

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

(Consolidated)

1. **Country:** Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

2. **Project Number/Code:** PIMS No. 2992

3. **Project Title:** Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project

4. **Executing Agency:** Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency

5. **Period Covered:** 1 January 2006 – 31 March 2006 (**Q1 2006**)

6. **Summary of Overall Project Progress:**

FFA and SPC report that staff recruitment and administrative arrangements for the project were finalized and that project activities are now in full implementation phase.

The roll out of outputs and activities across the

IUCN have indicated that project implementation on IUCN-led activities is slower than originally expected but still on target to meet objectives. The primary reason for the delays in project implementation are that delays in the re-fitting of the research vessel due to hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico in late 2005 have meant two postponements in the dates for the seamount cruises. Current plan is for the cruises to take place from January – April 2007, but this can only be confirmed once the vessel re-fit is complete and it has been tested on the water. The vessel is expected to be ready for testing in early June 2006; once the seaworthiness is confirmed, exact dates for the cruises will be set, and project resources will start being expended at increased rates.

7. **Specific Outputs/Results Achieved (As per quarter work-plan):**

Project Administration

FFA and Project Coordination Unit

The commencement of Mr. Darren Cameron, Fisheries Management Advisor on 18 March 2006 completed the recruitment process for the FFA component of the OFM Project.

SPC

Recruitment of positions was completed, with the commencement of Dr Donald Bromhead on 11 February 2006.

Information and documents for the 2005 project audit were assembled and transmitted to the PCU.

Efforts continued to secure co-funding for a number of project activities, including tagging and trophic structure investigations. Good progress in particular has been made in securing co-funding for tagging, including the following confirmed funding commitments for tagging work in PNG:

PNG National Fisheries Authority	USD	100,000
New Zealand AID	USD	400,000
French Pacific Fund	EUR	100,000

In addition, the following funding proposals are currently under consideration (amounts shown are specifically for tagging):

European Commission	EUR 1,500,000
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research	AUD 400,000
University of Hawaii	USD 200,000
US Dept of State (OESI)	USD 214,000

IUCN
None

Sub-component 1.1: Fishery Monitoring	
Output 1.1.1: A template for national integrated monitoring programmes including logsheet, observer, port sampling and landing data collection and management; and provision of national data to the Commission	
Activity 1.1.1.1: Develop database and associated software	Under this activity, the OFP is developing a standard software package named TUFMAN (Tuna Fishery Data Management System). Eight new reports were added to the TUFMAN database as well as the facility to print customised license certificates. Telex positions can now also be mapped from the database. Data entry modifications were made for logsheets, port sampling data and telex reports.
Activity 1.1.1.2: Develop reporting module for Commission data	This will be developed once collection procedures are implemented in-country.
Output 1.1.2: National monitoring systems based on the regional template for integrated monitoring, customised to meet national needs	
Activity 1.1.2.1: Support establishment and enhancement of national databases and software	<p>All countries were given an upgraded version of the Catch and Effort Query System (CES), and observer data viewer (Observer) on CD in March. The TUFMAN database was upgraded for the Cook Islands and Fiji.</p> <p>Dedicated travel was made to: Palau, where the TUFMAN database was installed and the port sampling database upgraded; French Polynesia (co-funded activity), where the observer query system (ORSE) was upgraded and the national database reviewed; and the Marshall Islands, where the TUFMAN database was installed. Appropriate training was given to users in all countries.</p>
Activity 1.1.2.2: Support establishment and enhancement of national port sampling and observer programmes	<p>National observer programmes are now established in 10 of the 15 FFA member countries (Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, FSM, Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Tonga and Samoa), while three other countries aspire to running observer programmes in the future (Vanuatu, Niue and Tokelau). Active observer programmes are also supported in New Caledonia and French Polynesia. SPC, utilizing POFM and co-funding resources, provided continuing support, guidance, funding for activities, information sharing and materials to these programmes during this period.</p> <p>A current focus is on putting in place the regional observer debriefing policy. This requires debriefers to be identified, a training course to be organised and the debriefing training format to be set up.</p> <p>Three staff members from SPC, including the FMS, travelled to the Solomon Islands in January to assist FFA and NMFS to conduct the 6th Regional Observer Coordinators' Workshop. The meeting allowed the FMS to present and handover much of the work that had been done on data quality during the</p>

