



Fishing Line



NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY

ISSUE No. 5

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER, 2003

Inside this Issue

- NFA Pays Government K6 Million
- Port Moresby Chiller Ready for Use
- Editorial
- Staff Profile
- Important Government Meeting
- Update on PNG Major Fisheries Project
- Changes to Barramundi Fishery Plan
- Beche-de-mer Plan Eyed at Workshop
- NFA, EU & UPNG Sign Service Contract

Key Contacts at NFA

Main Switchboard – Ph: 309 0444 Fax: 320 2061
11th Floor, Deloitte Tower
P.O. Box 2016, Port Moresby, N.C.D.

Mr Molean Chapau – Acting Managing Director
Ph: 309 0431 Fax: 320 3024

Mr Ronald Kuk – Projects Manager

Mr Tatek Buraik – Corporate Services Manager

Mr Sylvester Pokajam – Financial Controller

Mr Kema Mailu – Board Administration Officer

Mr Norman Barnabas – Provincial & Industry Liaison
Manager

Mr Augustine Mobiha – Fisheries Management Advisor

Mr Ludwig Kumoru – Fisheries Manager – Tuna

Mr Jacob Wani – Fisheries Manager – Inland &
Aquaculture

Mr Barre Kare – Fisheries Manager – Lobster/Prawn

Mr Leban Gisawa – Fisheries Manager – Inshore (Live
Fish)

Mr Philip Polon – Fisheries Manager – Sedentary

Mr Lamiller Pawut – Monitoring & Enforcement Manager

Ms Joyce Agaru – Enforcement Team Leader

Mr Noan Pakop – Observer Manager

Ms Aquina Kango – Audit & Certification Team Leader

Ms Margaret Kaheu – Licensing & Information
Ag/Manager
Ph: 309 0470 Fax: 320 2069

Mr John Kasu – Principal, National Fisheries College,
Kavieng
Ph: 984 2187 Fax: 984 2343 New Ireland Province

Mr Rainol Gibson – Property Manager

Mr Garry Preston – ADB/GPA Project Management
Specialist/Team Leader

Mr Sean Marriott – EU RCFDP Project Manager
Ph: 852 1995 Fax: 852 1861
E-mail: rcfdp@datec.net.pg

NFA Pays Government K6 Million

National Fisheries Authority has paid another K6 million dividend to the National Government this month.

The payment was made on 24 September 2003 bringing the total payment for this year to K16.25 million. NFA is projecting another payment of K1.75 million before the end of the year. This dividend payment has also brought the total dividend paid to the Government since the inception of the Authority in 2001 to K53 million.

The cheque was presented by the Fisheries Minister, Hon. Andrew Baing to

the Acting Finance and Treasury Minister, Hon. Sinai Brown, who received it on behalf of the Government.

Acting NFA Managing Director, Mr Sylvester Pokajam and senior NFA officials were present to witness the presentation of the cheque. Also present were Planning and Implementation Secretary, Mr Valentine Kambori, and Finance Secretary, Mr Thaddeus Kambanei.

Speaking during the cheque presentation, Minister Baing commended the management of NFA under Mr Molean Chapau for the fine achievement.

Port Moresby Chiller Ready for Use



• An Air Niugini Air Freighting Officer points to a packed prawn box in Chiller No. 1.

The super chilling facility for storage of tuna and other fishery products prior to export has been officially opened.

It was opened by the Minister for Transport, Hon. Don Polye on 10 September 2003.

The storage facility was built at a cost of K1.2 million co-funded by the National Fisheries Authority and Air Niugini. The daily operations of the facility will be managed by Air Niugini. The fishing industry will contribute to the operational

costs of the facility through chargeable fees on each consignment handled.

The facility has a capacity of 60 tonnes. It contains three cooling rooms, each of 20 tonnes. High value sashimi tuna and other seafood products from around Papua New Guinea can now be properly handled prior to being exported overseas. Seafood products can also be consolidated before export flights or be properly stored in case of flight delays and cancellations.

From the Managing Director's Desk

We have paid another K6 million as dividend to the National Government this month. We are committed to the current Government's Economic Recovery Export Driven Strategy and will be making another payment before the year's end. I congratulate all staff for your commitment and perseverance in accomplishing your set tasks, which allows NFA to continue making that kind of contribution to the Government.

