

Fishing Line



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Lombrum Fisheries Wharf Opens for Business

The K5 million wharf and small boat jetty in Lombrum, Manus Province was officially opened for business by the Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources, Hon. Andrew Baing on June 27, 2003.

The facilities have costed the National Government through the National Fisheries Authority more than K5 million, which was co-funded by the Asian Development Bank.

The completion of the wharf and its commissioning for business will attract a lot of fisheries investors both local and foreign into the Province, and the challenge is now on the Manus Provincial Government and the people of

Manus to work together to reap the benefits of this project.

These facilities were built to serve the growing number of longline fishing fleets and the industry as a whole. The wharf will specifically service the tuna longline fishing vessels and the jetty for small local fishing boats, to unload their catches to markets and to resupply, in terms of fuel and food.

Manus Province was identified by NFA through the PNG Fisheries Development Project as one of the several sites in the country that has the potential to contribute to the development of the tuna industry.

Nawae Construction Company started work on the wharf and jetty on December 23, 2002 and completed its tasks on June 20, 2003. These facilities are the second lot to be built by Nawae Construction after the Kavieng wharf and jetty.



• The completed Lombrum Wharf. (insert) The Wharf and Small Boat Jetty, photo taken after official opening.



Staff Profile

Name: **Ms Welete Wararu**

Age: 38

Marital Status: *Married with five children*

Qualification: *Bachelor of Science (Fisheries Science), UPNG & Master in Business Administration (Marketing Management), University of Central Queensland*

Current Position: *Provincial Liaison Officer*

Ms Wararu comes from Yangoru area, East Sepik Province. She commenced work as the Provincial and Industry Liaison Officer with the National Fisheries Authority in 2000 when it was changing to become a corporatised self-funding government body.

Before coming to NFA, she was with the Department of Trade and Industry as the Assistant Director for International Trade and Investment, Policy Planning Division. She has held various positions within the Department of Trade and Industry and has also worked from 1993 to 1994 as a Research Fellow with the National Research Institute.

She is no stranger to NFA, as she had worked previously with the Authority when it was called Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources (DFMR). She was a Resource Development Officer in the area of fish handling, processing and marketing, and earlier on from 1990 to 1992 as the Coordinator of the Women in Fisheries Project, a joint program by SPC and Canadian Development Agency.

She had participated and represented the Department of Trade and Industry and the DFMR, the departments she had worked for, in many important meetings both locally and overseas.

In 2002, Ms Wararu was heavily involved in the production of the Model Business Plan for Coastal Fishing with assistance from Mr Bob Densley. This publication is used as model for the drafting of other business plans in business proposals.

Among various researches and surveys done, in 2003, she undertook an economical stock-take survey in the areas of agriculture, fisheries and forestry, with the Department of National Planning in line with the National Government's Policy on Export Driven Strategy for PNG Economic Recovery Process.

She has this to say about her job with NFA. "My experiences from the previous Department of Fisheries & Marine Resources and working under the new NFA in 2000, I see a lot of changes, especially good conduct of office management, higher level of transparency, as well as professionalism portrayed by all staff in their own professional capacities.

"I can say that I am privileged to work in this type of environment which gives me full job satisfaction. I believe Provincial and Industry Liaison is the engine room of NFA, which will drive growth in the local fishing industry, triggering more benefits to our rural population, particularly in providing market infrastructure for direct selling of fish and seafood products."

This is my first editorial since assuming office as the Acting Managing Director, on March 19, 2003. I am pleased to be back with the National Fisheries Authority and to see it operating as a fully corporatised body. I want to acknowledge the efforts of NFA staff, my predecessors and the Asian Development Bank for their efforts in bringing NFA to its current status.

