

*Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority*

*Annual Report 2006/2007*

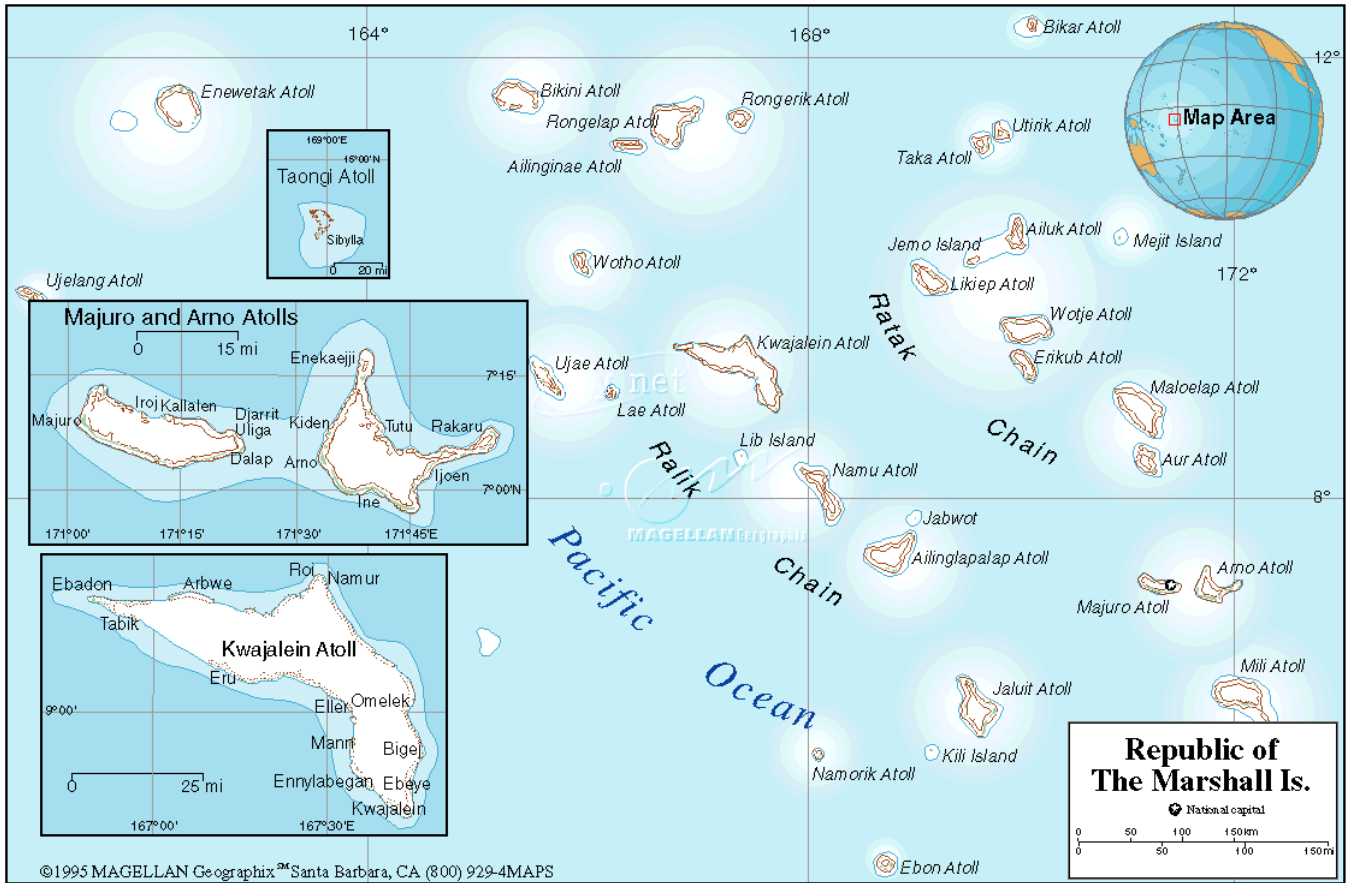


*September 2008*



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# Message from the Chairman



## *Message from Hon. Minister Frederick H. Muller*

Yokwe!

As in past practices and in accordance to the MIMRA ACT of 1997, it is indeed an honor and a privilege to officially submit to the Nitijela, on behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff, and Management of the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA), the MIMRA Annual Report for the period 2006/2007. Having been the Chairman for almost a year, I am most privileged to have this opportunity to share the achievements and the challenges that MIMRA had faced over the past year. MIMRA maintains its national obligation to ensure the sustainable and responsible use of our marine resources and food security and reiterates its determination to remain the leading government agency contributing to the social and economic development of our small island nation.

Furthermore, I wish to pay tribute and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the former Board Chairman and Members, along with the Staff and Management of the Authority for all their efforts throughout the reporting period. I look forward to working closely with the new Members of the Board, in resolving the challenges and obstacles facing the Authority, as well as to develop a system to continuously improve and build the capacity of the MIMRA both financially and technically. I am convinced that as we aim for an effective and proactive operation, in close cooperation with the Staff and Management of MIMRA, our collaborated efforts will ensure sustainable fisheries which will produce the maximum economic benefits to the People and the Government of the Marshall Islands.

Our unique culture and way of life has been shaped through our strong dependence on our natural resources and biodiversity especially in food security and alternative income generation for fisher communities of the neighboring atolls. Our shift from a subsistence lifestyle to a faster pace towards commercialism has shaped a need for management measures to be firmly in place in order to keep our precious marine resources productive for future use.

With regards to Coastal & Community affairs initiatives, the Authority has continued to balance the need for sustainable development with effective management efforts as evident with its community-based resource management programs. Examples of which are beginning to bear results with communities around the Marshall Islands, namely in Ailuk, Arno, Likiep, and Majuro just to name a few.

Improving the Authority's service delivery to the neighboring island communities is also one of our main focuses. The recently concluded National Fisheries Forum with Local government Mayors highlighted MIMRA's progress over the last decade as well as the challenges that were met. Honorable Members, I am proud to announce that the Forum forged great opportunities and improved dialogue with local government leaders and partners and we look forward to building on the recommendations that came out of the Forum.

From the Oceanic & Industrial front, the Authority has made considerable efforts to streamline our national endeavors to be in line with our regional and international obligations. As a Party to the Nauru Agreement on Fisheries of Common Interest (PNA) Member, the Marshall Islands continues to actively engage with our counterparts from around the region to ensure a secured future for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through effective and sustainable conservation and management of our shared tuna resources. Along these lines, the Marshall Islands signed the Third Implementing Arrangement under the Nauru Agreement which essentially puts forth additional minimum terms and conditions for licensing and access to the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of PNA Members. This is yet another milestone in the region's continuing efforts to promote fisheries development and address impending loopholes that undermine those developments. It further complements the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS), another management and monitoring regime and the first of its kind in the region, which came into force on 01 December 2007. Additional highlights include the completion of the revitalized loining plant and expansion of domestic fishing company operations in line with the Authority's domestication policy and efforts which are presented in more details in this Report.

In conclusion, I am confident that this Annual Report has captured the overall performance and accomplishments of the Authority over the last reporting period and look forward to a prosperous and rewarding year for both the Authority and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Ilo Kautiej,

Frederick H. Muller  
Minister  
Ministry of Resources and Development



- **OVERVIEW**

The tuna fishery in the RMI continues to be dominated by the purse seine fishery, predominantly distant water fleets, whose primary target catch is skipjack tuna. The number of RMI purse seine vessels remains steady at 5 vessels which continue to fish both within the RMI EEZ and throughout the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the WCPFC Convention Area). In addition, 4 new RMI-flagged longline fishing vessels entered the fishery in late 2007 and fished primarily in the EEZ as part of the locally-based foreign longline fleet based at the MIFV fishbase. The remainder of the fleets licensed to fish in the RMI EEZ consists of foreign purse seine, longline and pole-and-line vessels.

For the reporting period, the overall number of vessels operating in the RMI declined from 234 vessels in 2006 to 216 vessels in 2007. Although the overall number of foreign vessels declined in 2007, purse seine vessels still comprised more than half the vessel numbers. Available catch estimates in 2007 for foreign purse seine and longline vessels indicated a decline in the in-zone catch (14,618 mt in 2006 to 9,580 mt in 2007 for the foreign purse seine vessels; 4,768 mt in 2006 to 3,836 mt for the foreign longline vessels. Conversely, there was a slight resurgence in the pole-and-line fleet with a significant increase in catch compared to previous years.

In short, 2007 once again represented a downward trend in terms of catch productivity for the tuna fishery in the RMI EEZ. Indicatively, the numbers represent an overall decrease in catch for the main gear types (longline and purse seine). The actual figures for the locally-based longline fleet are based on the best combination of unloadings data and logsheet data as coverage continues to improve over time.

The RMI purse seine fleet experienced a increase in overall catch in-zone, registering just under 5,000 mt of total catch for 2007, as opposed to 1,780 mt for 2006. Compared to 2006, the catch by the RMI purse seine fleet in 2007 throughout the Convention Area was by far the highest in the last five years (Table 6).

Total in-zone catch by all longline fleets indicate an overall decline from around 4,768 mt in 2006 to 3,836 mt in 2007 for all species. Bigeye continues to account for the major part of the target catch composition (>60% in 2007).

The revitalization of the loining plant continued in 2007 with major overhauling of the previous plant and surrounding area. The project is an integral part of MIMRA's ongoing domestication of fishing industry development efforts to further boost economic development by not only creating local employment opportunities but more importantly further enhancing the domestic fisheries sector in line with the overall national economic development goals of the RMI.

- **FLEET STRUCTURE**

All of the fishing parties retained access in the RMI in 2007. Table 1 shows the various access agreements and parties conducting fishing operations in the RMI EEZ for the 2007 period while Tables 2 – 4 provide a description of foreign-flagged vessels licensed to fish in the Marshall Islands waters over the past five years. As stated in the Overview section, overall number of vessels continued to decline in 2007.

Domestically-based foreign longline vessels operating out of the MIFV fishbase fly foreign flags of registration.

**Table 1. Access agreements with the RMI in 2007.**

Country/Party	Arrangement	Type	Administrator
USA	Regional	Multilateral	FFA
Japan	Government to Government	Bilateral	MIMRA
Chinese Taipei	Industry to Government	Bilateral	MIMRA
Korea	Industry to Government	Bilateral	MIMRA
FSM Arrangement	Sub-regional	Multilateral	FFA
Fong Seong Fisheries Group	Industry to Government	Bilateral	MIMRA
Fair Well Fisheries (PNG) Ltd.	Industry to Government	Bilateral	MIMRA
Hsiang Sheng Fishery Co.	Industry to Government	Bilateral	MIMRA
Pacific Food & Services Inc.	Industry to Government	Bilateral	MIMRA
Tuna Committee of China Fisheries Association	Industry to Government	Bilateral	MIMRA
Zhandong Zhonglu Oceanic Fisheries Co., Ltd.	Industry to Government	Bilateral	MIMRA

**Table 2. Number of foreign longline vessels licensed to fish in the Marshall Islands EEZ, by year and flag.**

	Longline						TOTAL
	CHINA	FSM	JAPAN	KOREA	CH-TAIPEI	BELIZE	
2003	33	4	24	1	10	1	73
2004	40	4	17	1	3	6	71
2005	43	6	25	2	5	7	88
2006	40	9	34	1	6	0	90
2007	36	6	21	0	1	0	64

**Table 3. Number of foreign pole-and-line vessels licensed to fish in the Marshall Islands EEZ, by year and flag.**

Pole-and-line	
JAPAN	
2003	20
2004	23
2005	35
2006	23
2007	22

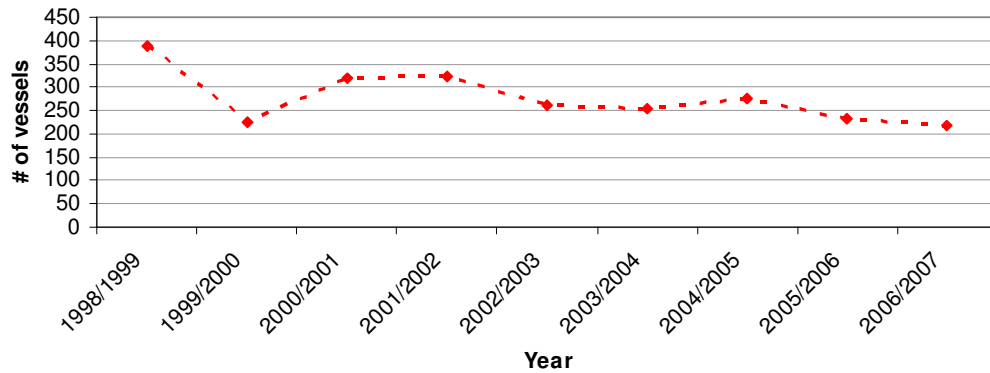
**Table 4. Number of foreign purse seine vessels licensed to fish in the Marshall Islands EEZ, by year and flag.**

	YEAR				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CHINA	6	4	5	8	12
FSM	7	6	6	1	3
JAPAN	33	32	34	33	35
KIRIBATI	1	1	1	1	1
KOREA	26	28	27	20	20
NZ	4	4	3	3	0
PNG	16	17	17	16	17
CH-TAIPEI	37	34	34	19	13
VANUATU	2	7	8	8	7
SOLOMON	0	0	3	0	0
USA	25	21	15	12	22
TOTAL	157	154	153	121	130



Figure 1 illustrates the number of vessels licensed in the RMI for the periods since 1998/1999. It should be noted that the list does not include the carriers and bunker vessels, which are, by definition, considered

as fishing vessels given the nature of their direct support and provisioning operations. As in past annual reports, such vessels and their numbers are covered in the transshipment section of this report.



**Figure 1: Number of licensed vessels 1998/1999-2006/2007.**

- ANNUAL CATCHES IN THE WCPFC CONVENTION AREA, 2003–2007 BY RMI FLAGGED VESSELS**

Table 5 provides a list of RMI-flagged vessels active in the WCPFC Convention Area over the past five years. Of particular interest is the addition of four newly flagged longline vessels. As the relationship with respect to nationality of catch remains unresolved, a number of domestically-based foreign longline vessels are not included in this list, but may be included in the future. The national purse seine fleet is based out of

Majuro and fishes throughout the region under the FSM Arrangement administered by the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA).

Coverage of data collected from both the national purse seine and longline fleets satisfy the coverage levels recommended by the WCPFC. Additionally, the coverage of unloadings data from the domestically-based foreign longline fleet is close to 100%.

**Table 5. Number of RMI longline and purse-seine vessels active in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2003-2007.**

Year	Longline	Purse seine
	(Size class: 51-200 GRT)	(Size Class: 1001-1500 GRT)
2003	1	6
2004	1	6
2005	1	6
2006	0	5
2007	4	5

### *National purse seine catch/effort*

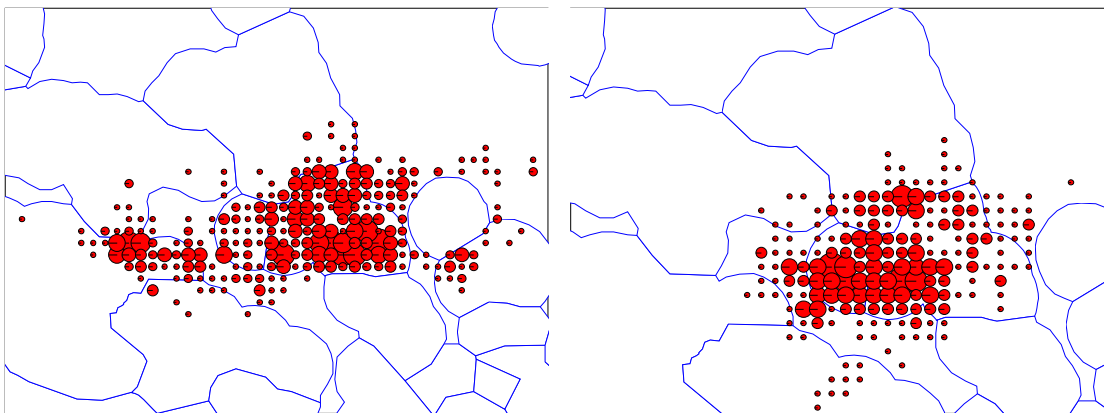
Table 6 summarizes the estimated target tuna catch and effort for the RMI purse seine fleet throughout the Convention Area, and Figure 2 shows the distribution of effort for this fleet over the past two years. As previously mentioned in the Overview section, catch in 2007 by the RMI purse seine fleet was by far the highest in the last five years. As Majuro is the preferred port of unloading, the effort is concentrated in Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and adjacent high seas areas and the fleet almost exclusively fishes on associated schools (drifting FADs, etc.).

