

we have there.

The type of traditional fishing which we have here in this village, I am sure that it is different from the other parts of Fiji. This fishing method or QOLI (to go fishing) which my mother used to do during those days when she was alive, I am someone who used to follow them when they go out fishing. And during this period of time, they were using nets, fishing nets. For them, when they know that they are going fishing on this day as yet to come, our mothers often send their children to go out and cut down some DOGO (a mangrove). We are going to cut some mangrove branches, and when it is there, then we place them in the water, and the place where we place this mangrove branches, this is the place where we ^{wish} for the fish to come and sleep. This is the place where the fish comes and sleep. After three days, after they have all planned to go out fishing, our mothers goes to the mangrove branches which their children placed a couple of days back. If ^{she} a child from this house placed four branches, they know it all. I am one of those children who used to go out when it is time to place the mangrove branches in the sea. And when it is day for us to go fishing, there is this particular fish called the DRAVIDRAVI, I don't know what they ^{call} it in the Bauan dialect, these are some of the fish which we find sleeping in these branches which

TRADITIONAL FISHING

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Also they might have four or three KAWAKAWA (the yellow proper) resting there. These is when they come to this ^{branches} ~~beaches~~ and the sleep there. So the only thing we do, a child comes to this place or to his own mangrove branch and lifts it up, when they raise the net up, well you find fish in the net, all ^{caught} ~~caught~~ in the net. This is one way of catching fish which they often have ^{here} ~~here~~. And when they finish from one mangrove branch, they move on to the next one. They know which mangrove branch belongs to them, they do not do it anyhow. In some cases, a lot of times, they cut down some mangrove ^{branches} ~~branches~~ and this are placed in the sea all the time. After some weeks maybe or going on to a month, they go out to fish over this place and they always know that for all the fishing trips which they take when they go to this places, always they return with a basket filled with fish. And for this places which they placed their mangrove branches, it is always crowded with fish, like today, they are not using this method of ^{fishing} ~~fishing~~, also many women in our village are not doing this, but this is something which we often have in our village and among the ^{women in the village} ~~women in the village~~. ^{Sometimes} ~~Sometimes~~, they often plan to go out fishing in ^{fresh} ~~fresh~~ water and this is in UCIMAL (a river), one of the ^{things} ~~things~~ which they need to prepare before they go out fishing is the VULO NI NIU (coconut cloths, the fibrous cloth, enveloping the bottoms of coconut leaves), they have this coconut tree near there house, so they take away these fibrous cloths and they used this cloths for slipping their hands into some holes which they might find. They used this fibrous cloths like when you wear gloves. The reason why they wear these fibrous gloves is because of some fish which might be inside the holes or under some mud, some of the fish are very slippery, some

of the fish are very dangerous it might hurt you when you slip your hand in trying to get hold of them. So, it is always wise to wear these for safety and to prevent cuts and bruises. They do not use cloths, like today, I have seen a lot of women using cloths for this purpose. They use cloths, and when they see that there is a hole there in the sea, they can easily catch any fish that might be in it, by just slipping their hands in which is gloved up with clothes. For us, when we go with our mothers, the only thing which we can do to help our mothers, are to stand there in the holes which we find if not, we can get hold of a stick and we shove this into the hole and hold it there while our mothers work in the holes with their hands all gloved up with these fibrous cloths from coconut trees. It is only used when you wish to slip your hand inside a hole in the water. When you slip your hand in, you never know what you might find there, if there is a fish there, you would hold the fins first and then bring the fish out. In some cases, you might find a crab there, so it is going to be very easy for you to catch it and bring it out into the open. As I've already said, they use the fibrous cloths from the coconut trees to take such things out, they used it like when you wear gloves. This is something which I have seen being used when I used to follow some of the old ladies in this village when they go out fishing.

Another time when I am around, I ~~kakam~~ often hear my mother and the rest of the ladies planning to go out and BOBORO. This is another type of fishing which they used to do in those days. This method of fishing which is BOBORO, this is when they use their hands and they touch the roots and the caves of some of the mangrove plants. When they go out to the mangrove swamps, they are there in the water, but

with their hands they move it along mangrove roots which grows under the water. They are able to find some fish, crabs in there. And they catch these fish with their hands, but for those fish and other sea food which escaped their hands and tries to swim away from this place, it is all caught in the net which they have behind the women. The women holding the net are going to catch all those fish which escapes from the hands of those who are feeling around under the roots of the mangrove plants. For those long mangrove plants and area they wish to cover, they used their hands all along and the only thing which is going to protect their hands from getting cuts is the fibrous cloths which they get from the coconut trees. The reason why they take fibrous cloths from the coconut trees, one thing is that is very easy to ^{carry} and it is not heavy at all. When they take clothes with them, it is going to be a drag again for them, because it absorbs water and this makes it heavy for them to carry, but for these fibrous cloths from the coconut trees, it is light and easy to carry. They used this thing and when they know that one is all torn, then again they make another one, they used this while they throw the old one away. When it comes to fishing, this is the only thing which they often use when they go out. Also, for all the ^{people} who live beside the sea, they know all the areas in the water where they can find this particular sea food or fresh water food. When they look at this part of the river and how it flows, they can tell: "This is the very spot where crabs live and make their home, or this is the place where crabs can be found." And when they come to another place, they say: "This is the right spot where we can use our nets to catch some fish." and ^{when} they move further up the river or water, they might say: "This is the best place for catching this particular fish," or "This

is the best place to (and they name a particular way of catching fish like) (like) (have BUBURU). All the ladies and the old women of Nambl know of such areas in the sea and in rivers. The only common method which they often use when they want to catch fish is when they cut some mangroves and they place it there in the sea. These mangroves which they used, they often call it the SARO. This is the SARO and they say that this is the SARO for the mangrove which they place in the water, this is the place where some fish are going to make as their 'bedroom', where they come and sleep at. This is called the SARO, and they might ask you one time: 'Raete, how many Saro have you got?' And you might reply: 'I have got four.' And then another lady might ask: 'Vasiti, how many Saro have you got?' and she might answer: 'I have got five.' But for our mothers, the number of SARO they have depends on our eagerness to have more than one. If we are very good and cut more than four or five, then our mothers are going to have a lot of SARO to attend to when the time comes for them to collect or catch the fish. We cut down these mangrove branches then we take them out to the sea and then we make it stand ~~there~~ ^{here} in the water.

What can you say about the length of that mangrove branch which you cut from the tree, is it going to be very small in length or quite large in size or what can you say about the length of the tree or the branch?

You need to pick on a large branch and you know that when it is placed in the water, it is going to provide a good shelter under there so that all the fish who comes around there will like the place and they move in since it is sheltered and very calm. You place it there and when it is left for a good few days, the leaves starts to drop off and

all the green leaves has ^{given} ~~given~~ colour to ^{green} ~~green~~ leaves, this is the best time for you to come and check if any fish is there.

When they are going to cut the tree down or a large branch of the man-
grove plant, they are going to cut it with the leaves also, the
leaves is present on the tree.....

Yes, you cut the branch with the leaves. Then you leave it there
until all the leaves have disappeared, and only the stem or the
branch itself is left, then this tells you that there is a lot of
fish underneath that branch. Sometimes, you can also find crabs
there inside the holes or the tree and underneath them. This is one
type of fishing which our ancestors used to do during their time and
I have also seen it done also. They often do it here around this
place, just near this beach where we are sitting now.