While much has been achieved there are still many challenges ahead for NFA and for PNG fisheries development. Within the months of May/June, we have signed Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) with three of the maritime provinces, Morobe, Madang and Milne Bay. The signing of these MOAs will give to a broader package of measures aimed at working with all maritime provinces in fisheries management and development. Due to the reorganisation of the National Fisheries Authority into a corporatised statutory organisation, many fisheries functions at the provincial level are now implemented by Provincial Fisheries Officers. These MOAs will enable NFA to channel some assistance to Provincial Fisheries Officers for functions performed on behalf of NFA in an accountable manner. NFA is pleased to have started with these three provinces. MOAs will be signed with all of the 15 maritime provinces.

The somare/Marat Government's vision on an export driven economy sees fisheries sector as a driving force towards realising that vision. Greater benefits are now coming onstream with the ADB, EU and AusAID projects in the country. The ADB Loan on Fisheries Development to Papua New Guinea has witnessed the construction and completion, and recent commissioning of two wharves in Kavieng and Manus. The Manus Lombrum wharf is expected to become a major regional fishing port. These fishing wharves are part of a drive to foster fishery development in areas off the mainland.

The EU Rural Coastal Fisheries Development Project, which commenced this year, recently saw the launching of a micro-credit scheme, which will assist rural people obtain loans to buy small boats, dinghies, fishing gear, ice plants and ice making

machines. The redevelopment of Kuaro Vocational School in Milne Bay Province, a project under separate EU funding is nearing completion, which will be taking fisheries in its teaching syllabus.

The seafood processing plant in Kavieng still needs electrical wiring, lighting, freezers and other accessories/fittings to be installed but when finished this facility will be used as the National Fisheries College training centre for industries in the implementation of their Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points as well as processing local catch to export standard. This is a step forward for Papua New Guinea in meeting world standard requirements on export of fishery products.

On the regional front, there has been a review of all regional agreements, including the Palau Arrangement and the FSM Arrangement at a PrepCon meeting in Nadi for the management of purse-seine fishery within the Western and Central Pacific waters; of significance is the proposal to shift regional vessel management from vessel numbers to vessel days. This will allow for more flexibility by Pacific countries to have long-term arrangements with fishing companies and organisations to meet the expectations of their Governments. A lot more work needs to be done before this can be implemented.

On fisheries management, management plans have been drafted for shark and barramundi. A draft policy on aquaculture fishery has been circulated to members of a newly appointed National Aquaculture Development and Management Advisory Committee on aquaculture fishery for comment. This is a key document for further development of this important sector.

I believe that there is an existing future for the fishing industry in PNG and am pleased to be able to play a part at this time.

Mr Molean Chapau
Acting Managing Director

Fishing Farming in Eastern Highlands

There are currently around 10,000 fish farmers in the Eastern Highlands Province, spread over the eight district of Goroka, Daulo, Okapa, Lufa, Henganofi, Kainantu, Unggai Bena and Obura-Wonenara. Fish farming was introduced in the Highlands region as a means of poverty alleviation and an alternative source of protein in the 1960s.

Three different freshwater fish species of rainbow trout, common carp and super tilapia are farmed. Most of the farmers have spent at least a K1,000.00 or more to get their farms operational instead of sitting back and waiting for handouts.

There are two categories of farms; well-established farms and newly built farms. Most fishponds are constructed using bush materials, bamboos and ropes and river stones for walls.

In Goroka District alone, there are several advanced farmers who have started breeding of the three

mentioned species, apart from the Aiyura Research Station and are supplying the new farmers with fish fingerlings, especially carp and tilapia. Trout fingerlings and eyed eggs are usually bought from Betty Higgins' trout farm at Mt. Wilhelm, Chimbu.

Farmers spend between K10,000 to K15,000 for pond construction, buying of fish fingerlings, eyed eggs and feeds. Many farmers started off with 3,000 fish fingerlings of carp bought for 5toea each back in early 1990s when the National Fisheries Authority was managing the Aiyura station but today under the management of the Department of Eastern Highlands, price of carp fingerlings has gone up to 20toea/30toea per fingerling. Most beginners start with 100 fingerlings.

