

## FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

### TRAINING AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

The Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project undertakes activities to strengthen professional and institutional knowledge and practices towards sustainable fisheries management.

#### TRAIN SEA COAST COURSE

The International Ocean Institute-Pacific Islands and the School of Marine Studies at the University of the South Pacific held a Train Sea Coast (TSC) course. Titled *Responsible Fisheries in the Pacific Islands Region: implementation of Post-UNCED International Instruments* the course was offered at the School of Marine Studies Facilities from 9 - 20 July 2007.

The overall goal of the TSC was capacity building at the local level. Thus, the course emphasized building up of permanent national capabilities, sustainability of efforts, cost-effectiveness, responsiveness to the specific needs of the countries involved and long-term impact.

The TSC methodology ensures that the highest pedagogical and technical standards are attained and arrangements are established for cooperation among the training centres so that training courses, experience and personnel may be shared for the benefit of all the members of the network. All TSC courses can be shared by TSC members who may adapt and deliver the courses as many times as needed.

#### INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Institutional reform can be defined as changes to the rules of the game and improving the capabilities of the players of the game. The strengthening and reform of public sector fisheries administrations involves the reform, realignment and strengthening of the national capacity to organise and participate in oceanic fisheries management. This includes the enhancement of consultative processes to promote a more integrated approach to fisheries management and administration that will encourage coordination and participation between diverse government and non-government stakeholders.

Limited in resources, Pacific island fisheries administrations, particularly the smaller ones, will benefit from reviewing strategies and plans to make the best use of 'best practices' in institutional reform. There have been various reform and restructuring activities in a number of fisheries administrations in the Pacific as a consequence of the change of core business direction from production and development to management and conservation in recent years.



## FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

### INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

These include:

- externally supported interventions through donor loans or grants with Marshall Islands, PNG and Tonga fisheries administrations as examples;
- opportunistic change in Samoa, Vanuatu, the Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Nauru and Kiribati fisheries administrations as a consequence of a larger government reform and rightsizing program supported by the IMF; and
- gradual change internally driven such as that in the Fiji Department of Fisheries.

Institutional strengthening supports the essential functions of effective fisheries administrations:

- collection of detailed information on fisheries and on social and economic characteristics of each fishery;
- analysis of relevant information to identify trends to allow appropriate adjustments to management strategies;
- consideration of all relevant information in a decision making process that includes participation by key stakeholders (developing the rules); monitoring, control and surveillance (implementing the rules)