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TWENTY-SIXTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 5 - 9 August 1996)

SPC FISHERIES PROGRAMME OVERVIEW
(Paper prepared by the Secretariat)

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SECRETARIAT

INTRODUCTION

1 The aim of this paper is to provide an overview of the major issues relating to the management of the Commission's Fisheries Programme. Matters relating to the work programme, staffing, funding and relations with other regional organisations are presented. Secretariat action in response to the recommendations of the 25th Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries (RTMF) is also provided.

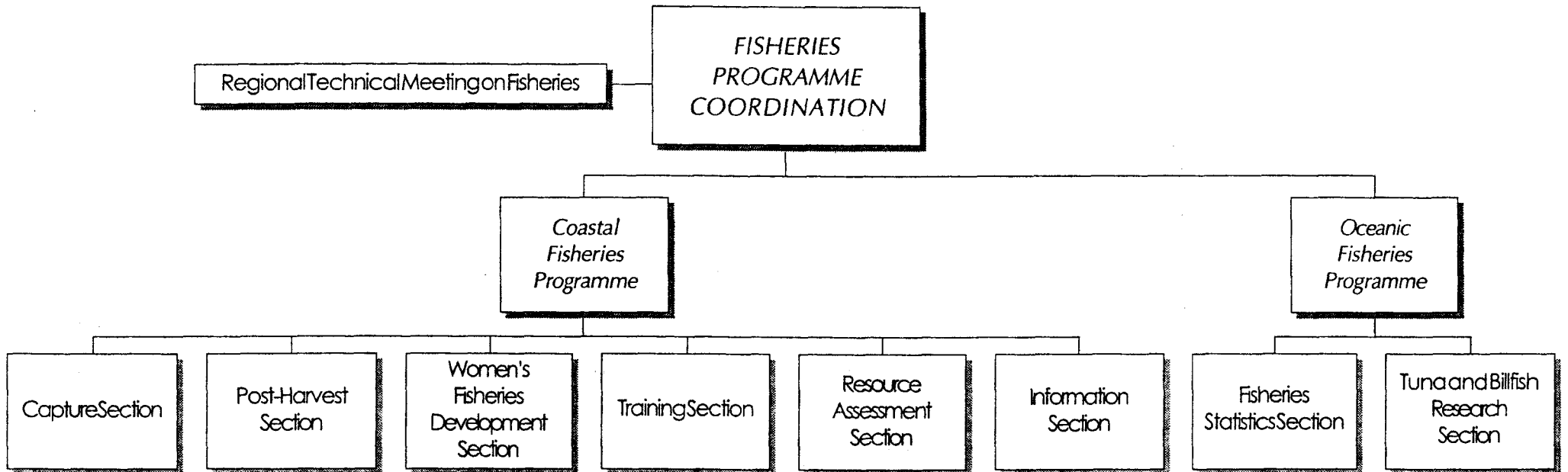
2 WP. 2 and WP.3 provide more detailed information on the activities and work programmes of the Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP) and the Coastal Fisheries Programme (CFP) respectively.

3 Figure I represents the Commission's overall Fisheries Programme while Figures II and III provide greater details of the various sections that make up the CFP and the OFP respectively.

4 A recent addition to the CFP has been the creation of the Women's Fisheries Development Section. The focus of this Section is to provide appropriate training programmes to women in coastal fishing communities in order to develop income generating activities primarily through value addition.

5 The European Union (EU) funded South Pacific Regional Tuna Resource and Monitoring Project (SPRTRAMP), is now into its second year of operation. This major 5-year project will add considerably to the capacity of the OFP to generate the necessary scientific information for the rational management of the region's tuna fishery.

