



Fishing Line



NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY

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Inside this Issue

- Minister Semri Happy with Industry Growth
- Editorial
- Staff Profile
- NFA/PNG Participates in Seafood Show
- Hooks and Baits - Siwi Shipping Services Ltd
- NFA/Infotish Trains Fish Companies
- Live Fish Export Increases
- Workshop on Seafood Value-Adding

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Minister Semri Expresses Satisfaction in Industry Growth



• Hon. Ben Semri, MP, Minister for Fisheries delivering his opening speech for the INFotish Workshop at Crowne Plaza, Port Moresby.

The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) has kicked off its activities for 2005 on a good footing with the strengthening of Papua New Guinea's Fishing Companies.

The NFA, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) facilitated a training workshop for the fishing companies on 'Tuna Quality Assurance and Laboratory Techniques'.

In his official opening speech for the workshop, Hon. Ben Semri, Minister for Fisheries expressed satisfaction on the growth of the fishing industry since 1995 and supported the kind of training which will benefit the industry, as well as for safe consumption.

Hon. Semri said, "the Fishing Industry has in fact grown in leaps and bound since 1995. It has recorded growth in exports from a mere 50 tonnes in 1990 to over 40,000 tonnes in 2001 just over a 10-year period. This represents a growth of a thousand fold and export income of over US\$60 million, which is unprecedented by any measure.

"The growth will continue upwards with the introduction of five (5) more canneries and loining plants. We are looking at the expansion of RD Tuna Canning capacity to 500 metric tonnes per day at Vidar, a 60mt per day Kosher loining plant at Poisedon in Madang, a 140mt per day tuna loining and canning plant by Frabelle in Iae, a 50mt per day tuna loining plant in Kokopo by New Britain Resources Development and a 120mt per day loining and canning plant by Offshore Master Company of Thailand.

"We are looking at creating 15-20,000 direct and indirect jobs for Papua New Guineans in the next 10 years and generate over US\$300-400 million in export revenue for PNG.

"The current economic climate facing the world economy, especially the increased levels of fuel prices have however, been a strain to the growth of the fisheries sector. There are also other factors that have put additional strain on the sector, which can be addressed by relevant institutions and stakeholders. These factors cover areas such as administrative processes of government,

From the Managing Director's Desk

I would like to welcome all staff into the new working year and encourage us to work together to achieve even bigger things for the fisheries sector. Much has been achieved last year and I seek your support and cooperation to continue to produce significant results in tangible developments, which will enhance livelihood of our local people and satisfaction to our investors.

Our focus for 2005 will be on:-

- Assisting the PNG Domestic Fishing Industry manage the high cost of business and create competitive advantage
- Strengthening the capacity of NFA in managing fisheries and marine resources sustainably
- Assisting the PNGDF step up surveillance of our waters
- Assisting in the development of private sector initiatives, such as the proposed Madang Marine Industrial Park and the Wewak Enhancement Project
- Developing our strategy in the allocation of fishing days under the Vessel Days Scheme and the Tuna Convention on the management of highly migratory species on the high seas
- Facilitate more onshore investment
- To slowly phase out access fees with the

introduction of the new Vessel Days Scheme in June 2006

- PNG entering into bilateral talks with key resource rich countries who are members of FFA to build strategic alliances in terms of securing tuna supply base. The Government is considering offering shares in shore-based fishing projects in PNG to these countries; and
- To participate in the annual Brussels Seafood Show.

The NFA will continue to be the shining example in the public sector. We will continue to maintain the high standard of services to our clients. We will pay dividends to the National Government and assist the provinces manage fisheries functions within their jurisdiction. We will strive to be transparent in our business and be responsible managers of the fisheries and marine resources for today and future generations to come.

I will take this opportunity to thank our clients for their support last year, which has been a great success, and I look forward to serving you better this year (2005).

SYLVESTER POKAJAM
Acting Managing Director

Minister Expresses Satisfaction in Industry Growth

....continue from page 1

level of reinvestment by existing players, levels of communication between stakeholders, training and innovation etc.

"As Minister responsible for Fisheries, I am also a member of the Economic Sector Ministers Committee which is addressing some of these impediments to the growth of the sector. Addressing the impediments that are within our reach is a key objective of the Somare Government under the Economic Recovery and Growth Strategy. "The quality assurance and laboratory techniques training program fits into this overall Government strategy. Put simply, Papua New Guinea cannot process good quality seafood products for both the domestic and export markets if we do not have people trained in specialized areas such as the type offered in this quality assurance and laboratory techniques program.

"It is important that all seafood processing companies in Papua New Guinea continue to maintain their high food safety standards that are based on the Hazard Analysis and

Critical Control Point or HACCP. It is also of critical importance that the NFA as a component authority be well aware of the latest standards and requirements that are related to food safety.

