

## QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Fourth Quarter 2005

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 2992

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

4. **Executing Agency:** South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) with the Pacific Community (SPC) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and natural Resources.

5. **Period Covered:** October – December 2005 (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2005)

### 6. Summary of Overall Project Progress:

Project activities for the UNDP/GEF Pacific Oceanic Fisheries Management Project have commenced in earnest in the second month of the QTR. An Inception workshop held in August 2005 in Suva allowed the individuals and organizations that will be responsible for implementing the project to discuss and clarify roles and responsibilities. Funds for the project start were received by FFA in the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of this quarter and onward transfers were made to SPC & IUCN immediately. All three organizations have commenced planned project activities but overall there appears to be under spending in the 2005 budget (1 QTR) as a result of the late start. Communication between project stakeholders is remains sound.

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

#### Activity 1

*SPC*

#### Project Administration

Recruitment of 4 positions was completed, as follows:

Fishery Monitoring Supervisor:	Ms Deirdre Brogan (from 1 Nov 05)
Fishery Scientist (Ecosystem Monitoring):	Mr Bruno Leroy (from 1 Nov 05)
Fishery Scientist (Ecosystem Analysis):	Dr Valerie Allain (from 1 Jan 06)
Fishery Scientist (Stock Assessment):	Dr Don Bromhead (from 11 Feb 06)

Efforts continued to secure co-funding for a number of project activities, including tagging and trophic structure investigations.

#### Fishery Monitoring

The FMS began planning project activities relating to development of a regional fishery monitoring template, and associated national level support. A working plan for allocation of project resources to national activities in 2006 has been developed and will be further refined during Q1 2006. The FMS and another OFP representative attended the

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<p>Regional Steering Committee meeting in Honiara in October.</p> <p><u>Stock Assessment</u></p> <p>No activities this quarter. FS (Stock Assessment) in post in February 2006.</p> <p><u>Ecosystem Monitoring and Analysis</u></p> <p>A review of lab work requirements for processing stomach contents samples was undertaken. Planning for tagging operations in 2006 began.</p>
<p><i>IUCN</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participation in Inception Workshop.</li><li>• Development of draft cruise plans.</li><li>• Travel to region (Fiji) to meet with stakeholders</li></ul> <p>Project implementation is on target. IUCN participated in the Inception Workshop held in Honiara, Solomon Islands. IUCN has prepared a draft scientific research proposal and cruise plan for its seamount work, and has distributed this draft plan throughout the region for comments. IUCN has met with its partner, DeepOcean Quest, in an effort to advance research cruise planning and start developing a communications strategy for the cruises. IUCN has met with stakeholders in the region (Fiji) to discuss the seamount work and gather information that will assist in refining the cruise plan and ensure the results of the cruise will be relevant to local and regional stakeholders.</p>
<p><b>Activity 2</b></p>
<p><i>FFA</i></p> <p><u>Legal Reform</u></p> <p>A legal planning workshop for Pacific SIDS took place in Vanuatu in November 2005. Mr. Les Clark provided professional services for the workshop. The workshop outcome determined priorities for national legal work under the UNDP GEF project for National Consultative and the Regional Steering Committees consideration.</p> <p><u>Policy Reform</u></p> <p>The 2<sup>nd</sup> Management Options Workshop funded by New Zealand was held in Oct 2005. Consultancy services were provided by Mr. Les Clark and Mr. Ian Cartwright as facilitator for the workshop which assisted Pacific SIDS to consider fisheries management work anticipated to be considered by the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the WCPF Commission in December.</p> <p>Support was also provided for Pacific Islander representation at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the WCPF Commission held at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia in early December 2005.</p> <p><u>Institutional Reform</u></p> <p>No Activity</p> <p><u>Compliance Strengthening</u></p> <p>Pacific SIDS convened at a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance workshop in Honiara in October 2005 to consider preparations for the first meeting of the WCPF Commission Technical and Compliance Committee held in December 2005.</p>
<p><i>IUCN</i></p> <p>See activity one.</p>
<p><b>Activity 3</b></p>
<p><i>PCU</i></p> <p>The first meeting of the Regional Steering Committee took place in Oct 2005. The Committee approved their terms of reference, a revised budget and the annual work plan and budgets for 2005 and 2006. The Committee also considered and accepted the Project Inception Report.</p> <p>Recruitment procedures for the two posts in the PCU and the technical position of Fisheries Management Advisor were completed in this quarter. The post of the Project is</p>

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now filled as at 29 Dec, Barbara Hanchard has been appointed. The Project Finance and Administration post is expected to be filled in the first two weeks of 2006, as is the Fisheries Management Advisor.

### 8. Challenges/Issues Encountered

<b>Activity 1</b>
<i>SPC</i> None
<i>IUCN</i> None
<b>Activity 2</b>
<i>FFA</i> None
<i>IUCN</i> None
<b>Activity 3</b>
<i>PCU</i> Recruitment of the posts that make up the PCU have occurred after the convening of the Regional Steering Committee. Funds for the project were released in October 2005 although some project activities had commenced soon after project approval in May 2005.

### 9. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)

<b>Activity 1</b>
<i>SPC</i> N/A
<i>IUCN</i> N/A
<b>Activity 2</b>
<i>FFA</i> None
<i>IUCN</i> N/A
<b>Activity 3</b>
<i>PCU</i> FFA committed to act as interim PCU to maintain the project momentum until the PCU could be established. FFA & SPC used alternative funds until the release of the 2005 budget occurred on the understanding that they would be reimbursed.

### 10. Recommendations for Future Action

<b>Activity 1</b>
<i>SPC</i> None
<i>IUCN</i> None

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<b>Activity 2</b>
<i>FFA</i> None
<i>IUCN</i> None
<b>Activity 3</b>
<i>PCU</i> None

### 11. Report Prepared By:

Barbara Hanchard, Project Coordinator

Contributions by Dr John Hampton (SPC) and Andrew Hurd (IUCN)

# 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

<b>Sub-component 1.1: Fishery Monitoring</b>	
<b>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</b>	
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.
<b>Output 1.1.2: National monitoring systems based on the regional template for integrated monitoring, customised to meet national needs</b>	
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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.
<b>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</b>	
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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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.
<b>Output 1.1.4: Training of national monitoring staff, particularly monitoring coordinators, observers and port samplers</b>	
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.
<b>Sub-component 1.2: Stock Assessment</b>	
<b>Output 1.2.1: National oceanic fisheries status reports prepared collaboratively with national scientific staff</b>	
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 <sup>th</sup> 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.
<b>Output 1.2.2: Advice to Pacific SIDS on scientific issues in the work of the Commission</b>	
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.
<b>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</b>	
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 <sup>nd</sup> 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.
<b>Sub-component 1.3: Ecosystem Monitoring and Analysis</b>	
<b>Output 1.3.1: Observer sampling and analysis of commercial fishery catches to determine trophic relationships of pelagic species in the WTP LME</b>	
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>
<b>Output 1.3.2: Collection and analysis of information on seamounts in the WTP LME</b>	
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 5<sup>th</sup> 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>
<b>Output 1.3.2: Collection and analysis of information on seamounts in the WTP LME (IUCN)</b>	
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.
<b>Output 1.3.3: Model-based analysis of ecosystem-based management options</b>	
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.
<b>Output 1.3.4: Estimates of levels of by-catch in WCPO oceanic fisheries</b>	
Activity 1.3.4.1: Review historical observer data and methodological development	Work has commenced on this activity and will continue through the 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the WCPFC Scientific Committee in August 2006.
<b>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 &amp; Bycatch Working Group, and by Pacific SIDS</b>	
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

<b>Sub-component 2.1: Legal Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.1.1: A strategy and workplan for activities on regional and national legal issues</b>	
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.
<b>Output 2.1.2 New draft laws, regulations, agreements and license conditions in line with WCPF Convention prepared and shared with Pacific SIDS.</b>	
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.
<b>Output 2.1.3. Proposals for the Commission from Pacific SIDS for legal arrangements to implement the Convention.</b>	
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
<b>Output 2.1.4. Training of policy makers and legal personnel in oceanic fisheries management legal issues.</b>	
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.
<b>Sub-component 2.2: Policy Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.2.1. National oceanic fisheries management Plans, policies and strategies.</b>	
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.
<b>Output 2.2.2. Strategies and specific proposals for the overall development of the</b>	

<b>Commission, including its Secretariat and technical programs, and for Commission conservation and management measures.</b>	
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.
<b>Output 2.2.3. Identification of possible management options for seamounts, including compliance options. (IUCN)</b>	
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.	
<b>Output 2.2.4. Training of policy makers, technical personnel and other Pacific SIDS stakeholders to increase understanding of sustainable and responsible fisheries.</b>	
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.
<b>Sub-component 2.3: Institutional Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.3.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for the reform, realignment and strengthening of national oceanic fisheries management administrations.</b>	
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
<b>Output 2.3.2. Processes for national consultation between stakeholders in oceanic fisheries management.</b>	
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.
<b>Sub-component 2.4: Compliance Strengthening</b>	

<b>Output 2.4.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for realigning and strengthening national oceanic fisheries compliance programs.</b>	
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.
<b>Output 2.4.2. Arrangements for regional coordination of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities.</b>	
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.
<b>Output 2.4.3. Strategies and proposals for regional compliance measures and programs.</b>	
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.
<b>Output 2.4.4. Training of national compliance staff, especially in inspection and VMS.</b>	
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

<b>Sub-component 3.1: Information Strategy</b>	
<b>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.</b>	
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 <a href="http://www.ffa.int/gef">www.ffa.int/gef</a> . 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.	
<b>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.</b>	
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.
<b>Sub-component 3.2: Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	
<b>Output 3.2.1. Measures of, and reports on, overall project performance and delivery, including independent evaluations of the Project.</b>	
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>
<b>Output 3.2.2. Analysis of process, stress-reduction and environmental status indicators as per the GEF International Waters Operational Strategy.</b>	
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
<b>Sub-component 3.3: Stakeholder Participation and Awareness Raising</b>	

<b>Output 3.3.1. ENGO participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.</b>	
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
<b>Output 3.3.2. Support industry participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.</b>	
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.
<b>Sub-component 3.4: Project Management and Coordination</b>	
<b>Output 3.4.1. Project Coordination Unit staffing and office.</b>	
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.
<b>Output 3.4.2. Arrangements for coordination between Implementing and Executing Agencies.</b>	
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.
<b>Output 3.4.3. Regional Steering Committee meetings and reports.</b>	
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.
<b>Output 3.4.4. National Consultative Committee meetings and reports.</b>	
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.
<b>Output 3.4.5. Reports on Project implementation, workplan and finances.</b>	
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

# 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 April to 30 June (Q2 2006)

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

The overall progress of the project for this quarter has matured significantly. The project completes nine months of operation and project administration continues to make gains in the transition to being well established. Communication between the Implementing Agency and the Project Coordination Unit at FFA continues to develop and improve with consultation. Although, the confusion over the advance request submissions has resulted in Executing Agencies being overdrawn on two occasions.

Project presentations were given at the SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting in April and the Forum Fisheries Committee meeting in May.

Efforts to focus on national level activities under the project are being progressed as are continued efforts 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 50,000
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research	AUD 400,000
University of Hawaii	USD 170,000

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

European Commission	EUR 1,500,000
US Dept of State (OESI)	USD 214,000

Unfortunately, activities and efforts to commence the work in relation one part (benthic biodiversity survey) of the output for the collection and analysis of information on seamounts in the WTP LME continues to experience delays. A reassessment of these activities will be addressed in the following quarter by IUCN and the PCU.

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

<b>Sub-component 1.1: Fishery Monitoring</b>	
<b>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</b>	
Activity 1.1.1.1: Develop	Under this activity, the OFP is developing a standard software

database and associated software	package named TUFMAN (Tuna Fishery Data Management System). Six new reports were added to the TUFMAN database during this reporting period, including a report used to reconcile logsheets with telex reports. Data entry modifications were made to screens for licensing, logsheets and reference tables. The system was installed in Tuvalu for the first time during this reporting period and updates of the system were sent to the Cook Islands, Palau and the Marshall Islands.
Activity 1.1.1.2: Develop reporting module for Commission data	This will be developed once collection procedures are implemented in-country.
<b>Output 1.1.2: National monitoring systems based on the regional template for integrated monitoring, customised to meet national needs</b>	
Activity 1.1.2.1: Support establishment and enhancement of national databases and software	The following countries were given an upgraded version of the Catch and Effort Query System (CES) in April/May: FFA, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu.
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 complete review of the port sampling programme in the port of Pago Pago, American Samoa was undertaken in collaboration with staff from NMFS, FFA and SPC during May.</p> <p>Time was spent substantially revising the monitoring support for both Tonga and Samoa. The new MOUs now include observer components and were put in place utilizing POFM co-funding resources.</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	<p>Duty travel to Palau and Tonga was conducted by the FMS during the quarter to review each country's data collection system and to identify, or establish where necessary, a National Tuna Data Coordinator (NTDC).</p> <p>An assistant NTDC position will be advertised in Palau. A job description and a draft MOU have been prepared in anticipation of this recruitment.</p> <p>The NTDC position has already been established in Tonga and funding for this position will not be required. However, computer hardware and computer services support was identified as an area which could help improve data collection and management. Further discussions will take place with Tonga regarding this support.</p> <p>The Database Supervisor traveled to Vanuatu, where (inter</p>

	<p>alia) discussions were held on the planned installation of the TUFMAN database and the MOU for the establishment of the NTDC.</p> <p>A presentation on the Fishery Monitoring Component of the project was given to the 'Heads of Fisheries Meeting', in Noumea in April.</p> <p>A draft version of the 'Regional Tuna Data Collection Template' was completed and made available for peer review.</p>
<p><b>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</b></p>	
<p>Activity 1.1.3.1: Develop and make available common data formats</p>	<p>During this quarter 70 observer workbooks, 27 observer waterproof pads and 10 waterproof port sampling pads were distributed to five countries with active sampling programmes.</p> <p>The debriefing forms were printed and made available to relevant countries. Printed copies of the longline logbook were received from the overseas printer and communication was established with a number of fishing captains who are willing to trial the logbook.</p> <p>Work continued on documenting all form change requests. The 7<sup>th</sup> Data Collection Committee (DCC) meeting has been re-scheduled for 2007, so the development of data formats will take a lower priority during 2006.</p>
<p>Activity 1.1.3.2: Hold Regional Workshops on regional and national fishery monitoring</p>	<p>No work was conducted under this activity this quarter. The first regional statistics workshop is planned to be held in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2006.</p>
<p>Activity 1.1.3.3: Distribute newsletters, webpage and other forms of information exchange</p>	<p>Resource material production continues to focus on observer needs with the Longline Observer Guide being brought through the layout stage.</p> <p>Work has started on the next edition of the newsletter – ForkLength. The intention is to make this available for publication during the next quarter.</p>
<p><b>Output 1.1.4: Training of national monitoring staff, particularly monitoring coordinators, observers and port samplers</b></p>	
<p>Activity 1.1.4.1: Organise and hold in-country observer &amp; port sampling courses and other training activities</p>	<p>A full basic observer training course was conducted in Palau, while the observer component of the Pacific Islands Fisheries Officers, course was presented in Nelson, New Zealand. A dedicated debriefing trip was also undertaken to Tonga.</p> <p>Other co-funded activities included a full basic observer training course and revision of port sampling activities for French Polynesia.</p>
<p>Activity 1.1.4.2: Regional training courses in integrated fishery monitoring</p>	<p>See activity 1.1.3.2.</p>
<p>Activity 1.1.4.3: Attach national monitoring personnel to SPC/OFP</p>	<p>There were three attachments to the SPC/OFP during the reporting period - from Tuvalu, PNG and Marshall Islands. Attachment training included (i) an overview of tuna fishery data collection, (ii) familiarisation with OFP-developed database query tools (e.g. CES) and TUFMAN, and (iii) having</p>

	the trainees sufficiently advance their National Fisheries Report in preparation for the 2nd meeting of the WCPFC Scientific Committee meeting (August 2006), using the skills obtained during the training.
<b>Sub-component 1.2: Stock Assessment</b>	
<b>Output 1.2.1: National oceanic fisheries status reports prepared collaboratively with national scientific staff</b>	
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, a National Tuna Fishery Status Report for Solomon Islands was finalised, while work on NTFSRs for Cook Islands, FSM, Vanuatu and New Caledonia (OFP-funded activity) was progressed.
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.
<b>Output 1.2.2: Advice to Pacific SIDS on scientific issues in the work of the Commission</b>	
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.
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.
<b>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</b>	
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 currently underway at SPC headquarters in Noumea. Extensive 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.
<b>Sub-component 1.3: Ecosystem Monitoring and Analysis</b>	
<b>Output 1.3.1: Observer sampling and analysis of commercial fishery catches to determine trophic relationships of pelagic species in the WTP LME</b>	

<p>Activity 1.3.1.1: Collect observer-based sampling data, especially – stomach contents, tissue samples</p>	<p>24 samples of stomachs, muscle and liver have been collected during an longline observer trip.</p> <p>The sampling strategy and work-plan report had to be postponed but will be finalized and sent to PICT observer programmes in July; it will also be presented as an Information Paper in the Ecosystems and Bycatch Specialist Working Group of the second Scientific Committee of the WCPFC in August 2006. Biological sampling should start next quarter.</p>
<p>Activity 1.3.1.2: Lab-based analysis of samples</p>	<p>Lab-based analysis of samples is continuing. A second lab assistant has been contracted for a 6 month period to help with stomach content analysis. During the quarter, 433 stomach contents have been examined and about 90 % of the information has been entered into the data base.</p> <p>The prey item reference collection was augmented and now contains more than 600 specimens from about 110 families.</p> <p>With specimens collected from the New Caledonia longline fleet, the feasibility of conducting a growth study on albacore using otolith seasonal structures was assessed. A lab assistant will be contracted for a 8 month period (using co-funded sources) to collect and analyse the otoliths required for the study</p> <p>Isotopes of 350 samples have been analysed and entered into the database.</p>
<p><b>Output 1.3.2: Collection and analysis of information on seamounts in the WTP LME</b></p>	
<p><b>SPC</b></p>	
<p>Activity 1.3.2.1: Hold seamount activity planning and review workshops</p>	<p>The Report of the Seamount Research Planning Workshop held at SPC Headquarters on the 20-21 March 2006 has been produced and distributed to the participants for comments. The report will be finalised next quarter and provided as an Information Paper in the Ecosystems and Bycatch Specialist Working Group of the second Scientific Committee of the WCPFC in August 2006. The main results of this workshop were presented during the GEF session of the 5<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting in Noumea in March-April 2006. A popular article on this workshop has been published in the SPC Fisheries Newsletter Jan-Mar 2006, vol. 116 (33-35) and on the project web site.</p>
<p>Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts</p>	<p>As recommended during the Seamount Planning Workshop the screening of seamount location datasets to establish a more accurate list of seamounts and positions has started and 62% of the seamounts that can potentially be validated have been screened. The seamount positions of the Kitchingman and Lai (2004) dataset have been compared with 17 other sources of data. The Kitchingman and Lai dataset has been validated (+ or -) and complementary information added. All datasets are being incorporated into a GIS. Establishing this database is a prerequisite to the analysis of fisheries and oceanographic data.</p>
<p>Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis</p>	<p>Preparations for the co-funded PNG tagging project continued during the quarter. Agreement has been reached to charter a pole &amp; line vessel, <i>Soltai 6</i>, from the Solomon Taiyo fishing company. After some necessary modifications, the boat should be ready to start the tagging campaign in mid-august 2006. Tag reward posters have been translated into 9 languages. A planning meeting has been held at SPC headquarters during</p>

	<p>the week 26-30 June. Cruise plans, tagging strategy, biological sampling and logistics were finalised during the meeting. Preparation of the vessel and scientific and fishing equipment is now underway.</p> <p>The trophic sampling strategy during the PNG tagging project has been discussed and is under preparation.</p>
Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey	No work was conducted under this activity this quarter.
<b>IUCN</b>	
Activity 1.3.2.1: Hold seamount activity planning and review workshops	<p>In mid-June, IUCN was informed that the research vessel to be provided by DeepOcean Quest (DOQ) was experiencing delays in the re-fit. Given continued delays, and an overall lack of confidence that the vessel will ever indeed sail, it has become quite clear that we can no longer count on DOQ in our plans under the OFM project - though DOQ says they remain keen to do this expedition, they cannot provide us with enough assurance of i) when the vessel will be ready to sail; and ii) when she would be available in the central Pacific.</p> <p>[Basically, hurricane Katrina continues to hinder progress, though the owners have also experienced problems with the project manager in terms of shoddy workmanship, ordering wrong pieces of equipment, etc. The owners are looking for a new shipyard and contractor and hope to continue work within the next two months. Assuming all goes well, they plan to test the vessel and submersibles in the Sea of Cortez and eastern tropical Pacific (Cocos-Galapagos corridor) in 2007. The owners are refusing to make any commitments to us or other potential partners until the vessel has been tested and is functioning, meaning that future cruise plans (e.g. our plans for the Pacific) would not be confirmed before early 2007 at the earliest (this assumes the vessel does indeed sail) and would mean the actual expedition would not occur before mid- to late-2008. While still a possibility in the long-term, we cannot dedicate further energy and resources into planning with DOQ at this point in time. If, in early 2007, we can get a written commitment to do the expedition as planned, we will proceed accordingly, but we cannot count on that happening at this point in time. We will continue to engage DOQ and press them to fulfill their original commitment to providing the vessel to the OFM project for four months to as described in the cruise proposal - we just cannot count on their ability to deliver and must develop alternative plans.]</p> <p>This will require a substantial reassessment of what types of activities are possible under the project. IUCN has employed a short-term consultant to assist Dr. Rogers in this planning, in close collaboration with SPC.</p> <p>While a major frustration that severely restricts our capability to implement the four-month expedition as planned with DOQ, IUCN is confident that alternative plans will be developed, in close collaboration with SPC and building on the workshop it sponsored in March 2006.</p>
Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts	
Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis	
Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey	
<b>Output 1.3.3: Model-based analysis of ecosystem-based management options</b>	
Activity 1.3.3.1: Incorporate	No work was conducted on this activity this quarter.

ecosystem data and information into existing ecosystem models and refinement of those models as necessary	
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.
<b>Output 1.3.4: Estimates of levels of by-catch in WCPO oceanic fisheries</b>	
Activity 1.3.4.1: Review historical observer data and methodological development	A NZ-based consultant, Dr Brian McArdle, was contracted to assist SPC staff analyse observer data for the estimation of by-catch levels. This work is currently being documented and will be presented to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the WCPFC Scientific Committee in August 2006
1.3.4.2: Estimate levels of by-catch	By-catch estimates and a preliminary ecological risk assessment for selected species will be presented to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the WCPFC Scientific Committee in August 2006.
<b>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 &amp; Bycatch Working Group, and by Pacific SIDS</b>	
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

<b>Sub-component 2.1: Legal Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.1.1: A strategy and workplan for activities on regional and national legal issues</b>	
Activity 2.1.1.1: Carry out legal and technical reviews of legal issues and national legal structures	Carried out legal and technical review for Fiji on the implications of the decisions of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the WCPF Commission. Started preliminary analysis on implications of WCPF Decisions for Tuvalu. Prepared report on the

	challenges facing the management of the region's tuna resources for the 14 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Australia and New Zealand Society of International law in June.
Activity 2.1.1.2: Hold a Regional Legal Consultation on Legal Issues, National Legal Structures and the Project strategy for legal work.	Participated in the Review Conference of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement in New York. Assisted Forum Island Countries in the preparation of joint statements to the Plenary Meeting of the Conference.
<b>Output 2.1.2 New draft laws, regulations, agreements and license conditions in line with WCPF Convention prepared and shared with Pacific SIDS.</b>	
Activity 2.1.2.1. Prepare templates of legal provisions to implement the Convention.	Prepared consultancy for the preparation of background materials for the development of guidelines to legislate for sustainable fisheries in the Pacific Islands
Activity 2.1.2.2. Undertake national legal reviews.	Assistance continued to be provided to Tokelau, Samoa and Fiji on the review of their national fisheries legislations. Contract signed with Consultant for legal reviews to be undertaken in all FFA members by October 2006. Request received from Kiribati for review of national legislations. At the time of this report, discussions are ongoing on the timing of the in-country visit to undertake the review.
Activity 2.1.2.3. Provide draft Bills, regulations, license conditions and access agreements to Pacific SIDS.	Meeting on guidelines for national fisheries legislations took place in Brisbane. Report on the meeting together with the draft guidelines is being finalised.
<b>Output 2.1.3. Proposals for the Commission from Pacific SIDS for legal arrangements to implement the Convention.</b>	
Activity 2.1.3.1. Undertake legal studies on Commission and Convention issues including non-Contracting Parties and new members.	Paper prepared on implications of Commission measures for FFA members. Papers were presented to the annual meeting of the Forum Fisheries Committee and the Parties to the Nauru Agreement.
Activity 2.1.3.2. Prepare legal briefs for Pacific SIDS for Commission and subsidiary body meetings.	FFA prepared commentary on the Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Committee. These were submitted to the Executive Director of the WCPF Commission
Activity 2.1.3.3. Hold Regional Legal Consultations.	Regional consultations on the development of model legislation convened in Brisbane from 4 -8 July 2006.
<b>Output 2.1.4. Training of policy makers and legal personnel in oceanic fisheries management legal issues.</b>	
Activity 2.1.4.1. Hold Regional Legal Workshops.	No regional workshops were held during this quarter.
Activity 2.1.4.2. Hold National Legal Workshops.	National workshop conducted in Samoa and Fiji on the implications of decisions of the WCPF Commission.
Activity 2.1.4.3. Attach legal staff to FFA and other institutions to participate in legal analyses.	Two legal attachments were organised during the quarter. The first was a Legal Fellowship for Vanuatu and the second was legal fellowship for Tonga. The legal attachment for Tonga was undertaken at the Centre for Maritime Policy at the University

	of Wollongong.
<b>Sub-component 2.2: Policy Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.2.1. National oceanic fisheries management Plans, policies and strategies.</b>	
Activity 2.2.1.1. Prepare Plans, policy and strategy documents.	<p>Planned activities for the stakeholders consultation for the Vanuatu TMP. Dr. R. Fletcher, FFA, Regional consultants trainees and Vanuatu fisheries staff are involved in this process.</p> <p>Work continues for the Cook Island TMP with assistance from Les Clark, FFA consultant.</p> <p>Work for the Palau TMP is in the planning stage in consultation with the Palau Fisheries.</p>
Activity 2.2.1.2. Support the implementation of Plans, policies and strategies.	Provision of support and advice to RMI, FSM and Palau in addressing their pressing fisheries management and development issues, such as vessels reflagging, charter arrangements and IUU fishing in accordance with WCPFC decisions and resolutions.
Activity 2.2.1.3. Undertake Plan, policy and strategy reviews.	See activity 2.2.1.1.
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 2.2.2.1. Undertake studies on Commission and Convention conservation and management issues.	On-going work. FFA and FFA consultant continues to work on analysis of management options for pacific islands input into the Commission meetings, SC2, TCC1 and WCPFC.
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.	<p>Prepare briefs for Science Committee and the Technical and Compliance meetings.</p> <p>Prepare pre-SC and TCC FFC meetings to discuss issues that are relevant to island state interests</p>
Activity 2.2.2.3. Hold Regional Fisheries Management Workshops and Consultations.	See 2.2.2.2.
<b>Output 2.2.3. Identification of possible management options for seamounts, including compliance options. (IUCN)</b>	
Activity 2.2.3.1. Undertake technical studies on management of oceanic fisheries around seamounts.	<p><i>See Component One for IUCN quarterly reporting: No activity under Component Two</i></p>
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.	
<b>Output 2.2.4. Training of policy makers, technical personnel and other Pacific SIDS stakeholders to increase understanding of sustainable and responsible fisheries.</b>	
Activity 2.2.4.1. Hold Regional Policy Consultations / Workshops.	First meeting of the Southern Tuna and Billfish Committee to discuss the working agenda for this committee that includes research program, fisheries management issues and albacore fisheries.
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. This is an on-going activity.
Activity 2.2.4.3. Present National Fisheries Management Seminars and Workshops.	On going consultation with Vanuatu, Cook Island and Palau regarding the reviews of their TMPs.
Activity 2.2.4.4. Attach Fisheries Management personnel to FFA and arrange study tours for Pacific SIDS personnel to other Fisheries Commissions.	Arrange for the training of key personnel from selected Pacific island countries to attend the train the trainers workshop in Vanuatu.
Activity 2.2.4.5. Support relevant Ministerial meetings.	Provided support for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> FFC Ministerial meeting.
<b>Sub-component 2.3: Institutional Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.3.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for the reform, realignment and strengthening of national oceanic fisheries management administrations.</b>	
Activity 2.3.1.1. Prepare a review of experience and best practices in institutional reform.	Consulted with and provided advice to Nauru on their proposed fisheries institutional reform program.
Activity 2.3.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of national oceanic fisheries management institutions.	On going work on the Nauru ISP.
Activity 2.3.1.3. Present National Institutional Reform Workshops.	No activity
<b>Output 2.3.2. Processes for national consultation between stakeholders in oceanic fisheries management.</b>	
Activity 2.3.2.1. Advise on and support national consultative processes.	Vanuatu, Cook Islands and Palau
Activity 2.3.2.2. Support strengthening of national environmental non-governmental organisations (ENGOs) and industry non-governmental organisations	Consultations with and provision of advice to Vanuatu on the issue of ENGOs and INGOs participation in the Vanuatu Fisheries Management Plan review consultation scheduled for June 2006. Same procedure was also carried out for the Cooks.