	<p>previous OFM project.</p> <p>Data collection from 25 port sampling sites is also supported by SPC utilizing POFM and co-funding resources. All data received during the quarter were entered, checked and immediate feedback given to the port sampler supervisors.</p>
Activity 1.1.2.3: Support the coordination of national monitoring programmes	Duty travel to Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Samoa allowed the FMS to review each country's data collection system and to identify or establish, where necessary, a National Tuna Data Coordinator (NTDC). The NTDC positions will be advertised in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. A job description and a draft MOU have been prepared in anticipation of this recruitment.
Output 1.1.3: A regional monitoring coordination capacity, to develop regional standards such as data formats, and to provide a clearing house for information on fishery monitoring	
Activity 1.1.3.1: Develop and make available common data formats	<p>During this quarter 396 observer workbooks, 668 observer waterproof pads and 140 waterproof port sampling pads were distributed to nine countries with active sampling programmes.</p> <p>Work continued on documenting all form change requests and the initial planning for the 7th Data Collection Committee (DCC) meeting has commenced.</p>
Activity 1.1.3.2: Hold Regional Workshops on regional and national fishery monitoring	No work was conducted under this activity this quarter. The first regional statistics workshop is planned to be held in the 4 th quarter 2006.
Activity 1.1.3.3: Distribute newsletters, webpage and other forms of information exchange	Resource material production continues to focus on observer needs with the longline observer guide being brought through the editing stage. The final layout stage has still to be completed.
Output 1.1.4: Training of national monitoring staff, particularly monitoring coordinators, observers and port samplers	
Activity 1.1.4.1: Organise and hold in-country observer & port sampling courses and other training activities	A full observer training course was conducted in the Marshall Islands, while a refresher longline training course was given in Tonga. The OFP Observer and Port sampler Trainer also attended the NMFS observer training course that was held in Hawaii. These activities utilized co-funding resources.
Activity 1.1.4.2: Regional training courses in integrated fishery monitoring	See activity 1.1.3.2.
Activity 1.1.4.3: Attach national monitoring personnel to SPC/OFP	There were no attachments this quarter.
Sub-component 1.2: Stock Assessment	
Output 1.2.1: National oceanic fisheries status reports prepared collaboratively with national scientific staff	
Activity 1.2.1.1: Prepare 6 National Oceanic Fisheries Status Reports annually	This is an activity that benefits from significant co-funding. During the quarter, National Tuna Fishery Status Reports for PNG and French Polynesia (OFP-funded activity) were finalised, while work on NTFSRs for Solomon Islands, FSM and New Caledonia (OFP-funded activity) was progressed. A work plan for the remainder of 2006 and for 2007 was

	discussed at the 5 th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting.
Activity 1.2.1.2: Hold In-country Stakeholder Workshops for delivery of National Status Reports	No in-country workshops for beneficiary countries were held this quarter, although a workshop was held in French Polynesia utilizing non-project resources of the OFP.
Output 1.2.2: Advice to Pacific SIDS on scientific issues in the work of the Commission	
Activity 1.2.2.1: Provide contributions to briefs on scientific issues for Pacific SIDS for meetings of the Commission, the Scientific Committee and Science Working Groups	No work was conducted under this activity this quarter although a timetable for provision of information was agreed with FFA.
Activity 1.2.2.2: Present scientific briefs to preparatory meetings of Pacific SIDS for the Commission	No work was conducted under this activity this quarter.
Output 1.2.3: Training of national technical and scientific staff to understand regional stock assessment methods, and interpret and apply the results; and to use oceanographic data	
Activity 1.2.3.1: Hold Regional Workshops on stock assessment methods and analysis of oceanographic impacts on fisheries	The first regional stock assessment workshop is scheduled to be held during the 2 nd quarter of 2006. Work on the development of workshop materials and other preparatory activities took place during the quarter.
Activity 1.2.3.2: Attach national technical staff to SPC/OFP and other institutions to participate in Commission stock assessment work and preparation of national status reports	No attachments took place this quarter.
Activity 1.2.3.3: Train scientific counterparts in-country	No in-country training took place this quarter.
Sub-component 1.3: Ecosystem Monitoring and Analysis	
Output 1.3.1: Observer sampling and analysis of commercial fishery catches to determine trophic relationships of pelagic species in the WTP LME	
Activity 1.3.1.1: Collect observer-based sampling data, especially – stomach contents, tissue samples	<p>The 65 samples collected at the end of 2005 by the French Polynesia observer programme have been received and stored. These samples were collected on the North-East side of the French Polynesian EEZ during an exploratory campaign.</p> <p>A complete list of the samples stored at SPC has been compiled. This information has been incorporated into the detailed list of the samples already analysed; the sampling strategy and work-plan will be finalized and sent to PICT observer programmes in April. Observer programmes have been informed of the situation and are on stand-by regarding biological sampling for the project.</p>
Activity 1.3.1.2: Lab-based	Some additional storage space has been added to the SPC

