



# FISHING LINE



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## Feasibility Study on Coastal Fisheries Management and Development to Begin



• Mr Lindley set to work at the NFA Office.

A project for the Coastal Fisheries Management and Development in Papua New Guinea is being developed and feasibility studies are now in progress.

Mr Robert Lindley, a specialist on Institutional Strengthening and Human Resource Development, is in the country to commence preparatory and planning work on the proposed project.

A team of technical specialists and advisors will be arriving in July to carry out an extensive study into the anticipated loan project. They will have consultations with fishery participants, and stakeholders, including representatives of the public sector, the private sector, resource users and custodians and non-governmental organisations.

These and other interested groups will be consulted during the course of the study and

will be encouraged to become full participants in the development of the anticipated loan project. Joint meetings and workshops will be convened both in Port Moresby and in the provinces to help share information and reach consensus on important issues.

Initial consultations and research will focus on a national assessment of fishery development potential and constrains. This will be used to select provinces that appear most appropriate for targeting during the study.

A thorough investigation of customary marine tenure issues, and ways in which they can be accommodated within the proposed project will be an essential part of the study.

The project will be funded by the Asian Development Bank. It will concentrate mainly on:

- Institutional strengthening at the provincial and local levels;
- Rural Fisheries Development; and
- Infrastructure Development.

A number of issues have been identified within the area of Provincial and Local-level institutional strengthening to which special attention will be paid.

The issues are:

- Establishment of provincial and local fishery advisory committees;
- Promotion of stakeholder associations;
- Small business development;
- Capacity-building within local-level governments;
- Co-management; and
- Enhancing the role of Non-Government Organisations.

Mr Lindley said the final report on the project proposal will be presented to the Asian Development Bank in September.

## From the Managing Director's Desk

The month of June, my first full month as acting Managing Director, has been an eventful one. On the 15th, the Captains of two Indonesian fishing vessels, accused of fishing in PNG waters without a licence were found 'guilty as charged'. This is the first successful prosecution of foreign vessels for illegal fishing since 1998, and represents the result of much good work by the crew of the Patrol Boat *Seadler*, the Monitoring and Enforcement section of NFA, and the prosecuting lawyer from the State Solicitor's Office, Department of Attorney General. The fines imposed and the disposal of the forfeited vessels will provide revenue for the State, some of which we intend to use for further enforcement action.

There is certainly a need for more enforcement measures in that part of the fisheries waters off Western Province, known as the Dogleg. Even as the case against three more vessels, apprehended in the same area, was continuing, I was able to join an RAAF Orion flight which identified a further nine Indonesian trawlers in the Dogleg. Most of them were clearly fishing.

I view illegal fishing by foreign vessels, as perhaps the most serious threat to the proper management of Papua New Guinea's fisheries resources. Over the next few weeks we will be exploring ways in which we can assist the Maritime Element to overcome the constraints imposed by a lack of funds for operating the Patrol Boats. We will work with the Department of Foreign Affairs to protest to the Flag State of these vessels for their continuing violation of international law. We will also seek to increase awareness, by Indonesian fishing interests of our maritime boundaries, and the penalties they face for ignoring them.

Earlier in the month, we held discussions with fisheries management specialists from the Forum Fisheries Agency, in preparation for a review of the Tuna Management Plan. There

has been encouraging growth in the domestic tuna fishery, with several new longliners and purse-seiners about to join the fleet, but there are also a number of 'front companies'. We need to refine and enforce our domestic licensing criteria if PNG is to capture the potential economic benefits of the fishery, and not just become a flag of convenience for foreign tuna boats. A consultation with the industry and other stakeholders will be held on the 22nd and 23rd of August to review this area; the impact of changes in regional and international tuna management regimes; the interactions between the FAD and longline fisheries; predation by whales; and other issues of concern.

Next month, we will be hosting a meeting with Australian officials to discuss fisheries management in the Torres Strait Protected Zone. In the past, PNG seems to have gained little from such meetings, and we approach this one determined to secure a better deal for our fishing industry in Western Province from the catch sharing arrangements. In the light of a worrying decline in lobster catch rates, we will also be urging the Australians to introduce greater controls on fishing effort in the areas under their jurisdiction, following the ban on lobster diving with hookah that we have put in place on our side.