(INGOs) to empower them to participate in oceanic fisheries management.	
Activity 2.3.2.3. Support national workshops for non-state stakeholders.	Vanuatu stakeholders consultation workshop.
Activity 2.3.2.4. Arrange attachments and study tours for non-state stakeholders to learn from experience elsewhere.	No activity
<b>Sub-component 2.4: Compliance Strengthening</b>	
<b>Output 2.4.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for realigning and strengthening national oceanic fisheries compliance programs.</b>	
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.
<b>Output 2.4.2. Arrangements for regional coordination of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities.</b>	
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.
<b>Output 2.4.3. Strategies and proposals for regional compliance measures and programs.</b>	
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	The annual regional meeting for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance which includes as a prior meeting, an annual

Group of Pacific SIDS on MCS issues related to oceanic fisheries.	meeting for the coordination of aerial surveillance in the region 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.
<b>Output 2.4.4. Training of national compliance staff, especially in inspection and VMS.</b>	
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.	A Fellowship from Tuvalu undertook an attachment at the FFA Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Division. A report of the work undertaken by the Fellow is on file.

### Component Three

<b>Sub-component 3.1: Information Strategy</b>	
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 3.1.1.1. Design logos and other Project identifiers, Project Website/page and Project Document Cataloguing System.	The process to engage a communications specialist to address awareness raising activities has commenced and it is expected that work will commence on the next quarter of 2006 with the view for possible ongoing services throughout the project on a consultancy basis.
Activity 3.1.1.2. Operate the Website/page.	The OFM Project website is operational and is maintained and administered by FFA and the PCU.  Improvement in the upload of material to the webpage needs to occur.
Activity 3.1.1.3. Project information materials including CDs, papers, videos, pamphlets, newsletters, interviews, press releases etc.	No activity in this quarter (see Activity 3.1.1.1).
<b>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.</b>	

Activity 3.1.2.1. Prepare Knowledge Management Strategy.	No activity in this quarter (see Activity 3.1.1.1).
Activity 3.1.2.2. Generate Knowledge Management Components for Website/page, newsletters, and progress reports.	No activity in this quarter (see Activity 3.1.1.1).
<b>Sub-component 3.2: Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	
<b>Output 3.2.1. Measures of, and reports on, overall project performance and delivery, including independent evaluations of the Project.</b>	
Activity 3.2.1.1. Mid-term evaluation.	No activity this quarter
Activity 3.2.1.2. Terminal evaluation.	
Activity 3.2.1.3. Post evaluation (Year 8).	
Activity 3.2.1.4. Annual reviews.	Preparations for the production of the annual report for the project have commenced. This will be prepared according to formats required by UNDP and GEF and taking into account the logical framework analysis and the results identified that require verification. Reference to the UNDP Results driver need to also be taken into consideration.
Activity 3.2.1.5. Annual audit.	An audit of expenditure of project funds 2005 was submitted to UNDP. A number of shortfalls were identified by UNDP and the PCU was asked to rectify these with the engaged auditors.  After consultation with the Auditor's a revised management letter and audit report was submitted to UNDP.
<b>Output 3.2.2. Analysis of process, stress-reduction and environmental status indicators as per the GEF International Waters Operational Strategy.</b>	
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
<b>Sub-component 3.3: Stakeholder Participation and Awareness Raising</b>	
<b>Output 3.3.1. ENGO participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.</b>	
Activity 3.3.1.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with a Pacific ENGO.	The report of the consultant that will be develop a strategy to engage ENGOs in project implementation is due for submission early Q3 2006.  Visits to Suva based environmental NGOs took place in June and the consultant was accompanied by the PC to some of the organisations.
Activity 3.3.1.2. Support	The next annual session of the Commission meeting is

Pacific ENGO participation in the Commission.	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
<b>Output 3.3.2. Support industry participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.</b>	
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.	No activity this quarter
Activity 3.3.2.3. Provide information flow on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific INGOs and businesses.	No activity this quarter
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.
<b>Sub-component 3.4: Project Management and Coordination</b>	
<b>Output 3.4.1. Project Coordination Unit staffing and office.</b>	
Activity 3.4.1.1. Appoint the	Completed

Project Coordinator.	
Activity 3.4.1.2. Appoint other PCU staff.	Completed
Activity 3.4.1.3. Procure equipment and other requirements to establish the PCU.	Contribution towards the purchase of a high end printer for project use.
<b>Output 3.4.2. Arrangements for coordination between Implementing and Executing Agencies.</b>	
Activity 3.4.2.1. Preliminary UNDP/FFA/SPC/IUCN Consultations.	Concluded
Activity 3.4.2.2. Conclude FFA/SPC and FFA/IUCN Letters of Agreement (LOAs).	Concluded
Activity 3.4.2.3. UNDP/FFA Consultations.	<p>Consultations were held between UNDP-Suva and the PCU at Suva, Fiji in May. The meeting was attended by: UNDP Suva – Deputy Resident Representative, Hans De Graaff, Cecilia Pau'u, Finance and Ruth Verevukivuki, Programme Portfolio Manager</p> <p>OFM Project Coordination Unit – Barbara Hanchard, Project Coordinator and Royden Gholomo, Project Finance and Administration Officer.</p> <p>The meeting was productive in that a number of issues both administrative and financial were discussed to achieve common understandings. A record of discussion is available on file.</p>
<b>Output 3.4.3. Regional Steering Committee meetings and reports.</b>	
Activity 3.4.3.1. Hold Inception Workshop.	Concluded
Activity 3.4.3.2. Hold Regional Steering Committee meetings.	The next meeting of the Regional Steering Committee is scheduled for October 2006 in Honiara at which the PIR/APR report, revised 2006 budget, draft 2007 and reports by beneficiary countries will be discussed. A report of project progress was made to a Pre-FFC meeting held at Nadi, Fiji in June. UNDP Suva were unable to attend. FFA and SPC covered aspects of the project for which they are responsible for implementing. A report of the project is available at <a href="http://www.ffa.int/gef">www.ffa.int/gef</a>
<b>Output 3.4.4. National Consultative Committee meetings and reports.</b>	
Activity 3.4.4.1. Secure National Focal Point nominations.	A list of these can be located on the project webpage.
Activity 3.4.4.2. Support National Consultative Committee meetings.	Visits have been made to Tuvalu and Cooks Islands. Draft National Annual Work Plans were developed for the Cook Islands and Tuvalu. Discussions relating to potential areas at which the countries will seek assistance at a national level took place. Reports of these visits are on file. Early indications are that the formation of national consultative processes in countries is proving to be challenging and this is reinforced by information collected by the DEVFISH EU Domestic Industry Project. While most countries have tuna management

	committees formed during the processes to develop and implement tuna management plans many are not operational and are in the processes of being re-establish. This does not apply to all countries.
<b>Output 3.4.5. Reports on Project implementation, workplan and finances.</b>	
Activity 3.4.5.1. Prepare periodic financial and narrative reports.	A quarterly financial and narrative report was submitted to UNDP for the first quarter of 2006 at the end of March, beginning of April. While this provided financial acquittals it did not include a request for advance funds.
Activity 3.4.5.2. Prepare Annual Workplans	The approved 2006 Annual Work Plan and Budget is followed. A draft work plan and budget will be prepared for approval by the Regional Steering Committee in Oct 2006.
Activity 3.4.5.3: Prepare Annual Project Reports	The preparation of the required UNDP/GEF - PIR/APR is expected to commence in the next quarter. These will be facilitated by discussions with the UNDP/GEF Technical Coordinator during a visit to Suva in July.

## 8. Challenges/Issues Encountered

The two principle challenges faced by the project to date concern the procedures to secure in timely fashion advance requests and the delays, beyond the control of IUCN, of the arrangements to undertake the benthic biodiversity survey.

## 9. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)

Consultations with UNDP Suva have resulted in a clearer understanding of onward obligations for UNDP to UNDP/GEF and for FFA and the PCU's in aide of its role in project coordination with its co-executing agencies.

IUCN are to review and develop contingency planning for light of the delays being experience.

## 10. Recommendations for Future Action

Regular communication and consultation

## 11. Report Prepared By:

N. Barbara Hanchard, OFM Project Coordinator, FFA

Dr John Hampton, Oceanic Fisheries Programme Manager, SPC

Andrew Hurd, IUCN

## **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 July to 30 September (Q3 2006)
6. **Summary of Overall Project Progress:**

Project implementation has achieved a level of uniformity and the roll-out of activities is consistent with the approved annual work plan and budget. The exception to this is the activities relating to benthic biodiversity survey and the analysis of data collected on seamounts collected through tagging and trophic sampling. IUCN have proposed a number of options for ways in which the delay in the work involved can be progressed. Their report is to be considered by the Regional Steering Committee in October.

Increasingly, efforts to identify and secure co-financing for activities described in the project are occurring. SPC has to-date reported co-financing from a number of externalities to the project for activities relating to tagging and trophic structure investigations. These sources include, but are not limited to PNG, New Zealand AID, French Pacific Fund, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research and the University of Hawaii, with proposals under consideration from the EU and the US State Department. Discussions also took place with the Japanese Government and the Secretariat for the WCPF Commission to look at ways in which USD2m of trust fund contributions can be attributed to assisting developing member of the WCPF Commission in the areas of data collection and regulation and enforcement.

As the work of the WCPF Commission picks up momentum, the project provides every possible opportunity within its framework to assist Pacific SIDS met their obligations. The challenges before them can not be underestimated. Two regular sessions of the WCPF Committee have taken place, the second of which endorsed a series of management and conservation measures and resolutions relating to seabirds and circle hooks, sharks, overcapacity, non-target fish species, turtles, authorisation to fish, identification of fishing vessels, measures in relation to bigeye and yellowfin tuna, albacore and northern Pacific albacore. Two regular sessions of the Technical and Compliance Committee have met, the most recent being 28 September. Two regular session of the Science Committee have also met the last as recently as August this year and within the time frame of this quarterly report. All Commission meeting outcomes at available at the Commission website <http://www.wcpfc.org/>

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

**Component Two**

<b>Sub-component 1.1: Fishery Monitoring</b>	
<b>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</b>	
Activity 1.1.1.1: Develop database and associated software	The further enhancement of TUFMAN database continued during this quarter with an emphasis on direct requests from countries and follow-ups from in-country visits. The ability to add port sampling and unloading totals was added, as well as reconciliation reports to cross-check sampling data with unloading data. The TUFMAN databases for Tonga, Nauru and Marshall Islands were updated during this period.
Activity 1.1.1.2: Develop reporting module for Commission data	Assistance was given to countries to prepare their data summaries and annual catch estimates for the SC2 meeting. Peer review was also provided for the Fishery Status Reports for Niue, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, FSM, New Caledonia, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Marshall Islands, Nauru and Palau.  The Regional Tuna Data Template was completed and made available for peer review.  SPC staff participated at the WCPFC Ad Hoc Task Group [Data] Meeting in Manila in early August.
<b>Output 1.1.2: National monitoring systems based on the regional template for integrated monitoring, customised to meet national needs</b>	
Activity 1.1.2.1: Support establishment and enhancement of national databases and software	The TUFMAN database was installed and configured to meet national requirements in Nauru and Tonga. Dedicated in-country training was given to users in these countries. Amendments and further support in the use of the TUFMAN database was carried out in the Marshalls Islands.
Activity 1.1.2.2: Support establishment and enhancement of national port sampling and observer programmes	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 are aiming to run 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.  Much of the support for sampling programmes went towards PNG during this quarter. In addition to attendance at the Senior Observer Workshop, dedicated port visits were made to each of the main boarding ports over an intensive two month period to work individually with the senior observers on their debriefing skills. Meanwhile general support and advice continued for the 12 active observer programmes around the region.  Port sampling data collected from 25 port sampling sites was received, checked and feedback given to the port sampling supervisors.
Activity 1.1.2.3: Support the coordination of national monitoring programmes	Dedicated travel to Nauru, Tonga and the Marshall Islands concentrated on reviewing the national monitoring capacity and establishing each country's funding requirements. 'National Tuna Data Procedures Document's were also drawn up. These documents will help countries establish standard data collection and management procedures which will help to ensure they meet their data requirements up to and including the reporting stage.
<b>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</b>	

Activity 1.1.3.1: Develop and make available common data formats	The trial of the Longline Logbook started with the logbook delivered to Tonga and taken onboard by one fishing company. One vessel in Tonga will be asked to use the logbook over the duration of five trips.  260 observer workbook and waterproof sampling pads, 130 debriefing forms, and 15 waterproof port sampling pads were distributed to observer programmes around the region.
Activity 1.1.3.2: Hold Regional Workshops on regional and national fishery monitoring	The first 'Tuna Data Workshop' will take place at SPC in October. Work on planning and other administrative arrangements for the workshop started during this quarter.
Activity 1.1.3.3: Distribute newsletters, webpage and other forms of information exchange	The LL Observer Guide was printed, distributed and made available on line <a href="http://www.spc.int/oceanfish/Docs/Statistics/LL%20OBSERVER%20GUIDE.pdf">http://www.spc.int/oceanfish/Docs/Statistics/LL%20OBSERVER%20GUIDE.pdf</a>  Work on the Fork Length newsletter continued with completion of an article on the Marshall Islands monitoring programme.
<b>Output 1.1.4: Training of national monitoring staff, particularly monitoring coordinators, observers and port samplers</b>	
Activity 1.1.4.1: Organise and hold in-country observer & port sampling courses and other training activities	Two basic observer training course were completed in July. One took place in PNG, while the other occurred in French Polynesia with co-funding. SPC were present for the PNG Senior Observer Workshop in July.  A sub-regional debriefing workshop was held in the Marshall Islands in September. The workshop was used by the regional coordinators (SPC and FFA) to work towards a standardised approach to debriefing training in the future.
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 was one attachment from Tonga to the SPC/OFP during this reporting period Attachment training included (i) an overview of tuna fishery data collection, (ii) familiarisation with OFP-developed database query tools (e.g. CES) and TUFMAN, and (iii) database management
<b>Sub-component 1.2: Stock Assessment</b>	
<b>Output 1.2.1: National oceanic fisheries status reports prepared collaboratively with national scientific staff</b>	
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 Cook Islands and New Caledonia (OFP-funded activity) have been drafted and are awaiting final edits and approval prior to release. Work on NTFSRs for FSM, Vanuatu and Palau were progressed.
Activity 1.2.1.2: Hold In-country Stakeholder Workshops for delivery of National Status Reports	An in-country stakeholder workshop for the delivery of NTFSR was held in the Cook Islands during this quarter, and work that comprised part of the Vanuatuan NTFSR was also presented to an in-country stakeholder meeting in Vanuatu.
<b>Output 1.2.2: Advice to Pacific SIDS on scientific issues in the work of the Commission</b>	
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	Scientific presentations and advice was provided to the FFA SWG (August 2006) along with contributions to the associated brief.  Scientific presentations and advice provision to the Scientific Committee of the WCPFC (August 2006)

Working Groups	
Activity 1.2.2.2: Present scientific briefs to preparatory meetings of Pacific SIDS for the Commission	Scientific presentations and advice provision to the Management Options Workshop (October 2006) and contributions to the associated brief.
<b>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</b>	
Activity 1.2.3.1: Hold Regional Workshops on stock assessment methods and analysis of oceanographic impacts on fisheries	The first OFMP stock assessment workshop was held at SPC Headquarters in Noumea in early July 2006. The 2 week workshop provided participants with the background knowledge required to understand and interpret stock assessments and use their knowledge of stock assessment in domestic and regional decision making fora and processes. The workshop focussed on the species and assessment methods used in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Tests and surveys of participants indicated significantly increased understanding of stock assessment after the workshop. It represented an important first step towards meeting the overall stock assessment related objectives of the OFMP. Its benefits will be lost without regular follow-up workshops, and other training/attachments of fisheries staff
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	Communications with Samoa and Federated States of Micronesia fishery departments were undertaken in order to organise an attachment of fishery personnel from each department to the OFP in the coming 4th quarter, to assist in the preparation of national status reports
Activity 1.2.3.3: Train scientific counterparts in-country	No in country training took place in this quarter.
<b>Sub-component 1.3: Ecosystem Monitoring and Analysis</b>	
<b>Output 1.3.1: Observer sampling and analysis of commercial fishery catches to determine trophic relationships of pelagic species in the WTP LME</b>	
Activity 1.3.1.1: Collect observer-based sampling data, especially – stomach contents, tissue samples	The sampling strategy and work-plan report has been finalized and sent to PICT observer programmes. It was also released as an Information Paper at the WCPFC-SC2: (see <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_EB_IP6.pdf">www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_EB_IP6.pdf</a> )  Biological sampling of stomach contents and tissue samples started in several countries and samples have been received from French Polynesia (39) and collected in Solomon Islands and FSM. Observers from Samoa and Cook Islands have also recently started to collect samples. Collaboration and organisation of sampling is under discussion with Marshall islands, and Fiji.
Activity 1.3.1.2: Lab-based analysis of samples	Lab-based analysis of samples is continuing. During the quarter, 114 stomach content samples have been examined and about 95 % of the resulting data/information has been entered into the data base. The total number of stomachs examined and with data entered in the database is 2801 from 68 different species.  A lab assistant has been contracted (using co-funded sources) for a 6 month period to conduct a growth study on albacore using otolith seasonal structures. From the 274 archived samples, 70 have been prepared and analysed (daily and annual structures) and 68 already analysed samples have been re-analysed.  Isotopes of 135 samples have been analysed and entered into the database.

<b>Output 1.3.2: Collection and analysis of information on seamounts in the WTP LME</b>	
<b>SPC</b>	
Activity 1.3.2.1: Hold seamount activity planning and review workshops	<p>The seamount activity planning workshop took place during Q1-2006.</p> <p>The workshop report was released during Q3-2006 as an information paper at the WCPFC-SC2:  <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_EB_IP5.pdf">www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_EB_IP5.pdf</a> .</p>
Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts	<p>An SPC contracted consultant completed the screening of 1207 shallow seamounts from the Kitchingman &amp; Lai (2004) dataset, validating these via comparison with 20 other sources of data recovered and stored into a GIS. A final list was produced containing the position and depth of 496 validated seamounts. This represents 41% of the shallow seamounts from Kitchingman &amp; Lai 2004 datase. Note that 711 – 59% - of the potential seamounts were in fact misidentified atolls, or islands. All the data is stored in a database and a report on this work is in preparation.</p> <p>A research consultant was appointed in July for a 6 month period to examine satellite oceanographic data (sea surface temperature, chlorophyll and sea surface height) in relation to seamounts. Public domain SST and chlorophyll data are available via a web-based interface, allowing visualization and analysis at monthly intervals with a spatial resolution of 9 km x 9km. The first part of the project involved the investigation of correlations between time series of chlorophyll and SST. The analyses use a specific sampling scheme around certain shallow seamounts to see if there is any variability indicative of seamount associated oceanographic features. The preliminary results show more variability in chlorophyll levels than is apparent for SST; whether this is a localised seamount effect or a product of phytoplankton patchiness that also occurs in ocean areas will be investigated. A second approach is to use GIS software to identify with greater precision those areas around seamounts with high levels of chlorophyll, during those months of the year where chlorophyll concentration is highest, for the area between PNG and New Caledonia. Sea surface temperature and Sea Level Anomaly may also be studied using the same method.</p>
Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis	<p>The first tagging campaign of the co-funded PNG tagging project started as planned in August 2006 and is under way until mid-November 2006. To date 5,000 conventional tags (3,808 SKJ, 1,084 YFT and 108 BET) and 16 archival tags (5 YFT and 11 BET) have been released. 830 of them were released around seamounts (799 SKJ and 31 YFT). 2 conventional tags (1 SKJ and 1 YFT) have been recovered by fishing industry. Trophic sampling during the cruise resulted in the collection of 240 stomach samples (180 SKJ, 55 YFT and 5 BET) and included 15 SKJ sampled from around seamounts.</p>
Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey	<p>No work was conducted under this activity this quarter. However discussions and proposal preparation was started for a co-funded project with IRD (French Institute for the Research and Development) for a seamount sampling cruise; if accepted it will allow the completion of this activity.</p>
<b>IUCN</b>	
Activity 1.3.2.1: Hold seamount activity planning and review workshops	<p>All work under this component has been delayed due to problems with the vessel re-fit of the DeepOcean Quest. Details on options for implementing these activities can be found in the Situation Report prepared for the second OFM RSC in October 2006.</p>
Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts	
Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including	

tagging, trophic sampling and analysis	
Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey	
<b>Output 1.3.3: Model-based analysis of ecosystem-based management options</b>	
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	The Ecological Risk Assessment proposed several indicators of species susceptibility and productivity that may be used to evaluate ecosystem-based management options (see Activity 1.3.5.1).
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.
<b>Output 1.3.4: Estimates of levels of by-catch in WCPO oceanic fisheries</b>	
Activity 1.3.4.1: Review historical observer data and methodological development	SC 2 working papers prepared and presented: <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP3.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP3.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_WP1.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_WP1.pdf</a>
1.3.4.2: Estimate levels of by-catch	SC 2 working paper prepared and presented: <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP1.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP1.pdf</a>
<b>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 &amp; Bycatch Working Group, and by Pacific SIDS</b>	
Activity 1.3.5.1: Present results of ecosystem analysis to the Commission through the Ecosystem & Bycatch Working Group	A preliminary Ecological Risk Assessment was carried out and presented to SC2: <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_EB_WP1.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_EB_WP1.pdf</a> This work was well received by the SC, which recommended that in the Commission provide funding in order to progress this work through 2007/8.
Activity 1.3.5.2: Present info on national & regional implications of results of ecosystem analysis to Pacific SIDS	Training was provided to representatives of Pacific SIDS through the Stock Assessment Workshop and briefings on ecosystem analysis were prepared for FFA representatives at SC2.
Activity 1.3.5.3: Attach national technical staff to SPC/OFP and other institutions to participate in ecosystem analysis	There were no attachments at SPC-OFP during this quarter.

