



FISHING LINE



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New Man at the Top



• Mr Batty in his National Fisheries Authority Office.

Following the departure of Mr Simon Tiller, the National Fisheries Authority has been headed by Mr Michael Batty, who took up the post of Deputy and now Acting Managing Director in May.

Mr Batty has an honour degree in Science and postgraduate qualifications in Fisheries Management and Aquaculture. He has 17 years experience of fisheries management and development, mainly in

the South Pacific Region. He has also worked in fisheries in the North Atlantic, South Atlantic and Red Sea.

Within the South Pacific, he has undertaken long-term posts in Solomon Islands and Tuvalu, and short-term assignments in Micronesia, Tonga and here in PNG. Mr Batty is married with three children.

From the Managing Director's Desk

The transformation plan for the National Fisheries Authority, launched at the start of the new millennium, called for the NFA to become a smaller, cleverer and more responsive organization. It would become clearly focused on the management of fisheries to provide the maximum sustainable benefit to the people of Papua New Guinea.

What distinguishes this plan from previous expressions of intent is that it is actually happening. Staff numbers have been cut by nearly two thirds in a somewhat painful but necessary retrenchment process. Operating costs have been reduced, while revenues have increased. The new structure has attracted staff of a generally high calibre, while new policies stressing the promotion of private sector development have been well received by stakeholders.

The challenge over the months ahead will be to consolidate this progress and continue to move forward. I believe there will be three important themes:

- **regulation;**
- **consultation; and**
- **prioritisation.**

To perform our duties, and within the organisation, we need fair and consistent rules that are applied and seen to be applied even-handedly. Flexibility is provided by a review process, of which current examples can be seen from the revision of the *Fisheries Management Act* through to the development of internal office policies and procedures.

The review of the Fisheries Management plans, and development of new plans, will be

one of many areas that will involve the second theme of consultation. The fishing industry, other stakeholders and where appropriate, regional organisations will be involved. Management advisory committees will be formed for fisheries of national importance. Within the organisation too there will be a more consultative management style. The move to a new open-plan office in August will make the exchange of ideas easier, as well as symbolising a clean break with the past.

Finally, as a much smaller organisation we need to focus on the things that are important and which we can do well. In the past, for example, NFA resources have been diverted into small-scale fisheries development grants, which have not been well appraised and produced few lasting benefits. This is an important area, but obviously something that we do not do well. In the future we will be facilitating integrated donor-funded projects to assist in artisanal fisheries development. The first of these, an European Union funded rural fisheries programme was approved for funding in December 2000, and we are eagerly awaiting its start. A design team for a proposed ADB funded coastal programme begins work in June.

This is the first of what we hope will be a monthly newsletter, in which the following pages will provide more detail on a different aspect of the Authority's work. The months ahead will be an interesting time, but I am confident that the 'new NFA' will rise to the challenge.

Michael Batty
Acting Managing Director

NFA Staff urged to Work Fruitfully

National Fisheries Authority staff have been urged to continue to be dedicated to their work and produce fruitful results. This was the message left behind for them by the Outgoing Managing Director, Mr Simon Tiller.

Mr Tiller first came to the Authority as a consultant on ADB Projects in 1999. In June 2000 he was appointed Managing Director for the National Fisheries Authority. Mr Tiller was instrumental in the restructuring of the new NFA, which saw the emergence of a team of dedicated and loyal staff.

"Initially, I was told that it will be a very difficult task in Fisheries but within a couple of months, I can say that we have the most talented and competent staff in PNG." Mr Tiller said.

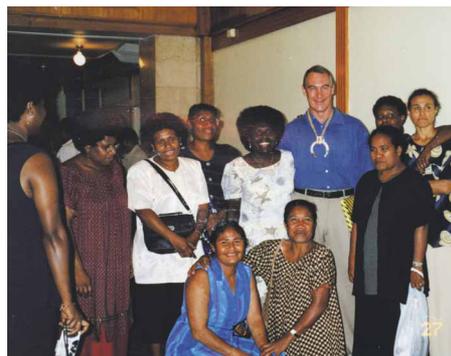
"We were pushing very hard to carry out the tasks because I was interested in moving NFA from one stage to another. My departing message to the NFA Staff is, please do not compromise your job, and do not doubt yourself. Always do what you know to be right. I leave NFA with a feeling of great sadness." He said.

