



Dr. Bedell briefly addresses trainees before formally declaring the Training Course open. Seated on his right is His Excellency the Governor of New Caledonia, M. Grimald.

Fisheries Training Course Opens In Noumea

A new method of working for the South Pacific Commission that could have great significance for the future of Pacific island peoples was inaugurated at Commission headquarters in Noumea on November 19 last by the Secretary-General, Dr. Ralph Clairon Bedell, when he formally declared open the South Pacific Fisheries Training Course. It is the first of a series of courses that the Commission plans holding to train islanders in practical ways of helping their own peoples.

TWENTY-FIVE trainees from fourteen territories are attending the thirteen-week Course, some having left their remote islands for the first time and flown many thousands of miles to Nouméa to participate.* They have come from as far afield as Netherlands New Guinea in the east to Tahiti in the west; from Guam, the Caroline and Mariana Islands north of the equator, to the Cook Islands and Tonga in the south.

The Course is being held under the direction of Mr. H. van Pel, the Commission's Fisheries Officer. The Food and Agriculture Organization is actively co-operating by providing a co-Director, other expert personnel, portion of fares, and equipment for demonstration purposes.

Co-Director for the first part of the Course was Mr. Hilmar Kristjonnsson, an Icelander who is Chief of FAO's fishing gear section. Following his return to his headquarters in Rome on November 29, an FAO fisheries training specialist, Mr. P. Lusyne, became co-Director.

The services of Mr. A. N. Swinfield, an Australian naval architect from Sydney, were also provided by FAO.

The Government of New Caledonia and the French Institute of Oceania are actively assisting. Both are providing lecturers, while the Institute is making available its research vessel, *Orsom III*, for training cruises.

Formal Opening Of Course

The formal opening of the Course took place at Commission headquarters on November 19.

In a brief welcoming address the Governor of New Caledonia, His Excellency M. Grimald, told students it was his sincere desire that the island peoples should profit fully from the Fisheries Course, in which France was happy to participate through the services of its technicians and research workers.

"I have glanced through the syllabus and am amazed at its diversity," he said. "Apart from general lectures, I see that there are many practical demonstrations and expeditions out to sea. To instruct men from many diverse and scattered territories in the basic notions of fishing and activities connected with it, such is the aim of this Course which has brought together twenty-five students who will, in

their turn, teach their brothers the knowledge they have gleaned from these lessons with a view to improving their living conditions."

In a brief address to trainees before declaring the Course open, the Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission, Dr. Ralph Clairon Bedell, told them that the Commission's purpose in arranging the Course was to train them in a useful, practical way of helping their own people. "Pacific islanders," he said, "have long been famed for their interest in fishing. Now we shall see that interest blossom forth under the guidance of technical experts to bring to the people of the Pacific the fish that are so badly needed in many of the islands."

Dr. Bedell told trainees that they represented some three millions of people living in the islands. "We hope," he said, "that when you return home to spread the knowledge you will have gained here, the lives of all in some degree may benefit."

FAO'S Task To Expand Food Production

In introducing the co-Director of the Course, Mr. Kristjonnsson, Dr. Bedell observed it was eminently appropriate that the Food and Agriculture Organization should contribute its technical skills and assistance to become the agency associ-



Mr. Kristjonnsson of FAO, co-Director of the Course, told trainees he expected to learn much from them, as well as to teach them modern methods of fishing.

* A list of trainees and instructors appears on page 10.

ated with the Commission in the conduct of the Course.

Mr. Kristjonsson told the gathering that the main objective of the Food and Agriculture Organization was to expand food production in the world. It did this primarily by acting as a clearing house of technical knowledge—to facilitate the transfer of technical “know-how” from where it existed to the areas where it was lacking.

Mr. Kristjonsson said it was well known that South Pacific islanders were excellent seamen and born fishermen. “The participants of this Training Course,” he said, “have brought with them knowledge of fishing practices in their respective islands which in many instances are unknown in other parts of the region. No doubt valuable exchange of knowledge and experiences will take place among the students themselves, and I for one certainly expect to learn a lot from them.”