The Coastal Fisheries Management and Development Project under the Asian Development Bank loan to Papua New Guinea has been approved. The loan of US\$5.17 million was declared effective on 24 July 2003. The Gillette Preston and Associates, group of consultants on ADB Fisheries funded projects in the country will begin the inception phase of the project this month. Initial project studies will commence at proposed wharf sites, which are Daru, Lae and Alotau. It is anticipated that the development of such infrastructures will lead to economic and social benefits for both commercial and small-scale fishers. The National Fisheries Authority is adamant on working with the private sector, as well as the construction of new infrastructures to generate new income earning opportunities

for coastal fishermen and women. We also hope that the construction of the new infrastructures will add value to the finished products, which will result in higher economic yields for PNG. Due to limited office space, GPA will be relocating to Kavieng in the New Year and operating from there.

The 60 tonnes chilling plant located at the seven mile Air Niugini cargo yard has also been completed. It was officially opened September 10, 2003 by the Minister for Transport, Hon. Don Polye. The facility was built at a cost of K600,000.00 co-funded by the National Fisheries Authority and Air Niugini. High value sashimi tuna and other seafood products will now be properly handled before export flights. In stances where flights are delayed or cancelled, seafood products will be properly stored away. The soon to be commissioned seafood processing plant and training facility in Kavieng when fully operational will complement this exercise.



Molean Chapau
Managing Director

Fisheries College Hosts Important Government Meeting

Leading on from the Governors Conference held in August, Fisheries College played host to another important meeting in September.

It was the Seventh National Treasurers Conference officially opened by the Secretary for Finance, Thaddeus Kambanei.

Speaking during the closing of the conference, Secretary Kambanei commended the staff of the College for providing an excellent

service to his staff from conference set up to catering and the general outlook of the College.

Acting College Principal, Ms Brenda Ninih-Sainol said that this customer service displayed during the National Governors and National Treasurers Conferences will be accorded to everyone who chooses to use the college facilities for their workshops, meetings and conferences.



• NFA Board Chairman, Mr Bamake Rumbam presents a gift to the PNGDF Secretary, Mr Stephen Raphael to seal the good working relationship between NFA and PNGDF. Looking on are NFA Managing Director, Mr Molean Chapau and PNGDF Commander, Peter Ilau.



Staff Profile

Name: **Leka Pitoi**

Age: **30**

Marital Status: **Single**

Qualification: **Bachelor's degree (International Economy & Trade) University of Papua New Guinea**

Current Position: **Projects Coordinator**

Mr Pitoi hails from Guasopa, Woodlark Island in the Milne Bay Province. He did his early childhood education on Woodlark Island and his secondary schooling at Cameron High School in Alotau, Milne Bay Province. After completing grade 10, he was selected to Sogeri National High School outside Port Moresby to do Grades 11 and 12. He completed Grade 12 in 1991 and was further selected to continue studies at the University of Papua New Guinea, which he successfully completed and graduated in 1996.

In November 1996, Mr Pitoi was recruited by Steamships Trading Company under its management training scheme as a Management Trainee within its Finance and Administration Division. He worked for two years and left in December 1998 to join the then Office of National Planning.

He successfully applied for the position of Programs Officer - Asian Development Bank within the Department of Treasury and Corporate Affairs, Office of National Planning. As a Program Officer, his task was to coordinate the overall ADB matters, including its aid programme or portfolio in the country and play an administrative role in assisting the ADB staff visits to PNG.

In 2000, Mr Pitoi was promoted to the position of Senior Aid Coordination Officer Asian Development Bank, World Bank & International Monetary Fund programmes, within the Foreign Aid Management Division of DNPM. He occasionally acted as the Assistant Secretary for the Multilateral Development Institutions (ADB, WB, EU, UN & Pacific regional organisations) during the absence of the Assistant Secretary.

His task involves the overall administration of the portfolio of these donors and provision of technical advice on matters relating to these donors. He also participates in the preparation of the National Development Budget.

He joined the National Fisheries Authority in March 2001 as the Projects Coordinator within the Projects Management Unit. His main tasks involved the daily administration of the Project Management Unit of development projects, assist with the technical advisors in the implementation of development projects, undertake liaison with consultants, relevant government agencies, private sector and donors on matters relating to project implementation and other duties as may be directed by the NFA management.

In May 1998, Mr Pitoi was sponsored by ADB and attended a specialised training in project implementation and administration tailored for Pacific Islands, in Nadi, Fiji. In November 1998, he underwent a secondment programme with the Pacific Department of the ADB, at ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines. He was a regular member of the Government negotiation team to various loan negotiations with the ADB between 1999-2001. He has also undergone various donor-sponsored trainings in consulting services, project cycle management, project accounting and project management.

