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Editorial



Welcome to this year's first issue. As a new editor, I will try to maintain the high standards for this Newsletter as set by my predecessors Mr. Ganeshan Rao and Mr. Chris Nelson.

The coming years promise to be eventful for the PIMRIS partners. At least, three major events highlight our calendar. First, the joint PIMRIS Steering Committee Meeting / IAMSLIC Pacific Regional Group Meeting is scheduled for the end of 2007. At this venue, it is envisaged that, Pacific librarians will meet to review past activities, discuss regional changes and tendencies, and to also make future plans. Second, the PIMRIS CU has received funds from the Taiwan Government to develop a project in 2007-2008 aimed at improving access to Pacific Marine Literature. Several regional fisheries libraries will be supplied with pc's and scanning equipment in the workframes of the project. This should help them provide input to *Moana*, the database of regional marine literature, maintained by PIMRIS CU. Last but not least, the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres (IAMSLIC) will have its 2008 annual conference in Fiji. This will be a great opportunity for aquatic and fisheries librarians and information officers from the Pacific to meet their colleagues from all over the world, to acquire new professional knowledge and to report on their problems and achievements.

Our efforts to provide access to information on marine resources across the region; where most of the libraries suffer from the lack of or insufficient funding, can be achieved by implementing a capacity building strategy that links together provision of equipment, training and operational support in a regional context. Participants of IOC IODE XIX meeting have discussed developing a proposal for a Pacific-based ODIN (Oceanographic Data and Information Network), which could be built on existing networks (e.g. PIMRIS and PEIN). More information about this initiative is available on page 9.

Maria Kalenchits, PIMRIS Coordinator

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2008 was designated the International Year of The Reef 2008 (IYOR 2008) by the International Coral Reef Initiative. *Availability of stipends to attend the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium (11th ICRS) – p. 10*

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



Dr. Joeli Veitayaki took up the position of the Head of School of Marine Studies (SMS), USP in March 2007. He was previously Coordinator of Marine Affairs Programme at USP. Dr. Veitayaki also serves as Director of IOI-Pacific Islands.

Philippa Cohen is employed by the Worldfish Center to coordinate the ReefBase Pacific Project. Pip is based by the Institute of Marine Resources, USP and will work with this Institute and other partners including PIMRIS until the end of 2008.



Maria Kalenchits began work as PIMRIS Coordinator in May 2007. Previous to this, she was Head of the library at the Estonian Marine Institute. Maria replaced Chris Nelson at this post.

Ganeshan Rao, former PIMRIS Coordinator (1992-2004) is now working for Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia - as Science, Environment, Engineering & Technology Faculty Librarian. Ganeshan visited PIMRIS Library in July 2007 during his private visit to Fiji to provide consultations to new PIMRIS Coordinator and staff.



Sofia Kubuwai transferred to PIMRIS Coordination Unit from USP's Main Library to replace **Asenaca Valemei** in January 2007. Sofia is currently undertaking a Diploma in Library Studies and is responsible for circulation operations.



Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing: South Pacific Responses to a Major Global Challenge

Summary of public lecture by

Dr David J. Doulman,
*Senior Fishery Liaison Officer,
Fisheries Department, FAO, Rome, Italy*



On 10 July 2007, Dr David J Doulman, gave a public lecture at the Faculty of Islands and Oceans, USP entitled “Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing: South Pacific responses to a major global challenge”. In outlining the purpose and scope of the lecture he explained that his intention was to review global and regional issues associated with the incidence and impact of IUU fishing and to highlight the need for effective regional responses and decisive national action to contain and reduce IUU fishing in the South Pacific.

With respect to the state of world fisheries, Dr Doulman summarized FAO data to illustrate that many important fish stocks were overexploited or depleted and that there were no dramatic change in this situation over the last decade. He noted that globally the maximum marine fisheries production has leveled off and reached a plateau several years ago and that more effective fisheries management is imperative if current productivity levels are to be maintained. Effective management implies the ratification and implementation of international fisheries instruments. He stressed that combating IUU fishing was an integral component of good fisheries management.

Turning to the regional tuna picture Dr Doulman noted that about 20 percent of world tuna catches comes from the South Pacific and depending on price and catch fluctuations, it is estimated that the annual unprocessed value of the region’s tuna catch exceeds US\$2 billion. He added that the region’s tuna stocks are generally moderately to fully exploited.

