



Solomon Islands Government

ANNUAL REPORT

2004

for

THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES
Ministry of Natural Resources
Honiara

March 2005

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<i>Map of Solomon Islands EEZ</i>	(i)
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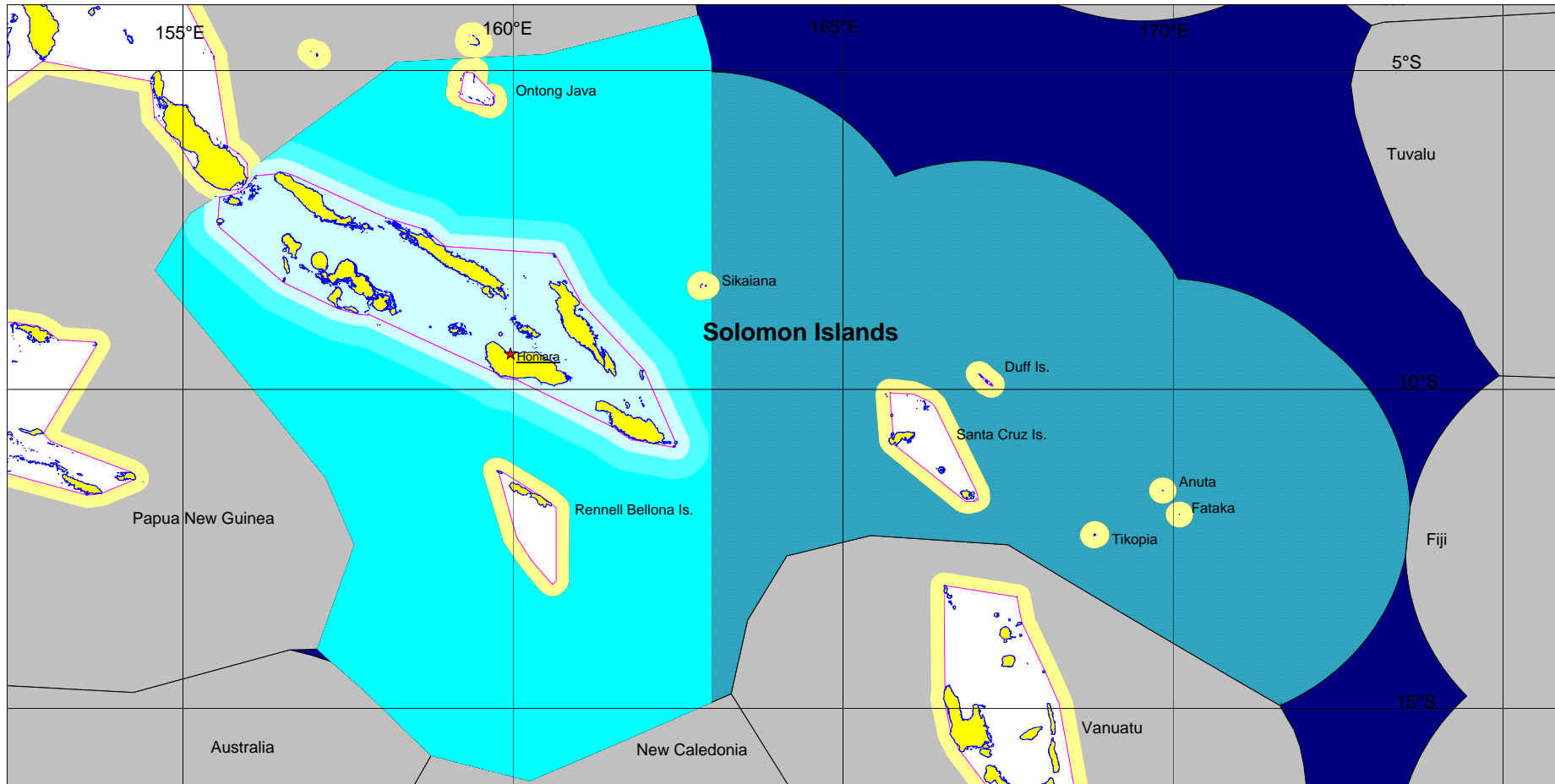
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Note
The proclaimed archipelagic baselines may be subject to review, which may vary the depiction on this map.

Solomon Islands Tuna Management Areas



LEGEND

ARCHIPELAGIC & TERRITORIAL SEAS (other than MGA)

- Archipelagic baseline
- Archipelagic waters
- Territorial Sea

MGA AREA

- Outer MGA (from Inner MGA border out to 30nm from archipelagic baselines)
- Inner MGA (archipelagic & territorial seas)

OFFSHORE AREA

- Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
- Area accessible to US vessels under US Multilateral Treaty (once ratified)

- Other Countries' EEZ
- High Seas





CHAPTER 1 FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Fisheries resources have been and will continue to be an important source of protein food, income and employment opportunity for Solomon Islanders. Various facts have supported this assertion: fisheries being amongst the major contributors of foreign exchange earnings; the large number of either direct or indirect employment within the sector; the high per capita consumption rate of 34.6 kg/person/year. The recent Central Bank of Solomon Islands' report has highlighted fisheries as one of the sectors that holds hope for the economic recovery of Solomon Islands.

Fisheries in Solomon Islands consists of the industrial fisheries sector (predominantly off-shore fishery) and the subsistence fisheries sector (predominantly inshore). The industrial sector depends very much on the abundant tuna resources found within Solomon Islands Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), whilst the subsistence sector is very much based on the inshore resources, which are found mostly in the coastal region where bulk of the population lives.

This annual report highlights the functions of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources (DFMR), its activities and achievements for 2004.

