



# Ministry of Fisheries

TO HAVE THE BEST FISHERIES IN THE PACIFIC



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020

Parliamentary Paper Number  
89/2022

Comments and enquiries should be directed to:  
The Permanent Secretary for Fisheries and Forestry  
Level 3 Takayawa Building Suva, Fiji  
Telephone: (679) 3300 555  
Facsimile: (679) 3300 435

© Copyright - Ministry of Fisheries



# Ministry of Fisheries

TO HAVE THE BEST FISHERIES IN THE PACIFIC

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020

# Referral Letter from the Permanent Secretary

30th December, 2022

Honourable Kalaveti Vodo Ravu  
Minister for Fisheries and Forestry  
Takayawa Building  
Suva

## **RE: 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

Dear Sir,

It is with pleasure that I submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report for the Ministry of Fisheries for the period of 1st August 2019 – 31st July 2020.

The Report highlights the Ministry's performance and achievements in delivering services to our valued stakeholders as indicated in the 2019-2020 Annual Operational Plan.

This Report has been prepared in accordance with the provision of the Financial Management Act 2004. I am pleased to advise that the Ministry has been able to obtain an unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor-General, essentially meaning that we have cleared all the outstanding audits issues of previous years, and have got our books sorted.

This is the first occasion that the Ministry has achieved this and we look forward to maintaining this benchmark.

The Report encapsulates the commitment and diligence of all staff within the Ministry.

Yours Sincerely,



**G.P.N. Baleinabuli**

**Permanent Secretary for Fisheries and Forestry**

# Table of Contents

- Review by the Permanent Secretary ..... 3**
- Overview of the Fisheries Sector in Fiji..... 5**
  - The Major Categories of Fishing..... 5
  - Some Notable Events in Fiji’s Fisheries during 2019/2020 ..... 5
- Contribution of Fisheries to Fiji’s Economy ..... 7**
  - Exports ..... 7
  - Contribution to Fiji’s Gross Domestic Product..... 7
  - Employment ..... 8
- Overview of Ministry of Fisheries ..... 9**
  - Vision, Mission and Values of the Ministry of Fisheries ..... 9
  - Organisational Structure ..... 9
  - Services of the Ministry of Fisheries..... 10
  - Human Resources ..... 10
  - Distribution Of Assets, Services And Products..... 12
- Highlights in the geographically located Divisions..... 13**
  - Central Division..... 16
  - Western Division ..... 16
  - Northern Division..... 20
  - Eastern Division ..... 22
- Functional Services ..... 23**
  - Research Division..... 23
  - Training & Workshops..... 36
- Inshore Fisheries Management Division..... 37**
- Aquaculture Division ..... 39**
- Offshore Fisheries Management Division ..... 41**
- Fleet and Services Division..... 58**
- Finance Division..... 59**
- Administration and Human Resources Division..... 59**
- Communications and Media Division ..... 60**
- External Partnerships and Associated Activities ..... 66**
- Financial Information..... 68**
  - Procurement..... 68
- Final Audited Financial Statement..... 69**

## Review by the Permanent Secretary

It gives me considerable pleasure to present the Annual Report for the Ministry of Fisheries for the fiscal year 2019-2020. I was asked to take on the Fisheries portfolio in addition to the Forestry portfolio in May 2020 immediately after the resignation of the then Permanent Secretary. The transition period arising from the change in leadership brought about operational challenges as usual, but these were well managed by the Senior Management Team and resulted in some significant achievements reflected in this Annual Report.

2019 was a year of change with a totally new Executive Management Team walking in with diverse ideas and leadership and management styles, and with their combined efforts, the Ministry accomplished its targeted outputs. It was also in this year that the Ministry developed and launched its 10 year Strategic Development Plan 2019-2029 which focuses on strategies for developing the offshore fisheries, aquaculture and coastal fisheries sub sectors of the Fisheries Sector.

With the first wave of COVID-19 hitting Fiji in 2020, the impact this had on Fiji's fisheries sector was substantial. Amongst these issues were the impact of the border closure on exports and imports of fish and fisheries products, high operational costs that had to be met by the fishing industry due to movement restrictions, closure of borders and international flights to source markets that Fiji highly depend on for trade. The Ministry during this period had to also revamp its priorities and activities accordingly in order to adapt to a new and more realistic plan – one that is complex, challenging and unlike any other it has ever faced. Despite the situation, with the spirit of togetherness and resilience, we ensured our priorities were met. In addition to the impacts of COVID-19, having to bear with the impacts of climate change-related events were also additional issues faced by the fisheries sector. The impacts of human-induced activities and unsustainable harvesting of marine resources continue to be major challenges faced by the Ministry every day. This called for concerted efforts between all players in the Ocean Space.

The ongoing support of development partners, regional and international fisheries organizations and agencies in terms of the provision of technical and financial assistance to the Ministry have met the urgent development needs of the fisheries sector and contributed productively toward advancement of the development of sustainable fisheries in Fiji even in our worst times. Despite these hardships, the Ministry entered in the Fiji Business Excellence Awards Competition and was able to scoop the Achievement Level award which indicated that most systems and processes were in place and that the Ministry showed evidence of effort on business improvements. It was also in this year, that the Ministry received an unqualified audit opinion on its Agency Financial Statements. This was the first time for the Ministry to achieve this.

I must acknowledge the decisive and visionary leadership of the Honorable Minister, my predecessor Mr. Craig Strong, the Senior Management Team and all staff of the Ministry and their respective families who provide the backbone for us as we continue to implement an agenda of sustainable fisheries to cater for both current and future generations.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G.P.N Baleinabuli', written over a horizontal line.

**G.P.N Baleinabuli**  
**Permanent Secretary for Fisheries and Forestry**

# Acronyms

DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia
EEZ	Exclusive economic zone
EPPS	Economic Policy and Planning Section (now known as the Planning and IT Division)
FA	Fisheries assistant
FAME	Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems of the Pacific Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
FTO	Fisheries technical officer
GDP	Gross domestic product
HS	Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IT	Information technology
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
MFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand
MITT	The Ministry of Industry Trade and Tourism
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOU	Memo of understanding
MPA	Marine protected area
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-government organisation
OFCF	Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation of Japan
OFMD	Offshore Fisheries Management Division
PFO	Principal fisheries officer
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFO	Senior fisheries officer
SG	Solicitor General
SNA	System of National Accounts
SPC	Pacific Community
UN	United Nations
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

# Overview of the Fisheries Sector in Fiji

## The Major Categories of Fishing

Fiji's fisheries sector is categorized into three major areas. These are:

- Offshore Fisheries
- Coastal Fisheries (commercial, subsistence)
- Aquaculture

The offshore fisheries rides on the back of the longline gear targeting tuna (mainly albacore, yellowfin and bigeye) for export markets, but a wide variety of species are caught for both local and overseas consumption. Ministry reports show that in 2020 the 95 Fiji national longliners caught 12,283 tonnes of tuna and 2,089 tonnes of other pelagic fish<sup>1</sup>. During the year 2020, approximately 70% of the fishing by Fiji longliners occurred in Fiji's waters, with 30% in International waters.

The coastal commercial fisheries of Fiji involve fishing in lagoons, reefs, deep-slopes and in nearby open ocean waters. Estimating the amount of catch in Fiji's coastal fisheries is extremely difficult due to hundreds of landing sites and thousands of fishers, but it is thought to be about 11,000 tonnes per year. Most of the landings are for the domestic markets, but some high value species, such as snappers and lobsters, are exported. The coastal subsistence fisheries of Fiji, are focused on production of food for home use. Significant amounts of fish are, however, given away to friends and relatives. Estimating the amount of catch in Fiji's coastal subsistence fisheries is fiendishly difficult. Nevertheless, various assessments have been made over the year, with a recent estimate being about 16,000 tonnes per year.

The freshwater fisheries of Fiji are relatively small but growing as compared to the other fishery sub-sectors. The harvest of all freshwater species has been estimated to be about 3,700 tonnes annually. Aquaculture in Fiji has included attempts to raise tilapia, carp, freshwater shrimp, penaeid shrimp, milkfish, seaweed, giant clams, trochus, pearl oysters, milkfish, beche-de-mer, sponges, turtles, mudcrab, and corals. Most efforts in the last few years have been focused on tilapia, shrimp, seaweed, coral, and pearl oysters. The annual aquaculture production of the country has been estimated to be \$2.9 million<sup>2,3</sup>.

## Some Notable Events in Fiji's Fisheries during 2019-2020

In the offshore fisheries the total annual catch of the three main species of tuna fluctuated between 2015-2020 and was greatest in 2017.

In 2019-2020, the Fiji national longline fleet was made up of 95 longline vessels: 13 vessels less than 21 metres in length, 36 vessels between 21 and 30 metres, and 46 vessels greater than 30 metres.

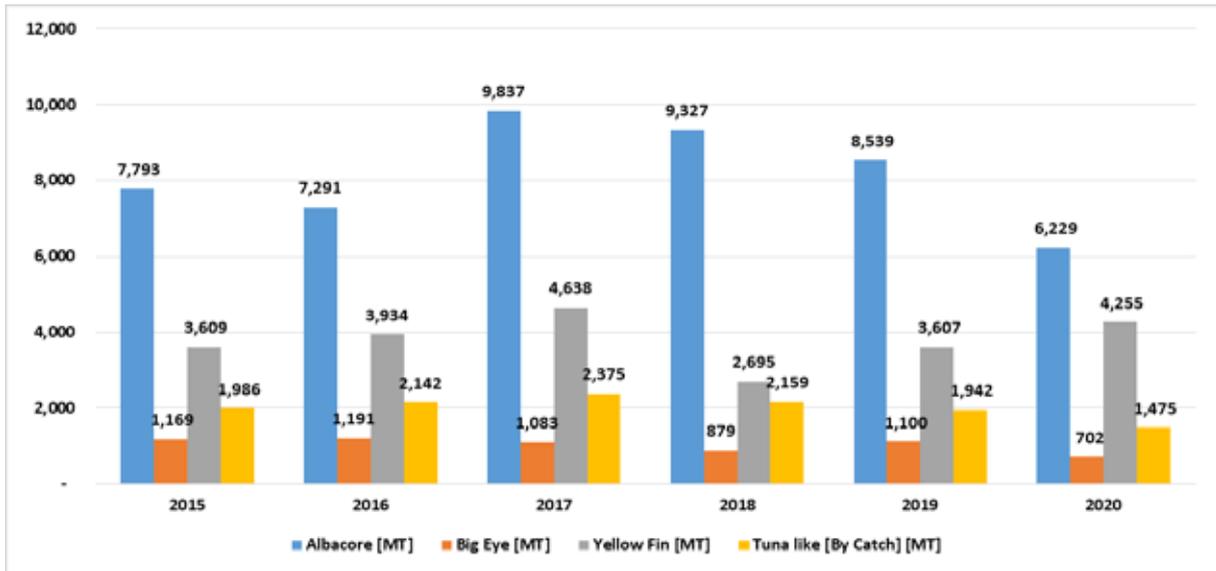
---

<sup>1</sup> By international convention, the Ministry publications on tuna landings cover calendar years, rather than fiscal years.

<sup>2</sup> This amount is somewhat misleading as it mixes the culture of low value species (e.g. coral) with extremely high value species (e.g. pearls) to produce a total value.

<sup>3</sup> SPC. (2016). Fisheries in the Economies of Pacific Island Countries and Territories. Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Forum Fisheries Agency, and Australian Aid, ISBN 978-982-00-1009-3.

**Figure 1 Catches of the Major Species of Tuna by the Fiji National Longline Fleet, 2015-2020**



Source: Part 1 Report to the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, Offshore Fisheries Division, Ministry of Fisheries

Albacore being the major species of growth in the Fijis Tuna fishing Industry reached a peak in 2017 with a total of closer to 10000MT of production. With the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic and the fuel price increase between 2016-2019 albacore catches experienced a declining trend from 2018 through to 2020.

The first wave of COVID 19 in March 2020 and the hike in global fuel price the saw to declining trends in catches for Albacore and other Tuna like species during this period, however there was a slight increase in catches for Yellow Fin Tuna.

For coastal/inshore fisheries, in 2019-2020, the Ministry continued with the seasonal fishing ban on Kawakawa and Donu. The long-term benefits of the ban are indisputable, such as protecting the resource for future generations, but it did have some side effects.

# Contribution of Fisheries to Fiji’s Economy

## Exports

Fishery exports from Fiji are described in the table below:

**Table 1: Fishery Exports of Fiji<sup>4</sup>**

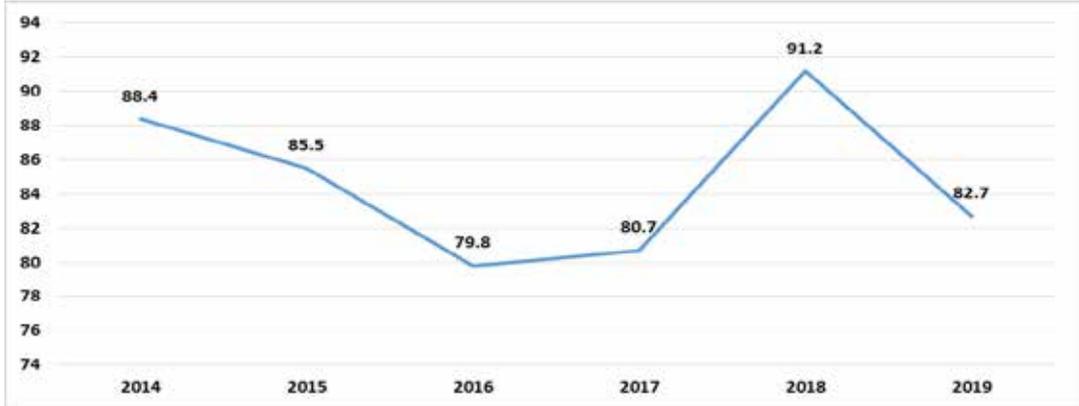
<b>VALUE OF FJ FISH EXPORTS (FJD Millions)</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Prepared foodstuffs, beverages, spirits &amp; tobacco</b>			
<b>Prepared/Preserved Fish</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>7.8</b>
<b>Live animals: animal products</b>			
<b>Fresh Fish</b>	<b>84.2</b>	<b>89.3</b>	<b>62.3</b>
<b>Coral and similar materials</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Total FJ Principal Domestic Exports</b>	<b>101.9</b>	<b>96.1</b>	<b>70.4</b>
<b>Re-Exports of Fresh Fish</b>	<b>135.5</b>	<b>145.1</b>	<b>116.9</b>
<b>Total FJ FISH Exports</b>	<b>237.4</b>	<b>241.2</b>	<b>187.3</b>

The Covid 19 pandemic hit the fisheries sector very badly and this is clearly evident in the decline in fishery exports between 2019 and 2020.

## Contribution to Fiji’s Gross Domestic Product

The Reserve Bank of Fiji has estimated that the fishing sector contributed \$82.7m to Fiji’s nominal gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019.

**Figure 2: Fishing and Aquaculture Contribution to Nominal GDP (millions of dollars)<sup>5</sup>**



The contribution of fishing to the GDP of Fiji is a broad indicator of the importance of the sector to the national economy - and is widely quoted in the media, annual reports of the Ministry of Fisheries, and

studies of the country's fisheries sector. For GDP purposes, post-harvest fishery activities, including fish processing, are generally counted in manufacturing, transportation and other formal economic sectors. A study by the Forum Fisheries Agency in 2017<sup>6</sup> concluded that the GDP contribution of the broad fisheries sector in Fiji (i.e. fishing plus post-harvest activities) is about 67% greater than just the contribution of the narrow SNA fishing sector.

## Employment

Information on fisheries-related employment in Fiji is not effectively captured by government employment assessments (e.g. the Fiji Employment/Unemployment Survey), mainly because of lumping fisheries with agriculture and forestry. An SPC survey in 2015<sup>7</sup> estimated 12,000 people are employed in coastal fisheries, 1,677 people as crew on offshore fishing vessels, and 2,000 people in tuna processing – for a total of 15,677 directly employed in the sector (full-time equivalent).

# Overview of Ministry of Fisheries

## Vision, Mission and Values of the Ministry of Fisheries

Our **vision** is to have the best fisheries in the Pacific Region.

---

<sup>6</sup> FFA (2017). The Contribution of Fisheries to the GDP of Fiji. Forum Fisheries Agency, 17 pages.

<sup>7</sup> SPC (2016) Fisheries in the Economies of Pacific Island Countries and Territories. Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Noumea, ISBN 978-982-00-1009-3

Our **mission** is to sustain, to manage and to protect Fiji’s fisheries. We achieve this through:

- Management and compliance of our national fisheries legislation and regulations
- Provision of licensing, advisory and support services
- Research and marine conservation
- Fisheries sector development

Our **values** consist of:

- Excellence – we will strive for high quality outcomes and deliver excellent services in all operations
- Integrity – we will follow through on our commitments and be open and transparent in our dealings with all stakeholders
- Innovation – we will continuously improve our service and take the initiative to maximise the use and value of our fisheries
- Inclusiveness – we will be recognised for our collaborative approaches, working in partnerships with communities and all stakeholders
- Professionalism – we will be focused, tackle challenges directly, manage our operation efficiently and always seek to develop our people
- Accountability – we recognise the critical nature of our role on behalf of the Fijian people and we will take responsibility of our decisions and our outcomes while demonstrating leadership in all we do

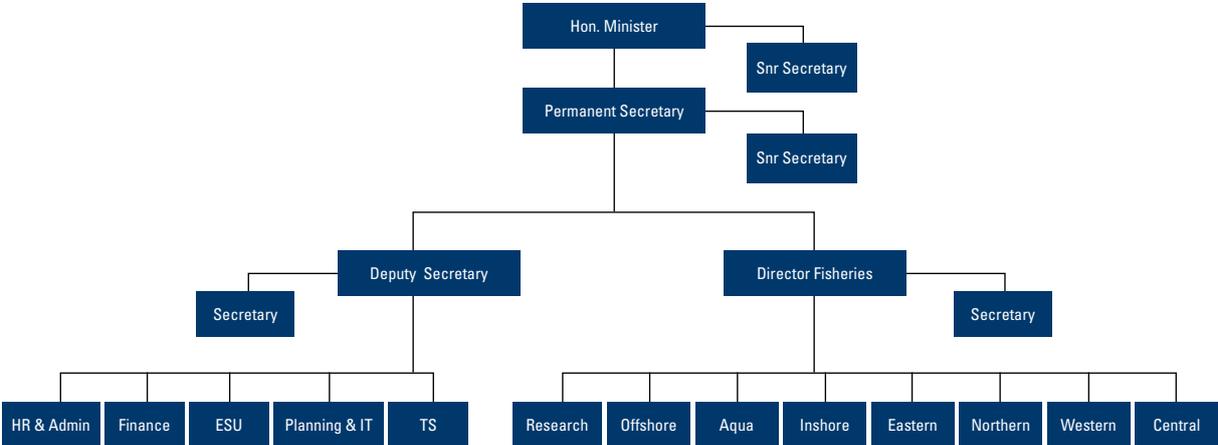
### Organisational Structure

The Ministry has thirteen divisions in three categories: geographic (four divisions), functional (five divisions), and corporate (four divisions).