Meanwhile, staff continue to work every weekend sorting out our records and files ready for the move to a new office. This tedious but necessary exercise has been making good progress, but it has also been producing much evidence of the failings of the 'old NFA' in the form of unanswered correspondence and delayed licence applications. There is not much I can say about this, except to reaffirm the commitment of the 'new NFA' to hard work with greater efficiency.

### Michael Batty

Acting Managing Director



## Staff Profile

**Name:** Mr Lamiller Pawut  
**Status:** Married with three children  
**Qualification:** Bachelor of Applied Science (Fisheries) & Certificate in Tropical Fisheries  
**Current Position:** Manager – Monitoring and Enforcement

In this Issue, I bring to you the front man at the National Fisheries Authority for all surveillance, enforcement and monitoring activities within the waters of Papua New Guinea. He rose from the very humble beginnings in the Department of Primary Industry to be a senior manager with the National Fisheries Authority.

Mr Pawut is the Manager for the Monitoring and Enforcement Division. The Division carries out investigations mainly on illegal fishing activities and their prime tasks is to protect the fisheries resources of Papua New Guinea from over-exploitation, and that is no easy job.

He comes from the Tatau Area of Tabar Island, New Ireland Province. He joined as a Rural Development Recruit, Department of Primary Industry in Kavieng soon after leaving high school.

He enrolled at the National Fisheries College in Kavieng and graduated with a Certificate in Tropical Fisheries. In 1982, he was recruited as a Rural Development Technician with the Department of Primary Industry in Goroka and a year later was transferred to Daru DPI Fisheries Research. Whilst there, he was mainly assisting the Biologist to do lobster taking, sampling and testing. Mr Pawut joined the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources in Kavieng in 1987 and worked as Assistant Fisheries Inspector. He rose from there to Officer In-Charge Fisheries Inspection and Surveillance.

The following year, he was promoted and transferred to Head Quarters as Senior Export Officer. Mr Pawut was instrumental in the establishment of the database for exports.

After two years he was further promoted to Senior Surveillance Officer for the New Guinea Islands Region. In 1996, he moved on to become the Principal Surveillance Officer and that was the position he held when he went to study in Australia in 1997. With AusAID sponsorship he spent three and a half years at the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania, from which he graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science (Fisheries).

When asked if there is a change in NFA, his immediate response was, "sure, there is an enormous change from when it first started to what it is now."

"Generally speaking, more and more Papua New Guineans are now involved in the fishing industry and are more in control of the industry, and that in itself is a big change compared to the past."

"I have really enjoyed working in all those areas of fisheries starting from a recruit to a fishery technician, then to a Fishery Inspector and then Fishery Investigation and Prosecution. I really enjoy working with the NFA because it was the first job I had after leaving school and I enjoy every bit of it." Mr Pawut said.

## Provincial and Industry Liaison Branch has a New Advisor

The new amalgamated Branches of Provincial and Industrial Liaison has a new Advisor. He is Mr Bob Densley.

He has an Honors Degree in Agriculture Science and an Economics Degree. He has worked in many developing countries, including eight years in Papua New Guinea from 1970 to 1977. During those years he was working as Assistant Secretary Economics, Planning and Marketing with the Department of Agriculture Stock and Fisheries in Port Moresby.

He is married with five children and five grand children.

Mr Densley arrived in Port Moresby three weeks ago. He has worked as an International Fisheries Consultant and was until recently, Executive Chairman of the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority. He was recruited for the National Fisheries Authority by the Australian Volunteers International Group.

He is on a two-year contract to assist staff in developing consultation and relationships with the fishing industry, the provincial governments and the local-level governments. The Branch will be focusing mainly on the development of export earning opportunities for the fishing industry and inshore fisheries from which community based groups can earn an income.

Mr Densley said the amalgamation of the two

previous branches is good because there is an overlap in their operations and several major industrial developments are located in the provinces.

The new emphasis of the National Fisheries Authority is to help facilitate the expansion of fisheries and development opportunities.



• Mr Densley, newly appointed Advisor for Provincial and Industry Liaison Branch.

