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NEWSLETTER

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Editorial



Networking is a term most commonly used in this technological era to describe the linking of computers together by electrical cables and "information infrastructure". Advances in information and communications technologies have certainly transformed the way most of us work and live, but networking as a human activity, our desire to contact each other to share information and ideas, remains just as important. Both forms of networking provide opportunities for cooperative action through which we can collectively accomplish more than any of us could separately.

An excellent example of this is PIMRIS' own collective database of regional marine literature, *Moana*. All PIMRIS participants have contributed records to this database since the network's inception and in recent years it has begun to expand into a virtual library, with links to full documents being possible due to the digitisation programmes being conducted by a number of participants. Now these resources are accessible via the Internet, thanks to an offer from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) to host the database on their web server (p.3). We encourage you to try searching *Moana* online and welcome your feedback.

Networking benefits all participants, large and small, as articles on the FAO Fisheries Library in Rome (pp.4-6) and the Tuvalu Fisheries Library (p.10) remind us. Similarly, sharing information with local communities (and learning from them) is becoming recognized as a key factor in the successful conservation of marine resources (such as turtles, pp.8-9) or their management for sustainable use (pp.11-12). Such measures benefit all of us. Tokwe,

Chris Nelson, PIMRIS Coordinator

-- Please note the change to our postal address above: PO Box 1168 is no longer in use by the University --

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*Networking allows participants to achieve
more together than they can individually*



--- Opinions expressed in articles included in the PIMRIS Newsletter do not necessarily represent those of any participants. ---

Directory

PIMRIS is a cooperative network of fisheries and marine resources libraries and information centres in the Pacific. Participants include ministerial libraries and the regional agencies listed below. For additional information contact the Coordination Unit or a specific agency.

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New Faces, New Places



Recent visitors to the PIMRIS Coordination Unit in Suva have included **Eleanor Kleiber**, who became the Librarian at the SPC Library in New Caledonia in June. Eleanor is no stranger to the Pacific, having grown up in the region and studied at the University of the South Pacific.

In fact, regular use of the Pacific Collection at USP Library inspired her to take up a new field of study and she recently graduated from the University of British Columbia with degrees in Library Science and Archival Studies. She is most pleased to be back in Noumea working for the Secretariat.

Astrid Ciran has also joined the SPC Library team in Noumea as a part-time Library Assistant. She will be assisting staff with cataloguing, indexing and providing services to patrons.

Another familiar face in the PIMRIS Coordination Unit recently has been **Peter Jacob**, former Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Nauru Fisheries & Marine Resources Authority. Peter is currently completing a Masters degree at USP. His thesis will be on fish valuation.



His successor as Acting CEO at the NFMRA is **Ross Cain**. Also visiting PIMRIS during the University's recent Open Day was the Hon. **Cyril Buraman**, Member of the Parliament of Nauru and Vice Chairman of the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Authority.



Laulagi Taomia, Library Officer at Tuvalu Fisheries Department and **Florence Edwards** of the Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority (MIMRA) were both pleased to be awarded sponsored memberships in IAMSLIC, the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries & Information Centres, in August. Covering a period of three years, the sponsored membership will allow access to a range of services, including the right to request documents found in the association's online distributed catalogue and assistance to regional and annual meetings. More information on IAMSLIC can be found by visiting their website: www.iamslc.org.

Moana Database Now Available Online

The regional database of marine literature, *Moana*, became accessible online in September, following an offer from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme to host the database on their web server. This collaboration between the PIMRIS Coordination Unit, based within the School of Marine Studies at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, and the Secretariat in Apia, Samoa, greatly improves access to Pacific marine literature across the region and the globe.

Consisting of around 14,000 bibliographic records contributed by all members of PIMRIS since the network was established, *Moana* is being expanded to become a virtual library by the progressive addition of links to full-text documents. Currently around 750 records are linked to their original source documents located on PIMRIS participant web servers and other Internet sites.