Looking at global issues relating to IUU fishing Dr Doulman stressed that it is a fisheries problem existing in all capture fisheries throughout the world. He noted that although IUU fishing is not a new phenomenon, it has become more visible in the past decade and its impacts have increased as fish stocks have decreased in size and national and regional fisheries management measures have started to take effect. He went on to explain that IUU fishing deprives developing countries of food, employment and national income. It also undermines national and regional efforts to sustainably manage fish stocks, and in the extreme, it could inhibit or prevent stock rebuilding efforts.

Dr Doulman believes that it is extremely difficult to assess the quantity and value of fish caught by IUU vessels because of the covert nature of their operation. He stated that there are no accurate figures on how much IUU fishing actually takes place, let alone its value. Nonetheless, he noted that IUU catches are high and that efforts are underway to refine global estimates of IUU catches through estimation at regional levels.

Dr Doulman then reviewed how the international community has reacted to the sustainability threats posed by IUU fishing. He stated that the South Pacific has been at the forefront of the development of many important fisheries initiatives including the 2001 International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU) which was negotiated within the framework of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The IPOA-IUU sought to eradicate the “root causes” of IUU fishing, both in conventional and innovative ways.

The IPOA-IUU is a voluntary international instrument. It urges action against IUU fishing by all States in their capacities as flag States, coastal States and port States. Complementing State interventions is the use of agreed market measures that are intended to block IUU caught fish from entering international trade. The IPOA-IUU also assigned a role to Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) in coordinating national action against IUU fishing.

Despite sustained and concerted international efforts, Dr Doulman noted that IUU fishing has been highly resilient to defeat. He pointed out that this is because IUU fishing is highly profitable, targeting easy to sell high-valued species; it was therefore “worth the risk”. In addition, most IUU fishing vessels operate under “flags of convenience” where countries issuing these flags fail to meet their obligations under international law with respect to flag State control. IUU fishers sought out such countries so as to reduce their operating costs and as a means of avoiding government regulations. However, he added that FAO’s research had shown that the “flag of convenience” countries derive little revenue from the registration of fishing vessels while, at the same time, they attract much adverse publicity. Dr Doulman noted that there are some countries in the South Pacific that are “flag of convenience” States.

IUU fishing is also supported by “ports of convenience” where responsible measures are not exercised by port authorities. Dr Doulman explained that IUU fishing vessels often cluster around these ports where they land and transship catches. He added that often the owners and managers of these vessels operate from these ports without restraint, having offices and even shore-based facilities there. He pointed out that until recently he would have maintained that there are no “ports of convenience” in the South Pacific. However, according to recent press reports in Fiji, this situation has changed.

In the South Pacific, IUU fishing first appeared in the late 1970s in response to extended jurisdiction. As regional fisheries cooperation took firm root in the 1980s through the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), a high priority for countries was the implementation of measures to protect their fisheries resources from foreign poachers. During this period IUU fishing was rampant.

Dr Doulman then discussed national strategies to curb IUU fishing. He noted that an estimate of the impact of IUU fishing should be known, if possible, as a starting point and that the preferred strategy would be one that contemplated a suite of coordinated actions on different levels and different fronts. To this end he indicated that countries, depending on their particular circumstances, should frame a clear policy statement on IUU fishing. They also should accept and implement international fisheries instruments that promote long-term sustainability in fisheries, revise national legislation, assert legal control over nationals, irrespective where they work, ensure sanctions and penalties are sufficiently high to act as deterrents to IUU fishing, strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance programmes (including ensuring the use of VMS on all commercial fishing vessels) and - most importantly - they should develop national plans of action to combat IUU fishing (NPOAs-IUU).

When formulating national strategies Dr Doulman added that countries should also ensure that their flag State actions are responsible and in line with international law. All countries should ensure that IUU fishing does not occur within their EEZs, adopt measures that prohibit using State ports to support or benefit IUU fishing, participate in traceability schemes, fully and effectively implement RFMO decisions, act transparently and decisively with respect to IUU fishing by involving stakeholders in all aspects of problem assessment and solving.

Dr Doulman stressed that NPOAs-IUU are the primary means for guiding national action to implement the IPOA-IUU. Implementing them is the hard part. He pointed out that it requires sustained administrative support and strong political commitment to eradicating IUU fishing. It also required the development of concrete measures where countries may have to make tough decisions and tradeoffs and where regional and national interests must be considered and balanced. He explained that implementation also implies that financial and human resources are available and that national institutions are sufficiently robust to carry through with the tasks required. An important part of implementation is capacity building, both in terms of human resource development and institutional strengthening.

