

MWIN OAÑGAN

Nauru Fisheries & Marine Resources Authority
NEWSLETTER

Volume. 7

NFMRA NEWS

January 2004

Message from the Minister

2004 finds itself re-opening another chapter in the *reeling* activities of the fisheries sector and with the compulsory celebrations of the New Year festivities paving way for yet another eventful month within the fisheries sector. A certainty remains that during this initial month all focus will be geared towards a productive and safe result, I welcome you to another issue of Mwin Oañan.

Following the New Year celebrations, fisheries personnel were once again engaged in the preparation of another memorable day in the Nauruan calendar, the 31st of January marked an historical national event known as Independence Day and in uniform with past years the fisheries sector once again hosted this

year's Fishing Competition for the 36th anniversary of Independence Day. A full review and results of the contest will be found within the pages of this month's issue, I take this opportunity to commend the efforts of all the staff involved with the preparations of the competition, the success of the competition would have been futile without their hard work.

Also this year the Authority through an ongoing developmental initiative has adhered to upgrading its human resource through compulsory training at the University of the South Pacific, Nauru Center. Nauru Fisheries & Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) is a thriving industry and perceptive to changes, and with an ever-changing environment of an international fishing industry the move towards the upgrading of one of its most important asset – *Human resources*, is a deliberate move towards developmental achievement.

It is a known fact that over the years NFMRA has achieved many propitious ventures, many which have made their marks within the Nauruan infrastructure as well as history, what remains is the certainty that with the dwindling phosphate reserves and thus the declining national contribution of the Nauru Phosphate Corporation, the fisheries sector will be fast becoming one of the major industries in Nauru that would help in her development.

I take great pride in heading one of Nauru's promising assets, and through calm and stormy weather, *we*, the fisheries crew will endeavour to bring more successful and productive results.

On behalf of the fisheries sector, I wish you all a prosperous year. Happy Independence



Hon. Godfrey Thoma, MP,
Minister for Justice and
Natural Resources.

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NFMRA : History in the making

For this new-year, Nauru Fisheries has a lot to look forward to considering it has already notched one of the many milestones in its' future. On the 1st of July in 1997, the Department of Fisheries & Marine Resources was officially re-established as the Authority on all fisheries matters and just last year, it reached its' 5th anniversary as Nauru Fisheries & Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA).



Fishery Pioneers
Peter Jacob, Anton Jimwereiy, Charleston
Deiye and Allan Debaio (inset).

Before becoming the statutory body on all fisheries issues it functioned under the Island Development & Industry (IDI), which later became Island and Economic Development (IED), but is now known as the Department of Economic Development (DED). However, July 1996 became a turning point in the fisheries sector when recognition of a growing and promising industry paved

NFMRA NFMRA

way to the establishment of the Department of Fisheries & Marine Resources.

Although gaining individual status within the government sector, fisheries still existed like any other government department, depending on government support, finance and other technical matters. The decision to establish the Nauru Fisheries & Marine Resources Authority at that time was a government incentive to nurture and preserve its propitious resources, thus a year later a government statutory body, tasked by government as the representative and to negotiate in all matters relating to fisheries and marine resources of Nauru, from the land (aquaculture), reef areas and the 200 miles EEZ was created and renamed the Nauru Fisheries & Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA).

Upon the establishment of NFMRA, the '*Marine Resources Act (1978)*' was updated and enacted as the '*Fisheries Act 1997*'. This new legislation assumed the main functions of the repealed act but it also incorporated the international, regional and national requirements. Most important are those endorsed in the '*United Nations Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS)*', regulations relating to the Multilateral Fisheries Treaty with the United States, the '*Minimum Terms and Conditions of Access (MTCs)*' and the need for the "*protection of endangered fish species*". Recently "*Approved in Principle*" by the Fisheries Board is the *National Fisheries Objectives and Strategies 2003 – 2010*. This seven year plan is a guideline that "*seeks to increase the contribution of the fisheries sector to the welfare of the people of Nauru...*"

Presently guided by the *NFMRA Act 1997*, the main functions of the Authority is "*to make provision for the management, development, protection and conservation of the fisheries and living marine resources of Nauru*" so that they are replenished as a sustainable resource for generations to come. At the community level, the main focus is to put into effect strategy plans aimed at achieving "*economic growth, improved social and nutritional standards, human resource development, increased employment and a sound ecological balance*". Considering that the phosphate industry is nearing the end of its' mining era due to the depletion of phosphate deposits, the Government has developed and secured other means of generating revenue for the country.

