

PIMRIS

Pacific Islands
Marine Resources
Information System



NEWSLETTER

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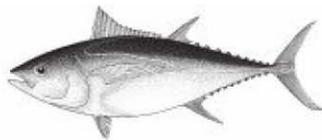
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Editorial



Bula and welcome to the first issue of 2012! It is another year of goals and activities that will surely be an exciting and challenging one. We were busy at the PIMRIS Coordination unit gearing up for the beginning of the USP academic year but breezed through the first two months without any major hiccups. A new part-time staff joined us in February (p.2) as part of USP Library's annual rotation programme. We also received new book acquisitions for the PIMRIS collection and some are listed in this issue (pp.14-15).

Tuna fisheries have again made regional and international headlines as both the industry and communities continue with efforts to curb overfishing and sustain tuna fisheries (p.5). A lot of research has been carried out and data analyzed to justify concerns and to help plan strategies for the future of the industry in our region. One such example is a report titled '*The Western and Central Pacific Tuna Fishery: 2010 Overview and status of stocks*', released by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) earlier this year (p.6) which highlights the plight of the 'big-eye tuna' species.

PIMRIS continues to inform and collect all documented knowledge and work that can assist all partners, researchers and decision makers in their roles. We will also continue to assist in developing national marine information collections and enhance the capacity of local staff to manage and disseminate marine information to targeted users. We are happy to report the successful completion of a regional workshop on website development coordinated by PIMRIS (pp.8-9).

Enjoy reading this issue and all the best for 2012!

Susana Macanawai, PIMRIS Coordinator

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An SPC report estimated around 2.4 million tons of tuna was caught in 2010. More details p.6. (Photo credit: WWF)

We invite you to send in any marine/fisheries related information, news, articles or updates for our next issue. Please contact us via email should you wish to contribute. Vinaka vakalevu & Fa'afetai lava!

Directory

PIMRIS is a cooperative network of fisheries and marine resources libraries and information centres in the Pacific. Participants include national ministerial libraries and regional agencies listed below.

For additional information, contact the Coordination Unit or a specific agency.

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New Faces, New Places

Thank You Suzie!

Suzie Davies, the former manager of the Library & Image Services at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in Townsville, Queensland has retired from her position after more than 20 years of service. Suzie who was instrumental in the formation of



Suzie Davies
IODE-GEMIM Expert

ODIN-PIMRIS since 2007 is also a former chair of IODE-GEMIM (IODE-Group of Experts on Marine Information Management). Suzie attended the ODIN-PIMRIS review meeting in May 2011. Her latest contribution to Pacific Island fisheries/marine library work involved the coordination of the marine/fisheries twinning programme for 3 Pacific Island library staff with funding she secured from AusAID. PIMRIS & the ODIN-PIMRIS project extend its heartfelt thanks to Suzie and wish her well.

Welcome Reshika!



Reshika Narayan
New PIMRIS staff

The PIMRIS Coordination Unit welcomes Reshika Narayan, its new part-time junior library assistant who replaces Sanjani Lata. Reshika joins PIMRIS after a year at the USP Library. Her relocation is part of Library's annual rotation programme.

Reshika is currently studying for a Diploma in Library/Information Studies at USP. Sanjani is now working as a Library Assistant at the Pacific Theological College, Nasese, Fiji.

Meanwhile, **Jainul Ali** continues her service and contribution to PIMRIS for the fourth year in a row since her rotation from the main USP library in 2009.

PIMRIS is expecting an additional staff (library attendant) to start in May.

USP-School of Marine Studies receives equipment from JICA

The School of Marine Studies of the University of the South Pacific, officially received around FJD\$500,000 worth of equipment from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on Wednesday 28 March 2012.

The handing-over ceremony which was held at USP Lower Campus was attended by staff and students of USP including the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology (FSTE), Dr Anjeela Jokhan, Head of School of Marine Studies, Dr Joeli Veitayaki, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Admin.& Regional Campuses), Dr Esther Williams and the JICA Resident Representative, Mr Shumon Yoshiara.

The equipment was given by JICA as part of its follow-up assistance programme and technical co-operation project. It included five outboard engines for the School's research vessels, fish aggregating devices (FADs), a farm tractor and assistance with renovations of the jetty and the upgrading of several laboratories and teaching facilities.



Dr Joeli Veitayaki, Mr Yoshiara and Dr Esther Williams with official documents at Lower Campus (Photo credit: Veitayaki)

In his speech, Mr Yoshiara highlighted the importance of the University of the South Pacific in the region as the hub for research and education. He also expressed confidence in USP utilizing the equipment effectively in order to gain maximum benefits in sustaining fisheries and related activities in the region.