### Services of the Ministry of Fisheries

The Ministry of Fisheries provides many types of services, ranging from providing assistance to individuals/groups to supplying public goods to the nation. Examples of providing assistance to individuals/groups are:

- Providing advice on fishing and aquaculture development
- Surveying traditional fishing areas and assessing the associated fishery resources



- Carrying out research to provide information for fisheries management
- Producing ice for selected communities
- Providing advice to groups on the formation of fisher associations
- Responding to reports of illegal fishing activities
- Providing juvenile giant clams for reef re-seeding
- Undertaking fisheries impact assessments

Examples of the Ministry supplying public goods to the nation are:

- Enforcing the provisions of the Fisheries Act, Offshore Fisheries Management Decree, and subsidiary regulations
- Taking measures to mitigate over-exploitation of coastal resources
- Monitoring the catches of offshore fishing vessels
- Monitoring the fishery exports of the country

## Human Resources

The total approved staff of the Ministry of Fisheries in FY2019/2020 was 365 people as per staff establishment however only 315 was the on-the-ground staff in 2019-2020. The breakdown of the staff categories is given in Table 2.

**Table 2: Staffing of the Ministry of Fisheries**

No.	Approved staff #s	Established Officers	Government Wage Earners [GWE]	Projects [Employed on Project activities]
<b>Aug 2019/ Jul 2020</b>				
1	365	192	107	66
2	Strength (315- manpower on the ground)	163	102	50
3	Weaknesses (50- vacancies)	29	5	16
<b>Aug 2018/ Jul 2019</b>				
1	365	192	107	66
2	Strength (308- manpower on the ground)	164	93	51
3	Weaknesses (57- vacancies)	28	14	15

During the year, 33 people were newly recruited to the Ministry. Six (6) staff resigned and eight (8) retired.

**Table 3: Employee Management:**

No	Extension of Appointments	Total 2019/2020
1	Contract	38
2	Acting	5

3	Temporary Relievers	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>53</b>

### Learning and Development:

**Table 4: Training of Ministry Staff During the Year**

No	Training type	In attendance
1	Local Training	188
2	Overseas Training (including Meeting/ workshop)	51
3	Attachments	91
4	Study leave –Full time & Part time	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>342</b>

### Assets Management

**Infrastructure – Table 5: List of Assets by types**

No	Asset	Operational	Non- Operational	Total
1	Vehicles	39	5	44
2	Ice plants	23	1	24
3	Outboard vessels	13	9	22
4	Inboard vessel	2	0	2

In FY2019/2020 the Ministry had 44 vehicles: 35 were leased and 12 were non-leased. Seven of the 44 vehicles were under repair at some point during the year.

Of the Ministry’s 22 outboard-powered vessels, during the year 8 were operational, 4 were under-repair, and 8 were written off. The Ministry’s only inboard-powered vessel, the Onaga (33 ft boat based in Labasa), was operational during the year.

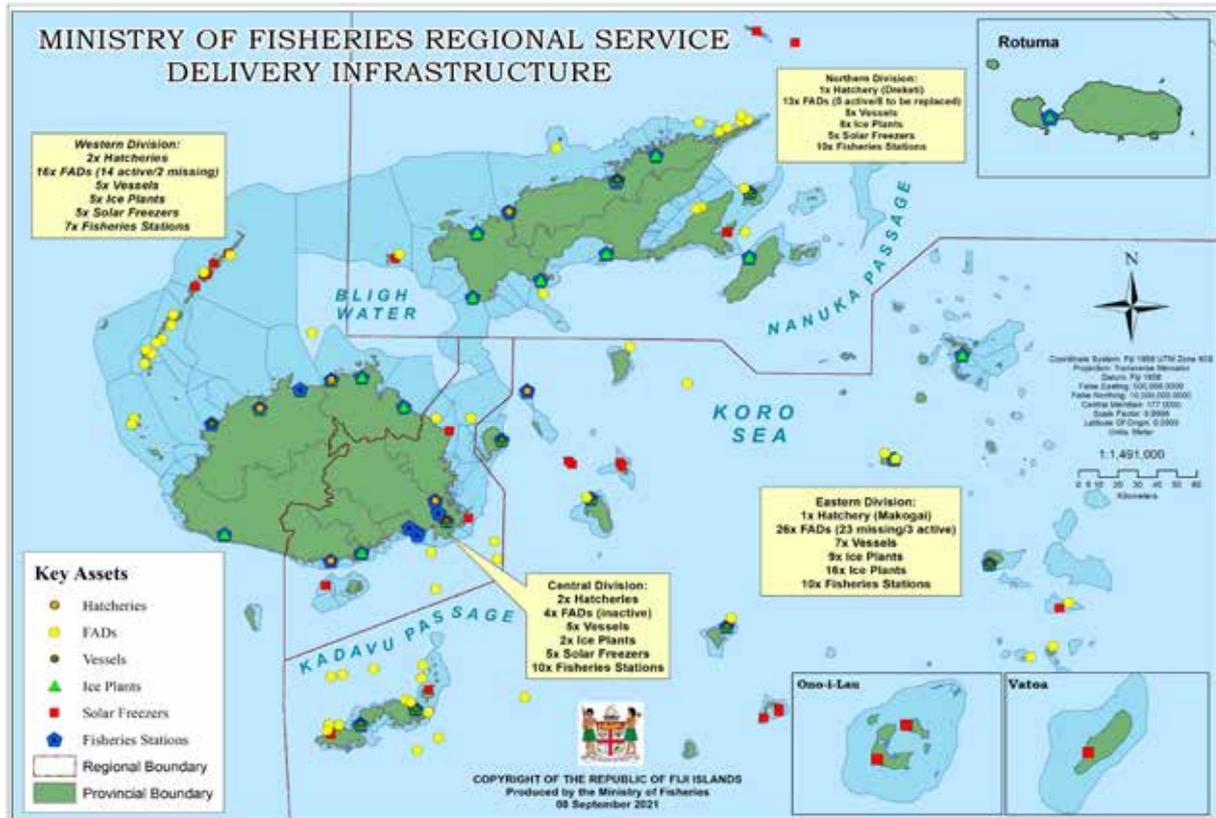
### Distribution Of Assets, Services And Products

**Figure 3: The above map provides a spread of the distribution of our services nationwide.**

### Summary:

A summary of our services and offices are outlined in the summary below:

- FAD Deployment – majority concentration in Kadavu, the Yasawa’s and the top end of Vanua-levu. 59 FADs deployed in total nationwide.



- 28 Ice Plants
- 32 Service Centers nationwide
- 6 Hatcheries nationwide

## Highlights in the geographically located Divisions

Fisheries Support offices and Service Centers are in majority locations in the 4 regional divisions – Central, Northern, Eastern, and Western.

To provide insight into the functioning of the Ministry, the major achievements, challenges, and issues in each of the thirteen divisions of the Ministry are presented in the sections below.

### 1. Central Division

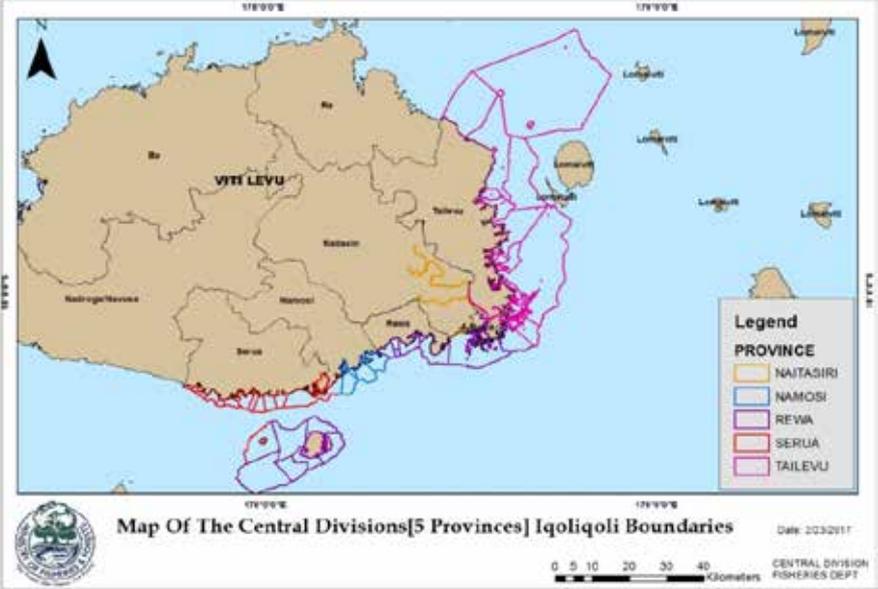
The Central Division is based in Nausori with a staffing strength of 22 and with the following assets under their deployment. – 3 vehicle, 2 vessels and 2 Ice Plants.

The Central Division provides fisheries operational services to the five (5) provinces namely:

- Tailevu
- Rewa
- Naitasiri
- Serua
- Namosi

**Table: 6: Central Division Profile**

DIVISIONAL PROFILE	
	<b>Tail</b>
Land area (ha)	7,60
Total Population	55,6
Tikina	22
Villages	142



Village Population	34,522	10,683	18,950	4,985	4,952
Fishing Ground	48	18	22	4	14
Area of Fishing Ground	1,672.763sq.km	239.542sq.km	7.7341sq.km	161.993sq.km	

### Our Operations at a Glance

- 3 Fish warden trainings were carried out in the division in 2019-20. These were at Dawasamu, Leuluvia and Naigani.
- A total of **71 wardens** were trained and appointed as honorary fish wardens tasked to protect their fisheries resources from poaching and illegal fishing by working together with enforcement agencies from Fisheries, Police and Navy.

- Successful completion of a major capital project for the Central division. The **Wainibokasi duplex staff quarters was completed** at a total cost of FJ\$300,000.00. It was commissioned by the Honorable Prime Minister of Fiji on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020.
- 2 solar freezers were installed, one each at Yanuca and Qoma. This is part of the Ministry's efforts to assist our local fishermen in preserving their catches for consumption and sales at a later date. These were handed over to the communities by the Hon. Semi Koroilavesau, Minister for Fisheries.
- **4 Fish Aggregate Devices (FAD)** were deployed at Beqa, Nukubuco, Dawasamu and Naigani. Unfortunately, all were lost during TC Harold.
- **3 boats** were handed over to communities in the region:



- (i) A boat and engine to the Vuci Womens Group;
- (ii) A boat and 75hp engine was handed over to the community of Naigani; and
- (iii) A boat and engine was handed over to the Technical College at Nadave;
- Market Surveys were conducted by Data Collectors on weekly basis at markets within the Central division.
- **382 IDA Licenses were issued for 2019 (Jan-Dec)**
- **234 IDA Licenses for 2020 (Jan-August).**
- **Ice production/sales & revenue:**

**Table 7 & 8: Ice Production and Ice Sales**

ICE SALE REVENUE						
	Wainibokasi		Navua		Total	
	Weight (kg)	Value(\$)	Weight(kg)	Value(\$)	Weight(kg)	Value(\$)
<b>Quarter 1</b>	66,994.51	\$9,138.27	21100.33	\$3,916.23	88,094.84	\$13,054.50
<b>Quarter 2</b>	65,702.81	\$10,886.80	25801.2	\$5,166.38	91,504.01	\$16,053.18
<b>Quarter 3</b>	62,164.18	\$10,131.36	12947.76	\$2,542.80	75,111.94	\$12,674.16
<b>Quarter 4</b>	62740.39	\$9,872.20	16428.97	\$4,095.24	79,169.36	\$13,967.44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>257,601.89</b>	<b>\$40,028.63</b>	<b>76,278.26</b>	<b>\$15,720.65</b>	<b>333,880.15</b>	<b>\$55,749.28</b>

FISHING LICENSE REVENUE			
	Nausori	Navua	Total
<b>Quarter 1</b>	\$287.76	\$164.74	\$452.50
<b>Quarter 2</b>	\$1,039.20	\$453.93	\$1,493.13
<b>Quarter 3</b>	\$1,052.69	\$387.37	\$1,440.06
<b>Quarter 4</b>	\$848.15	\$187.47	\$1,035.62

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,227.80</b>	<b>\$1,193.51</b>	<b>\$4,421.31</b>
--------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------

- **4 Deep water snapper license issued.**
- **3 sea and 13 land patrols** undertaken during the financial year, with an aim to enforce fisheries laws and regulation on fish harvest and sales.
- Two (2) cases regarding turtle harvest were compiled for the division. One was from Kaba island where fixed penalty was issued and one was from Qoma where the case is still with the court.
- Operation *Vueti Sasalu*, which was initiated from 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019, continued well into late 2019 and into 2020. This operation was to counter the increasing harvest and sales of undersize crabs and fish. For this operation, teams were formed to carry out the monitoring, control and advisory duties at the Municipal and Non-municipal markets found in the locality of the Central Division for the purpose achieving compliance to fisheries laws. This operation led to a dramatic decrease in the sales of undersize crabs in the key areas, however there still remain significant instances of ongoing sales and this is a challenge for the division to effectively monitor and control.
- Ministry staffs in the central region were actively involved in the DISMAC operations in the aftermath of TC Harold. They were part of the Disaster Rehabilitation Trip to Kadavu, Beqa, Yanuca and Vatulele for assistance on fish trade and distribution of fishing gears to the communities. They were also part of the Staff in BDM & Kawakawa/Donu community consultations to solicit views and opinions of Customary Fishing Rights Owners (CFRO's)
- As part of the Seaweed development project two (2) major trainings were carried out, the first being the seaweed farming and pest control organized by SPC and the Seaweed Product Development Training for Fiji organized by the Indonesian Government.. A total of 10 participants from Fiji attended, apart from trainees from Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tonga and PNG and 23 attended the local training respectively. The seaweed project suffered intensive damages to planted lines and nurseries due to the events of 3 cyclones, namely Tino, Sarai and Harold. This was a major setback for seaweed production, however, the project team working with farmers and divisional staff to revive the planting program for the financial year 2020-21.
- Awareness program were carried out at Vunisaleka settlement in collaboration with "Save the Children" fund in August 2019. There was also awareness carried out in the Waidina/Sawani catchment in the communities of Navatuvula, Sawani, Vuniniudravu and Navuso, in collaboration with Ministry of Environment. FA Viniana attended the "Sauvaki Ni Vanua" social leadership training program in July 2020. FO Peckham attended the Tailevu Ridge to Reef project consultation for the Rewa Delta Catchment in October 2019. This is part of the UNDP Ridge to Reef project, also administrated by DoE and Provincial offices.
- Muanaira Mangrove Oyster Project at Muanaira village, in the district of Vutia, Rewa. This project is carried out by the womens group. Assisted by SPC in collaboration with Fisheries. Farming oysters could assist with this livelihood diversification, and improve economic benefits and living standards for women and their families of Muauaira Village (and for other villages around Fiji) if economies of scale were achieved and a suitable private sector partner was in place.
- The Ministry continued to encourage staff to attend technical and administrative training. FTO Elenoa Sailada attended JICA funded training in Japan on *Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Conservation through Collaborative Management of Marine Protected Areas* in November/ December 2019. Other short local trainings were attended by Central staff.

## 2. Western Division

The Western Regional Support Office is based in Lautoka whilst the service centers are spread across the region beginning from Ba through to Namarai in Rakiraki. Ra.

**Table 9: Western Region Profile**

	Nadroga/Navosa	Ba	Ra
<b>Land Area (sqkm)</b>	2,385.00	2,630.00	1,340.00
<b>Total Population</b>	58,400.00	232,000.00	29,470.00
<b>Tikina</b>	22.00	21.00	19.00
<b>Villages</b>	121.00	107.00	89.00
<b>Fishing Ground</b>	35.00	16.00	19.00
<b>Area of Fishing Ground (sqkm)</b>	1,428.00	9,600.75	1,317.29

### Our 2019/2020 operations at a glance

Under the **Offshore Fisheries Strategy** of creating value through our business as usual programs we achieved the following:

- **108 Export permits** issued showing an increase in the number of companies and individuals who have ventured into exporting of fisheries commodities.
- **106 Import permits** showing a drastic decrease in imports as a result of the impact of COVID19 on the tourism sector
- **3** Fiji flagged vessels were boarded and inspected as they arrived into Lautoka Port.
- **89** Inspections of fishery products undertaken for commodities destined for the export market. All inspections are undertaken from approved West exporting companies.
- **70** Land inspections or patrols were recorded as undertaken with the Regional MCS and Compliance Team.
- **2** Marine/sea surveillance operations supported through the West Regional Office, namely with the RFNS Kikau and Fiji Police during the COVID19 border closure.
- **1** Aerial Surveillance operation within the Fiji and Tuvalu EEZ undertaken with the Royal New Zealand Air Force.
- **14** Court appearances for Inshore Fisheries cases

In reiterating the impacts of COVID19 on the trade of fisheries commodities; it was generally perceived that there was a drastic decrease in the number of imports as a result of the impact on the tourism markets. However, in a stark comparison, a slight increase in the number of companies and individuals whom have ventured into exporting of Fisheries commodities was witnessed providing an opportune for the Ministry and other line Ministries to assist locals who are willing to start their exporting businesses and also at the same time monitoring their harvesting sites and species.

The Offshore Fisheries Unit under the West Regional Office had also lend a big supporting role in the prosecution of cases in both the Lautoka and Nadi High Courts showing our capabilities and capacity in this area.

Our **Aquaculture Strategy** to rapidly grow achieved milestones in their efforts toward realizing this strategy despite facing major constraints as increases in feed prices, difficulties associated with

marketing from inland remote areas to the urban areas where marketing opportunities are greater, seedling production and supply are just some of the challenges the aquaculture unit had experienced during the reporting year. The following activities were realized:

- **125 farms** profiled where 85 active, 35 dormant freshwater farms and 5 brackishwater farms were reactivated. Through this inventory the region also updated the West Regional Aquaculture Master List and completed GPS plotting of the sites for further GIS mapping.
- **237 applications** for aquaculture assistance were received through the West Regional Office, out of these 29% were for brackishwater assistance, 18% for mariculture with 53% for fry requests.
- **10.5mt of tilapia** were produced out of active farms, of these 18% produced from the Ra Province, 71% out of the Ba Province, with 11% from the Nadroga/Nasova Province.
- **8 FSP recipients** were granted assistance through pond construction, piping and feed.
- **5 Brackishwater farms** were assisted with PL's once only during the reporting year, leaving the farm dormant for the remainder of the year, a direct result of the lack of seedling supply.
- **2 Commercial Shrimp farmers** were assisted under the Shrimp Grant Assistance program of the Ministry.
- **Market research** resulted in three companies who have come on board interested in purchasing local shrimp from our farmers.
- **Caboni Multispecies Hatchery** with the assistance of the Taiwan Technical Mission established a Milkfish Feed Mill, the Caboni Shrimp Indoor Hatchery as well as outdoor raceways and completed improvements on the existing earthen ponds. The project through Government completed the construction of a seawater reservoir and fencing of the same. Seedling production continued through the ongoing grow-out and nursing trials for shrimps, groupers and milkfish, who have reached life spans of one to three years respectively. The project progressed works with the Technical Lead Consultant Shri Singh and Associates through the finalization of the preliminary design concepts for the multispecies hatchery, housing and training facilities beginning the first stages of the realization of the proposed infrastructure development on site.

In response to our **Coastal Strategy** to sustain and diversify, the team in executing their core roles or business as usual outputs and delivering on the seven strategic priorities and six outputs report the following:

- **632 inshore fishing licenses** issued for inshore demarcated areas across the 3 provinces and associated customary fishing areas far surpassing the total targeted for the 2019-2020 licensing period by 126.4%.
- **MCS and enforcement** activities continued throughout the reporting period with lag periods experienced during the national COVID19 lockdown period which for the Western region continued over a month from March through to April. However during the reporting period the Compliance and MCS unit reported 1,159 targeted land operations and inspections and 52 sea patrols throughout the region including an inshore marine patrol surveillance operation with the Fiji Navy where over 30 boarding and inspections on fishing vessels were conducted. The team issued a total of nine Fixed Penalty Notices to entities and individuals totaling over \$70,000 and confiscated over 2400 pieces of illegally sea cucumbers, more than 50kgs of Humphead Wrasse and 11.5kgs of giant clam meat.
- **Prosecution** a total of eight cases was prosecuted through the Court system in the reporting year building a strong and reliable investigation unit within region.
- **Marine protection** interests from customary fishing rights owners, private resort owners and NGOs in the region continued to be screened through the regional office and for the year under review five interests were received, screened and sent in during the reporting year and interests

continue to flow in through community awareness sessions and other forums.

