



# Fishing Line



NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY

ISSUE No. 4

July - August, 2004

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## PNG and Queensland Sign MOU



• NFA Managing Director, Mr Sylvester Pokajam (right) discusses the MOU with Mr John Pollock, Executive Director, Policy Analysis & Industry Development, Queensland Fisheries.

The Papua New Guinea National Fisheries Authority and the Queensland State of Australia through its Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance co-operation and working relationships in the areas of information sharing, capacity building, market access, bio-security, sustainable natural resources, industry development and research and development.

With the MOU in place and signed by the parties on 7th June 2004, PNG aims to increase exports of fish and fishery products into the Australian seafood market. This MOU will enable PNG to seek the necessary assistance for the fishing industry to better appreciate Australian quarantine standards and in that process be able to access the Australian market.

As part of the initial development of the MOU in April this year, the NFA held discussions

with Mrs Aivu Tauvasa, Commissioner of the Pacific Trade Commission in Sydney, on the possibility of promoting PNG seafood in the Sydney fish market. Commissioner Tauvasa indicated that the Commission Office could become the link between the Sydney Seafood Industry, NFA and the PNG Fishing Industry. NFA will be exploring this opportunity further.

On information sharing, NFA will be revamping its website to facilitate online access to NFA information as covered by the MOU. The MOU will also enable NFA to have staff on placement training in this area in Australia and vice-versa.

The MOU is a result of a meeting called the PNG-Queensland Business Cooperation Group Meeting held in Port Moresby in 2003. It was concluded at that meeting that an MOU be established. This MOU will be effective for three years from the date of its signing.

## From the Managing Director's Desk

The National Fisheries Authority is taking steps to enter into strategic relationships with sister institutions in neighbouring countries. The first of this is the entering of a Memorandum of Understanding between PNG National Fisheries Authority and the Queensland Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources. This arrangement will allow for greater cooperation and exchanges and in that process assist both institutions in accessing new ideas and tools for fisheries management and development. A team of NFA officials will be included in a PNG Government team to Jayapura next month to discuss with Indonesian Government officials areas of common interests with plans for a formal arrangement between PNG and Indonesia in the pipeline.

NFA continues to facilitate development of the fishing industry and acknowledge that ten companies can now be able to export their fish and fishery products to the European Union after receiving EU accreditation. As an EU recognised Competent Authority the NFA congratulates the companies for fulfilling food safety and standards that have enabled their access into the EU market. The benefits of taking part in the Brussels Seafood Show earlier this year is also clearly seen as some of the participating companies have made contacts with potential EU importers and now have also met EU accreditation standards.

Fisheries processing plans continue to be received from potential investors as fishing companies and processors see PNG as a strategic location both in terms of access to the resource and the tuna management regimes taking place

in the region. These new developments will take into account the PNG national tuna management plan and regional tuna management regimes such as the Palau Arrangement.

With the growth of the domestic industry, the stronger working relations with the Provincial Administration and new arrangements with neighbouring countries and international organisations, the NFA after five years of existence is also reviewing its structure with proposal for an increase in staff strength. This will enable NFA to continue to deliver its services effectively to all the stakeholders and be better placed to meet the changes that are facing the fisheries sector.

The NFA Corporate Plan will also be reviewed and one of the areas to be covered in the current review is the need to address the issue of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), fast becoming PNG's number one killer disease. Fishing or fisheries sector in general has been identified as one of the high-risk area. NFA will work towards developing a work place policy on AIDS and has also embarked on awareness programs to the community through the Asian Development Bank Coastal Fisheries Management and Development Project.

**SYLVESTER POKAJAM**  
Acting Managing Director

## NFA Pays Another K10 Million Dividend to Government

The National Fisheries Authority has recently paid another K10 million as dividend to the Government this month. The cheque was presented by Hon. Ben Semri, Minister for Fisheries to the Treasury Minister, Hon. Bart Philemon at Parliament House on 02 August 2004.

During the presentation of the cheque, Minister Semri said that since NFA became self-funding in 2001, it has grown from strength to strength. This parallels the growth of the fishing industry from one establishment of the RD Tuna cannery in Madang Province in 1998, and another loining plant in Wewak by South Seas Tuna Corporation in February this year. Other smaller processing plants have also been established in Port Moresby, Lae and Kavieng.