Dr Esther Williams officially received the donated equipment and documents on behalf of the university and thanked JICA for its contribution.



JICA and USP's partnership started in 1988 when research facilities for the School of Marine Studies (SMS) at Lower Campus were constructed. Since then, JICA has provided several research experts to assist the School of in addition to donations and other contributions.

After the official hand-over ceremony, guests were treated to test runs of the research vessels with the newly fitted 'Yamaha' outboard engines around the seafont near Lower Campus.



Images on left: Research vessels on their test runs after the ceremony. (Photo credit: Veitayaki)

Susana Macanawai (PIMRIS)

SPC urges islanders to adapt new fishing strategies

Pacific Islanders are being encouraged to "fish small, not big," as the effects of climate change take a grip on their islands.

A fishing platform, or bagan, will help fishers change their fishing effort from large reef fish such as groupers and snappers, to small open-sea fish like sardines and anchovies. The bagan was launched and tested on Tuesday in Majuro in the Marshall Islands to demonstrate a fishing practice suitable for fishers across the Pacific.

The project is the brainchild of Michel Blanc, a Fisheries Development Adviser with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), with input from the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency.

"The bagan is a platform with a hole in the center, winches at each corner, a lift net hanging underneath and a string of lights," Blanc says. "It's a simple idea — the fish are attracted to the lights and then we haul the net to catch them. We need to find new sources of food, because the population of the Pacific Islands is rising rapidly and we can no longer depend entirely on reef fisheries," he says.

SPC predicts the human population in the Pacific will increase by 50 percent by 2030, while tropical Pacific reef fish populations are predicted to decline by up to 20 percent by 2050. Fish are becoming harder to catch because over-fishing has reduced their numbers. A threat looming over the fishery is climate change, which bleaches and then kills the coral where parrot-fish, grouper and snapper live.

"Small fish like sardines have lots of advantages. They breed quickly, they are highly nutritious, and they swim in schools which makes them easier to catch," Blanc says.

The fish can either be eaten or sold in local markets. Preparing fish for market will open up new job opportunities for women. Part of the training involves learning new recipes. Blanc says he prefers a simple approach: "fillet the fish, cook them for a very short time in lime juice and then eat them in a fish salad."

The bagan is a fishing technology used extensively in Indonesia, although the 10-square meter platform was built in Kiribati and shipped in kit form to Majuro. Two Indonesians will be helping with the demonstration.

More details:

http://www.spc.int/DigitalLibrary/Doc/FAME/InfoBull/FishNews/136/FishNews136x_14_Bagan.pdf

(Source: SPC)



The bagan, built in Kiribati, ready to be disassembled and shipped, in kit form, to Majuro (Photo credit: William Sokimi)

WWF-South Pacific advocates for responsible tuna fishing practices

The WWF-South Pacific's Offshore Fisheries programme based in Suva, Fiji has been very active in lobbying, advocating and in promoting responsible tuna fishing practices across the Pacific in partnership with national, regional and international organizations.

WWF-South Pacific's initiative aims at improving the health and management of tuna fisheries in the Pacific Islands region especially with declining Atlantic and Mediterranean tuna populations and increasing demand from the world's rapidly growing population.

In addition to advocacy and awareness, the offshore fisheries programme involves the promotion of fisheries certification and recommending better fishing practices that can reduce tuna by-catch. Based on a report by BBC, by-catch usually refers to fish that are caught by mistake, consisting of anything that is either unwanted or commercially unusable. They are usually thrown back into the sea by fishing boats. Furthermore, in the last decade, dolphins, sharks and many other species are killed by tuna fisheries. The environmental impact from the reduced numbers of major predators due to tuna fisheries is huge. Such practices and effects are spreading to our region hence WWF-South Pacific's efforts in the area.

Currently, there are numerous fishing methods practiced by tuna fisheries but WWF in collaboration with its partners is advocating for the use of circle hooks as one way of reducing by-catch.



Circle hooks. (Photo credit: WWF-South Pacific)

The use of circle hooks (a by-catch mitigating method) increases post-release survival rates and has been associated with lower rates of deep-hooking and subsequent serious injury to marine turtles, several billfish, shark species and tuna. An article by PEW Environment suggests that several target and common by-catch species are two to five times more likely to survive capture on circle hooks than on J hooks.