FIGURE I



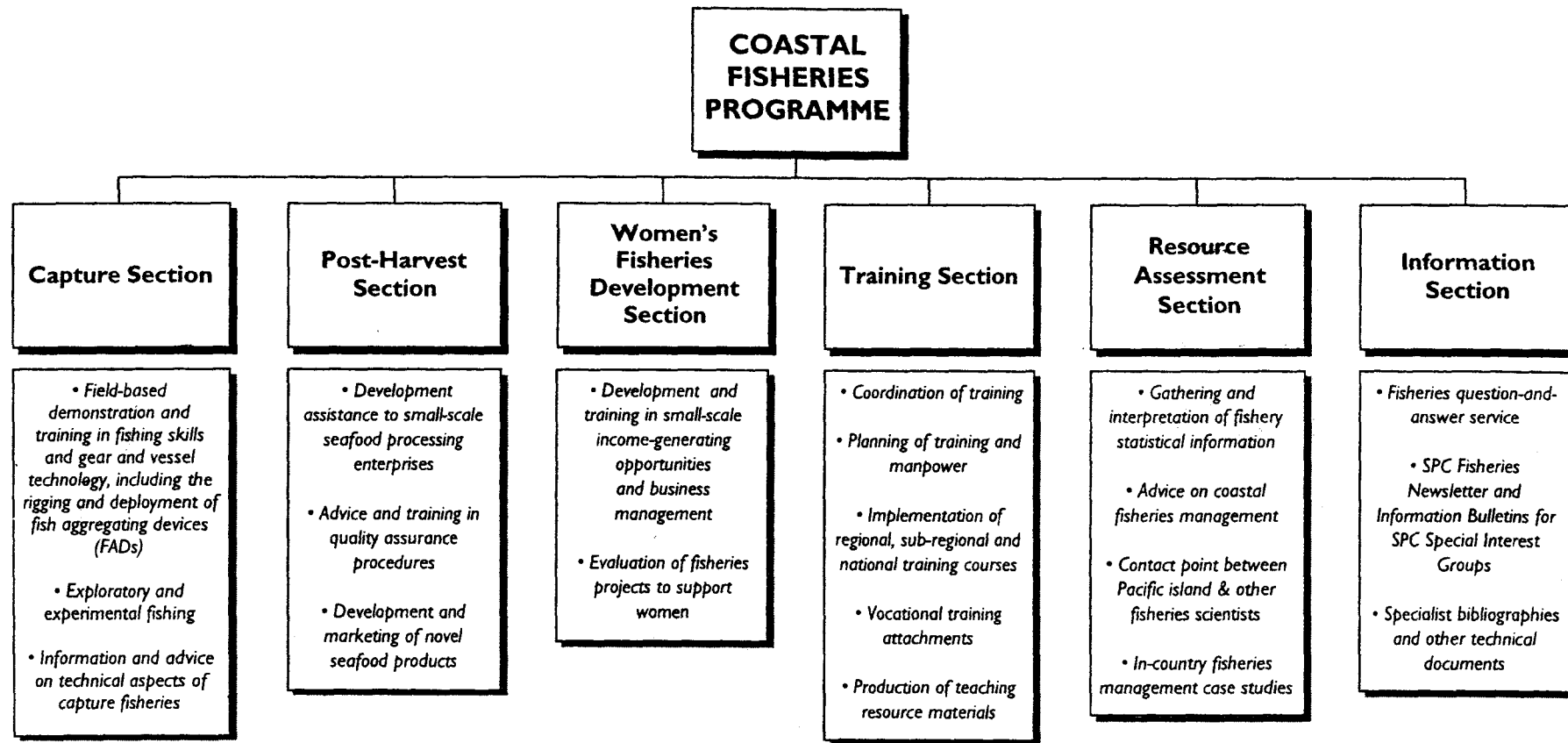


FIGURE II

CFP PROFESSIONAL STAFF:

CAPTURE SECTION: Fisheries Development Adviser, Fisheries Development Officer, Masterfisherman.

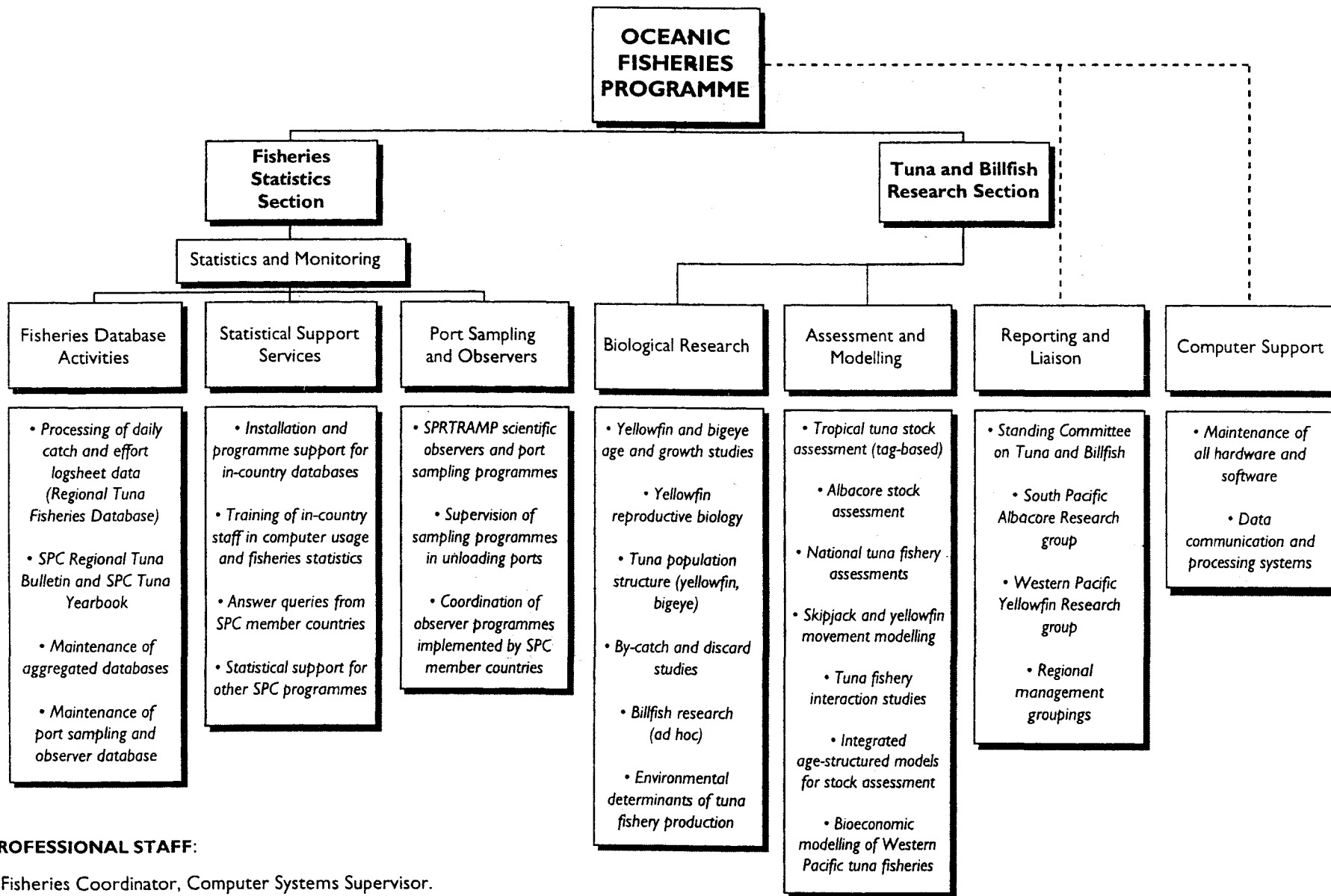
POST-HARVEST SECTION: Post-Harvest Fisheries Adviser.

