

SPIFDA SPINY LOBSTER PROGRAMME - REASSESSMENT NOVEMBER 1970

Review

Comments from the Territory Representatives confirmed the background, justification and objectives as set out by the Project Manager in his report (CONCOM/1/70/WP.4 rev.), but pointed out that the resource is almost certainly limited and would be for local consumption rather than export of processed product.

There was a need to make initial surveys into as many areas as possible in the time available so that urgent regulatory procedures for the management of local resources can be assessed for each of the areas.

Government counterpart support was available in most areas but information of specific requirements of the expert and the availability of such requirements must be exchanged.

Comments

The importance of conservation (as noted in the project title itself) must be emphasised, since past pilot commercial ventures have not been encouraging (e.g. Tonga, British Solomon Islands). Nevertheless small-scale industries supplying local requirements should be viable.

An extension of the objectives should include attempts to increase the resource through the design of suitable artificial shelters. Also a programme to trap the last pelagic larval stages (puerulus) might be investigated to gauge population size or to indicate nursery prospects.

The work programme should take note of the following requests by representatives to facilitate their participation in the project.

To review the present viable fishery and consult with the full-time biologist -

New Guinea about 14 days in January 1971.

To obtain catch and effort data of previous fisheries -
Tonga, British Solomon Islands, New Hebrides (10 - 14 days
 each).

To assess likely level of sustained exploitation and
 advice on regulatory measures

a. Probably reasonable potential -

New Hebrides (10 - 14 days)

Fiji (3 weeks)

Gilbert and Ellice Islands (Full survey but not till 1971)

Trust Territory (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ weeks for full survey or 7 days to discuss
 results of Peace Corps Volunteer, Mr Craig McDonald)

French Polynesia (3-5 months for full survey or 4-6 days at
 Papeete to investigate local potential)

b. Probably low potential

American Samoa (3-4 days)

Western Samoa (5-6 days)

New Caledonia (5-6 days)

Recommendations

1. The Project objectives as set out in the Project Manager's report be confirmed with the addition of "(particularly with reference to increasing the resource through artificial shelters and by nursery of post larval stages)" after "desirable" (p.6 7th line from bottom page).
2. When scheduling the expert's movements, the Project Manager should take full note of the Territories' requests to facilitate their participation and advise the Territories rapidly of revisions of the planned work schedule.