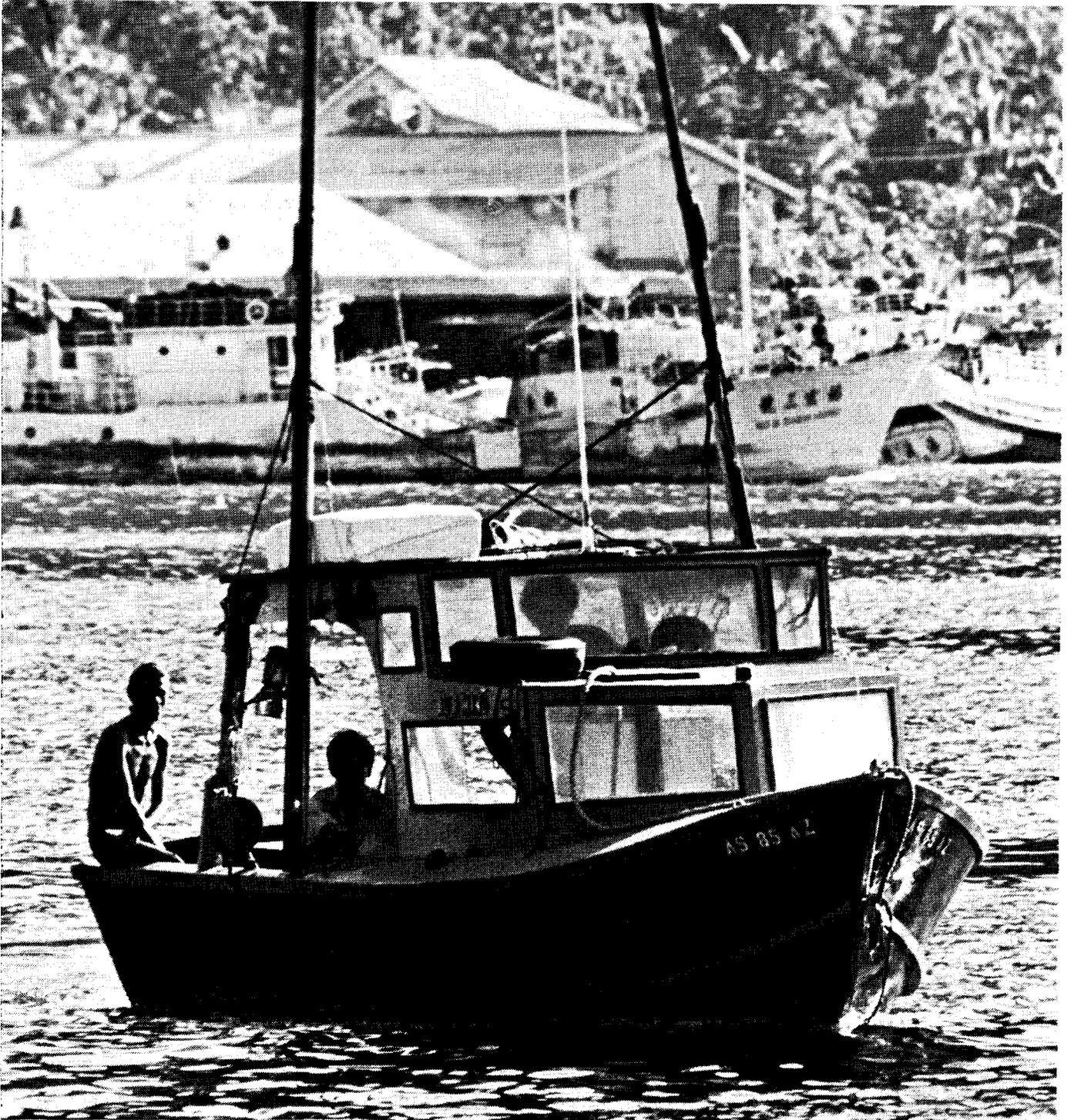


Fisheries Training Course for American Samoa

By the Office of Samoan Information



Simple, inexpensive fishing dories like this one are helping establish a local industry in American Samoa.

The Pago Pago dory development is acting as a demonstration and catalyst for similar developments in other Pacific territories. In the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, another dory project, using jet drives instead of inboard outboard drives, is being tested at Ponape. (The jet drive will allow power to be safely used on shallow reef crossings and will also enable dories to be beached in harbourless areas without risk to rudders and propellers.)

In the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, a large dory project is in the advanced planning stage. These boats will fish for skipjack and other tuna as well as deep water bottom fish, providing fresh fish for the island inhabitants and needed foreign exchange from fish exports.

All the territories in the Pacific will watch the progress of these ventures with keen interest as steps leading to the good exploitation of the resource at the doorstep of all the territories—the sea.

With the prevailing spirit of regional co-operation in fisheries development in the Pacific area, all territories will hope to learn, from the setbacks as well as the successes, of these pioneer ventures.

