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SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

ELEVENTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 5-10 December 1979)

COUNTRY STATEMENT - GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

(1643/79)

COUNTRY STATEMENT
Government of Guam
Eleventh Regional Technical Meeting
On Fisheries Of The South Pacific Commission

Guam being a member of the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council, is actively involved with the development of fishery management plans on a regional basis with Hawaii and American Samoa.

The Governor of Guam realizing the importance of a fisheries development and management plan for the territory, established the Guam Marine Fisheries Advisory Council, composed of representatives from several government agencies as well as from the fishing community.

The objective of this Council is to formulate fishery policies which will intergate the development of domestic as well as foreign fishing interest. Recently, a non-profit fishermen cooperative had been organized and though in the infant stage, appears to be a viable vehicle to market locally caught fish.

Presently, there are foreign fishing activities in the form of transshipment of tunas at the Guam Port. Foreign vessels stop in Guam to off-load their catch of tunas to be transshipped to the canneries.

The Guam Marine Fisheries Advisory Council is working toward the development of these type of fishery activities so they will become an intergal part of the business community of the territory.

The Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources is presently preparing to place two (2) fish aggregating devices in our off-shore waters.

The Pacific Tuna Development Foundation has tentatively approved funding for five (5) fishery related projects for the territory of Guam. These projects are:

1. Marketing and Management of Fisheries Products and Facilities Planner and Consultant.
2. Innovative Small Boat Fishing Methods for the Western Pacific.
3. Exploratory Fishing-Seamount Groundfish.
4. Designing of Tuna Conveyn System.
5. An Evaluation of the Growth Potential of Guam's Tuna Transship Industry.

With the conscientious efforts of both the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council and the Guam Marine Fisheries Advisory Council, Guam hopes to develop a fishery which will contribute to the welfare of the territory.