## Component Two

<b>Sub-component 2.1: Legal Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.1.1: A strategy and workplan for activities on regional and national legal issues</b>	
Activity 2.1.1.1: Carry out legal and technical reviews of legal issues and national legal structures	See Activity 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.2.2.
Activity 2.1.1.2: Hold a Regional Legal Consultation on Legal Issues, National Legal Structures and the Project strategy for legal work.	As a Project Strategy for Legal work, a legal consultant has been engaged to draft guidelines for fisheries legislation, which are to be used for any legislative review. This consultant's final report is due in mid-October.
<b>Output 2.1.2 New draft laws, regulations, agreements and license conditions in line with WCPF Convention prepared and shared with Pacific SIDS.</b>	
Activity 2.1.2.1. Prepare templates of legal provisions to implement the Convention.	One of the outputs of the WCPF Convention workshops, if the member country requests, is to draft legislation to address any gaps in the current laws. To date, no such requests have been made. However, it is expected that as we undertake more of these workshops that we will start getting such requests.
Activity 2.1.2.2. Undertake national legal reviews.	See Activity 2.1.1.2. All legislative reviews are on hold until the receipt of the consultant's report so that such guidelines are incorporate into any legislative review.
Activity 2.1.2.3. Provide draft Bills, regulations, license conditions and access agreements to Pacific SIDS.	See Activity 2.1.2.2.
<b>Output 2.1.3. Proposals for the Commission from Pacific SIDS for legal arrangements to implement the Convention.</b>	
Activity 2.1.3.1. Undertake legal studies on Commission and Convention issues including non-Contracting Parties and new members.	See 2.1.1.2. A small working group met in July to discuss the draft guidelines for fisheries legislation.
Activity 2.1.3.2. Prepare legal briefs for Pacific SIDS for Commission and subsidiary body meetings.	Contributions were made to the brief for the Pac SIDS for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Technical and Compliance Committee meeting held in September, and advice was provided to member countries at the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Scientific Committee meeting.
Activity 2.1.3.3. Hold Regional Legal Consultations.	Legal advise and contributions to the sub-regional consultations with tuna industries have been made.
<b>Output 2.1.4. Training of policy makers and legal personnel in oceanic fisheries management legal issues.</b>	
Activity 2.1.4.1. Hold Regional Legal Workshops.	FFA and FAO co-sponsored a regional workshop in Fiji on Port States Enforcement in August.
Activity 2.1.4.2. Hold National Legal Workshops.	Three workshops relating to the obligations under the WCPF Convention and the Commission's decisions were held in August and September. Such workshops were in the Cook Islands, PNG and Vanuatu. The Cook Is. and PNG workshops were co-financed respectively with Cook Islands Ministry of Marine resources, and to a large extent, by PNG National Fisheries Authority.
Activity 2.1.4.3. Attach legal staff	FFA funded a legal attachment for the legal advisor to Tonga Ministry

to FFA and other institutions to participate in legal analyses.	of Fisheries to attend a 2-week course on law of the sea and maritime law at the Centre of Maritime Policy, University of Wollongong.
<b>Sub-component 2.2: Policy Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.2.1. National oceanic fisheries management Plans, policies and strategies.</b>	
Activity 2.2.1.1. Prepare Plans, policy and strategy documents.	Draft report on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management on the Tuna Fisheries of Vanuatu prepared.  Scoping consultation for Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management on the Tuna Fisheries of Palau was undertaken in Palau in August. (Note – this activity was not OFM Project funded but was fully funded by NZ AID.)
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
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 2.2.2.1. Undertake studies on Commission and Convention conservation and management issues.	Studies were initiated and drafts or final reports were produced on bycatch mitigation options for seabirds, turtles and issues associated with shark finning.  Studies were also undertaken on evaluation of management options for bigeye and yellowfin tuna including that relating to the management options for Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), charter vessel control, purse seine closures and albacore tuna management.  A consultancy on the WCPFC Special Requirements Fund was completed by Gillett, Preston and Associates from FFA core funding.
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.	Briefs were prepared and presented to Pacific SIDS, and extensively used by SIDS on the full range of scientific (stock-specific and ecosystem-wide), technical and compliance issues as well as institutional issues related to the establishment of the Commission considered at the WCPFC Scientific committee (SC) and Technical & Compliance committee (TCC), and a meeting of the WCPFC Ad Hoc Task group on Data. Advice on purse seine effort limitation (Vessel day scheme) was provided to SIDS.
Activity 2.2.2.3. Hold Regional Fisheries Management Workshops and Consultations.	A meeting of the FFA Science Working Group was held before the WCPFC SC. Preparations were made for a Management Options Workshop in Q4 that will draw up SIDS proposals for conservation measures relating to target species, bycatch and compliance measures to be adopted by the Commission this year. The proposals will cover catch and effort limits for target species, bycatch mitigation measures and the establishment of MVCS programmes such as VMS and observer programmes. Informal regional consultations were held on albacore management.
<b>Output 2.2.3. Identification of possible management options for seamounts, including compliance options. (IUCN)</b>	
Activity 2.2.3.1. Undertake technical studies on management of oceanic fisheries around seamounts.	Work has not begun on these activities.
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.	
<b>Output 2.2.4. Training of policy makers, technical personnel and other Pacific SIDS stakeholders to increase understanding of sustainable and responsible fisheries.</b>	
Activity 2.2.4.1. Hold Regional Policy Consultations / Workshops.	The FFA Science Working Group meeting and planned Q4 Management Options Workshop include a substantial training component on aspects of ecologically sustainable fisheries.
Activity 2.2.4.2. Offer a TSC/USP Policy Training Course.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.2.4.3. Present National Fisheries Management Seminars and Workshops.	No activity 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.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.2.4.5. Support relevant Ministerial meetings.	No activity this quarter
<b>Sub-component 2.3: Institutional Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.3.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for the reform, realignment and strengthening of national oceanic fisheries management administrations.</b>	
Activity 2.3.1.1. Prepare a review of experience and best practices in institutional reform.	Continuation of Cook Island work (Note – this activity is not OFM Project funded but is fully funded by NZ AID.)
Activity 2.3.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of national oceanic fisheries management institutions.	Preparatory work, literature reviews and interviews with professionals having worked on Nauru fisheries has commenced. A team comprising a team leader with extensive institutional strengthening experience, a fisheries management specialist and an FFA Fisheries Management Adviser will be travelling to Nauru in early November to undertake in-country consultation associated with the scoping study on institutional strengthening of Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority.
Activity 2.3.1.3. Present National Institutional Reform Workshops.	No activity this quarter.
<b>Output 2.3.2. Processes for national consultation between stakeholders in oceanic fisheries management.</b>	
Activity 2.3.2.1. Advise on and support national consultative processes.	A training workshop on the delivery of the EAFM process conducted by Dr Rick Fletcher was conducted in Vanuatu over 2 days prior to the Vanuatu Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management review consultation of the Vanuatu Tuna Fishery. This training workshop was attended by 3 fisheries managers from Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu as well as 4 FFA Officers who will all be responsible for delivery of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management process through Forum Member Countries and Territories.
Activity 2.3.2.2. Support strengthening of national environmental non-governmental organisations (ENGOS) and	ENGOS and INGOs participated in Vanuatu Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management review consultation of the Vanuatu Tuna Fishery in July 2006.

industry non- governmental organisations (INGOs) to empower them to participate in oceanic fisheries management.	
Activity 2.3.2.3.Support national workshops for non-state stakeholders.	See 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 this quarter
<b>Sub-component 2.4: Compliance Strengthening</b>	
<b>Output 2.4.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for realigning and strengthening national oceanic fisheries compliance programs.</b>	
Activity 2.4.1.1.Prepare a review of Convention implications for national compliance.	MCS Country workshops include a module by the Legal officer on WCPFC implications on national compliance (no cost to project)
Activity 2.4.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of needs to strengthen and realign national compliance programs.	MCS Managers participated in legal review Workshop to review the status of existing laws governing compliance (no cost to project)
<b>Output 2.4.2. Arrangements for regional coordination of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities.</b>	
Activity 2.4.2.1.Support regional consultations on coordination of air and sea patrols.	MCS staff participated in regional operations, (Kurukuru 06) undertaking planning and coordination of air and Sea patrols in conjunction with the Pacific Patrol boat program. Data harmonisation and integration tests of various display tools were undertaken as part of the exercise. (Project and non project funds used).
Activity 2.4.2.2.Provide advice on MCS coordination between Pacific SIDS and other states involved.	Ongoing support in terms of Niue treaty implementation and development, active advise on boarding and Inspections during multi-national and national operations (no project funds)
Activity 2.4.2.3.Prepare Niue Treaty subsidiary agreements.	Development of Niue treaty subsidiary agreements for the MCS working group meeting, 06, Brisbane.
<b>Output 2.4.3. Strategies and proposals for regional compliance measures and programs.</b>	
Activity 2.4.3.1. Undertake technical studies on compliance issues under the Convention.	Participated in the FAO Port state Measures in Suva, Fiji
Activity 2.4.3.2. Hold meetings of a Working Group of Pacific SIDS on MCS issues related to oceanic fisheries.	9 <sup>th</sup> MCS working group, Brisbane '06, 22- 27 October. Conducted MCS review and data harmonisation as well as TCC preparations for Pacific SIDS IUU Prosecutions Workshop 4 <sup>th</sup> October 06, Brisbane. Reviewing cases, legislation and experience in prosecuting IUU cases.
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.	Due to number of crosscutting issues, the 9 <sup>th</sup> MCS working group , Brisbane '06, 22- 27 October included substantial TCC preparations for Pacific SIDS
<b>Output 2.4.4. Training of national compliance staff, especially in inspection and VMS.</b>	
Activity 2.4.4.1. Present courses	Training Workshops in PNG and Vanuatu were conducted, including

on National Inspection, VMS and other national MCS training programs.	legal aspects, dockside monitoring, boarding and inspection.
Activity 2.4.4.2. Attach national compliance staff to FFA and other Pacific SIDS.	PNG official (W. Waruru) on attachment to FFA. PNG elected to cover the costs and no project funds were used in the end.

### Component Three

<b>Sub-component 3.1: Information Strategy</b>	
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 3.1.1.1. Design logos and other Project identifiers, Project Website/page and Project Document Cataloguing System.	Communication with IWLEARN was established with the view to seek some assistance with webpage management.  UNEP funded workshop on webpage management scheduled for Nairobi in November and Bangkok. OFM Project exploring possible attendance.
Activity 3.1.1.2. Operate the Website/page.	See above
Activity 3.1.1.3. Project information materials including CDs, papers, videos, pamphlets, newsletters, interviews, press releases etc.	No activity this quarter.
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 3.1.2.1. Prepare Knowledge Management Strategy.	No activity this quarter
Activity 3.1.2.2. Generate Knowledge Management Components for Website/page, newsletters, and progress reports.	No activity this quarter
<b>Sub-component 3.2: Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	
<b>Output 3.2.1. Measures of, and reports on, overall project performance and delivery, including independent evaluations of the Project.</b>	
Activity 3.2.1.1. Mid-term evaluation.	No activity this quarter
Activity 3.2.1.2. Terminal evaluation.	
Activity 3.2.1.3. Post evaluation (Year 8).	
Activity 3.2.1.4. Annual reviews.	The preparation of the first annual report of the project was undertaken using the required GEF/UNDP formats for project implementation review and an annual performance review. The report has been largely prepared by the PC, although sections that require access to the UNDP ATLAS database are to be completed by the Implementing Agency. The report only covers a 9 month period from 1 October 2005 to 30 June 2006 and is expected to be placed before the 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Regional Steering Committee on 10 October. At the time of writing this report the RSC2 had been postponed due to safety concerns in Honiara and revised dates are not yet known
Activity 3.2.1.5. Annual audit.	No activity this quarter however the auditors will be approach early next quarter to contract services for the 2006 Audit.
<b>Output 3.2.2. Analysis of process, stress-reduction and environmental status indicators as per the GEF International Waters Operational Strategy.</b>	
Activity 3.2.2.1. Carry out baseline	No activity this quarter

studies to measure IW indicators.	
Activity 3.2.2.2. Include indicator measures in progress reports.	No activity this quarter
<b>Sub-component 3.3: Stakeholder Participation and Awareness Raising</b>	
<b>Output 3.3.1. ENGO participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.</b>	
Activity 3.3.1.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with a Pacific ENGO.	A draft co-financing agreement as prepared by the consultant is to be presented to the RSC2. It is expected that this will be completed as soon as it has been endorsed.
Activity 3.3.1.2. Support Pacific ENGO participation in the Commission.	See above
Activity 3.3.1.3. Provide information on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific ENGOs.	Two Regional ENGOs participated in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> regular session of the Technical and Compliance Committee for the Commission in late September 2006.
Activity 3.3.1.4. Hold national and regional Workshops for ENGOs.	These workshops are provided for in the draft co-financing agreement which will be co-ordinated by WWF SPO
Activity 3.3.1.5. Produce information materials to raise public awareness on oceanic fisheries management issues.	This is provided for in the draft co-financing agreement which will be co-ordinated by WWF SPO
Activity 3.3.1.6. Organise regional and national fora on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues for civil society participation.	This is provided for in the draft co-financing agreement which will be co-ordinated by WWF SPO
<b>Output 3.3.2. Support industry participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.</b>	
Activity 3.3.2.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with Pacific INGO.	The Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association has yet to hold a first annual meeting to elect office bearers. A consultant has been appointed to draw up a corporate plan and other founding documents. It is expected that their inaugural meeting will take place in Nadi in February 2007.
Activity 3.3.2.2. Support Pacific INGO participation in the Commission.	Support will be provided for attendance at the Management Options Workshop and the 3 <sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission to be held at Apia, Samoa in December 2006.
Activity 3.3.2.3. Provide information flow on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific INGOs and businesses.	PITIA has observer status at Commission meetings. Communication links with the interim executive for the PITIA is established and maintained on matters relating to the Commission.
Activity 3.3.2.4. Support Pacific INGO consultations on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues.	Support will be provided for PITIA consultations on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues in February 2007.
<b>Sub-component 3.4: Project Management and Coordination</b>	
<b>Output 3.4.1. Project Coordination Unit staffing and office.</b>	
Activity 3.4.1.1. Appoint the Project Coordinator.	Completed

Activity 3.4.1.2. Appoint other PCU staff.	Completed
Activity 3.4.1.3. Procure equipment and other requirements to establish the PCU.	Completed
<b>Output 3.4.2. Arrangements for coordination between Implementing and Executing Agencies.</b>	
Activity 3.4.2.1. Preliminary UNDP/FFA/SPC/IUCN Consultations.	Completed
Activity 3.4.2.2. Conclude FFA/SPC and FFA/IUCN Letters of Agreement (LOAs).	Completed
Activity 3.4.2.3. UNDP/FFA Consultations.	Completed
<b>Output 3.4.3. Regional Steering Committee meetings and reports.</b>	
Activity 3.4.3.1. Hold Inception Workshop.	Completed
Activity 3.4.3.2. Hold Regional Steering Committee meetings.	The second meeting of the Regional Steering Committee was scheduled for 10 October 2006. Concerns for safety in Honiara have resulted in the last minute postponement. The meeting is rescheduled and expected to be held at Nadi, Fiji on Saturday 21 October.
<b>Output 3.4.4. National Consultative Committee meetings and reports.</b>	
Activity 3.4.4.1. Secure National Focal Point nominations.	Completed.
Activity 3.4.4.2. Support National Consultative Committee meetings.	Three National Project reports have been received from FSM, the Cook Islands and Tonga.
<b>Output 3.4.5. Reports on Project implementation, workplan and finances.</b>	
Activity 3.4.5.1. Prepare periodic financial and narrative reports.	The 2006 Financial Report has been prepared for the second meeting of the Regional Steering Committee in October 2006. It contains the 2005 Financial Report (Acquittal), an interim 2006 financial report, a revised 2006 financial report and a draft AWP and Budget for 2007.
Activity 3.4.5.2. Prepare Annual Work plans	A draft AWP and Budget 2007 has been prepared for the approval of the second meeting of the Regional Steering Committee in October 2006.
Activity 3.4.5.3: Prepare Annual Project Reports	The PIR/APR has been prepared in consultation with UNDP Suva. This is expected to be presented to the RSC2.

## 8. Challenges/Issues Encountered

### *General*

- i) Enhanced methods to provide training and effective and efficient capacity building activities. The capacity to absorb training opportunities is complicated by the saturation of meetings, workshops etc and the small size of most national administrations;
- ii) Data summaries and other national reports due for submission to the Commission;
- iii) Reports on implementation of resolutions and conservation and management measures

### *Project Coordination*

- i) Delays in IUCN work relating to Seamounts;
- ii) Postponement of the RSC2 due to safety concerns in Honiara;
- iii) Limited discussion on the requirements for the annual project reporting;
- iv) Misplacement of quarterly reports

## 9. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)

### *General*

- i) Investigating solutions to enhance training opportunities, including IT options;
- ii) Assistance provided by SPC to help countries meet their data submission obligations;
- iii) An assessment of how well Pacific SIDS are able to meet the submission demands for data summaries and other reports required by the Commission should be able to be assessed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> regular session of the Commission scheduled in December in Apia, Samoa.

### *Project Coordination*

- i) Options paper to look for a way forward for the IUCN work related to seamounts;
- ii) RSC2 rescheduled to take place in Nadi, Fiji on 21 October;
- iii) Encourage opportunities for increased discussion and direct for the preparation of the annual report and other monitoring and evaluation requirements
- iv) PCU to present reports to UNDP HIR both electronically and in hard copy. All reports are to be signed and returned to the PCU. A complete inventory of reports to date have been produced to date in hard copy have been delivered to UNDP HIR for onward transmission to UNDP Suva.

## 10. Recommendations for Future Action

None

## 11. Report Prepared By:

N. Barbara Hanchard – OFM Project Coordinator  
Dr John Hampton – SPC  
Andrew Hurd - IUCN

## 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 October 2006 to 31 December 2006
6. **Summary of Overall Project Progress:**

This project report covers the last quarter of 2007, the end of which represents 15 months of project operations. Project implementation continues to maintain a level of uniformity and the roll-out of activities is consistent with the approved annual work plan and budget. The exception to this remains the activities relating to benthic biodiversity survey, the analysis of data on seamounts collected through tagging and trophic sampling and the policy work that would involve from the science. The delay in this area of the project was considered by the second regional Steering Committee meeting which met at Nadi, Fiji in October. The Committee agreed to allow IUCN to determine which of the options presented the best way forward for this work was. IUCN expects to make a decision by 28 February 2007.

In terms of co-financing, the exchange of correspondence with the Japanese Government and the WCPF Commission Secretariat concerning the application of USD2m of trust fund to assist developing members of the WCPF Commission in the areas of data collection and regulation and enforcement continued.

The WCPFC meeting agenda in the later part of 2006 remains burdensome for small Pacific Island fisheries administrations. Cumulating in the third session of the WCPFC Commission in December 2006, the preceding WCPFC meetings included a second session of the Commission Science Committee in August, and a second session of the Technical and Compliance Committee at Brisbane in October. All Commission meeting outcomes are available at the Commission website <http://www.wcpfc.org/>

Project coordination and management continues to operate with both achievements and challenges. The successful conclusion of the second Regional Steering Committee despite the need to change venues last minute due to political unrest in Honiara can be counted positively. The meeting did highlight however the need to promote project activities at national level and the weakness in communication between the Implementing Agency and the PCU, particularly concerning financial matters. The presence of an IUCN representative at RSC2 would have been beneficial and with the establishment of an office in Suva, Fiji is anticipated that IUCN will have a physical presence at future Committee meetings.

Professionals at SPC-OFP charged with implementation of component one comment that *"The administration demands of this project, in particular the need for monthly financial reporting, on SPC-OFP resources continue to be high and insufficiently resourced by the project."* This is a view that is shared by the PCU. The suggestions to provide monthly financial reports are inefficient and impact on the delivery of other project activities.

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

Specific outputs and results achieved under the project against quarterly work plans are reported in the following spreadsheets.

## Component One

<b>Sub-component 1.1: Fishery Monitoring</b>	
<b>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</b>	
Activity 1.1.1.1: Develop database and associated software	<p>Several changes were made to the TUFMAN and CES systems. The main addition to TUFMAN database this quarter was the inclusion of a new mapping module. Used in conjunction with MAPINFO software, TUFMAN now has the ability to display entered positions on small or large scale maps.</p> <p>A review of work to be undertaken on TUFMAN during 2007 was undertaken in November 2006, after consulting with NTDCs during the October Workshop. A schedule for future development work was put in place by the three main developers documenting the work they hope to achieve with TUFMAN during the earlier part of 2007.</p>
Activity 1.1.1.2: Develop reporting module for Commission data	The design of the WCPFC reporting module was progressed during this quarter and a dedicated form developed in the TUFMAN system. The design of the proposed form for the inclusion of the WCPFC Vessel Record data into the TUFMAN system was also completed. The main development work on this module is expected to be undertaken in the first half of 2007.
<b>Output 1.1.2: National monitoring systems based on the regional template for integrated monitoring, customised to meet national needs</b>	
Activity 1.1.2.1: Support establishment and enhancement of national databases and software	<p>The TUFMAN databases for Palau and Tuvalu were updated to version 2.5 during this period.</p> <p>In-country training was given in PNG for personnel using the observer viewer package.</p>
Activity 1.1.2.2: Support establishment and enhancement of national port sampling and observer programmes	This quarter was essentially a period of consolidation with further testing and fine-tuning of debriefing tools (forms and systems of observer evaluation) and provision of detailed feedback to trainee debriefers. In particular, debriefing work was carried out by SPC staff in Fiji and Tonga with the primary aim of fast-tracking experienced observers to become in-country observer debriefers. Both countries have made significant progress with their observer programmes with the aid of OFP support during the past year.
Activity 1.1.2.3: Support the coordination of national monitoring programmes	Dedicated travel to Niue and Tuvalu concentrated on reviewing both countries national monitoring capacity and establishing their funding requirements under GEF. Both during and following these trips considerable time was put into editing the 'National Tuna Data Procedures Documents' (NTDPD) for both countries. An additional in-country visit was made to PNG with emphasis on the transfer of collected data to SPC and a review of the completeness of the data collection system. The NTDPD was also progressed during this time.
<b>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</b>	
Activity 1.1.3.1: Develop and make available common data formats	<p>The trial of the Longline Logbook continued with logbooks sent to the National Tuna Data Coordinators in Fiji and PNG to help with the distribution and supervision of the trial on vessels in these countries.</p> <p>190 observer workbook and waterproof sampling pads, 60 debriefing forms, 20 waterproof port sampling pads and 10 pads of industry forms were distributed to monitoring programmes around the region.</p>
Activity 1.1.3.2: Hold Regional Workshops on regional and national	The first 'Tuna Data Workshop' took place at the end of October. A lot of the planning and preparation for this workshop took precedent over other work during the month of October. The workshop concentrated on the collection and

fishery monitoring	<p>management of data and covered areas such as the types of data to be collected and common problems encountered with data collection. It is hoped that further workshops will concentrate on the dissemination of data. As mentioned under activity 1.1.3.3 the report of the workshop has already been distributed to participants.</p> <p>There were 26 participants to this one week workshop and 17 of these were directly funded by the GEF project, the others were funded by other co-funding projects or self-funded.</p>
Activity 1.1.3.3: Distribute newsletters, webpage and other forms of information exchange	<p>Information distribution concentrated on compiling and circulating the information gathered before and during the TDW-1. A CD containing the presentations made at the workshop was handed to all participants. The results of the group question and answer sessions which contain valuable reference material for dealing with in-country problems are also available on the CD.</p> <p>The report of the workshop was completed and the final draft copy circulated to all participants for comments. It will be made available on the project web site once those comments have been received.</p> <p>Work continued on the purse-seine observer guide. It is now ready for peer review.</p>
<b>Output 1.1.4: Training of national monitoring staff, particularly monitoring coordinators, observers and port samplers</b>	
Activity 1.1.4.1: Organise and hold in-country observer & port sampling courses and other training activities	<p>There was no observer training during this quarter and training efforts were confined to direct debriefing of observers by OFP staff and to training of potential in-country debriefers, mainly in Fiji and Tonga.</p>
Activity 1.1.4.2: Regional training courses in integrated fishery monitoring	<p>See activity 1.1.3.2.</p>
Activity 1.1.4.3: Attach national monitoring personnel to SPC/OFP	<p>There was one attachment from PNG to the statistics and monitoring section of the OFP during this reporting period. Attachment training included (i) General overview of regional data collection, (ii) Advanced training using the MS EXCEL, (iii) Training in Observer Trip View System, and (iv) Training in MapInfo</p> <p>There were also two attachments to the stock assessment section from Vanuatu and FSM which were funded by GEF. Time, when available, was spent with these attachments discussing the present state of their national fishery monitoring systems and suggesting improvement and future work schedules.</p>
<b>Sub-component 1.2: Stock Assessment</b>	
<b>Output 1.2.1: National oceanic fisheries status reports prepared collaboratively with national scientific staff</b>	
Activity 1.2.1.1: Prepare 6 National Oceanic Fisheries Status Reports annually	<p>This is an activity that benefits from significant co-funding. During the quarter, National Tuna Fishery Status Reports for Cook Islands and New Caledonia (OFP-funded activity) were finalised. Work on NTFSRs for FSM, Vanuatu and Palau were progressed.</p>
Activity 1.2.1.2: Hold In-country Stakeholder Workshops for delivery of National Status Reports	<p>Outputs from the Palau NTFSR were presented at an in-country stakeholder workshop, while OFP scientists met with New Caledonian fisheries officers to go over the draft NTFSR for New Caledonia prior to finalisation (a co-funded activity).</p>
<b>Output 1.2.2: Advice to Pacific SIDS on scientific issues in the work of the Commission</b>	
Activity 1.2.2.1: Provide contributions to briefs on	<p>Scientific presentations and advice were provided to the Management Options</p>

scientific issues for Pacific SIDS for meetings of the Commission, the Scientific Committee and Science Working Groups	Workshop (October 2006) along with contributions to the associated brief. Scientific presentations and advice were provided to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (December, 2006) along with significant contributions to the associated brief from the Scientific Committee
Activity 1.2.2.2: Present scientific briefs to preparatory meetings of Pacific SIDS for the Commission	Scientific presentations and advice provision to the Management Options Workshop (October 2006) and contributions to the associated brief.
<b>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</b>	
Activity 1.2.3.1: Hold Regional Workshops on stock assessment methods and analysis of oceanographic impacts on fisheries	A 2-day planning meeting was held (December 2006) to determine the timing, structure and content of stock assessment associated capacity building exercises (e.g. Stock Assessment Workshops) in 2007. The meeting concluded that additional components to stock assessment capacity building would be added to strengthen the understanding and use of stock assessments by SIDS in 2007.
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	Attachments of technical fisheries officers from both Vanuatu (November 2006) and Federated States of Micronesia (December 2006) were hosted by the OFP, to assist in the preparation of NTFSRs for both countries. Both attachments resulted in the fisheries officers producing drafts of chapters to be included in the final report, as well as allowing for some training in data manipulation, review and analyses (e.g. using GIS).
Activity 1.2.3.3: Train scientific counterparts in-country	Planning for training of the scientific counterpart in FSM was undertaken, to coincide with NTFSR consultation visit by OFP scientist in February 2007
<b>Sub-component 1.3: Ecosystem Monitoring and Analysis</b>	
<b>Output 1.3.1: Observer sampling and analysis of commercial fishery catches to determine trophic relationships of pelagic species in the WTP LME</b>	
Activity 1.3.1.1: Collect observer-based sampling data, especially – stomach contents, tissue samples	Biological sampling of stomach contents and tissue samples started in several countries and samples have been received from FSM (11) and Cook Islands (34) (the latter collected in Samoa). Observers from FSM and Marshall Islands have also recently started to collect samples (December 2006). Organisation of sampling is under discussion with Solomon Islands and Fiji. An overview of the sampling completed in 2006 is in preparation and will be sent to countries in January 2007.
Activity 1.3.1.2: Lab-based analysis of samples	Lab-based analysis of samples is continuing. During the quarter, 234 stomach contents samples were examined and the resulting data/information entered into the database. The total number of stomachs examined and with data entered is now 2,999 samples from 68 different species. In addition, 354 tissue samples have been sent to the University of Hawaii for isotope analysis.
<b>Output 1.3.2: Collection and analysis of information on seamounts in the WTP LME</b>	
<b>SPC</b>	
Activity 1.3.2.1: Hold seamount activity planning and review workshops	This activity was completed during Q1-2006 and Q3-2006.
Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns	Two reports have been completed during this quarter by contracted consultants: The first report relates to the validation of the seamount dataset in the western and central Pacific region and concerns mainly seamounts shallower than 600

around seamounts	<p>m depth. The final dataset provides a list of 975 seamounts for which presence, position and sometimes depth and other characteristics have been validated by several sources of information. Screening of deeper seamounts and a proper classification of shallow underwater features such as reefs and banks is still required.</p> <p>The second report relates to the examination of satellite oceanographic data (sea surface temperature, chlorophyll and sea surface height) in relation to seamounts using correlations and GIS methods. This work will continue in Q1 2007.</p>
Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis	<p>The first tagging campaign of the co-funded PNG tagging project was completed on 12 November 2006. A total of 22,314 fish have been tagged included 13,935 skipjack, 7,804 yellowfin and 562 bigeye tuna. From these fish 73 have also been tagged with an archival tag and 46 with a sonic tag. 1,679 tagged fish have been released around seamounts. To date, about 9.5 % of the tagged fish have been recaptured including 11 archival tags. Trophic sampling during the cruise resulted in the collection of 860 stomach samples (475 skipjack, 319 yellowfin and 28 bigeye tuna) and included 93 fish sampled around seamounts. A debriefing meeting was held at SPC at the end of November, producing a cruise 1 summary report and a cruise 2 plan (<a href="http://www.spc.int/oceanfish/html/tag/RTTP2/pdf/Cruise1_summary_report.pdf">http://www.spc.int/oceanfish/html/tag/RTTP2/pdf/Cruise1_summary_report.pdf</a>). Cruise 2 is planned to start on 19 February 2007.</p>
Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey	<p>No work was conducted under this activity this quarter. However as a follow-up of Activity 1.3.2.1. a project proposal has been prepared in collaboration with IRD (French Institute for the Research and Development) to conduct a co-funded scientific cruise in 2008 in the Bismarck Sea (PNG) to study the influence of seamounts on benthic and pelagic ecosystems; if accepted it will allow the completion of this activity.</p>
<b>IUCN</b>	
Activity 1.3.2.1: Hold seamount activity planning and review workshops	
Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts	
Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis	
Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey	
<b>Output 1.3.3: Model-based analysis of ecosystem-based management options</b>	
Activity 1.3.3.1: Incorporate ecosystem data and information into existing ecosystem models and refinement of those models as necessary	<p>Contacts have been established with 5 specialists who have agreed to participate to an ecosystem modelling workshop in March 2007 to balance Ecopath models of the western and central Pacific and to compare it to other existing models.</p>
Activity 1.3.3.2: Use enhanced models and	<p>The Ecological Risk Assessment presented to SC 2 proposed several indicators of species susceptibility and productivity that may be used to evaluate</p>

data to assess ecosystem-based management options	ecosystem-based management options (see Activity 1.3.5.1).
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.
<b>Output 1.3.4: Estimates of levels of by-catch in WCPO oceanic fisheries</b>	
Activity 1.3.4.1: Review historical observer data and methodological development	No further work was conducted in Q4. SC 2 working papers were prepared and presented: <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP3.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP3.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_WP1.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_WP1.pdf</a>
1.3.4.2: Estimate levels of by-catch	No further work was conducted in Q4. SC 2 working paper was prepared and presented: <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP1.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP1.pdf</a>
<b>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 &amp; Bycatch Working Group, and by Pacific SIDS</b>	
Activity 1.3.5.1: Present results of ecosystem analysis to the Commission through the Ecosystem & Bycatch Working Group	A preliminary Ecological Risk Assessment was carried out and presented to SC2: <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_EB_WP1.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_EB_WP1.pdf</a> . A proposal to further develop the approach was presented to the WCPFC Annual Session in December 2006 and funding was allocated to this work for 2007.
Activity 1.3.5.2: Present info on national & regional implications of results of ecosystem analysis to Pacific SIDS	No presentation or training was provided during this quarter.
Activity 1.3.5.3: Attach national technical staff to SPC/OFP and other institutions to participate in ecosystem analysis	There were no attachments at SPC-OFP during this quarter.

