

# MWIN O'AÑAN

Nauru Fisheries & Marine Resources Authority

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## NEWSLETTER

Volume. 8

NFMRA NEWS

May/June 2005

### Message from the Minister

This month triggers more on-going activities within the Nauru fishery sector. In-country workshops and assistance programs fill the Authority's timetable yet again with the ever-present expert support from the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Overseas Fishery Corporation Foundation (OFCF) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in the form of specialist assistance to Nauru's long-line vessel fishing operations and the planning and preparations for the deployment of FADs within Nauru waters. The SPC programme allows for training of fisheries personnel and the local public.

Occasionally, Nauru fishery extends its role into scientific data compilation within the regional area. The regional agent, the Forum Fishery Agency, organizes this through its *Observer Training Program*, which this month involved the participation of two of Nauru's citizen to the course. In-depth coverage of these stories will be found within the pages of this edition of Mwin-Oañan.

Nauru was represented at the annual PNA and FFC Meetings held in Majuro which also incorporated the first FFC Ministerial Meeting. Nauru will be host country to this annual meeting in 2006.

Community awareness just as important was implemented during the excursions of the local infant and primary schools.

I welcome you to this edition of Mwin Oañan.

Hon. Godfrey Thoma  
Minister for Justice  
& Marine Resources



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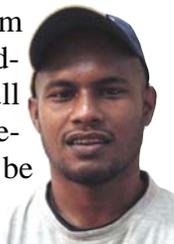
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### NFMRA Observer Candidates Pass with Distinction.

Early this year the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) advised Nauru that two full time observers were required from each member country to be assigned on fishing vessels licensed with FFA.

Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority advertised with Nauru media of FFA's requirements and more than seventy applicants applied. An examination supplied by the SPC and FFA narrowed the list to a total of ten. The successful ten then were interviewed by a Fishery panel consisting of David Uera (Coastal), Ace Capelle (Oceanic) and Terry Amram (Administration Manager). Although the other eight did not succeed, they will also be required when the FFA needed more Observers.

After being informed by Fisheries of their success, Elton Clodumar (photo left) and Sean Halstead (photo right) were immediately sent to an observer training program that was jointly organised by FFA / SPC and held in Pohnpei. The training course consisted of National Oceanic Atmospheric Agency's (NOAA) De-



hooking Technique & Sea Turtle Safe Handling and Release Guidelines, Forum Fisheries Agency & Secretariat of the Pacific Community's (FFA/SPC) Regional Observer Training Certification Standards.

After completing the training course with flying colours - Sean commented.. "There were 14 trainees from various islands, 3 dropped out leaving 11. My colleague, Elton, was first in the exams and I came second." This achievement being the first made by any previous Nauruan representatives.

Due to their impressive achievement, the FFA advised the two newly certified observers before returning that their placements will be given first priority. Preparations are underway for the expected observer placements that will take a duration of 4 to 6 months on selected fishing vessels.

Elton and Sean's effort and achievement should silence the critics who thought that nepotism was involved in their selection. They have set high standards for Nauruans to follow. On behalf of NFMRA, Mwin Oañan conveys its congratulations to Elton and Sean.

# NFMRA RIPPLES

## SPC FADs Deployed

The FADs that were donated to Nauru from SPC early this year have been deployed successfully. This success is due to the co-operation and team work of the NPC Marine Gang and Fishery's **Coastal and NFC team** led by *Coastal Fishery Development Officer* Ricky Starr and Capt. Michael Quadina aboard the NF6 (AB II). The FADs were deployed at the selected site recommended by SPC Master Fisherman William Sokimi.



### FAD POSITIONS

FAD #1 Meneng / Yaren

00° 31.8 S ~ 166° 55.3 E

FAD #2 Anabar / Ijuw

00° 29.4 S ~ 166° 58.3 E

*\* Coordinates of FAD positions are shown at right.*

## OFCE Returns

Nauru Fisheries again welcomes Japan's Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCE) who returned to oversee the complete the overhauling of NFMRA's long liner, Victor Eaoe II (NF5). The four man team led by Mr. Katsuji Fujita arrived late April and left early May, 2005.



Although unable to complete their tasks on NF5 due to the non-arrival



of its parts, the team met with Fishery's Management - Peter Jacob, Terry Amram and Charleston Debye - and discussed NFMRA's needs for 2006. Mr. Fujita is hopeful that parts needed in the completion of NF5 will arrive in June when Minoru Hatano and his team, arrives in Nauru for the signing of the MOU 2006.