## NFA Assists Fishing Industry Implement HACCP

The National Fisheries Authority has been offering continued assistance to the Fishing industries for the implementation of their Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP).

The HACCP is specifically for companies that are exporting high-risk products. These are frozen products that can easily cause food poisoning, if not properly handled, including, wet fish products such as Fish Fillets, Prawns, Fresh Chilled Tuna, Fresh Tuna and canned Tuna.

Two workshops have been conducted so far which were attended by some longline fishing companies, Prawn Trawling companies and some land based processing industries.

Two Consultants, Mr Fransisco Blaha and Steve Roberts were engaged to assist fishing industry meet HACCP requirements under the PNG Fish Quality Control Export Standards.

The two workshops were held at the Gateway Hotel in Port Moresby from 26 March to 6 April 2001. The Industries that attended were Latitude 8, RD Tuna, Neptune Fishery, GM Industry, Gulf Papua Fishery, MAPS Tuna, Golden Bowl, Sengus Investment, Meil Enterprise, Frabelle, Maru Marines, Olga Fishing Trading, Nako Fishing, International Food Corporation, Health Department and National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority (NAQIA).

During the second week, eight companies and 15 fishing vessels were assisted by a HACCP Industry Consultant in implementing their HACCP plans. They are Latitude 8 (10 vessels), Delta Seafoods, PNG Fresh Tuna (Garamut), Sengus Investment Enterprise, Maps Tuna (two vessels), Neptune Fisheries (three vessels), Frabelle Fishing and Nako Fisheries.

For more information, please contact the Audit & Certification Team Leader, **Ms Aquina Kango** on Telephone 321 2643 extn 52, 320 1882.

## Corrections: Last Newsletter

The Public Relations Office would like to sincerely apologise to Ms Valonna Baker for naming her as Valonna Kagena and also to the Acting Managing Director, Mr Michael Batty for saying he has a

postgraduate qualification in Agriculture which, was supposed to be Aquaculture. The other error was tinfish instead of finfish in the Standard Species Name for Licences table.

# An In-depth Look at the Observer Programme

## The Papua New Guinea National Observer Programme

The Programme was established in 1996 in recognition of the need to co-ordinate and improve the level of monitoring in Papua New Guinea's expanding tuna fisheries. Prior to this, there were only a few scattered observer trips carried out in various fisheries by the National Fisheries Authority and Fisheries Technicians.

With the recent restructuring of the National Fisheries Authority into a service provider, it was recognized that domestic as well as foreign fisheries must be monitored. Therefore the National Fisheries Authority must now ensure that there is sufficient quality data that can be made available to the researchers it contracts to meet its stock monitoring needs.

The management team will develop policies and procedures to ensure that Observer Programme objectives are fully supported.

These objectives are:

- To develop national standards and policies to improve quality of data collected.
- To develop funding and support mechanisms.
- To promote mechanisms for timely delivery of data to appropriate parties.

The Manager of the Observer Programme Team is Mr Noan Pakop based at NFA headquarters in Port Moresby.

Two Senior Observers are based at each of the six major fishing ports in the country. They are Wewak, Port Moresby, Rabaul, Kavieng, Madang and Lae.

These Senior Observers are each supported by several Fisheries Observers at each port. The number of observers allocated to each port depends on the level of fishing activities occurring at the respective ports. Senior Observers and Observers contract their services to the NFA on short-term contracts.

To be eligible to be recruited as an observer, the individuals must meet the minimum levels of education and training that are described in a recently prepared manual called "**Papua New Guinea National Standards for Training and Certification of Fisheries Observers and Port Samplers.**"

This manual aims to provide a framework for training and certification of Fisheries Observers and Port Samplers. It facilitates the acquisition of reliable technical, regulatory and scientific data for use in the management of fisheries under the jurisdiction of Papua New Guinea.

It promotes the principle of improved performance through transparent competitive procedures. The guidelines also address the role of regional structures, concepts of regional harmonization and respect for the concerns of the fishing industry.

### The Role of the NFA Observer Manager

His role includes budgeting, reviews and evaluations of existing programme activity with respect to cost efficiency, effectiveness and coverage levels. The Manager also examines standards for insurance, data confidentiality and storage, hiring, training, safety and contracting.

