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I N F O R M A T I O N B U L L E T I N



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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Small vessel safety is high on SPC's agenda this year! Despite an ongoing awareness and training campaign launched by SPC in 1995, the majority of maritime casualties and loss of life in the Pacific continues to be associated with small fishing vessels, as was shown by an FAO survey in 2003. The same survey resulted in SPC coordinating an FAO regional expert consultation on small vessel safety in February this year (report in this issue). Later, discussions on small vessel safety were held during SPC APIMTIMA and HOF meetings in May and August. A recommendation from HOF urged SPC to approach FAO and IMO for potential assistance to member countries to facilitate sea-safety strategies and improvements in sea accident data recording and analysis. And last but not least, the HOF meeting also recommended that SPC establish a Sea-Safety Special Interest Group bulletin! If you wish to be a member of this new SIG, let us know!

Michel Blanc

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FEATURES



Sea Safety in small fishing vessels

Overview

In early 2003, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations undertook a survey on fisheries-related sea safety in Tuvalu, Tonga, Samoa, Fiji Islands and Kiribati. The objective was to consolidate experience gained by selected countries in safety at sea, to improve future activities in the region. A major conclusion of the survey was that the majority of maritime casualties and loss of life in the Pacific Islands region is associated with small fishing vessels, which usually receive the least attention in terms of legislation, construction standards, enforcement strategies, regional discussions, training on proper use, and other schemes to improve safety. This survey showed that many issues involve law, naval architecture, search and rescue, community awareness, maritime administration, fisheries and other fields. The FAO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) agreed that a meeting attended by motivated, expert people could have a very powerful effect on regional and national sea-safety programmes. The FAO/SPC Regional Expert Consultation on Sea Safety in Small Fishing Vessels was held in Suva, Fiji, from 9–13 February 2004.

Background

Before the consultation, four short discussion papers had been prepared. They indicated how difficult it was to solve all parts of the problem. Different aspects of the problem included:

- appropriateness of safety regulations for small fishing vessels
- improvement of SPC sea-safety awareness programmes
- the need to generate political will for improved safety at sea
- improvement of construction standards for fibreglass skiffs
- enhancing systems for recording and analysing sea accident data

- enforcement of sea-safety regulations in urban areas and in remote locations
- the appropriate balance between legislation and awareness programmes.

The expert consultation

A main conclusion of the FAO survey was that if experts from different areas examined these problems from their own points of view, the results would be much more impressive than similar work done before. So it was decided that a meeting, attended by motivated, expert people from different disciplines, focused on small fishing vessels, and co-hosted by SPC, could have a very positive effect on regional and national sea-safety programmes.

The purpose of the FAO/SPC expert consultation on sea safety in small fishing vessels was two-fold:

To work on four important issues in fisheries sea safety from the perspective of several relevant disciplines. These sea safety issues were:

- drafting appropriate sea-safety regulations for small fishing vessels
- improving sea-safety awareness programmes
- improving the safety of fibreglass skiffs through better construction standards
- enhancing systems of sea-accident data recording.

To formulate plans for future sea-safety programmes. Participants included artisanal fishers, a legal specialist, boatbuilders, and personnel from government fisheries and maritime agencies. They participated in their personal capacity, rather than representing their country or organisation. The aim was to compile important considerations on the issues, including lessons learned from recent experience, and to advise national authorities about the appropriate action to take. The findings were compiled into a set of recommendations, which aim at developing and implementing co-ordinated national sea-safety strategies.

Recommendations

The expert consultation recommended that improved small boat safety would best be achieved by carrying out coordinated national strategies, which should include:

- generating national political will to improve small-vessel sea safety
- supporting (and where necessary establishing) a consultative national stakeholder framework for small-vessel sea safety, and the identification of committed people (e.g. national sea-safety coordinating groups)
- continuing ongoing sea-safety awareness programmes, with special emphasis on developing ways to effectively distribute updated materials, and evaluation of impact
- developing sensitive legislation for small fishing vessels, including the carriage of safety equipment, training and certification requirements and construction standards
- determining minimum mandatory requirements for each class of small fishing vessel, taking full account of the difficulties associated with cost, remote communities, and availability of equipment
- using existing institutions and community-based structures, for increasing compliance, data collection, training and awareness, taking into account the time and resources required
- developing and maintaining national sea accident databases, possibly using a regional approach to coordinate and assist efforts
- supporting the establishment of an SPC fishing vessel safety-at-sea special interest group and associated newsletter, and the development of additional sea-safety awareness resource materials
- investigating the advantages and disadvantages of the establishment of small fishing vessel registration and inspection schemes
- directing formal and informal training at fishers, fishing communities, government staff, NGOs, the private sector and other stakeholders
- considering the inclusion of sea safety as an integral part of fisheries management and development initiatives
- developing a phased implementation of appropriate enforcement procedures to ensure compliance.



Implementation

After talking about how best to carry out the recommendations, participants then looked at the steps to be taken in the near future to take advantage of external assistance dealing with sea safety. It was acknowledged that there were considerable differences in assistance needs across the very diverse countries of the Pacific Islands region. Assistance must be tailored to individual countries and doing that may require substantial consultation to “get the right fit”. One way of providing country participation and feed-back on the recommendations would be to discuss the issue of small-vessel safety in the region at upcoming meetings, such as the Association of Pacific Islands Maritime Training Institutions and Maritime Authorities (APIMTIMA) that was held in 2004 and Heads of Fisheries (HOF).

In May, delegates from national maritime authorities and training institutions further discussed issues surrounding the safety of small vessels. Later in August, the HOF meeting reviewed and endorsed the consultation outcomes. While recognising that sea safety is most effectively pursued at the national and local level, Heads of Fisheries welcomed external assistance, provided that this was very clearly targeted

at the practical implementation of national initiatives. The meeting urged SPC to approach FAO and IMO for potential assistance to member countries to facilitate sea-safety strategies and improvements in sea accident data recording and analysis. The meeting also recommended that SPC establish a Sea-Safety Special Interest Group bulletin and provide information to its members covering electronic location solutions to improve search and rescue operations.

Most Pacific Island countries have a long way to go before small boat operators can venture safely on the ocean. What is required is the political will to improve small-vessel safety, the identification of committed people or drivers, the development of long-term coordinated national strategies and, in some instances, well targeted assistance from international organisations. SPC is certainly committed to assisting with the coordination of future activities in this area, while continuing with the promotion of safe boating practices in the region.



Safety at sea, a priority – small fishing boats a target

Far too often we read about small boat fishermen in the Pacific Islands being lost at sea, or if they are lucky being rescued after drifting at the mercy of the wind and weather. The usual situation is a small outboard-powered open fishing boat developing engine problems or running out of fuel while fishing or travelling outside the reef.

