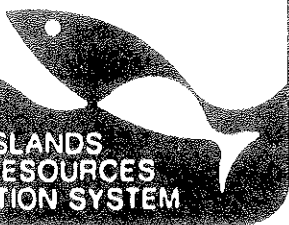


PIMRIS**NEWSLETTER**

PACIFIC ISLANDS
MARINE RESOURCES
INFORMATION SYSTEM

Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System
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FROM THE PIMRIS DESK.....

PIMRIS is a joint project of the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission(SOPAC), the Forum Fisheries Agency(FFA), South Pacific Commission(SPC) and The University of the South Pacific(USP) funded by Canadian International Development Agency. The SPC component is funded by the Government of France. South Pacific Regional Environment Programme(SPREP) is also another cooperating institution.

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(Views expressed in the articles are not necessarily those of the institutions cooperating in the PIMRIS Network)

The first half of year 2000 commenced successfully with increasing number users seeking assistance at PIMRIS Coordination Unit. However, this was affected mid May due to the political situation in Fiji. There has also been an increase on requests for document delivery including inter-library loans. A tremendous willingness to assist in document delivery was noted from the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries & Information Centres (IAMSLIC) members particularly the Pacific Regional Aquaculture Information Service (PRAISE) at University of Hawaii.

Early this year special technical assistance was provided to Tonga and Tuvalu fisheries departments in marine information management. A brief report for each visit is included in this issue.

The Prime Minister of Cook Islands presented some challenges to Pacific countries at The Climate Change Conference on 4 April 2000 – excerpts from a news coverage is provided for general reading in this newsletter.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) has just set up an email discussion group to service its "Live Reef Fishery" (LRF) network – a special interest group covering the live reef fish trade. You can read more about this network inside this issue.

Ganeshan Rao
PIMRIS Coordinator

REQUEST

This is a request to you to deposit copies of any of your publications (published or unpublished - reports, research papers, technical papers, etc.) with PIMRIS. The annual reports are especially important. The items will be added to the Pacific Collection of USP Library.

PIMRIS has been continuously soliciting for documents (published or unpublished) on Marine Resources (living as well as non-living), specific to the Pacific Island countries. This is essential in order to create a centralised location in the Region where most of the marine related documents could be found.

PIMRIS Coordination Unit

Information Requests

The requests for information include both quick reference and research type reference questions as well as literature searches. Some users communicate from remote locations for reference material to support their field work.

STATISTICS - JANUARY - JUNE 2000

Users - 3636

USER	JAN	FEB	MA R	AP R	MA Y	JUN
Fisheries Officer	10	12	25	10	20	13
Research	2	10	25	15	10	4
U.S.P. Staff	10	145	150	100	150	70
U.S.P. Student	15	50	954	753	637	200
Govt. Officer		9	15	10	5	1
School		5	10	15	4	
Librarian	11	25	61	20	21	2
Other	1	15	15			1
TOTAL	49	271	125 5	923	847	291

Books Added to PIMRIS Collection

New books - 54
2nd copy - 50
Reprints - 396
Brief Cataloguing - 340
TOTAL 830.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

PIMRIS Coordinator, Ganeshan Rao, provided technical assistance to fisheries libraries in Tuvalu (20 – 24 January 2000) and Tonga (20 – 27 March - funded partly by Government of France via SPC and Government of Canada via MSP). It involved developing a library database using WINISIS software, setting up the fisheries libraries, and providing basic marine information management skills.

Tuvalu

Nauru Fisheries & Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) had undergone a major organisational restructuring changing from a government department to a statutory body. During this exercise it was felt that a working Library/Information Unit be established under the Administrative Services section. In response to an expressed need to seek technical assistance in marine information management and library work the PIMRIS Coordination Unit, The University of the South Pacific (USP) and The Secretariat of the Pacific Community's (SPC) Fisheries Information Section jointly planned the activity. The funding for the in-country assistance was partly from the Government of France through SPC and partly from the government of Canada (CSPODP) through the USP Marine Studies Programme. The assistance was provided by the PIMRIS Coordinator of the PIMRIS Coordination Unit, USP.

