Established in mid-1960, the Fishermen's Co-operative of Noumea has shown steady progress. Forty-eight tons of fish were sold in the first year, and turnover was doubled within twelve months.

By RAYMOND CASSIER*

Left: This jetty was built to facilitate the unloading of catches, and the fuelling and watering of boats. Below: Fish stored on racks in the Co-operative's deep-freezing plant. Hanging at the far end are octopuses, which find a ready sale in Noumea.
Quite a few marlin and several sailfish have been taken in New Caledonia waters in recent years, usually outside the main reef. However, this 27 lb. sailfish displayed by M. Casson, Manager of the Fishermen’s Co-operative, was taken in the lagoon—by Mr. N. de Dragffy, on a handline.

Noumea Fishermen’s Co-operative
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taken during each cruise, which usually lasts four to five days.

The fishermen use hand and trolling lines, or nets whose length varies according to the location chosen for fishing. On occasion they may be around 5,000’ long.

The boats now being used are obsolete. One fisherman who has realized this has had built in Australia a 58’ cutter of 42 tons powered by an 80 H.P. diesel engine fitted with a four cubic metre deep-freezing plant which processes fish at a temperature of —7.5°F. The boat also has radio and an echo sounder.

His fishing trips range from ten to fifteen days, during which the ship cruises along the coast of New Caledonia, both inside and outside the main reef.

The owner brings back regularly around three tons of various species of fish. No doubt his example in purchasing a modern, well-equipped fishing vessel will soon be followed by others.

English Language Seminar Held In Fiji

Teachers from six territories—the majority of them Pacific Islanders—attended a seminar on the teaching of English held from August 12-24 at Nasinu Teachers’ Training College, Fiji. The Seminar was arranged by the South Pacific Commission, and was directed by Mr. George Pittman, Director of the English Language Institute of Victoria University, Wellington. The territories represented were Western Samoa, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, New Hebrides and Fiji.

Opening the Seminar on September 3, the Governor of Fiji, Sir Kenneth Maddocks, said that the question of the teaching of English was of great importance, not only in the Pacific but throughout the world. Indeed, he said, “it is probably true to say that the teaching and learning of English is the largest single educational undertaking in the world today”.

He reminded his audience that during the SPC Education Seminar held in Brisbane in 1959, strong dissatisfaction had been expressed with the courses in English currently available, and that one of the most important recommendations of that Seminar was that the South Pacific Commission should assist in the preparation of suitable courses. Sir Kenneth said that there were considerable differences of opinion among the numerous specialists in the field. He did not know to what extent the Seminar could solve that confusion so far as the Pacific was concerned. “But I do know”, he added, “that the sooner we can decide which is the best method of teaching English and the sooner we can put that method into practice, the better it will be for the peoples of the Pacific”.

The main topics discussed at the Seminar included the sentence patterns of English structure; patterns of stress and intonation; the aims of teaching and their effect on the selection of material; the principles of language teaching, including the principles of the aural-oral approach and principles arising from comparison and contrast of structure between mother tongue and tongue to be learnt; method and specific activities in teaching; and administrative framework.

Fiji Introduces New Game Fish

A consignment of large-mouthed bass, a game fish, has been imported into Fiji for release into rivers in the Colony. The fish were presented to Fiji by the people of Hawaii, and 143 fingerlings were flown to the Colony from Honolulu.

They were released recently in a pond at the Government Agricultural Station at Sigatoka. They will be kept there for six or eight months until they have spawned, when they will be released into a specially-selected and isolated river system.