## Chapman's Research

Lindsay Chapman who is the Fishery Development Advisor with the Secretariat of the Pacific Communities (SPC) conducted a consultancy evaluation on NFMRA's commercial entity, the NFC. On this SPC visit Mr. Chapman presented a feasibility report on the operations of NFC to date. Assisting Mr Chapman's research were NFC Management and the Accounts department. An impromptu meeting was then called for Fisheries Heads of Departments and the Board of Directors for Mr Chapman to present findings and recommendations for the future development of NFC. Chapman's recommendations is mainly to improve NFC's operations



which includes; 1) cutting costs, 2) increase revenue, 3) restructuring organisations structure, 4) streamlining accounting process and 5) greater autonomy by NFC from NFMRA. Present at the meeting were Hon. Marcus Stephen MP (Chairman), Hon. Cyril Buramen MP (V/Chairman), Peter Jacob (A/CEO), Terry Amram (Admin/Manager), Charleston Debye (Operations Manager), Ellington Dowabobo (NFC/GM), Margo Debye (A/Research & Development Manager), Vivek Varshnay (Finance Manager) and Allan Debao.

## Erana Attends Thailand Scholarship and Jake goes to Japan



Erana Aliklik, Human Resources Clerical Officer left Nauru on 27th May 2005 to attend a four-year non-fishery related undergraduate course in Thailand. Ms. Aliklik is one of 10 successful applicants of the Thailand Goodwill Programme.



Jake Debao, Coastal Fisheries Extension Officer will be representing NFMRA at OFCE's 3 month training course to be held in Tokyo, Japan. OFCE has been providing fishery training to NFMRA's personnel for more than 10 years. Mwin Oa'nan congratulates both Jake and Erana for being accepted by their respective donors and wish them success in their studies abroad.

## Master Fisherman's Long Haul in Nauru

William Sokimi, Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Master Fisherman will be in Nauru for two



months to assist NFC and Coastal sections develop fishing skills.

William's arrival was instigated by the feasibility report recently conducted by Lindsay Chapman (SPC Community Development Officer) on the

development of both NFC and NFMRA.

Sokimi's first few weeks will be spent on training of NFC fishermen in long-line fishing which would

involve spending more than 5-6 days out at sea.

Also included in the programme is *Safety at Sea* which emphasises survival skills and initiatives for

minor on-board vessel problems. William said.... "You can tell a school of fish by the way a flock of birds hovering over it. Birds flying low and fast could mean Skipjack, birds hovering high could mean big Yellow Fin Tuna or other big species."

A similar training programme will be conducted for the local fishermen.

*Photo far left: William with Capt's Diema and Tabakatu. Camillo keeping eye on trio.*

*Left: William showing NFC fishermen a few rope tricks (fishing knots).*

## Nauru Represented at FFC Meeting in Majuro.

The annual meetings of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) and the Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) were held in Majuro, Marshall Islands from 31st May to 10th June 2005.

Hon. Marcus Stephen (*Chairman*) and Peter Jacob (*A/CEO*) of NFMRA represented Nauru at the PNA Annual Meeting sessions. Hon. Godfrey Thoma (*Minister*) and Hon. Marcus Stephen, accompanied by Anton Jimwereiy (*Adviser*) and Rubin Tsitsi (*Nauru Representative-Majuro*) attended the annual meeting of FFC.

Major outcomes of the PNA Meetings were: **1)** the convening of a PNA Ministerial Meeting in October 2005



to sign off the proposed Vessel Days Scheme (VDS); **2)** to discuss matters concerning the Fisheries Partnership Agreement with the EU (*European Union*); and **3)** issues concerning the WCPF Commission.

Findings highlighted in the annual FFC Meeting and the first formal annual Ministerial FFC Meeting were: **1)** the approval and adoption for an annual FFC Ministerial Meeting under the approved FFA Strategic Plan 2005-2020; **2)** the endorsement for increased funding arrangements for the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) to support the FFA Strategic Plan 2005-2010; and **3)** endorsement and support for Nauru to host the next annual FFC Ministerial and officials meeting in 2006.



## Local Schools Visit NFMRA

In its endeavour to promote marine awareness to the general populace, the Fisheries accepted the request of a general visit from Kayser Infant and Yaren Primary schools to its establishment.

