

PIMRIS



NEWSLETTER

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Pacific Islands
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Information System

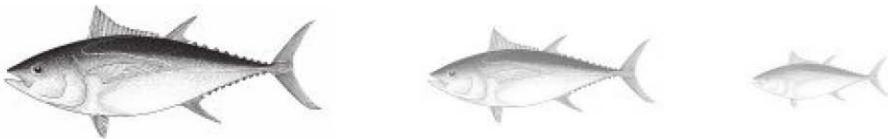
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Editorial



Talofa and welcome to the first issue of our newsletter for 2013. The year started off well for us. We welcomed two new staff to Lower Campus library (p.2) and completed all preparations for the first semester before it started.

Also during this quarter, a number of regional (Pacific Islands) and international meetings with PIMRIS interests were held to review the past and plan for the year ahead. These include the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Head of Fisheries meeting in Noumea, New Caledonia (p.13) and the IODE's XXII Session in Mexico (p.5).

Tuna remains the most deliberated and significant commercial fishery in our region (pp. 8-9) but the continuous use of fish aggregating devices (pp. 3-4) is a concern due to their impact on tuna stocks and marine biodiversity. Pacific Island countries although small in size, can make a significant contribution in managing their marine resources through marine parks (p.11) and sustainable management strategies (p.13). The Cook Islands however, are re-considering their seabed mining plans (p.10) but an unfortunate tragedy is affecting dolphin conservation efforts in Solomon Islands (p.12).

Congratulations to the University of the South Pacific's (USP) alumni Ms Indu and Dr Jit on the completion of their United Nations Nippon Foundation Fellowship (pp. 6-7) and Suzie Davies on her IODE Achievement Award (p. 5).

As always, we welcome articles or news items for our next issue from all our partners and friends.

Susana Macanawai, PIMRIS Coordinator

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Beautiful Tokelau is heavily dependent on its marine resources to support its population.
(Photo credit: touristdestinations.com)

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.

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New Faces, New Places

Congratulations Taranaki!

Taranaki Seiuli, a former staff of USP-IRETA and Alafua Campus library has been appointed Information Management Officer for SPREP's Information Resources & Archives section. Taranaki holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Management & Public Administration and a



Taranaki Seiuli

Diploma in Library and Information Studies from the University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji. We wish Tara all the best in her new role.

Bula Pushpa & Sala!



Pushpa Prasad

Pushpa is PIMRIS' new library assistant although she is not new to USP library. Pushpa has been working at the main library since 1996. She was transferred to lower campus library from the Oceania Sports

Information Centre (OSIC) in February as part of the USP library's regular rotation programme. Pushpa holds a Diploma in Library and Information Studies from USP. Her years of experience with various USP library sections and overseas work attachments are valuable to lower campus library.



Salanieta Duituturaga

Sala Duituturaga is our new part-time junior library assistant (PTJLA). She is in her second year of work with USP library. Sala replaces Reshika Narayan who returned to the main library in February. Sala is currently studying for her Diploma in library studies (part-time) at USP.

Fishing with FADs - Good or Bad?

The use of fish aggregating devices ([FADs](#)) by [purse seine](#) vessels has come under increased criticism for its impact on tuna stocks and potential threats to biodiversity, specifically the [bycatch](#) of sharks and other marine life.

In the paper [*Is It Good Or Bad to Fish with FADs? What Are the Real Impacts of the Use of Drifting FADs on Pelagic Marine Ecosystems?*](#), which was peer-reviewed and published by the journal Fish and Fisheries[1], we present some useful and interesting findings that should help inform the current debate. While we found that more selective fishing techniques that favor larger sizes would help obtain higher yields of tuna stocks, the analysis also shows that catching young tuna around FADs does not necessarily result in overfishing.

Additionally, the study finds that levels of non-tuna bycatch are comparable or less than in other industrial fisheries. We argue that if certain bycatch problems can be solved, and if FAD fishing is properly monitored and managed, this method of fishing could be one of the most environmentally responsible.

The study focuses on the impacts of FADs on three areas: tunas, non-target species, and the ecosystem in general.

While purse seiners are not the only fisheries catching tropical tunas, in the western and eastern Pacific oceans, catching on floating objects (including FADs) account for roughly 50% of the total catch of tunas, while the figure is closer to 25% in the Indian and Atlantic oceans. Globally, 40% of the catch of tropical tunas results from purse seine sets on floating objects. Of this 40%, 75% of the tuna catch is skipjack, followed by yellowfin at 16%, and bigeye at 9%.