The fishermen may drift for days, weeks, or months as governments spend scarce money on search and rescue attempts, while families ashore become frantic over their fate. The size of the problem is difficult to estimate since statistics on small boat accidents at sea are not kept by most countries of the region.

In Samoa where some data exists, 38 lives have been lost and 107 search and rescue incidents recorded since 1995. What is clear from the information available is that it is the small fishing vessels that cause most of the serious incidents offshore. An FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization) survey conducted in 2003 showed that in most countries small fishing vessels are not even covered by their safety legislations.

In response to the problem, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) have been working to improve the safety of small fishing boats.

An FAO survey in the early 1990s suggested that public awareness programmes on sea safety would be worthwhile. SPC has subsequently produced and distributed a wide range of safety awareness materials throughout the Pacific islands. The materials are aimed at changing attitudes to sea safety and include posters, stickers, videos, radio materials, laminated cards, and TV clips.

FAO and SPC recently brought together a group of specialists in Suva in a workshop environment to see what further steps should be taken to improve the safety of small fishing boats.

The unique gathering drew on expertise in the fields of fisheries, maritime law, search/rescue, community development, training, accident investigation, and boat building and design. Participants included village-level fishermen and survivors of long drift voyages, one of whom told of his harrowing tale of survival in an open boat for more than 100 days.

The meeting discussed and made recommendations on four significant ways to improve small boat safety. Firstly, if we are to devise effective ways of tackling loss of life at sea, it is essential to better understand the extent

of the sea safety problem. To help with this, countries need to record information on sea safety incidents. This information will be a valuable tool for creating greater awareness and the political will to address sea safety issues and provide the necessary resources.

Reliable data can also assist countries in working out the dollar and human costs associated with sea accidents and to assess if the resources committed to sea safety are being used defectively and efficiently.



Like road safety programmes, there is no “quick fix” to reducing loss of life at sea. Sea safety awareness needs to be approached with a view to long term strategies that really make a difference at the level of small boat operators.

Fishermen and others who use small boats must be made aware of the very real dangers they face each time they put to sea. Initiatives to raise awareness should focus on why so many accidents occur and be directed not just at fishers but also at communities and governments.

Not all boats are created equal with some small fishing vessels being built more strongly and providing greater levels of safety than others. To help raise sea safety standards there is a need to develop mandatory construction standards for small vessel construction in the region. The standards should include plan approvals,

construction specifications, built-in buoyancy, engine size limits and colour of hull.

Finally, while the realities of life in remote islands where many incidents occur make regulation difficult, appropriate sea safety regulations can dramatically improve small fishing vessel safety.

Samoa serves as a prime example of how safety improvements by appropriate regulations has reduced loss of lives. Specialists felt that even where safety legislation for small boats is difficult to enforce, there is still value in having appropriate and publicised legislation to act as a target to aim for, a basis for local rules, and a useful standard, which can be a requirement for a fishing licence and loan approval.

These regulations should be simple, easy to interpret and drafted in plain words. So, where to go from here? The studies have been done, the results have been

discussed and now it is up to the governments of the region to decide the resources needed to improve sea safety for small-scale fishermen.

(Source: Bob Gillett/
Islands Business, May 2004)



Increased public awareness through educational programmes and publicity will be one of the means to lower the number of accidents

Sea safety posters for Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and Niue

The Fisheries Training Section regional awareness campaign on sea safety is getting its second wind.

The campaign, targeting small vessel operators, started in 1995 with the production of a series of four large-size posters in English and French.

These posters have been a useful vehicle for the wide display of the sea safety message in Pacific Island countries and territories. In line with Mike McCoy's 1991 recommendation that "education through publicity campaigns, repeated and reinforced over a long period of time (...) seems to offer the best chance for improving the safety at sea for artisanal fishermen", the Training Section felt a logical next step is to run a second print of the 1995 posters, this time The safety-at-sea posters produced in I-Kiribati with captions translated in vernacular languages.

Ibukin maurim ao kabanea moa nimaua te miniti Imwain bwakam i taari



The safety-at-sea posters produced in I-Kiribati

position to initially cover three countries. Kiribati and Niue were selected in August 2003 after discussions with their respective Heads of Fisheries, during the Third Heads of Fisheries meeting. A request for sea safety education materials from the New Ireland Commercial Fisheries Association prompted the inclusion of Papua New Guinea in the list of countries to be served.

While Training Section staff were liaising with fisheries agencies in Niue, Kiribati and Papua New Guinea to produce poster captions in their respective languages, SPC's graphic artist gave the 1995 posters a new look. Distribution of posters for Kiribati and Papua New Guinea took place early in 2004 (four sets of 500 posters for Kiribati and 5000 for PNG). The Niue posters should be distributed by the end of May.

Using its core operational budget and a contribution from SPC's Executive, the Training Section was in a

A small grant from Taiwan/ROC will enable the coverage of some additional countries by the end of 2004.

2004 AFA/SPC Pacific Island Fishing Traineeship

Funding originally allocated for the deferred 2003 SPC Fisheries Officer's programme has been freed up, thus enabling the Australian Fisheries Academy (AFA) to run a third AFA/SPC Traineeship for promising young fishers from Pacific Island nations. The format was the same as the first two successful programmes, though slightly shorter and with two less trainees because of the reduction in funds. The participants for the third programme came from Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Tuvalu, and, for the first time, the Cook Islands. Contrary to the first two programmes in which industry sector representation was diversified, the 2004 trainees were all from longline fisheries, reflecting the dominance of that fishing methodology in domestic Pacific Island commercial fisheries.

The first trainee to arrive was Marakia Karakaua from Kiribati who, although AFA staff didn't know it, had been placed on an earlier flight in Brisbane and so arrived in Adelaide four hours ahead of schedule. After some initial panic when he wasn't at the airport at the expected time, and thoughts of a lost Pacific Islander somewhere in Adelaide, a city far bigger than anything he would have previously experienced, staff were able to track him down and discover he had been "rescued" by a family with connections to the Gilbert Islands and was enjoying a family barbecue in the Adelaide Hills! The family adopted Marakia during his stay in Adelaide and showed him some wonderful South Australian hospitality.

Thankfully the rest of the trainees arrived without any unexpected events and they all soon happily moved into their Adelaide accommodation at the nearby Fort Largs Police Academy. There was an induction on the first day to allow the trainees to settle in, get used to the Australian winter weather and be briefed on the programme for the coming eight weeks. The scheduled two weeks of training at the Port Adelaide campus began as usual with Sea Safety and Senior First Aid training to prepare the trainees for their sea-going work experience. The rest of the time was spent developing navigational skills using the Academy's wheelhouse simulator. AFA staff set the trainees various simulated

voyages around the islands of Port Lincoln and let them test their skills in preparing, undertaking and navigating a trip safely.