SPREP is home already to the award-winning Pacific Environmental Information Network (PEIN) and its database, which was developed using InMagic DB\TextWorks software. *Moana* was initially created as a CDS-ISIS database, but data was migrated to DB\TextWorks in 2005 to take advantage of its greater flexibility. The combined experience of staff at both SPREP and the Coordination Unit with DB\TextWorks and WebPublisher facilitated this work. Particular thanks are due to Taito John Roache, Corporate Services Manager, and Kapeni Matatia, IT Manager, at SPREP for approving this collaborative project; to Christian Slaven (Database & Business Systems Administrator) for his technical wizardry; and to Satui Bentin, the IRC Manager and PEIN Coordinator, for her facilitation of all arrangements for this project. The PIMRIS Coordinator is also grateful to Dr Pa'o Luteru, Dean of the Faculty of Islands and Oceans at USP, for funding his travel to SPREP for this work.



Above: Christian Slaven during his work on *Moana*.

To access *Moana*, go to the search screen at: http://www.sprep.org/publication/moana_library.asp and enter terms in the appropriate box. Search results may initially be displayed in unformatted text, but a selection of designed report formats which include hyperlinks can be chosen from the drop-down menu at top left. "Full (for web)" is recommended. To limit your search to only those records linked to full-text documents, put an asterisk (*) in the lowest box on the search screen. PIMRIS staff will be adding further links to full-text documents on a regular basis.



The PEIN database (http://www.sprep.org/publication/pub_top.asp) is also available at SPREP. Links to these and many other relevant marine databases may be found on the PIMRIS Databases page: http://www.usp.ac.fj/library/pimris/pimris_databases.htm.

The web version of *Moana* is an expanded version of the database previously distributed on CD-ROM, with a few modifications. The CD version will continue to be distributed to those participants who lack reliable web access. Other parties interested in obtaining a copy of the *Moana* CD should contact the Coordination Unit.

At left: Satui Bentin (IRC Manager and PEIN Coordinator) receives a tapa turtle from Chris Nelson (PIMRIS Coordinator) as a token of appreciation for SPREP's hosting of the *Moana* database.

FAO Fisheries Library: Part of a Worldwide Network

Jean Collins

As anyone who ever used a Library knows, what you see is actually much less than what you can get. Most libraries have their own core collection and also provide a window on the world of information outside of their walls. With the advent of the digital age, this is more than ever the case as libraries move towards providing access rather than physical ownership of parts of the collection. Whether providing access to digital resources or obtaining copies of print and multi-media information from external sources, one thing which has not changed is the inter-library collaboration and networking that allows libraries to serve users more quickly and less expensively than otherwise possible.

Looking back

I was reminded of the development of fisheries library networks last year when I wrote a small obituary expressing appreciation for the work of my predecessor in FAO Fisheries Library, Clare Cuerden. Clare passed away in July 2005 after enjoying fifteen years of retirement from FAO. Because she was known to so many fisheries people, the message was widely distributed and the responses have acknowledged her work of building and managing the FAO Fisheries Library collection for over 20 years. In particular, the collection of fisheries publications from developing countries has made this unique information available to the staff and many visiting experts at FAO, to the Aquatic Science and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) database and in some cases has probably saved it from extinction.

Clare's priorities were clearly expressed in the paper she presented to the 12th Annual Conference of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) Conference in 1986. The paper "*Including fisheries: the development of a fishery library network within the framework of FAO*" gives a brief history of the FAO Fisheries Library and the work of reaching out to smaller libraries in developing countries.

FAO Fisheries Library was established in 1967 and is one of the Branches of FAO's David Lubin Memorial Library, one of the world's large agricultural libraries. A good insight into its history and of David Lubin himself was given at the 31st Annual IAMSLIC Conference by the Chief Librarian of FAO. The collections of FAO Library have grown to 1 million volumes and one of the strengths of the Fisheries Library is having access to this large multidisciplinary collection, which is essential to fisheries and aquaculture.

Where we are today

The need to provide access to global information resources has not diminished despite the growth of our own collection. Indeed, making decisions and policy in response to a more rapidly changing world makes our dependence on reliable and timely information even more critical. The importance for FAO and its Members of a world-class library was identified as a priority area by the FAO Committee on Fisheries at its 25th session.

Modern information and telecommunication infrastructures have revolutionized the speed and the efficiency with which we can provide access and they enable improved sharing of information resources between libraries in all parts of the world. Library networks aim to strengthen the capacity of individual libraries to satisfy their own user community. In recent years we have worked with a small group of fisheries libraries in Africa to assess information needs and to test mechanisms for library networking. A workshop organized by FAO in collaboration with the South African Institute for Biological Diversity in 2003 provided the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the resources available and the information needs of fisheries institutions in several African countries. It also highlighted the need for improved dissemination and preservation of African fisheries and aquaculture publications, better coverage in international databases and their integration in both print and full text repositories being developed at regional and international level.