Our study's finding, that there is no obvious pattern between the relative magnitude of the catch by sets on floating objects and whether a stock is [overfished](#) or experiencing overfishing, is consistent with a 2011 workshop that analyzed the status of tuna stocks in relation to whether the [fishing mortality](#) on juveniles during the past ten years was higher than the fishing mortality on adults. We concluded that catching juvenile tunas does not necessarily result in overfishing. Populations can be reduced by taking adults as well as by catching juveniles. This is because all components of fishing upon a stock contribute to overfishing. Thus, a stock can be overfished by taking too many juveniles, or too many adults, or too many of both.

After the sustainability of tuna stocks, the most pressing issue facing the commercial fishing industry is the management and mitigation of bycatch of non-target species. Our study also offers interesting insight into what has historically been a prominent concern: the bycatch of sharks in purse seine fisheries. According to our findings, silky sharks make up 90% of the bycatch in purse seine fisheries, while oceanic whitetip sharks almost exclusively make up the remaining 10%. The catch rates may be surprising to some. We found “*large differences among oceans, in particular when comparing catches of sharks between sets on free-swimming schools and on schools associated with floating objects.*”



(Photo credit: ISSF)

"For instance, catch rates of sharks are very similar between the two types of sets for the western Pacific Ocean (0.9 tonnes/1000 tonnes of tuna for free-swimming school sets vs. 1.1 tonnes per 1000 tonnes of tuna for associated sets) and the eastern Pacific Ocean (1.4 tonnes per 1000 tonnes of tuna for free-swimming school sets and 1.9 tonnes /1000 tonnes of tuna for associated sets). However, the differences between the two types of sets are bigger in the Indian Ocean (0.3 tonnes /1000 tonnes of tuna for free-swimming school sets vs. 6.0 tonnes /1000 tonnes of tuna for associated sets) and the Atlantic Ocean (0.3 tonnes/1000 tonnes of tuna for free-swimming school sets vs. 1.8 tonnes/1000 tonnes of tuna for associated sets)."

While the ratio of catches of sharks per landed catches of target tuna for purse seiners is very low when compared to other fisheries such as pelagic longline, we strongly believe that further priority research must be conducted to study vulnerable bycatch species.

Lastly, our study considers the impact on habitats of the use of FADs and the overarching ecological consequences. FADs are a major new component of ocean surface habitats. In the various scientific studies that have been published, there are conflicting interpretations on both the behavioral and biological aspects of FAD impact. At the present time, few concrete conclusions can be drawn and there is certainly no 'smoking gun' that demonstrates that FADs represent an ecological trap. The role of logs and FADs in the ecology of tunas requires a greatly expanded database and future research.

After a comprehensive review of what we know and what we don't about the impacts of FADs on tuna populations and the viability of ecosystems, we believe, quite frankly, that more research is needed. Moving forward, it's imperative that tuna RFMOs collect accurate data on FAD usage because very few reliable data sets exist. ISSF has begun work to support RFMOs by encouraging vessels to supply their data directly to the respective RFMO scientific bodies. Through the development of an electronic FAD logbook, data on FADs will be much more complete – including how many are deployed, where they're deployed, when they're used, how many are recovered and lost.

Another ISSF Commitment calls for the full retention and reporting of bycatch, which will also help to improve data and reduce waste. Dedicated monitoring will help facilitate a true assessment the effects of FADs, and the management efforts used to impact them.



(Photo credit: Greenpeace Australia)

(Reprinted from: <http://iss-foundation.org/2012/10/04/is-it-good-or-bad-to-fish-with-fads/>)

Our study concludes that FADs are not inherently bad, however, these floating objects require additional attention from the scientific and fishing communities.

If used correctly, FADs can reduce fuel costs and carbon footprints without jeopardizing the ecosystem or the survival of the target species. And, like all fishing methods, FADs need to be monitored and managed.

XXII Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE –XXII: Ensenada, Mexico)



The 22nd Session of the IODE Committee was held in Ensenada, Mexico **between 11 and 15 March 2013** hosted by the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Ensenada. The local host was Carlos Torres Navarrete.
(Credit: www.iode.org)

The Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange held its Twenty-second Session (IODE-XXII) at the "Centro Social, Cívico y Cultural Ensenada", Ensenada, Mexico between 11 and 15 March 2013. The session was attended by seventy eight (78) participants from thirty seven (37) IOC Member States and 14 organizations.

