

10. MISCELLANEOUS

10.1 Training

10.1.1 Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

Two officers of the National Coast Guard (NCG) followed a 3-day training course at the AFRC on the use of the VMS Software, 'Saffire', in October.

Mr. Gerard Domingue, Senior Manager, Seychelles Fishing Authority conducted a VMS evaluation and training programme at AFRC from 10 to 17 May within the framework of the Indian Ocean Commission – Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Project. Twelve participants from the AFRC and the NCG followed the training course.

10.1.2 Training on Certification of fish and fishery products

The services of Dr. R. W. Marsman, Consultant in the field of Sanitary and Phytosanitary control were hired by the Government to assist in the implementation of the recommendations of the EU Food and Veterinary Office Inspection Team which was carried out in January 2006.

In December, Dr. (Mrs.) Da Silva, EU Consultant gave a three-week training on principles of HACCP to officers of the Ministry. She also trained the quality controllers from various private fish enterprises.

10.2 Attachments at AFRC

10.2.1 Student Work Experience Programme (SWEP)

Four students from the University of Mauritius were attached to the AFRC from 05 June to 28 July under the SWEP programme.

Two students of final year BSc. from the University of Mauritius carried out an experiment on the factors affecting the growth of sea cucumber from September to December in the context of their thesis under the supervision of the AFRC.

10.3 Visits to the Albion Fisheries Research Centre

The Documentation Unit organized visits for 11 096 persons at the AFRC who were mostly pupils from the primary school and members of welfare centres and social organizations as shown in table 10.1. The visits were coordinated by the Technical Staff of AFRC and included presentations on activities carried out at the Centre.

Table 10.1: Visits to AFRC

Institutions	Number of visitors
Pre-primary Schools	1 351
Primary Schools	4 788
Secondary Schools	1 898
Social organizations/welfare centres	2 184
Pre-vocational Institutions	715
Government/Parastatal organizations	125
Other (tourists, private firms, UoM students)	35
Total	11 096

The Documentation Unit/Marine Information Centre continued to provide information and access to reference materials on fisheries, the marine environment and marine affairs to students, stakeholders and the public in general.

10.4 New library holdings

Two hundred and thirty five publications (local and foreign) were received during the year. An acquisition list was produced on a monthly basis and circulated among all staff.

10.5 Sales of publications

Sales of posters and books published by the Ministry of Agro Industry and Fisheries (Fisheries Division) amounted to Rs. 36 580.

10.6 Website

The Website of the Ministry of Agro Industry and Fisheries (Fisheries Division) was constantly updated through information submitted to the webmaster at the Central Information Service Division (CISD).

10.7 Talks at AFRC

Two officers from the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) gave a talk on Corruption Practices on 22 February.

Three officers from the CISD delivered a talk on IT security and awareness on 26 May.

Mr. Remy Ratsimbafy, IOC Consultant in biodiversity, made a presentation on “Aires Marine Protégés des Pays de la COI” on 17 October.

On 9 November, Mr. D. Boyer, FAO Consultant gave an overview of the acoustic survey carried out on the slopes of St. Brandon and Nazareth banks.

On 12 December, Professor Crabbe Dean of the Faculty of Science of the University of Bedfordshire made a presentation on the coral reef ecosystem.

10.8 Visits

Participants to the “18th Ship for World Youth Programme” (SWYP) visited the Centre on 14 February. The SWYP is an international cultural programme, initiated by the Government of Japan and bring together young people from all around the world to learn about international cooperation and understanding. Most of the programme is conducted on the cruise liner “ Nippon Maru” with some activities in Japan and other ports that are visited in the course of a two-month voyage.

On 26 February, students from the University of Florida, USA called at the Centre in the context of the “Semester at Sea Programme”.

Hon. Nicolas Von Mally, MP, paid a visit at the Centre on 12 September and also discussed with officers on the possibilities for collaboration between AFRC and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

10.9 Retirement

- Mr. R. Nuckchadee joined the service on 13 November 1970 as Fisheries Assistant and retired as Assistant Controller on 9 June.

- Mr. C. Pitchamootoo joined the service on 1 August 1974 as Fisheries Assistant and retired as Principal Fisheries Protection Officer on 13 September.
- Mr. A. Rajub joined the service on 8 February 1984 as Fisheries Assistant and retired on 1 July as Senior Fisheries Protection Officer.
- Mr. Ismet Jehangeer, Principal Fisheries Officer, retired on 8 August. He joined the Ministry in October 1974 as Scientific Officer, was promoted to Divisional Scientific Officer in February 1987 and Principal Fisheries Officer in 2001.

10.10 New Fisheries and Marine Resources Bill

The current Fisheries and Marine Resources Act of 1998 was being reviewed to respond to the needs for efficient management of fishery resources and the implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance activities.