1.2 FUNCTION

1.2.1 Policy Objective

The DFMR Resources shares the Ministry of Natural Resources with the Department of Geology, Energy and Mines and the Department of Forest, Environment and Conservation. The Department is vested with the responsibility of developing and managing, in cooperation with provincial authorities, the exploitation of all fisheries and marine resources found within the Fishery Limits in such a manner as to secure optimum social and economic benefits for the people of Solomon Islands, specifically;

- to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency in supply of fish to the domestic market.
- to improve cash income throughout the fisheries sector by way of assisting Solomon Islanders in developing their resources through self-employment.
- to maximise participation of Solomon Islands nationals in commercial fishing and associated activities.
- to improve the foreign exchange position of Solomon Islands by encouragement of local processing of fisheries resources into value-added products, and,
- to encourage farming of aquatic resources

Under the current Government's policy (ref. the NCG Programme of Action 2002 – 2005), the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources is responsible for the following;

- (a) Fisheries and Marine Resources
- (b) Aquaculture
- (c) Research on fisheries resources with potential for development
- (d) Fisheries Extension Services

Under these portfolios the objectives of the Department are to;

- coordinate all fisheries activities operating within the 200 miles economic zone of Solomon Islands to achieve better and maximum benefit for the people of Solomon Islands;



- improve current fishing facilities to encourage local fishermen to effectively preserve and market their fish and other perishable marine products; and
- ensure that the harvesting practices of all marine resources are properly coordinated and monitored to ensure that certain resources are not depleted unnecessarily.

Under the National Economic Recovery, Reform and Development Plan (NERRDP) 2003 – 2006 the Department obliged to,

- facilitate the rational management and conservation of coastal fisheries and aquatic living resources through their sustainable utilization.
- rehabilitate and promote the privatization and commercialization of rural fisheries centres.
- promote aquaculture development of aquatic organisms such as seaweed, pearl culture, prawn, etc.
- promote tuna fisheries development through foreign and local investment.
- Increase revenue through licensing of more tuna fishing vessels under access agreements and domestic licensing arrangements.
- improve the monitoring of fish catches, their exports and value and to share such information with Customs, CBSI and related agencies.
- review current fisheries legislation and formulate new legislation and fisheries management plans.
- reforming and building capacity of the Department.

1.2.2 Fisheries legislation

The Department principally operates under the Fisheries Act 1998, which provides the legal framework for fisheries management and development in Solomon Islands, with the objective of ensuring the long-term conservation and the sustainable utilisation of the fishery resources of Solomon Islands for the benefit of Solomon Islanders. Other legal documents of relevance to fisheries are Fisheries (United States of America Treaty) Act (c.39), Continental Shelf Act (c.94), Delimitation of Marine Waters Act (c.95) 1978 and the Fishery Limits Act (c.96) 1977.

1.2.3 International obligations and responsibilities

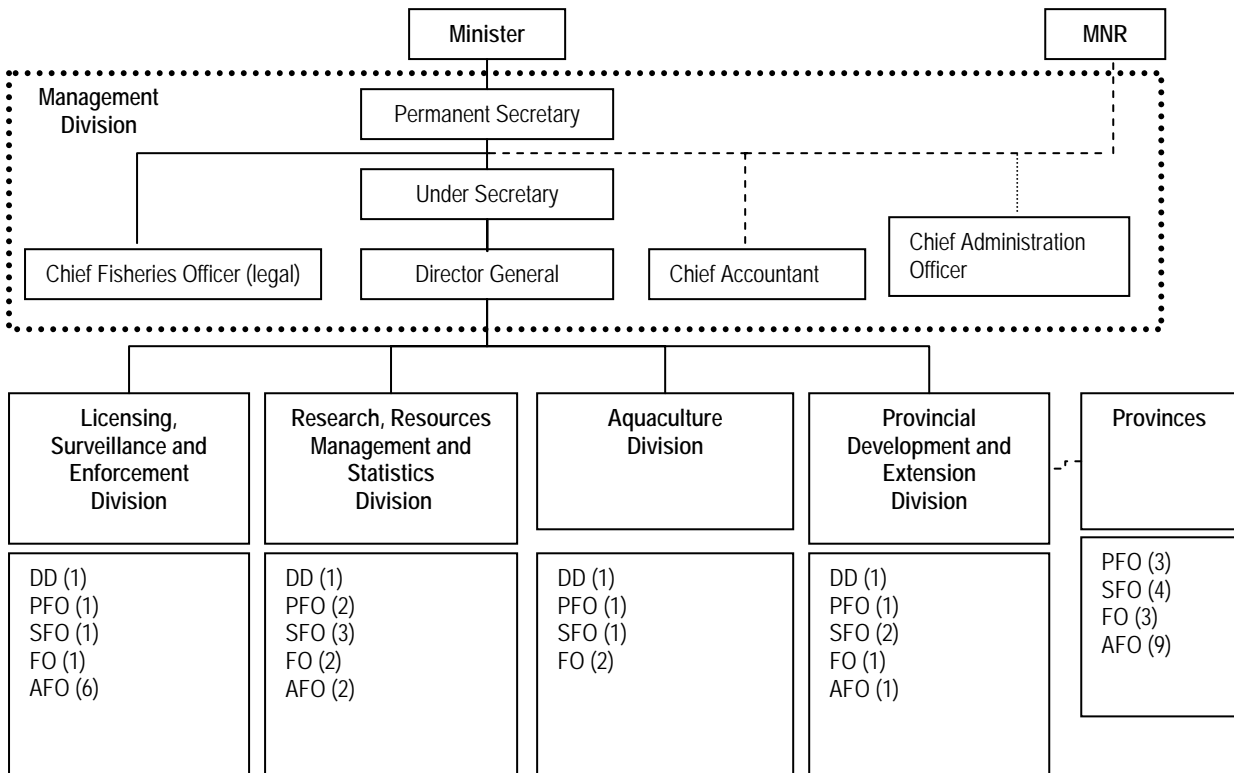
Solomon Islands also has legal obligations and responsibilities to fulfill under a number of conventions and treaties, which directly or indirectly relates to fisheries. These include Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (WCPFC), UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, UN Fish Stocks Agreement, Convention on Biological Diversity, Driftnet Convention, Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Code of Conduct, FAO Compliance Agreement, FAO International Plans of Action, WSSD Fisheries Targets, South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Convention and its Minimum Terms and Conditions, Lome Convention 1979, Multilateral Treaty on Fisheries with USA.



CHAPTER 2 ORGANISATION AND STAFFING

2.1 ORGANISATION STRUCTURE.

The organizational structure of the Department is presented in figure 1 below. The Department has five functional Divisions; 1. Management, 2. Licensing, Surveillance and Enforcement 3. Research, Resources Management and Statistics, 4. Aquaculture, and 5. Provincial Development and Extension.