He said there is still possibility of further onshore investments in the not too distant future. An ice-making and net mending facility will be built on Lombrum, Manus Province, one more cannery and

a loining plant are to be built in Madang and one loining plant in Rabaul and two more processing facilities to go up in Lae. (All these investments will of course take into account the need for sustainable management of our fisheries and marine resources.)

These investments will drive PNG fisheries industry to new heights and create direct employment and spin-off opportunities for the people of PNG and the Government. It is therefore imperative that the National Government must fully support the industry and create incentives for the fishing industry.

The National Fisheries Authority has been making dividend payments since 2001 when it attained corporate self-funding status. It has paid K100million in dividend so far to the National Government. It is envisaging making another two payments of before 2004 ends.

## Staff Profile



**Name:** Timothy Numilengi  
**Age:** 31  
**Marital Status:** Married with one child  
**Qualification:** Bachelor of Science Degree in Food Technology

**Current Position:** Audit and Certification Officer

Mr Numilengi hails from Japaraka Village, Kubalia District of East Sepik Province. He completed his primary education at Kreer Community School in Wewak and high school at Brandi also in Wewak. He attended the Kerevat National High School in East New Britain Province to do Grades 11 and 12 and graduated in 1994.

He was selected for further studies at the University of Technology (UNITECH) in 1995 to a degree in food technology. In his last year of study, 1998, he did part-time vacation with Bismarck Consultants in Wewak and worked on a research project on Vanilla and cashew nuts processing, a project sponsored by Sir Michael Somare. This was his major project towards his Degree.

After graduating from the UNITECH at the end of 1998, he was employed by Bismarck Consultants for the first three months of 1999 as a research officer and then left to join the International Food Corporation (IFC) in Lae as Production Supervisor. He was not there for long and left again for the UNITECH, this time to work as a Food Technologist with the Food Technology and Preservation Unit of the Applied Sciences Department.

He joined the National Fisheries Authority as an Audit and Certification Officer in November 2000. As an Audit and Certification officer, he is required to do auditing and certification on fish products, and on fish processing facilities, storage facilities and exports. We do compliance tests on companies to see if they are keeping in line and implementing the required program of food safety and quality control according to world food safety practices.

"I can honestly say that great progress was made in the area of food safety from the periods 2000 to 2003. Many companies started exporting overseas when the issue of food safety was addressed by the more efficient team of the new NFA.

"I am glad that my colleagues and I are assisting in the growth of the industry in our daily tasks. In my view, NFA management is currently giving full support to food safety and it should not be compromised with politics nor economic gains or PNG will lose its status and placing on the ladder of world safety food standard. Currently, PNG is listed under the 'Unrestricted Countries' exporting to EU market.

"Our training needs are being met and we are heading in the right direction. The management and our team leader are supportive of our training needs and we are thankful for that because NFA has been recognised as the competent authority, and we the officers must be well versed with the changing world technologies to be able to provide for the needs of the growing industry. He concluded.

## Fishing Companies to Export to EU Market

Ten Papua New Guinea companies can now export their products to the European market. Four of the 10 companies were accorded European Union Accreditation in May, while the other six were given their approval this Month. This follows a decision made in October 2002 when Papua New Guinea was placed on the list of exporting countries to the European Union.

PNG through the National Fisheries Authority (NFA) has been recognised by the International Food and Veterinary Authority and also been approved by the European Commission in Brussels to export fish products to EU market.

The companies who achieved the EU accreditation to start exporting their products to the EU market are: Ailan Sea food Limited, Equatorial Marine Resources Limited, Delta Seafood Pty Ltd, Frabelle PNG Limited, Latitude 8 Limited, Maps Tuna Limited, Perma Industries Limited, RD Tuna Cannery Pty Ltd, Sengus Investment Limited and South Seas Tuna Corporation. Latitude 8 Limited and Maps Tuna Limited also have accreditation but have yet to complete the necessary requirement to meet full EU requirement.

The Audit and Certification Officers have been working tirelessly, since 2000 in assisting companies improve their facilities to achieve this standard and to break into the European market.

The recent European Seafood show in Brussels this year has assisted companies that participated, the opportunity in getting a better understanding of the European market and to make direct contacts with European community fish buyers.

