



Fishing Line



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“PNG Observer Programme, One of Biggest in Pacific” says Pokajam

Speaking during the seventh graduation of the PNG Observer Programme on 20th July, 2004, Acting Managing Director of the National Fisheries Authority, Mr Sylvester Pokajam said the Papua New Guinea Observer Programme is one of the biggest in the South Pacific region.

He said at the moment, the Observer Programme in PNG has 71 active fisheries observers and would increase to 91 as of today's graduation.

Mr Pokajam said, "As much as PNG would like to promote and encourage development in the fisheries sector developments in PNG, this would have to be done in a more sustainable manner.

"Therefore NFA's prime objective is to contribute to the optimum utilisation, rational management and conservation of fisheries resources in PNG waters. To pursue this objective NFA management must ensure the availability of useful catch and effort information from all of its major commercial fisheries for more informed decision-making. One of the main modes of ensuring such information is obtained is through the Observer Programme.

The Observer Programme was established as a tool to collect corroborative catch and effort data and to monitor compliance with conservation and enforcement management measures. Stock assessment needs require that observers must also undertake complimentary port sampling activities.

With the restructuring of NFA during the years 2000 and 2001 and the consequent reduction of fisheries enforcement and scientific staff, the role of observers as independent eyes and ears (eye in the sea) for Fisheries Managers on the fishing grounds is more important than ever. It is experienced in fisheries world that combating of Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing has always become the major challenge for coastal and fishing nations. PNG has along with the fishing nations in their endeavour to combat IUU fishing amongst other monitoring and management measures have an observer programme.

The presence of an observer on a vessel effectively deters illegal activity both on the host vessel and to a lesser extent on other vessels in the vicinity, particularly in remote fisheries. Observers are the best means for monitoring allowable bycatch levels, use of gear, processing techniques and conversion ratios, and discarding. They are an essential source of scientific data for input to stock assessment.

Observers monitor and report on apparent infringements such as misreporting catch, fishing in restricted areas and interference with vessel monitoring systems.

Observers are an excellent source of information on fishing strategies, interactions with other fishing fleets and processing operations to provide senior managers with a better insight of developing fisheries.

From the Managing Director's Desk

I am very happy to announce the amalgamation of fisheries programs to be delivered at the Vudal University in Rabaul. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed beginning of July 2005 giving effect to this arrangement.

This development marks a new chapter in the history of the National Fisheries College which is currently providing short-term competency and accredited courses targeting training needs in the fishing industry and for self-employment of our small communities in PNG. This initiative was taken by the National Fisheries Authority to complement the shortage of manpower capacity in all areas in the fishing sector that is anticipated in the next few years.

In the last few years, there has been some real growth in investment in the fisheries sector, particularly the purse seine fishery. However, the prawn and longline fisheries are facing difficulties due to rising costs of fuel and freight. Also, in the tuna fisheries, there has been an increase in the tuna domestic licensed longline vessels owned by national citizens and a corresponding increase in the number of foreign investors seeking to permanently establish their tuna fishing operations in PNG.

The financial and economic benefits to be accrued from such domestic investments is

immense and varies from foreign exchange return from exports, revenue from tax returns to the government, direct and indirect employments, financial contributions/rents to provincial governments and resource owners, skilled development and manpower training in the tuna fishing operations (cannery/fishing vessels) and indirect benefits through creation of spin-off business activities.

Given this expansion and increase in the fisheries sector, the NFA is also mindful of illegal activities that would occur with this. We have been looking around for a compatible Vessel Monitoring System, a technology which, would work well in detecting illegal fishing activities as well as assisting us in gathering and collating fisheries scientific data, and also helping the fishing industry with their fishing activities; in terms of making available information, such as location of fishing grounds, sea current, so they do not steam up and down for nothing and waste fuel.

I take this opportunity to wish every one a happy and safe 30th Independence Anniversary celebrations!

SYLVESTER POKAJAM
Acting Managing Director

NFA Holds Bilateral Consultation Meeting with Japan

The National Fisheries Authority has held bilateral discussions with the Japanese on July 5, 2005.

Facts on tuna fishing were presented on both sides to determine areas for bilateral arrangements for fishing access to be worked out between the two countries.