Code: DD-Deputy Director; PFO – Principal Fisheries Officer; SFO – Senior Fisheries Officer; FO – Fisheries Officer; AFO – Assistant Fisheries Officer; FA – Fisheries Assistant

Figure 1: Organisational Structure of the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources 2004

2.2 STAFFING POSITIONS

The following tables present the summary of staffing positions of the DFMR at the end of 2004 by gender, established and non-established, filled positions and vacancies.



Table 1. Staffing by unit as at 31 December 2004

Division / Section	Established posts (number)	Filled posts			Vacant posts (number)	Non-established posts (number)
		Male (number)	Female (number)	Total (number)		
Management	4	3	0	3	1	0
Licensing, Surveillance and Enforcement	10	8	1	9	1	0
Research, Resources Management and Statistics	10	5	0	5	5	0
Aquaculture	5	3	0	3	2	0
Provincial Development and Extension	6	4	0	4	2	0
Provinces	19	13	0	13	6	0
Administration and Logistics support staff	3	0	3	3	0	4
Total	57	35	4	39	18	4

Table 2: Staffing by grade as at 31 December 2004

Grade	Established posts (number)	Filled posts			Vacant posts (number)	Non-established posts (number)
		Male (number)	Female (number)	Total (number)		
SS2	1	1	0	1	0	0
SS1	1	1	0	1	0	0
L12/13	1	1	0	1	0	0
L10/11	4	4	0	4	0	0
L9/10	1	0	0	0	1	0
L8/9	8	7	0	7	1	0
L7/8	13	7	1	8	5	0
L6/7	8	4	0	4	4	0
L5/6	18	10	1	11	7	0
L4/5	2	0	2	2	0	0
L1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Total	57	35	4	39	18	4

2.3 STAFF MOVEMENTS

The senior Fisheries Officer (Central Province) has been transferred to the DFMR headquarters to supervise the Provincial Development and Extension Division, which has been without a head for the past three years. There was a swap between the heads of fisheries in Isabel and Malaita Provinces early in the year.



Four established and three non-established staff were made redundant in 2004. One officer was terminated and one officer suspended. There was no retirement or recruitment during the year.

2.4 TRAINING AND OVERSEAS TRAVEL

Tables 3(a) and 3(b) summarise the trainings and overseas trips undertaken by officers of the DFMR during 2004 respectively.

Table 3(a) *Trainings undertaken during 2004.*

Officer	Training Course	Duration	Country
SFO (research)	Fishery Development and Environment	6 weeks	Japan
SFO (Western)	Coastal Fishing Technique	4 months	Japan
SFO (Choiseul)	Coastal Fishing Technique	2.5 months	Japan
SFO (Temotu)	Coastal Fishing Technique	2.5 months	Japan
2 AFO (Licensing)	Law of the Sea	2 weeks	Australia
AFO (Surveillance)	Law of the Sea	2 weeks	Australia
AFO (Enforcement)	Law of the Sea	3 weeks	Australia
SFO (VMS)	Law of the Sea	3 weeks	Australia
SFO (Central)	Integrated Inshore Resources Management	2 months	Japan
DG	Coastal Fisheries Management Policy	1 week	Fiji
SFO (Aquaculture)	Shrimp/Tilapia fish farming	3 weeks	Fiji
DD (RRM&S)	Bech-de-mer fishery survey	2 weeks	Tonga
DD (RRM&S)	Coral Monitoring	1 week	Australia
AFO (RRM&S)	Turtle monitoring	1 week	PNG

Table 3(b): *Overseas travel during 2004.*

Officer(s)	Purpose	Duration	Country
PS, US (ag)	US Fisheries Treaty	1 week	Tuvalu
PS, US(ag)	PrepCon (WCPFC)	1 week	Philippines
PS, US(ag)	Tuna Pacific Access Negotiation	3 days	Fiji
PS, US(ag)	OFCF Directors meeting	1 week	Fiji
PS, DG(ag)	Fisheries bilateral negotiation with EU	3 days	Belgium
PS, US(ag), DG(ag)	Fisheries bilateral negotiation with Korea	3 days	Korea
PS, US(ag), DG(ag)	Fisheries bilateral negotiation with Taiwan	3 days	Taiwan
PS, US (ag)	Fisheries bilateral negotiation with Japan	3 days	Fiji
US(ag)	International Whaling Commission	2 week	Italy
US(ag)	Scientific Committee Group	3 days	Marshall Islands
US(ag)	Meeting of Parties to Palau Arrangement	1 week	Kiribati
US(ag), DG(ag)	Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish	2 weeks	Marshall Islands
US(ag), DG(ag)	Implementation of Legal obligations to WCPFC	1 week	Fiji
DG(ag)	Heads of Fisheries Meeting	1 week	New Caledonia
DD (Aquaculture)	INFOFISH Council Meeting	1 week	Bangladesh
DD (Aquaculture)	Seaweed Conference	1 week	Norway
DD (Aquaculture)	Seaweed farming	1 week	Fiji
AFO (OC)	Observers Coordinators meeting	2 weeks	Australia

Code: PS – Permanent Secretary; US – Under Secretary; DG – Director General; DD – Deputy Director; RRM&S – Research, Resources Management and Statistics; SFO – Senior Fisheries Officer; AFO – Assistant Fisheries Officer; OC – Observers Coordinator;



CHAPTER 3 ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

3.1 MANAGEMENT DIVISION

The Management Division, headed by the Permanent Secretary and assisted by the Under Secretary, consisted of the Offices of the Director General, Chief Fisheries Officer (Legal) (the technical support staff), the Chief Administration Officer and the Chief Accountant of the MNR (administrative service support). The Division is principally responsible for overseeing that the Departmental goals and objectives are achieved through the proper coordination and supervision of work by the various technical Divisions of the Department. The Division is also responsible for developing policies and programs that are geared towards the proper and sustainable development and management of fisheries resources, so that maximum benefits may be achieved by the people of Solomon Islands.

3.1.1 Activities and Achievements

Activity 1: Bilateral fisheries agreement negotiations

Objective

To negotiate the terms and conditions of the new bilateral arrangements with the European Union (EU) and the New Zealand Far Seas Tuna Association (NZFTA) and review the terms and conditions of their Agreements with Taiwan, Korea and Japan and to resolve any difficulties that may be associated with the implementation of the Agreements, so that the maximum benefits are obtained by Solomon Islands from its tuna resources.

Achievements

The negotiation with EU was undertaken from 23 – 27 January 2004 and the Agreement has been initiated. The bilateral fisheries access agreement is for a three year duration and will come into force in January 2005. The agreement allows EU flagged purse seine and longline vessels to fish in Solomon Islands EEZ.

