

1. Title: Development of Marine and Brackish-Water Aquaculture

2. Background and Justification:

The steadily increasing population of the territories and on the larger islands the growing urbanization are placing greater and greater strains on the locally available edible aquatic resources. In some territories these resources are already showing, at least in part, signs of serious depletion.

On the larger islands and certain of the atolls and lagoons there appear to be opportunities for the culture of edible oysters, some clams, mother-of-pearl shell, shrimp, mullet and milkfish. In addition some of the Teuthids, carangids and other schooling fishes are worthy of investigation.

It is most likely that moves toward the development of aquaculture of fishes will be initiated by the capture of fry or juveniles and their rearing in ponds or other enclosures, the operators graduating to the more sophisticated systems of controlled breeding of the stock as their experience and training develops.

3. Objectives:

Recognizing the need for increasing and diversifying employment opportunities and providing supplies of fresh fish or shellfish for local consumption or for export, the objectives of this project will be to recommend methods for aquaculture and to initiate programs of test plantings of selected species in representative areas in cooperation with territorial fisheries personnel.

4. Work plan and schedule:

During the first half of 1971 the consultants will visit those territories which appear to present the best potential or have the greatest need for development of aquaculture and in cooperation with territorial fisheries personnel will recommend certain areas and

species for detailed study.

Work will be concentrated in the minimum number of locations needed to provide representative habitats in order that adequate effort can be applied to obtain meaningful results during the limited time available for this phase of the program. Although the duration of the assignment of consultants is six months, it may be desirable to schedule subsequent work periods to provide for follow-up studies and analysis of results of test planting programs.

5. Government Counterpart support:

Pilot scale projects involving test plantings of selected species will be initiated during the first half of 1971, but may require a year or more to complete. Therefore it is essential that territorial fisheries personnel participate in establishing pilot scale projects and provide personnel and logistic support for periodic monitoring and in some cases for analysis of results.

6. Experts: Fish and Mollusc Culture Consultants (2)

- a) Duty Station: initially Noumea, New Caledonia
- b) Qualifications: University degree in Biology with five or more years of experience in the culture of aquatic organisms including molluscs and crustacea, preferably in brackish and/or salt water.
- c) Duration: 6 months each initially.

In addition it is understood that an expert in Mother-of-pearl shell culture is now employed in French Polynesia. It is recommended that this expert be employed as a consultant for up to 3 months if he can be made available for this assignment.