

MWIN OANĀN

Nauru Fisheries & Marine Resources Authority

NEWSLETTER

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NFMRA NEWS

February 2004



Hon. Russell Kun, LLB, MP.
Minister for Justice & Natural Resources.

Message from the Minister.

As the newly appointed Minister responsible for Fisheries, I welcome you to this month's publication of Mwin Oañan.

This issue covers some of the activities accomplished previously but especially those that took place during February. Such activities are overseas and local trainings and meetings, search and rescue

operations and research developments.

Although the Authority is considered a fairly new industry, several projects have been completed and new ones launched but just as important are the projects, which are ongoing throughout each fiscal year. These are the specialized training programs for NFMRA officers and in-country workshops for interested public on various fishing developments including boat and outboard motor maintenance.

During the latter half of this month I took part in the graduation event for several fisheries staff who, undertook the *4 Stroke Outboard Motor Short Course* and succeeded with a certificate to prove their hard work. The course, sponsored by the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) of Japan is the first of several such courses to be conducted this year.

A new development, which commenced this month, is the trial project Vertical Long Line (VLL) fishing. The aim of this project is to determine the feasibility of VLL fishing and whether the Authority should develop it further. This is an important trial because it is a priority of Nauru Fisheries to ensure that all fishing methods practiced offshore and inshore **must** promote sustainability. The necessary trial and eventual adoption of the various and potential fishing methods will not only ensure a stable local market, but will also assist with fish exports.

Through the decline of Nauru's main source of income, which is *Phosphate*, the fisheries sector is viewed and said to be one of Nauru's remaining and promising assets. The afore-mentioned project and other such trainings are aimed at developing our fishing industry.

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Technical Service's GRADUATES

On 25 February 2004, Fisheries staff from the Technical Services (TS) section was awarded certificates for successfully completing the *4 Stroke Outboard Motor Short Course*. Present to officiate the award presentations were the Minister responsible for Fisheries, Hon. Russell Kun LLB, MP and Research & Development Manager Peter Jacob.



The Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) of Japan sponsored the one-week training program, which commenced on February 16. Representatives of the OFCF organization here to conduct the short course were Koei Teremai - Marine Engineering Expert, Kyuya Ito - Fisheries Advisor and Koji Minato - 4 Stroke Motor Expert. The OFCF reps made several fact-finding trips to Nauru prior to the commencement of this short course to assess train-

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ing equipments, available tools and other specific appliances needed for the course practicals. The participants selected to take part in the training were Camlus Reiyetsi – Senior Technical Services Officer; O’Brien Aboubo – Asst. Fishing Coordinator; Camillo Scotty – Shore Engineer; Slade Benjamin – Boat Operation & Maintenance; Shadrach Rodiben – Boat Operations & Maintenance; Rink Olsson – Fitter & Turner; Bjohn Detageouwa – Boat Operations & Maintenance; and Hudson Agadio – Engineer.

The graduation function held outside the training workshop commenced straight after work with many



of the trainees work colleagues present to join in the celebrations. The generous sponsors provided a buffet of local and intercontinental food and an assortment of beverages, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended the presentation event.



This short course is the first of many more similar training programs which will be conducted throughout this year.

Mwin Oańan takes this opportunity to extend congratulatory wishes on behalf of management and its sections to all

Foreign Vessel Activities..... “Ikiribati fishers rescued”

February 25th 2004 saw a foreign fishing vessel enter Nauru waters. This type of urgent port call is rare and usually for emergency reasons. The incoming vessel encountered on their fishing expedition an incident that required a call to the nearest port.



To the east of Nauru, a Japanese research fishing vessel, *Taijin Maru 18* (top), encountered a big dug out canoe adrift with three undernourished fishermen aboard. The vessel detoured to pick up the three weak fishermen and made the emergency port call to Nauru. The very weak state of the rescued men prevented the research crew from inquiring of their national status. On the way to Nauru’s port the men were given water and food by the crew of the rescue vessel. The three drifters were advised to take small portions of their food and to eat slowly to deter the onset of stomach cramps.



Unfortunately two of the men were so hungry they ignored the warning and suffered severe cramps. The distress call sent to Nauru was relayed to Fishery’s Oceanic section which was immediately acted upon. They notified the proper authorities - Customs & Immigration and Health - were notified about the emergency and also notified Fish-

ery’s Technical Services which launched a boat to ferry the emergency team to the vessel on it’s arrival. Arriving at Anibare harbour, the *Taijin Maru* was



boarded by Customs officer Ernest Stephen, Dr. Fredrick Kambual (AusAid) and an Ikiribati orderly who also acted as interpreter. Oceanic’s Terry Amram and Ace Capelle were also

amongst the boarding group as its their duty to check if the vessels papers are in order. The rescued fishers said that they were from the Kiribati village of Tabiteuea and have been adrift since February 6. Their survival was due to living off the fish they caught. Dr. Kambual said after thoroughly checking the fishermen that were still undernourished and dehydrated.