Efforts are undertaken:-

- to modernize data collection techniques;
- to achieve a suitable balance between the needs for data and the cost to industry of its collection; and
- to integrate observer data with other programmes.

### Future goals of the NFA Observer Programme

The NFA Observer Programme will open the process to include all stake holders and create partnerships with agencies to meet common data needs; it should provide for a timely and widespread dissemination of Observer data to the fishing industry and the public; it must work toward creative cost recovery mechanisms and the development of standards and policies that enhance effectiveness and minimise costs.

### Why do we need Observers?

We need Observers to:

- Provide quality data on all aspects of fishing activities (biological, environmental and socio-economic) for fisheries science and management.
- Monitor vessel compliance with PNG's Fisheries Regulations and other environmental laws.
- Provide a means for verifying the data collected from other sources such as logbooks and landing reports.

### The Work of Observers:-

Observers provide data on species-composition of catch and by-catch, estimates of gear, vessel and gear characteristics, fishing locations, biological samples, and environmental parameters for normal fish stock monitoring purposes.

Observers may also assist in the National Fisheries Authority sponsored research projects, collecting biological samples for stock assessments and genetic studies, tagging and releasing fish and also in a variety of other research activities when not directly monitoring fishing operations.

The various PNG fisheries currently functioning with Observer coverage include, both foreign and domestic single purse seine and mothership purse seine operations, domestic longlining, prawn trawl and lobster fisheries, and experimental scad fishing. Observers were also monitoring live reef food fishing activities. They were also monitoring the shark longline fishery until the moratorium was imposed in December 2000.

For further information, please contact the Observer Manager, **Mr Noan Pakop**, National Fisheries Authority, P.O. Box 2016, Port Moresby or on Telephone No: 321-2643, ext 51

## NFA to Investigate reports on Pacu Fish

The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) is investigating reports that people are being bitten by the Pacu fish on the Sepik River in the East Sepik Province. This is an independent investigation to confirm the reports. Investigations would also be conducted into the biology including, diet composition and population structure of this fish within the Sepik River area.

A senior officer has started this investigation on 27 June.

The fish is called Pacu which is the common name and the Scientific name is *Piaractus Brachyomus*, also called *Colossoma Bidens* (ICLARM Fishbase database). This fish was one of the eight fish species introduced into the Sepik and Ramu river systems between 1993 and 1997.

The fish originally comes from Brazil and was introduced by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) FishAid stocking project. However, for the purposes of the stocking project, it was imported from Malaysia, where it had already been introduced without any problems.

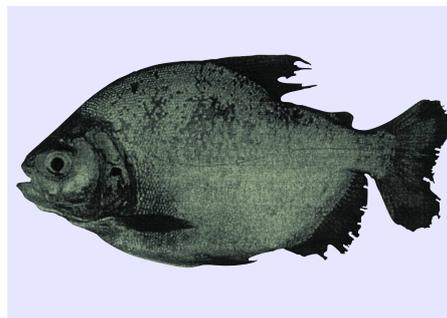
When introduced, it was reported to be edible, and it feeds on insects and decaying plants. A Scientific Advisory Committee was established to oversee the introduction of the eight fish species and agreed to

their introduction based on advice given by the FAO technical team.

The FAO technical team leader was Dr. David Coates. The technical team felt that the fish would help increase the protein supply for the local populace. It also felt the fish species introduced would not affect the ecological balance of the system of the area.

Recent reports from the Sepik River have indicated that the species is good for eating.

For more information, please contact the Fisheries Manager - Aquaculture & Inland, **Mr Augustine Mobiha** on Telephone No. 321 2643 extn 37.



• Pictured here is the Pacu Fish.

## Guilty as Charged

The captains of two Indonesian fishing vessels were found guilty as charged by Chief Magistrate G. Manuhu, in his verdict of 15 June. The two had been accused of fishing in Papua New Guinea waters without a valid and applicable licence. The verdict followed court appearances on 15, 16, 30 and 31 May, and 8 June.