Table 7 (and Figure 3) shows the estimated total catch of non-target species (by species groups) by Marshall Islands purse seine vessels, according to observer data collection.

Rainbow runner is typically the main non-target species taken by the fleet, but the following species/species groups are also commonly caught – small baitfish, silky (and other) sharks, blue and black marlin, triggerfish and mahi mahi.

**Tables 6. Annual catch and effort estimates for the Marshall Islands purse-seine fleet, by species in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2003-2007.** (Source: Raised logsheet data; Data for 2006 are unraised and provisional, but coverage is “HIGH”).

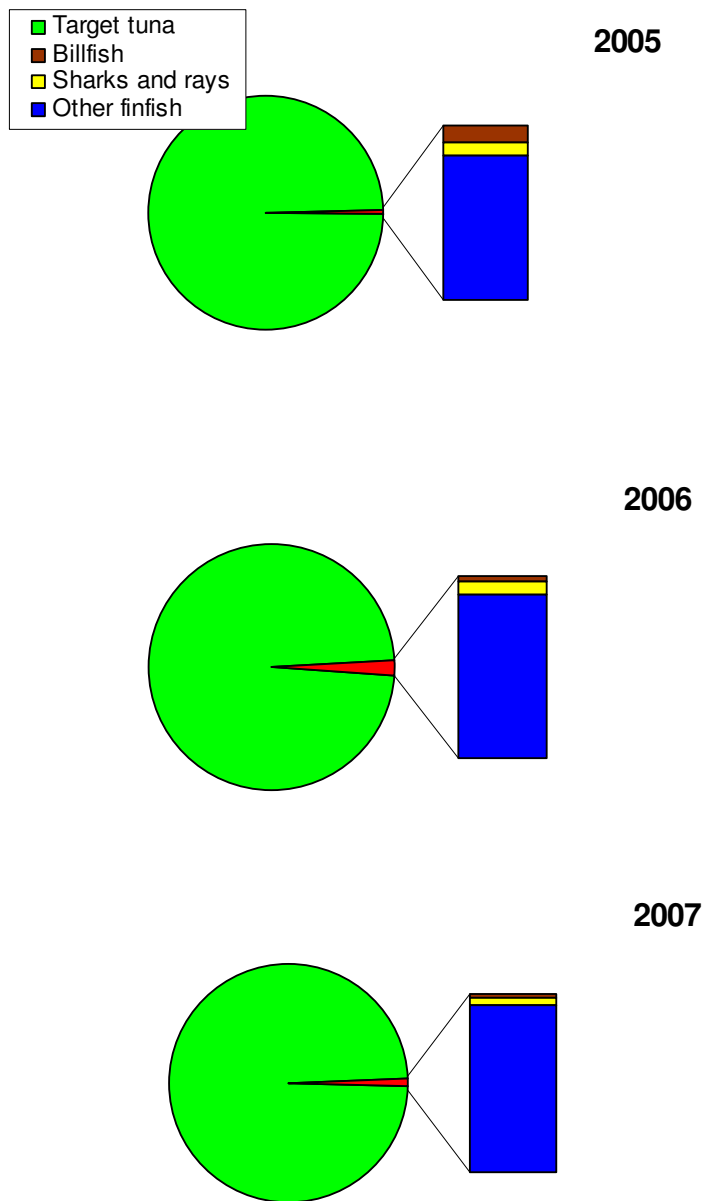
Year	Effort		Catch (metric tonnes)				TOTAL
	Days Fishing & Searching	SKJ	YFT	BET	OTH		
2003	1,508	35,233	2,129	513	0	37,875	
2004	1,408	42,078	3,716	878	0	46,672	
2005	1,233	47,565	7,628	971	0	56,164	
2006	1,047	38,881	1,436	2,032	340	42,689	
2007	1,258	53,916	3,370	2,118	81	59,485	



**Figure 2. Annual distribution of effort (days fishing and searching) for the Marshall Islands purse seine fleet throughout the WCPFC Convention Area for 2006 (left) and 2007 (right)**

**Table 7. Estimated annual total catches of non-target species and species groups, by Marshall Islands purse seine fleets, 2005-2007.** (Source of data: Data collected under the FSM Arrangement Observer Programme, managed by FFA; Coverage has been estimated by comparing observer-recorded target species catch to annual catch estimates for this fleet; '%' represents percentage of total catch which includes target tuna species catch)

		Catch estimates					
Category	Species	2005		2006		2007	
		MT	%	MT	%	MT	%
<b>Billfish</b>	Blue marlin	19.5	0.0345%	28.9	0.0663%	18.9	0.0314%
	Black marlin	3.3	0.0059%	5.3	0.0121%	3.6	0.0060%
	Other Billfish	6.9	0.0123%	3.1	0.0071%	0.0	0.0000%
<b>Sharks and Rays</b>	Blue shark	5.7	0.0101%	0.0	0.0000%	0.0	0.0000%
	Mako sharks	0.0	0.0000%	0.0	0.0000%	0.0	0.0000%
	Oceanic whitetip shark	1.0	0.0018%	0.0	0.0001%	0.3	0.0006%
	Silky shark	9.2	0.0162%	59.0	0.1354%	20.9	0.0348%
	Other sharks and rays	6.7	0.0118%	0.5	0.0012%	0.0	0.0000%
<b>Other finfish</b>	Bullet/Frigate tunas	0.1	0.0001%	3.9	0.0089%	0.6	0.0009%
	Kawakawa	0.3	0.0005%	0.2	0.0005%	0.0	0.0000%
	Rainbow Runner	132.2	0.2343%	542.9	1.2458%	314.2	0.5229%
	Wahoo	0.9	0.0016%	4.8	0.0110%	5.7	0.0095%
	Common dolphinfish	12.9	0.0228%	48.9	0.1123%	70.6	0.1175%
	Triggerfish	11.9	0.0211%	61.7	0.1415%	67.1	0.1116%
	Barracudas	0.3	0.0005%	0.2	0.0005%	0.0	0.0000%
	Escolars	0.0	0.0000%	0.0	0.0000%	0.0	0.0000%
	Lancetfishes	0.0	0.0000%	0.0	0.0000%	0.0	0.0000%
	Ocean sunfish	1.8	0.0031%	0.0	0.0000%	0.0	0.0000%
	Oilfish	0.0	0.0000%	0.0	0.0000%	0.0	0.0000%
	Opah	0.0	0.0000%	0.0	0.0000%	0.0	0.0000%
	Pomfrets	0.1	0.0001%	0.0	0.0001%	0.0	0.0000%
	Small baitfish	27.3	0.0483%	114.9	0.2636%	94.6	0.1574%
	Other fish	40.1	0.0711%	14.2	0.0326%	16.3	0.0271%
<b>Total billfish</b>		30	0.0526%	37	0.0855%	23	0.0374%
<b>Total sharks and rays</b>		23	0.0400%	60	0.1367%	21	0.0354%
<b>Total finfish</b>		228	0.4035%	792	1.8168%	569	0.9471%
<b>Total non-target</b>		280	0.4962%	889	2.0391%	613	1.0199%



**Figure 3. Proportion of non-target species groups in the catch of Marshall Islands purse seine vessels, by year, 2005-2007.** (Source of data: Data collected by FSM Arrangement Observer Programme, managed by FFA)

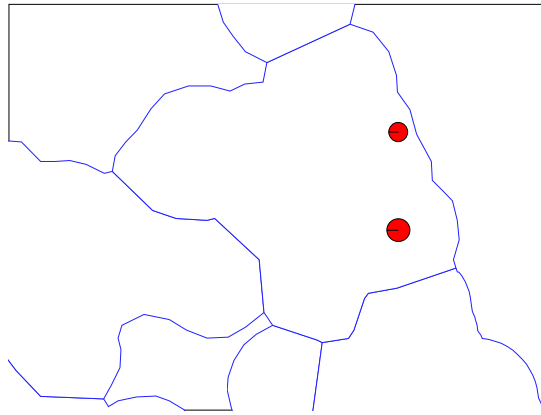
#### *National longline catch/effort*

Table 8 shows the catch estimates for the Marshall Islands longline fleet and Figure 4 shows the distribution of effort for these newly flagged vessels. The fleet fishes primarily in the EEZ and as they only entered the fishery in late 2007, catch was minimal for

the year. The sole vessel fishing in 2004 was owned and operated by MIMRA as part of a feasibility study to develop the domestic longline fishery. The vessel is no longer operational.

**Table 8. Annual catch and effort estimates for the Marshall Islands longline fleet, by species in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2003-2007** (Source: Best combination of logsheet and unloadings data)

	Effort			Catch (metric tonnes)						TOTAL
	100s of hooks	BET	YFT	BLM	BUM	MLS	SWO	OTH		
2003	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004	383	1	3	2	1			1		8
2005	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007	177	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	6



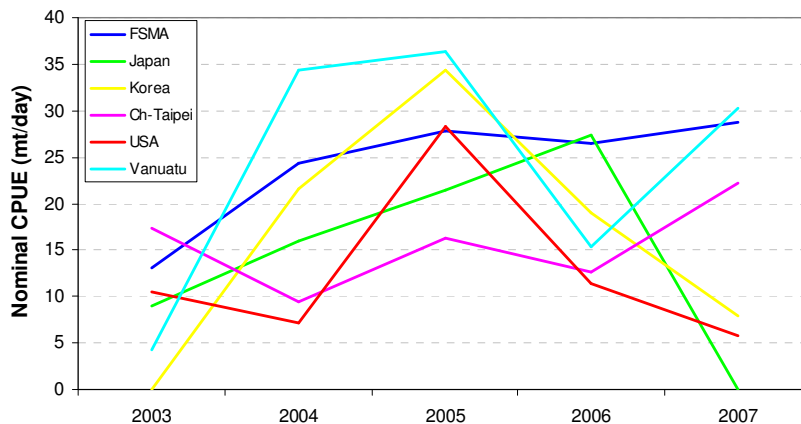
**Figure 4. Annual distribution of effort (100s of hooks) for the Marshall Islands longline fleet throughout the WCPFC Convention Area for 2007**

- **ANNUAL CATCHES IN THE RMI EEZ BY FOREIGN FISHING FLEETS, 2003 – 2007**

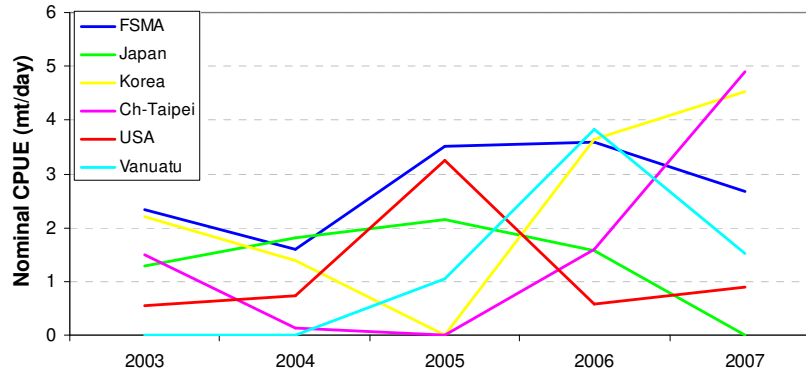
#### *Purse seine fleet catch/effort*

Available data indicate that total catch by purse seine fleets operating in the RMI EEZ declined from 14, 618 mt in 2006 to 9, 580 in 2007 (Table 9). Skipjack tuna continues to be the dominant catch, accounting for ~88% of the total catch.

Most of the purse seine fishing in-zone is restricted to southern areas of the EEZ (Figure 7). Overall trends in Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) indicate variable catch rates among fleets and years with Pacific Island fleets having highest catch rates of skipjack in recent years (Figures 5 & 6).



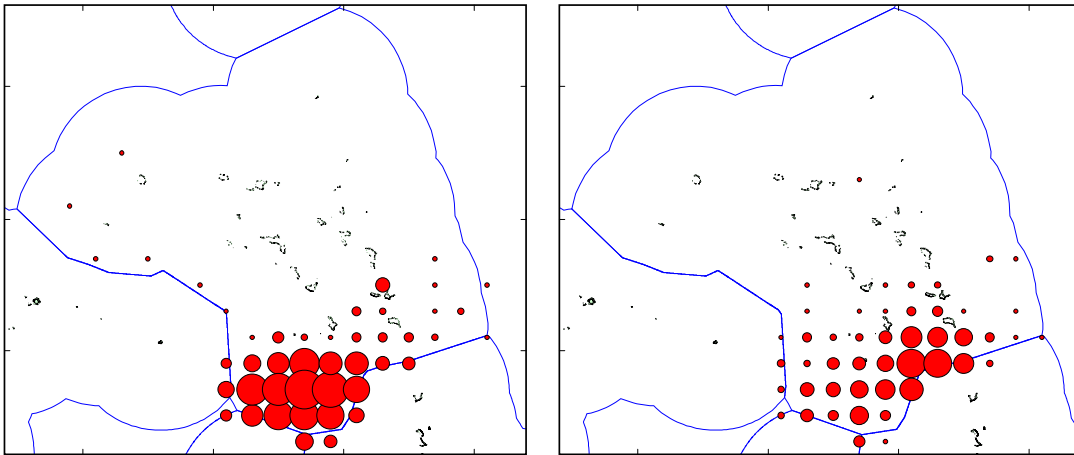
**Figure 5. Trends in nominal catch rates of SKIPJACK TUNA taken by purse-seine fleets operating in the Marshall Islands EEZ, 2003-2007**



**Figure 6. Trends in nominal catch rates of YELLOWFIN TUNA taken by purse-seine fleets operating in the Marshall Islands EEZ, 2003-2007**

**Table 9. Annual catches by purse seine fleets in the Marshall Islands EEZ, by flag and species, 2003-2007**  
(Source : Unraised logsheet data collected by MIMRA)

Fleet	Year	CATCH (metric tonnes)				TOTAL
		SKJ	YFT	BET	OTH	
China	2003	0	0	0	0	0
	2004	663	0	0	0	663
	2005	0	0	0	0	0
	2006	526	217	6	0	749
	2007	0	0	0	0	0
FSM Arrangement	2003	1,127	200	48	0	1,376
	2004	7,773	507	110	0	8,391
	2005	6,662	838	93	0	7,593
	2006	5,253	710	22	0	5,985
	2007	3,280	305	150	10	3,745
Japan	2003	562	82	0	0	644
	2004	2,417	272	5	0	2,693
	2005	1,311	131	23	0	1,466
	2006	3,148	181	0	0	3,329
	2007	0	0	0	0	0
Korea	2003	0	73	1	0	74
	2004	1,621	104	7	0	1,732
	2005	2,231	0	0	0	2,231
	2006	1,231	235	21	0	1,488
	2007	175	100	0	0	275
Chinese Taipei	2003	678	58	5	0	741
	2004	1,271	16	1	0	1,287
	2005	1,488	0	0	0	1,488
	2006	1,705	218	11	0	1,933
	2007	1,664	367	0	2	2,033
USA	2003	377	20	4	0	402
	2004	144	14	5	0	163
	2005	2,932	336	116	0	3,384
	2006	163	8	4	0	175
	2007	110	17	0	0	126
Vanuatu	2003	38	0	0	0	38
	2004	1,496	0	0	0	1,496
	2005	3,376	97	3	0	3,475
	2006	767	192	1	0	959
	2007	3,233	164	3	1	3,401
TOTAL EEZ	2003	2,784	433	59	0	3,276
	2004	15,384	913	128	0	16,425
	2005	18,000	1,402	235	0	19,637
	2006	12,793	1,761	65	0	14,618
	2007	8,462	953	153	13	9,580



**Figure 7. Annual distribution of combined effort (days fishing and searching) by the main foreign purse seine fleets active in the Marshall Islands EEZ for 2006 (left) and 2007 (right)**

### *Foreign longline fleet catch/effort*

The domestically-based foreign longline fleet comprises of vessels from China and FSM which are managed and operated through MIFV.

Japanese longline vessels offload their catch in ports in Japan. Catch estimates for 2006-2007 for the domestically-based vessels have been raised using unloadings data. The overall catch estimates by foreign longline fleets in 2007 indicate decline from the previous year (Table 10). Bigeye catch continues to account for the major part of the target catch composition.