(http://www.pewenvironment.org/uploadedFiles/PEG/Publications/Fact_Sheet/shark%20bycatch.pdf)

Meanwhile, WWF-South Pacific awareness and advocacy efforts continue as their Fisheries Policy Officer highlights in a newspaper article the importance of certification. According to Seremaia Tuqiri, a number of large supermarket chains in Europe, North America and even Australia are becoming increasingly more 'green'. The effect of consumer demand and preferences are forcing supermarkets to buy sustainably caught seafood which can only be guaranteed through certification.

Tuqiri further stated, that the potential benefits of certification to the Pacific Islands includes greater opportunity to enter markets, potential for premium price, our status as suppliers of sustainable seafood improves, confidence in the stability of our fisheries to supply markets and global recognition that management efforts in the Pacific Islands are working.

The world's leading eco-labelling programme for sustainable seafood is the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) (<http://www.msc.org/>). It is a global organization working with fisheries, seafood companies, scientists, conservation groups and the public to promote the best environmental choice in seafood. MSC standards and certification ensures that MSC-labelled seafood comes from, and can be traced back to, a sustainable fishery.

We support WWF-South Pacific's offshore programme initiatives and efforts by spreading the word and hope that tuna fisheries and other ocean resources are sustained for our future generations and their livelihood.

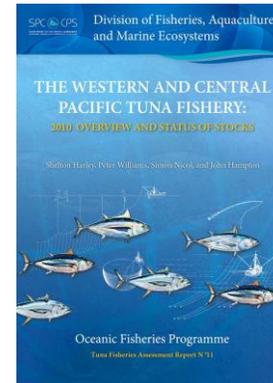
Susana Macanawai (PIMRIS)

Overfishing of Western Pacific Big-Eye Tuna continues

Overfishing of bigeye tuna continues in the western and central Pacific tuna fishery, the world's biggest tuna fishery, according to the 2010 tuna fishery assessment report released this month by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

Though the species is not at risk of extinction, and is never likely to be, the assessment found that bigeye fishing effort needs to be reduced by at least 32% from the average levels for 2006–2009 to ensure long-term sustainability.

Using fisheries and biological data, some going back to the 1950s, SPC has assessed the trends and current stocks of the four tuna species mainly targeted by fishers: skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye and South Pacific albacore.



(Photo credit: SPC)

The 2010 catch for all four species is estimated at 2,421,113 tons, the second highest annual catch on record. It represents 83% of the total Pacific Ocean catch and 60% of the global tuna catch.

"Overall, the fishery is in the best shape of all the tuna fisheries in the world", says John Hampton, SPC's Oceanic Fisheries Program Manager. "On a scale of 1–10, we estimate it as 6–7, a green traffic light tinged with orange.

"But there has been an upward trend in total tuna catch for many years, mainly due to increases in purse-seine fishery catches, which accounted for 75% of the 2010 catch."

Bigeye represents just 5% of the fishery's total tuna catch. Most of the bigeye catch is taken in equatorial areas, both by purse seine and longline. The purse-seine fisheries and domestic surface fisheries of the Philippines and Indonesia take large numbers of small bigeye.

The assessment report states that yellowfin, skipjack and south Pacific albacore tuna stocks are being fished at a moderate level and stocks are reasonably healthy. But Hampton cautions against complacency and stresses the need for responsible management actions to keep the stocks healthy.

"Though some species are being fished within generally accepted levels, this does not mean that there is potential for higher catches," he says. "Now is the time to think about limiting catches, or fishing effort, at around the current levels."

In particular, the report recommends that the yellowfin catch in the western equatorial Pacific be limited to around current levels and that limits on skipjack fishing be considered.

The official SPC report, 'The Western and Central Pacific Tuna Fishery: 2010 Overview and Status of Stocks' can be found on the SPC website or directly available from here: http://www.spc.int/DigitalLibrary/Doc/FAME/Brochures/Policy_Brief14_12.pdf

(Source: SPC website)

State of the Climate 2012

Australia's land and oceans have continued to warm in response to rising CO₂ emissions from the burning of fossil fuels.

This is the headline finding in the *State of the Climate 2012*, an updated summary of Australia's long term climate trends released by CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology today (14 March 2012).

CSIRO Chief Executive, Dr Megan Clark, said the latest analysis painted a clear decade-to-decade picture of Australia's climate, while at the same time noting its highly variable nature from one year to the next.



(Photo Credit: CSIRO)

"Much of Australia may have lurched from drought to floods since the previous *State of the Climate*, but this has occurred against a backdrop of steadily increasing air and ocean temperatures and rising sea levels. What's more, the rate of change is increasing.

"The fundamental physical and chemical processes leading to climate change are well understood, and CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology observations demonstrate that change is occurring now," said Dr Clark.