Objectives of the technical assistance

- To review the collection for appropriate weeding in consultation with NFMRA staff;
- To discuss with NFMRA Management re: significance of library/information services, to establish their needs and to seek their input on appropriate strategy to organise the collection;
- To organise the collection using an appropriate subject classification scheme;
- To install CDS/ISIS (Windows Version ie WINISIS) software and provide basic training in database development and maintenance;
- To advise on basic library operation procedures for ease of information access;
- To provide basic skills training to library staff in information collection, organisation and dissemination;
- To establish communication links with PIMRIS to facilitate information services.

The management felt that the focus should be on establishing an operational library with a usable database. It was agreed that two staff would be trained to be able to do basic library work. Library activities and staff will be supervised by the Senior Administrative Officer.

The NFMRA Library work will be shared between the two Clerical Officers (Sra-Yosie Reiyesti and Kristina Amram) on part-time basis. Both were trained in basic library skills during this visit.

Special training was provided to the Library staff on:

- Library Organisation and Management ;
- Basics in Subject analysis and categorisation;
- Assigning of Shelf Marks;

- Shelf labelling;
- Date entry, backup, and maintenance including loaning & return of items;
- specific instructions for a fresh installation of CDS/ISIS software & database structures and re-importing of the full database from appropriate backups.

As part of the agreed strategy it was recommended that:

- all documents of personal ownership or the department's be handled so as to support information access
- the Library be allocated more space for reading area;
- a new computer is essential as the current one is quite old and had previous incidences of hardware crashes;
- the Library be assigned an annual budget for purchasing of books and subscription of selected journal titles;
- the Library staff be encouraged and supported to pursue formal courses/study programmes to upgrade their library/information skills from University centre in NAURU;
- in view of the importance of record keeping in any organisation it is essential that NFMRA develop a standard filing scheme which is consistently used by all branches and also formulate operations procedures for archiving of records.

This technical assistance visit was successfully completed. The level of support and commitment demonstrated by NFMRA Management was impressive. It was strongly suggested that the Management pay special attention to sustain the work done during this visit as well as aim to further improve the standard of the Library.

Tonga

The Secretary of Ministry of Fisheries, Tonga (Tonga Fisheries), Akau'ola, had indicated during the Regional Heads of Fisheries Meeting in Noumea in 1999, organised by Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the need for Tonga to receive such assistance. A similar request was also made to the PIMRIS Coordination Unit early 2000. Discussions between SPC Fisheries Information Section and the PIMRIS Coordination Unit at The University of the South Pacific (USP) were held to provide this assistance. The funding for this in-country assistance was partly from the Government of France through SPC and partly from the Government of Canada (under Canadian South Pacific Ocean Development Programme (CSPODP)) through the USP Marine Studies Programme. The assistance was provided by the PIMRIS Coordinator - Ganeshan Rao.

Meetings were held with Akau'ola (Secretary of Fisheries), Mr. Mafi Akau'ola (Deputy Secretary), and Ms. Losaline Tafea (Senior Fisheries Officer). During the meetings it was agreed that the Library/Information Centre should be a source of information not only for the Ministry staff but also students, visitors and public.

Two staff (Lavinia Vaikona and Emeline Tupou) were trained to be able to do basic library work. It was evident that the library organisation and services had deteriorated over the past years. This was due to the lack of appropriate space and staff to oversee the operation.

The intention of the Ministry (as expressed by the Secretary) was also to establish and provide Internet links to the library in order to enable users to have various options for searching information worldwide.

The agreed action strategies were similar to that of Tuvalu visit, however, some additional aspects were that:

- relevant web sites can be identified for staff information & use;
- the staff can screen through all the periodicals that come into the Library for appropriate information from Internet sources and web sites;
- the library can convey or publicise these sites within the Ministry;
- the library allocate special notice or display boards for such information.
- the Library be allocated more reading desks for users;
- the Library staff should enter Tongan documents into the database as a priority;
- staff liaise with management re: funds for purchase of new items;
- it is possible for PIMRIS to arrange a study attachment for Emeline with PIMRIS, with travel funds provided by Fisheries Tonga;
- for public awareness purpose: in addition to the staff of the Ministry, the library can serve as the resource for public education;
- set up displays on special topics using the material at hand and publicise in local media for people to visit;
- work towards producing a simple public awareness newsletter;
- present special information bulletins over the local radio and TV; and
- produce simple booklets and posters for use by public and schools.

