as VMC's Fishing Instruc-

tor). Crewed by VMC staff disguised as a ship's cook, a hospitality student, an engineer, a firefighter and an accident survivor wearing a full immersion suit, *Jubilee* highlighted VMC's task of training seafarers and fishers and emphasised safety at sea. Belching smoke from her exhaust and towing a life raft with a large poulet fish dangling from a reel, she was a big hit – especially with small boys!

On 31 July, the announcer asked the crowd, "Who should win the float competition?"

"Maritime! Maritime!" they shouted, and VMC's newest and youngest staff member, Isabelle Noel, proudly went on stage to receive the first prize.



## Northern Marianas College touts seaweed

*By Marconi Calindas*

The Northern Marianas College (NMC) says it hopes to see the development of a seaweed industry in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands after the success of its Aquaculture Development Program, which is being done through its Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service division.

NMC president Tony V. Deleon Guerrero said the college is keen on developing a seaweed industry in the islands since it could be a potential economic contributor to the Commonwealth. He said seaweed is one of the favourite dishes and ingredients of the local community and could also appeal to the palate of tourists. He said he would discuss this "economic possibility" with his staff and community members "to help the economy of the CNMI".

Guerrero said that the Aquaculture Development Program, in collaboration with its partners, has been successful throughout the year, holding presentations, conferences, television segments, newspaper ads, articles and a series of workshops.

He said shrimp and prawn production workshops were held on Saipan, Tinian and Rota the past year. Over 30

individuals attended these workshops, which taught participants how to grow marine shrimp above ground. The workshops on Recirculating Aquaculture Systems encouraged farmers to invest their resources in this lucrative industry.

The programme has already reached more than 10,700 individuals in the community through different avenues.

The college's annual report describes the Aquaculture Development Program as one of the more accomplished programmes offered through its Agricultural Research and Extension office. The programmes include Plant Protection, Crop Improvement, Livestock Improvement, and Soil Water Management.

Other programs are Nutrition, Diet Health, 40H Development Community Resource Development, Family Development, Food Safety and Quality, Sewing, Money Management, Expanded Food and Nutrition, and Food Stamp Nutrition Education.

*Reprinted from Saipan Tribune, 14 September 2005*  
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## A new Certificate in Maritime Studies (Cadet) at Nelson

Beginning in February 2006, the Certificate in Maritime Studies (Cadet) 12-week programme is an entry-level introduction to a wide range of commercial maritime careers, including maritime transport and tourism, the leisure yacht industry, aquaculture and fishing.

The emphasis will be on establishing a good understanding of watch-keeping and the systems, drills and skills commonly used on board a vessel. The programme will include STCW 95 Basic Training and NZ Coastguard short courses, and will be based on unit standards where possible.

### Entry requirements

Applicants will:

- have had a minimum of three years' secondary-school education and be able to demonstrate a likelihood of success on the course;

- be assessed by interview and the submission of two referee reports; and
- need to possess good communication and numeracy skills and an appropriate level of physical fitness.

### Course content

- **Week 1:** STCW95 basic training, including survival, workplace first aid, fire-fighting and personal safety and social responsibility (7 days)
- **Week 2:** Control recreational craft by day in sight of land
- **Week 3:** Restricted Radio Telephone Operators Certificate (2 days) and practical boat handling

- **Weeks 4, 5, 6 and 7:** Watch-keeping and navigation – seamanship and deck skills (includes an understanding of radar and GPS)
- **Week 8:** Outboard engine maintenance and troubleshooting and small boat handling
- **Week 9:** Marine inboard maintenance and troubleshooting
- **Week 10:** Seafood handling, personal hygiene and sanitation **OR** Customer service skills
- **Week 11:** Legislation and compliance, including pollution and environment, safe ship management, occupational safety and health **OR** Pacific Island option
- **Week 12:** Legislation, compliance and safe ship management (continued) and preparation for work – CVs, interview techniques, letters of application/introduction **OR** Pacific Island option

For more details, please contact Julie Cohen (+64 3 546 2477) or Alec Woods (+64 3 546 9175 ext. 847) at the New Zealand School of Fisheries.



## Seafood industry training pathways soon to be available

A number of new qualifications that will support one of the Nelson Marlborough region's major primary industries will soon be on offer, following a cash injection by the New Zealand government.

Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) has been awarded \$550,000 through the tertiary sector's Innovation and Development Fund to create new seafood training and education courses. The grant will cover the cost of developing a curriculum, courses and qualifications required to meet industry needs. Qualifications will range from certificate to degree, with potential pathways to university postgraduate degrees, and cover disciplines in Vessel Operations, Seafood Technology, Aquaculture, Marine-based Tourism and Leisure, and Boat Building.

The Nelson Marlborough Seafood Cluster initiated this proposal, and a complementary proposal, to enhance postgraduate research in seafood in conjunction with Canterbury and Otago universities. NMIT chief executive Dr Neil Barns said that at present, a large number of education and training courses relevant to the seafood industry are only available off-shore – despite New Zealand's reputation as a world leader in fisheries management and seafood industry development.

“Leaders, managers and potential leaders in the industry need to be trained in an integrated and formal manner, both ‘on the job’ and in conventional learning establishments,” Dr Barns said. “There is a significant threat to the long-term viability of the industry, as

there is no relevant tertiary education infrastructure to support further education. Consequently, by developing a seafood curriculum that establishes career pathways, postgraduate links and entry, we are ensuring a more productive and prosperous future for the industry.”

Established in 2003, the purpose of the \$40 million Innovation and Development Fund is to encourage innovation that will enhance the performance of New Zealand's tertiary education system. The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) administers the fund on the government's behalf.

“Initiatives such as developing this curriculum are exactly what this fund was set up to encourage,” said TEC chief executive Janice Shiner. “Innovation is key to creating a high-performing tertiary education sector we can all be proud of.”

The project is one of 14 around New Zealand that were chosen for funding in 2005. Other projects being negotiated include new centres for eco-forestation, plastics and polymer development, data visualisation and wood products.

“These projects are exciting and cutting-edge, and are from a range of education providers nationwide,” Ms Shiner said. “I am confident all these initiatives will add immense value to our tertiary education sector, and will benefit learners and the country as a whole.”



## SPC FISHERIES TRAINING ACTIVITIES



### SPC short training videos on DVD

The successful series of SPC short training videos on fisheries topics are now available on DVD. Training videos are a popular and effective medium for training, but their use is restricted to places that have electricity and a video player. In response to requests from various

users in the region, the videos have been dubbed onto DVD. This means they can now be played on a laptop during field trips. They are suitable for distribution to schools, NGOs and fisheries extension staff.



The 13 fisheries training videos and one USP training video have been grouped by topic on five separate DVDs.

#### DVD N°1 – Fishing operations

- N° 1 – An Icy Tale: Chilling Fish on Board
- N° 2 – Trolling with Natural Bait
- N° 3 – Bottom Fishing with Hydraulics
- N° 4 – On-board Handling of Sashimi-grade Tuna

#### DVD N°2 – Seafood processing

- N° 1 – A Chilling Story: Handling Fish in the Processing Plant
- N° 2 – Tuna Loining: Workshop at Celtrrock Holdings

#### DVD N°3 – Seafood business

- N° 1 – Air Freighting Chilled Fish
- N° 2 – A Visit to the Fish Market
- N° 3 – Once Upon a Fish Stall
- N° 4 – Fishy Business

#### DVD N°4 – Sea safety

- N° 1 – Better Safe than Sorry
- N° 2 – Survival at Sea: A Kiribati Tale
- N° 3 – Rambo Goes Deep Sea

#### DVD N°5 – Seaweed farming

- N° 1 – Grow Seaweed, Grow Your Own Money (SPC)
- N° 2 – Seaweed Farming in Pacific Island Countries (USP)

The new DVDs, as well as the videos (in either PAL, NTSC or SECAM systems), are available from the :

Fisheries Training Section  
 SPC, PO Box D5  
 98848 Noumea  
 New Caledonia



## The second SPC/Nelson Fisheries Officers training course

The newly reformed SPC/Nelson Fisheries Officers Training Course started on Monday, 30 January at the New Zealand School of Fisheries. This year's course was attended by 10 participants from Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji and Vanuatu.

The trainees initially studied at Nelson (for 17 weeks) then traveled to New Caledonia for a one-week exposure to SPC's fisheries programmes, before flying to Santo, Vanuatu, for four weeks of practical fishing experience and sea safety training.