"The fundamental physical and chemical processes leading to climate change are well understood, and CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology observations demonstrate that change is occurring now," said Dr Megan Clark, CSIRO Chief Executive.

Bureau of Meteorology Acting Director, Dr Rob Vertessy, said this updated summary was based on improved understanding drawn from detailed analysis of our national climate record, which goes back more than a hundred years.

"Ground, ocean and satellite based observations are giving us highly consistent observations of this warming trend. *State of the Climate 2012* confirms that each decade has been warmer than the previous decade since the 1950s, with an increase in the number of warm nights, and more monthly maximum temperature records being broken.

"CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology will continue to provide observations, projections, research, and analysis so that Australia's responses to the challenges of a changing climate are underpinned by robust scientific evidence of the highest quality," said Dr Vertessy.

State of the Climate 2012 showed a general trend toward increased spring and summer monsoonal rainfall across Australia's north, and a decline in late autumn and winter rainfall across southern Australia.

Sea-levels had risen around Australia at rates equal to or greater than the global average, and sea-surface temperatures in the region had increased faster than the global average.

State of the Climate 2012 documents the annual growth in global fossil-fuel CO₂ emissions and other greenhouse gases. The CO₂ concentration of the atmosphere had risen to around 390 parts per million in 2011, a level unprecedented in the past 800,000 years. During the past decade it has risen at more than 3% per year, which is projected to cause significant further global warming.

(Source: CSIRO website)

ODIN-PIMRIS Online Content Management – Joomla Training

12-16 March 2012

ICT Centre, University of the South Pacific
Laucala Campus, Suva, Fiji



Back Row (left to right): Aditya Kakodkar (*trainer*), Miraneta Williams-Hazelman (*SPREP*), Susana Macanawai (*ODIN-PIMRIS*), Eddie Marahare (*FFA*), Gwen Rounds (*USP Library*), Gyaneshwar Narayan (*USP Library*)
Front Row (left to right): Apikali Tuitakali (*USP Library*), Mary-Clare Ame (*SPC*). **Insert:** Martyn Williams (*USP Library*)

The Joomla - Content Management training coordinated by ODIN-PIMRIS and held from the 12-16 March 2012, was attended by librarians from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and USP library. It was officially opened by the Acting University Librarian, Elizabeth Fong who highlighted the importance and relevance of this training to the Pacific Islands Marine Portal and in developing the skills of ODIN-PIMRIS members and support staff.



Elizabeth Fong, Acting University Librarian at the opening. (Photo credit: USPL Systems)

The portal, a collaborative project between PIMRIS and UNESCO/IOC through its IODE Project Office, helps improve access to Pacific marine information for the Pacific Islands community through news, articles, directories of websites etc.

Elizabeth acknowledged the ongoing support of the IODE Project office in funding the training and the trainer (IODE webmaster), Aditya Kakodkar, who travelled from Oostende, Belgium to share his expertise and knowledge. She also highlighted contributions made by regional organizations through partial funding that enabled their library staff to take part. She emphasized the importance of this training to all involved and especially to USP which is moving towards using open access free software.



Participants during the Joomla training
(Photo credit: USPL systems)

The importance of having an updated portal that provides access to quality marine information was also stressed as it can contribute to informed decision making and in sustaining the lives of Pacific Island people and communities.

During the week participants were given background information on the main types of websites (eg. static, dynamic, e-commerce, flash, content management) and various basic features.

Sessions also included an introduction to Joomla Content Management System covering user

management features and functions, media management and weblink management. Although technical in nature, website development using Joomla seemed simple and user-friendly to participants, including those with limited IT knowledge. The absence of html tags made the training easy to follow and understand as content text did not have to be embedded within HTML tags.

On the final day participants demonstrated the individual websites they had developed as part of the training and this was followed by the presentation of certificates to participants.

The Joomla training course is part of the ODIN-PIMRIS planned activities for 2011-2012 and was aimed at providing and developing basic skills on content management. The training also helped strengthen teamwork and cooperation amongst key ODIN-PIMRIS members.

Although delayed from last year, selected members of ODIN-PIMRIS are glad to have finally gained new skills that will assist them in updating the 'Pacific Islands Marine Portal' and help develop related sites within individual organizations.

ODIN-PIMRIS coordination unit at PIMRIS would like to thank the Head of the IODE Project Office in Oostende, Belgium – Mr Peter Pissierssens for the trainer and funds that helped bring in regional members and cover other associated expenses. Many thanks also to the trainer (Adi), USP library management and administration staff for their support and assistance, USP IT staff (especially Reginald Eastgate) for arranging the computer lab and colleagues who participated.



