

### P1-9-5

#### **PCC (Post larval Capture and Culture) Potential After One Year Of Collection In Fiji Within The CRISP project.**

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The Coral Reef Initiative in the South Pacific (CRISP) is a pan-regional collaborative project funded by the Government of France. It consists of different components, of which Component 2A aims to explore the potential for post larval collection, and subsequent rearing of these post larvae for the needs of the aquarium market, domestic food fish consumption and restocking of coral reefs.

Capture and culture of post-larval fish - from planktons in the open ocean outside the reefs - provides access to a new marine resource without impacting the marine environment. This is based on the extremely high natural mortality of wild reef fish moving from the planktonic larval phase of their life cycle to their juvenile habitat on the reef; as many as 95% can die during their first 24 hrs back on the reef. The objective of CRISP Component 2A is to find new ways to capture and culture a percentage of these fishes and release them in their natural habitats later in their life cycle, while estimating socio-economic impact of this new ecofriendly alternative.

After one year of collection, the first results show the good potential of PCC technique to establish sustainable post larval collection systems and build capacity into Fijian islands. More than 30,000 post larvae reef fishes from more than 20 families were collected and raised. Capacity building was successfully transferred to 2 local fishermen, 1 Fijian technician and a total of 6 students. Experiment was done in the more overfished and overcrowded area in Fiji (Suva), so we can expect better species diversity and abundance in the 300 plus Fijian islands. Process, capacity building tools and socio-economic aspects will be detailed during our presentation.

Keywords: Post-larvae, PCC, CRISP

### P-7

#### **Monitoring Activities In Kiribati 2005; Comparison Of Results With 2004**

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The Republic of Kiribati is a group of four island groups scattered over 5,000,000 sq. km of ocean. The groups are the Gilberts, Line and Phoenix islands. Kiribati has a population of 92,428 in 2005. Coral reefs are usually atolls with islands surrounding the rim or islands with fringing reefs. A coral monitoring survey was conducted in 2004 where six sites were set up as part of the Polynesia Mana Node for the GCRMN. The six sites are 1 on Abemama Atoll, 2 on Kuria Atoll and 3 on Tarawa Atoll. During early and end of 2005 the sites on Tarawa were revisited for monitoring. These sites were located on North Tarawa, Teoraareke and Hospital. Monitoring activities were conducted using digital camera for taking underwater pictures of a relatively flat and homogeneous outer slope reef. The pictures are analyzed using CPCE software. Comparison of 2004 and 2005 results revealed that there was no significant impact on bleaching to sites other than North Tarawa. Although, there is no significant variation to the global coral cover of the other Iwo sites; there has been some significant variation in the coral composition. It seems that the composition shifted to more tolerant species such as *Pocillopora*, and may be the results of an adaptation to the natural disturbances experienced by Kiribati these past few years. New monitoring campaigns in these areas and other places of Kiribati are needed to provide more information on the phenomena and its extent. Funding for these monitoring activities was available through CRISP programme and SPREP.

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