Each programme has included a visit to a sporting event while in Adelaide and now that the football season was underway it seemed a good idea to introduce the trainees to the wonderful game of Australian

Rules football. They were lucky, because what was promising to be one of the games of the season, Port Adelaide versus Collingwood (a team from Melbourne), was to be played while they were in Adelaide. Collingwood had surprisingly knocked Port Adelaide (known as "the Power") out of the 2003 finals and went on to lose the grand finalists to the Brisbane Lions, so emotions were sure to be high. Seats were secured for the match, played on a Sunday at Adelaide's famous AAMI Stadium. Trainees were told that the chief executive of AFA was a "one-eyed" Power supporter, so any cheering for Collingwood would be severely frowned upon and the rules of the game explained! The end result was that the Power won, the chief executive

was ecstatic, and the trainees surely went away knowing that Aussie Rules is a far superior game to rugby!

The programme moved to the Port Lincoln campus at the beginning of May, taking the trainees by road to their new home so they could see some of the South Australian scenery and the beginning of the outback, which is such a contrast to their own tropical islands. They were again accommodated on the waterfront in the marina complex, where they were able to watch at close quarters the movements of the local fishing fleet. AFA and SPC believe this interaction with Australia's largest and most diverse fishing fleet is a vital part of the traineeship programme and allows the trainees to be right in the middle of some of the busiest and most successful fisheries in the country.

The Port Lincoln part of the programme began with a look at local fishing vessels, processing factories and aquaculture farms. The advantage of Port Lincoln as a



Tara Une (Cook Islands) at the helm of the Australian Fisheries Academy training vessel, MV Tucana.

magnificent seafood industry training centre was again highlighted, with trainees able to see at first hand a broad spectrum of fishing, aquaculture and seafood processing methods. This two-week section of the programme consisted of training in vessel handling, fishing techniques, electronic fish finding, seafood handling and fisheries management including environmental issues, now such a critical aspect of all fisheries-related training. AFA staff were able to use the newly developed SPC training resources for protected marine species as part of the programme and reported very favourably on the professionalism, relevance and usefulness of the material.

A graduation barbecue for the trainees was held on the boardwalk at the Marina Hotel on 20 May, where the graduates celebrated the end of the campus-based component of the 2004 programme with AFA staff and local fishers, and were presented with an AFA/SPC Pacific Island Fisher's certificate as well as Sea Safety, First Aid and Navigation Workshop certificates of completion.

The trainees were then ready to join their Australian fishing vessels which, as always, are selected to represent a similar fishery to the one they fish in at home. Because all the trainees this time worked in longline fisheries, Mooloolaba on Queensland's east coast was

the chosen port for work experience. The longline fleet here work very much to moon phases so the programme was timed so that the trainees arrived in Mooloolaba just before the fleet put to sea again. Rusty Strickland, who had been working in Papua New Guinea for four years on the AusAID-funded National Fisheries College Strengthening Project, was now based near Mooloolaba and joined the AFA team as mentor and liaison person for the trainees while they undertook their work experience.

The third traineeship has again been a great success with trainees doing well in their training at the AFA campuses and so further developing their skills as commercial fishers. The experience they gained through working in the Australian fishing industry and seeing first-hand how Australian vessels operate will be of great benefit to the fishing industry in their own countries. As with the first two groups of trainees, they were enthusiastic and committed, and they demonstrated a great desire to learn new skills. The feedback from the host employers in Mooloolaba was excellent, and they repeated the thoughts of AFA staff that the trainees represented their countries admirably, applied themselves well to their tasks and would be welcome back at any time.



Trainees Marakia Karakaua (Kiribati), "Pa" Pokina (Cook Islands), Simon Salesa (Tuvalu), Kepera Ovau (PNG) and Tara Une (Cook Islands) relaxing on board the Australian Fisheries Academy training vessel, MV Tucana.



Kepera Ovau (PNG) plotting a course aboard the Australian Fisheries Academy training vessel, MV Tucana.



Trainees Simon Salesa (Tuvalu), “Pa” Pokina (Cook Islands), Kepera Ovau (PNG), Tara Une (Cook Islands) and Marakia Karakaua (Kiribati) outside their waterfront unit in the Port Lincoln marina complex.



Trainees “Pa” Pokina (Cook Islands), Simon Salesa (Tuvalu), Marakia Karakaua (Kiribati), Tara Une (Cook Islands) and Kepera Ovau (PNG) outside the Australian Fisheries Academy campus in the Port Lincoln fishing vessel marina.



Simon Salesa (Tuvalu) and Marakia Karakaua (Kiribati) on board their host longliner in Mooloolaba before departing for seagoing work experience.





AROUND THE TRAINING AND EDUCATION CENTRES



Specialised Training Course for Fishing Vessel Engineers

Course Coordinator's Report for SPC Fisheries Training Section

Background

Early in 2001, an SPC Fisheries Training Section survey identified the need for a short training course for marine engineers working in the private sector of the Pacific region fishing industry. The shortage of skilled marine engineers is a worldwide problem, but in the Pacific it is a major problem in the challenges faced by medium and large-scale fishing enterprises.

By increasing the skills base in marine engineering in the region, courses such as this should help improve the engineering infrastructure, consolidate and improve the sustainability of the private sector and thus improve employment opportunities for Pacific peoples, reduce the dependency on foreign engineering expertise, and promote marine engineering as a career in the Pacific.

The topics covered in the course are not currently taught at the two main engineering training institutions in Papua New Guinea and Fiji. By selecting tutors from these organisations this type of training should be more effective in the future.

Planning

The aim of the training programme was to provide twelve Pacific Island marine engineers with sufficient skills to confidently operate and maintain hydraulic, refrigeration and electrical systems on board the fishing vessels operated by their company.

The New Zealand School of Fisheries (NZSOF) in Nelson was asked to expand its existing short courses in these areas into a five-week course targeted at the needs of fishing industries of the Pacific Islands. Nelson was chosen also because of the existence of a marine engineering cluster, or infrastructure, servicing the fishing (and related marine) industry.

Nelson is one of the major marine repair ports in NZ. Around 25 marine and general engineering firms in

Nelson generate NZD80m turnover with over 500 full-time staff. Support companies generate NZD40m turnover with around 250 full-time staff.