analysis of samples	<p>biological laboratory to accommodate the increasing number of prey items preserved for reference.</p> <p>Lab safety has been improved with the addition of a first aid kit, a fire-blanket and a security pad lock.</p> <p>A research assistant was contracted utilizing co-funding sources to continue lab-based analysis of stomach samples collected under the previous OFM project. This work will continue through 2006 and beyond, subject to the availability of funding. During the quarter, the contents of 102 stomachs (from 6 observer trips) were examined and about 70% of the information has been entered into the database.</p> <p>Tissue samples have been dehydrated and sent to the University of Hawaii for isotopic analysis.</p> <p>Some albacore otoliths have been collected from the New Caledonia longline catch; more specimens are needed to assess the feasibility of a growth study on albacore otolith seasonal structures.</p>
Output 1.3.2: Collection and analysis of information on seamounts in the WTP LME	
Activity 1.3.2.1: Hold seamount activity planning and review workshops	<p>A Seamount Planning Workshop was organized at SPC Headquarters on the 20-21 March 2006. Gathering 14 seamount benthic and pelagic ecology specialists as well as pelagic fisheries experts from Europe, Pacific countries and territories, seamount ecology and the POFM seamount work plan were discussed. Subjects discussed include bathymetric and oceanographic data, benthic and pelagic ecology, benthos-pelagos interactions, fisheries in relation to seamounts, and implementation of the seamount activities during the POFM project (data analysis and scientific cruises). A report of the workshop will be provided in April 2006.</p>
Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts	<p>Several seamount geographical position datasets were gathered and included into a GIS. Analysis of fisheries data in relation to seamounts has commenced. Following the above-mentioned workshop, screening of seamount localization datasets should be conducted before continuing the analysis of fisheries data.</p>
Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis	<p>Two pop-up satellite archival (PSAT) tags were deployed on large yellowfin and bigeye tuna during a NOAA scientific cruise around American Samoa.</p> <p>Various planning activities for the co-funded PNG tagging project began during the quarter. A project logo and tag reward posters were designed and posters have been translated into PNG and Solomon Island languages. The tagging project plans were presented to a POFM briefing held in Noumea in conjunction with the 5th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting.</p>
Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey	<p>No work was conducted under this activity this quarter.</p>
Output 1.3.2: Collection and analysis of information on seamounts in the WTP LME (IUCN)	
Activity 1.3.2.1: Hold seamount activity planning and review workshops	<p>Participation in Seamount Planning Workshop. Further refinement of draft cruise plans. Much planning and coordination work is going on, but are resulting in relatively low expenditure levels (typically involving</p>

	some travel and staff-time). This is to be expected since the bulk of the resources under the Scientific Assessment Component are directly linked to the research cruises themselves (e.g. equipment for the cruises, covering costs of scientists participating in the cruises, on-the-ground planning and coordination of cruise activities, etc.).
Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts	No work was conducted on this activity this quarter
Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis	No work was conducted on this activity this quarter
Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey	Continued recruitment of additional partners and securing of both cash and in-kind counterpart resources. IUCN continues to refine its draft scientific research proposal and cruise plan for its seamount work, incorporating comments from a wide range of reviewers. IUCN continues to have regular communication with its partner, DeepOcean Quest, in an effort to advance research cruise planning. IUCN continues to bring other partners, with either cash or in-kind contributions, to the project, including the CenSeam project of the Census of Marine Life (COML), the Institute of Zoology (UK), Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (US), among others. The key activity this quarter, which contributed to both the refinement of the cruise plan, and the creation of stronger synergies amongst project partners, was the Seamount Planning Workshop, hosted by SPC's OFP, 20-21 March, in New Caledonia, attended by Dr. Alex Rogers, Scientific Advisor to IUCN, and the Principal Scientist for the seamount cruise.
Output 1.3.3: Model-based analysis of ecosystem-based management options	
Activity 1.3.3.1: Incorporate ecosystem data and information into existing ecosystem models and refinement of those models as necessary	No work was conducted on this activity this quarter.
Activity 1.3.3.2: Use enhanced models and data to assess ecosystem-based management options	No work was conducted on this activity this quarter.
Activity 1.3.3.3: Use enhanced models and data to assess management options targeted specifically at seamounts	No work was conducted on this activity this quarter.
Output 1.3.4: Estimates of levels of by-catch in WCPO oceanic fisheries	
Activity 1.3.4.1: Review historical observer data and methodological development	Work has commenced on this activity and will continue through the 2 nd quarter.
1.3.4.2: Estimate levels of	By-catch estimates and a preliminary ecological risk

by-catch	assessment for selected species will be presented to the 2 nd meeting of the WCPFC Scientific Committee in August 2006.
Output 1.3.5: Results of ecosystem analysis and proposals for long-term ecosystem monitoring and operationalisation of the ecosystem-based approach for use by the Commission's Scientific Committee, especially its Ecosystems & Bycatch Working Group, and by Pacific SIDS	
Activity 1.3.5.1: Present results of ecosystem analysis to the Commission through the Ecosystem & Bycatch Working Group	No work was conducted on this activity this quarter.
Activity 1.3.5.2: Present info on national & regional implications of results of ecosystem analysis to Pacific SIDS	No work was conducted on this activity this quarter.
Activity 1.3.5.3: Attach national technical staff to SPC/OFP and other institutions to participate in ecosystem analysis	No attachments were conducted during this quarter.