The Session adopted 20 recommendations that provided a clear path to IODE's restructuring and re-organization. The key recommendations established a joint IAMSLIC-IODE group of experts on marine information management, an ocean data standards and best practices project and associated clearing house for data/information management practices, the IODE Associate Data Unit and IODE Global Data Assembly Centres as new structural elements, the IODE Quality Management Framework, and also revised the IODE objectives. The Committee adopted a work plan and budget that, taking into account the UNESCO financial crisis, would be based mainly on income from extra-budgetary sources. The Committee re-elected Ms Sissy Iona (Greece) and Mr Ariel Troisi (Argentina) as IODE Co-Chairs. The report is available through <http://www.iode.org/giode22>. More information on the session including the working documents is available at <http://www.iode.org/iode22>.

During the 22nd session, the IODE Committee also bestowed four (4) special awards to IODE experts in recognition of their contributions to the IODE programme. One of the recipients of the IODE award is Ms Suzanne Davies, a semi-retired marine librarian and information specialist at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Library, Australia.

Suzie Davies as she is known, is a member of the IODE Group of Experts on Marine Information Management (MIM) and chairperson from 2004-2010. The award was given in recognition of her entire service to IODE, her work in developing the MIM Communication and Strategy Policy, fostering the ODIN PIMRIS group and obtaining funding for mentoring and twinning through Pacific Marine & Environmental Libraries pilot twinning program - which she continues to do.

The awards ceremony was held during the official dinner on Thursday 14 March.

(Source: www.iode.org)

Former marine studies students help raise profile of the Pacific Ocean



Ms Fiona Indu and Dr Joytishna Jit. (Photo credit: USP)

Two former students of the University of the South Pacific (USP) recently returned to their tropical origins from the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York. Their return marks the completion of the prestigious nine-month United Nations Nippon Foundation Fellowship on the Law of the Sea.

Dr Joytishna Jit and Ms Fiona Indu were selected among only ten fellows from around the world for their outstanding submissions and their aptitude.

Dr Jit was nominated for the fellowship by Associate Professor Joeli Veitayaki from USP's School of Marine Studies, and Ms Indu was nominated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Solomon Islands.

The fellowship is coordinated primarily by the UN's Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the Office of Legal Affairs.

The objective of the fellowship was to advance education and research in the field of ocean affairs, and to implement the legal regime set out in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 (UNCLOS), and related instruments. UNCLOS is known as the constitution of the seas, and defines the rights and responsibilities of states in their use of the ocean.

Dr Jit's thesis focused on threatened shark fisheries and conservation in the context of transboundary ocean governance, and she also completed a mini-project on biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions (BBNJ) in the Pacific Ocean.

Ms Indu's thesis was based on regional fisheries policy, in particular the Treaty between certain Pacific Island States and the United States on Fisheries. Her mini-project was focused on the role of development aid in fisheries treaty negotiations. These topics form some of the key challenges within Pacific oceans management at the present time.

The recent trend in international environmental law doctrine emphasises the need for effective implementation which is also reflected within the objectives of the 2012 Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

In particular, the fellows aimed to promote sustainable development by improving conservation and management of species for which the international legal regimes are fragmented leading to ineffective implementation by states.

Both Dr Jit and Ms Indu said that the fellowship provided an exciting and high profile introduction to international treaty law and processes within the UN system.

(continued next page)

The UN Nippon Foundation fellowship allowed the two mid-career professionals to network with the international pool of experts within DOALOS, invited resource persons, and the UN Nippon fellowship alumni of 100 members. The alumni will continue to provide an ongoing platform for networking and collaboration. In fact, Dr Jit has been appointed the Deputy Representative of this alumni network.

The 2012/2013 program round was also special because it coincided with commemorative events held at the UN Headquarters to celebrate the 30th anniversary to mark the opening for signature of UNCLOS.

The Pacific Fellows were able to participate in these events which were attended by highly respected individuals in the field of international ocean affairs, including the UN Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki-Moon, Mr Tommy Koh, President of the 3rd UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, H. E. Judge Shunji Yanai, and the President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and from the Pacific, Mr Satya Nandan, the former Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority (formerly from Fiji).