According to a survey by National Fisheries Authority, there is a need for efficient fingerling distribution network and suitable and cheap domestically

produced fish feeds. Fish feeds from Aiyura station is being sold for K82.00 per 50kg bag. This is an increase of nearly K60.00 since 1997 when a 50kg bag of fish feed costed K25.00. This feed is unsuitable for trout production as its protein content is lower than the requirement for trout.

Farmed fish are mostly sold at hotels and fast food outlets in Goroka. Demand for trout is higher than the common carp. A table size trout sold at the farm would normally cost around K3.00. Fish sold at the hotels cost around K9 to K12 depending on how the fish is handled as prices are heavily determined by quality, as well as freshness of the fish.

The National Fisheries Authority will be addressing issues relating to aquaculture activities through a draft National Policy on Aquaculture fishery. The Policy has been circulated amongst the members of the newly established national aquaculture committee for comment.

The first meeting of the National Aquaculture Development and Advisory Committee was held in Port Moresby on May 26, 2003.

The Committee has eleven members with the NFA Fisheries Management Advisor, Mr Augustine Mobiha as the Chairman. The Committee met for the first time deliberating on aquaculture issues, such as history of aquaculture in PNG, its current status, problems and prospects. A run down on various issues such as fish farming in the highlands and other inland areas were also discussed.

Other reports were also presented by NAQIA, DEC and DAL on the regulations and policies in relation to aquaculture fishery, which Mr Wani has covered in his draft aquaculture policy.

High on the agenda was the first draft National Aquaculture Policy for the Aquaculture fishery in Papua New Guinea. Copies of the plan was given to each member to take and comment on before the second meeting, which will be

held on September 8, 2003. The draft policy is expected to be the first agenda item for discussion.

The Committee's main role is to provide ongoing advice



• First Aquaculture meeting in progress.

to the National Fisheries Authority on the development and management of aquaculture industry in the country. Aquaculture is fast becoming a major activity in some coastal province, such as Madang, and pond aquaculture is rapidly spreading in some highlands provinces as a major source of protein and cash income.

The Committee members are: Augustine Mobiha (Chairman, NFA), Betty

Higgins (Trout farmer), Dr. Augustine Mungkaje (UPNG), Anton Benjamin (DAL), Jacob Wani (Aquaculture Manager, NFA), Mathew Kanua (DAL), Arnold Andiken (Highlands Inland Rep, DAL Kundiawa), Paschal Fera (Maritime provinces),

Agriculture & Fisheries Advisor Madang), Dr. Ilagi Puana (NAQIA), Ian Middleton (commercial producer), Greg Silva (Commercial producer), Luke Tanikrey (DEC) and one NGO representative yet to be appointed.

Looking Back Looking Forward

Bob Densley comments on two years with NFA

The experience of working with the National Fisheries Authority for the past two years has been a very rewarding one.

In this time I have seen the Authority grow and mature and I have also seen very significant developments in the fishing industry.

The move to the new offices at Deloitte Tower with new computer facilities and other equipment has seen a major boost in operational efficiency in NFA.

Most rewarding to me has been the growth in capacity of NFA staff to handle extremely complex issues. There is now a depth of expertise and experience, which if maintained and fostered, will provide to the PNG fishing industry sound fisheries management well into the future.

There have been some key developments. This has included the commitment to four new tuna processing plants in Wewak, Lae and Madang. These will put PNG on the map in terms of tuna in world markets. They will provide 10000 jobs and when on stream will lift PNG seafood exports close to the Billion Kina mark.

Other developments are coming in on the back of these larger scale investments. These will include the development of processing of other tuna products especially smoked tuna.

The emphasis now should be to make these processing operation effective functional and viable. On them will depend the future direction of the tuna sector. There now is a need to consolidate within the tuna skipjack sector and to ensure that the spin-off benefits from these projects are fully realised. Less than half of the PNG catch is committed to on-shore processing and there are three other companies currently fishing in PNG currently looking at their investment options.