Being the competent Authority, NFA through the Audit and Certification Unit has adopted the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point system, a compulsory system for the safety of products prepared in an establishment.

Fishing and fish processing companies are required by the NFA to implement the HACCP system in their operations. Upon the HACCP application, it identifies specific hazards and their measures for control to ensure food safety according to world practices at all times.

## Chinese to Build Fish Processing Facility in Lae

The Peoples Republic of China will be building a shore-based fisheries processing facility in Lae.

This is a result of a Memorandum of Understanding signed in December 2003 between the PNG Government and the Government of the Peoples Republic of China.

The Chinese Government chose the old Lae Yacht Club site as the location to build the project, which will consist of 50 ton per day tuna processing plant, a 15 ton per blast freezer, a 220 ton per day cold storage and a 10 ton per day ice making plant. The site is owned by NFA and will be made available for project construction.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will also build a dedicated longline wharf at the site to service the loining plant. Upon completion, the facilities will be leased to the private sector to operate. This is similar to the arrangements in Kavieng and Manus where fishing companies are leasing government wharf and processing plants.

Lae was chosen as the site for the construction of the facilities after a visitation to the country by a delegation from China from 16th to 24 this month. The group visited Lae, Madang and Rabaul.

Mr Sylvester Pokajam, Managing Director of National Fisheries Authority said, the facilities will be built by the Chinese and presented to PNG as a gift from the Government of the Peoples Republic of China. It is a bilateral aid grant project, which is being coordinated by the Department of National Planning and Rural Development. The NFA will be the executing agency responsible for its implementation. He said.

In thanking the Chinese Government for the proposed project, Mr. Pokajam asked for cooperation from the provincial governments and traditional landowners to free-up idle land for economic development. He said most investors had problem looking for land and fisheries is no exception. The NFA is fortunate to have a title to few sites, which are now being developed and leased to investors.

He stressed that investors fee secure putting their investment on State land than on traditional land. He said if our people want to benefit from economic development than they have to free up their land for development.

The Chinese Government will prepare a design contract and have it signed with the successful bidder in early September. It is anticipated that the project construction will commence in mid 2005.

## Harbours Board to Manage Kavieng Fisheries Wharf



• NFA Board Chairman, Bamake Rumbam (right) and Sir H. Kila (left) shaking hands after signing the agreement, witnessed by the NFA A/Managing Director, Mr Sylvester Pokajam and Mr Michael Ikau, PNGH Ltd Board Member.

The National Fisheries Authority has signed an agreement with the PNG Harbours Limited for the management of the Kavieng Fisheries wharf on 27 July, 2004.

Sir Henry Kila, Director of PNG Harbours Ltd said during the signing of the agreement, "this is the first time for PNGH Ltd to manage a wharf under an agreement like this. I am very happy on behalf of the PNGH Ltd to take on a new initiative and for the management of the wharf. We will use this as a yardstick and be available to enter into similar management arrangements in future with the NFA." He said.

Mr Ronald Kuk, NFA Project Manager said it has been 18 months since the wharf was constructed and was glad that the job of managing it has now been handed over to the Harbours Board.

By signing this management agreement, the Harbours Board will move into the area to provide port services and manage the facilities on behalf of the National Fisheries Authority for a period of 12 months, commencing on the date of this signing. Fees collected from this service will be distributed in half by the parties as per the agreement.

The wharf, along with the jetty and fuel facility are itself a fishing complex, first of its kind to be constructed in Papua New Guinea, and was built in 2002. The facility will serve the local tuna longline fishing vessels and New Irelands small-boat fishers.



• Boating and fishing business have commenced at Kavieng fisheries wharf within this month of July, as can be seen from this photo taken by Mr Garry Preston.

## New Manager for Licensing and Information Group



• Mr Kare sitting (centre) with his all female team.

The Licensing and Information Group of the National Fisheries Authority has a new Manager.

He is Mr Barre Kare, former Prawn and Lobster Fishery Manager with the Fisheries Management Group. He has been working with the Prawn and Lobster Fishery since 1994. He officially took office as Manager for Licensing and Information on 09 August 2004, a position, which has been vacant for almost two years.

Mr Kare will now be managing the three units of licensing, data entry and library and information, making up the Licensing and Information Group. This is an all-women's team of six permanent and two casual staff.