Mr. Kristjonsson pointed out that at the same time, socio-economic changes in the region were bound to bring it under more intense economic pressure, making imperative the use of modern equipment and methods of catching and curing fish. “During the Course,” he said, “we shall review modern fishing methods in the light of the natural and economic conditions existing in the South Pacific islands—to study how they might best help to improve efficiency, how they may have to be modified to suit local conditions, and how they can best be introduced.”

Background Work By Commission

The considerable amount of background work carried out in fisheries by the Commission since the Pacific Fisheries Conference was held at Nouméa under Commission auspices in 1952 was reviewed by Dr. A. H. J. Kroon, Executive Officer for Economic Development. “The appointment of a fisheries officer to the Commission, and

the holding of a Pacific fisheries training course, were two main recommendations of that Conference,” he said. “Now both have become fact.”

Dr. Kroon went on to stress the tremendous long-term value to the region of such a Course. “So far the



Dr. A. H. J. Kroon, who is in charge of the Commission's work programme for the economic development of the region. Fisheries are included in this field.

Commission has sent its experts to the territories and they have done excellent work,” he said, “but now we have come to a new, and, I dare to say, a more promising activity. In addition to sending experts out into the region to advise the people we are gathering the Pacific islanders themselves together for basic instruction. Afterwards, they will go back to their own territories sufficiently qualified to instruct their own people in ways of developing their own fisheries entirely by their own efforts.”

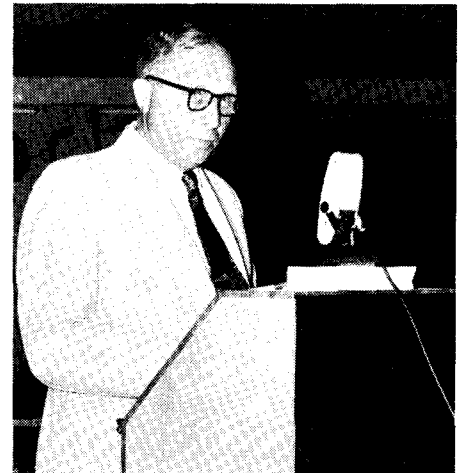
The many aspects of fisheries that would be covered for trainees were reviewed by the Director of the Course,

Mr. H. van Pel. These include boat building and maintenance, marine engines, navigation, fishing equipment, fish breeding, oyster culture, fish preservation, fisheries management, the shell industry and protection of marine resources.

“Instruction in all these various branches of activity will be given to you in a simple way,” he said, “so that it will have real practical value.”

The purpose of the Course centres on subsistence fishing for Pacific Island peoples.

“Each of you,” he said, “should return home better able to do subsistence fishing for your own people because you have been here.” He pointed out the importance to each trainee of learning how to get others to do better work in fisheries. “No matter how much experience you have had it is always possible to learn something from each other. This Course will help us to share our experience with experts.”



Mr. H. van Pel, Fisheries Officer to the South Pacific Commission, is Director of the Course.



Twenty-five trainees from fourteen Pacific territories, all of them Pacific islanders except one, are attending the Course. This picture shows them listening to addresses during the Course opening on November 19.

FISHERIES COURSE TRAINEES

Below are listed names of trainees and territories they are from, with a brief note on experience in fisheries of each.

AMERICAN SAMOA

SUNIA, Take Aitofele

Duties as police officer include control of Japanese fishermen and security of vessels. Desires to train in fisheries in order to assist in teaching Samoans off-shore fishing to supply local cannery. Cast net, trolling, rod and line, shark fishing.

TU'ITU'I, Lea

Worked for two years aboard motor vessel "Samoa." Village fishing, handline, trolling, shark fishing, bonito fishing, rod and line, fishing with torchlight, cast net. Wishes to train in order to assist in teaching Samoans off-shore fishing to supply local cannery.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS

KELISI, Mariano

Previously employed by trochus store. Handline, diving and spearing, trochus diving to 30 feet, seine net fishing.

NIOLO, Nelson

Handline, diving and spearing, trolling.

COOK ISLANDS

POWELL, Ronald

Served apprenticeship with English boat building and hardwood yacht joinery and shipwrighting firm. Worked commercial fishing and as boatswain, mate and captain of fishing yachts and commercial sailing vessels. Built own launch and operated as part-time commercial fisherman in Cook Islands. Assisted with development of fish ponds in Cook Islands. Able to navigate using sun and star sights. Experience with native subsistence fishing in Cook Islands.

