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SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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*Note: on 16 August 1971, Mr J. A. Tubb, Director of the Agency since 1 February 1969, was transferred to another UNDP(SF) assignment in Indonesia. Professor F. Doumenge, Chair of Tropical Geography, University III, Montpellier 34, France, took over as interim Director

1. EDITORIAL

Once upon a time a United Nations expert was granted an interview by a high Government official to discuss proposals for a development project which would greatly benefit economically the beautiful territory concerned and its charming people.

In outlining the aid-giving agency's usual approach to this kind of problem, the expert used the term "survey of the present position".

At this point the Government official's face began to flame, the tendons of his neck tensed like window cords, he pointed a quivering finger at the expert "Survey - survey, all I ever hear from you fellows is survey, Look - look on that shelf, three feet of survey reports and they sit there gathering dust. I want service, not surveys!"

The government official was in a sense justified but he was also terribly at fault. No one, either in the Government or from the aid-giving agencies, had seen to it that there was "follow-up" action.

The Government failed to request such action having acknowledged, no doubt gratefully, receipt of the several reports with their recommendations for future action; the aid-giving agencies, usually overburdened with requests for their services, had failed to follow through with proposals designed to lead to the implementation of its recommendations.

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2. NOTES FROM THE TERRITORIES

Fiji

The Quarterly Report for January-February 1971 on the Marine Industries of Fiji shows small but steady improvements in the operation of the Small Unit Fisheries established and supervised by the Government. Market landings at the main municipal centres compared favourably with those of previous years despite unfavourable weather conditions.

The UNDP(SF)/FAO Skipjack Tuna Fishing Project was initiated and seven short cruises were undertaken to assess baitfish availability, with fair indication of success.

Oyster farming experiments were continued with the assistance of SPIFDA Consultant John Glude and the early results were encouraging. Experiments in fish culture centred around introduced species of Chinese carp, with attention being paid to rates of growth and age and size at maturity. Pond fertilization experiments were continued demonstrating enhanced growth rate in Bighead Carp in fertilized ponds.

Tonga

A small UNDP/FAO mission visited Tonga late in May 1971 to examine the feasibility of initiating a UNDP funded Skipjack Tuna Fishery Development project.

Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

Professor François Doumenge visited the Trust Territory in April and was accorded facilities to enable him to assess the potential of the area.

During the last week in April, a Marine Resources Conference was convened in Ponape to determine the goals and objectives for the development of their resources, and Dr Al Beardsley from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Seattle, was employed for three months to assist in developing the programme.

Dr E. Reese also visited the Trust Territory to discuss the setting up of a coconut crab research project.

Western Samoa

A report from Apia describes the results of a campaign to eradicate the Crown-of-Thorns Starfish along the seriously affected 5-miles stretch of south coast of Upolu. Early in 1970 some 15,000 specimens had been destroyed in this area, and the later campaign yielded only a handful

of specimens demonstrating that the early project had been highly effective and that no re-infestation had occurred.

The report notes that there had been, in twelve months, a 12-15% regeneration of the Acropora corals.

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3. NOTES ON THE SPIFDA SUB-PROJECTS

Consultants' Reports

The first Report, that by Dr Harold Hirth on Marine Turtle Resources, has been processed and distributed in both English and French versions. The supplementary report by Dr John Hendrickson, on the turtle resources of the U.S. Trust Territory and Papua-New Guinea is currently being processed and translated and should be ready for distribution before the end of the year.

Final reports on Rock Lobsters by Dr R.W. George, and Mollusc Culture by Mr J. Glude, are in hand and being processed and translated.

The Reef and Lagoon Ecology report by Dr R. Clutter and Mr K. Sachithanathan's Report on Bêche-de-Mer Resources and Processing are being completed, while the review of Aquaculture (Fish and Crustacean) potential by Er D. Villaluz is in progress.

Recommendations

The Recommendations made in the reports so far available are highly specific and detailed - in most cases relating directly to individual territories, but of appreciable general relevance also and, as appropriate, contain concise instructions for the institution and development of experimental or pilot-scale projects tailored to the needs and capabilities of the Territories concerned.

No attempt to review the recommendations presented would be feasible in a publication such as this since, as indicated above, many of the details in these recommendations are significant only in specific cases.

It is hoped that the consultants themselves will be able to attend the Second Meeting of the Consultative Committee, to introduce in general terms their contributions and to be available for discussion and explanation.

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4. SCHEDULE OF CONSULTANT SERVICES

(a) Marine Turtles

Consultant : Dr John Hendrickson, University of Arizona
 Appointed : 9 June 1971
 Terminal Date : 8 August 1971
 Territories Visited: U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands,
 Guam, Territory of Papua and New Guinea, Western Samoa
 Reports : Final Report now being processed.

