

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSIONFOURTH TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES

Noumea, New Caledonia

(21 - 29 October 1970)

VILLAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATIONOperational Report No. 2Preliminary:

This Report covers two separate operations:

1. Review of those Associations whose setting-up was detailed a Report No. 1.
2. Report on those additional Associations brought into operation since then.

1. Review of Operational Associations:(a) Manase Association

One month after the expiry of the two-month 'grace' period allotted for the 'settling-in' of new Associations, Fisheries Division visited this village to ascertain how they had progressed. Examination of their August catch-statistics gave the following figures:

Number of fishing trips	=	20
Number of successful trips	=	17
Number of abortive trips	=	3
Total fish-weight landed	=	3004 lbs.
Total fish-weight consumed		
in village	=	1960 lbs.
Total fish-weight sold	=	1044 lbs.
Total fish-sales	=	\$111.00.
Overheads (fuel, kerosene, etc.)		48.50
Credit balance	=	<u>62.50</u>

Out of this balance the Association voted to return \$55.00 to Fisheries Division as a first payment against their initial debt, with the following result:

Initial debt	=	575.80
Less		<u>55.00</u>
Debit balance	=	<u>\$520.80</u>

Other Items:

During August, Fisheries Division withdrew both motors from this Association for a few days for complete overhaul, carried out under the supervision of Johnson Outboard Motor's travelling engineering representative, Mr Shea. This free service was provided through the courtesy of the manufacturers and the cooperation of the Technical Training Institute who

Local drought conditions resulted in most of the adult males being employed in extensive agricultural labours. On top of this the whole village had been subjected to a severe flue epidemic (confirmed by the Fagamalo hospital authorities). In consequence, very little fishing had been done and no records had been kept. It was estimated that about 200 lbs of fish had been caught and distributed in the village.

Conclusion:

Whilst Lefagacali'i's difficulties were appreciated it was pointed out that there was no profit in an unused motor and fishing gear. The Association was given another six weeks to make an effort to establish itself and Fisheries Division personnel will constantly be visiting them during this period to offer practical assistance and encouragement.

2. New Associations:

During the past two months, the following new Associations have been equipped with motors, trained in certain fisheries techniques and set in operation:

a) Falevau	}	Upolu	c) Malae (Faga)	}	Savai'i
b) Falefa West			d) Foalalo		
			e) Siutu		
			f) Sala'ilua		
			g) Sataputu		

All the above associations have received training in basic fisheries techniques as was set out for the first Associations to be equipped (For details see Report No. 1).

The following comments apply to these individual Associations:

(a) Falevau:

Possesses a small alia some 23 ft. long. This, due to a shipment of Johnson motors having been delayed, was provided with a 20 h.p. Mercury which blew up after four hours operation. Examination of the wrecked machine showed the fault to be factory-caused and the requisite replacement parts were order (under the terms of the guarantee) by the agents. These parts were only returned last week (10 September) and consequently Falevau cannot be considered as being operational as yet.

(b) Falefa West:

This energetic association has been greatly aided by having as its secretary Mr Rudi Nickel, Administrative Officer to the Department of Agriculture, himself an experienced and keen fisherman. In spite of adverse monsoon conditions Falefa West has operated very well, frequently gaining over 300 lbs of fish per night sortie. In spite of not having as yet completed their 2-month "grace period", Falefa West have already repaid \$40 against their loan account. With the advent of the real fishing season it is believed that this association will do very well indeed.

(c) Malae (Faga):

This association has one of the smallest (20-feet) alia's yet built, yet its design is so good that it has been able to operate in exceedingly bad weather, though carrying only 4 men. During the initial training period and in the subsequent week, Malae managed to effect the following:

Supply member of the Association with fish
 Supply local matais and pastors with fish
 Sell fish to the value of \$132
 From this sum \$65 was distributed amongst
 the Association, \$36 went to purchase 2 drums
 of fuel and \$31 was banked for loan-repayment.

Considering the size of their boat and motor (9½ h.p.), the small number of crew and the adverse weather this is a very impressive performance.

The remainder of the Societies (Foala, Siutu, Sala'ilua, Sataputu) are still undergoing their final training and little can be said at this stage other than that their 200-lb plus nightly catch per Association is making considerable difference to their villages already.

3. Prospectus of Future Village Fishermen's Training Programme:

September 20 - 30	- Palauli and Faleasi'u
October 1 - 10	- Lufilufi - (two Associations)
October 10 - 31	- Saleimoa, Nofoali'i

W. Travis
Fisheries Officer