An international library network

In the aquatic and marine sciences, including fisheries and aquaculture, the IAMS LIC international network provides an excellent forum for the exchange of information and expertise as well as an increasing number of technical services to facilitate these. IAMS LIC (<http://www.iamslc.org>) has a worldwide membership of almost 400 libraries which communicate and share resources via an electronic bulletin board, a web site, newsletter and annual and regional conferences. The IAMS LIC Z39.50 Distributed Library is a web based system that facilitates international resource sharing. More than 50 libraries have entered their serials into the IAMS LIC Union List of Marine and Aquatic Serials, which provides access to several thousand titles. The FAO Fisheries Library collection of over 600 fisheries and aquaculture serials from developing countries is included, making this unique collection more readily available to aquatic science libraries worldwide. The most recent project being undertaken by IAMS LIC is to investigate the feasibility of an aquatic commons digital repository, metadata harvester, search engine and Z39.50 server. This would be of particular benefit to those smaller institutions which do not have the resources to establish an institutional repository and it would provide easier access to full text documents for all.

A priority area for the FAO Fisheries Department is the implementation of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. In biennial surveys of FAO Members it is regularly stated that the lack of information continues to constrain the full and effective implementation of the Code. An FAO study was carried out during 2004 to assess what information is needed and what resources are available, in particular in developing countries.

The theme of *Information for Responsible Fisheries: Libraries as Mediators* was chosen for the 31st Annual Conference of IAMS LIC, which was hosted by FAO in 2005. This provided a forum in which to further discuss issues and propose activities whereby FAO and IAMS LIC can work together. Many aspects were explored. Sidney Holt opened by identifying the importance of connections with people, through time and across disciplines for successful fisheries science. Rachele Oriente and Anton Immink discussed the challenges of information outreach and education from different perspectives. The importance of the Code of Conduct to worldwide fisheries management and the role of information in its implementation was reviewed by David Douman and Eric Reynolds of FAO. Various case studies of innovative strategies for sharing information in Africa and the Pacific were presented. The full Conference Proceedings will be published this year and ordering details can be found at <http://www.iamslc.org/index.php?section=36>



Jose Garnica (left) and Armand Gribling (right) at the FAO's Fisheries Library

Digitization activities at the FAO Fisheries Department

The FAO Fisheries Department is gradually digitizing its older publications in order to make them available to a wider audience, in particular the titles that are no longer available in print and are still frequently requested. New publications are automatically made available in full-text in the FAO Document Repository (<http://www.fao.org/documents>). In addition to access via the Internet, the publications are also disseminated selectively on CD ROM.

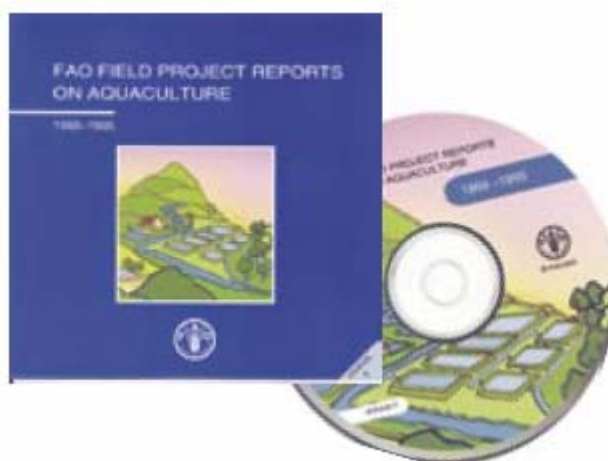
In 2006 we hope to finalize a CD ROM that includes the publications of the following FAO inland fishery bodies:

- Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA)
- Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America (COPESCAL)
- European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC)

The CD will also include selected FAO Fisheries Reports on aquaculture and inland fisheries. We are also hoping to finalize an updated version of the FAO Field Project Reports on Aquaculture CD ROM during 2006.

For further information on FAO Fisheries publications contact: fi-library@fao.org or

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(A longer version of this article appeared in *FAN: FAO Aquaculture Newsletter*, no. 35, June 2006, pp.27-30. This abridged version is used here with the permission of the author. -- Ed.)