## Component Two

<b>Sub-component 2.1: Legal Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.1.1: A strategy and workplan for activities on regional and national legal issues</b>	
Activity 2.1.1.1: Carry out legal and technical reviews of legal issues and national legal structures	See Activity 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.2.2.
Activity 2.1.1.2: Hold a Regional Legal Consultation on Legal Issues, National Legal Structures and the Project strategy for legal work.	As a Project Strategy for Legal work, a legal consultant was engaged to draft guidelines for fisheries legislation, which are to be used for any legislative review. This consultant's draft report has been received, and will be sent to member countries for comment by a particular date. Thereafter, legislative reviews will re-commence; priority work for Samoa, Fiji and Vanuatu
<b>Output 2.1.2 New draft laws, regulations, agreements and license conditions in line with WCPF Convention prepared and shared with Pacific SIDS.</b>	
Activity 2.1.2.1. Prepare templates of legal provisions to implement the Convention.	One of the outputs of the WCPF Convention workshops, if the country requires, is to draft legislation to address any gaps in the current laws. To date, no such requests have been made. However, it is expected that as we undertake more of these workshops that we will start getting such requests.
Activity 2.1.2.2. Undertake national legal reviews.	See Activity 2.1.1.2. All legislative reviews are on hold until the finalisation of the consultant's report so that such guidelines are incorporate into any legislative review.
Activity 2.1.2.3. Provide draft Bills, regulations, license conditions and access agreements to Pacific SIDS.	See Activity 2.1.2.2.
<b>Output 2.1.3. Proposals for the Commission from Pacific SIDS for legal arrangements to implement the Convention.</b>	
Activity 2.1.3.1. Undertake legal studies on Commission and Convention issues including non-Contracting Parties and new members.	See 2.1.1.2. A small working group met in July to discuss the draft guidelines for fisheries legislation. The discussions of this small working group have been fed into the guidelines by the consultant.
Activity 2.1.3.2. Prepare legal briefs for Pacific SIDS for Commission and subsidiary body meetings.	Contributions were made to the brief for the WCPFC3. Other contributions have been made to the brief for the meeting of the joint tuna RFMOs in Kobe in January 2007.
Activity 2.1.3.3. Hold Regional Legal Consultations.	Legal advice and contributions to the sub-regional consultations with tuna industries have been made.
<b>Output 2.1.4. Training of policy makers and legal personnel in oceanic fisheries management legal issues.</b>	
Activity 2.1.4.1. Hold Regional Legal Workshops.	FFA and FAO co-sponsored a regional workshop in Fiji on Port States Enforcement in August.
Activity 2.1.4.2. Hold National Legal Workshops.	Three workshops relating to the obligations under the WCPF Convention and the Commission's decisions were held in August and September. Such workshops were in the Cook Islands, PNG and Vanuatu. The Cook Is. and PNG workshops were co-financed respectively with Cook Islands Ministry of Marine resources, and to a large extent, by PNG National Fisheries Authority.

<b>Sub-component 2.2: Policy Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.2.1. National oceanic fisheries management Plans, policies and strategies.</b>	
Activity 2.2.1.1. Prepare Plans, policy and strategy documents.	Second stage consultation to progress Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management on the Tuna Fisheries of Palau was undertaken in Palau in October. (Note – this activity was not OFM Project funded but was fully funded by NZAid.)
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
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 2.2.2.1. Undertake studies on Commission and Convention conservation and management issues.	<p>Consultancy studies on by-catch mitigation options for seabirds and issues associated with shark finning and harvest have been completed and distributed to interested parties. A consultancy study on by-catch mitigation options for turtles are nearing completion.</p> <p>Studies were also undertaken on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) charter vessel control and purse seine closures</li> <li>b) management options for albacore tuna and swordfish and</li> <li>c) implementation of a catch documentation scheme.</li> </ul> <p>Information from each consultancy study was incorporated into FFC policy and strategies which were utilised by FFA members at the annual WCPFC meeting.</p>
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.	An extensive brief incorporating analyses on all matters and proposals to be considered by the annual WCPFC Meeting in Samoa in December was prepared, distributed and presented to Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) via the FFC.
Activity 2.2.2.3. Hold Regional Fisheries Management Workshops and Consultations.	<p>A Management Options Workshop was held to develop positions for the WCPFC meeting on a full range of issues relating to target species, bycatch and monitoring, enforcement and surveillance for that meeting based on the studies reported under Activity 2.2.2.1 above. The Workshop resulted in a set of draft measures that became the basis for the decisions of the WCPFC when it met. FFA members presented 7 of the 10 draft measures that were put before the Commission in 2006. MOW was rescheduled from Honiara because of possible security concerns in Honiara. The MOW is fully funded by NZAid under a co-financing agreement in GEF OFP project.</p> <p>A pre-WCPFC meeting of FFA Members was held at which FFA positions were agreed for the WCPFC meeting, and training was provided to Pacific SIDS on the key issues and on presenting them in the WCPFC meeting.</p> <p>Papers on longline management, purse seine fishery closures and overcapacity were prepared and presented to a meeting of the Parties to the Nauru agreement.</p>
<b>Output 2.2.3. Identification of possible management options for seamounts, including compliance options. (IUCN)</b>	

Activity 2.2.3.1. Undertake technical studies on management of oceanic fisheries around seamounts.	Work has not begun on these activities.
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.	
<b>Output 2.2.4. Training of policy makers, technical personnel and other Pacific SIDS stakeholders to increase understanding of sustainable and responsible fisheries.</b>	
Activity 2.2.4.1. Hold Regional Policy Consultations / Workshops.	See 2.2.2.3 Rescheduled Management Options Workshop (MOW) and pre-WCPFC meeting.
Activity 2.2.4.2. Offer a TSC/USP Policy Training Course.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.2.4.3. Present National Fisheries Management Seminars and Workshops.	A consultancy to enhance the understanding of Tuvalu Government Officials of the obligations and responsibilities under the WCPFC regime and assist Tuvalu's participation at the work of the WCPFC was undertaken in November and December 2006. The work included a seminar on the WCPFC Regime including regional fisheries management arrangements, and its implications on Tuvalu. As a result of this consultancy, the performance of Tuvalu, in representing its interests and working towards the delivery of an ecological approach to fisheries management, in the deliberations of the WCPFC, was enhanced.
Activity 2.2.4.4. Attach Fisheries Management personnel to FFA and arrange study tours for Pacific SIDS personnel to other Fisheries Commissions.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.2.4.5. Support relevant Ministerial meetings.	See 2.2.2.2 Pre-Commission FFC held in Samoa in December.
<b>Sub-component 2.3: Institutional Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.3.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for the reform, realignment and strengthening of national oceanic fisheries management administrations.</b>	
Activity 2.3.1.1. Prepare a review of experience and best practices in institutional reform.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.3.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of national oceanic fisheries management institutions.	An Institutional Strengthening Review Scoping team undertook a two week exercise to Nauru in November conducting a scoping review of the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resource Authority (NFMRA). Extensive consultation was undertaken throughout the NFMRA and meetings were also undertaken with several other Government Departments and NGOs. An exit report was presented to the NFMRA on completion of in-country work. A preliminary draft report incorporating an activity feasibility study and design document to progress recommended institutional reform has been completed. It will be assessed before distribution to, and on-ground follow-up with the NFMRA.  Also see related 2.2.4.3 which provided Institutional Strengthening and

	human capacity building in Tuvalu.
Activity 2.3.1.3. Present National Institutional Reform Workshops.	See 2.3.1.2 Intensive workshops on frameworks and Institutional Reform models options and the existing situation at the NFMRA were undertaken during the in-country visit to Nauru.
<b>Output 2.3.2. Processes for national consultation between stakeholders in oceanic fisheries management.</b>	
Activity 2.3.2.1. Advise on and support national consultative processes.	See 2.3.1.2 Some discussion during Nauru Institutional Scoping Work.
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.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.3.2.3. Support national workshops for non-state stakeholders.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.3.2.4. Arrange attachments and study tours for non-state stakeholders to learn from experience elsewhere.	No activity this quarter
<b>Sub-component 2.4: Compliance Strengthening</b>	
<b>Output 2.4.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for realigning and strengthening national oceanic fisheries compliance programs.</b>	
Activity 2.4.1.1. Prepare a review of Convention implications for national compliance.	MCS Country workshops (Vanuatu) include a module by the Legal officer on WCPFC implications on national compliance (no cost to project)
Activity 2.4.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of needs to strengthen and realign national compliance programs.	MCS Managers participated in Pre-TCC Workshop to review the status of existing laws governing compliance (no cost to project) Consultancy completed by local consultant for the Cook Islands to develop an International Plan of Action for IUU
<b>Output 2.4.2. Arrangements for regional coordination of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities.</b>	
Activity 2.4.2.1. Support regional consultations on coordination of air and sea patrols.	MCS staff participated in regional operations, undertaking planning and coordination of investigations of FSM Safety at Sea (non project funds used).
Activity 2.4.2.2. Provide advice on MCS coordination between Pacific SIDS and other states involved.	Ongoing support in terms of Niue treaty implementation and development, active advise on boarding and Inspections during multi-national and national operations (no project funds)
Activity 2.4.2.3. Prepare Niue Treaty subsidiary agreements.	Development of Niue treaty subsidiary agreements after receiving inputs from the MCS working group meeting, 06, Brisbane.
<b>Output 2.4.3. Strategies and proposals for regional compliance measures and programs.</b>	
Activity 2.4.3.1. Undertake technical studies on compliance issues under the Convention.	No activity this quarter.
Activity 2.4.3.2. Hold meetings of a	Dock side boarding and inspection workshop and IUU Prosecutions

Working Group of Pacific SIDS on MCS issues related to oceanic fisheries.	Workshop December 06, Vanuatu. Reviewing cases, legislation and experience in prosecuting IUU cases.
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.	Due to number of crosscutting issues, the 9 <sup>th</sup> MCS working group , Brisbane '06, 22- 27 October develop position papers for TCC for Pacific SIDS
<b>Output 2.4.4. Training of national compliance staff, especially in inspection and VMS.</b>	
Activity 2.4.4.1. Present courses on National Inspection, VMS and other national MCS training programs.	Training Workshops in PNG and Vanuatu were conducted, including legal aspects, dockside monitoring, boarding and inspection.
Activity 2.4.4.2. Attach national compliance staff to FFA and other Pacific SIDS.	No activity this quarter.

### Component Three

<b>Sub-component 3.1: Information Strategy</b>	
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 3.1.1.1. Design logos and other Project identifiers, Project Website/page and Project Document Cataloguing System.	Progress with website/page development and maintenance has progressed at a slower pace than anticipated and will become a focussed priority in the first quarter of 2007.
Activity 3.1.1.2. Operate the Website/page.	See above
Activity 3.1.1.3. Project information materials including CDs, papers, videos, pamphlets, newsletters, interviews, press releases etc.	A second publication of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean booklets has been ordered. The demand for the booklets has been high and extremely useful.
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 3.1.2.1. Prepare Knowledge Management Strategy.	No activity this quarter. To be progressed in the first quarter of 2007.
Activity 3.1.2.2. Generate Knowledge Management Components for Website/page, newsletters, and progress reports.	No activity this quarter. To be progressed in the first quarter of 2007.
<b>Sub-component 3.2: Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	
<b>Output 3.2.1. Measures of, and reports on, overall project performance and delivery, including independent evaluations of the Project.</b>	
Activity 3.2.1.1. Mid-term evaluation.	No activity this quarter
Activity 3.2.1.2. Terminal evaluation.	
Activity 3.2.1.3. Post evaluation (Year 8).	
Activity 3.2.1.4. Annual reviews.	The preparation of the first annual report of the project was undertaken using the required GEF/UNDP formats for project implementation review and an annual performance review. The report has been largely prepared by the PC, although sections that require access to the UNDP ATLAS database are to be completed by the Implementing Agency. The report only covers a 9 month period from 1 October 2005 to 30 June 2006 and was placed before the 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Regional Steering Committee on 10 October.
Activity 3.2.1.5. Annual audit.	Communication with FFA auditors has commenced to contract services for the 2006 Audit. SPC are also required to audit project funds expended in 2006 and have made arrangements for this to be done in the first quarter of 2007.
<b>Output 3.2.2. Analysis of process, stress-reduction and environmental status indicators as per the GEF International Waters Operational Strategy.</b>	
Activity 3.2.2.1. Carry out baseline studies to measure IW indicators.	Priority first quarter 2007,

Activity 3.2.2.2. Include indicator measures in progress reports.	As above
<b>Sub-component 3.3: Stakeholder Participation and Awareness Raising</b>	
<b>Output 3.3.1. ENGO participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.</b>	
Activity 3.3.1.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with a Pacific ENGO.	A RSC2 approved co-financing agreement was concluded with WWF Pacific in this quarter.
Activity 3.3.1.2. Support Pacific ENGO participation in the Commission.	See above
Activity 3.3.1.3. Provide information on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific ENGOs.	Two Regional ENGOs (WWF and Greenpeace Pacific) participated at the 3 <sup>rd</sup> session of the WCPFC.
Activity 3.3.1.4. Hold national and regional Workshops for ENGOs.	The workshops will be progressed by WWF SPO. Due to the delay in concluding the co-financing agreement and in the absence of a formal agreement workshops are expected to be conducted in 2007.
Activity 3.3.1.5. Produce information materials to raise public awareness on oceanic fisheries management issues.	See above. To be co-ordinated by WWF SPO.
Activity 3.3.1.6. Organise regional and national fora on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues for civil society participation.	See above. To be co-ordinated by WWF SPO.
<b>Output 3.3.2. Support industry participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.</b>	
Activity 3.3.2.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with Pacific INGO.	The Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association has yet to hold a first annual meeting to elect office bearers. It is expected that PITIA inaugural meeting will take place in Nadi in February 2007.
Activity 3.3.2.2. Support Pacific INGO participation in the Commission.	Support will be provided for attendance at the Management Options Workshop and the 3 <sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission to be held at Apia, Samoa in December 2006.
Activity 3.3.2.3. Provide information flow on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific INGOs and businesses.	PITIA has observer status at Commission meetings. Communication links with the interim executive for the PITIA is established and maintained on matters relating to the Commission.
Activity 3.3.2.4. Support Pacific INGO consultations on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues.	Support will be provided for PITIA consultations on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues in February 2007.
<b>Sub-component 3.4: Project Management and Coordination</b>	
<b>Output 3.4.1. Project Coordination Unit staffing and office.</b>	
Activity 3.4.1.1. Appoint the Project Coordinator.	Completed
Activity 3.4.1.2. Appoint other PCU staff.	Completed

Activity 3.4.1.3. Procure equipment and other requirements to establish the PCU.	Completed
<b>Output 3.4.2. Arrangements for coordination between Implementing and Executing Agencies.</b>	
Activity 3.4.2.1. Preliminary UNDP/FFA/SPC/IUCN Consultations.	Completed
Activity 3.4.2.2. Conclude FFA/SPC and FFA/IUCN Letters of Agreement (LOAs).	Completed
Activity 3.4.2.3. UNDP/FFA Consultations.	Completed
<b>Output 3.4.3. Regional Steering Committee meetings and reports.</b>	
Activity 3.4.3.1. Hold Inception Workshop.	Completed
Activity 3.4.3.2. Hold Regional Steering Committee meetings.	The second meeting of the Regional Steering Committee was held at Nadi, Fiji on Saturday 21 October.
<b>Output 3.4.4. National Consultative Committee meetings and reports.</b>	
Activity 3.4.4.1. Secure National Focal Point nominations.	Completed.
Activity 3.4.4.2. Support National Consultative Committee meetings.	National Project reports were received from FSM, the Cook Islands Tonga, Solomon Islands and RMI.
<b>Output 3.4.5. Reports on Project implementation, workplan and finances.</b>	
Activity 3.4.5.1. Prepare periodic financial and narrative reports.	The 2006 Financial Report was considered by the second meeting of the Regional Steering Committee in October 2006. It contains the 2005 Financial Report (Acquittal), an interim 2006 financial report, a revised 2006 financial report and a draft AWP and Budget for 2007. The draft 2007 AWP & budget was not approved by RSC2. The Committee instructed that the PCU was to work with UNDP Suva to make adjustments to the 2007 AWP & Budget to take into account delays in the IUCN project activities. A revised draft 2007 AWP & Budget was circulated and approved by the RSC.
Activity 3.4.5.2. Prepare Annual Work plans	See above.
Activity 3.4.5.3: Prepare Annual Project Reports	The PIR/APR was completed in consultation with UNDP Suva. A GEF IW Results Framework document was completed and submitted to UNDP GEF (Bangkok)

## 8. Challenges/Issues Encountered

General comment – Targets for research work of benthic communities on seamounts in the Pacific are not being met due to reasons beyond the control of IUCN. SPC provides comment and suggestion below on a further option for the application of unspent research allocations. This problem is also applicable to the related policy work that IUCN expected to complete under component two in conjunction with the FFA. IUCN are expected to advise the status of the work on 28 February 2007.

SPC - One issue encountered concerns *Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts*. This work, particularly the description of seamounts, has proved more technically challenging than had been envisaged during the project planning. While much progress has been made, it is clear that additional resources could usefully be reallocated to this activity to allow a full analysis of fishing patterns in relation to identified seamounts, and to analyse the impact of seamounts on various oceanographic and biological productivity parameters.

FFA – Collaboration on policy advice for management options on high seas areas and seamounts at national and regional levels and the establishment of MPAs is being explored to address IUCN work programme difficulties.

## 9. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)

SPC - A suggested solution to the above problem is the application of unused funds initially allocated to IUCN to support various activities associated with the oceanographic cruise, which now looks likely to be cancelled.

FFA – Commenced discussions with IUCN on policy work.

## 10. Recommendations for Future Action

Consideration be given to reallocation of IUCN research related funds and possibly those in Component Two.

## 11. Report Prepared By:

PCU – Barbara Hanchard with assistance from Darren Cameron, Manu Tupou Roosen, Jean Gordon and Marcel Kroese.

SPC - John Hampton, with assistance from Valerie Allain, Don Bromhead, Deirdre Brogan and Bruno Leroy.

## **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 2007 to 31 March 2007

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

This project report covers the first quarter of 2007, the end of which represents **18** months of project operations. Project implementation continues to maintain a level of uniformity and the roll-out of activities is largely consistent with the approved annual work plan and budget. The exception to this remains the activities relating to benthic biodiversity survey, the analysis of data on seamounts collected through tagging and trophic sampling and the policy work that would involve from the science. The delay in this area of the project was considered by the second regional Steering Committee meeting which met at Nadi, Fiji in October. IUCN was expected to determine which of the options by 28 February 2007 but have further requested a deferment with which to report. Both the SPC and FFA have provided suggestions for the use of additional funds for activities consistent with the original intent by IUCN.

Project coordination and management continues to operate with both achievements and challenges. Negotiations for a comprehensive international standard audit for 2006 project expenditure commenced in late 2006 in preparation for an early as possible commencement in 2007.

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

Specific outputs and results achieved under the project against quarterly work plans are reported in the following spreadsheets.

## Component One

<b>Sub-component 1.1: Fishery Monitoring</b>	
<b>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</b>	
Activity 1.1.1.1: Develop database and associated software	<p>Considerable work was made on the TUFMAN system during this period to bring it up to version 3.0. The main enhancements to TUFMAN during this quarter included: the complete redesign of the reporting module to provide more reports and a more user-friendly interface, the enhancement of the Vessel Activity module, and the addition of a new module covering Vessel Trip Coverage.</p> <p>Work also began on the new TUFMAN training manual, which will be a series of computer training videos taking the users through the system step-by-step via a web-page type interface. This material will also include background explaining the connection of data management (through the database system) to the data collection systems. During this quarter, training videos for all TUFMAN reports and the Vessel Activity module were produced.</p>
Activity 1.1.1.2: Develop reporting module for Commission data	The design of the WCPFC reporting module was progressed during this quarter with the main addition of a new module for Vessel Trip Coverage. The information generated from this module will be used to determine the coverage of the different data types (i.e. logsheets, unloadings, port sampling and observer data) which will be presented in the TUFMAN reporting module.
<b>Output 1.1.2: National monitoring systems based on the regional template for integrated monitoring, customised to meet national needs</b>	
Activity 1.1.2.1: Support establishment and enhancement of national databases and software	<p>The TUFMAN databases for the Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu were updated to version 3.0 during this period.</p> <p>The CES database system, with the most up-to-date tuna fishery data, were provided to all member countries during March 2007.</p> <p>The Observer Trip View System with the most up-to-date observer data was provided to PNG during March 2007.</p>
Activity 1.1.2.2: Support establishment and enhancement of national port sampling and observer programmes	Staff travel to FSM and Palau at the end of this quarter included a review of these observer programmes.
Activity 1.1.2.3: Support the coordination of national monitoring programmes	<p>Travel to Marshall Islands and FSM included time spent reviewing their national monitoring capacity and establishing their funding requirements under GEF. The 'National Tuna Data Procedures Documents' (NTDPD) were progressed in both countries.</p> <p>In conjunction with the countries involved MOUs were put together to formalise their GEF funding requests. These MOUs covered monies for the support of an observer position in the Cook Islands and I.T. support for Nauru and Samoa.</p>
<b>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</b>	
Activity 1.1.3.1: Develop and make available common data formats	<p>The trial longline logbooks were retrieved back from Tonga. The completed logbooks were reviewed for their efficiency and 'user-friendliness'.</p> <p>A lower number of forms were requested from the countries during this quarter. Eighty debriefing forms and 35 logsheet books were distributed to monitoring programmes around the region.</p>
Activity 1.1.3.2: Hold	The next regional workshop is currently scheduled for early 2008.

Regional Workshops on regional and national fishery monitoring	
Activity 1.1.3.3: Distribute newsletters, webpage and other forms of information exchange	No activity this quarter.
<b>Output 1.1.4: Training of national monitoring staff, particularly monitoring coordinators, observers and port samplers</b>	
Activity 1.1.4.1: Organise and hold in-country observer & port sampling courses and other training activities	A basic observer training course was run in the Marshall Islands. SPC staff also undertook the pre-selection test for this course and completed the requested refresher port sampling training in the Marshalls. Observers from a number of ports around PNG were also given training in seed tagging, work they may be asked to carry out in the future.
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	The newly appointed Fisheries Statistician from PNG attended an attachment to the statistics and monitoring section of the OFP during this reporting period. Attachment training included (i) General overview of regional data collection, (ii) Advanced training using the MS EXCEL, (iii) Training and exercises in the CES Database System, and (iv) Training in MapInfo
<b>Sub-component 1.2: Stock Assessment</b>	
<b>Output 1.2.1: National oceanic fisheries status reports prepared collaboratively with national scientific staff</b>	
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, work on the NTFSRs for FSM, Nauru, Tonga, Vanuatu and Palau were progressed. Agreement for the provision of an NTFSR (starting 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter) for Kiribati was successfully negotiated.
Activity 1.2.1.2: Hold In-country Stakeholder Workshops for delivery of National Status Reports	Outputs from the Tonga NTFSR (in progress) were presented at an in-country stakeholder workshop, while OFP scientists met again with New Caledonian fisheries officers to go over the draft NTFSR for New Caledonia prior to finalisation (a co-funded activity). Presentations derived from NTFSR drafts were prepared for upcoming in-country EAFM scoping workshops being held in Nauru and FSM (in April).
<b>Output 1.2.2: Advice to Pacific SIDS on scientific issues in the work of the Commission</b>	
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	OFP staff participated in a workshop held at FFA Headquarters to review and plan management options analyses to support FFA members in WCPFC meetings during 2007.
Activity 1.2.2.2: Present scientific briefs to preparatory meetings of Pacific SIDS for the Commission	No activity during this quarter.
<b>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</b>	

Activity 1.2.3.1: Hold Regional Workshops on stock assessment methods and analysis of oceanographic impacts on fisheries	Calls for nominations and receipt of nominations for two stock assessment workshops for fisheries officers from SIDS (to be held in June/July) occurred in this quarter. Currently 16 nominations received. A one week long workshop examining the methods used to standardise fishery catch rates (which are key inputs to stock assessments) was held in February, with 3 fisheries officers from SIDS (Cook Islands, Fiji and New Caledonia (co-funding)) invited to attend as part of a training exercise to improve their understanding of stock assessment.
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	There were no attachments of technical fisheries officers from SIDS to the OFP in this quarter, although planning for upcoming attachments for Nauru and Palau was progressed.
Activity 1.2.3.3: Train scientific counterparts in-country	No activity during this quarter (FSM training delayed to April).
<b>Sub-component 1.3: Ecosystem Monitoring and Analysis</b>	
<b>Output 1.3.1: Observer sampling and analysis of commercial fishery catches to determine trophic relationships of pelagic species in the WTP LME</b>	
Activity 1.3.1.1: Collect observer-based sampling data, especially – stomach contents, tissue samples	Biological sampling of stomach contents and tissue samples continued in several countries; new samples have been collected in FSM (40) and Samoa (13). Organisation of sampling is still under discussion with Fiji and Solomon Islands. Observers were still to be contracted in Solomon Islands. A new trained observer should start sampling in Cook Islands. French Polynesia and Marshall Islands have been contacted. The second biological sampling SPC Newsletter is in preparation and will be sent to countries at the start of April 2007.
Activity 1.3.1.2: Lab-based analysis of samples	Lab-based analysis of samples is continuing. During the quarter, 140 stomach contents samples were examined and the resulting data/information entered into the database. The total number of stomachs examined and with data entered is now 3139 samples from 68 different species.
<b>Output 1.3.2: Collection and analysis of information on seamounts in the WTP LME</b>	
<b>SPC</b>	
Activity 1.3.2.1: Hold seamount activity planning and review workshops	This activity was completed during Q1-2006 and Q3-2006.
Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts	<p>Following the recommendations formulated in the report provided in December 2006, the seamount database has been reviewed. The structure of the database has been modified and the access to a major dataset on shallow underwater features used to properly classify all the shallow features. Deep seamounts have also been screened in all EEZs. Screening and validation of seamounts located in international waters areas enclosed between EEZs has begun. At the moment the database provides a list of 3095 unique features of which 331 are in fact islands, atoll or partially emerged banks and 2764 are underwater features (drowned atoll, drowned bank, seamount, guyot, pinnacle, ridge, plateau, knoll, hill, deep bank, unknown). For each feature position, depth and sometimes other characteristics have been validated by several sources of information.</p> <p>An abstract describing this work has been submitted to the GeoHab 2007 meeting on marine benthic habitats of the Pacific and Other Oceans, hosted by the Government of New Caledonia, in conjunction with the Circum Pacific Council and the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission. The abstract has been accepted for presentation during the conference in May 2007 in</p>

	Noumea, New Caledonia.
Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis	The second and final tagging campaign in PNG began on 19 February 2007 and will continue until around 20 May. As at 31 March, approximately 17,500 tuna had been tagged bringing the total project total to 40,000, well in excess of our nominal initial target of 30,000. Releases of archival and sonic tags were a focus of the work this quarter, with project totals for these tag types now reaching 173 and 211, respectively. An anchored FAD was deployed on the Djaul Seamount in the Bismarck Sea facilitating tagging and related biological sampling. Trophic sampling resulted in the collection of 475 stomach samples (250 skipjack, 188 yellowfin and 1 bigeye tuna). Tag recaptures continue to be received in large numbers, with total recaptures now exceeding 3,600.
Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey	No work was conducted under this activity this quarter. A project proposal has been submitted in collaboration with IRD (French Institute for the Research and Development) to conduct a co-funded scientific cruise in 2008 in the Bismarck Sea (PNG) to study the influence of seamounts on benthic and pelagic ecosystems; if accepted it will allow the completion of this activity.
<b>IUCN</b>	
Activity 1.3.2.1: Hold seamount activity planning and review workshops	
Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts	
Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis	
Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey	
<b>Output 1.3.3: Model-based analysis of ecosystem-based management options</b>	
Activity 1.3.3.1: Incorporate ecosystem data and information into existing ecosystem models and refinement of those models as necessary	An ecosystem modelling workshop was held in March 2007 at SPC, Noumea. 4 specialists attended to help balance an Ecopath model of the western and central Pacific. This modelling exercise highlighted discrepancies between the output of the SEAPODYM model, an ecosystem model providing information on the forage species of the tunas, and the outputs of the MULTIFAN-CL model that provides stock assessment information for the tuna stocks. More information is required on the mid-trophic level species. The model also showed the important role of skipjack in the ecosystem because of its high biomass, its high consumption rate, its highly cannibalistic behaviour, and the fact that it is consumed by many other components of the system.
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	No work was conducted on this activity this quarter.

seamounts	
<b>Output 1.3.4: Estimates of levels of by-catch in WCPO oceanic fisheries</b>	
Activity 1.3.4.1: Review historical observer data and methodological development	SC 2 working papers were prepared and presented in 2006: <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP3.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP3.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_WP1.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_WP1.pdf</a>
1.3.4.2: Estimate levels of by-catch	SC 2 working paper was prepared and presented in 2006: <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP1.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP1.pdf</a>
<b>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 &amp; Bycatch Working Group, and by Pacific SIDS</b>	
Activity 1.3.5.1: Present results of ecosystem analysis to the Commission through the Ecosystem & Bycatch Working Group	A workshop on Ecological Risk Assessment is currently in preparation to be held before SC3 and with the outcomes to be presented during SC3.
Activity 1.3.5.2: Present info on national & regional implications of results of ecosystem analysis to Pacific SIDS	No presentation or training was provided during this quarter.
Activity 1.3.5.3: Attach national technical staff to SPC/OFP and other institutions to participate in ecosystem analysis	There were no attachments at SPC-OFP during this quarter.