In conclusion Dr Doulman stated that IUU fishing is not going away nor is it diminishing in intensity: by all accounts it is increasing, becoming more visible and more destructive. It is also apparent that IUU fishers have good fishing and operational intelligence, and are innovative, highly mobile and dynamic. They move from one fishing area of the world to another with ease. However, Dr Doulman pointed out that the success of these IUU operations lies to a very large extent in the support they received from flag and port of convenience States.

(Summary prepared by Dr David J. Doulman)

TRAIN-SEA-COAST Course

Dr. Posa Skelton

Director, International Ocean Institute (IOI-Australia)

Twenty-eight participants from 12 Pacific Island countries successfully completed a two-week course on responsible fisheries in the Pacific Islands region offered at the School of Marine Studies Facilities, USP, Suva, Fiji. The course which ran from July 9-20, 2007 focused on the implementation of post-UNCED international instruments.

The course, which has been offered twice since its development in 2000, continued as a platform for enhancing the skills of fisheries officers in the management of migratory fish stocks in the region. With the coming into force of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and many more regional and international developments, the course provided a perfect opportunity for Pacific fisheries officers to stay up-to-date with these changes.

The scope of the course is comprehensively covered in six units, with an overall mastery case study, which the participants had to master in order for them to successfully complete the course. Some of the issues that were covered include the need to be aware of management advice that supports responsible fisheries management. While fisheries officers often get bogged down with many fisheries related activities, the legal framework is often an area that is neglected, or is seen as a non-fisheries officers' role or responsibility. The course dispelled this archaic assumption emphasizing that fisheries managers



need to be more active in the legal constructions of their fisheries legislation. The legal component is an important key to responsible fisheries management.

Participation of all stakeholders is often a contentious issue in many communities, which sometimes can lead to feelings of distrust. The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which was developed by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in 1995, strongly encourages the participation of all stakeholders in fisheries management. This participation can often foster stewardship of the resources, leading to their long-term sustainability.

The monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities are an important aspect of responsible fisheries management. A weak monitoring, control and surveillance system can often result in unsustainable exploitation of resources and eventually can cause the collapse of stocks. This would ultimately jeopardize the future of Pacific Islands and their sustainability.

Participants were also taught the importance of having a good in-house administrative infrastructure based on transparency and accountability. The administrative functions are often two-way communications, involving the sending out of information and analyzing feedback and comments from stakeholders.

While the course was highly interactive, four components need a special mention. The role-play, where the participants acted out a scene involving illegal fishing by a foreign fishing vessel, proved to be an eye-opener for all. It certainly highlighted the need for fisheries officers and managers to be more aware of the various stakeholders, their roles and responsibilities in relation to fisheries management.

Another component was the field visit to the local fish market and a fishing company. The participants were fortunate to hear from the owner of the fishing company and the challenges that the fishing industry faced. The illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities remain a serious threat to the fishing industries and the overall management of the stocks.

The public presentations made by the course instructors on IUU and ports of convenience, and participants on Observer Programme in the Pacific, highlighted the massive challenges to be faced in managing migratory fish stocks.

The sharing of experience by the participants enhances the overall learning objectives of the course and provided many take-home messages for the group.

The Train-Sea-Coast Responsible Fisheries course was generously sponsored by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Forum Fisheries Agency's Oceanic Fisheries Management Programme. Additional support was provided by the UN-FAO, the University of the South Pacific, IOI-*OceanLearn* and UNDOALOS. It was organised and coordinated by the International Ocean Institute – Pacific Islands, under the guidance of Associate Professor Joeli Veitayaki, Dr Vina Ram-Bidesi and Mr Pio Manoa.

The participants expressed sincere appreciation to the sponsors and hosts of this enjoyable and informative course.



Dr. Posa Skelton, Director of International Ocean Institute (IOI-Australia) and a PhD graduate from USP has recently won the 2007 City of Townsville Individual Initiative Award for raising awareness of marine conservation. School of Marine Studies and PIMRIS CU congratulate Posa for his success.





Faculty of Islands and Oceans, USP, Offers a New Program in Sustainable Fisheries

Introduction

The Faculty of Islands and Oceans through the School of Marine Studies will be offering a new Certificate program of study in Sustainable Fisheries, commencing from Semester one (1), 2008. The Certificate program is one of the components of the Sustainable Fisheries Program, which also includes the Diploma and Degree in Sustainable Fisheries. The Diploma and Degree components will be offered later. The certificate program is a one full academic year (two semesters) program, comprising of 6 prescribed courses (5 cores and one elective).