"At this juncture, I want to issue a challenge to the program conductors and the participants in one of your sessions to discuss and list some of the things that need to be done to ensure that PNG products fulfil the food safety requirements.

"Over the next five days you will learn a lot about quality assurance and laboratory techniques in the handling and processing of seafood. I am sure that what you learn will be beneficial, to you, to your company and to Papua New Guinea.

"I thank the INFOFISH, FAO and CDE for bringing this training program to Papua New Guinea and the NFA for co-funding and making the arrangements for this important program." Minister Samri said.

Staff Profile



Name: Eileen Etiric
Age: 40
Marital Status: Married with five children
Qualification: Basic Secretarial Studies
Current Position: Assistant Licensing Officer.

Mrs. Etiric is currently employed as Assistant Licensing officer and is responsible to the Manager, Licensing and Information Division. She comes from Rigo District of the Central Province. She completed Grade 10 at the Yule Island High School in 1982 and was accepted into Madang Secretarial College in 1983 to do Basic Secretarial Studies.

Mrs Etiric started off as a Key Board Operator (KBO1) with the Department of Primary Industry in 1984 and worked for three years with the department until her resignation in 1986 to join her husband in West New Britain Province. She was away for year and returned in 1987 and she lodged an application to the DFMR for the position of switchboard operator. She was accepted for the job in 1988. She performed well and was promoted to KBO2. From there, she slowly worked her way up to being secretary to several divisional heads within the department.

Mrs Etiric has also attended a number of short courses in 1989, which includes, Telephone Technique, Motivation, Communication, Staff Relation and General Mailing. More recently in 2004, additional courses attended were; Microsoft Access 2000 (Intermediate and Advanced).

She worked exceptionally well and was elevated to KBO3 in 1993, within just span of five years. She was further promoted to KBO4 (Grade 6) in 1997.

At that time, the DFMR was reformed to become the National Fisheries Authority, and she was displaced in 2000 under the new departmental structure. However, after a quick appeal and action taken appropriately, she was placed on the position of Assistant Licensing Officer.

Mrs Etiric was initially a secretary, keyboard operator by professional but with exceptional work commitments and honesty has paid off and she now deals with very key players in the fishing business.

Her main tasks includes, meeting fishing industry clients, attending to their licensing queries, receiving licensing applications, registering applications and distributing licensing applications to certain senior managers of the Licensing Review Committee for commenting. After the review by senior managers, she is required to prepare an agenda for the full Licensing Review Committee meeting.

Her other prime task is to assist the Licensing Officer issue licences, and liaise with accounts section on invoices and receipts for payments for licences and licence applications.

"My job is tough, challenging and interesting but I enjoy it. I have been performing these tasks for four years and with experience over time, it is much easier now and I am enjoying it.

INFOFISH Provides Training on Product Safety and Quality



● Fishing Industry workshop participants posing for a group photograph after the workshop.

A workshop on quality assurance and laboratory techniques for the Papua New Guinea Fishing Industry was held from the 22nd - 26th of February 2005 in Port Moresby.

The purpose of the workshop is to impart to fishing companies valuable knowledge in ensuring products processed for both local consumption, as well as for export are of the standard and quality required by consumers for safe consumption.

The companies that participated in the four-days workshop were; MAPS Tuna Ltd, Coco Enterprise Ltd, Neptune Fishery Ltd, PNG Fresh Tuna Ltd, RD Tuna Cannery Ltd, Equatorial Marine Resources Ltd, Nako Fisheries Ltd, Frabelle (PNG) Ltd, Sepik Sea Products Ltd, Perma Industries Ltd, Latitude 8 Ltd and Delta Seafoods Ltd.

The workshop was a follow-up of a 2004 Training and Workshop on 'Promotion of processing and marketing of value-added tuna products from Island Countries.'

Since the 2004 workshop, several companies have improved the quality of their products to meet the European standards and have commenced exporting to the European markets in November 2004. Moreover, the companies and Papua New Guinea seafood products were further exposed to the EU markets through PNG's participation by NFA at a Brussels Seafood Show in June 2004.

It is through workshops like this that PNG companies improve their products to venture into new markets.

Mr Jacob Karau, Operations Manager of Delta Seafoods Limited, told the Fishing Line after the workshop that the training was very informative and worthwhile. "In terms of food safety, trainings and workshops NFA must continue to facilitate similar workshops, so that we are kept informed and trained on how to improve our products to world food safety standards, and to meet market demands worldwide. We have in place HACCP plans but we have to review changes and adopt them to use in our operations." He said.

The Workshop was co-funded and facilitated by the NFA, INFOFISH, FAO and the CDE.

The training part of the workshop were conducted by two specialists from INFOFISH, Dr. Suwimon, who is the FAO Consultant and Head of Fish Inspection Unit and Dr. Anandavally, an FAO consultant. They were ably assisted by Audit and Certification Officers of the National Fisheries Authority, led by Ms Aquina Kango.

