



QUARTERLY
CONSEQUENCE

YEAR 2021

Competent Authority Quarterly Report

April-June

Prepared by
Competent Authority team

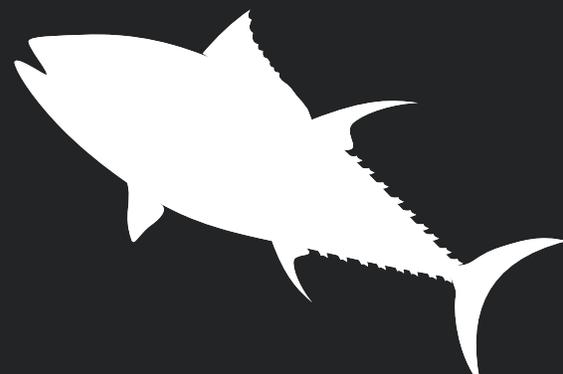


SECOND QUARTER

YEAR 2021

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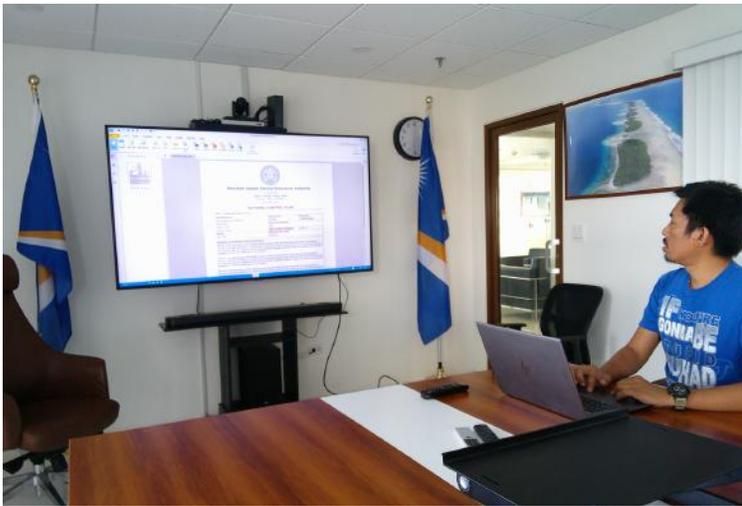
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April

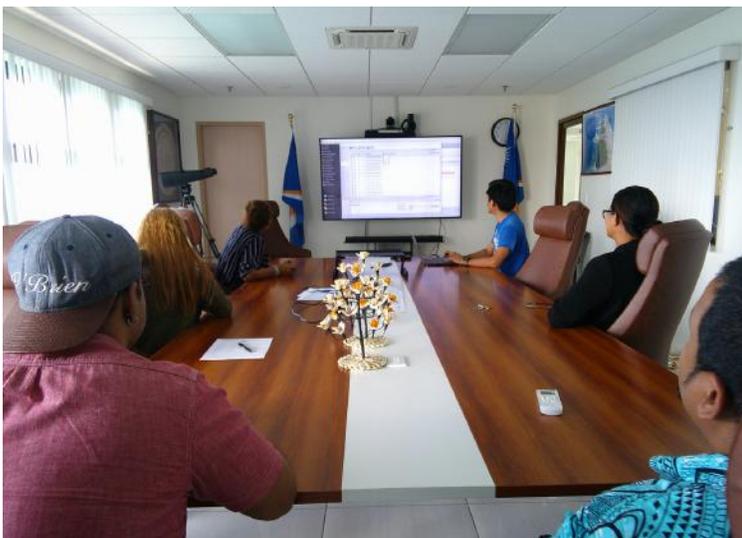


1.0 Trainings/Workshops (Internal and External)

Competent Authority Electronic Forms Presentation



In an effort to modernize CA workflow, the MIMRA ICT team assisted the CA in developing inspection recording e-forms. A draft form was presented to the CA team.



The implementation of the electronic formatting of inspection records will be under trial throughout the 3rd Quarter.

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April



HACCP Presentation by PPF Dexter Martinez



Pictured Above: Dexter Martinez (PPF) preparing for his industry HACCP approach presentation with industry members and MIMRA staff.