The Agreement for purse seine vessels of the NZFTA has not been negotiated as anticipated and was due to difficulties with the Head Agreement and its relation with the 1998 Fisheries Act. This has been cleared through a consultation between Officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the DFMR and the New Zealand High Commissioner in Honiara and subsequently endorsed by Cabinet at its sitting at the end of October 2004. A Cabinet paper to seek Cabinet's endorsement of the bilateral access agreement and a team from the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources to negotiate the agreement in early 2005 was endorsed by Cabinet in November 2004.

Consultations have been held with the Tuna Association of Korea and Taiwan towards the end of July and early August 2004 in Seoul and Kaohsiung respectively. The access arrangement with the Tuna Association of Korea has been extended for a calendar year and the associated license fees increased. A new agreement with increased license fees has also been signed with the Tuna Association of Taiwan and the agreement will be for a calendar year also. Consultations with the Tuna Associations of Japan has been held from the 2 - 4 October 2004 and the agreements for purse seine, longline and pole-and-line vessels of the Associations has been extended for another calendar year.



Activity 2: Multilateral Fisheries Treaty with the U.S.

Objective

To deal with issues associated with the Treaty and negotiate the allocation and sharing of the annual fees of US\$21 million under the agreement as no agreement has been reached on this by the FFA member countries.

Achievements

A meeting to discuss issues relating to the Multilateral Fisheries Treaty and including the sharing of the license fees was held in Funafuti, Tuvalu in March 2004 but no agreement was reached on the sharing of the license fees. This means that the old formula of sharing the original US\$18 million under the old agreement is still used and the extra US\$3 million with interests are left aside until an agreement is reached on how it is going to be shared between the FFA member countries.

Activity 3: Development Agreement review

Objective

To review the terms and conditions of the development Agreement with the Tuna Pacific Agency Limited (TPAL) of Fiji for chartered Korean longline to make it more compatible with other bilateral fisheries access agreements.

Achievements

The terms and condition of the development agreement has been negotiated early in the year and a new agreement has been signed between the TPAL and the DFMR on behalf of the SIG.

Activity 4: Senior Provincial Fisheries Officers' Annual Conference

Objective

To hold a conference for fisheries officers to assess the activities of the Department together with the Fisheries Divisions of the Provinces.

Achievements

A one week conference was held from 22 – 27th March 2004. The conference was a success with all Provinces represented except the Western Province. A report of the conference has been completed.

Activity 5: Accession to CITES,

Objective

To enable Solomon Islands become a member of the CITES and to participate fully in decision making of the organization which affects our international trade of endangered species.

Achievements

A joint Cabinet Paper has been prepared and submitted to the AG Chambers for the necessary clearance prior to submission to Cabinet for consideration. The three Departments involved are Foreign Affairs, Environment and Conservation and Fisheries and Marine Resources.

Activity 6: Amendments to FSM Arrangement

Objective

To make amendment to the FSM Arrangement to allow the closure of 30 nm around the Main Group Archipelago (MGA) as provide for in the Tuna Development and Management Plan. The FSM arrangement is another subsidiary tuna fisheries management arrangement of parties to the Nauru Agreement. The Arrangement provides for purse seine vessels of member countries to fish in the EEZs of member countries with one license and is a measure that encourages domestic tuna industry development.



Achievements

Amendments to close the waters 30 nm around the MGA has been submitted to the Depository through the Department of Foreign Affairs for ratification by other member countries.

Activity 7: Western/Central Pacific Tuna Convention.

Objective

To finalise financial and administration arrangements for the Western Central Pacific Tuna Commission (WCPTC) its Scientific Committee and working Groups and their link with the Commission's annual meetings, member financial contributions, number of meetings to be held and the monitoring, control and surveillance before the convention comes into force on 19th June 2004 and the first meeting of the Commission December 2004.

Achievements

Arrangements were finalized at the 7th Preparatory Conference (PrepCon) prior to the Commission meeting in December 2004 and Scientific issues relating to the current status of the four major tuna stocks and managements measures that the commission could adopt to manage these tuna stocks has been discussed at the Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish (SCTB) and Scientific Committee Group (SCG) III meeting in Majuro, Marshal Islands, in August 2004.

Activity 8: Personnel Management

Objective

To develop a Scheme of Service for officers of the DFMR and make recruitment to fill vacant posts.

Achievements:

A draft Scheme has been prepared and this was presented during the senior fisheries officers conference 2004. Amendments have been made to the draft scheme during the conference and a committee has been formed to pursue and finalise the Scheme.

Vacant posts have been identified and advertised towards the end of the year.

Activity 9: Coordination of integrated planning and budgeting process

Objective

To prepare the annual budgets and annual work programs for the DFMR.

Achievements

The Department's budgets (recurrent and development) and work programs for 2004 have been produced and forwarded to relevant authorities.

Activity 10: Departmental Management

Objective

To hold quarterly heads of Division (HOD) meetings.

Achievements

Five HOD meetings were held in 2004.

Activity 11: National fisheries workshop

Objective

To hold a national fisheries conference for stakeholders.



Achievements

The conference has not been possible due to financial constraints.

Activity 12: Ratification of the Palau Arrangement

Objective

To ratify the Palau Arrangement. The Palau Arrangement is a subsidiary fisheries management arrangement to the Nauru Agreement to control purse seine fishing activities within waters of member countries as a tuna resource conservation measure and to ensure that better values from their tuna resources are obtained from low tuna catches. Currently 205 vessels is used as a cap for the region and a vessel day scheme which allocates vessel fishing days for each FFA member country has been developed and when finalized will replace the cap on purse seiners.

Achievements

Instruments of ratification of the Arrangement has been submitted by the Department of Foreign Affairs to the Depository of the Palau Arrangement and Solomon Islands has formally become a member at the annual meetings of parties in Tarawa, Kiribati, May 2004.

Activity 13: Fisheries Legislation and Fisheries Management Plans

Objective

To review current fisheries legislation and fisheries management plans to ensure gaps are catered for and weaknesses strengthened. This will ensure that fisheries resources are sustainably exploited and managed.