After going through all the official formalities the three men were taken ashore for further observation at the R.O.N hospital.

Although the arrival of the *Taijin Maru* was under emergency circumstances, OFCF reps currently on



the island Kyuya Ito and Koie Teremaei were ecstatic in meeting with its crew whom all came from Japan. The two also boarded the vessel on arrival to act as interpreters in case the research vessel crew could not understand English.

Projects.....

Vertical Long Lining (VLL) Trial

Conducted by the Authority's Coastal section under the supervision of Ricky Starr (Survey & Research) a trial on the Vertical Long-Line (VLL) fishing method began in January of this year. The purpose of this six-month trial is to gather information on the feasibility and success rate of this method of fishing.



During the preparation stage of the trial, Coastal officer Ricky worked closely with Research & Development Manager (RDM) Peter Jacob to determine the finer details such as hook sizes, the type of bait to use, the number of sets to deploy and the release sites. Also at hand to assist in the actual deployment of the VLL trial, were Technical Services officers to crew the multi-purpose boat NF2 (Dogua).

For the first part of the month, coastal officers focused on gear preparations and the installation of some equipment aboard NF2. Most of the equipment needed was readily available on the island and some were borrowed from the long line vessel, NF6. The day before the VLL exercise was to take place Ricky and fellow officers did a final check of the equipment



and launching details.

On 21 January at dusk and weather permitting, the first trial was conducted with the release of four sets at different intervals after-which they were retrieved according to the order they were released. Sets one (19 hooks) and two (20 hooks) both VLL fishing had zero catch when they were hauled in. Set number three also VLL fishing was much more productive with five out of the 20 hooks landing four Yellow fins and one Bigeye tuna. The fish weighing from 10 to 20 had a total weight of 65 kilograms. The fourth set released was not VLL but Surface Long-Line (SLL) fishing, which consisted of 52 hooks. Upon retrieval one shark weighing 22 kilograms was found on the 31st hook.

According to the results of the first trial, SLL will not be conducted again unless some modifications are adjusted. VLL fishing will continue at least once a month to pursue the aim of collecting the necessary data over the said six-months trial to form the basis of a report, which will assist management in determining the inclusion of VLL fishing in future developments.

Internal Ripples.....

"Section Heads meet"

In keeping with the objectives and strategies of the Authority, it was decided by management that senior officers in charge of the various sections preside at a weekly meeting with at least one head of department, namely the Research and Development Manager (RDM).



Mr. Peter Jacob (*pic top*) as R&D Manager has conducted these weekly meetings, which began in December up to date.

Senior officers attending the meetings are those heading the sections directly responsible to RDM: Technical Services (TS) – Camlus Reiyetsi; Coastal Fisheries Development (CFD) – Margo Deiye; Communication & Safety (CS) – Ramos Agege. Recently included in the meetings are the sections

whose tasks overlaps with that of RDM and its sub-sections such as Human Resource Development (HRD) – Abi Caleb and Women's Fisheries Development (WFD) – Lara Atto.

Meetings entail going through the list of tasks and the section responsible for researching and or developing the task to give a brief report on its status. This process of setting priorities and working guidelines ensures the participation of management not only at the decision making level but also in researching and developing the given tasks. There are numerous positive points of these meetings but the most obvious is that this cooperative approach would bring about a more productive and effective way of developing and implementing future strategy action plans.

NFC Swirls.....

'Fish Market'

Currently, the operational activities at the Nauru Fish Market are at a minimal due to the insufficient supply of fish available for sale and for processing.



The standard measure is that Authority fishing vessels NF5 (Victor Eoaeo) & NF6 (Austin Bernicke) provide the fish quota for the local market and the overseas market.

Due to mechanical problems of both vessels the lapse in market supply has compounded. It is expected that by

next month NF6 will function as normal and that NF5 will undergo further repairs. The sale and processing of fish is very limited due to the insufficient supply being brought in by the local fishermen. The limited supply of fish produce has led management to change



some of the standard working practices, such as the reduction in hours of staff. During this lapse, management and staff at the Nauru Fish

Market will continue to encourage the local boat owners to sell some or all of their fish produce to the market.

Travel Logs.....