The two vessels had been apprehended by PNGHMS Seadler on 13 April, in an area of PNG waters known as the Dogleg, off Western Province. In delivering his verdict, the Chief Magistrate stated that he had formed the impression that the prosecution witnesses were all truthful in their evidence. He particularly mentioned a key witness, NFA Enforcement Officer Sylvester Tenikrey, who "was able to withstand the intensity of cross-examination by the defendants' lawyers."

The captains of the two fishing boats were fined K80,000 and K70,000 and the court ordered that both fishing vessels be forfeited to the State.

At its most recent meeting, the NFA Board agreed that the acting Managing Director should negotiate the sale of the vessels back to their original owners. This is because they are stern trawlers, a type of vessel not used in the PNG fishing industry, and because past efforts to sell forfeited fishing boats within the country have proved unsatisfactory.

The vessels, Mutiara Jaya 17 and 18 were sold back to their owner for K1 million and sailed out of Port Moresby on 3 July 2001.

## New Export Form for Exporters

The National Fisheries Authority has developed a new Certificate of Fitness for the Export of Fish and Fishery Products. This is an incorporation and merging of six separate documents.

Mr Norman Barnabas, Industry Liaison Adviser who was instrumental in this new development is glad that the new certificate is in line with the NFA's policy to create an environment conducive for investment, and to reduce 'red tape'.

Team Leader for Audit and Certification, Ms Aquina Kango said the old system was a real hassle in which exporters had to carry around with them a lot of documents. "For example if an exporter was to do one export, he/she will have to fill about six forms for just one export.

However, this new design contains only one form with two coloured

duplicates. This means that every time exporters fill in a form they keep the first copy, the other is for the National Fisheries Authority and the last copy for Customs for bank clearance purposes.

The form was designed early this year and some exporters have already started using it in April.

NFA would like to advise all export licence holders that they are now required to use this new form.

The book comprising 50 certificates in triplicates is being sold at NFA for K25.00 to recover printing costs.

All certificates have serial numbers which will assist NFA monitor export of fish and fishery products.

For more information, please contact, **Audit and Certification Team** on Phone No: 321 2643 ext 52/50

The Independent State of Papua New Guinea  
National Fisheries Authority  
Fisheries Management Act 1998

**Certificate of Fitness for the Export of Fish and Fishery Products**

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_ Export Approval Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Country of Origin: \_\_\_\_\_

Consignor (Name and Address):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Commercial Invoice Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Port of Shipment: \_\_\_\_\_ Vessel/Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Consignee (Name and Address): \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Shipment: \_\_\_\_\_

Product description (Common name and Scientific name(s), Quantity, Value, Presentation)

Common/Scientific Name	Quantity (kg)	F.O.B. Value (US\$)	Presentation/Product Type

**Export Declaration:**  
The product(s) described above was/were caught or harvested, handled and processed at all times in accordance with the Fisheries Management Act 1998 and other applicable legislation.

Signature of Consignee: \_\_\_\_\_

*For official Use Only*

National Fisheries Authority Declarations as Competent Certifying Authority.  
The Product(s) described in this form have been inspected in accordance with the requirements of the Fisheries Management Act 1998, and at time of inspection, the product(s) is/are: certified free of visible lesions and infectious disease; is fit for human consumption and/or use; and approved for export.

Certifying Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

National Fisheries Authority, 11th Floor, Deloitte Tower, P.O. Box 2016, Port Moresby, NCD, PAPUA NEW GUINEA.  
Telephone: (675) 321 2643 Fax: (675) 321 2662/320 2069

Serial Number here  
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## NFA to Briefly Reopen Western Province Beche-de-mer Fishery

There is a possibility of reopening the Western Province Beche-de-mer Fishery due to much pressure from the local people. The National Fisheries Authority will recommend to the National Fisheries Board to open the fishery for a month, from 16 December 2001 to 15 January 2002 to cater for school fee payment around that time.

Results of surveys have shown that there is 15 percent stock recovery, which is the result of the moratorium that was imposed in 1993. This fishery has not fully recovered due to much

illegal fishing during the closure period.

The National Fisheries Authority feels, however, that a brief opening will demonstrate that the closure is not an indefinite one, and that compliance with management measures will result in increased opportunities in the long run.

For more information, please contact the Fisheries Manager - Sedentary, **Mr Philip Polon** on Telephone No. 321 2643 extn 14.

