

Change of Coastal Fisheries Management Adviser at SPC

The Coastal Fisheries Programme's Coastal Fisheries Management Adviser, Ueta Fa'asili finished with SPC after nine years of service in December. Ueta has been instrumental in developing and promoting community-based fisheries management in the region, and in more recent times, has expanded this to include ecosys-



Ueta Fa'asili headed the Coastal Fisheries Management Section from 2000–2009.

tem approach to fisheries principles within a community-based approach. The CFP staff wish Ueta well in his future endeavours.

Ian Bertram, currently Secretary for Fisheries in Cook Islands, will take up the position of Coastal Fisheries Management Adviser in mid-January 2010. Ian will manage not just coastal fisheries management, but also coastal fisheries science, as these two work areas have been amalgamated into the Coastal Fisheries Science and Management Section. Ian joins SPC with a broad and varied background in coastal fisheries science and management gained through his years of working with the Ministry of Marine Resources in Cook Islands. Ian has a Bachelor's degree in Fisheries from the Australian Maritime College and has worked his



Ian Bertram will join SPC as the new Coastal Fisheries Management Adviser in mid-January.

way up through the ranks from Fisheries Trainee in 1988/1989, to Hatchery Manager at Aitutaki in the early to mid-1990s, then as Director of Economic Development in the late 1990s and Director of Aquaculture and Inshore Fisheries in the early 2000s, before becoming Secretary of Fisheries in July 2004. The CFP staff welcome Ian to his new position with SPC.

■ AQUACULTURE SECTION

Wallis and Futuna delegation visits New Caledonia aquaculture facilities

The French Pacific Fund granted funds to Wallis and Futuna for a project aimed at determining the potential for aquaculture development in the territory.¹ As part of this project, a delegation from Wallis and Futuna came to New Caledonia in October 2009 to visit aquaculture facilities and meet with key stakeholders of New Caledonia's aquaculture sector.

The initial phase of this project determined whether aquaculture could be developed in Wallis and Futuna given its social and economical contexts, and also determined which com-

modities should be considered. Jacques Trichereau from IDEE (Ichthyo Developpement Eau Environnement) Aquaculture initially identified two key products: marine shrimp and finfish. Although these commodities would need to be imported as post-larvae or fingerlings, both have promising potential in a country where the demand for seafood is high but the supply is currently low, and mostly imported at prices that often exceed the population's buying power (see *Fisheries Newsletter* 129:19–20). The delegation from Wallis and Futuna comprised two representatives from the fisheries

services (Bruno Mugneret and Amalia Fotofili), one from the fishermen's association (Kusi Toa), one from the government (Petelo Lié), and one from the department of the environment (Aurélie Chavez). The delegation, which's met with specialists and gathered technical information while visiting research centres and production sites. The visits were very enriching for the delegation. Upon arrival and after several presentations delivered at SPC, they travelled to Ngo Bay where they visited Aqualagon rabbitfish hatchery and grow-out project, and met with manager Frank Legarrec.



Jacky Patrois (third from left) from the French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER) showing a broodstock tank to the Wallis and Futuna delegation at the St Vincent Center.

A visit was made to the French Research Institute for the Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER) where Jacques Patrois described various aspects of shrimp aquaculture that the research centre works on. Other shrimp facilities, such as the Eori hatchery in Bourail (Bruno Castelain) and later a large (Webhuione) and a small prawn farm managed by a family (John Kuhn), were also visited. These visits to shrimp farms were extremely useful and helped the Wallis delegation to understand the ins and outs of this industry in New Caledonia. Although the social, economic and environmental contexts are much different in these two countries, practical information was taken home by the delegation along with some understanding of a commercial approach to shrimp aquaculture development. Participants' awareness was also raised on biosecurity issues and ways to deal with these issues.

A visit was also made to the Northern Province aquaculture research laboratory in Kone where the delegation met with Nathalie Baillon and

Claire Marty. This project is currently under construction and aims at having a fully functional multispecies fish hatchery operational by late 2010. The species that will be produced in the future are of interest to Wallis and Futuna, and the laboratory could well be a fingerling supplier for the future industry there, along with Aqualagon. The laboratory also acts as a regional training centre. Discussions were held on



Bruno Castelain (left) from the Northern Province, briefing the Wallis and Futuna delegation prior to the Eori Hatchery visit.

the possibility for Wallis to use the centre to gain practical experience on tropical fish farming.

Other official visits were made to government agencies in New Caledonia such as the Southern Province Fisheries Department (Thomas Réquillart and Bernard Fao) and the Department of Environment (Emmanuel Coutures), where everyone shared their experiences with enthusiasm.

This visit was a success thanks to the willingness and generosity of all stakeholders. It is now up to Wallis and Futuna to determine if, and how best, to develop their aquaculture sector.

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1. The Wallis and Futuna aquaculture development plan will be available online in early 2010 at www.spc.int/aquaculture.