He said that the NFA has gone through enormous changes for its own betterment. We have heaps of people out there who are very competent and have sense of pride in fisheries which will result in fisheries being more of an income generating area for the country." He said.

"It's a very memorable and satisfying time during the period that I was here. I am fortunate to have worked with the 45 or so people to implement the Reform in the NFA to what will be the threshold of fisheries in Papua New Guinea." Mr Tiller said.

Mr Garry Preston on behalf of the ADB Project Team thanked Mr Tiller for a job well done at the National Fisheries Authority.

"Without Mr Tiller's guiding hands, the PNGNFA would not have come this far to where we are now. We thank you and wish you all the best and may be some day you will return to Papua New Guinea to see the fruits of your hard work." Mr Preston said.



• Mr Tiller and some staff of the National Fisheries Authority at his farewell function.

Staff Profile



Name: Mrs Concilia Sukina
Age: 32 years old
Qualification: Certificate in Secretarial Studies
Occupation: Executive Secretary to the Managing Director

Mrs Sukina joined the National Fisheries Authority in 1997 as Personal Secretary to the Executive Manager, Fisheries Management and Industry Division. She worked in that capacity from 1997 to 1999.

In 2000, when Mr Simon Tiller became the Managing Director for NFA, she then became his Executive Secretary.

Her main responsibilities include; providing secretarial and administrative assistance, scheduling meetings, filing, minute and general assistance to the Managing Director.

Prior to her employment with the National Fisheries Authority, she was working with Integrated Development Services (IDS) for a year as the Executive Secretary to the Managing Director.

While with IDS, she did two upgrading courses in her area of profession. One was the Basic Executive Secretarial Course, Phase 1 and the other was Upgrading Skills for Executive Secretaries, Phase 2.

"I enjoy working with the National Fisheries Authority. So far I have had one national boss and two expatriate bosses. I enjoy attending to clients best.

One thing she would like to see is an improvement in communication. "I like officers to be able to communicate well with each other when it comes to work related matters. We must co-operate well." She said.

NFA to Relocate to Deloitte Tower

The National Fisheries Authority will be relocated to the Deloitte Tower in August this year.

Mr Peter Cusack, Project Management Specialist, Deputy Team Leader said this is a world standard building.

National Fisheries Authority will be occupying the whole of the 11th floor. "Having everybody together will really improve our communication. We believe this will assist greatly in our operations." Mr Cusack said.

The new office will have an open style compared to the current building where it has been difficult for the staff to communicate and exchange ideas.

All managers will work in glass walled offices and all other officers will work outside at their workstations. He said the floor is fully furnished with very new modern office equipment, ranging from computers and printers to the telephone system.

"No furniture from the old offices will be brought over to Deloitte Tower except for a few computers, copiers and printers.

A computer based filing system is to be installed. Staff are receiving training on the use of the Filetrak software and hardware.

The Department of Agriculture and Livestock will take over the floors of Monian Building. All staff are really looking forward to the move.

Streamlining of License Applications and Processing

The Authority is streamlining the licence application and processing system, which has proven frustrating both to licence applications and Authority staff in the past.

“We are working towards being able to issue new licences within 30 days provided the applicant sends in all information we need with its application”, Ms Margaret Kaheu, the Licensing Officer said.

In addition, reminders of renewals are now sent out to license holders at least 30 days before the old license expires, together with an invoice for the application fee.

License is a Requirement

Licenses are required before anyone can operate, buy, sell, store, catch, process or export fish. Management of fisheries is basically carried out through the licensing process. The type and number of licenses is being renewed as management plans are being updated and it is intended to reduce the number of licence types to make the system more workable for both licence holders and the Authority.

Under the *Fisheries Management Regulations 2000*, there are several different types of licence required for various activities. These are shown in the box below.