New Marine Information Resources

Global Invasive Species Database now on CD

Pacific islands have a powerful new tool to help manage invasive species with the launch of the CD-ROM version of the Global Invasive Species Database. Invasive species have far reaching economic and environmental effects around the world, but small island states are especially vulnerable to the threat of introduced plants and animals that may have devastating effects in a very short time.

The GISD has been freely available on-line at www.issg.org/database since 2000. Now, the CD-ROM version will allow more people to access the information where internet access is restricted or non-existent. For a free copy of the CD-ROM, send your name and postal address to Michael Browne at m.browne@auckland.ac.nz

(Source: PIANGO e-Update, August 2006)

Avano

The "La Pérouse" library has just released Avano (<http://www.ifremer.fr/avano/>), an OAI harvester for the marine and aquatic sciences. It offers access to electronic resources about aquaculture, marine biology, fisheries, water pollution and a range of other topics. Avano is already offering access to about 24 000 notices that come from more than 30 repositories and they will load more repositories and notices on a regular basis. For further information, visit the Avano website, contact: Frederic.Merceur@ifremer.fr, or visit the IFREMER website at: <http://www.ifremer.fr/blp/>

(Source: Posting to IAMS LIC list, 10 August 2006)

The Canoe is the People

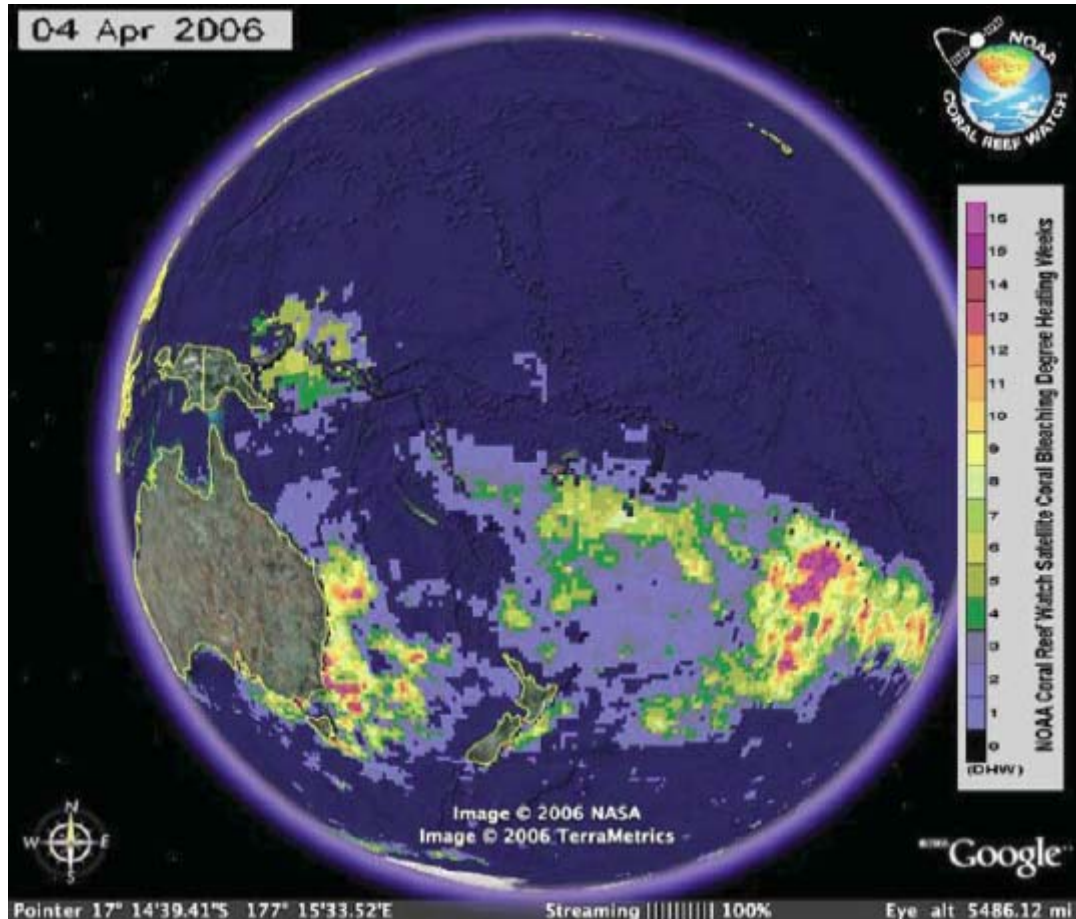
The *Canoe Is the People* CD-ROM honors and explores the knowledge and skills of traditional Pacific navigation. It is designed for Pacific youth but will be of great interest to others as well. The CD-ROM serves as an educational tool illustrating the vitality of indigenous knowledge, know-how, and identity in meaningful ways for Pacific communities. It will also become part of an educational package to be proposed for integration into Pacific curricula.

