

MWIN OÑAÑAN

Nauru Fisheries & Marine Resources Authority

NEWSLETTER

Volume. 7 NFMRA NEWS May 2004



Hon. Russell Kun, LL.B.M.P.
Minister for Justice
& Fisheries.

Message from the Minister

May issue welcomes you to another informative publication of fisheries activities. This issue includes the annual celebration of one of Nauru's historical event, Constitution Day commemorated on the 17th of May and this year marks the 36th anniversary. Nauru Fisheries, along with the nations' festive program held its annual fishing competition to commemorate the occasion. Detailed results of the com-

petition have been included and suffice to say the day was an eventful and enjoyable success considering the number of place winners in each category went from only three to five. This month several training opportunities were offered to the Authority. NFMRA staff from the Coastal, Technical Services and Communications & Safety sections were enlisted in a First-Aid training course that was offered in conjunction with AusAid and the Health department. Also highlighted in this issue is the 'open-water diving' course. This special training was prompted by the urgent need of the Coastal section to implement one of it's major tasks which is research. As certified divers, the

Coastal staff will be able to conduct their work underwater safely and professionally. Additional duty of this section is to monitor the condition of the reef, included as the main story of this issue. Another form of aid is the provision of technical assistance from overseas sponsors. This month, Japan's Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) donated two brand new 4-stroke outboard motors and also sent engineering experts to oversee their installation. May has been an eventful month showing the importance of team work to produce effective and positive results. I am glad to be a part of that team.

NCRMN Surveys Nauru's Reefs

Nauru's coral reef has twice received a thorough scrutiny this month by NFMRA's coastal section divers. Scrutinizing of the reef was instigated due to the mass fish kill incident which occurred last year.



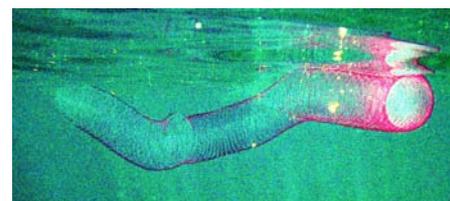
The two survey teams consists of Ebelina, Jake, Delvin, Oswin, Lucky, David and Bjorn. Ms. Margo Deiye who recently was appointed with Mr. Peter Jacob as national coordinators

for the Nauru Coral Reef Monitoring Network (NCRMN) by the GCRMN-Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network was in charge of the survey. The survey under the term 'manta tow' is done by towing 2-4 snorkeled divers (*above*) holding boards taped with survey papers (*top right*) to note the coral types seen during



the tow. The result of the survey is important to Nauru in implementing ways in enhancing and protecting our precious coral reefs.

Note: *During the manta tow at Ijuw the divers encountered a sea creature never seen before here.*



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NFMRA NFMRA

Community Service.....

2004 Constitution Day Fishing competition.

Nauru's Constitution Day falls on the 17th of May and this year Nauru Fisheries celebrated the 36th anniversary by sponsoring a fishing competition on the first ensuing weekend, Saturday 22nd May 2004.



The competition which, officially ran from 5am to 10am, had three competing categories:

Single Heaviest Catch; Overall Weight; and Variety of Catch. The breakdown of prizes is slightly different from previous years



in that there are now five (5) cash prizes for each of the competing categories instead of the standard three (3). Winners prizes are awarded as follows: 1st - \$350.00; 2nd -

\$225.00; 3rd - \$150.00; 4th - \$125.00; and 5th - \$100.00. A total of 16 boats took part in the fishing

PLACE	NAME	QTY
Most Variety		
1st Prize	Bobby. D	6 species
2nd Prize	Jerome A	5 species
3rd Prize	Quillen D	5 species
4th Prize	Jupiter T	4 species
5th Prize	Kuken D	4 species
Single Heaviest Catch (kg)		
1st Prize	Doneke K	YFT-22
2nd Prize	John K	YFT-20
3rd Prize	Bobby D	YFT-15
4th Prize	Gavin D	YFT-7.4
5th Prize	Oswin A	YFT-4.5
Total Overall Weight (kg)		
1st Prize	Barassi B	200
2nd Prize	Bibidok I	168
3rd Prize	John A	73
4th Prize	Oswin A	69
5th Prize	Brian D	68

tournament, which had several strict rules for the crews of fishermen to follow. The first and most important guideline is that the method of fishing is "Trolling by hand line only" and it



also stresses that **NO** winches, fishing rods, floaters, fish under 1kg, shark and deep-sea fish are al-

lowed.