Does it mean that the large number of mangrove branches you cut down
and the number of

Yes, the large number of mangrove branches you have placed out there
in the water, the large number of fish you are likely to catch when
you go out to fish around ^{there} ~~there~~. In some cases, when you come to
this place to try and find some fish there, we are not able to find
any, it does not mean that when you place a branch out there in the
water, you are expected to find fish over there, no, this is not
true. But today, I don't think so if they do it, it will work, but
if it was during those days, it would be alright. Now we have a lot
of chemicals which is polluting our waters, like engine benzine and
other diesel which they chuck out into the sea, this is causing a
lot of changes to our ~~environment~~ environment, when we wish to
catch some fish using this method, it does not work at all, because

this new chemicals which they discard out at sea, this is what is chasing out all the fish which ^{lives} ~~lives~~ around our sea and our beach before, but no more now, all the fish are gone and we are left with just a few or none at all. But, when we used to make this type of fishing method here, it is often to find a lot of ^{fish} ~~fish~~ in this place. But today, since we have a lot of ways and tools which we could use if we wish to go out fishing, many of us have forgotten about nets which our ancestors used to use when they wish to go out fishing, so they forget about the nets. When we go to school, we learn of new things which we can use if we want to catch some fish, but for me I am a woman who likes fishing and I make it as a means of living, I go out to fish in the reef, or just near these beaches, or in the river and I have noticed, that they are no longer using this fishing nets which our ^{women} ~~women~~ used to have in the olden times. This could be because they fish their food from the market by buying their food from the ^{market} ~~market~~, so not many ~~men~~ women goes out to fish in the sea, they prefer to get it ^{here} ~~there~~ from the market, it is near to them but it costs money.

Can you tell me as to what spot there in the water are they going to place these mangrove branches, are they going to place it near to the beach and when it is low tide, the whole area is exposed or.... They place these branches in a particular spot so that when it is low tide, the area is still covered with water. Where water is always found, and when it is low tide, the place is still wet, and so when we know that it is going to be low tide soon, we go out to this places where we are going to get our fish, from ^{under} ~~under~~ these mangroves which we placed weeks ago or couple of days ago. And when we come to this

place, it is still covered with water but it is low tide. So we
 wade into the water and we are going to see if we can catch some fish
 from this spot. But when we go down there, we must be very careful that
 we do not try to hurry there since we will be ^{chasing} the fish away.
 It is always good to see that we are ready with our nets in front if
 a fish escapes us, we can catch there on the net.
 - Only when it is low tide, then you go out to these places to try and
 catch those fish.....
 - When it is low tide then you go down.
 This fishing method which you mentioned ^{mentioned} which is BOBORO, is it only
 done in rivers or.....
 Yes, it is usually done in small rivers which leads to the open sea
 and also we can do it along some of the stones which line our shores
 and where we find a lot of mud and mangrove swamps. Also for this
 method of catching fish, we can do it also when we go to the reef.
 When we go to the reef, some of us do this method of fishing, all they
 need to do is to slip their hands into some of the rocks where it is
 filled with water and it can be a good luck for you to get hold of
 a fish from there. But one thing it is very dangerous for you to try
 this fishing method out there in the reef because they have this
 fish called the DABBA (a large and dangerous sea eel) and this is
 one reason why they do not use this method of fishing often when they
 go out to the reef. They do not want to ~~take~~ risk their life by
 doing this dangerous thing in the reef. Like today, they have a lot
 of things which they can wear like gloves so that they can slip their
 hands under some rocks to catch some fish, but to tell you, for our
 ladies in the odden days, they only spend their time fishing near the
 shores and just inside the boundary area but not right near the reef.

During that time when I used to go along with them, we often spend out time fishing near the shores only, for others they do not go out they stay at home. We can go out and fish near the ~~KAKK~~ wharf and then takes it from there we look towards sea and ~~KAKK~~ we move on. Some of the fish which we often catch here is called the KAIKAI. For the ladies here in this village, they know the part of the year or when they are in season. That is when they notice that part of the water around this beach of day is all disturbed, it looks disturbed they know that this is the time for the fish KAIKAI and some times they call it the SONI. And when they go out to use their nets around this area, it can't miss their returning with a large basket filled with this one type of fish. But today, our beach is very poor in fish content, we do not have a lot of fish now, they are all gone because of the fishing nets which the Indians are using around here. They use their nets and when they bring their nets in, also they bring in the small ones. This beach which is here near this village is one that is always filled with fish, all we need to do is to go out and fish and when we come back, we are satisfied with spending a day out in the sea, we never regret any fishing trips which we might make when we wish to go out fishing. Also for some of the types of fish which we catch here, we have the fish called the NUQA (a fish). This is one fish which the women around here are very smart in catching. When they know that the month of December is coming near, they know, the fish NUQA is around and all they need to do is to go out and fish. But what else can we catch today since we have our Indians exploiting our waters, and making use of all the things and fish which they can lay their hands and nets on, we do not have any more choices, either one or nothing. But this

Can you tell us this song which you sing if we wish to catch this

Yes, they have a song which they sing when they are digging up the sand

Is there a song for this fish when they wish to catch it.....

stop it from discharging this water.

song which they can sing to it and this is the only way which you can

which this fish is going to give is just like that, but they have a

is just like the water which comes out when a pipe bursts. The water

to do and that is, it is going to discharge a lot of water, and this

sand trying to locate it, there is one thing which this fish is going

fish. The claws is like that of a saw. When you are digging up the

But one thing which you have to be careful with is the claws of this

and this fish it is fully filled with its flesh and very nice to eat.

get it, they say that the fish is very greedy. They dig the spot up

does not work at all. And when some women tries it but they do not

to get them, some of them are lucky to get it, but for others, it

and they are very smart in doing it. When you make it, or when you try

their fishing trip, some of the ^{ladies} ladies and women are fond of doing this

sea prawn). It is of that appearance, and when the ladies return from

is called LORE. The appearance of this fish is like the URAU (a large

which they call the LORE. And also the way they catch this fish

and underneath this small hills you might likely to find this fish

able to find these spots there are some kind of small hills

low tide and when you walk around this part of the beach you will be

sun when it is low tide, and this is called ~~LORE~~ LORE. When it is

our sandy beach. Along this sandy beach which is expose into the

There is this ~~another~~ method of fishing which they often do around

is not for us to decide. This is just ~~our~~ our own bad luck.

Yes, this is the words for the catching of this fish:

..LORE LEVU, LORE LEVU, NOMU SUE NA SUE LEVU

NA WAI SA VUQA VAKALEVU. AU KEREREREREK NOMU SEVUSEVU

NA QAI QOE ME MACA VAKADEVU.

LORE LEVU, LORE LEVU..

And this is the translation:

..Large lore, large lore, your house is the biggest.

The water is filled this place up. I beg you for something to

take to my chief. Make this water disappear.

You're the largest of all LORE, large LORE..

And you keep digging, while you dig, you sing this song. Many

time over you sing this song and this is while you're digging. And

while you are giving all your might to dig and sing, then comes a time

when you realise that the water is going down fast and then there

is no more water left. This is because it has heard your singing, may-

be but we do not know. And when you see that the water is gone or

no more water seems to be coming up, then it means that the hole

or the hill which you are digging at, is filled with something, there

is a LORE underneath and this is why there is no more water discharged

because it heard you. The water is finished and when you know that

there is one there, then you are going to sing this song again which

is:

..LORE LEVU, LORE LEVU, SAUMAKI MEQU SEVUSEVU..

which means:

..Large LORE, large LORE, turn so that I can take you out..