Types of Licences

1. Commercial Fishing Licence
2. Commercial Buying Licence
3. Storage Licence
4. Processing Licence
5. Mothership Licence
6. Fuel Tanker Licence
7. Export Licence
8. Beche-de-mer Licence
9. Trial Fishing Licence
10. Aquaculture Licence

An application fee of K100.00 must be paid before any application can be processed. The fee is non-refundable.

The number of licences available varies from fishery to fishery.

Currently, most fisheries are undergoing review. People interested in having their say in these reviews will be given the opportunity to comment on draft management plans. These periods of consultation will be advertised in the newspaper.

In the past, there has been some confusion on what species are covered by a license. To clarify this, standard names for each species have been set. (See box below).

Standard Species Name for Licences

Barramundi
Beche-de-mer (BDM)
Billfish
Blacklip (Shell)
Blacklip Pearl
Coconut Crab
Eels
Goldlip Meat
Goldlip (Shell)
Goldlip Pearl
Greensnail
Lobster
Mud Crab
Octopus
Prawns
Reef Tinfin
Sharkfin
Sharkmeat
Squid
Trochus
Trochus Meat
Tuna

Major Change in Licensing

NFA will not be issuing any new licences for the Beche-de-mer fishery until the new Management Plan has been gazetted. This means that any applications for new licences will be returned and you will be requested to reapply once that new Management Plan is in place.

The Licensing Officer, Ms Margaret Kaheu said at the moment, NFA will not be issuing any new beche-de-mer export facility licenses.

Establishment of a License Review Committee

A License Review Committee, chaired by the Managing Director has been established. It examines all new license applications that come in. This Committee makes recommendations to the National Fisheries Board about licences which should be approved.

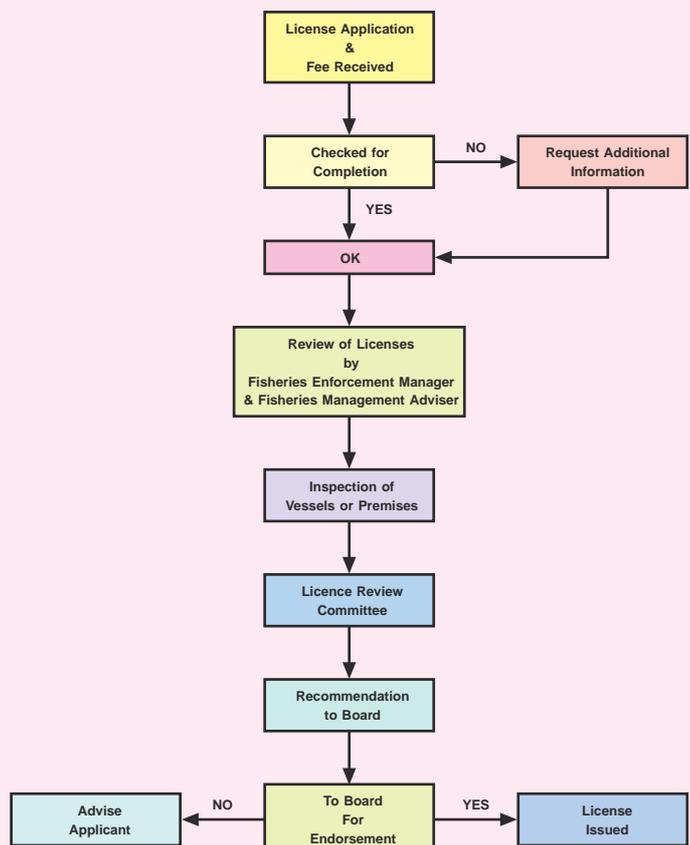
In the past, applications were taken straight to the Board for examination and approval but now this new Committee examines the applications to see if each has met all the licensing requirements before making a recommendation to the Board.

What can you do to speed things up?

1. You can give us all the information and documents needed at the start and pay your application fee. The process does not start until these are received.
2. Be flexible in arranging times for audits or inspection of premises if required.
3. Use the standard name or names for species you want included in the license.
4. Respond promptly to queries from NFA.