WOMEN'S FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT SECTION: Women's Fisheries Development Officer.

TRAINING SECTION: Fisheries Education and Training Adviser, Fisheries Training Officer.

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT SECTION: Fishery Resource Adviser, Inshore Fisheries Scientist, Integrated Fisheries Management Associate (x2).

INFORMATION SECTION: Fisheries Information Adviser, Fisheries Information Officer, Fisheries Education and Training Associate.



OFFICE PROFESSIONAL STAFF:

Oceanic Fisheries Coordinator, Computer Systems Supervisor.

FISHERIES STATISTICS SECTION: Fisheries Statistician, Fisheries Database Supervisor, Research Officer.

TUNA AND BILLFISH RESEARCH SECTION: Principal Fisheries Scientist, Programmer/Research Officer.

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL TUNA RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING PROJECT: Port Sampling/Observer Supervisor, Scientific Observer (x4), Senior Fisheries Scientist (x2), Data Research Officer.

FIGURE III

STAFFING

6 As of the end of June, 1996, a total of 30 professional and 10 support staff were employed in the Fisheries Programme. No additional staff is expected to be employed in the immediate future.

7 There are a total of 20 staff members in the OFP. Fifteen of these are professional officers and the remaining 5 being support staff. SPRTRAMP is now at its full staff complement of 8 professional officers, and recently a Fiji national has been selected to take up the SPRTRAMP post-graduate studentship where he will be working with OFP staff on the biology of an important by-catch species in the tuna fishery.

8 The CFP is staffed by 14 professional and 6 support staff. While most Sections in the CFP are considered reasonably staffed however little progress has been made in securing extra-budgetary funding to employ a Master Fisherman in the Capture Section. Over a 3-year period from 1991 - 1994, 3 core-funded Master Fishermen positions were phased out. By September 1994 the CFP had no in-house capacity to provide technical assistance in capture fisheries. In February 1996, a Master Fisherman was recruited under core budget funding. This was made possible by forfeiting the core-funded position of Coastal Fisheries Coordinator which had become vacant in February 1995, and redirecting funding from this position to support the recruitment of a Master Fisherman.

8 Short-term consultants were employed on a regular basis by the various Sections of the Fisheries Programme. The engagement of consultants was made possible through the use of extra-budgetary project funding. In the OFP, consultants were hired to provide services mainly in the area of tuna stock assessment and modelling, while in the CFP, these services covered a wider range of activities.

9 The current contracts of the 2 staff members funded under the UNDP Offshore Fisheries Development Project will terminate later this year and the prospect of continued assistance to member countries in the area of domestic tuna longlining and fish aggregating device (FAD) development at current levels is not encouraging. While there will be some capacity to address member country needs in this area through the services of the core-funded Master Fisherman and the Fisheries Development Adviser, however increased national participation in domestic tuna longlining aimed at the fresh tuna trade will no doubt result in a greater number of requests for assistance from Pacific Island countries and territories in this development area, with particular emphasis on the technical aspects associated with the harvesting sector of this fishery.

10 On a more pleasing note is the number of attachment training which the Fisheries Programme has been able to offer Pacific Island nationals. A Papua New Guinea fisheries officer returned home recently after having completed a one year attachment training with the Fisheries Training Section and the Fisheries Information Section. Recruitment of another person to this training attachment position is currently underway. Two Pacific Island fisheries research officers were recruited late last year to undertake 12 months attachment training with the CFP's Fisheries Resource Assessment Section. The training programme for these 2 officers will end in October, 1996. Another 12 months attachment training position is being offered through the Fisheries Resource Assessment Section, and recruitment procedures are currently being implemented.