As with the purse seine fishery, most of the longline fishing effort occurs in the southern areas of the RMI EEZ however in the longline fishery, effort is more widely distributed in the zone (Figure 8). Variability in catch rates

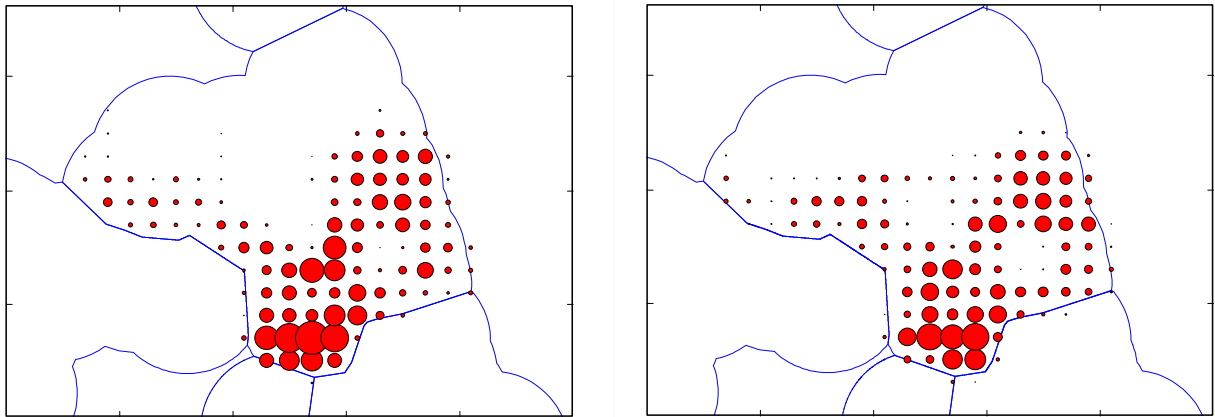
of bigeye and yellowfin is evident among fleets and years with Japanese fleets consistently having the highest CPUE in the last ten years (Figures 9 & 10).

Table 11 (and Figure 11) shows the estimated total catch of non-target species (and species groups) by Marshall Islands-based longline vessels, according to observer data collection.

As in the purse seine fishery, the target tuna species comprise most of the catch, but the proportion of non-target species catch is higher in the longline fishery (~42% in 2007). Observer data suggest that, for locally-based longline vessels the most predominant species in each category are: Blue marlin (billfish), Blue shark (sharks and rays), wahoo (“other” finfish).

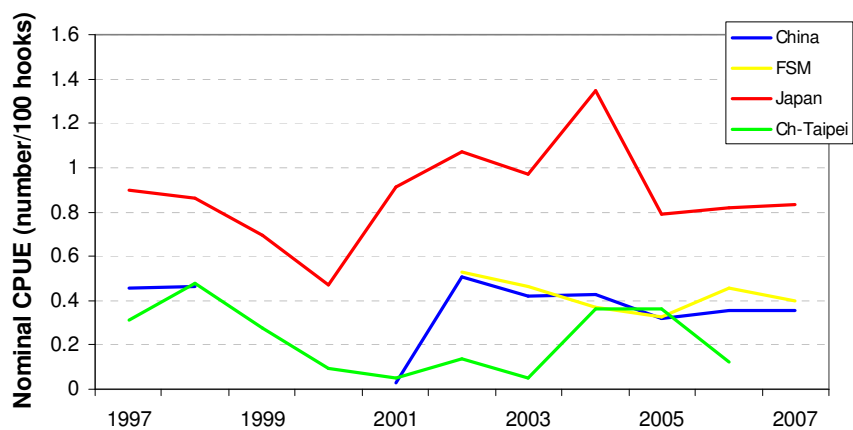
**Tables 10. Annual catches by foreign longline fleets in the Marshall Islands EEZ, by flag and species, 2003-2007** (Source : 2006-2007 catch estimates of locally-based fleet derived from best combination of logsheet and unloadings data, others are unraised logsheet data collected by MIMRA)

Flag	Year	ALB	BET	YFT	OTH	Total
China	2003	3	709	300	3	1,016
	2004	6	953	328	1	1,288
	2005	20	1,030	600	2	1,651
	2006	39	1,908	1,478	388	3,811
	2007	14	2,028	727	348	3,116
FSM	2003	0	135	51	0	186
	2004	0	218	74	0	292
	2005	0	136	74	2	211
	2006	4	417	235	76	732
	2007	3	359	133	66	561
Japan	2003	17	1,351	544	5	1,917
	2004	6	491	96	7	599
	2005	12	106	45	0	163
	2006	23	120	70	0	212
	2007	5	114	40	0	159
Ch-Taipei	2003	0	4	1	0	5
	2004	1	37	16	0	53
	2005	0	35	21	0	56
	2006	0	5	7	0	12
	2007	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EEZ	2003	20	2,199	897	8	3,124
	2004	12	1,698	514	8	2,232
	2005	33	1,307	738	3	2,081
	2006	65	2,449	1,790	463	4,768
	2007	21	2,501	899	415	3,836

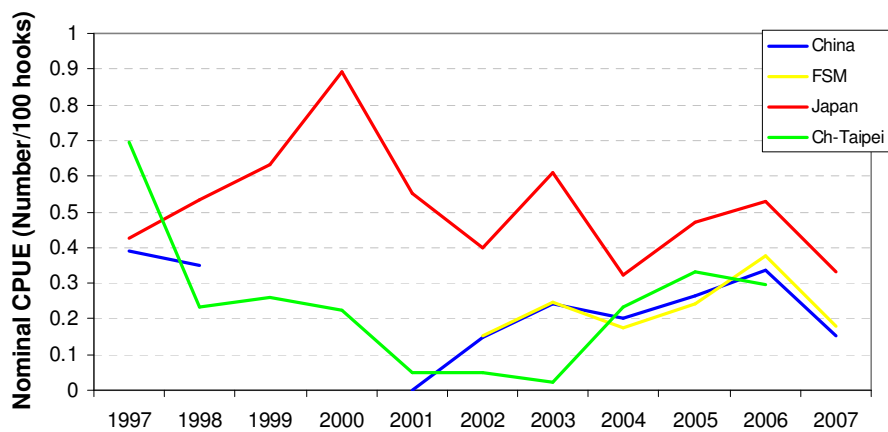


**Figure 8. Annual distribution of combined effort (100s of hooks) by the main foreign longline fleets active in the Marshall Islands EEZ for 2006 (left) and 2007 (right)**





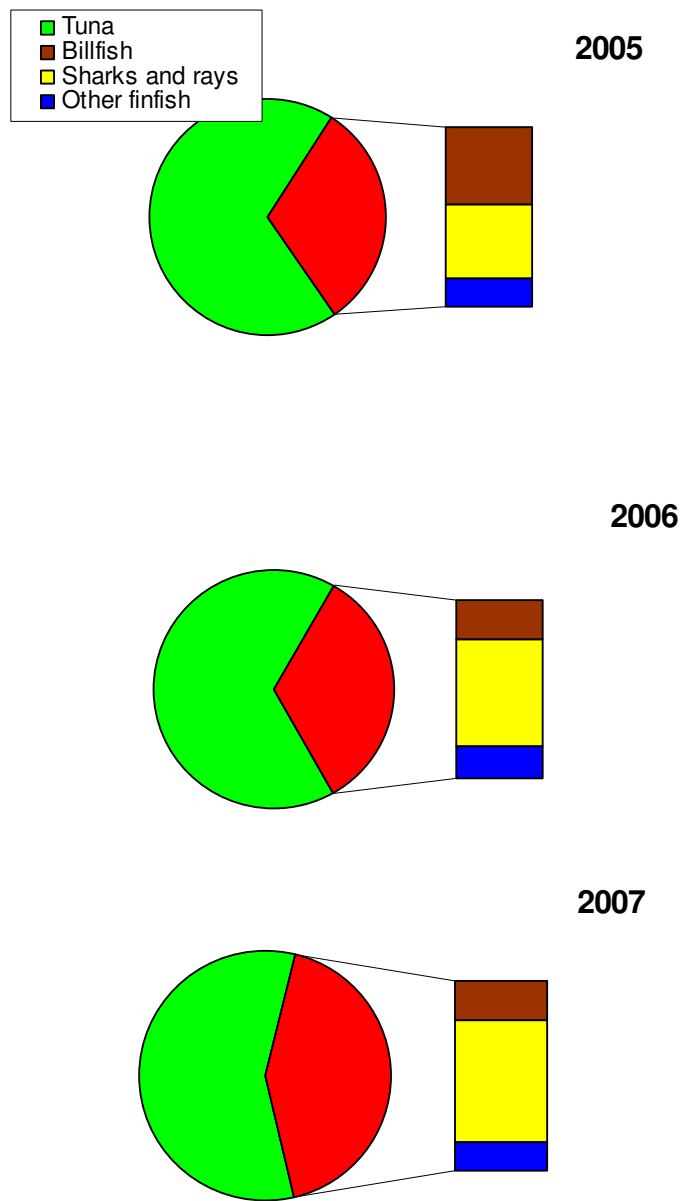
**Figure 9. Trends in nominal catch rates of BIGEYE TUNA taken by longline fleets operating in the Marshall Islands EEZ, 1997-2007**



**Figure 10. Trends in nominal catch rates of YELLOWFIN TUNA taken by longline fleets operating in the Marshall Islands EEZ, 1997-2007**

**Tables 11. Estimated annual total catches of non-target species and species groups, by Marshall Islands-based longline fleets, 2005-2007.** (Source of data : Data collected under the Marshall Islands Observer Programme, managed by MIMRA; Coverage has been estimated by comparing observer-recorded target species catch to annual catch estimates for the locally-based fleets; ‘%’ represents percentage of total catch which includes target tuna species catch)

		Catch estimates					
Category	Species	2005		2006		2007	
		MT	%	MT	%	MT	%
<b>Billfish</b>	Blue marlin	405.5	8.7782%	236.1	3.8321%	336.2	5.9161%
	Black marlin	15.0	0.3237%	44.2	0.7167%	23.3	0.4109%
	Striped marlin	115.6	2.5026%	85.3	1.3838%	82.2	1.4466%
	Swordfish	74.0	1.6027%	78.8	1.2791%	65.7	1.1566%
	Other Billfish	22.3	0.4838%	39.4	0.6399%	18.3	0.3226%
<b>Sharks and Rays</b>	Blue shark	289.1	6.2587%	534.8	8.6804%	759.2	13.3616%
	Mako sharks	21.6	0.4669%	88.2	1.4312%	107.9	1.8989%
	Oceanic whitetip shark	56.8	1.2300%	90.1	1.4628%	123.3	2.1706%
	Silky shark	137.0	2.9669%	257.8	4.1844%	392.9	6.9144%
	Other sharks and rays	77.8	1.6834%	254.9	4.1372%	160.7	2.8280%
<b>Other finfish</b>	Bullet/Frigate tunas	0.8	0.0174%	1.0	0.0166%	0.0	0.0000%
	Kawakawa	0.0	0.0000%	0.0	0.0000%	0.0	0.0000%
	Rainbow Runner	1.1	0.0247%	0.2	0.0031%	0.0	0.0000%
	Wahoo	80.2	1.7368%	136.6	2.2165%	220.5	3.8807%
	Common dolphinfish	29.3	0.6348%	73.4	1.1905%	50.2	0.8829%
	Triggerfish	0.3	0.0065%	0.1	0.0022%	0.0	0.0000%
	Barracudas	5.4	0.1158%	12.3	0.1993%	3.7	0.0645%
	Escolars	6.0	0.1297%	11.9	0.1924%	7.9	0.1385%
	Lanctfishes	9.8	0.2130%	12.4	0.2006%	6.1	0.1080%
	Ocean sunfish	3.2	0.0703%	4.8	0.0773%	12.7	0.2234%
	Oilfish	7.5	0.1623%	3.0	0.0492%	1.2	0.0204%
	Opah	10.1	0.2195%	43.4	0.7043%	11.5	0.2024%
	Pomfrets	3.3	0.0725%	11.0	0.1793%	14.1	0.2479%
	Small baitfish	0.0	0.0000%	0.0	0.0000%	0.0	0.0000%
	Other fish	72.2	1.5633%	57.8	0.9377%	21.6	0.3810%
<b>Total billfish</b>		632	13.6910%	484	7.8515%	526	9.2527%
<b>Total sharks and rays</b>		582	12.6059%	1,226	19.8960%	1,544	27.1734%
<b>Total finfish</b>		229	4.9666%	368	5.9689%	349	6.1497%
<b>Total non-target</b>		1,444	31.2634%	2,077	33.7164%	2,419	42.5759%



**Figure 11. Proportion of non-target species groups in the catch of Marshall Islands-based longline vessels, by year, 2005–2007.** (Source of data : Data collected under the Marshall Islands Observer Programme, managed by MIMRA)

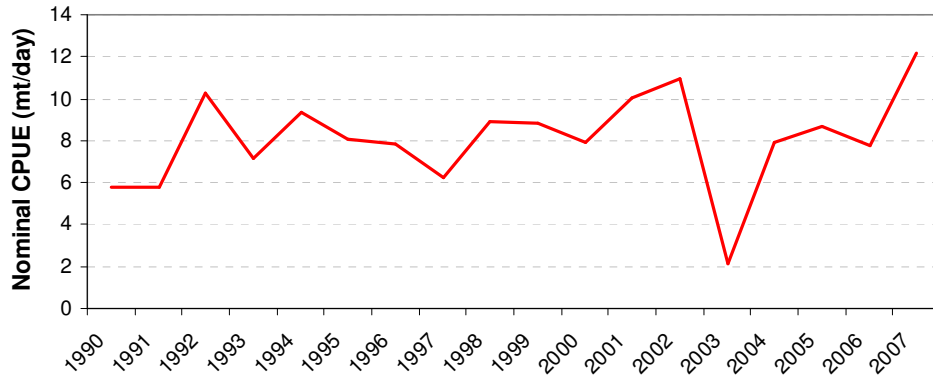
### *Foreign pole-and-line fleet catch/effort*

In 2007, there was a marked increase in pole-and-line catch estimates from previous years (Table 12) corresponding to higher than average catch rates (Figure 11). Skipjack is the main species making up the catch

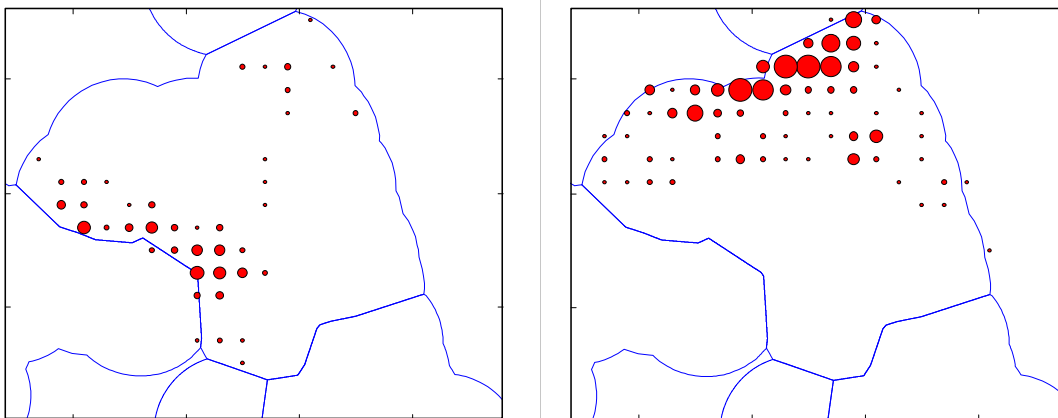
composition for this fleet with yellowfin representing a very minor component. There is variability in distribution of effort for the fleet as evident in Figure 12. Japan is still the only pole-and-line fishing party in the RMI.

**Tables 12. Annual catches by foreign pole-and-line fleets in the Marshall Islands EEZ, by flag and species, 2003-2007 (Source: Unraised logsheet data collected by MIMRA)**

Fleet	Year	Catch (metric tonnes)				TOTAL
		BET	SKJ	YFT	OTH	
JAPAN	2003	0	92	2	0	94
	2004	0	1,152	9	11	1,171
	2005	0	653	1	1	655
	2006	0	978	8	1	987
	2007	0	4,400	1	0	4,400



**Figure 12. Trends in nominal catch rates of SKIPJACK TUNA taken by the Japanese pole-and-line fleet operating in the Marshall Islands EEZ, 1990-2007**



**Figure 13. Annual distribution of effort (days fishing and searching) by the Japanese pole-and-line fleets active in the Marshall Islands EEZ for 2006 (left) and 2007 (right)**

• **MARKETS AND DETAILS OF LOCAL INDUSTRY**

The Marshall Islands Fishing Venture (MIFV) has been managing and operating the Longline Fishbase with domestically-based foreign longline vessels as well as the new national longline fleet. Total unloadings in 2007 experienced a slight decrease from the previous year but as before, most of the

unloaded catch was bound for export markets (Tables 13 & 14). The MIFV exports mainly fresh chilled tuna species to markets in the US, China and Canada. Frozen fish (rejects and bycatch), designated as OTHER, are shipped to China via transport containers and/or sold locally.

