



FISHING LINE



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Rural Coastal Fisheries Development Programme to Begin Soon



• Prime Minister, Sir Mekere Morauta and Mr Anthony Crasner signing the financing agreement.

The Rural Coastal Fisheries Development Programme will soon proceed, after the signing of the financing agreement between the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea and the European Union Delegate in Port Moresby on 17 July 2001.

The project to be funded by the European Union aims to increase family income through greater participation in sustainable harvesting and improved marketing of marine resources in coastal areas of Papua New Guinea.

This will be achieved by increasing landings of finfish from off-shore under-exploited marine resources, increasing catch value through improved handling, marketing and distribution and improved management of inshore fishery to allow an increase in sustainable harvest.

The National Fisheries Authority with technical assistance provided by the EU Program will undertake the above activities in order to achieve the aims of the project.

The European Union is funding the programme through a grant from its EDF resources. A project appraisal was undertaken for the above project, followed by a completion of feasibility study report by Gillett Preston and Associates. The report was submitted to the European Commission headquarters in Brussels for approval in September 2000.

In thanking the European Union, the Prime Minister, Sir Mekere Morauta said the PNG Government acknowledged the continuous assistance by the European Union. He said the financial assistance will be used to implement the project to assist rural coastal families to engage in income earning activities through commercial fishing at the community level.

The EU Delegate, Mr Anthony Crasner reassured the PNG Government that during his term in PNG, he is obliged to ensure that PNG has access to EU assistance such as this. He said, like other donors, EU's overarching development goal is 'Poverty Reduction', therefore its aid to the ACP countries, which includes PNG, will have poverty reduction as a core objective.

The EDF Rural Coastal Fisheries Development Programme and the ADB Coastal Fisheries Management and Development Technical Assistance Project are seen by NFA as programmes that complement each other. Therefore, they would play a critical role in terms of supporting new initiatives that are to be undertaken by NFA in the provinces in terms of developing and strengthening the capacity of provinces in sustainable fisheries development and management of in-shore areas.

From the Managing Director's Desk

During July NFA hosted two important bilateral meetings on Fisheries. On the 16th and 17th July, we reopened dialogue with Japanese fishing interests on a possible access arrangement for tuna fishing in PNG waters. Despite the progress made in developing our locally based tuna fishing industry, there is still scope for foreign access to make use of the resources which our own vessels do not fully utilise. This applies particularly to the surface tuna (of which Skipjack makes up the bulk of the catch). There are a lot of misconceptions about the value of this resource, based on the estimates of the total value of the catch. In negotiating access arrangements we need to recognise that the fish has no value until it is caught. Access fees provide us with an important source of revenue, while the investment, risks and operating costs of the fishery are borne by the foreign fleets. This does not mean we will be giving anything away in negotiations, and I expect some hard bargaining before we reach agreement, but we need to temper our expectations with a degree of realism.

The following week we were again at the negotiating table in almost the opposite role, seeking access for some of our fishing vessels. Subject to final endorsement by the Australian authorities, the catch sharing arrangement with the Australian Government for the Torres Strait Protected Zone will be renewed in October. Because most of the fishing grounds in the Torres Strait fall under Australian jurisdiction, the Treaty includes an arrangement under which PNG vessels can have their licenses endorsed to take a share of the catch from the Australian side. This arrangement lapsed last year. In the talks we were able to secure agreement for cross-border endorsement for up to 27 lobster dinghies, 8 prawn trawlers and 20 mackerel trolling boats. In the past this facility has not been well used, but we reached agreement on providing for a more timely endorsement process. We are also seeking access to anchorages under Australian jurisdiction for our

boats operating in the straits.

During July we finalised the draft of a new National Beche-de-mer Management Plan. This aims to remove unnecessary restrictions on the licensing of the trade, while requiring accurate and timely reporting by exporters. The plan removes the need for buyers' licences and lifts the arbitrary restriction on the number of licensed exporters in each Province. It also provides for the formation of Provincial Management Advisory Councils, to advise the NFA on local management measures (such as closed areas) that may be needed in each Province.