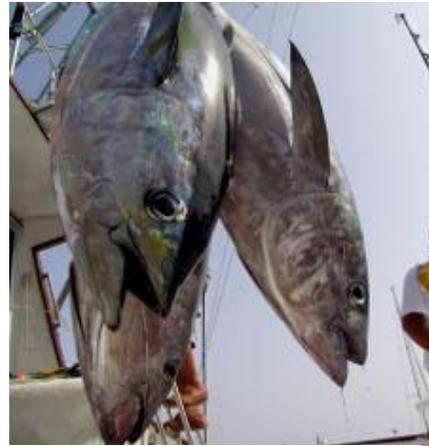
Left : Marty hard at work on his website as part of the training. **Right**: Trainees enjoying tea break
(Photo credit: USPL Systems)

Susana Macanawai (PIMRIS)

News from around the Region

High fuel price and fishing ban reduced 2011 Pacific tuna output

PORT MORESBY, PNG (POST COURIER) ----
High fuel price and fishing ban reduced 2011 Pacific tuna output. The spiraling cost of fuel products and the purse seine fishing ban in pockets of the Pacific Ocean have cut down frozen tuna landings at the fish port complex here last year, the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) in Philippines said, citing preliminary data. MindaNews of Philippines reported this week the BAS 2011 fisheries situationer report released on Tuesday, the agency noted that unloading at the fish port complex declined by 47,049 metric tons (MT) or about 18 per cent from 2010. In 2010, the unloaded volume at the fish port complex, which is managed by the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority, was pegged at 144,812.05 MT.



(Photo credit: Projectoceans.com)

Last year, it went down to 117,315.29 MT. “The closure of (pockets of the) high seas as imposed by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) on its member countries to replenish stocks of the highly migratory tuna species... was another contributing factor to the output reduction,” said the 20-page BAS annual report, which also includes other marine commodities.

The other factors cited for the decline in tuna unloading, besides fuel price hikes, were dry-docking of some commercial vessels for repair or maintenance and lesser fishing expeditions due to weather disturbances. With the WCPFC ban on purse-seine fishing in two pockets of the high seas in the western and eastern parts of the Pacific Ocean starting January 1, 2010, foreign fishing vessels have dominated the unloading of frozen tuna in this city for the needs of the canneries.

Owing to the ban, local tuna fishing companies have complained that they could not afford the additional costs in operating in farther fishing grounds. As a result, thousands of workers in the tuna fishing industry have lost their jobs, according to the regional Department of Labor and Employment, which had extended assistance to them. Pocket one covers Palau, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, areas closest to the Philippines where local tuna fishing companies frequently operate. Pocket two is bounded by the countries of Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tuvalu, Nauru, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, PNG and parts of Kiribati. The ban does not include hand line fishing, a method that employs the traditional hook and line to catch sashimi-grade tuna stocks.

The two-year ban in pockets of the Pacific Ocean should have lapsed last December, but a meeting that would have discussed the matter had been cancelled and moved to March. Marfenio Tan, director of the Socskargen Federation of Fishing and Allied Industries Inc. (SFFAI), said that organisers of the eighth regular session of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (or WCPFC8) also moved the venue from Palau to Guam.

(More details:

http://www.islandsbusiness.com/news/index_dynamic/containerNameToReplace=MiddleMiddle/focusModuleID=130/focusContentID=27165/tableName=mediaRelease/overrideSkinName=newsArticle-full.tpl)

Sustainable Pacific tuna management plan approved *PNA members achieve international certification*

By Giff Johnson

MAJURO, Republic of the Marshall Islands (Marianas Variety, Dec. 19, 2011) – The approval Wednesday by an independent arbiter in London of a Pacific fisheries management program is being hailed as a world first that will provide financial incentives for fishing nations to sustainably harvest tuna in the region.

"This will change fisheries management as we know it," Glen Joseph, the director of the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority, said Thursday. He was reacting to London-based independent adjudicator Melanie Carter's decision to reject objections by some tuna industry players to a plan that will allow a cartel of small island nations to enforce new standards controlling the lucrative purse seiner fishing industry in the Pacific. "The certification of free-school catches of skipjack tuna by purse seiners is the first of its kind," Joseph said.

Carter's decision sets in motion a plan developed by U.K.-based Intertek Marine Moody Ltd. for the skipjack tuna industry to meet global sustainability standards set by the Marine Stewardship Council. The Council is an international organization that works with fisheries, seafood companies, scientists, conservation groups and the public to promote best practices in seafood. Its certification program recognizes and rewards sustainable fishing.

