

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION**

**23RD REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES  
(NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA, 5-9 AUGUST 1991)**

**TOKELAU COUNTRY STATEMENT**

Tokelau is highly dependent on its marine resources. Though the harvesting of these resources were primarily to meet the local needs, recent studies and activities have been undertaken for commercial development.

Fisheries in Tokelau are still at the early stage of its development, and there are only a limited number of projects. Three projects, fish processing, trochus transplantation and fish aggregation devices are receiving top priority at present. These projects were developed in consultation with the traditional council of elders.

**Fish Processing Project**

A fish processing project based on Atafu has been operating for eight months with funding from the economic assistance component of the U.S. tuna treaty.

Although the original idea of the project was to improve the traditional sun dried fish prepared by the local community, a new improved product has been created with which has revenue earning possibilities.

A small market outlet has been established in New Zealand and some good market prospects for expansion now exist. Pending the completion of a market study currently underway by the South Pacific Trade office in Auckland, there might be a possibility of an expansion of the current production capacity.

There is also the possibility of developing other side products with assistance from the S.P.C. Fish Processing and Handling Officer.

The evaluation of the project is due in December and a clearer direction for the project is expected.

Technical assistance to the project was provided by the S.P.C. Fish Processing and Handling Officer.

**Trochus Transplantation**

A survey was done on Faleafo in 1990 to judge the success of three previous transplant. The result showed an abundance of juvenile trochus, despite Tokelau being battered heavily by two cyclones after the first transplantation.

The result of the survey and some visual monitoring information suggest that the trochus has been established well in its' new environment. Surveys to determine the establishment of the trochus population on the other two atolls, Atafu and Nukunonu have been scheduled for September and December.

Future survey will indicate when a trial harvest should occur.

### Fish Aggregation Devices

The F.A.D. programme although very productive, has not been utilized to it maximum potential capacity.

Presently there are three FADs in position with plans for more upon the arrival of the new inter-island vessel.