

Australian Maritime College

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Enquiries: The Secretary, Fishing Industry Research Committee,
Department of Primary Industry,
Edmund Barton Building,
BARTON ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

FINAL REPORT FIRTA GRANT NO. 87/96:
SCHOLARSHIPS TO ATTEND FLUME TANK COURSES.

Two flume tank courses were conducted in 1987/8 involving participants assisted under the above FIRTA project, with a total expenditure of \$13,871. Details are appended.

1 Raptis Prawn Trawl Course (29/2/88 - 3/3/88)

Thirteen fishermen from A. Raptis and Sons attended a prawn trawl course featuring two 14 fathom model prawn trawls constructed to their own specifications by AMC staff. The nets were representative of the new double gear now in use in the Northern Prawn Fishery and consisted of a two-panel tiger prawn net (Florida Flyer) and a four panel banana prawn trawl rigged with flywires.

In addition to a wide range of rigging variations tested at varying speeds, the new fuel efficient Bison boards were also trawl tested, with interesting results. Following the course, it was estimated that adjustments made to the boards and gear suggested by observations in the tank could result in fuel savings of up to 15%.

2 Introductory Trawl Technology (14/4/88 - 19/4/88)

This course was originally designed for a group of New Zealand fishermen and also offered to the Australian fishing industry via the Fishing Industry Training Council network. Three participants were assisted with FIRTA funding, from Ulladulla and Yamba (New South Wales) and Portland (Victoria).

The aim was to provide an understanding of the basic principles governing the performance of trawl gear, using the flume tank to illustrate a number of points during the course. A handbook was produced for the participants to research readings taken, and provide basic background theory. A copy of this handbook is enclosed.

Following the course, the Ulladulla participant 'spread the word' about his flume tank experience and 9 fishermen from Ulladulla have booked the tank for a course in December of this year.

Support from FIRTA under Grant No. 87/96 is gratefully acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,

John H. Wallace
Head: School of Fisheries

FLUME TANK SCHOLARSHIPS

Name	Date Paid	Amount
S. Puglisi	15/9/88	\$734-00
G. Murray	15/9/88	\$1119-00
Raptis & Sons	31/5/88	<u>\$12018-00</u>
	Total	<u>\$13871-00</u>