**Table 13. Total unloaded catch (mt) for domestically-based longline vessels, 2006**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>EXP</b>	<b>OTH</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
ALBACORE	0	31	31
BIGEYE	1,713	365	2,078
YELLOWFIN	908	586	1,494
BLACK MARLIN	59	243	302
BLUE MARLIN	0	0	0
MAHI MAHI / DOLPHINFISH	19	37	56
OPAH / MOONFISH	8	11	18
SAILFISH (INDO-PACIFIC)	0	5	5
SHARKS (UNIDENTIFIED)	0	113	113
SHORT-BILLED SPEARFISH	0	13	13
SWORDFISH	12	16	28
WAHOO	45	58	103
	<b>2,764</b>	<b>1,478</b>	<b>4,242</b>

**Table 14. Total unloaded catch (mt) for domestically-based longline vessels, 2007**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>EXP</b>	<b>OTH</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
ALBACORE	0	15	15
BIGEYE	2,000	170	2,170
YELLOWFIN	587	178	765
BLUE MARLIN	64	312	377
MAHI MAHI / DOLPHINFISH	10	15	25
OPAH / MOONFISH	9	11	20
SAILFISH (INDO-PACIFIC)	0	2	2
SHARKS (UNIDENTIFIED)	0	256	256
SHORT-BILLED SPEARFISH	0	12	12
SWORDFISH	15	24	39
WAHOO	34	55	88
	<b>2,718</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>3,769</b>

• **TRANSSHIPMENT/PORT UNLOADING ACTIVITIES**

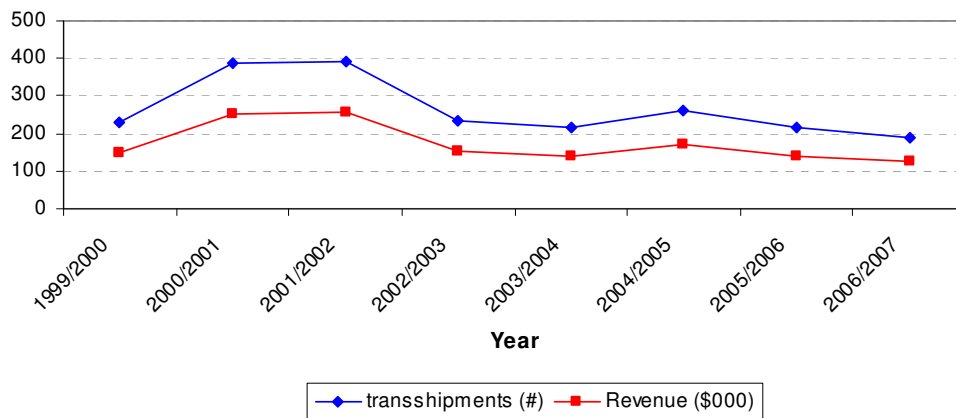
Transshipment continues to be a significant source of revenue for the RMI. It has proven to be a positive indicator for economic spin-offs in private sector areas dealing directly and indirectly when the fishing vessels are in port (e.g. fuel sales with Marshalls Energy Company, etc).

The lagoon at Majuro has become a very important port for transshipments of tuna from purse seine vessels to cargo vessels. MIMRA recognizes this as both an opportunity for collection of revenue and as a responsibility to collect catch data from vessels. As such, MIMRA places observers on all vessels transshipping in Majuro. Consistent with international agreements, the MIMRA Act (1997) prohibits transshipment at sea under any circumstances.

Figure 14 is indicative of transshipment activity, relative to the revenue (MIMRA

only) collected from 1999 through to 2006/2007 (PS and support vessels).

Transshipment activities continue despite the current economic difficulties affecting the region. The RMI Government recently declared a “State of Economic Emergency” as a result of the continuing rise of fuel and food costs. An implementation directive from the National Disaster Committee spearheaded by the Chief Secretary specifically calls upon MIMRA, through the Minister and Secretary of Resources & Development, to work closely with other relevant agencies, such as the Marshalls Energy Company (MEC), to explore ways to improve and maximize revenue generation and associated economic benefits from fishing vessels transshipping in Majuro. Part of this entails the possibility of revising current fishing agreements.



**Figure 14. Number of transshipments (blue) and income generated (red), 1999/2000-2006/2007**

As indicated in Table 15 below, a total of 109 transshipments were undertaken by purse seine vessels in the port of Majuro in 2007 accounting for 99,613 mt of catch.

With regards to longline fishing vessels, only the locally-based longline vessels offloaded their catch at MIFV. The remaining longline vessels made port calls for provisions and were inspected accordingly by Sea Patrol

enforcement officers and MIMRA fisheries officers. A total of 253 boarding and inspections were routinely carried out during transshipment or provisioning in 2007 as stipulated in Table 16.

Table 17 is indicative of the number of support vessels by flag licensed by the RMI and directly involved in transshipment activities.

**Table 15. Number of transshipments and total catch transshipped in 2007**

Month	Number of transshipments	Transhipped catch (mt)			TOTAL
		SKJ	YFT	BET	
January	6	4,435	870	210	5,515
February	5	4,220	366	140	4,726
March	9	3,830	115	35	3,980
April	9	7,455	335	15	7,805
May	7	4,954	1,406	40	6,400
June	13	9,684	2,061	55	11,800
July	10	6,368	2,023	280	8,671
August	11	8,540	1,375	170	10,085
September	7	5,838	164	128	6,130
October	8	9,975	70	270	10,315
November	11	9,054	480	152	9,686
December	13	13,755	430	315	14,500
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>88,108</b>	<b>9,695</b>	<b>1,810</b>	<b>99,613</b>

**Table 16. Number of boardings conducted during transshipments or provisions, 2007**

Month	Boardings by Gear					Total
	Bunker	Carrier	Purse seine	Longline	Pole-and-line	
January	0	4	6	12	0	22
February	1	2	6	3	0	12
March	1	2	9	2	1	15
April	0	5	9	3	0	17
May	0	4	9	2	0	15
June	1	7	15	7	0	30
July	1	8	17	6	0	32
August	0	6	14	3	0	23
September	0	3	9	7	0	19
October	0	6	8	7	0	21
November	0	4	12	6	0	22
December	0	6	15	4	0	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>253</b>

**Table 17. Number of RMI-licensed support vessels in 2007, by flag**

	Bunker	Carrier
China	0	8
Cyprus	0	2
Kiribati	2	3
Italy	0	1
Korea	2	6
Lithuania	0	1
Marshall Islands	0	7
Netherland Antilles	0	1
Panama	3	28
Singapore	6	1
Chinese Taipei	0	3
St. Vincent	0	2
Vanuatu	0	1
	<b>13</b>	<b>64</b>

## • OBSERVER PROGRAM

MIMRA continues to build on the revised Observer Program, initiated with the assistance of the SPC-OFP. The program is still in its infancy and needs increased support to improve its effectiveness as more demands are placed upon it. The reduction in number of active observers from 20 (2006) to 12 (2007) resulted in the decrease in observed sea days (Tables 18 & 19). Despite this setback, RMI observers still managed to complete 789 and 1,092 sea days on longline and purse seine vessels, respectively.

The MIMRA observer program can also expect to be called upon to support the observer program of the Commission throughout the Convention area. This implies increased workload in training, deployments,

communications, briefing, debriefing, analysis, and data entry. It also implies that the observer program needs an expanded base to work from, a base that includes adequate working space and environment for carrying out the observer program tasks and the anticipated expansion.

The mandate of the program needs to be expanded to include making enforcement observations and collecting information for follow up by Sea Patrol, the authorized fisheries enforcement agency. This may be accomplished with some coordination with Sea Patrol and an additional training module for observers to incorporate basic enforcement observations in their inspection routine.

**Table 18. Observer trips 2006**

Month	Number of Trips			Number of Days		
	LL	PS	Total	LL	PS	Total
January	1	0	1	19	0	19
February	2	1	3	27	19	46
March	15	3	18	216	62	278
April	10	4	14	152	98	250
May	9	7	16	132	152	284
June	5	3	8	69	88	157
July	5	2	7	74	53	127
August	7	4	11	102	131	233
September	3	3	6	42	100	142
October	6	5	11	90	183	273
November	7	4	11	98	157	255
December	3	4	7	42	117	159
	<b>73</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>1,063</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>2,223</b>

**Table 19. Observer trips 2007**

Month	Number of Trips			Number of Days		
	LL	PS	Total	LL	PS	Total
January	3	3	6	41	90	131
February	2	1	3	32	12	44
March	13	3	16	202	33	235
April	7	1	8	101	17	118
May	3	10	13	35	321	356
June	3	4	7	42	115	157
July	3	3	6	44	90	134
August	3	5	8	45	136	181
September	5	1	6	69	31	100
October	7	7	14	91	145	236
November	4	4	8	55	79	134
December	3	1	4	32	23	55
	<b>56</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>1,881</b>



### Port Sampling

In 2007, port sampling activities continue to improve compared to 2006 (Tables 20 & 21). With the increased focus on these activities at the MIFV fish base, a total of 71, 890 fish were measured by the lone port sampler stationed at MIFV. Collated data are sent directly to SPC on a bi-weekly basis for analysis.

Length frequency data for yellowfin and bigeye longline catches are available from the

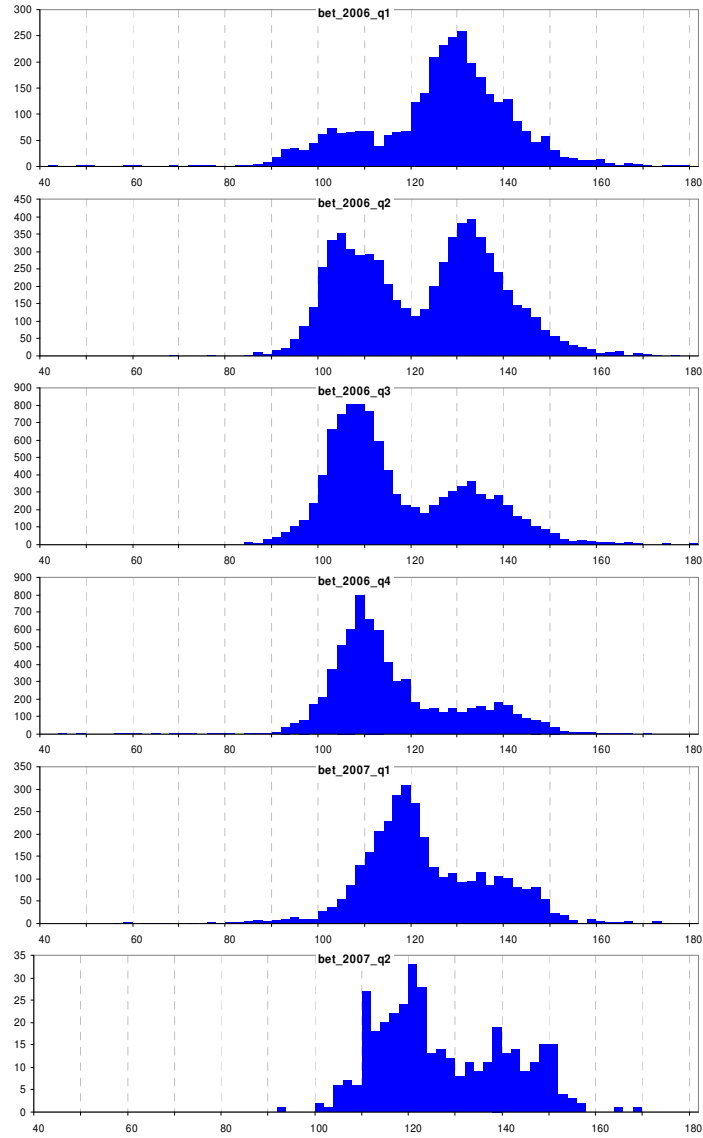
port sampling and observer programs (Figures 15-16). In 2006, the yellowfin data indicate a normal distribution with mean lengths around 120 cm fork length. The bigeye data displays bimodal distribution with more of the slightly smaller fish being observed, especially in the latter quarters of 2006. Size data from the latter half of 2007 is still being processed at SPC and will be duly analyzed.

**Tables 20. Port sampling 2006**

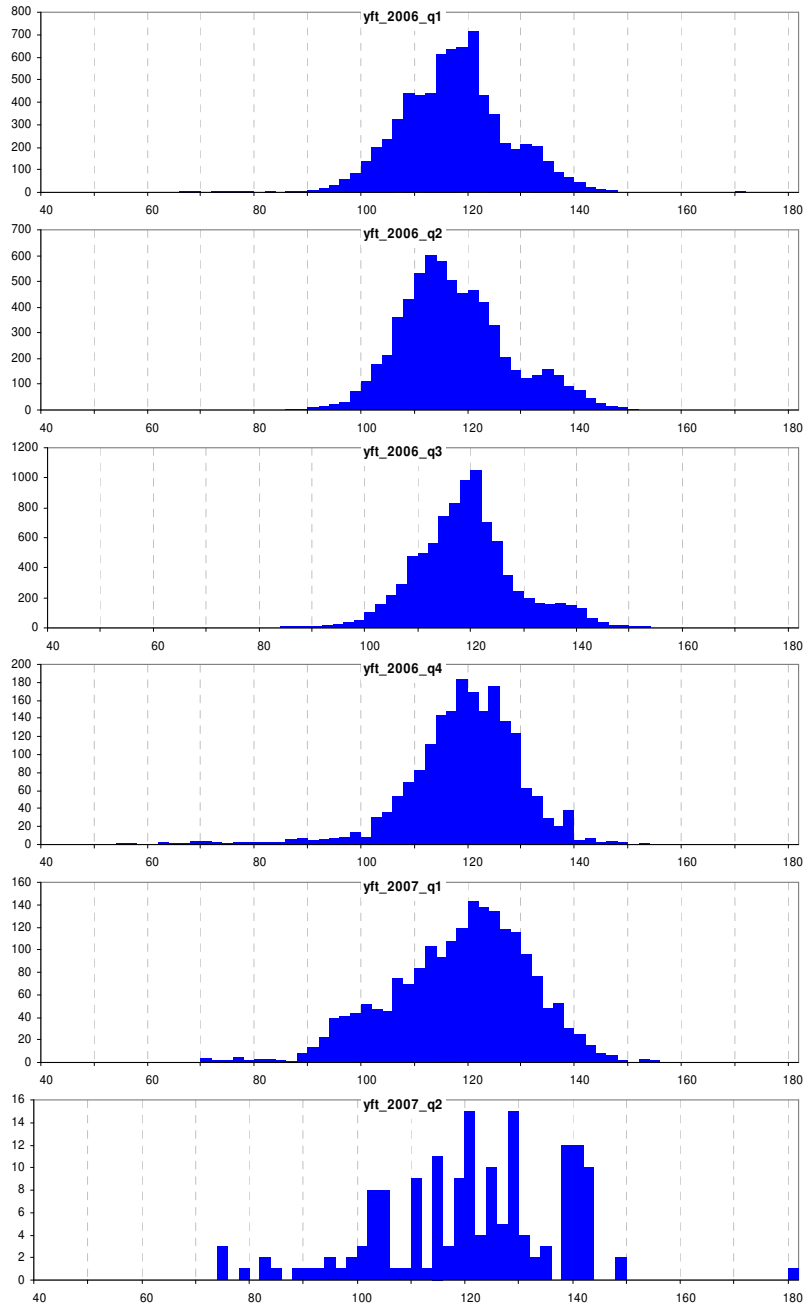
Month	Port	Number (Measured)				Number (Not Measured)					
		ALB	BET	YFT	OTH	TOTAL	ALB	BET	YFT	OTH	TOTAL
January	Majuro	0	908	2,540	0	3,448	0	2	0	2	4
February	Majuro	0	1,004	2,766	137	3,907	44	0	0	1,941	1,985
March	Majuro	0	476	649	43	1,168	70	0	0	1,207	1,277
April	Majuro	0	1,195	2,629	158	3,982	36	0	0	2,811	2,847
May	Majuro	0	2,678	1,742	169	4,589	104	0	0	2,290	2,394
June	Majuro	0	3,052	2,486	135	5,673	258	85	119	1,753	2,215
July	Majuro	0	2,876	3,962	134	6,972	4	0	0	963	967
August	Majuro	0	1,823	1,966	50	3,839	0	0	0	231	231
September	Majuro	0	927	152	104	1,183	13	0	1	70	84
October	Majuro	0	4,771	986	302	6,059	5	0	0	129	134
November	Majuro	0	3,830	1,188	209	5,227	14	5	0	615	634
December	Majuro	0	4,847	1,318	141	6,306	69	15	13	1,587	1,684
		<b>0</b>	<b>28,387</b>	<b>22,384</b>	<b>1,582</b>	<b>52,353</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>13,599</b>	<b>14,456</b>