Of course, the current number of staff and qualifications would make this practically impossible unless the Ministry assigns professional to be involved in such productions.

Inter-Library Loans.

ARIEL Document Delivery facility was utilised effectively for user services at PIMRIS and also USP Library's Reader Services loan requests. A new method of document delivery using material scanned using ARIEL package and sent via email as TIFF file attachments has been successfully tried at PIMRIS with University of Hawaii and University of Connecticut. This facility is now working fine.

Library Instructions

At the start of Semester 1 this year, library lectures were conducted for science students of the University on the usage of scientific indexes and abstracts. These included: Aquatic Sciences & Fisheries Abstracts, and Chemical Abstracts. The lectures were organised in liaison with lecturers and the Reader Services Librarian of the USP Library.

For Chemical Abstracts for third year Chemistry majoring students (CH301 & CH 303) a total of 99 students were instructed. A special assignment was also set for them.

Collection Development.

A sum of \$10,000.00 has been committed by the Library for year 2000 towards purchase of marine related publication in order to strengthen the PIMRIS collection.

PUBLICATION

The South Pacific Journal Of Natural Science

Volume 18, 1999

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CONTACT: DISTRIBUTION CONTACT, THE SOUTH PACIFIC JOURNAL OF Natural Science, Chemistry Dept., School of Pure & Applied Science, The University of The South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.

LIVE REEF FISHERY (LRF) NETWORK

Excerpts from an announcement from:

Dr Tim Adams

Director, Marine Resources Division
Secretariat of the Pacific Community

www.spc.int/coastfish

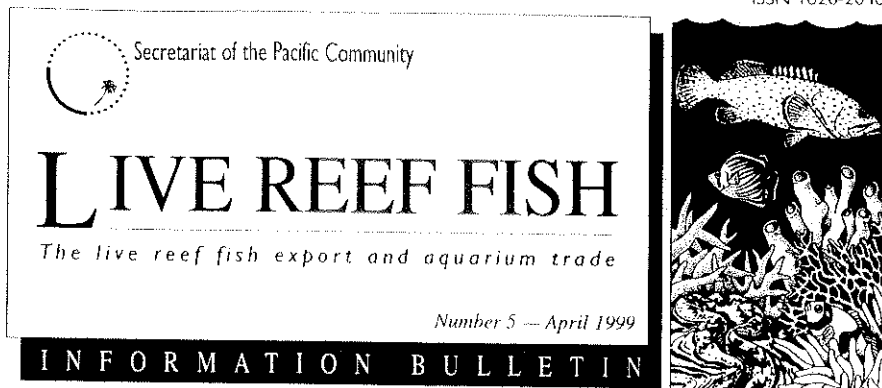
tima@spc.int

fax +687 26.38.18

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) has just set up an email discussion group to service its "Live Reef Fishery" (LRF) network – a special interest group covering the live reef fish trade. This network originally set up to cover the LRF trade in the Pacific Islands - SPC's only mandated work area - but has attracted interest, articles and correspondence from a much broader area.

You may already know of the network's *Live Reef Fish Information Bulletin*, edited by Bob Johannes, and available on the web at :

<http://wasp.spc.org.nc/coastfish/News/lrf/lrf.htm>



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[Fax: +687 263818; e-mail: cfinfo@spc.org.nc; Website: <http://www.spc.org.nc>]. **Printed with financial assistance from France.**

This bulletin is published by SPC on a 6-monthly schedule and, whilst it is an excellent resource for substantial news items and primary information, it cannot possibly respond rapidly enough to cover some of the shorter-term issues arising in this rapidly-moving trade. This email discussion group has been set up at the SPC hub to provide a more immediate way of exchanging news and information between members of the network, and to enable a more rapid response to issues arising.

The purpose of the list is to provide a way of disseminating announcements and information quickly amongst a group of like-minded people; a way for you to ask questions in the reasonable hope of getting a useful response from someone who is knowledgeable; and of generally arguing with each other about the best way of doing things. If you send an email message to the list address it will be automatically

copied to everyone else on the list. It is very simple in principle but can be remarkably effective.