## Component Two

<b>Sub-component 2.1: Legal Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.1.1: A strategy and workplan for activities on regional and national legal issues</b>	
Activity 2.1.1.1: Carry out legal and technical reviews of legal issues and national legal structures	
Activity 2.1.1.2: Hold a Regional Legal Consultation on Legal Issues, National Legal Structures and the Project strategy for legal work.	
<b>Output 2.1.2 New draft laws, regulations, agreements and license conditions in line with WCPF Convention prepared and shared with Pacific SIDS.</b>	
Activity 2.1.2.1. Prepare templates of legal provisions to implement the Convention.	
Activity 2.1.2.2. Undertake national legal reviews.	
Activity 2.1.2.3. Provide draft Bills, regulations, license conditions and access agreements to Pacific SIDS.	
<b>Output 2.1.3. Proposals for the Commission from Pacific SIDS for legal arrangements to implement the Convention.</b>	
Activity 2.1.3.1. Undertake legal studies on Commission and Convention issues including non-Contracting Parties and new members.	
Activity 2.1.3.2. Prepare legal briefs for Pacific SIDS for Commission and subsidiary body meetings.	
Activity 2.1.3.3. Hold Regional Legal Consultations.	
<b>Output 2.1.4. Training of policy makers and legal personnel in oceanic fisheries management legal issues.</b>	
Activity 2.1.4.1. Hold Regional Legal Workshops.	
Activity 2.1.4.2. Hold National Legal Workshops.	
<b>Sub-component 2.2: Policy Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.2.1. National oceanic fisheries management Plans, policies and strategies.</b>	
Activity 2.2.1.1. Prepare Plans, policy and strategy documents.	First stage consultation to progress Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management on the Tuna Fisheries of Tonga was undertaken in February 2007. Outcome documents related to EAFM process in Palau and Vanuatu near finalisation. (Activities funded by OFM Project

	to varying degrees).
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
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 2.2.2.1. Undertake studies on Commission and Convention conservation and management issues.	Draft Consultancy report on FADs, obligations under the Commission to deliver FAD management plans and other advice to Pacific Island Developing States regarding consideration of FAD management options delivered.
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.	A brief was prepared for Pac SIDS participants for a joint Matting of Tuna RFMOs from around the world, and support was provided to ac SIDS participants during the meeting. The major outcome of the meeting was a plan to coordinate activities of tuna RFMOs in the different oceans, particularly to address IUU fishing.
Activity 2.2.2.3. Hold Regional Fisheries Management Workshops and Consultations.	A consultation on Management Strategies was held to coordinate work of FFA and SPC and train FFA staff in methodologies related to the evaluation of management options and strategies
<b>Output 2.2.3. Identification of possible management options for seamounts, including compliance options. (IUCN)</b>	
Activity 2.2.3.1. Undertake technical studies on management of oceanic fisheries around seamounts.	Work has not begun on these activities.
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.	
<b>Output 2.2.4. Training of policy makers, technical personnel and other Pacific SIDS stakeholders to increase understanding of sustainable and responsible fisheries.</b>	
Activity 2.2.4.1. Hold Regional Policy Consultations / Workshops.	See above on Management Strategy Evaluation A series of sub-regional workshops on Management Options was planned.
Activity 2.2.4.2. Offer a TSC/USP Policy Training Course.	Plan to review modules of course has been established and review of various components of the modules has been allocated to relevant FFA officers. FFA in contact with USP to organise execution of course.
Activity 2.2.4.3. Present National Fisheries Management Seminars and Workshops.	No activity 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.	Delegates from Tuvalu and Federated States of Micronesia accompanied FFA officers to special meeting of the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission in February.

Activity 2.2.4.5. Support relevant Ministerial meetings.	No activity this quarter
<b>Sub-component 2.3: Institutional Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.3.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for the reform, realignment and strengthening of national oceanic fisheries management administrations.</b>	
Activity 2.3.1.1. Prepare a review of experience and best practices in institutional reform.	Strategic plan and contract to under this review has been prepared and work will be undertaken in 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2007.
Activity 2.3.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of national oceanic fisheries management institutions.	Draft report incorporating an activity feasibility study and design document on Institutional Strengthening scoping review of the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resource Authority (NFMRA) has been delivered to Nauru for their consideration.
Activity 2.3.1.3. Present National Institutional Reform Workshops.	No activity this quarter
<b>Output 2.3.2. Processes for national consultation between stakeholders in oceanic fisheries management.</b>	
Activity 2.3.2.1. Advise on and support national consultative processes.	No activity this quarter
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.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.3.2.3. Support national workshops for non-state stakeholders.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.3.2.4. Arrange attachments and study tours for non-state stakeholders to learn from experience elsewhere.	No activity this quarter
<b>Sub-component 2.4: Compliance Strengthening</b>	
<b>Output 2.4.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for realigning and strengthening national oceanic fisheries compliance programs.</b>	
Activity 2.4.1.1. Prepare a review of Convention implications for national compliance.	Consultations for Tonga was deferred due to the riot.
Activity 2.4.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of needs to strengthen and realign national compliance programs.	No travels to member countries were undertaken in the first quarter however, advice provided to members as well as planned MCS workshops fro Tuvalu (April) Samoa (May), Kiribati and Tonga later in the year.
<b>Output 2.4.2. Arrangements for regional coordination of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities.</b>	
Activity 2.4.2.1. Support regional consultations on coordination of air and sea patrols.	Provided support and advice to Kiribati, Palau and Cooks under the fisheries multilateral operations and aerial surveillance plans for 2007/2008.
Activity 2.4.2.2. Provide advice on	Provided advice and support to Kiribati, Palau and Cooks for operations

MCS coordination between Pacific SIDS and other states involved.	and mount a E-Operations for a day during the 10 MCS working meeting in March.
Activity 2.4.2.3. Prepare Niue Treaty subsidiary agreements.	Assisted with the draft Subsidiary Agreements between the FSM and Nauru; and Kiribati and Nauru. Note, new developments under NT as Nauru does not have a patrol boat. Another milestone, the 10 MCSWG meeting in March 2007 endorsed the concept of the multilateral subsidiary agreement as opposed to bilateral Agreement and including the status of non-Parties, and endorsed the concept of invoking Article XII(5) of the Niue Treaty to allow US and France to accede to this Treaty.
<b>Output 2.4.3. Strategies and proposals for regional compliance measures and programs.</b>	
Activity 2.4.3.1. Undertake technical studies on compliance issues under the Convention.	As part of the Tenth MCS Working Group meeting held at the FFA Secretariat from 26 to 30 March, 2007, workshop TCC2 and WCPFC3 outcomes.
Activity 2.4.3.2. Hold meetings of a Working Group of Pacific SIDS on MCS issues related to oceanic fisheries.	The Regional Annual Tenth MCS Working Group meeting held at the FFA Secretariat from 26 to 30 March, 2007. All MCS practitioners and providers of regional fisheries surveillance met and discussed regional surveillances issues.
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.	As part of the Tenth MCS Working Group meeting held at the FFA Secretariat from 26 to 30 March, 2007, workshop TCC2 and WCPFC3 outcomes included measures that provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Authorisation to Fish;</li> <li>(ii) WCPFC IUU List;</li> <li>(iii) Commission VMS;</li> <li>(iv) Regional Observer Program;</li> <li>(v) Annual Report to the Commission – Part II;</li> <li>(vi) High Seas Boarding and Inspection;</li> <li>(vii) Port State standards and FAO Model Scheme;</li> <li>(viii) Catch Documentation Scheme;</li> <li>(ix) Transshipment; and</li> <li>(x) FFA Priorities for MCS issues in 2007 and Beyond.</li> </ul>
<b>Output 2.4.4. Training of national compliance staff, especially in inspection and VMS.</b>	
Activity 2.4.4.1. Present courses on National Inspection, VMS and other national MCS training programs.	Tuvalu Prosecution and Dockside Workshop planned for February was deferred to April 2007, to be followed by Samoa, Kiribati and Tonga later in the year.
Activity 2.4.4.2. Attach national compliance staff to FFA and other Pacific SIDS.	One MCS two weeks attachment for Ms Kalo Manuopangai from Tonga Department of Fisheries initially planned for 19-30 March now set for 2-13 April, 2007.

### Component Three

<b>Sub-component 3.1: Information Strategy</b>	
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 3.1.1.1. Design logos and other Project identifiers, Project Website/page and Project Document Cataloguing System.	Completed.
Activity 3.1.1.2. Operate the Website/page.	On-going efforts to maintain and update website.
Activity 3.1.1.3. Project information materials including CDs, papers, videos, pamphlets, newsletters, interviews, press releases etc.	Project overview pamphlet designed. Reprint of the WCPF Convention booklet.
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 3.1.2.1. Prepare Knowledge Management Strategy.	No activity.
Activity 3.1.2.2. Generate Knowledge Management Components for Website/page, newsletters, and progress reports.	Preparation and submission of an IW/LEARN Experience Note for the PI OFM Project. IWLEARN website management training placement negotiated fro 2007.
<b>Sub-component 3.2: Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	
<b>Output 3.2.1. Measures of, and reports on, overall project performance and delivery, including independent evaluations of the Project.</b>	
Activity 3.2.1.1. Mid-term evaluation.	No activity
Activity 3.2.1.2. Terminal evaluation.	
Activity 3.2.1.3. Post evaluation (Year 8).	
Activity 3.2.1.4. Annual reviews.	Review of annual reporting formats has highlighted an inconsistency between the logistical framework analysis in the approved project document and the annual reporting requirements for GEF & UNDP. Using UNDP GEF guidelines for documenting indicators sourced from the internet, work has commenced on the preparation of an annual report using a Project Planning Matrix. This integrates the indicator reporting requirements in the UNDP Project Implementation Report (PIR) & the GEF IW Project Performance Report (PPR), the project logframe and Annex L of the Project Document that sets out indicators.
Activity 3.2.1.5. Annual audit.	Auditors contracted both at FFA and SPC and commenced work this quarter. FFA auditors to provide consolidated report, the first draft of which is due early second quarter.
<b>Output 3.2.2. Analysis of process, stress-reduction and environmental status indicators as per the GEF International Waters Operational Strategy.</b>	
Activity 3.2.2.1. Carry out baseline studies to measure IW indicators.	Gaps in baseline information are being addressed, specifically with regards to national institutions & supportive laws and policies reforms and the existence of inter-ministry coordination mechanisms.

Activity 3.2.2.2. Include indicator measures in progress reports.	To be completed in third quarter.
<b>Sub-component 3.3: Stakeholder Participation and Awareness Raising</b>	
<b>Output 3.3.1. ENGO participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.</b>	
Activity 3.3.1.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with a Pacific ENGO.	Completed
Activity 3.3.1.2. Support Pacific ENGO participation in the Commission.	Provisions within the FFA/WWF LOA.
Activity 3.3.1.3. Provide information on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific ENGOs.	See Activity 3.3.1.4
Activity 3.3.1.4. Hold national and regional Workshops for ENGOs.	The first of a series of workshops for Pacific ENGOs is scheduled for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter. Preparations for this have commenced by developing a programme and securing resource experts.
Activity 3.3.1.5. Produce information materials to raise public awareness on oceanic fisheries management issues.	No activity
Activity 3.3.1.6. Organise regional and national fora on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues for civil society participation.	See Activity 3.3.1.4
<b>Output 3.3.2. Support industry participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.</b>	
Activity 3.3.2.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with Pacific INGO.	PITIA expects to hold its first AGM in May this year. Until formal office bearers are elected it is not possible to conclude a co-financing arrangement.
Activity 3.3.2.2. Support Pacific INGO participation in the Commission.	Industry representative participation at WCPFC3, Apia Samoa, in December 2006 was supported with project funds.
Activity 3.3.2.3. Provide information flow on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific INGOs and businesses.	No activity
Activity 3.3.2.4. Support Pacific INGO consultations on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues.	No activity
<b>Sub-component 3.4: Project Management and Coordination</b>	
<b>Output 3.4.1. Project Coordination Unit staffing and office.</b>	
Activity 3.4.1.1. Appoint the Project Coordinator.	Completed
Activity 3.4.1.2. Appoint other PCU staff.	Completed
Activity 3.4.1.3. Procure equipment	Completed

and other requirements to establish the PCU.	
<b>Output 3.4.2. Arrangements for coordination between Implementing and Executing Agencies.</b>	
Activity 3.4.2.1. Preliminary UNDP/FFA/SPC/IUCN Consultations.	Completed
Activity 3.4.2.2. Conclude FFA/SPC and FFA/IUCN Letters of Agreement (LOAs).	Completed
Activity 3.4.2.3. UNDP/FFA Consultations.	On-going
<b>Output 3.4.3. Regional Steering Committee meetings and reports.</b>	
Activity 3.4.3.1. Hold Inception Workshop.	Completed
Activity 3.4.3.2. Hold Regional Steering Committee meetings.	Scheduled for October 2007
<b>Output 3.4.4. National Consultative Committee meetings and reports.</b>	
Activity 3.4.4.1. Secure National Focal Point nominations.	Completed
Activity 3.4.4.2. Support National Consultative Committee meetings.	Project visits to beneficiary countries continuing. 2006 visits were made to the Cook Islands, Fiji, Solomon Islands Tuvalu and Vanuatu. A country visit to Samoa was completed in this quarter.
<b>Output 3.4.5. Reports on Project implementation, workplan and finances.</b>	
Activity 3.4.5.1. Prepare periodic financial and narrative reports.	On-going. 2006 Audit arrangements commenced early January, see Activity 3.2.1.5
Activity 3.4.5.2. Prepare Annual Work plans	Completed for 2007, including quarterly work plans as requested by UNDP
Activity 3.4.5.3: Prepare Annual Project Reports	Commenced for 2007. See Activity 3.2.1.4

## **8. Challenges/Issues Encountered**

- i) IUCN have further deferred (due 28 February) reporting on the way in which they intend to progress project outputs for collection and analysis of information on seamounts in the WTP LME and identification of possible management options for seamounts, including compliance options.
- ii) One issue encountered concerns Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts. This work, particularly the description of seamounts, has proved more technically challenging than had been envisaged during the project planning. While much progress has been made, it is clear that additional resources could usefully be reallocated to this activity to allow a full analysis of fishing patterns in relation to identified seamounts, and to analyse the impact of seamounts on various oceanographic and biological productivity parameters.
- iii) Activity 1.2.3.2: Attach national technical staff to SPC/OFP – this is becoming increasingly difficult to organise due to the increasing and competing domestic commitments and travel commitments of suitably qualified fisheries staff from national fisheries departments and authorities.
- iv) A series of Policy and Legal Reform work scheduled to take place in Tonga has been disrupted by the outbreak of civil unrest in the Kingdom. This work has been deferred.
- v) A major Compliance strengthening sub-component consultancy to develop a draft Regional MCS Strategy has stalled with the departure of the Manager of the MCS Division at FFA.
- vi) National country visits continue to highlight the low level of understanding of the PI OFM Project at national fisheries administration and the progress of national needs identified during the development of the project document. General project overview presentations continue to be made. National Focal Points also continue to be unable to distinguish project funded activities within the work programmes of the FFA & SPC.

## **9. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)**

- i) IUCN have advise they will provide an update in due course;
- ii) A suggested solution to the above problem is the application of unused funds initially allocated to IUCN to support various activities associated with the oceanographic cruise, which now looks likely to be cancelled.
- iii) Attachments are still being planned and undertaken by SPC whenever possible to complement stock assessment training and NTFSR work.
- iv) Work has been rescheduled to the third quarter of 2007 (early July)
- v) Interim MCS Manager to advise progress.
- vi) Project country visits provide overview, work with fisheries administrations to update needs and assessments and develop national annual work plans. Particular attention is focused on national level activities. A basic project pamphlet has been produced and will be distributed widely. A series of fliers are planned on various project activities and Commission issues are to be produced. Website continues to be updated.

## **10. Report Prepared By:**

PCU – Barbara Hanchard with assistance from Darren Cameron, and Lamiller Pawut

SPC - John Hampton, with assistance from Valerie Allain, Don Bromhead, Deirdre Brogan, Bruno Leroy and Peter Williams.

## 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 April 2007 to 31 June 2007

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

This project report covers the second quarter of 2007. Project implementation continues to maintain a level of uniformity and the roll-out of activities is largely consistent with the approved annual work plan and budget. Q1 project narrative reported activities relating to benthic biodiversity survey, the analysis of data on seamounts collected through tagging and trophic sampling and the policy work that would involve from the science as being delayed. Communication with IUCN who are responsible for these activities has been maintained. They report the intention to continue to negotiate the commencement and implementation of the scientific cruise in 2008.

Project coordination and management continues to operate with both achievements and challenges.

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

Specific outputs and results achieved under the project against quarterly work plans are reported in the following spreadsheets.

## Component One

<b>Sub-component 1.1: Fishery Monitoring</b>	
<b>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</b>	
Activity 1.1.1.1: Develop database and associated software	<p>Considerable work was undertaken on the TUFMAN system during this period to bring it up to version 4.0. The main enhancements to TUFMAN during this quarter included the enhancement of the licensing system to include payments of fees, support for “registrations” and the support of a “Agreement Reporting Period”. A new “Data Registry” Component was also added to TUFMAN which will support the general organisation of, and reference to, the storage of hard-copy data via TUFMAN.</p> <p>The new TUFMAN training manual, which is a series of computer training videos taking the users through the system step-by-step via a web-page type interface, was enhanced to include training on the Logsheets module of TUFMAN.</p>
Activity 1.1.1.2: Develop reporting module for Commission data	Several TUFMAN reports were reviewed and refined to ensure they are suitable for generating information for the WCPFC Scientific Committee National reports (SC3). Work on the TUFMAN Commission reporting module is planned for the 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2007.
<b>Output 1.1.2: National monitoring systems based on the regional template for integrated monitoring, customised to meet national needs</b>	
Activity 1.1.2.1: Support establishment and enhancement of national databases and software	<p>The TUFMAN Database System was installed in FSM for the first time with a visit to NORMA offices during May-June 2007. SPC also hosted attachment training in TUFMAN and procedures for the NTDCs from the Solomon Islands and Nauru in June 2007.</p> <p>The TUFMAN databases for the Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga and FSM were updated to version 4.0 during this period.</p> <p>The CES database system, with the most up-to-date tuna fishery data, was provided to all member countries during June 2007.</p> <p>The Observer Trip View System with the most up-to-date observer data was provided to PNG during May 2007.</p>
Activity 1.1.2.2: Support establishment and enhancement of national port sampling and observer programmes	<p>Staff travel to FSM and Palau at the end of this quarter included a review of national observer programmes.</p> <p>Assistance was provided to the Cook Islands to identify an overseas observer to fulfil Cook Islands observer needs in absence of trained Cook Islands observers.</p> <p>Ongoing technical advice was provided to Marshall Islands port sampling and observer programmes.</p> <p>Support was provided to Fiji to improve observers and port samplers’ biological sampling capabilities.</p> <p>Advice was provided to the new Solomon Islands Observer Coordinator as he grapples with his new position in a Solomon Islands restructuring exercise.</p>
Activity 1.1.2.3: Support the coordination of national monitoring programmes	The National Tuna Data Procedures Documents were reviewed and updated in Palau, FSM and the Marshalls Islands. The funding support MOUs for Tonga, Samoa and the Cook Islands were revised and clarified, while a new funding initiative was discussed with the Solomon Islands.
<b>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</b>	

Activity 1.1.3.1: Develop and make available common data formats	152 Observer Workbooks, 133 pads of waterproof forms and 144 Debriefing and Evaluation forms were shipped to national monitoring programmes during the quarter.
Activity 1.1.3.2: Hold Regional Workshops on regional and national fishery monitoring	The next regional workshop is currently scheduled for early 2008.
Activity 1.1.3.3: Distribute newsletters, webpage and other forms of information exchange	<p>The project provided expert advice to an informal working group brought to the WCPFC offices to assist in drafting a Regional Observer Programme Document and Strategic Plan.</p> <p>In the absence of their own Observer Manager (under recruitment), the project provided ongoing advice to assist FFA develop its regional observer objectives such that they are coordinated with the objectives of the national observer programmes of their member countries. The project also advised and assisted FFA to procure measuring instruments (callipers and deck tapes) that conform to those that national programmes use.</p>
<b>Output 1.1.4: Training of national monitoring staff, particularly monitoring coordinators, observers and port samplers</b>	
Activity 1.1.4.1: Organise and hold in-country observer & port sampling courses and other training activities	<p>Observers from a number of ports around PNG were also given training in tag seeding, which is being carried out to support the tagging project conducted in PNG waters.</p> <p>Observer debriefing and debriefer training was provided to the re-vamped Palau Observer Program during an in-country visit.</p>
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	The newly appointed National Tuna Data Coordinator from the Solomon Islands and the Catch Logsheet Officer from Nauru visited SPC for attachment training with the statistics and monitoring section of the OFP during this reporting period. Attachment training included (i) General overview of regional tuna fisheries data collection, (ii) An overview and training in the TUFMAN system and the concept of the national procedures document (iii) Training and exercises in the CES Database System, and (iv) Training in MapInfo.
<b>Sub-component 1.2: Stock Assessment</b>	
<b>Output 1.2.1: National oceanic fisheries status reports prepared collaboratively with national scientific staff</b>	
Activity 1.2.1.1: Prepare 6 National Oceanic Fisheries Status Reports annually	<p>This is an activity that benefits from significant co-funding. During the quarter, work on the NTFSRs for FSM, Nauru, Vanuatu, Tonga, Palau and New Caledonia* were progressed.</p> <p>*Other funding used.</p>
Activity 1.2.1.2: Hold In-country Stakeholder Workshops for delivery of National Status Reports	<p>Outputs from both the Nauru and FSM NTFSRs (in progress) were presented at in-country stakeholder workshops.</p> <p>A meeting was held to present the draft NTFSR to the head of the Department of Fisheries, Vanuatu for final sign off.</p>
<b>Output 1.2.2: Advice to Pacific SIDS on scientific issues in the work of the Commission</b>	
Activity 1.2.2.1: Provide contributions to briefs on scientific issues for Pacific SIDS for meetings of the	No activity during this quarter.