The reason why you have to say this at the end, because when you keep

on digging, you will notice that his got it's claws stuck out like

that and this can attack you. When you sing this song, it is for the

fish to turn it's back down ^{and} make it easy for you to pick him up. As soon as you sing this song to him, it is going to turn it's back and all you need to do is to slip your hand in, take hold of the claws and pull it out. Make sure that the claws are being held tight if not, it can saw your fingers off. If you did not ask him to turn his back to you, it will really attack you when you try to take him from the place where it lies. It can saw your fingers off your hand, the teeth or the claws of this fish is like that of a very sharp saw, it is very sharp for it is also long and you have to be very careful when they are doing this, you never know when it is going to attack you. But to tell you something about this food, it is nice to eat and is never 'empty' as they say it. This is when the parts of the fish is all full up there is not a place where there is a hollow and no flesh, it is all filled up. So, for our women when they are sitting there ^{digging} at the hills, they sing this song to make it easy for them to catch the fish. But today, this is not done we do not know whether there is still some near our beach or if they are all gone, unless someone tries to find out if there is any still. This is one of the things which I learnt from my mother and other Ladies when they go out fishing. . But there was a time when I tried this thing and I was attending a Catholic school at the time. When I came home, I decided to go out and try this thing, and when I tried it I was able to catch two of these types. But today, I haven't find any time yet to try and see if it still works, since now I spent a lot of time going out to the open sea to fish from there, no more is this thing of digging up sand and all that. We prefer to go out to the open sea and work there. But there was one time, just recently when I tried it, I did not get one. Maybe, this is due to this

out again, it stops immediately and then it can take a few days for
split it on to the wound. When you do this, the blood does not come
cut. The only thing you can do is to chew the mangrove ends and then
to lessen the pain and all the blood which you might lose from this
day it on to the wound, this is the only thing you can do if you wish
and you chew it when you get it all chewed up, then you take it and
do for this cut, you get the most top end of the mangrove branches
When you are bitten or get sawn by this fish, the only thing you can
fish is able to lay it's claws on your fingers or hand?

What can you use as medicine if this gives a cut to you or if the
up and then you sing the song to them, and then they come up to you.
This is the only thing that you can do and that is to dig the hills
fish, what can you say about the catching of the LORE?
can use to catch this fish, like you use mangrove to kill this other
This fish the LORE, do they have a special type of fishing which they
have it for any food which we might want to eat.

and delicious fish, once they catch it, it is so nice to eat it and
water. But I tell you that this type of fishing always good nice
today is due to this oil and everything which they throw into the
this water. I believe that the number of little fish that we catch
a lot as the type of fish which I used to catch sometimes ago around
A lot of times I tried to fish out here but I was not able to catch
today, they go out to the deep sea to do their fishing out there.
a lot of people do not understand this things. But many of our people
and shores/ the oil and the rubbish which they throw into the sea,
one of the thing that is causing this lack of fish around our beach
why they don't get plenty fish when they go out fishing. This is
disolene and everything they throw in thesea caused pollution that is

the wound to become dry and not long the thing or the wound would be gone and only a scar would be there to take it's place. The only thing that you can do when you get bitten from the sea is to have it done with the mangrove tips and when you get to the shores then you can take it to hospital to have it done with medical attention.

This is the only thing that our ancestors can use when they get bitten it is so easy to do. I had this shell of this fish, but one of the ladies from this village came, saw it and she really liked, so she asked me if she could take it with her. If I had with menow, I can show you what it looks like and you will believe me and the things I am telling you now about this fish. It is nice to eat and the shells you can use it for decoration. This is one of the fishing things that you can also do around this shores.

The only thing that you can do when you are bitten by this fish is for you to bite the mangrove ends and then chew it.....

Yes, you chew until you know that it is all soft then you take it out or spit it onto the wound the fish made on your hands. The liquid which you also get while chewing it, you can also spit it onto the wound. This is going to stop the blood which comes out and also makes you feel a bit better. It is a painful thing when you get bitten by this fish. A lot of people have got this because they do not know how to catch this fish. This is the only thing that can be done before you seek medical attention from the hospital.

What can you say about this song which you sing when you are trying to catch this fish?

The only thing or the only reason why you have to sing this song so that the fish can turn on it's back and make it easy for you to take it from where it is lying.

The only reason why you have to sing the song to make it lie on it's back, and all you have to do is to slip your hand to it and take it from there. The song is to ask him to turn to his back, and also the singing on the top of your voice towards the place where it make it's home, is to ask him to stop the water which he is giving out, and when you sing this song, not long, you will notice that no more water is coming out from this hole, and it is going to be easy for you to dig deeper until you see him lying there. It hears you singing the song. This is what our ancestors told us, it ~~he~~ hears you and the song which you sang, and the song which you are going to sing after that is to ask him to turn his back, for him to lie on his stomach, and this is to protect your hands from getting bitten, and it really turns making it easy for you and when you finish singing it's song, it is right there lying on it's ~~back~~ stomach.

Is there a legend of belief about this fish the LORE?

This fish the LORE is like a MOCI (a shrimp or very small prawns). But I do not really know anything about this thing. But the only thing that I know is that they found a lot of this around this beach and it is always good to eat this fish.

When you go out to fish this fish, how can you tell that this place is full of LORE, or under this sand hill is a LORE?

When you see a small sand hill, it tells you that this is where you can see a LORE. When you dig deep into it, you can find one. This makes the home of this fish, it looks like a house also. And when you dig into it, it is easy to dig, and later on you will see it's eyes there. When you see this, it means that there is a LORE inside and then you keep digging. It looked like a small eye of the KAI (unio). And when you meet this, it shows that there is one inside.

And sometimes when you are walking along the beach, you will notice

that some water is being discharged from the top, this shows that there is one inside this hole, and all you need to do is to dig.

What type of sand do this fish make their homes in, black sand or white sand or.....

They are only found around areas where the sand is white, not around this area which we can see now, where the sand is black, no, you

cannot find this fish if you go out to catch some LORE from it. The only place where you can find this fish is around areas where the sand is white. Also places where you have a mixture of two types

of sand, where it is a bit muddy and plain white sand, this are some of the likely areas where you can find the fish LORE.

You mentioned something about the SARO, can you tell me what is it? This SARO is the DOGO (mangrove), and when they say: "Go out and

leave the SARO out there in the sea." When I hear this I know that I am wanted to leave the mangrove out there in the sea so that we can

catch some fish in the morning maybe or in the next day. This is how they say it. SARO is the word for mangrove. So, I go out and

cut down some mangroves and I leave them out there in the sea, I dig some holes where I am going to leave this mangroves, it is quite easy to do, but if you want plenty of fish, the only thing that you can

do is to make sure that you have a lot of mangrove trees left out there when you leave them. I am sure if they do this again today, they

will be able to catch some fish from it. But the only thing we do not know whether it is working or not. Since no one is using this method

to catch fish at all. Now, I seem to remember back into the old days when they used to use this fishing method. Now, that you are asking

me, old memories seems to come back to me and I can see this thing

clearly in my mind. For me, I know that I can do it. Also, they go out to fish at night. Our ladies used to go out to fish in the night time, and they know what to take with them when they go out. They always come back with a basket full of fish. They also fish at night, whether it is a moonlit night or a dark night, they also go out to fish.

All these fishing which you have already told me, it is a fishing method which is usually used during the ^{same} time, or are they also used during the night.

This is the only fishing which they can do when they go out to fish during the day like BOBORO, the digging of the LORE. And there is another one which they say: "Let's go out and YAVIYAVI." and that is the using of the net. This type of fishing is only used during the night.

Can you tell us something about your going out to do the YAVIYAVI?

Yes. When the tide goes out and it is a fine day, some of the

ladies get together and they plan to go out fishing during that night. And this is the fishing YAVIYAVI. And when they do this, they catch

fish like NUQA, but a lot of time they catch this fish the KAIKAI, since this beach along our coast is full of this fish, so they catch plenty

of this. A lot of times they come back with a basket full of KAIKAI and NUQA. Not very large NUQA, but just enough to be eaten at home.