R. H. Baird
Fisheries Officer
South Pacific Commission.

expensive to finance and which could be operated on overnight schedules. Their investigations led them to the State of Oregon on the West Coast of the United States. That area has a thriving commercial fishing industry based on the use of specially designed dories which are 24 feet long and powered by 130 horsepower inboard-outboard motors. Their range is over 100 miles and their speeds range from 15 to 25 knots. Each has a cold compartment which can hold 1,500 pounds of fresh fish.

The American Samoan project was initiated with a \$72,000 federal grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity. It was received in September, 1971, and within four months a team of specialists from Oregon was in Pago Pago supervising Samoan boat builders who were turning out the dories which had been adapted to local conditions.

Before the programme was a year old 13 boats were in operation. A simple assembly shop had three under construction at all times.

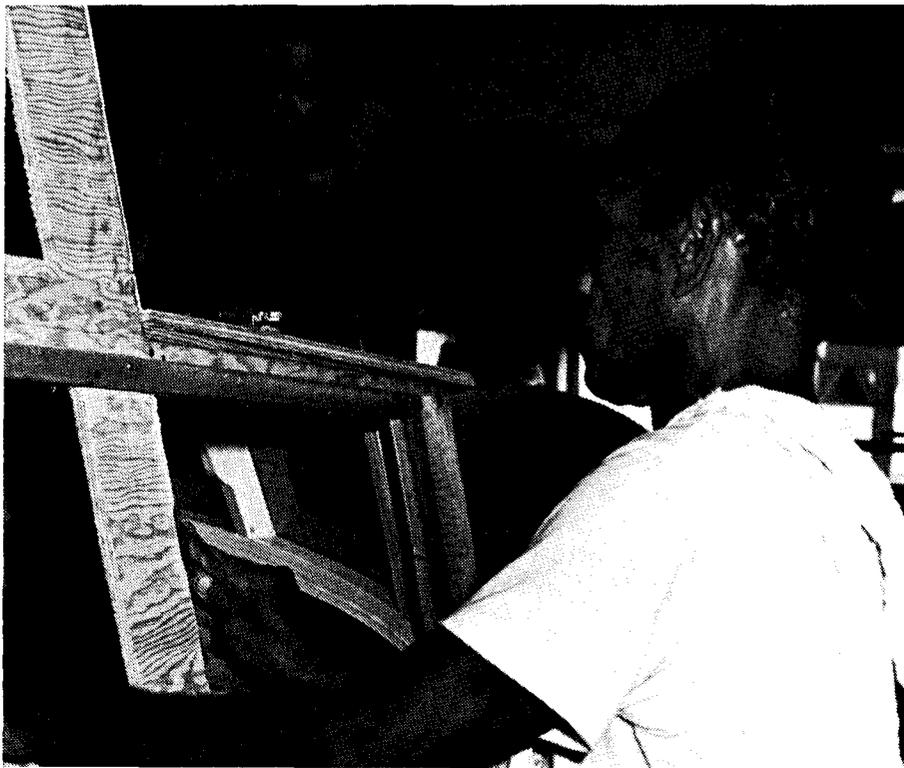
Local financing for \$4,500 in material costs was provided through a revolving fund which is expected to keep the programme going. The government subsidised the building costs which run to about \$1,000 per boat.

The boats have been sold to co-

The Government of American Samoa is well into a concerted programme which is seeing more local people earn money and improve the diets of their families and friends through commercial fishing. Although only slightly over one year old, the programme already is providing local markets with several hundred pounds of fresh fish daily and employing more than 40 full-time fishermen and about 15 on a part-time basis.

Governor John M. Haydon and Dr Stanley Swerdloff of the Office of Marine Resources initially set out to develop a commercial fisheries industry which would mesh with Samoan customs. Commercial fishing had lagged over the years because the Samoans, like most Pacific Islanders, are deeply devoted to their families and had refused to go out on lengthy voyages. Most of them practised subsistence fishing to provide for their families on a day-to-day basis. But lack of refrigeration and a commercial marketing system discouraged most of them from even attempting to make a living by fishing.

The local government officials felt that the solution might lie in small boat operations which would be in-



Samoan craftsmen are developing into expert boat builders.

operative groups which normally will be made up of villagers from the same area. Each of the boats goes out an average of three nights per week. The average catch is about 250 pounds, although one lucky crew brought in 900 pounds after one overnight trip. Each morning the combined catch of between 1,200 and 1,500 pounds goes to local markets. The fishermen receive 55 cents per pound for their catch.

