



Ministry of Fisheries

TO HAVE THE BEST FISHERIES IN THE PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 – 2021

Parliamentary Paper No. 90 of 2022



**Ministry of Fisheries
Annual Report**

For Period 1 August 2020 31 July 2021



REFERRAL LETTER

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

Dear Sir,

I am pleased to present to you the Annual Report of the Ministry of Fisheries for the period 1st August 2020 to 31st July 2021, for presentation to Parliament in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act 2004 and the Financial (Amendment) Act 2021.

The Ministry continued to coordinate Fiji's national fishing and aquaculture programs to ensure food security through sustainable marine resource management, and improved its facilitative role for Fiji's private sector to help grow the economy.

Equally important, the Ministry received from the Auditor-General an unqualified audit opinion for this reporting period making it the second consecutive year for it to have a clean record. It is a benchmark we intend to maintain moving forward.

The staff and I look forward to aligning our Ministry's work programmes and activities to the new Government's national strategic direction and policies, and to ensure that we strengthen our efforts towards the sustainable management of Fiji's fisheries resources to contribute meaningfully to our people's food security, economic and social needs, and the need to protect our resources to also cater for our future generations.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. P. N. Baleinabuli".

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

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ACRONYMS

SRP	Social Responsibility Program
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
IUU	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
Real GDP	real gross domestic product
FBOS	Fiji Bureau of Statistics
SPC	Secretariat for the Pacific Community
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
CI	Conservation International
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
WCS	World Conservation Society
MSC	Marine Stewardship Certification
ABNJ	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
FPN	Fixed Penalty Notices
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
PNA	Parties to the Nauru Agreement
DRC	Data Review Center
IFMD	Inshore Fisheries Management Division
OFMD	Offshore Fisheries Management Division
TLTB	iTaukei Land Trust Board
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
TTM	Taiwan Technical Mission
FNU	Fiji National University
FHTA	Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association

Permanent Secretary's Foreword



I am pleased to present the annual report for the Ministry of Fisheries for the financial year beginning 1st August 2020 to 31st July 2021.

This has been a year of sheer endurance for Fiji. Our island nation had to bear the impacts of tropical cyclones Yasa and Ana, coupled with the adverse socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that crippled the global economy. It was an unprecedented time for Fiji's fisheries sector. Given the magnitude of the challenges, the Ministry chose a two-pronged strategy to support our fisherfolks and coastal communities with their food security needs, and to significantly improve its facilitation of the needs of the industry stakeholders to help grow the economy. In addition to improving the response time and other operational aspects, the Ministry specifically consulted closely

with stakeholders to develop an economic recovery plan that will prove to be a very useful catalyst for the sector. All these in the context of sustainable fisheries management.

The Ministry received a total budget of \$15.4 million. In comparison to 2019 – 2020, this was a decline of \$1.7 million (9%). The Ministry utilised \$13.7 million (89.11%) for the implementation of the Ministry's programmes and projects and achieved 74% of its deliverables in the Annual Operational Plan with a staffing strength of 93.4%. The implementation rate was dictated by circumstances affecting the country as more than 50% of the Ministry's personnel and vehicles were redeployed to support the whole-of-Government COVID-19 containment measures. Some key events and achievements are highlighted below:

- Distribution of solar freezers, boats and engines, and Fish Aggregating Devices in communities across the country to support food security and economic needs;
- Promotion of the Commercial Shrimp Aquaculture and Food Security Program to also assist with food security and economic growth needs;
- Facilitating fish and fisheries products exports worth over \$187 Million;
- Improved data collection of the total provisional catch by the domestic longline fleet (catches inside and outside Fiji EEZ) for 2020 which was 12,661 metric tonne, 88% of which was tuna;
- Secondment of Ministry personnel and resources for the completion of the Agricultural Census 2020, showing baselines for fishing households in Fiji;
- Secondment of over 50% of the Ministry's personnel and over 50% of vehicles to the Ministry of Health & Medical Services to assist with the whole-of-Government COVID-19 containment efforts;
- Partnership with the Fong Chung Formosa leading to the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) towards auditing of Fiji national long line crewing and welfare standards under criteria set by the Seafood Task Force as part of its Social Responsibility Program (SRP); and among other things,
- Receiving an unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor-General, making this the second consecutive year in the Ministry's history to have a clean financial record.