Selection of trainees

This task was undertaken by the Fisheries Training Section of the Coastal Fisheries Programme, Marine Resources Division, in Noumea. The target group was defined as existing vessel and shore engineers from those medium-size and large-size, locally-owned fishing companies currently operating in the SPC region. It was also expected that the two major engineering training organisations in the region, National Fisheries College in Kavieng (PNG) and the Fiji Maritime Institute in Suva, would also supply applicants.

The course was extensively advertised throughout the region, using government official contacts and the networks SPC has established with medium-to-large scale fishing companies in the Pacific.

Mindful of its equal opportunity obligations, SPC used its Pacific Women's Bureau as well as its Women in Fisheries network to encourage female candidates to apply. A female staff member of SPC's Marine Resources Division was also asked to be a member of the course selection panel.

Course design

A key component of the course was the work placements. For the course to be a success, the cooperation of the local marine engineering cluster was vital. From mid-2003, meetings were held between NZSOF staff and local marine engineering and seafood companies to see whether they were interested in taking trainees into their workplaces.

From this stage on, it was clear that cooperation from local enterprises would be forthcoming and, in fact, all companies approached were willing to support the course in whatever way they could. Many of the firms spoken to already had long-established relationships with fishing companies in the Pacific region. In some

cases this was through working in-country and in other instances it was a result of survey and refit work that Pacific-based vessels had done in Nelson. All those spoken to recognised the potential benefits in strengthening contacts with Pacific Island fishing businesses. It was decided to begin the course with a block of class-based tuition so that relationships could be established, trainees could become used to the surroundings, and the course tutor could evaluate everyone's individual needs and current experience. The final design of the classroom-based content was based on this initial evaluation, and the aim was to build on this through work-placements and subsequent classroom sessions. The idea was that NZSOF would provide the learning opportunities, the trainees and tutor would decide on the content and level of difficulty of the class-based sessions, and the trainee would choose between class or workplace-based learning. In general terms, the trainees were given the task of evaluating their progress in their chosen workplace and choosing when to return to class or attend another workplace. At all times, NZSOF staff kept in touch with the companies involved.

The course

Michel Blanc, SPC's Fisheries Education and Training Adviser, arrived in Nelson on 25 October to welcome trainees and help them settle in to Franklyn Hall. The first trainees arrived on the Friday and arrivals continued until the following Monday. The smoothness of this process was due to the excellent pre-course planning and preparation done by the Fisheries Training Section staff, and the NZSOF would like to thank those responsible. It was clear from the start that the calibre of those selected would go a long way in ensuring the success of the course. We are also grateful to the staff at Franklyn Hall for the way they welcomed the guests, helped them settle in and made sure that their stay in Nelson was a pleasant one.

The course content is described in more detail in the tutor's report so will not be repeated here. Briefly, apart from the first week when everyone was based at the School of Fisheries, the day started with the

trainees being picked up at Franklyn Hall before 08.00 hr. Those who were on work placements would be driven to work for an 8.00 a.m. or 08.30 hr start, then the bus would drop the remaining students at the School of Fisheries in time for class to begin at 8.30 a.m. Students had an hour for lunch before beginning the afternoon session at 1.00 p.m. At around 4.00 p.m., the bus would return trainees to the hall of residence and pick up students at their place of work (if they weren't doing overtime!).

Social activities

The course was opened on the morning of Monday 29 with a whakatua (greeting) from NMIT kaiwhakahaere (leader), Trevor Wilson and a short welcoming address from the head of the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology, Dr Neil Barns.

As the course progressed, the participants enjoyed formal and informal so-

cial activities. At the end of the first week, everyone was invited by NMIT kai takawaenga (learning supporter) Taitamariki Mihaere to a fono hosted by the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology, where leaders of the local Pacific Island community welcomed the visitors. The group was also invited to attend a local Samoan wedding to be held the following day.

Two mid-week evening barbecues were held at the Boathouse. On the second weekend, the group visited the Nelson Lakes National Park in the hope of seeing some snow. Another Saturday excursion involved taking the *Exhilarator* to Mapua where we visited the aquarium and bought some smoked fish. Bernard Bua tried life as a commercial fisherman and went out on the Guards fisheries vessel *Dorothy May* for a day, dredging for scallops and mussels.

The whole group toured Sanford Havelock's NZD15m mussel processing plant and made a close inspection of two of their vessels, the new harvester *San Nikau* and the *Pelorus Trader*, on the slip for its annual survey. The visit to Havelock finished with a light meal of green-shell mussels at the Mussel Boys' Restaurant. Another shellfish plant we visited was Sealord Shellfish where



we were shown over the refrigeration plant and engineering support services.

The farewell dinner and presentation of certificates was held in Le Restaurant, where students from the School of Hospitality and Tourism catered and served a delicious meal to trainees, NZSOF staff and guests.

Conclusion

From the comments received, it is clear that the course was a success. Much of this is due to the willingness of local companies to be involved, and the NZSOF would like to thank them for this assistance. The main thanks, though, must go to the participants themselves, for their enthusiasm, their sense of humour and the cheerful way they took part in all activities.

The New Zealand School of Fisheries would like to thank the staff of the following organisations for their generous support of the course and its participants:

Amaltal Fishing Company Limited
 Challenge Marine Limited
 Electronic Navigation Limited
 Fluid Power Solutions Limited
 Marine and General Ltd
 Nalder and Biddle (Nelson) Limited
 Sanford (Havelock) Limited
 Rzoska Electrical
 Sealord Group
 Sturrock and Greenwood Limited

Alec Woods
Course Coordinator



International Fisheries Law short course

Purpose

The course is designed to acquaint government, industry and NGO Fisheries personnel with contemporary and emerging issues in international fisheries law. Emphasis will be placed on the policy implementation options under the various international fisheries instruments.

Venue and time

To be held at the Centre for Maritime Policy, University of Wollongong over the week of 25-29 October 2004.

Course fee

The course fee is AUD 1650 (includes 10% GST).