Pictured Above: Participants for industry HACCP approach from MIMRA, PPF, MIFV, PII, & KMI.

Pan Pacific Foods QA manager, Dexter Martinez, presented HACCP from an industry perspective. Dexter has worked in many tuna companies as well as other food processing companies such as poultry. Martinez's wealth of experience provided guidance for other industries in pursuit of creating HACCP plans. The CA team also benefited from his input by gaining insight into an industry's implementation of a HACCP plan.



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April



Tatiana's Ocean Governance Course

From April to May, Tatiana Shoniber undertook the Ocean Governance Capacity Training Program, an online workshop for the Pacific region conducted by the World Bank. The course provided various presentations and reading materials and touched on many topics such as:

- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- International legal frameworks pertaining to fisheries, marine pollution, conservation and biodiversity, climate change, maritime transport and shipping, and marine scientific research
- Efforts to improve sustainable coastal management, fisheries management, conservation, biodiversity, and the "blue economy"

For her presentation, Tatiana chose the topic of fisheries–regional management and presented on the Parties' to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) signature Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) and the RMI's partaking of the VDS. Her presentation generated great feedback and discussion with the members of the program. Other participants from non-PNA Pacific countries were curious about this scheme, and other PNA members chimed in to describe the benefits of the VDS. At the end of the program, Tatiana, who is fairly new to the realm of fisheries, greatly benefited from learning about fisheries legislation and operations in the Pacific region.





May



Catch Documentation Scheme

The Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) held an online conference in regards to catch documentation and enhancing compliance. The Competent Authority participated to further understand the project activities and to gauge information from the island countries on the challenges of this implementation. RMI catch certificate scheme only involves the authorization of section 7 of the certificate form, administered by the Oceanic Division. RMI has an interest in furthering its catch certification processes and will most likely adopt the regional CDS framework once approved at the WCPFC to fit the RMI context, taking into consideration its current practices and documentation. The Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) is a system that traces fish and fishery products through the supply chain. The FFA members discussed how the CDS could add value to different regional and national fisheries management. One of the main components for CDS is traceability which is very crucial for the Competent Authority's line of work. The members needed to have a firm understanding of the relevant supply-chain events to fully implement the CDS. Each state (port, flag, coastal, processing, market, and export) needs to understand their roles and responsibilities for the tuna supply chain of the Pacific to be coherent with one another.

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May



Stock Assessment Workshop Introductory and Advance Course

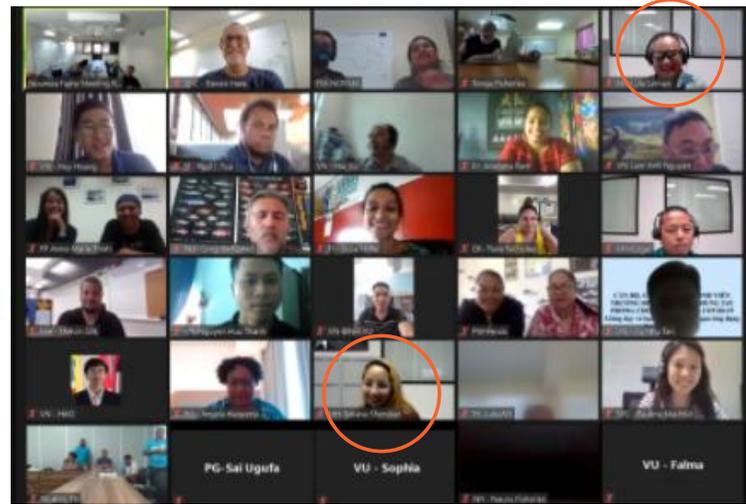
Tatiana and Lyla participated in SPC Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW) two-week online program. Students participated in zoom sessions learning various subjects from stock assessment experts from SPC and took a quiz after each conductor presented on a specific topic. The SAW introductory course focused on various subjects on an introductory level for many newcomers of Fisheries, such as:

- Tuna fisheries of the Western and Pacific Ocean (WCPO)
- WCPFC tuna management
- Tuna, blood, and guts
- Tuna biology and the environment
- WCPO tuna data collection
- Mortality, growth, and recruitment of tuna
- Understanding Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE)
- What is a stock assessment and what's the point of it?
- Kobe and Majuro plots

After the introductory course finished, the SAW advanced course took place. The advanced course provided a deeper overview of the data that goes into the stock assessment and the resulting data from the assessment. This course was not a repeat of the introductory course, but had subjects related to topics presented before:

- Understanding assessment inputs
- Understanding assessment outputs
- Introduction to stock status
- Stock status session 2
- Review of the 2018 albacore stock assessment
- Introduction to projections (part 1/part 2)
- The Harvest Strategy Approach
- Stock status case studies for Bigeye, Yellowfin, and Skipjack

Due to the pandemic, the SAW program was held online, and was not held in Noumea, New Caledonia. The online venue brought challenges such as internet failure for several Zoom participants. Nevertheless, the students took in a lot of interesting and important information in regards to tuna stock that was very beneficial to their work.



Orange Circle: Lyla Lemari and Tatiana Shoniber in their stations for the SAW introductory course.



Orange Circle: Tatiana Shoniber with MIMRA colleagues (Tatiana Alik-Jack & Lily Muller) completing the SAW advance course.

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May



FOOD SAFETY TRAINING

The food safety training started in May 2021. As part of the CA development, capacity building of the industry and personnel is vital to prepare and up-skill the CA officers and the industry to move from the status quo to accommodate developmental changes that will take place in the RMI fisheries industry. The Competent Authority, together with Industry members (Pan Pacific Foods Inc., Marshall Islands Fishing Venture Inc., and Pacific International Inc.) participated in a two-month-long training with Helder Silva from Portugal via Zoom. The first half of the training focused on regulations underpinning food safety, followed by various fish preservation and technologies and cool chain dynamics used in the food industry. The second session focused on HACCP theory and HACCP development, followed by practical sessions and exams. This is competency-based training with numerous subject matters delivered over 15 days.



Picture: Helder Silva in good spirits after completing his presentations and lectures for the Competent Authority and Industry members.

TOPICS OF TRAINING ARE DIVIDED INTO THE FOLLOWING MAIN AREAS;

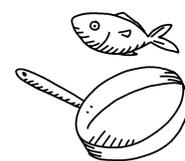
Phase 1

1. International Regulatory Framework and background with emphasis on the EU Regulations.
2. Fish Post Mortem, biochemical changes, and fish freshness
3. Fish Processing Technology & Quality, including chilling and freezer dynamics and preservation techniques.
4. Food Safety and Fishery Products Hazards

Phase 2

1. Overview of HACCP Pre-requirements
2. HACCP Development

The course was intensive and provided a deep understanding of the topics covered. The Phase 2 component in particular resulted in numerous practical undertakings and exercises. The training culminated in revisions and examination with 3 participants from the CA and 13 from the industry.



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June



INDUSTRY STUDY GROUP

Food Safety Training continued into June, where at the end of each training phase, study groups were held to review the training content. The Competent Authority and Industry members gathered for study groups. Each of the members in the study groups was able to contribute their knowledge to the learning experience, based on the various roles they play in the fisheries sector. This collaborative effort from the study groups led them to complete Helda Silva's exercises successfully. It was great to see everyone work together to help one another fully understand the learning material.



Together
Everyone
Achieves
More



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June



INDUSTRY EXAM

After completing the rigorous training courses in food safety and HACCP implementation with Helder Silva, the CA team and Industry members sat for two examinations. The examinations tested the participants' efforts and their knowledge from the zoom sessions, group meetings, and exercises they have undergone. Much relief was felt after the examinations were completed. The training benefited the participants by capacity building and enhancing communication skills among the different industries and the Competent Authority.



OUTCOME

The training showcased the importance of teamwork among different entities in fisheries, and the opportunity to learn from one another through each others' strengths and weaknesses. The capacities built upon from the training will be essential for use by the CA and the industry in its current and future industry settings. The Competent Authority team would like to thank the Industry members who participated in this two-month-long training despite their busy work schedules. WE DID IT!