11 Maintaining staff numbers at existing levels is getting more difficult as a number of donors have begun cutting back on their funding assistance to the Commission's overall work programmes of which the Fisheries Programme is the largest. In the case of the Fisheries Programme approximately 90 per cent of its funding is received through extra-budgetary sources which are based on yearly donor commitments [exceptions are: SPRTRAMP, Offshore Fisheries Development Project (OFDP), the joint FFA/SPC Regional Fisheries Support and National Capacity Building Project (RFSNCBP), the Integrated Coastal Fisheries Management Project (ICFMaP), and the Women in Fisheries Development Project (WFDP)]. With the exception of SPRTRAMP which has approximately another 3 years of project life, other multi-year projects will have all reached their termination dates by September, 1997. Unless new financing is found to continue these projects, the net effect on the Fisheries Programme will be the loss of 5 professional and 3 support staff positions in the CFP. With the full realization on the negative effect this will have on the ability of the CFP to provide assistance to member countries and territories in these project areas, your Secretariat has spared no effort in persuing all possible funding options in order to continue activities under these projects.

FUNDING

12 Funding for the Fisheries Programme involves both SPC core budget and a wide variety of extra-budgetary donors who provide approximately 90 per cent of the overall budget. Core budget allocations for 1994 and 1995 amounted to **583,000** units and for the same period, extra-budgetary funding contributions amounted to **5,740,805 units**. Appendix I provides a list of all current projects and donors.

13 The complexities associated with extra-budgetary funding require a sustained fund-raising effort on the part of the Secretariat. As mentioned earlier, sourcing the necessary extra-budgetary funds to maintain existing work programmes and service to member countries and territories is becoming more difficult against the background of what has been termed "donor fatigue".

14 Extra-budgetary donors provide funds either on a multi-year basis, yearly or for specific activities such as one-off training workshops. Multi-year funded projects are obviously more attractive as they allow for forward planning as well as providing for the recruitment of project staff to meet the Commission's policy of offering employment on 2-year minimum contracts. A large part of the Fisheries work programme continue to be funded through yearly commitments on the part of donors and this has tended to hamper forward planning of programme activities. In an attempt to overcome this, some donors were requested to consider longer term funding commitments. In 1992 Australia (AIDAB now AusAID) made a 4-year commitment to its funding of the Fisheries Programme. We are now into the final year of the AusAID multi-year funding commitment and the Secretariat would once again like to invite donors to revisit this matter with the view to providing some assurances for longer term funding arrangements to the Fisheries Programme.

15 The OFP, now into its 15th year of operation, continues to be funded entirely from extra-budgetary sources. For 1994 and 1995, the OFP operated on a budget of **3,525,574 units** and these funds supported the base activities of the OFP, as well as SPRTRAMP.

16 There is every likelihood that the OFP will participate in a World Bank funded tuna research project for Indonesia very much along the lines of its former involvement in the Philippines Tuna Research Project. Funds derived from this work will be credited to the OFP budget and utilised on base project activities. In agreeing to involve the OFP in projects outside the region, the Secretariat is guided by 2 principal considerations: firstly the project should have some bearing on the management of the tuna resources of the region, and secondly the involvement of the OFP in such projects is predicated on the understanding that the delivery of its services to member countries and territories will not be compromised.

17 The EU-funded project SPRTRAMP became operational in mid 1994. This 5 million ECU project will be implemented over a period of 5 years and will enable the OFP to continue the scientific monitoring of the region's tuna fisheries and to further refine its tuna resource assessment work based on the results of its previous and highly successful Regional Tuna Tagging Project which was also funded by the EU.

18 For the first time Taiwan made a financial contribution to the operations of the OFP. Some of this funding assisted with the convention of the South Pacific Albacore Research Group (SPAR) meeting held in the Cook Islands in March of this year, and the remaining funds will be utilised to support collaborative research between the OFP and Taiwanese research institutions.

19 Funding for the CFP is derived from both core and extra-budgetary funding sources. The 1994 and 1995 core funding allocation to the CFP amounted to **583,000 units**. For the same period, extra-budgetary contributions amounted to **2,215,231 units**. Core-funding currently supports 3 professional and 1 support staff.

20 Extra-budgetary funding sources for the CFP were received from a number of donors and these funds supported activities in all 6 Sections of the CFP. A high proportion of this extra-budgetary funding is in the form of multi-year funded projects which are all approaching their termination dates. The UNDP-funded OFDP which has operated as part of the Capture Section will conclude in August of this year. The WFDP which is being funded by Canada will conclude in February, 1997, and the UNDP-funded joint FFA/SPC RFSNCBP will come to an end in July of the same year. Also concluding in September 1997 is the UK-funded ICFMaP. At this point in time no funds have yet been identified that will allow these projects to continue beyond their termination dates. The Secretariat will continue its efforts to secure funding in order to continue the services which are currently provided through these projects.

21 The decision taken by Canada not to include the SPC in its Canadian South Pacific Ocean Development Programme II (CSPODP II) funding means that your Secretariat has to seek new sources of funding to continue those activities which normally would have been presented to Canada for financial support.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

22 Relations with other regional organisations involved in the marine sector continued to strengthen over the last 2 years. During 1995 and 1996, staff attended several meetings and workshops convened by FFA, SPREP, SOPAC, USP and ForSec, either as participants or as resource personnel. These interactions were useful in discussing respective work programmes and in coordinating regional activities in the marine sector. The Commission's senior Management participated in several meetings of the South Pacific Organisations Coordinating Committee (SPOCC) which brings together the heads of the 8 regional organisations. Several marine-related issues were discussed at this policy level during this period which coincided with the major review that was being undertaken of regional institutional arrangements in the marine sector.

