

MIMRA

Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority



Annual Report FY2025

Marshall Islands
Marine
Resources
Authority



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Cover: Jojo Kramer. A high level of activity on the Kramer Dock shows the game-changing tuna loader handling the catch from the purse seiner Lomalo 1.

Interior photo credits: Chewy Lin, Enric Sala, Eve Burns, Gary Ehram, Giff Johnson, Hilary Hosia, Karen Earnshaw, Nature Conservancy, Ocean Exploration Trust, Office of the President, Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation, Pacific Commission (SPC), RMI PAN Office, US Coral Reef Task Force.

Year of milestones

From my involvement in the fisheries sector over the past two years, I can say unequivocally that the importance of partnerships both locally and internationally cannot be under-estimated. Without the strong partnerships and collaboration that MIMRA has built both domestically and globally, we would not be able to advance as effectively as we did in 2025.

The year 2025 marked a period of significant growth for MIMRA, characterized by the launch of strategic new initiatives alongside the continued strengthening of established conservation frameworks. While MIMRA continued to expand its footprint in the oceanic fisheries sector — driving progress through international treaties, commercial partnerships, and regional governance — it remained firmly committed to its long-term coastal management goals.

The Reimaanlok (Looking to the Future) Process remains the cornerstone of this foundation. As detailed in successive annual reports, the program's eight-step community-based model continues to guide atolls and individual islands toward sustainable resource management, demonstrating a clear and measurable progression in local capacity development.

Some important developments during 2025 in coastal fisheries:

- **On January 28, 2025**, President Hilda C. Heine, alongside Presidential and government leaders, officially signed the first national marine sanctuary for the Marshall Islands. Spanning 18,500 square miles, this sanctuary encompasses the remote Bikar and Bokak Atolls, protecting critical habitats for significant marine life, including the nation's largest green turtle nesting colony and populations of deep-sea sharks. The national marine sanctuary developed, in part because of the partnership between MIMRA and National Geographic's Pristine Seas program, which conducted an initial survey on Bikar and Bokak in 2023.

- **In August**, MIMRA in collaboration with the Office of the President and other

Message from Anthony M. Muller, Chairman of the MIMRA Board of Directors and Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce.



national partners, spearheaded the second National Ocean Symposium. This significant event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including traditional leaders, government officials, mayors, and community representatives such as fishers and resource committee members.

- **In November**, the MS Bikar and MS Bokak arrived, the latest additions to the MIMRA fleet, acquired through Japan's overseas development assistance. These are a testament to the longstanding relationship with Japan in the fisheries sector. The vessels, which were named to emphasize the value of these pristine atolls that are now part of the first national marine sanctuary, bolster MIMRA's ability to service outer island communities and fishers.

Some important developments in oceanic fisheries:

- **In February**, the RMI signed a tripartite agreement with the Federated States of Micronesia and Papua New Guinea, marking a significant milestone in regional fisheries governance. This agreement commits the nations to enhancing sustainable fisheries management through the

implementation of electronic monitoring, improved tuna offloading practices, and the promotion of local processing.

- **In December**, the Marshall Islands, alongside the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, and Tuvalu, signed an agreement to amend the schedule of the Treaty on Fisheries between Pacific Island states and the United States. This amendment is a mandatory requirement for the disbursement of US Treaty funds to the RMI and other participating Pacific Island Parties.

- **Throughout the year**, the Majuro-based Pacific Island Tuna company continued its work to expand the supply of sustainably caught tuna from Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) waters to Walmart and other US retail and wholesale companies. Pacific International Inc. and Kramer Dock handled the offloading of tuna for Walmart and other companies, increasing the visibility of the Marshall Islands as an innovative player in the tuna value chain.

- **The December** audit by the European Union of MIMRA's readiness to meet strict EU food safety and illegal fishing prevention requirements was a milestone. It was the latest step in what has been a more than six-year journey by MIMRA to establish a Competent Authority to oversee fish exports to ensure they meet EU standards. The opening of MIMRA's second phase headquarters building, which includes a fully outfitted laboratory, is another important aspect of meeting EU requirements.

These achievements, and many others highlighted throughout this report, reflect the dedication of MIMRA's staff and the strength of the partnerships that support our work.

I commend the Authority's staff for their continued commitment to ensuring the Marshall Islands' fisheries sector remains sustainable, productive and responsive to the needs of our communities and the nation.

Tony Muller

Advancing coastal

During 2025, the Marshall Islands signed treaties and international agreements to protect our ocean and enhance revenue streams through sustainably managed fisheries, established domestic policies and rules for oceanic and coastal fishing, created the first-ever national marine sanctuary, and gained significant input from the hundreds of participants at the second National Oceans Symposium. MIMRA's job, and what keeps the over 100 MIMRA staff in perpetual motion, is the implementation and follow up for each of the many initiatives that were started in previous years as well as new ones added in 2025.

The year generated a major focus on coastal fisheries and conservation action in the Marshall Islands. This came about through multiple programs supported by MIMRA in cooperation with domestic and international partners.

The Authority's collaboration with National Geographic's Pristine Seas program, started in 2023, is reaping significant benefits for the Marshall Islands. Together, MIMRA and the NatGeo team have conducted unprecedented research surveys on remote atolls in the Marshall Islands, providing knowledge never documented before about the biodiversity in our islands. During 2025, MIMRA worked with NatGeo to prepare for a three-month survey mission that will take place in 2026 to follow up in greater detail the initial survey of Bikar and Bokak Atolls, as well as documenting the beaches of Erikub Atoll, a critical nesting ground for green turtles in the Marshall Islands; surveying the remote waters of Ailinginae Atoll to assess populations of reef sharks and other apex predators; and tracking thriving colonies of sooty terns, red-footed boobies, and frigatebirds to better understand their vital role on both the land and the surrounding sea across Taka and Ujelang Atolls.

Our coastal and conservation agenda remained anchored by the Reimaanlok (Looking to the Future) Process, our foundational framework for community-based sustainable resource management.

The wealth of research now available on our atolls and islands, thanks to the ongoing work of the Coastal Division,



Message from Glen Joseph, Executive Director, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority.



helped motivate the decision by the national government to establish, in January 2025, the first-ever national marine sanctuary encompassing Bikar and Bokak Atolls. MIMRA's Protected Areas Network (PAN) Office is in charge of overseeing the national marine sanctuary as part of its ongoing work.

"Bikar and Bokak's coral reefs are a time machine, like diving in the ocean of 1,000 years ago," Enric Sala, National Geographic Explorer in Residence and founder of Pristine Seas said. "In these remote atolls, we saw the healthiest coral, giant clam, and reef fish populations in the central and western Pacific. They are our

best baselines for what the ocean could look like if we truly let it be."

Safeguarding these ecologically vital waters through the establishment of the sanctuary was a historic milestone that strengthens national biodiversity, reinforces traditional stewardship, and positions the Marshall Islands as a dedicated global leader in marine protection and sustainable management.

Information from the ongoing research and surveys by MIMRA, NatGeo and other partners was featured during the second National Oceans Symposium in 2025 for leaders and the public to gain greater appreciation of the value of ocean resources

MIMRA BOARD MEMBERS

Chair: Minister Anthony M. Muller
V. Chair: Sen. David Kramer
Member: Mayor Ladie Jack
Member: Sen. Dennis Momotaro
Member: Anthony Paul
Member: Thomas Maddison
Member: Danny Wase

and oceanic fronts



Far left, an abundance of life found at Bikar and Bokak Atolls during the Pristine Seas' voyage in 2025. Above, Minister Tony Muller, front right, at the signing of a fisheries agreement with FSM and PNG.

and the need to conserve and sustainably manage them for future generations.

There were numerous developments in Oceanic fisheries that opened new opportunities for revenue generation through sustainable management.

The Marshall Islands joint venture partnership with The Nature Conservancy that established Pacific Island Tuna continued to expand the volume of sustainably caught tuna provided to Walmart and other American retail companies. Through its membership in the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, the Marshall Islands continued promoting and exploring opportunities for expanding tuna supply to the American retail market through involving other PNA member countries. The signing in February of a fisheries management agreement with the Federated States of Micronesia and Papua New Guinea aims to expand commercial partnerships, such as the one between Pacific Island Tuna and Walmart. By fostering this collaboration, the agreement is expected to increase economic returns, create local employment opportunities, and enhance value addition for Pacific communities. Ultimately, this initiative strengthens the region's leadership in the global market for responsible tuna fisheries, ensuring long-term benefits for the participating na-

tions and the broader Pacific region.

Later in the year, the Marshall Islands joined with the Cook Islands, FSM, Niue and Tuvalu to sign agreements needed to facilitate disbursement of funding to each country under the US Pacific Islands Tuna Treaty. To secure these funds, MIMRA actively advanced national ratification procedures, including preparing a Cabinet Paper and a Nitijela Resolution for consideration in early 2026, aimed at timely depositing the Instrument of Ratification with Papua New Guinea. This achievement significantly strengthened regional fisheries governance and financial accountability by ensuring Treaty benefits are accessed only by parties that meet their legal and institutional obligations. These efforts positioned the Marshall Islands to secure its allocation of US Treaty funding once the necessary requirements were completed.

The audit by the European Union of MIMRA's readiness to meet requirements for initiating exports of fish to the EU market was successfully concluded in December. It is expected to lead to additional follow up action in 2026. The fact that MIMRA was ready for the audit is a testament to the work of MIMRA staff to develop and implement the internal policies needed to satisfactorily meet inter-

national food safety requirements and address illegal fishing concerns coupled with trainings for private sector tuna processing companies and regular inspections and assessments of facilities and operations with the goal of helping processing companies make the improvements necessary to meet EU export rules.

MIMRA's fisheries observer program combined with the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance program to manage a world-leading fisheries monitoring program. This includes 100 percent coverage of tuna transshipment operations in Majuro Atoll, which is an important hub for the tuna industry. It also included many observer trips on both purse seine and longline fishing vessels to independently document catches by vessels fishing in Marshall Islands waters.

A key component of MIMRA's improved management capacity to implement all these programs has been the partnership with the World Bank's Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program for Economic Resilience (PROPER), a multi-year collaboration through which MIMRA has reaped numerous benefits.

It is through the dedication and hard work of MIMRA staff that so much was accomplished in 2025 — work that has set the stage for even greater implementation progress in 2026 and beyond.

Glen Joseph

OCEANIC



Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority

MIMRA's web homepage emphasizes the importance of the purse seine fishery to the Marshall Islands.

PNA partnership pays off across tuna value chain

Summary

If the year in Oceanic Fisheries could be summed up in a sentence, it would read like this: In 2025, MIMRA's Oceanic Division focused on value-adding to its participation in the Parties to the Nauru Agreement's Vessel Day Scheme by putting in place or expanding systems for sustainable development and management of the tuna fishery. Twenty to thirty years ago, the fisheries conversation was limited to how to get fishing companies to pay the Marshall Islands to fish in its waters with no connection to the market. Now, because of developments initiated by MIMRA in collaboration with partners in the region, the Marshall Islands has access to the market and the many layers of the tuna value chain.

Key to the Oceanic Division's pro-

gress in managing sustainable harvesting of tuna is its partnership with organizations such as the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Pacific Community (SPC), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), including through the FISH4ACP project.

The PNA provides the foundation — the management system — for sustainably managing the purse seine industry in the region. Marshall Islands membership in the PNA has brought significant benefits to the Marshall Islands since the PNA Office was established in Majuro in 2010 and the PNA's Vessel Day Scheme fully implemented. PNA brought about a paradigm shift in the purse seine tuna fishery from one controlled by the distant water fishing

nations to a fishery controlled by the resource owners. Virtually all MIMRA's tuna value chain initiatives derive from its participation in the PNA.

The work of the Oceanic Division in 2025 included:

- Supporting the joint venture with The Nature Conservancy, for the tuna supply company Pacific Island Tuna LLC, which is supplying sustainably caught tuna to Walmart and other United States retailers. At the beginning of 2025, Director Glen Joseph noted: "We've doubled the amount of tuna (provided to Walmart) compared to the beginning of the contract. And Walmart wants more." By the end of 2025, it was estimated that tuna supplied by PIT since 2022 accounted for at least 70 million cans of Walmart's Great Value canned tuna. Pacific Island Tuna and MIMRA pitched the opportunity



Food safety gains ground

to other members of the PNA to scale the tuna supply system for Walmart and other US retailers. The Pacific Island Tuna agreement with Walmart is the first such access to the US market for any PNA member.

- Expanding the work of the Competent Authority, which began showing fruits of this long-term investment started prior to Covid. In 2025, the Competent Authority was nearly fully operational with a new laboratory, additional staff, and policies and regulations approved by the MIMRA Board in 2025. The Competent Authority conducted multiple inspections of tuna processing facilities and provided training in hygiene and proper fish handling for employees working in processing plants. It also inspected fishing vessels to enforce a range of requirements for fish handling. All of the work of the Competent Authority is designed to open international fish export markets by preparing the Marshall Islands to meet international food hygiene standards as well as to prevent illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing. This work culminated with the first-ever audit by the European Union in December 2025 to evaluate the readiness of the Marshall Islands and the Competent Authority to meet stringent European Union rules for export tuna



MIMRA's Competent Authority team is devoted to ensuring that fish from the Marshall Islands meets international food hygiene standards. Pictured is a random sampling of the temperature of fish during a vessel unloading at PII's Kramer Dock in Majuro.

“The proposed PNA certification approach would seek to incorporate Pacific-specific principles, including social equity, traditional knowledge, and regional sustainability priorities.”

and other fish products.

- Promoting and supporting cooperation and partnership among PNA members on various initiatives, including the East New Britain Initiative (ENBi). As part of this work, the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Papua New Guinea have established a Tripartite Initiative to accelerate implementation of the ENBi in four key areas

for domestic development in the fisheries sector: Dockside offloading, inshore processing, electronic monitoring and scaling up Pacific Island Tuna.

- Promoting the development of a broader PNA fisheries certification standard that builds on the PNA's existing Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification. The PNA purse seine fishery is currently independently certified against the MSC standard covering eligible skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna caught in PNA waters. The proposed PNA certification approach would seek to incorporate Pacific-specific principles, including social equity, traditional knowledge, and regional sustainability priorities. This initiative would position the PNA as a global leader in premium, ethically sourced, and sustainable tuna. The development of a broader PNA fisheries certification standard has been supported by PNA Ministers, while PNA Leaders have also called for broader standards for the PNA tuna fisheries and, at their Fourth Summit held in September in Tuvalu, agree to prioritize strategic branding and market positioning that reflects the PNA's leadership in sustainability and innovation.

- Engaging with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's FISH4ACP project that provided substantial sup-



MIMRA Director Glen Joseph and Deputy Director of Oceanic Berry Muller at the WCPFC talks in Manila.

Joining in regional efforts

port and assistance for value adding to the existing tuna transshipment operation in Majuro. This included support for a partnership arrangement with MIMRA and Pacific International Inc. to purchase the first Mark 2 Star Loader to increase the speed and efficiency of tuna unloading of tuna at dockside from purse seine vessels into freezer containers.

- Working with the World Bank-funded Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program — Second Phase for Economic Resilience (PROPER) to continue strengthening the Competent Authority and enhance the capacity and effectiveness of the Oceanic Division's management work.

- Participating fully in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and its standing committees and working groups to promote sustainable management of tuna on the

high seas. In addition, the Oceanic Division participates in all PNA and FFA annual meetings, technical meetings and workshops, as well as monitoring, control and surveillance activities. Oceanic staff also work closely with scientists and researchers at the SPC, who provide regular assessments of Pacific tuna stocks.

- Engaging in regional initiatives supported by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) that seek to strengthen the resilience of Pacific Fisheries to climate change, including through improved fisheries systems, climate-informed forecasting and community access to tuna.

- Joining with the Cook Islands, FSM, Niue and Tuvalu to sign amendments required to facilitate disbursement of funding under the US Pacific Islands Tuna Treaty. MIMRA supported the national ratification process by prepar-

ing the necessary Cabinet Paper and a Nitijela Resolution for consideration in early 2026, with a view to completing the domestic requirements and depositing the Instrument of Ratification with Papua New Guinea, the Treaty depositary. This achievement significantly strengthened regional fisheries governance and financial accountability by ensuring Treaty benefits are accessed only by parties that meet their legal and institutional obligations. These efforts positioned the Marshall Islands to secure its allocation of US Treaty funding once the necessary requirements were completed.

- Continuing comprehensive monitoring of tuna transshipment and unloading operations conducted by purse seiners and longliners in Majuro Atoll. This is part of the broader Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) work of the Oceanic Division that includes



Record year for MIMRA's "eyes"

not only boarding and monitoring of vessels on arrival to Majuro port as well as monitoring tuna transshipment operations but also deployment of MIMRA fisheries observers on purse seine and longline vessel fishing trips. In addition to the use of fisheries observers to collect independent catch, scientific and compliance information, the Oceania Division uses a range of modern MCS technologies and systems, including satellite-based vessel monitoring, satellite imagery, electronic reporting, and specialized fisheries monitoring and intelligence applications to track vessel activity and support compliance and enforcement.

- The Oceanic Division's Observer Program had 52 active observers working during 2025. They provided coverage of 76 longline fishing trips — a record for the Observer Program. Overall, the 192 fisheries observer trips in 2025 were the highest since 2017.

WCPFC annual meeting

Every December, fisheries officials from the Marshall Islands and Forum Fisheries Agency countries join representatives from distant water fishing nations at the annual meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, where they negotiate regional conservation and management measures affecting tuna fisheries across



Some of the 52 active observers on board a purse seiner.

"Although this (albacore tuna) is not a primary fishery for the Marshall Islands, MIMRA supports effective management of all regional tuna stocks and the fisheries that depend on them."

the western and central Pacific Ocean, including on the high seas. But this year, many of the contentious tuna issues that the WCPFC dealt with in the past several years were not on the table, having been resolved through agreed-to conservation measures. The Tuna Com-

mission's flagship conservation mechanism — its tropical tuna measure — remained in place as it was adopted the previous year.

For the annual meeting in Manila in December, a range of fisheries management issues were considered, with two of particular importance to MIMRA:

- **South Pacific albacore tuna.** Management of South Pacific albacore has been a long-standing regional priority, particularly for FFA members whose EEZs support significant albacore fisheries. Although this is not a primary fishery for the Marshall Islands, MIMRA supports effective management of all regional tuna stocks and the fisheries that depend on them.

- **High seas tuna transshipment.** MIMRA continued to advocate for stronger management and oversight for tuna transshipment on the high seas, particularly in the longline industry,



There are documented benefits of in-port transshipments like this one in Majuro lagoon.

High seas reform hits a wall

with an emphasis on improved transparency, monitoring and compliance.

The annual meeting did endorse an Interim South Pacific albacore Tuna Management Procedure, definitely a step in the right direction. “The objective of the Interim Management Procedure for South Pacific albacore, is to ensure that: a) the spawning potential depletion ratio of South Pacific albacore is maintained on average at a level consistent with the target reference point; and b) the spawning potential depletion ratio of South Pacific albacore tuna is maintained above the limit reference point with a risk of the limit reference point being breached no greater than 20 percent.” This was aimed to “maintaining the economic performance of dependent fisheries together with reasonable levels of total catch, in a manner that achieves relative stability in fishing levels between management periods.”

The Interim Management Procedure established a Harvest Control Rule for South Pacific albacore and sets out an

ongoing process for implementation, monitoring and review. This includes roles for WCPFC’s Scientific Committee as well as the Science Services Provider in undertaking stock assessments, monitoring and evaluations and providing scientific advice to inform the Commission’s management decisions.

High seas transshipment is a concern raised for years by FFA members, including the Marshall Islands. But it’s proved a challenge to change the system used by several countries, particularly the longline industry. The benefits of in-port transshipments versus high seas transshipment are well known. There are documented benefits of in-port transshipments and the PNA requires that all purse seiners licensed to fish in their waters transship in the ports of PNA members. But the same does not apply to the longline industry, which fishes heavily on the high seas and transships there.

High seas transshipment raises concerns about lack of oversight for monitoring the fish caught, data that is used

to inform tuna stock assessments and monitor by-catch to ensure fishing companies follow established rules. “Even if the high seas fishing and transshipment is not illegal, it is underreported and not recorded,” Director Joseph said. “It’s a glaring difference from in-port transshipments.”

Not unexpectedly, the proposal for moving transshipments into ports did not gain consensus at the WCPFC annual meeting in December. Despite this, said Director Joseph, “the WCPFC has a moral and legal obligation to move transshipments from the high seas to ports. Forum Fisheries Agency members, including the Marshall Islands, will continue to push for transshipment reform.”

