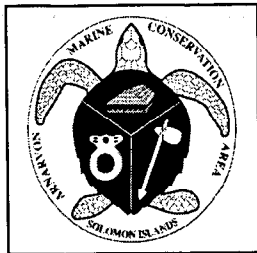


APPENDIX

Arnavon News: Prosecution of Poachers from the Arnavons



October 1999

ARNAVON

News

Volume 1: Issue 1

A Newsletter of the Arnavon Marine Conservation Area

Prosecution of Poachers from the Arnavons

The law may work slowly, but in the end we have high hopes that it will work. The project has been frustrated by the difficulties we have had bringing the outstanding poaching cases to justice. Conservation Officers have fulfilled their duties by collecting evidence against those few individuals who have felt free to break both the law and the community's commitment to the Conservation Project. The local police have traveled several times across open waters to take statements, make charges, and notify individuals about court dates. The only place where the system had failed us was the lack of the presence of a magistrate to hear the cases. We were very happy to hear the news last May that a magistrate was coming to Kia to hear cases that included some of those from the AMCA. Magistrate Dwayne Tigulu traveled all the way from Honiara to hear these outstanding cases. He held court in the unfinished new church building in Kia. Unfortunately, the accused did not make the effort to respond to the lawful summons to court. Magistrate Tigulu was not happy about this obvious disrespect being shown toward his office and the laws of the Solomon Islands. It is human nature for people to hope that if they just ignore unpleasant situations for a long enough time, the unpleasantness will just go away. Well this is not going to happen. The Magistrate issued warrants for those people who had been previously charged and were told to be present for court. Prosecution will go ahead, even on cases that took place during the first year of the project, 1995. These few selfish individuals will be called to answer for their crimes, and hopefully with a punishment strong enough to send a message to others that this is not a minor wrong. These few selfish people seek to benefit from the hard work of others and their community's concern for the future. These poachers seem to think that everyone else has sacrificed their rights to the resources in the AMCA so that a few lawbreakers can go in and steal what truly belongs to all of the people of Kia, Wagina, and Katupika. Their actions threaten the continued support of the AMCA project and the potential benefits that may be shared by all community members. A Magistrate will be coming again to Kia in November. He will hear both those cases that were called last May as well as more recent cases in which charges have just been filed. Justice will take place and people will be held accountable for actions that violate the rights and laws of the peoples of the Solomon Islands.

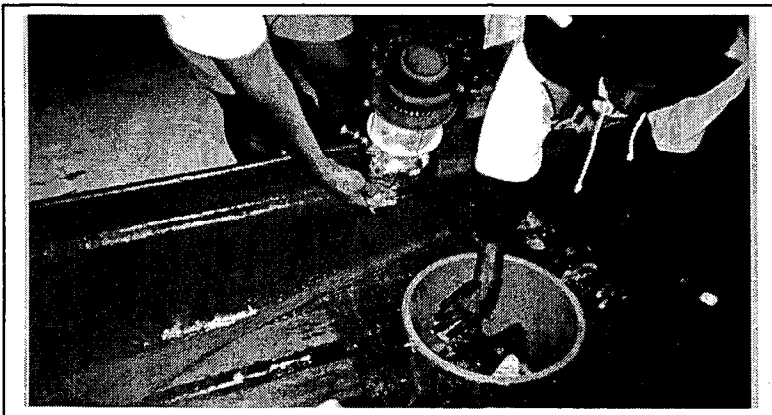


Photo: Conservation Officers of the AMCA remove illegally harvested trochus from a canoe caught in the Arnavon Islands. The case and evidence will be presented at the hearings next month in Kia during the Magistrate's visit.

Outstanding cases are the following:

Date charged	Individuals
23 - 12 - 95	Bero Karotu William Aberam Tabora Tabutoa
18 - 5 - 96	Teuba Iakobo Tiaon Nawaia Tokova Nawaia Nituru Teibaitoi Andrew Bakarewe
20 - 9 - 96	Andrew Bakarewe Baibai Matakite Barren Matakite Teteburi Etekia
20 - 5 - 97	Teika Tutana Barren Matakite Raba Teika
6 - 5 - 98	John Korea Laone Nathan Laone Ierimoa Morris Aram Taakaria
6 - 8 - 99	Teang Tuake Michael