"Women in Maritime"

Regional seminar for the Pacific Island countries focusing on the "role of women in the maritime sector: Opportunities and challenges" conducted during October was held in Apia Samoa. Nauru Fisheries was represented by senior officers from the Human Resource Development (Abi Caleb) and Womens Fisheries Development (Lara Atto) sections.



Abi Caleb

Although it was expected to be a gathering of women only, a total of four men working for different bodies located in and around the Pacific region were also present.

Prior to the official opening day, Ms Pamela Tansey (Head of the Programme Management and Institutional Development Section of the Technical Cooperation Division of IMO) opted to put everyone at ease by getting introduction formalities over and done with during the registration process.

The three-day seminar focused on the three perspectives: *Institutional*; *Personal*; and *Samoan*. To ensure that all participants have a direct input into the seminar, they were allocated into their choice of



Lara Atto

working group. The four main issues raised from which group members discussed their thoughts and ideas on the challenges and solutions before presenting to the seminar body were: *Accessibility of maritime training for women*, *Accessibility of employment in the maritime sector for women*, *Role models and access to decision makers*, *What advocacy systems would assist women to further careers in the maritime*. The group presentations as the "basis of the resolutions" will be taken by Ms Tansey and presented to IMO meeting of Council.

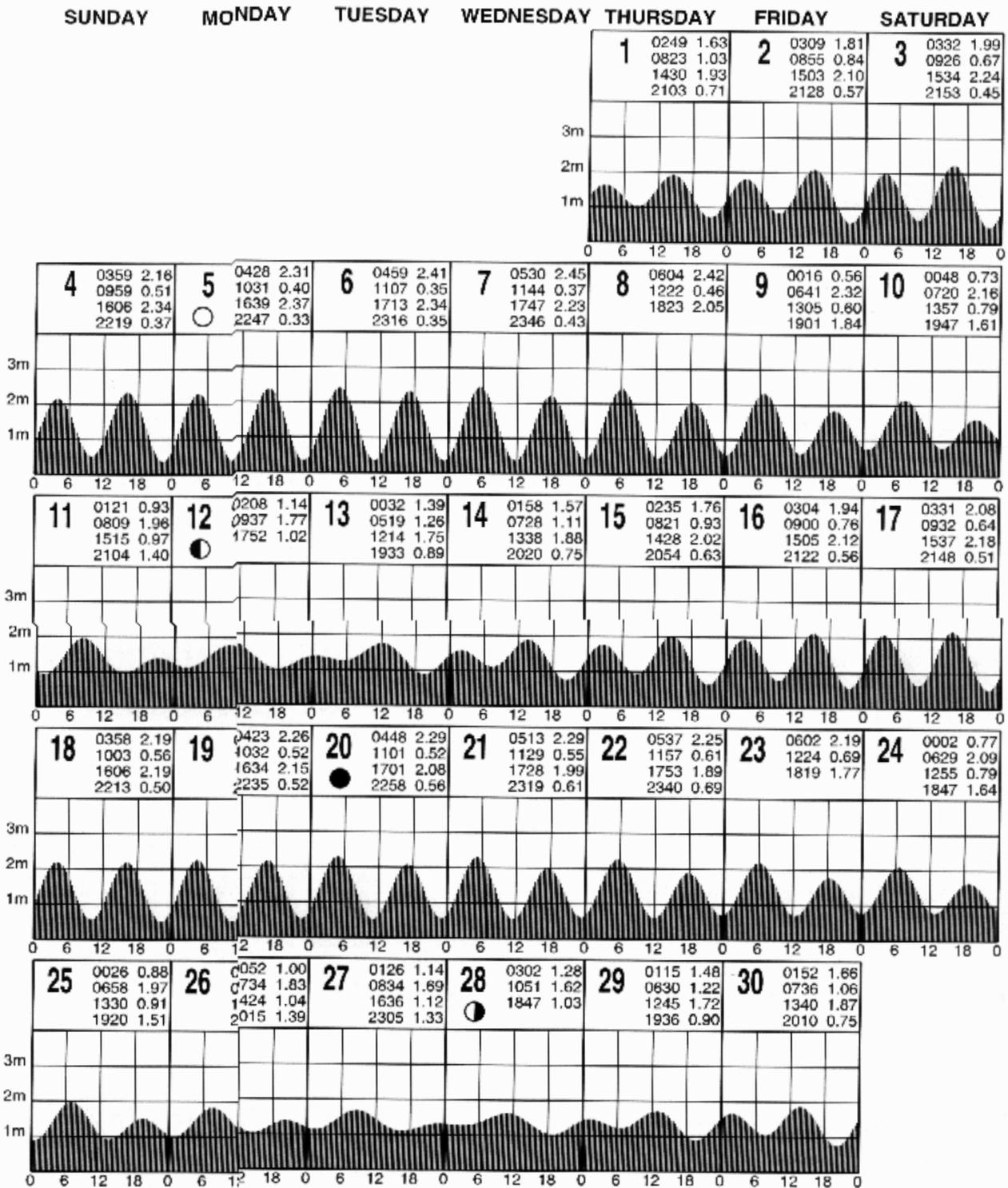
The main point stressed by several speakers was the "important role women play in the Pacific region and ... the opportunities for women in the maritime sector." In conclusion, a unanimous decision was made by those present to request *SPC Regional Maritime Programme* to assist in the setting-up of a Women's Maritime Association for the Pacific Islands and to launch a newsletter, a move in the right direction which would benefit the generations of women today and in the future.