Mr Sylvester Pokajam, NFA Acting Managing Director said during the consultation meeting that pertaining to a NFA Board submission earlier this year in which the Japanese wanted to know if they can enter the longline industry in PNG, he responded that the longline fishing is a domestically based industry, only for the PNG enterprises of this country, as stipulated under the Tuna Management Plan.

There are altogether 100 licences available in this fishery, only 78 licences have been issued, of which 42 boats are actually fishing. He told the Japanese that they have not been fishing in PNG waters for the last 18 years and encouraged them to hold further negotiations.

Papua New Guinea has bilateral arrangements with Taiwan, Philippines, Korea and the US. We are now striving towards creating onshore investment of fish processing, loining and canning facilities.

"In Papua New Guinea, we always like to have fishing arrangements on a bilateral basis rather than multilateral because we want to protect our products, as we move into value-adding of products, therefore we would like to encourage investment in this area also." Mr Pokajam said.

Staff Profile



Name: Libiga Kikima

Age: 47

Marital Status: Married with five children

Current Position: Accounts Clerk

Mr Kikima comes from Uburegoro village, Mt Brown area of the Rigo Inland villages. He completed his Grade 8 at Kwikila High School in 1977, Central Province. He completed Grades 9 & 10 through Distance Education, and worked his way up to what he is now. His first job was with Storeman Clerk at Launakalana, Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL). He resigned from DAL in 1979, and found another job as General Office Clerk with the National Plantations Management Agency at Sogeri and worked with them for 11 months. During the later part of 1980, the National Parliament of PNG was under construction by Fletcher Construction Company Pty Ltd and he left again to join to Fletcher Construction Pty Ltd to look after the wages of the construction workers as well as do general office clerical work. He was with them for nine months.

Beginning of 1982, he left Fletcher Construction Pty Ltd, and found employment with Sogeri Rubber Development Corporation as Accounts Clerk. He had served Sogeri Rubber Development Corporation for 15 years and has developed a wide range of experience from office to rubber field activities in maximising rubber production.

Mr Kikima left Sogeri Rubber in 1996. In 1997, he was employed by Galley Reach Holdings/SPT as a general accounts staff and was there until 2001.

Mr Kikima joined NFA in 2001 as accounts officer, like all other employees of the new National Fisheries Authority, at that time; he had applied for this position and was successful. His current area of duty involves looking after the operations of the NFA Accounts Payable, and payment and monitoring of travel advances. Within his four years of being with the NFA, he has had several computer training. He has acquired skills in MYOB Accounting Plus Training, Introduction to Excel 2000, Intermediate MS Excel 2000 and has attended a Course on Quality Customer Service. He reports to the Financial Controller.

This is what he says of his job here at NFA. "I enjoy working with my employer (NFA), with all staff, both junior and senior, and my external clients." He said.

Buraik Appointed FisCol Principal

Mr Tatek Buraik has been appointed Acting Principal of the National Fisheries College in Kavieng. His appointment was effective on 1st July 2005.

Mr Sylvester Pokajam, Acting Managing Director of the National Fisheries Authority in his letter of appointment to Mr Buraik has asked him take charge of the College responsibly. "Your immediate task is to move over to the College and take charge of the College administration and perform duties as is required of the Principal of the College." Mr Pokajam said.

Mr Buraik has recently graduated from the University of Papua New Guinea with a Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA). Prior to taking up studies in 2004, he was Corporate Services Manager for the NFA for the last eight years. More recently was attached with Provincial and Industry Liaison Division, playing an advisory role in the implementation of Memorandum of Agreement with provincial governments, and strategising to meet repercussions of these arrangements should the ADB and EU fisheries projects come to an end in the country.

MD Challenges Observers

Participants of the Seventh Observer Training Workshop in Madang were challenged by the NFA's Acting Managing Director, Mr Sylvester Pokajam to work hard and accurately.

In his graduation speech at the end of the first part of the workshop on Basic Observer Training at Jais Aben Resort outside Madang, Mr Pokajam told the 21 graduands to report more accurately so that just as much as NFA is relying on the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to detect illegal activities, they must report accurately all data and sightings.

