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SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

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DEVELOPMENT OF PEARL AND MOTHER-OF-PEARL PRODUCTION IN FRENCH POLYNESIA

by

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SUMMARY

The pearl industry, which in 1981 supplied French Polynesia's second largest export, in declared value, is 70 per cent dependent on the pearl oysters collected during the annual diving season on several atolls. This situation is likely to endanger pearl oyster stocks, which are already fairly depleted. In order to give this industry a sustainable resource base, its development must be made to rely less on fishing and more on aquaculture.

From 1979 to 1981, new methods of collecting and rearing in the natural environment were developed.

From 1981 to 1983, pearl culture trials (grafting and pearl farming techniques) are to continue.

At the moment, a project for the establishment of a training centre in mother-of-pearl and pearl culture trades is under consideration. Black pearl marketing remains to be organised and legislation for the mother-of-pearl and pearl industry to be drawn up.