REGIONAL COMPETENT AUTHORITY AND INDUSTRY WORKSHOP

Forum Fisheries Agency

The regional CA workshops are conducted by the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), for all the regional Competent Authorities in an effort to;

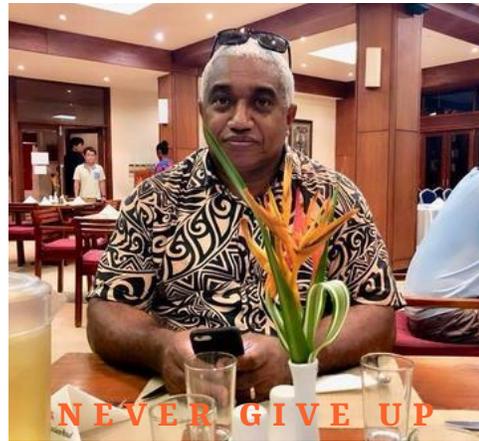
- Provide training for new CA officers
- Find strategies to address challenges within the regional CA's
- Provide refresher training and new knowledge and skills
- Provide an avenue for CA teams and individuals to network with each other
- Learn from other CAs and how to foster collaboration
- Calibrate the CA's in knowledge, skill, and practical implementation
- To meet with individual countries by identifying their needs for further FFA support, training, mentoring, etc.

The workshop was delivered by Jope Tamani- FFA Market Access Advisor and Cushla Hogarth, an independent Seafood Safety Consultant from New Zealand.



FFA

Strengthening national capacity and regional solidarity for sustainable tuna fisheries



Jope Tamani , FFA Market Access Advisor



Cushla Hogarth , Independant Seafood Consultant, NZ

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June



2.0 Milestones

Certification of the ***Fish Processing and Export Regulation 2020***, by the MIMRA board in May Board meeting.

MARSHALL ISLANDS MARINE RESOURCES AUTHORITY



These Regulations are hereby promulgated to enable the Authority to regulate the commercial processing of fish and fish products, and the commercial export of such fish and fish products, by prohibiting the commercial processing and export of such fish and fish products without authorization by the Authority; by providing for an application process for licenses to conduct such activities; by setting standards for the handling of fish processing establishments; the appointment of fish inspectors; creating offenses for the violation of these Regulations; and prescribing the penalties.

PART I - PRELIMINARY

Section 1. **Short Title**

(1) These Regulations may be cited as the 'Fish Processing and Export Regulations 2020'.

The Regulation under Title 51 MIRC underpinning the functions of administering the inspection, penalties, prohibition, and export functions of the MIMRA CA underpinning also the Industry Standard and the CA Operational Plans and other operational policies and documents.

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3.0 COMPETENT AUTHORITY PROJECTS UNDER THE WORLD BANK

Three CA Packages under PROP World Bank are;

1. Lab Scoping
2. Regulation and Standards Review
3. Food Safety Training & Development of Industry Guides and Fishery HAZARDS Guides.

Lab Scoping - the University of the South Pacific, Laboratory (Fiji) was engaged to undertake the Lab Scoping Project for the MIMRA proposed laboratory on areas related to lab designs, lab equipment, method development, Lab Information Systems, and on related areas to ensure the MIMRA lab has all the necessary information to make an informed decision going forward. The Project was concluded in June 2021 with a report provided for MIMRA management purposes.

Fish Processing and Export Regulation Review- Ms. Saurara Lewa Gonelevu was engaged as a consultant to undertake the 2nd Review. The Review has two objectives;

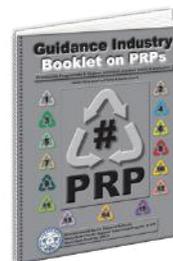
- i) To review the three (3) pieces of instruments (Regulation, Standards, and Operating Procedures) for the RMI CA
- ii) Run a workshop for the CA and the industry focusing on the elements of these three (3) pieces of important documents. Findings are consolidated for incorporation.

Food Safety Training - A two-month-long engagement including training and incorporating the following areas of development.