Achievements

The new set of regulations under the Fisheries Act 1998, which is more comprehensive and covers a wider scope in fisheries, has been completed and submitted for vetting and Gazettal. The Regulations however, are yet to be cleared by the Attorney Generals (AG) Chambers. The National Tuna Management and Development Plan was also reviewed by a consultant to ensure that provisions of the plan are implemented so that maximum benefits are derived by Solomon Islands from its tuna resources.

3.2 LICENSING, SURVEILLANCE AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

The Licensing, Surveillance and Enforcement Division is responsible for the monitoring of all fisheries operations within Solomon Islands 200 miles EEZ to achieve maximum benefit for the peoples of Solomon Islands. The Division is responsible for the assessment and the issuance of fisheries licenses to fish processing establishments, local and foreign fishing vessels, surveillance and the monitoring of fishing activities of licensed fishing vessels in the EEZ and to carry out enforcement in relation to the terms and conditions of the licenses issued and the fisheries laws of Solomon Islands.

The Division also coordinates an Observers and a Port Sampling Program that collects scientific and fishing operation data as well as undertaking surveillance duties on fishing vessels in Solomon Islands EEZ. Most of this Division's activities are routine work.

3.2.1 Activities and Achievements

Activity 1: Licenses and permits

Objective

To issue licences and permits to commercial fisheries operations and to review licence and permit conditions.



Achievement

A total of 297 vessels were licenced to fish (basically for tuna) in Solomon Islands waters in 2004 under various arrangements (see figure 3). A total of 39 Fish Processing Establishment licences were issued to companies to export marine products.

The review process of licence and permit conditions has started. But still awaiting clearance from the AG Chambers before these are finalised.

Activity 2: Inspection and enforcement

Objective

To inspect various fisheries and fisheries related activities by fishing companies and individual fishers to ensure compliance with fisheries laws, and to enforce these laws when an infringement has occurred.

Achievement

Most of the commercial fisheries operations were inspected and a number of violations were identified resulting in those responsible paying fines worth more than one million Solomon Islands dollars.

A total of 92 export permits were issued for fresh tuna and 458 permits for other marine products on commercial basis whilst 84 permits were issued for domestic consumption and souvenir.

A total of 159 transshipments was made in Honiara Port during 2004 and a total of 70,533 mt of skipjack and 13,439 mt of yellowfin were transshipped. These transshipment activities were monitored to a 100% coverage.

Activity 3: Surveillance and observers

Objective

To monitor fishing activities and collect scientific and technical data and information on fisheries activities within Solomon Islands waters.

Achievement

A total of 78 observer trips were made on purse seine vessels, 6 trips on pole-and-line vessels and 29 trips onboard longline vessels. Additionally 4 trips were made onboard surveillance flights as well.

The Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) was operational all through the year.

Activity 4: Port sampling

Objective

To collect scientific fisheries data at landing and transshipment sites (ports).

Achievement

Sampling was done on transshipping vessels in Honiara Port during the first quarter of 2004 when transshipment activities were at its height. A request for funding assistance has been forwarded to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and a positive response has been received. This activity will resume in 2005.

3.2 RESEARCH, RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND STATISTICS

The Research, Resources Management and Statistics Division is responsible for the provision of technical and scientific advice to the government on subsistence, domestic and foreign commercial fishing activities to ensure harvesting practices of marine resources are properly coordinated and monitored to ensure resources are not depleted unnecessarily.



This Division is responsible for research on all living marine resources to provide the necessary information for their sustainable development and management. The information they collect and compile are used by the Department for rational fisheries resource management purposes. The Division also has close working relationship with other research based Government Departments such as the Environment and Conservation Division, national Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and other regional and international research organisations, such as SPC, World-fish Centre, South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), etc. on research projects of mutual interest.

The Statistics and Information Unit of the Division is responsible for the monitoring, collection, compilation and disbursement of fisheries statistical data, as well as developing relevant databases for the various fisheries. They also maintain the Departments computer hardwares and softwares.

3.3.1 Activities and Achievements

Activity 1: Compilation of data

Objective

To continually enter and compile fisheries statistical data

Achievements

Most fishing data, particularly for tuna, have been entered and compiled. Because of manpower shortage the data on inshore fisheries is yet to be entered and updated.

Activity 2: Strengthening and consolidation of databases

Objective

To strengthen and consolidate the current fisheries databases.

Achievement

Most databases have been upgraded. A request has been made to SPC to assist in this activity and their response has been positive. Arrangements for an SPC expert to come over to review the current databases have started and the actual implementation will take effect in 2005.

Activity 3: Dissemination of statistics

Objective

To provide statistical information to clients and stakeholders as and when requested.

Achievement

This is an ongoing activity and many clients have benefited from this activity during 2004.

Activity 4: Fisheries library

Objective

To establish a fisheries library that stores all relevant fisheries information and data, so as to effectively disseminate fisheries information.

Achievement

Efforts to secure funds have not been successful so far.

Activity 6 Research needs review

Objective

To identify the main research area needs of the Division.



Achievements

Three areas have been identified as important for development of research initiatives. These are (a) inshore resources (b) offshore resources & (c) Marine mammals.

Activity 7: Priority projects identification.

Objective

Use the Project Cycle Management (PCM) system to identify at least 3 priority projects out of nine fisheries research project proposals.

Achievements

This activity (goal) is initially planned to be undertaken in collaboration and consultation with other members of the Management Division. However, due to the very tight and busy schedules of RRM and Management staff, it was not possible to implement this activity at all within the specified timeframe. This activity has been brought forward to be revisited in 2005.

Activity 8: Inshore resource inventory

Objective

To design and carryout technical and scientific fisheries questionnaires, surveys and interviews.

Achievements

The first ever national Rapid Ecological Assessment survey was completed from 12th May to 16th June, 2004 in the Solomon Islands main group. A team of International and local scientists took part in this marine assessment. Marine resources assessed during this study were:

- (a) Corals (Species Id., Diversity, Community Structure and Health)
- (b) Reef Fish (Species Id. and Diversity)
- (c) Commercial Invertebrates (Species Id. and Stock Abundance)
- (d) Marine Mammals (Species Id., and Stock Estimates)
- (e) Sea grasses (Species Id., Diversity and estimate of coverage area)

Reports are available for the individual components of the study. A Final Report for the study is expected by end of March 2005. A benthic fauna and flora survey was completed in collaboration with Institute of Research Development (IRD) of New Caledonia from 19th October to 9th November for the northern archipelago of Solomon Islands. The survey was a success.