"People want to know they are buying sustainably caught tuna and will pay a premium for it," said Dr. Transform Aqorau Thursday. Aqorau directs the Parties to the Nauru Agreement office in the Marshall Islands. The PNA plans to market "free-school" catches of skipjack tuna at a premium price to European and American wholesalers and retailers.

The eight PNA members — Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Palau, Nauru, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu — control waters where 68 percent of all Pacific skipjack tuna was caught last year, and are leveraging that control into higher access fees and the new plan for certifying sustainably caught tuna.

The PNA focus on free-school caught fish will provide a financial incentive for fishing companies to reduce use of fish aggregation devices, or FADs, that are viewed as destructive to the long-term health of tuna stocks in the Pacific. FADs are floating platforms that fishing boats drop into the ocean to attract schools of fish. "By certifying free-school caught tuna, we can reduce the negative impact of FADs on tuna stocks," said Aqorau.

"Right now (for distant water fishing nations) it is a race to get tuna to market to meet their quota so using FADs may be the best way to do that," Joseph said. "But if catching free-school tuna gives more bang for the buck, which will they choose? If they can sell FAD-free certified tuna at \$2,000 a ton compared to FAD-caught tuna at \$700 a ton, which will industry do?"

Several United States and European industry organizations, including the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, had objected to the PNA plan during the required public review process saying PNA does not have the ability to manage the tuna industry and questioning the scientific backing for portions of the plan. But Carter dismissed these objections saying that the "certification body has adequately dealt with the matters raised."

More on: <http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport/2011/December/12-19-07.htm>
(Source: Marianas Variety)

Iconic new Ministry of Marine Resources Headquarters for Cook Islands



by Eric Parnis

A new concept being promoted by the Ministry of Marine Resources will see a majority of the Cook Islands' Rarotonga-based marine observers brought together under one roof in a state-of-the-art building.

The 'Marine House' concept developed by the ministry and local architects is being described as an iconic, new headquarters for MMR and its associated workers, and part of the Avatiu harbour's wider rejuvenation work.

The three-storey building, which would be built alongside the main road at the Avatiu harbour's western marina under current proposals, will house staff from MMR as well as maritime surveillance people and some staff from the Ports Authority.

On the ground floor, designs have included space for retail stores and cafes. The building, which has been designed by local architect Romani Katoa of Romani's Designs, is estimated to need about \$2.5 million to build.

MMR secretary Ben Ponia said he would like to see the ministry move into its new headquarters within two years after spending more than eight years in temporary accommodation. MMR is currently based in a Tutakimoa building that Ponia said is not just unsuited to housing the ministry but also disconnects it from the water. He said the ministry was long overdue to move back to its spiritual home at the Avatiu harbour. He also said it made sense to house the Cook Island's marine bodies together at one site and improve on the efficiency of their increasingly integrated work.

Under the proposal, a surveillance and operations centre will be built on the top floor of the building. The centre will be jointly run by MMR staff and members of the Cook Islands Police maritime division. "The centre is expected to run sub-regional maritime surveillance operations with a particular focus on the eastern high seas pocket," Ponia said.

"This operations centre will be boosted by an advanced Fisheries Information Management System (IMS) which will enable MMR's and the police patrol boat databases to be combined. The MMR offshore fisheries, police patrol boat officers and the maritime surveillance adviser will be housed on this floor."

More details: <http://www.cinews.co.ck/2012/February/Wed15/other.htm#1202140803>

Illegal Solomons sea cucumber trade ring foiled

2010 seizure leads to arrest of Chinese businessman

By Douglas Marau & Jeremy Inifiri



(Photo credit: Solomon Times)

A joint operation by police and immigration officers has resulted in the arrest of one of the ringleader's of the illegal beche-de-mer network in the country.

This paper was informed by sources within the police that high profile Asian businessman and owner of Haizhen Trading Zhang Tong Zi has been arrested and served with a deportation order on Monday. This is for continuously breaching the laws of the country. The arrest came less than a week after Minister of Commerce and Employment Elijah Doromoala has issued a warning to foreign investors to abide and comply with the country's laws.

The Solomon Star understands a deportation order has already been issued by the minister on Monday for Zhang to be deported.

However, sources within the police said he has appealed his deportation in the High Court in which he was given 14 days.

Officers who took part in the operation confirmed that Mr. Zhang was arrested on Monday afternoon in Honiara and is currently being remanded in custody. The officers said Mr. Zhang has been under the police and Immigration radar for quite some time now for his involvement in the beche-de-mer saga which dated back to 2010.

