

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

NINETEENTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 3-7 August 1987)

COUNTRY STATEMENT - FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

1. The Federated States of Micronesia is a democratic constitutional federation of the four states of Kosrae, Pohnpei, Truk and Yap. It came into being as a distinct political entity in 1979 and became an independent nation on November 3, 1986. Under FSM's Compact of Free Association with the United States, FSM is responsible for internal and foreign affairs, while the U.S. has responsibility for defense of the citizens and will provide economic assistance for a fifteen year period.
2. The FSM has three levels of government: National, State and Municipal. In addition, traditional governance continues to play a major role in daily life.
3. The National Government, which is based in Kolinia, and the State Governments are divided into executive, legislative and judicial branches. The National President and Vice-President are elected by the FSM Congress from among its fourteen Senators, who are popularly elected to represent each State. Popularly elected Governors head each State.
4. Within the National Government, the Micronesian Maritime Authority (MMA) has managed the resources within the 200 mile extended fisheries zone since 1979. Presently, boats from six nations are licensed by MMA to fish FSM tuna. Statistics on foreign catches and a programme of Micronesia observers on foreign ships are also handled by MMA, which maintains close coordination with the SPC Tuna and Billfish Programme and the FFA.

5. The National Marine Resources Division, begun in 1983, under the Department of Resources and Development is responsible for providing technical information, advisory services, and support for development and management activities in marine resources, including fisheries, aquaculture, coastal resource management and marine minerals. It coordinates daily with MMA and State agencies dealing with marine resources and maintains liaison through the Department of External Affairs with foreign and international groups concerning marine resources for the purpose of exchanging information on opportunities for training, marketing, project funding and related matters.

6. The FSM National Fisheries Corporation has recruited its first staff in July 1987 and will develop commercial fishing and fish processing for export markets.

7. Ongoing nation-wide projects include establishment of a computerized, standardized local catch data system for fisheries statistics, investigation of marine product poisoning, creation of a commercial fishes poster and aquaculture development through trials in giant clam, trochus and green snail hatcheries and culture of pearl shell, sponges, giant clams, Eucheuma and Gracilaria. The sub-regional aquaculture planning workshop held by FSM in 1986 set guidelines for government action in these areas of appropriate aquaculture.

8. Numerous local marine resources projects and programmes are carried out by the Marine Resources Divisions in each State level government and by the Yap Fishing Authority, Truk Maritime Authority and Pohnpei Economic Development Authority. In 1987 a SPC Master fisherman is training fishermen in Kosrae and Truk States. Coastal resources atlases which accurately map and describes marine resources are being produced for Yap and Kosrae, similar to that available for Pohnpei. A fleet of seventy 25-foot fiberglass allas received as foreign aid and a 52-foot pole-and-line training boat are being incorporated into Kosrae fisheries, while 25 to 30 foot diesel fishing boats are being used for demonstration commercial fishing in Yap and Pohnpei. In Truk, 20 to 25 ton pole-and-line boats are actively fishing with fully local crews while a local company in Pohnpei is starting to operate a similar boat. Lagoon purse-seining for mackerel is being tried in Truk. Cook Island style flying fish fishing in Yap was found unacceptable. Deep water shrimp have been collected in Pohnpei and in Yap, where commercial harvest will be attempted. Iced deep bottom fish and top quality pelagics are regularly exported from Yap, Truk and Pohnpei to US markets and Kosrae is expected to increase its frozen fish exports to neighbouring countries and begin to enter the US fresh fish markets soon.

9. Japanese assistance has, in recent years, provided in all four States fisheries freezer stores, ice makers, and related facilities, including fishing boat repair slips and shops in Kosrae and Yap, a new fisheries dock and complex in Yap, and 150 ton freezer stores and similar sized cold stores with blast freezers and ice makers in Truk and Pohnpei.
 10. Assessments of trochus, sea-cucumber, giant clam and pearl oyster stocks have been done in Kosrae, Pohnpei, Pohnpei Outer Islands, Yap and Yap Outer Islands, while they are planned for Truk and await SPREP support. SPC has funded assessments of commercial algae and trochus introductions in Yap State.
 11. FAD's have been deployed in recent years in all FSM States, with SPC-designed systems in Yap lasting over two years. More will be deployed following the SPC FAD training.
 12. Feasibility of small tuna canneries and transshipment for each State have been completed via Pacific Fisheries Development Foundation while a cannery prefeasibility study is underway in Yap.
 13. The FSM has ratified the US/Multilateral Tuna Fisheries Treaty.
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