

# COMPETENT AUTHORITY

*The Quarterly Newsletter of the Competent Authority Team*



## THE LATEST FROM THE TEAM:

*Inspections - 6*

*Reports - 7*

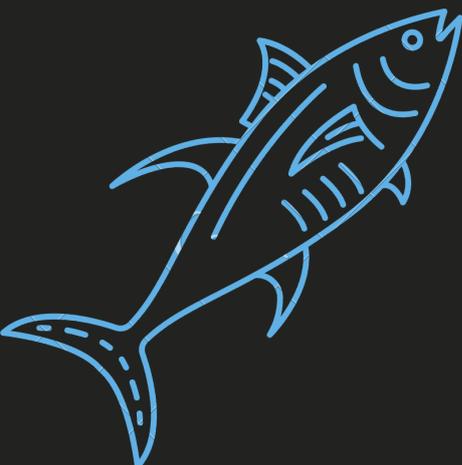
*Meetings - 4*

*In-House Training - 4*

*Workshops Conducted- 1*

## ABOUT THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

The Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) has been working to establish a Competent Authority to gain access into the EU market for seafood products from the Marshall Islands. A Competent Authority is an entity that provides independent verification to confirm seafood products are fit for export to the overseas markets and to target export for the EU market. The team formation has been in the works for several years, and this year the team has been formed. With support and guidance from CA advisor Aquina Pyanne, new officers Lyla Lemari and Tatiana Shoniber, and environmental laboratory manager Candice Guavis, the team is ready to take action to have the Marshall Islands' seafood industry be approved by the European Union.





## THERE'S NO STOPPING THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY

### *CA team in full fledge mode*

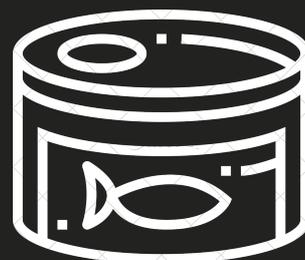
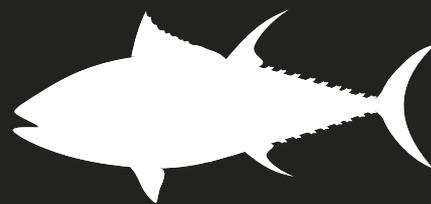
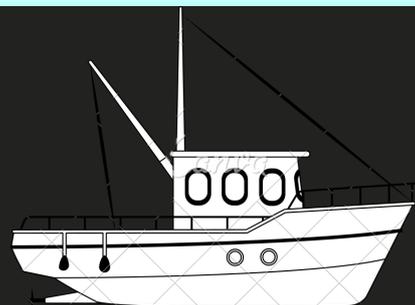
The CA team is not looking back, but only moving forward. The team conducted a Fish Processing and Export Regulations workshop that included the important stakeholders for fisheries within the Marshall Islands. The workshop explained the role of the CA and the role of the stakeholders' industries in the overall CA picture. Multiple in-house meetings were conducted for the new team to understand their job responsibilities and the standards that will need to be followed. In-house training focused on the National Control Plan, EU Standards, Role of the CA, and Inspections Procedures. The CA team also participated in multiple meetings to further expand their knowledge on the areas they will be covering, which include Port State Measures, CDS Workshop, Food Safety Environmental Contaminants, PNA meetings, and more.

Along with meetings, trainings, and workshops, the CA team conducted inspections on four (4) major fisheries operators in the Marshall Islands. This included 4 facility inspections and 2 vessel inspections.

The CA team inspected:

1. Kendall Micronesia Inc. (KMI) a processing/canning facility
2. Pacific Pan Foods (PPF) a processing/loining facility
3. Pacific International Inc. (PII) a landing site/containerization facility.
4. Marshall Islands Fishing Venture (MIFV) a processing/loining facility, landing site, also has fleets of long-line fishing vessels.

To better understand how CA can help us, we need to see how it fits into the bigger picture.



MIMRA paddling team from left to right: (CA Team) Aquina Pyanne, Tatiana Shoniber, Lyla Lemari, & Candice Guavis with teammates Emma Kabua-Tibon and Mellisa Andrew.



*CA team keeps fit*

## THE CA TEAM IS FILLED WITH ATHLETES

Outside of work, the CA team participates in extracurricular activities. Their determination to strive in work responsibilities and duties can be seen in full display outside of work as well. They want to stay fit and healthy as well as take part in the RMI's initiative to fight against Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD).

All members of the all-women CA team are involved in the MIMRA paddling team. On the canoe, the roster is as follows: Lyla in the 1st seat, setting the pace for the team; Tatiana in the 2nd seat, following Lyla's pace as well as calling out signals to switch paddling sides; Aquina in the 5th seat as one of the engines; and Candice in the 6th seat, steering the canoe. These ladies demonstrate the type of powerhouse they are in and outside of work. The team had won the first race for the canoeing association for the women's and co-ed division on March 13th, 2021.

Besides paddling, Tatiana gets up at 5 am daily to do weightlifting and cardio at the Lojkar gym to start her day off before work. She says "getting up early to workout really wakes my body and mind up in time for work - that way I can focus a lot on my tasks every day."

Lyla is a multi-athlete who competes in multiples sports and events. Lyla is a basketball player, tennis player, and softball player. She is heavily involved in sporting events in the Marshall Islands such as Majuro Day, Ralik Ratak, and May Day. Lyla is in charge of women's development for the Marshall Islands Basketball Federation.

Candice is also a multi-athlete. Candice plays basketball, volleyball, tennis, and softball. Candice has always been heavily involved in the sports world, as she is the Marshall Islands Basketball Federation President for two terms and counting.

Aquina goes jogging around Lokjar as early as 5 am every morning. It keeps her mind healthy and provides the stamina needed for the day... and a cup of coffee can not be forgotten to start the day, too!



"Champions keep playing until they get it right"  
-Billie Jean King

# Competent Authority Contact Information

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