Part of this consolidation has to be a major public awareness program to dispel some of the unwarranted fears of impact of these projects on local fishing.

It has been disturbing that a few people for their own short term agenda are seeking by spreading false information on environmental impacts of these projects to stop them. It is necessary for ongoing monitoring to ensure that there are no adverse environmental consequences of these major projects. At the same time a handful of people should not be able to disrupt a project which will bring substantial benefits to PNG through misleading and false propaganda.

A considerable amount of work has been done to ensure that more and more benefits have been derived from our access agreements with Distant Water Fishing Nations. Perhaps the major changes to take place in this area are yet to come with the regional introduction of a vessel day concept for regional tuna management and the greater flexibility this will give to Pacific Island Nations.

Management plans have been developed for live reef fish-, for Beche de Mer and for sharks and the tuna management plan has been revised. A good basis has been established in fisheries management and the groundwork laid for further development of fishery management plans. It has been good to see the consultative mechanisms being developed by NFA managers with industry to monitor and fine tune these management plans for long term sustainability.

The major challenge will be in the future management of inshore coastal fisheries in collaboration with Provincial governments. The new wharf facilities at Kavieng and Lombrum on Manus have already sparked considerable investment interest for these areas.

The EU and ADB coastal fisheries development projects will provide further infrastructure in Daru, Alotau, Lae, Buka, and Port Moresby and will foster development of in-shore fisheries.

All future fisheries development must be based on sound business planning and fishermen must continue to be encouraged to see fishing as a business. The draft model business plan prepared by NFA and some of the training provided by the SBDC are good initiatives but more assistance is needed for fishermen in this area of business planning.

The management measures for these inshore areas will depend on the species which may need to be managed. Inshore fisheries management will eventually require fairly complex management measures for netting and line fishing if stocks are to be protected. Separate management will be required for reef, inshore and barramundi and crab species. The management plans may need to be handled in groups of fish species eg species which may be netted and those caught by line. Given that these netting and line fishing rules may require location specific regulations, much of this management may need to be under the control of provincial governments.

The longer term future of these fisheries may therefore depend on the resources and efforts of Provincial fisheries officers. The role of NFA in this may only be to set national standards eg national minimum sizes, closed seasons, net sizes etc with specific area management needs being developed by provinces. The protection of nursery areas such as the Gulf prawn nursery area is urgent and critical. Surveillance and enforcement in these inshore areas will be both complex and costly but NFA and the provinces need to now begin to plan these to protect the integrity of the management plans which will be developed and to handle the social conflict issues.

It has therefore been good to see the growth in the relationship of NFA staff with provincial staff including the formulation of the MOA, the annual provincial workshops and the provision by NFA of computer and email

equipment to fisheries officers of coastal provinces.

While the payment for services performed by provinces will help put some funds to PFO's there is a need for a structured program to assist provincial efforts in fisheries development beyond the EU and ADB projects.

A way has to be found for provinces and perhaps local land owners to have equity in major processing operations so that some revenue might flow directly to the province for other fishery development. Also more attention has to be paid to the indirect or secondary or spin off benefits of these projects.

The challenge with the massive growth in processing, more domestication of fishing vessels, and the potential growth in aquaculture is the need for trained personnel. NFA and NFC will need to be creative in the way that this challenge is met. Training will be one of the top priorities for the next few years.

There remains a lot of work to be done in the planned use of NFA assets in various locations. Many of these unused assets remain unused because of past failures but principally the failure to develop a business plan. The lessons of the past must be learned and funds not simply given to support projects. Fishing is a business like all other business and must be based on sound business planning.

The enormous potential for further aquaculture development is beginning to be understood. To translate this vision into reality will require an expanded effort on the part of NFA working closely with DAL and other agencies. While current planned programs will see major development in barramundi, cage culture and freshwater smaller scale pond development using carp and tilapia the scope for prawn farming, cage culture of marine species such as cobia, pearl culture, seaweed and aquarium species is enormous. The economic feasibility of reseeding reefs depleted of beche -de- mer and trochus must be kept under consideration.