Component Two

Sub-component 2.1: Legal Reform	
Output 2.1.1: A strategy and workplan for activities on regional and national legal issues	
Activity 2.1.1.1: Carry out legal and technical reviews of legal issues and national legal structures	The services of Professor Martin Tsamenyi of the University of Wollongong Australia have been secured to assist in national workshops and the analysis of legal implications from decisions adopted by the WCPF Commission. The specific outputs from this consultancy are the preparation of National Country Reports, the development of course material and where applicable draft legislation for PI countries. The work commences in this quarter with the first of a series of in-country workshops for Tuvalu, the Solomon Islands and Tokelau. In-country national assistance is programmed for Samoa, Kiribati, Marshalls in second quarter (April/May), Palau and Vanuatu in June, FSM & Fiji in July, Cook Islands and PNG in August September and Tonga and Nauru in September/October.
Activity 2.1.1.2: Hold a Regional Legal Consultation on Legal Issues, National Legal Structures and the Project strategy for legal work.	Deferred payment for the Regional Legal Workshop held in Port Vila Vanuatu in November 2005 was paid in this quarter. Legal Officer commenced review of Samoa's fisheries legislation and revised the Cook Islands Fisheries regulations to incorporate obligations under the WCPF Convention and the emerging decision of the WCPF Commission. These activities were funded by other sources.
Output 2.1.2 New draft laws, regulations, agreements and license conditions in line with WCPF Convention prepared and shared with Pacific SIDS.	
Activity 2.1.2.1. Prepare templates of legal provisions to implement the	No activity this quarter. Work in relation to this activity to develop a template for fisheries legislation has been deferred until the second quarter of 2006 when a team of legal experts

Convention.	will meet in Brisbane.
Activity 2.1.2.2. Undertake national legal reviews.	See Activity 2.1.1.2
Activity 2.1.2.3. Provide draft Bills, regulations, license conditions and access agreements to Pacific SIDS.	Mr John Haurae Maito'o of the Solomon Islands has been contracted to complete work in relation to the drafting of the Marshall Islands High Seas Authorisation. This short term consultancy will finalise the High Seas Fisheries regulations for the Marshall Islands establishing a High Seas Authorisation.
Output 2.1.3. Proposals for the Commission from Pacific SIDS for legal arrangements to implement the Convention.	
Activity 2.1.3.1. Undertake legal studies on Commission and Convention issues including non-Contracting Parties and new members.	A draft report for the Marshall Islands on how to implement the recent decisions of the first and second annual sessions of the WCPF Commission was prepared by the FFA Legal Counsel. This preliminary work is the basis for Activity 2.1.1.1. The Legal Counsel at FFA is not supported by GEF funds.
Activity 2.1.3.2. Prepare legal briefs for Pacific SIDS for Commission and subsidiary body meetings.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.1.3.3. Hold Regional Legal Consultations.	No activity this quarter
Output 2.1.4. Training of policy makers and legal personnel in oceanic fisheries management legal issues.	
Activity 2.1.4.1. Hold Regional Legal Workshops.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.1.4.2. Hold National Legal Workshops.	A in-country Prosecution and dock side boarding workshop is planned for Pohnpei, FSM for 3 – 7 April 2006. This exercise is co-financed with AusAID and NZAID funds.
Activity 2.1.4.3. Attach legal staff to FFA and other institutions to participate in legal analyses.	No activity this quarter. A Ni-Vanuatu legal officer will be attached to the Legal Division of FFA in June 2006.
Sub-component 2.2: Policy Reform	
Output 2.2.1. National oceanic fisheries management Plans, policies and strategies.	
Activity 2.2.1.1. Prepare Plans, policy and strategy documents.	Fisheries Management Plan for Vanuatu was undertaken in this quarter. Dr Rick Fletcher from Western Australian Fisheries has been contracted to undertake this work. This contract is co-financed with FFA funds from other sources. Work is being progressed on the Cook Islands Fisheries Management Plan. This work is being done with the assistance of Mr. Les Clark, OFM Project International Consultant.
Activity 2.2.1.2. Support the implementation of Plans, policies and strategies.	No activity this quarter.
Activity 2.2.1.3. Undertake Plan, policy and strategy reviews.	See Activity 2.2.1.1.
Output 2.2.2. Strategies and specific proposals for the overall development of the	