Also some other fish like the KI. And also some other fish which they say that is like that of a horse, only they know about it but

now they call it in BAU I do not know. All these fish they catch when they go out fishing at night. They know how to catch them.

But today, not many women goes out to fish at night, they are not doing it.

A lot of people buy their fish from the market. I am sure if they do it today, they can always catch some fish. When you go out to fish at night, also men are going to help you in the fishing?

No. Only the ladies, and just a few children who accompany them and so the time comes for the ladies to pull their nets in, only this few children who accompanied them, they stand from the front and they stamp their legs or feet onto the ~~sand~~ sand to cause movement, and the ladies move towards the place where the children are standing and the children moves down to the place where the mothers are standing. This is how we catch fish at night. Men do not come with us when we go out fishing.

Can you tell me the type of fishing nets which you use when you go out fishing, and how you arrange yourselves when the time comes for you people to fish. Are you going to stand far apart or near to each other. Can you tell me more about this things?

Very well. When they use the nets, they are not going to stand very close to one another. They could have four or five ladies and they stand quite apart from one another. This fishing nets which they use are large, not small nets, they use large nets. And it could be three yards long. And so the children are going to stand up there in the front. In between two ladies who hold their nets, a child is going to stand there. This is all going to be arranged so that they cover up a lot of places. For two ladies, a child is going to stand there marking the place where they arrange themselves. And when the time comes for them to begin, like what we did one time. When we arrange ourselves well, then we started to move down to this side and the women also move towards us. We make a lot of noise while we move

towards the place where the ladies are standing. This is how we make this fishing and it is always nice to see the amount of fish we catch when the fishing trips is over. The reason why we have to beat upon the water is to chase the fish from there into the place where the women has got their fishing nets ready.

And when it is over, you take the fish which you catch for yourself? Yes, you take the fish which you catch for yourselves. As for you to take the fish which you catch from your own fishing net. Also we think of others. If no one or if one person in the group did not catch any in her net, they make sure that they give some to her. This is just one of our customs to think of others.

Another fishing method which we used is the CURRU QARI (catching of crabs). This is one thing the women around this area is smart to catch. If you look to the other side from here, you will see BEKANA. This is one of the islands where the crabs is always found at all times, not one time when you go out to fish for crabs would you come back empty handed. Also, not small crabs are caught from this place. Large crabs are found. When our women go out there to catch crabs, they always come back with plenty.

They know of this water or wave when it is going to bring in large crabs. And they know that for all the time when the low tide is at the early morning, this is the time for catching crabs. But this is not awasy thing, it might be easy in some other places. But for us here it is very difficult to catch, since we have a lot of mangroves around our island. The ladies or the women in this place the best time when the crabs do this ceremony of VAKATAVOVOKA. When they look into the sea, they know that this is the period of VAKATAVOVOKA. And when they see that it is very high tide, and when they see that

it is really high tide, they know that this is the time when the

crabs move towards the land and this high tide brings them closer to the shore. "This tide brings these crabs which wish to do their

VAKATAVOVOKA. "The only thing which they keep track of is the moon.

And also during high tide. When they see this high tide, they know

that a large of crabs is being brought up to the shores to relieve

their old shells. As for those who are quite strong, this is the

time when they come down to the sea. As soon as we see this high tide

different from other tides, we know that for today and tomorrow the

crabs are going to make their move and change places. As soon as we

see this, we make our move, we go out to try and catch some crabs.

And when we go out to catch crabs, the only thing that we need to do

is to make sure that they know what they are doing, they go down to

the place where they know the crabs make their homes, and we try to

dig the place up.

"Does that mean when they have this high tide, this is the wave which

is going to bring the crabs closer to shore?

Yes. When this high tide is timing right then, this is the time when

the crabs are taken up closer to shore. "his crabs could be large,

small or medium in size. "nd this is the time when they want to do

this period of changing known as VAKATAVOVOKA.

"When they do this thing of VAKATAVOVOKA, like you have been saying a

lot of time, what do they do?

When they go out to do this thing of VAKATAVOVOKA, this is the time

when they shed their old shells and they have another new one. "The

hard strong shell which they have, this shows the growth of a crab.

When they shed their old shell, to leave this old shell and have a

new one, this is the time when they are weak and also it shows that

this is also a stage in life which they have reached. This is the
 time when they move closer to the shores to shed their old shells.
 And this is the time which we all wait for. And when we see the
 tide, we know that this is the time when the crabs come to shed their
 shells and have new ones. Sometimes when you come to a place, the
 crabs are fighting with some mangoose, and when the mangoose drag
 them closer to the beach, then it is our turn to step in and take
 the crabs from them. All we have to do is to walk along the shores
 where the waves lap last, and under the sand, they make their homes.
 They live in holes, for others, they sleep with the fish, and when
 the same wave as they call it returns, this is the wave which is
 going to take the strong ones back into the sea. They are taken down
 and the weak ones stay behind waiting for the next wave. This is
 the time when we go down to catch crabs. And on the next month and
 on the same time, these crabs which came on in this month would be
 taken down to the sea on the coming month and the wave is going to
 bring some more in. Some go down and some come up. "hat God
 gives, no one can spoil it. For them also, they know the time perfect
 for their coming and going. When they are in this time when they
 are suppose to come up, they leave everything and they come up to shed
 their old shells.

When you know that this is the time for it, do you keep track of time
 by watching the months or days or.....

We always keep an eye on the months, and when we see it and we
 know that it is high tide, we let the others know and then all of us
 prepare themselves to go down to catch crabs. We always let them
 other people know that it is time to catch crabs, especially those
 ladies who stays close to the sea. And then all we have to do is to

go out and catch the crabs. We always look forward to this time. And when we go out to catch crabs, this is known to us as TAUISUE. For us when we say house, it is SUE. And they say that they go out to call for the SUE or house. And this is when they go out and they disturb the crab homes which they have made. When they want to go out to catch crabs, they say TAVISUE. The only thing which we should do is to make sure that we catch the crabs, we do not care as to how we catch it, but when the time comes for us to ~~catch~~ catch them, we make sure that we do. This is the only time we are able to eat crabs. It might be difficult for us to catch it at any other time. And this thing the crabs also, we have a lot of names for it, we call it the SEKA, rukuseka. The SEKA is the crab and when we go to catch these crabs we call it RUKUSEKA. We have our our dialect for this and you have your own also.

- Does that mean that you have a lot of fish inside those mangrove swamps or.....