He said, "I challenge you observers and your supervisors and the NFA's Monitoring and Control Surveillance Division to perform your duties professionally once you board a vessel. You must be able to report accurately because the Region will be moving into the Vessel Day Scheme in the purse seine fishery and I want you to be alert, diligent and accurate."

"You, Observers are contract workers to the NFA. I have been with NFA for three years and I have seen that Observer reporting has not been put into full use. There is too much reliance on the current VMS system at the NFA office so I want this training to be put into full use in your area of work." Mr Pokajam said.



● The Seventh Observer Programme graduands with their certificates at Jais Aben Resort, Madang.

NFA and East New Britain Sign MOA



● NFA Officials & ENBPG signing the MOA at Kokopo Village Resort. Pictured from left to right seated, Mr Aquila Tubal, Administrator ENBPG, Mr Bamake Rumban, Fisheries Board Chairman, Mr Leo Dion, Governor of ENBPG and Mr Sylvester Pokajam, NFA Acting Managing Director.

The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the East New Britain Provincial Government (ENBPG) on 15th July 2005.

The MOA between NFA and ENB calls for a collaborative approach to the management, conservation and development of fisheries resources within the coastal waters, lakes and estuarine rivers in the Province. It also stresses the need for both parties to cooperate in the implementation and management of major donor funded projects, including the Asian Development Bank and the European Union funded projects.

Through the MOA, NFA will support and fund the work of provincial fisheries officers in carrying out NFA delegated functions, and ENBPG to perform some functions in consultation with the NFA. The NFA has also donated a set of computer, including a printer and made email connections.

This is the second last of the MOAs to be signed between the NFA and the maritime provinces of PNG. The last one to be signed would be West New Britain Province.

Three Women Among Several Men Attend Observer Training

Three women were among 18 men who attended the Seventh Observer Training in Madang, Papua New Guinea. The training was conducted by Mr Karl Staich of the Forum Fisheries Agency, Mr Siosifa Fukofuka of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Mr Joe Aroeneaux of the Pacific Island Regional Office in Hawaii.

The three female participants were Elsie Gemelaia from the Port Moresby port, Suluet Elizah from the Rabaul port and Sylvia Lohunbo from the Vanimo port. Ms Gemelaia and Lohunbo are currently engaged in observer duties while Ms Elizah is into port sampling.

There were two components to the training, the Observer component and the Basic Fire Fighting, Sea Safety, Radio Communications and First Aid component. The Observer component commenced on the 4th of July and ended on 20th July 2004. It was mainly focused on the two major fishery; Tuna Long Line and Purse Seine.

The PNG Observer Programme is part of the Pacific Island Regional Observer Programme and was established as a tool for collecting corroborative catch and effort data and to monitor compliance with conservation and enforcement management measures. Stock assessment needs also require that observers must also undertake complementary port sampling activities.

NFA Searches for Compatible VMS

The National Fisheries Authority and the Fishing Industry were given a run-down on a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) by an International Satellite company this month.

In its attempt to finding the simplest, cheapest and yet the right technology to produce the kind of results the NFA wants, it has requested ARGOS Satellite Information Technology Pty Ltd to make a presentation on their technology.

Acting Observer Manager, Mr Gisa Komangin in welcoming everyone to the presentation said the NFA is still looking around for a better technology to detect Illegal Unregistered Unlicensed Vessels (IUUV) as well as, in assisting fishing companies with their fishing efforts.

A total of about 30 fishing company executives and representatives, and NFA Management and staff were at the Crowne Plaza, Port Moresby to listen to the presentation by ARGOS Satellite Information Technology Pty Ltd. ARGOS satellite system is a world leader in fleet tracking, anti-piracy, monitoring of fishing vessels, trucks, buses and merchant ships.

Mr Philippe Courrouyan, Director of PT. CLS ARGOS Indonesia did an intensive two-hour presentation. The System made of up-to-date technology in the world can reliably detect areas for fishing, which will save companies fuel in looking around for promising fishing grounds. It has the capacity to collate and produce data on time, produce positions of vessels per day, transmit processing capacity, detect and show quantity of catches, detect schools of fish, give you the water temperature, current and weather patterns. This information is easily accessible by fishing companies.

After the presentation, most domestic companies were keen on using the ARGOS system of VMS because it is easily operated on purpboats, prawn vessels and longliners and other smaller crafts. It would assist companies in their overall business management as well as for safety.