- **FAD fisheries development** through the deployment of FAD in the regions island communities continue to be executed within the region; in the reporting year a total of seven FADs were deployed in the Yasawa group of islands.
- **Fish Market Surveys** the region's Data Collection Unit conducted a total of 166 market surveys within the Lautoka Fishermen's Market, the Lautoka and the Ba Municipal Markets recording 34, 740.81kg of fish at a value of \$288, 900.23 that were sold through the three markets, sampling a total of 31,687 fin fish.

## Challenges

**COVID19:** The region came to a halt for a month due to the border closure for the Lautoka area. The border closure then extended to inbound and outbound flights for the country even halting and brining the tourism sector to a complete halt. The impact this had for the Western region as a whole was never seen or felt by the nation in its entire 50 year history. The pandemic brought Fiji to a stop. Despite this the region continued to hold the fort with the Civil Service putting through new Work from Home protocols to ensure the safety of staff and families. Programs and budgets were re-adjusted to suit the new norm, in addition to this the nation was again battered by Tropical Cyclone Harold which further set the nation back and having to refocus and readjust.

The brief below describes the impact of COVID19 and TC Harold on the Western region during the month long lockdown and post-TC Harold.

### Impacts of COVID19 and TC Harold on primary operations and related activities

- The most challenging impact for fishermen is the affected sales of their fish products at the initial phase of reopening given the low turnouts of customers to buy their catch.
- Initially, the closure of the wharf at the pinnacle of the COVID19 hype imposed the hardest times for fishermen as they have depended so much on fishing. However, after the first week of the lockdown a relief period was given to fishermen to fish but limited to one captain and two crews.
- The impact trickled up the market chain as it affected trade amongst the middlemen and other buyers (fish outlets, restaurants and hotels) especially in regards to the highly dependent or prized commodities sought out by these buyers. In the process, most middlemen have lost most of their income boosting clients for high prized commodities.
- Fish trading is more unprofitable in the initial reopening due to fishermen having to increase the prices of catch given that they are only allowed a captain and two crews to fish which means more expenses that they need to re-compensate. However, customers are demanding cheaper prices which barricades the efficient flow of trade thus fishermen have to gamble and cave in to customers demand in order to secure money for next fishing trip.
- In terms of government aid of ration relief, almost no fishermen was privileged to this aid as they waited out the reopening of the wharf and trying to make means and in most times compensating loss during the lockdown period.
- In some areas fish prices have been severely blown out to 50% reduction and fishermen are mostly affected because they are losing their bargaining power to the customers. In Rakiraki, the fishermen received their worst nightmare as prices of A, B and C grade fish were compromised to flat rate prices due to the loss that would incur if they do not cave in from their high prices.
- The lockdown affected connected establishment depending on seafood especially seafood restaurants and fish outlets nationwide.

### **New emerging issues out of the COVID19 border closure**

- The need for a proper and standardized directive channels or procedures to allow uniform directives to trickle down between enforcement agencies to be properly disseminated to the public. Enforcement agencies are informing different directives to the public, for instance, the maritime movements from the Navy and the Police during the pinnacle of the lockdown period
- A need of a response procedure needs to be designed and formulated accordingly ready for this kind of unpredicted events especially pandemic outbreaks such as COVID19. In the events of the lockdown, fishermen were dismally affected given the imposed no fishing period.

### **Opportunities for further collaboration and support with the Ministry to address Sector Outcomes and National Government Objectives (where applicable)**

- The establishment of more Fishermen's Associations (FAs) to allow fishermen and government to exploit two-way management support. For instance, the Ministry will fully recognize and support these FAs in setting up their interest especially something like an "Emergency Bank" in these kinds of hard times such as COVID19 and TC Harold. An "Emergency Bank" could be a financial relief deposit accumulated from the FAs fishing operations aided by the government support for rainy days.
- The need to develop a uniform overlapping directive controls or procedures between different enforcement agencies to allow effective monitoring and control of hysterical situation such as COVID19.

### **Immediate needs requiring government interventions to each stakeholder grouping**

#### *Fishermen and Middlemen*

- Ministry to step in as a trader or a trader councilor for fishermen to either allow compensation for loss from cheap fish sales or control the price demanded by the customers.
- Provide alternative source of income to make up for losses acquired during the COVID19 and TC Harold. Some fishermen are suggesting lifting the ban for *Donu* and *Kawakawa* and sea cucumbers to compensate for loss.
- Provision relief support such as ration, boat maintenance, purchasing of a new boat and fishing gears, waiver dry docking and dry docking fees, extending market opening hours, easing of fishing licenses processes and other incurred processes that involves monetary trade.
- Government support on repayment of loans for fishermen. Fishermen are requesting if government can create leeway payments for repayment given the slow turnover of their business
- Government intervention in the municipal markets to allow ease of payments of fees and levies for fishermen and middlemen

### **Other relevant matters**

- The government needs relook at how we can approach these unpredicted events more effectively given that majority of people lives and livelihood are affected during these period because more than 65% of the interviewed fishermen and middlemen said "NO" when asked if there was any positive actions did the government do to help them.

### **Other issues/challenges specific to the Western Region**

- The Divisions at sea and land patrols can be strengthened with better resourcing; coverage area for the Division is vast covering approximately 7800sq.km hence the need for greater resourcing in HR, enforcement tools and equipment, advanced assets and legal prosecution of

- offenders, amongst others cannot be overemphasized.
- The Division could benefit more from a robust user friendly database to safely house the data collected and be able to serve a simple analysis function.
  - Many communities in the Western Division have expressed interest in taking measures to assure the sustainability of their inshore fishery resources, but the prevalence of night divers based in Lautoka appear to be wiping out fish populations, however the Ministry can do little to detect and apprehend those divers.
    - The need to formalize a standardized process for establishing and registering Fisher folk associations as there does not seem to be much information on the most appropriate way for the Ministry to assist.
    - At the community level, the relationship between the work of the Ministry and that of NGOs is unclear.
    - The need to package fisheries information for foreign investors, particularly those keen to engage and partner with the Ministry on aquaculture and longline fishing
    - The greater need for awareness on regulations pertaining to the recreational fishing sector operating through hotels and resorts
    - The need to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of development programs in the Division so that impact to the communities and the people we serve are realized and felt.

### 3. Northern Division

The Northern Region services the vast area in Cakaudrove, Bua and Macuata with majority of the communities rely on marine resources for their daily sustenance.

#### Our Operations At A Glance:

For our **Aquaculture Strategy** the following were achieved

- **Aquaculture Farm Development and Hatchery Operations**
  - **23,000 fry's** collected and stocked in the raceways.
  - **320 female broodstock** and 160 male brood stock collected and raised to spawn in Dreketi Hatchery
  - **Collection of 14,000 fry's** from the happa and stocked in the raceway tank
  - **Site Visitations - >10 visits** to established and potential sites
  - **Monitoring of Farms** – 4 quarterly visits
  - Pond repair and construction for existing pond constructions
  - Farm Sampling continued to be an operational activity for our extension officers.
  - Due to the movement of restrictions during the first wave of COVID-19, our officers were not able to visit most farms within the Division.
  - 70,000 fries produced and distributed to 19 aquaculture farmers in the 4 regions.

For our **Coastal Fisheries Strategy**, the following were achieved:

- **Compliance and Enforcements**
  - **40 land based patrols** conducted during the year in the three provinces of Vanua Levu. It is extremely important that the Fisheries Officers are visible especially for monitoring illegal

fisheries activities.

- Of the 40 land based patrols there were **6 hearings in court**.
- Inspections continued to be progressed by Fisheries Officers both at landing sites, markets and restaurants and outlets.
- **515 IDA Fishing Licenses** were issued to fishermen in the three provinces
- **Ice Production stood at 567,270.99 kg at a value of \$199,220.80**
- Fish Production Data stood at 37,953 kg Valued at \$292,880.08
- Giant Clams restocking and planting of corals and mangrove planting at Vorovoro, Mali.
- Seaweed Development 4.7 tonnes produced at \$6,630.00. The Ministry continued to assist 3 communities with seaweed drying rack, harvesting and planting of seedlings.
- Under the FAO TC Yasa Rehabilitation Program, the Ministry supported 3 communities with fishing gears – Nadavaci, Kioa Island and Rabi
- Pearl Farming Development – Implanting of Mabe Pearls at Viani village in collaboration with Sunshine University
- Spat Collecting Farming – the Ministry continued to support the following communities with spat harvests, deployment of spat collection lines, monitoring of spat collecting lines:  
- Viani, Ravita, Raviravi, Koronatoga, Vuinadi 1, Vuinadi 2, Lakeba, Naklou and Druadrua Island
- New Spat Farms were established in Koronatoga
- In order to channel government assistance to where benefits will be maximized, the Ministry established the Yadua Fishermen Association in Bua. Their operation was lifted through the donation of a solar freezer by the Ministry.

## 4. Eastern Division

The Eastern Division service the Lomaiviti Group, Lau group and the islands in Kadavu.

**Table 10: Eastern Region Summary of Achievement**

<b>Operation of ice machines (ice sales)</b>	240 Metric Tonnes (target for the year 150MT) Value - \$40,139.29
<b>Education, Training &amp; Meetings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance at 6 provincial meeting, 2 Lau, 2 Kadavu and 2 Lomaiviti</li> <li>• 24 District Meeting in Lomaiviti, 27 District Meeting in Kadavu and 24 District Meeting in Lau</li> <li>• 1 Post harvest training conducted in Batiki</li> <li>• Cicia Training – Ice box making, Deep sea fishing techniques training, FAD training (30 participants)</li> <li>• Fish Warden Training in Cicia (8 Fish wardens)</li> <li>• Formation of Nairai Fishermen Association</li> <li>• 12 staffs attended the SPC Deep sea fishing techniques, FAD construction and Deployment</li> <li>• Trained 15 aquaculture farmers in Levuka on Pond management and Finance Literacy</li> <li>• Delivery of 4 station boats – Moala, Cicia, Kavala and Vunisea</li> <li>• On going replenishment of giant clam in the MPAs in the Eastern Division and planting of dogo</li> </ul>
<b>FADs</b>	<b>12 FADS deployed</b> 2 in Tubou, 1 Nayau, 1 Nasaqalau, 1 Nukunuku, 4 Moturiki, 1 Kadavu, 1 Vanuavatu & 1 Tuvuca
<b>Food Security &amp; Income Generating</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FSP project (Aquaculture) – harvest of 76.65 kg Tilapia in Levuka, Value \$696.50</li> <li>• 4 more farmers assisted through FSP</li> <li>• Handing over of Solar Freezer for Batiki Fishermen association</li> <li>• Handing over of Solar Freezer for Nairai Fishermen Association</li> <li>• Handing over of 25ft fibreglass boat with 60HP engine for Lakeba fishermen association</li> </ul>
<b>Fisheries Law Enforcement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 Land patrol conducted throughout the Division and 15 sea patrols</li> <li>• Caution interview conducted for those fishermen caught selling kawakawa and Donu during the seasonal banned months</li> <li>• Warnings issued and compilation of case files for those who breached the conditions of their fishing licences has been done and forward to IFMD. These are normally the fishermen who breach the seasonal ban of kawakawa and donu.</li> </ul>
<b>Licensing</b>	298 Fishing licenses issued @ \$2501.90

The major challenges faced during the year were related to the isolated nature of many of the islands of the Eastern Division, which creates problems for the division to visit, monitor, and communicate with communities. An important issue is that improving the communication through better internet and telephone connections to the nine service centers would provide more information on a timely basis. Secondly, providing the nine stations with bigger and safer aluminum vessels will lead to better coverage to the surrounding islands that are quite inaccessible and therefore currently experience difficulty in accessing Ministry services.

# Functional Services

## Research Division

The Research Division is based in Lami. Its management considers the major achievements during the year to be the ones highlighted herein. The major challenges faced are the difficulty in engineering ownership of projects by communities (i.e. altering the perception of being government projects), the low capacity of research staff in the use of digital research tools, and inclement weather.

### Fisheries Research and Conservation Program (FRCP)

The FRCP project has been mandated to conduct marine resources inventory survey in customary fishing right areas (CFRA) to understand species abundance, spatial distribution, occurrence and resource interactions that promote conservation and effective management of Fiji's marine resources. The project works closely with communities, the tourism industry and conservation partners on establishing marine conservation sites to improve fisheries productivity, biodiversity and livelihood. Information and data collected from the survey direct the Ministry of Fisheries (MOF) on the execution of management plans



and conservation initiatives within the inshore and coastal areas. A core component of the project is conducting stock assessment for targeted species to determine the sustainability and develop the policies for conservation and protection needs, management plans, harvest control rules (including quota), and the development of a species moratorium (fishing bans and seasonal closures). The project is executed the Fijian Government United Nation Ocean Conference (UNOC) Voluntary Commitment on the management and conservation of species of special interest such as groupers, sharks and rays, sea turtle, whales and dolphins, gender and fisheries and the 30 % of our seas to be protected and financed. Promoting marine tourism is also one of the main activities of the project, as not only improve and develop the marine ecosystem and biodiversity services to attract tourist but also improve livelihood and develop the grass root economies. The project is also responsible in the implementation of the Marine Component of the GEF 5 Ridge to Reef Framework.

The main objectives for 2019 – 2020 are to:

1. Conduct fisheries resource inventory survey and develop management plans in 6 CFRA
2. Establishment and development of marine protected areas (MPA)
3. Implement the marine component of the GEF 5 Ridge to Reef Framework through conducting socioeconomic and biological survey of Vanua Burebasaga and Noco CFRA.
4. Collaboration with conservation partners in the implementation of the UNOC Voluntary Commitment on data collection of species of species interest (SSI).

**Budget:**

The total budget allocation for 2019 – 2020 fiscal year is FJ\$300, 000.00

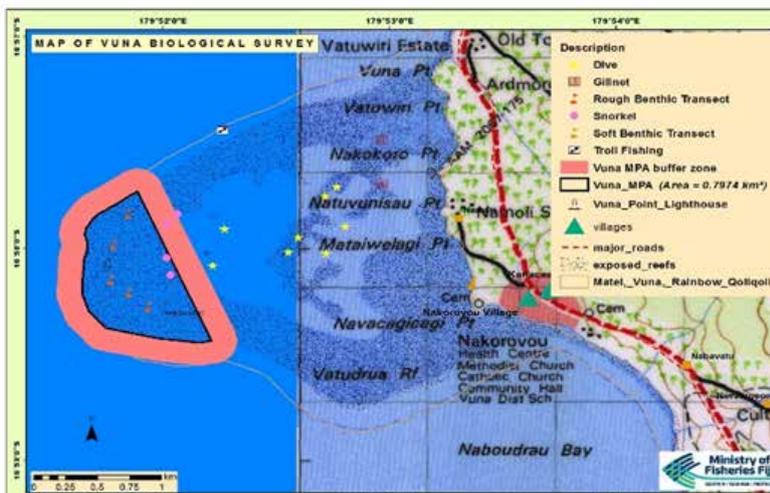
**Achievements**

The FRCP Project achievement for 2019 – 2020 fiscal year are as follows:

**Objective 1: Fisheries Resources Inventory Survey**

The fisheries resources assessment survey through the gathering of socioeconomic fisheries and marine biological data was undertaken in the followings CFRA:

- **Vanua Vuna CFRA**

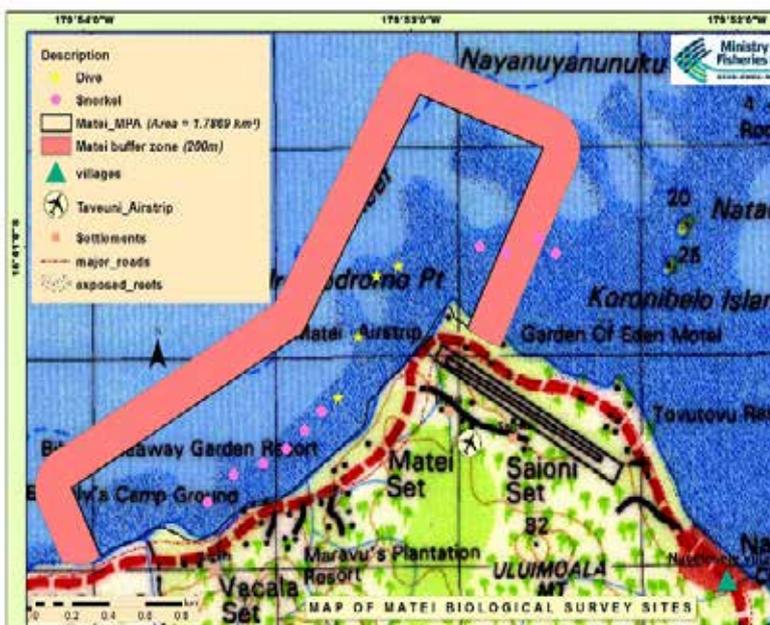


Total CFRA of Vanua Vuna: 6.0248 square mile.

3 villages under the jurisdiction of Vanua Vuna: Nakawau, Kanacea and Nakorovu

Agriculture particularly yaqona and dalo farming are the main source of income and people depend less on fisheries resources which is evident on the low average rate of seafood per capita consumption (<40% national average rate).

- **Vanua Wainikelu CFRA**



Total of CFRA of Vanua Wainikeli and Bouma: 57.3838 square miles.

5 villages under the jurisdiction of Vanua Wainikeli and Vuna: Naselesele, Qeleni, Waitabu, Vitawa and Korovu

Similar to Vanua Vuna, agriculture particularly yaqona and dalo farming is the main source of income.

Average rate of seafood per capita consumption (40%+)

- **Vanua Cicia CFRA**



Total CFRA of Vanua Cicia: 24.811 square miles

Fishing is second to Copra as the main source of income.

High dependency on fisheries resources as main source of protein, with rate of finfish per capita consumption ranges from 44kg.year<sup>-1</sup> – 76.8kg.year<sup>-1</sup>.

Evidence of change in lifestyle and the availability of cash through copra is the high rate of canned fish per capita consumption ranges from 17kg.year<sup>-1</sup> – 51kg.year<sup>-1</sup>

Estimated total annual catch of finfish recorded in Vanua Cicia is about 300 tons.year<sup>-1</sup>

- **Moala Island CFRA**



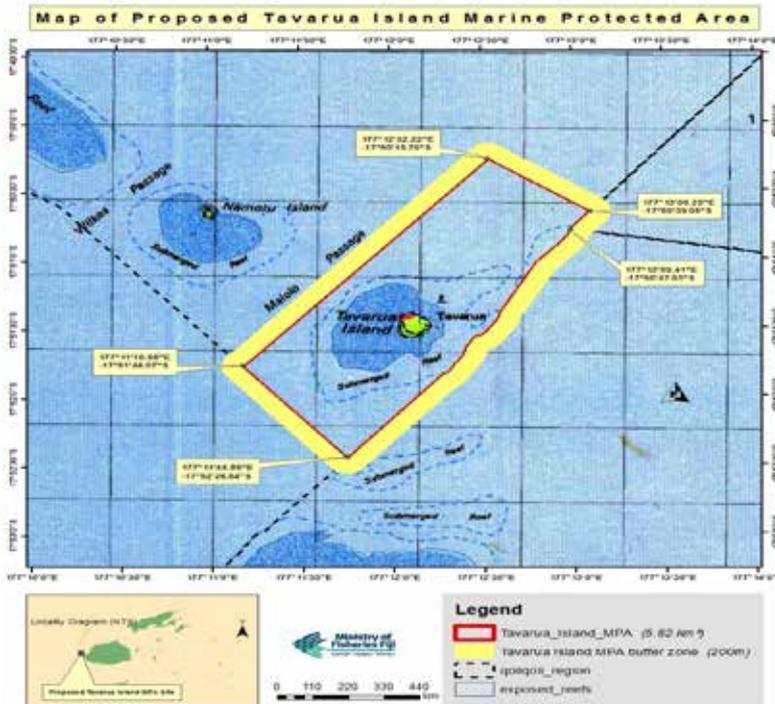
Total CFRA of Vanua Moala: 51.5201 square miles

Fishing is second to Yaqona as the main source of income.