If you require further information, please contact Professor Martin at:

tsamenyi@uow.edu.au
 Tel: +61 2 4221 3224
 Fax: +61 2 4221 5544



Course programme :**Monday, 25th October 2004**

Setting the Scene - Overview of Global Fisheries - Challenges of Sustainability

- Status of global fisheries
- Policy drivers
- Key Actors

Overview of the International Legal Framework for Fisheries

- Fisheries Specific binding global Instruments
- Fisheries Specific global policy Instruments
- Multilateral Environmental Instruments Impacting on Fisheries
- Trade related Instruments
- Fishing vessel safety and crewing

The Fisheries Regime Under the UN Law of the Sea Convention

- Fisheries in maritime zones under sovereignty
- Fisheries in maritime zones under sovereign rights
- Fisheries on the high seas
- Gaps in the Law of the Sea regime

Species Specific Obligations under International Law

- Straddling Stocks
- Shared stocks
- Highly Migratory Species
- Anadromous Stocks
- Catadromous Stocks

Tuesday, 26th October 2004

Post Law of the Sea Responses

- Agenda 21 (Chapter 17)
- FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
- FAO Compliance Agreement
- UN Fish Stocks Agreement

Legal Aspects Governing Fisheries Data

- Role of data in fisheries management
- Data obligations under international instruments
- FAO's Role (FAO Statistical Areas)
- Implementation issues and challenges

Fisheries Ecosystem Management

- Requirements under fisheries specific instruments

- Requirements under conservation Instruments
- Policy Challenges and Options
- Emerging Issues

Implementing Flag State Responsibilities

- The Concept
- Historical Evolution
- The Obligations
- Policy Options
- Legal Strategies
- Case Studies of implementation options

Wednesday, 27th October 2004

Regional Fisheries Organisations

- Historical background
- Types of Regional Fisheries Organizations
- Management
- Scientific
- Policy coordination/harmonization
- Issues
- Species coverage
- Geographical coverage
- Management measures
- Decision-making

“ Involving Fishing Entities”

- The Concept
- Historical Context
- Comparative Application
- CCSBT
- WCPTC
- IATTC
- ICCAT
- Policy Implementation Issues

Fish Trade

- The GATT/WTO legal framework
- Fisheries Subsidies
- Trade and Environmental issues
- Non-Tariff Barriers

Fisheries Certification Schemes

- Types of “Certification Schemes”
- Case Study of Marine Stewardship Council's Certification Scheme
- Policy Issues with Certification

Thursday, 28th October 2004

Fishing Vessel Safety and Crewing

- The Torremolinos International Convention 1997

- ILO Conventions
- Implementation Issues
- Fisheries Enforcement Framework under International Law
- Coastal State fisheries prescriptive jurisdiction
- Coastal State fisheries enforcement jurisdiction
- Safeguards for foreigners
- Enforcement framework under the UN Fish Stocks Agreement
- Bilateral and multilateral cooperation
- Jurisprudence of the Law of the Sea Tribunal
- Policy issues

Fisheries Monitoring

Satellite Vessel Monitoring Systems

- Position reporting
- Catch monitoring
- Legal issues

Observer Programmes

- Compliance monitoring
- Scientific information
- Monitoring by-catch
- Legal issues

Port Sampling

- Legal Issues
- Implementation Issues

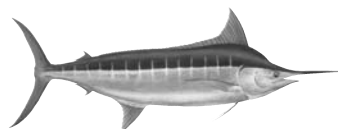
Friday, 29th October 2004

Combating IUU Fishing

- The concept of IUU fishing and historical development
- The nature of the problem
- The third party rule
- Flags of convenience
- Measures to combat IUU fishing
- Port State Measures
- Market Measures
- Case studies of national implementation
- Implementation Challenges

Fisheries Dispute Settlement

- Fisheries dispute settlement under the Law of the Sea Convention
- Fisheries dispute settlement under Regional Fisheries Organizations
- Emerging judicial trends



Australian Maritime College Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Environment

Graduate School of Marine Resource Management

Remaining short courses for 2004

Indigenous and Customary Sea Use Issues and Fisheries Management short courses were held in March and May and were both highly rated by the 23 participants.

The remaining courses scheduled for this year will include Marine Resource Management and Fisheries Surveillance and Compliance as additions to the original schedule for 2004.

Date	Course	Cost (NZD)
23 August–3 September (10 days)	Marine Resource Management*	\$2900
8–12 November (5 days)	Managing Seafood Quality and Safety	\$1650
22–26 November (5 days)	Fisheries Stock Assessment — Towards an ecosystem approach	\$1650
29 November–3 December (5 days)	Fisheries Surveillance and Compliance	\$1650

*This course is designed as an introduction to Marine Resource Management and may be used as a bridging course for entry to the Graduate School of Marine Resource Management's MBA Programme (participants will need to successfully complete the course assessments applicable at the time, for entry to the programme).

Fees for the Beauty Point courses include course folder and materials, tuition, morning and afternoon teas and lunches, airport transfers.

The following courses will also be offered if sufficient interest is generated:

- 1) Aquaculture Management, Policy and Planning Ecosystem Effects of Fishing
- 2) Social Context of Marine Resource Management Recreational Fisheries Management

Participants completing a short course (other than Marine Resource Management/Fisheries Management) who later decide to enrol in the MBA Programme may be eligible for recognition of prior learning (RPL) — please contact the External Coordinator for further information.

Organisations registering more than one participant for short courses can get a discount on the fee. For leaflets and registration forms please contact the External Coordinator — Ruth Holt, via email on R.Holt@fme.amc.edu.au or tel. (03) 6335 4445 or fax (03) 6335 4459.

Note: While we will try to run the courses as scheduled, dates may change.



South Epi welcomes Vanuatu Maritime College training

The year 2004 has been declared the "Year of Fisheries" in Vanuatu, and fishers on the island of Epi were keen to mark this year as a special one by inviting the Vanuatu Maritime College (VMC) to organise training for them.

At the request of Kalo Joseph, Secretary of the South Epi Fishermen's Association, three VMC instructors and the VMC training vessel *Etelis* were at Redstone Village on South Epi from 14–26 June to train 32 members of the association.

Fishing is an important source of income for the South Epi people, who export their fish to the capital, Port Vila. They will soon have an ice-making machine installed at their Fisheries Centre and they were anxious to upgrade their skills in preparation for its arrival.

The trainees were divided into two classes. One concentrated on fishing techniques, fish handling and preservation. The other focused on safety at sea, and boat and engine maintenance and repair. All the trainees attended sessions on record-keeping and resource management, and all took part in practical fishing trips.

There are good fishing grounds close to South Epi (including a submarine volcano that surfaces occasion-

ally). Nare Wolu, the fishing instructor, helped the trainees take soundings so that they could identify the very best places to fish. During their practical training they caught sizeable amounts of fish, including yellowfin and dogtooth tuna, rainbow runners, sea perches, snappers, a sailfish and three sharks. Sharks are not eaten much in Vanuatu, but the South Epi trainees learnt how to prepare them for consumption both cooked and raw, and found them quite tasty.

South Epi people have a variety of Honda, Mariner and Yamaha outboard engines. August Fred, the engineering instructor, helped trainees learn how to service these engines and do basic repairs. Most outboard engines in Vanuatu are two-strokes, but South Epi has a 40HP four-stroke Honda that provided an interesting new aspect to the practical training.

