

Supporting Fisheries Development Officers Training

EU Devfish contributes support to regional fisheries extension officers training in VMC, Santo.



SPC EU-DevFish project contributed its support to the convening of the regional practical safety and fishing course for Pacific Islands fisheries development and extension officers at the Vanuatu Maritime

College (VMC) in Santo, Vanuatu. 14 national participants attended this course. The EU DevFish project funded the airfare of 9 national participants to this training.

The EU-funded DevFish2 project focuses on assisting small scale fisheries development and acknowledges this sector plays a significant role for local rural community livelihood and sustenance. Project acknowledges that developing national trainers will enable transfer of the skills and knowledge gained to small scale /artisanal fishers in their respective countries.

In November 2015, SPC Fisheries Development Officer, William Sokimi, assisted the VMC in coordinating practical safety and fishing course for the Pacific Islands fisheries officers. The course provided hands on training in fishing operations that use several sustainable fishing methods on small craft in the region. Noting safety at sea for small scale artisanal fishers is a critical priority because already many lives had been lost at sea in maritime areas due to bad weather, and ignorance or negligence of small boat operators in not taking basic sea safety equipment on board. In the Pacific, the general trend has been the offshore **trolling for tuna** in small outboard-powered skiffs is responsible for many, if not, most of accidents at sea.

Adding value to the practical safety component of the training, EU DevFish further contributed to extend the safety at sea campaign in the region by providing 20 units of emergency grab bag kit. Each fully kitted grab bag contained 12 items which included: 1 x Personal locator beacon 406Mhz GPS, 1 x Strobe light with batteries, 1 x Compact medical kit, 1 x Signalling mirror (and whistle), 1 x Rescue laser, 1 x Sea rescue streamer, 1 x H/H VHF Marine Radio and support pack, 1 x Sea anchor, 2 x Manual inflatable lifejacket, 1 x Directional compass, 2 x emergency thermal Blankets and 1 x Large emergency grab bag to fit all the above contents.

14 of these bags were given to each country trainee as their training gear for their future safety at sea national trainings. 6 of these bags were given to VMC to use in their regular practical safety training program for small fishing crafts and also by VMC's training officers when they go out at sea or locations for extension duties. This was a very good surprise for the participants and the school and was well received.

EU DEVFISH INFOSHEET

Results

Airfares support for 9 country participants

20 units of emergency grab bags delivered.

14 to national fisheries country trainees (including 5 from territories)

Awareness and knowledge of trainees in emergency gears enhanced

Success Factors

14 emergency bags support future safety at sea national trainings

Emergency grab bag concept is promoted widely in trainees' countries

Safety at sea culture amongst artisanal /small scale fishers improved and sustained.

No further loss of life due to ignorance and negligence of safety precaution

Total Project Cost

EU DevFish: € 22,600 (NZ\$37,110)

Project Collaborators

Vanuatu Maritime College

SPC FAME

Photo:VMC Principal Richard Coleman & SPC officer William Sokimi presenting grab bag kit to Tuaronga Matepi of the Cook Islands Fisheries