High dependency on fisheries resources as main source of protein, with rate of finfish per capita consumption at 86kg.year<sup>-1</sup> and invertebrate resources at 16kg.year<sup>-1</sup>

Evidence of change in lifestyle and availability of cash through yaqona farming, consumption of canned fish at 11kg.year<sup>-1</sup>.

## Objective 2: Establishment and Development of MPA



Rapid assessment to gather marine biological information was undertaken from 11th – 12th February 2020.

Consultations with stakeholders and custodians has not been completed because of COVID 19 restrictions.



The MPA has been proposed for shark feeding operation.

Socioeconomic fisheries assessment and the first consultation was undertaken from 10th – 14th March 2020.

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Fiji Hotel & Tourism Association (FHTA) on coral reef enhancement and development of MPA**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association (FHTA) and the Ministry of Fisheries was signed on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019. It provides a platform to forge partnerships and work together with resorts in addressing matters of common concern in the context of natural resource management and its long-term sustainability. Through the MOU, the Ministry of Fisheries and the FHTA will cooperate and work together for the purpose of promoting mutual understanding that will in turn lead to the strengthening of relationships between both entities.

A total of twenty-three (23) resorts has expressed their interests of venturing into marine protection projects through the Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association (FHTA). Nineteen (19) properties, mostly in the Western division have been inspected since August 2019 to March 2020. Inspections are undertaken to identify viable sites with suitable conditions to establish ocean nurseries.

Two-week post-inspections, a summary inspection report is disseminated to each property along with a list of materials to prepare prior to the reseeding trip. However, only five (5) resorts have been reseeded since February 2020 and they include: Treasure Island Resort, Marriott Resort Momi Bay, Navini Island Resort, Octopus Island Resort and Barefoot Manta Resort. A total of 208 clams have been outsourced from the Makogai Mariculture Research Station since reseeding in 2019-2020 and include eight (8) adult *T.gigas* and two-hundred (200) *T.derasa* species. Unfortunately, all inspections and reseeding works had since ceased in the month of March, 2020 due to the COVID-19 movement restriction.

**Activities**

**I. Water Sampling at Yasawa Island Resort & Marriot Resort**



**II. Cage Construction on Navini Island Resort**



### III. Wild Stock Collection at Octopus Island



### IV. Reseeding of Giant Clams at Barefoot Manta Resort



### V. Maintenance of Existing Farms at Barefoot Manta Resort



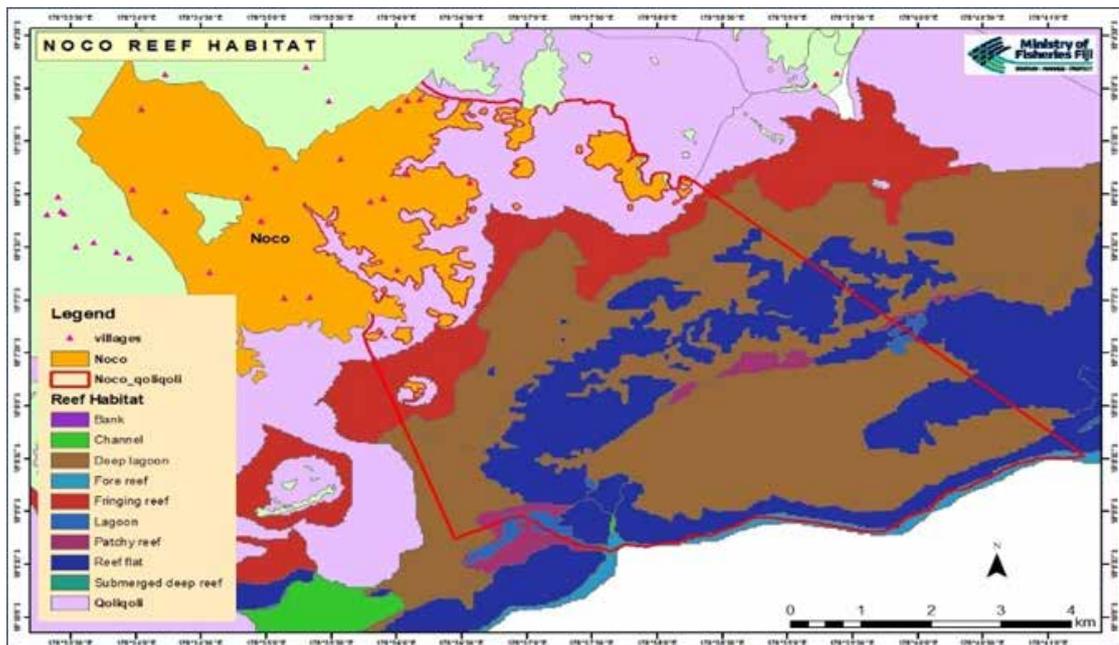
### VI. Staff Awareness at Barefoot Manta & Marriot Resort



### Objective 3: Implementation of the GEF 5 Ridge to Reef Framework Marine Component

#### Vanua Noco CFRA

- Fishing is the main source of income.
- High dependency on fisheries resources as main source of protein, the estimated average finfish per capita consumption is 58.53 kg.year<sup>-1</sup> and the invertebrate per capita consumption is 66.87 kg.year<sup>-1</sup>.
- Estimated total annual catch of finfish and invertebrates is around 130 tons. year<sup>-1</sup> and 66.87 tons. year<sup>-1</sup> respectively.
- Total fish biomass is 518.3kg.ha<sup>-1</sup> and indication of healthy fishing ground but still need more attention because of close proximity to urban areas.



#### Vanua Burebasaga CFRA

- Four districts namely Rewa, Burebasaga, Dreketi and Vutia are under the jurisdiction of Vanua Burebasaga CFRA. Majority of the people of Vanua Burebasaga work in Suva and Nausori thus the main source of income is earning salary and wages.
- Low dependency on fisheries resources as main source of protein, the average rate of finfish per capita consumption ranges from 29 kg.year<sup>-1</sup> to 35kg.year<sup>-1</sup>, whilst the invertebrate per capita consumption ranges from 2kg.year<sup>-1</sup> to 4kg.year<sup>-1</sup>.
- Evidence of change in lifestyle and availability cash through salary and wages earned, with the high rate of per capita consumption of canned fish from 15kg.year<sup>-1</sup> to 52kg.year<sup>-1</sup>.
- The total annual catch of finfish recorded was 400 tons.yr<sup>-1</sup> and the total annual catch volume in each district is substantial, ranging from 29.96 to 279.15 tons.yr<sup>-1</sup>.
- Estimated annual catches of invertebrate is about 230 tons.year<sup>-1</sup>.
- Total fish biomass recorded was 338.54kg.ha<sup>-1</sup>, lower than the healthy indicator thus needs more attention on management of its resources.



## 2. Sea Turtle Research

Sea turtle research is a collaboration project with the University of the South Pacific. The project involves the data collection on physical examination, genetic sampling and blood sampling. A total of 9 Green turtles or *Vonu dina* (*Chelonia mydas*) and 1 Hawksbill turtles or *Vonu taku* (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) were tagged and released from 30<sup>th</sup> January to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Makogai Island.



**Table 11: Sea turtles tagged from Makogai waters between January – February 2020**

Tag ID Code	Tag Present	Species	Date	Weight	Curved Carapace Length (cm)	Linear Carapace Length	Body Depth
RI 15782	N	CM	31/01/20	17	51.3	49	18
R 50482	Y	CM	31/01/20	28	60	56	19
RI 5783	N	CM	31/01/20	37	71.3	65	22
RI 16371	Y	EI	01/02/20	37	72.4	66.5	20
RI 15784	N	CM	01/02/20	10	45.1	43	15
RI 15624	Y	CM	01/02/20	22	57.7	53	18
RI 15648	Y	CM	03/02/20	17	52.8	49	17
RI 15786	N	CM	03/02/20	22	54.6	54	19
RI 15787	N	CM	03/02/20	28	60.7	56	22
RI 16182	Y	CM	04/02/20	18	54.1	48	19

## Ciguatera Fish Poisoning (CFP) Research

The CFP project is a collaboration research between the Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Health and the Fiji National University (FNU). The project includes the improvement of reporting mechanism of CFP cases at the village level and scientific validation of CFP hot spot areas identified through traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and local knowledge (LK). by designing new reporting forms and distributed to village Health Workers and Headman as they are the first point of contact in any fish poisoning incident. The training on reporting of CFP incidence was conducted at Nasilai village on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The fish poisoning incidence reporting booklets were distributed to village Health Worker in 6 villages which includes Kiuva, Muanaira, Nasilai, Vadrai, Dromuna and Vatani.



## Validation of Hot spot areas

The sea water samples were collected from Nasoki, Nuku and Cakova in Moala island. Microscopic observation was conducted on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2020. Validating of these sites is ongoing.



## Makogai Mariculture Research Project

The giant clam quarantine facility was established in 1986 in Makogai, along with the pilot scale development of the giant clam hatchery. The quarantine work started with the re-introduction of a batch of three-months old baby *Tridacna gigas* or *Vasua matau* from Orpheus Island in North Queensland in March 1986 (the species had been extinct from Fiji from the early 1960s) with the gradual aim of re-introducing this species to Fiji waters.

The total budget allocation for 2019- 2020 is FJ\$262,160.00 with the main objective of mass production of giant clams and distributed to marine protected areas (MPA) to address food security, improve livelihood, increase coastal fisheries production and export, improve livelihood, promote conservation and investments and create adaptive capacities. Other research activities conducted in Makogai included small scale production of trochus, sea turtle rehabilitation and research, coral propagation. The major setback occurred in 2016, whereby the station was badly damaged by Tropical Cyclone Winston. With the assistance from the national government, the station was re-established in 2018. The project currently culturing four (4) species of giant clams which are *Tridacna gigas*, *T.derasa*, *T.squamosa* and *T.maxima*.

## Achievements for 2019 -2020

The achievements of Makogai Project for 2019 – 2020 fiscal year are as follows:

### 1. Giant Clam Production

Spawning was conducted in June 2020, therefore 42,000 *T.squamosa* and 27,000 *T.derasa* were successfully produced.

## 2. Stock Assessment of Giant Clam in Makogai Waters

A total of 532 individuals were recorded in eight (8) sites

## 3. Ocean Nursery Brood Stock Count

*T.gigas* (*Vasua matau*): 7

*T.derasa* ( ): 6

*T.squamosa* ( ): 7

Total: 20

## 4. Sea Turtles Rehabilitation Centre

A total of 11 hawksbill turtle are rehabilitated at the station.



## Pearl Oyster Development Project

The Pearl Oyster project is centred on creating economic opportunities in coastal and maritime communities and contribute to economic growth. The project involves the collection of spats from the wild for *mabe* production, seed stock for local pearl farmers and the utilization of oyster shells to produce handicrafts.

The total budget allocation for 2019-2020 is FJ\$295,200.00 with the main objectives on expanding community based spat collection program, increase participation of communities in business ownership and pearl industry support. The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) is supporting the Ministry of Fisheries on the production of *mabe*, crafting of pearl shells and *mabe* pearl handicraft including promoting the gender participation particularly women in the pearl industry.

The development of the pearl industry is one of the Fijian Government voluntary commitment in the United Nation Ocean Conference (UNOC) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on 'creating a blue economy in the pearl industry' by integrating marine protected areas (MPA) and marine aquaculture and ranching activities.



## Achievement

The achievements of Pearl Oyster Development Project in 2019-2020 fiscal year are as follows:

### 1. Establishment of New Sites and Expansion and Monitoring of Existing Sites

Activities	Sites/Province	Number of Lines
New community based spat farms established	Naqara, Kadavu	4
	Waiqori, Oneata	4
	Dakuiloa, Oneata	4
Expansion of existing spat farms	Namarai, Ra	10
	Naocobau, Ra	10
	Saioko, Ra	4
	Verevere, Ra	4
	Makogai, Lomaiviti	3
Monitoring of existing farms	Somosomo, Gau	4
	Sawaieke, Gau	2
	Nawaikama, Gau	2
	Vedrala, Ra	2
	Ravita, Cakaudrove	12
	Natuvu, Cakaudrove	9
	Raviravi, Macuata	10

### 2. Marketing and Revenue

The main market for spats are J Hunter Pearls and Civa Fiji. Ravita Women's Group sold 3900 black lip oysters to J Hunter Pearls and 200 *Pteri penguin* to Civa Fiji

The total revenue earned through *mabe* production are as follows:

Sites	Number of mabe harvested	Revenue earned
Namarai	30 melamela	\$755
Naocobau	49 melamela	\$1,075
Raviravi	750 melamela	\$20,415

## Mangrove Oyster Project



The Vutia Mangrove Oyster Farm is a pilot project and co funded by the Ministry of Fisheries (MOF) and the Pacific Community (SPC) through its FAME Aquaculture Section.

MOF and SPC trained and assisted the Muanaira Womens Group of Vutia in Rewa, to culture mangrove oysters, including the collection of spat, setting up of a demo farm, techniques to assure food safety of oysters, and marketing.

The aim of the project is to reduce reliance on the declining coastal fisheries resources, improve livelihoods, provide income generation for women in marginalized coastal communities, and ensure consistent supply of oyster product to the local market.

A total of 20 baskets was deployed in 2019, with a total of 2,111 mangrove oysters farmed

### Fisheries Impact Assessment Survey (FIA)

Prior to any foreshore development, fisheries impact assessment survey is conducted to estimate the economic value of fisheries resources in order to calculate a compensation value payable to Customary Fishing Rights Owner (CFRO) for the loss of fisheries productivity and ecosystem goods and services.

The survey is funded by Developers through the Ministry of Lands. Five (5) FIA surveys were conducted in 2019- 2020 fiscal year:

1. Golden Point Resort (Rakiraki): CFRA of Vanua Rakiraki and Naisogoliku
2. Bekana Island Resort (Lautoka): CFRA of Vanua Vitogo
3. Dolphin Islands Resort (Rakiraki): CFRA of Vanua Rakiraki and Naisogoliku
4. Lost Wind Resort (Yanuca Island, Serua): CFRA of Yavusa Nukunitabua
5. South Pacific Marine Limited (Savusavu) : CFRA of Vanua Wailevu



## Training & Workshops

### 1. Sea Turtles Health Assessment

The workshop was conducted at the University of the South Pacific from the 28<sup>th</sup> of January – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020, for conservation partners and government agencies involved in sea turtles conservation and management. The trainer was Dr. Thierry M. Works, an Aquatic Animal Vet from the National Wildlife Health Centre in Hawaii.

The main objective of the workshop were:

- To understand the health issues related to sea turtles, how to use the available indicators to assess the health of the sea turtles, and how to reduce/ overcome impacts of health issues on the sea turtles.
- To provide a platform for training and capacity building to our collaborative partners in Fiji.



The information and the knowledge gained from the workshop can be further developed and utilized in assessment of other animals including fish and invertebrates. The workshop provided understanding on aquatic animal diseases and presenting cost effective ways to determine the health of animals.

### 2. Coral Restoration Training

The training on coral restoration was conducted by Dr. Victor Bonito of the Reef Explorer Fiji Ltd on the 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The training was conducted in Korolevu on the Coral Coast. Through this training, three (3) Fisheries Research staffs have gained new knowledge, skills and techniques on designing and implementing effective coral restoration strategies.



# Inshore Fisheries Management Division

The Inshore Fisheries Management Division (IFMD) has the key role of developing inshore fisheries policy initiatives that support the sustainable development and management of the inshore fisheries sector. IFMD's key work areas for IFMD include the:

- development and implementation of fishery management policies and plans;
- development of compliance policy strategy and procedures, including leading national inshore fisheries compliance delivery; and
- re-establishment and management of the inshore fisheries data collection program, including the provision of technical support and advisory services to the regional divisions.

IFMD is led by a Principal Fisheries Officer who is supported by a Senior Fisheries Officer. Each of the three core units, Policy and Planning, Compliance and Fisheries Data Analysis and Management, is led by a Fisheries Officer, with the Data Analysis and Management Unit comprising of 14 staff in total, the Compliance Unit comprising of 8 staff in total and 1 officer in the Policy and Planning Unit.

## Major Accomplishments and Successes

### 1. Compliance Unit

The Compliance Unit comprises of seven (7) IFMD frontline and dedicated Compliance Officers. These officers are fully trained and authorised under the Offshore Fisheries Management Act 2012 and the Fisheries Act Cap 158. The officers have made a discernible difference to the Ministry of Fisheries inshore fisheries compliance delivery, with 1179 inspections completed by the team from August 2019 - July 2020. Table 1 below includes a summary of inspections and infringements recorded by the team during the year.

**Table 12: IFMD Inshore Compliance Inspections**

	Central	Eastern	Western	Northern	National Average
Number. of Number of inspections Conducted	564	95	279	241	<b>1179</b>
Number of Infringements	170	40	84	61	<b>355</b>
Compliance Rate	69.90 %	57.89 %	69.90 %	74.69%	<b>69.90 %</b>

**Table: 13 Formal Actions undertaken**

Formal Actions Taken	Central	Eastern	Western	Northern	Total
Fisheries Notice of Warning	168	40	76	48	<b>332</b>
Fixed Penalty Notices served (OFMA)	1	0	8	12	<b>21</b>
Prosecution under Fisheries Act	1	0	0	1	<b>2</b>

One Fixed Penalty Notice fine was paid, while the remaining twenty notices required prosecution action to be undertaken.

## 2. Data Analysis and Management Unit

The re-establishment of the Data Collection program has been a major achievement of the Division, with the recruitment of 12 data collectors strategically placed in the 4 geographic divisions. A robust methodology has been developed to ensure standardized data collection across all our major fish markets. During the current fiscal year, the data collection officers have logged 608 surveys and have recorded 232 different commercial food finfish species through our 11 major fish markets around Fiji.

This data provides valuable information that informs effective monitoring and policy development. Table 3 shows the number of market surveys undertaken in each of the 11 major fish markets. Table 4 highlights the national top 10 most valuable species of fish. Table 5 lists down the total number of fin fish count per division.

**Table: 14 Market Surveys undertaken at major fish markets.**

Division	Targeted Major Fish Markets	Surveys Undertaken
Central	Suva Municipal Market	86
	Bailey bridge Municipal Market	88
	Laqere Market	31
	Nausori Municipal Market	85
Western	Lautoka Fishermen Market	117
	Lautoka Municipal Market	27
	Ba Municipal Market	22
Northern	Labasa Fish Market	75
	Savusavu Municipal Market	23
Kadavu	Levuka wharf	37
	Kadavu	17
Total		608

**Table: 15 Top ten species of most valuable fish nationally**

Species	Local Name
<i>Epinephelus miliaris</i>	Kawakawa
<i>Cephalopholis sonnerati</i>	Kialo Sedamu
<i>Epinephelus tauvina</i>	Kawakawa Vuilase
<i>Plectropomus leopardus</i>	Donu
<i>Plectropomus maculatus</i>	Donu
<i>Trachinotus baillonii</i>	Ikibuli
<i>Cephalopholis argus</i>	Kawakawaloa
<i>Cephalopholis urodeta</i>	Kawakawadamu
<i>Lethrinus lentjan</i>	kabatia ni cakau
<i>Epinephelus coeruleopunctatus</i>	Kawakawa ni Tiri

**Table: 16 Total Count of Finfish per Division**

Division	Count
Central Division	75107
Eastern Division	2091
Northern Division	34549
Western Division	31687
Total	143434

# Aquaculture Division

The Aquaculture Division is based in Walu Bay along with the research centres and hatcheries based in the four regions.