**Tables 21. Port sampling 2007**

Month	Port	Number (Measured)				Number (Not Measured)					
		ALB	BET	YFT	OTH	TOTAL	ALB	BET	YFT	OTH	TOTAL
January	Majuro	0	3,430	1,518	90	5,038	34	0	52	3,309	3,395
February	Majuro	0	1,790	937	94	2,821	11	25	77	5,084	5,197
March	Majuro	0	2,766	1,821	4,587	9,174	86	12	98	3,656	3,852
April	Majuro	0	4,751	1,021	171	5,943	80	2	68	2,654	2,804
May	Majuro	0	5,090	2,712	142	7,944	9	20	33	2,629	2,691
June	Majuro	0	1,713	902	62	2,677	3	18	17	1,094	1,132
July	Majuro	0	2,583	746	121	3,450	1	35	8	727	771
August	Majuro	0	3,479	1,440	153	5,072	5	21	32	1,757	1,815
September	Majuro	0	6,001	1,905	245	8,151	18	7	7	2,601	2,633
October	Majuro	0	4,622	2,198	191	7,011	12	14	7	2,194	2,227
November	Majuro	0	2,806	1,800	95	4,701	24	8	42	2,162	2,236
December	Majuro	1	5,841	3,959	107	9,908	268	10	58	2,808	3,144
		<b>1</b>	<b>44,872</b>	<b>20,959</b>	<b>6,058</b>	<b>71,890</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>30,675</b>	<b>31,897</b>



**Figure 15. Quarterly Bigeye length frequencies for the Longline fishery in Marshall Islands waters, 2006–2007. (Samples collected by the MIMRA Port Sampling and Observer Programmes; 2007 data have yet to be processed by SPC)**



**Figure 16. Quarterly Yellowfin length frequencies for the Longline fishery in Marshall Islands waters, 2006–2007. (Samples collected by the MIMRA Port Sampling and Observer Programmes; 2007 data have yet to be processed by SPC)**

- **TUNA MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT(S):**

The MIMRA adopted its (revised) Tuna Management Plan (TMP) in late 2004. Since then, MIMRA has undergone significant changes, particularly in its implementation. A timely consultancy aimed at reviewing the TMP was successfully undertaken in March 2008. The current revised draft is still pending consultation between MIMRA and the consultant. It is envisaged that once approved, the TMP will further enhance the management and organization of the Authority in its ongoing efforts to fulfill its

national, regional, and international obligations.

The development of its data and statistical capability continues to be a vital tool for MIMRA. The SPC-OFP has been very instrumental in the Oceanic Division's data efforts, as evidenced by the successful integration of the TUFMAN database at MIMRA.

- **TUNA COMMISSION**

A number of meetings related to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) were held during 2007.

The Third Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC3) was held in Honolulu, Hawaii from 13-24 August under the Chairmanship of Dr. Dae Yeon Moon.

The Third Regular Session of the Northern Committee was held in Tokyo, Japan from 11-13 September under the Chairmanship of Mr Masanori Miyahara. The WCPFC Intersessional Working Group on the Regional Observer Programme was held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia from 24-25 September under the Chairmanship of Mr Charles Karnella.

The Third Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee was held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia from 27 September – 02 October under the Chairmanship of Mr Wendall Sandford (Canada). The inaugural session of the

WCPFC Standing Committee on Finance and Administration commenced in Tumon, Guam on 02 December and continued until 06 December under the Chairmanship of Mr. Terry Toomata (Samoa). The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission (WCPFC4) met in Tumon, Guam from 03 – 07 December under the Chairmanship of Mr Glenn Hurry. The Secretariat provided a FFA Brief for all six WCPFC meetings, and convened preparatory meetings for the major WCPFC meetings.

Likewise, the FFA held three subregional WCPFC management options workshops as part of the preparations of FFA members for WCPFC4. These workshops included reviews of FFA members legislative implementation of WCPFC Convention and decisions, as well as discussion of key WCPFC issues for WCPFC4 and preparation for the FFA Management Options Workshop (08 – 12 October, held in Rarotonga Cook Islands). The workshops also covered issues of importance for SC3 and TCC3. The workshops considered the national as well as regional perspectives for particular WCPFC issues.

- **ONSHORE DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS**

***Marshall Islands Fishing Company (MIFCO)***

The Joint Venture between MIMRA and Koo's Fishing Company, Ltd. (KFC) continues with the vessel, Marshalls 201, operating under the auspices of the FSM Arrangement for Regional Fisheries Access administered by the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). The vessel is owned by the Marshall Islands Fishing Company (MIFCO), a RMI corporation established pursuant to the JV. At the outset, the venture aims to further develop the local fishing industry and the RMI economy in general.

In May 2008, the company, Marshall Islands Fishing Company (MIFCO), formally opened its permanent offices within KFC's new office building adjacent to MIMRA. Adjoining space behind the office building has been set aside for the establishment of a fish (by-catch) processing facility in the near future. Investment in these new facilities is estimated at approximately \$3 million and it is anticipated that the new processing plant will employ up to 100 local employees.

Although KFC is managing partner for MIFCO, it is important to note that the RMI Government, through MIMRA, and even more importantly, the RMI economy are the immediate beneficiaries of the joint venture. Aside from income derived from the fishing operations of the vessel, the RMI economy is further boosted by other favorable externalities by virtue of the fact that the vessel is based in the RMI and partially crewed by local Marshallese.

Overall, KFC and MIFCO employ 6 Marshallese in its Majuro office and close to 50 Marshallese fishermen, nearly 30 of which are actively fishing at any given time. In addition, KFC has proven itself to be a good corporate citizen of the RMI. The company is actively making annual charitable contributions to the Fisheries and Nautical Training Center (FNCTC), the RMI National

Scholarship Fund, and to various private schools in Majuro.

***Pan Pacific Foods (PPF RMI), Inc.***

The long-awaited completion of the revitalized loining plant, under new management by Pan Pacific Foods (RMI), Inc. has finally been achieved with the initial hiring of close to 200 local Marshallese, most of whom were employed by the previous plant. A routine albeit successful trial run took place in mid-April 2008 whereby the company bought raw materials from KFC. In its intermediate stages of operations following the trial run, the plant was able to successfully produce 20 mt of processed loins per day and have just recently shipped out its first batch of exports; at best, the company aims to produce 80mt daily once production is in full swing and operations progress with no hindrances.

***Future Prospects***

Without a doubt, the WCPFC has already altered the dynamics of fisheries management and operation in the region. With this in mind, MIMRA will seek to develop additional capacity, including internal organizational structure, to cope and take advantage of the opportunities that will continue to transpire from important developments directly stemming from the deliberations of the WCPFC and its subsidiary bodies.

The RMI, as a party to the Nauru Agreement on Fisheries of Common Interest, through which the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) has commenced full implementation starting 01 December 2007, continues to grapple with the related challenges and hindrances brought on by associated developments for the improvement and ultimate achievement of long-term goals both at the national and regional levels. Of equal importance is the recent signing of the Third Implementing Arrangement of the Nauru Agreement signed by PNA Ministers in Koror, Palau in May

2008. The RMI, through the Minister in Assistance, formally signed the Arrangement at the margins of the Forum Leaders meeting in August 2008 in Niue. MIMRA supports the direct implications of the Arrangement as it relates to the Commission and looks forward to fully participating in the discussions at this year's 5<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the WCPFC in Busan, Korea.

MIMRA will continue to push for the recognition of sovereign rights of Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) in the WCPFC arena to further develop their domestic fisheries sector. As part of the changes need to be put in place with regards to the revised TMP, MIMRA intends to phase out foreign fishing licenses in order to allow for RMI domestic fleets to enter the fishery and rightfully maximize economic benefits from its tuna resources.

MIMRA is still in the initial stages of exploring the possibility of a charter arrangement scheme with the Domestic Based Foreign longline fleet. While this work is still at large, the outcome will take into account the procedures and adherence to the Commissions rules and requirements.

While MIMRA admits to constraints in the overall development of national fishery including, but not limited to the regional and international obligations, the Authority remains hopeful that it can further take advantage of the opportunities and related benefits attained to provide for the long-term viability of our fisheries management and operations into the future and beyond.

### **Coastal and Community Fisheries Overview:**

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The Authority is continuing shifting management measures towards sustainable resource practices, to allow for continued and long term achievements of project objectives and community and local government fisheries development plans and projects. The Coastal Fisheries Division deals mainly with the development and management of community based projects that provide benefits to the people in the community. It is required to coordinate and consult with traditional leaders and local government councils during planning or development stages of projects. It is required to coordinate and consult or advise local communities with respect to the development of sustainable management plans for inshore or coastal fisheries resources. It is also required to ensure community or public awareness of MIMRA policies or plans, and MIMRA's role and capacity to provide assistance to communities while at the same time, ensuring the implementation of action plans and strategies in carrying out policy decisions by the Board, decisions or recommendations made by sub-regional, regional and international organizations that RMI is a party to; and other policy related activities that concerns coastal fisheries.

This year, Coastal Fisheries Division continues its commitment to ensuring that the communities benefit from the projects shown through the continued presence of Outer Islands Fishing Projects, aquaculture/mariculture projects, the fisheries management and catch data program. The continuing rise in the cost of fuel has seriously affected the performance of the Outer Island Projects and the services providing to the outer island fishers and their respective communities. Regardless, the Coastal Fisheries Division has not been deterred from maintaining its efforts to not only provide income generating and transportation

opportunities for outer island communities but also to facilitate the formulation of Fisheries Management Plans and Fisheries Management Ordinances to help guide the sustainable development and effective management of the precious atoll resources.

MIMRA continues to encourage the development of culture fisheries and aquaculture for its potential to contribute to improving national fisheries production capacity and stimulate local economies. Furthermore, it is envisaged that the private sector will lead the development of culture fisheries and that environmental considerations related to culture activity in line with the Government policy are of main concern.

- **OUTER ISLANDS PROJECTS**

The Outer Island Fishbases that the Outer Islands Fish Market Center on Majuro receives fish from (Arno, Aur, Jaluit and Maloelap) have continued provide fishermen with income by purchasing fish and fish products directly. For the Arno fishermen, a total of 23,427 lbs of fish were purchased from them at a value of \$20,331; Jaluit fishermen received \$13,692.02 for the 17,406.90 lbs of fish purchased from them; and 20,172 lbs of fish were purchased from both Maloelap and Aur fishermen at a value of \$16,623.25. The monetary benefits that the fishermen of these fours atolls received directly came to a total of \$50,646.27. The effects of increase in fuel prices on the fishermen are evident with the decreased number of fishing trips to the outer islands by not only the number of trips but also the monetary benefits (last annual report showed \$13,000 more received by the fishermen of the same fours atolls through the fishing projects). Unfortunately, for the fishbases supplying fish to the Kwajalein Atoll Fish Market Center (KAFMC) the benefits of having a fishbase were not seen due to the damages sustained by F/V Ieplap during a trip to Likiep in early 2006. Plans are underway to address this situation, one of which is to request Japan's assistance in this matter to address both

long-term and short term needs. Short term measures included three fishing trips in Jaluit deliver fish to the KAFMC showing F/V Lentanir and F/V Laintok (both based in Majuro) continued to assistance to KAFMC in providing fish and local produce from the fishbases while being mindful of the rising fuel costs.

The table below reflect the transactions between the fishers and the projects. Note that with the rotational nature of the trips to the outer islands, some months will have no record dated due to the fact that the MIMRA boats did not visit during those months. Also, in regards to the Jaluit Fishing Project, fish recorded to be purchased from the fishers, include fish destined for the KAFMC on Ebeye (Ebeye Fish Market). Data presented only reflects those brought in for the OIFMC on Majuro.

<b>Arno Atoll Fisheries Association 2006-2007</b>								
Month	Market		Arno		Ine		AAFA Total	
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
October	2166.91	2331.12	2065	1884	709	634	2774	2518
Nov	1524.71	1442.05	961	872	529	505	1490	1377
Dec	1095.17	914.39	1110	1058	192	183	1302	1241
Jan	2445.26	2887.37	2381	2187	203	179	2584	2366
Feb	1133.35	1273	1467	1260	38	37	1505	1297
Mar	1600.84	1788.33	1714	1582	0	0	1714	1582
April	1579.44	1277.74	2071	1549	0	0	2071	1549
May	2070.82	1700.16	2216	1604	0	0	2216	1604
June	1340.49	1650.36	1647	1350	101	95	1748	1445
July	822.75	968.76	712	627	0	0	712	627
Aug	2562.1	3155.35	1235	1121	933	862	2168	1983
Sep	2032.22	3583.87	2363	2042	780	700	3143	2742
<b>Total</b>	<b>20374.06</b>	<b>22972.5</b>	<b>19942</b>	<b>17136</b>	<b>3485</b>	<b>3195</b>	<b>23427</b>	<b>20331</b>



<b>COFDAS 2006-2007</b>								
Month	Market		Maloelap		Aur		COFDAS Total	
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
October	1709	1072.88	0	0	1227	962.45	1227	962.45
Nov	1694	1429.11	1046	944.5	0	0	1046	944.5
Dec	1582.64	2154.75	0	0	1378	1147.05	1378	1147.05
Jan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feb	989.85	928.95	861	694.35	1356	1181.65	2217	1876
Mar	2360.35	2544.75	1093	905.2	1487	1097.7	2580	2002.9
April	60.27	75.34	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	3395.84	3610.65	482	303.95	3957	3623.05	4439	3927
June	1815.74	2080.93	994	664.35	923	912	1917	1576.35
July	2136.22	2395.69	1221	795.35	1278	1021.65	2499	1817
Aug	1775.53	1217.13	0	0	1669	1535.5	1669	1535.5
Sep	645.36	762.69	0	0	1200	834.5	1200	834.5
total	18164.8	18272.87	5697	4307.7	14475	12315.55	20172	16623.25

<b>Jaluit Fishing Project 2006-2007</b>				
Month	OIFMC Market		Jaluit	
	#	\$	#	\$
October	1061.94	2518.41	8107.4	6373.14
Nov	888.6	1249.9	1519	1319.5
Dec	30.66	37.3	0	0
Jan	38	20	0	0
Feb	1467.79	1813.75	1739	1485.75
Mar	1343.68	1434.75	1284	1044.7
April	1	2	0	0
May	0	0	0	0
June	1447.44	1299.61	1614.5	1253.88
July	194.97	231.79	0	0
Aug	2886.52	2697.4	3143	2215.05
Sep	253.59	489.05	0	0
total	9614.19	11793.96	17406.9	13692.02

- **FDAPIN/FESAP-JAPAN**

Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) began FDAPIN projects in the 1992 and 1993 fiscal year in the RMI. From the 1995 fiscal year, FDAPIN II was implemented for a duration of five years, consisting of assistance ranging from repairs and restoration of fisheries related facilities to related skills, technology and knowledge being transferred. Each year, during the annual OFCF Japan/Pacific Island Nations Fisheries Directors Meeting on Fisheries Cooperation, OFCF receives requests from each country for FDAPIN projects. After conducting field surveys and consultation with each government, the scope of the projects are developed followed by a drafting and signing of the MOU and Implementation Plan.

This year requests that were implemented are as follows:

1. Repair and Restoration of the Main Engine of F/V Lentanir and F/V Laintok;

2. Replacement of the Radio Communication Equipment of T/C Wabal;
3. Replacement of Radio Communication Equipment of MIMRA;
4. Advice to AAFA regarding Management and Operation of F/V Jolok; and
5. Advice to MMRA regarding Management and Operation of the Ice Making Facilities.

Request Submittal for fiscal year 2007/2008 are as follows:

1. Construction of new MIMRA maintenance facility;
2. Conducting Freezer machine seminar; and
3. Advice on operation management of MIMRA's 3 fish carrier vessels to promote outer islands fisheries.

- **WOJA MIMRA BLACK PEARL OYSTER HATCHERY**

The Woja Pearl oyster hatchery was refurbished and became operational in 2005. The Hatchery conducted many larval runs from 2006 to 2007. A range of experiments were conducted to try to overcome a major larval mortality. The mortality was seen first from day 5 to 10; with the addition of EDTA (treatment for heavy metals) the mortality was seen later in the larval cycle, day 15 to 24.

The first larval run conducted using EDTA to treat heavy metal contamination went to settlement (day 28), but were affected by a mass mortality at this point in the cycle. But a small % survived to become spat. 4000 spat were settled and sent out to Jaluit Atoll from this run.