Mr Pitoi's opinion of the NFA is: "as far as governance is concerned, there should be a framework for sustainable organisational development established within NFA, which will serve a facilitating and regulating role. The current system is functioning well, but is fragile because it is still evolving. It is therefore imperative that a clear policy and transparent procedure needs to be continually applied. NFA can be used in some instances, as a model for the other Government agencies planning to undertake full corporatisation," he said.

An Insight to All Major Fisheries Projects in Papua New Guinea

1. Fisheries Development Project (ADB Loan 1656-PNG) This Project has been completed with ADB rating as successful.

The project is intended to strengthen the National Fisheries Authority and help it implement a sustainable management regime for the country's fisheries resources, while stimulating greater private sector investment and increased returns to the economy. It has an economic growth classification.

The overall objective of the Project is to increase the economic contribution made by fisheries sector to the PNG economy on a sustainable basis. The focus is on the commercial sector, especially on tuna fishery. However, the policy development and capacity building components have relevance to all fisheries. The immediate objectives are:

- to catalyze increased private investment in fisheries through the introduction of a conducive policy environment, more effective support services, and basic wharf structures for efficient operations, landing and transfer, packing and shipment;
- to ensure sustainable management of fisheries resources for long term investment through ensuring that fishing effort remains with sustainable levels as defined in the tuna management plan

Project - Kavieng Longline Fishing Wharf & Small Boat Jetty

Completed and officially opened on 7 March 2003. PNG Harbours Limited won the tenders to manage the facility amongst 6 others bidders, with overall supervision from NFA through the National Fisheries College.

Wharf is now ready for use by the commercial fishing companies and coastal communities. NFA Project Management Unit is currently negotiating with the New Ireland Provincial Government for additional land within the proximity of this Fisheries Complex for light industries purposes by the private sector.

Project - Lombrum Longline Fishing Wharf & Small Boat Jetty

The Contractor, Nawae Construction Limited, completed the longline wharf and the smallboat jetty in June 2003 and was officially opened on 27 June. NFA-PNGDF lease arrangement has been executed for the lease of the portion of Lombrum Base including acquisition of 16 warehouses and other related utilities contained therein which will be in turn sublet to the commercial operators who are planning to base and invest in Manus.

Future plans for acquisition of additional land on the base is currently being negotiated including the use of the water supply system and fuel tanks between, NFA, Defence Department, PNGDF, British Petroleum (PNG) Limited and PNG Waterboard. It is anticipated that PNGDF/Dept of Defence will adequately generate additional revenue from these commercial arrangements.

The expected benefits of this project include the provision of a base for PNG tuna longline vessels close to prime fishing grounds. Using these facilities, operators will be able to quickly and efficiently land fish with access to airfreight for fresh product markets in Asia and sea freight for other products. It is anticipated that these activities will have positive impacts on the local Manus economy, including the provision of services and employment on boats and in on-shore processing and packing plants.

2. NFC Strengthening Project (AusAID grant-funded)

The objective of the project is to reorganise and upgrade the National Fisheries College (NFC) so that it is an effective and efficient training organisation with the capacity to identify industry needs, prioritise training, develop appropriate and accredited training curricula and deliver cost-effective competency-based training. This contributes to overall objective of improved availability of appropriately qualified PNG nationals to participate in and promote the development of the PNG fisheries sector, thus, dovetailing well with the Government's food security and economic development policies.

The strengthening components of the project have been satisfactorily implemented. Curriculum is now based on the 'competency-based-training' modules, which trains students based on the needs of the fishing industry.

The construction of the Seafood Plant as a component commenced in May 2003 after much delay in the tendering process, and completed in November and subsequently commissioned on 21 November. NFA is now finalizing the management arrangement for the processing plant with a commercial operator to operate and manage the facility through a lease agreement. This operator will take full control of the plant presumably in the first quarter of 2004. The plant will be operated based on the operational plan, which includes strict adherence to the environmental management and monitoring plan which has been submitted to the Department of Environment & Conservation for approval in November 2003.

3. Rural Coastal Fisheries Development Project (EU grant funded)

This project initiative was based on the fact that the policies and priorities of the Government which forms the basis for cooperation between PNG and the European Commission, that stress the need to reverse a decline in living standards in rural areas. Past experiences have shown that rural fisheries development projects have been largely unsuccessful and unsustainable. This discouraged the Government-led interventions. With the current Government policy on private sector development, there is a need for innovative approaches to artisanal fishery through making use of management skills and expertise of private sector enterprises.

The objective of the project is to contribute to a sustainable improvement in the welfare of rural coastal communities in PNG by increasing rural family incomes through greater participation in the sustainable harvesting and improved marketing of marine resources.