A paper on this System would be presented to the Fisheries Board for deliberation.

The ARGOS Satellite Information Technology system is guaranteed by French and US Governments, and is currently being used by New Caledonia, Niue, Thailand, Kiribati, Tuvalu, FSM, Tonga, Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, French Polynesia, Fiji, Indonesia, New Zealand, Australia, and America.

K300,000 to be Given to Recipients Under PDF

For the first time in 20 years, the Project Development Fund (PDF) committee comprising the National Fisheries Authority, Departments of Foreign Affairs and Attorney General met this month to approve fisheries projects amounting to K300,000.00.

Target beneficiaries include participants from artisanal & community based projects and small medium size enterprises. At the inaugural meeting of the PDF Committee, NFA's Acting Managing Director, Mr Sylvester Pokajam, who is also the chairman of the Committee revealed that 167 applications were received from almost all provinces in the country. In expressing his satisfaction on the interest the PDF has generated, he said "the PDF is and will be a very useful scheme that we can use to promote the Government's three pillar policy of; Poverty/Rural backwardness alleviation, People Empowerment and Export Driven Economic Recovery Drive".

He, however, cautioned that the PDF assistance is not a handout from the government and that follow-up will be conducted by NFA to the progress of all PDF recipients. Funding assistance under PDF will be made available every year.

Vudal Uni to Teach Fisheries Programs

Fisheries Diploma and Degree Programs will be offered at the Vudal University in 2006.

This arrangement has been approved at a higher decision level by the National Fisheries Board and the Vudal University Council.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the National Fisheries College (NFC) and the Vudal University on 25th August 2005 at the Fisheries College, Kavieng. The partnership arrangement under the MOU binds three major stakeholders of the program, namely the National Fisheries Authority, the University of Vudal and the Office of Higher Education. It is supported under the relevant policies of the Office of Higher Education relating to Institutional partnership and accreditation policies. In this case, the NFA owns the program with accreditation from the University of Vudal.

The MOU specifies certain responsibilities to be undertaken by both institutions in the implementation of the program, which may have financial staffing and administration implications.

Speaking during the MOU signing, NFA's Acting Managing Director, Mr Sylvester Pokajam said the program will have its initial funding totalling US\$950,000 under a technical assistance from the German Government GIZ assistance program over a two and a half year implementation period. He said, "the objective of the technical assistance will focus mainly on providing facilitation role towards developing partnership arrangement in Fisheries Tertiary Education, under which a Sister University in Germany offering similar program will be appointed to exchange and consult on technical information relating to the program, including the provision of a founding professor who will be the team leader of the GIZ Technical Assistance Program.

Capacities of Fisheries Workers to be Enhanced

Fisheries managers, scientists, crew/deckhands, factory processors, fisheries technologists and extension/community workers will now be able to better their skills and knowledge to the next level at the Fisheries College, Kavieng and Vudal University in Rabaul.

This development marks a new chapter in the history of the National Fisheries College, which is currently providing short-term competency and accredited courses targeting training needs in the fishing industry and for self-employment of our small fishing communities in PNG. This initiative was taken by the NFA to complement the shortage of manpower capacity in all areas of the fishing sector that is anticipated in the next few years.

NFA's Acting Managing Director, Mr Sylvester Pokajam said Papua New Guinea is going through rapid growth in all areas of the fishing industry sector, which is a result of improved performance of the PNG economy, favourable economic policy on private sector investment and improved terms and conditions negotiated with major fishing investors. He said this is also a direct result of the transformation of the Fisheries Department into an Authority, of one that is more competent, effective and self-funding with professional and committed technical staff.

Mr Pokajam said in the last few years, there has been some real growth in investment in the fisheries sector. In tuna fisheries alone, there has been an increase in the tuna domestic licensed longline vessels owned by national citizens and a corresponding increase in the number of foreign investors seeking to permanently establish their tuna fishing operations in Papua New Guinea. Therefore, the future development prospects must be complimented by trained and skilled manpower capacity in all fisheries fields covering, fisheries managers, fisheries scientist, crew/deckhands, factory processors, fisheries technologies, extensions/community workers.