(Source: USP)

SPREP forges new partnership with Korean Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST)

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme has formed new ties with the Korean Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST) through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

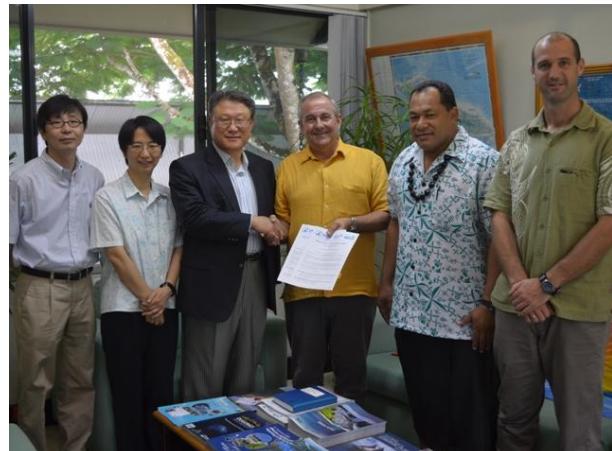
KIOST is an ocean research organisation affiliated with the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs of Korea and is committed to preserving an abundant and clean ocean through research and application.

This new partnership will benefit the Pacific through focused research on key issues such as marine pollution, biodiversity and ocean acidification.

"The partnership will bring KIOST's vast scientific expertise to the Pacific region. This scientific understanding is vital for effective management by the Pacific Islands of their Large Ocean States," said Philip Wiles, the Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System Officer at SPREP.

SPREP coordinates the Pacific Island component of the Global Ocean Observing System which provides open-ocean and coastal information for climate forecasting and sustainable ocean management.

(Source: SPREP)



(Photo credit: SPREP)

Can Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission stop bigeye overfishing?

An Organisation for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT) seminar under the theme "Will overfishing of bigeye tuna in the Western and Central Pacific stop? – Expectation toward the five-year program for recovery of bigeye tuna stock" was held in Tokyo on January 31, 2013.

OPRT Newsletter International No. 42 reported the situation in which a grave concern has emerged over the sustainability of the bigeye tuna stock in the western and central Pacific – the main producing ground of bigeye tuna in the world - due to decline of the stock. This seminar was held with the explicit aim to deepen our understanding of the situation. A large number of people, including those related to tuna fisheries, mass media and ordinary public, attended the seminar, indicating high level of interest in the issue.

(Note: According to the statistics of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2010, the bigeye tuna production in the world totaled 359,000 tons, of which 109,000 tons were produced in the western Pacific.)

Lecturers at the seminar were Dr. Ziro Suzuki (who has attended tuna-related Scientific Committee meetings as a tuna biologist) and Mr. Akihiko Yatsuzuka, Director, National Tuna Fishery Association (who attended meetings of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and has a comprehensive knowledge of the discussion in the Commission).

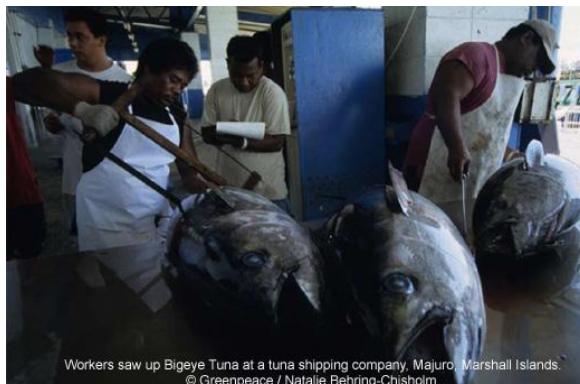
Dr. Suzuki made his presentation as follows.

Overfishing of bigeye tuna is now taking place in the western and central Pacific. The WCPFC decided on measures to reduce the fishing mortality of bigeye to the 2001-2004 level. While efforts to reduce the mortality have been observed in longline fishing, the effort by purse-seine fishery has not been curtailed, but rather exceeded the target reduction level by as large as 46%. As a result, the bigeye catch by purse-seine fishing vessels reached an alltime high level of 77,095 tons in 2011.

The WCPFC also set a three-month period banning the use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)—devices that catch small-size bigeye and yellowfin tunas incidentally. But the number of sets of FADs outside the banned period increased in 2011, also registering the record number of sets in 2011.

Thus, Dr. Suzuki made his comments based on the data made available at related meetings, and pointed out the fact that management measures are not working for purse seine and FADs.

Further, he reported that the Scientific Committee recommended to the WCPFC to curtail excessive fishing capacity, including tightening of regulations on FADs operation.



Workers saw up Bigeye Tuna at a tuna shipping company, Majuro, Marshall Islands.
© Greenpeace / Natalie Behring-Chisholm.

(Photo credit: www.global-greenhouse-warming.com)

Mr. Yatsuzuka pointed out that purse-seine bigeye catch exceeded the longline catch of 67,599 tons in 2011 for the first time in the past decade. When comparing by converting the catch volume into the number of fish, it follows that 96% of overall number of bigeye catch is taken by purse-seine fishing vessels, making it certain that their impact on the stock is enormous. On top of that, the number of purse-seine fishing vessels continued to increase to 283 as of 2011, and their excessive fishing capacity is posing a further serious threat.

