



Fishing Line



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PNG to have a Giant Tuna Canning Plant in Lae



- Mr Pokajam, Acting MD of NFA standing at back and witnessing the signing of documents by (from right) Governor Luther Wenge and the owners of the World's three largest tuna processing companies of Thailand and Philippines.

Papua New Guinea will soon have a giant tuna processing and canning plant to be built adjacent to the Malahang Industrial Centre in Lae, Morobe Province. This was officially announced in, June 19 by Mr Sylvester Pokajam, Acting Managing Director of National Fisheries Authority and Morobe Governor Hon. Songang Luther Wenge.

The new tuna processing and canning plant is a joint venture project that will cost \$US40 million (K107.96m). The new tuna investment in PNG comprises some of the world's largest tuna processors; the Thai Union from Thailand, Century Canning Corporation and Frabelle Group of Phillipines. The processing and canning plant is expected to process about 350 metric tonnes per day and will provide direct employment benefits to about 6,000 employees. This investment is in line with the

Somare/Temu Government's Export Driven Economic Growth and Recovery Strategy.

Mr Pokajam said that once this project is completed PNG will have a total of five tuna companies, one a tuna loining plant of the South Seas Tuna Corporation in Wewak and three tuna canneries; inclusive of RD Tuna Canners in Madang, Frabelle (PNG) Ltd and International Food Corporation (IFC), both are in Lae.

He said PNG through National Fisheries Authority will continue to manage its tuna resources under established regional tuna management regimes in line with the National Tuna Management Plan. "We are the only country in PNA region to have implemented the Vessels Day Scheme, and we have the largest observer program and

From the Managing Director's Desk

Papua New Guinea will continuously enjoy in Fisheries as one of the mega tuna processing and canning plant to be established in Malahang Industrial Centre in Lae Morobe Province very shortly. This tuna processing plant is a joint venture project by Thai Union from Thailand, Century Canning Corporation and Frabell group of Philippines. This Project will cost around US\$40 million.

The government of Papua New Guinea through the National Fisheries Authority and Morobe Governor Honourable Luther Wenge successfully signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among the representatives from each company in NFA's Board room last month.

International Food Corporation (IFC) currently known as "Besta" in Lae is also expected to establish a Tuna plant to be established in Lae and when that is established and operated the fisheries sector will increase its value.

The Pacific Marine Industrial Zone is underway. This is another opportunity that will boost the fisheries sector once it's completed. The Department of Trade and Commerce and National Fisheries Authority will eventually make this project become success.

The Madang Provincial Government and the RD Fishing and Canning Company are interested in the establishment of a pacific marine industrial zone in the province. This is in line with

the government's tuna domestication policy and is supported by the national government. Such a venture will ensure that all fishing and processing facilities are centralised in a common location in one part of the province to ensure the economics of scale.

The project is anticipated to strengthen the capability of local tuna fishing and canning industry, marine products from small-scale fisheries to global fisheries industry. The investment and policy regimes in the sector have generally improved in recent years with some incentives provided.

We have also attended FFC meeting in May this year. Minister for Fisheries Hon Ben Semri was the head of the delegation to discuss the number of issues that concerning regional marine stock and other matters. In this meeting PNG was in support of regional cooperation, but expressed that members will have to be empowered by way of building national capacities so that they can effectively contribute to regional cooperation. Presentations by SPC were noted and with specific scientific advise on the condition of stocks, PNG expressed that PNA members has taken a milestone decision to address depletion in stock levels by agreeing to adopt a Third Implementation Arrangement under the Palau Arrangement whereby measures are designed to address these concerns.

Sylvester B. Pokajam
Acting Managing Director

Staff Profile



Name: Jinro Boisen
Age: 43
Marital Status: Married
Qualification: Certificate in Tropical Fisheries
Current Position: Acting Provincial Fisheries Officer

Mr Boisen is currently the Acting Provincial Fisheries Officer in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. He comes from Buka and has been living and working there for many years now. He attended primary school in 1971 at Kahule Primary School and completed Grade Six in 1976. In 1977 he was selected to attend Hutjena High School and completed Grade 10 in 1980. He was fortunate after completion of Grade 10 to undertake Tropical Fisheries studies at the National Fisheries College in Kavieng, New Ireland Province.

