

PROPOSAL: Portable Shipyard  
SUBJECT: 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps and  
More Peace Corps  
DATE: Feb. 24, 2009

Peace Corps Group Seven of Samoa 1971-1973 announces the formation of a Founder's committee to design and build a "portable shipyard" to serve fishing operations in Pacific and island nations.

The portable shipyard is a Toyota truck modified to handle marine wood, metal, mechanical and electrical systems. It works in the field at each site as an independent system outside of commercial support. They deploy in twos--the "buddy system"-- with interchangeable parts and systems to ensure project reliability and success.

The design incorporates a capacity to respond to any novel situations and can partner with other organizations or personnel; i.e. carry a doctor or scientist to outlying villages on one of its missions.

The portable shipyard is reliable, durable and inexpensive. Example: the Toyota truck 1989-2004 with the 22R engine, is almost indestructible. This keeps to the principle of the Peace Corps experience and fills a need for affordable innovative operation.

It is proposed that a prototype be built and tested in traditional Hawaiian fishing villages and small boat harbors on the island of Hawaii.

To create interest for this project we are submitting this proposal to the Titanic Quarter of Belfast, Ireland who is creating a museum around the Harland and Wolff shipyards that built the Titanic.

Sincerely



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## BACKGROUND

Peace Corps Samoa in 1971 assisted with the Fisheries Division Dept. of Agriculture in enhancing fishing operations in outlying villages and in Apia at Fisheries headquarters.

Village fishing associations built their own alias or double-hulled catamaran canoes. Fisheries supplied outboard motors and fuel for operations while Peace Corps set up each association and instructed on motor use.

Fisheries headquarters had three conventional single-hulled boats 38' - 42' one of which was an experimental vessel for a U.N. F.A.O. project to which Peace Corps was attached. A ferro-cement boat was built in Apia largely with Samoan workers and Peace Corps was project manager for its completion and launch.

Peace Corps also staffed a turtle hatchery in Aleipata and other Peace Corps worked on supporting projects to uncover opportunities for food production from the sea.



Samoa alias readying for sea



PCVs and Samoan friends-training Mulivai

FERRO-CEMENT BOAT 38'



The crane swings her into the water

Completed vessel towed  
to the harbor for launch  
PCV Harlan

*Note: 12+ Samoans  
swing boat into harbor  
as crane at risk  
of toppling. →*



Samoan muscle completes the job - Malo!



## CONCLUSION

The concept of the portable shipyard provides regular maintenance and support that was needed in Samoa in 1971 and it assists in vessel repairs and boatbuilding.

Speaking with RPCVs the portable shipyard works in almost every Pacific and island situation from the Solomon Islands to the Kingdom of Tonga.

The design is a modular on-off ship-on-wheels that adapts to any circumstance and partners with other entities and organizations.