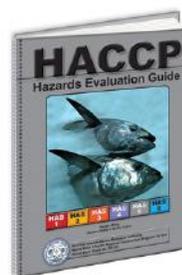
- i) Development of Training Curriculum for the CA - Comprehensive training curriculum for the CA officers to use for their refresher or knowledge at the same time contents can be used to prepare training and knowledge dissemination.



- ii) Industry Inspection Guidance - Provide complete comprehensive visual aid for inspection of facilities



- iii) Hazards Evaluation Guide - Provides a fishery hazards guide and control measures.



- iv) Awareness materials - a sample pamphlet shown





June

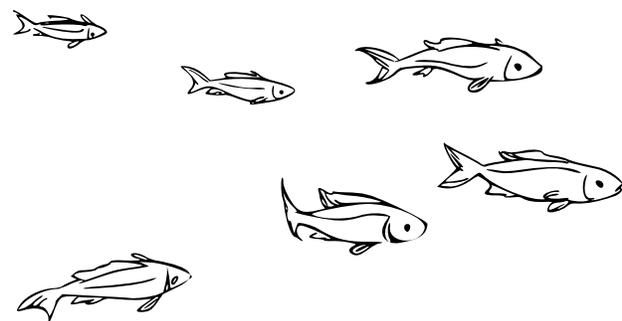


4.0 FISH4ACP

The FISH4ACP is a project implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and partners with funding from the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), in coordination with ongoing developmental initiatives in the fisheries industry by the Government of the RMI and Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority. The project's main aim is to contribute to food and nutrition security, economic prosperity, social and environmental sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture. The first phase of the initiative is to analyze the value chain for the Marshall Islands tuna purse seine. The goal for the Marshall Islands is to increase containerization, cold storage, and support for the Competent Authority. The economic benefit of this project is the employment of about 770+ Marshallese nationals (in fishing and processing).

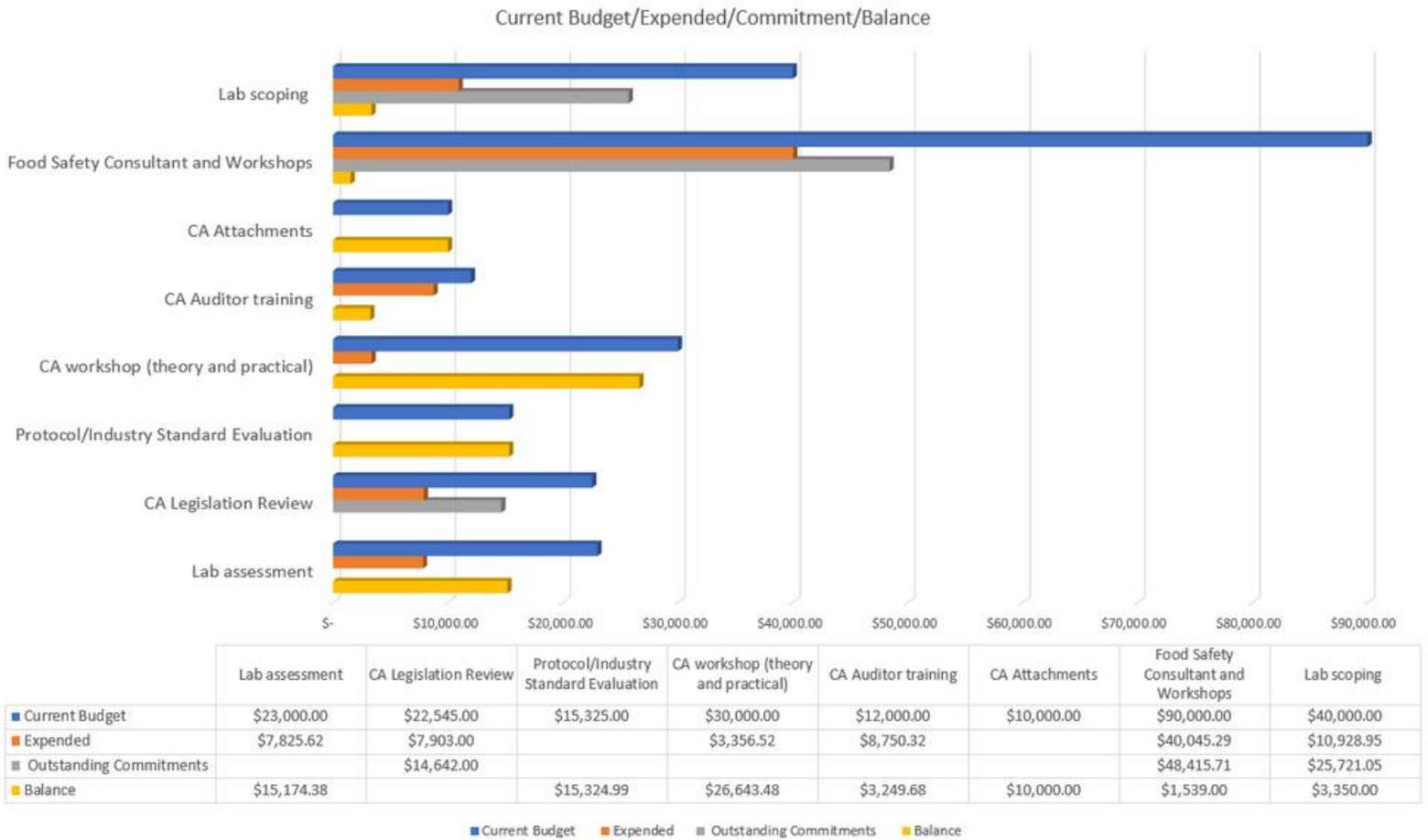
Increasing containerization has many strengths as Majuro is a major transshipment hub, and landing fish on Majuro would be very beneficial. It would support more onshore employment, lower rejects at canneries, reduce potential risks of reliance on reefer vessels, and provide more flexibility for vessels and traders.