Geographically isolated and small in comparison to her Pacific neighbours, Nauru has within her 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) an abundance of fisheries resources which is yet to be fully developed and exploited to achieve '*maximum economic benefits*' for generations to come.

Currently, Nauru is benefiting from the fisheries resources at a very small rate. On an annual basis, Government receives revenue from the payment of license fees by Distant Water Fishing Nations (DWFNs) that have a fishing agreement with Nauru. The only difference between the agreements is the average rate of returns at market value of tuna catch from Nauru's EEZ. A more prosperous venture for Nauru would be to harvest, process and market fisheries resources on its' own or in collaboration with other fishing companies. This enterprise is not only more beneficial for the nation but it also minimizes the dependence on access fees from foreign fishing nations.

Fully equipped with human as well as financial and technical resources, the NFMRA at this stage is in its initial part of utilizing its resources to their fullest advantage. Past achievements such as the establishment of Nauru's Fish Market and the recent addition of the two long line vessels will all play an integral part in aiding the fisheries sector to achieve its desired outcome.



NFMRA Long liners VE II & AB II



NFMRA LOGO

Upon the Authority's establishment in 1997, the NFMRA logo was adopted. This design portrays Nauru (12 point star) on southern half of equator (horizontal line) and her Exclusive Economic Zone (arc with fish tail). This logo that was judged the winner from various entries in the NFMRA logo competition was designed by Mr Yeru Uera of Boe District .



Community Service.....

January 31st 1968, is a date that all Nauruans are familiar with, because it's the birth date of their nation. The significance of this date has been etched in the minds of Nauruans and will be passed on to future generation of Nauruans as a day that Nauru became a sovereign nation.

In commemoration, many kinds of sporting tournaments are held which is why Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority in conjunction with the Government agreed to hold a fishing competition for the 36th Anniversary of Nauru's Independence on the 31st of January 2004.

Mr. Peter Jacob, Research and Development Manager as the appointed to organize the competition, drafted the program which he then delegated to the section heads responsible, Ms. Margo Deiye (CFDO) and Mr. Camalus Reiyetsi (STSO).

The program and rules of the fishing competition is as follows: fishing competition time is **5.00am to 10.00am**; boats to register at launch venue which is either Anibare or Gabab; method of fishing is **trolling only**; and fish **under 1kg** and **sharks will not be counted**.



Due to the rough and choppy seas at Anibare on the morning of the competition, most of the participants launched their boats at Gabab, with the exception of Mr. Jeb Bop.

While the fishers were busy competing out at sea, Fishery officials, Mr. Jacob, Mr. Ramos Agege (CSO), Ms. Deiye and Mr. Ricky Starr assessed the Anibare harbour and unanimously agreed that it is not safe for berthing. A message was



relayed to all the participants to berth at Gabab.

The first boat to enter Gabab at 8.45am (*competition close at 10.00am*) is owned by Mr. Brian Denitage, with his catch mostly of tuna mackerels weighed at 43.5kg. After Mr. Ricky Starr had officially recorded the total weight of catch, Brian re-launched his boat and fished this time at his own leisure. Mr Denitage's catch had set a precedent for the days fish landed, because when the competition ended the most fish species caught by the participants was the tuna mackerel.



The winners of the of the Fishing Competition for Nauru's 36th Anniversary of Independence Day were Mr. Jeb Bop & Company, not

really surprising, but for him to scoop all the first place prizes was an incredible feat, (*he almost tied with uncle Bobby in the most variety category*). A well deserved victory considering Jeb and crew were brave enough to launch at Anibare harbour, where none of the other participants dared to launch on the day. Presentation of prizes and gift vouchers by the Fisheries Chairman, Honourable Dogabe Jeremiah, MP, was officially done at Anibare Community Harbour.

A table of the official results is shown below.

Mwin Oañan on behalf of NFMRA in conjunction with the Government of Nauru wish to congratulate all winners and competing fishermen for participating in Nauru's 36th Anniversary of Independence

OVERALL WEIGHT		
FIRST	Jeb Bop & Co.	Yellow Tuna - 12 kg
SECOND	Trident Amram & Co.	Wahoo -7 kg (9.45 am)
THIRD	Jupiter Tsiode & Co.	Wahoo -7 kg (10.02 am)

SINGLE HEAVIEST		
FIRST	Jeb Bop & Co.	131.5 kg
SECOND	Knight Menke & Co.	63 kg
THIRD	Brian Denitage & Co.	43.5 kg

VARIETY		
FIRST	Jeb Bop & Co. (9.58 am)	Rainbow Runner, Barracuda, Tuna Mackerel, Yellow Fin Tuna, Skipjack Tuna, Dog Tooth Tuna - 6
SECOND	Knight Menke & Co. (9.59 am)	Rainbow Runner, Barracuda, Tuna Mackerel, Yellow Fin Tuna, Wahoo, Dog Tooth Tuna - 6
THIRD	Brian Denitage & Co.	Barracuda, Skipjack Tuna, Yellow Fin Tuna, Wahoo, Dog Tooth Tuna - 5

Training.....