After consultation with experts in larval rearing of black pearl oysters it was concluded that if there were any traces of tributyl tin (antifouling agent which is banned now), there would always be problems in larval rearing the oysters.

The next step was an experiment in cooperation with CMI land grant at Arrak facility to test if there was any difference between the 2 locations. Adult oysters were spawned at the Woja hatchery and the eggs were split between the 2 locations for rearing. The same mortality was seen at the Woja site, but not seen at the Arrak facility. Further research showed there are 2 different water currents in the lagoon; the western end goes anti clock wise and the eastern end clock wise. The separation of these two currents is the reef that runs from Iroj Island to the western end of Woja.

This meant that the Woja facility gets water that has circulated from the down town area and industrial areas (where World War 2 ships were serviced, which used tributal tin for antifouling).

The comparison trial for the 2 locations proved that the water quality in the lagoon at Woja was not suitable for larval rearing the oysters. At this point Virgil Alfred (hatchery Manager) decided to put in an ocean line to access clean water. The water was pumped from the ocean to a holding tank at the site which then could be used in the larval rearing. The line was extended over the drop off to ensure high water quality.

A hatchery run was started in late July 2008 using the ocean water. Currently the larval oysters have settled and have metamorphoses into juvenile oysters. This is a huge success after years of research and development conducted by MIMRA. The Woja Pearl Oyster Hatchery is operated by Virgil Alfred (Hatchery Manager) and Mojjen Jubwil (Hatchery Technician). The larval rearing of oysters requires a large amount of experience and takes 2 months to fully complete. In the 2 months the larval oysters need to be tended every day and takes time each side to get ready for the run and to clean up and dry out.

Much thanks needs to be given to CMI land-grant, CMI, Simon Ellis and Maria Hawes for there long term support of the project.

### ICDF/MIMRA FISH FARM

Taiwan Technical Mission ICDF/MIMRA Fish Farm was established in August 2006.

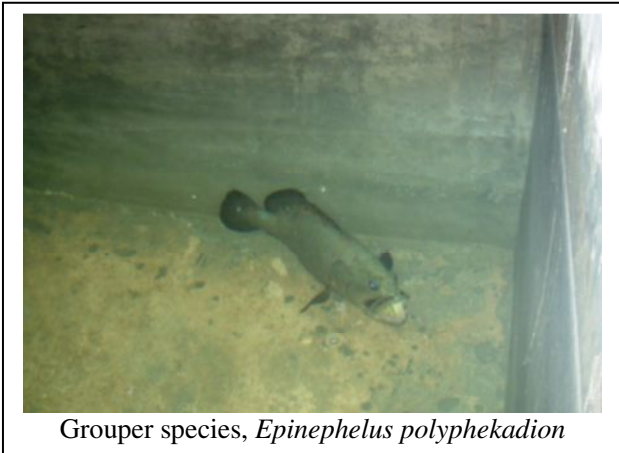
In Collaboration with MIMRA and CMI, the fish farm was setup with an aim to engage local community in aquaculture which will supplement local income-earning opportunities as well as food security and to replenish the local fish stock and. Funding and technical work are carried out by the ICDF whereas MIMRA's and CMI's roles are to support and ensure that national laws and requirement are complied with.

The farm contains 10 tanks which hold the broodstock, 4 large tanks where the algae are produced and reared for feeding the fish fries, a pump house that contains pumps which supply the farm with saltwater. A cage was set-up at the lagoon side of the farm where spawned juvenile, when reach a suitable size, will be kept. This is an effort to supply the fish their natural environment, therefore reduces stress. The cage has recently been taken out as a result of strong waves which have caused great

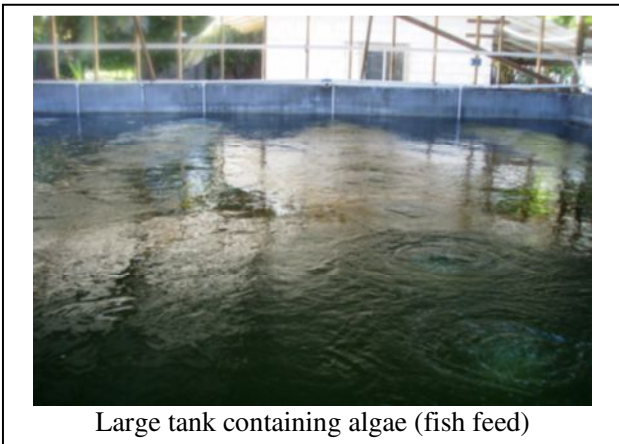
damage to the cage. The cage has been repaired and will be deployed when a suitable site is selected. Fish species that are currently being harvested are 2 grouper species and 2 rabbit fish species.



Facility location in Arrak, Majuro Atoll



Grouper species, *Epinephelus polyphekadion*



Large tank containing algae (fish feed)



Rabbitfish species, *Siganus argenteus and punctatus*

Broodstock were collected by local fishermen who were hired by ICDF. Main target of fish species are grouper species and rabbitfish species. The rabbitfish species have already been spawned whereas the grouper species still

encounter problems with regards to fertilization. Although the rabbitfish succeeded, 85% of the brood stock did not last due to lack of suitable feeds. It was noted that the feeds available were too big, hence not suitable for the fish larvae. Alternate means of feeds has been considered, however investigation still has yet to be carried out to verify its outcome.

In summary, the fish farm is still at a pilot phase which is now conducting research on the feasibility of fish farming in RMI.

Future work plans for the fish farm:

Once the spawning problem with grouper and the feed for rabbitfish larvae is solve, then the future work plans will be carried out.

These include:

- Workshop training for local fishermen
- Release fish into lagoon (Replenishing the local fish population)
- Supply local fish market during winter season
- Introduce project to Outer-islands and train outer-islands fishermen

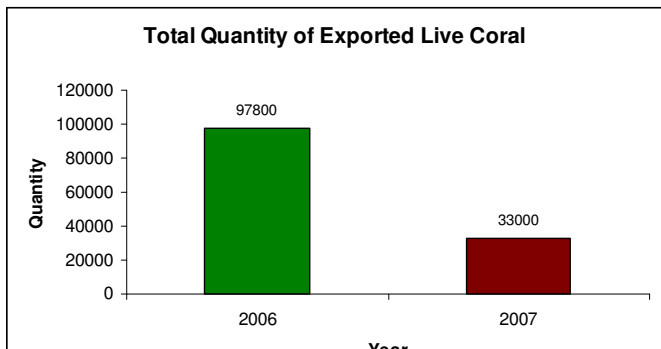
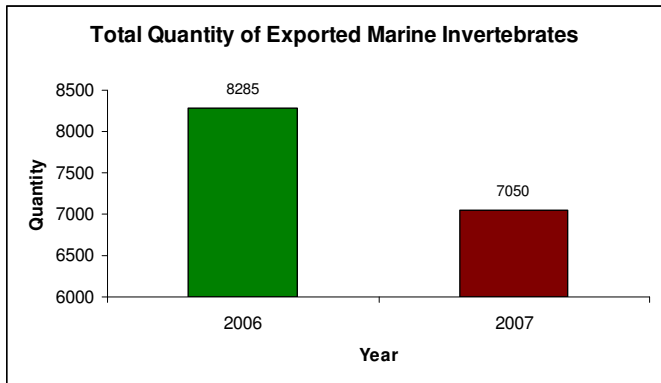


Tanks for breeding and brood stocks

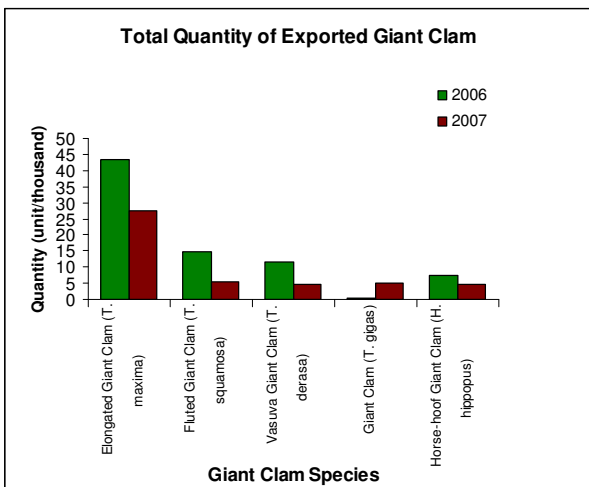
• **MARINE AQUARIUM TRADE**

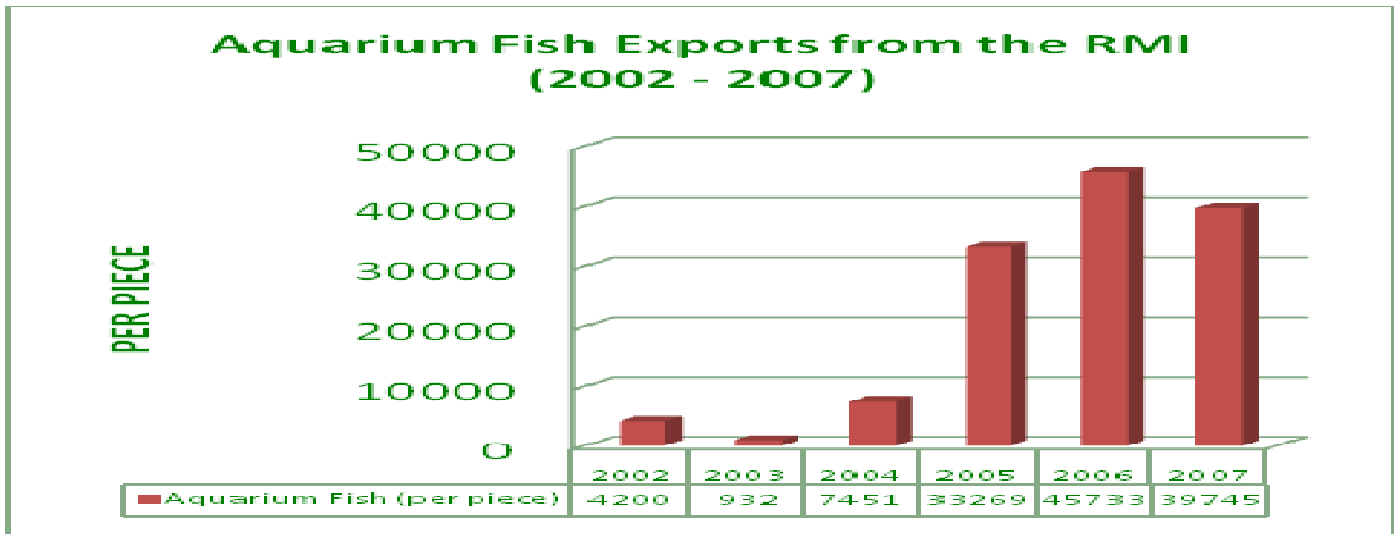
The marine ornamental trade (or aquarium trade) has continued to rise with exports increasing. Organisms exported out of the Marshall Islands by local companies are live fish, giant clams, live rock, corals and various marine invertebrates. There are five (5) local companies that export and as reflected in the below chart, this trade is based on the preference of the customers. With the giant clams, it is the T. maxima species that is in high demand. All clams exported out of the Marshall Islands are hatchery-reared and not from the wild, one of the requirements of CITES. All certificates of origin & health are required when exporting marine ornamentals. Although the Marshall Islands is not a party to CITES, these permits are the equivalent in authority to any permits to be issued pursuant to Fish and Wildlife in lieu of CITES (Annex II) statement RE: 50CFR-23(b3). A draft Aquarium Trade Policy Framework has been prepared and will need stakeholder inputs before it can be implemented to ensure a sustainable future for this industry. A marine ornamental/aquarium trade stakeholder meeting was conducted on December 2007 to advise on the implementation of new procedures and system in regards to the trade in order to comply with the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries, CITES requirements, Introduces Alien Species (IAS) and clarifications on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) procedures, as well as basic safety of all industry employees, among other issues. More on the workshop outcome will be explained in the next annual report.

Giant Clam Species	2006	2007
Elongated Giant Clam ( <i>Tridacna. maxima</i> )	43525	27600
Fluted Giant Clam ( <i>Tridacna. squamosa</i> )	14650	5300
Vasuva Giant Clam ( <i>Tridacna. derasa</i> )	11450	4800
Giant Clam ( <i>Tridacna. gigas</i> )	500	5050
Horse-hoof Giant Clam ( <i>Hippopus hippopus</i> )	7400	4500
Boring Giant Clam ( <i>Tridacna crocea</i> )	Imported from Pohnpei	



note: species includes *Trochus niloticus*, *Strombus luhuanus*, *Nassa sp.* and *Turbo sp.*





- **TURTLE CONSERVATION EFFORTS 2007**

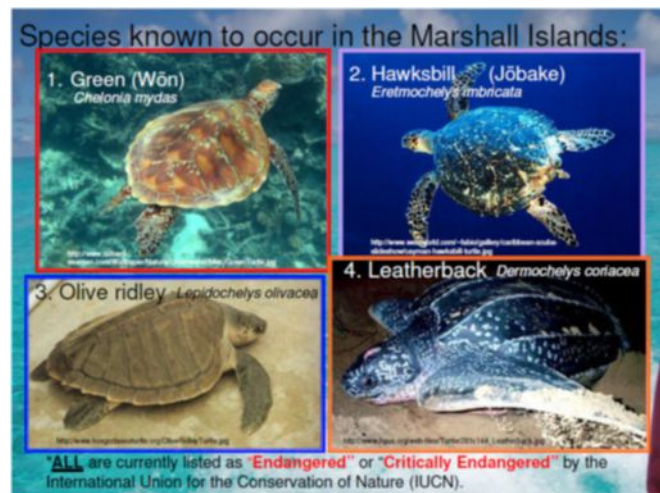
March – SPREP Marine Turtle

Action Plan Review in Apia, Samoa

In 2003, members of SPREP established the Regional Marine Species Program Framework 2003-2007, which included Dugongs, Whales and Dolphins, and Turtles, recognizing that successful implementation of the Action Plans would “result in the people of the Pacific Islands being better able to plan, protect, manage, and use their marine environment for sustainable development”. The Action Plans were reviewed five years later on March 2007 and renewed priorities and actions were identified for the new 2008-2012 framework, under which the RMI faces a responsibility to achieve the aims and objectives both at the regional and national levels.

July – Erikub Satellite Project

During the month of July 2007, members of WUTMI, MIMRA, JIMAR/NOAA Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Regional Office, representatives from Wotje and the Charlie’s Angel crew deployed satellite transmitters on 5 post-nesting green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) on the island of Loj in Erikub Atoll.



The transmitters will allow the turtles’ migrations to be tracked. Important information gathered will be the real time and location of the turtles as they travel through the Pacific. It is hoped that we will learn the location of the foraging grounds are for these turtles. More importantly, by learning of the turtles’ travels we will learn if turtles nesting on the island of Loj are a shared resource with other nations. It is hoped that these turtles as ocean ambassadors will promote relationships between the Republic of the Marshall Islands and other

nations that will support the conservation of marine turtles.

Currently, the turtles are still being tracked and mapped by the NOAA Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Science Center and the maps are being shared with MIMRA and WUTMI. Six turtles were also measured and fitted with SPREP tags, including the satellite transmitter turtles.

•Until today, the turtles are still being tracked and mapped by the NOAA Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Science Center and the maps are being shared with MIMRA and WUTMI.



#### July – Tag recovery on Wotje

A flipper tag was recovered on Erikub Atoll, one of the major turtle nesting atolls in the Marshall Islands. A local from nearby Wotje Atoll reported having captured and killed the tagged turtle a few months ago (around April) in Erikub, but submitted only one of the tags to a member of WUTMI, which was then passed onto MIMRA. Unfortunately, specifics on the species type, exact date of capture, carapace measurements, etc were not recorded.

The tag was one of Col Limpus's tag series. The tag number was "T47147" and the information on the tag read: "RETURN WILDLIFE" (first line) "BOX 190 NORTH QUAY" (second line) "4000 QLD AUSTRALIA" (third line), to which the tag was returned. The turtle was tagged as a youngster some 17 years ago and she had now turned up laying eggs in the Marshall Islands - ~6850km distant. According to Col Limpus, this was their longest distance migration for a green turtle, and the first that has

crossed over into the northern hemisphere from the south.



December – ‘Tags Wanted’ posters reprinted in Marshallese. One of the first materials to be ordered for education and awareness raising on turtles included SPREP’s ‘Tags Wanted’ posters which were reprinted in Marshallese. These posters along with a number of other materials will be distributed across the country and will hopefully help increase the public’s awareness and understanding of the actions needed to protect our valuable resource.