## Major accomplishments and successes

- Successful production and distribution of 1,300,030 million tilapia fry's, 1.2 million shrimp post larvae and 220,000 freshwater prawn pl's to more than 300 farmers Fiji wide.
- Successful implementation of the new hapa base breeding system to produce tilapia fry's and match up with high demand from farmers.
- A total of 400 plus aquaculture farmers Fiji wide were assisted with site inspection, pond construction supervision, pond stocking, monitoring, harvest and sales of stocks.
- Successful implementation of four major capital project for the Aquaculture division. This includes the Food Security program, Commercial Aquaculture Development, Freshwater Aquaculture Development and Brackishwater Aquaculture Development. Under the Food security program 19 farmers was successfully assisted and under the Commercial Aquaculture Development 4 commercial farms were assisted.
- Successful completion of the Caboni hatchery through collaborative work between MoF and Taiwan Technical Mission (TTM) . This includes the construction of the new shrimp broodstock ponds, coral trout/grouper cement raceways, milkfish raceways, shrimp maturation, spawning and larval rearing tanks, algae culture room, feed storage room, procurement of specialized hatchery equipment's and an office space.
- Completion of Aquaculture farms inventory work for Central, Western and Northern regions. This includes the listing of aquaculture farmers with details on the "Vanua GIS" under Ministry of Lands.
- Total of 5 awareness programs - Fiji Showcase, Agriculture Show, Veitau Waqa Cama, Northern Road show and Western Road show.
- 6 aquaculture farmer trainings conducted in the 4 regions

**Table 17: Summary of Aquaculture Farmer Training by Regions**

Region	No. of trainings	Training Content	Training participants
Central- NRS	1	Aquaculture App awareness under Treasable solution	17
Northern Dreketi Fisheries Station, Macuata House conference room.	2	Financial Literacy training Aquaculture pond Management	15 23
Western - Nadi and Ra	2	Aquaculture App awareness under Treasable solution Fish farmers training for the Ra Women's group	13 20
Eastern (Levuka)	1	Financial Literacy training	24

- 23 Contractual agreement through SGO's office signed for FSP and Commercial Aquaculture farmers
- Galoa Hatchery upgrading and construction of new Giant clam nursery. NRS hatchery and ponds improvements.
- 8 SOP's were designed and circulated in the divisions. As detailed below:
  1. Food Security Program SOP
  2. Commercial Aquaculture Program SOP
  3. Hatchery Biosecurity SOP
  4. Grow-out Biosecurity SOP
  5. Aquaculture Farm Development SOP
  6. Tilapia Fry and Shrimp post larvae distribution and Stocking SOP
  7. Aquaculture Marketing and Sales SOP
  8. Tilapia fry Hapa breeding SOP
- Scoping and implementing new markets within the Central Division. Specifically for Laqere market and Rups Mega in Nakasi.
- Submission of aquaculture parliamentary questions with answers, aquaculture ministerial statements, cabinet papers, 2020-2021 budget consolidation, RIE's, AWP's and Divisional Business Plans.

## Challenges

- Disruptions to service delivery and non-completion of some outputs were caused by the 3 tropical cyclones that were experienced in 2020. Tropical Cyclone Tino, Sarai and Harold hit Fiji in succession. This was further disturbed when the lockdowns and restrictions on public gathering were caused by COVID-19.
- Aquaculture structure is still unclear between the functional operations and the regionals working under aquaculture. A need to review the current Aquaculture Division primary functions, its structure with roles and responsibilities of individual staff.
- A need to establish a cost recovery system for all government hatcheries. Most of the farmers that are supplied with free post larvae and fry's are selling the finished product at a cost. MoF needs to subsidize the value of the product so as to cover some of the operational cost of the hatchery. This includes operating some of it's ponds for grow-out as a cost recovery for the division and also a proof of concept to any interested whom want to venture into aquaculture farming. This can be through Public Private Partnership or creation of a Trust Account through Ministry of Economy

# Offshore Fisheries Management Division

The Offshore Fisheries Management Division is based in Walu Bay. The Divisions achievement for the year are as follows:

## Licensing and Permitting process

The Offshore Fisheries Licensing Committee chaired by the Permanent Secretary Fisheries is responsible for issuing offshore fishing license to companies who have met the licensing requirements. There is a cap of 60 licenses allowable for issuance in any one given licensing period.

- 58 Licenses to fish with Fiji Fisheries waters targeting tuna were processed and issued.
- 47 Authorization to fish in jurisdiction beyond Fiji's fisheries waters were issued.
- 10 Licenses were issued to conduct exploratory fishing within Fiji Fisheries waters targeting species other than tuna.

**Table 18: Types and number of Permits issued during August 2019 to July 2020.**

TOTAL NUMBER OF PERMITS ISSUED FROM AUGUST 2019 TO JULY 2020							
Month	Landing	Provisioning	Bunkering	Transshipment	Export (Frozen)	Export (Fresh)	Import
August	256	178	101	3	107	10	56
September	247	126	107	1	92	9	51
October	184	101	91	1	87	13	53
November	159	86	76	0	81	9	59
December	245	122	121	0	56	9	67
January	189	104	96	0	75	9	64
February	146	93	75	1	75	11	36
March	152	72	67	5	65	4	46
April	141	75	71	0	48	2	91
May	195	99	107	1	64	4	47
June	153	78	65	3	98	4	48
July	175	95	88	3	111	3	52
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,242</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>1,065</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>670</b>

**Table 19: Number and type of certifications facilitated August 2019-July 2020**

CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME CERTIFICATES ISSUED FROM AUGUST 2019 TO JULY 2020			
MONTH	FIJI CATCH CERTIFICATE	MARINE STEWARDSHIP CERTIFICATE	ICCAT
August	7	10	10
September	2	4	29
October	0	2	57
November	10	7	41
December	10	6	15
January	13	6	50
February	18	8	57
March	6	9	28
April	14	8	24
May	12	6	20
June	42	17	36
July	14	8	48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>415</b>

### **Fisheries Law Enforcement, Compliance & Monitoring and Surveillance of fishing operations within Fiji fisheries waters, ports, high seas and other EEZ**

Observer placement on any Fiji National Fleet fishing within Fiji’s Exclusive Economic Zone, Archipelagic waters and Territorial Seas from August 2019 to July 2020 is a critical element of the Ministry’s data collection. National Placement – the Fiji Observer Program observed a total of 117 trips on Fiji fishing vessels.

**Table 20: National Placements onboard Fishing Vessels**

NATIONAL PLACEMENT	
Total number of trips	117
Total number of observers	35
Total number of vessels observed	73

Regional Placement – Observer placement on any Fiji National fleet fishing in areas beyond Fiji’s national jurisdiction and US purse seine fleets fishing in WCPO area under US treaty. \*There has been no other regional US Treaty placements since COVID 19 and post COVID 19 (April to date).

A total of 12 observers were placed on Fiji and Foreign vessels to assist in data collection. 21 were on US treaty vessels whilst the 5 were on Fiji vessels fishing in High Seas.

**Table 21: Regional Placements onboard Fishing Vessels**

REGIONAL PLACEMENT	
Total number of trips	26
Total number of observers	12
Total number of vessels observed	13

## Electronic Monitoring System

Electronic Monitoring System onboard covers 80% of Fiji National fleet. Data analysis is done by 10 dedicated ‘dry’ observers; 7 ROPs and 3 NOPs.

EMS	
Total number of sets analyzed and reviewed	2,041

The table below gives a breakdown by vessel size installed with EMS.

**Table 22: Vessel Installation by size class and authorized area**

FIJI ABNJ-TP VESSEL INSTALLATION BY SIZE CLASS AND AUTHORIZED AREA						
NUMBER	VESSEL SIZE CLASS [M]	AW & TS	EEZ	EEZ/HS	HS	TOTAL
1	UNDER 21	4	0	0	0	4
2	21 - 30	5	9	5	0	19
3	OVER 30	0	5	12	10	27
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>50</b>

## Port Sampling

Port sampling data show the size and species composition of the unloaded catch. The information is used in regional stock assessment work by SPC.

**Table 23: Port samplings undertaken**

PORT SAMPLING	
Total number of port sampling conducted	69
Total number of vessels sampled	36
Total pieces of fish sampled	19,967

A Total of 19,967 number of fish was offloaded from Fiji National fleet and randomly selected for the purpose of port sampling from August 2019 to July 2020. Break down by Species as follows.

**Table 24: Samplings undertaken by fish species**

SPECIES	TOTAL # SAMPLED
Yellowfin	8639
Bigeye	805
Albacore	6353
Wahoo	278
Mahi-mahi	1,467
Opah	158
Escolar	290
Sickle pomfret	45
Sailfish	56
Skipjack	814
Swordfish	27
Spearfish	77
Blue Marlin	14
Striped Marlin	17
Great Barracuda	881
Blackfin Barracuda	38
Rainbow Runner	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,967</b>

## Biological Sampling

Tuna tissue samples are collected by Fiji observers and sent over to Noumea to be curated and analyzed by SPC.

**Table 25: Biological samplings**

BIOLOGICAL SAMPLING	
Total number of sampling in port	2
Total number of vessels	2

## Boarding and Inspection

Monitoring Compliance and Surveillance [MCS] data is used to determine a vessel's compliance with regional and national fishing regulations. MCS data may be of several types, including vessel inspection export inspection and or sea and air surveillance.

At total of 1,211 boarding and inspection was carried out by enforcement officers on various flagged vessel for August 2019 to July 2

**Table 26: Boarding and Inspection of Vessel Upon arrival by Flag**

BOARDING & INSPECTION OF VESSEL UPON ARRIVAL BY FLAG AND MONTH OF AUGUST 2019 - JULY, 2020													
Flag	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	TOTAL
AMERICA						1	1						2
CHINA	63	53	45	32	47	48	29	22	48	50		50	487
COOK ISLANDS		1			1				1			1	4
FIJI	82	78	65	67	64	52	63	53	20	33	33	32	642
Fiji											13		13
JAPAN		1		1									2
KIRIBATI	1		1										2
KOREA		2		1	1				1				5
NAURU							1						1
PANAMA			1										1
RUSSIA							1						1
TAIWAN	3	7	1	2	2		1	2	2	4		1	25
TUVALU	1			1			1					1	4
VANUATU	4	3	4	1	2	1	1	3		2		1	22
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1,211</b>

At total of 324 was boarding and inspection for clearance was carried out by enforcement officers on various flagged vessel for August 2019 to July 2020 before departing for fishing grounds.

**Table 27: Boarding and Inspection of Vessel for Clearance before departure**

BOARDING & INSPECTION OF VESSEL FOR CLEARANCE BEFORE DEPARTURE BY FLAG AND MONTH OF AUGUST 2019 - JULY, 2020													
Flag	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	TOTAL
AMERICA								1		1			2
CHINA	15	3	13	8	5	9	1	4	17	20	15	17	127
Cook Island												1	1
COOK ISLANDS			1								1		2
FIJI	12	5	13	11	9	12	13	12	10	21	26	24	168
JAPAN		1											1
KIRIBATI	1												1
PANAMA			1										1
TAIWAN		4	2	1	1					3			11
TUVALU		1										1	2
VANUATU			4	1		1				1		1	8
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>324</b>

## Export and import inspection reports

Export inspection: A total of 55 Inspection was carried out by enforcement officer at various companies. Export inspection is mostly carried out on inshore commodities such as reef fish, mud crab, trochus etc.

**Table 28-29: Number of Export and Import Inspection by months**

MONTH	# OF INSPECTION
AUGUST	0
SEPTEMBER	4
OCTOBER	3
NOVEMBER	16
DECEMBER	4
JANUARY	1
FEBRUARY	2
MARCH	4
APRIL	1
MAY	11
JUNE	3
JULY	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>

Import Inspection: A total of 8 import inspection was carried out by enforcement officers for the August 2019 to July 2020. Import products were mostly sardine bait, fillets, processed squids and prawns etc. Import destination included China and New Zealand.

MONTH	# OF INSPECTION
DECEMBER	2
FEBRUARY	1
MARCH	1
APRIL	1
JUNE	1
JULY	2
<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS</b>	<b>8</b>

## Swordfish Monitoring

A total of 70 swordfish inspection was carried out from August 2019 to July 2020. A total of 8.12 mt cleared for export to either USA or New Zealand.

**Table 30: Swordfish Inspection**

TABLE OF SWORDFISH INSPECTION FOR THE PERIOD OF AUGUST 2019 – JULY 2020		
MONTH	NUMBER OF SWORDFISH INSPECTION	SUM OF TOTAL PROCESSED WEIGHT (MT)
AUGUST	11	1.23
SEPTEMBER	11	0.12
OCTOBER	7	0.35
NOVEMBER	12	0.79
DECEMBER	12	1.54
JANUARY	11	0.64
FEBRUARY	2	1.50
MARCH	3	1.92
JULY	1	0.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>8.12 MT</b>

## Sea & Aerial Surveillance

Sea Surveillance: 3 sea surveillance was conducted between August 2019 to July 2020.

**Table 31: Aerial Surveillance: 3 aerial surveillance was conducted between August 2019 to July 2020.**

DATE	ASSETS	AREA OF OPERATION
16.08.19 - 28.08.19	RFNS KULA	West - North West Sector
03.09.19 - 12.09.19	RFNS KIKAU	South
11.10.19 - 17.10.19	RFNS KIKAU	West - North West Sector
30.06.20 - 08.07.20	RFNS KIKAU	WESTERN SECTOR OF FJ EEZ

DATE	ASSETS	AREA OF OPERATION
25/02/20	KING AIR (N625BW)	North East of Fiji EEZ
02/03/20	SUPER KING AIR B200	Far North Sector of Fiji EEZ
05/03/20	SUPER KING AIR B200	East Sector of Fiji EEZ

## Port monitoring

Port monitoring: A total of 48 port monitoring was conducted between August 2019 to July 2020.

**Table 32: Number of Port Monitoring by Flag**

PORT MONITORING BY FLAG AND MONTH FROM AUGUST 2019 – JULY, 2020									
FLAG	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	MAY	TOTAL
China	7	2	0	1	2	2	1	0	15
Fiji	3	10	5	0	4	5	3	1	31
Vanuatu	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>48</b>

A total of 3 transshipment conducted in port between August 2019 to July 2020.

**Table 33: Transshipment Activities**

DATE	DONOR VESSEL	FLAG	CARRIER VESSEL	FLAG	PORT
27-Sep-19	FU CHUN 126	VANUATU	SHIN HO CHUN # 102	PANAMA	SUVA
17-Oct-19	TUNAGO # 52	VANUATU	SHIN HO CHUN # 103	PANAMA	SUVA
18-Oct-19	TUNAGO # 61	VANUATU	SHIN HO CHUN # 104	PANAMA	SUVA

## Pre Fishing Inspection

A total of 4 Pre- fishing inspection conducted in port between August 2019 to July 2020.

DATE	VESSEL NAME	COMPANY NAME	LOCATION
07-Sep-19	LABELLA	FIJI FISH	FIJI FISH JETTY
28-Sep-19	SOLANDER IX	SOLANDER PACIFIC	MUA I WALU
12-Nov-19	WINFULL 8	WINSTAR FIJI LIMITED	MUA IWALU
20-Apr-20	TIRO II	GREEN TUNA FISHERIES CO. LTD	MUA IWALU

## Fixed Penalty Notice and other penalty reports and statistics

A total of 11 Fixed Penalty Notice was issued and paid with a total revenue of **\$17,000.00**.

**Table 34: Fixed Penalty Notices 2019-2020 by Company**

FIXED PENALT ISSUED FROM AUGUST, 2019 - JULY, 2020						
DATE ISSUE	COMPANY/AGENT	VESSEL NAME	OFFENCE	PENALTY FINE	PAID WITHIN 21 DAYS	DATE OF PAYMENT (NO COURT CASE)
24-Oct-19	SERVICES MARINE LTD	DAE JIN	REG 49 (3),(5)	\$2,000.00	PAID	31-Oct-19
19-Dec-19	SUNSHINE FISHERIES LTD	LU RONG YU 2222	REG 36	\$2,000.00	PAID	08-Jan-20
20-Apr-20	ARIANNA PTE LTD	ZHONG DA 2	REG 36 (2)	\$2,000.00	UNPAID	PENDING COURT CASE
23-Apr-20	ZHONG FEI SHIPPING AGENCY LTD	PING TAI RONG 19	REG 36	\$2,000.00	PAID	11-May-20
24-Apr-20	PACIFIC SHIP BOARDING AND CLEARANCE SERVICES LTD	RONG DA YANG 7	REG 36	\$2,000.00	UNPAID	PENDING COURT CASE
01-May-20	FIORE MARINE LTD	K.CAMELLIA	REG 39	\$1,000.00	PAID	14-May-20
27-May-20	TIAN YI SHIPPING AGENCIES	XIN SHI JI 216	SECTION 72	\$2,000.00	PAID	15-Jun-20
15-Jun-20	WINFULL FISHING COMPANY LTD	HU YU 915	REG. 49(3) & (5)	\$2,000.00	PAID	29-Jun-20
23-Jun-20	ARIANNA PTE LTD	ZHONG DA 5	REG. 36(1)(c)(2-4)	\$2,000.00	PAID	14-Jul-20
23-Jun-20	WINFULL FISHING CO. LTD	WINFULL 1	SECTION 72	\$2,000.00	PAID	13-Jul-20
23-Jun-20	WHITE PEARL TRADERS	SCORPION 69	REG. 36(1)(4)	\$2,000.00	PAID	09-Jul-20
<b>TOTAL REVENUE COLLECTED</b>				<b>\$17,000.00</b>		

## Vessel Monitoring Update

VMS data shows accurate location information for licensed fishing vessels. Real-time position data are recorded electronically onboard and submitted automatically via satellite to an onshore monitoring system. The information can be accessed at regional and national information points.

**Table 35: VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM ACTIVITIES AUGUST 2019 –JULY 2020**

Exit Report	227
Entry Report	271
Number of vessels in operation that did not report on VMS	32
Manual reporting by Vessels during fishing	24
Provisions & transshipment verification	51
Vessels in port with -3 to -4 CI	11
Vessels in ops with -3 to -4 CI	11
MTU installed & serviced	20
MSC verification	58

## Investigation Reports

The primary role of investigating the various industry related matters that occur in contravention to the Offshore Fisheries Management Act 2012 and its Regulation. The unit determines what had occurred in each case provided to them in terms of the responsible parties and the associated events surrounding each case. This aspect also covers the actions that should be taken to correct the current situation and what actions should be taken to ensure that a similar violation does not occur in the future.

