

# MARITIME INFORMATION BULLETIN

Produced by the Transport Programme, Economic Development Division, SPC



**SPC**  
Secretariat  
of the Pacific  
Community

3 Luke St, NABUA  
Private Mailbag, Suva,  
FIJI ISLANDS

Tel: +679 3370733

Fax: +679 3370146

Email: [maritime@spc.int](mailto:maritime@spc.int)

Website: [www.spc.int/maritime](http://www.spc.int/maritime)

© Secretariat of the Pacific Community, 2010

Issue 95

## Marshall's copra production dies as shipping is sporadic

Marianas Variety/PACNEWS — 15 October 2010

With shipping increasingly sporadic as the government shipping fleet ages, copra production in the Marshall Islands dived for fiscal year 2010, dropping to its lowest level in five years. For the Marshall Islands' fiscal year that ended 30 September, 5,405 tons of copra (dried coconut meat) was received for milling at the government's Tobolar Copra Processing Authority, a nearly 20 percent decline over the previous year, said Tobolar plant manager Wilfredo Candilas. Four government ships used for collecting copra from remote outer islands have needed dry-docking for major maintenance for the past three years, but the government has not provided the money to do this, say

officials with the Marshall Islands Shipping Corporation, a government-subsidized agency established to oversee the country's ship service. This has resulted in increasing "down time" for vessels requiring more maintenance work to continue operations, said shipping agency board chairman, Alson Kelen. "The government has told us to delay dry-docking the vessels for two years," said Kelen. "But we're already three years behind schedule for dry-docking. None of our ships meet international (safety) standards." Copra is milled into coconut oil and sold to international buyers, generating about \$2.5 million annually for the Marshall Islands. Making copra is the primary way

that the 17,000 people living on remote coral islands in this western Pacific nation earn cash. Foreign Minister John Silk said Wednesday that the government has put top priority on getting new vessels and is in negotiation with the Japanese government to fund the construction of two new ships for servicing the Marshall Islands. A Japanese Embassy official in Majuro confirmed that a team from the Japan International Cooperation Agency will visit in January to conduct a detailed review of the proposal for two ships estimated to cost more than \$10 million, with a final decision on the plan to be made after the visit.

## Piracy on the rise in PNG's New Ireland province

Post Courier/PACNEWS – 14 October 2010

Under-resourced police force in Papua New Guinea (PNG) is battling an escalating crime problem on the high seas in New Ireland Province. Police said there is an upsurge in piracy in recent months, making travel by sea in the province dangerous and authorities need to step in quickly to build up the capacity of the police force to respond to the situation urgently. According to acting provincial police commander Chief Inspector John Duadak there are at least 15 incidences of piracy every week on the seas in New Ireland with the criminals using sophisticated technology to commit the crimes and escape. "From our observations and experiences, the crime trend is gradually changing. Sea pirates are now using computers, mobile phones, high powered guns, GPS gadgets (satellite location devices) and very fast motor boats to commit the crimes in on our waters as well as along the other coastal areas. "This is a new development in crime," Chief Inspector Duadak said. The report by the provincial

police boss comes several days after the New Ireland Governor Sir Julius Chan was critical about the capacity of the police force in his province to deal with crime. Citing the upsurge in lawlessness and killings in New Ireland, Sir Julius said police were handicapped in its ability to respond to crime. "The Government is very concerned about the trend in New Ireland with the marked increase in lawless behavior and upsurge in killings everywhere and the police are inhibited by their own weakness in manpower," Sir Julius said last week. Chief Inspector Duadak said the rate of crime could go from bad to worse as New Ireland was experiencing major resource projects like the sea bed mining, the Lihir and Simberi gold mines and fisheries projects. New Ireland is a maritime province coupled with the lack of police resources to properly deal with complaints that were sea related. Mr Duadak said police were receiving many reports of crimes committed at sea but the police in the province could do little due to a lack of

resources. Statistics for the Namatanai district which covers the sea between Kokopo and Namatanai, West Coast Namatanai and the seas surrounding the Namatanai mainland, Lihir, Tanga and Anir Islands are still to be released. The crimes range from hijacking of outboard motors in coastal villages, armed hold up of boats and stealing of boats. In one incident, a police banana boat was stolen near the Kavieng main market several months ago. Mr Duadak said there was a recent hijacking of two 60 horse power engines at Bagail village but police could not go after the criminals because of lack of transportation. Another incident involved the stealing of a 23 footer dinghy with canopy and a 75 horse power outboard motor engine belonging to the New Ireland Province Government. The police commander said if police were equipped with faster boats and more manpower, they would be able to go after the criminals.

