

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

2nd SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 23–27 July 2001)

Information Paper 9

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**Report of the Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information
System (PIMRIS) steering committee**

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REPORT OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS MARINE RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM (PIMRIS) STEERING COMMITTEE

Dear Members of the Head of Fisheries.

Background

For the benefit of the new members of this Meeting, it be noted that PIMRIS is a regional marine information network of South Pacific regional organisations and Pacific Island countries. The PIMRIS Coordination Unit (guided by PIMRIS Steering Committee) is hosted at the Marine Studies Facility of USP, Suva, Fiji. The regional cooperating partners include FFA, SPC, SPREP, SOPAC, SPC and USP. The primary clients receiving assistance are the Pacific Island countries and the regional institutions. PIMRIS' mandate is to collect, organise, and disseminate marine information to the clients and provide assistance in marine information management in the region. It has now successfully served the region for 11 years. It has also established information sharing links with numerous institutions outside the region in view of accessing information from world wide sources.

As some of you would recall, the HOF meetings of late 1980s (then called RTMF) were instrumental in getting PIMRIS established hence there is a tradition of reporting to this Meeting.

Attached please find::

- List to resolutions/recommendations of the last PIMRIS Steering Committee Meeting (July 2001);
- Minutes to the same meeting including the agenda, participants, draft MOU, and the 2001-2003 workplan.

The members are particularly requested to take note of any recommendation and/or discussions that directly relate to their country. Specific feedback and expressed needs are most welcome so that they could be considered in future workplans. I am available to discuss these in more detail outside this formal meeting.

Thank you.

Ganeshan Rao
PIMRIS Coordinator,
The University of the South Pacific , Suva, Fiji.

10th PIMRIS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, 10-11 July 2001, USP, Suva, Fiji.

RECOMMENDATIONS & RESOLUTIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

The meeting **recommended that:**

Country Specific

the PIMRIS Coordinator follow up with the Head of Fisheries (Samoa) during the forthcoming Heads of Fisheries meeting to discuss the recommendations that were made to the Department during the last visit by the PIMRIS Coordinator to provide technical assistance.

PIMRIS (USP), Solomon Fisheries and SICHE discuss possible means of providing help to Solomon Fisheries in setting up the library/information centre.

the PIMRIS Coordinator discuss with the Director of Vanuatu Fisheries regarding support for Nettie Joseph in her library studies from USP Centre in Vanuatu.

PIMRIS cooperating regional partners attempt to source funding assistance to provide computers to fisheries libraries in Vanuatu, Samoa and Solomon Islands.

fisheries library staff must become aware of any local copyright regulations and educate the fisheries staff.

countries must promote the PIMRIS arrangements & services and to share database information within country.

country library staff must take initiative to inform the local staff of in-coming current publications.

SPC/USP PIMRIS C. Unit continue to explore funding sources and be aware of country needs to facilitate any form of training.

countries should attempt to get funding incorporated within any project proposals for information services/publications.

countries should attempt to cover some of the costs with in-country training workshops.

the PIMRIS (USP) current awareness list that is sent to fisheries library be circulated to other fisheries officers so that they are aware of these lists and can request for articles.

database backup should be made regularly by fisheries library staff on floppy disk and where possible onto a server. All fisheries library staff must send their database every quarter to the PIMRIS Coordination unit for PIMRIS database (MOANA). PIMRIS C Unit which will in turn do the select searching and quality control prior to incorporation into MOANA. PIMRIS C. Unit will send the integrated MOANA database to the partners by mid 2002.

PIMRIS Related (General)

Efforts be made to sustain and improve communication between PIMRIS and member countries or points of contact;

PIMRIS should work diligently to ensure that support is readily available to assist or accommodate needs of island countries (including equipment and other library needs and to follow up with system maintenance and update) within its resource capabilities.

Libraries requesting for information need to provide feedback as to how the information is being utilized.

PIMRIS members can preferably use Ariel for ILL and the small libraries that do not really have the funds to get a full Ariel send and receive system could use DocView or Imaging or any image reading software to receive docs.

If a single copy of publications from regional organisations, of any item destined for fisheries libraries, is sent to the head of the department or division, then a communication with appropriate cc must be sent to that effect. Otherwise a second copy may be sent to the library.

PIMRIS (USP) liaise with Centre for Tropical Studies in Aquaculture (CTSA) (Hawaii) for free publications on aquaculture for countries.

PIMRIS compile a list of web-sites related to marine & aquatic sciences related information and link with PIMRIS Webpage. IAMSLIC lists may be used as a starting point.

Attempts be made by PIMRIS to cover part of travel costs for participants to attend PIMRIS sponsored meetings and workshops.

Partners must communicate with each other and tap on to each other expertise and resources as much as possible.