Activity 9: Coral reef monitoring (GCRMN)

Objective

To establish and monitor the status of coral at selected sites at various locations in the country.

Achievements

Twenty (20) people were trained in coral reef monitoring methods including the staff of this Division. Coral monitoring surveys have been undertaken at sites in the Gizo area, Munda and Marovo lagoon.

The Solomon Islands Status of the Coral Report was finalized in collaboration with World Wide Fund (WWFSI) and submitted to the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) in June. Coral Reef monitoring sites were established and monitored on Tetepare Island in partnership with WWFSI from 26th August to 6th September. Coral reef monitoring sites have been established in the Arnavon Marine Conservation Area (AMCA) by a survey team comprising of DFMR, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), WWFSI, International Waters Project (IWP) and AMCA Community Conservation Officers. This activity was undertaken from 7th – 15th November.



Activity 10: Coral gardening

Objective

To rehabilitate coral and resource management. This includes promotion of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and ban of destructive fishing methods

Achievements

Visits were made to project sites at Maravaghi (Ngella) and Marau (Guadalcanal). The main thrust of the trip was community education and awareness. FSPI has been endorsed by the DFMR for this work. Under this project, the DFMR, FSPI and other partner organizations were involved in baseline assessment of community managed MPAs. A number of baseline surveys were conducted at various project sites in Marau and Ngella. A baseline study for proposed MPAs at Marau was undertaken in collaboration with the Marine Aquarium Council (MAC), in consultation with communities in Marau who are involved in the Aquarium Industry. Baseline surveys for community MPAs in Ngella were also undertaken from 22nd to 29th July. During these trips educational and awareness talks were also given to communities involved in these projects.

Activity 11: Fisheries resource management

Objective

To facilitate the establishment of MPAs – survey work, establishing legal basis, management arrangements so as to come up with a Management and Development Plan for the Aquarium Industry.

Achievements

Work activities have started with baseline study for proposed MPAs also collaborated and the Marine Aquarium Council (MAC) sponsored MACTRAQ monitoring methods for communities in Marau who are involved in the Aquarium Industry. Beside the preparatory work for the development of a management and development plan for the Aquarium Industry, management of sea cucumbers and trochus are also being considered at this stage. Activities relating to these resource Management Plans were put forwarded for 2005.

Activity 12: Dolphin research

Objective

To undertake a snap-shop survey of the dolphin population in Solomon Islands.

Achievements

Implementation has not started. The Division has collaborated in the preparation of a research proposal jointly with the NGOs, the Environmental Concern Action Network of Solomon Islands (ECANSI) and "TNC" for the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). Part of the reason why this activity did not progress far was because the officer assigned with this task at ECANSI left the Organization and it was not clear whether there is a replacement. TNC ended up funding the marine mammal expert who did the assessment during the Rapid Ecological Assessment carried out in May and June of which the Division participated.

Activity 13: Minor collaborations

Objective

To collaborate with NGOs, communities and other relevant stakeholders in matters related to fisheries research and management.

Achievements

The Division collaborated with the NGO groups WWFSI and TNC in running a training workshop in Gizo on the monitoring of grouper spawning aggregation between 13th and 21st March, 2004. It was a successful workshop and it resulted in the establishment of first monitoring sites for grouper spawning



aggregation in the Solomon Islands. Tetepare Descendant Association (TDA) collaboration is expected as well.

The Division led the Invertebrate Monitoring Survey in the AMCA from 7th – 15th November. The Survey team included personnel from TNC, WWFSI, IWP and AMCA Communities. The Division collaborated with Division of Environment and Conservation and WWFSI in organizing and hosting the first ever Melanesian Leatherback (Turtle) Training Workshop in Gizo, from 1st – 6th November.

Activity 14: Resource utilization monitoring

Objective

To monitor the harvesting of fisheries resources

Achievements

Not fully Achieved in 2004 due to manpower constraints.

Activity 15: Computer upgraded

Objective

To ensure that computers/networks are operational at all times.

Achievements

Not fully implemented because the room for the server has not been completed. Internet is in place.

Activity 16: Commodity inventory

Objective

To monitor the utilisation of marine products.

Achievements

Not implemented due to lack of manpower and financial support for logistics

Activity 17: Data analysis

Objective

To undertake simple data analysis

Achievements

A lot of simple data analysis were performed on tuna fisheries data and summaries were disbursed as and when requested.

Summarized information on tuna fisheries are presented in Figures 2 and 3. Unfortunately no data analysis was performed for inshore resources due to the delayed submission of such data and the manpower constraints of the Statistics Division.

Activity 18: Training

Objective

To undertake in-house training for Department staff on software/database and other computer related programs.

Achievements

Officers continually trained throughout the year as and when the need arises. Officers' capacity and skill in computer handling has improved as a result.



3.4 AQUACULTURE DIVISION

The Aquaculture Division is a recent establishment within the Department. This Division is responsible for all aspects related to the promotion and managements of aquaculture developments in Solomon Islands. It is vested with the responsibility of identifying appropriate fisheries commodities that are of high potential for farming and the necessary farming technology for their development.

3.4.1 Activities and Achievements

Because of manpower and financial constraints, activities of the Aquaculture Division have been focused on the seaweed project. The objective of the project was simply to establish seaweed nurseries and develop seaweed farms in suitable areas.

The Seaweed Commercialization Project was approved in December 2004 and formalities for tender are now in progress. Hopefully by April 2005, a new seaweed project will be in the horizon and the work program for this new project will be soon implemented.

Activity 1: Seaweed site selection

Objective

To survey new sites suitable for seaweed farming

Achievements

Sites were surveyed in Shortlands, Malaita, Makira, Central and Isabel provinces. Growth trials were carried out at these sites. The trials in Shortlands, Malaita and Makira were successful. The trials in Central and Isabel were affected by fish grazing.

Activity 2: Distribution of seeds and farm materials

Objective

To distribute seeds and farm materials to identified farmers.

Achievements

Seeds and farm materials were successfully distributed to farms in Shortlands, Malaita and Makira.

Activity 3: Monitor established sites

Objective

To monitor established seaweed sites, particularly Rarumana and Waghena.

Achievements

Increased seaweed production occurred in Waghena. A warehouse was built in June in Waghena and PF-net was set up in August at this site.