(b) Fishing Boat Development

Consultant : Mr John Fyson, Naval Architect, FAO
 Appointed : 2 December 1970
 Terminal Date : -
 Territories Visited: Fiji, Western Samoa, American Samoa, Cook Islands
 (Mr Fyson was temporarily seconded in June to the UNDP
 Tuna Survey Mission to Tonga)
 Reports : Routine interim reports on work progress are
 submitted regularly.

(c) Mollusc Culture

Consultant : Mr John B. Glude, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Seattle
 Appointed : 6 January 1971
 Terminal Date : 29 June 1971
 Territories Visited: Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, French
 Polynesia
 Reports : Final Report now being processed.

(d) Reef and Lagoon Ecology

Consultant : Dr Robert Clutter, University of Hawaii
 Appointed : 6 January 1971
 Terminal Date : 20 September 1971
 Territories Visited: Hawaii, Eniwetok Atoll, New Caledonia
 Reports : Final report being drafted

(e) Bêche-de-Mer Study

Consultant : Mr K. Sachithanathan
 Appointed : 14 April 1971
 Terminal Date : 17 August 1971
 Territories Visited: Hong Kong, Singapore, Guam, U.S. Trust Territory,
 New Caledonia, New Hebrides, British Solomon Islands
 Protectorate, Fiji
 Reports : Final report being drafted

(f) Aquaculture (Fish) Study

Consultant : Dr K. Villaluz, Mindane State University, Marawi
 Appointed : 25 May 1971
 Terminal Date : ? 9 November 1971
 Territories Visited: New Caledonia, Fiji, Gilbert and Ellice Islands,
 Cook Islands, Tonga, Western Samoa
 Reports : Sectional reports in preparation

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5. FISHING NEWS EXCHANGE

Compiled by V. T. Hinds, Fisheries Officer,
 South Pacific Commission

The response to further appeals for news for inclusion in this section is still disappointing and hopefully by the next edition this situation will improve. The French territories have been most cooperative by setting the lead.

Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides

The South Pacific Fishing Company, a limited company registered under British Law, is financed by Australian capital (D.A. Gubbay Co. holds 45,000 shares) and Japanese capital (Mitsui and Co. and Taiheiyo Suisan Kaisha Ltd., group of companies in Tokyo), hold the remaining 72,202 shares. The Company has been in operation since 1958, managing a Tuna long-line fleet of approximately 30 boats and a refrigerated fish holding and transit store at Pallicolo. The company employs 91 unskilled Melanesian workers and 37 technicians of Japanese origin. In 1970 the operation dealt with 9,218 tons of tuna with a local value of 466,597,000 francs and this represented 40% of the total value of exports from the New Hebrides Condominium. Since 1967 fish exports have accounted for the following revenue in the budget of the Condominium:

Customs revenue:	8,614,482 francs in 1967	<u>NOTE</u>
	11,045,346 francs in 1968	10,000 NH francs
	11,703,101 francs in 1969	equals
	12,043,710 francs in 1970.	1,000 Australian
		dollars.

Other figures reveal interesting upward trends in both production and value of tuna exports in recent years:

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Tonnage Exported:	6,627	7,988	9,218
Value in Francs NH:	239,667,033	310,255,000	466,597,000

These figures indicate a 50% increase in production, and a 100% increase in the value of tuna exported since 1968.

The Resident Commissioner for France in the New Hebrides, in offering this information for inclusion in the Newsletter, would be glad by way of exchange to receive information on taxation and customs duties applicable to fisheries in other territories of the South Pacific, including Fiji, Cook Islands, American Samoa and Tonga. It would also be useful if these territories could forward, through the SPC Fisheries Officer, available statistics on the production, export figures and income from these fisheries.

Port Vila, New Hebrides

The following figures show a massive increase in the importation of fresh oysters from Australia and New Zealand, and also frozen prawns and spiny lobsters from Australia; this is a direct result of a very rapid growth of the Tourist Industry, and also of business activities generally in the New Hebrides during the past three years:-

<u>Imports</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Metric tons	16.78	435.9	538.8
Value in Francs NH	1,325,200	14,603,000	17,443,400

Local private interests have recently established an experimental small scale oyster farming venture at Santo with the object of cashing in on this valuable market.

Apia, Western Samoa

A recent visitor to Apia was Mr Roy Kellett, Company Secretary of the White Cliffs Sawmilling Co. New Zealand, who was carrying out an investigation into the availability of fresh water eels to test their acceptability on European markets. Mr Kellett found specimens of the Level-finned eel and the Long-finned eel. Other specimens were obtained from American Samoa and samples have been forwarded to Holland in the first instance. Other territories may have fresh water eel resources and be in a position to consider eel rearing as a local village enterprise.

