

## ■ NEARSHORE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING SECTION

### Fourth SPC Sea Safety Bulletin published

The fourth edition of the SPC *Sea Safety* Special Interest Group bulletin has been published. This bulletin is prepared by the Nearshore Fisheries Development and Training Section and produced with financial assistance from France through the French Pacific Fund.

It has been more than a year since the last issue of the *Sea Safety* was printed and distributed. Many of you have undoubtedly been waiting patiently for news of sea safety in the Pacific. We are also waiting for contributions from you, the readers. In the last issue, the editor, Hugh

Walton, urged “group” members and readers to “sharpen their pencils or sit down at their keyboards and send in safety-related stories and articles”. Unfortunately, not much material was sent to Mr Walton’s desk. And just who are the group members that he was referring to? As it turns out, we are way too few. The group consists largely of the editor and a few contributors, including the staff of SPC’s Coastal Fisheries Programme, the very ones who produce the *Sea Safety* bulletin.

The wish of having sea safety-related news and stories pouring

in from around the Pacific and elsewhere never came to fruition. Even so, we are producing a fourth issue of the bulletin \_ with new aspirations and a new approach. The staff of SPC’s Nearshore Fisheries Development and Training Section will take over editorial functions and will also remain the root of the sea safety awareness group and continue to be the main contributors, at least for now. For the most part, the reports on SPC activities, safety features, training activities, technology and safety, resource materials, and accident and incident reports will come from our small group. We will still rely on others for news from other places. Since we are, in a sense, reviving the bulletin after a brief hiatus, we ask you to be patient when examining our efforts, just as we have been patient waiting for your stories. And we still urge you to sharpen your pencils...

In this bulletin, readers will enjoy a story on sea safety in the Cook Islands, and an article on tricks of the trade. Also included under the “Resource Materials” section, is a report called “Surfing the Net for sea safety”, which has links to many interesting sites. Maritime New Zealand has also kindly allowed us to use some of their materials in this issue. You will find excerpts from their Radio Handbook for Coastal Vessels, tips about boating safety, and a simple guide to making radio distress calls. Thanks to Maritime New Zealand for sharing this vital information in the interest of safety at sea for all.



#### All you want to know about marine radio... and other things

I have been longer than a year since the last issue of the *Sea Safety* Information Bulletin (SIG Bulletin #4) was printed and distributed. Many of you have undoubtedly been waiting patiently for news of sea safety in the Pacific. We are also waiting... for contributions from you, the readers, in that last issue the editor, Hugh Walton, urged “group” members and readers to “sharpen their pencils or sit down at their keyboards and send in safety-related stories and articles”. Unfortunately, not much material was sent to Mr Walton’s desk. And just who are the group members that he was referring to? As it turns out, we are way too few. The group consists largely of the editor and a few contributors, including the staff of SPC’s Coastal Fisheries Programme, the very ones who produce the *Sea Safety* Bulletin. The wish of having sea safety-related news and stories pouring in from around the Pacific and elsewhere never came to fruition. Even so, we are producing the fourth issue of the bulletin – with new aspirations and a new approach.

The staff of SPC’s Nearshore Fisheries Development and Training Section will take over editorial functions and will also remain the root of the sea safety awareness group and continue to be the main contributors, at least for now. For the most part, the reports on SPC activities, safety features, training activities, technology and safety resource materials, and accident and incident reports will come from our small group. We will still rely on others for news from other places and reader contributions. Since we are in a sense reviving the bulletin after a brief hiatus, we ask you to be patient when examining our efforts, just as we have been patient waiting for your stories... and we still urge you to sharpen your pencils...