I commend the tireless efforts of the entire Ministry staff and the fisheries stakeholders especially in elevating the level of collaboration to help meet Fiji's food security needs and grow the national economy from the fisheries sector while ensuring the sustainable management of our fisheries resources.

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

Overview of the Fisheries Sector in Fiji

Fiji covers about 1.3 million square kilometers of the South Pacific Ocean. The fisheries sector comprises three key sub-sectors: offshore fisheries, inshore or coastal fisheries; inclusive of commercial and subsistence fishery, and fresh and brackish water Aquaculture.

The Major Categories of Fishing

The offshore fisheries mainly involve the use of 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. The amount of catch in offshore fisheries is determined by several factors, including the number of active vessels, oceanographic conditions, the movement of fish, and for the 2020 – 2021 financial year, the COVID-19 pandemic.

The year 2020 was the most unprecedented time for Fiji's fishing industry, as the whole world was engulfed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the hardship, the Fiji MCS team made a tremendous effort to beef up the monitoring activities via boarding and inspection and VMS for vessel tracing, with introduced covid protocols for the industry to continue to operate and to be economically sustainable. The national observer team also increased their operation coverage within Fiji EEZ under the national observer program. All fishing-related activities such as provisioning and transshipment within Fiji EEZ were monitored and reported, respectively.

Ministry reports show that the total catch by Fiji longline fleet (catches inside and outside Fiji EEZ) from August 2020 -July 2021 was 7,404 mt, 87% of which is comprised of Tuna catches (6,435 mt).

With sustainable management in mind, Fiji is determined to play its role in the management of the highly migratory fish stocks that pass through its EEZ. As a responsible flag State, coastal State, and port State, Fiji will continue to welcome any new MCS and Enforcement initiatives that will contribute to the global combat of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing amid the new Covid era

The coastal commercial fisheries of Fiji involve fishing in lagoons, reefs, deep slopes, and in nearby open ocean waters. Most boats involved in these

fisheries are less than nine metres in length, but some of the fishing does not make use of a vessel. Coastal fisheries use many different kinds of gear (for example lines, nets, spears, traps) to harvest a very diverse range of finfish, invertebrates, and algae. 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 domestic flow of the coastal commercial catch around the country is considerable; a recent study showed that 70% of the coastal fish from northern Vanua Levu is marketed in Suva. A major issue in the management of Fiji's coastal commercial fisheries is the extreme difficulty of controlling the amount of fishing effort, especially on high-value species and in areas close to urban Centre's.

The coastal subsistence fisheries of Fiji as the name implies, are focused on the production of food for home use. Significant amounts of fish are, however, given away to friends and relatives. Often attempts are made to market any valuable species captured if a market exists (e.g., lobster to a resort). Subsistence fishery landings occur at coastal villages throughout the coastal areas of the country, roughly in proportion to the distribution of the population.

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. A major issue in the management of Fiji's coastal subsistence fisheries is identifying means to provide assistance to Fiji's 850 coastal communities to ensure the sustainability of their fishery resources.

The freshwater fisheries of Fiji are relatively small compared to the other fishery sub-sectors. Harvests of freshwater finfish and invertebrates in Fiji consist mainly of freshwater clams ("kai"), eels, various species of freshwater crustaceans, and introduced fish, such as tilapia and carp. Of these, the freshwater clams are by far the most important and fishing for this species occurs in all major river systems in Fiji.

The harvest of all freshwater species has been estimated to be about 3,700 tonnes annually. Although there is little active management of freshwater fisheries in the country. A general principle is that management measures that are positive for freshwater resources (for example erosion control) and are usually favorable for freshwater fisheries.