'CODE OF CONDUCT CALL TO ACTION'

A 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 Women's Fisheries Development (Lara Atto) sections. Although it was expected to be a gathering of women only, a total of four men working representing 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 Co-operation Division of IMO) opted to put everyone at ease by getting introduction formalities over and done with during 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 working group. There were 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 setting up a Pacific Islands Women’s Maritime Association and preparation of a newsletter”, a move which would benefit the generations of women today and in the future.

NFMRA SECTIONS :

ACCOUNTS

The Accounts section is the division responsible in maintaining and controlling inflow and outflow of all funds within the Authority, this section made up of three (3) sub-divisions is manned by four (4) personnel, all of whom are answerable to its supervising senior, the Finance Manager (Finman). Assisting the Finance Manager are the Accountant (Ms. Betty Caleb), Account Clerk (Ms. Abigail Limen), Assistant Account Clerk (Ms. Gryndeline Doguape) and Accounts Clerk (Mr. Issac Seymour).

Within its sub sections, the *Main Accounts Division* is largely the central area of focus. At this point the routine operation of preparing Annual Budgets for both the Authority and its commercial sector and the yearly preparation of Final Accounts all fall within this section, the unenviable task of maintaining the standards of this section comes with the tenacity and hard-work of the Accounts team through the customary

process of maintaining proper records transactions, keeping track of overseas remittances and even recently, due to the inadequate functions of the Bank of Nauru,



the Accounts section has been involved in providing Telegraphic transfer services for the general public.

Apart from the infrequent services to the public, the Accounts section

is adamant in the regular operations of its other two divisions, namely the *Fish Market (FM) Complex* and the *Administration section*. Consecutively the FM as part of the commercial sector for the Authority is responsible in reporting to the Accounts section the sales of fish on credit or cash at the end of each business day, and also to maintain a monthly report to the Finance Manager at the end of each month. Through this process the *Accounts Clerk* has been relocated to the Fish Market complex.

The Accounts section’s last sub-division includes the Administration section, this section helps to provide variations of staff attendances, which in turn are utilised by the Accounts section for fortnightly salary payments.



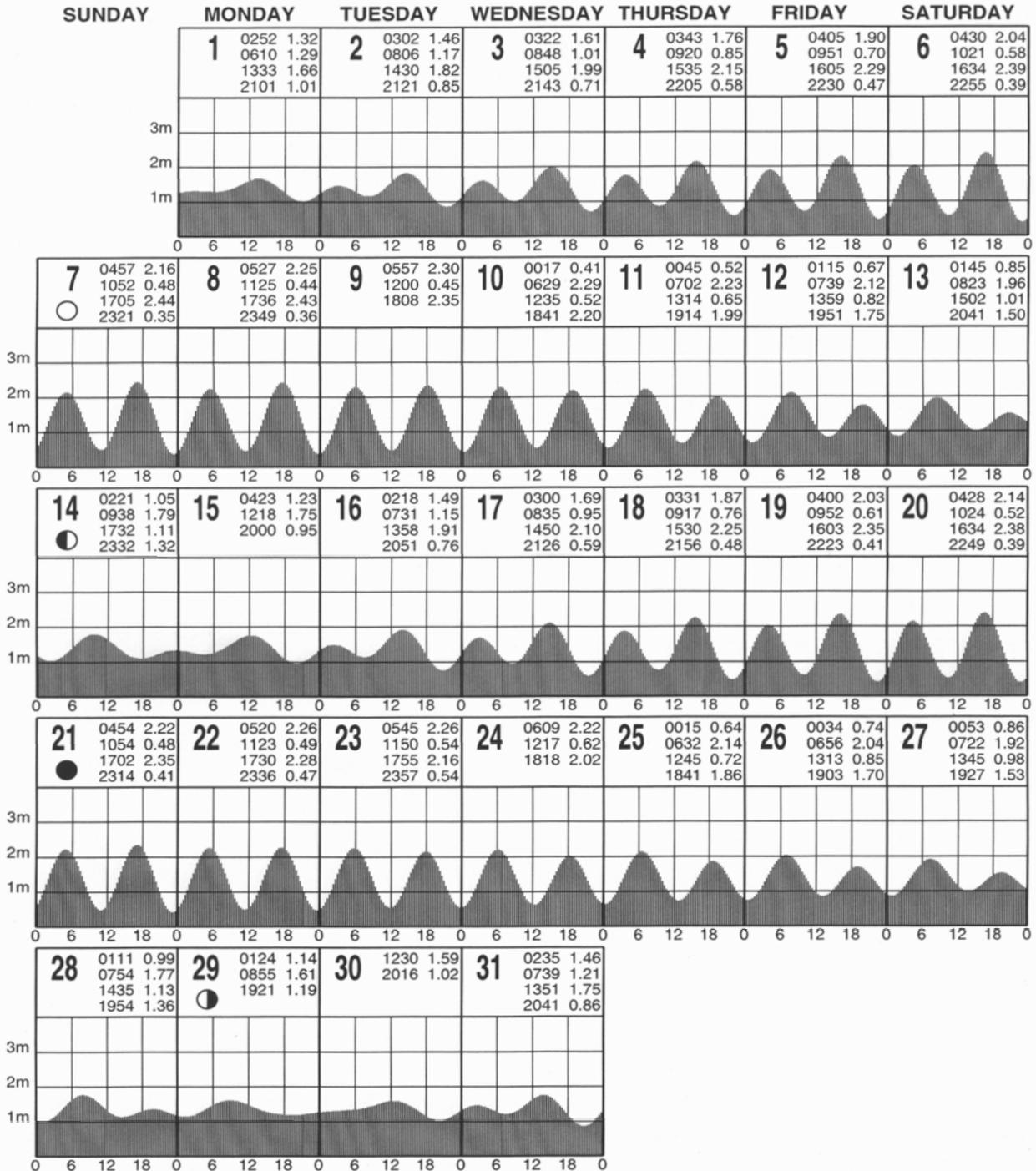
Betty Caleb, Deline Doguape & Vivek Varshney