SPC and PIMRIS Coordination Unit will work on transferring information from the SPC Fisheries Address book to the Global Directory of Marine Scientists on the website of Unesco – IOC.

PIMRIS C Unit explore the possibility of getting PIMRIS MOANA Database on CD.

the PIMRIS database be made available on WWW subject with restricted access to retain the uniqueness of the database.

the PIMRIS Coordinator will provide a background paper, send it to the regional partners and eventually coordinate the signing of this agreement.

RESOLUTIONS

The Meeting **agreed** that:

countries be encouraged to proactively do whatever is possible to in information dissemination despite various resource constraints.

books be loaned out to users for the defined period, manual records be kept and followed up for returns.

books and publications sent to fisheries department be deposited in the library and not in various officers' rooms.

members may obtain a copy of an existing list from SPC and anyone identifying new acronyms must send them to SPC Fisheries Information Section.

SPC agreed to assist with brochures, posters and support material as needed.

USP Library use policy for staff of CROP Organization would be beneficial to the network.

**MINUTES OF THE 10th PIMRIS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, 10-11 July 2001, Marine
Studies Facility, USP, Suva, Fiji.**

OPENING

Ganeshan Rao (PIMRIS Coordinator) welcomed all participants and Dr Esther Williams, the University Librarian, provided a brief history on PIMRIS and extended a special welcome to all the delegates.

Prof. Rajesh Chandra, Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC), gave his official opening address in which he highlighted various aspects of PIMRIS.

He explained that PIMRIS is a cooperative information network of five regional organizations based at the Marine Studies Facility supported jointly by the University Library and Marine Studies Programme. The initial funding to establish PIMRIS components at came from Canada while that of SPC came from the Government of France and the DVC thanked the funding agencies.

The cooperating institutions, and PIMRIS itself, produce a range of information products. It helps research workers, government officers, librarians/information officers, students, fishermen, and general users.

Over the past decade a lot of effort has been put into improving the regional arrangements to strengthen PIMRIS. The PIMRIS Coordination Unit has established direct links with a selected number of institutions from outside this region for information sharing and document delivery. These links have been made on a reciprocal/bilateral basis to be able to assist each other at very little or no costs. The DVC expressed that the international links were quite impressive.

On sustainability the DVC was pleased with the efforts being made to sustain PIMRIS Coordination Unit at USP. He iterated that ways could explored to better sustain it through marketing of information products.

PIMRIS has recently joined as an international partner of an international database – Aquatic Sciences & Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA). The USP as well as the other regional organisations and countries will benefit through this initiative. They would be able to take advantage of searching this database via intranet and internet facilities.

It is an agenda item for this meeting and the following workshop. The workshop will also aim to transfer basic skills in marine information management more applicable to the island countries.

The DVC thanked Prof South (Professor of Marine Studies) and Dr Esther Williams for their support for PIMRIS and Ganeshan Rao for effective coordination of activities.

Following the official opening, Ganeshan Rao thanked the Government of Canada and Government France for their financial support to the PIMRIS network. Special thanks was given to the International Association of Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres for contributing USD1200.00 (FJD2800.00) to fund the meeting and the workshop.

The participants were introduced followed by morning tea.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT:

The Chairperson extended his welcome to the participants and provided the participants with the background on setting up of the PIMRIS, PIMRIS Steering Committee and other internal arrangements.

ADOPTIONS OF THE AGENDA

The Chairperson advised the participants that it was agreed in the last PIMRIS Steering Committee that the PIMRIS Coordinator will be the Chairperson for all PIMRIS Steering Committee Meeting. Ana Jese was appointed as the rapporteur assisted by Ganeshan.

APOLOGY

Was received from FFA, SPREP and Papua New Guinea.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 9th PIMRIS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

p.1 The PIMRIS Steering Committee Meeting was to provide a forum to review and plan to effective marine information activities for the region.

p.3 SPC Library is now using DB Text Works library automation package.

On the recommendation that FFA and SOPAC to explore the possibility of integrating their Map Database, it *could not be implemented as FFA does not have a Librarian.*

Due to the local situation in Solomon Islands IMR has been moved to Suva and hence there been no discussion between FFA and IMR. Efforts will be made for more interaction between Sol Fisheries and FFA once library staff are in place in both libraries.

On the possibility of providing assistance to Tuvalu fisheries it was noted that this was completed on the 20-24 January 2000.

Suggestion by SPC that IRD (Institute for Research and Development ex ORSTOM) be invited as an observer in the next Steering Committee Meeting it was **agreed** that there is a need to renew discussion between USP AND IRD.

The 2nd Heads of Fisheries meeting will be held from 23-27 July 2001 in Noumea, New Caledonia.

p.4 **OTHER BUSINESS**

On the issue raised by the FAO delegate on the status of the FAO Regional Fishery Support Programme publications, the PIMRIS Coordinator stated that all first copies of regional publications have been deposited in the Pacific Collection (USP library) and second copies in PIMRIS.