Regional fisheries engagement

At a fisheries summit in Honiara, Solomon Islands in February 2025, MIMRA leaders proposed new initia-



The tuna cartel idea revived

tives for the PNA, including expressing their support for the East New Britain Initiative.

“One of the greatest fisheries policy innovations in the world was the Vessel Day Scheme — a system that fundamentally reshaped how we, as custodians of the Pacific, manage our tuna stocks,” said Marshall Islands Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce Tony Muller, who chairs the MIMRA board, at the Honiara summit. In his speech, he highlighted other recent fisheries “pathways” for domestic development, including the East New Britain Initiative, the Pacific Island Tuna initiative for accessing the US market, and the Tuna Tripartite partnership that aims to increase the value achieved by Pacific Island nations through various methods such as domestic processing and providing access to the tuna market. “These initiatives are not just policies — they are bold steps towards an era where the Pacific takes full ownership of its fisheries resources,” Muller said.

Beyond these initiatives, Minister Muller said the Marshall Islands is now proposing a Parties to the Nauru Agreement Cartel, which would build on the PNA’s existing collective fisheries management arrangement by seeking greater Pacific control and influence over tuna access, supply, value chains and markets.

Former CEO of the PNA Office in



MIMRA Chair and Minister Tony Muller on the Vessel Day Scheme: “(It’s) one of the greatest fisheries policy innovations in the world.”

“The proposed Blue Pacific Fisheries Standard (BPFS) incorporates Pacific-specific principles, including social equity, traditional knowledge, and region sustainability priorities.”

Majuro, Dr. Transform Aqorau, who is now the vice-chancellor of the Solomon Islands National University, pointed out that the idea of a PNA Cartel is “aimed at consolidating Pacific control over tuna pricing, access, and supply. While the concept of a fisheries cartel was first mooted in 2009, this is an immediate and actionable next step to strengthen Pacific economic sovereignty in the

global tuna market.”

Currently, PNA’s purse seine fishery is certified against Marine Stewardship Council standards for eligible skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna catches. The MSC is a global entity that audits fisheries and issues its stamp of approval to those that meet international standards for fishing.

The Marshall Islands is promoting a new certification model for PNA to manage. The proposed Blue Pacific Fisheries Standard (BPFS) incorporates Pacific-specific principles, including social equity, traditional knowledge, and region sustainability priorities. Significantly, this is intended to strengthen the PNA as a global leader in premium, ethically sourced, and sustainable tuna.

The principle behind these concepts is that these standards will ensure that the world’s biggest tuna markets — Europe, the United States, and Japan — will recognize the superior quality and sustainability of fish caught in the Pacific.



The 19th PNA Ministerial Meeting was held in Tarawa, Kiribati, in June.

‘The time for action is now’

In his speech, Muller called on global financial institutions, regional development banks and donor partners to invest directly in Pacific-led fisheries initiatives and proposed:

- A Pacific Ocean and Fisheries Development Fund, co-managed by Pacific governments and regional fisheries agencies, to invest in community-based fisheries management, ocean conservation, and climate resilience.

- By 2027, at least 30 percent of all climate and ocean finance allocated to the Pacific should be earmarked for locally-led marine governance initiatives.

- Expanding access to blue bonds, debt relief, and sustainable finance mechanisms to enable Pacific nations to invest in fisheries sovereignty.

“The time for action is now. Together, let us stand as stewards of the Blue Pacific Continent — for our ancestors, for our future generations, and for the world,” he said.

In September, at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Honiara, MIMRA Director Joseph took the opportunity to promote game-changing

“As part of the Leaders’ dialogue with the private sector, (Glen Joseph) spoke on successful regional and sub-regional initiatives of the FFA and PNA such as Pacific Island Tuna...”

opportunities in the fisheries sector. As part of the Leaders’ dialogue with the private sector, he spoke on successful regional and sub-regional initiatives of the FFA and PNA such as the Pacific Island Tuna, the East New Britain Initiative and other fisheries initiatives, and the critical roles in which the private sector can assist in expanding opportunities to regional and global markets. In addition, Director Joseph expanded on the role of the Tripartite Members

to the ENBi (FSM, Marshall Islands and Papua New Guinea) premised on four key areas for domestic development in the fisheries sector: Dock-side Offloading, Inshore Processing, Electronic Monitoring and Upscaling PIT. He also highlighted the endorsement by PNA Leaders at the 4th PNA Leaders Summit in Tuvalu of the key proposals put forward by the Marshall Islands. These included the Blue Pacific Fisheries Standard, greater use of PNA’s collective market power to increase the value and economic returns from its tuna resources, and work toward closing the eastern high seas to purse seine fishing as a condition of access to PNA EEZs.

PNA Ministers and Leaders

The 19th PNA Ministerial Meeting was held in Tarawa, Kiribati from 3 to 4 June 2025 with the eight Parties and Tokelau, as well as Vanuatu. This was Vanuatu’s second time to attend and participate in the PNA Ministerial Meet-



MIMRA Director Glen Joseph promoted regional fisheries initiatives that expand domestic economic opportunities when he spoke to leaders at the Pacific Islands Forum in Honiara.

Pacific tuna stocks healthy

ing since they joined the PNA Longline VDS in 2024. An important focus of the meeting acknowledged PNA's success in managing sustainable fisheries and emphasized the need to now move beyond the VDS into maximizing economic returns from the shared tuna resources. Key developments reported by the PNA Office included completion of four external financials audits, the new Strategic Plan for 2026-2030, and the newly launched Capacity Development Program for PNAO operations. A key development was PNA's Purse Seine Fishery being recertified under the MSC for a further five years with the scope extended to cover FAD sets.

A good portion of the meeting focused on fisheries development using the VDS as a foundation. Ministers em-

phasized the priority for domestic tuna development through implementing the East New Britain and Tripartite Initiatives. Through these Initiatives, PNA members can build on the achievements in managing PNA tuna fisheries to generate revenue and conserve stocks to secure a greater share of the wealth created throughout the tuna value chain. This included increased Pacific Islands participation and collaboration in on-shore tuna activities through the East New Britain Initiative Working Group.

Ministers discussed PNA Members encouraging greater investment in on-shore tuna handling and processing, which is particularly important when there is increased economic uncertainty around tuna trade.

Ministers were briefed on the status

of tuna stocks by scientists from the Pacific Community. They reported to the ministers that all four tropical tuna stocks in PNA waters continue to be assessed as healthy. Coupled with the tuna stock report, ministers were encouraged to see continued stable tuna catches and effort in the main tuna fisheries in the region, which indicated the effectiveness of regional tuna fisheries management, especially through the PNA VDS.

In September, PNA Leaders gathered in Tuvalu for their 4th Leaders Summit. The Leaders endorsed the range of initiatives put forth by the PNA Ministers at their earlier meeting, demonstrating the solidarity among PNA members and appreciation for the need as the resource owners to take engagement in the fishery to the next level. The endorsement



A purse seiner's tuna catch being unloaded onto the Star Loader at the Kramer Dock.

Loader a game-changer

by the Leaders reaffirmed the central importance of PNA collaboration in the management and development of PNA tuna fisheries for the benefit of people in these islands.

Among key initiatives endorsed by the Leaders:

- Harnessing PNA strengths in maintaining healthy stocks and tuna fisheries to unlock a new era of value creation, strategic branding, and market positioning that reflects the PNA's leadership in sustainability and innovation.

- The implementation of the East New Britain Initiative to develop regional hubs and spokes to support fisheries development and growth within the Pacific Islands and to establish a regional development fund to address the high capital costs.

- Collaboration between Kiribati and Solomon Islands through a Memorandum of Understanding for development of the Bina Harbour Tuna Processing Plant as a fine example of PNA collaboration implementing the East New Britain Initiative.

“Progress in the implementation of the Pacific Island Tuna Venture working with boatowners and Walmart and other major tuna retailers to source and supply sustainably caught tuna.”

- Progress in the implementation of the Pacific Island Tuna Venture working with boatowners and Walmart and other major tuna retailers to source and supply sustainably caught tuna from PNA tuna fisheries.

- The initiative by the Tripartite Parties (Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Papua New Guinea) to accelerate the development and implementation of the ENBi in

four main areas – Dockside Offloading, Electronic Monitoring, In-Region Processing and Scaling Pacific Island Tuna, and welcome in particular the opportunities for participation by other PNA Members in the Tripartite Group Arrangements.

- Adoption of strategies to use PNA's collective market power as a major player in the global tuna industry, to increase the value of tuna and maximize economic returns for both governments and vessel operators by strategically managing tuna supply, access rights, and market integration.

FISH4ACP milestone

The “Mark 2 Star” tuna loader arrived in mid-2025 and has been hailed by everyone as a game-changing technology that is expected to support significantly increased dockside tuna transshipment, expanding employment, business opportunities and revenue generation from tuna transshipment.



Moving double the tuna tonnage

The tuna loader was officially handed over to the tuna industry and port services company Pacific International Inc. (PII) at its Kramer Dock in October to coincide with the visit of European Union Ambassador to the Pacific Barbara Plinkert.

The tuna loader was co-financed by the FISH4ACP project, an initiative of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States contributing to food and nutrition security, economic prosperity and job creation by ensuring the economic, social and environmental sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture value chains in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. FISH4ACP is implemented by FAO and partners with funding from the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Before mechanization, workers unloaded an average of 10 metric tons per hour so it would take two and a half hours to fill one container. In the first six months of its operation, the amount of tuna unloaded nearly doubled to 19 metric tons an hour. Faster unloading helps maintain fish quality while reducing the time purse seiners spend in port, allowing them to return to the fishing grounds sooner, increasing the attractiveness of unloading at dockside into freezer containers for export to offshore canneries.

“The Marshall Islands aims to reshape the tuna transshipment industry



The PII crew approves of the new tuna loader.

by dramatically increasing the percentage of tuna that is unloaded at the dock into freezer containers — which means more jobs, business and revenue for the local economy,” said Director Joseph, speaking about the reason for purchasing the tuna loader. “The new tuna loader is an important part of this strategy to raise the level of tuna unloaded on shore from about five percent to 30 percent in the next several years. We view the mechanized tuna loader as a game changer for the Marshall Islands’ participation in this important part of the tuna value chain.” He expressed MIMRA’s appreciation for the partnership with the FAO and the European Union, “which are supporting our expanding participation in the tuna value chain.”

At the handover ceremony for the tuna loader in Majuro, EU Ambassador Plinkert said: “The European Union has collaborated with the Marshall Islands through the FISH4ACP project to successfully identify and implement ways for this Western Pacific na-

tion to develop its participation in the tuna transshipment business to expand benefits to the domestic economy. The purchase and delivery of the first tuna loader for the Marshall Islands is one important step in the process of increasing engagement of the Marshall Islands in the tuna transshipment value chain. This project with the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization has proved the value of collaboration for the benefit of a small island developing nation.”

Walmart deal grows

The Marshall Islands tuna supply deal with US retail giant Walmart continued to grow in 2025.

By the end of the year, it was estimated that tuna provided through the MIMRA joint venture tuna supply company Pacific Island Tuna had produced over 70 million cans of Walmart’s house brand Great Value tuna. In 2024,



Total Catch Purse Seine Fleets* in the Marshall Islands EEZ 2016-2025

Year	SKJ	YFT	BET	OTH	Total
2016	72,329	5,790	648	0	78,767
2017	22,765	2,901	788	65	26,519
2018	26,424	2,168	253	58	28,903
2019	4,806	65	410	11	5,394
2020	28,915	7,000	871	55	36,841
2021	35,842	18,270	514	14	54,640
2022	38,655	1,918	523	28	41,123
2023	39,435	1,484	3,228	67	44,232
2024	30,943	2,495	330	0	33,768
2025	19,253	5,592	1,642	0	26,487++

Figures are metric tons. * Kiribati, Marshall Islands, FSM, Taiwan, Solomon Islands, Nauru, S. Korea, Tuvalu (listed in order of catch tonnage).

Key: SKJ=Skipjack Tuna, YFT=Yellowfin Tuna, BET=Bigeye Tuna, OTH=Other. ++ 2025 tonnage is provisional.

Total Catch Longline Fleets* in the Marshall Islands EEZ 2016-2025

Year	ALB	BET	YFT	OTH	Total
2016	67	1,522	1,127	420	3,136
2017	71	1,698	1,389	445	3,603
2018	52	2,210	1,262	316	3,840
2019	134	1,974	1,699	410	4,269
2020	21	1,640	1,282	256	3,199
2021	122	1,677	1,136	331	3,265
2022	233	1,636	1,347	368	3,584
2023	160	2,018	949	284	3,411
2024	344	2,624	2,180	0	6,188
2025	165	2,489	1,834	445	4,933++

Figures are metric tons. *Marshall Islands chartered.

Key: ALB=Albacore, BET=Bigeye Tuna, YFT=Yellowfin Tuna, OTH=Other.

Total Catch Pole-and-Line Fleet* in the Marshall Islands EEZ 2016-2025

Year	BET	SKJ	YFT	Total
2016	0	429	1	430
2017	0	72	0	72
2018	0	1,017	1	1,018
2019	0	1,022	2	1,024
2020	0	2,223	9	2,619
2021	2	761	14	777
2022	0	880	13	893
2023	0	516	0	516
2024	0	27	0	27
2025	0	541	0	541++

Figures are metric tons. * Pole-and-line fleet is exclusively Japan.

Key: BET=Bigeye Tuna, SKJ=Skipjack Tuna, YFT=Yellowfin Tuna.

Source: MIMRA Oceanic Division

PNA group wins access to US stores



the second full year of the arrangement with Walmart, Pacific Island Tuna doubled the amount of tuna delivered to Walmart canneries compared to the first year. And Walmart wanted an increasing volume of supply of sustainably harvested tuna in PNA waters.

Pacific Island Tuna signed up the Marshall Islands domestic purse seine fleet and purse seiners from other PNA countries to provide free school caught tuna that meets international sustainability standards. This is the tuna that is funneled to Walmart canneries in the Philippines and Thailand by Pacific Island Tuna.

During 2025, MIMRA and the Oceanic Division continued promoting the opportunity to other PNA members to join in supplying tuna to the American retail market. The Walmart arrangement provides for two important developments for PNA members: Access for sustainably caught tuna to the US market, an important market for tuna exports; and increases the participation of PNA members in the tuna value chain to generate revenue beyond simply selling licenses and fishing days to fishing boats.

Tuna transshipment operations pick up

Tuna transshipments in 2025 rebounded after one of the worst years in over a decade. There were an estimated 193 purse seine transshipments and unloadings undertaken in Majuro in 2025 with a provisional total of 147,608 metric tons transshipped. The 193 trans-



Provisional purse seine transshipments & landings in Majuro in 2025

Flag	Number of PS Transshipments	SKJ	YFT	BET	Total
China	3	1,591	155	34	1,780
Federated States of Micronesia	42	24,890	6,194	2,186	33,270
Marshall Islands	46	26,272	5,441	2,455	34,168
Nauru	44	24,421	5,347	2,282	32,050
Taiwan	48	26,560	8,167	1,955	36,682
Tuvalu	10	8,207	1,028	423	9,658
Total	193	111,941	26,331	9,336	147,608

Source: MIMRA Oceanic Division.

Note: The numbers listed under different tuna species are metric tons.

Key:
SKJ: Skipjack;
YFT: Yellowfin;
BET: Bigeye.

Transshipments rebound

shipments was 21 percent higher than the 15-year low of 160 in 2024. While this remained well below pre-Covid transshipment numbers, the 2025 number was a solid rebound.

According to provisional tonnage estimates, purse seine transshipments in 2025 accounted for 147,608 metric tons (mt) of tuna, an average of 765 tons moved per transshipment. This was also well above the 2024 volume of 116,915mt of tuna transshipped. The number of dockside unloadings or combined unloadings and transshipments to carrier vessels in the lagoon declined in 2025 to 30 (22 combined unloadings/transshipments, and eight unloadings), compared to 35 in 2024. As usual, Taiwan-flagged purse seiners accounted for the most transshipments with 48, 25 per-cent of the total. But in 2025, three other flags transshipped over 40 times: Second were Marshall Islands-flagged vessels with 46, then Nauru-flagged vessels with 44, and Federated States of Micronesia- flagged vessels with 42. Tuvalu vessels transshipped 10 times

"MIMRA's Oceanic Division has been recognized internationally for its monitoring, control and surveillance program over the past several years."

and China-flagged vessels transshipped on three occasions.

Fishing was concentrated in the western Pacific during much of the year, meaning that other PNA ports were closer to the fishing grounds for transshipment than Majuro.

Another element in the transshipment picture is the world class Port State measures used and enforced by the Oceanic Division for visiting fishing vessels. MIMRA's Oceanic Division has been recognized internationally for its monitoring, control and surveillance

program over the past several years. In 2024, for example, the Marshall Islands became a Party to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Agreement on Port State Measure to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) to indicate its agreement and compliance with international port management rules. All of these initiatives, combined with MIMRA's daily, ongoing work in monitoring the tuna industry, is part of elevating the level of compliance by the Marshall Islands with international best practices. This is essential for properly managing inbound fishing vessels but also sets Majuro port apart from some other ports in the region that may not enforce the same level of compliance for fishing vessels.

MIMRA's Fisheries Observer Program had over 50 active observers in 2025. They accomplished 192 total fishing trips during the year, the highest 12-month total since 2017. They also set a record for the most-ever trips on longline vessels with 76 ac-



Leaner year for RMI purse seiners

completed during the year. The latter is fulfilling a goal of the Oceanic Division for expanded coverage of longline vessels fishing in the Marshall Islands EEZ. The 76 trips on longliners in 2025 amounted to a 78 percent increase over the 43 in 2024. This was also 40 percent of the total fishing trips observers went on, another record for MIMRA's Observer Program.

Tuna tonnage in 2025

In 2025, the 11 Marshall Islands-flagged purse seine vessels operating throughout the Western and Central Pacific Ocean caught 68,768 metric tons of tuna. This volume was well below the 90,156mt the 11 vessels caught in 2024.

Additionally, retained catch estimates, from 40 chartered longline vessels associated with the domestically based Marshall Islands Fishing Venture (MIFV), totaled 5,102mt (raised estimates). This nearly matched the 2024 catch level of the chartered longline vessels of 5,148mt.

The commercial catches within the RMI EEZ are taken predominantly by the purse seine fishery but longline and pole-and-line operations also occur. In 2025, estimated total catch for all gears combined was 31,961mt with purse seiners accounting for 85 percent followed by longline 13 percent

Number of foreign longline, pole-and-line and purse seine vessels licensed to fish in RMI EEZ, by year and flag, from 2021 to 2025.	Flag	Gear	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Source: MIMRA Oceanic Division	China	LL	18	22	29	29	31
		PS	9	10	12	12	11
	FSM	LL	12	11	10	11	9
		FSMA	PS	83	79	86	93
	Japan	LL	2	1	6	0	0
		PL	25	3	13	5	8
		PS	29	22	25	28	22
	Kiribati	PS	4	2	2	0	0
	South Korea	PS	21	20	22	16	0
	Nauru	PS	0	0	2	0	2
Sub-total	Philippines	PS	15	15	6	0	0
		LL	0	0	0	0	0
	Taiwan	PS	21	23	22	21	18
		PS	1	1	1	1	1
	Tuvalu	PS	0	0	3	2	0
	Vanuatu	PS	0	0	0	0	0
	USA	PS	0	0	0	0	0
	Total/Year	LL	32	34	45	38	40
		PL	25	3	13	5	8
		PS	183	172	181	173	143
Total/Year			240	232	239	216	191



Marshall Islands 201 uploads its catch to a transshipment vessel.

and pole-and-line 2 percent. The purse seine catch in the Marshall Islands EEZ decreased from 33,768mt in 2024 to 26,487mt in 2025.

A total of 143 purse seiners were licensed to fish in Marshall Islands waters in 2025. This was a decline from the 173 the previous year. The number of pole-and-line vessels was up to eight from five in 2024. Chartered longline

vessels licensed to fish amounted to 40, up slightly on the 38 the previous year. Altogether, 191 vessels were licensed to fish in Marshall Islands EEZ, though not all necessarily fished.

The catch levels by different fishing gear operating in the Marshall Islands EEZ during 2025:

- **Pole-and-line catches:** The catch by Japanese pole-and-line vessels



DARK VESSELS

They can run, but they can't hide



The Forum Fisheries Agency, supported by the Australian government, provided air surveillance support to MIMRA and other fisheries agencies in the region to monitor fishing activity in their EEZs.