Commission, including its Secretariat and technical programs, and for Commission conservation and management measures.	
Activity 2.2.2.1. Undertake studies on Commission and Convention conservation and management issues.	On- going work. International Consultant Mr Les Clark continues to work on analysis of management options for Pacific Islands input into the Commission meetings.
Activity 2.2.2.2. Prepare and present reports on regional oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific SIDS, including analysis of proposals for the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.	No activity this quarter. Preparations for the FFC annual governing council in May will require the provision of advice and reports on oceanic fisheries management issues in relation to proposals for the Commission and subsidiary bodies. Fisheries management expert Mr. Les Clark retained as an international consultant (co-financed by the OFM Project funds and other sources) and Fisheries Management Advisor, Darren Cameron are undertaking work in this quarter in anticipation of the May meeting.
Activity 2.2.2.3. Hold Regional Fisheries Management Workshops and Consultations.	An FFA sub-regional EAFM workshop is to be held at Apia Samoa, 24 – 27 April. Preparation for this workshop took place in this reporting period. FFA Southern Tuna Management Workshop was held at Honolulu, Hawaii in March 2006. This workshop was to discuss issues pertaining to southern albacore fisheries as directed by the WCPF Commission 2 resolutions on conservation and management for tunas. This workshop was attended by Commission members (includes FFA Pacific Island members) and cooperating non-members.
Output 2.2.3. Identification of possible management options for seamounts, including compliance options. (IUCN)	
Activity 2.2.3.1. Undertake technical studies on management of oceanic fisheries around seamounts.	Given the overall project structure, the activities to be conducted under the Policy, Law and Compliance Component, necessarily need to wait until the scientific research has been completed and initial analyses done. Therefore, very little expenditure is expected under this Component in 2006; in fact, most expenditure will occur in second half of 2007 and in 2008.
Activity 2.2.3.2. Hold Workshops on seamount-related management options.	
Activity 2.2.3.3. Prepare proposals on seamount-related conservation and management measures.	
Output 2.2.4. Training of policy makers, technical personnel and other Pacific SIDS stakeholders to increase understanding of sustainable and responsible fisheries.	
Activity 2.2.4.1. Hold Regional Policy Consultations / Workshops.	A consultation of experts met at FFA in Honiara on 14 February 2006 to discuss and analyse the Commission resolutions to determine the obligations of the Pacific island parties.
Activity 2.2.4.2. Offer a TSC/USP Policy Training Course.	Communication has commenced with USP to discuss the joint delivery of a Train Sea Coast (TSC) Fisheries Management Policy course. Revision of the existing module of the TSC Pacific Islands Region Fisheries Management will be proposed.
Activity 2.2.4.3. Present National Fisheries	A national consultation with the Department of Fisheries, Vanuatu regarding the review process for the existing fisheries

Management Seminars and Workshops.	management plan took place in this quarter.
Activity 2.2.4.4. Attach Fisheries Management personnel to FFA and arrange study tours for Pacific SIDS personnel to other Fisheries Commissions.	A newly appointed licensing officer from the Solomon Islands Fisheries department undertook an attachment at FFA in March.
Activity 2.2.4.5. Support relevant Ministerial meetings.	Preparations for the FFC annual governing council in May will require the provision of advice and reports on oceanic fisheries management issues in relation to proposals for the Commission and subsidiary bodies for Ministers at the May meeting.
Sub-component 2.3: Institutional Reform	
Output 2.3.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for the reform, realignment and strengthening of national oceanic fisheries management administrations.	
Activity 2.3.1.1. Prepare a review of experience and best practices in institutional reform.	No activity in this quarter
Activity 2.3.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of national oceanic fisheries management institutions.	The design of an institutional strengthening project for Nauru Fisheries has commenced. This work is expected to progress over the next quarter.
Activity 2.3.1.3. Present National Institutional Reform Workshops.	No activity in this quarter
Output 2.3.2. Processes for national consultation between stakeholders in oceanic fisheries management.	
Activity 2.3.2.1. Advise on and support national consultative processes.	Vanuatu and Cooks Islands
Activity 2.3.2.2. Support strengthening of national environmental non-governmental organisations (ENGOs) and industry non-governmental organisations (INGOs) to empower them to participate in oceanic fisheries management.	Preparations have been made for the invitation to ENGOs and INGOs to participate in the Vanuatu Fisheries Management Plan review consultation scheduled for June 2006.
Activity 2.3.2.3. Support national workshops for non-state stakeholders.	See Activity 2.3.2.2
Activity 2.3.2.4. Arrange attachments and study tours for non-state stakeholders to learn from experience elsewhere.	No activity in this quarter.
Sub-component 2.4: Compliance Strengthening	