Yes, the fish which you can find among those mangroves swamps are really a big number. At this mangrove swamps, we have small rivers which flow inside it. And also for large tracks of water which flows from there we can find rocks and stones in there. We call these small waters and rivers as WAIYARDA. When you see this rivers, it is very small and calm and it flows down to the sea. And in here, the large fish like the KAWAKAWA, DAMU, SEVO and this fish when it becomes big it is later called the KANACE. So when it is low tide or high tide then we go down to there to fish all these fish. In the olden times, the only workable method which we can use is the DIVA (mangrove). But today, they are using the nets from the fishing industry, they have

to fish among these swamps where they have these small rivers flowing
Is there any other fishing method which they can use when they go out
hide themselves.

under the rocks and in some mud which they can dig themselves into and
and we catch this fish. Also fish are found in these places, like
we can see the place where we put our hands. We do it very slowly,
have rocks in there, so it is easy for us to do it there also since
do this thing of BOBORO is when we go out to the reef, they also
poisonous when someone steps on it. So the only place where we can
is one of the fish which stays around our island and it can be very
fish which is like that of a stone when it is not moving at all. This
have this fish which they called the YALEWA MATUA (an ugly looking
hands in the process of BOBORO, this is from the olden times, they
Also, this type of fishing which I told you about having to use your
of it on our island, but we only make use of the mangrove plants.
fish which they do not wish to kill. But for us, we forbid the use
to use, but the only thing, is that it kills both large and very small
This is one thing they used when they want to catch fish. It is easy
chemical that kill rhinoceros beetle which lives on coconut trees.
used when they want to go out fishing, and that is the use of the
they make use of this, also they have another chemical which they
why the fishing committee have decided to forbid the use of it. When
killed when they make use of the mangrove. And this is one reason
killed when they make this thing the DUVA. All these fish are
killed. There is this small fish which they call the SENOKO, all
the water and none can escape this. Small fish and big fish are all
the duva from up front, this thing kills all the fish that is in
forbidden the use of this plant the DUVA. When we make this plant

from, or this is the only type of fishing which they can have in here? Yes, this is the only one. As I've said, they can use of the mangrove which they have around this place, but it has been stopped now and so they do not use it any more. But there is a lot of fish in these places and the only thing is to have a good method for catching them. We do not want to kill and chase away all the fish from this place, so it is always better, to have a better method of ~~catching~~ catching fish. And when they go out to catch the fish, they always return with plenty, enough to feed everyone in the family.

What can you say about the making of the mangrove which they are going to place in the river or in between these places where they can give it and find a lot of fish in there?

As for the mangroves, when they are going to use this method to catch fish, the only thing they need to do is to bring the mangroves and they found it up. They found it all us and when they know that it is all soft, then they sieve it or separate the liquid from the leaves, then they have it in a bottle and take it. In the place where they want to leave this thing, they are going to dip this thing into the water, and they mix it well with the water. They keep doing this and the first thing you notice, that all the small fish which they ~~take~~ have around this place comes up to the surface all killed. And then follows the large fish which we are after. And when they stopped us from using this thing, then we knew the bad side of using this ~~method~~ method. When we were told of it and the danger it bring then we knew that it is better for us to forget about it and make sure that we use another method. This is like a ~~chemical~~ chemical which we can use if we wish to have a lot of fish killed or caught on that day.

This mangrove called the ~~DUVA~~ DUVA must be really strong and it can cause death like it does to fish?

It is quite dangerous. It is similar to poison. It is dangerous

and they also make use of this other thing which they call the DUVA

NI WAITUI, and this is quite strong, much stronger than the one I

am telling you now. One day, I saw some of the ladies in this village

prepare this stuff and they filled it up in a bottle and took it

along with them, and they closed the lid with the piece of stick. And

when they came to this river where they wished to fish, then they

took the bottle and they broke it. And when it broke, the water got

into the area where they wish to have it run. This is a large thing.

But the government have stopped people in our village from using

this natural things because it kills all the fish there at the time

when the medicine or chemicals gets accumulated in the water.

And also this other crab called the KUKA is caught among mangrove

swamps. We know how to catch it and many people find it to be the

easiest thing to do.

When you go out to catch this thing called the KUKA, how do you do it?

We always go out to catch KUKA when it is high tide, when we know

that this high tide is really high. Then we go out to catch KUKA.

And also when we go out, you have to be careful when you try to catch

it, for those who have small hands, they can always slip their hands

inside and for those who have large hands, they find it really difficult

to catch this crab. They make their homes on top of the roots of

mangroves when it is high tide. They come out and when it is low

tide, they go down into their holes and hide there. They make their homes under mangrove plants. It is a nice fish to eat, but

many of us they do it today, to take it to the market to sell it there
Also when we see that it is raining, this is the time when we call
the others to catch crabs or the KUKA. Only when there is a heavy
rain, when it is really raining hard, then we go out to catch KUKA.
Like the crabs, when we have a few, this can feed the whole family.
And today, for one bundle of KUKA, they sell it with two dollars. It
is a ~~source~~ source of money for some people, they look for it and
they sell it in the market.
We have a lot of ways which we can catch fish in here. There is
one which they are using today and this is the sub-marining as they
call it. This is when they use glasses, special glasses, and they
dive deep into the water to hunt for shells like VASUA (clams). This
is when people start to dive for clams and they use these glasses
when they dive in. In the olden times, when they want to eat clams,
the only time when they can catch this thing, is when they notice that
this is a very low tide. Then they go out to the reef to do it.
Today, we use this glasses, and we dive into the water to do it. I
have done it myself also. And it is a very difficult thing to do.
You have to be alert all the time and a lot of people know of this
thing also. They find clams really nice to eat so they spend their
time diving for it. But also for our ancestors they used to do this
thing also, they know of their own methods. I have not seen anyone
done this yet. But for most of our women, this is a good way of
earning money, when they get it from the sea, they take it to the
market to ~~sell it there~~ ^{sell} ^{here} it there. It has been a long time for me to go out
again to do this thing, and when I do it, it is only to feed those
people at home. It is a very nice food to eat. And the only thing
which you can use is a long piece of iron. And the stuff which you

wear when you go down diving. This is to make it easy for you to do it. A lot of people they buy their diving gears from the shops and this way they are able to catch a lot of fish and also to find a lot of clams if they want to look for them. And some ~~times~~ ^{times} we come across sharks, this is the only time when fishing is really dangerous. We have to move away from this place when we see a shark, if not they can attack us and this is bad for us, since some people get killed when attack by sharks and takes them so long to get medical attention. When we are there in the water, we can see sharks moving around us or a few yards away from us. They ~~always~~ ^{always} come around, but for us we continue with our fishing, we do not try to disturb them to try and chase them away, no, the only thing we do is leave them be and after a while, they move away again. They come around and they go back again. Sometimes, when we see them coming, we think that they are angry and they are coming at us, but no, as soon as they come near you, they turn away again. The smell of the clams which we have already got and the ones which we left behind, this brings them to this place, they like the smell and they want to see if they can find food around there. This is one of the fast fishing which we can do when we go out to fish for clams. But one thing hard about it is that you have to aim at it with all your might if you want to take the clam out from the shell. Although it is hard to fish for clams but this is good to do. And the family likes it also when you come ask with your clams. We can bring it home and have it there for quite sometimes before we decide to have it for lunch or for dinner. This is always good to eat, as for use, they have taken it to the market to sell it there, and this could be one reason why we are not finding a lot when we go out to look for clams. Many people bring

this stuff to sell it at the market. And this could be one reason why

a lot of these fish which we used to catch around our beach and shores have disappeared. Like I was telling you about some of the fishing

which they used to do around our waters and they used to catch a lot of fish, but now, there is none at all, hardly catch any fish from

here now, unless we go out to the deeper waters. It might take a while for them to find another big fish around this place, a lot

of ladies from other lady who stays around here, they still go out to fish and get fish for their families. But not anymore now, a lot

of people prefer to go out to the deeper waters to fish there. You told me that when you go out to look for clams, it is during

low tide....

Yes, you can go at high tide, so that when low tide comes you are out there in the reef.

The clams are going to be found at the reefs....

Yes, when it is high tide you make your way to the reef, and when the tide goes out, you are ready to get your clams. They can be

found on top of the reefs and also at the edge of the reef before it slopes down to deeper waters. These are all the areas where you

can find the clams.

