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St. LUCIA, Young Fishers Development Program

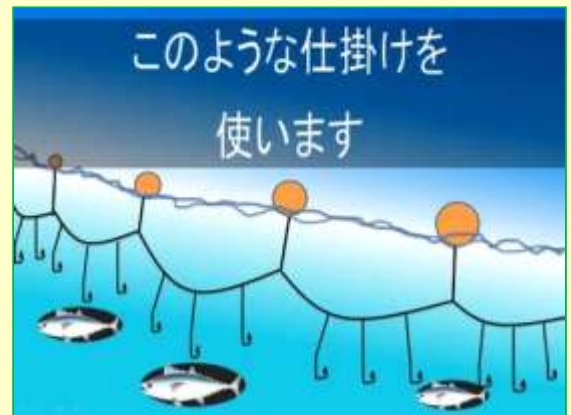
The Government of Saint Lucia has recognized the fisheries sector as critical to the long term development of the nation and as a key local source of healthy protein. Consequently it has invested in the expansion and modernization of the fishing fleet, improved fishing gear and expansion in offshore fishing. Assistance has also been made available by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to develop modern fisheries infrastructure facilities island wide. In light of all of this development, achieving sustainable resource exploitation is also a major focus.

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Fish handling on fishing vessel lecture done by Mr. Lambert, Manager of FMC Vieux Fort Complex



One of the slides of tuna handling and processing lecture

A survey of fishers, conducted by the National Insurance Corporation in 2004 indicated that 39% between 41 - 60 years and 18 % are over 60 years, with the average age of fishers as 45 years.





The long-term impact of these demographic characteristics is a rapid decline in fisher population as it is expected that some 57% of current fishers would be expected to reach retirement age within the next 20 years. There is therefore an urgent need to attract and adequately equip new, forward-thinking entrants into the fishing industry.

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There is a need to develop a focused training program to attract young educated school-leavers into the fisheries sector, equipping them with skills to become responsible fishers, able to engage in innovative and sustainable fishing practices to improve livelihoods for their families and serve as future leaders within the fisheries sector.

Therefore, training workshops for young fishers has been conducted from November - December at Vieux Fort, Castries and Soufriere funded by SEQUA.

  Young Fishers Development Programme 2010 Vieux Fort / Castries / Soufriere 2010 [22-26Nov] [29Nov-3Dec] [6-10Dec]										 	
Time	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday	Friday			
09:00 10:15	Opening Remarks	Brief Remarks: Ministry of Agriculture/ Dept of Fisheries (DOF)/ SEQUA	Fisher organizations: Cooperatives; SLFCS	Dept. of Co-ops: 45 mins SLFCS: 30 mins	Modern and Innovative Fishing Gear and Methods	DOF Extension Unit	09.00 – 17.00 PRACTICAL SESSIONS Group 1 Fishing Techniques: -Vessel preparation	09:00 – 11: 00 Fish handling on fishing vessel Tuna handling and processing By: St Lucia Fish Marketing Corporation and DOF			
10:15 10:45	Break		Break		Break		-FAD fishing and -FAD maintenance -Drift-line fishing	Break: 11.00-11.15			
10:45 12:00	Intro to Fisheries Resources: -Coastal -Ocean	DOF: Resource Management Unit	Business Mgmt skills; Securing Finance	SEDU: 45 mins & SLDB: 30 mins	Fisheries Data Collection; Licensing and Registration	DOF Data Unit		The Soufriere Marine/Point Sable Management Areas	SMMA SLNT Point Sable		
12:00 13:00	LUNCH		LUNCH		LUNCH		Group 2 Engine Maintenance: -Basic maintenance -Trouble shooting.	LUNCH			
13:00 17:00	Navigation/ Safety at Sea Engine Maintenance and Trouble Shooting	Police Marine Unit	Aquaculture production and seamoss cultivation including sea moss demo	DOF: Aquaculture Unit Taiwan Mission Selected Seamoss Farmers	Fishing Gear Construction: -Drift-lines -Trolling lines -Palangre	DOF Extension Unit		Fisheries Laws and Regulations Final Question and Answers Session & Evaluation and Certificates	DOF, Participants and other Facilitators		

One week young fishers training timetable including practical sessions

Japan International Cooperation Agency

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