

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

1st SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting
(*Noumea, New Caledonia, 9–13 August 1999*)

Information Paper 14

Original: English

Papua New Guinea – Country Statement



PAPUA NEW GUINEA COUNTRY STATEMENT

First Heads of Fisheries Meeting

9-16 August 1999

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Background

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is located in the Western Pacific between 141° and 163° East longitude, and between 2° and 12° South latitude. It comprises four large islands and 600 other smaller islets and atolls, and has a coastline of 17,100 km. Fisheries Waters. The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of PNG is one of the largest in the Region at 2.4 million square kilometers (km). Sharing its borders with Indonesia, Australia, Solomon Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the PNG EEZ contains a large and diverse fisheries resource. Under the National Seas Act, PNG has also declared the Archipelagic Waters and Territorial Seas (Figure 1).

PNG has a land area of over 460,000 sq. km with an extensive coastline, and extensive inland waters. Except for the prawn trawl fishery and the industrial tuna fishery, the PNG waters support large fisheries of principally small-scale fisheries for subsistent and artisanal communities.

Institution

The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) was established by the Fisheries Management Act (1998) to be a statutory authority (non-profit corporate body). The National Fisheries Board which is responsible for all functions of the NFA was established under the same Act, provides for nine members representing wide cross section of community.

The current staff structure was approved in February 1999 with a ceiling of 136 positions. The annual recurrent budget is about K4.0 million and in 1998/99 an Investment Programme Budget of K6.2 million was approved. This budget includes the reforming of the National Fisheries College, support for the ADB Fisheries Development Project and a Surveillance Project to look at a domestic vessel tracking system using both satellite and radio frequencies.

The Head Office located at Investmen Haus in downtown Port Moresby while other offices are located at:

- Marine Base (Port Moresby) -Surveillance Centre and inspection, southern regional office;
- Kila Kila (Port Moresby) -Quality Control
- Madang-MOMASE Regional Office
- Kavieng-NGI Regional Office and Inshore Fisheries Research
- Goroka- Highlands Regional Office
- Other smaller provincial offices at Daru, Baimuru, Alotau, Vanimo, Wewak and Lae established to cater for major fisheries activities at those respective provinces.

The Minister for Fisheries represents the NFA and the fishing industry in Cabinet. The Fisheries Management Act provides the framework for policy and decision at various level by NFA. To avoid too much resources and time being spent in court appearances, the Act provides for the establishment of the summary administrative panel, whenever required to settle cases out of court. The Act also provides for the establishment of the Licences appeal Committee which can review the Board's

decision on licence applications. The licence appeals committee can then make recommendations to the Minister who will then make the final decision.

Mission Statement

The Corporate Plan for the NFA has the following Mission Statements and Corporate Goals:

To ensure that Papua New Guinea's fisheries and living aquatic resources are efficiently used within the limits of sustainable yields and managed in a manner that maximises the long term, economic and social benefits to Papua New Guinea and its people.

Corporate Goals

The goals of the National Fisheries Authority are:-

- 1. To manage Papua New Guinea's fisheries resources in a manner that ensures their long term sustainability.*
- 2. To promote the growth and development of the fisheries sector.*
- 3. To maximise the participation of Papua New Guineans in the fisheries sector.*
- 4. To administer its resources in an efficient and responsive manner*

Fisheries Resources

The Fisheries resources of PNG can be divided generally into four major categories: (1) the inland fisheries (incl. aquaculture), (2) sedentary resources and coastal reef fin fishes, (3) coastal resources such as pelagics and marine prawns; and (4) offshore tuna resources.

Annual Domestic Fisheries Production

- Coastal subsistence: approx. 25,000 mt/yr.
 - Inland subsistence: approx. 10,000 mt/yr.
 - Artisanal Fisheries (domestic markets): approx. 3,000 - 40,00 mt/yr.
 - Commercial/Industrial Sector (export markets): approx. 100 mt (1997).
- Fish Consumption - 18 kg/person (including imported canned and fresh fish).**

Fishing Industry

The commercial/industrial fishing industry in PNG, has been dominated over the last decade and a half by distant water fishing nations fishing for tuna. Although under developed, the domestic fishing industry has entered a new phase of dynamic growth. Recent policies implemented by the government are committed to domesticate the fishing industry, in particular the offshore tuna industry, and to encourage investment from the private sector.