When we dive down at low tide, we dive right near to the edge of the reef where you look out to the deep blue sea and it looks dark and

all but the place where you are, it is always good to see that you are near to the shallow places. You never know what is going to ha-

ppen next. And around the reef and near to the edge of the reef, we swim around there looking for clams. It is full of fun and when we

come to a place where there are a lot of clams, we use our trons to get them out. These places near the edge of the reef, this is the

only place where you can find large clams, and large clams means a lot to eat or to sell maybe. But when you walk around the reefs, you will find that they are smaller compared to the ones which you find when you go near to the edge of the reef. When you compare them, you will find that they are so much different in size and it is always good to try and see where is the best place for fishing clams. Does that mean when you see a clam lying there under the water or near to the edge of the reef, you go to it and you carry the whole of the ~~max~~ clam together with the shells or.....

No, when you see the clam there, it is for you to try and bring it out. For a clam, there are two eyes for it. The clams have got two eyes, and for you when you look at the clam, there are two eyes glowing from it. One ~~yx~~ eye is larger than the other, one you will find is small, this is to me, when I go out fishing I always keep a lookout for these two eyes, if I wish to look for clams. For me, I do not make use of the large eye, the eye which I keep looking at is the small one because I am going to make use of it when I want to take that clam. As soon as I see this eyes glowing in the water, I move closer to it and then I take this large, long iron which I normally use when I catch clams, then I aim at the eye, the small one in this case, and I drive the iron deep inside to see if it still remains open. As soon as I drive the iron into the small eye, then the next move I am going to make is to see that it does not move out ⁱⁿ anything. I shove it a bit harder down and then I shake it, and not long, it clips up and then all I need to do is to bring the iron out again, with the ~~max~~ clam stuck on to the end. The clams some times is very difficult to remove from their shells, but this is the

the only easy method which I can use when I want to remove the clams from the shells. They have other methods which they can use but this is the method which I use when I go out to dive for clams. Some of the others, they make use of their knives, for me, this is not so. The only thing I do is what I have already told you. For a clam it has got two eyes, and when I am diving around, I find these two eyes glowing at me and the small one, I am going to drive my iron into this small round eye. Then all I have to do is to keep it there and then move it around once or twice, not long, something inside snaps and then you find it very easy to pull the iron up with the ~~max~~ clam stuck onto the end. Then all of you can just take it and place it inside the sack which you have got. The shells are left there at the bottom of the sea, and then you move to another place to try and look for more. The shells are left behind, the contents or the clams, they break away from the shell and all you need to do is to take them since they are stuck on to the end of the iron which you used. And as soon as it snapped from inside, you take it some of the men they use their knives to peel at the side of the clam and then they remove it from there and pack them inside their bags. You bring the clam, clean it nicely, remove the part that needs to be thrown away, and that is all you need to do. When you clean the clams, this is the thing which attract fish like sharks and other large fish, they smell the blood of the clams and they move towards it ~~and~~ and ~~they~~ they feed on the remains which clings to the shell and the part which you throw away when you clean it. When it attracts sharks we can find the sharks moving around us, but we have never found anyone being attacked by sharks.

or being bitten by it. None of us as yet to meet this misfortune, of being attacked by a shark. They only see us and they move away.

- It goes to show that this fishing of clams is really a hard one but on the other end it is easy to ~~get it~~ it?

Yes. It is easy when you have ~~found the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ clams but one thing is that you have to be careful of the large fish that might be swimming around you while you are fishing.

- When this thing snape from inside, the whole thing comes off or.... Yes, the skin and everything comes out and all you need to do is to remove the parts which you do not want. There is a root for the clams and this is the only thing which ~~root~~ it down there. And when you find a clam, the only thing for you ~~do~~ to do is for you to aim at the eye and then you try and make it remove itself from the root which it clings to. When this thing breaks, this is going to be easy for you, all you need to do is to remove it. The small root which holds it inside, it is going to remain there inside while the whole of the clam comes out. But in some cases, it comes out with this root also, so the thing you do, you clean the parts well, take away the parts which is not eaten, ~~the~~ ~~you~~ then you also remove this small root which held it in place. In some cases, when you do not remove this root of the clam, it is poisonous when you eat them.

You feel that you want to vomit and it is very unsettling for your stomach. This is because of the small root which is there, and they make sure that they remove this thing before they eat it.

- And when you go out to fish for clams, can you also bring the large clams or bring the shells also with the clams?

No, it is a very heavy thing and a lot of people do not like to bring this thing here because of its size and the weight of it. The

weight of the shells makes it difficult for them to bring it to their homes. When we try to take the shells from the bottom of the sea and place them inside the bag which we have with us, it takes a long time for us to complete the task. The taking of the shells from the bottom of the sea ~~and~~ and the placing of these shells inside the boat is a very hard task. And another thing too is when you dive into the sea ~~an~~ and then carry the shells all the way into the water looking for other clams. When you wish to bring the shells home, you have to make sure that you have the power to carry it all the way, but the easiest thing that you can do is for you to try and remove the clams from their shells before you place them inside the bags which you have. But for many people who do not know of this method which I use when I go out fishing, they break up the shells and they do it anyhow, they do not make a neat work of it, that is why they take a long time in bringing this fish out. The only thing that you must ~~avoid~~ avoid is the breaking of the shell, when this shell is broken into, the broken pieces can get into the shell-fish and when you cook this stuff and eat it, it can be bad for your insides, it can tear at the delicate parts inside your body. So, I would say that the method ~~which~~ which I use, it is safe and easy also once you get the hand of it. Once the thing snaps from inside, it is very easy to remove it and all you need to do is to clean it and then place it inside your basket or bag. The shell-fish comes out by itself. It has got two eyes and the small round one is the one which I use or aim at when I want to get this shell-fish. One shove and the thing comes out. Also, if you want to make use of a knife ~~in~~ in cutting at the shell-
fish, it is going to be really difficult for you to try and shed it away from the shell. What you need is a very ~~sharp~~ sharp knife.

When you go out to look for clams make sure that you take a very sharp knife with you to make things easy for you. When you cut at it, the sides comes out very quickly because of the sharp knife which you use. But be careful that you not only get the thing out safely, but not to get yourself hurt also.

This is how you fish for this shell fish called clams....

Yes, this is the method which I use when I want to go out to look for clams and bring them home also.

The eyes of the clams, is it colourful in colour or they have just one ~~colour~~.....colour.....

When you see the eyes, they are different in colours. For the small one which is round in shape, it give off some colour like yellow, green and blues, and for the large ~~one~~, it has got one colour only and this could be the organ which it use to breath out into the water. This small round one, is the one which you must aim at if you wish to strike at it. The root of the clam is right underneath this eye, and once you hit it, there is no other thing to face, all you need to do how is to give it a shove and then pull it up when you hear something snaps from inside. But if you aim at the large eye, nothing is going to work for you at all. You need to be fast about it, once you put the iron in, then you move it around once or twice, it snaps and then you remove the iron from inside, this is all you need to do when you go out to fish for clams. The whole shell-fish is going to come out and when you work on it, it is free and in the clear. This is the shell fish called the VASUA or clams.

Is there any other shellfish or fish which you do go out to get when it is either high tide or low tide?