MARSTERS, Ioapa

Has been engaged in native subsistence fishing in Cook Islands. Handline, diving and spearing, trolling, reef fishing.

FRENCH OCEANIA

DOOM, John

Previously occupied in oyster culture. Drag net, handline, diving to 10 feet.

GUAM

De LEON, Francisco P.

Seven years' experience as fish weir operator, throw net, pole fishing and spear fishing.

NETHERLANDS NEW GUINEA

IPSEN, Gerard Pieter

Formerly Assistant Mate o/b M.V. "Hollandia"—experimental longline fishing. Longline, trolling, trawling, beach seine, handline, drift net, lift net.

WEASU, Thomas

Handline, trolling, beach seine, wing traps, drag seine, bottom traps, lamp fishing with seine.

NEW CALEDONIA

APIKAOUA, Marcellin

Handline, cast net, scare line, trolling, diving for trochus, lobsters.

DIELA, Joseph

Handline, spearing, reef net, trolling, trochus (diving to 27 feet).

BOUANOU, Benjamin

Mainly trochus fishing (diving to 20 feet); cast net, trolling.

NEW HEBRIDES

TAITAS, Willy

Handline, beach seine, cast net, trolling, trochus (diving to 13 feet).

NIUE ISLAND

PEAUVALE

Handline, diving and spearing, flying-fish fishery.

PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

BER, David

Occupied formerly in village fishing. Handline, reef net, trolling, beach seine.

LAHUI, Tau

Occupied formerly as co-operative inspector, specializing in fisheries; fish preservation, trolling, longline, reef net and beach seine.

EKO, Aufa

Gill net, handline, beach seine, rod and line.

SONGAT, Amos

Gill net, trolling, handline, spear fishing, trochus and green snail-shell fishing (diving to 20 feet).

NDRETA, Pranis

Formerly occupied in village fisheries. Handline, reef net, trolling, trochus and green snail-shell (diving to 15 feet).

KINGDOM OF TONGA

FOTOFILI, Vai

Formerly master fisherman before becoming foreman and studied navigation from 'Isileli Fotofili, who has a mate's ticket. Helped in planning and construction of fishing station, fishing gear, boats, etc. Experimentation with fishing gear and methods of fishing.

TRUST TERRITORIES OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

DIAZ, Antonio L. G. (Mariana Islands)
Daily reef fishing for two seasons. Pole-fishing tuna; underwater spear fishing (diving to 20 feet).

MAD, Kenzi (Palau Islands)

Handline, fish traps, spear fishing, scare fishing, trolling, surround net, torchlight, trochus (diving to 20 feet).

TOSHIRO, Paulis (Caroline Islands)

Handline, trolling, cast net, gill net, rod and line, trochus fishing, 60 ft. pearl shell diver.

WESTERN SAMOA

AU'UAPA'AU, Simala

Many years' experience in local fishing—several methods. As police officer from 1932-49 was responsible for control of illegal fishing. Nets, lines, spear diving (to 45 feet).

FISHERIES COURSE INSTRUCTORS

South Pacific Commission

Name	Subject
H. VAN PEL	Fisheries Officer. Preservation of fish, fish-farming, navigation, conservation and protection, knowledge of fish and molluscs. Co-operatives and marketing.
C. G. JOANNIDES	Co-operatives Officer.

Food and Agriculture Organization

H. KRISTJONSSON	Chief, Fishing Gear Section, Technology Branch. Fisheries materials.
P. A. LUSYNE	Fisheries Officer. Fishing gear and fishing operations.
A. N. SWINFELD	Naval Architect. Boat building, marine engines.

French Institute of Oceania

M. LEGAND	Marine Biologist. Biology and ecology (fish).
R. GAIL	Marine Biologist. Biology and ecology (molluscs).
H. ROTSCI	Oceanographer-physicist. Physical oceanography.

Government of New Caledonia

J. A. M. LIGONIE	Head of Maritime Inscription Administration, and Head of Mercantile Marine Department. Navigation and chart reading.
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