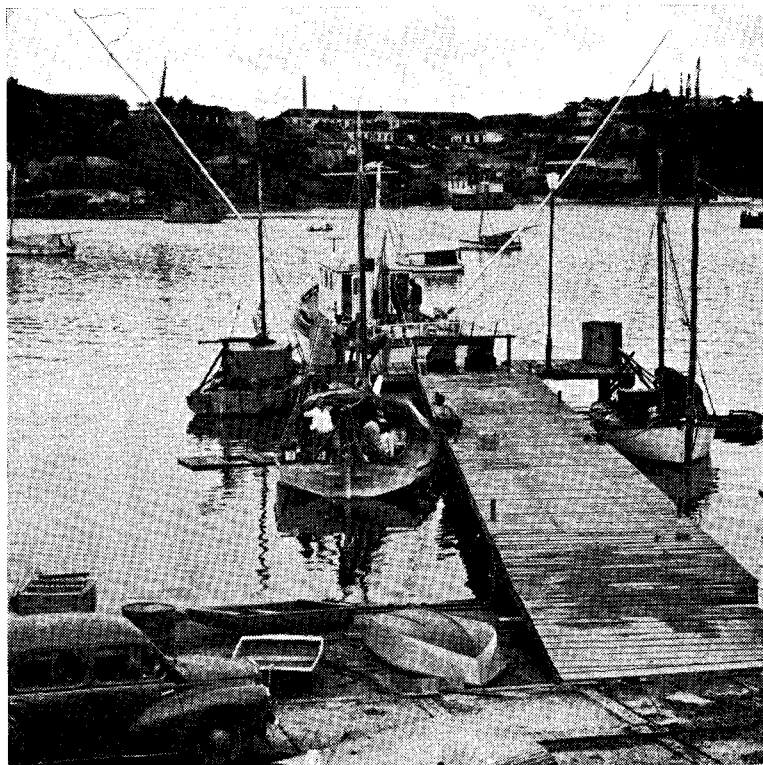


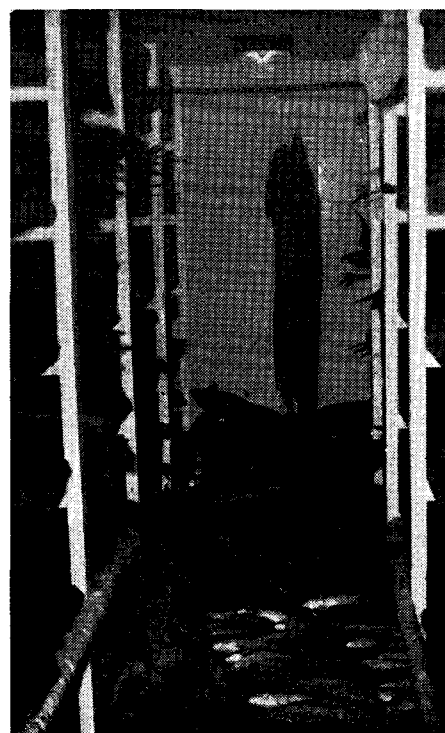
Thriving Fishermen's Co-operative In Noumea



Established in mid-1960, the Fishermen's Co-operative of Noumea has shown steady progress. Forty-eight tons of fish were sold in the first year, and turnover was doubled within twelve months.

By RAYMOND CASSIER*

Left: This jetty was built to facilitate the unloading of catches, and the fuelling and watering of boats. Below: Fish stored on racks in the Co-operative's deep-freezing plant. Hanging at the far end are octopuses, which find a ready sale in Noumea.



IN mid-1960 a group of commercial fishermen in Nouméa, New Caledonia, decided to set up a co-operative in order to fill more satisfactorily the growing consumer demand for fish. Thus, the Fishermen's Co-operative of Nouméa came into being.

Organization

The Co-operative was organized in accordance with the rules governing co-operative societies in New Caledonia, and is supervised by the Registrar of Co-operatives. At its inception each member purchased a share to provide working capital.

At a general meeting, members elected a committee of six, which, after defining his duties and salary, recruited a manager. He is responsible for receiving, storing and selling the fish, keeping the books, and for recruiting the staff needed to run the business efficiently. He is empowered to sign cheques for the Co-operative.

Operation

BUILDINGS: Since the capital subscribed was not sufficient to cover the cost of the freezing plant which was a basic essential for the project, and of the building to house the retail shop and offices, the Co-operative secured a long-term loan from the *Crédit de la Nouvelle-Calédonie*¹. This financed the

erection of a building containing two deep-freeze rooms with capacities of five and twenty cubic metres equipped with shelves on which the fish are deep-frozen at a temperature of -7.5°F . (a third room now being completed will have a capacity of twenty-five cubic metres).

As well, there is an office, a storeroom for fishing gear and lubricants which fishermen may purchase at reasonable prices, a shed where the fish is cleaned before freezing, and a retail shop equipped with a refrigerated showcase and a small refrigerator to store each day's supply of fish.

In order to facilitate the unloading of catches and the refuelling of boats, a wharf 100' long has been built and equipped with two pumps—one for diesel fuel, the other for petrol—and a fresh-water hydrant.

