

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

Seventeenth Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries

Agenda Item 6 - Regional Fisheries Training Project

Position Paper - Australian Maritime College

Introduction

The SPC secretariat, and the fisheries administration of the member countries, are aware of the facilities and services available from the Australian Maritime College (AMC). The Head of the School of Fisheries at AMC, Alf Carver, attended the Sixteenth Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries in 1984, and the SPC Fisheries Advisor, Barney Smith, has since visited AMC.

AMC is keen to continue its involvement with fisheries training for member countries of SPC. AMC is an autonomous body, and thus can respond quickly and promptly to requests for assistance. Governed by its own Council, under its own Act of Parliament, AMC is specifically geared to offer short courses of training, on or off campus, in addition to its programme of certificate, diploma, degree, and postgraduate award courses.

The School of Fisheries at AMC is clearly of most interest to members of this meeting. This School is backed by Schools of Nautical Studies, and of Marine Engineering, which provide specialist services to fisheries students as required. All three schools may be involved in fisheries award courses, or specialised short courses. Short courses, not requiring use of facilities available at the A.M.C., can be conducted in virtually any location in the Pacific Region.

The Australian fishing industry covers a huge latitudinal range, from tropical to temperate, and from subsistence fishermen to high technology operations. Students come to AMC from all over Australia, and the course content reflects this, incorporating both tropical and temperate fisheries. Details of the courses available, and the College facilities, are included in brochures that have been circulated to members. The fisheries courses are generally based on a core of three strands - fisheries biology and management, fisheries technology, and seafood handling. Students from the College are finding employment in all aspects of the Australian industry; as fishermen, and with state and federal government agencies, in areas concerned with fisheries management, surveillance, technology and processing.

Involvement with the Regions to date

All schools at AMC have enrolled students from member countries, as follows:-

School of Fisheries

Diploma in Fisheries Technology	1 Tongan 2 Solomon Islanders
Bachelors' Degree in Fisheries Technology	2 Solomon Islanders

School of Nautical Studies

Diploma in Nautical Science	1 Fijian 1 Solomon Islander
Bachelor's Degree in Nautical Studies	1 Fijian
Second Mate Certificate of Competency	4 Western Samoans
Master Class I Certificate of Competency	1 Tuvaluan
Graduate Diploma in Hydrographic Surveying	1 PNG

School of Engineering

Ass. Diploma in Marine Radio- communications	3 Western Samoans 1 Fijian
Bachelor's Degree in Marine Engineering	1 Fijian

The School of Nautical Studies has discussed with the Government of Western Samoa the possibility of further training for deck and engineer marine personnel. The School of Fisheries is engaged in developing a training programme in conjunction with the Pacific Patrol Boat Project, for member countries of the South Pacific Forum. A lecturer from AMC, John Seaton, participated in the SPC/UNDP Regional Refrigeration Training Course, held earlier this year in Rarotonga.

The School of Fisheries now has three staff, who have worked within the Region - Alf Carver, who has fished in Kiribati, Dr. Mike King, who is well known throughout the region for his work on deepwater prawns, while at USP, and Ian Cartwright, who has recently completed a contract as a Fisheries Officer in the Kingdom of Tonga. In addition, Judith Ruello has completed consultancy work in seafood processing in the South-east Asian region.

### Future Involvement with the Region

Places on certificate, degree and postgraduate courses in fisheries at AMC are available to suitably qualified students from member countries. Details of these courses are available in the distributed literature, and the AMC representative at this meeting will be pleased to discuss particular requirements with members. ADAB funding is normally available to support these students.

Short courses to meet the needs of member countries can be run at AMC, utilising the specialist facilities available there. Again, details can be discussed here with members. AMC runs an annual course for fisheries officers from all over Australia, where specialist lecturers are invited in to cover specific topics. Similar courses could be designed for fisheries officers from the Region, or for those intending to undertake extension work. Such courses would involve experts from various parts of Australia, and from the Region, and lecturing in communication skills could be arranged using the facilities of the Tasmanian State Institute of Technology, adjacent to A.M.C. In this way, by 'training the trainers', the advantages gained by using AMC would be felt more rapidly and effectively throughout the Region. Such courses could include topics such as interpersonal communications, introductory sociology, and instructional techniques. Time spent at AMC could be complemented by periods with State and Federal government departments, and with commercial fishing companies.

AMC can become further involved with courses run within the Region. The ability to do this has been demonstrated with the SPC/UNDP refrigeration course. Other specialist expertise can be made available at mutually convenient times as required.

Facilities for French-speaking students can be provided, by way of translation of course notes, and provision of interpreters, if sufficient notice of such requirement is given.

Many countries in the Region have, or are in the process of acquiring, more, larger, and more sophisticated vessels than has been the case in the past. Vessel management, incorporating engineering, business, maintenance and operations skills, and fleet management, are subjects that are of increasing interest to the Region, and where a little advance learning may save many costly experiences.

In addition to training, A.M.C., through its company A.M.C. SEARCH is prepared to undertake fisheries consultancy work in the Pacific region. School of Fisheries staff are currently involved in consultancies and funded fisheries work for F.A.O. and Australian funding agencies.

Recommendations

The Fisheries Training Officer will first need to assess the training requirements within the Region. As part of this exercise, he should assess the facilities available to provide training. It is recommended that he visit AMC at an early date to see what can be done there, and to continue the liaison already established between SPC and AMC.

Following on such visit, a plan setting out AMC's involvement in the SPC's training programme can be developed.

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