Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Fellowship
Fellowship Report
FFA Secretariat, Honiara, Solomon Islands, 13 - 23 June 2005

Mr Feleti Tulafono, Department of Fisheries, Tokelau. This MCS Fellowship was supported by the Government of New Zealand through NZAID.

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FEELWISHIP REPORT

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Introduction

The Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) fellowship was aimed at getting MCS personnel from the FFA members to the FFA Secretariat to study MCS topics that will help them in drawing up measures for their own domestic MCS programs. The FFA Secretariat has in place an MCS Program from which FFA members can derive their own MCS programs.

In this fellowship, the intention was to:

(a) obtain a more complete understanding of the operation of the FFA VMS as it applies to Tokelau; and

(b) conduct historical analysis of fishing operations in the Tokelau EEZ since March 1999 based on data contained in the FFA VMS database.

FFA VMS Training

FFA VMS staff provided training to me in the following areas:

1 Track Explorer – plotting ship positions, creating snapshots whereby reports of vessels found within TK EEZ could be written and presented to the proper authorities for further processing.

2 ReportSmith – designing queries to enable authorized officers to extract from their local database data of any vessel found within their respective EEZ.

3 ISP(Internet Service Provider)Connection – going to the internet and connecting to FFA server in order to download data of Member Country EEZ.

4 Rebuilding VMS – Re-setting the VMS machine if and when machine crashes or if it encounters some major problems.

5 Database – a session was conducted by Database staff regarding the usefulness of having a database, how to set it up, how information can be grouped and stored for easy retrieval.

6 Registration VMS/FFA Regional – a session was also conducted by Registration staff with explanations on the differences between VMS and FFA Registrations and how each registrations are processed and issued.

Historical analysis of vessel operations in the Tokelau EEZ

From analysis of the vessel position data for the Tokelau EEZ in the FFA VMS database dating from March 1999, it is clear that the Tokelau EEZ encounters heavy maritime traffic from fishing vessels on their way to and from their fishing grounds and from this it is noted that some of these vessels are suspected of carrying out illegal fishing activities in Tokelau EEZ.

It is clear from this data that some of these vessels are Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Taiwanese flagged longliners that are not licensed to fish in the Tokelau EEZ but the bulk of this heavy maritime traffic within the Tokelau EEZ are U.S. flagged single purse seiners and longliners.
Some of these U.S. flagged vessels are based at Pago Pago and are licenced to fish in Tokelau's
neighbouring member country EEZs though unlicensed to fish in the Tokelau EEZ.

Conclusion

I would like to thank the New Zealand Government for its assistance in providing the funding that has
enabled me to attend this fellowship and will also look forward for their continuing support on any
future VMS training fellowship.

Thank you also to the FFA Secretariat staff for their continuous support, MCS Section Staff also for
their support and for finding the time to fit my training into their busy work schedule and to
Operations Staff for the actual “hands-on” training.