

10 January 1973

FISHERIES DIVISION

ANNUAL REPORT

1972

1. General:-

The year represented a technological break-through in that, for the first time since its inception, the Division found itself equipped with a nucleus of modern fishing vessels.

Concerning other on-going Projects, the Turtle Hatchery successfully underwent the transition from a trial, Peace-Corps - managed, operation to that of a permanent, entirely locally managed, institution. This Hatchery and Turtle Re-Stocking programme has attracted world-wide attention and is generally considered as a model of its kind.

In spite of these and other high-spots fisheries development in Western Samoa suffered from serious and critical set-backs in its extension programme. Much of this was due to a lack of understanding at high administrative levels of the degree and type of support necessary to maintain an effective fisheries extension service.

In the field of Legislation three important Acts and Bills were passed - the fruit of three years co-operation with the Attorney General's Office. These were:-

1. The Territorial Seas Act.
2. The Fisheries Protection Act.
3. The Fish Dynamiting Act.

Training activities still constituted one of the main facets of the overall fisheries development programme and, with the return from overseas of the first trained Samoan Fisheries Officers it is to be hoped that this aspect of our work will show worthwhile results beginning from 1973.

Training:-

During the year the following specific progress was made:-

1. Fisheries Assistant Fili Suafo'a returned from the United Kingdom having successfully completed and obtained his diploma for the ODM Fisheries Officer's Training Course. Subsequent to his completion of this course, Fisheries Assistant Fili Suafo'a took additional courses in Boat Construction and Fishmeal Processing.
2. Senior Fisheries Assistant Temo L. Pati went to Japan to undergo a one year's course at the Japanese International Coastal Fisheries Training Centre. Senior Fisheries Assistant Temo Pati has already successfully completed the ODM course in 1971.
3. Three complete boat-crews were trained to man the Ferro-Cement 38ft vessel, FDI, the 28ft Tuna Day Boat FS2, and the 42ft FAO Training vessel FD3. These were the first crews to be trained in modern fishing boat operation.
4. Unfortunately, due to lack of support for the extension programme, very little training was possible at village level and no training of any form was provided in the way of outboard motor maintenance or mechanical instruction. (see Project Seven Village Fishermen's Associations).
5. Through the assistance of the FAO Masterfisherman Captain S. Horibe, specialised training for 2 crews in tuna-tralling was completed by November.

PROJECT ONE -

Technical Up-grading of Fisheries Division:-

With the acquisition of a new Head Quarter building by Fisheries Division the main objective of providing a nucleus on which to expand was obtained.

Other acquisitions, of a technical nature, (ships, refrigeration equipment, etc.), are dealt with under their respective headings.

For the purpose of future reports, the title of "Project One: Technical Up-grading of Fisheries", will therefore be amended to: "Project One: Head Quarter Complex." *

PROJECT TWO -

Fish Marketing and Ice Supply:-

Due to delays in Public Works programmes no construction work whatsoever was carried out with regard to the Central Fish Market, though space for this purpose has been allocated since 1970.

On the equipment side a 6-ton Fish Cold Store (part of Public Works equipment items for the Fish Market) arrived in September. However, part of the consignment was damaged during off-loading and is now the subject of an insurance claim. Thus the installation of this equipment has not yet taken place.

With regard to Ice Supply, a Fisheries Division order for two portable ice-plants, has still not been fulfilled but the manufacturers anticipate shipment of these items in February 1973.

PROJECT THREE -

Crayfish - Shrimp Fishery Development:-

Progress in this has been slow due to the lack of a suitable boat with which to develop gear and methods. It was originally planned that the Concrete Boat (FD2) would undertake this work during the latter half of the year but due to higher priorities (notably the Tuna Project) this proved impossible to schedule.

It is hoped that FD2 will be able to concentrate on the work as from March of 1973.

With regard to expansion of the village crayfishing scheme this still remains impossible to achieve without adequate, reliable transport on Savaii. (see the Annual Report for 1971).

PROJECT FOUR -

Turtle Hatchery:-

This undertaking has now passed the "pilot-project-testing-stage" and can be considered as an independent on-going programme.

Unfortunately, its inception as such was marred by a tragic accident - the death through shark-attack of Alan Samer, the Peaco Corps Volunteer whose efforts were entirely responsible for the resounding success of this project. It is to be hoped that those members of Fisheries Division, to whom the work of the Hatchery is entrusted, will always bear in mind the example he has set us.

Since May the Hatchery has been under the control of Vilienu Ntagi (Manager Designate) with P.C.V. Wayne Witzell working on the analysis of statistical data.

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During 1972 over ten thousand hatchery raised Hawksbill turtles were returned to the sea. (compare with 700 for 1971).

With correct logistic support we should achieve 20,000 liberated hatchlings in 1973 and by 1975 a stable figure of 50,000 per annum. The significance of such a feat on Sanoan village economy is immeasurable.