MIFV's tuna tonnage down

bumped up considerably in 2025 compared to the previous year. A total of 541mt of skipjack tuna were caught by the eight licensed vessels. This compared to only 27mt caught by five vessels operating in the Marshall Islands EEZ in 2024. The number of pole-and-line vessels licensed to fish in Marshall Islands waters has declined since 25 in 2021. In three of the four following years, pole-and-line vessels were limited to single digits.

• **Longline catches:** The total tonnage caught by longline vessels amounted to 4,933mt in 2025. This was below the 6,188mt of 2024 but higher than the annual tonnage from 2021-2023. This tuna tonnage was caught entirely by the 40 chartered vessels associated with the Majuro-based MIFV. The 40 longline vessels licensed to fish in 2025 was about the same as 2024 (38).



Tuna being off-loaded at Majuro-based MIFV.



The Koo's 102 uploads fish to the Seita Maru in Majuro lagoon.

Kiribati top seine tonnage

Bigeye tuna accounted for over half of the total catch of 4,933mt. An estimate 2,489mt of bigeye were caught in 2025. Yellowfin tuna was next with 1,834mt tons caught. “Other” species accounted for 445mt, and 165mt of albacore was caught.

In contrast to the purse seine fishery, which is mostly concentrated in the southern waters of the Marshall Islands EEZ, longline fishing is more widely dispersed throughout the EEZ.

• **Purse seine catch:** Preliminary data show that purse seine vessels caught 26,487mt of tuna in the Marshall Islands EEZ in 2025. The 33,768mt caught in 2024 was the lowest total in five years, which makes 2025's total a six-year low. Kiribati-flagged vessels caught the largest portion of this total tonnage, with 10,667mt. This amounted

“Skipjack tuna dominated the purse seine catch with 19,253mt in 2025. This was followed by yellowfin tonnage of 5,592mt, and bigeye tuna with 330mt.”

to 40 percent of the catch in the Marshall Islands EEZ. Marshall Islands vessels caught the next highest amount with 6,271mt or 24 percent of the total. FSM-flagged vessels caught 3,234mt, Taiwan vessels caught 2,588mt, Solomon Islands vessels caught 1,272mt, Nauru vessels netted 1,270mt, S. Ko-

rea vessels caught 717mt, and Tuvalu brought in 468 tons.

Skipjack tuna dominated the purse seine catch with 19,253mt in 2025. This was followed by yellowfin tonnage of 5,592mt, and bigeye tuna with 330mt. Catch levels in the Marshall Islands EEZ are usually influenced by locations of the tuna schools and prevailing environmental conditions, with higher catch rates usually recorded during or immediately following strong El Niño periods.

Onshore processing, exports

Total volume of exports in 2025 was 12,332 metric tons with whole containerized tuna exports making up the majority. MIFV and PII have steadily in-



PIT has highest volume of exports

creased their numbers of containerized whole tuna exports in recent years. PIT exported the highest volume of whole tuna at 3,548 metric tons in 2025. The Marshall Islands continued to engage in projects to increase onshore opportunities with national stakeholders and partners.

The Pan Pacific Foods loining plant continued operations in 2025. These, however, were limited to cold storage and containerization of fish. As has been reported before, the company also operates six RMI-flagged purse seine vessels which supply the plant with raw materials.

The plant did not produce any processed fish during 2025 due in part to ongoing renovations but continued to land fish for containerized exports.

The largest volume of whole tuna exports in 2025, 3,869mt, went to China. Second was the Philippines with 3,431mt. Exports to other countries included: Thailand 3,213mt, Vietnam 1,016mt, Taiwan 601mt, and Japan 202mt.

Pacific International Inc.'s Kramer Dock saw continuing strong use by the fishing industry and other vessels in 2025. PII handled 30 tuna unloadings, an 11 percent increase from the previous year.

The volume of tuna unloadings was 8,273mt filling 319 containers — both figures slightly lower than 2024. Great expansion was seen in the net repair



World Tuna Day attracted several hundred people to watch and participate in the tuna cutting and sashimi competitions.

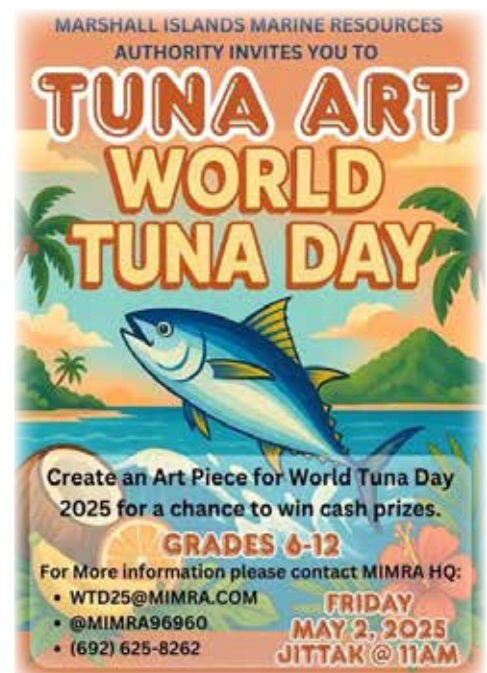
operation. Kramer Dock assisted 33 vessels with net repair, its highest total ever and 230 percent increase over 2024. It also assisted 11 vessels with water or bunkering.

World Tuna Day

The Oceanic Division sponsored World Tuna Day in May 2025. Each year for the past several years that the division has sponsored this day the participation has grown.

In 2025, the event was held at the Jittak restaurant facility.

As usual, the tuna cutting and sashimi competitions were highly competitive, drawing great interest from the crowd. The tuna preparations were judged and prizes awarded. Several hundred people attended and participated in the event in 2025.





Fisheries Observer trips by flag and gear 2025

Flag	Purse Seine	Longline
Taiwan	75	0
FSMA/FM	27	0
FSMA/Nauru	6	0
FSMA/Kiribati	4	0
FSMA/Tuvalu	3	0
FSMA/TW	1	0
MIFV China	0	76
Total	116	76

Key: FSMA=FSM Arrangement vessels;
FM=Federated States of Micronesia;
MIFV=Marshall Islands Fishing Venture.

OBSERVER PROGRAM

MIMRA's eyes provide

The 52 fisheries observers working for the MIMRA Observer Program set an all-time record in 2025 for most trips on longline fishing vessels ever. A total of 192 fishing trips were covered by MIMRA observers — 116 purse seiner trips and 76 longline fishing trips. Although the 192 total trips was not an all-time record, it was the highest number since 2017. It also demonstrated MIMRA's goal for increasing observer coverage on longline vessel fishing trips.

MIMRA observers conducted 75 bilateral trips with 2,170 seadays and 41 PNA trips with a total of 1,316 seadays. The 116 trips on purse seiners involved 3,486 sea days. The 76 longliner trips amounted to 1,153 sea days. They also are involved in monitoring of purse seine vessel transshipments to carrier vessels in Majuro lagoon and at dockside for freezer container export. They also monitor longline vessels unloading at the Marshall Islands Fishing Venture's processing facility in Majuro.

Observers provide crucial information to MIMRA and regional fisheries managers that is used to document and verify catches of tuna and bycatch. The data collected by the observers is provided to MIMRA's Ob-

server Program for review, verification and sharing with regional organizations that manage tuna stock assessments.

The Observer Program consists of 5 staff: Compliance officer Makbi Bwijko, data specialist Ziggy Duffy, data entry/debriefer and assessor Jacob Keju, longline port sampler Lomodro Jibas, and observer trainer Iaokiri Barai. In addition to the Observer Program five staff members, the program also has six Pacific Islands Regional Fisheries Observer (PIFRO) certified debriefers: Jacob, Iaokiri and Makbi are joined in this capacity by Observers Paul Capelle, Alington Abij, and Lawrence Jitiam. In addition, Iaokiri and Johnstill Vili are certified PIFRO observer trainers. Newly certified debriefer assessors are Paul and Lawrence Jitiam.

PIFRO is a standardized training and certification program managed in collaboration with the Forum Fisheries Agency and the Pacific Community (SPC) to monitor tuna and other fisheries across the Pacific.

The Observer Program led numerous trainings for its 52 observers during 2025. These included:

- Tag Seeding and Recovery was con-

ducted in 30-31 January 2025: seven trainees, four males and three females.

- Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) training conducted 10-21 March 2025: 12 trainees, all males.

- Basic Observer Training 26 March-8 May 2025: 12 trainees, all males.

- MSC Refresher first cohort conducted 20-22 August 2025: 18 Trainees, 15 males, 3 females).

- MSC Refresher second cohort conducted 10-12 September 2025: 19 trainee: 16 males, 3 females.

- Biological Sampling Training conducted 15-19 September 2025: 14 trainees (11 males, 3 females).

Observer Program staff also participated in professional development workshops and meetings throughout the year. These included:

- Marine Stewardship Council Trainer Workshop 20-23 January 2025: Iaokiri, Jacob, Ziggy and Makbi.

- PNA Observer Coordinators Meeting 12-13-14 February 2025: Makbi and Ziggy

- Regional Observer Coordinator Workshop ROCW24 25-28 February 2025: Ziggy.



Fisheries Observer trips 2016-2025

Year	PS	LL	Total
2016	175	28	203
2017	153	39	192
2018	145	34	179
2019	141	33	174
2020	20	12	32*
2021	0	23	23*
2022	9	0	9*
2023	94	23	117
2024	135	43	178
2025	116	76	192

* Observer coverage restricted due to Covid .
Source: MIMRA Oceanic Division.



crucial verification info



The MIMRA Observer team takes part in numerous types of trainings related to safety at sea. These include learning how to deal with liferafts from deployment to boarding the survival devices.





Oceanic highlights

Tuna tonnage

Tuna transshipments using Majuro port rebounded in 2025, with 193. While this remained well below pre-Covid transshipment numbers, the 2025 number was 21 percent higher than the 15-year low of 160 in 2024. According to provisional tonnage estimates, purse seine transshipments in 2025 accounted for 147,608 metric tons (mt) of tuna, an average of 765 tons moved per transshipment. This was also well above the 2024 volume of 116,915mt of tuna transshipped. The number of dockside unloadings or combined unloadings and transshipments to carrier vessels in the lagoon declined in 2025 to 30 (22 combined unloadings/transshipments, and eight unloadings), compared to the 35 in 2024. As usual, Taiwan-flagged purse seiners accounted for the most transshipments with 48, 25 percent of the total. But in 2025, three other flags transshipped over 40 times: Second were Marshall Islands-flagged vessels with 46, Nauru-flagged vessels with 44, and Federated States of Micronesia-flagged vessels with 42. Tuvalu vessels transshipped 10 times and China-flagged vessels transshipped on three occasions.

VDS revenue

Purse seine Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) revenue rebounded in 2025, with a five percent increase over the previous year. A total of \$22,853,000 was generated by PNA's VDS, almost a million dollars more than 2024. Fishing rights revenue saw an over 50 percent increase due largely to increased revenue associated with the US-Pacific Islands Tuna Treaty. Fishing rights generated \$4,828,281 in 2025 compared to \$3,143,116 in 2024. Licensing fees declined by four percent due to a drop in the number of vessels registered to fish in Marshall Islands waters. Total net operating revenues of \$30,608,959 amounted to an eight percent increase over the previous year.



Tuna transshipments Majuro 2016-25

Year Number Metric Tons *Average

2016	551	403,809	733
2017	424	292,754	690
2018	403	307,164	762
2019	449	362,454	807
2020	175	118,743	679
2021	298	221,609	743
2022	257	218,759	851
2023	294	229,239	780
2024	160	116,915	731
2025	193	147,608**	765

*Average metric tonnage per transshipment.
** Provisional total mt.

Source:
MIMRA
Oceanic
Division.

Vessel licenses

For the first time in over 10 years, the number of vessels licensed to fish in Marshall Islands waters declined below 200, with 191 licensed. This reflected location of tuna schools in the region. The breakdown was 143 purse seine, 40 longline, and eight pole-and-line vessels. As is the case each year, not all licensed vessels fished in the Marshall Islands EEZ during the year.

Funding to RMI

MIMRA transferred \$25,200,000 in revenue generated from the VDS, fish-

ing rights, and related Oceanic Division revenue sources to support the national government's budget in 2025, a reduction from the \$29,960,000 provided in 2024.

National fleet

The Marshall Islands-flagged purse seine fleet of 11 vessels caught an estimated 68,768mt of tuna in the Marshall Islands EEZ, a decline from 2024. In addition, the provisional catch of the 40 chartered longline vessels associated with the Majuro-based Marshall Islands Fishing Venture totaled 5,102mt, up from the 4,472mt caught the previous year.



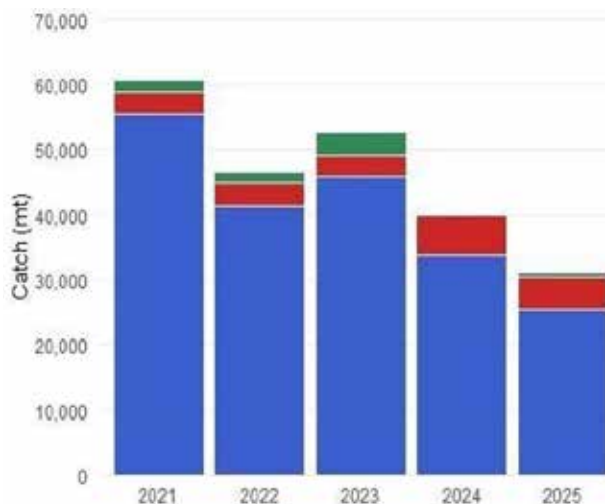
for MIMRA in 2025



PII's Kramer Dock is a hub of activity, with unloading of tuna from purse seiners, movement of freezer containers filled with tuna, and net repair — often happening simultaneously.

Total catch by different fishing gear types operating in the RMI EEZ from 2021 to 2025

■ Pole & Line
■ Longline
■ Purse Seine



caught in the Marshall Islands EEZ by purse seine, longline and pole and line vessels in 2025. The volume declined from 2024 by 17 percent due to location of tuna schools to the west of Marshall Islands. Most of this volume — 83 percent — was caught by purse seiners, while longline vessels accounted for 15 percent of the total catch and pole and line vessels picked up the balance.

Onshore processing, exports

Pan Pacific Foods (PPF) tuna plant continued operations in 2025 but activities remained limited primarily to cold storage and containerization of fish, with no processed fish production during the year. The company again did not produce processed fish. PPF also operates six domestically flagged purse seiners. PPF, PII and the Marshall Islands Fishing Venture combined to export to offshore canneries 12,332mt tons of whole tuna in freezer containers. Both PII and MIFV have steadily increased the volume of freezer containers of whole tuna exports. During 2025, Pacific Island Tuna Provisions, which supplies Walmart canneries, exported 3,548mt of tuna. The largest volume of whole tuna exports in 2025, 3,869mt, went to China. Second was the Philippines with 3,431mt. Exports to other countries included: Thailand 3,213mt, Vietnam 1,016mt, Taiwan 601mt, and Japan 202mt.

PII vessel service

Pacific International Inc.'s Kramer Dock saw continuing strong use by the fishing industry and other vessels in 2025. PII handled 30 tuna unloadings, an 11 percent increase from the previous year. The volume of tuna unloadings was 8,273mt filling 319 containers — both figures slightly lower than 2024. Great expansion was seen in the net repair operation. Kramer Dock assisted 33 vessels with net repair, its highest total ever and 230 percent increase over 2024. It also assisted 11 vessels with water or bunkering.

Observer action

MIMRA's 52 active fisheries observers ramped up the number of trips on purse seiner and long liner vessels in 2025 to the highest in nine years. Observers carried out 116 purse seine trips and 76 longline trips during 2025 for a total of 192 trips. This was the most fishing trips covered by observers since 2017. The 76 trips on longline vessels were the most ever for MIMRA observers

RMI EEZ tonnage

An estimated 31,961mt of tuna was

COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Maintaining tuna export confidence, food safety

Introduction

During 2025, the Republic of the Marshall Islands Competent Authority (RMI-CA), under MIMRA, continued development and ongoing implementation of audits and inspections, verification and monitoring activities, and export control arrangements governing fish and fishery products intended for export markets, including preparations associated with future European Union (EU) market access.

Work during the year focused on improving inspection procedures, export certification processes, traceability systems, sampling activities, and regulatory documentation necessary to support food safety oversight and export requirements.

In several areas, implementation involved gradual formalization of procedures and administrative systems that had previously operated under more limited arrangements. Attention therefore remained directed toward improving consistency of regulatory oversight across the fisheries export supply chain.

Given the importance of tuna fisheries to the Marshall Islands economy, continued attention also remained directed toward maintaining export confidence and improving food safety oversight arrangements associated with international market requirements.

Technical assistance was provided throughout the year by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Market Access Team. The assistance from the Market Access Team was important to the Competent Authority, particularly in areas relating to inspection systems, audit preparedness, and regulatory guidance.

The Competent Authority received



New CA Officers Edgar Morales and Patrick Lanwi. Above right, learning aseptic techniques for water sample collections at PII.

continuous support from the Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce, the Board of MIMRA, the Executive Director, MIMRA leadership, and the entire MIMRA team.

Activities undertaken during 2025 support broader national objectives relating to food safety assurance, export readiness, and increased international confidence in the fisheries sector of the Marshall Islands

Human resource development and capacity building

Priority during the reporting period continued to be directed toward development of operational and technical capacity associated with increasing inspection and regulatory responsibilities.

Two additional Competent Authority Officers were recruited during the year, bringing the Competent Authority team to a total of three Officers and one Man-

ager. The newly recruited officers continued to undergo practical and technical training under supervision as part of ongoing institutional development activities.

Training and technical guidance throughout the year focused on: Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) verification and compliance monitoring; inspection and official control procedures; traceability and export certification systems; sanitation and hygiene verification; sampling and monitoring procedures; and EU market access preparedness.

Capacity-building activities were supported through field inspections, procedural reviews, internal guidance, and continued engagement with regional technical partners, including the FFA Market Access Team.

Attention was also directed toward improving inspection reporting, verification procedures, regulatory documentation, and administrative record management.



The inspection team with FFA Market Access Advisor Ratu Jope Tamani at Pan Pacific Foods Processing Plant. Above left, fishing vessel inspections. Above right, organoleptic evaluation of tuna at MIFV.

Official controls and oversight

Inspection, verification and approval activities continued throughout the year for establishments operating under the Marshall Islands fish and fishery products export control system.

Regulatory activities focused on compliance with national Industry Standards for Fish and Fishery Products, HACCP requirements, sanitation and hygiene controls, traceability procedures, and export eligibility requirements.

At the end of 2025, the Competent Authority maintained oversight of 13 registered establishments consisting of freezer vessels, processing plants, and a landing site operating under various listing categories within the national export control framework.

Of the 13 registered establishments: Two freezer vessels were maintained under the European Union (EU) External Listing; one landing site maintained EU

Internal Listing status; and ten establishments operated under the General Export Listing for non-EU export markets.

Establishments operating under EU External and EU Internal Listing arrangements remained subject to additional verification and regulatory requirements associated with EU market access and approved EU supply chain participation.

These requirements included controls relating to traceability, hygiene, HACCP systems, export certification, and monitoring activities associated with EU food safety standards.

Establishments operating under the General Export Listing remained subject to compliance with the Republic of the Marshall Islands Industry Standards for Fish and Fishery Products, which currently support export operations intended primarily for the US and Asian markets.

The approved EU Externally Listed establishments consisted of two freezer

vessels operating under Pan Pacific Fishing (RMI): Z/V Lajabwil and Z/V Lome-to.

Pacific International Inc. (PII) Landing Site also maintained EU Internal Listing status throughout the reporting period.

Other establishments, including additional Pan Pacific Fishing vessels, Koo's Fishing Company vessels, Pan Pacific Foods (RMI) Processing Plant, and Marshall Islands Fishing Venture (MIFV) Processing Plant, continued operating under the General Export Listing pending future compliance verification, and consideration or interest, for additional export market eligibility.

Official control activities conducted during the year included: Annual approval and reapproval inspections and audits; desktop reviews of HACCP manuals, prerequisite programs, food safety programs, and standard operating procedures (SOPs); and sampling, testing, and other risk-based compliance verification activities.

COMPETENT AUTHORITY



New Competent Authority Officers at a seafood safety training at the University of the South Pacific.

Inspections key to program

Sampling and monitoring

Official monitoring activities continued throughout the reporting period in support of food safety verification for fish and fishery products intended for export markets. Monitoring activities focused on water quality verification, product safety testing, sanitation monitoring, and compliance with export food safety requirements.

Programs implemented during the year included: Quarterly microbiological water monitoring; and scheduled laboratory testing of water and fishery products for microbiological and chemical contaminants. Quarterly water monitoring activities were conducted in collaboration with the RMI Environmental Protection Authority for establishments and water sources associated with export operations.