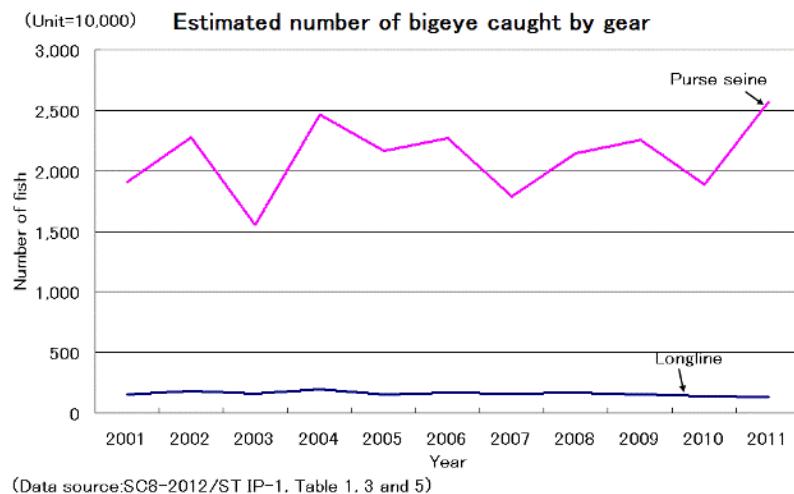
By saying this, Yatsuzuka explained in detail the background in which the management measures to stop overfishing of bigeye tuna adopted by the WCPFC have been rendered virtually ineffective.

Further, he pointed out that cooperation by all the countries concerned with no exception is essential for the effective conservation and management of tuna resources, because of the highly migratory nature of tuna species. But the introduction of conservation and management measures with no exception at the WCPFC is difficult because there are many developing island countries in the region, for whom the WCPFC endorses special consideration for their requirements to develop their tuna fisheries. Although Yatsuzuka respects such endorsement for the developing countries, he added that the outlook for the recovery of bigeye stock is quite bleak.

A seminar participant commented that dialogue among countries concerned should be advanced more vigorously to find solution to the issue.

Yatsuzuka responded that the WCPFC should be the forum for such efforts. But as long as he has observed the commission by attending its meetings, it appears that constructive dialogue is fairly difficult at present.

The WCPFC is expected to develop before the end of this year the multi-year management program, which purports to eliminate overfishing of bigeye in five years from 2013. There is no path toward solution of the issue, other than hoping that effective program is developed and implemented.



(Reprinted from: <http://oprt.or.jp/eng/2013/02/can-wcpfc-stop-bigeye-overfishing/>)

News from around the Region

Cook Islands mining limits declared

No seabed mining will occur within 24 nautical miles of any island in the country, promises the minister in charge of mineral resources.

Natural Resource and Minerals Minister Tom Marsters has signed a declaration under the Seabed Minerals Act that no seabed mining activity will occur for 24 nautical miles, or about 50 km, around any island in the Cook Islands.

Marsters hopes this will allay some of the fears Cook Islanders have about potential environmental impact on the country from mining.



(Photo credit: www.mudgeediveandtravel.com)

"Some critics will continue hiding under the shadow of the 'environmental concern' to try to slow us down for reasons of envy or even to shut us down," he said at a function at the Seabed Mineral Authority (SMA) offices on Friday to commemorate the act coming into force on March 1. "I can assure you that in our new seabed minerals sector, we will be adopting the strictest international environmental standards."

SMA is preparing an international tender for exploration blocks, which will take place in pre-determined areas in the Cook Islands exclusive economic zone (EEZ). This will be in the east of the EEZ, far south of Penrhyn and far north of Aitutaki on the Manihiki Plateau, said Marsters.

"This is a real blessing of having such a huge EEZ – we can keep SBM activities and their potential effects far from our beautiful island communities." He said it is now well-known worldwide the Cook Islands EEZ contains a "unique abundance" of manganese nodules.

"These are highly valuable, as they contain many important minerals, which are highly valued and on demand on the international minerals markets. They contain minerals which support many parts of our normal daily lives, both here and overseas."

Marsters said SMA contracted a reputable English professor, David Cronan, to carry out the latest resource assessment. This report will be released to the public in the next few weeks. "This report reveals an even more exciting abundance of minerals in our manganese nodule resource – much, much more than we had previously been advised."

Mining taxes and royalties could bring in up to \$100 million per year the seabed minerals sector becomes fully functional, he said.