The Yaren Primary School (*photo top left*) consisting of 90 children and 3 teachers conducted their visit to the Anibare Boat Harbour and office complex and then the Nauru fish market on Thursday 5th May. Despite the number of visitors to the sites, the day was filled with informative and educational experience of the complexities and various activities within the fishing sector. An alternate visit of 45 children to the Anibare site and Fish market complex included the presentation of *food safety/handling and processing to more complex topics of mechanical and safety issues required in the running of Nauru's long-line vessel, the Austin Bernicke II.*



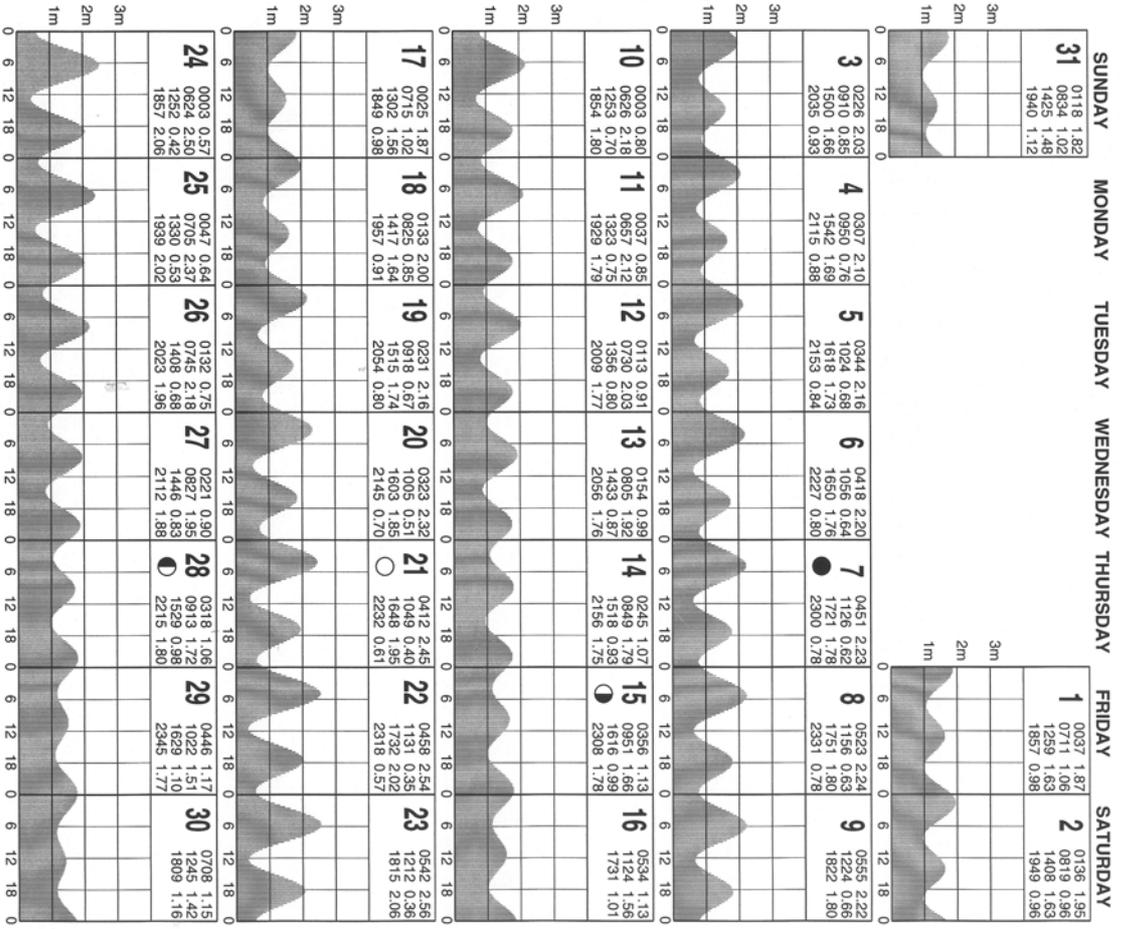
The Kayser College (*photo bottom left*) visitors although smaller in number with 30 children, 6 teachers and some parents and guardians repeated the excursion a week later on Friday 13 May and like the previous group were treated to another eventful and satisfactory welcome from the fishery sector. Mwin Oañan commends the effort of the various sections involved in the smooth operation of these visits and offers its gratitude to the Nauru Fisheries Corporation for providing fresh tuna on both visits for the display and demonstration of fish preparation at the Fish Market.