The CD-ROM includes 70 videos, 41 stories and accounts, 40 images and diagrams, of which 11 are animated, in addition to numerous maps, photos and texts. The Storehouse section contains an abundance of additional information: A glossary; museum references; book references; and the full printable text version of the CD-ROM. As such, it also acts as a reference resource helping local communities identify and gain access to a selection of archival materials lodged in distant locations. In this way, it contributes to a process of restitution of data to communities and revitalizes the transmission of indigenous knowledge by strengthening the dialogue between elders and youth. For a copy of this CD-ROM, contact UNESCO: links@unesco.org

Coral Bleaching Imagery via Google Earth

For years now, images of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coral Reef Watch (CRW) satellite monitoring data have been available online in near real-time. Now, reef managers and scientists around the world can access the latest data on thermal stress that can lead to coral bleaching at their reef locations in Google Earth format.

After installing the free Google Earth software, you have access to the latest CRW monitoring data and can overlay it on the globe. You can also zoom in, overlay other datasets, or pan around the entire earth. This is an excellent visualization tool that helps bring CRW data to life. To access the CRW data in this format visit <http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/satellite/ge/>. (Earth System Monitor, vol.15, no.1; this and previous issues of the journal are available online at: <http://www.nodc.noaa.gov/General/NODCPubs/ESM/esm.html>)



NOAA Coral Reef Watch data formatted for use with Google Earth, showing a bleaching event around Fiji and Tonga.

IMR and Community-Based Turtle Conservation Projects



2006 is the Year of the Sea Turtle and the Institute of Marine Resources at the University of the South Pacific is working with Fisheries in Fiji to gather as much information as possible on the status of sea turtles in Fiji, their nesting sites and the danger they face, in a bid to extend and ensure enforcement of the current five moratorium on the hunting of sea turtles.

Institute Director Dr Kenneth Mackay points out that it is absolutely essential to ensure that the moratorium is enforced because without this they would be fighting a losing battle.

“We have a strategy which summarises some of the information collected in the past and the Department of Fisheries has information also but these have to be put together and that is what we are trying to do. The Fisheries Department had gone to Cabinet and asked for a 15 year moratorium but in order to make the decision they required more information which the Department did not have. So the Fiji Cabinet gave them a five year moratorium and told them to come back in 2008 with more information. “But we need further information anyway in order to plan conservation.”

Dr Mackay explained that there are three main species of turtle in the region. Two of them – the Green and the Hawksbill Turtles occur in Fiji while the Leatherback turtle, which is probably the most endangered, nests in Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and PNG. “There are probably between two to three thousand nesting females in the whole Pacific Ocean. So there are serious worries,” he said.

Earlier this year the Institute received a grant from the United States for the turtle project and it has been involved with groups in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands to try and conserve the Leatherback turtles. “We are now expanding to look at the Green turtles and Hawksbill turtles. In Fiji, we have been working very closely with the Department of Fisheries and the World Wildlife Fund. In fact, we’ve received funding from WWF which will fund a graduate student who will help map all of the nesting beaches for turtles in Fiji.

“As mentioned earlier the Fisheries Department has a lot of that information already but there is also a whole network, the Fijian Locally Managed Marine Areas (FLMMA) group that is working with communities. Many of the conservation projects are not just on turtles but they have information on turtles so we are starting to get that.

“The basic information that we are getting together from Fiji Fisheries is on areas where the turtles are nesting. We map these and then try to follow up with recent information of what is happening there and what is missing. We are working with two other groups. One is in Rotuma – young Rotumans, many of them USP graduates -- who are doing coral reef surveys and conservation work. We are told that there is a nesting beach for turtles there so we will work with them to get some more information and maybe tag some turtles. The other group is the Mamanuca Environmental Society which is funded by the resorts. Again, they’ve started some work on turtles and we would like to build on that. But we’ll have them help document what is going on in the Mamanucas and also do some training with them on tagging and nesting beach surveys so we can get a better picture.”