Aleipata, Upolu Island, Western Samoa

U.S. Peace Corps Worker Alan Banner continues to head up the turtle hatcheries project and to date 2,000 turtle hatchlings have been marked and released over a period of approximately six months. The bulk of these turtles are Hawksbill. Some difficulty has been experienced in collection of eggs from the laying areas due to the frequent heavy swell which sets in across the sheltering reef making it difficult to land on the

main beaches. Most of the potentially good laying areas in Western Samoa have been occupied by village communities and it is only at the south-east end of Upolu that reasonably unspoiled beaches are still to be found. Bill Travis, the local Fisheries Adviser, prepared a short paper on the Western Samoan Turtle Conservation Programme for the Regional Symposium on the Conservation of Nature recently convened in Noumea. Interested readers may obtain a copy of this paper on application to the Fisheries Officer, SPC.

Noumea, New Caledonia

Denis George, a Consultant on Pearl Cultivation, visited the Fisheries Officer in May, at the start of a round-the-world trip sponsored by the Australian Branch of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, which had provided him with a study fellowship. Denis George is the only independent private pearl and semi-pearl cultivator in the Pacific and he would be available to advise Pacific Governments on a contractual basis should they be interested in investigating the possibility of establishing pearl and semi-pearl production in their islands where conditions are found to be suitable. His address is: P.O. Box 8, Samarai, New Guinea. Denis George spent some time with Bill Reed, Marine Biologist in charge of mother-of-pearl and pearl production in the Tuamotus in French Polynesia and a number of mutual problems and their solutions were discussed.

Denis George assured the Fisheries Officer that he would be able to supply initially in small lots probably of 1 cwt. each, the large Gold Lip pearl shell, Pinctada maxima. This shell appears to have hit the headlines in Tahiti where it is considered to be the best quality for the manufacture of Bonito lures. I know that the Cook Islands will be interested in this and may care to contact Denis George directly.

Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Five new fishing launches arrived in the Cook Islands via Tahiti from Portland, Oregon in late July and were immediately rushed into action by the Cook Islands Fishermen's Co-operative Society to hunt the schools of skipjack around Rarotonga itself.

A dedication ceremony attended by the Premier of the Cook Islands, the Honourable Albert Henry, was held at Rarotonga, to mark the initiation of a Nutriculture project on sandy ground not far from Matavea on the east side of Rarotonga Island. This is part of an overall Cook Island Marine and Atoll Development Agency project (CIMADA) and is being initially directed by Mr Ray Dees of the Research Division of the Oceanic Foundation, Hawaii, which is working closely with the Cook Islands Government on the development of a Total Atoll Production system pilot project. Premier Henry, in his address to a large audience at the dedication ceremony, pledged the

Cook Island Government's full support for this project which, in his opinion, held great promise for the improvement of living conditions in the atolls of the Northern group.

Papeete, Tahiti

Interest in sending island trainees to participate in Bonito fishing operations in French Polynesia appears to be growing and requests have been received for financial assistance to fund such study visits from SPC funds. Further requests have been submitted to the Peoples Foundation for the South Pacific and hopefully some action will be forthcoming before the next Bonito season in Tahiti which should be underway by December 1971. The SPC Fisheries Officer will shortly be in contact with the Fisheries Service in Tahiti to set up a basic plan for the induction of trainees and their introduction to the various fishing boats operating out of Raiatea and Papeete. Although it is considered in Tahiti that it takes at least two years to fully train a fisherman to completely master this technique (and this includes navigation, engine maintenance, full appreciation of the local grounds and seasonal movements of the tuna), funds to support trainees for this long period are not expected to be forthcoming. Meantime, leading fishermen from other islands already familiar to a lesser extent with the mother-of-pearl lure technique would directly benefit from their experience alongside Tahitian fishermen for at least one month. Until further funds are forthcoming it will not be possible to expand this basic short period.

Pago Pago, American Samoa

Stan Swerdloff is interested in sending two of his leading fishermen to Tahiti and in bringing back to Pago Pago a couple of Tahitian skippers to operate with his fishermen from a new fishing launch he is importing from Honolulu shortly. This could be the start of something big since it has been agreed in principle in high places in American Samoa that Tahitian fishing launches (Bonitiers) with French crews would be allowed to work out of Pago Pago for Skipjack Tuna, making their landings at the local cannery complex. In view of the continued success of RAHERE I and RAHERE II in Noumea this may indeed be a favourable proposition for at least half a dozen boats. The fleet in Tahiti now exceeds 120 Bonitiers and if a seasonal migration of a small number of boats was profitable this may open up some interesting possibilities in the training of fishermen in this technique in other islands.