REPORTS

SPC

The SPC Information Adviser informed the meeting that the length of attachment for the Fisheries Information & Training Associate position has been reduced from 1 year to 3 months.

It was also noted that SPC's non-confidential fisheries publications are now accessible on the web-site for users to access.

FFA

The Meeting expressed its concern about inadequate staffing situation in the FFA library.

The Meeting also **recommended** that a letter of concern be sent to FFA by Chairperson and the PIMRIS Coordinator to have a verbal communication with the FFA representatives during the forthcoming 2nd Heads of Fisheries meeting in Noumea on the importance of having a library staff in their library.

SOPAC

The SOPAC delegate corrected the last minutes which should read as "The virtual library is in the process of converting *internally produced reports* on PDF Format which can be downloaded from the SOPAC web site".

p.5 SPREP

On the recommendation that SPREP work with SPC and USP in exploring mechanisms for conversion of records from the In Magic/DB text works to WINISIS and vice versa. The Conversion procedures are available but trials need to be carried out.

p.5 NAURU

Nauru expressed the need for assistance this was completed in June 1999 and for Kiribati in July 1999

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

NFA have been restructuring its staff and there is no permanent library staff at the moment.

p.5/6 SAMOA

Assistance had been provided in July 2000 to Samoa and American Samoa.

p.6 Solomon Islands

Requested assistance is still pending.

TONGA

Assistance was been provided to the Tonga fisheries library on the 20-27 March 2000.

VANUATU

On the recommendation in the 9th PIMRIS meeting, PIMRIS coordinator provide assistance to the Vanuatu fisheries library on the 19-20 November 1999 and 30 August, 2001.

INFORMATION SERVICES

The recommendation that a Union List of periodicals be established including FFA + SPREP is still pending

P.7 ADMIN ARRANGEMENTS

On country assistance - funding had been obtained from Government of France via SPC and From Canada via MSP(USP).

A 'PIMRIS Meeting Procedure Manual' is still pending.

The PIMRIS MOU is still pending.

AGENDA PROPER

REGIONAL COOPERATING PARTNERS' REPORTS

SOPAC

The SOPAC delegate (Sunita Prasad) presented a report highlighting the five databases now maintained by the library namely: aerial photographs, journals, maps/charts, monographs/reports/reprints and slides. Aerial photo images can be downloaded from the internet. The delegate highlighted the Technical Assistance provided and that is follow-up training provided to Department of meteorology Library Officer at the Apia Observatory, Samoa and Attachment was provided for the Technical Records Clerk of Solomon Islands Division of Geology Library for a week at SOPAC Library

The Librarian attended a one-week WINISIS training at University of New South Wales to enhance programming skills in the bibliographic database.

Future planned activities: Assessment and re-organisation of Vanuatu Department of Geology & Rural Water Supply Library, including fellowship attachment for DGRWS library officer to Secretariat Library.

Continue association with PEIN, PIMRIS and IAMSLIC networks and library & bibliographic services to member countries, Secretariat staff, researchers and students.

SPC

The SPC Information Adviser (Jean-Paul Gaudechoux) presented the report highlighting assistance provided to national fisheries services.

The delegate also highlighted the fact that member countries and territories clearly expressed their desire to see the Information Section become more involved in:

- publication of annual reports or booklets on local regulations for the fisheries services of member countries and territories;
- training for fishery service agents in information collection and distribution;
- information campaigns.

Special interest group - Information Bulletins, Fisheries Newsletter, Fisheries Address Book, Web site and information requests, national activities, training attachments formed the most part of the SPC activities.

PIMRIS COORDINATION UNIT REPORT

The PIMRIS Coordinator (Ganeshan Rao) informed the meeting about staffing, training, regional cooperation, international cooperation, collection development, information service, and library instruction.

The report also highlighted the drop in the number of library users, as indicated in the statistics provided during Mid 2000, due to political crisis in Fiji. Many courses had been offered through extension to cater for the need. He informed the meeting of the assistance provided to Tuvalu, Tonga, Samoa, American Samoa, Kiribati, Nauru and Vanuatu during 1999-2000. Joint activities with SPREP, SPC and SOPAC were described.

FAO SAPA

The FAO delegate (Natalie Macawaris-Ele) presented the report highlighting the FAO member countries in the region are the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Niue and Palau became the member countries in November 1999. Nauru has formally applied for FAO membership this year. It is anticipated that its application will be confirmed at the FAO conference later this year. Tuvalu and the Federated States of Micronesia are also considering the membership

FAO provides technical assistance to Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific. The overall objectives of the technical assistance programme are to enable the Pacific Island countries (PICs) to adopt and implement policies and measures.