23 The 1995 and 1996 FFA/SPC colloquiums were held in Noumea and Honiara respectively. On both occasions, a review of each organisation's work programme was undertaken. The reports of both meetings are provided as Information Papers 1 and 2.

24 The level of cooperation between the FFA and the Commission's Fisheries Programme, particularly in the area of tuna fisheries, is unprecedented. In addition to routinely providing scientific advice to the FFA in support of the management of the region's large tuna fisheries, the OFP continues to cooperate in the management of the joint FFA/SPC regional tuna database which constitutes a major part of the OFP's work programme. The increasing amount of data that is being generated through an expanded observer and port-sampling programme, and through improved relationships with distant water fishing nations (DWFNs), now require the services of 3 full-time data-entry staff within the OFP. An on-going collaborative project involving FFA, the University of Queensland and the OFP on bio-economic modelling of Western Pacific tuna fisheries has added another dimension to this close working relationship. The FFA and the OFP are also working together in the development of a joint proposal to the EU for the funding of a project which will address important issues relating to the monitoring of the region's tuna fisheries. In addition to these collaborative projects, the Commission, through the OFP, has actively participated in all of FFA's sub-committee meetings which have focused on the development of tuna management arrangements for the region. It is to be expected that with the establishment of these new management arrangements the level of cooperation between the OFP and the FFA will continue to strengthen..

25 In the area of coastal fisheries the FFA has adopted the recommendation from the institutional review that this component of fisheries be dealt with at the regional level by SPC's CFP and by SPREP. This means that the CFP will need to develop collaborative mechanisms with SPREP to draw on the comparative strengths of each organisation and to guard against possible duplication. An annual consultative process between the CFP and SPREP, much along the same lines as the annual SPC/FFA colloquium, is being explored. It may also be necessary to develop an MOU with SPREP which would basically address, at a more formal level, the work programme activities of each organisation, with the view to ensuring that work in the coastal fisheries area is shared where this appears to be mutually beneficial.

26 The Secretariat has maintained cooperative links with other regional organisations such as USP and SOPAC. In the case of USP, these links have been in the general area of fisheries training and information-sharing, and with SOPAC, the CFP has in the past sought technical assistance from this organisation's considerable expertise in sea-bed mapping to support work on FAD deployments.

REVIEW OF REGIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN THE MARINE SECTOR

27 This major review of regional institutional arrangements in the marine sector was commissioned during the latter half of 1994, and a draft report was tabled for consideration at FFC 26 in Port Moresby in May, 1995. Because of insufficient time between receiving the report and being asked to discuss its contents, participants to FFC 26 were unwilling to make substantive statements on the report. This effectively delayed consideration of this report by FFC for a further 12 months. In the meantime SPOCC considered the draft report and made several recommendations to the review team.

28 A copy of the final report was received by the Commission in August, 1995, and this was tabled for discussion at the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA) meeting in October, 1995. CRGA noted the report and instructed the Secretariat to produce a paper for the May 1996 CRGA detailing how the review recommendations would impact on the work of the Commission. This paper titled Review of Regional Institutional Arrangements in the Marine Sector (Secretariat Comments), and the review report titled Review of Regional Institutional Arrangements in the Marine Sector are provided as Information Papers 3 & 4.

29 Prior to this year's May CRGA, the Forum Fisheries Committee discussed the review findings at its 29th session held in the Kingdom of Tonga. Of the 21 recommendations from the review, Recommendations 5 and 6 have direct impact on the Commission's Fisheries Programme. Recommendation 5 deals with regional arrangements for addressing issues in the coastal fisheries sector and recommends that the SPC and SPREP be given primary responsibility for this in their respective work programmes. Recommendation 6 advocates for the move of the OFP from SPC to FFA. During FFC's discussion on these 2 principal recommendations, it decided to endorse Recommendation 5, with the status quo to remain in respect of Recommendation 6. FFC's decision on these 2 important review recommendations was further endorsed by CRGA which met at the end of May.

30 Now that the FFA has divested itself from work in the coastal fisheries sector, the CFP will need to develop stronger ties with SPREP in this area. Contacts with SPREP in this regard has already been undertaken at the policy level by SPC's Management, and initial responses have been encouraging.

31 In deciding not to move the OFP to Honiara as recommended by the review, both the FFC and CRGA were aware of the need to keep the management-related role of the FFA separate from the scientific mandate of the OFP. It was acknowledged that this separation of roles has benefited the region to a large degree through increased cooperation between the OFP and the DWFNs, particularly with respect to the voluntary provision of fisheries data by the fishing nations.

SECRETARIAT ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES

32 The recommendations made by RTMF 25 are listed below, together with brief commentaries on action taken by the Secretariat in response to each one.

33 Recommendation No. 1

The Meeting noted that arrangements were in progress for implementation of the review of the roles of those South Pacific regional organisations whose mandate involves marine resource development and management. Recognising the broad regional focus of the Oceanic Fisheries Programme and its importance in relation to the continuing provision of scientific advice regarding regional tuna fisheries, the Meeting recommended that the Secretariat take appropriate action to ensure that the institutional review incorporates consideration of the programme's institutional arrangements, to ensure that programme efficiency and cost-effectiveness are maximised in the long term.