The following cases were investigated in the fiscal year and necessary actions taken:

**Table 36: Number and Status of Investigation cases 2019-2020**

No.	Date	CASE SUBJECT	ACTIONS TAKEN	INVESTIGATION OUTCOME	STATUS
1	22/02/2019	Received complaint from Hangton Pacific regarding the catching and retaining onboard species of special interest [SSI] - turtle by their vessel Hangton 111. I-taukei crew members were alleged to have caught the turtle and retained.	The investigation process was carried out, the Captain and Chief Cooker statements were recorded. Visited Managing Director, Mr. Jiten, to sort clarification on the issues.	There was no evidence to support this claim. After talking with the i-taukei crew members they mentioned that the release turtle back into the ocean, which the Captain did not see them do.	Closed
2	26/03/2019	Sunshine 18 alleged fishing without a license.	Foreign species are “tuna and tuna-like species” and are covered in our license conditions.	The investigation process was conducted and the report submitted to PFO for further instructions.	Closed

No.	Date	CASE SUBJECT	ACTIONS TAKEN	INVESTIGATION OUTCOME	STATUS
3	29/03/2019	Importing Shrimp with head-on by P.Mehgi	Verification Checks were conducted to ascertain the allegations.	Import Permit was facilitated by FA Enforcement (West) which included shrimps (head-on) from NZ	Closed
4	16/06/2019	The unauthorised provision by Winfull 31 & Winfull 36	Assisted with Compliance Checks on the vessels application date to conduct provision at sea against the vessels tracks	FPN Issued to Winfull Fishing Company for Provisioning without authorisation	Closed
5	05/09/2019	Bridge of Kawakawa Donu public notice by Halal Bites, Nausori & Café 389	Assisted in taking down statements of the restaurant owners	Both companies were issued with formal warnings, and fish confiscated from them	Closed
6	16/09/2019	Compliance Check on Hussein's International	Verification checks regarding the company's relationship with Firus Marina.	The company is a shelling company under Firus Marina. Soft copy of company structure emailed to FO Enforcement as requested	Closed.
7	11/08/2019	Use of prohibited fishing gears UBA FV Liddy & FV Bula Viti	Carried out the whole investigation process, statement recording both Captains, crew members, and divers.	This statement was recorded and handed over to PFO West. Both vessels have been mentioned in court.	On-going. Court Procedure
8	10/12/2019	Marine Pollution by Winfull 31	Verification was instigated by a crew member on board FV Winfull 31. Caution interview of the crew was taken down and video footage has been copied and saved.	Video footage and statement have been recorded and sent to MSAF for further actions. An email was sent to MSAF for an update on the issue.	Re-open and on-going
9	14/08/2019	Nadi operation found in the procession of seasonal banned species and prohibited species. COI Bohai Seafood.	Carried out the whole investigation process at Nadi with the COIs	Formal warnings were issued to Bohai Seafood	Closed
10	14/08/2019	Nadi operation found in the procession of seasonal banned species and prohibited species - Sentai Seafood	Carried out the whole investigation process at Nadi with the COIs	Formal warnings were issued to Sentai Seafood.	Closed

No.	Date	CASE SUBJECT	ACTIONS TAKEN	INVESTIGATION OUTCOME	STATUS
11	14/08/2019	Nadi operation found in the procession of seasonal banned species and prohibited species - Hong Cheng Seafood	Carried out the whole investigation process at Nadi with the COIs	Formal warnings were issued to Hong Cheng Seafood	Closed
12	14/08/2019	Nadi operation found in the procession of seasonal banned species and prohibited species - Great Work of China	Carried out the whole investigation process at Nadi with the COIs	Formal warnings were issued to Great Work of China	Closed
13	14/08/2019	Nadi operation found in the procession of seasonal banned species and prohibited species - Wasabi Restranants	Carried out the whole investigation process at Nadi with the COIs	Formal warnings were issued to Wasabi Restranants	Closed
14	14/08/2019	Nadi operation found in the procession of seasonal banned species and prohibited species - Chen Seafood	Carried out the whole investigation process at Nadi with the COIs	Formal warnings were issued to Chan Seafood	Closed
15	12/09/2019	Received case from FO Enforcement and FO L & P for Premium Seafood for exporting without a permit.	Assisted through verification checks to L&P and FO Enforcement	The investigation brief was sent to FO Enforcement for further action.	Still open and ongoing
16	20/11/2019	Received Case on Gen 3 Yong Xing 3. Marine pollution in specific oil discharge	The investigation process was instigated. Observer Statement was taken, analysis on the workbook,	Could not issue FPN as exceeded 30 days. Recommendation to flag vessel under VOI and closely monitor. Soft copy report submitted to PFO.	Closed.

No.	Date	CASE SUBJECT	ACTIONS TAKEN	INVESTIGATION OUTCOME	STATUS
17	21/04/2020	Lu Rong Yuan Yu 888 arrived in Suva port in April. Information was received from VMS Officer and Fiji Navy that the mentioned vessel made 3 stops within Fiji Fisheries Waters, which was suspected to conduct fishing within our waters.	The vessel was boarded and inspected. Interview statements were taken of the vessel captain and chief mate	The vessel master reports that the vessel was running low on fuel as their reason for stopping. The chief mate mention that they were fishing squid to eating during their stops. There was no engine log on the vessel to verify that the vessel was low on fuel. We also made contact with FSM Fisheries since the vessel obtain a valid FSM fishing license; and received confirmation that FSM is also awaiting the arrival of the vessel to port as they have breached some of their fisheries laws.	Still Open; awaiting the vessel to return to Suva port for further processing.
18	26/04/2020	Chinese fishing vessel, Xin Shi Ji 216 arrived into Suva port without any transshipment documentation and account of fish on board.	A case file was open and the investigation process was carried through. Conversation with vessel agent in regards to transshipment declaration form. An email was also sent to WCPFC to that effect. Liaising with fish buyers to confirm landing summaries. Also liaised with FRCS on the export shipment of the fish. FPN issued to Tian Yi Shipping for failing to adhere to the directives given by the AOs.	Response received from WCPFC in regards to the transshipment by Xin Shi Ji 216 and sister vessel Xin Shi Ji 206. FRCS assisted and was able to identify the container and the Cargo vessel that is was on. We still cannot identify the remaining fish that was onboard after several attempts with vessel agent Tian Yi Shipping. A report is submitted to a/PS to that effect.	Case Report returned to the unit, drafting a letter to go to the Flag State.
19	13/05/2020	Vessel of Interest - Zhong Da 2. Breach of Regs 36 OFMR2014, S78 OFMA2012	Case file open and instigated as a result of the company failing to pay the relevant fine within 21 days [\$2000] Investigation officers interviewed and took boarding officers statement. Other relevant documents with the Prosecutor for case file in court.	The case will be called in Court for mention in July	On-going. [Court Procedures]

No.	Date	CASE SUBJECT	ACTIONS TAKEN	INVESTIGATION OUTCOME	STATUS
20	19/05/2020	Pacific Ship boarding Clearance Limited pertaining to Rong Da Yang 7. Breach of Regs 36 OFMR2014, S78 OFMA2012	The case file was instigated as a result of the COI's failure to pay the relevant fine within 21 days. Investigation officers conducted caution interviews and took boarding officers' statements. This case file has been handed to the Prosecutor.	The case was mentioned in Court on the 29th of May. First hearing to be held on the 8th of June 2020.	On-going. [Court Procedures]
21	28/05/2020	Scorpion 70. Observer Gen 3 report. The mentioned vessel has an exploratory license targeting unauthorised species, not per the fishing license.	The case file was open. The investigation process was conducted. We spoke with vessel owner. We gathered and collected all relevant information on the case.	Company rep is fully aware that they of the license condition and they are in the process of changing their fishing gear to accommodate for their target species identified in the license.	Case Report with Division heads
22	29/05/2020	Scorpion 69	Case file open and investigation process conducted. The conversation was made with a company rep to confirm whether they applied for a provision permit for Scorpion 70 and Scorpion 69. All relevant documentation and information collected to support the case.	A report submitted to SFO and PFO on the outcome of the investigation. Recommendation for an FPN to be issued.	Closed. [Recommendation is currently being implemented.]
23	03/06/2020	Felicite Company -Breach of Regs 13 2014	Case file instigated and investigation process conducted.	A warning letter pertaining to the offense was dispatched to the company.	Closed.
24	03/06/2020	PAFCO - Breach of Regs 13 2014. Import contravening to Import permit and failure to provide a true and accurate copy.	Case filed instigated and investigation process conducted.	Next hearing in Court on the 20th of August for a plea.	Court Procedure in Progress
25	03/06/2020	Hu Yu 915 - Landed fish in contravention of landing permit.	Case filed instigated and investigation process conducted.	Offense validated and FPN was issued and paid.	Closed

No.	Date	CASE SUBJECT	ACTIONS TAKEN	INVESTIGATION OUTCOME	STATUS
26	09/06/2020	Zhong Da 5 & Zhong Da 6 Breach of Regs 36 OFMR2014	Case filed instigated and investigation process conducted.  Necessary caution interviews were taken	Investigation process continues	Open
27	09/06/2020	Zhong Da 5 & Kema Breach of Regs 36 OFMR2014	The case file was instigated. The finding was consistent with the infringement sighted.	Based on the recommendation, an FPN amounting to \$2,000 was issued and paid.	Closed.
28	19/06/2020	Winfull 1 - Failure to adhere to directives issued by an authorized officer and failure to provide proper accommodation for the Observer. Breach of s(70)(3) OFMA21 R37(1)OFMR14 s72(1) OFMA12	The case file instigated and investigation process conducted and concluded.	FPN issued to the company and paid.	Closed.
29	24/06/2020	Solander 2 & Solander Kariqa - Breach of Regs 35 & 36 OFMR2014	The case file instigated and investigation process conducted and concluded.	All alleged infringement has been verified and confirmed. Minute Report circulated recommendations from PFO to not issue FPN to fishing company.	Closed.
30	24/06/2020	Scorpion 69 -Breach of Regs 21 OFMR14 & Regs 36	Confirmation from L&P. The provision at sea permit acquired (FJ/PRO07390). The pollution issue refers to the PR team to liaise with the company.	Provisioning at sea permit acquired.	Closed
31	29/06/2020	Winstar 2 and Xinya 9 transshipment - Breach of s(70)(3) OFMA21 R37(1)OFMR14 s72(1) OFMA12	The case file was instigated.	Investigation process continues	Open

No.	Date	CASE SUBJECT	ACTIONS TAKEN	INVESTIGATION OUTCOME	STATUS
32	29/06/2020	Yu Yuan Yue 139 – Obstruction of Observer. Breach of Regs 21 (2) (i) OFMR S72 (3)(a) ( c)	The case file was instigated. The finding was consistent with the infringement sighted.	Exceeded 30 day period for the issuance of FPN. Warning Letter drafted and issued to Company.	Closed
33	03/07/2020	Sunshine 16 - Landing in contravention of landing permit. Breach of Reg 49 (3)	The case file instigated and investigation process taken	Issuance of FPN	Meeting with FRCS to address the issue
34	08/07/2020	The provision at sea Zhong Da 5 & Zhong Da 6 Breach of Reg 36	Case file instigated and investigation process taken	According to the vessel owner that the intended activity did not occur. Zhong Da 5 engineers were able to fix the problem.  The case awaits the return of the vessel, confirmation to be made with Observer onboard.	Open

#### Data Registry, Entry, Scan and Verifications Reported by Units/Pages.

For Fiscal year, the target is 80, 000 units. We have achieved 100 % of our target with a total of 80,002 units from August to July 2020. Provided below are the breakdowns of the achievement.

**Table 37: Number of Data registered and entered 2019-2020**

TOTAL NUMBER OF DATA REGISTERED, ENTERED, SCANNED AND VERIFIED AUGUST 2019 -JULY 2020													
Targets	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	TOTAL
Registered	330	808	484	378	346	805	304	548	96	247	348	674	5,368
Verification	-	158	32	-	1	1	425	34	81	51	36	0	819
Scans	2,935	3,878	4,054	2,107	3,916	11,394	6,621	4,293	3,160	2,734	9,080	6,156	60,328
Entries	930	1,476	889	856	802	1,435	866	1,341	851	975	1,565	1,501	12,487
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,195</b>	<b>6,320</b>	<b>5,459</b>	<b>3,341</b>	<b>5,065</b>	<b>13,635</b>	<b>8,216</b>	<b>6,216</b>	<b>4,188</b>	<b>4,007</b>	<b>11,029</b>	<b>8,331</b>	<b>80,002</b>

## Catch Data and Landing data

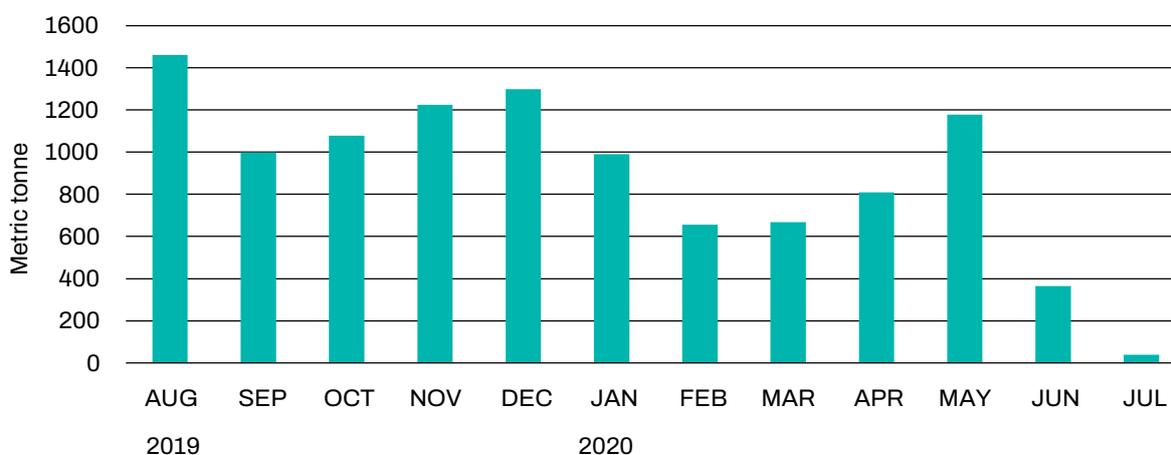
Table below shows the provisional catches by Fiji's Longline fleet in the Fiji EEZ, High Seas and in neighboring EEZs where some of the vessels are also licensed to.

**TABLE 38: CATCH DATA [MT] BY FIJI NATIONAL LONGLINE FLEET FOR THE PERIOD OF AUGUST 2019 - JULY 2020**

SPECIES	METRIC TONNES
ALBACORE	5,550.49
BIGEYE TUNA	801.56
YELLOWFIN TUNA	3,015.40
MAHIMAHI	189.91
SWORDFISH	84.76
WAHOO	147.11
SKIPJACK TUNA	239.07
OPAH	212.99
BLUE MARLIN	185.99
OILFISH	80.19
SHORTBILL SPEARFISH	50.62
BLACK MARLIN	54.83
STRIPED MARLIN	23.17
OTHER TUNA LIKE SPECIES	132.09
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,768.18</b>

The total catch by Fiji longline fleet (catches inside and outside Fiji EEZ) from August 2019 -July 2020 was 10,768.18 mt, 87% of which is comprised of the Tuna catches (9,367.45 mt).

**Figure 3: Illustration of catch by month for Fiji National Fleet.**



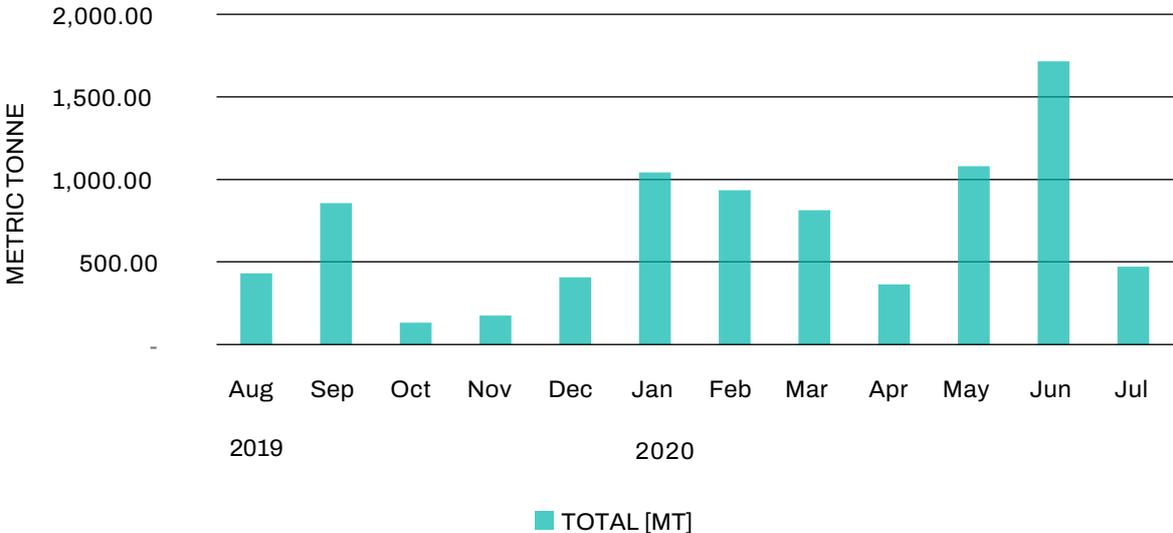
The catch was around 1,400mt to 1,200mt around August to December 2019, then took a sharp drop from late January to April 2020. The drop was the result of the COVID-19 crisis where many vessels were tied up and fishing activity either came to a halt or slowed down during lockdown period. June and July entries are in progress and the figures is expected to increase.

**Table 39: monthly trend in catch logged in by Fiji National Fleet.**

TABLE OF MONTHLY TREND IN CATCH LOGGED IN BY FIJI NATIONAL FLEET				
Month	Total trip	Sea days	Number of fish	Metric Tonne
Aug-19	147	2,217	86,464	1,461.36
Sep-19	135	1,895	61,095	998.53
Oct-19	124	1,826	66,753	1,079.02
Nov-19	118	1,899	71,924	1,224.48
Dec-19	112	1,820	73,926	1,299.05
Jan-20	112	1,704	57,742	989.86
Feb-20	101	1,468	38,754	655.87
Mar-20	92	1312	40,944	667.79
Apr-20	61	1137	50,579	809.15
May-20	67	1185	70,346	1,178.54
June-20	36	516	22,774	365.35
Jul-20	4	67	2,644	39.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,109</b>	<b>17,046</b>	<b>643,945</b>	<b>10,768</b>

The table shows the number of trips taken by Fiji National Fleet for the period of August 2019 to July 2020. There was a noticeable decline in the number of trips and catch over the reporting period due to the Covid-19 crisis as discussed previously. Figures for month of June and July is provisional was entries is in progress.

**Figure 4: Monthly provisional commercial landing of catch by Fiji National Fleet for August 2019 – July 2020**



Landing data show the total amount of fish by weight and by species that were unloaded by the vessel at each full or partial unloading, and often the destination of the catch. They give an independent estimate of the trip catch, which can be used to verify the Logsheet data. These data are also important since they may capture catch totals for vessels that do not provide logsheets. In the longline fishery, landing data are essentially a summary of the packing list, the reject list and the list of cannery-bound fish.

From August 2019 to July 2020, a total of 8,422.36 mt was unloaded, with 7,68.09 was processed and exported and 1,354.27 mt sold locally. Tuna like non-target species continue to be sold at local processor outlets with a portion sold as exports where the market is available.

In addition to these technical outputs and achievements, the Division also supported the Portfolio, Leadership, Policy Advice and Secretariat Support.