Program rationale and goals

The Program was initiated subsequent to the approval of the School of Marine Studies' proposal by the regional Head of Fisheries (HOF) meeting in April, 2006. The Program was developed in close collaboration and consultation with other Faculties and Departments of the University of the South Pacific (USP), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), National Fisheries Departments, the Nelson School of Fisheries and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The Program was developed in recognition of: a) the lack of tertiary training programs/opportunities in the region for Pacific Island nationals, to enable them to obtain recognized formal tertiary qualifications in the area of sustainable fisheries development and management; b) the important role that fisheries play in providing the livelihood and social and economic well being of Pacific Island countries; c) the deteriorating condition of marine resources and the environment in the Pacific Islands, due to the irresponsible use, over-exploitation and ineffective management practices.

The School of Marine Studies recognizes the need for national capacity building, through this Program, as a long-term solution, which will:

- Promote the concepts and principles of 'sustainability' as a basis for fisheries development and management in the region,
- Provide appropriate and recognized tertiary training opportunities and qualifications for Pacific Island nationals,
- Develop and enhance the capacity of Pacific Island communities or nationals to develop and manage their marine resources and environment in a more responsible and sustainable manner,
- Permit incremental learning, career progression, and professional development in fisheries management.

The principal focus of the Program is the 'sustainable fisheries' or 'ecosystem approach', which provides a more holistic approach to fisheries development and management in the Pacific Island countries. It integrates fisheries, environmental and socio-economic objectives, and more precautionary approaches in decision making regarding the utilization and management of marine resources. In essence, it requires the integration of science and social science, economic, environmental protection and conservation, and national and community participation in decision making processes relating to the development and management of marine resources.

Program outcomes

The Program provides students with in-depth knowledge and understanding of:

- The status and challenges of sustainable fisheries development and management in the Pacific Islands,

- The principles of sustainable development and how these can be applied and implemented at the local level to ensure sustainable development and management of marine resources and the environment,
- The marine environment and ecosystem and the important role they play in sustainability of marine resources,
- The role of good governance, communication and extension in sustainable development and management of marine resources,
- The relationship or link between a viable fishing industry, a healthy fish stock, and a healthy environment.
- Fish capture technologies and their impact on marine resources and the environment,
- Aquaculture and post harvest fisheries and their potential role in sustainable development and management of marine resources,
- The role of science and social science and their applications in the sustainable development and management of marine resources in the Pacific Islands.

Graduates of this program should be able to find jobs in the fisheries, maritime, environment, and tourism sectors, non-government organizations, and community based institutions, which are involved in marine resources development, management and conservation.

Certificate Program outline

1 Year (6 courses only)

Core Courses:

- MS112: Introduction to sustainable fisheries
- MS207: Natural Resources Governance & Extension Tech.
- MS111: Introduction to Marine Science
- EC100: Introduction to Economics
- BI108: Animal Biology

Elective Courses - One of the following:

- MS206: Maritime Techniques
- MS204: Tropical Seafood
- IS100: Computing fundamentals
- GE108: Geographical Techniques
- MA102: Mathematic for science
- BI102: Plant Biology

(Or other Courses required Science/Arts prerequisites with approval of Head of School)

Scholarship awards

The Commonwealth Secretariat through the University of the South Pacific will be funding a number of scholarships to enable Commonwealth member countries' candidates to pursue a Certificate program in Sustainable Fisheries at the University of the South Pacific. An advertisement on these scholarship awards will be available soon through various Commonwealth Secretariat and USP points of contacts.

Information contact

For more information, please contact the following persons:

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Detailed information about the Program can also be accessed on SMS Website:
<http://www.usp.ac.fj/marine/>

Can IODE and Pacific Islands Work Together for Improved Information Management?

Suzie Davies

*Manager of Library & Image Services, The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority;
Chair of the IOC IODE Group of Experts on Marine Information Management (GEMIM)*

The 19th Session of the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE-XIX) was held at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy 12-16 March 2007, and was attended by over 100 delegates from around the world. Whilst in the past such a meeting has been of great importance to marine data managers, recent years has seen it take on significant importance for marine information management and marine libraries around the world.

The 5 day session made important decisions about the program of activities that IODE will support and participate in over the next few years. Some of the major decisions made were: recommending the development of the establishment of the OceanDocs electronic repository for marine information, recommending the development of an IODE Ocean Data Portal project, and establishing oceanographic data and information networks (ODINs) for European countries in economic transition, the WESTPAC region, and the Black Sea region. All of these initiatives have substantial impacts on marine libraries.