FAO delegate also highlighted the recently commenced a five-year regional project on fishery statistics titled. "Support for Improvement of Statistics on Coastal and Subsistence Fisheries and Aquaculture" trust-funded by the Government of Japan.

It was noted that some statistics are confidential and cannot be used.

COUNTRY REPORTS

AMERICAN SAMOA

The American Samoan (Marijane Porter) delegate presented the report highlighting the library collection, database budget, staffing and activities. She also noted that approximately \$7000-10000 USD is spend annually for library-related services, such as acquisition and dissemination, system update and maintenance, and staff salary and training. This funding being made available under the US Sportfish and Wildlife Restoration Acts only supports for gill-fish related activities.

Following an agreement between SPREP, the American Samoa environment focal point, and the Dept of Marine & Wildlife Resources (DMWR), the National Environmental Information Center was established at the DMWR in March 2000 under the management of the Information & Education Division. The Center holds the SPREP, PIMRIS (Moana), and the American Samoa bibliographic databases and these are accessible for public use.

SPREP conducted in-country a needs assessment for the DMWR in November 1999 and provided a new computer, software, and printer for the Center in March 2000. The PIMRIS Coordinator re-instated MOANA database in July 2000.

In light of the 6 year breakdown in communication with the PIMRIS network, the delegate hopes to use this opportunity to renew the partnership for greater information networking & sharing with the regional counterparts. To improve relationship and strengthen partnership in this effort, the delegate suggested that:

- PIMRIS benefits tremendously with in-country holdings, PIMRIS should therefore work diligently to ensure that support is readily available to assist or accommodate needs of member countries.
- Countries must promote the PIMRIS arrangements & services and to share database information within country;
- Countries should attempt to cover some of the costs with in-country training workshops;
- Efforts be made to sustain and improve communication between PIMRIS and member countries or points of contact;
- PIMRIS attempt to assist member countries with equipment and other library needs and to follow up with system maintenance and update;
- Libraries requesting for information need provide feedback as to how the information is being utilized;
- Attempts be made by by PIMRIS to cover part of travel costs for participants to attend PIMRIS-sponsored meetings and workshops;

FIJI

The Fiji delegate (Sanjay Narayan) presented the report highlighting the overview of the library, library collection, services provided and their library needs. It was noted that Fiji Fisheries does not have a library staff at the moment and the Information Officer is looking after the library. The vacant position is expected to be fulfilled soon.

It was noted that Fiji Fisheries is the only fisheries department in the region that recruits a para-professional with formal qualification (Certificate/Diploma) to work in the library. Other countries have secretarial/clerical staff sharing load looking after the library.

It was reported that Annual reports from 1978 - 1999 are available and 2000 report is in progress.

SAMOA

The Samoan delegate (Ulusapeti Tiitii) presented the report highlighting their new library, budget, collection and the library database. The Window version of CDS/ISIS database management software (WINISIS) was installed on a computer, which is still used by the Research Section. The Samoan Fisheries division has no budget allocated for the library. The delegate also highlighted the current staffing constraints.

Expressing concern at the staffing constraints, the meeting **recommended** that the PIMRIS Coordinator follow up with the Head of Fisheries (Samoa) during the forthcoming Heads of Fisheries meeting to discuss the recommendations that were made to the Department during the last visit by the PIMRIS Coordinator to provide technical assistance.

The meeting recognized the significant amount of public education activities performed by the Samoan delegate. The Meeting **agreed** that other countries be encouraged to proactively do whatever is possible despite various resource constraints.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Solomon delegate (Edward Honiwala) presented the report highlighting the Library Space, collection, library database, staffing and budget. It was noted that there was no library system currently in place. Solomon Island material and international organisations' items are organised but the general material are piled in boxes.

The library has now been moved to the Statistics and Information section from the Administrative Section. It is hoped that everything would be in place soon. A request for technical assistance with setting up of the library was made. It was **recommended** that PIMRIS (USP), Solomon Fisheries and SICHE discuss possible means of providing help.

TONGA

The Tongan delegate (Emeline Tupou) presented the report highlighting their new library and appointment of the library staff. The delegate noted that Mr Ganeshan Rao visited them in March, 2000 and helped in setting up their library. It was also noted that the library is in demand as they have been serving overseas students, private sectors and fisheries staff.

TUVALU

The Tuvalu delegate (Kana Tauetia) presented the report. Tuvalu fisheries now has its own library. It has its own furniture that cater for the users. Since February 2001, the Mechanical workshop was set up and used as a training room for the Fisheries Department programmes. The collection is divided into three collection namely, the Tuvalu collection, General collection and the Serials collection. A library staff has been appointed who is on study leave but a clerical officer is currently looking after the library.

The delegate reported that technical assistance was provided by the PIMRIS Coordinator (Ganeshan Rao) during January 2000. Due to limited budget it is not possible to employ a full time library staff.

