

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION
TWENTY-THIRD REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 5-9 August 1991)

COUNTRY STATEMENT – KINGDOM OF TONGA

A. Significant events 1987-91.

1. Development of Artisanal Fisheries funded by FAO, UNCDF, and Japan. Sum of \$800,000 was allocated towards building of 40 boats (24, 28 and 30ft). Funds were loaned to fishermen through the Tonga Development Bank. (Problems - repayments/repossession).
2. Fish Marketing Centre
 - i. Main market in Nuku'alofa funded by EEC constructed in 1987 and opened the following year.
 - ii. Fish marketing facilities in 8 out-stations funded by Japanese aid. (Problems - electrical failures/availability of spare parts).
3. Establishment of public company Sea Star Fishing Company Limited (SSFCL) in 1990; targeted towards exploitation of tuna industry and other fisheries activities e.g. fish processing, marketing etc.
4. New Ministry of Fisheries created on 4 February, 1991. (Problems - personnel and financial).

B. Description of present status of the fishing industry.

The Ministry of Fisheries is still in a state of flux.

C. Promotion of marine resource development.

1. In addition to above, Japanese aid is offering further assistance in aquaculture for the next five years.
2. Further training of staff.

D. Re: Previous SPC priorities.

1. Tuna tagging.
2. Stock assessment.
3. FADs.
4. Tuna sampling (Lofa data).
5. Training.