Boat maintenance and repair were important parts of the course too. Guided by Soti William, the nautical instructor, trainees cleaned, repaired and painted three fibreglass and two aluminium boats.

Instructors and trainees thoroughly enjoyed the course. VMC takes this chance to thank the people of South Epi, and especially Kalo Joseph, for their excellent practical organisation and their friendly hospitality.

What next?

After the South Epi course, plans had been made to run a course on Motalava Island in the Banks Group. For reasons unrelated to fishing training, this was cancelled at the last minute by the people of Motalava.

The fishing training team will not be idle, however. Between August and November they will be conducting courses on Ifira Island (close to Port Vila), Ambrym in September, Tongoa and on Paama Islands.



New Zealand School of Fisheries — Certificate in Aquaculture Technology



A 20-week course in Nelson starting 26 July, ending 6 December 2004

The Certificate in Aquaculture Technology will introduce you to the aquaculture industry and provide you with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in this innovative and fast-growing sector of the seafood industry. Students who successfully gain the unit standards will receive the National Certificate in Seafood (Aquaculture) Level 2.

The course cost for 2004 is NZD2727.00 (including tax) plus student association fee. Student loans and allowances are available through WINZ and hostel accommodation can be arranged.

The programme emphasises:

- the basic skills and knowledge necessary to begin a career in aquaculture
- safe work practices and risk management in the workplace
- the need for marine farming to be environmentally sustainable
- the importance of food safety in the seafood industry
- career paths in the aquaculture industry and opportunities for ongoing training.

Full-time work-based training in processing facilities and marine farms provide you with an opportunity to make contacts in industry that may lead to permanent employment.

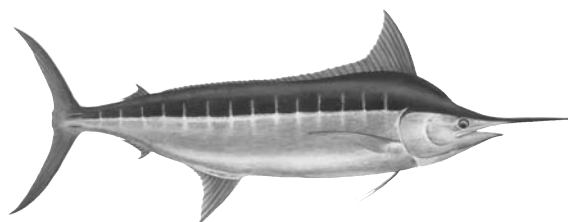
This intensive programme consists of six courses:

1. **Biology of Cultured Species** — introduces you to the biology of mussels, salmon, oysters and paua.

2. **Workplace Safety in the Seafood Industry** — will provide you with basic skills in first aid, occupational health and safety, sea survival, firefighting and work on and around commercial vessels.
3. **The Aquaculture Industry in NZ** — outlines the industries that have grown up around the four main commercial species while stressing the importance of environmental “best practice”.
4. **Introduction to Seafood Quality and Spoilage** — highlights the importance of producing safe food through an appreciation of proper handling, knowledge of spoilage factors and the use of hygienic work practices.
5. **Use of Ropes in Aquaculture** — introduces you to the properties and use of ropes used in aquaculture activities.
6. **Use of Technology on a Vessel** — provides you with a hands-on introduction to the wide range of systems and equipment such as cranes, pumps, hydraulics, small motors and hand -tools, deck equipment, communications and computer technologies.

For more information of the Certificate in Aquaculture Technology in 2004 contact:

Alec Woods, Julie Cohen
 New Zealand School of Fisheries
 Private Bag 19
 Nelson
 Tel: 03 546 2477 Fax: 03 546 2456
 Email : fisheries@nmit.ac.nz



Fisheries Module Report 2004

Introduction

The Fisheries Module was piloted in 1999 and has since become an elective component of the CETC programme. The module was developed collaboratively by the University of the South Pacific's (USP) Marine Studies Program (MSP), and SPC's Community Fisheries Unit, with funding from the Canada-South Pacific Ocean Development Program (C-SPOD-

PII) and AusAID. The goal of the module is to improve the handling and processing of inshore and nearshore marine resources for subsistence and artisanal fishers in the Pacific Islands region. Nine CETC trainees undertook the Fisheries Module from 19 to 23 July 2004.

Facilitators

The facilitators are shown in the table below:

Facilitator	Area of expertise
Tony Chamberlain Post Harvest Fisheries, MSP, USP	Seafood handling and hygiene, seafood-borne diseases, seafood processing, seafood quality, value-added products.
Aliti Vunisea Community Fisheries Officer, SPC	Gender in coastal fisheries, business, marketing, and developing a community fisheries program.
Jone Maiwelagi Fisheries Officer, MSP, USP	Gear technology (making and repairing gear e.g. hook and line, nets and traps); fishing techniques (beach seining, etc.).
Johnson Seeto Marine Biologist, MSP, USP	Marine biology and identification of marine organisms.
Jope Lesavua Seafood Technician, MSP, USP	Seafood processing (drying, smoking), practical preparation.



Resource implications

The USP community fisheries training booklets were used and made available to all trainees by courtesy of CETC. Other teaching resources made available from USP and SPC included training videos, posters, reports, information sheets and readers. CETC paid for consumables and MSP resources (boats, seafood processing facilities, etc.)

Workshop activities

The theory and practical sessions were carried out at USP. Class work was mostly group activities with some formal lectures and presentation.

The field trip was enjoyed by all. Trainees gained considerable knowledge of marine organisms and developed competency in fishing techniques and associated skills. Trainees wanted more time on the field trip so that they could collect sea plants.

A large variety of seafood was made in the Post Harvest Fish Laboratory and Seafood Village including lots of sashimi, and smoked and dried fish. Both of the seafood processing prototypes (i.e. a solar drier, biomass altona smoker) were used. Many

seafood recipes were developed. The recipe books were not followed closely, and instead, everyone was encouraged to produce their own recipes from their country given the seafood they had collected on the fishing trip and the other available ingredients. The idea here was to encourage "recipe transfer". Everyone enjoyed testing the food at the end of the day. Important lessons on handling and hygiene were stressed and the microbial tests proved conclusively the need to handle seafood cleanly.