Aquaculture in Fiji continues to grow and make an impact on the lives of the coastal and inland communities of Fiji. The cultured species developed in Fiji over the years have expanded and include tilapia, carp, freshwater shrimp, milkfish, seaweed, giant clams, trochus, pearl oysters, beche-de-mer, sponges, mud crabs, and corals. Fiji has a resilient climate, that brings out the immense potential for aquaculture, and with greater collaboration with all key stakeholders

Some Notable Events in Fiji’s Fisheries during 2020/2021

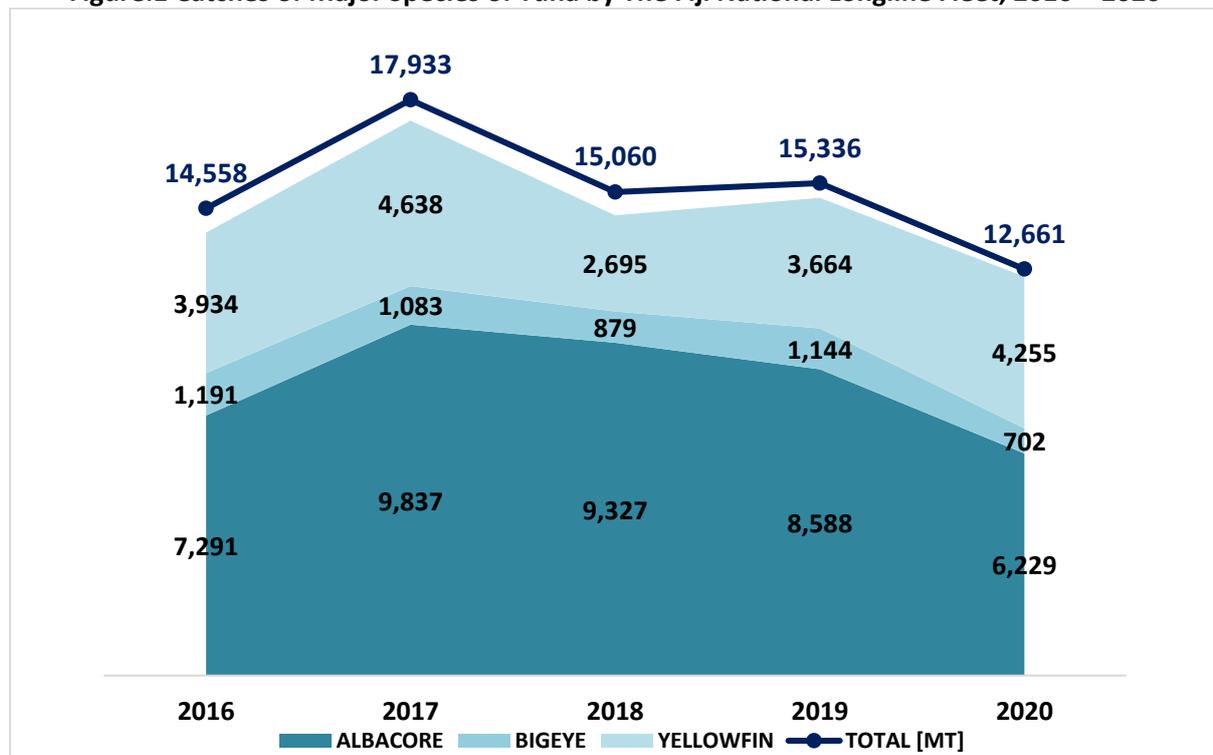
The Fiji National longline fleet is one that predominantly targets albacore. For the year 2020, approximately 64% of the fishing occurred in Fiji’s waters with 36% in international waters. Of overall catches by this fleet, which includes catches in other EEZs, approximately 21% were made in other

EEZs, where the Fiji National Longline fleet vessels are licensed to fish, whilst 79% of the catch was made in Fiji’s EEZ [64%] and the High Seas [15%].

