

Suggested SPC contribution

To the Secretary-General's Report on ocean affairs and the law of the sea (part 1)

"Capacity building in ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including marine science"

Capacity building in its 22 Pacific Island member countries and territories makes up a major part of the work of the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC). The fisheries programmes focus on practical training that will assist these members – mainly small island developing states - in the management and sustainable development of their fisheries resources. In 2009, for example, the Marine Resources Division arranged training for 547 persons, mainly through workshops and short attachments, in areas ranging from safety at sea for artisanal fishermen to algal sampling procedures for scientific technicians. A particular focus during the year was on the training of fisheries observers to work on tuna fishing vessels operating in the Western Central Pacific Ocean. Funding support was received from DOALOS through FAO for training of national fishery scientists in the interpretation of stock assessments and fisheries data – part of an ongoing programme to build capacity in the management of highly migratory fisheries resources while assisting SIDS to meet their international obligations.

The SPC is also leading work in the region on the impacts of climate change on fisheries resources, and is coordinating a major assessment of the vulnerability of Pacific islands fisheries to climate change. This project, which brings together expertise from international team of scientists from many organizations, will complete its final report during 2010. In early 2010, a project to assist a number of SIDS to monitor the impacts of climate change on their coastal fisheries, and the effectiveness of adaptation measures, will be launched. Some preliminary modeling of the effects of climate change on oceanic fisheries resources has already been carried out, and this will be extended.