For the first time since 1996 (in Abaiang, Kiribati), the course's practical fishing component was not held in New Caledonia; nevertheless, the quality of staff and training facilities at the Vanuatu Maritime Col-

lege, as well as the richness of local fishing grounds made Santo a great venue for this event. Using the three VMC training vessels *Emm Nao*, *Etelis* and *Evolan*, the SPC trainees practiced horizontal and vertical tuna longlining, deep-bottom fishing, trolling, and bait fishing while fishing operations will be eased by a soon-to-be deployed FAD.

As part of the new course, trainees will also be required to process catches to export standards and marketing trials will take place. Those readers with a good memory and who are concerned trainees, will recall that the *then* Vanuatu Fisheries Training Centre previously hosted the SPC/Nelson course's practical fishing module in 1992 and 1993. Let's hope that the 2006 catches will be as memorable as those back then!



*Training vessel Emm Nao will be used to demonstrate small-scale fishing operations*



*Well known FV Etelis will once again play a key training role on the SPC/Nelson course*

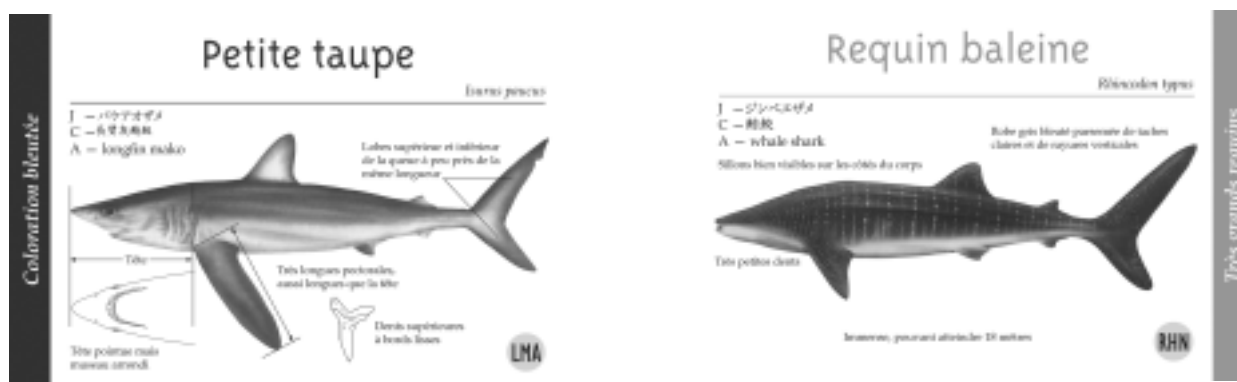
## Shark ID cards now available in French

The shark identification cards are now available in French. Initially produced in English, this pocket-size, water-proof booklet results from a joint effort between SPC's Oceanic Fisheries Programme (Fisheries Monitoring Section) and SPC's Coastal Fisheries Programme (Fisheries Training Section). It is hoped that using the i.d. cards will improve catch data and statistics on sharks that interact with longline and purse-seine fisheries in the western and central Pacific.

With a better understanding of shark stocks, regional fisheries managers can ensure that sharks remain fished in a sustainable manner. The most likely users of the



cards will be fisheries observers, fishing masters, and crew on board longline and purse-seine vessels operating in the western and central Pacific. Fisheries training institutions and fishing communities are other potential users as these identification cards complement previously published training and awareness-raising materials on the bycatch issue (turtle ID cards and releasing guidelines, pamphlets, poster, manual on protected marine species). For further information, contact Fisheries Training Section staff at [michelbl@spc.int](mailto:michelbl@spc.int)



## Fisheries Training Section - In Brief

- The Fisheries Training Section has organised and co-funded the training attachment of a first mate from the National Fisheries Development Limited (Solomon Islands) to a Class 3 Master course at the PNG Maritime College in Madang. The 42-week course started on 30 January 2006. It is hoped that trainee, Junior Delaiverata, will obtain his ticket after completing the course. The Class 3 Master ticket represents an additional step towards Junior's ultimate goal of becoming the first Solomon Island skipper of a tuna purse-seiner. Junior is well known to section staff as he was part of the first SPC Traineeship Programme held at the Australian Fisheries Academy in 2000. We wish him well during this course!
- The production of sea safety awareness-raising materials in Pacific Island languages is progressing well. After Kiribati, Niue, Tokelau and Papua New Guinea in 2003–2004, the Fisheries Division in Apia requested last year the printing of SPC safety posters in the Samoan language. Production of this Samoan version took place in November and by the end of the year, 250 copies of the four posters had been shipped to Apia. Samoa Fisheries staff will use the posters to raise sea safety awareness amongst fishing communities in Upolu and Savaii. Countries not yet covered under this ongoing project may contact the Fisheries Training Section if they want the sea safety materials translated in their vernacular language.
- The second issue of the section's information bulletin on sea safety was published in October 2005. This time, the bulletin featured safety management systems (SMS) and safe operational plans (SOP) as a new way of looking at vessel and crew safety while the technology feature in this bulletin focuses on the safety "grab bag", a simple but necessary piece of safety gear that is easy to store and could well save lives. Please contact section staff if you have not received your sea safety bulletin.