Dr Mackay explained that Green turtles were the ones that people in Fiji hunted traditionally, but that numbers of these were also on the decline. “There are now very few green turtles nesting in Fiji. I’m guessing but there may be less than a hundred and many of the turtles that are eaten here or are hunted actually come from French Polynesia, Samoa, American Samoa and the Cook Islands. These turtles nest on the sort of isolated islands they have there, then they swim over here and feed on sea grass because they eat plants and they would return but are often caught.

“One of our students in Fiji who is just finishing off a thesis found from one community some old tags which were about five or six years old. One tag, we are pretty sure, comes from an isolated atoll in French Polynesia. And the other one looks like it has come from Australia.”

On efforts by different groups, Dr Mackay pointed out that some resorts do what is called head start where they take the baby turtles and raise them up. “The Fisheries Department in Fiji also does that but the results of that elsewhere is not positive. The thing is when the baby turtles leave the nest and head for the water, that’s when they orient and fix their position because they come back, and nest on the same beach that they hatched on. There have been large efforts like these in the Caribbean but their numbers have not increased as many of these turtles do not return to hatch because humans may mess up their navigation.”

But at the same time he pointed out that in the Pacific the best conservation program in the Pacific has been in Vanuatu. “We figure they have probably conserved at least 1000 turtles a year for the last couple of years. A DVD has been made on these efforts and it is shown on the programme how one community traditionally hunted around the harvest festival. About three or four years ago they would hunt and consume around 300 turtles a year.

“It is the theatre group Wan Smol Bag which is behind the conservation. They put on the turtle play and that started everything. Two years ago, a group went over to the island and met with the chiefs and elders where they basically negotiated how many turtles they would catch for the festival and they came up with a figure of less than 100 for four different villages. So that was already conservation happening there. I talked to some people from there when I was in Vanuatu some months ago and they said they decided they would cut the harvest in half. So they are still doing the traditional harvest, it is still part of the ceremony, but they are saying that they want some turtles left for the future generations.”

According to Dr Mackay, this is the sort of conservation work that they would like to start in Fiji and other islands in the Pacific as he feels that there are many lessons to be learnt. While Dr Mackay has been personally involved in conservation work with turtles, this is the first year that IMR has been involved, thanks to the grant from the United States.

On how IMR would fit into the area of conservation after data has been pulled together, Dr Mackay explained, “I don’t see our role as working on the beaches with the communities conserving the turtles because there are a number of NGOs and community groups doing this. What I see us doing is playing a role in training those people and helping to supply the research.

“So we will be training people in tagging and how to do beach surveys, because the turtles come up in the middle of the night. You see a nest, and you can tell by the tracks coming up the beach what species it is. They nest four and five times a year. But more than anything else, here in Fiji we need to pull all that information together. The other thing is, through SPREP, we are going to satellite tag some turtles and track their movements around the region. This will also give us a clear indication of what is happening.”

In taking these efforts further, the IMR also promoted turtle conservation and showed DVDs during the USP’s Open Day in September.

“People, particularly the young generation need to know the importance of turtles in island societies and why we need to protect them. By providing them with information and taking a leading role we hope to achieve just that.”



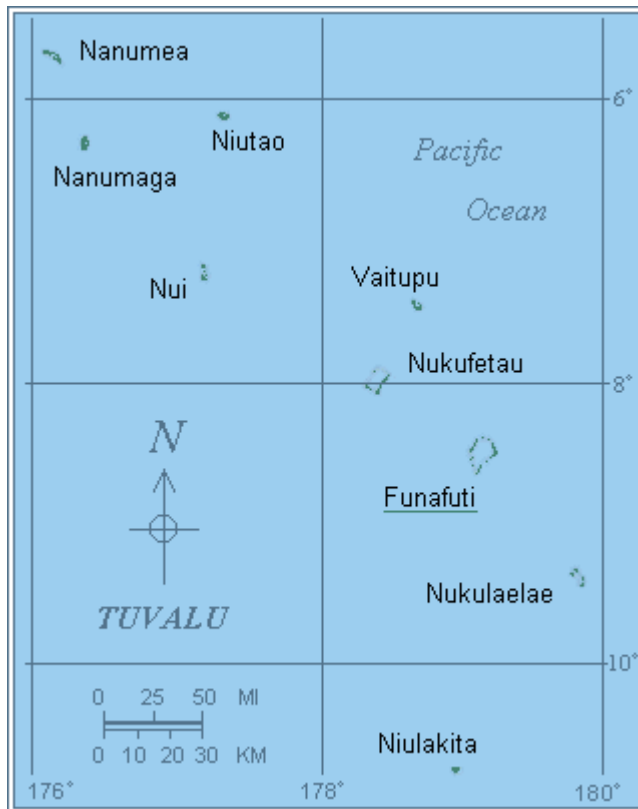
(Source: *USP Beat*, vol.6, no.13, 21 August 2006)