Activity 4: Training workshops in established sites

Objective

To train farmers and buying agencies on seaweed farming especially on techniques to improve production.

Achievements

A regional workshop was successfully carried out which attracted participants from PNG and Kiribati. Small trainings were also carried out on-site during each visit to every farm sites.



Activity 5: Aquaculture awareness program

Objective

To provide awareness on the importance of aquaculture and to promote aquaculture activities to rural communities.

Achievements

During each site visit, officers hold awareness talks on the importance of aquaculture in particular its relevance to rural communities.

3.5 PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION DIVISION

The Provincial Development and Extension Division, in collaboration with Provincial authorities, is responsible for the coordination of fisheries development activities in the Provinces to encourage and promote the development of fisheries in the rural areas of the Provinces. The Division also coordinates and provides technical assistance necessary for the repair and maintenance of refrigeration equipment and generators at the provincial fisheries centers, marketing and fisher training.

3.5.1 Activities and Achievements

Activity 1: Resources sustainability awareness.

Objective

To undertake educational and awareness programs, particularly at the rural level.

Achievement

Initial discussions has been made with the Research and Resources Management Division and provincial fisheries officers on this proposal. It is envisaged that the actual implementation will take effect in 2005.

Activity 2: Improve and upgrade of current fisheries centers (equipment and facilities).

Objective

To improve and upgrade the facilities at provincial fisheries centers.

Achievement

Many centers have been rehabilitated under the EU funded Rural Fishing Enterprises Project and the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) funded Fishery Development Assistance to Pacific Island Nations (FDAPIN) Project, and Solomon Islands funds under the Project Development Fund (PDF) at FFA.

Activity 3: Training for fishing group.

Objective

To undertake appropriate trainings for fishing groups.

Achievement

Not achieved due mainly to budget and manpower constraints.

Activity 4: Training for fisheries machine operators

Objective

To undertake refrigeration and generator training for fisheries center machine operators.



Achievement

A training program and a budget has been submitted to FFA for PDF funding but unsuccessful. On-site trainings have been undertaken during headquarter staff visits.

Activity 5: Establish communication linkage

Objective

To improve the communication linkage between the DFMR headquarters and Provincial fisheries centers.

Achievement

A financial component was included in the rehabilitation program and is yet to be submitted. Some faulty radio wirelasses have been repaired and maintained.

Activity 6: Privatization / Commercialization of Centers.

Objective

To explore the possibility of privatizing or commercializing fisheries centers.

Achievement

An assessment of privatization of centers has been made and to be discussed during a 2005 conference before a policy is drawn.

Activity 7: Provision of fishing equipment to fishing groups.

Objective

To make available fishing equipments to rural fishers

Achievement

No fishing gears were ordered under the 2002/3 Goods and Services and therefore no gears were provided to fishers in 2004. The order for 2003/2004 includes a lot of fishing gear and this will be made available to fishers in 2005.

Activity 8: Improvement of export marketing facilities in Honiara.

Objective

To improve the standard of fish processing establishments in Honiara to meet international standards.

Achievement

The marketing officer has carried out surveys and provided advice and inspection to stakeholders. The Department has been collaborating with the Department of Environmental Health of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services.

Activity 9: Monitor the RFEP loan scheme

Objective

To monitor the performance of individual fishers who have acquired loans under the RFEP loan scheme.

Achievement

Three(3) boats, four(4) motors and equipments purchased under the scheme have been confiscated and taken away from fishers who failed to repay their loans.



Activity 10: OFCF funded Fisheries Projects.

Objective

To identify potential sites(centers) for rehabilitation and rehabilitate those centers.

Achievements

Centres have been identified and rehabilitation work on these centers has started. Centres assessed include Lambi (Guadalcanal), Salesapa and Tulagi (Central), Gizo, Munda and Korovou (Western), Kira Kira (Makira) and Lavangu (RennellBellona). Actual rehabilitation work have started Lambi, Korovou, Salesapa, Tulagi and Lavangu.



CHAPTER 4 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

4.1 BUDGETS

The following tables present the budget information of the DFMR for 2004.

4.1.1 Recurrent Budget

Table 3(a) and 3(b) shows the recurrent budget performance of the Department for 2004. As can be clearly seen, the actual revenue almost triples the budgeted revenue for the year. This was due to the increase in foreign fishing licences fee collection, resulting from the increases of fees in the bilateral access agreements and the general improvements in the Departments fee collections.

4.1.2 Development Budget

Table 4 shows the development budget for the Department. The Rural Fishing Enterprises Project (RFEP) Phase III has been completed, except for the loan scheme component. The diversification component of the project, which researches into the feasibility of farming seaweed has also been completed. The actual Seaweed Project, intended to support the commercialization of the seaweed industry was supposed to have commenced in November but due to reasons only known to EU, it has not been eventuated.

The Dolphin Survey project was supposed to have commenced during the year. However, due to the increased interest in dolphin issues recently it was seen fit that a more thorough study/assessment of the dolphin populations be undertaken instead of the anticipated snap-shot survey. A number of research organizations and NGOs will be collaborating in this study and this project will be an integrated component of this study (see also Activity 7 under 3.3.1).

Table 3(a): Budget Performance – 2004

Division / Section	Revenue		Expenditure	
	Final Budget (\$)	Actual (\$)	Final Budget (\$)	Actual (\$)
Fisheries	9,413,000	26,791,067	2,468,147	1,404,240
Total	9,413,000	26,791,067	2,468,147	1,404,240

Table 3(b): Composition of Expenditure – 2004

Division / Section	Personnel costs		Operating costs		Total expenditure	
	Final Budget (\$)	Actual (\$)	Final Budget (\$)	Actual (\$)	Final Budget (\$)	Actual (\$)
Fisheries	1,448,283	794,058	1,019,864	610,181	2,468,147	1,404,240
Total	1,448,283	794,058	1,019,864	610,181	2,468,147	1,404,240



Table 4: Development Estimates – 2004

Project	2004 Estimate (\$)	Status at year end (completed / ongoing / yet to commence)
Rural Fisheries Enterprises-Phase III - Assistance towards ensuring the sustenance of rural fisheries enterprises and to encourage the diversification of their activities.	300,000	Completed
RFEP Phase III - Seaweed Farming: Diversification of RFEP Phase III to undertake seaweed farming trials and surveys.	1,500,000	completed
RFEP Phase III - Seaweed Farming: Assistance to increase diversification of rural income generating sources by establishing commercial seaweed farming industry.	16,929,000	Yet to commence (see notes)
Dolphin Survey Project: Support for technical assessment of dolphin population in the country so that better policy advice can be provided to the Government of Solomon Islands and other stakeholders.	107,115	Yet to commence (see notes)