Among my obligations as Fisheries Development Officer for the Nearshore Fisheries Development and Training Section, I will be editing at least the next two *Sea Safety* Information Bulletin, numbers 4 and 5. For the current issue I have had to rely mostly on two sources for content – articles and the Internet. I ask you to bear with me while I present my own ramblings – one a story on sea safety in the Cook Islands, and the other an article on tricks of the trade. I apologise, however, for relying on the Internet and have included under the “Resource Materials” section a report called “Surfing the Net for sea safety” that has links to many interesting sites. I urge you to click on as many of these as you can and to do your own searches as well. I found Maritime New Zealand on the Internet and they have kindly allowed me to use some of their materials in this issue. You will find excerpts from their Radio Handbook for Coastal Vessels, tips about boating safety, and a simple guide to making radio distress calls. My thanks go to Maritime New Zealand for sharing this vital information in the interest of safety at sea for all.

Steve Beverly (stebv@cpint)



SECTION OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY  
 Prepared by the Nearshore Fisheries Development and Training Section  
 of the Marine Resources Division in partnership with financial assistance from France.



## Fiji School of Maritime and Fisheries Studies: Training attachment in Nelson, New Zealand

### BACKGROUND

The Fiji Institute of Technology's School of Maritime and Fisheries Studies (SMFS), along with the Fiji Marine Board, offers Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW)-approved programmes to train Able Seamen, which include Nautical Science Officers, Deck Hands, Ship Marine Engineering and Shipbuilding/Ship Designers. In addition, the school has a fisheries department, and so serves as one of the maritime training institutes in the region that also offers fisheries related programmes.

Recently, the SPC Nearshore Fisheries Development and Training Section has been strengthening the working relationship between SMFS, SPC, and the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT)/New Zealand School of Fisheries in Nelson (NZSoF) by facilitating SMFS tutor attachment to NMIT/NZSoF. The NZSoF organised a special attachment to upgrade the knowledge and skills of the SMFS Fishing Instructor, Josese Rakuita, on food safety and fish handling. The attachment was partially sponsored by SPC through its Coastal Fisheries Programme.

### JOSESE'S REPORT

*A formal agreement has been reached between the Fiji Institute of*

*Technology (FIT) and SPC Fisheries Training Department to co-share financial assistance for a training attachment at Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology under the New Zealand School of Fisheries. The training needs identified included a lack of knowledge and skills to deliver the existing training curriculum of seafood handling provided under the Diploma in Applied Fisheries Technology Training Program for the FIT fisheries training section at SMFS.*

*The four weeks of training (from 19 May to 1 June at Nelson) was a learning experience in all aspect of seafood handling and packaging, and advance deckhand fisheries. I benefited from the training in many ways and gained enormous knowledge in New Zealand's legislative requirements for the management of seafood products and gained various knowledge and skills needed for planning and equipment use, in order to keep up abreast with new seafood technology and international markets of seafood products.*

*The training also provided me with the knowledge and skills to 1) manage and deliver components of the seafood training programme for students wishing to complete the Diploma in Applied Fisheries Technology at FIT in Fiji; and 2) conduct training to fishing industry employees in Fiji.*

*The training provided information on the requirements of the EU and USA and other international market, the background and skills to*

*train deck hands and safety of life at sea in a fishing vessel operation, which will be of great help in classroom teaching at FIT under the Deck Watch Rating and Basic Fishing programme. It also provided the necessary knowledge in adult training and classroom management.*

*I was fortunate because my accommodation and meals were well arranged by Mr Alec Woods.*

*The training attachment at NMIT, New Zealand School Of Fisheries was a fruitful learning experience for me as it broadened my existing knowledge and skills in the areas of Management of Quality Seafood Production and Legislative requirements of International Markets, which will help those interested students attending training at SMFS and current employees in Fiji's fisheries industry.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people who assisted in making this training attachment a successful one: Mr Terri Luciani, SPC Fisheries Training Adviser Noumea New Caledonia, Mr Alec Woods, NMIT Nelson New Zealand; Mr Ganeshwaa Chand, FIT Director; Captain Tevita Robanakadavu, Head of the Fiji Institute of Technology's School of Maritime and Fisheries Studies; and Mr John Rafoi, Manager Human Resources at FIT.*

Josese Rakuita  
Instructor, School of Maritime and Fisheries Studies (FIT)



## First competent authority training held in Nelson, New Zealand

Recent inspections by the Food and Veterinary Office of the European Union (EU) in Papua New Guinea and Fiji, highlighted a lack of understanding of EU sanitary requirements in government and industry in those

countries, as well as a need for further training of inspectors. Technical support provided to Niue in early 2007 also identified training and mentoring needs in that country.

