

PAPER ON BOATCRAFT - FUTURE OPERATIONS - OWNERSHIP
MANAGEMENT

1. In 1976 a grant called "Danida Fund" of US\$ 406,000.00 was obtained from the Government of Denmark and channeled through FAO for the purpose of investigating what types of fishing craft could be suitable for village fisheries in Western Samoa and have such craft constructed and sold to local potential fishermen.

Mr. O. Gulbrandsen, FAO Fisheries Adviser for the Government of Western Samoa was to administer and direct the project under the supervision of FAO.

Mr. A. Overa, FAO Naval Architect was to investigate what type of craft was suitable for the project.

The project started at Fisheries premises at Apia and later in early 1977 transferred to "Boatcraft" at Vaitele.

Boatcraft operations under the management of Mr Overa is best explained by Mr Overa himself. Leper funds were involved in the leasing of a 1/4 acre of land the erection of the boatyard building and the acquisition of most of the tools and machinery. Danida fund paid for some of the machinery and the boat building material. Ex leper patients were employed as boat builders.

A revolving fund was established at the development bank. Boats were bought by fisheries utilising the revolving fund. "Boatcraft" paid the funds derived from the sale, into an account with the bank of Western Samoa.

Payments were made by purchasers of boats, into the revolving fund.

Boatcraft carried out its functions as a private business of building and selling boats to Fisheries who in turn sold to potential fishermen who initially paid a deposit of around 10% and the balance over a period of about 2 years.

The FAO project terminated in June 1978. Mr Gulbrandsen's appointment ended in March of that year. Mr Overa's appointment was due to expire in July 1979 but the Chief Fisheries Officer requested a further 12 months appointment to ensure healthy operations by "Boatcraft". It now appears that staff difficulties are emerging at "Boatcraft" and this meeting is for the purpose of deciding how to overcome these difficulties. Difficulties are also surfacing at Fisheries in the failure, by fishermen who have

bought boats, to meet their installments terminating in the boats being repossessed and repossession is difficult and costly. The new owners are often not satisfied with the second hand boats, engines and fishing gear and demand new engines. Fisheries is left with a lot of second hand usable but not wanted engines which have a value.

A new look at the whole issue is required and we hope that this meeting would come up with some answers.

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