PROJECT FIVE -

Ferro Cement Boat:-
(F.D.2.)

The Ferro-Cement boat was successfully launched in June and was christened " " by Masiofo after a short ceremony led by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. Subsequent to the launching, final fitting-out continued and the first operational trip, (to test out the various fishing systems) took place on September 26th when some 400lbs of fish was caught.

Even then, however, FD2 could not be considered as complete, since both engine instruments and hydraulics were still absent due to non-fulfillment of 1971 overseas orders.

On trials, FD2 proved capable of carrying a load of $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons in her two insulated ice-boxes. Speed in calm conditions was 8 knots and ocean cruising speed $7\frac{3}{4}$. The vessel handled very well in rough seas but had a tendency to roll too much when hove-to. This was counteracted by the installation of submerged stabilizers.

During most of October FD2 was withdrawn from service for the fitting of outrigger poles, so that she might assist the Tuna Fishery Programme in acting as a trolling training vessel, which occupation kept her busy during November and the first ten days of December.

With regard to the future of Ferro-Cement Boat Building in Western Samoa, the New Zealand government offered to send up a team of technical experts to provide a "blueprint" for Western Samoa's needs in this and other Fisheries activities.

Unfortunately, up till now, no decision has been reached regarding this opportunity.

PROJECT SIX-

Tuna Fishery Development Project:-

After a lengthy delay due to contract difficulties with the builder, the FAO 42ft Tuna Fishery Evaluation and Training vessel (FD3) arrived in Apia in early August, thus enabling practical work on the project to commence.

The Samoan Government counterpart vessel, a 28ft Tuna Dory Boat from Millers Boat Yard in Fiji, had already been in operation since May, spending the intervening months in both bottom and pelagic fishing methods training. Running-in and teething troubles prevented FD3 from entering operational service until late October at which point composite crew-training commenced.

The training activities of the Tuna Fishery Development Project will be divided into the following phases:-

- (a) Seamanship and boatwork.
- (b) Surface trolling
- (c) Long-line operation
- (d) Bait fish catching
- (e) Pole-and-line live bait technique.

Up to the end of the year the first of these phases had been completed and the second was in progress.

One drawback to the Project has been Treasury's insistence that all monies earned by the project through sale of fish must be paid into general revenue. In other countries it is the practice that, with regard to similar FAO projects, revenue derived from the project is re-cycled back into it thus allowing for natural, necessary expansion. By dis-allowing this practice this Treasury could eventually cripple the project by curtailing its natural growth.

PROJECT SEVEN-

Village Fishermen's Association:-

1972 was a critical year for all village associations due to the following causes:-

- (a) Limited stock of outboard-motor spares held by the Apia retailers and extreme unwillingness and slowness on their part to order spares.
- (b) High duty imposed on imported Outboard Motor Fuel. In 1970 and most of 1971 no duty was charged with the result that village fishermen could afford to fish. The duty now imposed has doubled the cost of fuel, which means that the fishermen can now only afford to go fishing half the time previously spent. Thus only half the previous (1971) total catch can result.
- (c) Fisheries Division did not receive any funds in 1972 for VFA assistance. Thus it was not possible to conduct any outboard motor operation and maintenance courses for VFA mechanics. Assistance to the villages was limited to sending them small groups of Fisheries Division's fishing-methods demonstrators. Additionally a Peace Corps volunteer did a monthly "motor-inspection-tour" of the VFA's on Savai'i but, with insufficient tools and no stocks of spares available his task was extremely difficult.

In order for the VFA structure to survive three positive steps must be taken:-

- (1) Either the outboard-motor retailers must agree to a "quota" of spares to be held by them or government should hold stocks (in the same way parts for Misting Machine are stocked by Agriculture Stores).
- (2) The duty-rate should be reduced on the ready-mixed outboard fuel. After all, this fuel can only be used in outboards and in the villages the only outboards are those belonging to the VFA's.
- (3) Fisheries Division should be granted a definite "village extension-work" vote item, which should include an allocation for conducting basic mechanical courses at Fisheries Division Head Quarter.

Without such re-vigilising action the VFA structure must collapse within the next twelve months.

NOTE:

Appendix I to this Report covers the condition of VFA's on Upolu as of December. The position on Savai'i is considerably worse since there is less actual cash available there for self-financing village efforts.

Prospects for 1973:-

1. Dory Boatbuilding Project. (Privately financed by U.S. philanthropist) US\$7500

To create a viable boat-building complex in Western Samoa capable of producing up to 24. jet powered fishing boats per year.

2. Pacific Fisherman's Training School:-

FMC project amounting to some US\$750,000. To create, in conjunction with the Samoan Government, a centralised eventually regional, training school catering to the requirements of Pacific Island fishermen. Intake eventually 1000 students per year.

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3. Coconut Crab Project:-

To set-up a "pilot-farm" for coconut crabs (in conjunction with the turtle hatchery.)

