

**SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION  
TWENTY-THIRD REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES  
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 5-9 August 1991)**

**COUNTRY STATEMENT - NEW CALEDONIA**

1. In addition to the fisheries sector, where a considerable increase was recorded in the activity of industrial fishing vessels, the 1987-1990 period in New Caledonia was marked by the development of shrimp aquaculture which is now firmly concentrating on export markets.

**Status of the fisheries sector in New Caledonia**

2. The number of boats fitted out for commercial fishing has not fluctuated greatly over the past four years, varying between 200 and 250 per year.
3. While the number of artisanal fishing craft has remained relatively stable, the number of industrial fishing vessels more than doubled between 1987 and 1990, increasing from 3 to 7 (6 tuna boats plus 1 vessel engaged in deep-sea fishing).
4. Annual catches reported by artisanal fishing craft totalled nearly 750 tonnes per year. Catches of the industrial fleet are now in the vicinity of 2000 tonnes.
5. Quantities of trochus shells exported have, since 1986, never exceeded 200 tonnes per year.
6. Dried beche-de-mer is the only other artisanal fisheries commodity produced for export only.

**The aquaculture sector**

7. In 1990, penaeid shrimp output reached 500 tonnes on 4 shrimp farms, whereas 1987 production was less than 100 tonnes.
8. Exports, the goal to be set by all producers in the long run, last year amounted to nearly 300 tonnes.
9. New Caledonia's assets as regards shrimp aquaculture lie in the large areas with potential for this activity and in the research undertaken some 20 years ago at the Saint Vincent Aquaculture Station, where reliable breeding systems were developed.
10. At the present time, only penaeid shrimps are being farmed on a large scale (nearly 200 hectares).

11. Trials are under way to develop farming of rock oysters (*Crassostrea echinata*) for the local market.
  12. Some spawning trials were carried out in 1990 with mud crab (*Scylla serrata*), but the aquaculture production stage is still a long way off.
  13. Priority is at present being given to assessing the existing stock of this species and estimating its maximum sustainable yield.
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