The total provisional catch by the domestic longline fleet (catches inside and outside Fiji EEZ) for 2020 was 12,661 mt, 88% of which is comprised of Tuna catches (11,186 mt). Despite the slight plateau in catches in 2018 and 2019 at around 15,000 mt on average, 2020 showed a significant drop in catch to 12,661 mt [Figure 1] because of the Covid- 19 pandemic where most of the vessels that were specifically targeted for the fresh tuna markets were either fishing at its lowest efforts or not at all. This was due to flights being canceled having an impact on exports, particularly to the USA, hence resulting in the overall decline of catches for all species in 2020.

In 2020 Fiji had 86 vessels in its National longline fleet. The license cap of 60 vessels is authorized to fish in Fiji’s EEZ. Of these 60 vessels, 35 vessels fish solely in Fiji’s EEZ, while 25 vessels fish in both the EEZ and High Seas. There were 20 national vessels that also fish in the High Seas. 6 vessels are licensed to Fiji’s Archipelagic and Territorial seas. 18 Vessels fish in other countries’ EEZs as well.

Figure:1 Catches of Major Species of Tuna by The Fiji National Longline Fleet, 2016 – 2020



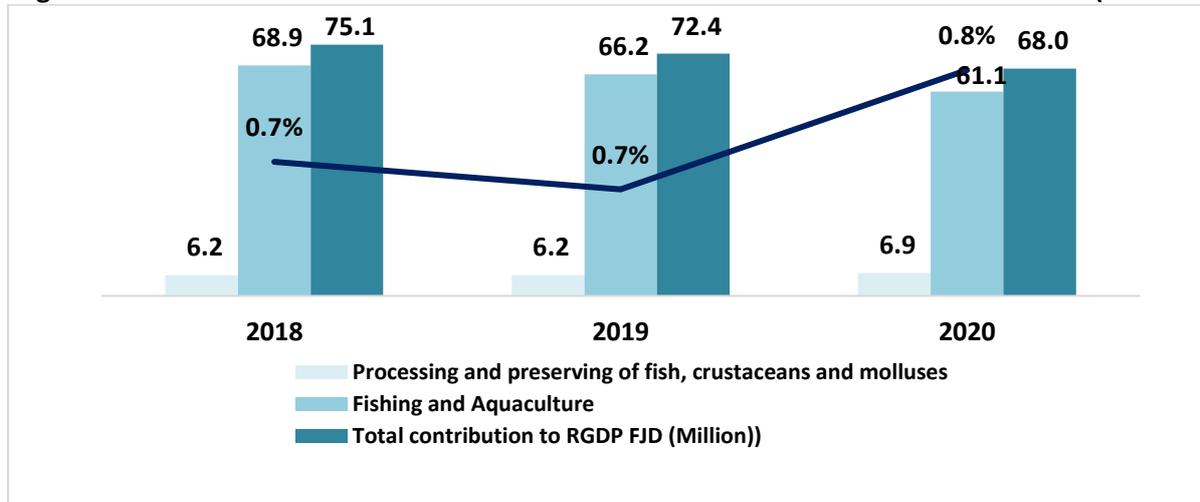
Source: Offshore Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Fisheries

Contribution of the Fisheries Sector to Fiji's Economy

Contribution to Fiji's Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The official statistics published by the Fiji Bureau of Statistics (FBOS) showed that fishing and aquaculture contributed FJD 61.1 million to Fiji's real gross domestic product (Real GDP) in 2020, a decline of FJD 5.1 million (-7.7%) in comparison to the 2019 contribution of FJD 66.2 million. The sector also contributed FJD 6.9 million to real GDP growth in the manufacturing industry in 2020, an increase of FJD 676,468 (9.7%). The combined fisheries-related activities within the fisheries sector contributed FJD 68 million (0.8%) to the national real GDP in 2020.