Laboratory testing activities included analysis for: Microbiological parameters; heavy metals; histamine; physical and chemical parameters; and PCB, dioxin, and dioxin-like compounds.

Pan Pacific Foods, Pacific International Inc., Marshall Islands Fishing Venture and Majuro Water and Sewer Company received quarterly microbiological water monitoring; PPF, PII and MIFV were tested for water quality (Microbiology/

Heavy Metals/Physical Parameters); and Pan Pacific Fishing and Koo's Fishing Company fish products were tested for heavy metals, histamine and PCB-dioxin compounds.

Fish landings, production, exports

- Total fish landings recorded during FY2025 amounted to 10,863.83 metric tons (mt). This included: Skipjack tuna, 7,740.92mt, yellowfin tuna 2,839.68mt, and bigeye tuna 283.23mt

- Total fish processed by Pan Pacific Foods (RMI) Inc. was 111.6mt.

- A total of 12,331.2mt of fish and fishery products were exported during 2025 through 105 consignments issued with Export Certificates, Health Certificates, and Hygienic Handling Certificates.

The species breakdown of the total exports: 8,877.8mt of skipjack tuna, 3,168.5mt of yellowfin, and 284.8mt of bigeye tuna.

EU market access, preparations, outlook

Administrative and technical preparations relating to future European Union (EU) market access for fish and fishery products exported from the Marshall Islands continued throughout 2025.

Work during the year focused on im-

proving establishment listing arrangements, audit and inspection procedures, traceability systems, sampling activities, verification processes, and regulatory documentation in preparation for future external assessment activities by the European Union Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE).

As of October 2025, the Competent Authority was formally notified by DG SANTE for a proposed audit expected to take place during December 2025.

Moving forward, attention will continue to be directed toward inspection activities, laboratory monitoring programs, export certification procedures, and administrative systems associated with export market requirements and international audit preparedness.

Priority areas for the Competent Authority include: Continued staff training and technical development; HACCP verification and traceability systems; documentation and record management; expansion of monitoring activities; and continued preparation for EU audit and market access activities.

The Competent Authority recognizes that development of regulatory systems and implementation arrangements will remain an ongoing process requiring continued institutional coordination, technical support, and industry collaboration.

MIMRA Director Glen Joseph, Oceans Commissioner Dr. Filimon Manoni and MIMRA Legal Counsel Laurence Edwards, II, at the head of the table met with representatives of multiple RMI agencies to advance endorsement of the Agreement on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).



LEGAL

Regional legal dialogue a plus for MIMRA's interests

The Legal Division provides advice to the MIMRA Board of Directors and management regarding fisheries legal issues at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels. All legal work carried out by the Legal Division is based on the principles of upholding the rule of law and conserving the nation's marine resources for the benefit of the people of the Marshall Islands.

The Legal Division advises both the Coastal and Oceanic Divisions. For the Oceanic and Industrial Affairs Division, the Legal Division is tasked to review national fisheries laws that may require review against regional and sub-regional measures that are binding on the Marshall Islands as a member of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries

"There was a substantial amount of work on fisheries regulations, which resulted in the promulgation of regulations for Coastal Fisheries and Oceanic Fisheries in 2025."

Agency, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Parties to the Nauru Agreement, and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

During the year, the Legal Division provided in-house training for compliance and enforcement officers within MIMRA on an "as needed" basis for capacity building and understanding of the laws of the Marshall Islands.

The Legal Division also handled legal drafting of bills, resolutions, regulations, bilateral access agreements, and local government ordinances in support of safeguarding marine resources in the Marshall Islands.

The Legal Division also assisted management in the negotiation of fishing day sales under PNA's Vessel Day Scheme. Fishing days are sold to bilateral fishing partners and to domestic partners (in line with the FSM Arrangement which provides for preferential treatment to purse seine vessels flagged in island nations, including the Marshall Islands). Before fishing vessels are issued licenses to fish in the Marshall Islands exclusive economic zone (EEZ), they are required to have an access agreement with MIMRA, which is reviewed by the Legal Division prior to issuance. This is required before



Legal Counsel Laurence Edwards, II, PNA Office founding CEO Dr. Transform Aqorau, Education Minister Gerald Zackios, and Director Glen Joseph at PNA Leadership Summit in Solomon Islands. Inset: Edwards in wig and gown during the FFA Prosecutions Training in May 2025.

Monitoring and enforcing

commencement of fishing prior to January 1 of each New Year.

There was a substantial amount of work on fisheries regulations, which resulted in the promulgation of regulations for Coastal Fisheries and Oceanic Fisheries in 2025.

A significant milestone for the Republic of the Marshall Islands in 2025 was its accession to the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement).

In March 2025, the Marshall Islands formally deposited its instrument of ratification, joining the growing number of States committed to strengthening the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national

jurisdiction. The ratification reflects the longstanding commitment of the Marshall Islands to ocean stewardship, marine conservation, sustainable fisheries, and the protection of the Blue Pacific.

The Legal Division played a key role in supporting the ratification process through legal review, inter-agency coordination, policy advice, and engagement with national and regional stakeholders. The Division also continues to support preparations for the implementation of the Agreement, including consideration of national legislative, regulatory, and institutional measures necessary to meet future obligations under the BBNJ framework.

The Legal Division attended and participated in a variety of meetings and workshops involving MIMRA staff during FY2025. These included:

- The 2025 Talanoa on Deep Sea Minerals, February 18-21, 2025, in Suva, Fiji.
- The Honiara Summit on the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.4, February 24-27, 2025 in Honiara, Solomon Islands.
- The 44th Annual Meeting of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, March 10-14, 2025, in Majuro, Marshall Islands.
- The Regional BBNJ Preparatory Meeting PrepCom, March 31-April 4, 2025, in Koror, Palau.
- The Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and the Convening of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Par-

Communicating around the world



Above, the RMI delegation with Kitty Simonds of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission annual meeting in Manila, Philippines from December 1-5, 2025. Right, Fisheries Minister Tony Muller speaks at the opening of MIMRA Annex Building in early 2025.



Marshallese fisheries laws

ties to the Agreement First session New York, April 14-25, 2025.

- The Parties to the Nauru Agreement Legal Working Group Workshop April 28-May 2, 2025 in Nadi, Fiji.

- The Third United Nations Conference to follow the implementation of SDG 14 (UNOC 3) June 9-13, 2025 in Nice, France.

- The 27th Micronesian Islands Forum June 30-July 4, 2025 in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

- The 4th PNA Leaders Summit September 1-5, 2025 in Funafuti, Tuvalu.

- The 54th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in September 8-12, 2025 in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

- Pre-Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) 21 and TCC21 as an RMI Delegate on September 18-30, 2025 in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

- Ninth Pacific Tuna Forum “Towards Pacific Tuna 2050: Resilience, Innovation, Equity and Sustainable Trade for a Prosperous Future” on October 14-15, 2025, Nadi, Fiji.

- The FFA MOC and related meetings October 20-30, 2025 in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

- The pre-WCPFC22 and WCPFC22 from November 24-December 5, 2025 in Manila, Philippines.

In addition to these duties, the Legal Division assists MIMRA in legal representation in court for prosecution against fishing vessels or companies alleged to have engaged in unlawful acts in violation of national fisheries laws and regulations of the Marshall Islands. This includes illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, contravention of conditions of fishing licenses, obstruction of fisheries observers,

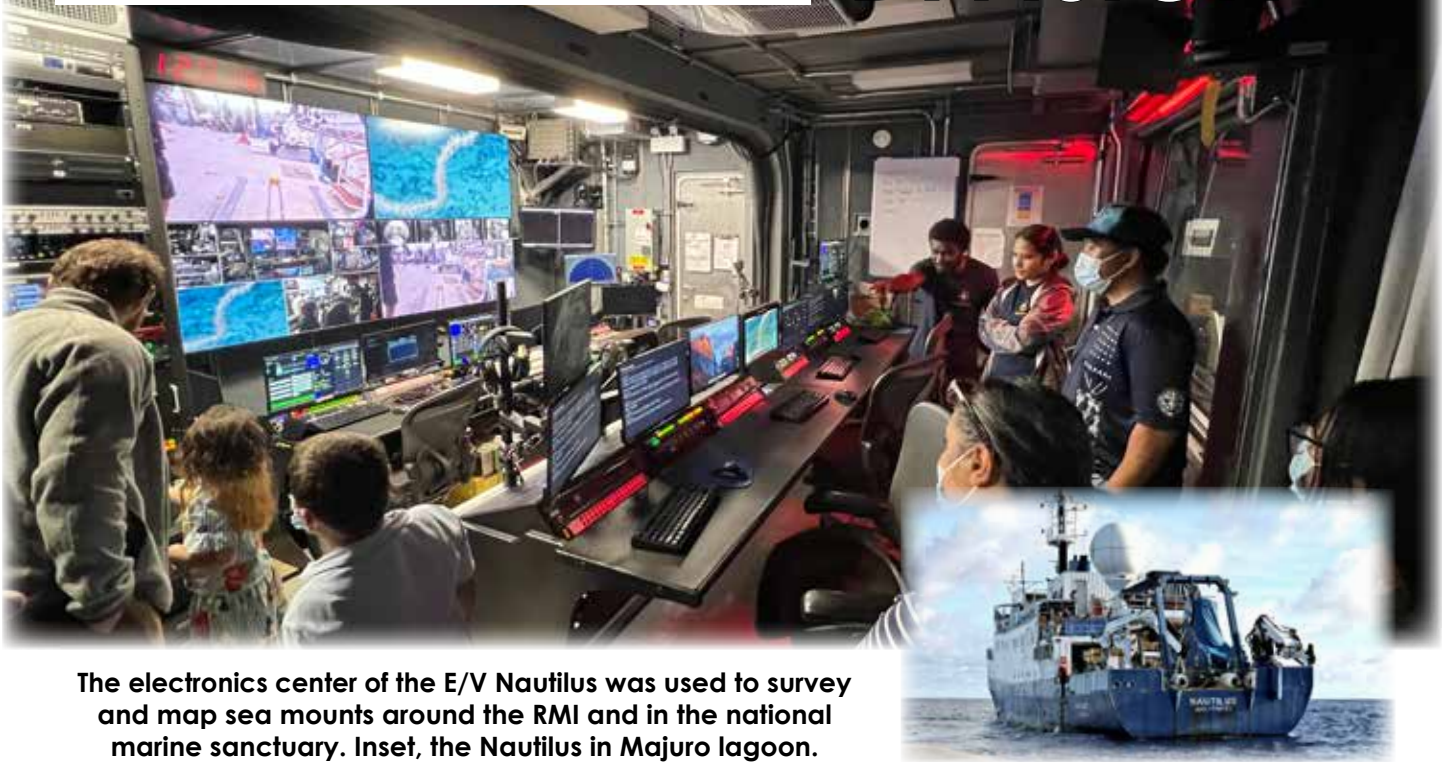
misreporting, and other infractions. For the past five years, most cases have been settled out of court by way of summary proceedings, which is allowed under the Fisheries Enforcement Act.

MIMRA continued active monitoring and enforcement of Marshall Islands fisheries laws and regulations with the support of the Marshall Islands Police Department/Sea Patrol and the Attorney General's Office. Over the past several years, this has resulted in court filings and out of court settlements against several fishing vessels which led to a total of \$775,000 in fines collected from 2020 to 2025. There were no new cases filed in 2025. MIMRA firmly believes that there is no room for complacency as MIMRA officers are continuing to vigilantly monitor fisheries activity and any alleged infractions.

Koo's Fishing adds to fleet

Koo's Fishing Company launched its latest purse seine vessel to much fanfare in Taiwan in October 2025. The Marshalls 106 adds to Koo's fleet of purse seiners based in the Marshall Islands. Below left, MIMRA Chairman and Minister Tony Muller joined with Koo's Chairman Richard Koo and his wife Chyen Mei at the christening ceremony in Kaohsiung.





The electronics center of the E/V Nautilus was used to survey and map sea mounts around the RMI and in the national marine sanctuary. Inset, the Nautilus in Majuro lagoon.

First marine sanctuary created in northern atolls

Introduction

The year 2025 saw many significant developments advancing conservation and sustainable management of coastal fisheries in the Marshall Islands — both domestically and internationally

Among the key developments: The Marshall Islands established its first-ever national marine sanctuary covering 18,500 square miles of ocean area in the northern Marshall Islands aimed to protect Bikar and Bokak Atolls. MIMRA in collaboration with international partners continued to study the underwater biodiversity in this marine sanctuary and other parts of the country's exclusive eco-

nomic zone. Now, with the legislatively established Protected Areas Network Office in full operation at MIMRA, there is ongoing management and follow up for the new national marine sanctuary as well as the many smaller protected areas within islands and atolls.

The Second National Ocean Symposium was held during the year offering an unparalleled opportunity for engaging leaders from all areas of life in the Marshall Islands in discussions and information sharing on sustainable development and conservation management of marine resources.

Internationally, the Coastal Fisheries Division joined with President Hilda Heine and other leaders to participate in

the 12th World Ocean Summit & Expo in Tokyo, Japan, affording it the opportunity to present about Marshall Islands marine resource conservation initiatives, including establishment of the national marine sanctuary.

The Coastal Fisheries Division represented the Marshall Islands at the 50th meeting of the US Coral Reef Task Force in May 2025 at the US Department of the Interior. Coastal Fisheries Division staff joined with the Marshall Islands delegation led by President Heine at the United Nations Ocean Summit in Nice, France, achieving significant milestones that reinforce the nation's commitment to ocean governance, climate resilience, and regional cooperation. This includ-



PROPER project hosts

ed the signing by President Heine and President Wesley W. Simina of the Federated States of Micronesia formally of the Amendment to the Maritime Boundary Treaty, ensuring that maritime boundaries remain fixed and permanent despite climate change and rising sea levels.

Partnerships remained essential to the implementation of Coastal Fisheries Division work in 2025. This included ongoing collaboration with the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan's Fisheries Development Assistance for Pacific Island Nations projects, tremendous collaboration with the World Bank-supported PROPER project, and ongoing partnerships with National Geographic's Pristine Seas program and the Ocean Exploration Trust's E/V Nautilus vessel that supported survey and mapping of sea mounts around the Marshall Islands and in the national marine sanctuary.

"This sanctuary will preserve some of the most pristine ecosystems in the Pacific, home to vital marine life such as deep-sea sharks, the largest green turtle nesting colony in RMI and some of the healthiest coral reefs in the region."

First national marine sanctuary

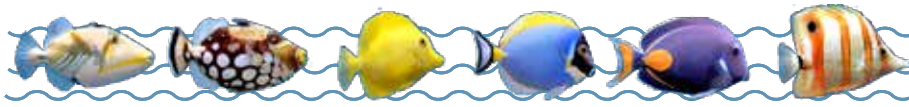
The first-ever national marine sanctuary in the Republic of the Marshall Islands was established on January 28, 2025.

It establishes protections for remote Bikar and Bokak Atolls and covers 18,500 square miles (48,000 square kilometers).

This sanctuary will preserve some of the most pristine ecosystems in the Pacific Ocean, home to vital marine life such as deep-sea sharks, the largest green turtle nesting colony in the Marshall Islands, and some of the healthiest coral reefs in the region.

In a landmark event on January 28, 2025, President Hilda C. Heine, alongside Iroojlaplap Boklon Zackious, Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce Tony Muller, Utrok Senator Hiroshi Yamamura, and Councilwoman Yamamura, on behalf of Utrok Mayor Tobin Kaiko, signed the sanctuary into law at the International Conference Center in Majuro.

This sanctuary is fully protected from fishing, ensuring the long-term health of our ocean and marine resources.



Left, Iroojlaplap Boklon Zackious, President Hilda Heine, Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce Tony Muller, Utrok Senator Hiroshi Yamamura, and Councilwoman Yamamura, on behalf of Utrok Mayor Tobin Kaiko, signed the sanctuary into law in January, 2025. Above, participants in the Second National Ocean Symposium at the International Conference Center in Majuro.

national ocean talks

Second National Ocean Symposium

The Republic of the Marshall Islands held its Second National Ocean Symposium on Conservation and Sustainable Development from August 5-7, 2025, at the International Conference Center in Majuro.

Funded by the World Bank PROPER project and MIMRA, the event brought together government representatives, mayors, Irooj (traditional leaders), elected officials, women, youth, fishers, and community representatives from remote islands to discuss ocean conservation and sustainable fisheries management.

President Heine delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the importance of conserving and protecting ocean resources for current and future generations while exhorting

"Leaders from across RMI reaffirmed their commitment to responsible ocean management, highlighting the critical role of fisheries and marine resources as the driving force behind the nation's economy, health and culture."

participants to take individual and community-level actions to maintain a healthy ocean environment.

The three-day symposium focused on engaging community leaders in the dual government goals of conserving fisheries resources while

pursuing sustainable development opportunities, with sessions covering topics including sea safety, public education and awareness, legal and regulatory frameworks, human development, and national leadership conversations addressing environmental challenges.

Leaders from across the Marshall Islands reaffirmed their commitment to responsible ocean management, highlighting the critical role of fisheries and marine resources as the driving force behind the nation's economy, health, and culture.

The event emphasized the integration of conservation measures with sustainable development strategies, demonstrating the Marshall Islands' innovative approach to employing conservation and management tools while breaking into the tuna value chain in unprecedented ways.



Representatives from seven local governments took part in the Monitoring, Control, Surveillance and Enforcement Workshop. Below, officials and staff in the Ikasavea coastal fisheries data app training.

Fisheries data collection

Second Monitoring Workshop

The basic Monitoring, Control, Surveillance and Enforcement workshop for coastal fishers brought together participants from seven local governments across the Marshall Islands. With the guidance and support of the Pacific Community (SPC), Te Pātuitanga Ahu-moana a Kiwa – New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries, and World Bank PROPER. Participants gained practical knowledge and tools to strengthen community-based fisheries management. The workshop wrapped up with certificates presented by MIMRA's Executive Director, Glen Joseph, to acknowledge the successful completion of the training.

Ikasavea Data Collection Training

The Ikasavea Onboarding workshop took place from November 11-16, 2024, training MIMRA Coastal Fisheries staff



on using the Ikasavea coastal fisheries data collection app and FishKit analysis tool. The six-day workshop, facilitated by experts from the Pacific Community (SPC) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), covered fisheries-dependent data collection theory, unbiased market sampling methods, hands-on practice with the Ikasavea app at the Outer Islands Fish Market Center in Majuro,

and data quality control procedures. Participants learned to visualize and analyze length-based fisheries data using FishKit's Stock Health Tracker and explored how to design coastal fisheries management options such as size limits in community-facilitated settings. The training combined classroom sessions on market survey theory with practical field exercises including mock surveys,



Keeping marine life safe a priority

real market visits, data synchronization to SPC servers, and quality assurance checks on species identification and length measurements.

Bokanbotin Resource Plan

The Bokanbotin Resource Management Plan has been renewed following a successful 10-year conservation period. Now extending to a 20-year term, the plan reinforces Bokanbotin as a no-take zone and a designated coral rehabilitation site. Beyond protecting marine life, this renewal not only secures a safe conservation area but also opens pathways for new opportunities. This milestone has been made possible through funding from the World Bank's PROPER project, ensuring long-term sustainability for Bokanbotin. The Tibon Extended Family remains one of the few in Majuro Atoll actively practicing conservation measures. Their commitment to safeguarding marine resources has yielded positive results, as they continue to rehabilitate habitats and provide shelter for endemic and threatened species within the Bokanbotin MPA.

Socio-economic monitoring in Fiji

The five-day workshop covered comprehensive training in fisheries socioeconomics, including sessions on gender equality and social inclusion,



Top, MIMRA staff with the Tibon Extended Family's Sherwood Tibon as they celebrate the continuation of the Bokanbotin Resource Management Plan. Center, participants in the five-day socio-economic monitoring workshop held in Nadi, Fiji. Above, the CMAC Socio-Economic Monitoring working group was led by an SPC trainer.



Making plans at Namdrik

value chain analysis, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, quantitative and qualitative research methods, cost-benefit analysis, and fisheries management within food systems.

Augustine Kaious presented a poster on Majuro fish market surveys during the session alongside colleagues from other Pacific nations, and the workshop concluded with practical fieldwork including a market tour, mock interviews, value chain mapping exercises, and discussions about establishing a regional socioeconomic community of practice.

CMAC Socio-economic monitoring

From February 3-7, 2025, the Coastal Management Advisory Committee (CMAC) Socio-Economic Monitoring working group joined in a specialized training led by SPC.

This training strengthened the staff's skills in socio-economic assessments while integrating Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion, and Climate Change Lens into the Reimaanlok Survey.