4. Coastal Waters Survey:-

A two-year systematic study into Samoan coastal resources utilising the ferro-cement vessel FD2.

The above are all scheduled to begin in 1973 and are additional to existing programmes.

William Travis

(William Travis)

CHIEF FISHERIES OFFICER

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Mr w. Travis		Fisheries Officer
Temo Laei Pati	-	Senior Fisheries Assistant
Fili Suafo'a	-	Fisheries Assistant
Asuasu Sileli	-	" "
Ueta Faasili	-	" "
Savali Time	-	" "
Pouliofata W. Treviranus (Mrs)	-	Clerk/Shorthand/Typist
Pale Taunai	-	Shore Bosun
Ueli O'brien	-	Coxswain (Tuna Project)
Savelio	-	Coxswain (Fishing Methods)
Viliamu Mtagi	-	Turtle Hatchery Manager.

APPENDIX I

ANNUAL REPORT ON VILLAGE FISHING ASSOCIATIONS
Upolu - 1972

The main goal of the Fisheries programme in relation to the village fishing Associations was to convey education to those people on methods of obtaining fish from their local areas. This education incorporated new scientific methods and brought back into use some of the more successful methods used by Samoan ancestry.

By use of this type of fishing, it was speculated that the associations could move through a stage of obtaining fish for their consumption to a stage where they could catch a sufficient amount of fish to sell commercially outside of their own societies.

The money gained from these transactions was to be used for maintenance of their society and the livelihood of their fishermen.

At the moment, there are sixteen village fishing association in Upolu. About 30% have setbacks due to engine troubles, 20% show only momentary flashes of hard, keen work but the rest worked steadily throughout the year.

Lauli'i (VFA):-

This was set up in July last year. Consists of eight members, was financed by the Development Loan Bank. They possess a 20h.p. Johnson as well as a va'alo which has a capacity of 3 cwt.

Lufilufi (VFA):-

This was formed at the beginning of the year. They possess a 20h.p. Johnson together with an alia. They finance themselves from their own resources and work steadily and well.

Saluafata (VFA):-

Was formed on September last year and was doing very well until November of this year when they had engine trouble which set them back. During the period between August and September they caught 1,730lbs of fish from which they received/\$280.00. They finance themselves.

Leusoolii (VFA):-

This one started off in a very uninteresting manner, but now they are really bending their backs. Unfortunately their alia drifted off and was never recovered, so they are building a new one. They have a 33 h.p. Johnson and they were financed by the Development Loan Bank.

Lufilufi No.2 (VFA):-

This one broke-up at the beginning of this year due to personal reasons among the members so their 20 h.p. Johnson engine was sold to Vailoa Palauli. They were financed by the Development Loan Bank.

Falefa West (VFA):-

This one was considered the best last year, but now they are falling apart, so their 25h.p. Johnson was taken away from them. They were financed by Fisheries Division.

Poutasi (VFA):-

Very unstable due to lack of manpower, also unco-operative. Their 33 h.p. Johnson was taken away in November of this year and is now in our workshop. They were financed by Fisheries.

Saleilua (VFA):-

Was put up on December last year, and is in full operation at the moment. They finance themselves from their own resources.

Falevai (VFA):-

This one was formed last year, and they have a 20 h.p. Johnson as well as an alia. They received from the Development Loan Bank the sum of \$350.00 but up to now no reduction has been made.

Satitca (VFA):-

Constant, keen on fishing, hard workers but they are having trouble with both engines and catamaran. They finance themselves.

Fagalii (VFA):-

This one is a bit independent. They work quietly by themselves without asking us for help. They have a 20 h.p. Johnson and 20' catamaran as well as fishing gear. They were financed by Development Loan Bank.

Siufaga (VFA):-

Self-sufficient, more or less like Fagalii, but at least they are hard workers too. They have in their possession a 15 h.p. Evinrude and a very good vaalo. Financed by the Development Loan Bank.

Faleula (VFA):-

It was the best at the start, but since their engine broke down in March, they haven't made any fishing trips. Our mechanic is trying to assemble their motor again. Financed by the Development Loan Bank.

Fasitouta (VFA):-

Very unco-operative, and lazy. We have been trying our best to help them but they haven't made use of it. They have a 25' alia as well as a 20 h.p. Johnson.

Nofoalii (VFA):-

This one has transferred their account to Elise fou due to lack of manpower. All their fishermen are now working for the Special Project Division. They were financed by the Development Loan Bank.

Salcina (VFA):-

Their motor broke down about five months ago and is still awaiting new parts, so they cannot make any progress unless their motor is repaired. Financed by themselves.

Comments:-

Most of the problems which are confronting the Villages Fishing Associations are due to the following:-

- (1) We need highly qualified mechanics to look after all the outboard motors from the VFA's, but in order to have someone good, we must raise the wages.
- (2) Supply of zoom fuel is low and there is a high duty upon it. Apart from that, transportation around Upolu is almost nil.