New York

Peoples Foundation for the South Pacific recently approved funds for the purchase of fishing gear required for Laleppa Village Shark Fishing project in the New Hebrides and this gear is now on order and should be delivered towards the end of October. PFSP have also made grants to Western

Samoa to assist two Village Fishermen's Associations by providing funds for the establishment of a Revolving Loan Fund for the Purchase of Fishing Equipment. A similar Revolving Loan Fund established in Fiji in 1970 has already enabled two Fishermen's Associations at Kia and Ogea, through the operation of ring nets purchased from this fund, to earn sufficient money from fish sales to enable them to invest in the construction of a 30-ft. ferro-cement cutter which they themselves constructed under supervision at the Fisheries Division at Lami during March this year. This vessel is now in operation. This is a good example of how PFSP funds can be applied to "prime the pump". The original grant made by PFSP in this case was US\$ 1,000 and in 1970 the Village Fishermen's Association Committee assisted by the Fisheries Department was able to sell 60,292 lbs of fish and provide US\$ 1,836 towards the cost of building their 30-foot ferro-cement cutter; it is planned that a second 30 ft. cutter will be built for them about the end of 1971.

Mata'Utu, Wallis Island

Jean Michon, the Chief of the Rural Economic Development Programme continues to carry forward his boat construction activities which were mentioned in the first edition of this Newsletter in April. By June, he had completed six Carolina-type fishing dories, each 19 ft. long, one Gulf Stream dory of 23 feet, two large Tahitian Raiatean-type canoes of approximately 28 feet each, built of plywood. The dory-type seems to be going over very well with local fishermen as a further 18 Carolina dories are on order. One of the difficulties experienced in Mata'Utu in the construction of the dories is the short supply of copper grip-fast boat nails in the 2", and 1½" size, and M. Michon would be glad to hear of a good source of supply both for the copper nails, and also half inch marine plywood of first-class quality. I note that there was no response whatsoever to my appeal in the last Newsletter for sketches and photographs of successful fish traps used in other island territories which would assist M. Michon in his local fisheries programme. This is a second appeal and I hope it is more successful.

Koror, Palau, Western Caroline Islands (Trust Territory of Pacific Islands)

The Van Camp Sea Food Division of the Ralston Purina Company continue to step up the development of the Skipjack Tuna Industry freezing and storing for transshipment tuna landed from 9 pole-and-live-bait boats with Okinawan crews operating out of the Port of Koror. The relatively poor landings made between January and April are offset during the high season from May to December when boats and freezing facilities are operating at full capacity. Increased demands for Skipjack Tuna will mean an extension of facilities to handle 12,000 tons of fish in 1972 backed up by an increased fishing fleet expected to reach 15 vessels. In 1969, Skipjack Tuna landings reached 5,500 tons valued at 560,000 US\$, and in 1970 8,500 tons valued at 916,000 US\$ were shipped overseas from Koror.

New Hebrides and Banks Islands

Professor Francois Doumenge (University of Montpellier) and Professor Andri Guilcher (University of Brest) joined forces in a special study of reef problems, during July, particularly at Reef Island in the Banks group, and also around Vate Island in the central division of the New Hebrides; this investigation was sponsored by the National Research Council which has its headquarters in Paris.

Noumea, New Caledonia

The 8,000 ton Russian Research Vessel "DIMITRI MENDELEIEV" made a special study of reefs and lagoons in the St Vincent's Bay area, 25 miles N/W of Noumea between 23 and 27 August. The team of 70 scientists including Geographers, Geologists, Oceanographers, Physicists, Ethnologists, Biologists, Ecologists, Economists and Sociologists, are carrying out one of the most important Russian investigations yet made amongst the islands of the South Pacific. On board as foreign observer for France is Professor Andri Guilcher of the University of Brest. The Dominion of Fiji and the Kingdom of Tonga are both included in the important voyage, and the "DIMITRI MENDELEIEV" expects to return to her home port, Vladivostok, in October.

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Finally, and once more to those of you who have not found time to contribute to this section, please try and do better next time. We need news from the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, and British Solomon Islands Protectorate about their new Japanese fishing ventures for instance; also Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony and Tonga. Other territories are interested in what you are doing. Why not let them know through this "Fishing News Exchange" section. Good luck and good fishing!

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6. "SHADOWS BEFORE"

South Pacific Commission:

Eleventh South Pacific Conference and Thirty-third Session
of the South Pacific Commission,

SPC Headquarters, Noumea, New Caledonia

21 Sept - 6 Oct 1971

South Pacific Islands Fisheries Development Agency:

Second Consultative Committee Meeting

SPC Headquarters, Noumea, New Caledonia

18-22 October 1971

South Pacific Islands Fisheries Development Agency:

Colloquium on Reefs and Lagoons
(cite to be determined) (4 days)
January/February 1972

UNESCO/Royal Society of New Zealand:

International Symposium on the Oceanography of
the South Pacific, Victoria University of
Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand

9-15 February 1972