#### • FAO-SSC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

This section covers the seventeen months (17) activities/ accomplishment from May 21, 2006 to October 16, 2007 as FAO-SSC Fisheries Technician with duty station at Majuro, Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI). Food and Agriculture (FAO) of the United Nations has implemented a Regional Food Security Programme wherein the Republic of the Philippines as secondary donor. This programmed aims to help small developing countries in terms of agricultural developments. As Fisheries Technician technical services were conducted at Woja Black Pearl Hatchery operated by Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) from May 2006 to February 2007 and on fisheries management at the Coastal Fisheries Division was carried out from March to October

2007. During his duty at the black pearl hatchery, a total of four (4) hatchery test runs were conducted for the induced spawning of Black Lip Oyster (*Pinctada margaritifera*), twenty one (21) extension services on black pearl farm operation and management, on farm assessment, prepared farm management plan, farm lay-out, organizational set-up and personnel deployment plan and project documentation and packaging.

Five (5) hands-on training/lecture/presentation were also conduct on black pearl farming involving fifty seven (57) personnel of Rongelap Atoll Local Government.



In support to the ongoing activities on fisheries management the Fisheries Technician also conducted nine (9) lectures/video showing on “Coral Reefs, Their Health, Our Wealth” and “The Coastal Zones” to high schools and selected outer islands involving one thousand sixteen (1,016) students, fisher folk, officials, youth and women, reproduced/distributed one thousand one hundred seventy eight (1,178) leaflets and eight VHS/DVD were reproduced/distributed. Also conducted other activities like attendance to the meetings of the National Project Steering Committee, MIMRA and Coastal Fisheries Division, Ministry of Resources and Development, Local

Government, World Food Day and the Republic of China Mission. Attendance to RMI National Workshop on Black Pearl Farming and made in RMI Trade Fair hosted by Ministry of R & D.



The Fisheries Technician accomplished 119 % against the budget released of 60 %. The South-South Cooperation Programmed for the Fisheries Sector in support to the Regional Food Security Program had in way or another increase the awareness of the clientele on fisheries management, supported the small equipment requirements of the program and enhances the technical know-how of the Local Government personnel manning fishery projects.

- **Coastal Management Advisory Council**

The Coastal Management Advisory Council met throughout the year to continuously identify projects and assisted MIMRA implement its Community-based Resource Management Initiative. To Date, the Community-based Resource Management Initiative has assisted up to local communities through a consultation process establish draft resource management plans and draft ordinances with more local communities registering interest.



MIMRA has assisted 5 local governments develop resource management plans and ordinances. These include Arno Atoll, Likiep Atoll, Ailuk Atoll, Majuro Atoll and Rongelap Atoll. Thru an integrated process whereby both scientific and local knowledge are collected analyzed and reported back to local governments and communities.

### *Ailuk Updates:*

During FY06-07, the Ailuk Atoll Local Council approved the draft Ailuk Atoll Local Fisheries Management Plan. Currently, the local council is working on a draft Fisheries Management Ordinance to support the work of the fisheries committee and the management plan. Also, during this period, the RNHP Ailuk Community Project successfully implemented most of it's objectives. To support the scientific recommendations of the scientific committee, the local fisheries committee established some conservation areas for better resource management in the Atoll. Finally, the community center was successfully established under this project.



### ***PROCFISH***

The PROCFish Project is an initiative that is being funded by the European Union thru the Secretariat of the Pacific Community for the Pacific Island Countries. The project entails a series of assessment in 3 main thematic areas; finfish Assessment, invertebrate assessment and socio-economic assessment. During the period of July-Sept., the assessment was done in the RMI with assistance from the Policy, Planning and Statistics section of the Coastal Fisheries Department.



Project's objectives: assessment of finfish and invertebrates resources and their use by communities by:

- Determining the status of finfish and invertebrate resources on selected sites
- Assessing the impact of fishing and collecting by communities (Baseline information for informed management of resources)
- Comparison between sites within the country and within the region (case studies)

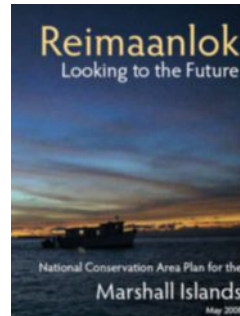
The Atolls that were assessed are Likiep atoll, Ailuk atoll, Arno atoll and Majuro atoll. Part of the project is to provide capacity building and with this, 5 MIMRA staffs were trained on the assessment methodologies. Two were trained on the finfish methodology; one on the invertebrate methodology and two for the socio-economic.

### *Project Reimaanlok*

Trainings were separated into two components. One was in-house training which consist of hand-out materials and lectures and the other part was field/hands-on training. For the last two atolls (Majuro and Arno), the trained MIMRA staffs took part in collecting data.

Five to six days were spent on each atolls and a total of over 100 transects were completed for all 4 atolls.

MIMRA and some of its national partners within CMAC finalized the contents of the National Conservation Area Plan. Also, a Conservation Geographic Information System (ConGIS) was established under the Reimaanlok Project. The ConGIS allows MIMRA the opportunity to map out in GIS layers, different information for better management. Some of the layers in the GIS include conservation areas, dive surveys, known fishing aggregate sites among others.



## MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS

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This section of the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) annual financial report presents our discussion and analysis of MIMRA's financial performance

for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007. The below table summarizes the financial condition and operations of MIMRA for fiscal year 2007 and 2006.

	2007	2006	% Change	2005
<b>ASSETS:</b>				
Current and other assets	\$1,120,309	\$ 1,489,120	(25)%	\$ 944,635
Capital assets	<u>233,272</u>	<u>351,799</u>	(33)%	<u>403,780</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>\$1,353,581</u>	<u>\$ 1,840,919</u>		<u>\$1,348,415</u>
=====				
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>				
Current liabilities	\$ 337,244	\$ 337,444	00%	276,226
Long-term liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	-	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>\$ 337,444</u>	<u>\$ 337,444</u>		<u>276,226</u>
=====				
<b>NET ASSETS:</b>				
Investment in capital Assets	232,272	351,799	(33)%	403,780
Unrestricted	<u>784,065</u>	<u>1,151,676</u>	(32)%	<u>564,864</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>\$1,016,337</u>	<u>\$ 1,503,475</u>		<u>968,644</u>
=====				
<b>Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets:</b>				
Operating Revenue	\$ 1,205,168	\$ 2,074,042	(42)%	\$ 1,912,626
Operating Expenses	<u>1,761,005</u>	<u>1,578,158</u>	12%	<u>1,568,277</u>
<b>Operating Income</b>	<u>\$ (555,837)</u>	<u>\$ 495,884</u>		<u>344,399</u>
=====				
Non-operating revenues	56,029	38,947	44%	25,307
Non-operating expenses	<u>12,670</u>	<u>0.000</u>	100%	<u>(144,016)</u>
Net non-op rev(expenses)	<u>68,699</u>	<u>38,947</u>		<u>(118,709)</u>
Capital contributions	<u>- 0 -</u>	<u>- 0 -</u>	0%	<u>- 0 -</u>
Changes in net assets	(487,138)	534,831	(191)%	225,690
Net assets at beg of year	<u>1,503,475</u>	<u>968,644</u>	55%	<u>742,954</u>
<b>NET ASSETS at end of year</b>	<u>\$ 1,016,337</u>	<u>\$ 1,503,475</u>		<u>968,644</u>
=====				

### OVERALL ANALYSIS

Compare to FY 2006 results of operation, there was a 42% decline in FY 2007 operating revenue as compare to FY 2006 which has 8% increase compare to FY2005. The reason for this was that, both Korea and Taiwan registration of boats has been reduced from the 17 and 18 boats respectively for both

countries registered in FY 2006 to 5 and 3 boats respectively for the both of them registered during the year. Registered boats in FY2005 for the both countries are 27 and 34 respectively at an access agreement of \$ 8,000.00 per vessel. The reason for the reduced registration is the implementation of the new fishing access agreement during FY2006 increasing the lump sum payment of

the two abovementioned countries. Though the locally registered boat has maintained the registration, but the non increase of their registration payments has no effect in the overall revenue picture of the current year. Licensing fee collection decrease by more than 50% and follows all other revenue generation which has also decrease by 33% when if compared to FY2006 over FY 2005 which has a 10% increase. Overall, the revenue operation in FY2007 resulted in a decrease collection of 52% way beyond the budgeted collection of \$ 2.28M during the year.

As a result of the decrease in collection of license fees and other related fees and also a decrease of the boats calling port at Majuro, the overall picture of MIMRA financial condition is in the negative compare to the positive picture in FY 2006. Operating expenses for FY 2007 increased by 12% compare to FY2006 and compared to FY2006 over FY2005, which was 1% only. The biggest operating expense increase is the allowance for bad debts with 330%, membership dues & subscription which has a 122% increase and boarding & observers expenses which has increased to 41%. The increase in the membership dues is due to the increase membership fees to WCFPC, FFA and IWC, which if compare to FY2006 over FY2005 there was only a 61% increase. While the reason for the increase in observer expenses was that, there are a lot of overseas trip done by the observers to be able to cover at least 20% for longline vessels and 25% for purse seiners of all the boats registered in the Marshall Islands. Even though travel has decrease compare to FY2006, by 56% it really did not affect in reducing the operating expenses. The decrease in revenue collection & increase in the operating expenses resulted to an operating loss of \$0.6M for the FY2007 financial statements.

MIMRA's financial condition as shown on the Changes in Net Assets shows an overall 9% decrease compared to FY 2006.

Management's Discussion and Analysis for the year ended September 30, 2007 is set forth in MIMRA's report on the audit of financial statements, which is dated May 13, 2008. That Discussion and Analysis explains the major factors impacting the 2006 financial statements and can be obtained from MIMRA's Administrator via the contact information in page 4.

#### Fund Analysis:

As MIMRA completed the year, the agency's combined fund (Savings and Current Account) has a total balance of \$ 993,585.00, which was \$ 339,007.00 lower compared to FY 2006. The reason for the decrease was due to the lower revenue generated during the current fiscal year. Even though interest earned increase by 44% but it has no effect in pulling up the cash balance for the current year. Transfer Out to REPMAR, is nil just like in FY2006, but still has no effect to turn into a positive financial picture for FY2007.

#### Budget Variances:

Actual operating revenues is on the unfavorable by as much as \$ 1,074,832.00 compare to the final budget including transshipments and observers/training fees that's why the overall picture of MIMRA went under due to the above, since the collection is only 48% of the total budgeted for the current year. Actual expenses compare to the budgeted for the current year is at least favorable by 2%.

#### Capital Asset:

At the end the current year FY 2007, MIMRA has a net asset of \$ 233,272.00. Though there was a total addition of \$ 47,393.00 on the capital assets, and a decrease in the depreciation by \$ 2,592.00 during the current fiscal year, still the net effect is a reduced balance of capital assets. The decrease which is equivalent to 34% compared to the previous years is not a good indication. The capital assets MIMRA right now are not in good standing, thus the management need to look at it carefully. (See table below).

<u>MIMRA Capital Assets</u>		
	2007	2006
	-----	-----
<b>Buildings and improvements</b>	<b>\$ 176,367.00</b>	<b>\$ 341,367.00</b>
<b>Equipment improvements</b>	<b>78,920.00</b>	<b>76,320.00</b>
<b>Vehicles</b>	<b>146,595.00</b>	<b>123,595.00</b>
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>198,665.00</b>	<b>184,230.00</b>
<b>Furniture &amp; Fixtures</b>	<b>23,792.00</b>	<b>19,734.00</b>
<b>Motorboats</b>	<b>63,916.00</b>	<b>60,016.00</b>
	-----	-----
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 687,655.00</b>	<b>\$ 805,262.00</b>
<b>Less: Accumulated Depreciation</b>	<b>454,383.00</b>	<b>453,463.00</b>
	-----	-----
<b>Construction in Progress</b>	<b>\$ 233,272.00</b>	<b>\$ 351,799.00</b>
	-----	-----
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$ 233,272.00</b>	<b>\$ 351,799.00</b>
	=====	=====
<b>Fiscal Year 2007 major capital asset addition includes:</b>		
<b>1. EQUIPMENT:</b>		
a.) Computers & printer		<b>\$10,565.00</b>
b.) Woja Hatchery Equipment		<b>-</b>
c.) Others		<b>6,066.00</b>
d.) New air condition unit (FNTC)		<b>3,870.00</b>
		-----
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>\$ 20,501.00</u></b>
<b>2. MOTORBOATS – Coastal</b>		<b><u>\$ 3,300.00</u></b>
<b>3. VEHICLES</b>		<b><u>\$ 23,000.00</u></b>

For additional information concerning capital assets, please see note 4 to the financial statement.

## **ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET AND RATES**

Budgeted expenditures are expected to rise a bit in FY 2008, to at least 4%. The highest increase budgeted is the membership dues specifically the WCPFC which has an expected increase of utmost \$ 25,000.00. Also, the expected increase in the fuel prices worldwide and its effect in the Marshall Islands will definitely effect the expense budget for next year. All other commodities with the increase in fuel prices will also be affected. Salaries and wages though will be reviewed if an increase will have to be effected for next year.

The El Niño phenomenon is still impacting Marshall Islands; thus, MIMRA is expecting a lower number of boats calling port at Majuro, which will affect the budget for transshipment revenues. Korea and Taiwan is up for negotiation within the year for new access agreement and if the agreement will be agreed upon by both parties.

**OTHER MATTERS (Long-Term Debt)**

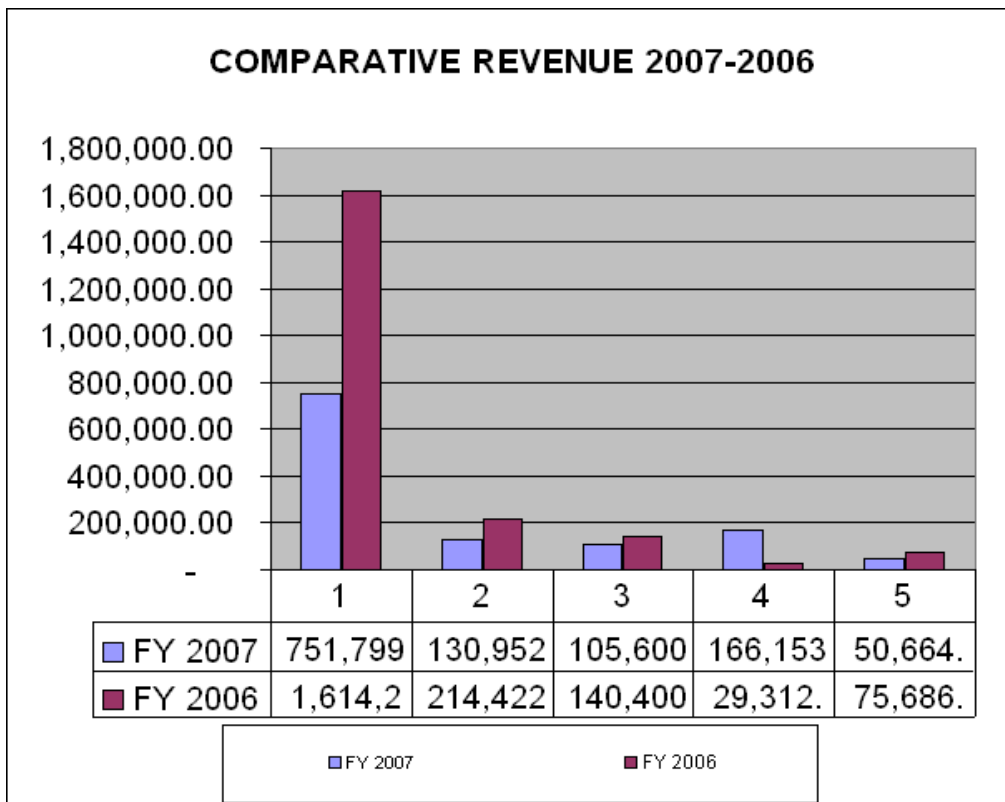
The long-term debt shown in MIMRA’s financial statement in FY2006 is the renovation cost done by Edgewater Fisheries (tenant) at the space they rented for fish-base. Payment for this debt is offset against one half of the total monthly lease payment for fish base. The term of payment is based on the lease agreement. For FY 2007, the

property mentioned was torn down, and that it was written-off and that the difference was taken up as MIMRA’s income. For additional information concerning this matter, please refer to note 6 to the financial statements.