Note that the "Live Reef Fish Trade" in the Pacific Islands region can be split into two main components: the "Live Reef Food Fish" trade and the much longer-standing and generally less fragile "Aquarium Fish" trade, which is "live" by definition. We will tend to concentrate on the live food fish trade, since that is the main management issue of concern in the Pacific Islands region, but we welcome discussion on aquarium fisheries as well.

You can subscribe to the list by sending an email to the address "join-live-reef-fish@lyris.spc.int". Alternatively you can enter the address <http://www.spc.org.nc/cgi-bin/lyris.pl?enter=live-reef-fish> in your worldwide web-browser's address bar and follow the instructions on the page.

Pacific Islands Live Reef Fishery Initiative

Excerpts from an announcement from:

Dr Tim Adams

Director, Marine Resources Division

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) is the figurehead of the "Pacific Islands Live Reef Fishery Initiative" -- an informal, loose association of organisations devoting part of their capacity to the LRF issue in the Pacific. SPC's particular interest is in assisting and advising its Pacific Island member countries and territories to assess, develop and manage fisheries in an environmentally and economically sustainable way, and the live reef fish trade is naturally a topical subject in many islands, particularly in the west and north of the region. SPC recently entered into an understanding with The Nature Conservancy, the International Marinelifelife Alliance and the World Resources Institute about more formally implementing part of this "Pacific Islands Live Reef Fishery Initiative", supported by funding from each organisation and, in the coming months, through a project of the Asian Development Bank as well.

The main people within SPC helping with the initiative are Being Yeeting (Acting Live Reef Fishery Specialist), Aymeric Desurmont (Fisheries Information Specialist) and Pierre Labrosse (Reef Fisheries Assessment and Management Adviser). Being's salary is currently being funded by The Nature Conservancy, whilst other support for SPC LRF work comes, or has come, from the governments of France, the UK, Australia, and from SPC core funding. The Nature Conservancy also funds most of the time that Bob Johannes puts into editing the LRF Bulletin, working from Australia.

There are several other agencies associated with SPC in the family of Pacific Island regional intergovernmental organisations called "CROP" (Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific) which includes: the University of the South Pacific, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, have interests within the Initiative. The Forum Secretariat, for example,

is collaborating with the Marine Aquarium Council to investigate the potential role of consumer-targeted sustainability certification in the aquarium fishery. Other organisations actively associated with the Initiative include the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) South Pacific office, which is carrying out research on reef fish larvae.

**Cook Islands Prime Minister : Presented A Challenge To Pacific Countries At
The Climate Change Conference - 4 April 2000**

The Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Dr. Terepai Maoate said that small island states in the Pacific and around the world will no longer sit back and accept new developments which threaten the existence of small islands.

According to Dr. Maoate, small islands will ask questions on issues like climate change, the transshipment of nuclear and hazardous waste, and the unexplained weather patterns which cause havoc on small unprotected communities.

Dr. Maoate made the comments while officially opening the Pacific Conference on Climate Change, Climate Variability and Sea Level Rise in the Cook Islands capital, Rarotonga, on 4th April 2000. His address was titled "The Stewardship of Our Environment"

The Prime Minister noted that throughout history, the experiences of island people in the past have often been shaped by the "actions and reasons of faraway voices". "Voices that increasingly speak of the need to be tolerant, to understand. And to accept, because we do, after all live in an age of accelerating globalisation," he said.

According to Dr. Maoate, the deliberations of the Climate Change Conference "is an important part of building upon this search not just for me and the questions posed by Cook Islanders but for leaders everywhere to carry the conscience and well being of their people".

He noted that political decision makers and the formulators of policy have an enormous task, as does the scientific community. "What those tasks must do is converge in a fashion that speaks to the benefit of those that are marginalised and disadvantaged from wealth, security and knowledge," he said.

Dr. Maoate said the Cook Island and other small island states must press upon the need to investigate and collect data and information while developing the corresponding policy frameworks. "Without the two complementing each other, the world of science and the arena for policy will simply overshadow the obligations required to bring security to our lives. We cannot lose sight of the impacts of our changing climate, the vulnerability of our eco-systems, and the management of our resources

Source : Excerpts from PACNEWS - Pacific Islands Broadcasting Association News Services - Internet. Second Edition. Tuesday, 04 April 2000