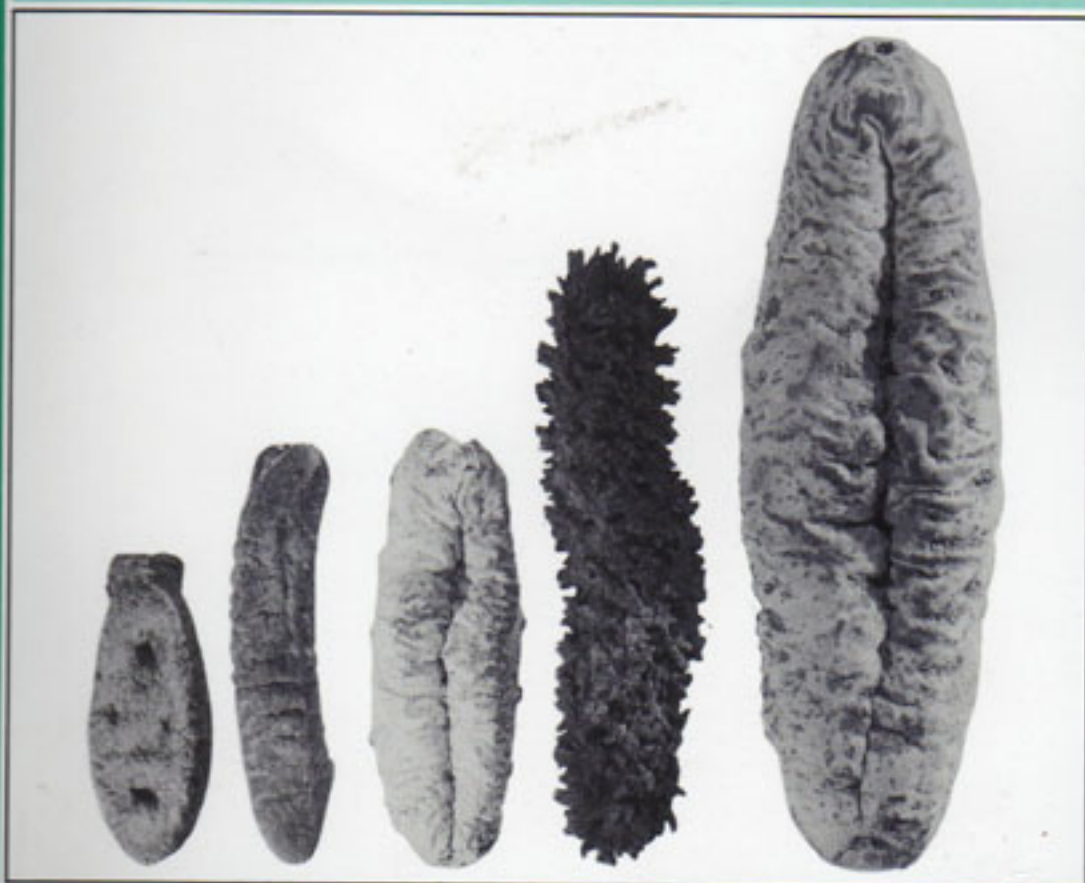


# The fishery resources of Pacific island countries

FAO  
FISHERIES  
TECHNICAL  
PAPER

272.2

## Part 2. Holothurians



FOOD  
AND  
AGRICULTURE  
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Part 2. Holothurians

by

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Brest, France



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OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS  
Rome, 1990

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M-43  
ISBN 92-5-102508-8

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### PREPARATION OF THIS PAPER

The FAO Fisheries Department has undertaken a review of the fishery resources of Pacific island countries. This paper on holothurians is the second contribution to that review (Part One was published as a Fisheries Technical Paper: King M.G., 1986. The fishery resources of Pacific island countries. Part 1. Deep-water shrimps. FAO Fish.Tech.Pap. (272.1):45 p.), it summarises the available information on the main commercially valuable species and covers biology, harvesting and fishery management as well as describing processing techniques and the principal markets. It was prepared on behalf of the FAO by Mrs C. Conand in conjunction with the "Institut français de Recherche Scientifique pour le Développement en Coopération" (ORSTOM) and the "Université de Bretagne Occidentale". The chapter about the bêche-de-mer market and the appendices were prepared with the assistance of Mr Van Eys, international trade specialist with INFOFISH.

### ABOUT THE TRANSLATION

This document is a translation of the original paper published in French in 1986. Research conducted since then, particularly in New Caledonia, has improved knowledge on biology and stock assessment. The results have been published in a paper entitled: "CONAND C. 1989 - Les holothuries aspidochirotés du lagon de Nouvelle-Calédonie : biologie, écologie et exploitation. Etudes et thèses, ORSTOM (Ed.), Paris, 388 p.

The translation has been made by R.M. Benyon of the Interpretation/Translation Section of the South Pacific Commission (S.P.C., B.P. D.5 - Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia). FAO wishes to gratefully acknowledge the collaboration of S.P.C. in the preparation of this document.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author owes a special debt of thanks to ORSTOM, the "Institut français de Recherche Scientifique pour le Développement en Coopération" which made it possible for her to carry out the holothurian survey as part of a programme entitled "The lagoon and coastal zones of New Caledonia: research and development".

She also wishes to express her gratitude to her colleagues and the staff at the ORSTOM Centre in Noumea for their efficient assistance during research work carried out between 1979 and 1983, and to the Fisheries Advisers of the SPC, the South Pacific Commission, for their congenial cooperation which encouraged the circulation of information and ideas.

The author could not conclude without acknowledgements to her colleagues at the Laboratory of Animal Biology of the Faculty of Science, University of Western Brittany, who gave their support during the drafting phase.

### Distribution

FAO Fisheries Department  
FAO Regional Fisheries Officers  
Regional Projects  
Authors  
Pacific island countries

Conand, C.  
The fishery resources of Pacific island countries.  
Part 2. Holothurians.  
FAO Fisheries Technical Paper, No. 272.2.  
Rome, FAO. 1989. 143p.

#### ABSTRACT

The main species of holothurian exploited in the South Pacific are *Holothuria scabra*, *H. fuscogilva* and *H. nobilis*, which have high commercial value, *Actinopyga echinites*, *A. miliaris* and *Thelenota ananas*, of medium commercial value, and *Holothuria atra*, *H. fuscopunctata* and *H. mauritiana*, whose commercial value is low.

Knowledge of the biology of these species is reviewed in detail, as are resource assessment methods. An example of the possible use of remote sensing for estimating potential is given.

Harvesting and processing techniques and commodity grading are also discussed, while a chapter focussing on the principal markets for bêche-de-mer, Hong Kong and Singapore, concludes that an increase in exports from the countries and territories of the South Pacific is possible if they can supply a consistently good-quality product on a regular basis.

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