I attended the Session as Chair of the Group of Experts on Marine Information Management (GE-MIM), and presented 3 papers: (i) activities of GE-MIM over the past 2 years; (ii) a recommended role for the newly appointed National Coordinators on MIM and their relationship with GE-MIM; and (iii) issues for marine libraries in the Pacific Islands region.

In the last paper I highlighted the serious issues for information management and marine libraries in the Pacific region, such as hugely variable infrastructure levels and resources, reduced support for capacity building initiatives, problems in data sharing between organisations, and low status of marine libraries and librarians across the region. The meeting concluded the following:

“The Committee agreed on the need to provide practical support to develop standards and build sharing mechanisms between regional and country-based agencies. **The Committee instructed** GE-MIM to continue its efforts to assist the Pacific Islands region to develop a proposal for a region-based ODIN which builds on existing networks (e.g. PIMRIS, PEIN). In this regard, the GE-MIM Chair should approach relevant agencies such as SOPAC, PIMRIS and SPC to form a working group to jointly develop the proposal. GE-MIM should also investigate the possible opportunities for the ODIN to be associated with the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Framework for Integrated Strategic Action (PIROF-ISA).” (the full report can be found at http://www.iode.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewEventRecord&eventID=73)

The ODIN network structure has worked extremely well in other world regions, such as Africa. ODINAfrica has made enormous advances in infrastructure, capacity, skills, and status of both marine libraries and marine librarians. One of the reasons behind ODINAfrica’s success has been the clear identification and definition of the needs and issues at both the national and the regional level. With support and empowerment, the libraries developed joint regional products, such as regional catalogues, regional directories of experts, electronic repositories of technical documents, and established interlibrary sharing networks. For more information see ODINAfrica web site: http://www.iode.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=71

There is now a unique opportunity to take this type of initiative and apply it to a Pacific Islands context. I strongly urge my Pacific Islands colleagues to consider the benefits it may have for your work, your organisation, your nation, and your region. The IODE is very interested in helping to advance marine information management in the Pacific Region, but it needs the strong guidance and input from the Pacific Island states themselves. You know best what the problems are, you know best where the

greatest needs are, and you know best what the priorities should be. With your input and enthusiasm, an ODIN-style initiative in the Pacific could become a reality.

Marine librarians are encouraged to contact Suzie Davies or any of her colleagues regarding how they can assist in transforming this idea into positive action for the Pacific region.

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The International Society for Reef Studies (ISRS) and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) announce the availability of stipends to attend the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium in July 7-11th, 2008 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, USA.

APPLICATION DEADLINE - 1 December 2007

Background Information

Students, scientists, conservationists, and managers who are expected to benefit professionally from attendance at this symposium will receive consideration for support for travel and living expenses. Stipends will be for a minimum of US \$500 to a maximum of US \$3500.

The selection committee will give priority to applicants who: (1) can show evidence of professional career and coral reef science advancement, (2) can show leverage of the stipend to gain full support, and/or (3) are presenting a paper or posters. Full travel and support costs will generally not be covered unless there is a compelling demonstration of need and professional development.

Conditions

The stipends are available to students, scientists, conservationists, and managers worldwide, and can be used to support travel, and living costs. Conference registration fees will be paid by the LOC for successful applicants. Restrictions on the currently available funds require that eighty percent will be awarded to people from Mexico, the Western Pacific, Asia, and the Indian Ocean and 20% to people from other regions

Application materials

The application should include

- a brief (1 page) statement describing how attending the 11th ICRS will advance the career of the applicant and reef science, including
- a statement of financial need from the applicant.
- a letter of support from a mentor, director, supervisor, that states the need and professional relevance.
- a simple expense budget showing the expenses that will be covered by the requested stipend and the source of funds for other expenses.

Applications should be sent via email as a single pdf file with the applicants name as the file name to Isabelle Cote, Secretary, ISRS at imcote@sfu.ca.

Source: <http://www.reefbase.org/download/documents/whatsnew/ISRStravelaward.pdf>

NEWS from the Region

FIJI

Advanced Greenstone Digital Library Training Workshop was held 25-28 June 2007 at the University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.

The four-day international workshop was attended by 20 participants from Fiji, Samoa, Republic of Marshall Islands and Palau. Workshop was funded by UNESCO Office for the Pacific States and co-sponsored by USP library. Training was given by Prof. Ian Witten from Waikato University, New Zealand, with technical assistance provided by Ms. Shaogun Wu. Two PIMRIS partners - Maria



Kalenchits, PIMRIS Coordinator, and Dorene Naidu, SOPAC librarian, attended the Workshop. Greenstone has been chosen to be the platform software for *Moana* database maintained by PIMRIS CU.

