

Introduction

Welcome to the periodic newsletter for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Project (OFM Project). Articles in this newsletter are provided by the organisations involved and relate to project funded activities and other relevant information.

This newsletter is distributed to Pacific islands project member governments, industry and environmental non-government organizations, International Waters (IW) Learn audiences and donor communities participating in Pacific regional fisheries management. Please forward this newsletter to all other people interested in sustainable oceanic fisheries management in the Pacific.

About the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project



The following are some of the key milestones and information for the OFM Project.

- *Beneficiary Countries* - Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu
- *Project design phase* – March 2004 to April 2005. UNDP/GEF PDF B funding USD\$698,065 + in-kind USD\$468,620
- *Country Needs Assessments* – June – July 2004 (conducted by regional & international fisheries experts)
- *GEF Council & CEO approval and endorsement for the OFM Project* - May 24 2005
- *Project commencement* – October 2005
- *OFM Project GEF financing* – USD 11.64 million (includes PDF B)
- *Implementing Agency* – UNDP

- *Executing Agencies* – Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Pacific Community (SPC) & World Conservation (IUCN)
- *Duration and Expected Project completion* – 5 years, September 2010
- *Full Project Document located at* - <http://www.ffa.int/gef/node/3>

For further information please contact:
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Nauru benefits from institutional strengthening initiatives



The Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Development Authority (NFMRA)

was provided with assistance to become strengthened by enhancing their capacity to participate in oceanic fisheries management and manage their marine resources, under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded OFM Project.

The Government of Nauru requested a scoping report as a matter of priority for their fisheries and in accordance with the request from Nauru, the institutional strengthening (IS) scoping work covered the whole of the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority. Nauru Fisheries Minister Mr. Roland Kun was presented with the *Nauru Institutional Strengthening Scoping Study Report* by FFA officers in early April 2007. Minister Kun advised FFA officers at the time that he was keen to seek donor support for the implementation of the proposed project.

The Nauru IS Scoping team comprises Messieurs Robert Ferraris (lead consultant), Garry Preston (consultant), Gordon Anderson (AusAID) and Darren Cameron (FFA Fisheries Management Advisor). The proposal and its recommendations for institutional strengthening in Nauru developed by this team in consultation with the NFMRA were received in a positive light by the Nauruan government which thanked the team for their effort.

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) have now agreed to fund full implementation of a large institutional strengthening project on the basis of the OFM Project funded scoping study and the recruitment of a Fisheries Management Institutional Strengthening Specialist to be based in Nauru has been initiated in May 2008.

The Government of Kiribati in late 2007 requested an IS scoping study for the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and Development. In-country visits to conduct this work occurred in November 2007 and April 2008. This work will be the topic in a future edition of this newsletter.



Darren Cameron (FFA) working with NFMRA officials in Nauru

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Workshop shares experience on fisheries institutional reform and strengthening



A report on experiences and lessons learned from fisheries institutional reform (IR) and institutional strengthening activities in the Pacific has been released on the FFA GEF website <http://www.ffa.int/gef>. Critical input into this report came from discussions at a workshop conducted at the FFA Headquarters in Honiara on 15-16 May 2007.

This workshop was co-funded by FFA Trust Funds for National Institutional Strengthening Review and the OFM Project.

Discussions at this workshop, together with information garnered from informal discussions with member country representatives at the annual Forum Fisheries Committee meeting in 2007 and other reviewed literature has led to this valuable review of the factors necessary for sustainable institutional reform and strengthening. Information on the pros and cons of different Statutory Authority and Departmental fishery governance models is likely to be of considerable interest to persons with fisheries management responsibilities at all levels.



Experts and Participants at the Institutional Strengthening Workshop held at the FFA Headquarters, May 2007

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Conference & upcoming book explores international fisheries instruments' implementation in Western & Central Pacific



FFA

The Legal services of the FFA convened a regional conference on Legal and Policy Trends in the Implementation of International Fisheries Instruments in the Western and Central Pacific Region at Nadi Fiji from 7 – 9 April 2008. Legal officers from the FFA member countries participated at the conference alongside a number of legal experts who prepared papers on their various relevant areas of legal expertise.

The presentations addressed the legal and policy trends in the implementation of international fisheries instruments in the Western and Central Pacific region and will be published in a book

to be circulated widely throughout the region.

The conference was funded by the OFM Project as part of the activities for Legal Reform.

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Second Tuna Data Workshop



The OFM Project was the main sponsor of the second Tuna Data Workshop which took place at the SPC headquarters from the 7th to 11th of April 2008.

Participants from 15 FFA member states, two French territories and the Philippines took part in the workshop. The main aim of the workshop was to acquaint the group with the best methods for preparing annual catch estimates and to share experiences of managing tuna data.

Work for the participants started early, as completed national status reports outlining the current state of tuna data collection and management in their countries were carried to the workshop. These status reports, now available on-line, formed the basis of the first plenary session when participants revealed how the work was advancing in their own countries.