THE LICENSING PROCESS

How Licence Applications are Processed



Early Closure of Milne Bay Province Beche-de-mer

The National Fisheries Authority will close the Milne Bay Province Beche-de-mer on 8 June 2001 to ensure that the total allowable catch of 140 metric tonnes as set out in the Milne Bay Province Beche-de-mer Fishery Management Plan is not exceeded.

The Fisheries Manager - Sedentary at NFA, Mr Philip Polon revealed that the catch of Beche-de-mer in Milne Bay to the end of April totalled 110 tonnes. This indicated an average harvest of 27.5 tonnes per month, which also indicates that the total allowable catch will be exceeded by early June this year.

He said NFA is closing the fishery so that the stock of Beche-de-mer in Milne Bay Province has time to regenerate and undersize fish have time to grow. "This means that when the season opens next year there should again be a good harvest." Mr Polon said.

He said on 8 June 2001, the taking, storing and buying of Beche-de-mer product should stop immediately and

anyone found buying or collecting Beche-de-mer after this date is operating illegally and is liable to be charged.

Mr Polon said exporters are required to declare all holding stocks of Beche-de-mer product on their premises by 15 June. All stocks must be exported by 30 June.

He added that a new National Management Plan for the Beche-de-mer Fishery is being developed by NFA. This will come into force later this year and will replace the Milne Bay Province Management Plan. The Beche-de-mer Fishery will reopen on 31 January 2002 under the new National Management Plan.

NFA anticipates reviewing all Beche-de-mer licenses following the release of the new plan.

For more information on the Beche-de-mer Management Plan, please contact Mr Philip Polon on Telephone No. 321 2643, extn 14.

New Courses for Kavieng Fisheries College

The courses at the National Fisheries College in Kavieng have been restructured to meet the needs of the Papua New Guinea Fishing Industry.

The Australian Team Leader on Projects at the National Fisheries College, Mr Hugh Walton said this is part of an AusAID Strengthening Project for the College worth AUD\$6 million over four years.

The National Fisheries College Principal, Mr John Kasu said during the past 12 months, the college has been developing and introducing a range of new courses and programs to replace the previously offered fishing cadet program.

The other main aspect of the training is in seafood handling, which will result in people finding employment as supervisors and managers in the areas of food handling and fish processing.

Mr Walton said the National Fisheries College has an entirely new staff in early 2001 and is working towards being an autonomous institution

meeting the needs of the PNG fishing industry.

He said the College is developing a series of modules to be delivered as short workshops in rural locations. He said the specific modules being developed are to cover small boat fishing methods, basic navigation, small boat safety, fishing handling and quality, outboard engineering and maintenance, small fishing business management and resource management.

Mr Walton said the National Fisheries College is also promoting a role as a provider of training solutions to meet clients' specific needs. The extensive facilities of the College are being refurbished under the AusAID project ensuring the College is able to offer an excellent venue for all types of courses.

For more information, contact the Principal, Mr John Kasu at the National Fisheries College in Kavieng on Telephone No. 984 2187.

Basic Training for Observers

A basic training course for Observers will be held at the National Fisheries College in November this year. About 15 participants will be selected from ports that need more observers. A consultant will co-ordinate the course with Tutors from the regional organisations that have trained PNG observers in the past and PNG Fisheries Development Project Consultant to present the course.

This consultant will work closely with the tutors and the staff of the National Fisheries Authority and the College to develop course standards and materials that NFA will be able to utilise in future for PNG observer training.

It will be a two-week basic training course in the areas of fire fighting, first aid, sea safety, communication and marine electronics. Followed by another two weeks of observer training specific to each of the main fisheries.

The Observer Manager, Mr Noan Pakop said the courses are essential to ensure the observers meet the necessary high standards required in providing such services.

He said this basic training is part of

NFA's continued efforts to improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of its services, however it is anticipated that in the future PNG Observer Programme will contract work out to observer service providers. "In the meantime, NFA will continue to provide training opportunities in an effort to increase the pool of observers that may be used by such observer service providers." He said.