## THE FOOLISH FISHERMAN - a comic book to raise sea safety awareness

As part of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Coastal Fisheries Management and Development Project in Papua New Guinea, a comic book aimed at raising awareness of small boat safety has been produced in both English and Tok Pisin. The Fisheries Training Section made a financial contribution to the development of this important publication, to ensure that it is disseminated to target groups in SPC's other member countries and territories.

Two thousand English language copies and 2000 Tok Pisin copies of the comic have been printed and distributed within Papua New Guinea by the ADB project. SPC is further assisting by printing an additional 2000 copies and distributing them throughout

the Pacific Islands region. Reaching community members in remote areas of the Pacific is often a challenge, but it is hoped that *The Foolish Fisherman* will be effective in communicating with its intended readers, which include small boat operators and schoolchildren. The French version of the comic book will be available in February or March 2006.

If you wish to receive copies of the comic book, please contact the Fisheries Training Section or ask your country's fisheries administration. If you wish to learn more about the fisheries information materials the ADB project is producing, contact the CFMDP office in Kavieng, New Ireland Province, Papua New Guinea at +675 984 2266.



## NEWS FROM USP

### Seafood processing workshop

A seafood processing workshop was held at the Marine Studies Programme at the University of the South Pacific, Suva Fiji, from 14–24 June 2005. The workshop was made possible with the joint support and collaboration between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Secretary of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Marine Studies Programme (Postharvest Fisheries Section) of the University of the South Pacific (USP).

Six participants attended the workshop: one from Central Pacific Producer Limited (CPPL) of Tarawa, Kiribati; four from the Fisheries Department of Fiji; and one from the Marine Studies Programme (MSP).

The workshop was conducted by Takuya Shiotsiku (Katsubushi Expert) of Japan and Gabriel Victor Titili who is Postharvest Fisheries Lecturer at MSP. The workshop ran for two weeks and included both theory and practical components. Product developed during the workshop included: sweet smoked chub mackerel (Salala), bula smoked wahoo in sweet and sour sauce, sweet chub mackerel in sweet and sour sauce, steamed wahoo pate, wantok smoked red snap-

per in sweet and sour sauce, bula smoked wahoo, Pacific smoked tuna, citrus smoked tuna, wantok smoked red snapper, honey cured smoked parrotfish, katsubushi soup with wakame (seaweed) and smoked wahoo spread. All products were taste tested using the “Hedonic Scale” method by a 20-member panel (comprising USP, Fiji Fisheries Division and JICA representatives) at the closing of the workshop. The results of the taste test indicated that 95% of the taste panelists liked all the products.

At the end of the workshop, participants were given certificates of attendance for two weeks of full-time training. The certificates were handed to the participants by the resident representative of JICA during the closing ceremony.

Participants felt that more such workshops should be conducted in the future. They also felt that this type of workshop is long overdue for Pacific Island countries, especially, when one is involved in the actual development of a product.

(Contributor: Gabriel Victor Titili)



*The workshop included a practical component on product development*



*Six participants attended the workshop.*

PIMRIS is a joint project of four international organisations concerned with fisheries and marine resource development in the Pacific Islands region. The project is executed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the University of the South Pacific's Pacific Information Centre (USP-PIC), and the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC). This bulletin is produced by SPC as part of its commitment to PIMRIS. The aim of PIMRIS is to improve the availability



of information on marine resources to users in the region, so as to support their rational development and management. PIMRIS activities include: collection, cataloguing and archiving of technical documents, especially ephemera (“grey literature”); evaluation, repackaging and dissemination of information; provision of literature searches, question-and-answer services and bibliographic support; and assistance with the development of in-country reference collections and databases on marine resources.