

# Fishing



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## FINAL REPORT

Project: PROVISION OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AN ASSOCIATE  
82/36 DIPLOMA COURSE IN FOOD TECHNOLOGY IN  
SEAFOOD CONTROL

The basic motivation for undertaking this project was to make tertiary level training available on a continuing basis for people wishing to make a career in the processing/marketing sector of the Australian fishing industry. The overall objective being to raise the standards within the industry by allowing for the gradual integration of highly trained food technologists with specialist skills in seafood production.

The specific objective of providing scholarships was to publicize the availability of a course which had been developed by the Hawkesbury Agricultural College in conjunction with the National Fishing Industry Training Committee Ltd, and to encourage the enrolment of sufficient student numbers to allow the course to commence.

As reported in the progress reports, the initial objectives were achieved. The course at the Hawkesbury College commenced after a delay of one year and full scholarships of \$4,000-00 per year for each of the 1983 and 1984 academic years were awarded to Fiona Byrne and Jennifer Skelton. The funding for these two scholarships being derived from the grant from the Fishing Industry Research Committee.

A further two half scholarships of \$2,000-00 each per year were awarded to Mark Tunchon and Luke Parkinson. These were funded from National Fishing Industry Training Committee resources.

The students chosen by the Hawkesbury Agricultural College to be recipients of the scholarships lived up to the expectations of the assessment panel and proved to be of an exceptionally high calibre. Some of their work on a fish sausage roll during 1983 attracted international attention.

During the second year of their course, the students obtained work experience in various processing plants and participated in a visit to the Australian Maritime College, which included some practical experience at sea on the training vessel "Blue Fin". (The NFITC contributed to the travel costs of non scholarship students undertaking the visit to the Australian Maritime College).

The continuation of the course for the Associate Diploma in Food Technology with the study option in seafood control had been a major concern of the National Fishing Industry Training Committee Ltd. The Hawkesbury College stipulated that the continuation of the seafood option would be dependent upon the ability of the fishing industry to place the diplomates in employment.

With this in mind, the Committee undertook a publicity campaign throughout 1984 which included media releases and the forwarding of a notice to all Australian seafood processors (see attachments).

At the conclusion of the 1984 academic year, advice was received from the Hawkesbury College to the effect that all the students had completed their studies and had passed their final examinations.

An enquiry early in 1985 ascertained all the students had been placed in employment and that the majority had obtained their employment in the fishing industry, thus all the objectives of the project have been achieved.

Financial Statement

Income	FIRTA Grant	\$8,000-00
Expenditure	to Hawkesbury College	\$8,000-00

Attached is a copy of the NFITC audited statement for the 1983/84 financial year. N.B. The scholarship income is shown as associate diploma course \$8,000-00 and the expenditure as Hawkesbury Agricultural College expenses \$18,836-00.

The expenditure breakdown being:-

FIRTA funded scholarships	\$8,000-00
NFITC funded scholarships	\$4,000-00
Short course expenses not connected with diploma course	\$6,836-00
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Total	\$18,836-00
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May, 1985

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**TEN SEAFOOD SPECIALISTS TO BE AVAILABLE TO THE AUSTRALIAN SEAFOOD INDUSTRY IN LATE 1984** 100

*Ten keen young students will complete a two year full time Associate Diploma Course in Food Control with a Major Study Option in Seafood Technology in late 1984.*

*They will be available for employment in the Australian seafood industry. These ten students have been doing this course specialising in seafood technology at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College in Richmond, New South Wales, working under the direction of a qualified seafood technologist, Mr. Tony D'Mello.*

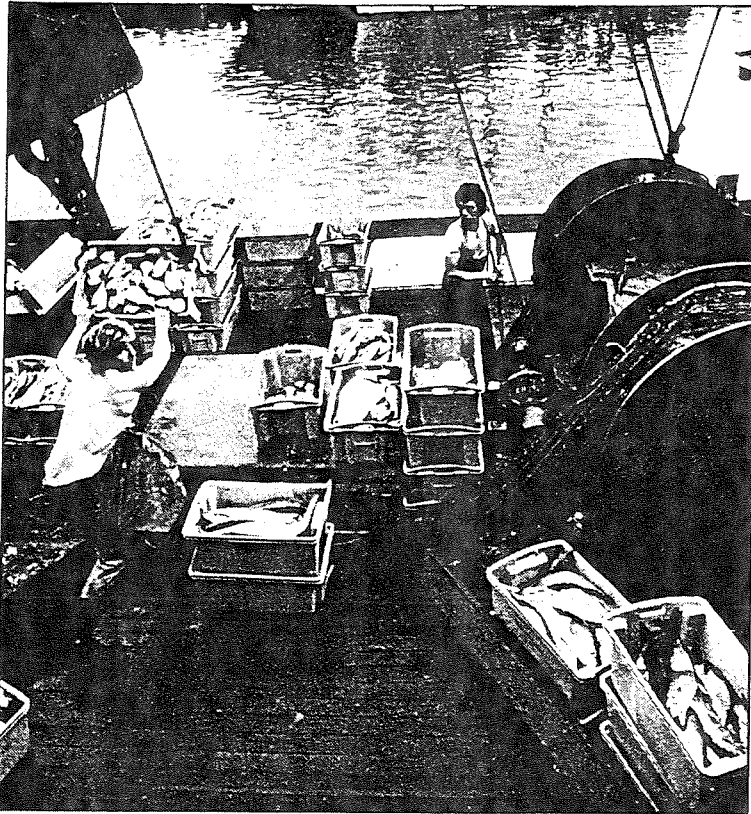
*At the end of the course in late 1984 the students who successfully complete the course will be qualified to carry out a supervisory role in the processing and handling of seafoods in all facets of the seafood industry. They will be able to supervise in the processing, and profitable, safe, efficient handling of food manufacture, warehousing, distribution and retailing.*

