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SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

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(Noumea, New Caledonia, 13 - 17 August 1984)

PRESENT SITUATION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS
OF AQUACULTURE IN NEW CALEDONIA
AS AT 1984

SUMMARY

As a result of experiments that have been carried out in New Caledonia since 1970 by the French "National Centre for Exploitation of the Oceans (CNEXO)" and other bodies, several small farms producing sea shrimps have been set up since 1983. The present total area of ponds in the different farms is 63 ha. In 1983 shrimp production amounted to 60 tonnes; in 1984 it will be 70 tonnes.

Three species of sea shrimps are currently being reared: P. monodon (in the warm season), P. stylirostris (in the cool season), and P. indicus (throughout the year). Trials are being carried out with other species.

Post-larval shrimps are supplied by the hatchery at St. Vincent Experimental Station, which is financed jointly by the Territory of New Caledonia and "CNEXO".

The development of this sector of production as anticipated will soon lead to the establishment of other hatcheries and a processing chain for export purposes.

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1. As a result of experiments undertaken in 1970 in St. Vincent Bay, New Caledonia, on the initiative of the South Pacific Commission and FAO, which were subsequently, in 1973, continued by a company called "AQUACAL", and since 1978, by a joint venture "Territory of New Caledonia/CNEXO" (French National Centre for Exploitation of the Oceans), it was possible to start developing marine aquaculture on an economic basis in 1983, when three private aquaculture farms were set up: CHEVALIER (5 ha.), AQUAMON (8 ha.) and SODACAL (40 ha.).
 2. Three species of sea shrimps were selected and are currently being reared. They are:
 - Penaeus mondon, in the warm season;
 - Penaeus stylirostris, in the cool season;
 - Penaeus indicus, throughout the year.
 3. Trials are being carried out with other species also.
 4. Post-larval shrimps are supplied by the St. Vincent Aquaculture Experimental Station whose hatchery can produce sufficient post-larvae to stock 70 ha. of ponds a year. The St. Vincent station has also constituted, and manages, stocks of shrimps for breeding purposes. The Territory of New Caledonia and CNEXO, which is a French government research body, are jointly funding the St. Vincent experimental station.
 5. In 1983, the St. Vincent station and the CHEVALIER farm together produced 16 tonnes of shrimps.
 6. In the first six months of 1984, 19 tonnes have already been produced by the St. Vincent station and the CHEVALIER and AQUAMON farms. In the second half of the year, when the SODACAL farm starts production, it should be possible to obtain about 50 tonnes of shrimps, which will bring total production for 1984 to 70 tonnes. Such quantities being more than the local market can absorb, it is proposed to install a small processing unit (for freezing and packing) at the end of 1984 so that part of the production can be exported.
 7. If the results obtained by the end of 1985 are considered sufficiently positive, the SODACAL farm will be extended to 125 ha. Other projects, for which studies have already been carried out, are to be implemented, and will bring the total area of rearing ponds to about 350 ha. In conjunction with the increase in the area of ponds one or several more post-larvae production hatcheries are to be established and also a complete processing chain which will allow sizing, heading, cooking, and freezing in brine.
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