Commission, the Scientific Committee and Science Working Groups	
Activity 1.2.2.2: Present scientific briefs to preparatory meetings of Pacific SIDS for the Commission	No activity during this quarter.
<b>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</b>	
Activity 1.2.3.1: Hold Regional Workshops on stock assessment methods and analysis of oceanographic impacts on fisheries	Nominations were sought and participant lists finalised for 2 separate one week stock assessment workshops to be held between the 25 <sup>th</sup> – 30th June and 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup> July. 24 participants from around the Western and Central Pacific are confirmed to attend. All logistics for the workshops were finalised and workshop materials developed and edited. The first of the two workshops was successfully completed before the end of the quarter.  SPC also attended a regional eNGO meeting to provide an overview of SPC stock assessment methods and outcomes to participants.
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	SPC hosted an attachment from Nauru (Mr Karlick Agir – Data Coordinator) for a period of two weeks, during which he worked on:  1. Draft “Data Status” chapters of the national status report for Nauru that is currently in progress.  2. Draft “Fishery Characterisation” chapter  Meetings during the attachment also served to identify issues of concern for Nauru that would require additional analyses within the NTFSR.
Activity 1.2.3.3: Train scientific counterparts in-country	Informal training in interpretation of fisheries and stock assessment data was conducted for FSM fishery staff after the April EAFM consultation (in Pohnpei) had concluded.
<b>Sub-component 1.3: Ecosystem Monitoring and Analysis</b>	
<b>Output 1.3.1: Observer sampling and analysis of commercial fishery catches to determine trophic relationships of pelagic species in the WTP LME</b>	
Activity 1.3.1.1: Collect observer-based sampling data, especially – stomach contents, tissue samples	Biological sampling of stomach contents and tissue samples is undertaken in several countries. New sample collection has been organised and should soon start in Fiji and Marshall Islands. A newly trained observer will start sampling in the second half of the year in Cook Islands.  The third biological sampling SPC Newsletter was distributed during the quarter and the third issue is in preparation and will be sent to countries early in the third quarter of 2007.
Activity 1.3.1.2: Lab-based analysis of samples	Lab-based analysis of samples is continuing. During the quarter, 364 stomach samples were examined and the resulting data/information entered into the database. The total number of stomachs examined and with data entered is now 3,503 samples from 68 different species. Isotope values of samples analysed at the University of Hawaii have been received for 112 predator and prey species.
<b>Output 1.3.2: Collection and analysis of information on seamounts in the WTP LME</b>	
<b>SPC</b>	
Activity 1.3.2.1: Hold seamount activity planning and review workshops	This activity was completed during Q1-2006 and Q3-2006.
Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe	The seamount database has been finalised and this work presented in May

Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts	2007 in Noumea, New Caledonia during the GeoHab 2007 meeting on marine benthic habitats of the Pacific and Other Oceans. Major results are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- from 4,754 potential seamounts in the western and central Pacific area, 3,568 unique underwater features have been validated, 25% of potential seamounts that were duplicates or misidentified atolls and islands were removed</li> <li>- 66% of the validated seamounts are not defined (we are not sure they are seamounts) and were not studied or formally identified</li> <li>- in the area 3,392 seamounts were identified in the EEZs with 2,121 seamounts in the PICT EEZs, 176 seamounts are validated in the high seas but there are still 2,011 seamounts in the high seas that have not been validated.</li> </ul>
Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis	The second and final tagging campaign in PNG began on 19 February 2007 and finished on 20 May. 39,323 tuna were tagged bringing the project total to 61,637, well in excess of our nominal initial target of 30,000. Releases of archival and sonic tags were a focus of the work this quarter, with project totals for these tag types reaching 222 and 283 respectively. An anchored FAD was deployed on the Djaul Seamount in the Bismarck Sea facilitating tagging and related biological sampling. Trophic sampling resulted in the total collection of 1,404 stomach samples (680 skipjack, 592 yellowfin, 3 bigeye tuna and 129 other species). Tag recaptures continue to be received in large numbers, with total recaptures now exceeding 4,150 including 24 archival tags.
Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey	No work was conducted under this activity this quarter. The project proposal submitted during the first quarter of 2007 in collaboration with IRD to conduct a co-funded scientific cruise in 2008 in the Bismarck Sea (PNG) to study the influence of seamounts on benthic and pelagic ecosystems has been classified by the ad-hoc commission as priority B. A final decision will be taken by IRD later this year according to budget availability; if accepted it will allow the completion of this activity.
<b>IUCN</b>	
Activity 1.3.2.1: Hold seamount activity planning and review workshops	Efforts continued to secure a ship-time to conduct research on seamounts as per the original plans. Staff visited the owners and operators of MV Alucia (DeepOcean Quest) in Seattle at the end of June (at no cost to the project) to assess progress and hold detailed discussions as to the work in the Western and Central Pacific. The vessel is in dry dock at present and will begin sea trials in August in Puget Sound. She will then travel to the Sea of Cortez in early September, followed by some work in the Eastern Tropical Pacific, heading across the Pacific in Q1 or Q2 of next year. The owners are committed to working with IUCN and the OFM project and have slotted in a month of ship-time in and around Fiji and Tonga. As the operation is now required to cover its costs, IUCN will need to raise additional funds for the expedition. IUCN has held discussions with three potential donors for this work and will be submitting proposals in the coming months to cover the operating costs of the vessel and to serve as co-financing under the OFM project.
Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts	
Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis	
Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey	
<b>Output 1.3.3: Model-based analysis of ecosystem-based management options</b>	
Activity 1.3.3.1: Incorporate ecosystem data and information into existing ecosystem models and refinement of those models as necessary	A draft document reporting the work undertaken during the Ecosystem modelling workshop held in March 2007 at SPC, Noumea was finalised. The draft will be circulated among participants to the workshop and will be finalised and presented at the Third Scientific Committee in August 2007 in Hawaii.
Activity 1.3.3.2: Use enhanced models and	No work was conducted on this activity this quarter.

data to assess ecosystem-based management options	
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.
<b>Output 1.3.4: Estimates of levels of by-catch in WCPO oceanic fisheries</b>	
Activity 1.3.4.1: Review historical observer data and methodological development	SC 2 working papers were prepared and presented in 2006: <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP3.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP3.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_WP1.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_WP1.pdf</a>
1.3.4.2: Estimate levels of by-catch	The SC 2 working paper prepared and presented in 2006 ( <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP1.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP1.pdf</a> ) is currently being updated under a consultancy contract. The updated analysis will be presented to SC3 in August as a working paper to the Statistics Specialist Working Group.
<b>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 &amp; Bycatch Working Group, and by Pacific SIDS</b>	
Activity 1.3.5.1: Present results of ecosystem analysis to the Commission through the Ecosystem & Bycatch Working Group	A workshop on Ecological Risk Assessment is currently in preparation to be held before SC3 and with the outcomes to be presented during SC3. An updated productivity-susceptibility analysis is in preparation to be presented to SC3.
Activity 1.3.5.2: Present info on national & regional implications of results of ecosystem analysis to Pacific SIDS	Methods in Ecological Risk Assessment were presented to attendees of the second Stock Assessment Workshop held from June 25-30, at SPC, Noumea, for Pacific SIDS. This included a comprehensive summary of ecosystem analysis results.
Activity 1.3.5.3: Attach national technical staff to SPC/OFP and other institutions to participate in ecosystem analysis	There were no attachments at SPC-OFP during this quarter.

## Component Two

<b>Sub-component 2.1: Legal Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.1.1: A strategy and workplan for activities on regional and national legal issues</b>	
Activity 2.1.1.1: Carry out legal and technical reviews of legal issues and national legal structures	Analyses accompanied by national reports of gaps in legislation and Port State measures prepared by consultant Martin Tsamenyi – discussion of such templates and presentations in-country (co-financed with AusAID/NZAID)
Activity 2.1.1.2: Hold a Regional Legal Consultation on Legal Issues, National Legal Structures and the Project strategy for legal work.	Regional judicial seminar held in Palau for judges, magistrates, judicial officers (co-financed with AusAID/NZAID)  WCPFC sub-regional workshop in Tonga in July – Costs of consultant Martin Tsamenyi (co-financed with AusAID/NZAID)
<b>Output 2.1.2 New draft laws, regulations, agreements and license conditions in line with WCPF Convention prepared and shared with Pacific SIDS.</b>	
Activity 2.1.2.1. Prepare templates of legal provisions to implement the Convention.	See Activity 2.1.1.1
Activity 2.1.2.2. Undertake national legal reviews.	Project to review Samoa's fisheries legislation – Costs of consultant Martin Tsamenyi to commence this work (co-financed with AusAID/NZAID)
Activity 2.1.2.3. Provide draft Bills, regulations, license conditions and access agreements to Pacific SIDS.	No activity - awaiting the finalisation of the legislative guidelines prepared by Bill Edeson. When the guidelines are finalised legislative reviews will be undertaken based on the guidelines – see Activity 2.1.2.2
<b>Output 2.1.3. Proposals for the Commission from Pacific SIDS for legal arrangements to implement the Convention.</b>	
Activity 2.1.3.1. Undertake legal studies on Commission and Convention issues including non-Contracting Parties and new members.	See Activity 2.1.1.1
Activity 2.1.3.2. Prepare legal briefs for Pacific SIDS for Commission and subsidiary body meetings.	See Activity 2.1.1.1
Activity 2.1.3.3. Hold Regional Legal Consultations.	As series of combined (legal, policy & compliance) WCPFC sub-regional workshops commenced this quarter. This activity is co-financed See Activity 2.1.1.2
<b>Output 2.1.4. Training of policy makers and legal personnel in oceanic fisheries management legal issues.</b>	
Activity 2.1.4.1. Hold Regional Legal Workshops.	See Activity 2.1.1.2
Activity 2.1.4.2. Hold National Legal Workshops.	Tuvalu Prosecution and Dockside Boarding workshop (co-financed with AusAID/NZAID)

<b>Sub-component 2.2: Policy Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.2.1. National oceanic fisheries management Plans, policies and strategies.</b>	
Activity 2.2.1.1. Prepare Plans,	Scoping workshop to progress Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

policy and strategy documents.	Management (EAFM) on the Tuna Fisheries of Nauru, was undertaken in Nauru with various Government Departments in April 2007. Workshop conducted in Vanuatu in late April / early May to determine framework and process to deliver Tuna and Oceanic Fisheries Management Plans based on EAFM framework. (Activities funded by OFM Project to varying degrees).
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
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 2.2.2.1. Undertake studies on Commission and Convention conservation and management issues.	No activity this quarter.
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.	Papers on catch retention, FAD management and capacity management options for the WCPFC were prepared for presentation at the annual meeting of the FFC. Contributions were also made to a paper on the establishment of a new RFMO for the management of straddling stocks for the South Pacific for the FFC. Papers on management options were prepared for, and presented to meetings of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (co-financed).
Activity 2.2.2.3. Hold Regional Fisheries Management Workshops and Consultations.	No activity this quarter.
<b>Output 2.2.3. Identification of possible management options for seamounts, including compliance options. (IUCN)</b>	
Activity 2.2.3.1. Undertake technical studies on management of oceanic fisheries around seamounts.	IUCN provided support to the Republic of Palau to participate in the third consultation on the South Pacific RFMO in Chile in April (attempts were made to support Tokelau as well, but timing did not work out). IUCN now has a legal expert based in its Suva office who is being brought up to speed on project activities. He will be serving as a liaison with FFA on policy work under the project. Plans for a joint FFA/IUCN workshop to develop model national legislation for controlling bottom-trawling were discussed with details to follow in Q3.
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.	
<b>Output 2.2.4. Training of policy makers, technical personnel and other Pacific SIDS stakeholders to increase understanding of sustainable and responsible fisheries.</b>	
Activity 2.2.4.1. Hold Regional Policy Consultations / Workshops.	5 day Northern FFA member sub-regional workshop with delegations from Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Palau held in late June 2007 in the Marshall Islands. The workshop reviewed national legislation with respect to WCPFC obligations, enhanced capacity of participants with respect to WCPFC matters and discussed fisheries management options to be considered at the forthcoming Management Options Workshop and the 2007 WCPFC meeting.
Activity 2.2.4.2. Offer a TSC/USP Policy Training Course.	Course modules were updated and reviewed. FFA (GEF funded) FMA visited Suva to organise administration of Course in May 2007 and contracts between FFA and USP to conduct the course were signed.

	Course has subsequently been organised and advertised by USP. External FAO experts have been contracted to assist in delivery of the course. Up to 30 participants from around the Pacific are expected at the 2 week course which will run from 9-20 July 2007.
Activity 2.2.4.3. Present National Fisheries Management Seminars and Workshops.	No activity 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.	Arrangements completed for the current chair of the RSC to attend the 4 <sup>th</sup> GEF International Waters biennial conference to be held at Cape Town South Africa in late July/August 2007.
Activity 2.2.4.5. Support relevant Ministerial meetings.	No activity this quarter
<b>Sub-component 2.3: Institutional Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.3.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for the reform, realignment and strengthening of national oceanic fisheries management administrations.</b>	
Activity 2.3.1.1. Prepare a review of experience and best practices in institutional reform.	Review has been undertaken and draft report of the review has been received by FFA at the end of June 2007.
Activity 2.3.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of national oceanic fisheries management institutions.	OFM Project supported a small workshop attended by regional experts in May 2007 to discuss lessons learnt / best practices in Institutional reform / strengthening of fisheries management agencies in the Pacific. This workshop fed valuable information into the review as per Activity 2.3.1.1.  AN FFA Consultant undertook a one week in country follow-up visit to Nauru to finalise the Activity feasibility study and design document report on review of the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resource Authority (NFMRA). The final report was delivered to Nauru in late May and has been presented to other donors, with there currently being serious consideration that they will fund the US \$2.0 million dollar implementation of the work over 4 years. In the meantime, other priority areas identified in the Nauru Institutional Strengthening work are also likely to receive additional funding from other donors with work to be undertaken in August or September 2007.
Activity 2.3.1.3. Present National Institutional Reform Workshops.	No activity this quarter
<b>Output 2.3.2. Processes for national consultation between stakeholders in oceanic fisheries management.</b>	
Activity 2.3.2.1. Advise on and support national consultative processes.	No activity this quarter
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.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.3.2.3. Support national workshops for non-state	No activity this quarter

stakeholders.	
Activity 2.3.2.4. Arrange attachments and study tours for non-state stakeholders to learn from experience elsewhere.	No activity this quarter
<b>Sub-component 2.4: Compliance Strengthening</b>	
<b>Output 2.4.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for realigning and strengthening national oceanic fisheries compliance programs.</b>	
Activity 2.4.1.1. Prepare a review of Convention implications for national compliance.	Workshops during the Tenth MCS Working group meeting on the TCC 2 and 3rd WCPFC Outcomes for members. Emphasis on Part 2 of the WCPFC Annual Reports.
Activity 2.4.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of needs to strengthen and realign national compliance programs.	Two workshops conducted in Tuvalu and Canberra, as well as developing a Pacific Islands Evidence and Investigation Course meeting with Australian Fisheries Academy representatives planned for August in Papua New Guinea.
<b>Output 2.4.2. Arrangements for regional coordination of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities.</b>	
Activity 2.4.2.1. Support regional consultations on coordination of air and sea patrols.	Provided support and advice to Palau and FSM under the fisheries multilateral operations and aerial surveillance plans for 2007/2008. Consultations and supports to France and US patrols for Kiribati and Vanuatu.
Activity 2.4.2.2. Provide advice on MCS coordination between Pacific SIDS and other states involved.	Provided advice and support to Tonga for the Kuku 07 Operations Planning meeting in April.
Activity 2.4.2.3. Prepare Niue Treaty subsidiary agreements.	Provide advice on draft Subsidiary Agreements Tokelau as well as preparation for FFC 64 for a comprehensive review of the Niue Treaty. The 10 MCSWG meeting in March 2007 endorsed the concept of the multilateral subsidiary agreement as opposed to bilateral Agreement and including the status of non-Parties, and endorsed the concept of invoking Article XII(5) of the Niue Treaty to allow US and France to accede to this Treaty was approved by the FFC64 meeting in Wellington, New Zealand and recommend a comprehensive review of the Niue Treaty to accommodate this new development.
<b>Output 2.4.3. Strategies and proposals for regional compliance measures and programs.</b>	
Activity 2.4.3.1. Undertake technical studies on compliance issues under the Convention.	As part of the Tenth MCS Working Group meeting held at the FFA Secretariat from 26 to 30 March, 2007, FFC 64 endorsed the MCS Strategy, endorse IUU Risks Assessment, compliance audit, 71. The Committee, whilst noting the urgent need for the FFA Secretariat to develop a regional MCS strategy, agreed as follows: <p>(i) to endorse the following projects for the development of the strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IUU risk assessments – resource robustness, loss of earnings, ecological and sustainability;</li> <li>• Compliance audits – ability to undertake MCS and support available for these actions;</li> <li>• Harmonisation &amp; Dissemination of data to enable data to be shared regionally;</li> <li>• Coordination of Surveillance to enable a regional response to IUU;</li> <li>• National &amp; Regional MCS Plans to enable national and response to IUU;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Surveillance Providers' Plans to enable integration into regional operations; and</li><li>• MCS Response Capability to deter and eliminate IUU fishing.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(ii) to establish a regional MCS Coordination Centre (RMCC) to facilitate the operational support to FFA members, and to establish a Regional MCS Coordination Centre Fund (RMCCF) to provide funding support to the RMCC; and</li><li>(iii) to investigate the establishment of a dedicated Regional Patrol Vessel (RPV) fleet as the next phase of the PPBs, in consultation with the Members and service providers and the Australian Government, as the primary supporter of the PPB program.</li></ul></li></ul>
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### Component Three

<b>Sub-component 3.1: Information Strategy</b>	
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 3.1.1.1. Design logos and other Project identifiers, Project Website/page and Project Document Cataloguing System.	Completed.
Activity 3.1.1.2. Operate the Website/page.	On-going. Website will be subject to systems update as part of the FFA website. Some disruption is anticipated in the next quarter due to the upgrades at FFA.
Activity 3.1.1.3. Project information materials including CDs, papers, videos, pamphlets, newsletters, interviews, press releases etc.	Project publication completed and distributed. Suite of publications is scheduled to be design in Q3. ENGO work shop press release posted on the website and circulated to the media by WWF.
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 3.1.2.1. Prepare Knowledge Management Strategy.	Consultant contracted to develop a draft KM Strategy. Work is due to commence at the end of the quarter.
Activity 3.1.2.2. Generate Knowledge Management Components for Website/page, newsletters, and progress reports.	IWLEARN website management training placement negotiated for 2007 awaiting advice from IWLEARN.
<b>Sub-component 3.2: Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	
<b>Output 3.2.1. Measures of, and reports on, overall project performance and delivery, including independent evaluations of the Project.</b>	
Activity 3.2.1.1. Mid-term evaluation.	Commenced development of terms of reference.
Activity 3.2.1.2. Terminal evaluation.	No activity
Activity 3.2.1.3. Post evaluation (Year 8).	
Activity 3.2.1.4. Annual reviews.	Review of annual reporting formats has highlighted an inconsistency between the logistical framework analysis in the approved project document and the annual reporting requirements for GEF & UNDP. Using UNDP GEF guidelines for documenting indicators sourced from the internet, work has commenced on the preparation of an annual report using a Project Planning Matrix. This integrates the indicator reporting requirements in the UNDP Project Implementation Report (PIR) & the GEF IW Project Performance Report (PPR), the project logframe and Annex L of the Project Document that sets out indicators.
Activity 3.2.1.5. Annual audit.	Audit completed and submitted to UNDP.
<b>Output 3.2.2. Analysis of process, stress-reduction and environmental status indicators as per the GEF International Waters Operational Strategy.</b>	
Activity 3.2.2.1. Carry out baseline studies to measure IW indicators.	Gaps in baseline information are being addressed, specifically with regards to national institutions & supportive laws and policies reforms and the existence of inter-ministry coordination mechanisms.

Activity 3.2.2.2. Include indicator measures in progress reports.	To be completed in third quarter.
<b>Sub-component 3.3: Stakeholder Participation and Awareness Raising</b>	
<b>Output 3.3.1. ENGO participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.</b>	
Activity 3.3.1.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with a Pacific ENGO.	Completed
Activity 3.3.1.2. Support Pacific ENGO participation in the Commission.	Provisions within the FFA/WWF LOA. WWF will be supported at SC3 (Honolulu in August), TCC3 (September, venue TBA) and 4 <sup>th</sup> session of the WCPF Commission at Pohnpei in December.
Activity 3.3.1.3. Provide information on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific ENGOs.	See Activity 3.3.1.4
Activity 3.3.1.4. Hold national and regional Workshops for ENGOs.	The successful conduct of an ENGO workshop held at Tanoa Hotel, Suva Fiji on 24 – 25 April 2007. Regional Organisations also participated and the workshop was facilitated by a regional expert in fisheries management. A report of the workshop is being finalised and will be placed on the project website.
Activity 3.3.1.5. Produce information materials to raise public awareness on oceanic fisheries management issues.	No activity – current discussions with WWF-Pacific to produce material in non-technical language to raise awareness.
Activity 3.3.1.6. Organise regional and national fora on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues for civil society participation.	See Activity 3.3.1.4
<b>Output 3.3.2. Support industry participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.</b>	
Activity 3.3.2.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with Pacific INGO.	The first AGM of PITIA was held at Wellington New Zealand on 26 – 27 May 2007. Industry representatives elected office bearers. The meeting was supported by the project and the EU. Presentations on the overall project and WCPFC were made. A draft LOA has been prepared and is currently with the Chairperson of PITIA.
Activity 3.3.2.2. Support Pacific INGO participation in the Commission.	LOA provides for support to regional policy meetings (MOW, October Rarotonga) and WCPFC4 (Pohnpei, December)
Activity 3.3.2.3. Provide information flow on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific INGOs and businesses.	Project publication disbursed.
Activity 3.3.2.4. Support Pacific INGO consultations on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues.	Support to the meetings of the FFA Ministerial meeting in Wellington and prior officials meetings. Also see Activity 3.3.2.3
<b>Sub-component 3.4: Project Management and Coordination</b>	
<b>Output 3.4.1. Project Coordination Unit staffing and office.</b>	
Activity 3.4.1.1. Appoint the Project	Completed

Coordinator.	
Activity 3.4.1.2. Appoint other PCU staff.	Completed
Activity 3.4.1.3. Procure equipment and other requirements to establish the PCU.	Software and fan purchased.
<b>Output 3.4.2. Arrangements for coordination between Implementing and Executing Agencies.</b>	
Activity 3.4.2.1. Preliminary UNDP/FFA/SPC/IUCN Consultations.	Completed
Activity 3.4.2.2. Conclude FFA/SPC and FFA/IUCN Letters of Agreement (LOAs).	Completed
Activity 3.4.2.3. UNDP/FFA Consultations.	On-going
<b>Output 3.4.3. Regional Steering Committee meetings and reports.</b>	
Activity 3.4.3.1. Hold Inception Workshop.	Completed
Activity 3.4.3.2. Hold Regional Steering Committee meetings.	Tentative scheduled for Saturday 20 October at Rarotonga Cook Islands after the Management Options Workshop. To be formalised by the FFA with the Cook Islands.
<b>Output 3.4.4. National Consultative Committee meetings and reports.</b>	
Activity 3.4.4.1. Secure National Focal Point nominations.	Completed
Activity 3.4.4.2. Support National Consultative Committee meetings.	Project visits to beneficiary countries continuing. 2006 visits were made to the Cook Islands, Fiji, Solomon Islands Tuvalu and Vanuatu. A country visit to Samoa was completed in this quarter. Visits to Micronesian (Palau, FSM & RMI) countries commence late June.
<b>Output 3.4.5. Reports on Project implementation, workplan and finances.</b>	
Activity 3.4.5.1. Prepare periodic financial and narrative reports.	On-going. 2006 Audit arrangements commenced early January, see Activity 3.2.1.5
Activity 3.4.5.2. Prepare Annual Work plans	Completed for 2007, including quarterly work plans as requested by UNDP
Activity 3.4.5.3: Prepare Annual Project Reports	Commenced for 2007. See Activity 3.2.1.4

## **8. Challenges/Issues Encountered**

Activity 2.3.1.2 and 2.3.1.3: It has been difficult to plan reviews and conduct National Institutional Reform Workshops with identified and likely candidate national fisheries departments and authorities. This is due to their identification and subsequent focus on other national priorities (much of them related to obligations under the WCPFC) and the increasing and competing domestic commitments and travel commitments of their experienced staff. There also has become a need to closely align work in this area with the Australian funded Pacific Governance and Strengthening Project and prioritised work in this area by AusAID. As a result the work identified for Quarters 3 and 4 will likely be initiated though not with full expenditure of funds and completed as anticipated.

## **9. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)**

The FFA will continue to consult with identified and likely candidate recipient national fisheries departments and authorities in this regard and will liaise and coordinate such work closely with other interested donor agencies.

## **10. Report Prepared By:**

PCU – Barbara Hanchard

FFA - Darren Cameron, and Manu Tupou-Rosen

SPC - John Hampton, with assistance from Valerie Allain, Don Bromhead, Deirdre Brogan, Bruno Leroy and Peter Williams.

IUCN – Andrew Hurd, Ang Sherpa

## 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 July 2007 to 30 September 2007

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

This project report covers the third quarter of 2007, the end of which represents **2 years** of project operations. Project implementation continues to maintain a level of uniformity and the roll-out of activities is largely consistent with the approved annual work plan and budget. The exception to this remains the activities relating to benthic biodiversity survey, the analysis of data on seamounts collected through tagging and trophic sampling and the policy work that would evolve from the science. IUCN are committed to conducting the research on seamounts and are seeking to raise additional funds for the expedition to ensure the original cruise plans are able to occur. IUCN will pursue this vessel option until the end of the calendar year – if no contract is signed by then, IUCN will revert to a non-ship option.

Project coordination and management continues to operate with both achievements and challenges.

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

Specific outputs and results achieved under the project against quarterly work plans are reported in the following spreadsheets.

