

The conference proceedings, containing the papers presented at the meeting, will be published later this year. The venue for the next conference has yet

to be decided. However, Dr Lewis is organising a ciguatera management workshop to be held in Queensland, Australia, in May 1993.

Note: Below are summaries of the country statements from Solomon Islands, Fiji and the Cook Islands which were presented at the conference.

Ciguatera in the Solomon Islands

*by E. Oreihaka,
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Ciguatera fish poisoning receives very little recognition in Solomon Islands. There is no organised research or monitoring of ciguatera fish poisoning carried out in Solomon Islands as yet, so as to determine the current status of the problem and there are other major health problems such as malaria to worry about.

Though there have not been any confirmed cases of ciguatera fish poisoning in the Solomon Islands as yet, from traditional knowledge and anecdotal information on case histories, fish poisoning which was probably ciguatera has occurred in certain areas. These are restricted to reefs, atolls and small islands. No cases of ciguatera fish poisoning appear to have occurred on any of the major islands in the Solomon Islands.

Fish species which are considered ciguatoxic in the Solomon Islands include;

- *Lutjanus bohar*
- *Lutjanus sebae*
- *Sphyraena barracuda*
- *Symphoricarthus spirilus**
- *Platax teira*.

It is believed that some people have traditional medicine for treating ciguatoxin-intoxicated patients.

Apart from the regulation imposed by the Provincial Government of Temotu Province, which prohibits sale of fish species considered ciguatoxic in the province, there is no law or regulation concerning ciguatera poisoning in Solomon Islands.

Ciguatera fish poisoning is as yet not a major health problem in Solomon Islands. It is therefore not clear at this stage as who should take responsibility for dealing with ciguatera issues. It does, however, threaten coastal fisheries development and thus perhaps should principally be regarded as a fisheries problem. For further information on ciguatera in the Solomons please contact the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division, P.O. Box G24, Honiara, Solomon Islands.

* Note from the editor: it could be *Symphorus nematophorus*

Status of ciguatera in Fiji

*by Parmanand Singh,
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In Fiji, cases of ciguatera have increased significantly in the last decade. In 1989, 1990 and 1991 the number of cases attended by government medical authorities were 683, 787 and 1,012 respectively. Some people call these figures alarming because innocent people are victims of intoxication and the inability of fisheries science to address the problem which has occurred for quite some time. Ciguatera poisoning is seen as an unnecessary obstacle in coastal fisheries development.

Ciguatera in Fiji causes many symptoms in humans, depending on the dosage received. These include gastrointestinal (diarrhoea, pain, nausea),

neurological and cardiovascular disturbance. Symptoms begin a few hours after eating the fish and can last for days and months. After recovering from a bout of ciguatera poisoning, the symptoms can be brought on again after eating more fish, even if those fish would not harm another person.

There is no cure for ciguatera poisoning yet and treatment is symptomatic only. Aspirins and Panadol tablets are used as painkillers, Phagon tablets and Stemetil injections for vomiting, and patients with diarrhoea, vomiting and dehydration are treated with intravenous fluids (only patients with these serious symptoms are admitted to hos-