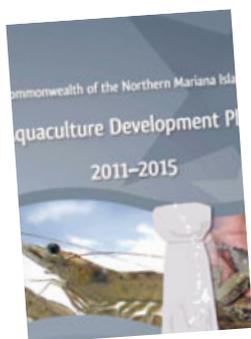


New publications from SPC's FAME Division



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands aquaculture development plan for 2011–2015

The completion of an aquaculture development plan for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) could not be timelier: CNMI has witnessed a recent and drastic economic downturn. Spurred by the need for economic diversification, the CNMI Department of Commerce sponsored an economic summit in 2009, which identified aquaculture as one of the four new pillars of the economy.

This development plan was developed in collaboration with the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service, represented by Michael Ogo, and former SPC Aquaculture Section Advisor Ben Ponia¹ and his team; as well as associated consultants Jacky Patrois and Simon Ellis. A consultation was carried out over a three-day period when the expert team flew to Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

Priority commodities were reviewed and analysed for suitability and potential impact in the three main islands. The review process took several months.

The online version is available from SPC's Aquaculture Section website:

http://www.spc.int/aquaculture/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=380&Itemid=3

For more information, please contact: Michael Ogo, Northern Marianas College, Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service (MichaelO@nmcnet.edu), or Antoine Teitelbaum, SPC Aquaculture Development Officer (Antoinet@spc.int).



Beginner's guide to remote sensing for offshore tuna fishermen

Remote sensing is a way of acquiring information about the earth's surface without actually being in contact with it. Remote sensing is done by receiving and recording energy that is either emitted or reflected by the earth's surface. There must, therefore, be a source of electromagnetic energy, a target, and a sensor. The source can be the sun or a satellite, depending on the type of energy being monitored. The target, in the case of remote sensing that may be useful to fishermen, is the sea surface.

Ocean charts showing sea surface colour, sea surface temperature, sea surface height, currents and weather are available from a variety of sources on the Internet. They can be used to plan a fishing trip from the shore or as a fishing tool on the boat during a trip. For example, two oceanographic features of the sea surface that are interesting to longline fishermen, and that show up on sea surface temperature and sea surface height charts, are frontal zones and eddies. These are often good tuna fishing grounds.

This guide was designed to give a very basic knowledge of remote sensing to offshore tuna fishermen.

The online version is available from SPC's Fisheries Digital Library at:

http://www.spc.int/DigitalLibrary/Doc/FAME/Manuals/Beverly_11_Remote_sensing_guide.pdf

For more information:, please contact: Michel Blanc, SPC Fisheries Development Adviser (MichelBl@spc.int).

¹ Ben Ponia is now Secretary for the Cook Islands Ministry of Marine Resources.



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