Yes, we have a lot. There is another fishing which is very nice to

eat and that is the VEIUNA. When you are able to catch these fish, you can cook it in LOLO and this is the best meal that you can have for one day. The ~~ix~~ whole of this area in BEKANA where this is all sand, this is one of the places where you can find this stuff. For any place where there is sand, you can find this shell fish there. The shell-fish when you want to catch it, it can go down or slips right down to the soil or sand underneath. Also they have their homes like that of a LORE. When it is low tide, then all the aldis and children, they all plan to go out and look for VEIUNA, they take with them their containers where they are going to place there fish in or this shellfish. The children they know how to catch of this thing. When you catch this stuff, you brin them home and you scrape at the stomach and all those parts and then you remove the stuff on the stomach which you do not want. This is how they clean it and then you eat it. When you are ready to cook it, it is yourchoise as to how you are going to cook it, maybe you wish to cook it when the LOLO is boiling or for you to eat it raw also. This is one food which is delicious to eat raw. And this is one thing that covers the area of our beach and sandy areas in here. But people they do not care about it much, they only know that they have **enough** to eat, so they go out and they ignore about this shell-fish. But when they are going to have a gathering in the house, they need a lot of food to feed the number of people coming. So this~~ix~~ is one of the time when this food comes useful, all they need to do is to go out and look for it. At one particular place, you can find more than what you need for the food for your gathering. And most of the time, children are sent out to gather these shell-fish. We still have them here now and what I

sand or.....
Yes, but not at a place where there is too much sand mud. But also
the sandy places where they are found, it is near to the reef, or right
at the beach, the sand around this place is the best place to go out
and look for this shell-fish. When you go out to the reef, look for
a place where there is white sand and some rocks, this is the place
where you are going to find a lot of this thing. But here in this
place near us, we do not find any at all, only they are found
at the reef. And I tell you that island there in Bekana, they can
find this shellfish there, it is large in numbers and all you have to
do is to go down there and get them. And there are some other places
around here where they can find this shellfish.

This shell-fish is found around this beach where they have the
sand where it lives. This is how this shell-fish acts.
makes it's home. It is going to escape down towards the bottom of the
are going to spend a long time trying to dig it out from where it
You have to be fast in getting hold of it's head, if not, then you
and they love to eat it raw. They do not like it cooked at all.
one person. But a lot of our children know how to do this thing,
is the only thing that you can do if you wish to have it for more than
one, meka sure that you dig down fast to get to the shell-fish. This
building at it to take the whole thing out. As soon as you find
you make sure that you have it there all the time while you are
at the surface, you press your finger on to it to hold it and then
It is like this long and all you have to do when you see it there
How big and how long are these shell-fish?

go to the stores and buy their food from there.
have seen is that no one bother with them, they find it easy to go to

This is one of the food that many people do not care about, but it is a very tasty food. This is easy to catch, but many people do not bother to go out and catch them, it is one of the many shellfish or sea food that people do not bother with. But today, for many people when they bring this shellfish, they do not ~~xxxxxx~~ remove the skin which ought to be removed. But this is how I do it when I bring this shell-fish. When it is there with me, the skin which is attached to the soil, this is the one which I remove, the cutting of the shell-fish takes half of it completely away. And this other half which you have, you can eat it raw, or add hot water onto it and then eat it, you can remove the half which you do not want and the half which you have you clean it nicely, then you add lemon to it, you will find it very nice to eat and very tasty also. All the people who eat this thisway, they find it hard to stop. They cannot compare this food to anything else, the ~~xxxx~~ taste of it and the fresh food you're eating. Today, I am doing it, and many people are following my method also, and that is for them to remove the other half where the stomach is.

Any other method of fishing which you always do when you go out to the reef?

I am also known in fishing. To all the women here in Namoli, I am a lady who is really good in fishing. It can be due to the fact that I have a boat, we have three boats, and also I have my own motor which makes travelling fast and easy for me. For all the time when I find that I don't have anything to do, I go out to the sea. This method of fishing is a nice one and when you bring the fish which you catch and make ~~xx~~ use of it at home, this is a really nice dish and nice food to eat.

See this breeze blowing this way, this is the best time for me to go out and fish. This is the time when the fish do not feel anything, this is how I see this thing, when I throw the bait out into the water, the fish cannot see the line but they can see the bait and they move towards it, this is the time when I find it easy to pull them in. This is when it is quite windy like now. When I am at home, this is what I keep a look out for, that the wind comes from this direction and I prepare all the things which I need before I come with some of our family to go out fishing.

When I do this thing, I have seen a lot of things which marks the position at the sea where I can find this type of fish and this type of shell-fish also. Take for an example, if I want to fish for the fish called the ~~KAKAK~~ KAKE. I have already tried this. This fish the KAKE it is found out there among some rocks, and when I see this rocks I know that this is the place for the fish. For some people in this village, when they are ready to go out fishing, they always come to me asking me if I could go with them. Like yesterday, when both of you came, I was not here, because I went out fishing, some of the women came, I did not want to go I wanted to stay at home and rest, but these people came and they asked me if I could accompany them on their fishing trip. This is good for us and for them also, because this is the only way that they can learn of fishing and where to fish. The only reason why they came to ask me so that I can take them to this rocks which I know that there are fish around it and it is a place where they can catch fish for their families/. As soon as I look down and I spot the rock, I know that this is the rock where fish like KAKE stays around. Then I tell them and they fish over that area. One reason I could say that makes it easy for me to recognise such

places because it is something which I enjoy doing and I spend most of my time out fishing. I have seen the places and I can also feel the wind which tells me that this is the place and the best ~~place~~ time for me to go out fishing. Like this wind which is blowing right now, this is the best time for me to go out and fish. If you were not here, I could have gone out again to fish. This is one nice thing, of fishing, for you to know of the places where you can go out and fish. For you to know the place and the best time to come out and fish and also you have a lot of things which you can use when you go out fishing. And when you know all this, it is going to be very easy for you to move around while fishing and all you have to do is to see that you are at the right place. As soon as we leave this place, I instruct the people in the boat to move eastwards, and I have marks which show me that I am heading in the right direction. I have land marks, and these are the marks which I position myself when I am out there in the sea. When I feel that I am coming near to the place then I look towards land, and when this landmark comes into view and is in line with myself, I told them to cut the engine and this is the very place where we are going to fish. We have a lot of places where we can have this thing or the place where we can fish, I know of all of them. I leave this island and we move towards the marks which I have already placed. There is this light house at SAWENI, and this is the place which I head to. This mark is one of the marks which my brother gave me when he nearly passed away. He said that this is the best place for fishing and I always find time to go out and many times when they wish to go out fishing, they make sure that they mark these places and they make it easy for all of us also. But my brother is no longer living now, he is ~~now~~ dead, but he was the one who

showed me this place. He is the eldest in the family and also he is

one who knew something about fishing. His father is younger than my

mother, and when he was with me, he used to teach me a lot of things

about fishing, and this is one source of place where ~~they~~ I can get

information about fishing. He told me to keep an eye on this light

house and when I see that it is in line with the island, this is

the right spot where I can fish after I have seen the rock which

lies underneath the water. They know of all these things and he

taught me about them. He told me the name of the rock, thename

of the rock is ~~KETEKOSIKELI~~ KETEKOSIKELI. The name of this rock is

Ketekosikeli.

Do you know why they call this rock as KETEKOSIKELI?

The only thing that I know about this rock is that when they went

out to fish there at one time, then SIKELI's stomach got sore from

there, he had a stomach ache, so they decided to call this rock as

KETEKOSIKELI. This is something or a name which they gave, but to the

real name that some people might have for it from right in the olden

times, this is what I do not know. But all that I know that this is

a place where the chief or a man got his tummy sore, and they had

to return because of what happened to him. And from that time today,

they still call the place KETEKOSIKELI.

It is a large rock and it is right there in the middle of the sea or...

Yes, it is there in the middle of the water and it is very large, you

can see it from the top of the water, the sea is blue and it is

very easy for us to see the rock which lies there underneath.

The rock is there in the water and all you have to do is to keep an

eye on the landmarks, it is always good to see that the marks are in
place.