Air freight for high value species will remain a key component of the success of the longline and reef sectors. More and more effort has to be directed to value adding to our seafood products before export.

It is surprising that PNG still has not taken up all the opportunities which exist under the Torres Strait joint management arrangements with Australia. Access for PNG mackerel and other fishing vessels with lobster and prawn endorsements to the Queensland side have not yet been taken up.

Like wise the potential for growth in recreational fishing and diving is enormous. A long term plan and structured support services for the development of this sector need to be developed.

The PNG domestic fishing industry will have to move to a user pays and cost recovery basis for fishing licence fees if the sector is to continue to be well served by an effective NFA and effective fisheries management.

Perhaps the greatest immediate challenge is coming from the change taking place in regional fishery management arrangements. The potential impact of the new WCPTuna Commission on tuna management together with changes proposed to the PNA FSM and Palau arrangements will do more to shape the future of PNG fisheries than any decision NFA or the PNG Government may want to make.

I came to PNG under a special arrangement between the Australian Volunteers International Organisation and with NFA. I am grateful to AVI and to NFA management and my colleagues and friends in NFA for accepting me as one of the team and for their help and assistance on many occasions. I and my wife Jill will treasure our memories of time spent in NFA and in beautiful PNG.



• Eileen Eitric presents a gift to Bob Densley during his farewell function. Photo by David Karis.

NFA Signs MOA with Provinces

The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with three provincial governments within the month of June to strengthen mutual working relationship and partnership with them on development and management of fishing activities and fisheries resources.

The provinces are Morobe, Madang and Milne Bay. The signing of these MOAs started in Morobe on June 3, 2003 following on to Madang on June 5 and then to Milne Bay on the 12th.

The success of the MOA signed with them will allow the concept to be extended to the other seven maritime provinces, including the highlands regional centre in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province.

The first stage of this process involves seven maritime provinces, which are Morobe, Madang, Milne Bay, New Ireland, Western, Central and North Solomons. They were selected because they either possess fisheries qualities which will trigger greater fisheries activities both offshore and onshore or they have no alternative sources of income on land. These were the factors identified by the major donors of fisheries projects in the country; the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the European Union (EU), and AusAID.

The other maritime provinces are East and West New Britain, East and West Sepik, Oro and Gulf Provinces. NFA also donated computer sets and printers to each province during the signing of the MOA. The computers were installed and email service activated to enable communication link with NFA.

The MOAs signed with the three provinces respectively provides for the following:

1. The development of a collaborative approach to the management by both NFA and the host Provincial Government

of coastal, estuarine river and lake waters in the Province and consultative and collaborative processes to facilitate this management.

2. Co-operation in the implementation and management of the European Union Funded Rural Coastal Fisheries Development Project and the Asian Development Bank Coastal Waters Fisheries Management and Development Project and any other projects funded by other donor agencies for implementation in the province.
3. Procedures allowing for provinces recommendation to NFA for licensing by NFA of provincially based fishing, processing and exporting operations requiring national licenses.
4. The administrative and management arrangements for computers, printers and phone/fax and other equipments, which may be own and/or provided by NFA to support provincial fisheries officers in the



• NFA Managing Director, Molean Chapau and Morobe Governor, Luther Wenge being assisted by officials with the signing of the MOA.

province.

5. The administration and funding arrangements for services provided for and on behalf of NFA by the provincial fisheries officers of the province in carrying out delegated functions, duties and responsibilities, and for the continued monitoring and evaluation of the delegated functions by NFA.
6. An understanding on the approach to the effective utilisation and management of fishery assets, including fishery wharfs and processing facilities, fish markets and other facilities located in the Province.