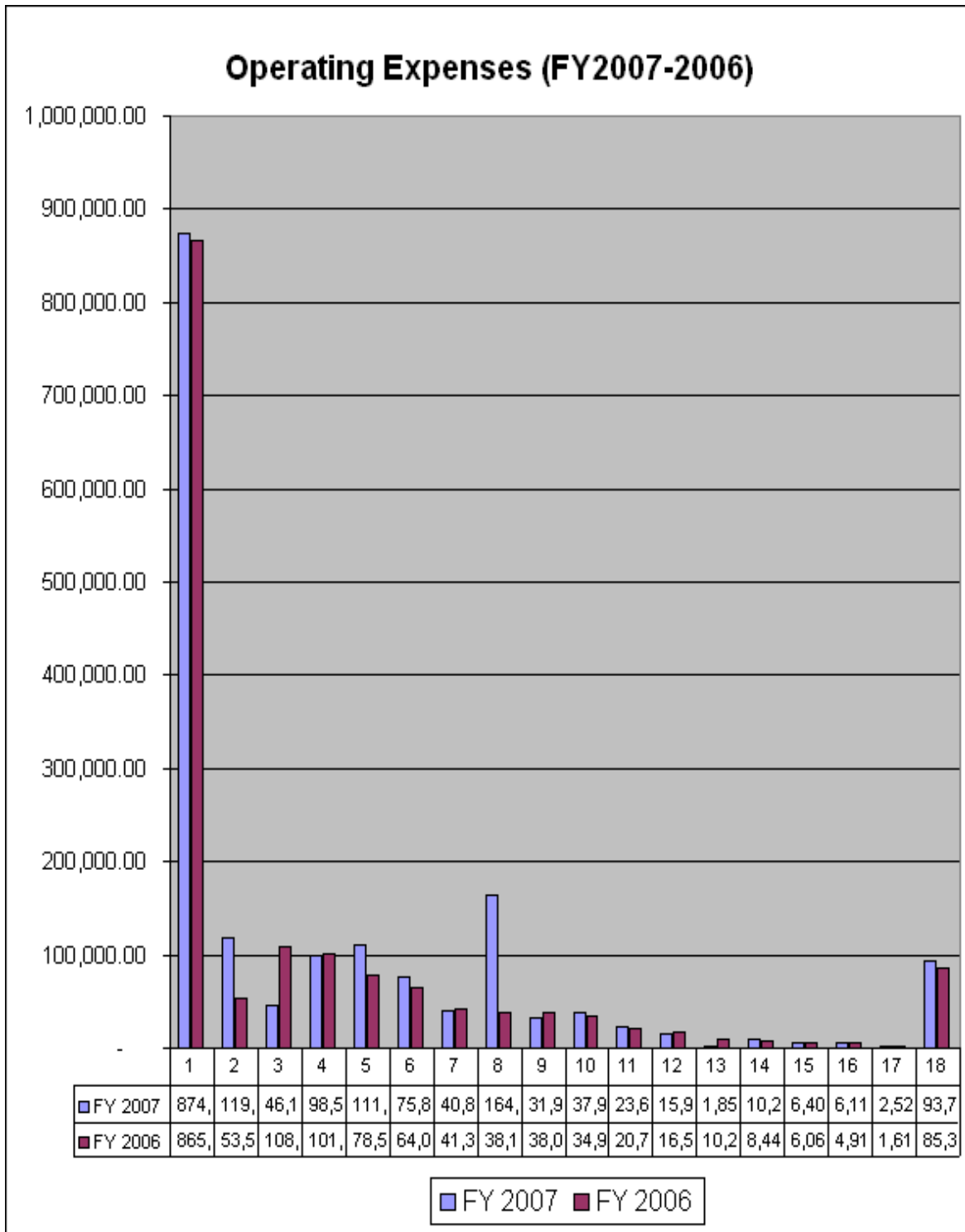
There is no additional debt to be taken into consideration.

**MIMRA Comparative Revenue**

		<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
SCALE			
1	License fee collections	751,799.00	1,614,222.00
SCALE			
2	Other fees and charges	130,952.00	214,422.00
SCALE			
3	Transshipment fees	105,600.00	140,400.00
SCALE			
2	Grants	166,153.00	29,312.00
SCALE			
2	Others	<u>50,664.00</u>	<u>75,686.00</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><u>1,205,168.00</u></u>	<u><u>2,074,042.00</u></u>
<b>OVERALL CHANGE IN 2007 COMPARED TO 2006</b>		<u><u>(868,874.00)</u></u>	<u><u>-42%</u></u>



		<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Scale 1	Salaries & wages	874,612.00	865,629.00
Scale 2	Membership dues & subscriptions	119,162.00	53,564.00
Scale 3	Travel	46,145.00	108,711.00
Scale 4	Depreciation	98,545.00	101,137.00
Scale 5	Boarding & observers fees	111,245.00	78,596.00
Scale 6	Utilities	75,857.00	64,059.00
Scale 7	Communications	40,862.00	41,382.00
Scale 8	Bad debts	164,189.00	38,142.00
Scale 9	Petroleum, oil & lubricants	31,976.00	38,090.00
Scale 10	Repairs and maintenance	37,960.00	34,915.00
Scale 11	Professional fees	23,633.00	20,768.00
Scale 12	Supplies	15,924.00	16,548.00
Scale 13	Freight	1,858.00	10,248.00
Scale 14	Contributions	10,296.00	8,449.00
Scale 15	Training	6,400.00	6,060.00
Scale 16	Entertainment	6,113.00	4,912.00
Scale 17	Advertising	2,528.00	1,612.00
Scale 18	Miscellaneous	93,700.00	85,336.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		<u>1,761,005.00</u>	<u>1,578,158.00</u>
Overall change in operating expenses (FY2007 versus FY 2006)		<u>182,847.00</u>	<u>12%</u>





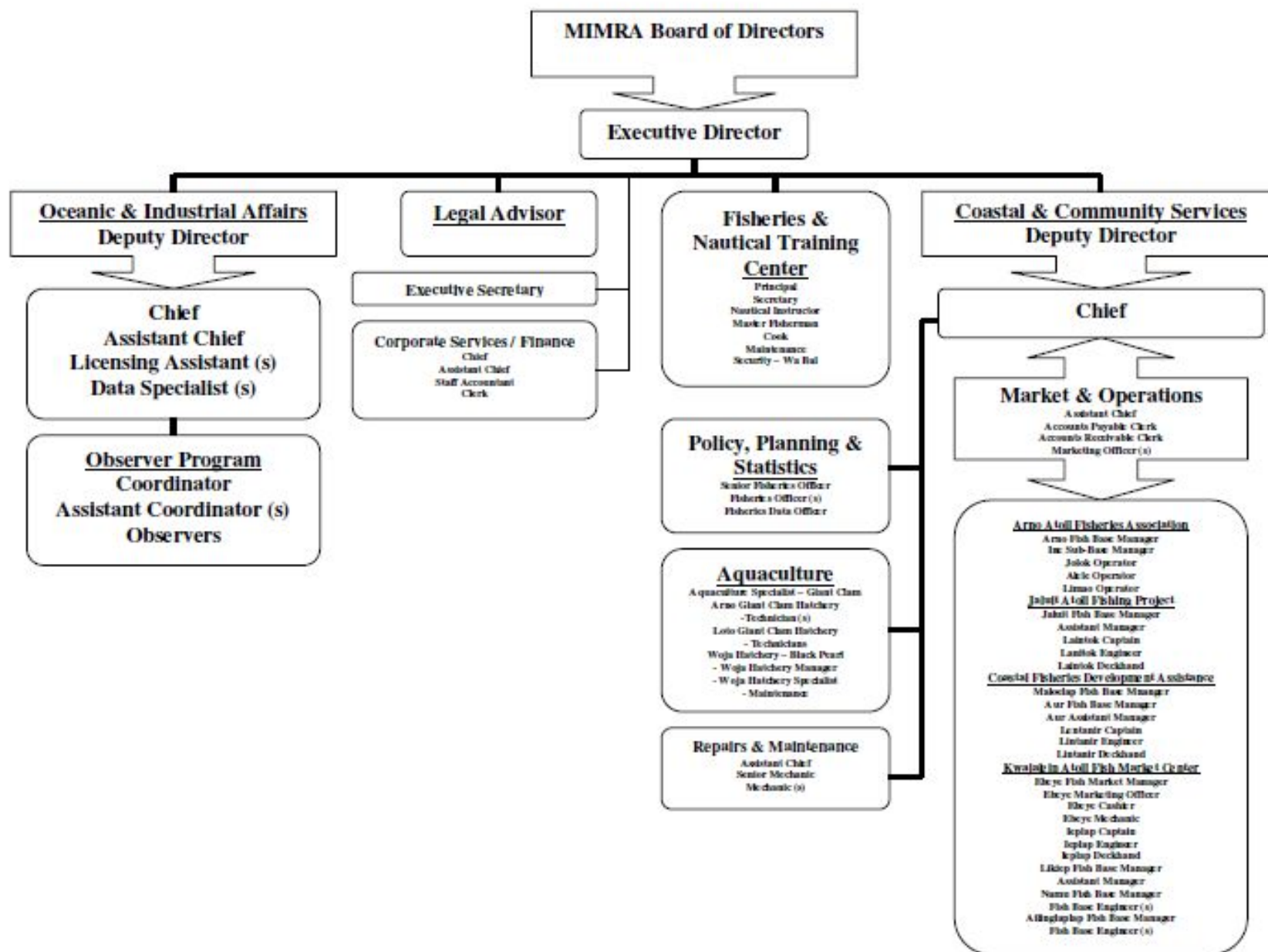


Figure 17. Proposed New Structure

<b>FFA Calendar of Meetings - 2008</b>		
<b>JANUARY</b>		
28 Jan – 13 Feb	Heads of Fisheries Meeting: Fisheries Policy and Planning	Apia, Samoa
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
5 – 8 Feb	MCS Regional Strategy Meeting	Mercure Hotel, Brisbane
11 Feb (whole day) 12 Feb (am)	Pacific Governance Strengthening Project - Fisheries Governance and Institution workshop: “Closing the Gaps”	FFA HQ, Honiara
12 Feb (pm)	4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Pacific Island Parties Working Group: Midterm review of the Multilateral Treaty on Fisheries with the United States of America	FFA HQ, Honiara
13-15 February	Special 21 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement	FFA HQ, Honiara
25-29 February	Preparatory Workshop for 2008 WCPFC Stock Assessments	SPC HQ, Noumea
<b>MARCH</b>		
3-4 March	Internal Meeting of the Pacific Island Parties	Rarotonga, Cook Islands
5-7 March	20 <sup>th</sup> Annual Consultation between Pacific Island Parties and the United States.	Rarotonga, Cook Islands
28 March	High Level consultation FFA NZAID	FFA HQ, Honiara
<b>APRIL</b>		
31 March – 4 April	11 <sup>th</sup> MCS Working Group Meeting	FFA HQ, Honiara
7 – 9 April	FFA Regional Conference on Legal and Policy Trends in International Fisheries Instruments	Nadi, Fiji
7 – 10 April	FFA Access Negotiations Workshop	FFA HQ, Honiara
21-23 April	FFA/WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures workshop	Tanoa International Nadi, Fiji
21-22 April	High Level consultation FFA AusAID	FFA HQ, Honiara
25 April – 2 May	FFA In-country Prosecution & Dockside Training Workshop	Suva, Fiji
<b>MAY</b>		
5-9 May	VDSC5/PNA27/FSM13/PA13 Meetings (Sub-regionals)	Koror, Palau
8-9 May	FFC Sub Committee on Tuna and Billfish meeting	Koror, Palau
10 May	DevFish and SciFish Steering Committee meetings	Koror, Palau

<b>FFA Calendar of Meetings - 2008</b>		
12-16 May	Annual Officials Forum Fisheries Committee 67 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	Koror, Palau
19-20 May	Annual Ministerial 4 Forum Fisheries Committee 67 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	Koror, Palau
26-30 May	IOTC Regular Annual Session	Oman
<b>JUNE</b>		
16-22 June	AIDCP and IATTC Regular Session	Panama
23-26 June	Sub-regional workshop on the western and central and pacific fisheries commission (North SR-MOW) (Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau)	Tarawa, Kiribati
23-26 June	Fisheries Officers Licensing Workshop	FFA HQ, Honiara
30 June – 4 July	National Fisheries Officers Surveillance Course	FFA HQ, Honiara
<b>JULY</b>		
14-17 July	Sub-regional workshop on the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (West SR-MOW) (Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)	FFA HQ, Honiara
14-22 July	FFA In-country Prosecution & Dockside Training Workshop	Koror, Palau
21-22 July	PIPAC Meeting	Suva, Fiji
21-24 July	Sub-regional workshop on the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (East SR-MOW) (Cook Islands, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga)	Apia, Samoa
23-24 July	Forum Officials Committee Meeting	Suva, Fiji
<b>AUGUST</b>		
5-6 August	US-PNA Meeting	Port Moresby, PNG
4-22 August	Regional Evidence & Investigation Course	TBC
7-11 August	Second Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop	Trondheim, Norway
8-10 August	<i>FFA Science Working Group (prep for SC4)</i>	<i>Port Moresby, PNG</i>
11-22 August	<i>Scientific Committee: 4<sup>th</sup> Regular Session</i>	<i>Papua New Guinea</i>
19-21 August	39 <sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Forum and related meetings	Niue
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		
5 September	FFA Staff Club Annual General Meeting	Library Conference Room

<b>FFA Calendar of Meetings - 2008</b>		
11-13 September	Fourth Regular Session of the Northern Committee	Tokyo, Japan
22-23 September	<i>Special Meeting of the Parties to the Palau Arrangement (TAE-PAE Setting)</i>	<i>Pohnpei, FSM</i>
24-30 September	FFA Technical Compliance Committee Working Group Meeting (Preparation for TCC4)	Pohnpei, FSM
29 September	DevFish 7 <sup>th</sup> Roundtable Consultative meeting	Suva, Fiji
29 Sept – 3 October	Working Groups on Formation of the South Pacific RFMO	Canberra, Australia
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
2-7 October	4 <sup>th</sup> Technical Compliance Committee Meeting (TCC4)	Pohnpei, FSM
6-10 October	6 <sup>th</sup> International Meeting on Formation of South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (hosted by Australia)	Canberra, Australia
15-16 October	Meeting of the Sub-committee of the SPTBF	Apia, Samoa
17-18 October	GEF Steering Committee Meeting	Apia, Samoa
19 October	Meeting of the Parties to the Niue Treaty	Apia, Samoa
20-22 October	FFA Management Options Workshop	Apia, Samoa
23-24 October	Special 68 <sup>th</sup> Forum Fisheries Committee Meeting	Apia, Samoa
27-31 October	Broader Cooperation Talks	San Diego, USA
<b>NOVEMBER</b>		
22 November	FFA Christmas Party	FFA Staff Club
17-24 November	ICCAT Commission Meeting	<i>tbc</i>
<b>DECEMBER</b>		
1-6 December	<i>Special FFC (Prep-WCPFC5)</i>	<i>Busan, Republic of Korea</i>
7 December	Second Regular Session of the WCPFC Standing Committee on Finance and Administration	Busan, Republic of Korea
8-12 December	WCPFC 5 <sup>th</sup> Regular Session	Busan, Republic of Korea

**Policy, Planning and Statistical Section**  
**Summary of List of Activities October 2007- September 2008**

MONTH	ACTIVITY
October 2007	
1- 16 November 2007	JICA Training: "Community-based Fisheries Diversification in Small Island States"
January 2008	
7-11	Atoll Project II: Joint Committee Meeting with OFCF Officials
21-25	SPC Training: Data entry for Socio-Economic Monitoring
24-31	JICA Preliminary survey for construction of new fish market center in Uliga
February	
25-28	SOPAC GIS Server Training
March	
3-7	Ebeye Fishermen & Retail Survey
31- 4 April	TNC Workshop: Conservation Area Planning in Chuuk
April	
14-18	Micronesians in Island Conservation Retreat in Guam
21-22	TNC Sustainable Financing Part II
14-25	SPC Aquarium Fish Training and Assessment
May	
5-7	Workshop: FAO Risk Assessment
4-9	Workshop: SEM-Pasifika (Socio-Economic Monitoring)
15	MIMRA/Marshall Billfish Club Fish Aggregating Devices deployed
June	
4-6	Japanese Government Audit Team visit
2-6	Meeting: Micronesia Challenge in Pohnpei
30- 9 July	Training: SPC Underwater Visual Census of Reef Fisheries
July	
7-8	National Fisheries Forum with all Mayors
9-11	Catch Data workshop with all fisheries officers from different target communities
28-9 August	Strategic Planning Session with Nicole Baker
August	
11-15	Workshop: Eco-system based Approach with Ueta Faasili
25-29	US Coral Reef Task Force Committee meeting in Kona, HI
September	
2-5	Workshop: Marine Managed Areas with Wayne Andrew

*-END-*