Figure:2 Fisheries Sector Contribution to Real Gross Domestic Product 2018 – 2020 - FJD (Millions)

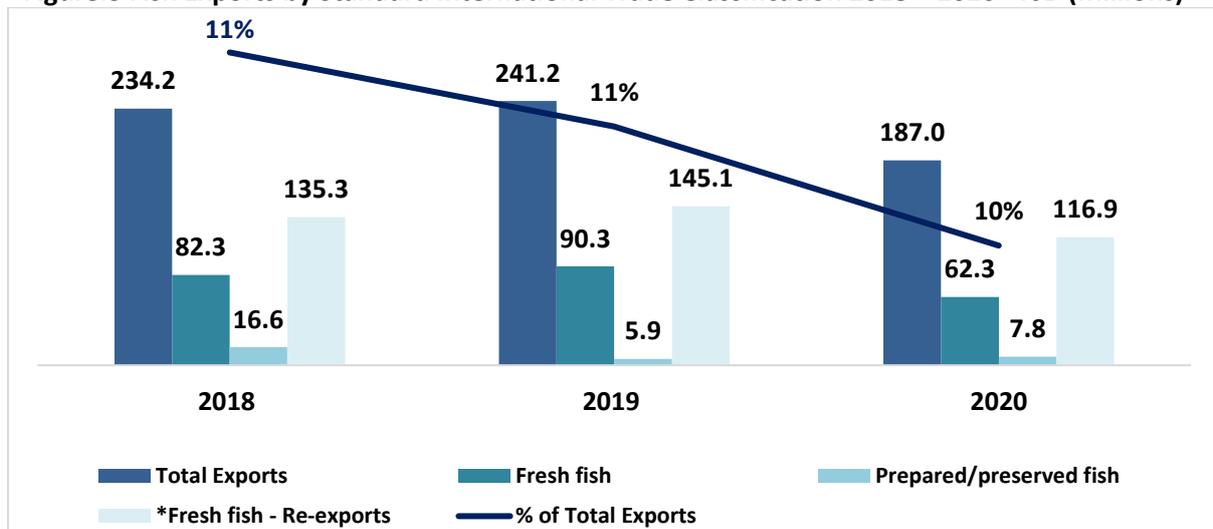


Source: Fiji Bureau of Statistics

Fish Exports by Standard International Trade Classification

The fisheries sector contributed FJD 187 million (10%) to the national export earnings in 2020. A sharp decline of FJD 54.2 million (-22.4%) was seen as the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in comparison to 2019 export earnings of FJD 241.2 million.

Figure:3 Fish Exports by Standard International Trade Classification 2018 – 2020 - FJD (Millions)

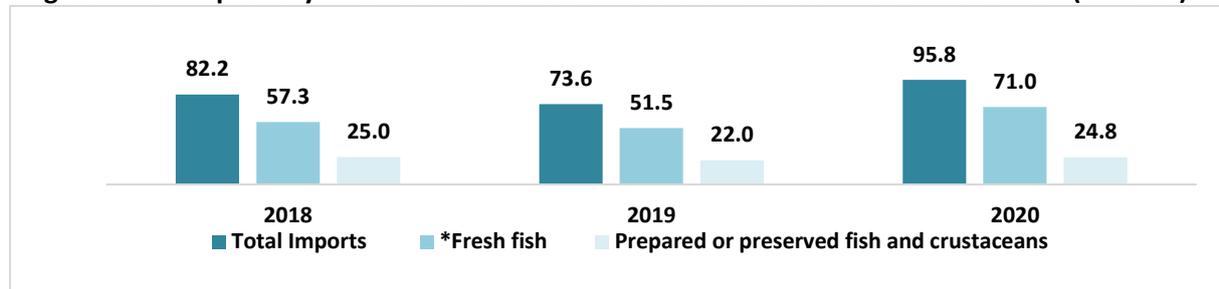


Source: Fiji Bureau of Statistics

Fish Exports by Standard International Trade Classification

The fisheries sector imports amounted to FJD 95.8 million in 2020. A massive increase of FJD 22.2 million (23%) was seen due to a change in consumer preference toward prepared and preserved fish and crustaceans during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure:4 Fish Imports by Standard International Trade Classification 2018 – 2020 - FJD (Millions)



Source: Fiji Bureau of Statistics

Fishing households

During the reference period of the Agricultural Census 2020, a total of 70 991 agricultural households were reported in the country out of which 29 450 households, constituting 41.5%, were involved in fishing activities. It may be noted that these households may have also been involved in other agricultural activities (crop, livestock, and forestry). Therefore, the sum total of the number of households involved in different agricultural activities will not add up to 70 991. A proportion of 89.9% of households involved in fishing activities was headed by males whereas 10.1% were headed by females.