TIDE PREDICTIONS FOR NAURU

MARCH – 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.

PICTORIALS



PROC

Oswin & Obrien with PROC fishers catch.



Fishing tour.

Peter with PROC fishing group.



Obrien helping PROC fisher.



36th Independence Fishing Competition.

Jason Hubert participant fish competition.



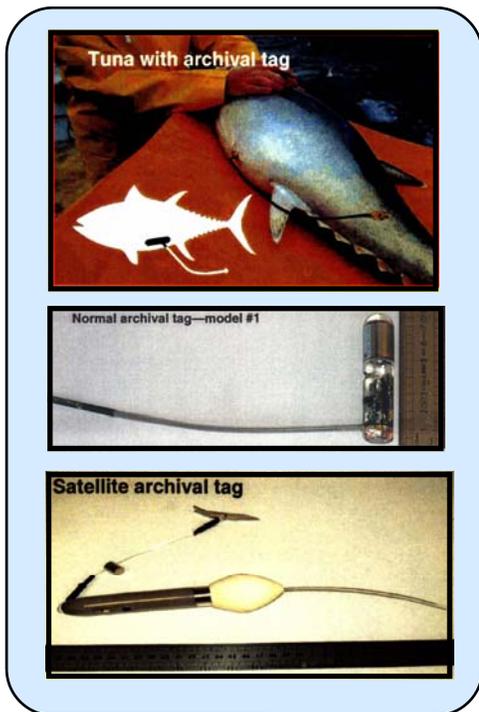
Peter & Chairman presenting Jeb with 1 of



Lucky & Ricky weighing fishers catch.

ADVERTISEMENT

REWARD
US\$250
TUNA ARCHIVAL TAGS



Archival Tags are small computers that record information about depth, temperature (internal and external) and position. Normal archival tags are placed in the body cavity of the fish, while satellite archival tags are fixed externally onto the fish and are released to float to the surface automatically after a predetermined period. Since satellites tags are released automatically, the chance of recovery is less than for a normal archival tag, but if a satellite tag is found, the reward will be the same.

If you see a fish with a 20 cm clear stalk trailing from its body cavity, there is an archival tag INSIDE the fish. *Please be careful when cutting the archival tag out.*

Record the length of the fish from the snout to the fork in the tail and the date and position of the recapture. Return tag and information to either :-

John Hampton,
 Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP),
 Secretariat of the Pacific Community,
 B.P. D5 98848 Noumea Cedex,
 New Caledonia.
 Tel: (Int) +687 262000
 Fax: (Int) +687 263818.

or
 Chief Executive Officer,
 NFMRA,
 Aiwo District,
 Republic of Nauru,
 P.O. Box 449,
 Tel: (674) 444 3733
 Fax: (674) 444 3812