Launching of boats was optional for the eager fishermen as both the Anibare Boat Harbour and Gabab Channel could be used. Although due to personal choice not all boat operators reg-

istered their catch, congratulations are in order for those fishermen who entered the competition. Despite the unfortunate absence of trophies to go with the cash prizes, the competitors and sponsors considered the day a success.

Winners of the 2004 competition are as in table shown.

Internal Ripples.....

NFMRA Receives New 4 Stroke Motors

Through the ongoing assistance of Japan's **Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF)** to the Authority, this month saw the arrival of technical experts **Koei Teremai San** and **Kyuya Ito San** to oversee the installation of two brand new 4-stroke outboard motors that have been kindly donated by OFCF.



Adhering to previous arrangements in regards to the regular maintenance of NFMRA's vessels by OFCF technician experts, the Technical Service team along with the expert assistance of the two OFCF officers oversaw the installation of



the motors to one of the multipurpose vessels, namely the **Dogua**.

The recent upgrade to the 4-stroke motors is perceived as a fuel and cost effective measure compared to the 2-stroke models

installed on the **Dabage** earlier this year. It has been estimated that with these new motors fuel expenses will be reduced by half.

Subsequent to the mechanical work undertaken in the upgrade of the vessels engine, the OFCF technicians along with fisheries personnel and A/CEO, Anton Jimwereiy launched the **Dogua**-NF2 for a test drive. Suffice it to say that the crew returned satisfied with the results.

Tide in Tide out.....

FISHING FOR ANSWERS

NO one knows how much trauma a fish feels as it flaps around at the bottom of a boat after being caught.

And no one knows how many undersized fish survive when the hooks are wrenched of their mouths and returned to the sea.

To answer these questions, a fishing competition was organized at Botany Bay, Australia. There were 200 recreational fishermen on 95 boats in attendance.

Their catches were measured and tagged then released into a fish cage to monitor their survival rate. The fish will also have the cortisol levels in their blood measured to determine their stress levels. NSW chief scientist Steve Kennelly said the project was being driven in part by a growing wish among recreational anglers to be kind to the fish and to conduct themselves in an ethical manner. *"It is a sport and people like to look after their sport, they would like to know how to catch and release them while causing minimum harm."* he said.

While most fishermen will unhook and return the fish particularly when undersize, nobody knows how many sur-

vived.

Initial results show the answer about 90%, he said, anglers who used wet cloths when holding the fish and plying the hooks off causes less stress thus increasing the survival rate. Fish caught on lines in fact show less stress than those caught in nets because the nets immobilise their gills and drown them.

"It was a collaborative exercise between scientists and anglers," Sr. Research Scientist Matt Broadhurst said. *"It's a win-win situation because we learn more about what anglers do, and we can provide them with advice on how better to handle the fish"*.

The NSW Fisheries Minister Ian Macdonald said the research is part of their ongoing efforts to ensure the recreational fishing industry is sustainable because it is so vital to the economic future of many NSW communities.

*Source : Extracted from AustralianFishNews
Fishing for Answers by John Stapleton, 2004.*

Training.....

NFMRA Dive Students Acquire PADI Certificates

In a follow up of the open-water diving course that was covered in last month's issue, Mwin Oañan reports of the latest update of the program. This dive program that is independently funded by the Nauru Coral Reef Monitoring Network (NCRMN) is a part of a global network of research into the preservation and study of corals. At the national level NFMRA's very own Research Development Manager (RDM), Mr. Peter Jacob along with Coastal Fisheries Development Officer, Mrs. Margo Deiye is heading the research team.

Subsequent to last month's issue the training team began their dive practicum at the Anibare Community Boat Harbour, dive instructor Fiu Manueli began the diving process in shallow waters and slowly building up to deeper dives within open waters off



Aiwo and Denig districts.

In an interview with Mwin Oañan reporter who was following the group's progress, Mr. Manueli stated that the diving course was a success and that the participants were able to absorb all the information and directions given for a smooth transition through the stages. In conclusion the trainees were presented with their PADI Open-water awards that confirms them as certified open-water divers. Mr. Ramos Agege who was the acting RDM at the time offered the certificates on behalf of NFMRA and the NCRMN at a function held at the Anibare office complex.