In today's exchange rate, the tuna fishery as a whole is worth over K1 billion. However, two major constraints to the domestication of the offshore tuna fishery and development of the commercial fishing industry in general have been the lack of (1) skilled manpower and (2) infrastructure. To meet the manpower needs of the expanding fishing industry the National Fisheries Authority, with input from the Fishing Industry Association of PNG established an industry related modular training

programmes at the National Fisheries College in 1997. In 1999, an ADB loan was approved to finance the construction of two dedicated fisheries wharves in Port Moresby and Madang to service the longline fishery.

In 1995, the Government decided to restrict the longline tuna fishery to only PNG fishing companies. The purse seine fishery is still very much foreign dominated, though with some investment by foreign fishing companies on shore. One tuna cannery was commissioned in June 1997, while there will further investment onshore in terms of wharves and storage facilities for purse seine tuna vessels.

In the National Tuna Fishery Management Plan however, bilateral access licences by DWFNs to purse seine tuna vessels, have been restricted to only thirty licences out of a hundred. There are allowances of 60 licences to accommodate vessels under regional multilateral arrangements such as the US Treaty and the FSM Arrangements. Any increase in the domestic fleet would result in a proportional decrease in the number of licences in the bilateral access category.

Prawn is the second commercial/industrial fishery producing about 1000 to 1200 mt per annum, worth over K20 million per annum in terms of export value. The fishery is fished by ten prawn companies which are wholly owned by Papua New Guinean entities employing over 1000 people. There are three major prawn fisheries, which located in the Gulf of Papua, Torres Strait Protected Zone and Orangerie Bay.

The largest and most important export fishery for Papua New Guineans comprises the sedentary resources, of which the dominant one being the beche-de-mer fishery. The fishery is worth over K50 billion, and contributes directly to the local communities.

The subsistent fishery still dominates and contributes much to food security for the communities that rely on the marine and freshwater resources.

Aquaculture features prominently in the mainland region. While the fishery is dominated by small scale fish farmers, two commercial fish farm licences have been issued to two fish farms in Madang and Lae for them to carryout experiments to farm and export fish products from these farms. The Madang one has been breeding barramundi (*Lates calcarifer*), while the Lae one has decided to breed and farm Nile Tilapia (*Tilapia niloticus*) To date there has been no clear policy as yet on aquaculture development.

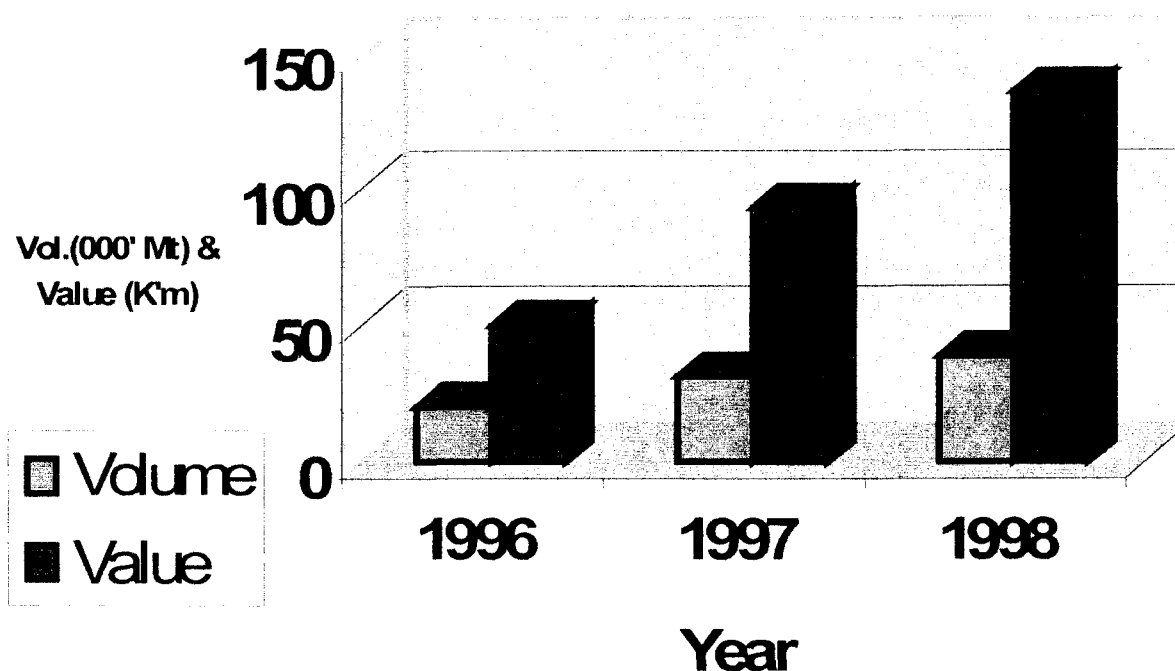
The domestic commercial fishery in PNG can be summarised as follows:

Domestic Commercial Fisheries	
■ <u>Tuna (Longline) - Main Market</u>	<u>Japan</u>
Port Moresby, Milne Bay, Wewak, Lae, Rabaul = 27 vessels	
■ <u>Tuna (Purse seine) - Main Market</u>	<u>Philippine, USA, Europe</u>
Madang, Rabaul (Lae) = 13 vessels	
■ <u>Prawn - Main markets</u>	<u>Japan, Australia, NZ, UK</u>
Gulf of Papua	= 15 vessels
Orangerie	= 2 vessels
Torres Strait	= 2 vessels
■ <u>Lobsters - Main Markets</u>	<u>Australia, US</u>
Western Milne Bay New Guinea Islands	
■ <u>Beche-de-mer - Main Markets</u>	<u>Asia</u>
Western Province	

Central Milne Bay New Guinea Islands
<u>Finfish - Main Market - PNG and Hongkong</u>
■ <u>Others:</u>
<u>RD Tuna Cannery - Market: US, EU</u> Madang <u>IFC Mackerel Cannery - Market - PNG,</u> Lae <u>Button Factory - Market Korea</u> Kokopo

Fisheries Export

Since 1995, the PNG export of fisheries products has been steadily growing and about 50% per annum as shown in the graph below.



Fisheries Management

In order to fulfill the Goals of the National fisheries Authority, the Fisheries Management Act requires the National Fisheries Authority to draw up management plans which include licensing guidelines to ensure conservation and sustainable use of the country's fisheries resources, and to develop the fisheries for the benefits of PNG and its people.

Fishery management plans have been developed at national level and subsidiary or specific plans have been developed at provincial level. Plans have been developed for beche-de-mer fisheries, lobster, giant clams, prawns and tuna. All fishery

management plans require consultations with the stakeholders including fishermen, buyers and exporters, as well as provincial fisheries administrations.

Of all the plans that have been developed, the National Tuna Fishery Management Plan has been the most comprehensive and required the input from a wider sector, including technical input from both the SPC and FFA. The plan was launched in December 1998. The main objectives of the plan is to conserve and manage tuna resource and to promote the development of the domestic tuna industry on a sustainable basis, while taking into account the aspirations of Papua New Guineans. The plan provides for the progressive reductions of the DWFNs dominance of the fishery.

Estimated maximum sustainable yields 663,000 mt/yr

Species:

Tuna	350,000 mt/yr.....	53%
Coastal pelagic	130,000 mt/yr.....	13%
Finfish	151,000 mt/yr.....	18%
Prawns and lobsters	2,000 mt/yr.....	<2%
Estuarine Fishes	20,000 mt/yr.....	3%
Others	10,000 mt/yr.....	1%

Provincial Fisheries Development

In 1996, the Government introduced the new Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Government (OLP&LLG). The new Organic Law directed that provinces will now be mandated to develop policies for the development of their provincial fisheries resources in accordance with their needs and capacities. In this regards, some of the functions that previously had been implemented by the National Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources were transferred to the provinces. These functions included: training and extension, and development of the small scale coastal and inland fisheries. The provinces now have a greater say as to whom they will allow to invest in the respective provinces.

The management and compliance role however still lies with the National Fisheries Authority. Therefore, all research activities and the development of the management plans, including bilateral, regional and international management and access arrangements, are mandated to the NFA through the Fisheries Management Act 1998.

The NFA can still assist the provinces through policy and technical advice. This is done through the Provincial and Liaison Branch, and the regional fisheries offices located in Kavieng, Madang, Goroka and Port Moresby.

Conclusion

In conclusion, PNG has recognised the importance of fisheries to the economy and sociological benefits of its people, it has commence developing the fisheries resources with due regards to conservation and sustainable development.

Figure1: Papua New Guinea Fisheries Waters