Looking ahead, August promises to be another busy month. We are still expecting to move into our new office on the 11th floor of the Deloitte Tower on the 13th. At the same time, we will be introducing a new logo for the Authority, and a uniform to be worn by all staff. Bringing all our people together onto one floor is both a symbolic and practical step towards a forming better coordinated organisation. Of course, while we are looking forward to moving into a smart new office, substance is more important than image. As well as the 'new look', we are all working hard to introduce new standards of efficiency and responsiveness throughout the staff structure.

On the 22nd and 23rd we will be holding the first consultative review of the National Tuna Management Plan. Participants are being invited from all sectors of the tuna fishing industry, Provincial Governments and other stakeholders. We are fortunate to have experts from SPC and the Forum Fisheries Agency joining us for the meetings to provide up to date analysis of the status of the resource and regional tuna management initiatives. I look forward to seeing many of you then.

Michael Batty
Acting Managing Director

Staff Profile



Name: Ms Aquina Kango
Age: 33 years old
Qualification: Bachelor of Science in Food Technology & Post-graduate Diploma in Technology.

Occupation: Team Leader - Audit and Certification

Ms Kango joined the National Fisheries Authority in 1993, after obtaining a Post-graduate Diploma in Technology from Massey University in New Zealand, and was based at the Kiliakila laboratory. She was employed as a micro-biologist and then to senior microbiologist in 1996. The position she held until the restructure of NFA in 2000, when she was appointed Audit and Certification Team Leader.

Prior to working with NFA, she was employed for a short term with CCA Snack Foods (now know as Smith's Crisps) and Air Niugini.

Her main role as the Audit and Certification Team Leader is:

- to ensure effective provision of export standards and certification in accordance with international and national quality standard;
- to ensure the promotion and sustainability of audit and inspection system appropriate to recognized standards and regulations;
- to ensure processing, storage, export factories for fish and fish products are meeting appropriate national and international standards.
- ensure provision of services for analytical/chemical testing; and
- to establish understanding between national and international bodies, regarding recognition of food safety standards and practices.

"I feel proud of the new NFA. Things are really moving and heading the right way for PNG's vast marine resources and the fishing industry."

She feels proud that the laboratory at Kiliakila will soon be given international recognition, although, currently, it is not under NFA but the groundwork will always be an achievement for NFA. She said the establishment of the ACU and having Steve Roberts as the Consultant, who is spearheading food safety issues, and directing the industry to standards of best practices, is very vital to the fish export market.

"What I want done at NFA is that all employees must continue to maintain professionalism and efficiency at all levels. This is very vital to the progress of NFA and PNG and this is something that we must strive to pursue at all times.

PNG and Australia Fisheries Bilateral Talks Fruitful

The Papua New Guinea and Australia Bilateral meeting was held in Port Moresby from 24 to 25 July 2001.

High on the agenda was the review on the catch sharing arrangements for the Torres Strait Fisheries and their management. A discussion paper on catch sharing fisheries, was presented, which included; status of each fishery, management arrangement, biology, et cetera.

Australia and Papua New Guinea have catch sharing arrangements on the following fisheries;

- **Prawns**
- **Beche-de-mer**
- **Spanish mackerel**
- **Pearl**
- **Dugong and Turtle**

These fisheries are managed in accordance with Article 22 and 23 of the Treaty. The articles allow for subsidiary management arrangements and are built into a set of Schedules (A to B) which are reviewed, negotiated and are in force for three years.

The arrangements allow for cross border endorsement of licences, where each country will endorse the current commercial fishing licences from the other country to fish in its area of jurisdiction and vice-versa.

Also on the agenda were issues such as; Surveillance and Monitoring, Multilateral High Level Consultation (MHLIC), Capacity Building and Fisheries Scientific Research, US Treaty Negotiations, APEC Fisheries Working Group and Aquaculture (Women In Aquaculture).