Output 2.4.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for realigning and strengthening national oceanic fisheries compliance programs.	
Activity 2.4.1.1. Prepare a review of Convention implications for national compliance.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.4.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of needs to strengthen and realign national compliance programs.	Ongoing contributions to reviews of needs to strengthen and realign national compliance programmes under the auspices of activities in the legal sub-component continue.
Output 2.4.2. Arrangements for regional coordination of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities.	
Activity 2.4.2.1. Support regional consultations on coordination of air and sea patrols.	See Activity 2.4.3.2
Activity 2.4.2.2. Provide advice on MCS coordination between Pacific SIDS and other states involved.	See Activity 2.4.3.2 Additionally, Operations 'Kurukuru' and 'Islands Chief' supported by Australian Defence with contributions from FFA MCS Division, assists sub-grouping of Pacific Islands countries to undertake coordinated surveillance operations between and across national jurisdictions. These are expected to take place in the later part of 2006.
Activity 2.4.2.3. Prepare Niue Treaty subsidiary agreements.	Requests for assistance from some Pacific SIDS for the preparation of Niue Treaty subsidiary agreements have been received. Resources have been directed towards these activities. A review of the agreement between Palau, FSM and the Marshall Islands is being proposed with the possibility of this extending to include PNG and Kiribati. An agreement is in place between the Cook Islands and Samoa as at 2005. Dialogue between Vanuatu and New Caledonia is in progress and a draft document for surveillance exchanges between Samoa, Vanuatu, Tonga, Fiji and Tuvalu has been completed Nauru has held bilateral dialogue with each of Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and FSM on matters concerning a possible agreement.
Output 2.4.3. Strategies and proposals for regional compliance measures and programs.	
Activity 2.4.3.1. Undertake technical studies on compliance issues under the Convention.	Terms of Reference have been drafted for the development of a regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance strategy for the Pacific. Expressions of interest will be called for. The strategy will take into account compliance issues under the Convention and other international instruments, including the requirement for the development of national plans of action for the prevention of IUU fishing.
Activity 2.4.3.2. Hold meetings of a Working Group of Pacific SIDS on	The annual regional meeting for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance which includes as a prior meeting, an annual meeting for the coordination of aerial surveillance in the region

MCS issues related to oceanic fisheries.	was to be held in March 2006. However, to take into account the Commission schedule of meetings the MCS Working Group Meeting is now re-scheduled to take place in September.
Activity 2.4.3.3. Prepare and present reports on regional compliance issues to Pacific SIDS, including analysis of proposals for the Commission and its Technical and Compliance Committee.	Preparations have commenced for a meeting in the margins of the May FFC to discuss with Pacific SIDS issues relating to VMS and data sharing policies in relation to the Commission.
Output 2.4.4. Training of national compliance staff, especially in inspection and VMS.	
Activity 2.4.4.1. Present courses on National Inspection, VMS and other national MCS training programs.	An in-country Dockside boarding and Inspection Workshop has taken place in FSM in the first quarter of 2006. The workshop was successfully completed with the assistance of the Australian Defence. Participants from Palau also participated. The workshop is seen as positive steps towards building and developing national capacity in maritime enforcement. Three more national workshops are planned for PNG, Vanuatu and a joint exercise for Fiji and Tuvalu third and fourth quarter.
Activity 2.4.4.2. Attach national compliance staff to FFA and other Pacific SIDS.	No activity this quarter With the roll out of updated VMS hardware a series of VMS training for national compliance staff is scheduled for the third and fourth quarter of 2006.

Component Three

Sub-component 3.1: Information Strategy	
Output 3.1.1. Project Information System for capture, storage and dissemination of project data, lessons and best practices and provision of information products using experience and guidelines from IW:LEARN.	
Activity 3.1.1.1. Design logos and other Project identifiers, Project Website/page and Project Document Cataloguing System.	Service of a website design company were engaged to design the project webpage which is located on the FFA website at www.ffa.int/gef . The webpage is operational. A project logo was also secured and this will also be used on project documentation and publications. Email request for IW Learn information and guidelines for developing websites unanswered. No follow up was done. Project Coordinator registered on the IW LEARN network and the BCLME Programme website as a comparable GEF project. A specific document cataloguing system was developed by the PCU.
Activity 3.1.1.2. Operate the Website/page.	The OFM Project website is operational and will be maintained and administered by FFA and the PCU. The webpage menu contains relevant links, project documentation, list of national OFM Project focal points and other project related information.
Activity 3.1.1.3. Project information materials including CDs, papers,	No activity in this quarter.

videos, pamphlets, newsletters, interviews, press releases etc.	
Output 3.1.2. Knowledge management process identifying innovative, best practice and replicable ideas within the Project and relevant to the Project and active involvement with IW:LEARN.	
Activity 3.1.2.1. Prepare Knowledge Management Strategy.	No activity in this quarter
Activity 3.1.2.2. Generate Knowledge Management Components for Website/page, newsletters, and progress reports.	No activity in this quarter but activities in relation to webpage and progress reports have occurred.
Sub-component 3.2: Monitoring and Evaluation	
Output 3.2.1. Measures of, and reports on, overall project performance and delivery, including independent evaluations of the Project.	
Activity 3.2.1.1. Mid-term evaluation.	No activity this quarter
Activity 3.2.1.2. Terminal evaluation.	No activity this quarter
Activity 3.2.1.3. Post evaluation (Year 8).	No activity this quarter
Activity 3.2.1.4. Annual reviews.	No activity this quarter
Activity 3.2.1.5. Annual audit.	<p>The services of an independent Auditor has been secured for the audit of expenditure of project funds 2005. This relates only to the fourth quarter at which point the project commenced with the first advance being received early November 2005.</p> <p>Discussion is ongoing with UNDP to clarify the audit process. Arrangements had been established for each of the co-executing Agency to perform international standard independent audits on funds for activities they are responsible for implementing. Due to the uncertainty and the smaller amounts certified copies of receipts from IUCN and SPC were transmitted to the PCU. These were given to FFA auditors to include in the FFA audit.</p>
Output 3.2.2. Analysis of process, stress-reduction and environmental status indicators as per the GEF International Waters Operational Strategy.	
Activity 3.2.2.1. Carry out baseline studies to measure IW indicators.	Terms of reference are being developed for the engagement of consultant to identify environmental indicators for the project. These TORs are being designed by Mr Les Clark who is currently engaged under the project as an Fisheries Management Consultancy. Calls for expressions of interest are expected to made once the TORs are agreed and finalised.
Activity 3.2.2.2. Include indicator measures in progress reports.	No activity this quarter
Sub-component 3.3: Stakeholder Participation and Awareness Raising	

