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SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

TENTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 13 - 17 March 1978)

COUNTRY STATEMENT - NIUE

by

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Niue (has a population of 4,000 people) is a roughly elliptical island of 100 sq. miles surrounded by a 30 yd. fringing reef with depths of 100 fathoms within 300 yds. of the shore all round. Intermittent currents run North to South up to 3 knots with several current convergence areas off the various headlands.

The local fishery consists of several one-man canoes and approximately 30 aluminium dinghy powered by small out-board motors. The main local catch consists of tuna and wahoo, with some hand-lining for demersal species.

In 1976 Niue imported \$50,000 of fish products.

Following a request to New Zealand from the Niue Government, a bilateral aid scheme was set up consisting of 1-28 foot G.R.P. "Karitane" boat, one fisherman and a range of suitable fishing gear.

In July 1977 fishing commenced. Four local fishermen are being trained in various fishing techniques and the practical details of boat-handling maintenance, chartwork, coastal navigation, basic meteorology and safety procedures.

Methods used to date include: trolling, floating and bottom gill-netting and long-lining, hand-lining, dahn-lining and various bait capture methods.

It is envisaged that at the end of the first year's operations that the project be fully localised and a fishing pattern be established.

All fish caught are marketed directly to the public by the fisheries section at less than half the local retail rate with an understandably enthusiastic response from the local population.

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