

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION  
FOURTH TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES

Noumea, New Caledonia  
(21 - 29 October 1970)

FERRO-CEMENT FISHING BOATS SUITABLE FOR SOUTH PACIFIC  
ISLANDS FISHERMEN

by

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S U M M A R Y

The paper gives a short history of ferro-cement boat-building, reviewing the work and inventions of Professor Nervi, the development of the process post-war and experience from different countries.

The advantages and drawbacks of ferro-cement boats are compared with those built of other materials especially in relation to the South Pacific. Ferro-cement is fire-resistant, has good insulation qualities and is proof against rot, fungus and marine borers. It is suitable for the construction of unit hulls or for mass production.

The paper further discusses the costs of building, maintenance and operations in comparison with other boats and notes that these costs are generally low, relying on low-priced material, relatively unskilled labour and minimum maintenance and repair expenses. The boats have a long life and hence depreciation charges are small.

The paper goes on to suggest various types of boat design suitable for the South Pacific involving such matters as propulsion systems, use to which the vessel will be put, length of voyage and available repair facilities. The question of building methods, their applicability for use by the island people, the need for education, provision of designs and other necessary equipment are mentioned.

Finally, after discussing economies, possibly through mass production, the paper offers some suggestions as to the future of ferro-cement as a boat-building material.

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Original text: English

Unfortunately, the obstacles to fisheries development in American Samoa are not purely technical in nature. Of equal, or possibly greater, importance are economic - psychological problems which must be overcome. Basically, these problems derive from relatively high cannery and government wages and low prestige associated with commercial fishing. Surely, psycho-fisheries barriers are not unique to American Samoa. Perhaps this problem area deserves as much attention as technological improvements.

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