From left to right: Shaogun Wu (Trainer), Chris Hammond-Thrasher (USP Library Systems Manager), Prof. Ian Witten (Trainer), Maria Kalenchits (PIMRIS Coordinator), Abel Caine (Adviser for Communication & Information, UNESCO office for Pacific States), Dorene Naidu (SOPAC librarian)

SAMOA

Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)



In January 2007, **Peter Murgatroyd** replaced Satui Bentin as Coordinator of the Pacific Environment Information Network [PEIN] and manager of the SPREP Library and Information Resource Centre in Apia, Samoa. Previously Peter was Campus Librarian / Law Librarian at the University of the South Pacific's Emalus Campus in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The PEIN project is a regional initiative funded by the EU to strengthen information sharing and promote enhanced access to environment information in the Pacific. In addition to supporting capacity building initiatives in SPREP member countries, Peter is focusing his energies on strengthening SPREP's role as an information clearinghouse for Pacific environment information. Of critical importance is the establishment of strategic alliances with established libraries throughout the region to serve as repositories for SPREP publications and materials. Since taking on his new role in January, Peter has also developed a number of new web-based resources. These include:

A directory of Pacific environment databases and recommended internet resources

<http://www.sprep.org/publication/Links.asp> ;

The Pacific Environment Information Network Country Profiles Directory

http://www.sprep.org/publication/PEIN_Country_Profiles.asp

Pacific Environment Information Network Digest: a monthly digest of pacific environment news and developments. <http://www.sprep.org/publication/Digest.asp>

In addition to maintaining a regional bibliographic database of environment information, currently the SPREP Library and Information Resource Center also hosts '[Moana: the Database of Pacific Marine Resources](#)' [*Moana is an initiative of PIMRIS, the Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System located at the University of the South Pacific].

Website: http://www.sprep.org/publication/pub_top.asp

Contact Peter Murgatroyd: irc@sprep.org

ReefBase Pacific Information Supporting Improved Fisheries and Livelihoods

Philippa Cohen
ReefBase Pacific Coordinator

ReefBase

ReefBase is an online information system providing easy access to a huge volume of information relating to coral reefs. This information is essential for effective management and sustainable use of these important, but increasingly degraded systems. The ReefBase collection is continuously growing and currently contains information from 130 countries and territories around the world. ReefBase makes available a variety of forms of information on coral reef resources, their status and threats. The database includes an online library which currently houses 25,200 references, including 5,354 downloadable publications. Future efforts will focus on building the existing collection of information on key topics including 'Poverty and Reefs', 'Population, Consumption, and the Environment', 'Reef Fisheries' and 'Coral Reef MPAs'. A sophisticated 'ReefGIS' system has been developed to display coral reef related data and information on interactive maps on users' web browsers, while also allowing for data to be downloaded to other GIS systems. ReefBase users are able to contribute all forms of data and the ReefBase system has proven to be an effective medium for coral reef information exchange. In the last 12 months there were around 120 000 unique visitors to the ReefBase site.

The WorldFish Center, producer and host of ReefBase, see that information made available through ReefBase supports effective management of these natural systems. This tool therefore contributes to the WorldFish mission of reducing poverty and hunger by improving fisheries and aquaculture (www.worldfish.org).

ReefBase Pacific

In several forums, including the fifth Pacific Heads of Fisheries meeting, in 2006, countries mention the continued difficulty of obtaining directly relevant information applicable to Pacific Island fisheries management and development. This includes factors outside the realm of fisheries: external threats and opportunities, institutions and governance, people and livelihoods, and natural systems. The ReefBase Pacific project is a component of the CRISP initiative (www.crisponline.net). This project aims to make relevant information more easily available to fisheries managers and other decision makers to facilitate good decisions on fishery resource management. ReefBase Pacific will work with government, non-government,



Photo credit: Johnson Seeto

regional and community organizations to strengthen and collaborate with existing efforts to improve the mobilization of reef fisheries information to decision makers.

ReefBase Pacific and PIMRIS

The ReefBase Pacific Project will coordinate activities with PIMRIS to broaden the geographic applicability of ReefBase Pacific tools and to strengthen and support PIMRIS data collection. The ReefBase Pacific and PIMRIS 'Moana' databases could be linked in the future to allow users to access both repositories. This is one of many ReefBase Pacific collaborations and such cooperation will increase the impact of these efforts to provide information to support improved fisheries and livelihoods in the Pacific.