Increasing cold storage capacity will strengthen the Marshall Islands' already existing cold storage capacity of 2000 tonnes. The capacity gives companies the ability to sort and store catch before containerization and after processing. This would in turn contribute to the improved quality of fish. Supporting the Competent Authority's strengths calls for willingness from stakeholders and appropriate funding, exports encouraged, value-adding, and work on the establishment of Competent Authority has already begun. This would be very beneficial to the private sector that complies with necessary standards and processes that would have them exported to the European Union, the largest seafood importer. Overall the project would be greatly beneficial to the Marshall Islands in further developing the fisheries sector.





5.0 COMPETENT AUTHORITY QUARTERLY BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES



Areas not fully expended under this budget proponent up to June 2021 are the Lab assessment, Protocol/Industry Review, CA workshop, and CA attachment with other CA or for work experience. Covid- 19 has hampered many of these initiatives.

Lab scoping, Food Safety Training, and CA Legislation Review have been fully expended in the last two quarters. Just over 50% of the CA Auditor Training component has been utilized with the purchases of the CA auditing tools.

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6.0 Second Quarter Performance Evaluation

Item No	Area of Program	Implementation Status	Comments
1	Stakeholder Awareness and Consultation	10%	- Minimal undertakings in 2 nd Quarter. - Only meetings held was with Customs, and MOH on MOU and import issues and to advise of upcoming stakeholder awareness.
2	Internal Training /Awareness		
	Electronic CA Inspection Forms presentation HACCP Awareness and Training	20%	- HACCP Training and awareness by industry perspective was given. - Not much in-house training was provided due to a lot of external training carried out in the 2 nd quarter.
	Lab assessment theory and practical	0%	- not carried out in 2 nd Quarter due to consolidated effort on intensive food safety training
	Sampling theory and practical		- As Above
3	External Training - FFA	100%	Forum Fisheries Agency - Regional CA training was held in the 2 nd Quarter.
	External – Food Safety Training (World Bank Prop)		Food Safety Training covers areas from the EU regulatory framework to HACCP was delivered online for two months.
4	Inspection Program - Follow up	10%	Very low coverage of inspection due to the 2 nd Quarter focusing on Training and World Bank Projects.
5	Laboratory		
	Support to MIMRA Lab	50%	Not much effort was put into the lab in the 2nd Quarter due to all consolidated effort in the 2nd Quarter for the training.