Resource people

Tony Chamberlain, Seafood Lecturer, USP [TC]
Johnson Seeto, Marine Biologist, USP [JS]
Jope Lesavua, Seafood Technician, USP [JL]

Aliti Vunisea, Community Fisheries, SPC [AV]
Jone Maiwelagi, Fisheries Officer, USP [JM]

Prepared by Tony Chamberlain 31 July 2004

Marine Studies Program,
University of the South Pacific
Tel: (679) 321 2949,
Fax: 330 1490,
email: chamberlain@usp.ac.fj



Evaluation of Fisheries Module - CETC 2004						
Component	Tick one box for each component				⊗	Comments
	1.		1.			
Organization			3		5	Good. Theory in mornings and practicals in afternoon only.
Facilitators			1		7	Good, clear presentation (4), understandable, very flexible, very good, excellent group work facilitation.
Introduction			3		5	Clear (2). Not enough time.
Fishing (Skills Gear, Methods)			2	2	4	Very interesting, excellent, very important. Need more time, more on destructive methods.
Field Trip to Reef	1	1	1		5	Leant a lot, very good. Too short, more time, needs 4 hrs, need 6 to 8 hours, did not get to collect sea plants.
Nutrition					8	Learnt a lot (2) important, excellent, very very interesting.
Spoilage and Disease					8	Important, good and clear, educational.
Processing			2		6	Now I can help women in my country, understandable, good, very interesting.
Seafood Practicals			1		7	Learnt a lot (3), good and clear. Session too short.
Packaging and Quality			6		2	Understandable, good. Should have a practical on this.
Business Development and				2	6	Now I know how to teach this, good, very interesting. Need more time.

NB: Bring reef-walking footwear for Tuesday's field trip Low tide on 20 July 2004 is late afternoon



SPC FISHERIES TRAINING ACTIVITIES



Fisheries Training Section — in brief

- Section staff have recently assisted the Vanuatu Maritime College (VMC) with the development of a website dedicated to this training institution. At the start of this project, the website design was agreed on, then, using the information and pictures provided by VMC, “meat” was gradually added to the “bones”. Currently, and until the college finds a local host server, the final website is accessible via the SPC homepage (<http://www.spc.int/coastfish/Sections/training/institutions/VMC/index.htm>). Other fisheries training institutions who would like help in website development should contact section staff.
- With funding assistance from the Commonwealth Secretariat, the section is undertaking a needs assessment for implementing business planning and management training in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. This follows the successful introduction of the Start and Improve Your Fisheries Business (SIYFB) training programme in Papua New Guinea. The training programme consists of two courses focusing on business awareness, planning and management. Using the ILO Global SIYB programme training materials, indigenous knowledge of PNG coastal fishing communities as well as technical and socioeconomic information on PNG’s fisheries sector, the SIYFB programme was jointly developed by the National Fisheries College (NFC) and the small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) of Papua New Guinea, and delivered to 183 trainees in seven coastal provinces. The intention of the current project is to consider the possible application of the PNG training model to the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in a joint initiative between the Commonwealth Secretariat, SPC and NFC. We’ll have more on this project in the next issue.
- The “turtle-friendly fishing boat” stickers have been printed and widely distributed in the region. Available in English and French, the stickers are our training section’s latest touch to its awareness campaign on the bycatch issue in tuna longlining. The resource materials now include some guidelines for safely releasing hooked turtles (available as a poster, a sticker or a laminated card), the marine turtle identification cards, and the recently released manual on protected marine species. The next item will be the shark identification cards which should be printed and distributed by the end of 2004. It is now up to the national training institutions to introduce a module on ‘protected marine species’ into their courses for local fishers. In addition, fisheries administrations have a key role to play in making sure that SPC awareness materials to their fishing industry are spread widely around. Last but not least, observer programmes can use the materials as part of their training and at-sea activities. If you are interested in these materials, contact section staff.
- The section is facilitating a series of individual training attachments. Some fishing vessel engineers and skippers from Nauru and the Solomon Islands will soon sit for mandatory certificates in Fiji (Nauru) and Honiara. Limited funds are still available at the section if a company or a fisheries administration wishes to train one of their staff locally or overseas. If the training is identified as a priority, the section will help on a cost-sharing basis.
- Niue Fisheries has recently approached the training section for help in setting up a competent authority to monitor the quality and export of local seafood. The first major fish-processing operation on the island will start its operations soon, making the development of a competent authority a priority.
- As a follow up to recent small-vessel safety initiatives, the section will run a session at the forthcoming Heads of Fisheries meeting (30 August 30–3 September). What we’d like from the session are an indication of support for a possible FAO/SPC small-vessel safety project, and the identification of national commitment and likely drivers. More on sea safety in the next issue!

2004 Nelson Training Course

This year's SPC/Nelson Polytechnic Fisheries Officers Training Course started at the New Zealand School of Fisheries on Monday 26 January. Ten trainees from nine countries attended the course. The practical fishing component was run in New Caledonia and the topics were broad in scope and made full use of SPC's fisheries programmes and other institutions in New Caledonia.

Trainees had two weeks of exposure to SPC's fisheries programmes and projects, and four weeks of practical fishing experience (longlining, bottom fishing, trolling, catch processing and marketing). Fishing operations were run in Koumac, in the Northern Province of New Caledonia, from 7 June to 2 July. As in recent years, this practical training was coordinated by the staff of SPC's Fisheries Training Section with technical and teaching inputs from Steve Beverly and William Sokimi (SPC's Fisheries Development Section), staff from the local fisheries department, and the captains and fishing masters of F/V *Dar Mad*. Articles about the 2004 practical fishing module can be found in this issue. In addition, courses on basic scuba training and safe diving practice awareness were added to the field component.

A training attachment was organised for William Aruhane, the new fishing instructor of the school of marine and fisheries studies in Solomon Islands. The purpose of the attachment was to familiarise the fishing instructor with small-scale fishing techniques used in the South Pacific. William was attached to the Field Component as an associate tutor and also acted as fishing master from time to time.

The 2004 course ended on Friday, 9 July, in New Caledonia, where students completed practical fishing component of the course. During the 24-week programme, our trainees gained sound experience and skills that they will undoubtedly pass on to fisher-folks in their home countries.

The SPC Fisheries Training Section wishes good luck to the 2004 students. We also thank all the institutions and individuals involved in both the Nelson and practical fishing modules. From SPC's point of view, Koumac proved to be an ideal venue for the best group of trainees in many years. Let's hope the donor community will continue to see the benefits of such a great training course.



PROCFish/C presents its work to the Nelson Course students

In the first week of July, Nelson Training course students spent three days working closely with staff from SPC's PROCFish Coastal project. Formal presentations on the methodology of resource data were made in the training room, where participants learnt the various methods and tools used to census fish, invertebrates and habitats.

Adopting an interactive approach, Mecki Kronen moderated a session of brainstorming discussions on the rationale (why?), framework (what?), user group (for whom?), methods (how?) and endpoints of designing, implementing and analyzing socioeconomic fisheries surveys. Case studies from the DemEcoFish and PROCFish/C socioeconomic fisheries manual project were used to demonstrate the need to determine minimum data set required and the most efficient methodological approach. Each participant was provided with a fictitious data-set in socioeconomic fisheries questionnaire survey format.