Tuvalu and the Fisheries Library

Laulagi Taomia

Tuvalu is a small country which is composed of nine coral atolls in the South Pacific. The total land area is only 26 km² but it has an EEZ of over 900,000 km². The population is approximately 11,600 people with around 30 per cent of the population living on the main island of Funafuti and the rest on the outer islands. In elections held in August, almost all of the previous ministers were not returned and a new Prime Minister was elected, Apisai Ielemia.

The country places much hope for future economic growth on its fishery resources. The commercial catch equates to around 6% of GDP but the sector is dominated by subsistence fishing, involving almost every household. Revenue from foreign fishing vessel licences is also significant, accounting for up to 30% of the annual budget of the government. Tuvalu is party to a number of treaties and agreements relating to regional fisheries management.



The Fisheries Department is located on Funafuti, which is the capital of Tuvalu. It maintains an extension service focused on providing training for fishers in outboard motor maintenance, fishing techniques, fish processing and safety at sea. The Tuvalu Fisheries Library was established in 1989. The Department allocates only one staff to work in the library to catalogue, label and shelve books. The sorting of books is placed according to their contents in order to provide the right information for staff and others who need to use the library. The library contains different types of materials, like journals, periodicals and reports.

In past decades, the department had used the CDS/ISIS system for cataloguing but in 1999 the system collapsed so the librarian resorted to a manual system. Unfortunately all the items from past years could not be found as users were not honest with the library rules. In 2004 the library was used for other purposes, for example as a training room for workshops and meetings. In 2005 the department managed to complete a proper room for meetings and workshops under the OFCF (Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation) project, so the library is no longer used for such purposes. Sponsorship in IAMSLIC, awarded this year after nomination by the PIMRIS Coordinator, should help to improve services to our users, but will not solve all of our outstanding issues.

The department could assist by allocating funds to renovate the Fisheries Library to a standard where it can be comfortable for users to utilize rather than take out books, use them elsewhere and not return them. The library should be air-conditioned, have a computer and a printer, more shelves for books, be repainted, and have lighting apparatus replaced and tiles should be obtained. Finally, the person in charge of the library should also be trained so that she can broaden her knowledge and experience by exposure to other bigger and modern libraries such as the Marine Studies Library at Lower Campus of USP in Suva or the main USP Library at Laucala Campus. With the knowledge obtained after such an attachment, the library staff member could upgrade the standard of the Fisheries Library for the future. The Fisheries Library is very important to Fisheries personnel and those who want to use it.

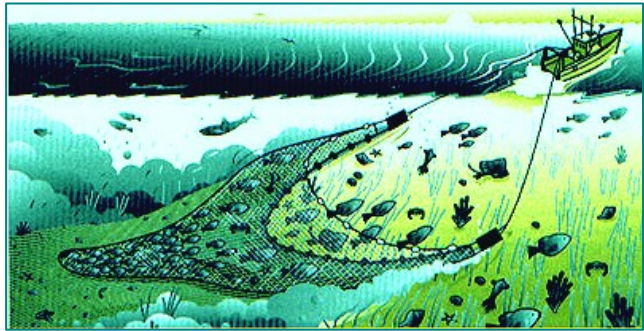
Other News from the Region

Pacific Leaders Call for Bottom Trawling Ban

The Presidents of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Republic of Palau have called for a temporary moratorium on deep sea bottom trawling in the Pacific and pledged to pursue the issue before the Pacific Islands Forum and the United Nations when those organizations take up the issue in negotiations. Australia and New Zealand also advocate an immediate moratorium on bottom trawling in high seas outside areas where competent Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) exist or are under negotiation.