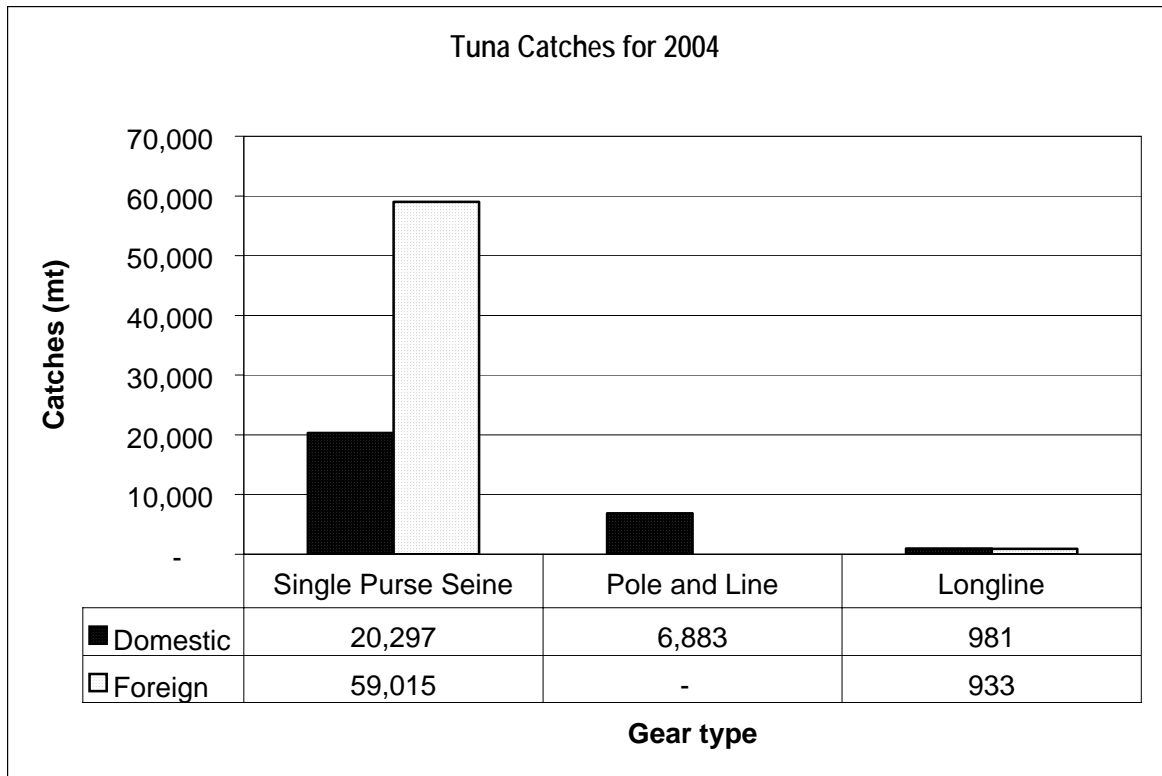


Figure 2: Tuna catches in Solomon Islands EEZ in 2004 by domestic and foreign fleets

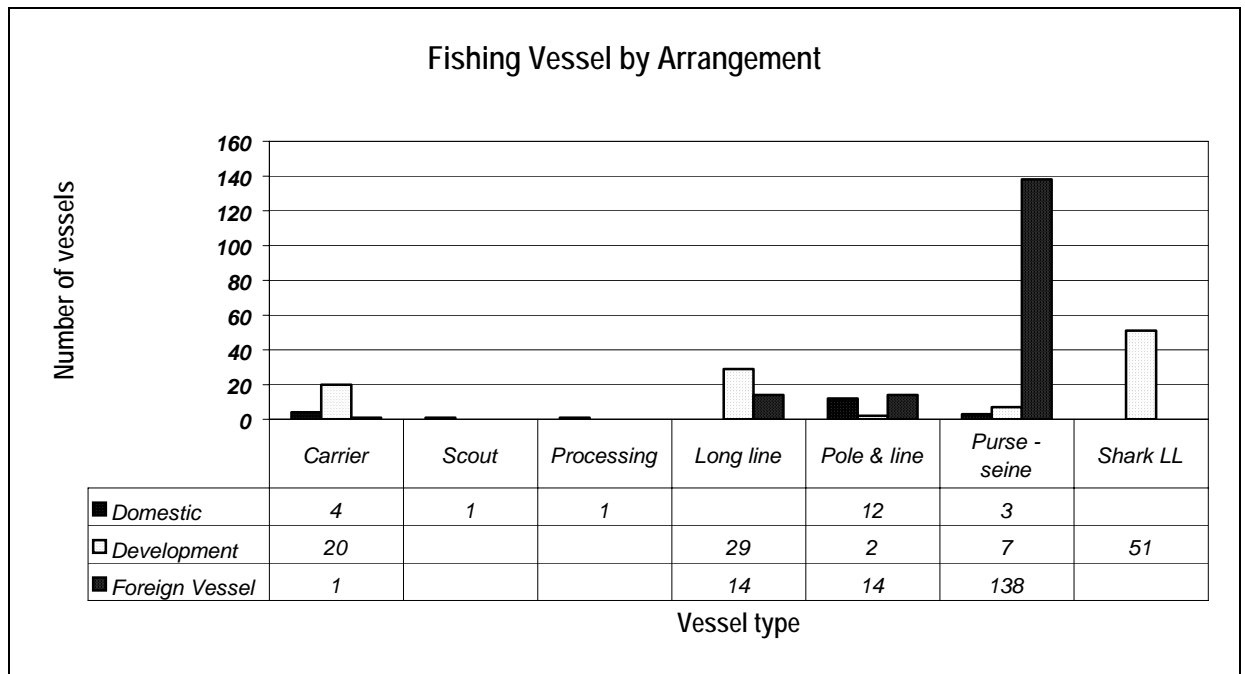


Figure 3: Fishing vessels licensed to fish in Solomon Islands EEZ during 2004 by arrangement