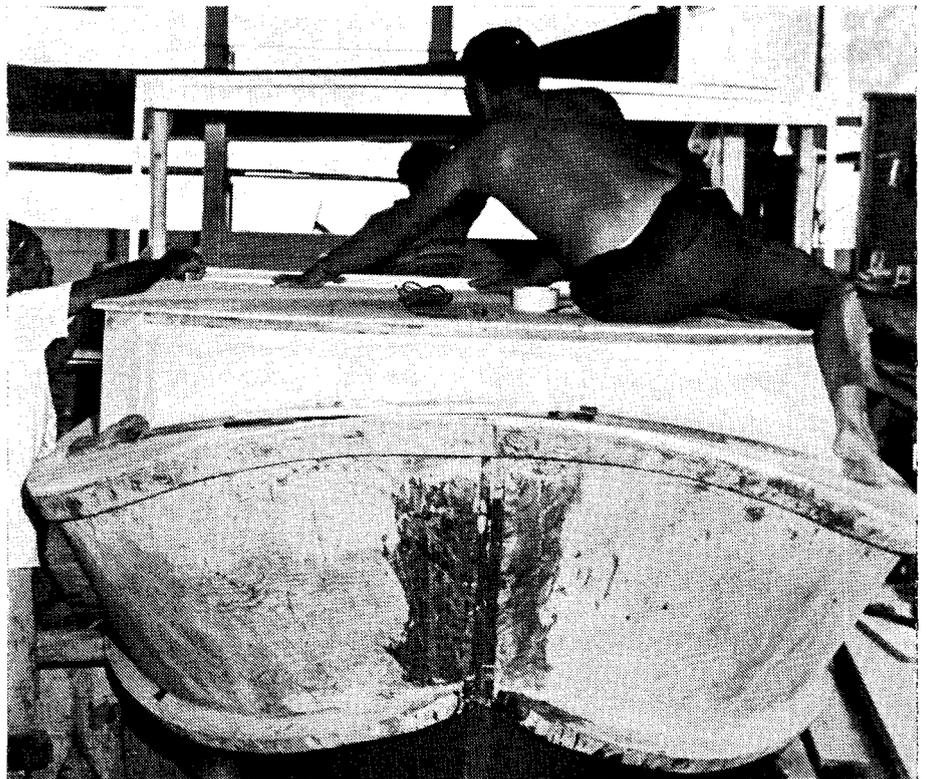
Experimentation has proved that the use of long handlines is most successful, and most of the catch usually consists of bottom fish such as groupers and snappers, but some of the fishermen report frequent success in trolling for tuna. Dr Swerdloff expects that the fleet could grow to include 40 to 50 dories, but the growth is going to depend largely on continuing research and training of fishermen.

To bolster these efforts, the Government of American Samoa secured a grant of \$63,000 from the National Sea Grant Foundation for the territory's Community College. Local funds totalling \$36,000 were added to allow the college to begin (in September, 1973) a formal programme of fisheries education. Students will divide their time between the classroom, where they will study English, mathematics, boat building, engineering and marketing, and the boats, where they will train on the job.

Some selected students will be sent to the US for advanced training; the development of an extension service in which specialists will go to individual villages and give training is planned.

Turning again to the federal government, Governor Haydon secured the services of 11 fishing specialists from Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), which is the US domestic equivalent of the Peace Corps. Included in this group were three marine biologists, one marketing specialist, one master marine mechanic and six professional fishermen. Each will serve a tour of one year in American Samoa training local youngsters in commercial fishing.

Governor Haydon feels that too many Pacific areas are neglecting a valuable economic asset which abounds in the seas around them, and too many people are being deprived the high protein diets which a successful commercial fishing industry can offer them inexpensively. "We feel that we are going to prove that you can develop such an industry by adapting it to the patterns of local customs," he said. □



Dories are built in a simple assembly shop in an old government building.

SPC APPOINTS DIETITIAN/ HOME ECONOMIST

Miss Joan Macpherson has been appointed to the post of Dietitian/Home Economist with the South Pacific Commission.

Miss Macpherson spent the early years of her professional career in various hospitals in New Zealand and Australia, and in 1970 was appointed to the post of Supervising Dietitian with the South Pacific Health Service in Fiji. For the past 15 months she has been working as Public Health Dietitian at the Fiji School of Medicine.

In her most recent posts, Miss Macpherson has travelled widely in the South Pacific region, working in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate, the Cook Islands, the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, Niue, the New Hebrides and Tonga. In the course of her duties she has studied problems of catering in schools, hospitals and prisons, with particular reference to the improvement of diet at little or no cost, using available local resources.

Miss Macpherson has also lectured on nutrition and home economics to a wide variety of audiences, including agricultural students, medical and nursing personnel, community leaders, and students at schools and teachers'

training colleges. She has devoted particular attention to groups at risk, such as pregnant mothers and small children, and to the serious problem of faulty use of local food resources.

At the recent Conference of Directors of Territorial Health Services, guidelines were drawn up for a long-term project, to be undertaken by the Commission, on nutrition and food production. Within the framework of the project, the Dietitian will play an important role. Miss Macpherson took up her duties on 2 April, 1973. □



JOAN MACPHERSON