34 Action taken: The Secretariat met with members of the review team and were able to discuss fully the implications of the various options put forward by the review team in their attempt to rationalise regional institutional mandates in the marine sector. The Secretariat was able to point out the advantages to the region if the OFP maintained its status quo. The wider SPC membership and the implications this has for better data acquisition, and ultimately for the better management of the region's tuna fisheries, was stressed. The Secretariat believes that it had provided the review team with an unbiased assessment of how it saw the OFP operating in the most effective and cost-efficient manner. The decision taken by FFC 29 and the recent May CRGA supports the views expressed by the Secretariat.

35 Recommendation 2

RTMF 25 noted that attempts to secure longer-term funding commitments to support ongoing operation of the Oceanic Fisheries Programme had been only partially successful, such that complete funding could only be assured for one more year. RTMF 25 recommended that senior Executive staff of the Commission take urgent action to locate and secure additional sources of funding to sustain the base programme. Fundamental to the Programme, and to the long-term interests of fishery research and management in the region, was the maintenance of the statistical monitoring function, a priority strongly emphasised by the Fifth Meeting of the Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish. RTMF 25 stressed that highest priority must be given to ensuring continuity of that database.

36 Action taken: The question of long-term funding commitments to the base programme of the OFP have been raised on a number of occasions with donors. In 1992, Australia made a 4-year funding commitment to the operations of the OFP, and we are now into the last year of that commitment. France also undertook to look at longer-term funding commitments to the Fisheries Programme but was however unable to confirm this. In discussing issues of funding with donors, the question of the long-term sustainability of the Statistics and Monitoring Section within the OFP was raised. At the request of donors for greater transparency in the use of their funds, the Secretariat requested France to commit all of its annual funding contributions to the OFP to support the operations of the Statistics and Monitoring Section. France has kindly agreed to this which in some measure has offered a greater degree of permanency to this section.

37 Recommendation 3

The Meeting noted that, in December 1994 in Honiara, the Forum Fisheries Agency would convene a multi-lateral, high-level meeting on Western Pacific tuna fisheries, involving Agency members and Distant Water Fishing Nations, and that the Agenda would include items addressing status of tuna stocks and data/research needs in support of stock assessment. The Meeting recommended that the Secretariat ensure that the Oceanic Fisheries Programme provide any scientific support necessary for the deliberations, and requested appropriate complementary input on the issues by the Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish.

38 Action taken: Key scientific input was provided by the Oceanic Fisheries Coordinator and the Principal Fisheries Scientist to the deliberations of the multi-lateral, high-level meeting on Western Pacific tuna fisheries. The 2 papers which were presented at the meeting dealt with the status of tuna stocks and with the collection and exchange of fisheries data. In addition to the 2 papers presented, both OFP staff members participated in the deliberations of the Scientific Sub-committee which was set up by the meeting. As a result of a recommendation from this sub-committee which was subsequently approved by plenary, the Commission hosted a Technical Consultation Meeting on the Exchange of Fisheries Data in Noumea last month. This meeting brought together regional coastal states and territories as well as DWFNs to discuss issues related to the exchange of regional tuna fisheries data.

39 Recommendation 4

Noting the various areas of common interest between the SPC's Oceanic Fisheries Programme and similar activities in French Polynesia, the Meeting recommended that the possibility of developing a joint applied tuna research programme be investigated. The programme could deal with both the development of the large oceanic fisheries and that of local tuna fisheries.

40 Action taken: There have been several exchanges of letters between EVAAM and the Secretariat exploring possible areas of collaboration. It was noted that an obvious linkage with French Polynesia's proposed tuna research programme was in the area of information gathering through improved collaboration in a port sampling and scientific observer programme. As this is an important component of the work programme of SPRTRAMP, the Secretariat felt that joining forces with French Polynesia would further strengthen this information gathering activity. However, the Secretariat and EVAAM have not been able to develop and implement joint activities basically because of problems associated with funding for the project.

41 Recommendation 1(Seventh SCTB):

In order to simplify the submission of catch and effort data by tuna fishing vessels in the region, and to simplify the processing of catch and effort data, that all SPC and FFA member countries and territories strive to adopt standard logsheets, including future revisions of standard logsheets if and when they become available, for use both by domestic fisheries and foreign fishing vessels operating under access agreements.

42 Action taken: In December, 1995, the Secretariat met with FFA to develop standardised logsheets for purse-seine, longline and pole-and-line fishing vessels. Agreement was reached on a standardised logsheet format for each class of vessel, and in January 1996 these logsheets were supplied to both DWFNs, FFA and SPC member countries and territories for implementation as appropriate. The Secretariat is pleased to advise the meeting that a number of countries are now using these standardised logsheets, and would like to urge countries who have not already done so to use these logsheets as soon as possible.

43 Recommendation 2 (Seventh SCTB):

That the Secretariat take steps to ensure that the position of the Oceanic Fisheries Coordinator (OFC) is filled, and that consideration be given to funding the position from SPC core funds, in line with SPC policy for other similar positions.