CMAC Revisits Namdrik

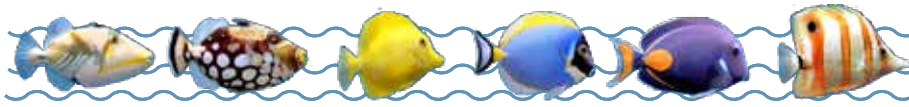
During the Namdrik Atoll mission, the CMAC field team successfully re-established the Local Resource Committee (LRC) to strengthen community ownership and partner on community resource assessment and mapping, profiling, and planning.

The team introduced the Community Marine Monitoring Toolkit and surveyed 44 households, strategically bypassing redundant activities to avoid overlapping with the completed Socio-economic Monitoring survey.

Field partners also collected botanical



A significant number of discussions and meetings were held at Namdrik Atoll as MIMRA staff successfully re-established the Local Resource Committee to strengthen community ownership.



Three trips to Ailuk Atoll

seedlings, managed compensation inquiries to minimize administrative burdens on the LRC and arranged for future solar battery disposal. Collectively, these efforts established the groundwork for revising the Namdrik Atoll Resource Management Plan, aligning conservation targets with environmental and social priorities ahead of a final sign-off trip.

CMAC Revisits Ailuk

During the mission to Ailuk Atoll, the CMAC Field Team re-established the Local Resource Committee (LRC) to strengthen the community ownership and guide resource assessment, mapping, and planning. The team introduced the Community Monitoring Toolkit and conducted a new Socio-economic Monitoring survey of 37 households (including five vacant) alongside a habitat assessment survey to evaluate ecological conditions.

Field partners collected botanical seedlings and investigated damage to breadfruit and lime leaves, suspected to be caused by invasive species, committing to analyze their findings and promptly return with answers to the community.

Compensation inquiries were ad-



The CMAC Field Team spent useful time in Ailuk Atoll strengthening the community ownership of the Local Resource Committee.

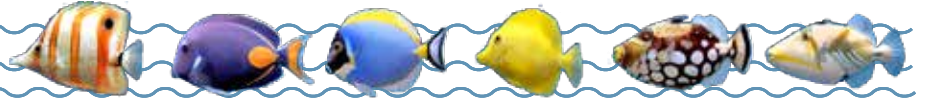


ressed to ease administrative burdens on the LRC. The total mission to Ailuk consisted of three trips, with this effort laying a strong foundation for continuity and community engagement. Collectively, these actions advance local conservation priorities and contribute to the robust initiatives of the Micronesia Challenge 2030, reinforcing Ailuk's role in sustainable resource management across neighboring communities.

E/V Nautilus consultations

MIMRA, in collaboration with the Ocean Exploration Trust (OET), hosted a successful hybrid workshop — both in-person and via Zoom — to explore the science, education, and outreach potential of the E/V Nautilus Live. As part of their visit, the OET team also con-

COASTAL

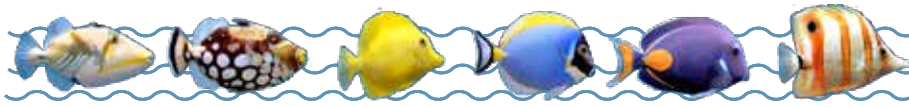


E/V NAUTILUS MARSHALL ISLANDS EXPLORATION WORKSHOP



The E/V Nautilus crew joined in many discussions and meetings with key people in Majuro including Minister Gerald Zackios, MIMRA Director Glen Joseph, and Minister and MIMRA Chair Tony Muller.





Locals join Nautilus crew

ducted a courtesy visit with the Council of Irooj, including Iroojlaplap Boklon Zackious and Chairman Irooj Lanny Kabua, as well as Minister of Education Gerald Zackios and Minister of Natural Resources and Commerce Tony Muller — a meaningful opportunity to share perspectives on the future of ocean science and strengthen partnerships for deep-sea exploration and capacity building.

Following the courtesy visit, the team also visited the MIMRA Monitoring, Control and Surveillance room, where they met with Director Glen Joseph for further discussions on maritime monitoring, control, and surveillance efforts. The team also recognized and thanked editor Giff Johnson for being present during the visit — his ongoing contributions to environmental journalism and ocean awareness in the Marshall Islands continue to be deeply valued.

Following the workshop and its outreach meetings with stakeholders in Majuro, the Ocean Exploration Trust's E/V Nautilus conducted a ground-breaking 21-day deep-sea exploration expedition throughout the Republic of the Marshall Islands in collaboration with MIMRA and funded by NOAA Ocean Exploration. MIMRA nominated three representatives from the Marshall Islands — Meriana Poznanski, Hovell Dako, and Brendan Keoni Kattil — to join the exploration team and contribute to deep-sea research efforts supporting the nation's marine spatial planning and understanding of critical fishery habitats.

The three researchers expressed profound honor and excitement at exploring their home waters, with Keoni noting his connection to his grandfather Tony deBrum's conservation legacy, Hovell describing his multicultural Pacific journey that led him to call the Marshall Islands his home, and Meriana sharing her enthusiasm for discov-



"The Nautilus conducted a ground-breaking 21-day deep-sea exploration expedition throughout the Marshall Islands in collaboration with MIMRA."

The E/V Nautilus crew shared their knowledge with MIMRA staff and numerous community members.



ering deep-sea creatures like chimeras and unique sea cucumbers that differ dramatically from shallow-water species. The expedition provided valuable insights into the seafloor ecosystems of the Marshall Islands.

The team emphasizing the importance of conserving limited marine

resources for future generations while gaining hands-on experience with cutting-edge research techniques like environmental DNA sampling and remotely operated vehicle (ROV) dives in areas including the newly established National Marine Sanctuary of Bikar and Bokak.



FADs placed in range of atolls

Anchored FAD deployments

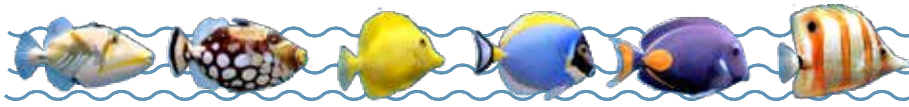
MIMRA's Coastal Fisheries Division, under the anchored Fish Aggregating Device (aFAD) program, deployed two devices in Majuro in June 2025 — one off the Majuro Bridge and one off Ajeltake. In September 2025, two additional aFADs were deployed at Wotho and Mejatto (Kwajalein Atoll) to support coastal communities in these two local government areas. The purpose of this work is to strengthen local fishermen's livelihoods and improve food security by increasing and making more efficient the coastal pelagic catches. The program also provides free sets of fishing gear to local fishermen to supplement the limited equipment available on



Local communities were very involved in the deployment of FADS in Majuro, Wotho, and Mejatto on Kwajalein. Scan the QR code to see FAD locations.

the islands. In addition, the FAD team worked jointly with the value-adding team from the Outer Islands Fish Market Center in Majuro to demonstrate various post-harvest handling and food preparation techniques, promoting better use and marketing of FAD-caught fish.





The Conservation Standards Training was held in Guam and was a milestone for regional conservation.

Takayama returns to RMI

Conservation Action Planning

The Conservation Standards Training, held from April 22 to 25, 2025, in Guam, was a milestone in advancing regional conservation efforts as part of The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) support for the Micronesia Challenge 2030. Addressing a five-year training gap and significant regional staff turnover, the workshop successfully enhanced the capacity of practitioners to utilize the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation.

Funded through a collaboration between TNC, the US Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, and the UNDP Global Fund for Coral Reefs, the event focused on developing skilled facilitators and coaches.

Participants gained critical expertise in adaptive management, the METT 4 evaluation tool for protected areas, and the LEAP tool for community engagement, ensuring a robust and sustained framework for environmental stewardship across the region.

OFCF advisor supports MIMRA

MIMRA was thrilled to welcome back Takuma Takayama, who returns to the team in a new capacity after his previous tenure with the organization. Takuma originally worked with MIMRA from 2008 to 2010 as a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Volunteer, where he conducted valuable research on fisheries distribution and established strong connections with the local fishing community. His earlier contributions laid important groundwork for understanding the Marshall Islands' coastal fisheries landscape.

Now returning as an advisor from the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF), Takuma brings expanded expertise and resources to support MIMRA's ongoing initiatives. In his new role, he will coordinate and support critical projects including the repair and maintenance of ice-making machines and boats — essential infrastructure for the fishing industry — as well as the innovative Blue Carbon Project and other key



Takuma Takayama



New faces at MIMRA in Delap

programs. His familiarity with the Marshall Islands, combined with his technical knowledge and connection to OFCF, positions him to make significant contributions to the Coastal Fisheries Division's mission of sustainable fisheries management and coastal resource development.

New Hires for Coastal Fisheries

Vladmir Gulfan was hired for the position of Fisheries Development Officer II (FDO II). Gulfan was recommended due to two decades of experience in science education, program development, and community engagement. His academic credentials include a Master's Degree in Global Education from Naruto University of Education in Japan and a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Since joining MIMRA, Gulfan has been instrumental in the Value-Addition Training Program, which focuses on sustainable marine programs. For example, he led the training in Jabor, Jaluit Atoll in November 2025, which engaged over 70 high school students and community members and resulted in the development of new fish-based products, such as jerky and fish balls. He is also responsible for field documentation and reporting, including compiling the Likiep Trip Report of March 2026 related to deployed anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (aFADs), and contributing to policy by drafting documents such as



New staff in FY2025 were Vladmir Gulfan, left, and William Reiher.

"(William) Reiher's work is primarily focused on the outer island fish base rehabilitation and solar projects. A key focus of his role has been project management and inspections, culminating in the final inspection trips."

the Executive Summary for Second National Ocean Symposium.

William Reiher serves as a Supervision Consultant for the Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program for Economic Resilience (WB PROPER). He holds a B.Arch. and MBA, and his work is primarily focused on the outer island fish base rehabilitation and solar projects. A key focus of his role has been



project management and inspections, culminating in the final inspection trips for Phase I of the fish base rehabilitation project. He is also responsible for preparing monthly progress reports, such as the October 2025 report, and providing project updates for the MIMRA Board Meeting.

Arnold Lamille serves as the new Boat Engineer for the MS Timur at the Outer Islands Fish Market Center, Majuro. He is joining three other boat engineers onboard MIMRA transport vessels serving the people in the neighboring islands.

International work

The 12th World Ocean Summit & Expo in Tokyo brought together global leaders, innovators, and advocates committed to building a sustainable ocean economy. MIMRA joined the RMI delegation, led by President Heine, with representation from MIMRA, Deputy Director Florence Edwards and Protected Areas Network Coordinator Alicia Edwards. It was an



President Hilda Heine led the team at the 12th World Ocean Summit & Expo in Tokyo. Below, the 50th meeting of the US Coral Reef Task Force that took place in Washington, DC.

Ocean and reef summits

inspiring gathering focused on collaboration, innovation, and actionable solutions for ocean sustainability. Pictured above is President Heine with MIMRA Deputy Director Coastal Fisheries Division Florence Edwards, right, and international partners at the World Ocean Summit in Japan.

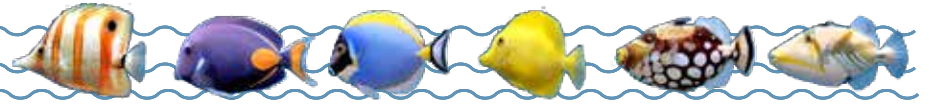
50th USCRTF Meeting in Washington, DC

The 50th meeting of the US Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) took place in May 2025 at the US Department of the Interior building in Washington, DC. The meeting was co-chaired by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Department of the Interior, with RMI represented by Coastal Fisheries Chief Benedict Yamamura. Originally estab-



lished in 1998 by Presidential Executive Order and codified into law in 2022, the USCRTF leads national efforts to preserve and protect coral reef ecosystems. It convenes twice annually — once in Washington, DC in spring and once in a US coral reef jurisdiction in fall. The task force brings together representatives from 14 federal agencies, US states and coral reef jurisdictions, four Fishery Management Councils, and the three

Freely Associated States, including the Marshall Islands, to collaborate on critical coral reef-related issues. The milestone 50th meeting featured multiple USCRTF Working Groups — including Restoration, Watershed, Communications, and Enforcement — meeting to discuss project outcomes, while a first-ever Environmental Compliance Workshop helped states and jurisdictions navigate project proposals and compli-



President leads team

ance processes. The week culminated in a public Business Meeting on Thursday, May 15, which included 'Bright Spots' presentations from the All Islands Committee, expert panels on topics such as "Coral Reefs: Protecting Communities, Infrastructure, and Economies" and "The Importance of Coral Reefs and Marine Biosecurity to National Security," updates from National Coral Reef Management Fellows, and presentations covering coral reefs and fisheries economics as well as a bleaching update from NOAA Coral Reef Watch.

Advancing Ocean Protection at UN Oceans Summit

President Heine led the Marshall Islands delegation to the United Nations Ocean Summit (UNOC3) in Nice, France, achieving two significant milestones that reinforce the nation's commitment to ocean governance, climate resilience, and regional cooperation.

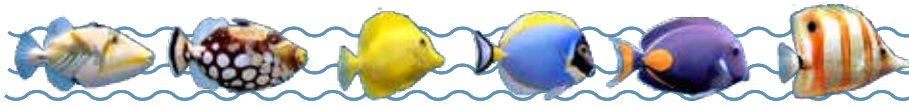
During the conference, President Heine and President Wesley W. Simina of the Federated States of Micronesia formally signed the Amendment to the Maritime Boundary Treaty, ensuring that maritime boundaries remain fixed and permanent despite climate change and rising sea levels. This amendment incorporates the 2021 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Declaration, which affirms that sea level rise must not diminish the rights and entitlements of island states.

During the Ocean Summit, President Heine addressed Ocean Action Panel 7, speaking on behalf of Pacific large ocean states to underscore the urgent need for unified global action to protect marine ecosystems through integrated climate, biodiversity, and ocean governance. She emphasized escalating climate threats including



President Hilda Heine placed a high level of importance on international ocean-focused meetings in 2025 and traveled with many key local figures to attend the summits.





to Nice ocean talks

ocean acidification, marine heatwaves, sea level rise, and extreme weather — while calling for stronger coordination among international frameworks and increased support for traditional Pacific knowledge systems in meteorology, navigation, fisheries, and agriculture.

President Heine highlighted promising ocean-based climate technologies like Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion and wave and tidal energy systems, stressing the need to close persistent finance and technology gaps.

Reaffirming COP28 commitments, President Heine emphasized ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions aligned with the 1.5°C target and timely completion of National Adaptation Plans, while acknowledging that Pacific climate leadership requires improved funding access.

These dual achievements demonstrate the Marshall Islands' leadership in legal certainty, climate justice, and building a resilient Blue Pacific future, affirming that Pacific Island nations are safeguarding their sovereignty, livelihoods, and heritage for future generations.

OFCF partnership for fisheries infrastructure

On October 15, Benedict Yamamura, Chief of Coastal Fisheries at MIMRA, chaired a bilateral meeting focused on Fisheries Development Assistance for Pacific Island Nations (FDAPIN) projects, organized by the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF), in Suva, Fiji.

Subsequently, on October 17, he participated in a plenary session of FDAPIN projects alongside fisheries representatives from other Pacific Island nations.

As a result of these meetings, OFCF plans to implement FDAPIN projects in



MIMRA's Chief of Coastal Fisheries Benedict Yamamura was chair of a meeting of fisheries development for Pacific island nations in Suva, Fiji. The talks and a subsequent meeting were organized by the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan.



the Marshall Islands to refurbish fisheries facilities managed by MIMRA during the Japanese fiscal year 2025 (April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026).

The FDAPIN initiative, a project of OFCF, has been dedicated to supporting the Marshall Islands for over 30 years. Experts from FDAPIN routinely visit the islands to collaborate with MIMRA engineers on the maintenance and repair

of transport vessels, ice plants, fishing boats, and other critical fisheries infrastructure.

Maintenance work accomplished

With assistance from OFCF Japan under the FDAPIN V-II Project, the following activities were conducted: Maintenance and Repair of KAFMC ice plant; MIMRA transport vessels (Majuro and Kwajalein); MIMRA ice plants



Key vessel maintenance

and facilities; and community fishing boats and outboard motors.

The OFCF FDAPIN V-II Project continued to provide technical assistance and support to MIMRA through maintenance and repair activities focused on fisheries infrastructure, vessels, ice plants, and community fishing equipment in Majuro and Kwajalein. OFCF experts worked closely with MIMRA engineers and maintenance personnel to repair and restore operations of ice-making machines at KAFMC and OIFMC, including replacement of ice plates, refrigerant servicing, replacement of condensers and level switches, and troubleshooting refrigeration system issues. These activities helped restore full operational capacity of several ice-making systems critical for fish storage and fisheries operations. The project also supported inspection and repair of MIMRA transport vessels including Jebro, Timur, and Laintok, with works involving steering systems, auto pilot wiring, seals, crank shaft inspections, and dry-dock maintenance activities.

In addition, OFCF-FDAPIN experts supported maintenance and repair of MIMRA community fishing boats and outboard motors while also providing hands-on technical training to MIMRA engineers and maintenance staff. Training included the use of multifunction testing equipment and practical fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) boat repair techniques. Spare parts and maintenance equipment shipped from Japan were successfully received, inspected, and utilized for project activities in Majuro and Ebeye. Overall, the collaboration between OFCF experts and MIMRA staff strengthened local maintenance capacity, improved operational reliability of fisheries infrastructure and transport assets, and supported continuity of fisheries services throughout FY2025.

The maintenance team also worked closely with the World Bank PROPER



The Outer Islands Fish Market Center at Uliga Dock with the MIMRA boat Jebro ready to head out on its next trip to the atolls. Below, work continues at the Woja hatchery.

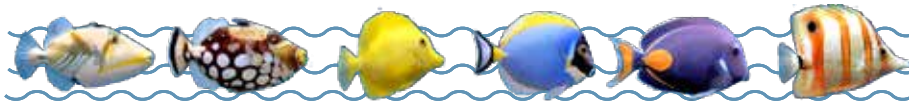


Project Construction Supervisor and construction contract workers involved in the renovation and rehabilitation of Phase 1 project sites.

The maintenance team continued to work on ensuring the maintenance and upkeep of MIMRA facilities, vessels and equipment. During the dry-docking period for various vessels, M/V Laintok was determined to be unfit to operate.

As the vessel was procured under Japan overseas development assistance in 2002, parts are no longer manufactured for the vessel and its engines. With assistance from the OFCF experts, the maintenance team will determine options to move forward with the vessel. M/V Laintok, was officially decommissioned as parts are no longer manufactured.

1. Yearly dry-dock and maintenance



Namo talks on the fish base

service and repairs of all MIMRA fish transport vessels (Jolok, Timur, Jebro and Laintok, and the two smaller boats servicing Arno and nearby locations) including topside and hull maintenance

2. Outer Islands community boat repairs: one boat

3. Maintenance and repairs on Wotje fish base and Jaluit fish base: Ice machines maintenance and checks; backup generator maintenance and check

4. Maintenance and repairs on Arno fish base and Ine sub-fish base: This included building repairs, and ice machine maintenance and checks.

5. Maintenance and repairs at OIFMC: Including ice machines maintenance and inspection, equipment maintenance and inspection, and backup generator house construction and installation of backup generator

6. Maintenance and repairs at KAFMC: Including ice machines maintenance and inspection, and equipment maintenance and inspection.

7. MIMRA vehicle maintenance service and repairs: Ongoing maintenance throughout the year for 22 vehicles.

8. Maintenance and repairs on Woja Hatchery (Majuro): Backup generator maintenance and check.

9. Maintenance and repairs on Ajeltake Hatchery (Majuro).

10. Headquarters Building: Handover of new extension building, and backup generator maintenance and check.

Throughout FY2025, recurring power outages continued to increase reliance



MIMRA officials held community meetings with the Namo local community about the rehabilitation of the fish base.

on backup generators, particularly for facilities located in Majuro. This resulted in significantly higher fuel consumption and increased wear on power generation equipment. The maintenance team worked continuously to ensure that generators remained operational to prevent interruptions to fish storage, ice production, and facility operations.

The team also faced ongoing delays in acquiring essential spare parts, tools, and equipment due to prolonged international shipping timelines and supply chain constraints. Despite these challenges, the team remained proactive in carrying out preventive maintenance, troubleshooting equipment failures, and coordinating repairs to minimize operational disruptions.

General inspections and assessments of outer island fish bases continued throughout FY2025, with the maintenance team documenting equipment issues requiring servicing, arranging repairs on-site when feasible, and coordinating transportation of major equip-

ment back to Majuro for more extensive repairs.