ReefBase Pacific



Overview

The ReefBase Pacific project is a component of the Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific (CRISP) (www.crisponline.net), executed by the WorldFish Center (www.worldfishcenter.org) and funded by the Agence Française de Développement and the United Nations Fund.

ReefBase Pacific is the first regional focus of the ReefBase Project. It aims to improve quality and accessibility of data and information for reef fisheries and coral reef research, management, conservation, and education in the Pacific region. The project will generate worldwide web and DVD formats of the information system to maximize distribution and accessibility.

Key Objectives

- To develop a collaborative and region-wide network of professionals involved in reef fisheries and coral reef research, conservation, and management in the South Pacific that will effectively share data, information, and experience
- To assemble an unprecedented knowledge-base on reef fisheries and coral reef resources monitoring, conservation and management in the South Pacific
- To utilize the network and knowledge-base to establish an easily accessible information system which provides researchers, managers and local stakeholders with instant access to relevant information for the sustainable use of coral reef resources in the South Pacific
- To widen the scope, impact, and effectiveness of current reef fisheries and coral reef management, conservation and information sharing activities,



Photo credit: Paul Masaki



across Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia

The WorldFish Center is an international non-profit research organization dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger by improving fisheries and aquaculture. The WorldFish Center is the host for ReefBase (www.reefbase.org), the world's leading information system on coral reefs. ReefBase provides scientists and managers with quality data and information relevant to the monitoring, conservation and management of these vital natural resources.

Donors:



Partners:



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New Publications

Installation and operation of a modular bivalve hatchery / By: Samia Sarkis, Alessandro Lovatelli. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper No. 492. Rome, 2007, 198 pp. ISBN 978-92-5-105595-3

Limiting factors such as minimal capital investment, lack of technical support or expertise and available physical space may put severe restrictions on setting up a hatchery. Not all investors have the means or the will to take the risk to support a large commercial aquaculture operation without substantial proof of its production capacity. For these reasons, the setup of an inexpensive modular hatchery may be a simpler option to the start-up of a large commercial operation, or may be sufficient to the needs of a smaller operation. This manual was written for those interested in establishing a bivalve hatchery, with minimal experience in this activity, limited technical support and restricted access to information. The manual stands as an entity, providing not only the technicalities of setting up and operating a hatchery, but also makes some of the scientific background, deemed useful to the aquaculturist, readily accessible. The manual is divided into chapters for each stage of rearing: broodstock conditioning, algal culture, hatchery, nursery, growout and economic considerations. The first five chapters include both the physical requirements and culture considerations and procedures for the relevant rearing stage. The final chapter on economic considerations provides an insight into the labour involved for each stage of production, along with a list of equipment and supplies, which may be used as a template for a new installation. Contains a CD-ROM of the complete publication.

Guide to Bycatch Reduction in Tropical Shrimp-Trawl Fisheries (A). Revised edition By: Steve Eays. Rome, 2007, 120 pp., spiralbound ISBN 978-92-5-105674-5.

[ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/rebyc/BycatchBook_Final_05.pdf](http://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/rebyc/BycatchBook_Final_05.pdf)

Bycatch is the unwanted or non-target part of the catch taken by fishermen. It is either discarded at sea or used for human or animal consumption. The capture of bycatch may pose a threat to species diversity and ecosystem health because this part of the catch is usually unregulated. In tropical shrimp-trawl fisheries, bycatch often consists of juvenile food-fish species and is therefore a threat to food security and sustainable fisheries production. Bycatch is a global problem that must be addressed. A Guide to Bycatch Reduction in Tropical Shrimp-Trawl Fisheries is designed for fishermen, net makers, fishing technologists and others interested in a practical guide to the design, use and operation of effective bycatch reduction devices. Fishery managers, policy-makers and legislators will find this guide useful to help develop specifications governing the design and application of these devices in a shrimp trawl fishery. The issue of bycatch is not going away and scrutiny of fishing activity is increasing. All fishermen are strongly urged to use appropriate bycatch reduction measures to help maintain the productivity of the fishery and the long term prosperity of the fishing industry. By responding appropriately, fishermen can help to protect the marine environment and assist global food security both now and in the future.

Guidelines on digital publishing: a practical approach for small organizations with limited resources / By Wilkinson, S., Collins, J. FAO FishCode Review No. 20.

