

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

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

COUNTRY STATEMENT - FIJI

1. This statement comprises the 1986 Fisheries Division Annual Report supplemented with an update of production data and developments during the first six months of 1987.
2. The long term impact on the fisheries sector of recent political events remains unclear. In the short term, most export fisheries have benefited from the currency devaluation but domestic fisheries supplying tourist requirements have suffered.

Industrial Fisheries

3. PAFCO, wholly Fiji-owned since the end of 1986, had exported 436,000 cartons of canned tuna, valued at F\$11 million dollars, by the end of June. 560 tonnes of fishmeal were marketed locally, and three new lines of quality tuna flakes launched on the domestic market. Just over 6,000 tonnes of raw product in total (45% imports) were processed.
4. Ika Corporation has enjoyed its most successful year ever, with the six vessel fleet landing 3049 tonnes of skipjack and yellowfin during January-June, and nearly 4,000 tonnes for the season.

Artisanal Fisheries

5. 1850 tonnes of fish, worth F\$4 million, and 743 tonnes of non-fish seafood were marketed during the 6 month period, representing a decline of nearly 20% by volume relative to 1986
6. The deepwater snapper fishery continued to expand, with 5 vessels over 15m. now active, and numerous smaller vessels. In view of the considerable investment interest in this fishery, an interim management plan based on an annual catch of 1000 tonnes had been prepared and accepted in principle, whilst a stock assessment is being undertaken urgently.

### Aquaculture

7. Both seaweed and penaeid prawn farming are facing great difficulty due respectively to cargo bans and a drastic fall in tourism-based demand. 82 tonnes of dried seaweed have been exported, with a further 50 tonnes awaiting shipment. Approx. 8 tonnes of prawns are awaiting harvest.
8. An Aquaculture Symposium held in March reviewed all involvements in aquaculture and defined future policy guidelines. Culture of hybrid red tilapia, O.nilotica, Macrobrachium, green mussels and major carps is continuing to varying degrees.

### Exports

9. Exports of marine products were valued at \$13 million for the first half of 1987. These were dominated by canned tuna (F\$11 million) but included trochus (whole, button blanks & scrap - 200t. whole shell equivalent, value F\$0.7 million), beche-de-mer (200mt, F\$0.6 million), chilled deepwater snapper (75 mt, F\$0.4 million), aquarium fish (50,000), seaweed, ornamental corals and mother-of-pearl shell.

### Fisheries Division Activities

10. Training and extension activities have proceeded normally, with the four-month rural fishermen's training scheme and specialist short term courses, including several for fisherwomen. Boatbuilding activities continue with 9m. and 7m vessels.
  11. Information services within the Division are being upgraded with the appointment of additional staff.
  12. Work is proceeding on schedule with the construction of a major new fishing port at Lautoka. Similar developments at Lami and Levuka are temporarily suspended.
  13. The three-year Giant Clam Project nominally concluded on June 30th but it is expected to continue with increased emphasis on culture of local species and further introductions of T.gigas.
  14. The final report of the Fiji-Tuvalu EEZ Survey was presented in April.
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