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SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

TWENTY-FIFTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES
(Noumea, New Caledonia 14–18 March 1994)

COUNTRY STATEMENT

MARSHALL ISLANDS

Country Statement
Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority

The Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority is the primary organization responsible for the utilization, development and management of the marine resources in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

We enter into fishing agreements with foreign fishing interests to operate in the exclusive economic zone of the Marshall Islands and we are responsible for development of our own locally based fishing industries.

At this time we have bilateral fishing agreements with the Japanese fishing industry which includes arrangements with Nikkatsuren, Kinkatsukio, and the Japan Far Seas Tuna Purse Seine Association. The Japanese Purse Seine Agreement is an experimental arrangement we are hoping to develop a purse seine fishery similar to that which exists in the equatorial waters of the Federated States of Micronesia.

The major development of the last several years in the Marshall Islands is the advent of the locally based tuna longline business. Currently we have 25 fishing vessels landing tuna and we are airfreighting these products with the help of the Airline of the Marshall Islands to Honolulu and Tokyo. We are planning on expanding this production base to over 100 locally based tuna longline boats.

We also have successfully developed an outer island fish delivery system with the help of the Japanese Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation between the Atoll of Arno and Majuro. We are expanding this concept to include the islands of Namu, Alinglaplap, Likiep with a marketing effort in Kwajelein. The project between Arno and Majuro took over five years including planning, construction, operation, training and detailed financial arrangements to insure continued smooth operation.

The Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority development program consist of series of specific projects with the assistance of several outside donors and agencies. These include the following:

Fishery Training School	Asian Development Bank
Likiep Clam Hatchery	Pacific Fishery Devexp. Foundation Pacific Aquaculture Association Asian Development Bank
Namrik Oyster Culture	South Pacific Commission Forum Fisheries Agency U. S. National Marine Fisheries Service

Arno Atoll Fishery Assn

Government of Japan
Japanese Overseas Fisheries
Cooperative Foundation

Small Scale Outer Island
Fisheries

Government of Japan
Japan International Cooperation Assn.

Kwajelein Tuna Fishery

Asian Development Bank

Port Sampling & Regional
Data Base

South Pacific Commission

These are some of the project which are now in progress at MIMRA. The contribution of the South Pacific Commission through the help and funding of the Port Sampling and the Regional Data base are critical components of our long term management programs. I wish to thank the secretariat and the staff of the Tuna and Bill Fish Programme for their time, assistance and help in providing these critical services during the rapid expansion of our locally based tuna fishing industry.