The continuous efforts of the maintenance team contributed significantly to maintaining fisheries infrastructure, supporting fish market operations, sustaining transportation assets, and ensuring operational continuity across MIMRA facilities during FY2025.

Namo trip fish base renovation

A team traveled to Namo Atoll to consult with the local community on the rehabilitation of the fish base, a project funded by the World Bank, and to introduce the Grievance Redress Mechanism — a key tool to ensure transparency and community feedback throughout the process.

The visit included Irooj/Senator Drile K. Kabua, Namo Mayor Kemilang Kabua along with MIMRA staff Chief of Coastal Fisheries Division Benedict Yamamura, Environment and Social



The Aur Atoll fish base received much-needed repair and maintenance.

Mechanical challenges

Safeguards Officer Bianca Manoni, and World Bank Building Inspector William Reiher.

Rehabilitation of fish bases

The rehabilitation of fish bases is Sub-Component 3.2 of the World Bank's Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program for Economic Resilience (PROPER). The RMI Builders Enterprises was awarded the contract under the PROPER project to rehabilitate MIMRA facilities, including all fish bases and the hatchery in Arno, Arno. The Notice of Award was issued on May 23, 2025, and the signed contract and Notice to Proceed were issued on May 29, 2025. The project deadline was set for March 10, 2026 and as of this reporting period, Arno fish base, Arno hatchery, Ine fish base, Aur fish base, and Namo fish base were substantially completed

"The program remains committed to providing a reliable market outlet for outer islands fishers and seafood to the populations of Majuro and Ebeye."

with the six-month defects disability period expiring on October 10, 2026.

Maintenance and repair work

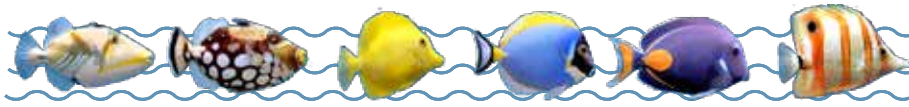
During FY2025, the maintenance team continued to support the operations and functionality of facilities, fish bases, hatcheries, vessels, vehicles, and equipment under MIMRA.

The team worked closely with man-

agement, operational divisions, the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) experts, the PROPER Project Construction Supervisor, and construction contract workers to ensure that maintenance, repair, renovation, and infrastructure improvement activities were carried out effectively in Majuro and the outer islands.

Despite ongoing challenges associated with power outages, increased dependence on backup generators, rising fuel consumption, delays in procurement of spare parts and equipment, and extended international shipping times, the maintenance team remained committed to ensuring continuity of operations and supporting fisheries infrastructure throughout the Marshall Islands.

The team also continued conducting inspections and assessments of outer island fish base equipment and facilities,



Fishers' solid earnings in FY2025

identifying repair requirements, coordinating on-site servicing, and arranging transport of major equipment back to Majuro for repairs when necessary.

Fish collection program overview

The Fish Collection and Distribution Program continued to face challenges in procuring essential vessel parts and equipment due to rising costs, delayed shipments, and the aging condition of the MIMRA vessel fleet.

In FY2025, operations were further impacted when M/V Laintok, stationed at Kwajalein Atoll Fish Market Center (KAFMC) on Ebeye, was taken out of rotation due to major engine problems.

As the vessel is aging and many of its engine components are no longer manufactured, obtaining the necessary replacement parts has proven difficult. To maintain continuity of services, vessels operating under the Outer Islands Fish Market Center (OIFMC) in Majuro were required to expand and adjust their operations to cover KAFMC and affected fish base routes and communities.

This situation highlighted the critical importance of regular vessel maintenance and preventive servicing. However, it also demonstrated that operational flexibility and coordination are essential to ensuring continued fish collection, distribution, and market access for outer island fishers when un-



The Kwajalein Atoll Fish Market Center (KAFMC).

foreseen mechanical challenges arise.

Despite these obstacles, the program remains committed to servicing participating atolls and communities by providing a reliable market outlet for outer island fishers and ensuring a steady supply of fish and seafood to the populations of Majuro and Ebeye.

The program operates with the objective of bringing the market directly to outer island communities, allowing fishers in remote areas to access consistent buyers and income-generating opportunities.

Revenue generated from the sale of fish purchased from communities is reinvested back into the program to support the continued purchase of fish from outer island fishers, helping sustain operations and strengthen com-

munity livelihoods, food security, and sustainable fisheries development initiatives.

The Outer Islands Fish Market Center (OIFMC) on Majuro receives fish and has continued to provide fishers with income by purchasing fish and fish products directly with 45 trips total.

The largest volume of fish was purchased from Arno fishers. MIMRA purchased a total of 22,147 pounds of fish from Arno at a value of \$33,643.03.

MIMRA purchased varying amounts of fish from other atolls, including: 3,533 pounds of fish from Aur fishers at a value of \$5,812.65; 15,569 pounds of fish from Maloelap fishers who received \$23,890.28; 3,642 pounds of fish from Jaluit fishers, who received \$3,215.50; 6,284 pounds of fish from Namo fishers who received \$6,996.20;



Markus heads up Kwaj market

3,104 pounds of fish from Likiep fishers who received \$5,242.60; and 4,637 pounds of fish from Wotje fishers who received \$6,650.75.

The monetary benefits that the fishermen of these seven atolls received directly totaled \$85,451.01 for the 58,916 pounds of fish purchased. The OIFMC continued to enforce quality and size limits on the fish that are brought in from the outer islands and with fuel costs remaining high, OIFMC continues grouping atolls in one trip to maximize the amount of fish per trip landed on Majuro.

In addition, for fishers from Arno with boats, direct purchase on Majuro continues.

After November 2024, M/V Laintok was taken out of rotation due to major engine problems, significantly affecting KAFMC operations and service coverage. Despite these challenges, fish collection and distribution activities continued through the support of OIFMC vessels, which were rerouted to include KAFMC service areas and related fish bases within their schedules.

However, services remained limited due to vessel availability, operational constraints, and the increased demands placed on the remaining fleet.

For the FY2025, KAFMC was able to directly inject to the communities \$15,283.96 for 10,245.5 pounds of fish and \$3,420.00 for produce. The entire value of products purchased by KAFMC amounted to \$18,703.96.



KAFMC Manager Markus Milne.



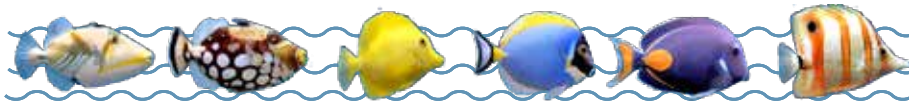
New manager for KAFMC

MIMRA appointed Markus Milne as Manager of the Kwajalein Atoll Fish Market Center in Ebeye, bringing valuable leadership skills and expertise to strengthen coastal fisheries operations in one of the RMI's key population centers.

His appointment aligns with MIMRA's expanded data collection and market monitoring capabilities, positioning

the KAFMC to enhance support for local fishers, improve market operations, and contribute to broader coastal fisheries management objectives.

Under Markus's leadership, the KAFMC team is expected to excel in daily operations while playing a crucial role in gathering fisheries data essential for sustainable resource management in Kwajalein Atoll and nearby atolls, marking a significant milestone in MIMRA's commitment to strengthening fisheries infrastructure and services throughout the Marshall Islands.



Managing our resources



The National Geographic team found that mature giant clams are abundant in Bokak Atoll. Inset left is Lae Atoll Mayor Telmong Kabua signing the grant papers for the Lae giant clam hatchery project.

The 2025 reporting period marked a year of continued progress for the Protected Areas Network (PAN) Office in supporting conservation initiatives and sustainable resource management throughout the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Through ongoing collaboration with local governments, communities, and national partners, the PAN Office continued to advance implementation of activities under the PAN Act while strengthening local participation, coordination, and governance of protected areas.

The PAN Office maintained a dual focus on site-level implementation and national and regional policy engagement. This included support for community-based conservation initia-

PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK

tives, technical assistance and capacity building for atoll governments, socioeconomic and marine monitoring activities, and continued advancement of national conservation planning processes such as the Reimaanlok (Looking to the Future) Process and the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC) Strategic Action Plan updates.

A key development during the fiscal

year was the Lae Atoll giant clam hatchery project, designed to strengthen sustainable livelihoods and enhance food security through aquaculture development. In addition, PAN engagement extended beyond national activities to regional cooperation platforms, including the Micronesia Island Forum and the Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee processes, in which MIMRA, as the national focal point for the Micronesia Challenge, coordinated RMI's participation and engagement.

Lae Atoll giant clam hatchery project

Lae Atoll Local Government proposed the establishment of a giant clam hatchery to support sustainable liveli-



Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine delivered the keynote address to the Second National Ocean Symposium on August 5, 2025, at the International Conference Center in downtown Majuro.

The conservation roadmap

hoods and improve food security. The proposal was approved by the MIMRA Board with an allocation of \$25,000.

The funding is designated for personnel costs, contractual services, and initial project implementation activities.

This initiative was complemented by additional support from the World Bank PROPER project, which provided essential materials and equipment, including raceway tanks.

Following the completion of these tanks, technical assistance and training will be delivered by the MIMRA Aquaculture Team to ensure effective implementation and long-term sustainability. Lae is now the fifth atoll to benefit from Marshall Islands PAN Fund.

PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK

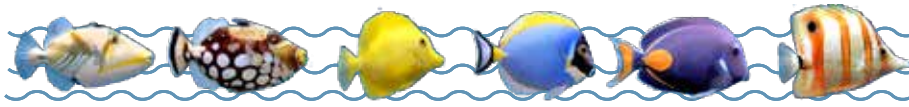
Reimaanlok and CMAC Strategic Action Plan

The second Reimaanlok workshop was conducted from September 30 to October 04, 2024, with 34 participants (12 women and 22 men) representing national agencies and affiliates of

CMAC. The workshop focused on addressing gaps in the Reimaanlok National Plan and CMAC Strategic Action Plan, aligning the Reimaanlok Guide with updated conservation priorities and Micronesia Challenge 2030 objectives, and strengthening coordination for field implementation.

Following the workshop, continued collaboration between the PAN Office, consultants, and partners supported the development of Reimaanlok Update Versions alongside CMAC Strategic Action Plan 2025 revisions. The Reimaanlok Field Guide Draft was completed in January 2025 and circulated for stakeholder review.

The CMAC Strategic Action Plan was also reviewed by technical work-



Focus on Ailuk, Namdrik



ing groups, with input from workshops and field consultations in June and September 2025 contributing to ongoing refinements.

The Reimaanlok Plan soft launched on August 7, 2025, during the Second National Ocean Symposium which included a digital QR code to improve accessibility and feedback collection, with a formal public launch and printed copies planned for the coming months.

Revising plans, updating Reimaanlok

In collaboration with Coastal Fisheries Division staff and the CMAC Socio-economic Monitoring working group, the PAN Office visited Ailuk and Namdrik Atolls between July and November 2025. The purpose of the visits was to revise local resource management plans by trialing the updated Reimaanlok Process, which has been streamlined from eight steps to seven. This activity involved working with the Local Resources Committees of both atolls.

In moving forward, visits are



PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK

Ailuk representatives Laikidrik Janer, Redner Alfred and MIMRA's Augustine Kaious at a Reimaanlok workshop.



The Namdrik Committee with MIMRA staff at a workshop.

planned for each Reimaanlok site. The objective is to review current resource management goals, identify potential new goals, and determine priority marine implementation actions under the World Bank PROPER project all while updating resource management plans.

Under the GEF-7 IWP, members of the socio-economic working group collaborated with MIMRA and the PAN

Office to ensure the updated Reimaanlok Process trials were comprehensive and well-informed regarding goals in elements outside of marine resources.

Socioeconomic Monitoring Surveys

During the missions to Ailuk and Namdrik Atolls regarding the Rei-



Understanding their reefs

maanolok Framework, the PAN Office and the CMAC socioeconomic monitoring working group successfully conducted socioeconomic monitoring surveys with nearly every household on both locations. These assessments were made possible through the collaboration of CMAC member organizations and funding from the GEF-7 IWP.

Before the upcoming review of each management plan, socioeconomic surveys will be conducted to integrate the collected data into the Resource Management Plans (RMPs) revisions.

This approach will ensure that Resource Management Plan goals are fully aligned with the current status of relevant resources surrounding the communities.

Community Marine Monitoring Toolkit Training

During the period of July to November 2025, the PAN Office conducted community marine monitoring toolkit training with Local Resources Officers from Ailuk and Namdrik.

As part of the Reimaanlok Framework, the Community Marine Monitoring Toolkit allows community members to monitor their reefs and surrounding resource species.

This toolkit consists of modules focused on coral reef monitoring, seagrass and algae assessment, and marine invertebrate counts.

The Local Resources Committees (LRCs) and the local governments of Ailuk and Namdrik appointed two local resource officers from each community to undergo training with the PAN Office.

The training program consisted of indoor instructional modules fol-



PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK

At Namdrik Atoll Jim Aron had the opportunity to do hands-on training with MIMRA staff. Below, PAN staff from MIMRA work with Ailuk Atoll's Laikidrik Janer and Emphy Alfred amongst others involved in the project.



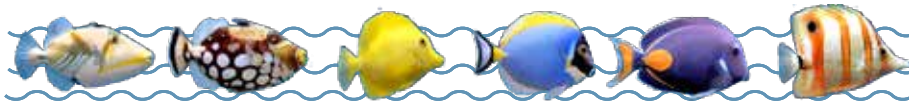
lowed by practical, hands-on sessions conducted within the lagoons of the respective atolls.

The Community Marine Monitoring Toolkit Training is designed to build capacity within local communities, enabling trainees to gain a comprehensive understanding of their reef's status.

This initiative fosters essential awareness regarding the condition of nearshore areas and resources.

Advancing Arno conservation partnership

During the fiscal year, the PAN Office successfully amended the PAN Regulations, enabling MIMRA to formally receive and administer external conservation funding through the PAN framework. Following the approval of the amendments, MIMRA received



The signing of the Arno agreement under which MIMRA distributes the necessary funds to the atoll. Below, the signing of the MOU supporting the advancement of the Micronesia Challenge Project Finance for Permanence initiative.

PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK



Micronesian Islands Forum

a \$100,000 grant from Pacific Island Tuna Provisions LLC (PITP) to support the Marine Protected Areas of Arno Atoll. The PAN Office serves as the administrator of the funds, ensuring transparent implementation and distribution to the Arno Local Government to support local conservation activities.

Regional engagement

The Government of the Marshall Is-

lands hosted the 27th Micronesian Island Forum (MIF) from June 30 to July 04, 2025. The Forum brought together Heads of State and Governors from across Micronesia, including Kiribati and Nauru, to strengthen regional co-operation and advance shared development priorities.

The Forum agenda covered key thematic areas including education, health, transportation, communication, gender equality, ocean governance, and

the Micronesia Challenge. Standing committees presented progress reports to Leaders for review and strategic guidance.

Prior to the Micronesian Island Forum, the Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee (MCSC) convened preparatory meetings on 30 June and 1 July 2025. Discussions focused on key institutional matters relating to the Micronesia Challenge Regional Office, including membership dues, the



Regional talks held in Guam

recruitment of a Strategic Fundraising Consultant, and the appointment of an Executive Director.

The Committee also reviewed progress on the Micronesia Challenge Project Finance for Permanence feasibility stage, including proposed next steps and emerging funding concepts such as the Bezos Earth Fund proposal. In addition, members prepared and reviewed the Micronesia Challenge presentation for Leaders, which was subsequently delivered during a MIF luncheon hosted at MIMRA on 3 July 2025.

Following these discussions, regional leaders signed a Memorandum of Understanding supporting the advancement of the Micronesia Challenge Project Finance for Permanence initiative.

A Marshall Islands delegation, including representatives from the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC), participated in the Micronesia Challenge 2030 regional convening held in Tumon, Guam, from 2–5 December 2024. The convening brought together representatives from across



Top, leaders attending the 27th Micronesia Islands Forum in Majuro. Above, participants in the Micronesia Challenge in Guam.

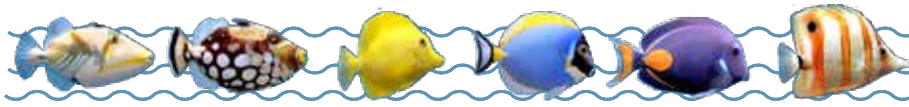
PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK

Micronesia to advance implementation of the expanded Micronesia Challenge 2030 commitments endorsed during the 26th Micronesia Islands Forum.

Discussions focused on refining targets, indicators, implementation approaches, estimated costs, and sus-

tainable financing mechanisms related to marine, terrestrial, and community resilience goals.

The latter part of the convening focused on regional conservation financing strategies, including discussions on the Capacity Development Think Tank, Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity, and Project Finance for Permanence. Participants also reviewed innovative financing mechanisms identified under the updated Regional Sustainable Finance Plan to support long-term implementation of Micronesia Challenge 2030 priorities and strengthen conservation financing across the region.



US dominates the market for RMI's ornamentals

Between October 2024 and September 2025, the Marshall Islands exported a total of 152,534 ornamental marine specimens across 3,640 shipment line items and 350 export permits. Trade was dominated by aquarium fish (65.7 percent, 100,234 specimens), with marine invertebrates – primarily snails and hermit crabs – accounting for the remaining 34.3 percent (52,300 specimens). The product mix comprised 149 unique species, although exports are highly concentrated: the top 10 species represent 92.8 percent of total volume.

The ornamental fish exports came from four atolls in the Marshall Islands.

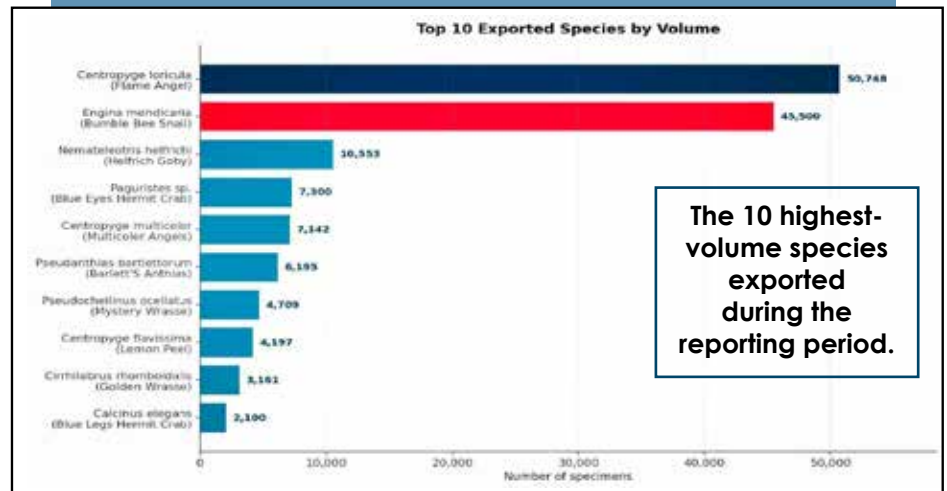
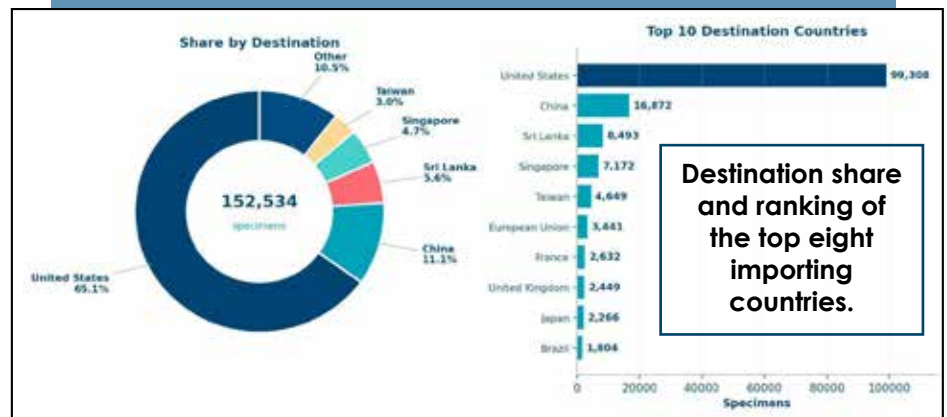
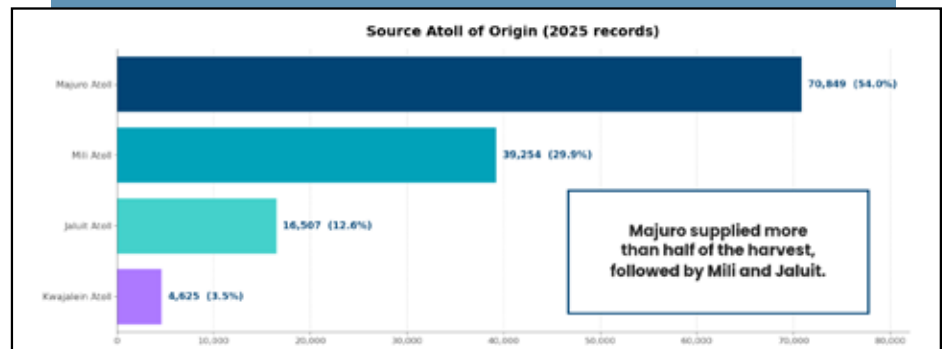
The United States is the dominant market, absorbing 65.1 percent of total volume (99,308 specimens). China (11.1 percent) and a tier of Asian re-exporters – Sri Lanka, Singapore and Taiwan – make up most of the balance.