Full text at [ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/a0976e/a0976e00.pdf](http://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/a0976e/a0976e00.pdf)

Guidelines on digital publishing are targeted primarily at small organizations with limited resources in developing countries, in order to facilitate decision-making on how to publish and disseminate their information. The Guidelines are based on the years of experience of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) and its partners. The approach is practical in orientation, covering topics including: (a) planning, building and maintaining a sustainable digital publishing system, focusing on a common scenario of setting up a Web site as a digital publishing platform; (b) producing user-friendly digital publications and making them accessible; (c) some recent international developments in digital publishing; and (d) recommended software tools and technical resources for further reading.



New Caledonia: 2007 SPC Fisheries Address Book published

The latest annual SPC Fisheries Address Book produced by Fisheries Information Section of the SPC Marine Resources Division has been published and distributed widely in the region.

In addition to more than 1,200 addresses of fisheries personnel in government departments, industry, academia, research institutions and non-government organizations in 50 countries, the address book also includes information on Executive Economic Zone areas and population estimates provided by SPC Demography Programme. The book in electronic form can be downloaded from the website of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community: http://www.spc.int/coastfish/news/Address_Book/Address_book.htm



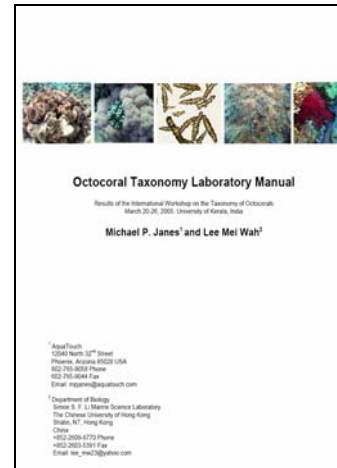
Octocoral Taxonomy Publication

Results of the International Workshop on the Taxonomy of Octocorals, 2005, Kerala, India are presented in the **Octocoral Taxonomy Laboratory Manual**. It is a hands-on manual for the identification of octocoral genera primarily from the tropical Pacific with some additional Caribbean genera. The layout of the manual offers taxonomic techniques, equipment use, and brief descriptions of genera with photographs and line drawings. It is designed to be a companion to the book Soft Corals and Sea Fans (Fabricius and Alderslade, 2001). The free PDF file is available for download at the following link:

http://octocoralresearch.com/library_LOC_Ref_Links.htm

"...I hope this Octocoral Taxonomy Laboratory Manual will encourage researchers, aquarists, and students of the biological sciences to delve deeper into understanding the amazing diversity of soft coral fauna associated with tropical coral reefs. Perhaps we will inspire a new generation of octocoral taxonomists, which are so desperately need." Michael P. Janes. December, 2006

Source: IAMSLIC Newsletter No 104, May 2007



Marine Photobank

The Marine Photobank Photo Center provides free online access to a fantastic collection of photos for non-commercial use. The purpose of the photobank is to 'advance ocean conservation through imagery'. Issues covered include marine pollution and trash, reefs in peril/coral bleaching and climate change/sea level rise. The website address is

www.marinephotobank.org

(Source: IAMSLIC Newsletter, No.105, Aug 2007)



(c) Wolcott Henry 2005/Marine Photobank

Conference Notices

- 12-13 Sept 2007** Pacific Tuna Forum 2007:
A regional Tuna Industry and Trade Conference
<http://www.infofish.org/conferences/infofish/PTF/ptf.html>
- 8-12 Oct 2007** Workshop on the Practice of Harvesting Wild Fish/Fishery Resources for
Aquaculture Production, Hanoi, Viet Nam. For more information contact:
Mr. Alessandro Lovatelli alessandro.lovatelli@fao.org
- 15-17 Oct 2007** 3rd International Sustainable Marine Fish Culture Conference, Harbor
Branch Oceanographic Institution, Fort Pierce, Florida
http://www.hboi.edu/aqua/sustainable_conf.html
- 7-9 Nov 2007** Delta 2007: Managing the Coastal Land-Water Interface in Tropical Delta
Systems, Bang Saen, Thailand <http://delta07.iwmi.org/>
- 7-11 July 2008** 11th International Coral Reef Symposium, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
www.nova.edu/ncri/11icrs
- 8-11 July 2008** International Symposium on Coping with Global Change in Marine Social-
ecological Systems, FAO, Rome, Italy. For more information contact: Mr.
Kevern Cockrane kevern.cochrane@fao.org
- 20-24 Oct 2008** 5th World Fisheries Congress, Yokohama, Japan
<http://www.5thwfc2008.com/>

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