In response to these needs, SPC provided a short training course in New Zealand for inspectors from the competent authorities of interested countries in early April this year. The Development of Tuna Fisheries in the Pacific-ACP

countries (DevFish) project will then provide short-term consultancy services for in-country follow up, training and mentoring to the competent authority inspectors in each country.

The training course was fully funded by DEVFISH, a regional project funded by the EU under the EDF9 programme, and implemented by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and SPC.

The course coordinator was Alec Woods from the New Zealand School of Fisheries/ Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology. Consultancy services were required from a seafood quality specialist with extensive experience and knowledge of EU regulatory requirements. Cushla Hogarth, from Solutions in Seafood (NZ), was contracted for this purpose. Ten participants from four Pacific Island countries successfully completed this programme.

#### EXTRACT FROM CUSHLA'S REPORT

##### Background

*In recent years, several Pacific Island nations have determined there is a need to increase revenue through the export of seafood products to international destinations. With this comes the need to meet importing countries' requirements. A fundamental need in this area is for the exporting nation to have a competent authority, staffed by personnel who are competent in inspections of premises and overall management of a system that assures importing countries of the safety and wholesomeness of the products they are importing.*

*Coupled with this, some Pacific Island nations were subject to visits from EU officials last year with a particular focus on the export of seafood products to the EU. The official reports identified a number of significant issues that placed*

*the exporting nations at risk of being removed from the EU list of nations approved to export seafood products to the EU.*

*A collaborative arrangement between the NZ School of Fisheries and Solutions in Seafood was successful in securing funding for a two-week training assignment in New Zealand for up to 10 personnel from competent authorities (or related government departments) from Fiji, Samoa, Papua New Guinea and Niue.*

*This report summarises the content of the programme, and issues arising that will need to be followed up in-country by Ian Watson from Watson Consulting as part of the follow up programme.*

##### Content

*Participants experienced learned theory, and made offsite visits as part of their two-week programme.*

*The programme's content included: EU legislation, compliance of existing country legislation versus EU legislation, national control plans, registration of premises and certification, auditing premises against seafood safety legislative requirements, non-compliance and corrective actions, overseas competent authority discussion, product testing and laboratories, inventory and traceability, vessel hygiene and handling, and a visit to a seafood processing facility.*

##### Programme overview

*All 10 participants showed a keen interest in developing their skills as competent authority personnel and participated fully in the training programme.*

*On completion of each training section, participants were asked to report back on issues in their respective countries, and this information was used to prepare a final programme report on actions needing to be addressed on return to home countries.*

Programme evaluations showed the following:

- Overall satisfaction in the training programme with all participants scoring 3 out of 5 or higher (average or better),
- A request for a similar refresher training for competent authority personnel,
- A request for lengthening future programmes to allow for more consolidation of learning and more practical, hands-on learning.

##### Issues arising and priorities for follow up

While participants each country presented their findings from the two-week programme, a summary of priority actions is given below.

##### General

The programme facilitator recognised that there was a range of abilities and experiences as competent authority personnel within the participants. This posed a difficulty in how to pitch the course content. While some participants were just beginning to understand their role (and needed more theoretical understanding), others were much more advanced and would have benefited from more hands-on practical experience.

In addition, the separation of training responsibilities in New Zealand (provided through a collaborative effort between the NZ School of Fisheries and Solutions in Seafood Limited) from that in-country (to be offered by Ian Watson of Watson Consulting) needs careful future consideration as it leads to potential duplication of work and a lack of continuity for competent authority participants. Several participants commented on the lack of continuity and raised concern over potential issues on their return to their home countries.