44 Action taken: The Secretariat was able to keep the position of OFC occupied throughout this period, but have been unable to secure core-budget funding for this position. Efforts are continuing to have the OFC position placed on core-funding.

45 Recommendation 5

The Meeting noted with extreme disappointment that recommendation 11 from the 24th RTMF, which had urged the South Pacific Conference to re-instate full core funding support to the Deep Sea Fisheries Development Project as of 1993, had been deferred by two successive meetings of the CRGA, and then had not been taken into account during the restructuring of the Commission's budget. The Meeting recommended that CRGA give priority to consideration of the issue and, in light of the importance of fisheries resources to the island countries, and the very high priority placed on this project by RTMF 25, make every effort to increase the level of core budget support to the Deep Sea Fisheries Development Project as of 1995.

46 **Action taken:** Core-funding to support Deep Sea Fisheries Development Project (DSFDP) Masterfishermen did not receive the support of CRGA although the Secretariat pointed out that services provided through this project was keenly sought by Pacific Island member countries and territories. The last of the core-funded Masterfisherman completed his contract in late 1994 and it was not until February 1996 that the Secretariat was able to recruit another core-funded Masterfisherman. As explained earlier in this report, this was made possible by giving up the core-funded position of CFC and applying these funds to pay for the services of a Masterfisherman. Much of the work normally provided through the DSFDP was funded under the UNDP-funded Offshore Fisheries Development Project.

47 **Recommendation 6**

The Meeting further noted that, it would be useful to review member countries and territories' present expectations of the Deep Sea Fisheries Development Project and determine the status of national capacities to implement capture fishery development projects. This would assist the Secretariat to determine the type and extent of support likely to be needed by member countries in the longer term, and make appropriate adjustments to the modus operandi of the Project to cater for these needs. The Meeting recommended that the Secretariat undertake such a needs review, preferably using external expertise and extra-budgetary funding if these were available, and that the review findings be reported back to CRGA 21 in October 1994 where they could be considered alongside Recommendation No. 5.

48 **Action taken:** The Secretariat was unable to undertake the needs study as neither extra-budgetary nor core funding could be found to support this work.

49 **Recommendation 7**

The meeting re-stated the importance of the SPC Women's Fisheries Development Project, which had provided valuable support to a number of national level women-in-fisheries initiatives. The Meeting recommended that the Secretariat take all possible action to reinstate Canadian funding support for this important project, or, failing this, attempt to identify an alternative source of funding for it.

51 **Action taken:** Canadian funding for this project was reactivated after a hiatus of almost 3 years. In February 1995, a Women's Fisheries Development Officer (WFDO) took up her posting with the Commission. Funding for this project will end in February, 1997, and whilst the Secretariat is continuing its efforts to secure funding to continue this project beyond its termination date, no donor has yet come forward with the offer to support this project beyond February, 1997.

52 Recommendation 8

Noting the lack of success by the Secretariat in securing funding for the establishment of the Regional Post-Harvest Centre and the unlikelihood of such funding becoming available in the foreseeable future, the Meeting strongly recommended that, as part of a new strategy for bringing about the aims of the project, the Secretariat request USP to assume responsibility for some project activities by appointing a Lecturer in Post-Harvest Fisheries, and by providing for the incorporation of post-harvest teaching and research facilities in any new building that may ultimately be constructed to house the Marine Studies Programme.

53 Action taken: The Management Board of the Marine Studies Programme, USP, approved core funding support for the post of Lecturer in Post-harvest Fisheries in May 1994. The post was filled in January 1996. Undergraduate courses in post-harvest fisheries will be on offer from 1997 onwards. Furthermore, a new Marine Studies Programme building has been approved, with funding provided by the Japanese Government. The new building is scheduled to be completed by the end of 1997. A post-harvest fisheries laboratory and pilot processing plant is included in the plan.

54 Recommendation 9

The Meeting further recommended that as part of the same new strategy, the Secretariat replace the five (5) positions originally envisaged as part of the Regional Post-Harvest Fisheries Centre with one professional and one administrative position within the Post-Harvest Section. These officers would take over responsibility for vocational and technical training activities, and for applied research in support of national post-harvest development activities, as originally envisaged within the RPFC.

55 Action taken: The replacement of the five positions proposed under the old project by 2 positions, Post-harvest Fisheries Officer and Project Assistant were approved by the 34th South Pacific Conference in October, 1994. Funding for the single professional position has not been secured, whilst funding has been secured for the Project Assistant position. It has therefore not been possible for the Secretariat to fully meet its obligations. A limited number of vocational and technical training activities has been supported at current staff levels.