He is happy about being the successful applicant because one of his interests is working with data. Mr Kare said currently, data entered by officers are just data and there needs to be somebody there to really break down and analyse these data, and interpret it for the information of the stakeholders and the public. He said it is important for people to know and understand the export trend, price fluctuations, catch and landing rates by which vessel size, etc. This kind of analytic work is lacking at the moment and the NFA is in the process of addressing this concern.

Another of the important roles of the licensing team is to do compulsory inspection on the licensed fishing vessels and onshore facilities to see if they are complying with the licensing requirements, and this has not been done by the officers here but was undertaken by the enforcement officers for the last three years. "I have discussed with Mr Lamiller Pawut, Manager of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Group and we have shifted this function back to the licensing team." He said the licensing officers would be travelling and accompanied by enforcement officers to perform this duty.

"I now have a very challenging routine job each day where I get to meet many clients." He said.

Mr Kare said, the NFA has a very efficient and transparent licensing system, whereby licences are only issued by the computer system when the receipt of payment is produced by the accounts section to the licensing officer to enter into the computer.

Meanwhile, the Fisheries Management Group has lost the services of Mr Kare but he is still within NFA to assist and has been assisting Ms Luanna Koren, Assistant Research Prawn Scientist since he moved. Mr Augustine Mubiha, Fisheries Management Adviser said, "at the moment we have Ms Koren, however, she has just started and we are looking for a senior person to fill the position vacated by Mr Kare." "I have spoken to Mr Sylvester Pokajam, Acting Managing Director of NFA to move officers within the fisheries management group around to fill in the vacuum." Mr Mubiha said NFA needs to advertise the position, however, locally there are no experts in this field.

## Portuguese Biology Student Experiences PNG Fisheries



• Mr Schmidt receiving training from Mr Kuk, Project Manager, looking on is Mr Jerome Tioti, Project Research Scientist.

Papua New Guinea's exotic marine life attracts a lot of overseas marine biology students every year to find work experience with the National Fisheries Authority.

One such person is Mr Vasco Schmidt, a 22-year-old student from Portugal studying marine biology at the University of Plymouth, England. Mr Schmidt was actually on a study break to visit his father working here in Port Moresby as First Councillor with the European Union Commission. Mixing school holidays with some hours of job-experience with the National Fisheries Authority was enough to give him an in-sight to fisheries in Papua New Guinea.

"My main aim of coming here is to learn PNG fisheries management. Most of my time was spent looking at the European Union Rural Coastal Fisheries Development Project and commenting on it as I went along. It was interesting to learn about the different fisheries in PNG, particularly the prawn and tuna fisheries.

"I want to thank the Acting Managing Director, Mr Sylvester Pokajam and Project Manager, Mr Ronald Kuk for accepting me into the NFA for my training and bit of practical work. Whilst here, I learnt a lot about project and fisheries management, and I have met a lot of interesting people at NFA." He said.

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## Fisheries Extension Officers Attend Tilapia and Prawn Course

Four fisheries district officers have attended a course in Fiji on Grow-out and Culturing of Tilapia and freshwater prawn.

The officers were selected by the Aquaculture and Inland Fishery Manager, Mr Jacob Wani of the National Fisheries Authority. Fisheries Officers selected were: Mr Peter Minimulu from the National DAL Goroka, Ms Tripiso Apaise from the Aiyura Research Centre, Johnny Sorangi from Erap Research Station, Morobe and Mr Apelis Churchil from the Warangoi OISCA Vocational Centre in East New Britain.

It was a short-term 3-week course held from the 10<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2004 and was funded by the Secretariat of the South Pacific Community in collaboration with the University of the South Pacific Marine Studies Program.

The course was aimed at developing skills of project managers and technicians in seed production of tilapia and pond grow-out of tilapia and prawns.

Course Organisers, Mr Ben Ponia of SPC and Dr. Tim Pickering of the Institute of Marine Resources of USP said the lack of knowledge on producing tilapia fingerlings is a major problem confronting freshwater aquaculture centres of the various Pacific Island countries. This problem is compounded by the poor understanding of how to raise the tilapia as well, which affects the livelihood of the thousands of poor farmers in the region. Thus, this course is a response to the expressed needs of SPC member countries for a better understanding of freshwater aquaculture in particular tilapia seed production and grow-out of tilapia and prawns.