In 1983 he started work with Division of Primary Industry as a Fisheries Extension Officer on Bougainville. In 1986 he was stationed at Buka. In 1987 he was transferred to Tinputz. In 1988, he went back to Buka to work as District Fisheries Officer.

Mr Boisen had received several fisheries enrichment courses during the course of his career. In 1993 he attended Public Administration College in Buka and undertook a Budgeting Course. In 1996 he went again to Kavieng and took up Fisheries Enforcement Course at the Fisheries College. In 2000 he attended a Provincial Fisheries Planning and Management course on Motupore Island Port Moresby, followed by a Coastal Fisheries Inshore Resources Management course in Japan in 2001.

He has attended many training and workshops in the province and other regions too. As the Acting Provincial Fisheries Officer, he would like to assist develop fisheries on the Autonomous Region of Bougainville through whatever assistance that is available.

He said NFA has done a lot to develop fisheries in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and would like to commend the management of NFA for its assistance to the region.

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the world class Vessel Monitoring System. Also amongst the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, PNG is the only country with a Fish Aggregating Device Policy," Mr Pokajam said.

He said the fact that these leading tuna processors are investing in PNG signals the dawn of a new era. An era of cooperation amongst fish processors, fishers and coastal states to enable equitable share of benefits from the tuna resources. He said this new era has been achieved as a result of three main factors:

- Sound management of tuna by PNG and other PNA countries;

- Economic reasons such as advantages of basing near to fishing grounds following increases in costs of fuel and preferential access to the European Union Market; and

- Clear and consistent government policy to promote and protect onshore fisheries Investment.

Meanwhile Morobe Governor Mr. Wenge assured the investors that Lae is pivotally located as the central point of Papua New Guinea. "This position of investment is not a mistake instead its a wise choice made by the investors". He assured the investors that his administration will fully support any investment ventures in Morobe province.

Workshop on PNG Fishery Products to EU Market



• The NFA ACU officers, industry fish processing representatives and expert trainers pose for a photograph at the end of the workshop.

A comprehensive training on Papua New Guinea fishery products exported to European Union market was held for two weeks in Port Moresby, May 2008. According to Ms Aquina Kango, Team Leader for Audit and Certificate Unit of National Fisheries Authority, PNG product destined for EU markets are of, particular concern due to global trade issue. It is imperative that we must ensure that fishery products exported are of acceptable standards to the EU consumers.

Ms Kango said that recent EU findings have identified that there is a lack of monitoring of certain chemical parameter in fishery products and the Competent Authority officials required knowledge in this area to fully enforce this requirement. In this regards through the DG Trade of the European Commission, experts were tasked to provide this training to the Competent Authority officers and the relevant stake holders and players.

This training course was conducted by two experts from France namely, Dr Hewitt Armstrong and Dr Peter Furst from the School of Advanced Residue Analysis in Food. Their training attracted more than 20 participants from the fishing industry, NFA Auditors and laboratory officers from NAQIA.

Ms Kango said that the issue to be noted by NFA through this training is that hazards pose to our fish and fishery are real in terms of effects it poses to consumers. She said these effects can be very detrimental if there are inadequate measures of control, monitoring and enforcement to ensure hazards are kept within guidelines and tolerance.

Ms Kango said this workshop has revealed that PNG has never been documented these guidelines to national standard so that is available to respective authorities and enforcing agen-

Observer Plays Vital Role in Accurate Data Collection

An accurate data collection is vital for scientists and managers to make wise decisions in managing fisheries and marine resources at sustainable level and halt over exploitation. This was the message from Mr Augustine Mobiha, Executive Manager for Fisheries Management Group of National Fisheries Authority, during the closing of the 9th Basic Observer Training held in Kavieng Fisheries College on the 4th of February to 7th March this year.

“You are NFA's eyes and ears and we are expecting you to collect accurate and reliable data when on fishing vessels”, Mr. Mobiha stressed. He encouraged current observers and trainee observers to collect accurate data so that scientist and fisheries managers can analyze these data and come up with better management plans for PNG's fisheries resources. He said Observers play important roles in the management of fisheries and marine resources. After this training eleven trainees observers were recruited, which now increases the number of active observers to 105.