56 Recommendation 10

In considering the work programme of the Fisheries Training Section, the Meeting noted that the diverse range of activities undertaken by the Section reflected the wide-ranging training and educational needs of the region's fisheries sector. The Meeting endorsed the work programme of the Fisheries Training Section and recommended that the Secretariat continue its efforts to:

- *support national fisheries training and educational institutions and human resource development initiatives;— develop and coordinate national and regional initiatives in standardising fishing vessel crew certification;*
- *implement organisational and enterprise management training initiatives;*
- *coordinate and seek appropriate funding to facilitate development of a vocational fisheries certificate programme suitable for implementation in national technical institutions;*
- *support and develop public awareness of safety-at-sea issues, particularly through the provision of media resource materials such as videos and posters.*

58 Action taken: The Secretariat was able to undertake HRD plans for CNMI and for Western Samoa in 1994, and is currently completing the FSM HRD study. Standardising fishing vessel crew certification is well advanced with a pilot training course having been conducted in Vanuatu. The development of a number of teaching modules on this subject matter is nearing completion and will soon be available for use in fisheries training institutions in the region. The campaign on safety-at-sea for small boat operators has received positive feed-back from fisheries departments within the region as well as from some countries in the Indian Ocean. Work on the development of a fisheries certificate programme has not progressed to any great extent. The Secretariat believes this work should be undertaken through a consultancy with assistance as required from the Secretariat, and in order for this to happen funding for the study will need to be found.

59 Recommendation 11

The Meeting expressed its support for the joint SPC/ New Caledonia/ French Polynesian project provisionally entitled Application of Remotely Sensed Information to the Management of Pacific Island Reef and Lagoon Fisheries and recommended that the Secretariat take all necessary actions to secure funding so that the project could be implemented.

60 Action taken: The Secretariat devoted considerable energy towards the development of a project which would have provided the SPC with the in-house capacity to analyse remotely-sensed information prior to undertaking the necessary field work. The OCT funding which was being sought for this project unfortunately did not materialise and the Secretariat regrettably had to abandon the project.

61 Recommendation 12

RTMF 25 expressed its appreciation of the valuable contribution made by the UK-funded Inshore Fisheries in June 1994. The Research Project and the Fish Handling and Processing Project, both of which are due to conclude Meeting strongly supported the objectives of the proposed Integrated Coastal Fisheries Management Project (ICFMP), for which extra budgetary funding had been sought from the Government of the United Kingdom, as a means of building on the work of these two valuable projects. The Meeting recommended that the Secretariat take all actions necessary to secure funding for this project from the UK as soon as possible.

62 **Action taken:** The Government of the United Kingdom approved STG 1,030,200 over 3 years to fund ICMaP which started in September, 1994.

63 **Recommendation 13**

The Meeting noted that the eventual level of donor funding available for the ICFMP, and possibly other extra-budgetary funded projects, would depend not only on the extent to which the countries involved were committed to the objectives of the programme, but also on the extent to which they showed that commitment by some tangible contribution towards its cost. The Meeting recommended that, on return to their countries, delegates raise the issue of member countries' contributions to the cost of the programme with the appropriate authorities, and that this issue be discussed in more depth at CRGA 20 in May 1994.

64 **Action taken:** Although this was a recommendation from RTMF to national delegations, the Secretariat notes that there has been a very tangible contribution towards joint activities from those countries with which SPC has collaborated in ICFMaP subprojects. This has included local field trip vehicle and vessel costs, basic accommodation where available, as well as considerable staff time.

65 **Recommendation 14**

Noting the disease risk posed by increasing numbers of transfers of exotic aquatic species into the Pacific Islands, the Meeting noted also the Interim Guidelines and Principles for Regional Aquatic Animal Quarantine detailed in Annex 2 of Working Paper 11 towards the development and harmonisation of aquatic animal quarantine mechanisms in the region, and recommended that the Secretariat monitor progress in the development of Pacific Island quarantine mechanisms to enable the Interim Guidelines to be reviewed at the next Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries.

66 **Action taken:** The Secretariat has monitored progress in the development of Pacific Island quarantine mechanisms, but notes that few, if any, developments in marine quarantine measures have been reported. At present, there appears to be no Pacific Islands experience upon which a review of the Interim Guidelines could be based.

**ADDENDUM
ANNEX 1 TO
WORKING PAPER 1**

CURRENT X B FUNDING FOR FISHERIES PROGRAMME		
PROJECT	SOURCE OF FUNDING	TERMINATION DATE
COASTAL		
INFORMATION SECTION	FRANCE	On-going
TRAINING SECTION	FRANCE AUSTRALIA EUROPEAN COMMISSION UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME GERMAN AGENCY FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION <u>NELSON COURSE:</u> NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT	On-going On-going
ICFMaP	BRITISH AID UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AUSTRALIAN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH	Aug. 97
WOMEN'S FISHERIES DEV.PROJECT	CANADA NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION	Feb. 97
CAPTURE SECTION	UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME	
OCEANIC		
SPRTRAMP	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	On-going
OFF	AUSTRALIAN AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRANCE NEW ZEALAND PAPUA NEW GUINEA	On-going On-going On-going On-going
EXTERNAL TECHNICAL CONSULTANCIES	AUSTRALIAN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PHILIPPINES TAIWAN TAIWAN INDUSTRY SOUTH PACIFIC PROJECT FACILITY	On-going
BIOECONOMIC MODELLING OF TUNA FISHERIES	AUSTRALIAN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH	On-going
YELLOWFIN STOCK ASSESSMENT	UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII	On-going
ALBACORE RESOURCE ASSESS.	TAIWAN TAIWAN INDUSTRY	
COLLABORATIVE TROPICAL TUNA RESEARCH	TAIWAN	