The project components consists of the following: provision of appropriate

locally-built fishing boats and equipment which initially will be government owned, but operated and eventually fishing families, and managed and maintained by private sector; training in seamanship, fishing skills, fish handling, small business management, processing and export marketing for fishing families and processing firms; developing sustainable fish aggregating devices (FAD) deployment in conjunction with the industrial fishing sector; improve the availability of ice; increase fish retail marketing opportunities by constructing simple fish market facilities; promote education and awareness of marine resources management issues and providing training

Tenders have been launched for various contracts for the design and construction of fish markets in selected towns, construction of fishing vessels have been completed and management of credit guarantee scheme contracted to ANZ Bank. The EU Project office is based in Madang.

4. Coastal Fisheries Management and Development Project (ADB Loan 1925-PNG[SFI])

The project will strengthen the capability of provincial and lower levels of government, and of fishery stakeholders, to participate in the management decision-making, while also developing infrastructure that will lead to economic and social benefits for commercial and small-scale fishers.

It is intended that the project will contribute to the alleviation of poverty in coastal communities through increasing income earning opportunities by promoting sustainable management of resources through developing management capacity and interest at all levels: and by working with the private sector, as well as constructing new infrastructure where appropriate, to generate new earning or value-adding opportunities for coastal fishers. Increased production in economic and financial terms will lead to employment and income earning opportunities for both coastal and urban populations, thus alleviating poverty throughout the areas covered.

The loan of US\$5.7million was declared effective on 24 July 2003, and subsequently the consultants to be engaged under the project commenced mobilisation on 01 September to immediately undertake the inception of the project.

Project activities that have commenced includes; geotech studies undertaken at the Voco Point in Lae to determine the underwater proposed wharf site structure; continuation of the mobilization of the consultants to Port Moresby and Kavieng; tendering process for the supervising engineer for the construction works at the proposed wharf sites namely, Daru, Lae and Alotau; purchases on equipment and furniture for the establishment of project offices in Kavieng including the procurement of vehicles.

5. Infofish Project (grant from Common Fund for Commodities [CFC] FAO)

The project is designed to maximise export earnings from tuna, especially non-canned tuna products, and other value added fishery products, from island countries in the Asia-Pacific, through environmentally friendly processing and marketing activities. The programme will advise and assist processors and exporters in identifying products and markets as well as hygienic, environmentally friendly processing and packing methods. The project activities will be primarily confined to Maldives and Papua New Guinea, where as per INFOFISH studies, there is an urgent need for such assistance.

The main focus and objective of the proposed project is to promote production and marketing of value-added tuna products and other fin fish products which would involve the following activities:

- market studies on export, including domestic marketing, potential for value-added tuna products;
- demonstration of production, packaging, presentation and marketing of selected value-added products;
- demonstration of quality/food safety assurance techniques including HACCP;
- promotion of trade and provide market intelligence to industry; and
- provide routine technical/marketing assistance to industry.

The objectives are:

- contribute to the development of production and marketing of valueadded tuna products from the Asia-Pacific;
- provide technical assistance to ensure safety/quality of tuna products marketed locally and exported, in order to be competitive in international markets;
- facilitate increased involvement of domestic small-medium scale operators in production and marketing of tuna, including export processing; and
- encourage investment in domestic marketing and export processing of tuna.

The NFA contributed US\$50,000 as counterpart funding for this project.

6. Economic Performance and Management of the Gulf of Papua Prawn Fishery Project (grant from Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research [ACIAR])

The overall objective is to provide a clear and comprehensive analysis of the economics of the Gulf of Papua prawn fishery, including an analysis of the appropriate management arrangements designed to maximize the fishery rate of return and to promote economic efficiency and profitability at sustainable levels. The project also forms an assessment of the impact of a small boat (inshore) fishery on the fishery as a whole and provides considerable capacity building for ongoing research and fishery management at the National Fisheries Authority in Papua New Guinea. The first joint project meeting of the two ACIAR projects on the biology and economics of the Gulf of Papua prawn fishery will be held in Papua New Guinea from 1 - 5 December 2003.

For more information, please contact Mr Leka Pitoi.

Meeting Discusses Changes to Barramundi Management Plan

The current Barramundi Management Plan will be reviewed to accommodate changes made during the recent Fourth ACIAR Funded Barramundi Project Meeting.

