

15 September 1970

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VILLAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
REPORT NO. 2

E. 10/1/8/5

Preliminary:

This Report covers two separate operations:

1. Review of those Associations whose setting-up was detailed a Report No.1.
2. Report on those additional Associations brought into operation since then.



1. Review of Operational Associations:

(a) Manase Association

One month after the expiry of the two-month 'grace' period allotted for the 'settling-in' of new Associations, Fisheries Division visited this village to ascertain how they had progressed. Examination of their August catch-statistics gave the following figures:

Number of fishing trips	=	20
" " successful "	=	17
" " abortive "	=	3
Total fish-weight landed	=	3004 lbs.
Total fish-weight consumed in village	=	1960 lbs.
Total fish-weight sold	=	1044 lbs.
" fish-sales	=	\$111.00.
Overheads(fuel,kerosene,etc.)	=	48.50.
Credit balance	=	<u>62.50</u>

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Out of this balance the Association voted to return \$55.00 to Fisheries Division as a first payment against their initial debt, with the following result.

Initial debt	=	575.80
Less	=	<u>55.00</u>
Debit balance	=	<u>\$520.80</u>

Other Items:

During August, Fisheries Division withdrew both motors from this Association for a few days for complete overhaul, carried out under the supervision of Johnson Outboard Motor's travelling engineering representative, Mr Shea. ~~The~~ free service was provided through the courtesy of the manufacturers and the cooperation of the Technical Training Institute who provided workshop facilities and technical assistance. The visit of this Johnson representative was jointly organised by Fisheries Division and the local agents for these motors. In the particular case of Manase Association both motors were found to be in good condition after having been stripped-down and, after routine servicing, were returned to the Association.

Conclusion:

Manase Association is working steadily and satisfactorily. In spite of constant bad weather they have managed to make a reasonable financial profit whilst having fed the bulk of their village for free. This Association has now requested additional fishing-gear; specifically 'Long-lines' which will be-issued to them within the next week.

(b) Safotu Association

This Association was visited in conjunction with Manase. Examination of their fishing-records for August gave the following details:

Number of fishing trips	=	13
Number of successful trips	=	6
" " abortive	=	7

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Total fish-weight landed	=	798 lbs
Total fish-weight consumed	=	98 lbs (approx.)
" " sold	=	700 lbs ()
Total fish-sales	=	\$68
Overheads (fuel, kerosene etc.)	=	\$37.20
Credit balance	=	\$30.80

Out of this balance the Association voted to return \$15 to Fisheries Division as a first payment against their initial debt, thus leaving:

Initial debt	499.30
Less	<u>15.00</u>
Debit balance	<u>\$484.30</u>

Other Items:

One of SAFOTU'S motors, on returning it to Fisheries Division for complete overhaul, was found to be in need of replacement of certain parts. These replacements were necessary due to the fact that this particular motor had been "adjusted" contrary to express Fisheries Division instructions by a local self-styled "mechanic". The result of this stupidity was explained and demonstrated to the Association who were warned that any further tampering would result in the confiscation of the motor. All charges resulting from repair-work to the motor were charged to the Association.

Conclusion:

Safotu Association have realised that their two small "semi-alias" (see details in Report No.1) are not really big enough or stable enough for satisfactory off-shore fishing (see number of abortive trips). Consequently, they are now building a much larger true catamaran for deep-sea fishing which should give them much more chance of success.

(c) Lefagaoli'i Association

This Association had had a disappointing first month's operation. Local drought conditions resulted in most of the adult males being employed in extensive agricultural labours. On top of this the whole village had been subject to a severe flu epidemic (confirmed by the Fagamalo hospital authorities). In consequence, very little fishing had been done and no records had been kept. It was estimated that about 200 lbs of fish had been caught and distributed in the village.

Conclusion:

Whilst Lefagaoli'i's difficulties were appreciated it was pointed out that there was no profit in an unused motor and fishing gear. The Association was given another six weeks to make an effort to establish itself and Fisheries Division personnel will constantly be visiting them during this period to offer practical assistance and encouragement.

2. New Associations:

During the past two months, the following new Associations have been equipped with motors, trained in certain fisheries techniques and set in operation:

a) Falevau	}	Upolu
b) Falefa West		
c) Malae (Faga)	}	Savai'i
d) Foalalo		
e) Siutu		
f) Sala'ilua	}	
g) Sataputu		

All the above associations have received training in basic fisheries techniques as was set out for the first Associations to be equipped (For details see Report No.1).

The following comments apply to these individual Associations:

(a) Falevau:

Possesses a small alia some 23 ft. long. This, due to a shipment of Johnson motors having been delayed, was provided with a 20 h.p. Mercury which blew up after four hours operation. Examination of the wrecked machine showed ~~the~~ the fault to be factory-caused and the requisite replacement parts were ordered (under the terms of the guarantee) by the agents. These parts were only returned last week (10 September) and consequently Falevau cannot be considered as being operational as yet.

(b) Falefa West:

This enegetic association has been greatly aided by having as its secretary Mr Rudi Nickel, Administrative Officer to the Department of Agriculture, himself an experienced and keen fisherman. In spite of adverse monsoon conditions Falefa West has operated very well, frequently gaining over 300 lbs of fish per night sortie. In spite of not having as yet completed their 2-month 'grace period', Falefa West have already repaid \$40 against their loan account. With the advent of the real fishing season it is believed that this association will do very well indeed.

(c) Malae (Faga)

This association has one of the smallest (20-feet) alia's yet built, yet it's design is so good that it has been able to operate in exceedingly bad weather, though carrying only 4 men. During the initial training period and in the subsequent week, Malae managed to effect the followings:-

Supply member of the Association with fish.
Supply local matais and pastors with fish.
Sell fish to the value of \$132.
From this sum \$65 was distributed amongst
the Association, \$36 went to purchase 2 drums
of fuel and \$31 was banked for loan-repayment.

Considering the size of their boat and motor (9½ h.p.), the small number of crew and the adverse weather this is a very impressive performance.

The remainder of the Societies (Foala, Siutu, Sala'ilua, Sataputu) are still undergoing their final training and little can be said at this stage other than that their 200-lb plus nightly catch per Association is making considerable difference to their villages already.

3. Prospectus of Future Village Fishermen's Training Programme:

September 20 - 30th - Palauli and Faleasi'u
October 1 - 10th - Lufilufi - (two Associations)
October 10 - 31st - Saleimoa, Nofolali'i

(W. Travis)
FISHERIES OFFICER