The signing of the MOAs is a result of a long consultation process between fisheries officers and key players of the respective provincial governments and NFA.

The parties to the MOA; NFA and the respective provincial executive councils have been fully briefed and have made inputs into the MOA. The signing signifies the strengthening of relationships between NFA and the 15 maritime provinces.

It is now a challenge to both NFA and the respective provincial governments to make the MOA work.



• Bob Densley speaking during his last tour of provinces; MOA signing with the Morobe Provincial Government.

NFA Board Approves Force to Review License Fees and Conditions

The National Fisheries Board has approved the formation of a Task Force to review current licensing fees and conditions.

The role of the Task Force is to review current licensing conditions and fees, and to come up with plans

to hold wider consultations with all stakeholders.

The Task Force included representatives of the various NFA Management Groups: from Licensing and Information, Monitoring Control and Surveillance, Provincial and Industry Liaison and Fisheries

Management.

Having representation from these various groups will reflect a wider view on the various fishery sectors including tuna, (purse seine, longline, handline) shark, prawn, lobster, and all other fisheries.

Fisheries Exports Top K300 Million

Exports of fisheries products during 2002 topped K300 million (USD78 million) for the first time. This continues a steady upward trend seen since 1997, and a 40% increase over the 2001 figures (25% in USD terms).

It confirms the important role the fisheries sector is playing in addressing the Government's export-driven economic growth and recovery strategy.

The main exports were tuna in various forms - frozen tuna (K117 million), canned tuna (K 88 million), fresh chilled tuna (K33 million) and fish meal totaling K240 million or nearly 70% of the value of exports. The volume of frozen tuna exported has stabilized at around 30,000t annually and is actually expected to decrease as more of the catch is processed onshore.

Canned tuna exports continue to grow as production from the existing RD cannery increases and as new markets are accessed. They will increase significantly as a second and possibly

canneries come on line in the future.

Fresh chilled tuna airfreight exports continue to grow, despite increasing freight costs, with a 10% increase over 2001 and exceeding 2,000t. Shark exports (fins and meat) remained steady (K6 million).

Frozen prawn exports decreased slightly during 2002 (K22.4 million, down from K27 million), reflecting reduced catches, whilst the value of lobster exports jumped sharply to K10.5 million with a 50% increase in catches.

Dried beche-de-mer continues to be an invaluable income earner for coastal communities, with exports of K21 million during 2002.

With several onshore tuna processing plants (loining and canning) expected to come onstream during 2003, and with steady growth in more diverse coastal fisheries commodities, exports are predicted to top K1 billion in value during the next five years.

Farewell Rusty and Fuba

The National Fisheries College and the Authority farewelled to two staff of the College during the month of June.

Fishing Operations Adviser, Rusty Strickland in June on completion of his three and a half year assignment with the National Fisheries College Strengthening Project.

Rusty has worked with the College on the development and implementation of the new Commercial Fishing Courses and as counterpart to the NFC Commercial Fisheries staff team. Somewhat fittingly, his departure coincided with the final gazetting of the new regulations for the Certification of Fishing Vessel Crews and associated Manning Regulations. Rusty played a significant role in the development of the new regulations and in establishing systems within NFC for the management of certification.

At the commencement of the NFCSP, the College Training vessel, FTV Leilani was in a poor state of repair and the refitting and upgrading of the vessel was also a major focus of his job. By the time of his departure, Leilani was fitted with a new generator and ice machine and an array of new electronics and had been fully surveyed.

Rusty also worked tirelessly on the development of course material and resources in support of the new NFC

courses. His services will be missed by the NFC staff team.

The NFC also farewelled Seafood Program Leader, Fuba Denano, at the end of June. Fuba leaves Kavieng to join her husband in Lae after 2½ years with the NFC.

During her time with NFC, Fuba played a key role in the development and implementation of the new NFC Seafood Courses, PH01,02,03 and HACCP. Working with the NFCSP adviser team, she has worked to promote the new courses with industry and upskill seafood processing personnel throughout the country. As well as course delivery in Kavieng, Fuba has undertaken course delivery and HACCP consultancy in Lae, Madang, Port Moresby and Daru.