Output 3.3.1. ENGO participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.	
Activity 3.3.1.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with a Pacific ENGO.	A consultant Michelle Lam has been recruited to perform a short term consultancy that will provide a database of regional environmental non-governmental organisations in the region. The main purpose of the consultancy will be the development of a strategy to engage ENGOs in project implementation to promote NGO stakeholder and public awareness of oceanic fisheries management issues and strengthen NGO participation in oceanic fisheries management at national and regional levels; established links with regional ENGOs (including contact details and point of contact); provide advice on the scheduling and framework for national and regional workshops for ENGOs; draft a co-financing arrangement with a Pacific ENGO; and recommend ENGO representation at the Regional Steering Committee.
Activity 3.3.1.2. Support Pacific ENGO participation in the Commission.	The next annual session of the Commission meeting is scheduled to be held at Apia Samoa in December 2006. The next meeting of the Science Committee is scheduled for 7 – 18 August 2006 at Manila Philippines. Discussion for the provision of support for the attendance and participation of a Pacific ENGO at the Commission meetings will evolve in the course of the above consultancy.
Activity 3.3.1.3. Provide information on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific ENGOs.	Greenpeace Pacific participated in the Legal Workshop in November 2005. Every effort is being made to facilitate the participation of Pacific ENGOs in project workshops across the sub-components. A Pacific ENGO will participate in the project Regional Steering Committee and the established practice by the PCU will be to include the transmission of all information on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific ENGOs.
Activity 3.3.1.4. Hold national and regional Workshops for ENGOs.	No activity in this quarter
Activity 3.3.1.5. Produce information materials to raise public awareness on oceanic fisheries management issues.	No activity in this quarter
Activity 3.3.1.6. Organise regional and national fora on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues for civil society participation.	No activity in this quarter
Output 3.3.2. Support industry participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.	
Activity 3.3.2.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with Pacific INGO.	No activity this quarter
Activity 3.3.2.2. Support Pacific INGO participation in the Commission.	Discussions with the Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association (President, Mr James Movick) have been initiated and are ongoing with regards to project support for their representative participation in the Commission.

Activity 3.3.2.3. Provide information flow on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific INGOs and businesses.	
Activity 3.3.2.4. Support Pacific INGO consultations on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues.	Support was to have been provided for a meeting of the Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association that was planned for the first quarter of 2006. Due to the uncertainty of dates of other meetings which the Association meeting was to be convened along side it has been postponed until the third or fourth quarter of 2006.
Sub-component 3.4: Project Management and Coordination	
Output 3.4.1. Project Coordination Unit staffing and office.	
Activity 3.4.1.1. Appoint the Project Coordinator.	Appointment was made on the 29 December 2005. The Project Coordinator is Barbara Hanchard
Activity 3.4.1.2. Appoint other PCU staff.	Mr. Royden Gholomo was appointed as the Project Finance and Administration Officer. He commenced work on 6 February 2006. Mr Daren Cameron accepted the post of Fisheries Management Advisor in January 2006 but due to prior commitments did not commence work until 18 March 2006. He joins FFA from the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority where he was a Fisheries Manager for seven years.
Activity 3.4.1.3. Procure equipment and other requirements to establish the PCU.	Computer hardware purchases for three positions have been completed. Software programmes are on order.
Output 3.4.2. Arrangements for coordination between Implementing and Executing Agencies.	
Activity 3.4.2.1. Preliminary UNDP/FFA/SPC/IUCN Consultations.	The Inception Workshop in 2005 served as the preliminary collective consultations. FFA and SPC meet on a fairly regular basis at a range of regional fisheries meetings. A face to face meeting between Andrew Hurd (IUCN) and the Project Coordinator took place in the margins of the Third Global Oceans Policy held at Paris in January 2006.
Activity 3.4.2.2. Conclude FFA/SPC and FFA/IUCN Letters of Agreement (LOAs).	Letters of Agreements were completed in 2005.
Activity 3.4.2.3. UNDP/FFA Consultations.	Communication with UNDP Suva is confined to intermittent email correspondence and some telephone conversations. Staffing issues at UNDP Honiara has meant that most project related queries have been directed to Suva. A number of issues have arisen and are being addressed through the UNDP Honiara office. Face to face meetings have taken place with Mr Ismael Toorawa and the Project Finance and Administration Officer in this quarter.
Output 3.4.3. Regional Steering Committee meetings and reports.	
Activity 3.4.3.1. Hold Inception Workshop.	This was held in August 2005 at the UNDP office in Suva Fiji. This workshop was attended by representatives from UNDP Suva and UNDP Honiara, UNDP/GEF Bangkok and FFA.