## NFA to Review Torres Strait Fisheries Management Arrangement

The National Fisheries Authority will give renewed attention to Torres Strait Fisheries issues and review its Torres Strait Fisheries Management Arrangement. There will be meetings with Australian officials in July to discuss catch sharing and joint enforcement arrangements.

Enforcement and Surveillance Aspects, TSPZ Fisheries Management Plan and Third State Vessels Activity (illegal fishing)

There has been a marked increase in the sighting of PNG vessels fishing illegally in Australian waters. The capacity of PNG Fisheries Authorities to monitor illegal fishing has been constrained by reduction in NFA staff numbers.

The enforcement of new regulations by NFA will require all PNG fishing vessels to be fitted with Automatic Location Communicators (ALC) by 31 December 2001.

## Prawn Trawl and Crayfish Interactions

Last year, the National Fisheries Board approved a one-off trial for the lobster by-catch in the Gulf of Papua Prawn Fishery to be retained. The decision was based on the fact that in the past most of the landed lobsters on trawlers were dead and not recorded. Discarding such a valuable marine product was a waste.

Fisheries observers were placed on all trawl vessels during the period to ensure compliance with the Gulf of Prawn Management Plan. Fisheries observers and the vessel captains were instructed to also ensure that the vessels did not target lobsters.

## Community-based Dugong and Turtle Management

It was noted in the last Border Liaison Meeting on Thursday Island that scientific information suggests that the current rates of exploitation for dugong may not be sustainable. PNG and Australia may combine to undertake a project to focus on possible management options for dugong and turtle.

## NFA to Reopen Milne Bay Beche-de-mer Fishery in December

The National Fisheries Authority is looking at reopening the Milne Bay Province Beche-de-mer Fishery on 16 December 2001. The Fisheries Manager, Sedentary, Mr Philip Polon discussed this at a public rally in Milne Bay a month ago. During the meeting he explained that the early closure from 8 June 2001 is good for the industry as it would allow the smaller beche-de-mer time to mature should the NFA considers reopening the fishery early.

The Public Rally was organised by the Chairman of the Milne Bay Province Beche-de-mer Management Committee, Hon. Titus Philemon to gauge people's support to continue fishing despite the fishery exceeding the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 140 tonnes.

The meeting accepted the need for the closure but fishermen appealed during the rally to reopen the fishery before

## Beche-de-mer and Rock Lobster Management

### Beche-de-mer

Since the closure of the fishery in 1993, there have been several annual surveys conducted, in 1994, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2000 and the most recent one in February 2001.

The introduction of a Moratorium on beche-de-mer fishing on the Warrior Reef complex in late 1993 was to enable the stocks to recover and also enable a fishery management plan to be formulated.

Three rapid stock assessments conducted in 1999, 2000 and 2001 showed similar results of the status of the fishery. General indications were that the population of the commercial species of beche-de-mer found in waters of Western Province has recovered by 15 percent from the 1994 estimates.

### Rock Lobster

The National Fisheries Board at a recent meeting (Decision No. 200/2000) approved a total ban on the use of hookah gear in the lobster fishery, covering Torres Strait and Western Province. It was gazetted on 30 November 2000, one for the Torres Strait Protected Zone (TSPZ) and the other for Western Province waters signed by the Minister and Chairman respectively.

Recent reports from both Australia and PNG lobster fisheries give cause for concern over the status of the rock lobster resource. The NFA will propose to Australia for similar ban under their jurisdiction.

For more information, please contact the Fisheries Manager, **Mr Barre Kare** on Telephone No. 321 2643 extn 38

January so that they can be able to sell beche-de-mer to have money for Christmas and for school fees around that time.

Although there is evidence that some species of Beche-de-mer spawn during the period from September to January, the National Fisheries Authority recognizes the needs of rural people for income during the Christmas period.

Resource surveys will be carried out in the Province during the current closed season, and a TAC will be set by the NFA for the 2001/2002 fishery. The Fishery will close as soon as this TAC is reached.

For more information, please contact the Fisheries Manager - Sedentary, **Mr Philip Polon** on Telephone No. 321 2643 extn 14.