## **Fleet and Services Division**

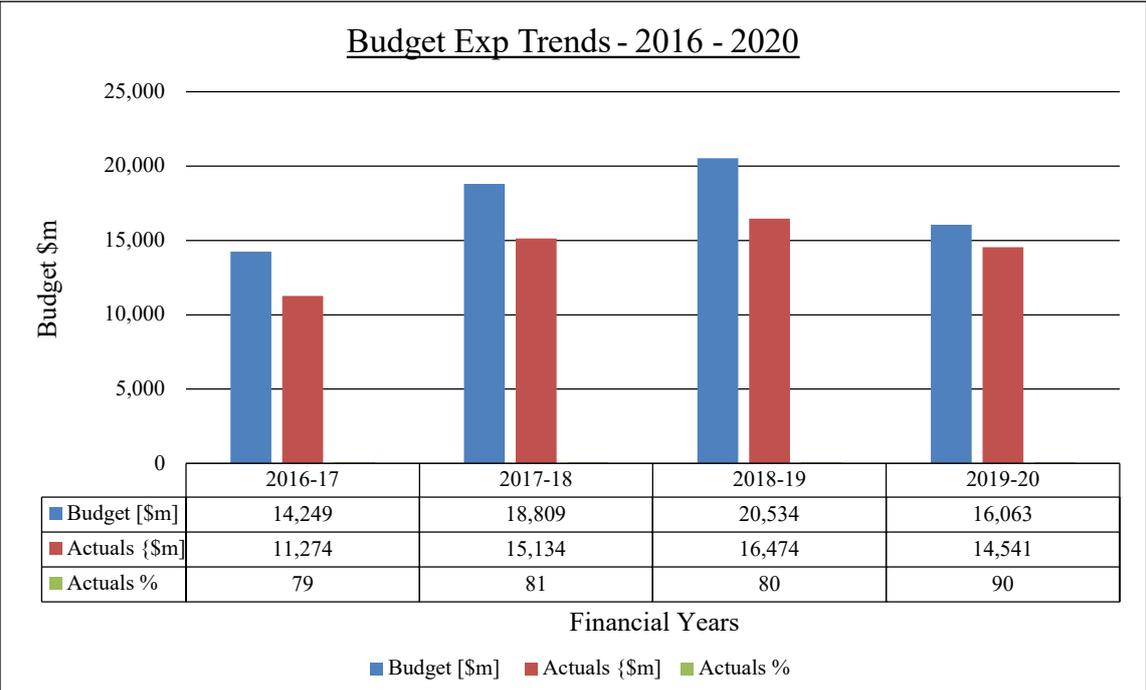
The Fleet and Services Division is based in Lami and services the 28 Ice Plants nationwide. Its management considers the major achievements during the year to be the replacement of ice-plants for Wainibokasi (phasing-out of ice-machines with ozone-depleting gasses), replacement of the Nabouwalu ice-plant through assistance from OFCF, the installation of new ice-plants and generators in Moala and Cicia, the repair of ice storage facilities in Lautoka, Vunisea, Labasa and Kavala, the acquiring of an aluminum vessel to support surveillance/enforcement operations, and the general efficient operation of ice-plants through strict monitoring of production and sales. The major challenges faced were the old ice-plants in the Western Division (Lautoka and Ba), the difficulties of coordinating service/repair activities due to communication difficulties, and the inability to timely service the ice-plants and generators in the Maritime Islands due to transport logistics. Some issues that deserve highlighting are the importance of the Regional Support Offices taking ownership of ice-plant operations, the commitment of Service Centre staff to the daily operation and maintenance of the ice-plants, and the timely submission of data on ice-plant operations.

The Ministry continue to acknowledge the assistance of the Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) for their ongoing support through the supply of ice making machines, ice plants, technical assistance and technical training and capacity building for our Technical Services and Fleet Division staff.

# Finance Division

In this fiscal year, the Ministry was allocated a budget of \$16.06m. Its management considers the major achievements during the year to be the progress made on the Ministry of Fisheries True Trust Account which led to the unqualified audit opinion for the Ministry, the finalization and endorsement of the Finance Manual for the Ministry and the establishments of standard operating procedures for the operation of the Division.

**Figure 5: Budget Provision 2016-2022**



Year	Budget [\$m]	Actuals {\$m}	Actuals %	Remarks
2016-17	14,249	11,274	79	
2017-18	18,809	15,134	81	Increase of 2%
2018-19	20,534	16,474	80	Decreased by 1 %
2019-20	16,063	14,541	90	Increased by 10%

# Administration and Human Resources Division

The Administration and Human Resources Division is based in Toorak. Its management considers the major achievements during the year to be the development for the relatively new Ministry of Fisheries of planning documents, policies, and guidelines, including the Human Resources Manual, the Training Policy & Training Plan, Open Merit Recruitment & Selection, and Disciplinary Guidelines.

The Division continued to be challenged in the dissemination of reforms and new policies pertaining to HR and Administrative Procedures due to the geographical spread of the Ministry’s service centers. With the creation of communication platforms such as Divisional Viber Pages, Managers and Executive Pages, communication flow within the Ministry smoothly flowed.

## Communications and Media Division

The Division is based in Toorak. The single person in this division considers the major achievements during the year to be the coverage of meetings, workshops/trainings, successful projects, ministerial tours, participation in talk-back shows, responses to media queries, and production of press releases. The main challenge is that there is only one officer in the Division.

### Contribution to the National Development Plan

Section 3.2.13 of the “5-Year & 20-Year National Development Plan” covers the fisheries sector. Pages 115 and 116 of that plan give the fishery programmes, targets, and expected outputs. Table 40 below gives those programmes/targets/outputs and the associated contributions of the Ministry of Fisheries.

**Table 40: Ministry of Fisheries Contribution to the 5 & 20 Year National Development Plan**

PROGRAMME	ANNUAL TARGET					TOTAL OUTPUT EXPECTED	CONTRIBUTION FROM MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022		
Review of the Fisheries Act 1942		Review & consultation	Enactment			Amended legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fisheries Act 1942 yet to be reviewed</li> <li>Aquaculture Bill presented 13/04/16 during info session of Parliament</li> <li>Process was on hold due to the Fisheries Sector Review</li> </ul>
National Fisheries Policy	Stake consultation holder and draft	Finalize report				1 Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder consultations were convened and completed by the Ministry in collaboration with SPC on draft National Fisheries Policy.</li> <li>A review of the initially drafted National Fisheries Policy was undertaken by a consultant recruited by NZ MFAT. A final draft of the policy was handed over to the Ministry to further progress.</li> <li>Process was put on hold due to the Fisheries Sector Review</li> </ul>
Inshore Fisheries Management Policy		Stakeholder consultation				1 Policy Document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft Fiji National Compliance Strategy 2019-2023 prepared</li> <li>The NOCS was also on hold due to the Fisheries Sector Review</li> </ul>

PROGRAMME	ANNUAL TARGET					TOTAL OUTPUT EXPECTED	CONTRIBUTION FROM MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022		
<b>Marine Spatial Planning for the EEZ by 2020</b>		Draft MPA Framework Agreed	Consult External Partners	Consult on Draft Map	Final System MPA's agreed	MCS Training & Gazette of System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOU signed by Ministry of Fisheries and Fiji Fisheries Industries Association on the UN/FAO Electronic Monitoring System Project in September, 2017.</li> <li>• MPA Policy framework completed and submitted to cabinet in 2019-2020.</li> <li>• IUCN has published their policy guidelines for large scale marine managed areas.</li> <li>• Stakeholder consultations on the MPA 30 were undertaken in 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>Recreational Fisheries Policy</b>				Consult & finalize Policy		1 Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No progress of this work to date</li> </ul>
<b>Integrated Divisional Coastal Management Plan</b>			Review/consultation	Finalize Coastal Plans		4 Integrated Divisional Coastal Plans	<p>Update provided by the Inshore Fisheries Management Division on the national fisheries plans &amp; policies in February 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Editing of the Coastal Fisheries Policy</li> <li>• Editing of the Coastal Fisheries Implementation Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Finalize the National Aquaculture Strategy &amp; 5 Year Development Plan</b>	Finalize Strategic Plan					1 Aquaculture Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most recent draft of the Fiji Aquaculture Strategic Plan 2015-2020 forwarded to Aquaculture Division Nov 2016 by SPC following fulfillment of MOF activities for grass carp. Draft document exists but is not complete.</li> <li>• Draft National Strategy on Aquatic Biosecurity has been completed by Aquaculture Division in collaboration with SPC.</li> <li>• Draft Cabinet paper was compiled but yet to be progressed further. .</li> </ul>

PROGRAMME	ANNUAL TARGET					TOTAL OUTPUT EXPECTED	CONTRIBUTION FROM MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022		
<b>Report on the Outlook of the Fiji Offshore Fisheries Sector</b>		Consult stakeholders, draft and finalize report				1 report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st Offshore Fisheries Stakeholders Consultation held in March 2018.</li> <li>• Commenced study on economic contribution of the tuna fisheries in the Pacific Islands. Forum Fisheries Agency conducted an in-country survey with offshore fisheries staff on fisheries related businesses to promote the importance of the fisheries sector. At the end of the financial year the survey was ongoing due to comprehensive coverage.</li> <li>• Report on the above was released to the Ministry in 2019-2020</li> </ul>
<b>Coastal Fisheries Commodity Assessment Report</b>		Conduct 2 assessments				2 assessment reports	Very little progress made on this
<b>Value Chain Analysis of Aquaculture Commodities</b>		Conduct 2 assessments				2 assessment reports	Some desktop research undertaken but needs to be progressed in new fiscal year
<b>Review the procedure for obtaining fishing licenses and fees and charges</b>		Conduct review & finalise report with recommendations	Gazette revised fees			Revised procedures and fees and charges	<p>First round of Stakeholder consultations were conducted on access fees with proposed fee schedule in 2018-2019.</p> <p>The Legislated process was made known to all stakeholder agencies and communities in 2019-2020. The Inshore Fisheries Licensing Policy Framework was developed. The issue is still under consideration.</p>
<b>Review existing fees and charges for aquaculture</b>		Conduct review & finalize report with recommendations	Gazette revised fees			Revised procedures and fees and charges	To be undertaken in the 2022-2023 financial year between EPPS, Aquaculture Division, and Director of Fisheries

PROGRAMME	ANNUAL TARGET					TOTAL OUTPUT EXPECTED	CONTRIBUTION FROM MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022		
<b>Coastal Fisheries Database</b>	Revive and support database	Establish separate program support unit	Programme support			1 database 1 programme	<p>Fiji Fisheries Information Systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video conference call with NZ/MFAT to address Ministry requirements to have a centralized fisheries information system to support IFMD Data Management – 15th Nov, 2017</li> <li>• Registration of interest to develop Fiji fisheries information systems sent out – 15th Dec, 2017</li> <li>• Shortlisting was undertaken on the ROI and final vetting to take place</li> </ul>
<b>Establishment of Coastal Fisheries Management Division</b>		Set up unit				Establishment of new unit	<p>Inshore Fisheries Management Division has been established with a current total of 9 Established Staff (1 PFO, 1 SFO, 1 FO Compliance, 1 FO Policy, 1 FTO Compliance, 1 FA Data, 2 FA Compliance &amp; 1 FA Data Collector). A Policy Advisor and a Compliance Advisor have been provided through NZ/MFAT to the Division to assist in inshore fisheries policy and inshore operations compliance.</p>

PROGRAMME	ANNUAL TARGET					TOTAL OUTPUT EXPECTED	CONTRIBUTION FROM MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022		
Coastal Fisheries Development Programme	Continuation of ongoing programme					1 programme	<p>Coastal Fisheries Development continues under the Extension &amp; Advisory Activity under Programme 2. The budget allocation for the Coastal Fisheries Development Capital Project for the period 2017 – 2019 was:</p> <p><b><u>Aug 2018 – July 2019</u></b></p> <p>Purchase of aluminium boat (\$225,000)</p> <p>Coastal Fisheries Development (\$772,380)</p> <p>Completion and Preparatory Works for Ice Plants at Wainigadru and Koro (\$1,823,877)</p> <p>Upgrading of Lekutu Fisheries Station to Rural Fisheries Service Centre (\$279,00 )</p> <p>Construction of Wainibokasi staff quarters (\$733,000)</p> <p><b><u>Aug 2019 – July 2020</u></b></p> <p>Purchase of aluminium boat (\$225,000)</p> <p>Coastal fisheries development (\$772,380)</p> <p>Completion and preparatory works for ice plants (Wainigadru and Koro) (\$569,831)</p> <p>Construction of Wainibokasi staff quarters (\$300,000)</p>

PROGRAMME	ANNUAL TARGET					TOTAL OUTPUT EXPECTED	CONTRIBUTION FROM MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022		
Strategic Placement & Establishment of new RFSC		Identification of Strategic locations	Programme Support			1 programme	Rotuma Fisheries Stations & Ice Plant – established and operational; Moala Fisheries Station & Ice Plant – established and operational; Cicia Fisheries Station & Ice Plant – established and operational; Gau Fisheries Station & Ice Plant – established and operational; Preparatory Works for Wainigadru, Cakaudrove and Koro Ice Plant – currently in progress; Upgrading of Lekutu Fisheries Station to Rural Fisheries Service Centre –Wainibokasi Staff quarters completed

**Key Performance Indicators** (this is another table from the Fisheries Section of the “5-Year & 20-Year National Development Plan”)

Indicator	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of new MPAs gazetted (SDG 14.2)	3	3	3	3	3	3
Establish MPAs targeting 30% of Fiji’s marine areas (%) (SDG 14.2)	1.8					30

The contribution of the Ministry of Fisheries to the above Sustainable Development Goals goals can be summarised as:

With Fiji’s exclusive economic zone and total internal waters totaling an area of 1,301,250 square kilometers<sup>8</sup>, the national commitment of placing 30% of Fijis inshore and offshore marine areas under a comprehensive network of marine protected areas (MPAs) by 2030 equates to a total sea area of 390,375 square kilometres.

The progress attained by the Ministry of Fisheries towards the 30% SIDS commitments includes the promulgation of the following regulations:

- The Fisheries (Shark Reef Marine Reserve) Serua Regulations 2014 totaling a sea area of two square kilometres.
- The Fisheries (Wakaya Marine Reserve) Regulations 2015 totaling a sea area of 17.8 square kilometres.
- The Kiuva Marine Reserve Regulations 2017 totaling a sea area of 7.285 square kilometres.
- Naiqoro Spawning Aggregation Marine Reserve with a total sea of 4.830 square kilometers

The Ministry’s contribution to our national commitment was .008% in the 2017 – 2019 period. In addition, the WCS-promoted Vatu-i-Ra Seascape initiative covers another 1.8%.

Therefore, of the 30% commitment, 28% remains to be achieved by 2021.

## External Partnerships and Associated Activities

The Ministry of Fisheries cooperated with several NGOs, regional organisations, and other external agencies during the year. The major groups and the work done with the Ministry in FY2019/2020 were:

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has cooperated during the year with the Ministry of Fisheries on several initiatives and with the main one on the:

- Collaboration work with the Ministry and WWF on the Great Sea Reef Survey.
- Development of the Fish Warden Strategy/Policy

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has on-going collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries. Currently, one of the main areas of cooperation is through participation in the Ministry's Marine Protected Area Technical Advisory Committee of the Offshore Decree 2012. That committee guides and directs the implementation of Fiji's 30% MPA commitment through a ten-step process. In 2019/2020, the IUCN enter into a data sharing agreement with the Ministry and supported the work on the development of the MPA Zero draft maps and the related stakeholder consultations.

cChange supported the Ministry of Fisheries with strategic communication capacity and training, including targeted activities in support of its four-month seasonal ban on grouper (outreach tools for the ban, national outreach activities). It also coordinated a private sector outreach program with the Ministry of Fisheries visiting sellers nationwide, and assisting with compliance and enforcement training for the ban. In addition, cChange has supported the development of a national campaign strategy built around the updated minimum fish size research and created outreach tools to support those efforts.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has cooperated with the Ministry in FY2019/2019 in three main ways:

- Collaborated with the Ministry through a NZAID Programme to assist the industry on maintaining its MSC Certification.
- Collation of Great Sea reef Survey (information on turtle nesting sites and data to assist with the review of the National Turtle Recovery Plan)

Other NGOs that cooperated with the Ministry in 2019/2020 also include Conservation International.

The Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) of the Pacific Community provided many types of assistance to the Ministry in FY2019/2020, with some highlighted herein:

- PARAVET aquatic training on diseases
  - Sandfish breeding and farming training
  - Trials at Nadurulolou Station for floating and sinking pellets and a second trial on comparison feed trials for sinking pellets versus formulated feed
  - Assisted Ministry staff through technical assistance in terms of running the tilapia all male incubator system
- The Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) assistance to the Ministry is focused on the offshore fisheries and the associated post-harvest activities. The main assistance to the Ministry in FY2018/2019 was in the broad areas of:

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has carried out a number of regional and global fisheries-related initiatives in FY2019/2020 that have directly involved the Ministry. These have included efforts to promote small-scale tuna fishing (fish aggregation devices, fisher associations, value adding, sea safety, aquaculture), development of a business case for the electronic monitoring

of the Fijian tuna longline fleet, the identification of activities for the Ministry in support of the Port State Measures Agreement, strengthening capacity of the Ministry to monitor the four fisheries-related indicators under Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and raising awareness of the Green Climate Fund and the vulnerability to climate change of Pacific fisheries and aquaculture.

In addition to this, it supported the TC Yasa Rehabilitation Project under the Climate Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) and where fishing gears were distributed to high risk areas that were affected during the two cyclones that hit Fiji in this period.

The Fisheries Forum Agencies continued to support the Ministry with technical capacity building and training of our staff in the areas of tuna long line, monitoring, control and surveillance, refresher courses on legislation interpretation, scoping exercise on the Review of the Fisheries Laws, Policy work on the Offshore Fisheries Development Plan, Crewing Policy, Harvesting Strategy, technical advisory on specific areas that are too many to mention.

The major bi-lateral donors to the Ministry of Fisheries during the year included:

The New Zealand Aid Programme sponsored a policy advisor who worked with the Ministry to develop a number of policy initiatives as outlined below:

- Fisheries 10 year Strategic Development Plan 2019-2020
- Reviewed the draft National Fisheries Policy initially developed in 2016 as there may have been some policy changes over the years
- Supported the Ministry with its reorganization – Project Phoenix, etc.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) provided assistance in aquaculture, scholarships, and training in various technical areas.

The Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF) provided ice-plant equipment, computers, vehicles, and training.

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) provided ice-plant equipment, computers, and scholarships.

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) provided scholarships.