Figure: 5 Number of Households Engaged in Fishing by Type of Fishing

Number of Households Engaged in Fishing – 29450				
17054 (89.9%)			1852 (10.1%)	
18 906 INSHORE FISHING	8536 OFFSHORE FISHING	13 139 FRESHWATER FISHING	5031 MAKING FISH PRODUCTS AT HOME FOR SALE	660 SELLING FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS
17054 (90.2%) 1852 (9.8%)	7983 (93.5%) 553 (6.5%)	11703 (89.1%) 1436 (10.9%)	4694 (93.1%) 337 (6.7%)	626 (94.8%) 34 (5.2%)

Source: Fiji Agriculture Census 2020: Key findings

Employment in the Fisheries Sector

Findings of the FBOS 2019, Annual Employment Survey showed an estimate of 180, 106 employees for the registered establishments as of June 2019 in Fiji. 1,048 employees were directly employed in the fishing sector the 5,745 employees were employed within the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing industries. The employment breakdown according to the main economic activity is highlighted in Table 1.

Table 1: 2019 Formal Employment in Fisheries

Economic Activity	2018	2019
Marine Fishing on commercial	1,173	881
Gathering of Marine organisms and material	77	
Gathering of freshwater animals		78
Gathering of marine organisms and material	24	19
Marine aquaculture	41	39
Freshwater	34	31
Total Employees	1,349	1,048

Source: Fiji Bureau of Statistics

Agency Overview

Our Core Business

We are a public sector agency responsible for the national regulatory & policy framework of/for fishing, conservation, management, and development of fisheries resources in Fiji's fisheries waters & corresponding services delivery for sustainable fisheries management through the following functions;

- Portfolio leadership and policy advice;
- Formulate, review, administer and enforce the national fisheries legislations and regulations;
- Formulate, align, review, Implement, monitor, and evaluate policies, strategies, plans, programs, and projects;
- Deliver extension advisory services through effective training, communication, awareness, and support fisheries infrastructure;
- Undertake applied research for sustainable fisheries resource management practices, commodity development, and marine resource conservation;
- Promote fisheries commodity development, utilization, and value-adding for food security and income generation;
- Strengthen global, regional, and national collaborative public and private sector, community, and industry partnerships on sustainable fisheries management and development and marine biodiversity and marine resource conservation; and
- Maintain and comply with international bilateral and multilateral commitments.

Corporate Profile



VISION

“To have the best Fisheries in the Pacific Region”



