

News from the CoFish and PROCfish projects

Coastal Fisheries Development Programme (CoFish) staff continue to compile and edit country reports, work on the regional assessment, write a manual on invertebrate survey methodologies, and assist Vanuatu with its coastal fisheries database. The Live Reef Fish Specialist was involved in ciguatera fieldwork in Vanuatu and the development of the live reef fish database.

CoFISH TEAM SHRINKS FURTHER

The contracts of three CoFish staff ended on 31 July 2009. Kalo Pakoa, Reef Fishery Officer (invertebrates) finished after five years with the project. Kalo is now working with the Vanuatu Fisheries Department on a project to enhance coastal and marine ecosystems resilience to climate change impacts through strengthened coastal governance and conservation

measures. Although working in his new position, Kalo has been assisting with the finalisation of several of the project reports.

Emmanuel Tardy, Reef Fishery Officer (invertebrates) finished after four years with the project. Emmanuel now works as a private consultant, and is currently working with the CoFish project (on a short-term contract) to complete sections of the invertebrate survey methodologies manual. He is also assisting with the finalisation of several project reports.

Dr Silvia Pinca, Senior Fisheries Scientist (finfish) finished after three years with the project. Silvia will work with the project for two months later this year to complete the regional finfish assessment. She is also assisting with the finalisation of several project reports. Silvia plans to be a private consultant afterwards.

COUNTRY REPORTS UPDATE

To date, 11 country reports have been published (French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna). Reports are available on the PROCfish/C web portal (http://www.spc.int/coastfish/Sections/reef/PROCfish_Web/PROCfishMain.aspx) on the country-specific page as public domain documents.

Several other reports will be available soon — Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, New Caledonia and Tonga. All reports will be published before the end of 2009. The CoFish project concludes on 31 December 2009.

While the reports are being finalised by Celine Barre and Sarah Langi, the project's remaining scientific staff will focus on data analysis and the production of the regional assessment. The assessment will attempt to identify indicators of reef fishery status.



Kalo Pakoa,
former Reef Fishery Officer
(invertebrates)



Emmanuel Tardy,
former Reef Fishery Officer
(invertebrates)



Silvia Pinca,
former Senior Fisheries Scientist
(finfish)