The meeting continues a tradition of friendly consultation on the management of the fisheries of the Torres Strait Protected Zone. This year the agenda has been broadened to include discussion on some other fisheries matters of mutual interest.

The Torres Strait Protected Zone fisheries regime is based on two objectives:

1. conservation and management of fisheries resources; and
2. sharing of the catch of the commercial fisheries on an equitable basis.

Delegations from each country included senior fisheries officials, fishing industry representatives, foreign affairs personnel and officials from other government agencies.

The meeting agreed on a number of resolutions relating to catch sharing arrangements in the Torres Strait Protected Zone, which have lapsed since early last year. Subject to endorsement by the Australian

Government, the renewed arrangements will provide significant opportunities for PNG fishermen in the Lobster, Prawn and Spanish Mackerel fisheries.

The two sides also discussed a number of other fisheries matters of mutual interest. They agreed to work together more closely in the areas of fisheries surveillance and research into marine resources in the Torres Strait.

Generally, Papua New Guinea was pleased with the outcomes of the meeting as most proposals put forward were agreed to.

For more information, please contact **Mr Barre Kare**, Fisheries Manager – Lobster/Prawns on Ph: 321 2643, Ext 38



• NFA and Australian Fisheries officials at the Crowne Plaza during the Fisheries Bilateral talks.

An In-depth Look at Audit and Certification

Audit and Certification is a function within the National Fisheries Authority that ensures the management of inspection and seafood product certification standards and audit systems in support of recognized international standards and procedures.

It is a team under the Monitoring and Enforcement Division. The Team Leader is Ms Aquina Kango, leading a team of four officers.

Main Objectives:

Coordinate the effective provision of export standards and certification in accordance with international and national quality standards and appropriate fish pricing methods.

Promote and sustain audit and inspection functions appropriate to the management of national standards and export documentation requirements.

Provide for inspection and audit of vessel and land based fish handling processing and storage facilities for fish and fish products to ensure they reach appropriate national and international standards.

Ensure the provision of services for physical and chemical microbiological analysis of fish and other marine products to ensure product quality standards.

Major Clients:

- Commercial fishing industry.
- Fish buyers, processors and exporters.
- Distant water fishing nations fishing in PNG waters.
- International agencies involved with setting food quality standards.
- Export markets for PNG products.
- NFA enforcement group.
- NFA Board and Executive Management.
- Other PNG Government Agencies involved with food, hygiene and Public Health and Safety.

Some of their major activities are:

- Operate an audit and inspection system in relation to the implementation and management of industry standards for fish storage and processing facilities.
- Operate an audit and inspection system in regard to the implementation and management of industry standards for fish handling, processing and packaging activities on registered premises and for export.
- Ensure a capacity to undertake routine checkups and inspections at waterfront, airports, premises, and follow up of reported breaches of regulations or standards.
- Monitor the standard application of quality testing for seafood products.
- Monitor the performance of seafood processing plants in regard to hygiene and quality standards and in managing instances of product spoilage.
- Ensure assistance is available to seafood processing plants in the formulation management of HACCP plans.
- Monitor the collection of export price declarations and international market information and liaise with international fish traders and other sources to update fish price indexes.

- Ensure a capacity to provide quality awareness and information through exchange of educational materials, workshops, meetings and in-service to address problem areas for a better understanding.

Achievements Within ACU

1. Proper audit & inspection systems effectively in operation.
2. New export certificates currently in operation, which combines all the five Separate forms that NFA previously uses.
3. Fishing Industry Seminar and three HACCP workshops successfully completed. This has assisted the industry in understanding the Food and Safety issues, systems, currently being implemented at NFA.
4. Most industries are making great progress towards improving their standards of practices to meet recognized standards.
5. Two members of the Team have attended the Low Acid Canned Food Course in New Zealand.
6. All members of ACU Team are members of the International Association of Fish Inspectors.
7. Quarterly reports are being sent to the European Union's Food and Veterinary office on improvements made since their last audit in June 2000.
8. NFA is now selected to be on the National Codex Committee for Food Safety issues due to it's leading role in the HACCP based regulatory system for seafood safety.

