

EDEN FISHERMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED.

REPORT ON THE USE OF FIRTA EQUIPMENT.

The Eden Fishermen's Co-operative Ltd. was advanced with \$18,015.01 for Practical Research and Investigations into the suitability of various species of fish for use in prepared Seafoods.

The funds were applied to the following equipment :

(i) Baader Deboning Machine	\$4,949
(ii) Nolex Meatsaw	827
(iii) Hollymatic Patti Maker	5,080
(iv) Kelly & Lewis Scaling Machine	6,030
(v) Repairs, modifications, insurance	1,152

<u>Total expenditure to 30/6/1977</u>	<u>\$18,038</u>
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USE OF EQUIPMENT FOR EXPERIMENTAL PURPOSES :

The Deboning Machine, Meatsaw and Hollymatic equipment were used for the experimental purpose of manufacturing "Fish Sausages".

From the Co-operative's Filleting Department a high percentage of waste products result (Approximately 60%) such as frames, heads roe and guts.

The traditional disposal of waste products is in the form of Petfood to a limited number of Petfood manufacturers. In the case of Eden the only large Petfood buyer is "Uncle Bens" at Albury/Wodonga.

No competition exists in the Petfood Market and consequently the maximum return on the fishermen's processed catch may never be obtained.

The net return on Petfood to the Co-operative is approximately 7 to 8 cents per Kilogram.

It is for this simple economic fact that the Eden Co-operative has been looking towards a more lucrative market for its waste products such as Fish Mince and Fish Sausages prepared from Fish Mince.

The Co-operative's extremely limited financial resources, despite the valuable assistance from the FIRTA project, made progress in alternative economic disposal methods of its waste products a slow and difficult project.

The Co-operative received valuable assistance from the Research Department of the New South Wales State Fisheries in the development of Fish Sausages.

The formula for the preparation of sausage mince is held by the State Fisheries Research Officer, Mr. Patrick Parish.

Marketing of a new seafood product requires a large amount of promotional funds and sophisticated packaging machinery to prepare

Use of Equipment for Experimental Purposes Continued:

The research in Fish Mince and Fish Sausages has been a simple operation and no technical data was compiled, other than the production of samples.

The New South Wales State Fisheries Department may be more able to provide technical data on the production of the product.

The use of the Kelly & Lewis Scaling Machine has proven less successful. The Machine was originally designed for peeling potatoes.

Scaling of fish based on a tumbling motion requires different speeds for all species. The scaling of Bream is the only successful specie. Redfish or Nannygai will not scale on this method. Flathead, however slow the tumbler is operated, will tend to bruise the fish too much and is therefore not suited.

The Machine therefore has limited use, except for Morwong(Sea Bream) scaling.

Cleaning of this machine often is labour intensive to remove all scales and residues from the steel net tumbler. Modifications were carried out to provide cleaning space between the steelbelts and wire drum and proved largely successful in cutting down cleaning time.

Conclusion :

Realising that this final report is brief and may not reveal startling new discoveries in the preparation of Seafoods, there is not a great deal more to describe as to the potential use of the FIRTA equipment.

The Co-operative would like to continue to have the use of the equipment and is prepared to purchase all equipment at book value to continue research until the equipment is used to its maximum economic advantage.



B. Berthauer.
Secretary/Manager.