The Kayser College (*photo bottom left*) visitors although smaller in number with 30 children, 6 teachers and some parents and guardians repeated the excursion a week later on Friday 13 May and like the previous group were treated to another eventful and satisfactory welcome from the fishery sector. Mwin Oañan commends the effort of the various sections involved in the smooth operation of these visits and offers its gratitude to the Nauru Fisheries Corporation for providing fresh tuna on both visits for the display and demonstration of fish preparation at the Fish Market.

TIDE PREDICTIONS FOR NAURU

JULY - 2005 LOCAL STANDARD TIME

Tide gauge zero is 7.2929 metres below NAUI



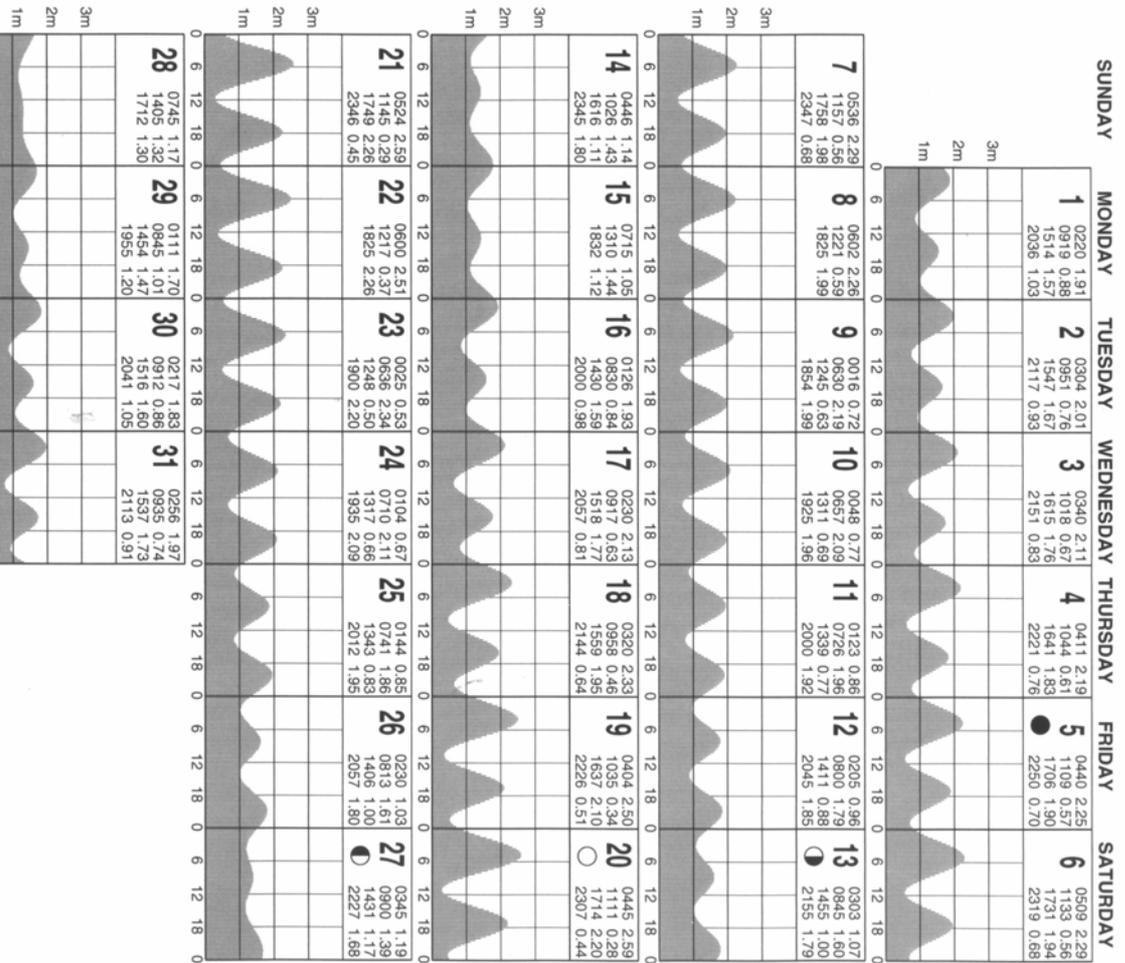
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TIDE PREDICTIONS FOR NAURU

AUGUST - 2005 LOCAL STANDARD TIME

Tide gauge zero is 7.2929 metres below NAUI



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