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

"They are the fisheries managers' unbiased eyes and ears in the fishing grounds and when well used, are recognized worldwide as one of the most efficient tools of fisheries management." He said.

For more information on observer programmes, contact Mr Noan Pakop, Observer Manager on Telephone No. 321 2543, ext 51.

HACCP Implementation assists Fishing Industry

The National Fisheries Authority has taken steps to ensure fish products exported meet requirements and standards of its trading partners.

Team Leader, Audit and Certification, Ms Aquina Kango said this has been made possible by the adoption of a technique known as Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP). This is a preventive management tool used to protect food supply against biological, chemical and physical hazards.

She said the Hazards Analysis and Critical Control Point has been endorsed worldwide by Organisations such as Codex Alimentarius, the European Union and also by several other countries, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

Ms Kango said so far one seminar

and two workshops have been held for the industries to inform them on the importance of having HACCP Programmes and the requirements involved.

She said the National Fisheries Authority does not intend to penalise companies if they do not cooperate but its aim is to work alongside the companies because the results will be beneficial to the industry and for Papua New Guinea's reputation.

She also said that only in extreme cases National Fisheries Authority would take the necessary action by withholding exports in the event, that the company's condition of processing and practices jeopardizes the safety of the product. However, it will be the company's responsibility to improve its processing and handling practices in order for exports to proceed as normal.

Export Prices of Fish and Fishery Products

PRODUCT	TYPE	GRADE	PRICE/Kg		MARKET	PRODUCT	TYPE	GRADE	PRICE/Kg		MARKET
			US\$	AUS\$					US\$	AUS\$	
Shark Fins (Dried)	Pectoral		45		Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong	Beche-de-mer	Flower Fish		4		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia
Shark Fins (Dried)	Cordal		90		Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong	Beche-de-mer	Green Fish		15		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia
Shark Fins (Dried)	Dorsal		65		Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong	Beche-de-mer	Elephant Trunk		4		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia
Beche-de-mer	Sandfish	A	45		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia	Big Eye Tuna	Fresh Chilled		8		Japan
Beche-de-mer	Sandfish	B	38		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia	Yellow Fin Tuna			7		Japan
Beche-de-mer	Sandfish	C	25		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia	Sword Fish			4		Japan
Beche-de-mer	White Teatfish	A	30		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia	Yellow Fin Tuna	Fresh Chilled		10		Australia
Beche-de-mer	White Teatfish	B	22		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia	Yellow Fin Tuna	Trunk Frozen		0.7		Taiwan
Beche-de-mer	White Teatfish	C	18		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia	Marlin Fish	Trunk Frozen		0.7		Taiwan
Beche-de-mer	Black Teat Fish	A	25		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia	Shark	Trunk Frozen		0.55		Taiwan
Beche-de-mer	Black Teat Fish	B	17		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia	Shark Fin	Frozen	A	11.8		Taiwan
Beche-de-mer	Stonefish	A	15		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia	Shark Fin	Frozen	B	6		Taiwan
Beche-de-mer	Prickly Redfish		15		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia	Shark Fin	Frozen	C	2.2		Taiwan
Beche-de-mer	Greenfish		17		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia	Rock Cord	Trunk Frozen		0.7		Taiwan
Beche-de-mer	Brownsandfish		7		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia	Sword/Sail Fish	Trunk Frozen		0.72		Taiwan
Beche-de-mer	Chalkfish		4		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia	Other Fish	Trunk Frozen		0.4		Taiwan
Beche-de-mer	Snake Fish		4		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia	Cray Fish	Tails	H	25		Australia
Beche-de-mer	Lolly Fish	B	3		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia	Lobster-Trop. Rock	Tails - Frozen		54		Australia
Beche-de-mer	Lolly Fish	A	4		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia	Trochus Shell	Large		2-3		Singapore, Hong Kong
Beche-de-mer	Tiger Fish		8.5		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia		Medium		2-3		Singapore, Hong Kong
Beche-de-mer	Curry Fish		14		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia		Small		2-3		Singapore, Hong Kong
Beche-de-mer	Amber Fish		5		Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia						