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TROLLING TECHNIQUES FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

A Manual For Fishermen

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION
NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA
TROLLING TECHNIQUES FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
A Manual For Fishermen

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The South Pacific Commission has been active in promoting the development of fisheries in Pacific Island countries for over 20 years. During this period, the Commission's work has included the assessment of inshore and offshore marine resources, the introduction and testing of new or exotic fishing gear and techniques, and the provision of training programmes in the technical and vocational skills required to support developing fisheries. A particular area of strength has been the programme of training in fishing and boat-handling techniques for small-scale fishermen and boat owners. This programme, initiated in 1978, has been carried out by the SPC's team of Master Fishermen, who, at the request of Pacific Island governments, visit fishing communities to carry out practical training activities.

This manual has been compiled to answer two needs within the context of SPC's fisheries training activities: firstly, as a means of partially documenting the largely unwritten specialist knowledge and practical experience accumulated by SPC's fishing staff during field activities; and secondly, as a training aid for use by all Pacific Island fisheries extension officers in their endeavours to introduce and explain fishing topics to rural fishermen and others. The information content is organised in a manner which we hope be is well suited to this latter requirement.

Preparing this publication was a collective effort by a team whose areas of responsibility were as follows:

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INTRODUCTION

This manual has been written to help Pacific Island fishermen improve their fishing success when trolling, particularly in a commercial or semi-commercial situation. The information it contains has been compiled from the discussions and written records of the South Pacific Commission's fisheries development staff. These officers have a combined experience of over 40 years in fishing and training fishermen in Pacific Island countries.

The manual is intended to act as a guide to the basics of good trolling, for use by interested individual. However, a major aim of the manual is also to be useful in supplementing the formal training activities carried out by the South Pacific Commission and by national fisheries development agencies and extension officers. We have therefore tried to present as much information as possible in a visual form, for the benefit of the many Pacific Islanders whose first language is not English. For the same reason, the text has been kept as simple and non-technical as possible.

In compiling this manual, we have split the many interwoven aspects of trolling into a series of individual topics. Each of these is covered in one double-page spread intended to convey as much information relevant to that topic as possible. We have tried to be comprehensive in the coverage of each subject. Since fishermen tend to be at odds as often as they are in agreement over the details of fishing, we have tried to present the range of options or opinions on subjects where no consensus was clear. Most contentious issues have been avoided unless their mention is considered essential. The topics are organised into chapters which progress through the activities involved in trolling - vessel preparation, gear rigging, the actual fishing procedure, and post-fishing activities. Predictably, it has proven impossible to avoid overlap altogether. However, we hope that the cross-references in the text, together with the detailed topic headings and sub-headings presented in the contents list, will enable readers to follow a given theme through the text, or to find the specific information they seek.
A general-purpose fishing vessel suitable for semi-commercial trolling

A catamaran used for tuna trolling around FADs