Ms Aquina Kango Team Leader for Audit and Certificate Unit of National Fisheries Authority requested the Observer Management Team and SPC regional trainers if future basic observer training could include the Audit and Certification area of food quality to be taught as a subject.

She briefly highlighted that there are requirements of food quality control measures of tuna or other sea food products to be taught in such training so that observers may also understand food quality.

cies.

The companies exporting to EU will be the only ones well versed with this information, while exporters to other markets are not so affected due to market requirements, regarding imposition of such testing parameters.

She added that import of fish products into PNG is also a major concern. “It can truly be said that monitoring parameters and national guidelines for food safety is lacking, and such checks and balances of imports of fish for human consumption, may warrant random checks to confirm chemical tolerance in the products imported for domestic consumption.



• Minister for Fisheries Hon Ben Semri signs the third implementation arrangement while Mr Dan Sua Director General of FFA observes the signing.

By Justin Ilakini

Papua New Guinea is a member to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) that was established in 2004. As a member to this Commission, PNG is obliged to adhere and comply with all management and conservation measures agreed and instituted by the Commission which is enforceable within its jurisdiction, including the exclusive economic zones of coastal states, of which PNG is one of them.

The conservation and management of the region's tuna stocks have been high on the agenda in recent times, especially the concern on over-fishing of bigeye and yellowfin tuna. PNG is aware that science for years has clearly shown the declining state of the fishing of bigeye and maintain yellowfin. At the Commission level, PNG has been very serious in addressing this concern by proposing the following, which have now become the position of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA).

- Reduce purse seine and longlining on adult bigeye;
- Reduce the impact of FADs on juveniles;
- To maintain yellowfin stock, restrain overall catches; and
- Reduce juvenile catches especially in Indonesia & Philippines.

Measures on tuna fishery

To further strengthen our resolve at the Commission level to address the concern on bigeye and yellowfin, PNG in addition to its national tuna management plan and the minimum terms and conditions (MTCs) has gone further by introducing a number of in zone measures. These include:

- PNG has already closed the Morgardo Square and the Archipelagic waters;
- PNG's territorial waters are closed to all purse seining;
- All waters south of 5 degree south are closed to FADS;
- In effect about 50% of our waters are closed to FADS;

- A significant part totally closed to purse seine;
- Also inshore waters closed to longline;
- PNG has also advised and is in the process of closing the 50 nautical mile corridor along the PNG and Indonesia border to all forms of fishing; and
- PNG, as a PNA member is already implementing VDS as a measure to limit purse seine effort levels that does not exceed 2004 levels within its waters.

In view of the above measures, it must be noted that PNG is the only country in the world that has a FADS Management Policy, whilst the tuna longline fishery is fully domesticated with no foreign access. The longline operations are mainly fresh chilled whereby ultra-low boats are not allowed, hence its limited implications on bigeye and yellowfin tuna.

Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) measures for the purse seine fishery

PNG is a member of the PNA and has been taking an active role in proposing conservation and management measures in the convention area. As a group, the PNA has agreed in the last PNA meeting in Palau, March 2008 to apply the following additional measures in their respective EEZs. The measures include:

- Catch retention;
- Three-month 3rd quarter closure of fishing on FADs/floating objects;
- Generally 100% observer coverage; and
- Closure of high seas pockets as a condition of access to their EEZs.

The Parties will now apply the above measures as the respective PNA fisheries ministers signed the 3rd Implementing Arrangement under the Nauru Agreement in which Parties will commit to adopting these measures, whereby the measures will be included in regulations, licence conditions and access agreements as appropriate.

Conclusion

PNG is well poised to implement these measures because it has the most updated and modern vessel monitoring system (VMS) in the region, backed by the largest national observer program. With the support of the VMS setup, PNG is the only PNA country that has effectively implemented the vessel day scheme (VDS), where purse seine effort is now managed by the allocation of limited fishing days under the Palau Arrangement.

PNG is working very closely with the Commission to combat illegal, unregulated, unreported (IUU) fishing activities in the region by undertaking a number of port state measures. Some of these measures include catch documentation scheme, whilst a number of proposals have been put forward to address these global concern.