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SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

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INTRODUCTORY PAPER

by

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Oyster farming project

Lamap, New Hebrides

Summary

After a long period of "foraging", marine resources are now really being developed, and the fishing effort is reaching world-wide proportions. Although not on the routes of international airlines, the New Hebrides have not been excluded from this turn of events, there being at present several fisheries projects in this territory. These usefully supplement the traditional resources - copra and cocoa - since, owing to the fluctuations in world prices, countries and people can no longer depend on the income derived from these commodities.

At the moment, there are four projects : two private ones in SANTO and two government concerns in MALEKULA.

In SANTO :- The SOUTH PACIFIC FISHING COMPANY, which does not have a real impact on the local economy, since it never employed more than a relatively small number of islanders. This is because the latter are not reputed for consistent work.

- The MOUNPARAP oyster farm, operated by Messrs. Huhuet and Bois.

In MALEKULA :- The PORT-SANDWICH oyster farm which only began operations in April 1973. Its activities were soon hampered by problems connected with the supply of spat.

- On the South coast of MALEKULA, lobster fishing is being developed.

The collection of "bêche-de-mer", begun in a tentative manner in 1973, is to be further developed by the Joint Administration, which has decided to promote this venture.

As for outer-reef fisheries development, we are pinning our hopes on the forthcoming visit to LAMAP, on MALEKULA island, by a team from the South Pacific Commission.

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