*These seafood qualified diplomates will be invaluable in the seafood industry in jobs as diverse as Inspectors, Quality Control Supervisors, Extension Officers for training programmes, Production Managers, Research and Product Development Technologists, or even marketing and sales.*

*Employers interested in discussing job opportunities with the students can either write to Mr. Paul Baumgartner, Principal of the School of Food Sciences at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, Richmond, N.S.W. 2753 or preliminary enquiries can be made via the National Fishing Industry Training Committee Ltd., GPO Box 2851 AA, Melbourne 3001*

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*Unloading a mixed catch from a trawler at the Wollongong Co-operative.*

In the last financial year the Co-operative had recorded a profit in excess of \$40 000. Mr Corben said this was particularly pleasing when it was considered the Co-operative was trading at a loss of more than \$350 000 only a few years before.

However drastic action had been needed to reverse the loss situation. This had included selling the Co-operative's fish processing factory and restricting operations to fish handlings and despatch to other markets. The Co-operative had also leased its retail fish outlet and reduced the number of its full-time staff. A levy of two cents a kilogram on fish landed was also applied to the fishermen.

Mr Corben stressed that much of the success of the Co-operative's financial recovery had been due to the co-operation of its members. He said the fishermen had the option of closing the Co-operative but, instead, had chosen to trade it out of its difficulties.

#### **Membership split**

Up until late last year the Co-operative membership was divided

between sea fishermen and those fishing nearby Lake Illawarra. However in August it was generally agreed that both divisions would be better served if they went their own ways.

Accordingly the sea fishing members bought out the lake fishermen's shares in the Co-operative. The Lake Illawarra Fishermen's Co-operative was then established and recently called tenders for the construction of its own premises.

Mr Corben said the Wollongong Co-operative now employed two full-time staff, including the manager, Mr Frank Musumeci. With the completion of the new building, which Mr Corben hoped would be finished early next year, there may be room for more employees. However the Co-operative would not staff the retail outlets but would continue to act as landlords and lease them to outside interests.

— Cliff Young

## **Graduates seek work**

TWENTY specially-trained graduates are now available to work in the Australian seafood industry.

Mr Dennis Mirabella, training development executive with the National Fishing Industry Training Committee Ltd (NFITC), said recently that 11 had completed an Associate Diploma course on food control (including seafood technology) at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College; another nine had graduated with a Diploma of Applied Science (Fisheries Technology) from the Australian Maritime College.

People from the Hawkesbury course were looking for supervisory positions involving the processing and handling of seafoods. Four of the 11 studied under scholarships provided by the Australian fishing industry; two funded by the Fishing Industry Research Committee and two by the NFITC.

Those from the Australian Maritime College course were likely to be of particular interest to organisations seeking qualified staff in the areas of research, fisheries management or gear development.

However, all students were prepared to accept any work, virtually anywhere, on sea or land, that would make the best use of their training.

Further information: Mr Paul Baumgartner, principal, School of Food Sciences, Hawkesbury Agricultural College, Richmond, NSW 2753; Mr Alf Carver, deputy principal, Australian Maritime College, PO Box 986, Launceston, Tas. 7250; or Mr Dennis Mirabella, NFITC, GPO Box 2851 AA, Melbourne 3001.

## **Two more from Torry**

TWO more of the excellent Torry Advisory Note series leaflets-booklets have been published — *Packing Fish in a Modified Atmosphere*, by D. C. Cann (TAN No. 88) and *Measuring Fish Composition*, by A. Aitken, A. Lees and J. G. M. Smith (TAN No. 89).

Further information: The Director, Torry Research Station, PO Box 31, 135 Abbey Road, Aberdeen AB9 8DG, UK.