Once they get all the landmarks in place, then they are going to put their anchor into the water and they start fishing. This is all the things they need to do when they want to fish around this waters. The rock looks small when you try to ~~xxx~~ spot it, but it is there once you get your landmarks in place. The first time I tried to find if such place exist, I told mychild to take us there and I direct us, when we reached the spot, we came to the right place. We followed the directions given to us, and when werached this spot and when I looked down, I find the stone or the rock looking dark and right under the sea. As for this rock, we do not find small fish under there when we start to fish, all are large fish, all are large fish, and the only best time if you wish to catch some of this fish is at ~~xxx~~ night time. But one thing that is bad about going out to fish at night is because there are too many Indians around also out to fish. We have a lot of Indians here withus, and also they spend most of their time out there fishing. And also in the day time when I go out to catch fish, I always return with a lot of fish. The only way that I am able to come to the right spot for fishing when I go out to the sea, if I have my land marks in place. The land marks are the only direction given to me and the only way that I can find my way around if I want to go out fishing.

Does that mean that when you go out fishing, you have to have both marks in the land and also at sea?

Yes, if I find that this is the wrong place, or if I see the wrong mark in the land, then the mark at sea is going to be wrong also. I am going to end up in a totally different place. Also, there is a small island which I used as a mark when I go out fishing. The people they also keep an eye on this island and when they know that

they are in the right places, all they need to do now is to anchor there and take their fishing lines start fishing. Like what I told you, when I leave the mainland to go out to fish, always when I return I always bring a lot of fish when I come back. Sometimes when I go out fishing, once the marks are in place, I do not have to worry about catching fish, and sometime when we know that it is not very good the weather doesn't look promising to us, we always return with nothing much. This shows that it is going to rain soon or some changes in the weather. Before there is a rain, sometimes we catch a lot of fish. This shows that it is going to rain soon, and when we are ~~are~~ out there fishing and we know that we are catching a lot of fish, I tell the children see this type of weather or this change of the amount of fish which we are catching, if it is not going to rain in the afternoon, then it is going to rain in the morning. But also, when there is hardly any fish to catch, I tell them the same thing also, that it is going to rain in the afternoon or in the morning. And this is always right. One time when we went fishing, it was very bad for us, because we hardly caught any fish on that day, so I turned to them and I told them that it is going to rain soon. But they could see that it is a very nice day and they said where the rain will come from because of the clear sky, but I told them to watch it, and later in the afternoon when we all at home, then it rained.

As for the fish also, they know the times when they should come ashore to hide or to shelter from the rain. When there is three days left for the rain to come, then this is the time when you are not going to catch any fish when you go out fishing. And when we see this thing happening, when we are not able to catch any fish at all, we know

that it is going to rain some time in the near future.

When the wind is blowing from the TOKAIAN (the north-east wind).

I know that this is the wind for me, this is the time good for me to

go out fishing. And also when we go out to catch fish, the only fish

which I am going to catch the most when I go out is the KABATA.

This is the only fish which I am going to catch and this is the only

fish for me and the only wind that works better for me when I use for

fishing, it might not work at all for others, but this is how the

thing is done, you have your own things which tells you that this is

the best time to go out fishing.

And when the wind ~~blows~~ blows from the UVALIKU (north). This is di-

fferent from the other winds which I know, as for some people, this

is the wind which works best for them. It is always good to go out

fishing and catch fish that can feed your family, and many of us

when they know that they have alot of fish, they take it to the

market to sell it there. They have fish like SABUTU, KAWAKAWA,

RAVODUNU, but the only thing which we have to bear in mind is the

direction where the wind blows from, this is the only thing which

we have to see if not, then it is not going to work at all when

you are fishing, you are not going to catch any fish at all. I

know the place where I place my anchor and this is the place that

is going to give me fish when I fish there. But my marks goes with

that in the ^{main} land, when I know that this is the time for fishing,

I make sure that I have all my marks in place, then I am going to

start fishing.

Your marks are both of that in the sea and from the land...

Yes.

This is something which I often do, I almost spend a lot of my time

out there in the sea, so I find it very good and also easy to spot this land marks and again fish there also before I return home. There is this largest hill on this side of the island, this is one of the hills which I use as the mark.

But the only time that you would not be able to catch a fish, when a big bad weather is about to take place.

What can you say about the time when you go out to fish and the fish does not come out easily when you are trying to fish them although the direction of your wind is blowing at the time?

It shows that the weather is very good. And many times when we hear them announce the weather bulletin, I can tell straightaway that this is the best time for me to go out fishing, and I never go wrong, I always find that this is the fine time and the good time to do my fishing. In some times, I always miss it being announced in the radio, but when I go, I know it that I am going to catch a lot on this day. This is how we decide to go out fishing and when we know that this is the good day for it, we go out.

We always associate the two with the weather.

Can you tell us some of the things which you use when they go out fishing, the tools like the VULO NI NIU (fiborous cloth under coconut leaves) and some other tools, can you tell us what they normally use when they decide to go out fishing?

Like what I have said, they have a lot of things which they use. And for us, when we go out fishing, we make sure that we have all the things which we need, one of the many is the fiborous cloth which they get from the coconut trees, it is easy to get since it grows there on the tree and we have a lot growing near our homes. We need

to take them and tied them around our waist and it was always nice
to see our ~~women~~ ^{men} make use of such things.
When they are able to catch a fish, all they ~~need~~ ^{need} to do is to catch
them and tie them around their waist, this is the only way they can
carry fish better, by having it tied around their waist. They make
use of mangrove sticks for tying their fish around their waist. When
they have the branch there, all they need to do is to tear at it and
the inside, this is what they are going to use, a lot of times when
they tie the fish around their waist, they find large fish like sharks
and others following them at a distance, trying to get to the place
where you have the fish. It is a hard thing for us but they always
move away when they ~~realize~~ ^{realize} that they are not going to get a part of
the fish which we catch. The ~~inside~~ ^{inside} part of the mangrove is very soft
but very hard to break. They get their fish and they put the fish
through this line and they tied it around their waist. They make a
length which they think is enough for their waist, and when they tie
about more than three large fish around their waist, they find it
easy to cart them home.
What are ~~some~~ ^{some} of the things which they can use when they wish to
kill some fish ~~using~~ ^{using} some of the natural things which grows?
When they want to kill some fish using this plants, all they need
to do is to pound them and have it placed up front so that when the
water comes down with this thing, it is going to be really easy for
them to come and pick all the fish which got killed using this method.
And all these fish which they catch, they have it all tied around
their waist. It hangs from their waist and they walk all the way
back into the village.
And while they are coming, they are not followed by large fish

like sharks and all others....

Not once would I hear people talk about it. I have not seen them or hear one of the people who went out fishing to be bitten by a shark or any large fish like that. Is it because we live close to the shores, I do not know a good answer for that.

Can it also be due to the mangrove some people used when they tie the fish around their waists?

It can be since this thing works on the fish. But many of us when they see that ^{there are} large fish coming behind us, the only thing that they do is that they make a noise on the surface of the water, and this is the only thing that can chase them back, once they hear the noise being made, they turn back, none of them dare to move further near to us. As they come along, they beat onto the surface of the water, and this could be one of the things which chase such fish if they ~~try~~ to come nearer to us. This is what I think, as they come closer to shore, they do this, by beating on to the surface of the water.

Do they also make use of the NOKK or fishing baskets?

Yes, they also make use of ~~the~~ baskets but at that time, there is not much baskets for it, but if they take the baskets, it means that they have to place the crabs, and other things which they can use for placing the fish inside, before they return home. But in those days, our elders were very smart in the making of the nets, they love to do art work and they are really smart in making baskets. This is another reason for running this committee for women so that they can learn to do this things which our ancestors used to do during their time. This is something which is bringing back the idea of making use of such things and for us to learn how to make it and all that. We have a lot