"And according to all timetables, this could be as early as 2021. That is only eight years away." The Cook Islands cannot keep relying on overseas aid and mining this resource is the way to escape the aid cycle, said Marsters. "This is a giant leap towards our economic independence. This is our resource. This is our time to stand on our own economic feet."

Calida Smylie

(Reprinted from: <http://www.cookislandsnews.com/2013/March/Wed13/local.htm#1303120109>)

Marine life increases in Waitabu, Taveuni



(Photo credit: Koro Sun Resort)



(Photo credit: coral.org)

A marine park in Waitabu, Taveuni, has recorded a significant increase in fish and marine species.

The development comes after the communities of Waitabu, Lavena, Wai, Vurevure and Bouma expressed interest in finding out how the new, seven-month-old tabu tara area directly outside their villages was affecting fish numbers and coral growth.

A group of dedicated marine lovers came together to take part in their annual marine survey. Host and Island Spirit director Kirsty Barnby said more marine species were sighted compared to last year's survey. For beche-de-mer (sea cucumber), she said a healthy increase from 107 to 176 were recorded in the tabu tara area this year.

"Baby beche-de-mer are breeding in the tabu tara area and as a result, juveniles are being seen in the tabu tara for the first time — 156 were recorded in the tabu tara area," Ms Barnby said. 'For the first time, she said levels of coral have increased and seaweed levels were decreasing in the tabu tara area.' "Due to the increase in coral, 300 ika loa lailai (small surgeon fish) were noted in the tabu tara. They feed on seaweed which in turn aids coral growth," Ms Barnby said. She said the bula (crown of thorns) count in the area more than doubled since last year with a total of 91 recorded there, four of these were in the tabu tara.

"Vivili have continued breeding towards the shore — 39 were recorded in the tabu area and two in the tabu tara. Since the introduction of the tabu tara just seven months ago, there has been a fivefold increase in the living coral count in the area. It is the first time ever that the levels of the coral have increased," she said.

In total, she said 75 vasua (giant clams) were counted this year, the largest being 80cm in size. She said small giant clams were being spotted in the tabu tara for the first time.

"The tabu is restocking the tabu tara area. The spill-over effect from tabu to tabu tara is evident from this research. Fish sizes and counts are expected to increase in the coming months," she said.

Waitabu Marine Park has long since been a pioneering example of a successful managed Marine Protected Area (MPA). The communities of Waitabu and Bouma came together to protect their native fishing grounds back in 1998.

Their foresight and diligence allows visitors the opportunity to share in the beauty of the Waitabu Marine Park.

Ropate Valemei

(Source: <http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?ref=archive&id=226705>)

Solomon Islands dolphins slaughtered



(Photo credit: dolphinproject.org)

900 bottlenose dolphins were slaughtered as the row between the American Earth Island Institute (EII) and Fanalei villagers continued.

Fanalei villagers on Malaita said EII had promised last April to pay them S\$2.4 million (NZ\$400,000) over two years not to kill dolphins, but villagers claim they had only received S\$700,000.

It is understood the villagers decided to return to traditional hunting of dolphins when the deal went sour.

Fanalei Association chairman Atkin Fakaia said the villagers had to resume killing as they needed to survive.

"They go back to hunting dolphin in order to sell the dolphin teeth and meat to earn money," he said.

But a statement to Solomon Times from EII Associate Director, Mark Berman: "This dolphin massacre is now going to bring back the same issues against the Solomon Islands."

He says any tuna investor is now thinking twice to go into the country.

"Earth Island did what we stated. The entire project has been hijacked by the greed of the few in Honiara while leaving the villagers of Fanalei what they were to get in the MOU," said Mr. Berman.

Fanalei Association maintains that there is a shortfall in promised payouts, resulting in frustration from villagers.



(Photo credit: solomontimes.com)

"I think the local EII representative, Lawrence Makili, has a lot to answer for, we understand he made payments to third parties without the approval of the Association," said a spokesperson.

"So we feel he is partly to blame, he is only there to facilitate payments, not decide on how to expend the money."

(Reprinted from: <http://www.solomontimes.com/news/900-dolphins-slaughtered/7490>)

Commitment to manage Fiji's Great Sea Reef



(Photo credit: WWF South Pacific)

Two provincial offices, a local municipality and the head of the Government in the Western Division have signed commitments to contribute to the protection of the third longest continuous barrier reef system in the world, the Great Sea Reef.

Senior assistant Roko Tui Ra Mosese Nakoroi, the Roko Tui Ba Tupou Tukana, Commissioner Western Joeli Cawaki and the Rakiraki Town Council have formally committed to leading the development of a management strategy for the Great Sea Reef over the next 15 months.