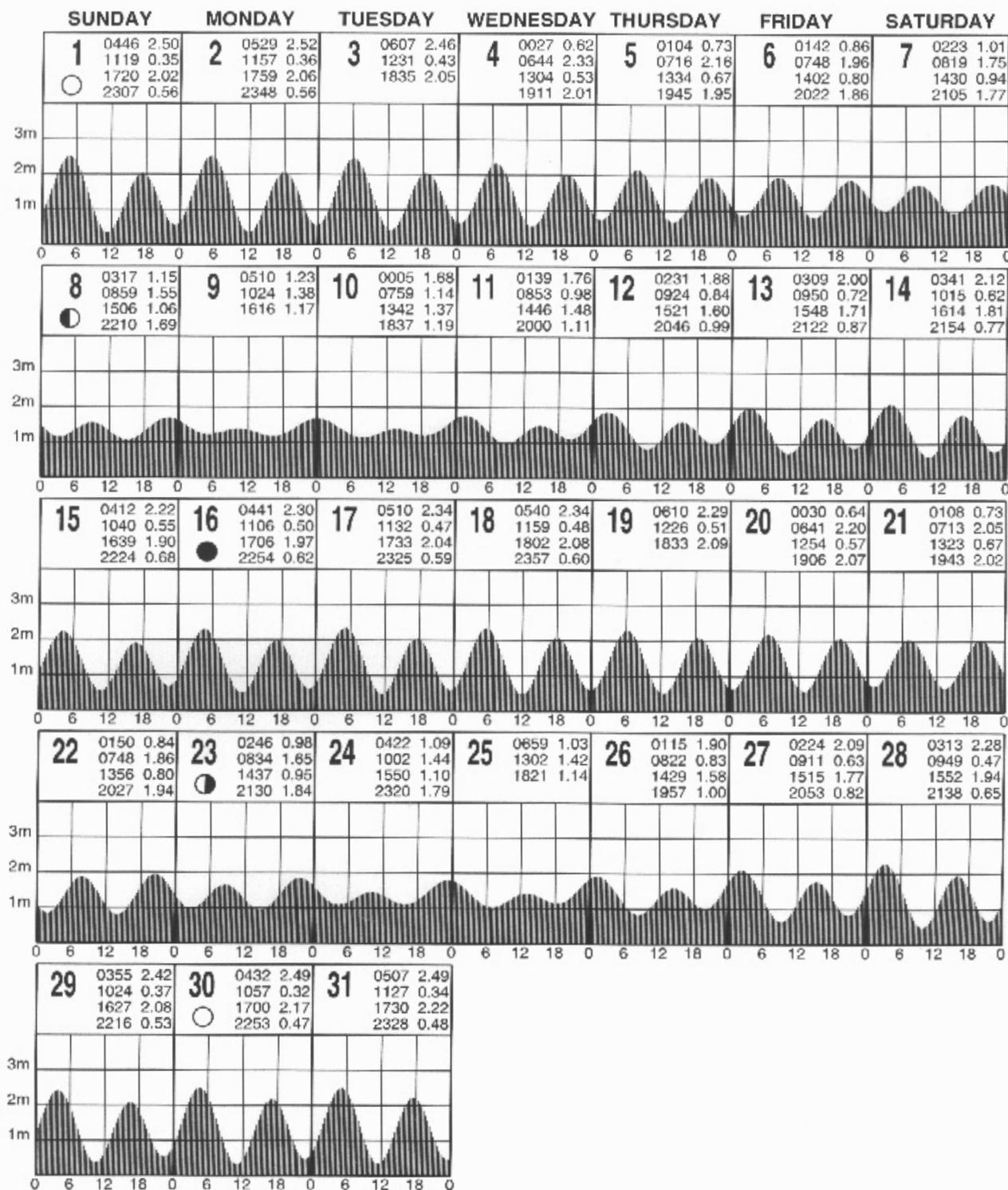
**Fisheries would like to thank the National Coordinators (Ms Margo Deiye and Mr Peter Jacob) of the NCRMN for arranging sponsorship of the open-water dive program.*

TIDE PREDICTIONS FOR NAURU

AUGUST – 2004

LOCAL STANDARD TIME

Tide gauge zero is 7.2929 metres below NAU1



Copyright. The National Tidal Facility Australia, The Flinders University of South Australia.

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.