As a member of the NFC Management Team she has also contributed to the overall operation and development of NFC with a bright and cheery disposition and a constantly positive attitude.

NFC has proposed that Fuba continue to work for the College on a contract to assist in course delivery and continue her role in HACCP compliance consultancy. Fuba has made a valuable contribution to NFC and hopefully this will continue on a contract basis.

PNG Gains Duty Free Access to EU

Thanks to a decision taken at a recent Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) European Union (EU) meeting in Brussels, Papua New Guinea will now benefit from unrestricted duty-free access to the European market for tuna caught in its archipelagic waters and processed onshore (canned) in PNG.

The main immediate beneficiary will be the RD Tuna Cannery in Madang, but loining plants and canneries on the drawing board for Wewak, Lae and

Madang should also greatly benefit in the future. The decision will mean increased local employment, export earnings and justify the planned expansion of RD's operations later this year, with a second cannery at Vidar.

The RD fleet of currently 11 purse seine vessels takes nearly all its catch in the archipelagic Bismarck Sea waters.

The decision is great news at a time when PNG is giving high priority to onshore downstream processing of tuna.

Aquaculture Baseline Survey

A baseline survey on aquaculture fishery was undertaken in the Eastern Highlands Province from May to June 2003.

Ms Welete Wararu, NFA Provincial Liaison Officer carried out the survey in order for NFA to formulate a business plan for freshwater fish farmers in the Eastern Highlands Province and also for other inland provinces.

During the one-week visit, she met and talked to about 20 farmers from within Goroka District and a few from other districts. She met with officers of the Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL), including Mr Bire Seiko, Provincial Advisor, and Mr Kine Mufuape, OIC of Highlands Aquaculture Development Centre at Aiyura, and the Rural Development Bank to discuss possibilities of allowing loans to fish farmers.

Based on this survey 10 farmers will

be selected to attend a business planning workshop to be run by Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC). This is an incentive by NFA to get people involved in running their business on a semicommercial basis.

Due to increasing aquaculture activities in the highlands region and other inland areas, the National Fisheries Authority will do its best to secure funds to assist these activities.

Goroka has established an association for its fish farmers called the Eastern Highlands Fish Farmers Association.



• Ms Welete Wararu, Provincial Liaison Officer of the National Fisheries Authority talking to EHP fish farmers at the Aiyura Research Station (insert) Fish breeding ponds at the Aiyura Research Station.

NFA Funds Repair of PNGDF's HMS Dreger



• The repaired HMS Dreger at the Naval Base, POM (insert) Mr L. Pawut with the Commanding Officer, Philip Poliwara on board.

The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) has funded a complete maintenance of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force Naval Vessel, HMS Dreger at a cost of K200,000.00.

Mr Lamiller Pawut, Manager of Monitoring Control and Surveillance Business group said the vessel went upon the Motokea dry dock for repair for 12 days at a cost of K136,000.00. A further K66,000.00 will be spent on the complete overhaul of the vessel's engine.

The K200,000 was made available to PNGDF Maritime Element after they made a formal request to NFA under the Memorandum of Agreement signed last year between them and NFA. The MOA called for a collaborative approach between the two parties in patrolling the waters of PNG within the 200 miles zone. It allows for PNGDF ME boats to patrol the PNG's fisheries waters and for NFA to assist with funds for operational costs and maintenance of boats.

NFA responded positively to the request by PNGDF ME because also under the MOA, there were supposed to be regular patrols but since January this year, no patrols were done, which raised some concerns that the MOA is not being fulfilled. Therefore, in order to keep up the good spirit of the MOA, NFA is required to pay K200,000.00.

It is understood between the parties that after the complete maintenance of the vessel, it will be on standby for any fisheries surveillance activities.