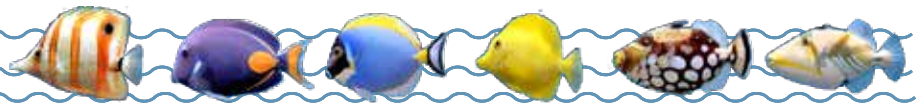
Three licensed exporters operate the industry: TSL/Atoll Marine Aquaculture (49.7 percent) and ARRO Corporation (46.2 percent are the two principal companies, with Conor A. Larkins serving as smaller exporter (4.1 percent). Majuro Atoll is the primary harvest origin (54 percent), followed by Mili (30 percent) and Jaluit (13 percent).

The origin atoll is reported for 2,924 of 3,640 records — the 716 records without origin data come from 2024), Majuro Atoll accounts for 54 percent of harvest volume, followed by Mili (29.9 percent), Jaluit (12.6 percent) and Kwajalein (3.5 percent).

The concentration on Majuro reflects its role as the primary commercial hub, but the substantial Mili and Jaluit volumes highlight the outer-atoll contribution to the industry — and the importance of monitoring reef-fish populations beyond the capital.

AQUARIUM TRADE





Aquaculture supports

Throughout the year, MIMRA's Aquaculture Unit demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing sustainable aquaculture across the Marshall Islands by innovation at multiple sites:

In April 2025, Lae Atoll became a hub of learning and construction as MIMRA staff and a Chief Carpenter from Ujae Atoll collaborated with the local community to build raceway tanks. Over two weeks, community members from Ujae and Lae constructed raceway tanks while simultaneously strengthening local technical knowledge and practical skills. The initiative was designed not only to establish the physical raceway tank infrastructure but also to ensure that community representatives understood how the systems are built, maintained, and repaired.

Preparation for Ujae's own raceway tank project began in September 2024, with the delivery of all necessary materials, sponsored by the World Bank PROPER project and MIMRA. The groundwork laid here was crucial for enabling Ujae to replicate the success observed in Lae, fostering self-sufficiency and local ownership of aquaculture initiatives.

After a period of inactivity due to a national construction project, the Arno Hatchery was revitalized through a thorough inspection and cleaning. In December 2024, the team successfully resumed the giant clam project, achieving a productive spawning event that filled four raceway tanks with thousands of juvenile clams. By May 2025, the hatchery underwent further inspection and planning for infrastructure improvements, supported by insights from the Aquaculture Development Strategy Workshop.

The MIMRA Hatchery at Woja, Majuro used the momentum and experience from the Arno hatchery work. The hatchery team conducted another successful clam spawning at the Woja



Above and below: In April 2025, Coastal Fisheries Division staff, together with a Chief Carpenter from Ujae Atoll, worked with the local community on Lae Atoll to build their first raceway tanks to support aquaculture developments on the atoll.



AQUACULTURE

Hatchery, demonstrating the replicability of their methods and the growing expertise within the aquaculture unit.

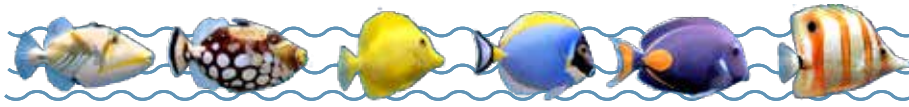
The MIMRA Ajeltake Majuro Hatchery, in November 2024, shifted focus to fish aquaculture, with the collection of approximately 100 mole/rabbit fish for research and experimentation.

This initiative not only advanced technical knowledge but also engaged

local fishermen, strengthening community ties and promoting knowledge sharing.

In September 2025, the Aquaculture Unit joined other MIMRA staff in Ailuk to update their fisheries management plan and conduct socioeconomic and habitat assessments. This effort ensured that aquaculture development was aligned with community needs and environmental sustainability.

Likiep Loto hatchery remains part of the border network of hatcheries benefiting from ongoing support and planned



our local communities



Left, MIMRA Coastal staff Tyler Uwaine cleans the raceway tanks at the Arno clam farm. Right, Jessie Capelle was hired during the year as the new Aquaculture Development Coordinator, responsible for overseeing developments on the remote outer islands as well as the Woja hatchery in Majuro.



Left, a sampling of baby giant clams spawned at the Likiep Atoll hatchery. Right, Coastal Fisheries Division officer Tyler Uwaine leads a consultation with the Lae Atoll community about aquaculture developments on the atoll that were launched in 2025.



improvements.

In May 2025, the Aquaculture Development Strategy Workshop, led by Paul Ryan, brought together national stakeholders to chart the future of aquaculture in the Marshall Islands. The workshop also included site visits to hatcheries, ensuring that strategic planning was grounded in on-the-ground realities.

From August to September 2025, Majuro Blue Carbon Project, led by OFCF Advisor Takuma Takayama, was launched as a pioneering effort to meas-

AQUACULTURE

ure and leverage the carbon sequestration potential of marine plants.

MIMRA hired a new Aquaculture Development Coordinator, Jessie Capelle. As the new ADC, Jessie will be responsible for promoting and supporting aquaculture development while providing essential technical and policy advice to MIMRA regarding its growth in the Marshall Islands. The role is heavily fo-

cused on two key areas: the first is the oversight of aquaculture, which includes supervising clam and fish hatchery managers, developing annual workplans for facilities at Woja, Likiep, and Arno Atoll, and fostering public awareness and training in aquaculture farming. The second main focus involves contributing to policy and enforcement, specifically developing regulations for aquaculture and trade, and establishing monitoring and enforcement procedures for both aquaculture and marine invasive species.

Period of strengthening policy and collaboration

The primary goal of PROPER, which is World Bank-funded, is strengthening MIMRA as an institution and its policies for implementing sustainable management practices throughout the Oceanic and Coastal fisheries sectors. This includes food safety and environmental monitoring; upgrading buildings and technology; strengthening regional collaboration and national capacity for both Oceanic and Coastal fisheries; and developing and diversifying livelihoods and outer island sustainability.

January to June 2025 was characterized by meeting significant strategic milestones and establishment setups, achieving an overall progress rating of moderately satisfactory.

The second half of the year, through December, experienced a change in operational pacing, resulting in a temporary shift, while maintaining the overall project rating at moderately satisfactory.

Key highlights for the period include:

- A World Bank Financial Management Mission was successfully hosted in April 2025.
- In August 2025, MIMRA convened the landmark second National Ocean Symposium (NOS II), expanding community-level resource alignment and the further promoting awareness of the Reimaanlok framework.
- The November 10-12 2025 PROPER Implementation Support Mission (ISM4) was successfully executed.
- A major technical contract for satellite-based Dark Vessel Detection was

“In May 2025, Phase 1 of the fish bases, sub-bases, and hatchery rehabilitation works was awarded to RMI Builders & Enterprises.

Physical works progressed steadily at Aur, Namo, Arno Fish Base, Arno Hatchery, and Ine Sub-Fish Base.”

successfully executed in September 2025.

- Outer island digital connectivity was secured via the purchase of 19 Starlink units through Majuro Computer Services, backed by a project-funded 24-month subscription framework.
- To maximize technical resource output, a single Supervision Consultant contract was initialized in February 2025.
- In May 2025, Phase 1 of the fish bases, sub-bases, and hatchery rehabilitation works was awarded to RMI Builders & Enterprises. Physical works progressed steadily at five priority locations: Aur, Namo, Arno Fish Base, Arno Hatchery, and Ine Sub-Fish Base.
- Multiple specialized consultancies were successfully launched throughout the year to boost division capabilities, including a Point-of-Sale (POS) Consultant, a Regional Aquaculture Specialist, a Coastal Fisheries Data Analyst, a Fisheries Economist, and a Coastal Fisheries Value Addition Advisor.

• Establishments and sovereign vessel listings were extensively evaluated during the first half of the year. This set the framework for the successful completion of the intensive European Union (EU) audits of the Competent Authority in December 2025.

COMPONENT 1: Strengthening Policy and Institutions

To continue improving capacity for policy design, implementation, and evaluation, the project:

- Extended the contract for its international legal expert for another year and hired a local legal officer in December 2025 to help manage laws and rules.
- Hired a specialist to help MIMRA choose the right computer systems. In December 2025, they officially asked companies to send offers to supply new sales and inventory software and hardware.
- Hired a fisheries economist in mid-2025. They are setting up a central system to collect fish data, which will help the government make better business decisions and meet international reporting rules.
- Community consultations to gather data from outer islands as part of the Reimaanlok Process were delayed due to travel issues. MIMRA, however, is working closely with local mayors to fix this.

To continue progress for improving seafood safety and environmental monitoring, the project:

- Supported safety checks on 11 fishing vessels and fish processing factories.



MIMRA/PROPER staff with the World Bank PROPER Task Team gathered for a photo at the conclusion of a productive visit for Implementation Support Mission #4.

Tracking ocean pollution

As a result, five vessels were officially added to the Marshall Islands registry. One was still undergoing evaluation at the end of 2025, and two did not pass the safety standards.

- Hired a food safety expert in July 2025 to improve safety rules and health certificates for seafood exports.

- Finished safety inspections based on strict European Union standards in December 2025 and is waiting for the results of these reports that were submitted.

- Supported the establishment of a new marine science laboratory building that opened in May 2025. MIMRA is working with the University of the South Pacific (USP) to test the systems, with a goal to be fully ready for operations by June 2026. The project also

sought offers to purchase computer and radiation testing equipment for the lab.

- Supported MIMRA's partnership with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to track ocean pollution. They plan to hire a Marine Pollution Communications Officer in 2026.

Upgrading buildings and technology:

- *Starlink Internet:* To give distant outer islands better internet, MIMRA bought 19 Starlink internet dishes and covered the cost for 24 months of data.

- *Solar greening initiatives:* For the solar greening components planned for the central MIMRA Headquarters in Majuro and associated outer-island bases, exploratory collaboration discussions were opened with the Marshall Islands Energy Company.

COMPONENT 2: Strengthening Regional Collaboration and National Capacity for Oceanic Fisheries

Consolidating the management of Oceanic Fisheries

- In September 2025, a project started using satellites to find "dark vessels" (boats that turn off their tracking systems to hide). MIMRA is testing this alongside the use of regional aerial patrols to identify tracking software that meets MIMRA's Monitoring, Control and Surveillance needs.

- MIMRA is working to ensure its new electronic monitoring equipment and software match the upcoming regional

Milestones in financial,

rules set by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) so that systems are supportive and not duplicated.

- The plans for a new digital port software system were approved in February 2025. After a meeting with a software expert from Iceland, a team is scheduled to visit in early 2026 to help set it up.

Harnessing Oceanic Fisheries to the regional economy:

- Oceanic division port monitors maintained ongoing data collection operations throughout the year to capture the volume, composition, and quality profiles of regional bycatch and discard streams.

- Following consultation and technical review with the World Bank regarding PROP-procured jib cranes, MIMRA is migrating the installation activity into the upcoming annual work plan and budget framework, ensuring all physical placements are screened and cleared by environmental and social safeguards.

- Alternative budget reallocations to purchase two Mark II Star Loaders remain temporarily deferred pending a formal, overarching project restructuring agreement.

COMPONENT 3: Strengthening Regional Collaboration and National Capacity for Coastal Fisheries and Conservation of Critical Coastal Habitats

Strengthening coastal fisheries and habitat management:

- The Coastal Fisheries Data analyst officially assumed their post in April 2025.

“The Protected Areas Network (PAN) office and the Aquaculture Division sustained continuous support to the communities of Ujae and Lae, directly updating resource management plans and upgrading giant clam farming methodologies.”

- The Coastal Data analyst is working with division teams to refine data collection protocols and enhance analytical frameworks.

- Backed by project financing, the Reimaanlok community conservation framework achieved substantial geographic growth. Since July 2025, marine monitoring toolkit trainings were completed across multiple atolls — specifically Ailuk, Namdrik, and Majuro, with Arno underway — raising the total number of fully trained coastal communities to six.

- Attendees at the National Ocean Symposium (NOS II) held in August were supplied with customized sea safety grab bags and marine monitoring toolkits, tied to reporting accountability rules.

- The Protected Areas Network (PAN) office and the Aquaculture Division sustained continuous support to the communities of Ujae and Lae, directly updating resource management plans and upgrading giant clam farming methodologies.

Developing and diversifying livelihoods and outer island sustainability:

- Phase 1 Physical Rehabilitation Works: Due to local market capacity limitations discovered during planning, MIMRA split its 11-site rehabilitation plan into two phases. The Phase 1 construction contract covering five prioritized sites was awarded to RMI Builders Enterprise in May 2025. Physical works progressed through the second half of the year and were active at all five priority sites: Arno Atoll — Main Fish Base; Arno Atoll — Main Hatchery; Arno Atoll — Sub-Fish Base (Ine); Aur Atoll — Fish Base; and Namu Atoll — Fish Base. A formal on-site structural inspection by the supervision consultant is scheduled for January 2026, and its findings will dictate the rollout timeline for Phase 2 sites.

- The Regional Aquaculture Specialist successfully concluded a baseline advisory contract in September 2025. Concurrently, the Coastal Fisheries Development and Value Addition Advisor, contracted in June 2025, successfully rolled out a comprehensive “Train-the-Trainers” program for project staff and delivered hands-on value-addition training workshops to local community processors on Jaluit Atoll in November 2025.

- In December 2025, MIMRA executed a supply agreement with Majuro Computer Services to furnish the media department with high-grade production equipment to boost public reporting and awareness of community-level activities.

COMPONENT 4: Project Management Unit

The Project Management Unit (PMU) accomplished numerous milestones in 2025 in the area of financial and project management. Due to timely delivery of



proper project management



The Rehabilitation of fish bases is part of the World Bank's Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program for Economic Resilience (PROPER). Pictured is the Arno fish base undergoing renovation.

reports and the FY 2024 audit, a series of important financial reports were accepted by the World Bank. In 2025, the PMU moved forward in many areas.

- The Project Coordinator signed contract in May 2025, filling a crucial gap in the PMU structure.

- To accommodate expanded project management duties, the title and underlying TOR of the Finance Officer position were modified to Deputy Coordinator and Finance Officer.

- The Procurement Officer position, a key role within the Project Management Unit, was vacant at the end of 2025. Efforts will be made to fill this vacant position in 2026.

- The original Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) for FY 2025 was approved by the World Bank on March 18,

2025, and an updated version reflecting revised activity projections was cleared on July 21, 2025.

- A World Bank Financial Management Mission was successfully hosted in April 2025, and the Project Management Unit (PMU) participated in formal Financial Management training.

- All Statements of Expenditures (SOEs) covering 2025 were compiled, submitted, and successfully cleared by the World Bank.

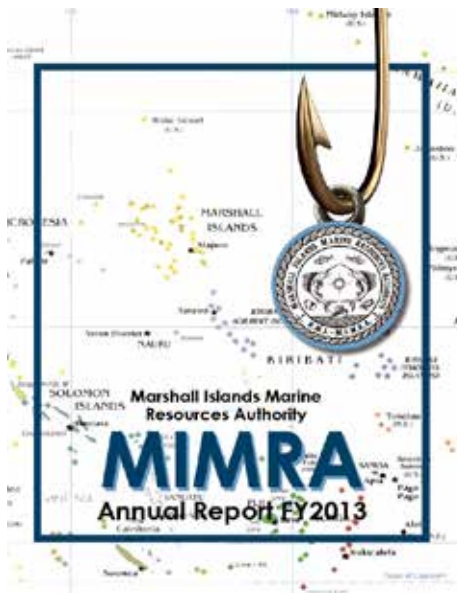
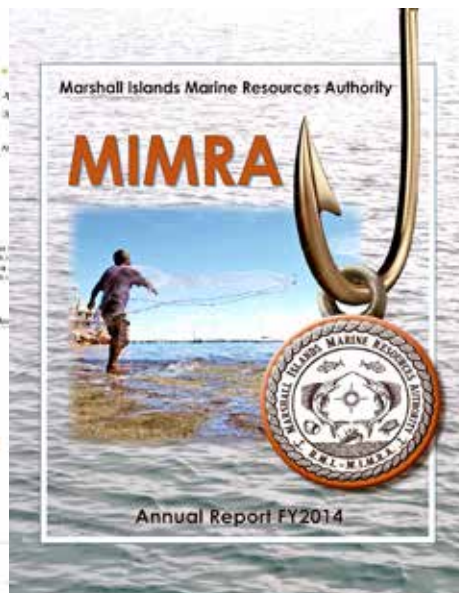
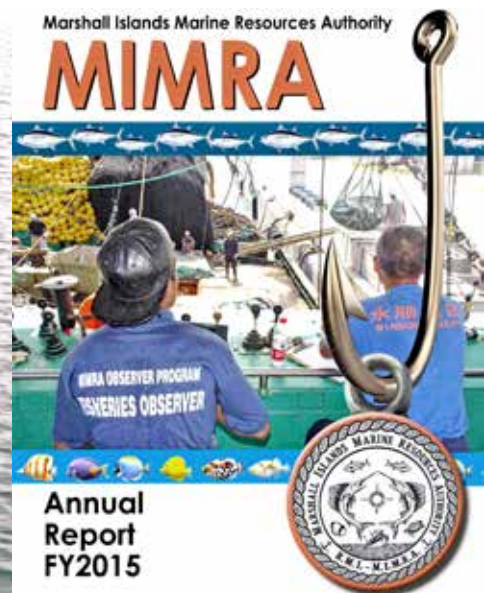
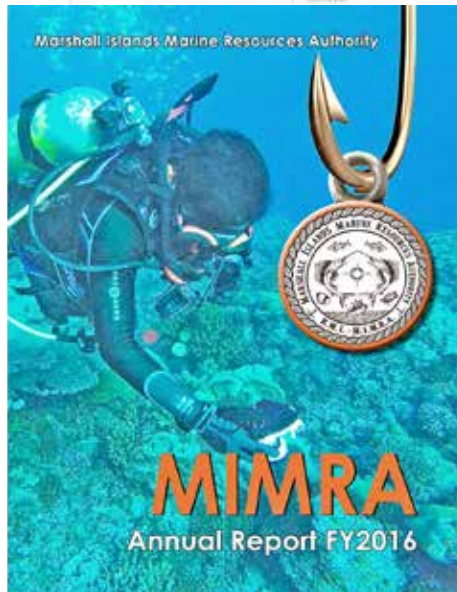
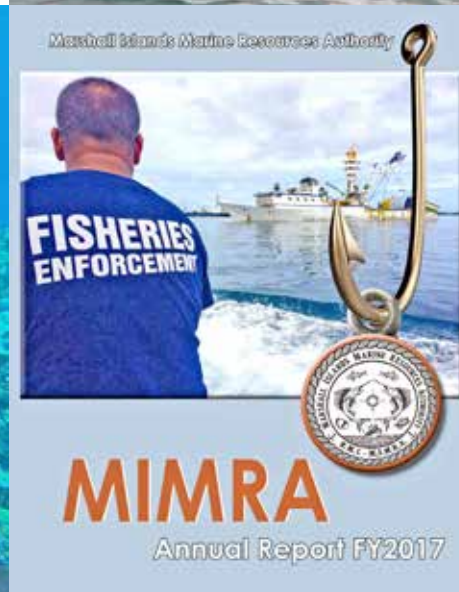
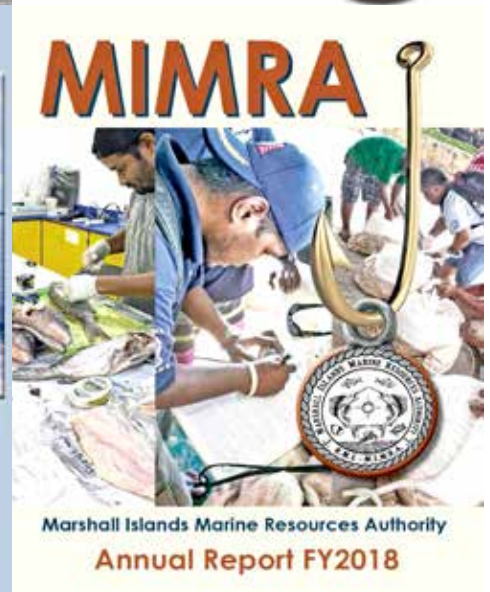
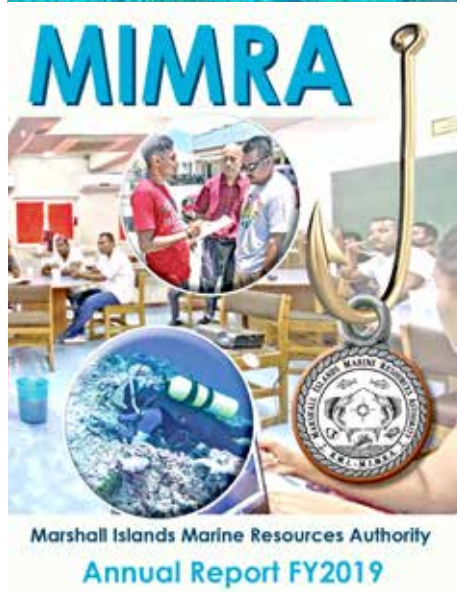
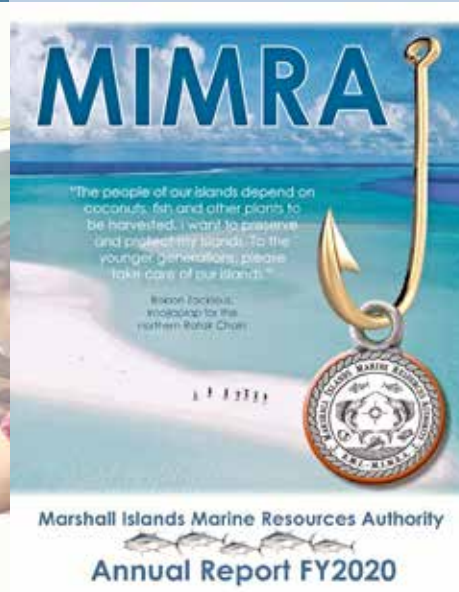
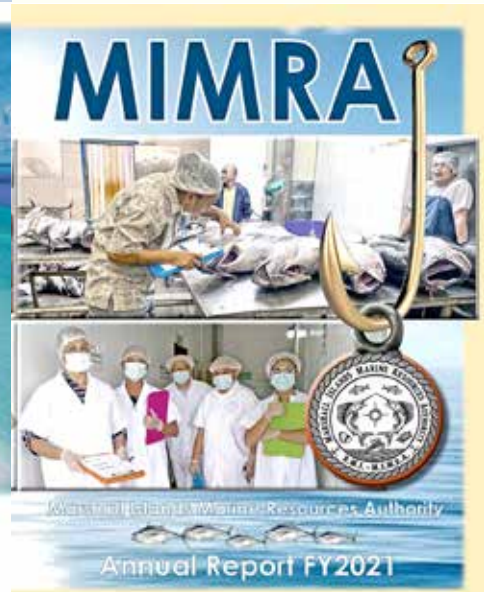
- Interim Financial Reports (IFRs) up to March 2025 and September 30, 2025, were successfully uploaded and approved in Client Connection.