NFA to Participate in the 2005 European Seafood Show



● Hon. Ben Semri, Minister for Fisheries pressing the button of a laptop computer at the launching of the PNG Seafood video at NFA's Boardroom, Port Moresby

The National Fisheries Authority is gearing up to participate in the April 2005 European Seafood Exposition.

This is an annual event, which will be held in Brussels. More than 200 seafood companies from all over Europe, Asia and the Pacific will be displaying their products. Papua New Guinea is the first pacific island nation to participate in the exposition.

Papua New Guinea through the NFA participated in the show last year and is preparing to participate again this year. Preparations by the NFA to attend this European annual seafood event has begun as early as January 2005, and consultations between the NFA and the intending PNG fishing companies are continuing to assist companies prepare well for the event.

Mr Justin Ilakini, NFA's Industry Liaison Officer said, "Learning from last year's experiences, NFA would like to meet all EU customs requirements and to get our products into Brussels in time for the show. We would like as many PNG fishing companies as possible to secure markets in Europe and that is why NFA is doing its best to assist them." He said.

Mr Ilakini said the Brussels seafood show is an annual event and every year, we will be advancing our marketing ideas. "Last year, we did not showcase products and displayed only brochures, etc., however, this year, we have advanced further where NFA has produced a video titled 'Papua New Guinea Seafood Industry', which will be shown in the PNG stall. Additionally, we have stepped up our advertising efforts by posting advertisements and articles on the European seafood magazines.

Last year, a Sepik styled house (all bush material) was built in Wewak and shipped to Brussels; this year, a house was built using modern materials in Madang, which will be kept in Brussels to be used every year.

Live Fish Export Increases



● Fishing Crew of Live Fish Operator, Golden Bowl, preparing fish for export.

Export of Live Fish by Operator, Golden Bowl Restaurant has increased since its first export in November 2004.

The Golden Bowl Restaurant has made four consecutive exports of live fish to Hong Kong so far within the months of November 2004 to January and February 2005, with the fourth being executed on Sunday, 26th February 2005.

There are only three available licences in this fishery and all three has been taken out. The other two licence holders in this fishery are Niugini Islands Sea Products Ltd of Kavieng and MAPS Tuna Ltd.

Mr Leban Gisawa, Manager for Inshore Fishery, which includes live fish said that the Live Fish Fishery has only commenced in Central Province towards the end of 2004. Fishing activities commenced along the coastal villagers of Hula up to Abau. The target fish species are reef fishes, mainly, coral trout, high-fin grouper and maori-wrasse. The fish are caught using handlining, which the hook must be carefully removed from the fish's mouth using a special tool, then treated, and pulled along in the water with great care.

The Live Reef Food Fish Trade was introduced in PNG in 1992. The first operation was based on Hemit Island in Manus Province and then spread to other provinces. The fishery has potential for economic benefits to the coastal communities, but if not managed properly, it can also cause negative environmental, economical, biological and social impacts.

This fishery operates under a Management Plan called the Live Reef Food Fish Trade Management Plan, after a trail project in Kavieng in 2002. The trial project was held to obtain valuable information to formulate and develop a management plan for the fishery.

The Management Plan spells out clearly that this fishing activity is to be done using handlining method of fishing only and is restricted to local fishermen, who catches the fish and sells to the Operator. (In this case, the operator is Golden Bowl Restaurant)

The Management Plan also states that sodium cyanide, including dennis roots (poisonous roots), use of hookah gear, scuba and traps should not be used in this fishery.

Fishing Line spoke to the Operations Manager of Golden Bowl Restaurant, Mr. F William at time of the fourth export and he said this fishery has assisted local coastal financially, compared to what they would have received if fishes were sold at the local markets. They spent about two weeks of fishing at the coastal villages of Hula down to Abau. He said the fish will be airfreighted to Hong Kong via Cairns.

In Hong Kong, these fishes will be placed in aquarium tanks in restaurants for rich consumers to watch them swim about while they eat.

Women Attend Workshop on Seafood Value-adding

Fourteen selected women from Papua New Guinea's maritime provinces have attended a workshop in seafood product value-adding at the National Fisheries College, Kavieng.

It was funded by the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank through the Sydney and Port Moresby's offices of the Pacific Enterprise Development Facility. It was the first major training exercise to use the new seafood training and processing facility at the College.

The one-month workshop comprised existing Post Harvest Operations 1, (a core course at the College), which covers seafood handling, quality and food safety, and a new program in value adding seafood and seafood business management. The program was delivered by the NFC staff and PEDF consultant, Mr Hugh Walton.

Mr Walton said the workshop was designed in a competency-based format to build confidence and capacity and to enhance participation of women in the PNG seafood and fisheries sector.



● Women participants preparing tuna and marlin pieces on trays, ready for smoking.



● The end product, which is cold smoked marlin in rum and sugar.