TIDE PREDICTIONS FOR NAURU

APRIL – 2004

LOCAL STANDARD TIME

Tide gauge zero is 7.2929 metres below NAU1



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DISCLAIMER: These tide predictions are supplied in good faith and believed to be correct. No warranty is given in respect to errors, omissions, or suitability for any purpose.

Tide in Tide out.....

NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF SEAFOOD

Source: Seafood in our Diet Community Fisheries Training - Pacific Series #2

Fish and other seafood are excellent sources of protein, vitamins and minerals and are very low in fat.

Protein from seafood is very high quality and easily digested by the body.

Vitamins work to keep all parts of the body healthy and free from disease. Oily fish such as mackerel are good sources of Vitamin A and Vitamin D. Fish livers are very rich in vitamin A. Vitamin A is needed for proper growth, healthy eyes and skin, and protection from infection. Vitamin D is important for bone growth and health. Seafood also contains some of the B vitamins, which help the body to release energy from its stores. Niacin is another B vitamin that helps release energy from carbohydrates.

Minerals help build up bones, teeth, the blood, and many important body fluids. Small fish are good sources of calcium. Calcium makes bones and teeth strong. Iodine and fluoride are also found in fish. Iodine prevents goiter, a disease of the thyroid gland, and fluoride helps to prevent tooth decay. Clams, mussels, oysters and fish liver are good sources of iron. Iron is needed for healthy blood. Zinc, which is found in seafood, helps in the release of energy in the body and to heal injuries. Selenium, another mineral found in fish helps remove poisons from the body.

Oils are found in small amounts in most fish and seafood. Most seafood is low in saturated fats but contains instead the types of fats that can help as part of a healthy balanced diet to reduce the risk of heart disease. Some types of shellfish contain a type of fat called cholesterol, which was thought to cause increased risk of heart disease, but evidence now shows that the total amount of fat in the diet is more important. Fish is usually lower in fat than meats. Unfortunately, many people increase the fat in seafood dishes by frying them in butter or rich batters or serving seafood with coconut cream, creamy sauces and cheese.

Taste Fishy.....

Baked Tuna Noodle Casserole

Source : cooksrecipe.com

- 1 (12-ounce) package egg noodles,
- 1/4 cup butter,
- 1 medium onion, chopped,
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 small green (bell) pepper, chopped,
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 1/2 cups milk
- 1 (12.5-ounce) can tuna, drained
- 1 (7-ounce) can sliced mushrooms, drained
- 1 teaspoon dried dill weed
- 1 teaspoon coarse salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, grated
- 1/2 cup cracker or potato chip crumbs

1. Grease 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking dish; set aside.
2. Cook noodles according to package directions.
3. Melt butter in medium-sized saucepan; add onion, celery and green pepper. Cook until vegetables have softened. Add flour and continue to cook, stirring constantly, for 1 minute. Slowly stir in milk; bring to a boil and cook for 2 minutes. Remove from heat. Add the tuna, mushrooms, dill weed, salt and pepper, gently stirring to mix.
4. Place half the cooked noodles in prepared baking dish. Spoon on half the tuna mixture and top with 1 cup cheese. Repeat with remaining half of ingredients in same order. Top with the crumbs.
5. Bake at 350°F (175°C) for 30 minutes or until golden and bubbly.

Makes 6 servings.

FISHERY PICTORIALS



OFCF's Koji Minato demonstrating his theory to workshop participants.



Minato San with attentive students from left; Camalus, Slade and Bjorn.



Bjorn learning from O'Brien Aboubo an experienced student.



OFCF Specialist Ray Nichols posing with from left; Gary, Oswin and Lyndon.



Nichols pointing out vital components of an aluminum welder to his charges.



Oswin practical testing regulated strength of welder overseen by tutor Mataio.