"Mr. Zhang will be in custody for the next fourteen days pending if an appeal be heard by the High Court is successful. If his appeal fails to go through then the minister's warning was clear; Mr. Zhang has to be deported," the police and Immigration spokesperson said.

Mr. Zhang has been suspected of involving in the illegal bech-de-mer trade in the country after the Ministry of Fisheries confiscated 160 bags of beche-de-mer worth \$4 million in his possession in December 18 2010. However, there was no substantial evidence until Monday this week when Minister Doromoala ordered his deportation.

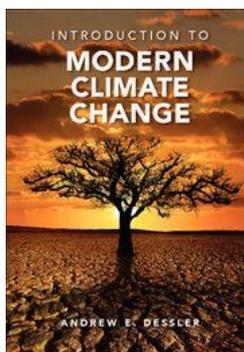
Although the Asian businessman deliberately breached the Fisheries Regulations Act 2009, Section 59 13A which prohibited the selling, harvesting or catching of beche-de-mer and also fined twice for the same offence April 2009, Mr. Zhang had allegedly walked free for the past few years.

He was the Asian businessman who came to limelight after he was accused of involving with certain politicians in 2010 in the illegal bech-de-mer trade. At one stage, he was arrested by Naha police but his case was allegedly meddled with which resulted in the case went missing from police files. Meanwhile, police sources told the Solomon Star yesterday that they would continue to crack down the bech-de-mer network.

This paper was informed it is likely names of top government ministers are likely to emerge as investigation continues.

(Source: Solomon Star)

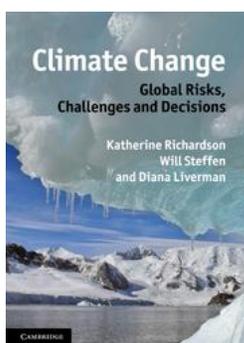
New additions to PIMRIS Library



Introduction to modern climate change by Dessler, A. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, c2012. ISBN: 9780521173155.

This textbook is tightly focused on the problem of anthropogenic climate change. It is unique among textbooks on climate change in that it combines an introduction of the science with an introduction to the non-science issues such as the economic and policy options. Unlike more purely descriptive textbooks, it contains the quantitative depth that is necessary for an adequate understanding of the science of climate change.

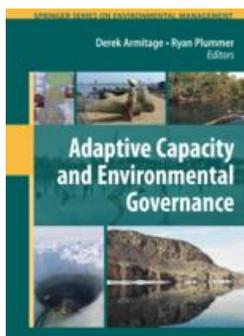
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Climate change : global risks, challenges and decisions by Richardson, K., Steffen, W., Liverman, D. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, c2011. ISBN: 9780521198363.

Providing an up-to-date synthesis of all knowledge relevant to the climate change issue, this book ranges from the basic science documenting the need for policy action to the technologies, economic instruments and political strategies that can be employed in response to climate change. Ethical and cultural issues constraining the societal response to climate change are also discussed...

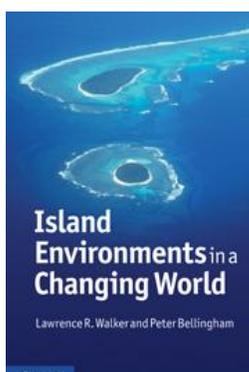
<http://www.cambridge.org/asia/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=9780521198363>



Adaptive capacity and environmental governance edited by Armitage, D. and Plummer, R. New York: Springer, c2010. ISBN: 9783642121937

Rapid environmental change calls for individuals and societies with an ability to transform our interactions with each other and the ecosystems upon which we depend. Adaptive capacity - the ability of a social-ecological system (or the components of that system) to be robust to disturbances and capable of responding to changes - is increasingly recognized as a critical attribute of multi-level environmental governance...

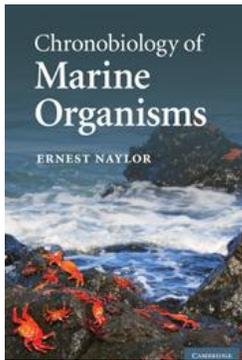
<http://www.springer.com/environment/environmental+management/book/978-3-642-12193-7>



Island environments in a changing world by Walker, LR and Bellingham, P. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, c2011. ISBN: 9780521519601.

Islands represent unique opportunities to examine human interaction with the natural environment. They capture the human imagination as remote, vulnerable and exotic, yet there is comparatively little understanding of their basic geology, geography, or the impact of island colonization by plants, animals and humans. This detailed study of island environments focuses on nine island groups, including Hawaii, New Zealand and the British Isles...

