SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

NINETEENTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 3 - 7 August, 1987)

COUNTRY STATEMENT - VANUATU

INTRODUCTION

Fish has been the most important protein source in the diet for the local population which for alot of areas is the only readily available source. Prior to independence fishing activities were largely limited to near-shore reef and lagoon areas and pursued mainly at a subsistence level. limited surpluses of fish were offered for sale in local markets, restaurants and hotels this was thought to be in the order of 10 - 10 tonnes annually. It is only since the establishment of the Fisheries department that fisheries has come to be of major economic importance.

FISH PRODUCTION

Fish products locally commercialized in 1986 was valued at 271,632,000 VT.

Tuna landings at SPFC was 1,186 metric tonnes.

INDUSTRIAL FISHERIES

Tuna landings all came from Taiwanese longliners.

Table 1: Species composition of landings by long line vessels at Palekula, Espiritu Santo 1983-1986

Species	1983	1984	1985	1986
	Metric	Tonnes		
lbacore	4,178	3,132	3,058	829
Zellowfin	369	309	516	219
sig eye	204	173	222	59
thers	280	292	236	79
Total	5,031	3,906	4,032	1,186

In early 1987 Vanuatu signed an agreement with U.S.S.R., allowing U.S.S.R. to fish with 8 boats in Vanuatu's 200 mile EEZ. The access fee amounted to US\$1.5 million.

ARTISANAL FISHERY

The fishery mainly harvest the high value deep bottom species in the offshore reefs.

Recorded production during 1984-1986 is shown below:

PRODUCTION	(KG)	1984	<u> 1985</u>	<u> 1986</u>
Fishing Marketing		87,852 8,466	97,534 2,255	128,797 1,926
	_	96,318	99,789	130,723
PRODUCTION	(000 VI	') 1984	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>
Fishing Marketing		9,532 4,104	12,936 1,118	17,022 722
		13,636	14,054	17,744

Exports of Trochus, Green Snail and Bech-De-Mer during 1984-1986

1984		1985		1986	
Qty (t)	Value (000VT)	Qty (t)	Value (000VT)	Qty (t)	Value (000VT)
37 23	2,010	37.00 2.16	18,708 896	- 14	- 6,871
3	1,707	6.81	5,251	4	2,837 2,282
	Qty (t) 37 23	Qty Value (t) (000VT) 	Qty Value Qty (t) (000VT) (t) 37 2,010 37.00 23 5,440 2.16 3 1,707 6.81	Qty Value Qty Value (t) (000VT) (t) (000VT) 37 2,010 37.00 18,708 23 5,440 2.16 896 3 1,707 6.81 5,251	Qty Value Qty Value Qty (t) (000VT) (t) (000VT) (t) (000VT) (t) 37 2,010 37.00 18,708 - 23 5,440 2.16 896 14

Tonnage of imported marine products marketed in Vanuatu 1984-1986

	1984		1985		1986	
Category	KG	TV000	KG	TV000	KG	TV000
Imports						
Frozen fish	35,900	3,781	9,600	3,360	11,500	2,079
Crustacean & Molluscs	17,200	13,326	10,200	6,200	5,800	5,304
Canned Mackeral & Sardines	795,500	96,015	823,100	103,882	862,600	129,811
Fish Preparations	4,700	1,756	15,400	1,600	881,300	134,438
TOTAL	4,904,400	729,394	854,300	114,360	896,900	141,159
TOTAL	4,904,400	129,394	654,300	114,360		141,15

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The main aim is to introduce appropriate fishing technics, identifying resources of commercial value and the management of resources being exploited.

Major programmes are:

- 1. Collection and compilation of fish catch and length frequency data. All fisheries data are being analysed in the HP Vectra computers.
- 2. Study on growth and maturity of coconut crab. This programme is being carried out by A.C.I.A.R.
- 3. A programme aimed at spawning juvenile trochus (trochus niloticus) in captivity and to reseed over exploited reefs. Spawning has been successful. This programme is to restart again after repairs of damages caused by cyclone Uma.
- 4. Deep water fish trapping: This project was funded by the French Government. Good catch rates of 7.4 kg per trap set were obtained from depths between 100 and 215 metres.