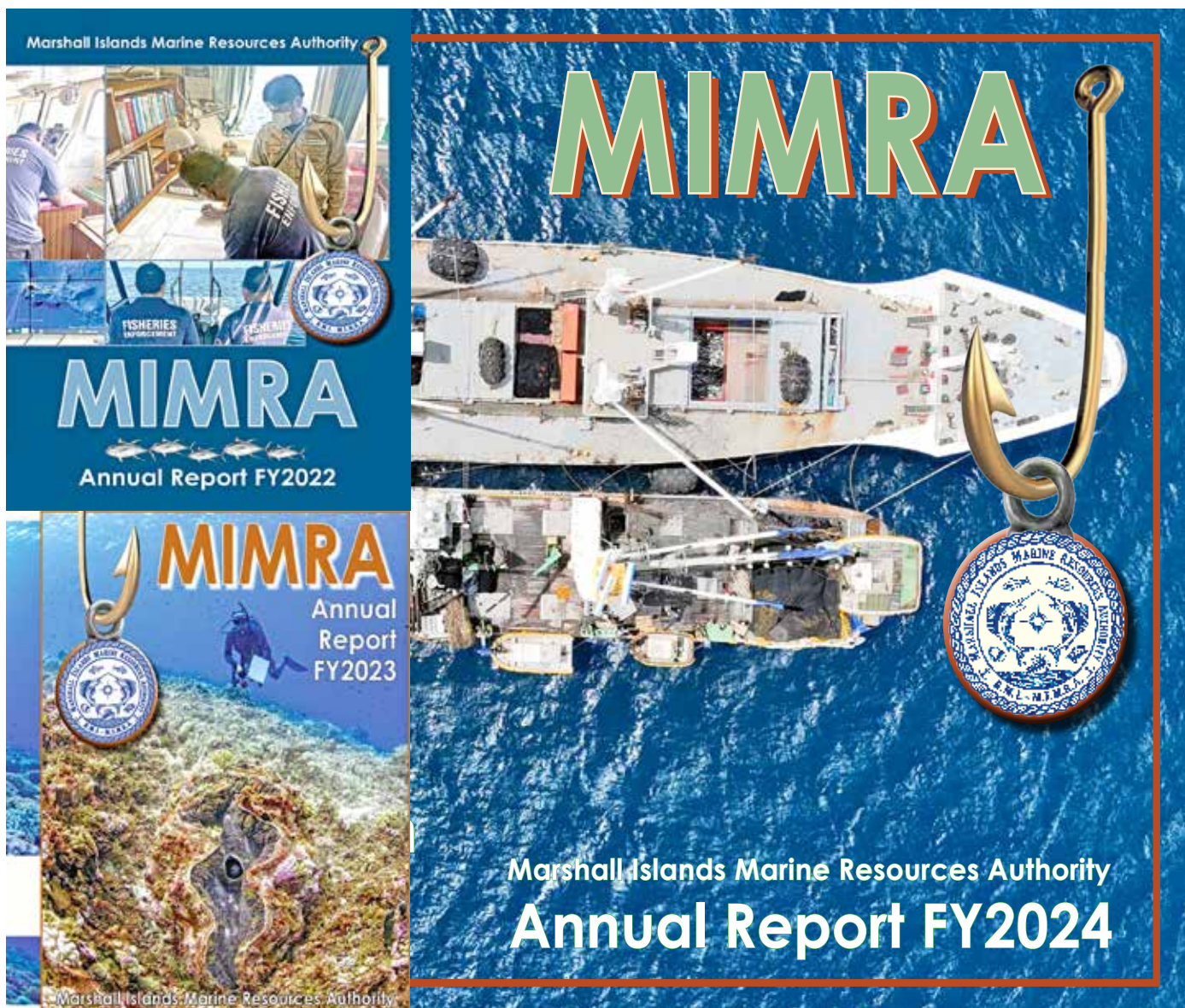
- The external audit for FY 2024, managed by Ernst & Young, was finalized and shared in January, with the final report uploaded to the Bank's portal.

- Procurement tracking remained consistent and systematic throughout 2025. The total number of logged activities in the World Bank's STEP platform expanded from 74 records mid-year to 79 entries as of December 31, 2025.

- Maintained 100 percent compliance with the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). Code of Conduct (CoC) training was institutionalized, with 19 active signed registries archived across the PMU, Coastal Fisheries Division, and contractors.

- Completed Environmental and Social screening across all 11 planned rehabilitation sites. Approved the contractor's Construction Environmental and Social Management Plan (CESMP), which mandates strict zero-waste back-hauling protocols for outer islands.





MIMRA does it by the book

Being accountable and transparent has long been a MIMRA promise to the people of the Marshall Islands, with a key element of this being the publishing of annual reports with detailed information on the activities of the Authority.

Reports from 2001 forward can be read online or downloaded from MIMRA's website at <http://www.rmimra.com/index.php/resources>.

The reports are also available as glossy paperbacks and in Kindle format at Amazon: Just go to amazon.com and search for "MIMRA Annual Report". The reports cost about \$10 each plus, potentially, shipping.

MIMRA believes the reports are of benefit both domestically and internationally. For example, fisheries expert Robert Gillett in his 2017 book, *Fisheries in the Economies of Pacific Island Countries and Territories*, commented: "The annual report of the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority is exemplary."

In Giff Johnson's 2021 book *Our Ocean's Promise*, it was noted that Gillett also said MIMRA "is one of the few fisheries departments in the Pacific that produces an annual report, which is essential for both promoting fisheries and being transparent in operations."

The cover photos on the MIMRA Annual Reports generally reflect the prominent focus of that financial year. To embrace this focus, be it coastal fisheries, oceanic endeavors, industry enforcement, or the steps being taken to increase its presence on the world stage, the team searches out the best images to portray the subject.

FINANCE

MIMRA addition to
the Marshall Islands
General Fund:
Minister David Paul,
President Hilda
Heine, and Minister
Tony Muller.



AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Always ready for audit

MIMRA's focus on accountability is borne out by the annual audits conducted by Ernst & Young auditors who confirm that MIMRA maintains its recordkeeping in an accountable and auditable condition.

The Fiscal Year 2024 EY audit report stated the opinion of the auditors in clear and concise terms: "We have audited the financial statements of the business-type activities of Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA), a component unit of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, as of and for the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise MIMRA's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents...In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the business-type activities of MIMRA as of September 30, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in financial position and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America....We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient

MIMRA Contributions to RMI FY2016-FY2025

Fiscal Year	Contribution
2016	\$26,285,938
2017	\$40,129,700
2018	\$29,440,214
2019	\$29,141,128
2020	\$31,300,000
2021	\$26,000,000
2022	\$26,200,000
2023	\$28,000,000
2024	\$29,960,000
2025	\$25,200,000*

Source:
MIMRA Financial Statements
and Independent Auditors'
Reports, FY2015-FY2024.
*2025 figure was not yet
audited as of the date of
publication of this report.

and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion."

The EY auditor's opinion is confirmation that the accounting system and financial policies implemented by

MIMRA's Finance and Corporate Affairs Division follow the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. MIMRA's finance system is designed to ensure a high-level of accountability.

The FY2025 audit was in progress during this reporting period, a fact showing MIMRA's readiness for audit soon after the completion of the fiscal year. It also distinguished MIMRA as one of a handful of Marshall Islands government authorities and component units to be ready for audit soon after the close of the fiscal year.

In FY2025, operating revenues increased by over eight percent compared to the previous year. MIMRA generated \$30,608,959 in operating revenue in FY2025 compared to \$28,279,896 in FY2024. This reflected an increase in Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) and fishing rights revenues. The participation of the Marshall Islands in the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) produces the largest source of revenue for the Authority. The VDS is the foundation and largest contributor to MIMRA's operating revenue. It increased by five percent in FY2025, to \$22,853,000. This compares to FY2024's VDS revenue of

at close of fiscal year

\$21,865,319. The peak year for VDS revenue remains 2019, when MIMRA netted \$28,143,896.

Thanks in large part to the United States-Pacific Islands Tuna Treaty 10-year extension coming into force, MIMRA's fishing rights revenues jumped by over 50 percent in FY2025. In FY2024, fishing rights revenue received was \$3,143,116. In FY2025, it increased to \$4,828,281.

The VDS generates three streams of revenue:

- Sales of fishing days to bilateral partners such as Japan, Taiwan, S. Korea and other countries. In FY2025, this generated \$21 million, nearly one million over FY2024. It also reflected the two-tier benchmark price of \$11,000 per fishing day for bilateral partners and \$7,000 for domestically flagged purse seiners. However, fishing days often sell for more than this \$11,000 benchmark. A total of 2,738 fishing days were sold to domestically flagged fishing companies and bilateral partners.

- Pooling fishing days with other members of the PNA produced a higher return, with the pooled days averaging over \$12,642 (for MIMRA only) per fish-

ing day. A total of 98 fishing days were pooled for FY2025. The total revenue from pooled days amount to \$1,239,014, a 10 percent decline from FY2024.

- Trading fishing days with other PNA members generated \$135,000 — a 200 percent increase over FY2024.

MIMRA also generates operating revenue from licensing and registration of fishing vessels, transshipment fees, observer fees, revenue from fish markets on Majuro and Ebeye, fishing violations (no violations in FY2025), and others (which includes miscellaneous income and export permits).

Net operating expenses increased by seven percent in FY2025. They rose from \$6.6 million in FY2024 to \$7.1 million in FY2025. Travel was one of the main contributors to the increase, as MIMRA and World Bank PROPER funded its staff to participate in multiple off-island essential fisheries meetings for the Forum Fisheries Agency, PNA, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and numerous other international fisheries and oceans-related workshops and conferences regionally and globally. Fisheries supplies for outer island com-

munities and MIMRA staff and fisheries observers also increase. Salaries and wages declined slightly in FY2025.

Looking ahead, MIMRA faces many factors that challenge it operationally. Fuel prices in the Marshall Islands are the highest in the Micronesian region. In FY2025, Marshall Islands fuel prices at the pump averaged \$7 per gallon. This is higher by 50 percent compared to the global average of \$4.70 per gallon. Compared with the rest of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands faces significantly higher pump prices.

Climate change is a continuing factor that is expected to affect MIMRA's revenue generation.

The annual three-month FAD closure for conservation management purposes also affects MIMRA revenue collections, especially transshipment revenue. FAD closures mean fewer boats berthing in Majuro. In 2025, climate change is now the dominant element of operational uncertainty such as warming ocean temperatures and resulting shifts in tuna migration patterns and more extreme weather events that affect fishing effort, stock availability and scheduling reliability.

FINANCE

MIMRA: Management's Financial Condition and Operations for Fiscal Years 2025, 2024 and 2023

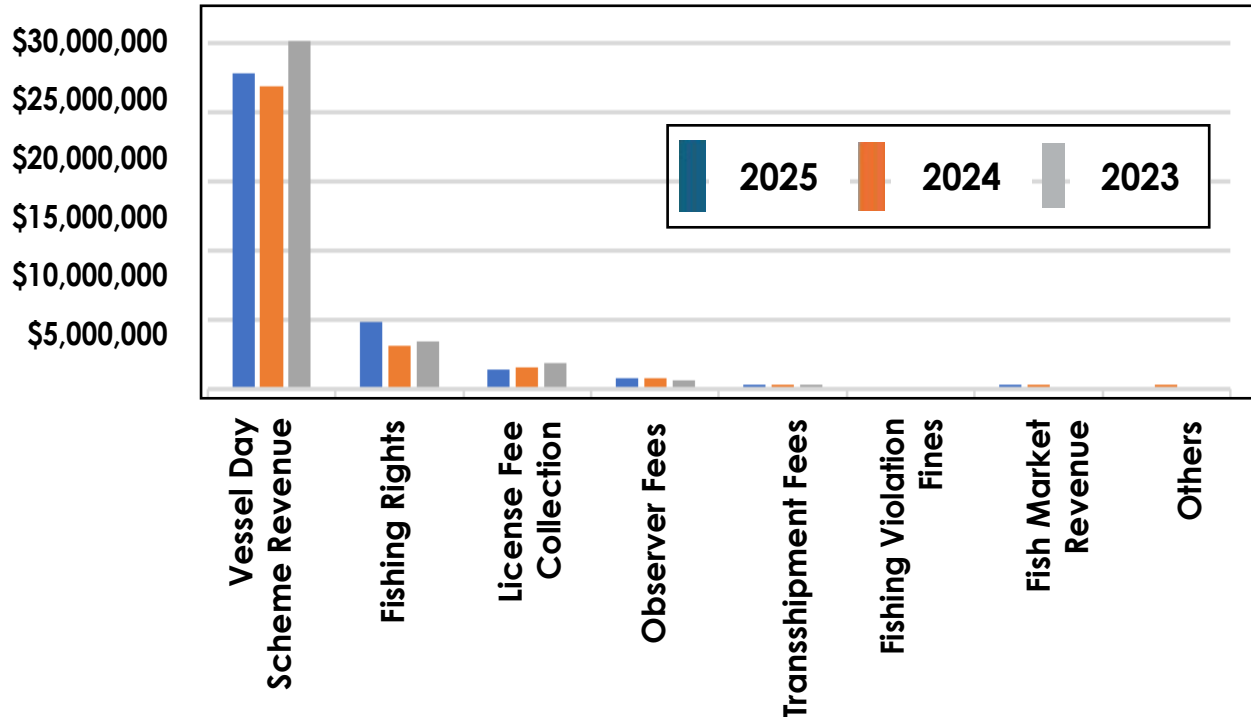
FINANCIAL OPERATIONS	2025	2024	CHANGES	%	2023
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)			(Audited)
ASSETS:					
Current and other assets	23,945,767.75	23,854,595.00	91,172.75	0.38%	31,995,046.00
Capital Assets	6,997,818.82	6,996,249.00	1,569.82	0.02%	6,326,934.00
Other non-current asset	94,494.97	101,347.00	(6,852.03)	-6.76%	112,368.00
Investment in JV	3,635,109.40	3,307,445.00	327,664.40	9.91%	1,857,549.00
Total Assets	34,673,190.94	34,259,636.00	413,554.94	1.21%	40,291,897.00
LIABILITIES:	-	-	-	-	-
Current and non-current liabilities	555,950.89	841,599.00	(285,648.11)	-33.94%	990,093.00
Long Term Liability	78,684.41	78,395.00	289.41	0.37%	85,537.00
Total Liabilities	634,635.30	919,994.00	(285,358.70)	-31.02%	1,075,630.00
NET POSITION:	-	-	-	-	-
Investment in Capital Assets	6,997,818.82	6,666,651.00	331,167.82	4.97%	5,953,348.00
Restricted	1,393,290.14	1,278,692.00	114,598.14	8.96%	1,373,667.00
Unrestricted	25,647,446.68	25,394,299.00	253,147.68	1.00%	31,889,252.00
Total Position	34,038,555.64	33,339,642.00	698,913.64	2.10%	39,216,267.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES/NET POSITION:	34,673,190.94	34,259,636.00	413,554.94	1.21%	40,291,897.00
STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES and CHANGES IN NET POSTION:	-	-	-	-	-
REVENUES:					
Operating Revenues	30,608,959.04	28,279,896.00	2,329,063.04	8.24%	31,763,386.00
Non-Operating Revenue	2,427,597.02	2,499,170.00	(71,572.98)	-2.86%	1,004,003.00
Total Revenue	33,036,556.06	30,779,066.00	2,257,490.06	7.33%	32,767,389.00
EXPENSES:					
Operating Expenses	7,137,642.42	6,619,339.00	518,303.42	7.83%	6,332,663.00
Non Operating Expenses(RMI/Local)	25,200,000.00	30,200,000.00	(5,000,000.00)	-16.56%	28,000,000.00
	32,337,642.42	36,819,339.00	(4,481,696.58)	-12.17%	34,332,663.00
NET	698,913.64	(6,040,273.00)	-	-	(1,565,274.00)
Capital Contribution	-	163,648.00	-	-	-
Change in Net Position	698,913.64	(5,876,625.00)	6,575,538.64	-111.89%	(1,565,274.00)
NET POSITION AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	33,339,642.00	39,216,267.00	(5,876,625.00)	-14.99%	40,781,541.00
NET POSITION AT END OF YEAR	34,038,555.64	33,339,642.00	698,913.64	2.10%	39,216,267.00

Note: FY2025 audit not completed during reporting period.

FINANCE

MIMRA: Management's Discussion and Analysis for Fiscal Years 2025, 2024 and 2023

Comparative Revenue: FY25 vs FY24 vs FY23



	2025	2024	Changes	%	2023
Vessel Day Scheme Revenue	22,853,000	21,865,319	987,681	5%	25,198,926
Fishing Rights	4,828,281	3,143,116	1,685,165	54%	3,394,040
License Fee Collection	1,457,000	1,522,000	(65,000)	-4%	1,882,120
Observers Fees	824,363	790,698	33,665	4%	650,678
Transshipment Fees	258,400	269,000	(10,600)	-4%	316,000
Fishing Violation Fines	-	150,000	(150,000)	100%	25,000
Fish Market Revenue	232,216	220,637	11,579	5%	151,804
Others	155,699	319,126	(163,427)	-51%	144,818
Operating Revenues	30,608,959	28,279,896	2,329,063	8%	31,763,386

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