New Developments

- Contact has been made with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) and USFDA to develop a mutual recognition of respective seafood safety programme.
- ACU Team is a member to the International Association of Fish Inspection (IAFI), and that the Team Leader will attend the 4th World Fish Inspection and Quality Control Congress from October 24 to 26 in Vancouver, Canada. The purpose of this is to establish contact with representatives of countries which PNG exports to, and to learn what the most recent developments are in Seafood Inspection worldwide.

The Seven Principles of HACCP

1. Conduct hazard analysis.
2. Determine the critical control points (CCPS) in the process.
3. Establish critical limits.
4. Monitor each CCP.
5. Establish corrective actions.
6. Establish verification procedures.
7. Establish record-keeping and documentation procedures.

For more information, please contact the Audit and Certification Team Leader, Ms Aquina Kango, on Ph: 320 1882/321 2643, Ext 52

HACCP Training for Fishing Industry

The National Fisheries Authority has conducted a one-week intensive training workshop for the Fishing Industry. The workshop was the last of the training for the year 2001 to help the fishing industry with its development and implementation of the HACCP program as required by the Fish Quality Control Export Standard.

The workshop was held at the Lamana Motel from 24 to 28 July 2001.

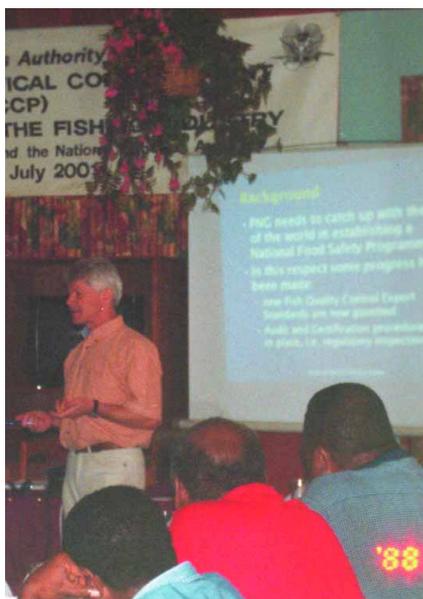
By December 2001, the National Fisheries Authority expects all companies to have met the minimum requirement of the Seafood Export Regulation. Priority was given to the companies that did not attend the previous two workshops.

At the end of the workshop, 19 participants were awarded certificates.

A Seafood Processing Consultant engaged by NFA for all three workshops, Mr Steve Roberts said the people are very positive towards implementing HACCP, although a few felt that the concept was difficult but with practice they will achieve it.

The HACCP Programme will be taught at the National Fisheries College next year subject to demand.

The HACCP Programme for this year was funded by the European Union. The training fee was K500.00 per participant, which covered course materials and tea breaks.



• Mr Steve Roberts conducting HACCP workshop.

For more information, please contact Ms Aquina Kango on Ph: 320 1882 / 321 2643, Ext 52.

Fisheries Negotiations Opened with the Japanese

Negotiations had been opened with the Japanese fishing industry on access to Papua New Guinea waters by Japanese tuna fishermen operating in the Pacific region.

This commenced during a two-day meeting between the NFA staff and Japanese officials in Port Moresby from 16 to 17 July.

Representatives from the Japan Far Seas Purse Seine Fishing Association, the National Offshore Tuna Fisheries Association, the Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Associations, and officials of related Japanese agencies met with the Fisheries Minister, Hon. Ron Ganarafa and senior managers from the National Fisheries Authority.

The Minister said while no firm agreement was reached during the meeting, however, it was indeed a very fruitful and encouraging meeting. He said, there will be further exchanges of information which he hoped would lead to more formal discussions on access for the Japanese fishing industry.