VANUATU

The Vanuatu delegate (Nettie Joseph) presented the report highlighting on library building, collection size, library database and library budget. Vanuatu fisheries does not have a full time library staff. The delegate noted that the library database was corrupted last year and a private computer expert helped re-install the program. To cater for small expenses needed in the library funds are withdrawn from the administration budget.

The Meeting **recommended** that the PIMRIS Coordinator discuss with the Director of Vanuatu Fisheries regarding support for Nettie Joseph in her library studies from USP Centre in Vanuatu.

All delegates felt the need for assistance with equipment to support library work. The meeting heard that this may not be easily possible since special funding need to be sought.

The Meeting **recommended** that PIMRIS cooperating regional partners attempt to source funding assistance to provide computers to fisheries libraries in Vanuatu, Samoa and Solomon Islands.

AGENDA 7 : Information Services

USP

USP Library use policy for staff of CROP Organization - this was explained to the meeting as outlined in a policy paper. The delegates from the regional organisation expressed appreciation for this service.

The current awareness service providing current periodical titles list and consequent delivery of requested article(s) will continue at no cost to the countries.

COPYRIGHT

It was discussed at length during the meeting to update delegates on:

- the need to become aware of national copyright regulations;
- the use of downloaded items from internet. All copyright regulations still apply;
- acknowledging source(s) for use of online material;
- photocopying of material for users;
- editing and use of online material that are downloaded in HTML or WORD formats. Once edited then the original document is in a way “non-existent” and will have consequences.

It was **recommended** that fisheries library staff must become aware of any local copyright regulations and educate the fisheries staff.

Strengthening of PIMRIS

The meeting heard that constant communication between regional partners and countries would greatly benefit the PIMRIS Network. Services and products currently available are of great use.

After considerable deliberations the meeting **recommended that** :

Countries must promote the PIMRIS arrangements & services and to share database information within country;

Efforts be made to sustain and improve communication between PIMRIS and member countries or points of contact;

Country library staff must take initiative to inform the local staff of in-coming current publications. PIMRIS should work diligently to ensure that support is readily available to assist or accommodate needs of island countries (including equipment and other library needs and to follow up with system maintenance and update) within its resource capabilities.

Libraries requesting for information need to provide feedback as to how the information is being utilized.

SOPAC

It was **noted** that the SOPAC library bibliographic database is searchable from the website and internally produced reports can be downloaded in PDF format.

The meeting was informed that the SOPAC librarian will continue her library and bibliographic services for member countries, Secretariat staff, researchers and students who have cause to use the SOPAC Library.

Tonga

Tonga fisheries library will make efforts to attract and serve more school students and general public in the future.

American Samoan delegate's work is to ensure that information is readily available for public use and use.

SPC

Special Interest Group Info Bulletins will continue (as in workplan attached). Assistance to countries with information requests, production of brochures, bibliographies, posters will continue as needed.

An internet website of SPC has its newsletters, bulletins, and other publications in pdf and HTML formats

AGENDA 7b : DOCUMENT DELIVERY

Ariel

The Chairperson gave an overview on Ariel document delivery software developed and distributed by the Research Libraries Group in USA. Countries can have document delivery if they are connected to internet.

SPC delegate **requested** if a demonstration for ARIEL documentation delivery be staged during the meeting as part of the workshop.

It was **noted** that currently PIMRIS Coordination Unit is not sending materials but only receives through Ariel documentation delivery.

The meeting was informed that DocView (image reading software) (similar to Imaging) is An alternative to the Ariel receiver. Documents sent via Ariel as TIF file as email attachments can be opened, viewed and printed.

The meeting **recommended** that PIMRIS members can preferably use Ariel for ILL and the small libraries that do not really have the funds to get a full Ariel send and receive system could use DocView or Imaging or any image reading software to receive docs.

SOPAC Virtual library which contains the list of SOPAC produced reports now can be downloaded from <http://www.sopac.org.fj/data/virlib/index.html>

The meeting was informed during discussions that brochure and publication from regional organisations are free for regional countries. Documents available on internet can be downloaded for use.

PIMRIS network understanding – in document delivery.

On effective document delivery it was **agreed** that partners may be requested either from the countries or regional organisations. Assistance may be sought from USP Centre mail bag service for delivery of material. In such cases the PIMRIS C.Unit at USP must be informed to facilitate effective communication and delivery.

It was **recommended** that if a single copy of publications from regional organisations, of any item destined for fisheries libraries, is sent to the head of the department or division, then a communication with appropriate cc must be sent to that effect. Otherwise a second copy may be sent to the library. It was noted that SPC is currently 2 copies anyways.

