

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSIONTHIRTEENTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 24 - 28 August 1981)COUNTRY STATEMENT - FRENCH POLYNESIA

- 1 - A very positive feature emerging from the activities conducted by the Department of Fisheries in 1981 is that fishermen and aquaculture farmers have really become aware of the need for professional organisation. In all fields, from pearl culture to skipjack fishing, our efforts have been successful.

- 2 - The 16.2 m multipurpose "super-skipjack boat" commenced fishing operations at the beginning of August and fish sales from it have been encouraging. The most gratifying result has been the unreserved acceptance of this type of boat by the fishermen using it. The setting out of anchored rafts is continuing without a hitch. Five such rafts should be operational by the end of the year.
The numerous information campaigns undertaken for the improvement of skipjack tag return rates have not been very effective. Only eight tags were returned to the SPC since January 1981.

- 3 - The survey of lagoon fish stocks, begun in 1980, came up against a lack of understanding in the fishermen of the need to collect data. An extensive information campaign therefore had to be undertaken and the survey is only now getting off to a proper start.

- 4 - No new operation was launched this year in the field of aquaculture. The 13 hectare shrimp rearing ponds at present in production are expected to cover about 40 per cent of the local demand estimated at 100 T/year. Pearl culture development was speeded up to such an extent that pearl products moved to the top of the list of exports from the Territory in the six first months of 1981.

5 - Dissemination of Trochus niloticus, commenced in 1957 from the island of Tahiti, has been very successful, since trochus fishing has just been declared open over the whole Leeward Island area. For the green snail on the other hand, dissemination has been very slow and much impeded by human predation.

6 - Concurrently with these ongoing programmes, the Fisheries Department will be placing greater emphasis on education and training activities.