Negotiations between the Japan and Papua New Guinea on renewal of access agreements broke down in 1987. The two sides at that time were unable to resolve a number of issues, particularly the level of access fees. However, it was pleasing that the two parties were now able to sit down and discuss these matters after a period of 13 years. The Minister paid tribute to the leader of the negotiating group Mr. Tatsuo Saito for the progress made during the talks.

Eye-Opener Course for ACU Officers



• NFA Officers, Messrs Alois Kinol and Timothy Numilengi with two other PNG students on Masters Program at the Massey University. From left – right, T. Numilengi is second from left and A. Kinol is on the right.

Two officers of the Audit and Certification Team spent a week at the Massey University in New Zealand from 2-6 July 2001. They attended the XXth School for Supervisors of Low Acid Canned Food (LACF) Thermal Processing.

The officers attended the course in order to be fully equipped when auditing fish canneries in Papua New Guinea. Currently, we have the RD Tuna Cannery in Madang and the International Food Corporation (IFC)

in Lae.

The course conducted was based on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulation on low acid canned foods. These regulations outline the minimum processing requirements for companies engaged in LACF in the United States and also any countries exporting to US.

The course was an eye-opener

for the officers, Messrs Alois Kinol and Timothy Numilengi.

Below are the 17 subjects covered during the course;

1. Microbiology of Thermally Processed Foods
2. Acidic Foods
3. Food Container Handling
4. Food Plant Sanitation
5. Principles of Thermal Processing
6. Records for Product Protection
7. Process Room Instrument, Equipment and Operation
8. Regulation for Thermally Processed Low Acid Foods
9. Closures for Semi-Rigid and Flexible Containers
10. Closures for Glass Containers
11. Closures for Metal Containers
12. Still Retorts;- Pressure Processing in Steam
13. Still Retorts;- Processing with Overpressure
14. Hydrostatic Retorts;- Pressure Processing in Steam
15. Agitating Retorts;- Continuous Container Handling
16. Agitating Retorts;- Discontinuous Container Handling
17. Aseptic Processing and Packaging Systems

The two officers would like to take this opportunity to thank their sponsors, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in New Caledonia and Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Honiara for their generous sponsorship and support.

New National Management Plan for Beche-de-mer

A new National Beche-de-mer Fishery Management Plan 2001 has been developed and disseminated to all stakeholders for final consultation.

With this new National Beche-de-mer Fishery Management Plan in place, there will not be any more individual provincial Beche-de-mer Fishery Plans. All of them will be managed under just one umbrella of the National Beche-de-mer Fishery Management Plan.

The main objective of the new National Management Plan is to manage the fishery so that Papua New Guinea gains the maximum economic benefits. It will also ensure that the development of the Beche-de-mer fishery benefits coastal communities, particularly customary fishers, and also ensure use of the Beche-de-mer resource is sustainable and that Beche-de-mer fishing has minimal impact on the marine and coastal environment.

Meanwhile, all new Beche-de-mer Fishery Licence applications can be sent in to NFA but no consideration will be made until the NFA Board approves the new National Management Plan in September.

For more information, please contact the Fisheries Manager- Sedentary, **Mr Philip Polon** on Ph: 321 2643, ext 14.

Application Open for Fisheries Observer Training Course

The National Fisheries Authority will be conducting a four-week basic fisheries Observer Training Course at the National Fisheries College, Kavieng, in October 2001.

Advertisements were already placed in the daily newspapers inviting applications for the course.

However, applications are only being sought from Alotau, Daru, Kavieng, Lae, Lorengau, Madang, Port Moresby, Rabaul and Wewak.

After successful completion of the course, a further selection will be made based on an evaluation of the candidates' potential to meet the high levels of endurance, honesty and

communication.

Endurance, honesty and communication will be the main determining factors. A nationally recognized certificate will be awarded to course participants upon satisfactory completion of the course.