The Micronesian call for an interim bottom trawling ban was issued in a Joint Communiqué of the Sixth Micronesian Presidents' Summit, held in Majuro, RMI, from 4-5 July 2006. "The Majuro Communiqué represents an historic commitment by our region to protect the ocean from creeping destructive fishing practices like bottom trawling that threaten our reefs and livelihoods," said Stuart Beck, Palau's Ambassador to the United Nations. "These small island nations represent more square miles of ocean per capita than any others in the world and we take seriously our social, economic, and cultural commitment to being trustees of the seas."

Bottom trawling involves scraping large, weighted nets across seamounts and the seabed to catch fish that rely on vulnerable coral reef habitat. In anticipation of bottom trawling negotiations, the UN Secretary-General has recently reported on the impacts of bottom trawling and other destructive fishing practices to deep sea ecosystems. These reports observe that bottom trawlers "pick up these benthic communities as by-catch or otherwise reduce them to rubble"--damage that will take hundreds if not thousands of years to heal. Also noted in the Secretary-General's reports is that bottom trawling is responsible for 95 percent of the total worldwide damage to seamount ecosystems.



The Majuro Communiqué in essence calls for extending to international waters the same level of protection that many responsible countries have insisted on for their own waters.

Palau, Tuvalu, FSM, and RMI are supporting a proposal at the United Nations to prohibit unregulated bottom trawling in international waters until effective conservation and management measures are put in place. In the Pacific, Japan, Mauritius, and Palau all ban bottom trawling within their 200-mile exclusive economic zones.

Australia, New Zealand, and Kiribati have also prohibited bottom trawling throughout significant portions of their waters. "The UN General Assembly has already made it clear that establishing controls on the adverse impacts of bottom trawling are urgently needed, and we must accelerate efforts to get them in place," NZ Foreign Minister Winston Peters said in September. NZ Fisheries Minister Jim Anderton added New Zealand already had a very good system of management within its own EEZ that ensured fisheries would remain sustainable and that environmental issues were addressed.

However, effective management in international waters could best be delivered through international agreements negotiated through RFMOs or through the United Nations, he said. "Since 2004, New Zealand has been prepared to support, in principle, the concept of an interim global moratorium on bottom trawling on the high seas, if such a proposal had sufficient global support to be practical and enforceable," Mr Anderton said.

After careful study, the United States also recently closed more than 135,000 square miles off its West Coast, 140,000 square miles off Hawaii, and 300,000 square miles off Alaska to all bottom trawling.

(Source: <http://www.scoop.co.nz> via SPC Fisheries News Clippings, 4 August & 29 September)

Marine Conservation in Solomons Proves Successful

Langalanga Lagoon residents in the Solomon Islands Province of Malaita are seeing signs of their marine resources recovering following the introduction of a Marine Protected Area in a programme funded by the Foundation of the South Pacific International (FSPI) and the Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT).

SIDT's Director Abraham Baeania explained that under the programme all commercial and subsistence fishing and collecting of marine products were banned from designated areas in the lagoon. After about two years of total protection over six islands, he said the marine resources are recovering. "We have received confirmation from fishermen saying there were abundant fish everywhere outside the protected zone. "This shows that the conservation area is achieving its goal. It is effective in protecting commercially important species and can help them recover from fishing and harvesting, he said. Mr Baeania said the conservation stemmed from increasing use of dynamite fishing and growing human population threatening the diverse marine resources.

Following the ban, he said people are not allowed to fish and collect almost all marine resources including shellfish, coral and fish, beche-de-mer and clams, from the area. He said the programme was implemented in line with the traditional knowledge of the lagoon dwellers, who have seasonal bans of shell harvesting. Utilising this traditional practice, three communities comprising several tribes in the Gwa'ata area are involved. SIDT is making way for the communities to make this 'bottom-up-approach' programme successful.

(Source: *Solomons Star*, 17 August via *SPC Fisheries News Clippings*, 26 August)

Conference Notices

Oct 30 – Nov 4

Coral Reef Ecosystems Biodiversity Forum, Noumea, New Caledonia

<http://www.ird.nc/biodec/>

Nov 13-17

Libraries, Archives, and Museums: Building Knowledge Networks for Vibrant Communities: the 15th Annual Conference of the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives (PIALA), Koror, Republic of Palau

http://www.uog.edu/rfk/piala/2006Conference%20Call_Palau.htm

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