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## **SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION**

**Twenty-fifth Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries**  
(Noumea, New Caledonia 14–18 March 1994)

### **COUNTRY STATEMENT**

#### **FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA**

##### **1.0 The Government**

- 1a. The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is an independent and democratic constitutional federation made up of the four groups of islands (states); Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae.
- 1b. The Federation's capital is Pohnpei, where it is center to all administrative matters relating to the National Government.

##### **2.0 Fisheries Agencies of the National Government**

- 2a. The Micronesian Maritime Authority (MMA) has the responsibility of managing the pelagic resources of the Federation's EEZ, through its direct handling of foreign fishing access agreements, negotiations, issuance of licenses and the collection of catch data for which the SPC and FFA regularly assist in its analysis and rationalization of its economic and biological benefits.
- 2b. The National Fisheries corporation (NFC) which was created to develop and assist in the development of a tuna industry within country, has focused its efforts in promoting the expansion of a locally owned and based long-line operation with the shore-based infrastructure to support such industry.
- 2c. The National Marine Resources office which is a part of the larger Department of Natural Resources and Development, currently focuses its attention on expanding the size/scale of its giant clams hatchery/nursery operations and, is also busy setting up a statistical program for the management of its inshore fisheries resources.
- 2d. The Micronesian Maritime and Fisheries Academy continued its fourth year of operation with the full financial support of the FSM Government. It has recently added to its regular IMO certified engineer and skipper courses, two fisheries courses in long-line operations and purse-seine operations. This is done in collaboration with the OFCF of Japan.

### **3.0 Programs and Activities**

- 3a. Transshipment operations of catch from both purse seiners and long-line boats is encouraged within the FSM ports and is currently being done.
- 3b. There are approximately five hundred sixty four (564) fishing boats presently licensed to fish in the FSM's EEZ but with different schedules and terms. Three hundred seventy six (376) are long-line boats, one hundred fifty two (152) are purse seiners and thirty six (36) are pole-and-line boats.
- 3c. In preparation for an expanded local long-line fleet and in order to better service the home-ported foreign long-line boats, the infrastructural developments are being readied and two are scheduled for completion in April of this year. The facilities in Chuuk and Yap which include fuel depot, ice making capability, power back-up systems and docking space will be ready soon and each is capable of handling up to 100 boats.
- 3d. The comprehensive qualitative field work was recently completed for the coastal resource atlas and inventory of the Chuuk entire Lagoon and is awaiting the additional production of aerial photographs before it goes to printing. This is the last of the major island group to do and the next phase is for the outer islands of the entire FSM.
- 3e. Under a loan borrowed from the Asian Development Bank, the FSM government has created a private long-line company which involves the acquisition of about six long-line boats and a longer training boat to be jointly operated by the Academy.