

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

TWENTIETH REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 1 - 5 August 1988)

COUNTRY STATEMENT - FIJI

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Introduction:

1. This statement summaries the performance of the Fishing Industry over the last six months. It provides an up to date production figures for the period between January to June 1988 and also informations pertaining to development activities. It is also supplemented by the 1987 Fisheries Annual Report.
2. Inspite of the last years political events the Fisheries Sector has continued to make significant impact on the economic scene. The sector has contributed towards alleviating some of unemployment problems by either providing people opportunities to be self-employed or to be employed by another established fisherman.

Industrial:

3. PAFCO, a wholly Fiji owned Cannery exported 300,000 cartons of high quality canned tuna valued at \$15million by end of June. 600 tonnes of fish meal were locally marketed and this earned PAFCO about \$0.25million. While Solomon Islands has shown interest in the fish meal products, the quantity required is not sufficient at this stage to make the export economically viable (should be at least a container full).

Just over 7,000 tonnes of raw product in total were processed by PAFCO and of this 50% of the fish came from the neighbouring island states, a good example of a regional co-operation.

4. Ika Corporation landed a total of 3,000 tonnes of tuna over the last six months. The total fish landed by the Ika during the last season was around 4,000 tonnes. The production for this season was very similar to the previous season.

Artisanal:

5. 1,373-59 tonnes of fresh fish valued \$3.2million were sold through the major cities and towns. A decline of around 7% in production over the same period last year.

Non-fish production increased from 743 tonnes in 1987 to 940 tonnes in 1988 during the first six months. The non-fish production increased by 27%.

6. The deepwater Snapper fishery continues to grow. During the last six months there were as many as 8 vessels actively involved in the area. The total snapper exported during this period was 85 tonnes. The Division is now trying to discourage newcomers into the fishery being mindful of the resource implications. Current estimation is that as much as 1,000mt of deepsea snapper could be taken out annually from the Fiji Waters.

Subsistence catch is estimated around 7,500 tonnes in the last six months.

Aquaculture:

7. At Naduruloulou Research Farm successful spawning of grass carp over the years have resulted into the release of a total of 35,400 grass carp fingerlings into various river systems around the country. The prawn Hatchery have produced 90,000 post larvae. These were released into the 4 grow out ponds.

8,000 red tilapia fingerlings were distributed to 25 rural small fish farmers during the period.
8. As much as 81 tonnes of seaweed valued \$50,000 were exported in the last six months. A total of 6 tonnes of prawn from Raviravi farm were harvested and sold locally. Another big harvest is due sometime in August - September.
9. A total of 600 tonnes of Beche-de-mer and 30 tonnes Giant Clam meat were exported during the last six months. This current rate of exploitation of Beche-de-mer and Giant Clam has compelled the Division to take the following actions:-
 - (a) To discourage their exploitation.
 - (b) To effect a research and assessment work on these resource immediately. It is hoped that assessment work on Beche-de-mer will be assisted by SPC.

Export:

10. Export of marine products were valued 17 million for the first half of 1988. These were dominated by canned tuna (\$15million) but also include trochus, beche-de-mer, deepsea snapper, frozen fish, seaweed, ornamental coral and Mother of Pearl Shell.

Fisheries Division Activities:

11. Withdrawal of the 4 months Rural Fisheries Training course enable the Division to conduct number of short term training courses over the last six months. Extension activities have continued smoothly in all the Divisions.
12. Boatbuilding programme, has continued. There were as many as 36 boats built and sold last year. A new design, a 33 footer, Vanuatu type fishing vessel is almost ready for evaluation. Once it is tested additional ones may be built for sale. On the onset the demand for 33 footer is high.
13. Information services within the Division are being upgraded with additional staffs and equipments now made available.
14. Ice Sale and Commercial fishing gear sale have continued to shwo the usual high demand.

15. As many as 9 FADS were anchored during the period concerned. More are expected will be set during the coming months.
16. A total of 18 shipments were made to USA exporting 32,000 live fish (aquarium) valued \$33,000 during the first half of 1988.
17. While the research with a Giant Clam has continued, unfortunately due to absence of a full time vessel frequency of field work have been reduced.
18. There were as many as 7,000 people were actively involved in the artisanal fishery and as many as 15 large vessel were active in the Industrial Sector.