MISSION

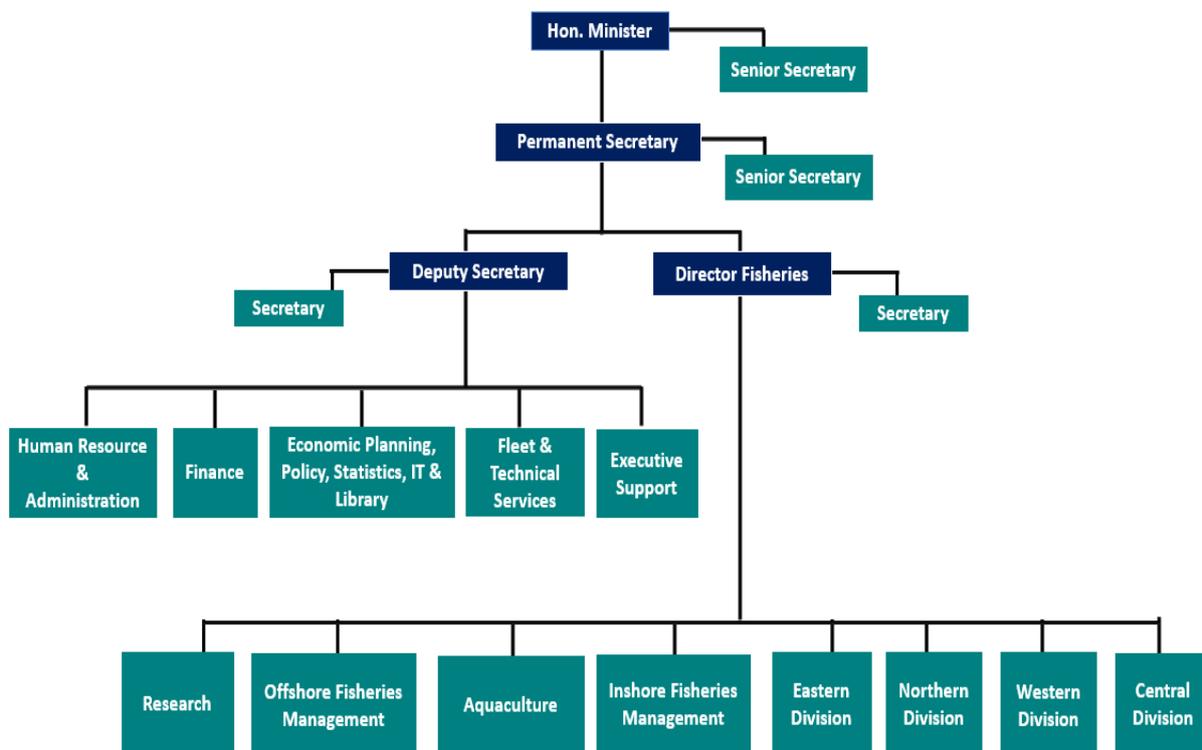
“To Sustain, to Manage and to Protect Fiji's Fisheries”



VALUES

- **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 maximize the use and value of our fisheries
- **Inclusiveness** – we will be recognized for our collaborative approaches, working in partnership 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 recognize the critical nature of our role on behalf of the Fijian people and we will take responsibility for our decisions and our outcomes while demonstrating leadership in all we do

Organizational Structure



Human Resources

For the 2020/2021 financial year the Ministry had a total of 365 positions as per the staff established. As at 31 July 2021, the Ministry had a total of 337 staff on-the-ground and 24 vacancies. The breakdown of staff categories is given in Table 2. During the year, thirty-two (32) staff were new recruits to the Ministry. Nine (9) staff resigned and seven (7) retired. Under employee management, four (4) contracts were renewed, two (2) acting and three (3) temporary relieving appointments was processed.

Table: 2 Staffing of the Ministry of Fisheries

	Aug 2019/ Jul 2020				Aug 2020/ Jul 2021		
	Established Officers	Government Wage Earners	Project Officers		Established Officers	Government Wage Earners	Project Officers
Approved staff - 365	192	107	66	Approved staff - 361	192	107	62
Strength – 315 (Manpower on the ground)	163	102	50	Strength – 337 (Manpower on the ground)	176	102	59
Weaknesses - 50 (Vacancies)	29	5	16	Weaknesses – 24 (Vacancies)	16	5	3

Source: Human Resources Division of the Ministry of Fisheries

For the 2020/2021 financial year, to enhance learning and development within the Ministry, five hundred and eighty-one (581) staff participated in various categories of training. The breakdown of the staff training attended by categories is given in Table 3.

