

**REPORT**

**SPECIAL ORDINARY MEETING BETWEEN  
FISHERIES DIVISION AND FAD  
FISHERMEN**



**AT  
LAMI, SUVA  
ON**

**MARCH 25, 1996**

**BY**

**I. L. Tuwai.**

## REPORT

### SPECIAL, MEETING BETWEEN FISHERIES AND FAD FISHERMEN

Venue: Fisheries Division (Lami).  
Date: March 25, 1996.  
Attendance: List of Participants (Appendix 1).

#### **Introduction**

One of the component of the Offshore Section is to plan, implement, monitor and report on the Fish Aggregation Device (FAD) in the Fiji water. The objectives for the FAD programme are:

1. To lure artisanal fishers away from inshore fisheries;
2. To supplement the fishermen's fishing effort targeting tuna and tuna like species;
3. To obtain tuna catch return forms for stock assessment;
4. To develop tuna fishery and awareness in the region.

Since the beginning of the project, there hadn't been any interaction between Fisheries and fellow FAD fishers. One of the main purpose of this meeting was to draw the two parties together so that a mutual understanding could be establish between the their individual role regarding the FAD. This report is the result of the meeting and the recommendation given after an agreement made between the two parties.

#### **Preliminary**

The Acting Director of Fisheries (M. Lagibalavu) welcomed the fishermen and thanked them for accepting our invitation. He also outline the importance of their presence and their part in the FAD project. The Government had been generous to fund the project and expected good responses from the fishers by way of:

- a) providing catch data returns;
- b) help in maintenance of the FAD;

He ended his welcome speech by also enlightening that the project's future existence is entirely dependent on the catch data they will provide, for it would paint the true picture of what is happening out there. The Acting Director was then excused to another meeting while Fisheries Officer - Offshore (I. Tuwai) lead out during the remainder of the session.

## **Discussion**

FO (Offshore) lead the meeting by repeating the importance of what the A/DF had said in his speech and outline the plan for the FAD Project for this year. After various questions that were raised and answered, below are the issues agreed to by the two parties for their role in the FAD Project.

1. Forms for catch are to be provided by fisheries for each fishermen and filled forms to be collected once a week.
2. Maintenance of the FAD will be shared.
3. The fishers to be notified for future deployment so that they can take part in the whole operation if possible.
4. Fishers to obtain their fishing licence as ODA with FAD Fishing ONLY, to be endorsed in their licence to protect them from victimisation with regards to. night diving, inshore fishing, etc.

## **Recommendation**

The following were recommended after the meeting:

1. Another meeting to follow up from the above to be held at Fisheries two months from now.
2. For the fishermen to set up their own committee as FAD Fishermen Association.
3. The licence of each fisher to be urgently looked into by FO (Offshore).

## **Conclusion**

The fishers were very happy to be called to this meeting with regards to their number of attendance and hopefully the remaining 5 will attend the next meeting. A/PFO and SFO (RA & D), came in at the end of the meeting to thank the participant and also to encourage them, that the Fisheries Division are here to advise and help in FAD issues when its needed. A word of prayer from a participant ended the meeting.

The objective of the meeting was reached and hopefully better things will eventuate in future as the two parties (Fisher/Fisheries) will work hand in hand to archieve their individual goal this year.

## **Appendix 1**

### **List of Participants**

#### **Fisheries Division**

Acting Director of Fisheries	M. Lagibalavu
Fisheries Officer (Offshore)	I. Tuwai
SFA (Tuna Assessment)	A. Sesewa
FA (Temp. FAD)	J Ralulu
A/PFO (RAD)	K. Swamy
SFO (RAD)	M. Tuiloa

#### **Fishermen**

Kelepi Biutiviti  
Sam Zinck  
Pauliasi Koroi  
Vuli Bera  
Sekaia Ravuga  
Keci Volau  
Sitiveni Mata  
Necani Delana  
Salabogi Logavatu  
Laisenia Natolea  
Anare Koroinamoce  
Waisake Soko

#### **Absent Fishermen**

Waisale Canakaivata  
Koliaci Are  
Josaia Nainima  
Solomoni Dokonivalu  
Meni Raitekiteki