As part of their commitment they also plan to be a member of the GSR Plan of Action Committee that will see to the implementation of the management strategy.

The management strategy helps ensure the sustainable management of natural resources

It will also address developments, agricultural activities, and other anthropogenic influences that potentially present harm to the GSR.

The 200 kilometer long GSR that stretches from Bua to the Yasawas, is home to a myriad of marine life that supports the livelihoods of thousands of people.

Although conservation activities that help protect the GSR are underway in Macuata and Bua, what is needed is a united approach and commitment from all provinces located parallel to it from Bua to Yasawa. Discussions to secure formal commitments to protect the GSR have also commenced with Bua and Macuata provincial offices.

(Source: <http://www.wwfpacific.org.fj/?207892/Commitment-to-Manage-GSR-Made>)

8th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting

Fisheries are very important for the Pacific region. Not only are they one of the most important sources of income for many countries in the region, they are also central to food security in the region.

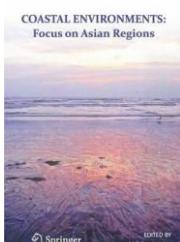
The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) held the 8th Heads of Fisheries Meeting this week at its headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia. This meeting is an opportunity for heads of fisheries departments from countries and territories around the Pacific to hold discussions and, with the help of SPC, plan for sustainable use of the oceanic resources.

At today's opening, SPC Director-General Dr Jimmie Rodgers noted that SPC's Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) Division is favourably viewed by SPC members and received high marks in last year's Independent External Review of SPC. This shows that the services provided by the division are essential for the sustainable development of the region.

Dr Rodgers also reminded attendees that the meeting, like SPC, belongs to the member Pacific Island countries and territories. Therefore, it provides an opportunity for SPC members to state their needs and help determine SPC priorities in the fisheries sector.

(Source: <http://www.spc.int/en/component/content/article/216-about-spc-news/1128-8th-spc-heads-of-fisheries-meeting.html>)

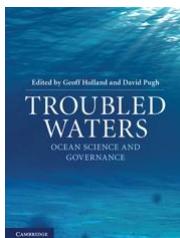
New additions to PIMRIS Library



Coastal environments: focus on Asian regions edited by V. Subramanian. Dordrecht : Springer, c2012. ISBN: 9789048130016.

A book that deals with the major issues being faced by the coastal population in Asia with emphasis on natural and man-made hazards, climate change impact and pressures caused by mega cities along Asian coasts.

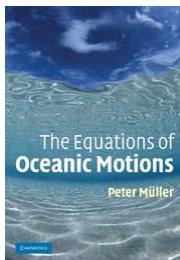
<http://www.springer.com/earth+sciences+and+geography/earth+system+sciences/book/978-90-481-3001-6>



Troubled waters: ocean science and governance edited by G. Holland and D. Pugh. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, c2010. ISBN: 9780521765817.

The volume looks at how governments use science to establish ocean policies, with chapters ranging from the history of ocean management to current advances in marine science, observation and management applications, and the international agencies that co-ordinate this work.

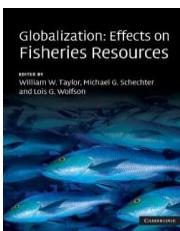
http://www.cambridge.org/gb/knowledge/isbn/item5601178/?site_locale=en_GB



The equations of oceanic motions by P. Müller. Cambridge, UK : Cambridge University Press, c2012. ISBN: 9781107410602.

This book serves as a comprehensive text and an essential reference that provides the basic theoretical background for graduate students and researchers of physical oceanography and climate science.

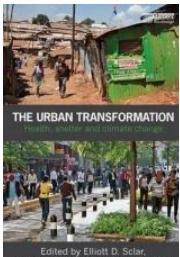
http://www.cambridge.org/gb/knowledge/isbn/item6943726/?site_locale=en_GB



Globalization: effects on fisheries resources edited by W. W. Taylor et al. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, c2012. ISBN: 9781107406605.

This book discusses the social and political changes affecting fisheries, the changes to ecological processes due to direct and indirect impacts of globalization, the changing nature of the goods and services that fisheries ecosystems are able to provide, and the resultant changes in markets and economic assessment of our fishery resources.

http://www.cambridge.org/gb/bibles/isbn/item1174504/?site_locale=en_GB



The urban transformation: health, shelter and climate change edited by E. D. Sclar et al. New York: Routledge, c2013. ISBN: 9781849712163.