Taiwan Trade Mission: - continued supporting the Ministry with the development at Caboni Multispecies hatchery

Republic of China – provided technical training for 5 Aquaculture staff

INFOFISH – Strengthening of Fisheries Trade and Statistics on Market Access and Research

# Financial Information

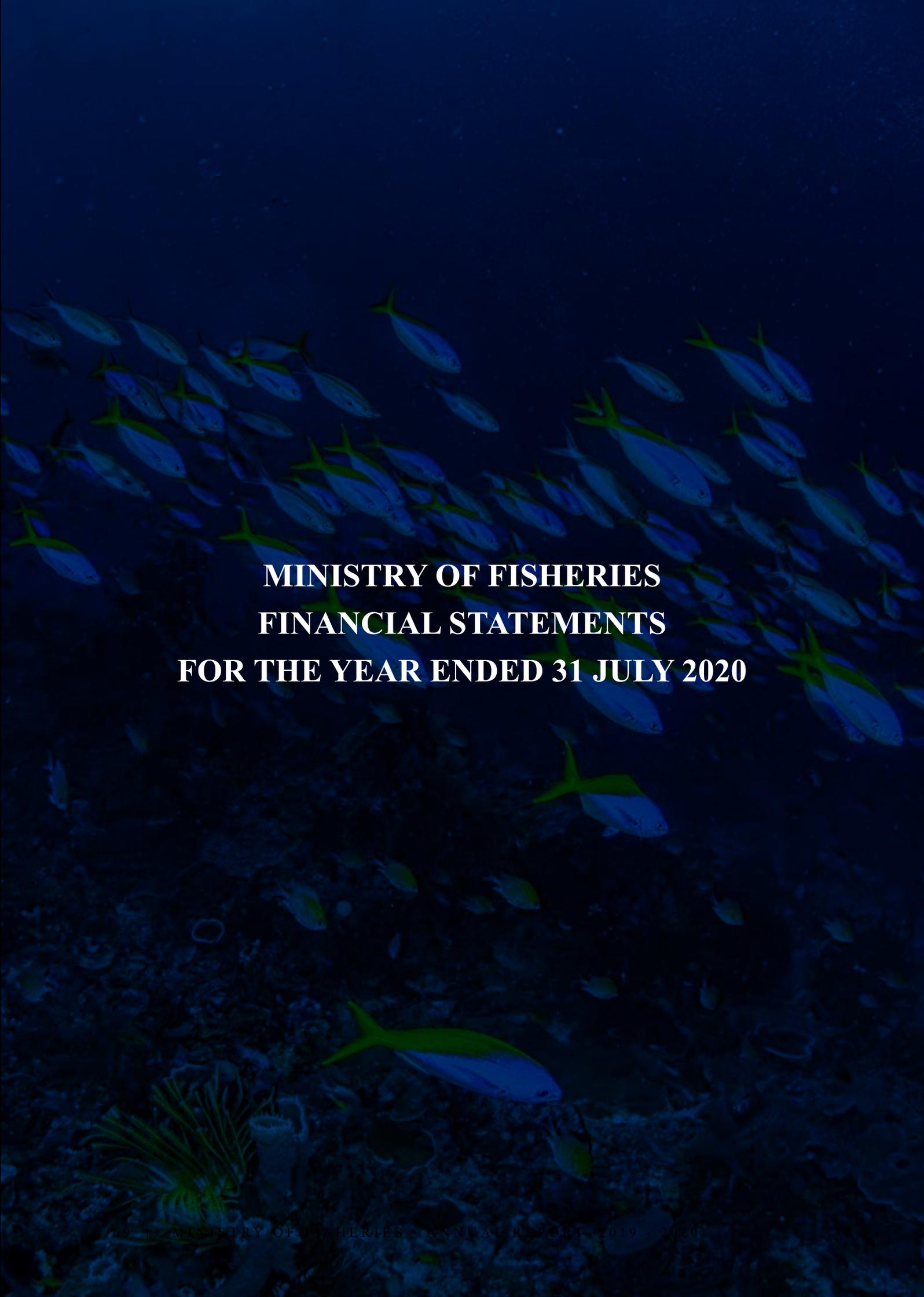
## Procurement

For the annual reports of ministries, there is a Ministry of Economy requirement for three types of information on procurement: (1) members of agency tender board, (2) results of tenders, and (3) exemptions from competitive procurement.

The results of the approved tenders are given in Table 41.

**Table 41: Results of Approved Tenders**

Tender No.	Summary	Deicison Date	Supplier	Supplier Country	Contract Value
Waiver 48/2019	Waiver of Tender Process for Procurement of Tilapia Production Seedlings (On Fully Funded Basis)	23-Jan-20	Nitto Seimo Co. Ltd	Japan	326,734.61
Waiver 48/2019	Waiver of Tender Process for Procurement of Tilapia Production Seedlings (On Fully Funded Basis)	23-Jan-20	Nivis Motors and Machinery Company Ltd	Fiji	48,900.00
Waiver 48/2019	Waiver of Tender Process for Procurement of Tilapia Production Seedlings (On Fully Funded Basis)	23-Jan-20	Vatuwaqa Electrical and Industrial Suppliers	Fiji	10,000.00
Waiver 48/2019	Waiver of Tender Process for Procurement of Tilapia Production Seedlings (On Fully Funded Basis)	23-Jan-20	Airro Shipping Agency Pte Ltd	Fiji	3,270.00
Waiver 48/2019	Waiver of Tender Process for Procurement of Tilapia Production Seedlings (On Fully Funded Basis)	23-Jan-20	HLB Mann Judd (Fiji)	Fiji	2,725.00
Waiver 50/2019	Constructions of the Multi Species Hatchery Reservoir and Fencing Works in Caboni, Ra (On Fully Funded Basis)	23-Jan-20	Sachindra Krishneel Mani T/A Vaileka Earthmoving Works	Fiji	163,540.25



**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Letter from the Auditor General ..... 71  
Independent Auditors Report ..... 72  
MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE ..... 74  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ..... 75  
APPROPRIATION STATEMENT ..... 76  
STATEMENT OF LOSSES ..... 77  
TRUST FUND ACCOUNT - STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ..... 78  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS..... 79

# OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Promoting Public Sector Accountability and Sustainability through our Audits



Level 1, Modyl Plaza  
Karsanji St. Vatuwaqa  
P. O. Box 2214, Government Buildings  
Suva. Fiji



Telephone: (679) 330 9032  
E-mail: [info@auditorgeneral.gov.fj](mailto:info@auditorgeneral.gov.fj)  
Website: [www.oag.gov.fj](http://www.oag.gov.fj)



File: 436

08 July 2022

The Honourable Semi Koroilavesau  
Minister for Fisheries  
Takayawa Building  
Toorak Road  
**SUVA**

Dear Honourable Koroilavesau

## **MINISTRY OF FISHERIES**

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

Audited financial statements for Ministry of Fisheries for the year ended 31 July 2020 together with my audit report on them are enclosed.

Particulars of the errors and omissions arising from the audit have been forwarded to the management of the Ministry for necessary action.

Sairusi Dukuno  
**ACTING AUDITOR-GENERAL**

cc: Mr. Pene Baleinabuli, The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries.

Encl.

# OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Promoting Public Sector Accountability and Sustainability through our Audits



Level 1, Modyl Plaza  
Karsanji St. Vatuwaqa  
P. O. Box 2214, Government Buildings  
Suva, Fiji



Telephone: (679) 330 9032  
E-mail: [info@auditorgeneral.gov.fj](mailto:info@auditorgeneral.gov.fj)  
Website: [www.oag.gov.fj](http://www.oag.gov.fj)



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Ministry of Fisheries

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

I have audited the financial statements of the Ministry of Fisheries ("the *Ministry*") which comprises the Statement of Revenue and Expenditure, Appropriation Statement, Statement of Losses, and Trust Fund Account Statement of Receipts and Payments for the financial year ended 31 July 2020, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements of the Ministry are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004 and Finance Instructions 2010 and Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016.

#### Basis for Opinion

I have conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Ministry in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountant's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Fiji and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### Emphasis of Matter

I draw attention to Note 5 of the Financial Statements which states that general ledger for the Trust Fund Account is reflected under Head 31- Ministry of Forest. The Ministry of Fisheries has recorded a Trust Fund Account closing balance of \$262,209 as at 31/07/2020.

My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

#### Responsibility of the Management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

The Management of the Ministry of Fisheries are responsible for the preparation and fair presentations of these financial statements in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004, the Finance Instructions 2010 and the Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016, and for such internal control as the Management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The Management are responsible for overseeing the Ministry's financial reporting process.

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISA will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISA, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Ministry's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Management of Ministry.
- Evaluate the overall presentations, structure and content of the financial statements including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentations.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Sairusi Dukuno  
ACTING AUDITOR-GENERAL



Suva, Fiji  
08 July 2022

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

---

We certify that these financial statements:

- (a) fairly reflect the financial operations and performance of the Ministry of Fisheries for the financial year ended 31 July 2020, and
- (b) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act 2004 and Finance Instructions 2010.

Mr. G. P. N. Baleinabuli  
Permanent Secretary

Date: 05/07/22 .....



Mr. Taniela Naulu  
Principal Accounts Officer

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

	Notes	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
<b>State Revenue</b>			
Vessel Registration		12,605	22,278
Fishing Licence		19,761	8,360
Sale of Fish & Ice		562,998	678,045
Offshore Fisheries Management Fees		569,377	528,945
Offshore Fisheries Access Fees		480,288	345,928
Offshore Fisheries Application Fees		40,628	29,893
Offshore Fisheries Fees		156,575	133,641
Offshore Fisheries Related Activity Fees		87,282	98,021
Offshore Fisheries Miscellaneous Fees		29,464	19,467
Offshore Fisheries Permitting Fees		135,378	155,032
Offshore Fisheries Authorisation to Charter Fees		6,151	1,558
Offshore Fisheries Record Fees		72,575	134,156
<b>Total State Revenue</b>	3 (a)	<b>2,173,082</b>	<b>2,155,324</b>
<b>Agency Revenue</b>			
Miscellaneous Revenue		19,324	60,906
<b>Total Agency Revenue</b>	3 (b)	<b>19,324</b>	<b>60,906</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>2,192,406</b>	<b>2,216,230</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>			
Established Staff	3 (c)	5,563,482	5,827,601
Government Wage Earners	3 (c)	1,409,530	1,631,279
Travel & Communications	3 (d)	590,626	611,443
Maintenance & Operations	3 (e)	2,171,077	2,305,951
Purchase of Goods & Services	3 (f)	261,366	281,537
Operating Grants & Transfers		10,000	9,749
Special Expenditure	3 (g)	337,843	344,569
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>		<b>10,343,924</b>	<b>11,012,129</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>			
Capital Construction		3,878,354	4,529,622
Capital Purchases		-	410,077
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	3 (h)	<b>3,878,354</b>	<b>4,939,699</b>
<b>Value Added Tax</b>		<b>447,147</b>	<b>522,542</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>14,669,425</b>	<b>16,474,370</b>

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
APPROPRIATION STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

SEG	Item	Budget Estimate (\$)	Appropriation Changes (\$) (Note 4)	Revised Estimate (\$) A	Actual Expenditure (\$) B	Lapsed Appropriation (\$) (a-b)
	<b>Operating Expenditure</b>					
1	Established Staff	5,683,086	(64,364)	5,618,722	5,563,482	55,240
2	Government Wage Earners	1,345,522	64,364	1,409,886	1,409,530	356
3	Travel & Communications	640,476	-	640,476	590,626	49,850
4	Maintenance & Operations	2,365,152	-	2,365,152	2,171,077	194,075
5	Purchase of Goods & Services	376,270	-	376,270	261,366	114,904
6	Operating Grants & Transfers	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-
7	Special Expenditure	370,568	-	370,568	337,843	32,725
	<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>10,791,074</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,791,074</b>	<b>10,343,924</b>	<b>447,150</b>
	<b>Capital Expenditure</b>					
8	Capital Construction	4,526,636	-	4,526,636	3,878,354	648,282
9	Capital Purchases	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>4,526,636</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,526,636</b>	<b>3,878,354</b>	<b>648,282</b>
	Value Added Tax	745,100	-	745,100	447,147	297,953
13	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>16,062,810</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,062,810</b>	<b>14,669,425</b>	<b>1,393,385</b>

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
STATEMENT OF LOSSES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

---

**Loss of Money**

There was no loss of money recorded for the financial year ended 31 July 2020.

**Loss of Revenue**

There was no loss of revenue recorded for the financial year ended 31 July 2020. This is due to the strengthening of monitoring and internal controls within the Ministry.

**Loss of Assets (other than money)**

Following the 2019 – 2020 Board of Survey, items worth \$676,857 were written off as approved by the Permanent Secretary for Economy.

<b>Asset</b>	<b>2020 (\$)</b>
Motor vehicles, Outboard motor vessels and Engines	497,949
Office Equipment	46,911
Furniture and Fittings	131,997
<b>Total</b>	<b>676,857</b>

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
TRUST FUND ACCOUNT - STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

	Note	2020 (\$)	2019 Re-stated (\$)
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
One - third Subsidy Contribution		-	-
Interest earned		263	263
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<u>263</u>	<u>263</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Retention Money		-	-
Bank Fees Charges		-	-
<b>Total Payments</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Surplus/Deficit</b>		<b>263</b>	<b>263</b>
Opening Balance as at 1 August 2019		261,946	261,683
<b>Closing Balance as at 31 July 2020</b>	5	<u><u>262,209</u></u>	<u><u>261,946</u></u>

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

---

**NOTE 1      REPORTING ENTITY**

The Ministry of Fisheries is a regulatory and service organisation responsible for the national fisheries management through the following functions:

- Formulate, align, review and implement policies, strategies, plans, programmes and projects;
- Provide and administer the regulatory function under the respective Departments legislation and regulations;
- Monitor and evaluate the current strategies, policies and deliverables;
- Develop and promote effective training, communication and awareness and extension advisory services;
- Strengthen community and industry networks and support infrastructure;
- Maintain international bilateral and multilateral commitments; and
- Undertake applied research for sustainable fisheries resource management practices and product development.

**NOTE 2      STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**a)      Basis of Accounting**

In accordance with Government accounting policies, the financial statements of the Ministry of Fisheries is prepared under the cash basis of accounting. All payments related to purchases of fixed assets have been expensed.

The financial statements are presented in accordance with the requirements of Section 71(1) of the Finance Instructions 2010 and Financial Management Act 2004. The preparation and presentation of a Statement of Assets and Liabilities is not required under the current government policies.

**b)      Accounting for Value Added Tax (VAT)**

All expenses are VAT exclusive. The Ministry on a monthly basis takes out VAT output on total money received for expenditure from Ministry of Economy. VAT input on the other hand is claimed on payments made to the suppliers and sub-contractors for expenses incurred.

The VAT payment as per the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures relates to the VAT input claimed on payments made to the suppliers and sub-contractors for expenses incurred and VAT payments to Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS). Actual amount paid to FRCS during the year represents the difference between VAT Output and VAT Input.

**c)      Comparative Figure**

Where necessary, amounts relating to prior years have been reclassified to facilitate comparison and achieve consistency in disclosure with current year amounts.

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

---

**d) Revenue Recognition**

Revenue is recognised when the actual cash is received by the Ministry.

**NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS**

- a) There is an increase in state revenue by \$17,758 or 1% due to increase in monitoring and enforcement surveillance activities for the Offshore Division technical activities.
- b) A reduction recorded in miscellaneous revenue by \$41,582 or 68% due to the strict monitoring by the enforcement division which has resulted in the reductions in cases of confiscation. In addition, the reduction was also due to the CITES fees collected by the Ministry of Environment.
- c) There were reductions in expenditures for SEG 1 and SEG 2 by \$485,868 or 7% due to the realignment of person to post and reductions in the Allowances and FNPF portion from 8% to 5% in the Supplementary Covid-19 Budget for 2019/2020.
- d) Travel and communication expenditure decreased by \$20,817 or 3% due to a decrease in local and overseas travel as a result of the restrictions in travels during the Covid-19 pandemic period during the year. There was also strict monitoring of Meal Claims and Telecommunication bills during the year.
- e) Maintenance and operation expenditure decreased by \$134,874 or 6% due to strict monitoring of utility bills/fuel & oil consumption and reduction in operations as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic period during the year.
- f) Purchases of goods and services expenditure decreased by \$20,171 or 7% due to a decrease in purchases as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic period during the year.
- g) Special expenditure decreased by \$6,726 or 2% due to the restrictions in community engagements for Trade Shows & Product Developments as a result of Covid-19 pandemic.
- h) Total Capital expenditure decreased by \$1,061,346 or 21% due to the delays in tender process for certain projects and other planning aspects of the projects resulting in delay of the construction projects during the year.

**NOTE 4: DETAILS OF APPROPRIATION**

The Permanent Secretary for Economy approved the following transfer of funds during the financial year ended 31 July 2020.

<b>DV No.</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
V31001/19-20	SEG 1	SEG 2	71,393
V31002/19-20	SEG 1	SEG 2	23,779
V31003/19-20	SEG 1	SEG 2	83,327

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

---

**d) Revenue Recognition**

Revenue is recognised when the actual cash is received by the Ministry.

**NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS**

- a) There is an increase in state revenue by \$17,758 or 1% due to increase in monitoring and enforcement surveillance activities for the Offshore Division technical activities.
- b) A reduction recorded in miscellaneous revenue by \$41,582 or 68% due to the strict monitoring by the enforcement division which has resulted in the reductions in cases of confiscation. In addition, the reduction was also due to the CITES fees collected by the Ministry of Environment.
- c) There were reductions in expenditures for SEG 1 and SEG 2 by \$485,868 or 7% due to the realignment of person to post and reductions in the Allowances and FNPF portion from 8% to 5% in the Supplementary Covid-19 Budget for 2019/2020.
- d) Travel and communication expenditure decreased by \$20,817 or 3% due to a decrease in local and overseas travel as a result of the restrictions in travels during the Covid-19 pandemic period during the year. There was also strict monitoring of Meal Claims and Telecommunication bills during the year.
- e) Maintenance and operation expenditure decreased by \$134,874 or 6% due to strict monitoring of utility bills/fuel & oil consumption and reduction in operations as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic period during the year.
- f) Purchases of goods and services expenditure decreased by \$20,171 or 7% due to a decrease in purchases as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic period during the year.
- g) Special expenditure decreased by \$6,726 or 2% due to the restrictions in community engagements for Trade Shows & Product Developments as a result of Covid-19 pandemic.
- h) Total Capital expenditure decreased by \$1,061,346 or 21% due to the delays in tender process for certain projects and other planning aspects of the projects resulting in delay of the construction projects during the year.

**NOTE 4: DETAILS OF APPROPRIATION**

The Permanent Secretary for Economy approved the following transfer of funds during the financial year ended 31 July 2020.

<b>DV No.</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
V31001/19-20	SEG 1	SEG 2	71,393
V31002/19-20	SEG 1	SEG 2	23,779
V31003/19-20	SEG 1	SEG 2	83,327

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

---

**NOTE 5: Trust Fund Account**

The True Trust Account had been shared under the then Head 32 - Ministry of Fisheries and Forests prior to 01/08/2017, when the Ministry of Fisheries was separated to be an agency on its own. The True Trust Account was originally used for the fisheries 1/3 & 2/3 subsidy scheme since 2004. The subsidy scheme has since lapsed and the Ministry of Fisheries & Forests continued to maintain the bank account since, to transact Performance Bonds and Retention Monies for most of its construction projects, as per contractual agreements between the Ministry and the contractors.

The True Trust general ledger is still under Head 32 [Ministry of Forests] and we have liaised with FMIS on the transfer of this account to Head 31 [Ministry of Fisheries], but there has not been any firm decision on this. We have liaised with the bank on the re-opening of the account as it has been dormant for over 3 years, and were referred to the Ministry of Economy to give approval for the online banking accesses but there has been no feedbacks on this aspect and no further development on the status of this account to date. We have since been released with the Certificates of Balance for the last 2 years.

Further, the monthly reconciliations was carried out by the Ministry with the assistance provided by FMIS in providing the general ledger details since the Ministry does not have access to Head 32 general ledger accounts, but was later instructed by the Ministry of Economy for the Ministry of Forests to take over this responsibility.

The Ministry of Economy had instructed that the account to be reconciled and the balances to be transferred to the Consolidated Fund Account. The Ministry had conducted the reconciliations exercise to ascertain the breakdown of the balances of \$262,209 as at 31/07/2020 and the Ministry have concluded that there are no claimants and the funds are to be transferred to the Consolidated Fund Account as per correspondences with the Ministry of Economy.

The Ministry had formally written to Ministry of Economy on 01/06/2022 for the transfer of the balance to Consolidated Fund Account in line with Act No. 13 of 2022, issued on 25 March 2022. The Act states that any unclaimed money for more than one year in the main trust funds are to be paid to Consolidated Fund Account.

**NOTE 6: Re-statement Trust Fund Account – Comparative Balance**

The Ministry made re-instatement to the comparative 2019 figure to recognize the recording the interest earned of \$263 which was not captured on the face of the 2019 financial statements. The correction has resulted in restating the closing balance for the Main Trust Fund Account which now match the cash balance of \$262,209 in the bank.







## Ministry of Fisheries

TO HAVE THE BEST FISHERIES IN THE PACIFIC

Level 1, Takayawa Building, 360 Toorak Road. PO Box 13026, Suva Fiji

Telephone: (679) 330 1611. Facsimile: (679) 331 6120

Website: [www.fisheries.gov.fj](http://www.fisheries.gov.fj)