CTSA Publications

PIMRIS (USP) liaise with Centre for Tropical Studies in Aquaculture (CTSA) (Hawaii) for free publications on aquaculture for countries.

FAO Publications

The Meeting was informed that if needed then FAO-SAPA can facilitate obtaining FAO fisheries and aquaculture publications. That for non-FAO member countries copies may be obtained from PIMRIS Coordination Unit. FAO statistical database is available online at www.fao.org

In Country Collection Safety

It was noted that library items were not being returned on time by the fisheries departmental staff. It was **agreed** that books be loaned out to users for the defined period, manual records be kept and followed up for returns.

It was also discussed and **agreed** in the meeting that books and publications sent to fisheries department be deposited in the library and not in various officers' rooms.

AGENDA 7c: AQUATIC SCIENCES & FISHERIES ABSTRACTS INPUT CENTRE AT PIMRIS COORDINATION UNIT

The Chairperson gave an overview of the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA)

It was noted in the meeting PIMRIS C Unit has begun preparation of ASFA input and that PIMRIS with first batch of 19 records have been added to ASFA and second batch of 11 records has been sent to FAO for checking.

The Meeting was informed that the PIMRIS Coordinator attended the ASFA Board Meeting and the Board agreed on the following general issues:

- on the possibility of a system of exchange of responsibilities between Partners to maintain the literature monitoring list up to date
- that Theses were being covered by most Partners, but in the discussion that followed it became clear that different policies regarding the availability of Theses existed in different countries
- that part of ASFA 'strength is the wide breadth of grey literature that is covered but not enough information is available on how to get hold of copies. The software Ariel which facilitates document delivery could be used for this purpose
- that Partners should collect user's comments regarding complaints, opinions and compliments received from users regarding ASFA
- that CSA/Internet Database Service includes search, save, search alert and downloading upto 250 records.
- That partners basic entitlements are one set of print, CD-Rom, and one IDS free access to ASFA (internet Database Service from the publisher).
- That PIMRIS would assist in identifying institutes in Oceania to benefit from the free IDS initiative available for least developed and food deficit countries. Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands. Samoa and Kiribati are possibilities but several were encountering problems in infrastructure. Not all of the institutes have a definite IP, making it difficult to provide IDS service. CSA said that could solve this problems by removing the IP restriction

The Meeting **recommended** that PIMRIS compile a list of web-sites related to marine & aquatic sciences related information and link with PIMRIS Webpage. IAMSILIC lists may be used as a starting point.

In view of various acronyms being used, the Meeting **recommended** that members may obtain a copy of an existing list from SPC and anyone identifying new acronyms must send them to SPC Fisheries Information Section.

IAMSILIC

The Chairperson highlighted the background information on the IAMSILIC.

IAMSILIC is an international association of people involved in aquatic science and marine libraries/information activities. It encourages establishment of regional groups for better professional communication, links and information sharing. A proposal from PIMRIS was accepted by the IAMSILIC exec board in 1993 to establish the Pacific Islands Regional Group being functional within the existing network of PIMRIS.

The activities that benefit the region include: assistance with regional meetings and international conferences. IAMSILIC facilitates information sharing, document delivery and technical/professional development assistance to members.

The Meeting acknowledged the receipt of US\$1200 grant from IAMSILIC to support this meeting. It also thanked Sunita Prasad for being the Pacific Islands rep on the IAMSILIC Executive board from 1999 - 2001. Ganeshan Rao was elected as the next rep to replace Sunita.

AGENDA 8 : EDUCATION & TRAINING IN INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

SOPAC

SOPAC will assess and reorganise the Vanuatu Department of Geology & Rural Water Supply library, including fellowship attachment for DGRWS library officer to Secretariat Library

SPC

SPC will continue with the provision of training through its Fisheries Information & Training Associate position to support countries.

USP

The meeting was informed of USP's Certificate and Diploma programmes in Library & Information Studies and country reps were encouraged to take formal courses to upgrade their skills.

PIMRIS C. Unit will continue to work jointly with other regional organisations to provide in-country technical assistance as need and subject to availability of resources.

Samoa & American Samoa

The meeting commended the public education activities undertaken by these countries. Such initiatives may be taken by other countries. The Meeting noted that SPC **agreed** to assist with brochures, posters and support material as needed.

Personnel

In view of staffing situation in countries, the Meeting recommended that the regional organisations explore the possibility of involving UN Volunteers, Americorps, Peacecorps and similar persons to help countries on short to long term activities/projects.

Regional/Sub-Regional/In-Country Trainings

The Meeting **recommended** that:

- SPC/USP PIMRIS C. Unit continue to explore funding sources and be aware of country needs to facilitate any form of training.
- Countries should attempt to get funding incorporated within any project proposals for information services/publications.
- Countries should attempt to cover some of the costs with in-country training workshops;
- Attempts be made by PIMRIS to cover part of travel costs for participants to attend PIMRIS sponsored meetings and workshops;

AGENDA 9: INFORMATION SHARING COOPERATIVE PROJECTS WITHIN PIMRIS PARTNERS TO EFFECTIVELY UTILISE EXISTING RESOURCES.