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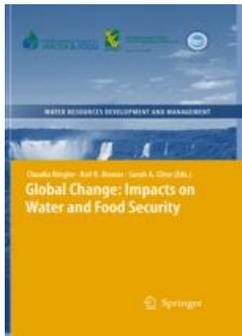


Chronobiology of marine organisms by Naylor, E. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, c2010. ISBN: 9780521760539.

Do intertidal organisms simply respond to the rise and fall of tides, or do they possess biological timing and navigation mechanisms that allow them to anticipate when conditions are most favourable? How are the patterns of growth, development and reproduction of some marine plants and animals related to changes in day-length or to phases of the moon? ...

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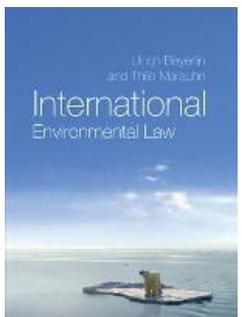


Global change : impacts on water and food security by Ringler, C., Biswas, A. and Cline, S. London: Springer, c2010. ISBN: 9783642046148.

This volume examines the various drivers of global change, including climate change, and the use of agricultural knowledge, science, and technology, as well as the outcomes of global change processes, including impacts on water quality and human well-being...

More details:

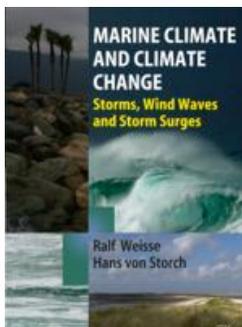
<http://www.springer.com/environment/global+change++climate+change/book/978-3-642-04614-8>



International Environmental Law by Beyerlin, U. and Maruhn, T. Hart; [Munich]: Beck , c2011. ISBN: 9781841139241.

The book enables the reader to place international environmental law in the context of public international law in general, revealing at the same time that international environmental law is experimental ground for developing new legal approaches towards global governance...

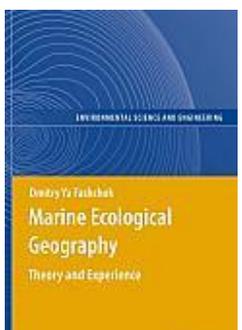
<http://www.amazon.com/International-Environmental-Law-Ulrich-Beyerlin/dp/1841139246>



Marine climate and climate change: storms, wind waves and storm surges by Weisse, R. and Storch, VH. New York: Springer Verlag, c2010. ISBN: 9783540253167.

Marine environmental conditions such as storms, storm surges and wave heights are directly experienced by, for example, off-shore operations or coastal populations. The authors review and bring together the state-of-the-art and present day knowledge about historical changes, recent trends and concepts on how marine environmental conditions...

<http://www.springer.com/earth+sciences+and+geography/book/978-3-540-25316-7>



Marine ecological geography : theory and experience by Faschuk, DY. New York: Springer, c2011. ISBN: 9783642174438

Presents a portrait of the Black Sea as a sum of its geographic and ecological aspects, analyzes exploitation of marine natural resources, offers an approach that is applicable to any region of the world's oceans.

<http://www.springer.com/earth+sciences+and+geography/earth+system+sciences/book/978-3-642-17443-8>

Conference & Workshop Notices

- 23 - 27 Apr 2012 **6th Tuna Data Workshop** - Convened by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. SPC Headquarters - Noumea, New Caledonia.
- 7 - 11 May 2012 **6th World Fisheries Congress Meeting 2012.** Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Edinburgh, Scotland.
www.6thwfc2012.com
- 14 - 19 May 2012 **Regional Training Course on the implementation of the IMDG Code and IMSBC Code.** Economic Development Division (Maritime), Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Suva, Fiji.
- 04 June 2012 **Heads of Fisheries Meeting** – Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (FAME). Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Noumea, New Caledonia.
- 4 - 6 June 2012 **Regional Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme (VIMSAS) Workshop for Pacific Islands** - Economic Development Division (Maritime), Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Suva, Fiji.
- 5 - 8 June 2012 **Meeting on Fisheries and Climate Change** – Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (FAME), Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Noumea, New Caledonia.
- 11 - 22 June 2012 **Regional Training Course on Hydrographic Survey and Introduction to Nautical Chart Production** - Economic Development Division (Maritime), Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Suva, Fiji.
- 11 - 15 June 2012 **SPC/FAO Meeting on Voluntary Guidelines for Small-Scale Fisheries - Nearshore Fisheries**, Development Section, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Noumea, New Caledonia.