A presentation on annual catch estimates was followed by protracted small group exercises on calculating the catch estimates for three fictitious fisheries. The experience gained in this exercise gave many participants the confidence to determine their own national fleet tuna catch estimates. Many participants had compiled their annual catch estimates before the close of the workshop and well in advance of the April 30th deadline for submission established by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). Additional workshop presentations and discussions included: facilitating data exchange, assessing various resource requirements, database training and strengthening the legal basis of tuna data collection.

The main recommendations of the workshop were to (i) explore mechanisms to better facilitate data exchange amongst member countries, (ii) develop and provide resource mate-

rial to help countries prepare for data audits, (iii) disseminate the results of the FFA project on legal obligation for data provision and request that SPC and FFA work together to prepare guidelines for the legal provision of data, and (iv) improve support and raise awareness for role of the National Tuna Data Coordinator, both at the national and regional levels.

More information on the workshop, including the main outputs and final recommendations in full are available from: <http://www.spc.int/oceanfish/Html/Meetings/TDW2/index.htm>



Participants at the 2nd Tuna Data Workshop held at SPC Noumea New Caledonia

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IUCN Update

IUCN In January 2008, Mr. Carl Gustaf Lundin, Head of the IUCN Marine Programme, provided an update of IUCN activities to the FFA, SPC, and UNDP counterparts of the OFM Project including the next steps for advancing activities under the project. Mr. Lundin explained that, due to indefinite delays in securing the DeepOcean Quest research vessel MV Alucia to conduct a series of research cruises in the region in 2008, IUCN will postpone indefinitely the planned expedition, and assigned Mr. Eric Gilman and Mr. Taholo Kami to take over responsibility for IUCN's work under the OFM project.

Efforts to find replacement activities that remained a good fit with the original IUCN activ-

ities under the OFM Project were successfully concluded between IUCN, UNDP, SPC and FFA without compromising the intended project objectives and outcomes. The revised work plan was agreed to on 14 February and is online.

For more information, contact Eric Gilman from the Global Marine Programme: eric.gilman@iucn.org

11th Monitoring Control and Surveillance Working Group Meeting



The 11th meeting of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Working Group Meeting took place at

FFA Headquarters, Honiara, Solomon Islands from 31 March – 4 April 2008.

The MCS Working Group meeting is held annually prior to the annual Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) session to enable consideration of its recommendations by the FFC. MCS fisheries officers of FFA member countries are traditionally representatives at the MCS Working Group meetings, although this does not exclude officials from other relevant ministries and various national enforcement agencies attending such as the US Coast Guard and their French counterparts. The WCPFC Secretariat was represented for the first time at the 11th session of the MCS Working Group.

The 11th MCS Working Group addressed a number of issues which resulted in a series of recommendations for consideration by the FFC. These recommendations related to:

- draft MCS Strategy;
- a draft Regional Observer Strategy;
- a proposal to incorporate a new requirement of a 'port to port' reporting by fishing vessels in the MTCs;
- some inputs into the enhancement of the Niue
- Treaty;
- VMS Strategic Plan–Disaster Recovery Site;
- Aerial and Maritime Surveillance Pro-

gramme;

- investigation of New Surveillance Technology – QANTAS Defence Surveillance Trial;
- a proposal on User-Pay Policy to Support National and Maritime Operations;
- a proposal to Align Vessel Registration Period to FFA's Financial Year;
- Status of US Treaty & Implications on MCS;
- Sub-Regional Arrangements and Implications on MCS – Status Report of the VDS; and matters in relation to the Third Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) and 4th Regular Session Commission Meeting Outcomes

The MCS Working Group meetings are fully funded by the OFM Project.



Participants at the 11th MCS Working Group Meeting, FFA Headquarters, Honiara, Solomon Islands – April 2008

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Annual Report of the OFM Project



The final report of the Annual Review 2007 for the OFM Project can be located on the project website at <http://www.ffa.int/gef/node/108>.

The key recommendation of this review is that the Project should implement a programme of targeted support to some, generally smaller FFA Members, using both the resources of the OFM Project and other FFA staff resources to strengthen, improve and speed up implementation of the in-country activities under the law/

policy/institutional reform/compliance component. This work should be targeted at Pacific SIDS that are struggling to participate in the WCPFC and to meet their WCPFC obligations, especially the reporting obligations, and might involve support to establish or strengthen national consultative processes for OFM Project activities and oceanic fisheries management where this is appropriate. It should draw on a broad range of FFA resources including the availability of FFA technical staff in-country, attachments and FFA workshops, especially those associated with MCS and the WCPFC Technical and Compliance Committee..

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Mid-Term Review

The mid-term review for the OFM Project commenced in February this year with the recruitment of Team Leader Mr. Leon Zann and Regional Resource Specialist, Ms Veikila Vuki.



The objective of the mid-term review is to provide an assessment of the progress made towards the OFM project's objectives and outputs. It should also identify strengths and weaknesses and provide an evaluation of the implementation and management of the project by identifying factors that have facilitated or impeded the achievements of the project objectives and outputs. In addition, the review should also provide recommendations and lessons learned to assist on defining future directions for the project.

The review process is expected to be completed by the 16th July 2008 with the outcomes presented to the 4th project Regional Steering Committee in October.

For more information, contact Alvin Chandra Environment/GEF/Energy Associate/UNDP: alvin.chandra@undp.org

Newsletter in PDF

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