The meeting **recommended** that partners must communicate with each other and tap on to each other expertise and resources as much as possible.

Global Directory of Marine Scientists and Professionals

The meeting was informed on the existence of this global directory and that entries can be input via internet. The Meeting **recommended** that SPC and PIMRIS Coordination Unit will work on transferring information from the SPC Fisheries Address book to the Global Directory.

Other Business

- The Meeting strongly **Recommended** that the current awareness list that is sent to fisheries library be circulated to other fisheries officers so that they are aware of these lists and can request for articles.

Database Activities

The meeting heard that keeping proper backups of local database has been a problem. It was evident that data entry staff were failing to do backups.

It was felt that the PIMRIS database on CD may be useful but this would be subject to availability of funds, receipt and incorporation of updated records from partners, and provision of search facility to accompany the CD.

After some discussion it was **recommended** that:

- backup should be made regularly on floppy disk and where possible onto a server. All fisheries library staff must send their database every quarter to the PIMRIS Coordination unit for PIMRIS database (MOANA). PIMRIS C Unit which will in turn do the select searching and quality control prior to incorporation into MOANA. PIMRIS C. Unit will send the integrated MOANA database to the partners by Mid 2002.
- PIMRIS C Unit explore the possibility of getting PIMRIS MOANA Database on CD.
- the PIMRIS database be made available on WWW subject with restricted access to retain the uniqueness of the database.

- **Memorandum of Understanding**

The Meeting proposed few minor changes to the MOU. It **recommended** that the PIMRIS Coordinator will provide a background paper, send it to the regional partners and eventually coordinate the signing of this agreement.

2001/2003 Workplan

The attached workplan was agreed by the Meeting.

Approval of Minutes.

The meeting adopted the draft minutes with changes and delegated to the PIMRIS Coordinator to send the final copies to the members and formulate a report for the forthcoming 2nd Heads of Fisheries Meeting.

On behalf of all the participants, the SPC delegate thanked the PIMRIS Coordination Unit and USP in general for the successful meeting. FAO-Sapa delegated thanked for being invited to this meeting.

The Chairperson thanked all the participants and the meeting ended at 5.20pm on 11 July 2001.

10th PIMRIS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, 10-11 July 2001.
Marine Studies Facility, USP, Suva, Fiji

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Opening
2. Administrative Arrangements
3. Adoption of Agenda
Apologies
4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting
5. Reports from Regional Cooperating Partners in PIMRIS
6. Reports from Countries
7. Services
 - a. Information Services.
 - b. Document Delivery - Ariel
 - c. Aquatic Sciences & Fisheries Abstracts Input Centre at PIMRIS Coordination Unit.
8. Education & Training in Information Management – Workshops; Country Assistance.
9. Information sharing cooperative projects within PIMRIS Partners to effectively utilise existing resources.
- 10 International Association of Aquatic & Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres (IAMSLIC) – Pacific Islands Regional Group Meeting.
11. Other Business.
PIMRIS Memo of Understanding
12. 2001/2003 Workplan
- 13 Approval of Minutes
Report for the 2nd SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting.

List of Participants

<u>Participants (Name)</u>	<u>Organization/Country</u>
Ganeshan Rao, Ana Jese, Dorene Naidu	PIMRIS Coordination Unit , USP
Natalie Macawaris-Ele Office for	Food and Agriculture of the United Nations, Sub-Regional Pacific Islands (FAO SAPA)
Sunita Prasad	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
Jean-Paul Gaudechoux	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
Sanjay Narayan Subodh Sharma	Fisheries Division, Fiji. Fisheries Division, Fiji.
Ulusapeti Tiitii	Fisheries Division, Samoa
Emeline Tupou	Ministry of Fisheries, Tonga.
Nettie Joseph	Department of Fisheries/Service des peches, Vanuatu.
Edward Honiwala	Fisheries Division, Solomon Islands.
Marijane Porter	Department of Marine & Wildlife, American Samoa.
Kana Tauetia	Fisheries Department, Tuvalu.

10TH PIMRIS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
10-11 July 2001, MSP, USP, SUVA, FIJI
PIMRIS WORKPLAN FOR 2001-2003

1. Document Delivery

SPREP, SPC, & FFA to contribute journal holdings list of subscribed titles to the PIMRIS Coordination Unit to be added to the already existing current awareness list.