Activity 3.4.3.2. Hold Regional Steering Committee meetings.	The first Regional Steering Committee was held at FFA, Honiara Solomon Islands in October 2005. The next meeting of the Regional Steering Committee is scheduled for October 2006 again in Honiara. Both FFA and SPC also take the opportunity to report project progress to their governing councils. SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting took place at Noumea New Caledonia in March 2005 and FFA will report project progress to the annual meeting of the Forum Fisheries Committee and Ministerial meeting in May at Honiara, Solomon Islands.
Output 3.4.4. National Consultative Committee meetings and reports.	
Activity 3.4.4.1. Secure National Focal Point nominations.	National Focal Points for the OFM Project have been secured. A list of these can be located on the project webpage.
Activity 3.4.4.2. Support National Consultative Committee meetings.	The Project Coordinator has commenced a schedule of visits to Pacific countries to provide support for the national level activities of the project. The assistance also includes reviewing the national priorities identified by the countries during the needs assessment missions of the design of the project in 2004. A visit was made to the Department of Fisheries at Port Vila Vanuatu from 22 – 26 March 2006. The Director for Fisheries Mr Moses Amos indicated that the management body that oversees fisheries management in Vanuatu is not operational but that they hoped to revive the committee soon and matters relating to the project would form part of that bodies agenda. A template for and AWP for national level activities was completed by the Fisheries Department during the visit.
Output 3.4.5. Reports on Project implementation, workplan and finances.	
Activity 3.4.5.1. Prepare periodic financial and narrative reports.	A quarterly financial and narrative report was submitted to UNDP in January 2006. A further financial report of acquittal was also submitted at the end of February and this report represents the financial and narrative report
Activity 3.4.5.2. Prepare Annual Workplans	An initial draft AWP and budget has been prepared based on the approved project revised budget.
Activity 3.4.5.3: Prepare Annual Project Reports	No activity this quarter

8. Challenges/Issues Encountered

FFA and Project Coordination

Component two activities are being implemented at a steady rate, particularly those relating to Legal and policy reforms. The FFA has restructured recently with a number of newly recruited staff in the MSC division. This however, has not impacted overly on the delivery of activities on this sub-component.

The administrative arrangements for the project are, on the whole established. The establishment of the project webpage was slower than anticipated but is now fully operation. Some confusion remains over channels of communication with the UNDP appointed country office and consideration is being given to improving communications between the PCU and UNDP.

SPC
None

IUCN

1. The recruitment of an activity coordinator in Fiji to handle on-the-ground planning and coordination for the IUCN-led seamount cruises has been delayed for two reasons: i) the cruise itself has been delayed; and ii) we had hoped to have the new IUCN Oceania Regional Office up and running before recruiting. This has meant that coordination is being done from IUCN HQ in Switzerland.

2. We do not have a budget line for travel under the first Component, even though we are doing quite a bit of traveling in this planning stage. This is primarily due to a previous misunderstanding on our part that the IUCN-led activities would be split across two components and an underestimation of the amount and cost of travel required.

9. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)**FFA and Project Coordination**

Overall the progress of implementing project activities is satisfactory. Communications between FFA and the co-executing agencies SPC and IUCN are good. Discussions with UNDP-Honiara have taken place to clarify a number of administrative and financial uncertainties.

SPC

None

IUCN

1. Given that the pace of ii) is beyond our control, we will begin recruitment as soon as we know the exact dates of the cruises (decision expected June 2006).

2. None applied thus far (see below).

10. Recommendations for Future Action**FFA and Project Coordination****SPC**

None

IUCN

IUCN will communicate with FFA before the next Quarterly Report to assess options for rectifying this budget line issue. Due to the fact that some key decisions will be made in Q2 2006, e.g. timing of cruises, how many scientists can be accommodated on board, more details on what equipment will be provided versus that which will need to be rented/purchased, etc. it is expected that a more realistic expenditure plan will be developed, in close collaboration with FFA.

11. Report Prepared By:

N. Barbara Hanchard, OFM Project Coordinator, FFA

Dr John Hampton, Oceanic Fisheries Programme Manager, SPC

Andrew Hurd, IUCN