## Component One

<b>Sub-component 1.1: Fishery Monitoring</b>	
<b>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</b>	
Activity 1.1.1.1: Develop database and associated software	<p>Version 4.2 of TUFMAN was developed in line with the needs of Part 1 of the National Fishery Annual Report to the Commission. A new national fleet sub-menu allows countries to define their national fleet and to report and enter data on these countries accordingly. This includes detailed logsheet entry for national fleets while offering countries the choice about whether to choose to enter detailed or summary logsheets information on foreign fleets fishing in their EEZs.</p> <p>Additional Species of Special Interest reports were added to the observer viewer system. Other house-keeping and necessary up-dates were also made.</p>
Activity 1.1.1.2: Develop reporting module for Commission data	Work on the TUFMAN Commission reporting module was advanced and is currently being tested. The observer reporting component was also reviewed and the requested changes documented.
<b>Output 1.1.2: National monitoring systems based on the regional template for integrated monitoring, customised to meet national needs</b>	
Activity 1.1.2.1: Support establishment and enhancement of national databases and software	<p>The up-dated version 4.2 of TUFMAN was thoroughly tested during this period. This version will be installed in the Solomon Islands under the supervision of the Database Manager. Once trialled the new version will be rolled out to a number of countries.</p> <p>The CES database system, with the most up-to-date tuna fishery data, was provided to FSM and RMI.</p> <p>The Observer Trip View System with the most up-to-date observer data was provided to FSM and RMI.</p>
Activity 1.1.2.2: Support establishment and enhancement of national port sampling and observer programmes	<p>Staff travel to PNG during this quarter included a review of the national observer programme.</p> <p>Ongoing technical advice was provided to Marshall Islands port sampling and observer programmes.</p> <p>Support for biological sampling and tackling the persistent difficulties with receiving the samples was tackled constructively with a number of new initiatives to improve the flow of samples from Fiji and FSM.</p> <p>On-going advice was provided to the new Solomon Islands Observer Coordinator.</p> <p>A paper on the Minimum data standards for the Regional Observer Programmes was compiled and presented to the Intercessional Working Group, at the WCPFC meeting in Pohnpei.</p>
Activity 1.1.2.3: Support the coordination of national monitoring programmes	<p>The National Tuna Data Procedures Documents were reviewed and updated with Nauru, Tuvalu and RMI.</p> <p>The funding support MOUs for the Solomon Islands and Samoa were revised and clarified, with new MOUs for equipment and data entry support put in place. Revision of the MOUs which have funded NTDC positions for a full calendar year in RMI, Palau and Vanuatu were reviewed and annual work reports clarified.</p>

<b>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</b>	
Activity 1.1.3.1: Develop and make available common data formats	110 observer workbooks, 115 pads of waterproof forms and 105 debriefing and evaluation forms were shipped to national monitoring programmes during the quarter.
Activity 1.1.3.2: Hold Regional Workshops on regional and national fishery monitoring	The next Tuna Data Workshop is currently scheduled for early 2008. A Regional Observer Coordinator's Workshop and a meeting of the SPC/FFA Data Collection Committee are scheduled for the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter of 2007.
Activity 1.1.3.3: Distribute newsletters, webpage and other forms of information exchange	The Fork length newsletter was completed and sent to the editor for review. It will be distributed to the national programmes in the last quarter of 2007.
<b>Output 1.1.4: Training of national monitoring staff, particularly monitoring coordinators, observers and port samplers</b>	
Activity 1.1.4.1: Organise and hold in-country observer & port sampling courses and other training activities	Basic observer training was carried out in PNG, RMI and Tonga. Port sampling training was also delivered in the Marshall Islands.  Debriefing and Data Quality workshops were carried out in three ports in PNG with all of their senior observers.
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	Attachments from FSM and RMI visited the Statistics and Monitoring section of the OFP. Attachment training included (i) General overview of regional tuna fisheries data collection, (ii) A review and update of their national TUFMAN system and the concept of the national procedures document (iii) Training and exercises in the CES Database System, Observer Viewer and Slops
<b>Sub-component 1.2: Stock Assessment</b>	
<b>Output 1.2.1: National oceanic fisheries status reports prepared collaboratively with national scientific staff</b>	
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, work on the NTFSRs for FSM, Nauru and Palau were progressed. The Kiribati NTFSR was initiated. The Palau draft NTFSR has been completed and is under review. The New Caledonia* and Vanuatu NTFSRs were finalised.  *Other funding used.
Activity 1.2.1.2: Hold In-country Stakeholder Workshops for delivery of National Status Reports	Outputs from the Nauru, Tonga, New Caledonian and FSM NTFSRs were presented at in-country stakeholder workshops.
<b>Output 1.2.2: Advice to Pacific SIDS on scientific issues in the work of the Commission</b>	
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scientific presentations and advice provision to the FFA SWG (August 2007).</li> <li>2. Scientific presentations and advice provision to the Scientific Committee of the WCPFC (August 2007).</li> <li>3. Scientific advice provided at in-country EAFM consultations (FSM, Nauru, Tonga, Vanuatu, Palau)</li> </ol>

Activity 1.2.2.2: Present scientific briefs to preparatory meetings of Pacific SIDS for the Commission	Preparation of scientific presentations and advice to the Management Options Workshop (to be held October 2007) and contributions to the associated brief.
<b>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</b>	
Activity 1.2.3.1: Hold Regional Workshops on stock assessment methods and analysis of oceanographic impacts on fisheries	2 separate one week stock assessment workshops were held between the 25 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> June and 2 <sup>nd</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> July. 22 participants from around the Western and Central Pacific attended, including two fisheries management officers from FFA. The summary report of the workshop can be found at: <a href="http://www.wcpfc.int/sc3/pdf/WCPFC-SC3-GN%20WP14%20SPC%20SA%20Workshop.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.int/sc3/pdf/WCPFC-SC3-GN%20WP14%20SPC%20SA%20Workshop.pdf</a> Funding applications for 2008 workshops have been submitted and are under consideration.
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 activity this quarter due to stock assessment workshops and SC commitments. Attachments currently being planned for Kiribati in Q1 2008, depending on availability. Other countries undertaking NTFSRs will also be offered this opportunity.
Activity 1.2.3.3: Train scientific counterparts in-country	No activity this quarter. Training intended to occur in FSM in Q4 2007 during NTFSR visit by OFP scientist.
<b>Sub-component 1.3: Ecosystem Monitoring and Analysis</b>	
<b>Output 1.3.1: Observer sampling and analysis of commercial fishery catches to determine trophic relationships of pelagic species in the WTP LME</b>	
Activity 1.3.1.1: Collect observer-based sampling data, especially – stomach contents, tissue samples	Biological sampling of stomach contents and tissue samples is undertaken in several countries. 100 Samples have been collected in Fiji and 30 samples have been collected in FSM Some samples have been collected as well in French Polynesia. The coordinator from New Caledonia is onboard and will come back soon with some samples. Issue # 3 of the biological sampling SPC Newsletter was distributed early July and the fourth issue is in preparation in conjunction with issue # 7 of “Fork Length, the observer and port sampler newsletter” and will be sent to countries during the fourth quarter of 2007.
Activity 1.3.1.2: Lab-based analysis of samples	Lab-based analysis of samples is continuing. During the quarter, 128 stomach samples were examined and the resulting data/information entered into the database. The total number of stomachs examined and with data entered is now 3,333 samples from 68 different species.
<b>Output 1.3.2: Collection and analysis of information on seamounts in the WTP LME</b>	
<b>SPC</b>	
Activity 1.3.2.1: Hold seamount activity planning and review workshops	This activity was completed during Q1-2006 and Q3-2006.
Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts	The seamount database has been refined and finalised and this work has been described in a publication prepared during the third quarter 2007. An early draft of this publication was provided to the Third Scientific Committee of the WCPFC as an Information Paper in Hawaii, August 2007. The final draft will be

	submitted to a peer-review journal during the fourth quarter 2007 to publish the list of underwater features detected in the region and make this work publicly available. Lists have already been provided to several countries on request: Niue, Tonga and Australia in the frame of the 4 <sup>th</sup> International Meeting on the Establishment of the South Pacific RFMO.
Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis	The second and final tagging campaign in PNG began on 19 February 2007 and finished on 20 May. 39,323 tuna were tagged bringing the project total to 61,637, well in excess of our nominal initial target of 30,000. Tag recaptures continue to be received in large numbers, with total recaptures now exceeding 6,280 including 32 archival tags. Tag lotteries to encourage additional tag returns are planned to occur before 31st December 2007, while an additional one month tagging cruise is scheduled for October/November in the Solomon Islands EEZ.
Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey	The project proposal submitted during the first quarter of 2007 in collaboration with IRD to conduct a co-funded scientific cruise in 2008 in the Bismarck Sea (PNG) to study the influence of seamounts on benthic and pelagic ecosystems has been classified by the ad-hoc commission as priority B. A final decision will be taken by IRD during the fourth quarter according to budget availability; if accepted it will allow the completion of this activity. Contacts have been taken during this quarter with the different partners to start organising the cruises.
<b>IUCN</b>	
Activity 1.3.2.1: Hold seamount activity planning and review workshops	Efforts continued to secure a ship-time to conduct research on seamounts as per the original plans. The owners are committed to working with IUCN and the OFM project and have slotted in a month of ship-time in and around Fiji and Tonga. As the operation is now required to cover its costs, IUCN will need to raise additional funds for the expedition. IUCN has held discussions with three potential donors for this work and will be submitting proposals in the coming months to cover the operating costs of the vessel and to serve as co-financing under the OFM project.
Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts	
Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis	
Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey	
<b>Output 1.3.3: Model-based analysis of ecosystem-based management options</b>	
Activity 1.3.3.1: Incorporate ecosystem data and information into existing ecosystem models and refinement of those models as necessary	A document reporting the work undertaken during the Ecosystem modelling workshop held in March 2007 at SPC, Noumea was finalised including the comments of the workshop participants and was distributed at the Third Scientific Committee in August 2007 in Hawaii.
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	No work was conducted on this activity this quarter.

targeted specifically at seamounts	
<b>Output 1.3.4: Estimates of levels of by-catch in WCPO oceanic fisheries</b>	
Activity 1.3.4.1: Review historical observer data and methodological development	SC 2 working papers were prepared and presented in 2006: <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc3/pdf/SC3_ST_WP3.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc3/pdf/SC3_ST_WP3.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc3/pdf/SC3_ST_IP2.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc3/pdf/SC3_ST_IP2.pdf</a>
1.3.4.2: Estimate levels of by-catch	The SC 2 working paper prepared and presented in 2006 ( <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP1.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP1.pdf</a> ) was updated under a consultancy contract and presented to SC3 in August as a working paper to the Statistics Specialist Working Group ( <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP1.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP1.pdf</a> ).
<b>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 &amp; Bycatch Working Group, and by Pacific SIDS</b>	
Activity 1.3.5.1: Present results of ecosystem analysis to the Commission through the Ecosystem & Bycatch Working Group	A workshop on Ecological Risk Assessment was held in Honolulu from August 06-09 with a wide range of experts with practical experience of implementing ERA. The outcomes were presented at SC3 (Ecosystems & Bycatch Working Group) and with workshop report available at <a href="http://www.wcpfc.int/sc3/pdf/SC3-EB-WP-3.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.int/sc3/pdf/SC3-EB-WP-3.pdf</a>  An updated productivity-susceptibility analysis has been drafted and was also presented at SC3 (Ecosystems & Bycatch Working Group). A copy of the report is available at <a href="http://www.wcpfc.int/sc3/pdf/SC3_EB_WP1_kirby_hobday.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.int/sc3/pdf/SC3_EB_WP1_kirby_hobday.pdf</a>
Activity 1.3.5.2: Present info on national & regional implications of results of ecosystem analysis to Pacific SIDS	Methods in Ecological Risk Assessment were presented to attendees of the second Stock Assessment Workshop held from July 01-06, at SPC, Noumea, for Pacific SIDS. This included a summary and discussion of ecosystem analysis results.
Activity 1.3.5.3: Attach national technical staff to SPC/OFP and other institutions to participate in ecosystem analysis	No activity this quarter

## Component Two

<b>Sub-component 2.1: Legal Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.1.1: A strategy and workplan for activities on regional and national legal issues</b>	
Activity 2.1.1.1: Carry out legal and technical reviews of legal issues and national legal structures	Analyses accompanied by national reports of gaps in legislation and port State measures prepared by consultant Martin Tsamenyi for East WCPFC subregional workshop in July and West WCPFC subregional workshop in September – discussion of such templates and presentations in workshops (co-financed with AusAID/NZAID).  Prepared discussion paper for meeting of Parties to the Niue Treaty to be held in Cook Islands in October, prior to the MOW.
Activity 2.1.1.2: Hold a Regional Legal Consultation on Legal Issues, National Legal Structures and the Project strategy for legal work.	WCPFC subregional workshop in Tonga in July and WCPFC subregional workshop in Solomon Islands in September – Costs of consultant Martin Tsamenyi (co-financed with AusAID/NZAID).  Presentations and legal advice provided at these workshop by Legal Services and consultant.
<b>Output 2.1.2 New draft laws, regulations, agreements and license conditions in line with WCPF Convention prepared and shared with Pacific SIDS.</b>	
Activity 2.1.2.1. Prepare templates of legal provisions to implement the Convention.	See Activity 2.1.1.1.
Activity 2.1.2.2. Undertake national legal reviews.	Project to review Samoa's fisheries legislation is ongoing. Consultant visited Samoa in July to undertake consultations to produce draft Act – awaiting this draft Act from consultant for in-house consultations.
Activity 2.1.2.3. Provide draft Bills, regulations, license conditions and access agreements to Pacific SIDS.	See Activity 2.1.2.2.  Reviewed draft licensing regulations for Cook Islands.  Legal advice provided to ensure that Solomon Islands' access agreements reflect the VDS adopted by the Commission.
<b>Output 2.1.3. Proposals for the Commission from Pacific SIDS for legal arrangements to implement the Convention.</b>	
Activity 2.1.3.1. Undertake legal studies on Commission and Convention issues including non-Contracting Parties and new members.	See Activity 2.1.1.1.  Legal advice incorporated into brief for Pacific SIDS that participated in the third consultations with Japan in September; a key agenda item discussed were issues relating to WCPFC.
Activity 2.1.3.2. Prepare legal briefs for Pacific SIDS for Commission and subsidiary body meetings.	See Activity 2.1.1.1.  Legal papers, and advice, provided for the FFA TCC Working Group to prepare countries for the TCC meeting in September.
Activity 2.1.3.3. Hold Regional Legal Consultations.	See Activity 2.1.1.2.
<b>Output 2.1.4. Training of policy makers and legal personnel in oceanic fisheries management legal issues.</b>	
Activity 2.1.4.1. Hold Regional Legal Workshops.	See Activity 2.1.1.2.
Activity 2.1.4.2. Hold National Legal Workshops.	No activity this quarter.

<b>Sub-component 2.2: Policy Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.2.1. National oceanic fisheries management Plans, policies and strategies.</b>	
Activity 2.2.1.1. Prepare Plans, policy and strategy documents.	Tonga and Nauru EAFM Stakeholder consultations for the development of the national EAFM reports
Activity 2.2.1.2. Support the implementation of Plans, policies and strategies.	See Activity 2.2.1.1
Activity 2.2.1.3. Undertake Plan, policy and strategy reviews.	Completed Vanuatu Tuna Management Plan review. Wider stakeholder consultation to finalise the Plan will take place in the fourth Quarter
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 2.2.2.1. Undertake studies on Commission and Convention conservation and management issues.	Completion of the Transshipment study
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.	Preparation briefs for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> WCPFC Scientific Committee meeting in Honolulu, the WCPFC Northern Committee meeting and the 3 <sup>rd</sup> WCPFC Technical Compliance Committee meeting.
Activity 2.2.2.3. Hold Regional Fisheries Management Workshops and Consultations.	Eastern, Northern and Western WCPFC Sub regional workshops and the VDS sub regional workshops.
<b>Output 2.2.3. Identification of possible management options for seamounts, including compliance options. (IUCN)</b>	
Activity 2.2.3.1. Undertake technical studies on management of oceanic fisheries around seamounts.	IUCN continues to dialog with FFA on joint policy work in the region, inviting FFA legal staff to participate in two relevant events – a high-level symposium on high seas governance to be held in October 2007 in New York City, and a expert consultation on corruption and fisheries tentatively scheduled for late January in Washington DC. IUCN is looking to increase capacity in the region on fisheries and oceans policy and will be discussing how best to do this with FFA and other project partners in Q4.
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.	
<b>Output 2.2.4. Training of policy makers, technical personnel and other Pacific SIDS stakeholders to increase understanding of sustainable and responsible fisheries.</b>	
Activity 2.2.4.1. Hold Regional Policy Consultations / Workshops.	See Activity 2.2.2.3
Activity 2.2.4.2. Offer a TSC/USP Policy Training Course.	Completion of the TSC/USP Policy training course
Activity 2.2.4.3. Present National Fisheries Management Seminars and Workshops.	Tonga and Nauru EAFM consultation workshops
Activity 2.2.4.4. Attach Fisheries Management personnel to FFA	Participation in the IWG/Joint Tuna RFMO meeting in US and the IATTC meeting in Mexico

and arrange study tours for Pacific SIDS personnel to other Fisheries Commissions.	
Activity 2.2.4.5. Support relevant Ministerial meetings.	No Activity this quarter
<b>Sub-component 2.3: Institutional Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.3.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for the reform, realignment and strengthening of national oceanic fisheries management administrations.</b>	
Activity 2.3.1.1. Prepare a review of experience and best practices in institutional reform.	Initial draft report has been reviewed by FFA and revised draft received. Draft report to be distributed to GEF focal points and FFA contacts.
Activity 2.3.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of national oceanic fisheries management institutions.	Consultation with Kiribati Fisheries and FFA Institutional Consultants in anticipation of Institutional Strengthening request from Kiribati Fisheries. In-country planning exercise likely in November 2007.
Activity 2.3.1.3. Present National Institutional Reform Workshops.	No activity this quarter
<b>Output 2.3.2. Processes for national consultation between stakeholders in oceanic fisheries management.</b>	
Activity 2.3.2.1. Advise on and support national consultative processes.	
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.	
Activity 2.3.2.3. Support national workshops for non-state stakeholders.	
Activity 2.3.2.4. Arrange attachments and study tours for non-state stakeholders to learn from experience elsewhere.	
<b>Sub-component 2.4: Compliance Strengthening</b>	
<b>Output 2.4.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for realigning and strengthening national oceanic fisheries compliance programs.</b>	
Activity 2.4.1.1. Prepare a review of Convention implications for national compliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspection adopted in December 2006 at the Regional Evidence Training and Investigation Course held at the PNG National Fisheries College.</li> <li>• Regional WCPFC consultation held at the FFA Secretariat, Honiara in August.</li> </ul>
Activity 2.4.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of needs to strengthen and realign national compliance programs.	Preparation to implement MCS strategy as approved by FFC64.
<b>Output 2.4.2. Arrangements for regional coordination of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)</b>	

<b>activities.</b>	
Activity 2.4.2.1. Support regional consultations on coordination of air and sea patrols.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide assistance and support to the Operation Kurukuru 2007 held in Tonga. Participating Countries were Cook Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Logistical supports came from Australia, New Zealand, France and US.</li> <li>• Provide assistance and support to operations Bigeye 2007. RMI (Majuro) is the Operational Head Quarters. Countries involved in the Operation are; Marshalls, FSM, Palau, Kiribati, PNG and Nauru. Countries providing logistical support are Australia, New Zealand, France and US.</li> </ul>
Activity 2.4.2.2. Provide advice on MCS coordination between Pacific SIDS and other states involved.	Provide advice and support to FSM, Palau and RMI for operations and in September during the WCPFC TCC3 meeting in Pohnpei.
Activity 2.4.2.3. Prepare Niue Treaty subsidiary agreements.	Preparation of a comprehensive review of the Niue Treaty as approved by the FFC64 in New Zealand in May. The Review will take place in October in Cook Islands during the Management Options Workshop.
<b>Output 2.4.3. Strategies and proposals for regional compliance measures and programs.</b>	
Activity 2.4.3.1. Undertake technical studies on compliance issues under the Convention.	Preliminary work on the FFA MCS Strategy done as recently approved by the FFC64 in New Zealand.
Activity 2.4.3.2. Hold meetings of a Working Group of Pacific SIDS on MCS issues related to oceanic fisheries.	FFC64 approved of the formation of FFA TCC Working Group Working Group to meet prior to WCPFC TCC to deliberate on Compliance affecting the WCPFC. FFA members including the FFA Secretariat met in Pohnpei mid September 2007 prior to TCC3 to discussed and prepare members for TCC3. A number of major MCS issues were discussed; the High Seas Boarding Inspection Procedures, the Commission's Observer Programme and Commission's VMS Programme. Other issues discussed are; transshipment, Authorisation to Fish; WCPFC IUU List; Annual Report to the Commission – Part II; Port State standards and FAO Model Scheme; Catch Documentation Scheme.
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.	FFA TCC Working Group met in Pohnpei mid September 2007 prior to TCC3 to prepare FFA members on the issues listed below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Authorisation to Fish;</li> <li>(ii) WCPFC IUU List;</li> <li>(iii) Commission VMS;</li> <li>(iv) Regional Observer Program;</li> <li>(v) Annual Report to the Commission – Part II;</li> <li>(vi) High Seas Boarding and Inspection;</li> <li>(vii) Port State standards and FAO Model Scheme;</li> <li>(viii) Catch Documentation Scheme;</li> <li>(ix) Transshipment; and</li> <li>(x) FFA Priorities for MCS issues in 2007 and Beyond.</li> </ul>
<b>Output 2.4.4. Training of national compliance staff, especially in inspection and VMS.</b>	
Activity 2.4.4.1. Present courses on National Inspection, VMS and other national MCS training programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A pilot Regional Evidence Training and Investigation Course delivered by Australian Fisheries Academy was held at the PNG National Fisheries College, Kavieng in August 2007. Fifteen (15) participants from thirteen (13) FFA member countries received Australian accredited Certificate III in the Seafood Industry (Fisheries Compliance), which is the minimum qualification requirement for all Fisheries Compliance Officers in Australia. Countries that participated at the course were; Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, RMI, Samoa, Solomon, Tokelau, Tonga, Vanuatu and PNG. Tuvalu was unable to attend while Niue withdrew after one week into the course.</li> <li>• The syllabus covering fisheries compliance operations in the following areas:</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fisheries management principles and legislation</li> <li>○ Monitoring fish catches</li> <li>○ Undertaking patrol operations including methods and resources</li> <li>○ Investigation techniques             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gathering evidence/note taking</li> <li>▪ Chain of evidence</li> <li>▪ Interviewing and statement taking</li> <li>▪ Brief preparation</li> <li>▪ Court procedures</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The units of competency were covered with a lot of practical exercises such as those on investigation, evidence gathering, and visiting of the court concentrating on court procedures. Some practical exercises on monitoring fish at the fish processing plant.</li> </ul>
<p>Activity 2.4.4.2. Attach national compliance staff to FFA and other Pacific SIDS.</p>	<p>No fellowship attachment was held at the FFA secretariat but plans are underway to send two of the best students from the recently concluded PNG Course to do an attachment with the Ministry of Fisheries (MCS), New Zealand.</p>

### Component Three

<b>Sub-component 3.1: Information Strategy</b>	
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 3.1.1.1. Design logos and other Project identifiers, Project Website/page and Project Document Cataloguing System.	Completed.
Activity 3.1.1.2. Operate the Website/page.	On-going. Website will be subject to systems update as part of the FFA website completed. KM Strategy recommendations to update website to be implemented.
Activity 3.1.1.3. Project information materials including CDs, papers, videos, pamphlets, newsletters, interviews, press releases etc.	Suite of publications is scheduled to be design in Q3 as per recommendations of the KM Strategy – to be progressed. Discussions with WWF regarding publications in 'lay terms' for NGO and other audiences.
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 3.1.2.1. Prepare Knowledge Management Strategy.	Draft KM Strategy and to be circulated for comment. Recommendations to be considered and implemented where appropriate.
Activity 3.1.2.2. Generate Knowledge Management Components for Website/page, newsletters, and progress reports.	See draft KM Strategy recommendations.
	Pacific representation (PCU, Cook Islands and FSM) at the fourth International Waters GEF conference held at Cape Town South Africa in August/September 2007. Project presentations were delivered to sustainable resources side meetings at the conference. Attendance at a workshop on the Economic evaluation of Large Marine Ecosystems before the GEF IW4 conference. Interaction and communication with IWLEARN staff.
<b>Sub-component 3.2: Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	
<b>Output 3.2.1. Measures of, and reports on, overall project performance and delivery, including independent evaluations of the Project.</b>	
Activity 3.2.1.1. Mid-term evaluation.	To be coordinated by UNDP Suva. Draft TORs for MTE comments provided to UNDP Suva.
Activity 3.2.1.2. Terminal evaluation.	No activity
Activity 3.2.1.3. Post evaluation (Year 8).	
Activity 3.2.1.4. Annual reviews.	TORs for annual review drafted.
Activity 3.2.1.5. Annual audit.	2006 Audit completed and submitted to UNDP.
<b>Output 3.2.2. Analysis of process, stress-reduction and environmental status indicators as per the GEF International Waters Operational Strategy.</b>	
Activity 3.2.2.1. Carry out baseline studies to measure IW indicators.	Gaps in baseline information are being addressed, specifically with regards to national institutions & supportive laws and policies reforms and the existence of inter-ministry coordination mechanisms.

Activity 3.2.2.2. Include indicator measures in progress reports.	To be completed.
<b>Sub-component 3.3: Stakeholder Participation and Awareness Raising</b>	
<b>Output 3.3.1. ENGO participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.</b>	
Activity 3.3.1.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with a Pacific ENGO.	Completed
Activity 3.3.1.2. Support Pacific ENGO participation in the Commission.	Provisions within the FFA/WWF LOA. WWF will be supported at SC3 (Honolulu in August), TCC3 (September, venue TBA) and 4 <sup>th</sup> session of the WCPF Commission at Pohnpei in December.
Activity 3.3.1.3. Provide information on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific ENGOs.	See Activity 3.3.1.4
Activity 3.3.1.4. Hold national and regional Workshops for ENGOs.	A further follow-up ENGO workshop is scheduled for Q4 2007.
Activity 3.3.1.5. Produce information materials to raise public awareness on oceanic fisheries management issues.	No activity – current discussions with WWF-Pacific to produce material in non-technical language to raise awareness.
Activity 3.3.1.6. Organise regional and national fora on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues for civil society participation.	See Activity 3.3.1.4
<b>Output 3.3.2. Support industry participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.</b>	
Activity 3.3.2.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with Pacific INGO.	LOA completed.
Activity 3.3.2.2. Support Pacific INGO participation in the Commission.	LOA provides for support to regional policy meetings (MOW, October Rarotonga) and WCPFC4 (Pohnpei, December)
Activity 3.3.2.3. Provide information flow on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific INGOs and businesses.	Project publication disbursed.
Activity 3.3.2.4. Support Pacific INGO consultations on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues.	See Activity 3.3.2.2.
<b>Sub-component 3.4: Project Management and Coordination</b>	
<b>Output 3.4.1. Project Coordination Unit staffing and office.</b>	
Activity 3.4.1.1. Appoint the Project Coordinator.	Completed
Activity 3.4.1.2. Appoint other PCU staff.	Completed
Activity 3.4.1.3. Procure equipment and other requirements to establish	Software and fan purchased.

the PCU.	
<b>Output 3.4.2. Arrangements for coordination between Implementing and Executing Agencies.</b>	
Activity 3.4.2.1. Preliminary UNDP/FFA/SPC/IUCN Consultations.	Completed
Activity 3.4.2.2. Conclude FFA/SPC and FFA/IUCN Letters of Agreement (LOAs).	Completed
Activity 3.4.2.3. UNDP/FFA Consultations.	On-going
<b>Output 3.4.3. Regional Steering Committee meetings and reports.</b>	
Activity 3.4.3.1. Hold Inception Workshop.	Completed
Activity 3.4.3.2. Hold Regional Steering Committee meetings.	RC3 scheduled for 6 Oct at Rarotonga Cook Islands preceding the MOW.
<b>Output 3.4.4. National Consultative Committee meetings and reports.</b>	
Activity 3.4.4.1. Secure National Focal Point nominations.	Completed
Activity 3.4.4.2. Support National Consultative Committee meetings.	No requests to date have been received for assistance in this regard. Awareness of this provision is to be raised during country visits.
<b>Output 3.4.5. Reports on Project implementation, workplan and finances.</b>	
Activity 3.4.5.1. Prepare periodic financial and narrative reports.	On-going. Q1 & Q2 financial and narrative reports completed and submitted on time to UNDP.
Activity 3.4.5.2. Prepare Annual Work plans	Draft for 2008 annual work plan prepared with work quarterly budget and work descriptions completed. To be submitted to RSC3 6 Oct.
Activity 3.4.5.3: Prepare Annual Project Reports	July 2006 – June 2007 period of reporting – UNDP/GEF PIR/APR and GEF Framework Results reports completed and submitted to UNDP/GEF. Will also be tabled at RSC3.

## 8. Challenges/Issues Encountered

- i) Ongoing – IUCN deferment of activities:
  - Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts
  - Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis
  - Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey
- ii) Attach national technical staff to SPC/OFP & FFA – this continues to be very difficult to organise due to the increasing and competing domestic commitments and travel commitments of suitably qualified fisheries staff from national fisheries departments and authorities.
- iii) Similar issues for scheduling attachments for country visits encountered, increasing and competing domestic and travel commitments by project focal points.

## 9. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)

- i) IUCN are expected to make a final decision concerning the research cruise at the end of 2007.
- ii) Attachments are still being planned and undertaken by SPC (to complement stock assessment training and NTFSR work) and at FFA whenever possible.
- iii) continuing to liaise with project focal points to schedule in-country assistance and visits by the PCU.

## 10. Report Prepared By:

*PCU – Barbara Hanchard*

*FFA – Michael Ferris with assistance from Lamiller Pawut, Moses Amos with assistance from Manu Tupou-Roosen and Darren Cameron*

*SPC - John Hampton, with assistance from Valerie Allain, Don Bromhead, Deirdre Brogan, Bruno Leroy and Peter Williams.*

*IUCN – Andrew Hurd, Ang Sherpa*

## 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 October 2007 to 31 December 2007

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

The fourth quarter of 2007 saw the project complete twenty seven months of activities under the guidance of the Oceanic Fisheries Programme at SPC and the FFA. During this period the third meeting of the Regional Steering Committee for the project successfully convened in Rarotonga in October at which project progress and challenges were reported. Project awareness and project activities expected to be progressed by the IUCN remain challenges, although assurances have been made that matters will be decided by the close of 2007 by IUCN. Impacting greatly on the work of the project is the number of fisheries events and meetings in the region and the burden of keeping abreast with the weight of obligations by small and poorly resourced Pacific islands fisheries administrations and other government departments involved in regional fisheries issues.