The NFA Observer Programme contract hires from a pool of suitably qualified personnel to undertake observer duties as needed. Recent restructuring of NFA, to better and more effectively serve the needs of the nation.

For more information, please contact the Observer Manager, **Mr Noan Pakop** on Ph: 321 2643, Ext 51.

Early Closure of New Ireland Beche-de-mer Fishery

The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) will close the New Ireland Province Beche-de-mer Fishery on 30 July 2001.

The early closure of the fishery is to ensure that the annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 80 metric tonnes allowed under the New Ireland Province Beche-de-mer Fishery Management Plan is not exceeded. Total catch in July was 72 tonnes with an average monthly catch of 11.3 tonnes. It was likely that the TAC would be reached by August.

NFA is closing the Fishery so that the stock of Beche-de-mer in New Ireland Province has time to regenerate and undersize fish has time to grow. This means that when the season opens next year, there should again be a good harvest.

Harvesting, buying, storing and exporting of Beche-de-mer during the closure of the fishery is illegal and offenders will be prosecuted according-

ly.

All licensed Beche-de-mer operators are required to declare all stocks in storage to fisheries officers in Kavieng by 15 August and are given until 30 August, 2001 to dispose off all stock. Any operator found with Beche-de-mer in storage or on their premises after 30 August will be dealt with accordingly.

***New National Management Plan for the Beche-de-mer Fishery is being developed by NFA. This Plan will be effective later this year and will replace the current New Ireland Provincial Management Plan.**

***New Ireland Province Beche-de-mer Fishery will reopen on 16 December 2001 under the new National Management Plan.**

For more information, please contact **Mr Philip Polon**, Fishery Manager-Sedentary, on Ph: 321 2643, Ext 14.

Pacu Fish not a Problem in the Sepik and Ramu River Systems

The Fishery Manager, Inland and Aquaculture, Mr Augustine Mobiha has completed his findings into the alleged Pacu Fish problems in the Sepik and Ramu River Systems.

The results are;

1. The Pacu Fish (*Piaractus brachyomus* also sometimes called *Colossoma bidens*) is one of eight fish species introduced into the East Sepik and Madang provinces by the FAO funded FISHAID project. This project operated from 1993 to 1997. The fish introductions were undertaken to help supplement the protein diet of the local villagers and also provide a source for cash income. Juvenile Pacu fish have sharp teeth and feed on vegetation, fish, crustacea and possibly insects. Adult fish have teeth that are not sharp and are probably mainly used for grinding of fruits/seeds. Adult Pacu fish is fleshy and good for eating. People from the Sepik River area are presently selling and eating the fish.

Pacu Fish is not present in the Ramu River system.

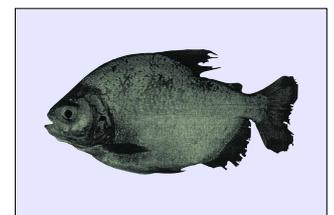
2. The introduced Pacu Fish is not yet reported in catches from anywhere in the upper, middle and lower reaches of the Ramu River system.

3. The Scientific Advisory Group, which advised on the introduction of the fish also comprised representatives from all government

organisations. These organisations included both the Office of Environment and Conservation (OEC) and National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority (NAQIA).

With regards to local newspaper reports that people are being killed by the Pacu Fish, the investigation has revealed the following;

1. Within the area between Korogu village and along the Sepik River to Wagu village (up river from Ambunti Government Station) only one person was attacked on his private part. This person required medical treatment and came from Korogu village. A lady also claimed to have been bitten by the Pacu on her legs, just above her knees. She had some scars present.
2. No deaths from the introduced Pacu Fish attacks were reported from Korogu to Wagu villages.



• The Pacu Fish.

For more information, please call **Mr Augustine Mobiha**, Fisheries Manager, Inland & Aquaculture on Ph: 321 2643, Ext 44.