

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

FIFTH TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES

Noumea, New Caledonia  
10 - 11 August 1972

TERRITORIAL REPORT

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At present the Fiji Fisheries Division staff consists of two Fisheries Officers, a Peace Corps Volunteer, and a Senior Technical Officer at professional level, and seven sub-professional officers. In addition there are forty Fisheries Assistants and Clerical Officers. The expanded future programme will be accompanied by corresponding increase in staff numbers at all levels including the recruitment of an Assistant Director of Agriculture (Fisheries) and a Principal Fisheries Officer.

2. The main fisheries station is situated at Lami (5 miles from Suva), with out-stations at Lautoka, Labasa and Levuka. In the out-stations the Division is supported by staff from the Agriculture Department. The Division has six vessels ranging in size from 27 to 58 feet plus 12 outboard powered crafts. An 85' live-bait skipjack vessel is under construction and three 27' patrol boats are being provided by the New Zealand Government. A 42' carrier vessel has also been designed.

3. Since 1968, the Fisheries Division has been principally engaged in the development of Small Unit Fisheries involving some 70% of the Division's resources. The UNDP Tuna Project was established in 1971 and commenced fishing operations with the "Sansano Maru" which was subsequently wrecked in the Yasawa Group. The Project was delayed until the arrival of a replacement vessel, "Shinpo Maru No.II". Experimental work has been carried out with the culture of oysters and grass carp on a limited scale. A survey on the Crown-of-Thorns Starfish was also undertaken. In the boat-building field the Division has built ferrocement fishing cutters with valuable guidance and assistance from UNIDO Naval Architect, Mr A. Sannegren, and SPIFDA Consultant, Mr J. Fyson.

4. Future efforts will be directed towards consolidation of the Small Unit Fisheries, completion of the UNDP Tuna Project and the expansion of oyster culture using ferro-cement rafts. Provision of training facilities for our present staff, future tuna fishermen and inshore commercial fishermen will be given special priority. Work carried out in 1967/68 on pelagic fish capture using multiple trolling gear and deep water line fishing outside the reef for schnapper species will be continued. Expansion of our extension services, formation of a Fish Marketing Authority, establishment of a beche-de-mer industry and work on fisheries statistics are also planned. Proposed new developments will include trials with mother-of-pearl-shell lure and mangrove fisheries, using both traps and nets. Little basic or applied research has been carried out in Fiji; areas in which research is urgently needed, are commercial resources development and aquaculture.

5. Technical assistance in future will be needed for aquaculture (especially oysters), baitfish investigation and training. Fiji would look for such assistance from other British Commonwealth countries, FAO, UNDP, SPIFDA and SPC.

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