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TWENTY-SIXTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES (Noumea, New Caledonia, 5 - 9 August 1996)

COUNTRY STATEMENT

NAURU

"A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN PROMOTING MARINE RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT"

Introduction

In line with government policies of deregulating the economy and more importantly for Nauru to maximise its benefit from the marine resources, the establishment of a national fisheries authority as a corporate body and to be called the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) has been approved by the government and is pending enactment through legislation.

One of the aims of the authority is to develop an overall national fisheries policy to address the fundamental requirements of managing and developing Nauru's fisheries and marine resources. Assistance to document a policy statement on Nauru's fisheries and marine resources will be sought for from FFA/SPC.

A problem affecting fisheries development in Nauru is the current transition of the economy from a phosphate to a non phosphate one and is currently being experienced through the lack of funds for fisheries developments since there are other important areas of national development.

Activities of government & other organisations in fisheries developments

The Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) of Japan have also been instrumental in promoting fisheries development in Nauru through training and technical assistance. During the 1st year of the Fisheries Development Assistance to Pacific Island Nations Phase II (FDAPIN II) project 1995/96, Nauru has undertaken two projects namely, the training on outboard engines from 25hp through to 70hp and the supply and installation of an ice making machine for training and fish handling workshop.

The second year of this 5-year project, two (2) x 5 metre and two (2) x 7.5 metre boats complete with onboard safety equipments and navigational aid will be supplied to assist with the ongoing Safety at Sea Skills and Search and Rescue operations workshop.

A Safety at Sea Public Awareness project is ongoing with the assistance of course materials from SPC.

Fisheries Development

Some approved fisheries development plans for 96/97 includes the development of the two existing boat channels to accommodate fishing boats of up to 18 metres, the development of four (4) fish aggregating devices (FAD's) and the construction of a fish market and processing plant.

A fact finding mission from Japan to assess the development of the two boat channels is currently on the island. The development of the boat channels will improve access to the fishing grounds and safer access to the open sea through the use of larger boats of 7 to 18 metres.

It is envisaged that these two developments along with the establishment of the fish processing and marketing facilities should stimulate the local populace participation in the fisheries developments and thereby contributing to the overall national economic development.

Those are briefly the significant events of fisheries developments currently taking place on Nauru.