2. Database Development and Management

2.1 Update Moana database by importing new records received from PIMRIS Regional members and countries. **(USP)**

2.2 Explore means of converting records from DB Text Works/In-Magic to WINISIS (vice versa). **(USP, SPREP, SPC)**

3. Information Collection and Dissemination

3.1 Identify and collect marine resources documents produced in the region for deposit at USP Library. Encourage marine resource workers to submit reports **(USP)**

3.2 Newsletters

SPC Fisheries Newsletter Quarterly

(French and English)

FFA News Digest Bi-monthly

PIMRIS Newsletter Quarterly

SOPAC Newsletter Quarterly

SPREP Newsletter(s) Quarterly

3.3 Information bulletin (French & English) **(SPC):**

Beche-de-mer Information Bulletin

Pearl Oyster Information Bulletin

Trochus Information Bulletin

Traditional Marine Resources

Management and Knowledge Information Bulletin

Fisheries Education and Training

Information Bulletin

FAD Information Bulletin

Live Reef Fish Bulletin

Women in Fisheries

Aquaculture

Ciguatera Poster **(SPC/IRD)**

Ciguatera Brochure (SPC/ Institute Louis Malarde)

3.4 Current Awareness Services:

Periodicals table of contents Monthly

(ALL Partners + IRD)

New acquisitions lists **(SPC, SPREP, FFA)** Quarterly

SPC Fisheries Address Book (web/print) **(SPC)** Annual

Fisheries Bibliographies - PNG, (SPC)

Fish Poster (SPC) – 3 yr project

Educational and awareness material as needed

3.5 Information Packages (**USP, FFA**)
SOPAC Bibliography (**SOPAC**) As needed

3.6 Information Requests – **All Partners**

Continue bibliographic searches; literature searches on Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA); Question and answer services; Document delivery: Provide Bibliographic Instruction.

3.7 Continue links with ASFA (USP) on-going

4. Assistance to National Centres

4.1 Provide assistance with collection development (**All Partners**)

4.2 Respond to request for assistance to enhance information handling capabilities. Continue to advise the national centres which have received such assistance.
Work out strategies to fulfil requests from countries. (**All Partners**)

4.3 National Fisheries/Marine Resources departments attempt to provide resources to sustain the work done in-country under PIMRIS.

5. Update mailing lists. (**All Partners**)

6. **PIMRIS Coordination Unit (USP)** to explore funding avenues (in cooperation with other partners) to meet the country needs.

7. Future Direction:

USP – PIMRIS Coordination Unit is to coordinate a formal agreement between the participating agencies;

ALL PARTNERS :Continue exploring and usage of modern technological means of communication such as Internet (e-mail, telnet) facilities for information sharing.

- Compilation of websites (SPC, SOPAC, USP).
- Expand PIMRIS C.Unit website to establish links to various sources of marine information.
- Pac Is info to be entered in GLODIR (Global directory established by Unesco-IOC) (USP, SPC).

ALL PARTNERS: Develop links with other libraries & information centres, information networks ; explore on possible international connections

ALL PARTNERS: Communicate/inform each other on assistance provided to countries.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON THE OPERATION OF PACIFIC ISLANDS MARINE RESOURCES INFORMATION
SYSTEM (PIMRIS)**

In recognition of the existing cooperative activities under PIMRIS (see attached background paper)

The Parties:

Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

The University of the South Pacific (USP)

hereby agree:

To fully support the management, administration and the effective operation of the ***Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System (PIMRIS)*** in order to provide up-to-date information services to Pacific island countries and territories;

That The University of the South Pacific continues to be the Co-ordination Unit for PIMRIS activities.

That the PIMRIS Steering Committee serve as an advisory body on protocols for information exchange and delivery. The membership of the Committee includes, but not limited to, the

following:

- . PIMRIS Co-ordinator, USP.
- . Representative of the Marine Studies Programme, USP.
- . Information Officer or Librarian, FFA;
- . Information Centre Manager/Librarian, SPREP;
- . Librarian or Fisheries Information Adviser, SPC;
- . Librarian, SOPAC; and
- . National Fisheries/Marine Resources Department Representatives.

That this MOU becomes effective from the date of the last signature and will be reviewed every five years.

Purpose:

That PIMRIS continues as a regional marine resources (living and non-living) information network with the following aims:

1. Develop and maintain a comprehensive regional marine information bibliographic database for Pacific Island countries and territories;
2. Foster greater co-operation between the parties to the sharing and networking of marine-based information resources;
3. Facilitate access of information to marine resource workers in the Pacific island countries and territories;
4. Provide technical assistance and training to national fisheries/marine resources departments subject to availability of resources; and
5. Establish links with appropriate international marine/aquatic sciences information agencies and organisations.

Vice-Chancellor, The University of the South Pacific

Director General, Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Director, Forum Fisheries Agency

Director, South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission

Director, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

(MOU was reviewed by PIMRIS Steering Committee Meeting on 11 July 2001.)