	CA World Bank Projects	100%	All three (3) Projects were completed at the end of the 2 nd Quarter.
	Service Level agreements with USP for testing	0%	Administrative arrangements not finalized with USP testing laboratory to enable external support labs to MIMRA lab initiative.
	EPA lab assessment		Not carried out in the 2nd Quarter, to enable official and industry water testing as part of CA procedures of approving and designating testing labs.
6	Records Management/Files		
	Inspection records reviewed and up-to date	0%	No inspections for the 2 nd Quarter so no records updated.
	Records Review	10%	Records Review in progress
	Staffing records – Training records, JDs, etc. on file		Records review in progress
7	CA Training effectiveness	0%	Not assessed as 2 nd Quarter was committed to training thus not assessed for practical application.
8	Reports		
	Prop Project Reports x3	100%	All Projects successfully executed in the 2 nd Quarter
	2nd Quarter CA newsletter		2 nd Quarter newsletter fully completed
	2 nd Quarter Report		Completed
9	Meeting, Workshop Participation	100%	The A-Team is always participating in meetings, workshops, etc.
10	CA Admins	80%	Good progress on our admin areas for CA accessories and equipment purchases.
	81.2%		Overall 2nd QTR Performance

Total overall performance as per the CA work program for the 2nd Quarter is 81.2%

Activities on hold or deferred are mainly in the areas of stakeholder meetings, lab arrangements, and support for MIMRA Lab, inspections, and records review were not fully attended to in the 2nd Quarter and will be given focus in the 3rd Quarter.

On a more positive note, the 100% coverage in training and executing projects under the world bank and reportings are fully completed and purchases of CA tools and accessories.



June



7.0 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Rule of origin workshop to be hosted by the Forum Fisheries Agency.
- Stakeholder awareness meeting on customs and trade requirements to EU.
- Fishing vessel owners' awareness of the new Fish Processing and Export Regulation.
- Training for crews and new vessel operators on food safety requirements.
- In-house re-enforced HACCP training and development for new operators and CA officers.

8.0 REPORTS

-World Bank Projects

- Food Safety Reports
- Lab scoping Report
- Regulation Review Reports

-1st & 2nd Quarter Newsletter

-1st & 2nd CA Quarterly Report

External/ Internal training	Meeting/ Workshop	Inspection/ Follow-up	Stakeholder	Reports
5	6	0	0	5



June



9.0 CHALLENGES

- Resistance may be faced by vessel operators when rolling out the requirement of the new Fish Processing and Export Regulations.
- Covid-19 Restrictions makes onboard inspection of vessels difficult to evaluate sanitary conditions.
- Sampling and testing of fish products hampered by timely and lack of adequate supply of lab reagents.
- Lack of timely improvement of infrastructure condition of processing plants and fishing vessels can hamper CA progress.

10.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The major milestone in the 2nd Quarter is the Certification of the Fish Processing and Export Regulation 2020 during the MIMRA board meeting.
- Furthermore, the 2nd Quarter of 2021 was mainly focused on the three CA projects running concurrently from April to June; involved in CA Food Safety instruments review, Food Safety Training, and Laboratory Scoping. All three projects were well executed and completed within the quarter.
- On the Training Component, an intensive two-month training was delivered to the Industry and CA officials focusing on EU Regulatory Framework and important food safety courses essential for both the Industry and CA, giving them the essential knowledge required.
- Need for more industry awareness on the requirements of the new Fish Processing and Export Regulation 2020
- The performance of the CA in this quarter was attributed mainly to the Certification of the Fish Processing and Export Regulation 2020 and the execution of the three (3) CA projects components under the World Bank Project, other training initiatives and purchases of some of CA tools and accessories.

11.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dedicated to;

MIMRA Management and the Board
 Prop World Bank Team
 Helder Silva – Portugal based Food Safety Expert
 Fisheries Industries
 Competent Authority Team