Bringing together some of the world's foremost experts in urban development with the aim of approaching these issues as an opportunity for real positive change the chapters of this book focus on three strategically critical aspects of this transformation: public health shelter, water, sanitation and climate change adaptation.

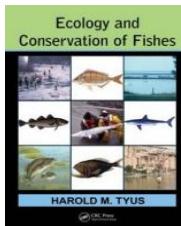
<http://www.lehmanns.de/shop/nocategory/20283265-9781849712163-urban-transformation>



Commercially important sea cucumbers of the world by S. W. Purchell, Y. Samyn and C. Conand. Rome : FAO, c2012. ISBN: 9781405130899.

This guide book provides information on 60 species of commercial sea cucumbers including annotated scientific illustrations of the body and spicules, colour photographs of live and dry specimen, information on nomenclature together with FAO names and common names used in different countries and regions. Also includes basic information on size, habitat, biology, fisheries, human consumption, market value and trade; geographic distribution maps.

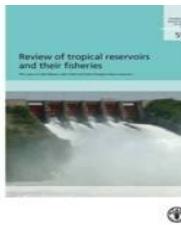
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i1918e/i1918e00.htm>



The ecology and conservation of fishes by H. M. Tyus. Boca Raton, FL : CRC Press, c2012. ISBN: 9781439858547.

This title provides broad, comprehensive, and systematic coverage of all aquatic systems from the mountains to the oceans. It was written as a stand-alone textbook for students and also a useful reference for professionals in government and private agencies, academic institutions and consultants.

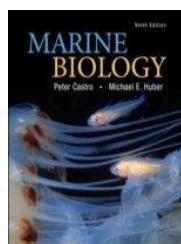
<http://www.amazon.com/Ecology-Conservation-Fishes-Harold-Tyus/dp/1439858543>



Review of tropical reservoirs and their fisheries: the cases of Lake Nasser, Lake Volta and Indo-Gangetic Basin reservoirs edited by P. A. M. van Zwieten et al. Rome : FAO, c2011. ISBN: 9789251067413.

This technical report reviews hydrological, biophysical and limnological features, primary production, and fish and fisheries data for some very different tropical river basins: the Indus and Ganges/Brahmaputra Basin in India, the Nile River Basin in Eastern Africa and the Volta River Basin in West Africa.

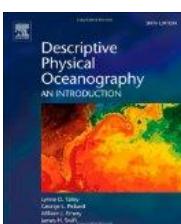
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/ba0132e/ba0132e00.htm>



Marine biology by P. Castro and M. E. Huber. 9th ed. New York : McGraw-Hill, c2013. ISBN: 9780073524207.

This book covers the basics of marine biology with a global approach, using examples from numerous regions and ecosystems worldwide. The authors have made a special effort to include solid basic science content needed in a general education course, including the fundamental principles of biology, the physical sciences, and the scientific method.

<http://www.amazon.com/Marine-Biology-Peter-Castro/dp/0073524204>



Descriptive physical oceanography: an introduction by L. D. Talley et al. 6th ed. Amsterdam : Academic Press, c2011. ISBN: 9780750645522.

This edition provides an introduction to descriptive physical oceanography for advanced undergraduates and graduate students. The emphasis is on large-scale oceanography, based mainly in observations, with some topics from waves and coastal oceanography also included.

<http://store.elsevier.com/product.jsp?isbn=9780750645522&pagename=search>

Conference & Workshop Notices

- 8 – 12 Apr. 2013 **SPC – Fisheries Stock Assessment Workshop**, SPC Headquarters, Noumea, New Caledonia.
URL: <http://www.spc.int/en/meetings.html>
- 10 -12 Apr. 2013 **SPC – Pacific Invasive Partnerships (PIP) Regional Meeting.**
URL: <http://www.spc.int/en/meetings.html>
- 15 -19 Apr. 2013 **SPC – 7th Tuna Data Workshop**, SPC Headquarters, Noumea, New Caledonia. URL: <http://www.spc.int/en/meetings.html>
- 17 -19 Apr. 2013 **SPC - Pacific Value Chain Conference**, Nadi, Fiji Islands.
- 6 – 10 May 2013 **The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Subregional Meetngs**, FFA Headquarters, Honiara, Solomon Islands.
- 13 -17 May 2013 **FFA's - Annual 85th Forum Fisheries Committee Meeting**, FFA Headquarters, Honiara, Solomon Islands.
- 26 – 30 June 2013 **SPC - 5th Regional Workshop on Search & Rescue**, Suva, Fiji Islands.
URL: <http://www.spc.int/en/meetings.html>