SUPPLY: Each member of the Co-operative is obliged to use the services it provides, and also to deliver to it the whole of his catch. (Unfortunately, it is a long-established custom that Nouméa fishermen sell their fish direct on the local market. It is a custom which is not likely to disappear in the near future, and, in fact, except in a very few cases, members deliver only about half their catch to the Co-operative.)

On delivery, the fish is weighed and payment made by the Co-operative in accordance with a scale laid down for each variety of fish. The Co-operative

undertakes to deep-freeze the fish and to sell it in Nouméa, either wholesale or retail.

FIRST YEAR'S SALES: During its first year of operation the Co-operative disposed of 48 tons of fish, 1 ton of crayfish and a large quantity of oysters. Production during January 1961 was doubled in the following December.

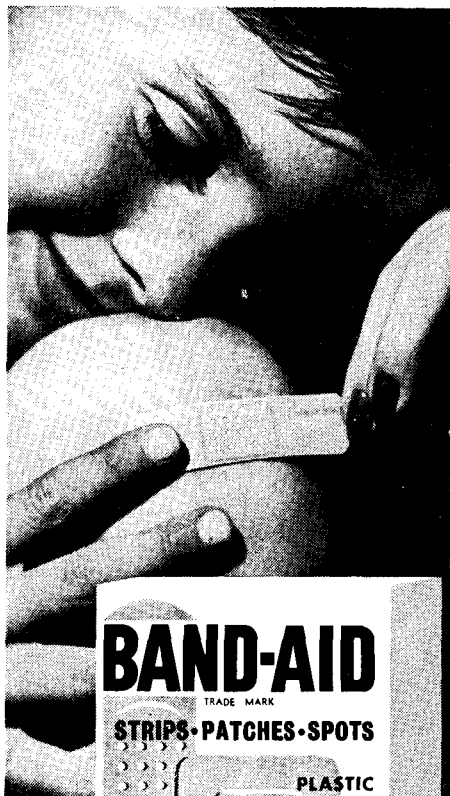
Boats And Gear

Generally the fishermen use a 25' auxiliary cutter, equipped with a live-well which holds some 800 pounds of live fish. A cold storage hold of similar capacity is used to preserve dead fish
(Continued on page 56)

¹ The *Crédit de la Nouvelle-Calédonie* is an Administration-sponsored credit society for the development of the territory.

* Registrar of Co-operatives, New Caledonia.

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Quite a few marlin and several sailfish have been taken in New Caledonia waters in recent years, usually outside the main reef. However, this 27 lb. sailfish displayed by M. Casson, Manager of the Fishermen's Co-operative, was taken in the lagoon—by Mr. N. de Dragffy, on a handline.

Noumea Fishermen's Co-operative (Continued from page 29)

taken during each cruise, which usually lasts four to five days.

The fishermen use hand and trolling lines, or nets whose length varies according to the location chosen for fishing. On occasion they may be around 5,000' long.

The boats now being used are obsolete. One fisherman who has realized this has had built in Australia a 58' cutter of 42 tons powered by an 80 H.P. diesel engine fitted with a four cubic metre deep-freezing plant which processes fish at a temperature of -7.5° F. The boat also has radio and an echo sounder.

His fishing trips range from ten to fifteen days, during which the ship cruises along the coast of New Caledonia, both inside and outside the main reef.

The owner brings back regularly around three tons of various species of fish. No doubt his example in purchasing a modern, well-equipped fishing vessel will soon be followed by others.



English Language Seminar Held In Fiji

Teachers from six territories—the majority of them Pacific Islanders—attended a seminar on the teaching of English held from September 1-24 at Nasinu Teachers' Training College, Fiji. The Seminar was arranged by the South Pacific Commission, and was directed by Mr. George Pittman, Director of the English Language Institute of Victoria University, Wellington. The territories represented were Western Samoa, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, New Hebrides and Fiji.

Opening the Seminar on September 3, the Governor of Fiji, Sir Kenneth Maddocks, said that the question of the teaching of English was of great importance, not only in the Pacific but throughout the world. "Indeed", he said, "it is probably true to say that the teaching and learning of English is the largest single educational undertaking in the world today".

He reminded his audience that during the SPC Education Seminar held in Brisbane in 1959, strong dissatisfaction had been expressed with the courses in English currently available, and that one of the most important recommendations of that Seminar was that the South Pacific Commission should assist in the preparation of suitable courses. Sir Kenneth said that there were considerable differ-

ences of opinion among the numerous specialists in the field. He did not know to what extent the Seminar could solve that confusion so far as the Pacific was concerned. "But I do know", he added, "that the sooner we can decide which is the best method of teaching English and the sooner we can put that method into practice, the better it will be for the peoples of the Pacific".

The main topics discussed at the Seminar included the sentence patterns of English structure; patterns of stress and intonation; the aims of teaching and their effect on the selection of material; the principles of language teaching, including the principles of the aural-oral approach and principles arising from comparison and contrast of structure between mother tongue and tongue to be learnt; method and specific activities in teaching; and administrative framework.

Fiji Introduces New Game Fish

A consignment of large-mouthed bass, a game fish, has been imported into Fiji for release into rivers in the Colony. The fish were presented to Fiji by the people of Hawaii, and 143 fingerlings were flown to the Colony from Honolulu.

They were released recently in a pond at the Government Agricultural Station at Sigatoka. They will be kept there for six or eight months until they have spawned, when they will be released into a specially-selected and isolated river system.