The meeting held on September 4, 2003 comprised participants from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), National Fisheries Authority (NFA), Western Provincial Administration (Fisheries Division), Ok Tedi Mining Limited, fishing industry representatives and community representatives (resource owners). They agreed that there be some changes to a number of Sections of the Management Plan to accommodate the lure fishing method, which is increasingly being used in this particular fishery; and that there be also changes to extend the Management Plan to also cover Gulf, Central and Milne Bay Provinces because currently these provinces are excluded from the Plan and are still using 6inch gill nets for fishing.



• One of the many meetings of the partners to the Barramundi Project comprised of NFA Fisheries Research Scientists and NFA Project Manager, representatives of the ACIAR and CSIRO.

It was also resolved that the current barramundi logbook will be changed to include a section to distinguish between catches from lures and gillnets, and between catches of a cultured barramundi and a wild barramundi. They also agreed to have an advisory committee established for the barramundi fishery, which will consist of two NFA staff, as chairman and scientist, three resource owners, two from the industry, one aquaculture specialist, one from recreation fishing, one Ok Tedi Mining Ltd staff and one staff of the Western Province Administration.

NFA will be advertising for expression of interest from the public to apply for selection to the Barramundi Management and Advisory Committee.

The ACIAR and CSIRO are two Australian institutions; which have thrown their resources into the researching of Barramundi with the Papua New Guinea National Fisheries Authority. The project began in July 1999 called the PNG-ACIAR Barramundi Project. The other partners in the research project are, Ok Tedi Mining Ltd and the James Cook University of Australia.

The ACIAR and CSIRO are two Australian institutions; which have thrown their resources into the researching of

PNG Beche-de-mer Management Plan Eyed at International Workshop

The Papua New Guinea National Beche-de-mer Management Plan presented at an International Workshop was notably received by participants.

The Workshop called 'Advances in Sea Cucumber Aquaculture and Management' was funded by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and was held in China. Fisheries Managers for Beche-de-mer and Aquaculture Messrs, Philip Polon and Jacob Wani attended the four-day workshop from the 14th - 18th of October 2003. They participated with the aim of gathering information presented to produce a comprehensive document for those involved in the beche-de-mer and aquaculture fisheries in Papua New Guinea.

The managers presented the Papua New Guinea National Beche-de-mer Management Plan to the workshop participants, and observed that PNG is the

only country in the Southeastern Asian region and Western & Central Pacific that has a management plan for the beche-de-mer fishery.

Various reports on the status of the beche-de-mer fishery were presented by experts from various countries of the world. Messrs Polon and Wani said that on the global scale the increasing demand for beche-de-mer by the consuming countries is exerting so much pressure on the producers, which subsequently degrades any management regime. This has contributed to high incidence of poor quality and over-fishing of some high value species in producing countries.

Workshop participants also expressed the need for filling in the information data gap between the producing and consuming countries. The difficulties with collating data from re-export ports like

Singapore and Hong Kong also invalidates the source of data. The managers concluded from this particular session that there is a need for efficient management plan of action not only for effective reporting but a mechanism where data collected reflects both the fishery data and the biological data.

They said that many developing countries expressed during the workshop the need for restocking and establishing enhancement programs, as a means for resurrecting the rapidly depleting wild stocks.

With regards to aquaculture, papers were presented, mainly covered studies on the culture of *Holothuria scabra* in Noumea and Vietnam by WFC, and *Apostichopus japonicus* in China by various institutions in China and disease associated with culture of sea cucumber, nutrient requirement, growth, and the induce breeding technique.

NFA, EU and UPNG Sign Service Contract

Consultants from the University of Papua New Guinea have been awarded a contract to measure the impact of the European Union Rural Coastal Fisheries Development Project in the country.

A service contract was signed between the National Fisheries Authority, UPNG consultants and the European Union on September 26, 2003. Under this contract, UPNG consultants will be conducting a baseline survey on the European Union Rural Coastal Fisheries Development Project from

which socio-economic data will be collated to measure the impact of the Project on targeted sites and local economies. This study will be done over a twelve months period commencing from the date of signing.

The Rural Coastal Fisheries Development Project (RCFDP) is funded under the Eighth European Development Fund with a budget of six million euros, equivalent to approximately K24 million. The Project is intended to run for five years in the selected sites of Alotau, Port Moresby, Buka, Daru,

Kavieng, Madang and Lae.

The Project is intended to support small scale fishing enterprises with the objective of improving the welfare of rural coastal population through greater participation in harvesting and marketing of their marine resources. Apart from infrastructure developments, loan facilities have been established with banks and private companies to enable small fishing enterprise and groups purchase boats, fishing gear, ice plants, etc.