

SPC/Fisheries 22/WP.34
26 July 1990

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

TWENTY-SECOND REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 6-10 August 1990)

UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC
INSTITUTE OF MARINE RESOURCES

Report to the Twenty-second Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries

UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

INSTITUTE OF MARINE RESOURCES

Report to the South Pacific Commission Twenty-Second Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries

August 6-10, 1990

- 1) Copies of the Institute of Marine Resources Annual Report for 1989 are available on request from the Director, Institute of Marine Resources, University of the South Pacific, P.O. Box 1168, SUVA, Fiji.
- 2) On April 1st, 1990 the new Director of the Institute of Marine Resources, and Professor of Marine Studies, G. Robin South, took up duties at the University. Professor South's position is being jointly funded by the International Centre for Ocean Development, Canada and the University of the South Pacific. It is his principal responsibility to develop a five-year plan for Marine Studies at the University of the South Pacific; a first draft of the plan is expected to be available in February 1991.
- 3) A review of the USP Diploma in Tropical Fisheries programme has been initiated, following recommendations of the Clift report and the Academic Planning Committee of the University. Dr N. Willoughby, BDDP, has been seconded to the University Marine Studies Programme for 40% of his time, over the next two years; his first task will be to assist in the review and revision of the DTF. In the current Academic Year a total of 30 students are enrolled in the DTF, 14 in year II and 16 in year III. It is expected that a new intake of students into the proposed qualifying year (USP Foundation Science) will commence at the beginning of the 1991 Academic Year, and that the revised DTF will be offered starting in the 1992 Academic Year.
- 4) A review of technical training needs and programmes in Marine Studies has been started, in consultation with the South Pacific Commission, with the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, and with the University community. It is expected that this review will be broadened in the fisheries area through participation in the proposed SPC/ICOD consultancy to take place in the latter part of 1990. Recommendations from this

review will be incorporated in the USP five-year plan for Marine Studies. The South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) is reviewing training in its area of interest at its forthcoming technical meetings in Tarawa, Kiribati, in October this year; the Director of IMR will participate at these meetings.

- 5) A general framework for the new Marine Studies Programme, has been developed, this intended to assist in the planning process within the University, and with funding agencies.
- 6) The Director, IMR participated in the SPC's consultancy reviewing the need for a regional Post Harvest facility. This report is under discussion at these meetings.
- 7) Three meetings of the USP Marine Studies Coordinating Committee have been held since the beginning of April. It is expected that the MSCC will play an active role in advising the Professor of Marine Studies in the development of the five-year Marine Studies Programme plan.
- 8) The University of the South Pacific has been actively engaged in two major funding proposals, both with significant implications with respect to Marine Studies.

One of these is the proposed Pacific Marine and Environmental Science Technology and Education, Training and Monitoring Network at the Secondary and Tertiary Levels, being developed by the Marine Options Program, University of Hawaii, and UNESCO/ROSTSEA in Jakarta, Indonesia. The University of the South Pacific has been identified as one of three potential networking centres, linking marine-related institutions in the South Pacific. The proposed project will formalize and train an educational and ground-truthing network for biological, oceanological, meteorological and resources policy management assessment, and will involve high schools, universities and research establishments. It is also intended to upgrade public analytical thinking about the oceans and their role in global change. The Director, IMR participated in a major workshop on the Asia-Pacific network, recently held at the PACON'90 meetings in Tokyo, Japan. A further workshop on the network will take place in

conjunction with the next Pacific Science Congress in Honolulu, Hawaii, in May 1991.

The second of these is the ACCORD (Atlantic Centre for Communications and Ocean Resources and Development) proposal, currently under consideration by CIDA (Canada) in its network of centres of excellence funding programme. This programme proposes an institutional linkage between Memorial University of Newfoundland and the Newfoundland and Labrador Institute of Fisheries and Marine Technology (through their joint participation in the Canadian Centre for International Fisheries Training and Development; CCIFTD), the University of Dar es Salaam Institute of Marine Science, and the University of the South Pacific. The principal activities of ACCORD, if funded, will include the fostering of cooperative initiatives between the participating institutions; the provision of education and training programmes including access to graduate degrees in sectoral areas and international development, and to certificate and diploma programmes in rural development, distance education and fisheries technology transfer; provision of opportunities for development related sectoral and communications research; and promotion of the need for information and education on development issues.

- 9) Discussions are being held with various agencies for the development of an integrated Coral Reef and Marine Resources research programme. These include ASTROLABE, Inc., Washington D.C., a non-profit organization who have signed a Letter of Agreement with the University of the South Pacific for the development of the USP Dravuni Field station, located on the Great Astrolabe Reef, Kadavu Islands, Fiji. In collaboration with USP, ASTROLABE Inc. have developed a long-term research plan for Great Astrolabe Reef. Other discussions have been held with SPC and FAO, with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Tokyo, Japan, and with the French Embassy, Suva.
- 10) The SPC-Nelson Polytechnic training course recently completed a successful collaboration with IMR, holding a six-week training course at the USP Dravuni Field Station, Fiji.
- 11) A new coordinator for the Ocean Resources Management Programme, Mr Hugh Williamson, took up duties in June. Under new arrangements, the ORMP Coordinator now

reports to the Professor of Marine Studies at USP, and plans are commencing for the integration of the ORMP at USP. For the present, ORMP funding continues to be channelled through FFA.

- 12) At its May 1990 Meeting, the USP Council approved a resolution from the Solomon Islands that the whole of IMR be moved to Honiara. This decision is a change from the 1988 decision that only the Applied Research component of IMR be moved, plans for which were already well under way. The Council Resolution is now being taken into full account in the plans for the Marine Studies Programme. Discussions concerning the move are to take place with the Government of the Solomon Islands, in late August.
-