The socioeconomic session was particularly appreciated by those participants who are or will be involved in the design or implementation of fisheries surveys. It is likely that some participants will be counterparts of PROCFish/C's future socioeconomic field studies. An introduction to relational databases and database design was given by Franck Magron, who gave practical exercises using MS Access and a module specifically developed for hands-on training in entering, processing, and retrieval of the fictitious socioeconomic data-sets.

These exercises were aimed at providing participants with a better understanding of how databases are structured and why; and how they can be used conjointly with spreadsheets for data analysis.

A final session was devoted to using MapInfo to display and query data. A hands-on training exercise on survey techniques used to census finfish and invertebrates was demonstrated at Ilot Canard, a small island not far

offshore from Noumea. In the field, participants were split into groups and taken through in-water routines of surveying and recording fish, invertebrates and habitats.

The Niue participant expressed his excitement in being exposed to field survey techniques, emphasizing the importance of being skilled in “hands on” tech-

niques, when help is sought from Fisheries Officers to devise or assist in survey work. Samasoni Sauni and Pierre Boblin helped with the in-water demonstrations for finfish census, while Kim Friedman worked on invertebrate training.



Tuna handling workshops in Rarotonga and Aitutaki

In March, SPC's Fisheries Training Adviser travelled to the Cook Islands following a request from the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR). The purpose of the visit was to train new recruits in the onboard handling of sashimi-grade tunas. A series of similar workshops had been organised in August 2002, at the beginning of the tuna longline development in the Cooks.

The initial request was for workshops on tuna handling for vessel crew as well as hands-on training for local tuna graders. Due to present poor catches it was decided to postpone the latter and organise a visit by a professional grader from Fiji Islands at a later stage, when supply of tunas required for the practical grading demonstrations is more steady. In March, fishing was so poor that most longliners were tied up to wharves. This poor fishing period, on the other hand, was a good time for training vessel crew, as most if not all of them were available to attend the workshops.

Three workshops have been run in Rarotonga at the School of Maritime and Fisheries. This was a good venue with all the necessary equipment and audio visual aids (TV/VCR, overhead projector, white board, slide projector).

First workshop (Tuesday 2 March)

This was an introduction to grading for 13 staff of local processing plants (Blue Pacific and Cook Island Fish Export). The same persons are earmarked to attend the tuna grading demonstrations by a professional grader from Fiji Islands, later in the year. This introductory workshop included a presentation of tuna marketing in Japan, onboard handling procedures and the key grading factors. The handling process was demonstrated on a medium-size yellowfin tuna.

Second workshop (Wednesday 3 March)

This workshop was attended by 20 longline vessel crew, 3 boat owners and 3 staff of the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR). The workshop focused on proper onboard handling procedures, including practical demonstrations.



Tuna longliner in Avatiu (Rarotonga)



A good catch by MMR staff

Third workshop (Wednesday 10 March)

This additional workshop was requested by the Ministry to target small-scale fishermen and thus keep this important sector as part of current developments. The workshop was attended by nine participants, including the most active poti-marara operators of the Aravua area, as well as the owner/operator of a small take-away shop (in fact, the main buyer of fish caught by poti-marara vessels). According to MMR, the quality of fish landed varies greatly and is often poor (no ice carried onboard). It is hoped that having both the fishermen and their main buyer at the training will have an impact on the quality of fish supplied by the former.

Aitutaki workshop (Monday 8 March)

This workshop targeted local small-scale FAD fishermen as well as the crew of the sole commercial longliner operating from the island: in all, 16 trainees. Two large yellowfin tunas were used for the hands-on demonstration.

The turn-out for the workshops (64 trainees) was excellent and has exceeded everyone's expectations (in fact four sessions have been run instead of the two initially planned). It is hoped this training will have an impact on the quality of tunas landed in the Cook Islands.



Aitutaki fisherman "spiking" a tuna through its soft spot



Participants watching a SPC tuna handling video during Aitutaki workshop

A manual aimed at raising awareness on the bycatch issue

The bycatch issue in the longline tuna fishery — the accidental catching on longlines of endangered and protected species, particularly turtles — is one that could eventually result in the loss of important markets for tuna from Pacific Island countries. The protection of threatened species and the Pacific Island longline fishery require both awareness and cooperation actions on bycatch. Mindful that a proactive approach was required, SPC's Coastal Fisheries Programme has developed a series of resource materials targeting fisheries managers, longline vessel operators and crew members. Following the production and wide distribution of an informative leaflet (*Tuna longlining – The bycatch issue*) by the Fisheries Development Section in 2002, the Training Section has promoted some guidelines for releasing hooked turtles (poster, laminated card, sticker) and produced pocket-size identification cards for the seven species of marine turtles.

While the quality of the above materials is non-questionable, it was felt their use could be greatly facilitated if fisheries training institutions in the region could introduce a module on the bycatch issue as part of their ongoing courses for vessel crew and skippers. This

concept was presented to participants of the 2003 meeting of the Association of Pacific Island Maritime Training Institutions and Maritime Authorities (APIM-TIMA) and it received strong support. Subsequently, a funding proposal for the production and distribution of a training manual was submitted to NZAID's Pacific Initiative for the Environment. The proposal was finally approved in September last year.

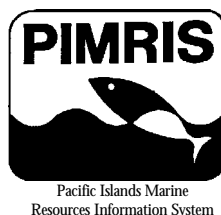
The manual, "Protected marine species and the tuna longline fishery in the Pacific Islands", which was written by marine biologist Dr Mike King, is more than just a resource for trainers. It provides information on many facets of the bycatch issue, which will be of interest to all persons involved or interested in the fisheries sector in the Pacific Islands region. In addition to the manual, training institutions will receive a CD-ROM containing illustrations to be printed (for hand-outs or transparencies) or used as slides during classroom projections.

It is hoped the manual, together with the other materials previously released, will contribute to raising the awareness of Pacific Island fishermen on the bycatch issue, for their benefit and that of protected marine species.



The training manual was written by marine biologist Dr Mike King and is intended for all persons involved or interested in the fisheries sector in the Pacific Islands region

PIMRIS is a joint project of four international organisations concerned with fisheries and marine resource development in the Pacific Islands region. The project is executed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the University of the South Pacific's Pacific Information Centre (USP-PIC), and the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC). This bulletin is produced by SPC as part of its commitment to PIMRIS. The aim of PIMRIS is to improve the availability



of information on marine resources to users in the region, so as to support their rational development and management. PIMRIS activities include: collection, cataloguing and archiving of technical documents, especially ephemera ("grey literature"); evaluation, repackaging and dissemination of information; provision of literature searches, question-and-answer services and bibliographic support; and assistance with the development of in-country reference collections and databases on marine resources.