## MV 'Otuanga' ofa arrives in Nuku'alofa

Matangi Tonga – 16 October 2010

Tonga's new inter island ferry, the MV 'Otuanga'ofa arrived in Nuku'alofa on Friday, October 15 to an enthusiastic welcome by the public and government officials. A flotilla of small boats went out to meet the bright red MV 'Otuanga'ofa as she entered the Nuku'alofa harbour. People flocked to the Nuku'alofa waterfront and to Queen Salote Wharf to get a glimpse of the new ferry arriving. The Prime Minister, Hon Dr Feleti Sevele, the Japanese Ambassador HE Mr Yasuo Takase and the Minister of Transport Hon Nuku were at Queen Salote Wharf to greet the MV 'Otuanga'ofa. Also present was the President of the ISB Co., Ltd builders of the ferry, Mr Kohei

Murashima and ISB shipping officials from Japan. Mr Kohei Murashima told Matangi Tonga that the ferry on its maiden voyage to Tonga had a Japanese captain and nine crew members, six Japanese and three Tongans. The ferry service has yet to be officially launched and it has not been confirmed when it will start its commercial service to Vava'u and Ha'apai. Tonga's inter island ferry service has been in a poor state for a number of years, and the purchasing of the ill-fated *Princess Ashika* in 2009 to provide a temporary service, because of a delay in the building of this ferry in Japan, remains a reminder of just how bad the inter island ferry service had

become. The public euphoria over the arrival of the MV 'Otuanga'ofa follows years of hardship without a decent ferry service to the outer islands of Tonga. The ferry, valued at \$32 million pa'anga was funded with a grant from the Japanese Government. It has an overall length of 53m, breadth of 13.50m, gross tonnage at 1534 tons and deadweight of 563.35 tons. It also has a powerful engine of 735kw. The 'Otuanga'ofa can carry 400 passengers plus 22 crew members and 400 tonnes of cargoes. There are no private cabins on the new ferry, but there is one big cabin with 28 bunks. There are also sheltered areas with chairs for passengers.

## No sign of missing teens

"© Fairfax New Zealand Ltd 2010, reproduced courtesy of [www.stuff.co.nz](http://www.stuff.co.nz)" – 7 October 2010

A Royal New Zealand Air Force Orion has finished its search today for three Tokelauan teens missing in a small runabout since early yesterday, and the search will be reviewed again tomorrow. The two 15-year-olds and a 14-year-old went missing from the atoll of Atafu about 1am local time. They were last seen some hours earlier searching for fuel for their small aluminium boat, which had an 18 horsepower outboard motor. An Air Force P3K Orion maritime

search aircraft was diverted yesterday to provide assistance to Tokelauan authorities. The Orion covered an area of 2230 square nautical miles yesterday around the route the boys were believed to have taken, Rescue Co-ordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ) search and rescue officer Greg Johnson said. An additional 4900 square nautical miles was covered today before the Orion left the area. A lack of information about the boys' intentions had hampered the

search, but observers on the Orion were confident they would have found the runabout if it was afloat within the areas searched, Mr Johnson said. A Samoan Navy patrol boat had also arrived early this afternoon, and would search until nightfall along with local vessels. The situation will be reviewed in the morning. The RCCNZ was using modelling to determine search areas in terms of drift patterns, and was liaising with searchers.

## IMO progresses on CO<sub>2</sub>

[marisec.org\(ICS/ISF\)](http://marisec.org(ICS/ISF)) – October 2010

ICS led industry representation at the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) which on 1 October agreed a draft package of technical and operational measures to reduce shipping's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. These include an Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI) for tankers, bulk carriers and containerships, and the use by companies of a Ship Efficiency

Management Plan (SEEMP), the agreed template for which was initially developed by ICS. Not wishing to prejudice their positions at the next UN Climate Change Conference in Mexico, nations such as China, India and Saudi Arabia maintained their opposition to mandatory measures being applied uniformly to shipping. However, it is expected that draft regulations will

nevertheless be taken forward, with the agreement of a majority of governments, for formal adoption by IMO next year. ICS is firmly opposed to any suggestion that any measures adopted might be mandatory only for developed nations while being voluntary for others, a concept which makes no sense at all in a global industry such as shipping.

## ILO Maritime Labour Convention

[marisec.org\(ICS/ISF\)](http://marisec.org(ICS/ISF)) – October 2010

Under the tripartite process which exists at the International Labour Organization (ILO), ISF was responsible for negotiating the text of the ILO Maritime Labour Convention on behalf of maritime

employers. In September, in Geneva, ISF members represented employers, alongside unions and governments, at a special Preparatory Tripartite Committee on the ILO MLC, which addressed current

questions arising in relation to the implementation of the Convention in advance of its entry into force, and procedures for agreeing future amendments.

To remove your name from our mailing list or to provide comments or ask questions, please email [maritime@spc.int](mailto:maritime@spc.int)  
TRANSPORT PROGRAMME, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY, LUKE ST, NABUA,  
PRIVATE MAIL BAG, SUVA, FIJI ISLANDS. TEL: (679) 337 0733 FAX: (679) 337 0146 EMAIL: [maritime@spc.int](mailto:maritime@spc.int)