Considerable progress has been achieved with the roll out and improvement of the TUFMANs database by SPC and the support towards helping build the capacity of Pacific fisheries administrations in stock assessment and their scientific reporting obligations to the Commission. Equally, those project activities that are guided by the FFA in the Policy Component of the project continue to be invaluable for the preparations required by Pacific islands countries to allow them to participate effectively in the work of the Commission. The outcomes of the most recent Commission meeting in December at Guam failed to adopt some much needed conservation measures to address widely held concerns for the bigeye and yellowfin stocks in the region. This remains a disappointment but Pacific islands members of the Commission are resolute in their efforts to be responsible fisheries managers and anticipate that in 2008 they will need to be instrumental in finding solutions for impasse at the Commission.

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

Specific outputs and results achieved under the project against quarterly work plans are reported in the following spreadsheets.

## Component One

<b>Sub-component 1.1: Fishery Monitoring</b>	
<b>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</b>	
Activity 1.1.1.1: Develop database and associated software	<p>TUFMAN versions 4.3 and 4.3.1 were released during this reporting period. Features of the new TUFMAN include a complete suite of reports to support the reporting of pole-and-line catch and effort data, short-cuts for the data entry of certain fields (dates and positional information), the addition of a VESSEL HISTORY table and a new purse seine unloading data entry component.</p> <p>CES was enhanced to provide reporting down to the vessel set level and the interface for the CES Mapping was redesigned. The latest version of CES is now 8.6.</p>
Activity 1.1.1.2: Develop reporting module for Commission data	There was no specific work undertaken on the TUFMAN Commission reporting module during this reporting period, although the Data Quality Reports (which are fundamental to the information that will be reported in the TUFMAN Commission reporting module) were reviewed and fine-tuned.
<b>Output 1.1.2: National monitoring systems based on the regional template for integrated monitoring, customised to meet national needs</b>	
Activity 1.1.2.1: Support establishment and enhancement of national databases and software	<p>Version 4.3 of TUFMAN was thoroughly tested during this period and installed in the Solomon Islands during October 2007 under the supervision of the Database Manager. Once trialled the new version will be rolled out to a number of countries. Further developments on TUFMAN during late November/early December advanced the version to 4.3.1, which was installed in the Marshall Islands in mid December 2007.</p> <p>The CES database system, with the most up-to-date tuna fishery data, was provided to all member countries in December 2007.</p> <p>The Observer Trip View System with the most up-to-date observer data was provided to RMI, Solomon Islands and Fiji.</p>
Activity 1.1.2.2: Support establishment and enhancement of national port sampling and observer programmes	<p>The 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Observer Coordinators' Workshop was conducted in the third week of November. The theme of the workshop was "Observer Professionalism" with focus on Competency-Based Training (CBT) standards for observers and observer debriefers. The opportunity was also taken to review technical innovations that are coming of age as observer tools – in particular temperature-depth-recorders and electronic data-collection devices. Time was also allocated to looking at different biological sample collection projects currently being carried out in the region.</p> <p>The workshop was immediately followed by the first meeting of the Pacific Island Regional Fisheries Observers (PIRFO) CBT standards development steering committee, which is helping direct the work of a consultant in developing these CBT standards for the region. The workshop and meeting, facilitated by SPC, were jointly funded by SPC and FFA and the project.</p> <p>Attachment training at the OFP for the Solomon Islands and Fiji Observer Coordinators were provided in December – the training focused mainly on use of TUFMAN and the Observer Viewer system developed at SPC.</p> <p>Ongoing technical advice was provided to Solomon Islands Fisheries, as their new observer coordinator finds his feet and the new Solomon Island Fisheries restructuring project gets under way.</p> <p>Support was provided for the Solomon islands and Papua New Guinea observer coordinators to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> Data Collection Committee (DCC7) held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November. At DCC7 the latest version of regional observer data</p>

	collection forms was decided upon so that redesigns, printing and distribution can take place in early 2008.
Activity 1.1.2.3: Support the coordination of national monitoring programmes	In-country support was given to Fiji during two one week trips in Oct-Nov. The Fiji National Tuna Data Procedures Document was updated and discussions had on possible funding support.  The MOU to fund the NTDC position for a further year in Vanuatu was negotiated and the previous year's annual work report clarified. New requests for funding to support monitoring work in the Solomon Islands and FSM were received.
<b>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</b>	
Activity 1.1.3.1: Develop and make available common data formats	With the up-coming changes to regional forms, in line with the December DCC7 outcomes, fewer standard forms were shipped this quarter. Thirty-nine workbooks, nine waterproof pads and 15 pads of logsheets were sent out to national monitoring programmes this quarter.
Activity 1.1.3.2: Hold Regional Workshops on regional and national fishery monitoring	The next Tuna Data Workshop is currently scheduled for April 7-11 2008. A Regional Observer Coordinator's Workshop and a meeting of the SPC/FFA Data Collection Committee were conducted in November 2007.
Activity 1.1.3.3: Distribute newsletters, webpage and other forms of information exchange	The Fork length newsletter was published and made available on the SPC website <a href="http://www.spc.int/oceanfish/Docs/Statistics/Fork_Length_7.pdf">http://www.spc.int/oceanfish/Docs/Statistics/Fork_Length_7.pdf</a> . Over 500 hard copies were also posted out to national monitoring programmes.
<b>Output 1.1.4: Training of national monitoring staff, particularly monitoring coordinators, observers and port samplers</b>	
Activity 1.1.4.1: Organise and hold in-country observer & port sampling courses and other training activities	No specific training courses were carried out during this quarter when resources were tied up with regional tagging issues. However some informal training activity was carried out with respect to observer involvement in tagging issues. This was a busy quarter on observer and port sampler CBT standards development.
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	Attachments from Fiji and the Solomon Islands visited the Statistics and Monitoring section of the OFP. Attachment training included (i) General overview of regional tuna fisheries data collection, (ii) A review and update of their national TUFMAN system and the concept of the national procedures document (iii) Training and exercises in the Observer Viewer System
<b>Sub-component 1.2: Stock Assessment</b>	
<b>Output 1.2.1: National oceanic fisheries status reports prepared collaboratively with national scientific staff</b>	
Activity 1.2.1.1: Prepare 6 National Oceanic Fisheries Status Reports (NTFSRs) annually	During the quarter, work on the NTFSRs for FSM, Nauru, and Kiribati were progressed. The Palau draft NTFSR has been completed and is under review. The Tonga NTFSR has been finalised. The NTFSR schedule for 2008 is currently being finalised.
Activity 1.2.1.2: Hold In-country Stakeholder Workshops for delivery of National Status Reports	Outputs from the FSM NTFSR were presented at an in-country EAFM stakeholder workshop in Pohnpei.
<b>Output 1.2.2: Advice to Pacific SIDS on scientific issues in the work of the Commission</b>	

<p>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</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scientific presentations and advice provision to the FFA preparatory meeting for the Commission (December 2007).</li> <li>2. Scientific presentations and advice provision to the WCPFC (December 2007).</li> <li>3. Scientific advice provided at in-country EAFM consultation (FSM – November 2007)</li> </ol>
<p>Activity 1.2.2.2: Present scientific briefs to preparatory meetings of Pacific SIDS for the Commission</p>	<p>Scientific presentations and advice were given to the pre-Commission preparatory meeting of the FFA (December 2007)</p>
<p><b>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</b></p>	
<p>Activity 1.2.3.1: Hold Regional Workshops on stock assessment methods and analysis of oceanographic impacts on fisheries</p>	<p>A preliminary online portal for Stock Assessment Workshop revision exercises was developed by OFP, to enable the 2007 workshop participants to revise and maintain their understanding of stock assessment during the period between annual workshops. The first online revision exercise was provided to participants in November 2007 with a response deadline of December. Nine of the 22 participants had responded by the deadline (with generally excellent results), with several more expected. Further exercises have been drafted for January and February 2008. The ongoing development of this online endeavour will depend upon participation rates for the first 3 exercises.</p> <p>Two days of stock assessment training is planned for a Kiribati fisheries officer during his attachment to OFP in January 2008.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>No activity this quarter due to WCPFC and other commitments, both by SPC and FFA members. Attachment of a Kiribati fisheries officer to OFP in early January 2008 has been confirmed.</p>
<p>Activity 1.2.3.3: Train scientific counterparts in-country</p>	<p>Limited activity this quarter. Intended training in FSM in Q4 2007 was impeded by FSM fisheries officers absence (due to ill health) during the visit. In country training is planned during EAFM visits to Nauru and Kiribati in January 2008.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sub-component 1.3: Ecosystem Monitoring and Analysis</b></p>	
<p><b>Output 1.3.1: Observer sampling and analysis of commercial fishery catches to determine trophic relationships of pelagic species in the WTP LME</b></p>	
<p>Activity 1.3.1.1: Collect observer-based sampling data, especially – stomach contents, tissue samples</p>	<p>Biological sampling of stomach contents and tissue samples is undertaken in several countries and coordinators from Palau and Tonga have indicated a willingness to start sampling in their region. The 100 Samples that have been collected in Fiji and the 30 samples that have been collected in FSM are now in the Laboratory in Nouméa. 30 samples were collected in Marshall Islands and 135 samples collected during the tagging project in Solomon Islands.</p> <p>Issue # 4 of the biological sampling SPC Newsletter was distributed in November in conjunction with issue # 7 of “Fork Length, the observer and port sampler newsletter”.</p> <p>An overview of the stomach sampling has been presented during the 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Observer Coordinator’s Workshop and stomach sampling strategies have been established for each region.</p>
<p>Activity 1.3.1.2: Lab-based analysis of samples</p>	<p>Lab-based analysis of samples is continuing. During the quarter, 117 stomach samples were examined and the resulting data/information entered into the</p>

	database. The total number of stomachs examined and with data entered is now 3,450 samples from 68 different species.
<b>Output 1.3.2: Collection and analysis of information on seamounts in the WTP LME</b>	
<b>SPC</b>	
Activity 1.3.2.1: Hold seamount activity planning and review workshops	This activity was completed during Q1-2006 and Q3-2006.
Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts	A scientific paper entitled “Enhanced seamount location database for the western and central Pacific Ocean: screening and cross-checking of 20 existing datasets” has been submitted to the peer-reviewed journal Deep-Sea Research. The seamount screening and database has been extended to the area that will be potentially managed by the South Pacific RFMO. The database now contains 6,825 cross-checked underwater features including seamounts.
Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis	Tag recaptures from the PNG releases continue to be processed, with total recaptures now numbering 7,743, including 37 archival tag recoveries. In Oct-Nov, a one-month tagging cruise in Solomon Islands was carried out, with an additional 11,180 tunas tagged and released. To date, 1,250 of these tagged fish had been recaptured and the tags returned to SPC.
Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey	IRD budget restrictions have resulted in the cancellation of the planned co-funded scientific cruise in 2008 in the Bismarck Sea (PNG) to study the influence of seamounts on benthic and pelagic ecosystems.
<b>IUCN</b>	
Activity 1.3.2.1: Hold seamount activity planning and review workshops	<i>See comments on challenges at the end of the report.</i>
Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts	
Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis	
Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey	
<b>Output 1.3.3: Model-based analysis of ecosystem-based management options</b>	
Activity 1.3.3.1: Incorporate ecosystem data and information into existing ecosystem models and refinement of those models as necessary	Progress on trophic structure qualitative models of pelagic ecosystems of different regions in the Pacific were presented by co-PIs at two meetings: PFRP-PI in Honolulu, Hawaii, Nov. 2007 and CLIOTOP in La Paz, Mexico, Dec. 2007.
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.
<b>Output 1.3.4: Estimates of levels of by-catch in WCPO oceanic fisheries</b>	
Activity 1.3.4.1: Review historical observer data and methodological development	No activity this quarter.
1.3.4.2: Estimate levels of by-catch	No activity this quarter.
<b>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 &amp; Bycatch Working Group, and by Pacific SIDS</b>	
Activity 1.3.5.1: Present results of ecosystem analysis to the Commission through the Ecosystem & Bycatch Working Group	No activity this quarter
Activity 1.3.5.2: Present info on national & regional implications of results of ecosystem analysis to Pacific SIDS	Ecological Risk Assessments (ERAs) were prepared for Nauru and for the Federated States of Micronesia and presented at the FFA Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) workshops in those countries.
Activity 1.3.5.3: Attach national technical staff to SPC/OFP and other institutions to participate in ecosystem analysis	No activity this quarter

## Component Two

<b>Sub-component 2.1: Legal Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.1.1: A strategy and workplan for activities on regional and national legal issues</b>	
Activity 2.1.1.1: Carry out legal and technical reviews of legal issues and national legal structures	See Activity 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.2.2.
Activity 2.1.1.2: Hold a Regional Legal Consultation on Legal Issues, National Legal Structures and the Project strategy for legal work.	<p>As a Project Strategy for Legal work, a legal consultant was engaged to draft guidelines for fisheries legislation, which are to be used for any legislative review. This consultant's draft report has been received, and will be sent to member countries for comment by a particular date. Thereafter, legislative reviews will re-commence; priority work for Samoa, Fiji and Vanuatu.</p> <p>Samoa's initial consultation of the legislative review process took place in July 2007. Second stage of the review process to commence in early 2008.</p>
<b>Output 2.1.2 New draft laws, regulations, agreements and license conditions in line with WCPF Convention prepared and shared with Pacific SIDS.</b>	
Activity 2.1.2.1. Prepare templates of legal provisions to implement the Convention.	<p>One of the outputs of the WCPF Convention workshops, if the country requires, is to draft legislation to address any gaps in the current laws.</p> <p>In December 2007, Kiribati has requested assistance with their legislation and this is planned for June 2008.</p>
Activity 2.1.2.2. Undertake national legal reviews.	See Activity 2.1.1.2. All legislative reviews are on hold until the finalisation of the consultant's report so that such guidelines are incorporate into any legislative review.
Activity 2.1.2.3. Provide draft Bills, regulations, license conditions and access agreements to Pacific SIDS.	See Activity 2.1.2.2.
<b>Output 2.1.3. Proposals for the Commission from Pacific SIDS for legal arrangements to implement the Convention.</b>	
Activity 2.1.3.1. Undertake legal studies on Commission and Convention issues including non-Contracting Parties and new members.	See 2.1.1.2.
Activity 2.1.3.2. Prepare legal briefs for Pacific SIDS for Commission and subsidiary body meetings.	Contributions were made to the brief for the WCPFC4. Other contributions have been made to the brief for the TCC meeting.
Activity 2.1.3.3. Hold Regional Legal Consultations.	Legal advise and contributions to the sub-regional consultations with tuna industries have been made.
<b>Output 2.1.4. Training of policy makers and legal personnel in oceanic fisheries management legal issues.</b>	
Activity 2.1.4.1. Hold Regional Legal Workshops.	FFA Regional Legal workshop for November 2007 now to be held in April 7-9 2008 in Nadi, Fiji Islands..
Activity 2.1.4.2. Hold National Legal Workshops.	National workshops consolidated into the three sub-regional workshops. Three workshops relating to the obligations under the WCPF Convention and the Commission's decisions were held in June,

	July and September. These workshops were in the Marshall Islands,, Tonga and Solomon Islands. Extensive legislative matrices outlining all WCPFC obligations for each country were done and presented at each workshop. This was provided with assistance from the Legal Consultant.
	A Solomon Islands legal fellow did his one week fellowship attachment with the Legal Services in December 2007 and completed the second week in January 2008.

### Sub-component 2.2: Policy Reform

<b>Output 2.2.1. National oceanic fisheries management Plans, policies and strategies.</b>	
Activity 2.2.1.1. Prepare Plans, policy and strategy documents.	First draft of the FSM, Tonga and Nauru EAFM reports completed in December 2007
Activity 2.2.1.2. Support the implementation of Plans, policies and strategies.	See Activity 2.2.1.1
Activity 2.2.1.3. Undertake Plan, policy and strategy reviews.	No activity in this quarter
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 2.2.2.1. Undertake studies on Commission and Convention conservation and management issues.	A cost-benefit study of management options for bigeye and yellowfin was undertaken and provided to Pacific SIDS as a basis for preparing proposals for WCPFC4
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.	Reports on bigeye and yellowfin management options, transshipment, regional observer programme, cooperating non-Members and sea turtle conservation were prepared for the regional Management Options Workshop.  A briefing on all significant issues for WCPFC4 was prepared and presented to Pacific SIDS
Activity 2.2.2.3. Hold Regional Fisheries Management Workshops and Consultations.	Building on information shared and positions developed at the sub-regional workshops held in prior quarters, the Annual Management Options Workshop (MOW) was held in October to finalise positions and identify priority areas for the annual WCPFC meeting in Guam in December 2007. Draft measures developed at the MOW were forwarded to the Commission to form the basis of discussion on proposed measures on various issues.  A pre-WCPFC meeting of FFA Members was held discussing the brief as referred to in 2.2.2.2 above and positions, strategies and key proponents / presenters were agreed for the WCPFC meeting. GEF Fisheries Management Adviser attended and presented briefing papers at the pre-WCPFC meeting of FFA Members and provided advice to members at the annual WCPFC meeting in Guam.
<b>Output 2.2.3. Identification of possible management options for seamounts, including compliance options. (IUCN)</b>	
Activity 2.2.3.1. Undertake technical studies on management of oceanic fisheries around seamounts.	<i>See comments at the end of the report.</i>
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.	
<b>Output 2.2.4. Training of policy makers, technical personnel and other Pacific SIDS stakeholders to increase understanding of sustainable and responsible fisheries.</b>	
Activity 2.2.4.1. Hold Regional Policy Consultations / Workshops.	See Activity 2.2.2.3
Activity 2.2.4.2. Offer a TSC/USP Policy Training Course.	Completion of the TSC/USP Policy training course. No activity during this quarter
Activity 2.2.4.3. Present National Fisheries Management Seminars and Workshops.	FSM EAFM stakeholder consultation workshop completed
Activity 2.2.4.4. Attach Fisheries Management personnel to FFA and arrange study tours for Pacific SIDS personnel to other Fisheries Commissions.	Participation in the IOTC meeting. No attachments of Fisheries management personnel to FFA during this quarter.
Activity 2.2.4.5. Support relevant Ministerial meetings.	No Activity this quarter
<b>Sub-component 2.3: Institutional Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.3.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for the reform, realignment and strengthening of national oceanic fisheries management administrations.</b>	
Activity 2.3.1.1. Prepare a review of experience and best practices in institutional reform.	Draft Report was distributed to GEF focal points and FFA contacts this quarter. No comments received and report will be finalised 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2008.
Activity 2.3.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of national oceanic fisheries management institutions.	A request to FFA to undertake Institutional Reform/ Strengthening Scoping Study was received from Kiribati in October 2007. A one week planning exercise to Kiribati involving Institutional Reform / Strengthening consultants was undertaken in November 2007. A draft Planning report and TOR for Scoping Study have been received and are being assessed before forwarding to Kiribati and others for comment. Full scoping study expected to be undertaken in April 2008.
Activity 2.3.1.3. Present National Institutional Reform Workshops.	No Activity this quarter
<b>Output 2.3.2. Processes for national consultation between stakeholders in oceanic fisheries management.</b>	
Activity 2.3.2.1. Advise on and support national consultative processes.	
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.	
Activity 2.3.2.3. Support national workshops for non-state	

stakeholders.	
Activity 2.3.2.4. Arrange attachments and study tours for non-state stakeholders to learn from experience elsewhere.	
<b>Sub-component 2.4: Compliance Strengthening</b>	
<b>Output 2.4.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for realigning and strengthening national oceanic fisheries compliance programs.</b>	
Activity 2.4.1.1. Prepare a review of Convention implications for national compliance.	
Activity 2.4.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of needs to strengthen and realign national compliance programs.	
<b>Output 2.4.2. Arrangements for regional coordination of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities.</b>	
Activity 2.4.2.1. Support regional consultations on coordination of air and sea patrols.	
Activity 2.4.2.2. Provide advice on MCS coordination between Pacific SIDS and other states involved.	
Activity 2.4.2.3. Prepare Niue Treaty subsidiary agreements.	
<b>Output 2.4.3. Strategies and proposals for regional compliance measures and programs.</b>	
Activity 2.4.3.1. Undertake technical studies on compliance issues under the Convention.	
Activity 2.4.3.2. Hold meetings of a Working Group of Pacific SIDS on MCS issues related to oceanic fisheries.	
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.	
<b>Output 2.4.4. Training of national compliance staff, especially in inspection and VMS.</b>	
Activity 2.4.4.1. Present courses on National Inspection, VMS and other national MCS training programs.	
Activity 2.4.4.2. Attach national compliance staff to FFA and other Pacific SIDS.	

### Component Three

<b>Sub-component 3.1: Information Strategy</b>	
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 3.1.1.1. Design logos and other Project identifiers, Project Website/page and Project Document Cataloguing System.	Completed.
Activity 3.1.1.2. Operate the Website/page.	On-going. Short term contract developed to undertake Website related work which will involve some changes to the layout of the site and clear the back log of updating contents, principally project related reports and documentation.
Activity 3.1.1.3. Project information materials including CDs, papers, videos, pamphlets, newsletters, interviews, press releases etc.	Short Term website consultancy will produce a dynamic newsletter template linked to the webpage. It is expected also that the consultancy will identify and recommend material suitable for audio, print and CD/DVD production.  Discussions with WWF regarding publications in 'lay terms' for NGO and other audiences to be progressed.
<b>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.</b>	
Activity 3.1.2.1. Prepare Knowledge Management Strategy.	KM Strategy circulated for comment. No comments were received from stakeholders and the PCU takes the prerogative to implement those recommendations that are considered appropriate and for which funds are available.
Activity 3.1.2.2. Generate Knowledge Management Components for Website/page, newsletters, and progress reports.	See Activities 3.1.1.2, 3.1.1.3 and 3.1.2.1
<b>Sub-component 3.2: Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	
<b>Output 3.2.1. Measures of, and reports on, overall project performance and delivery, including independent evaluations of the Project.</b>	
Activity 3.2.1.1. Mid-term evaluation.	To be coordinated by UNDP Suva.
Activity 3.2.1.2. Terminal evaluation.	No activity
Activity 3.2.1.3. Post evaluation (Year 8).	
Activity 3.2.1.4. Annual reviews.	Consultant contracted to perform an annual review of the project. Interviews and questionnaires were undertaken in the margins of the Commission meetings held at Guam in November and early December. A draft of the report is expected to be available in early 2008.
Activity 3.2.1.5. Annual audit.	Arrangements for the 2007 audit have been made. Audit instructions have been made available in good time by UNDP Fiji.
<b>Output 3.2.2. Analysis of process, stress-reduction and environmental status indicators as per the GEF International Waters Operational Strategy.</b>	
Activity 3.2.2.1. Carry out baseline	Gaps in baseline information are being addressed, specifically with regards to national institutions & supportive laws and policies reforms

studies to measure IW indicators.	and the existence of inter-ministry coordination mechanisms.
Activity 3.2.2.2. Include indicator measures in progress reports.	To be completed.
<b>Sub-component 3.3: Stakeholder Participation and Awareness Raising</b>	
<b>Output 3.3.1. ENGO participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.</b>	
Activity 3.3.1.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with a Pacific ENGO.	Completed.
Activity 3.3.1.2. Support Pacific ENGO participation in the Commission.	Provisions within the FFA/WWF LOA. WWF will be supported at SC3 (Honolulu in August), TCC3 (September, venue TBA) and 4 <sup>th</sup> session of the WCPF Commission at Pohnpei in December.
Activity 3.3.1.3. Provide information on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific ENGOs.	See Activity 3.3.1.4
Activity 3.3.1.4. Hold national and regional Workshops for ENGOs.	A follow-up ENGO workshop took place from at Suva Fiji coordinated by WWF Pacific from 1 – 2 November 2007
Activity 3.3.1.5. Produce information materials to raise public awareness on oceanic fisheries management issues.	No activity – current discussions with WWF-Pacific to produce material in non-technical language to raise awareness.
Activity 3.3.1.6. Organise regional and national fora on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues for civil society participation.	See Activity 3.3.1.4
<b>Output 3.3.2. Support industry participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.</b>	
Activity 3.3.2.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with Pacific INGO.	LOA completed.
Activity 3.3.2.2. Support Pacific INGO participation in the Commission.	LOA provides for support to regional policy meetings (MOW, October Rarotonga) and WCPFC4 (Pohnpei, December)
Activity 3.3.2.3. Provide information flow on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific INGOs and businesses.	Project publication disbursed.
Activity 3.3.2.4. Support Pacific INGO consultations on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues.	See Activity 3.3.2.2.
<b>Sub-component 3.4: Project Management and Coordination</b>	
<b>Output 3.4.1. Project Coordination Unit staffing and office.</b>	
Activity 3.4.1.1. Appoint the Project Coordinator.	Completed
Activity 3.4.1.2. Appoint other PCU staff.	Completed

Activity 3.4.1.3. Procure equipment and other requirements to establish the PCU.	Software and fan purchased.
<b>Output 3.4.2. Arrangements for coordination between Implementing and Executing Agencies.</b>	
Activity 3.4.2.1. Preliminary UNDP/FFA/SPC/IUCN Consultations.	Completed
Activity 3.4.2.2. Conclude FFA/SPC and FFA/IUCN Letters of Agreement (LOAs).	Completed
Activity 3.4.2.3. UNDP/FFA Consultations.	On-going
<b>Output 3.4.3. Regional Steering Committee meetings and reports.</b>	
Activity 3.4.3.1. Hold Inception Workshop.	Completed
Activity 3.4.3.2. Hold Regional Steering Committee meetings.	RC3 was held on 6 October at Rarotonga Cook Islands preceding the MOW. Meeting papers were provided in advance and 10 countries provided national reports to the RSC. An adopted record of proceedings was endorsed electronically.
<b>Output 3.4.4. National Consultative Committee meetings and reports.</b>	
Activity 3.4.4.1. Secure National Focal Point nominations.	Completed
Activity 3.4.4.2. Support National Consultative Committee meetings.	Funds have been provided to the Nauru Fisheries Authority to support the convening of a National Consultative Committee meeting, the first of two meetings which took place at Nauru on 13 December 2007.  Project country visit is scheduled to Palau in Jan 2008. It is anticipated that Palau will seek similar support for NCC.
<b>Output 3.4.5. Reports on Project implementation, workplan and finances.</b>	
Activity 3.4.5.1. Prepare periodic financial and narrative reports.	On-going. Q3 financial and narrative reports completed and submitted on time to UNDP.
Activity 3.4.5.2. Prepare Annual Work plans	2008 annual work plan prepared with work quarterly budget and work descriptions completed and submitted to RSC3 6 Oct.
Activity 3.4.5.3: Prepare Annual Project Reports	July 2006 – June 2007 period of reporting – UNDP/GEF PIR/APR and GEF Framework Results reports completed and submitted to UNDP/GEF and tabled at RSC3.

## 8. Challenges/Issues Encountered

- i) Ongoing – IUCN deferment of activities:
  - Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts
  - Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis
  - Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey
- ii) Attach national technical staff to SPC/OFP & FFA – this continues to be very difficult to organise due to the increasing and competing domestic commitments and travel commitments of suitably qualified fisheries staff from national fisheries departments and authorities.
- iii) Similar issues for scheduling attachments for country visits encountered, increasing and competing domestic and travel commitments by project focal points.

## 9. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)

- i) IUCN are expected to make a final decision concerning the research cruise at the end of 2007.
- ii) Attachments are still being planned and undertaken by SPC (to complement stock assessment training and NTFSR work) and at FFA whenever possible.
- iii) continuing to liaise with project focal points to schedule in-country assistance and visits by the PCU.

## 10. Report Prepared By:

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*IUCN –*