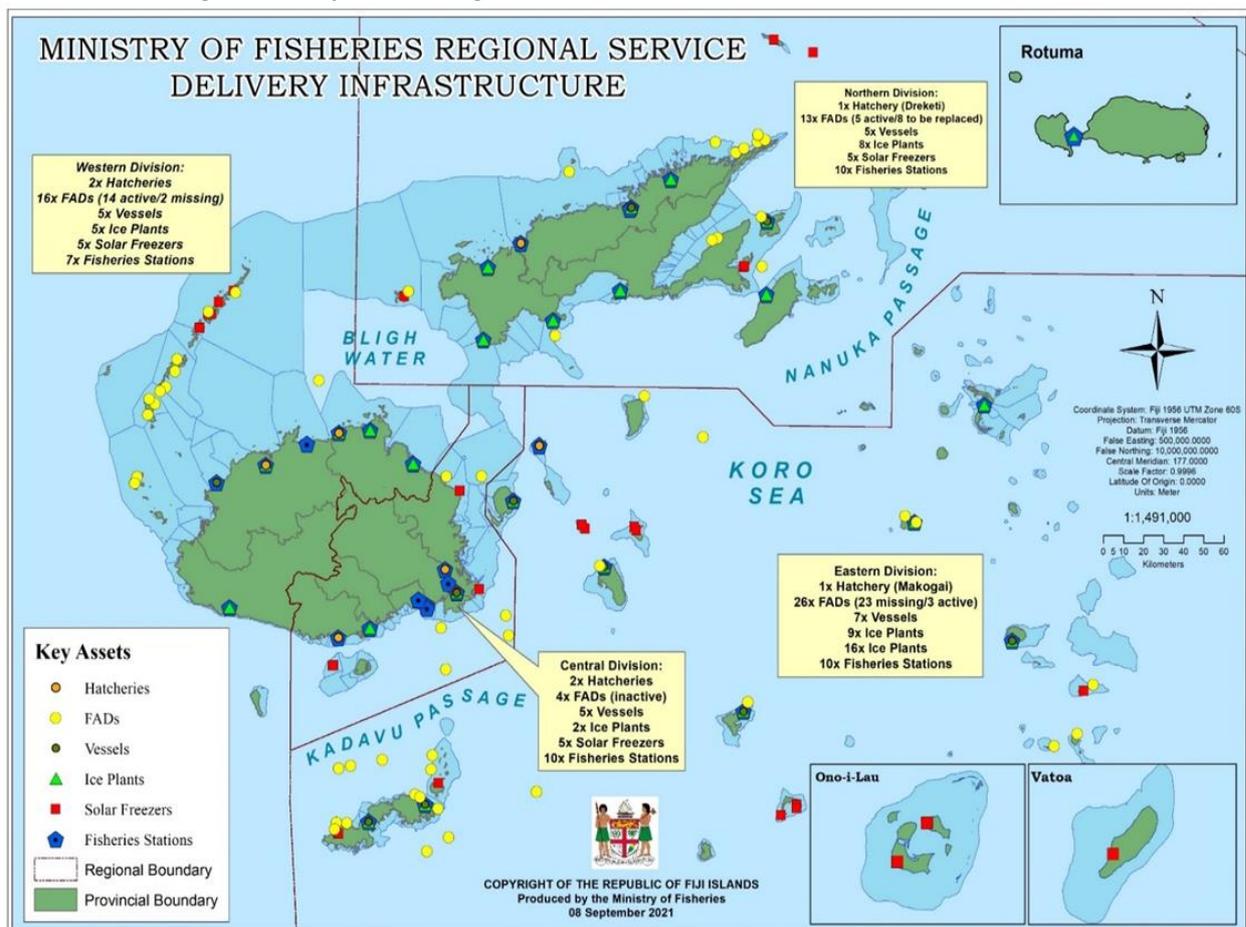
Table: 3 Training of Ministry Staff During the Year

Training type	In attendance
Local Training	374
Overseas Training (including Meeting/ workshop)	52
Attachments	117
NEC Volunteer Attachment	24
Study leave –Full time & Part time	12
Secondment	2
Total	581

Source: Human Resources Division of the Ministry of Fisheries

For the 2020/2021 financial year the Ministry had forty-four (44) vehicles, nine (9) of the vehicles were under repair at some point during the year. Of the eighteen (18) outboard vessels of the Ministry, eight (8) outboard vessels were under repairs at some point during the year. Of the Twenty-four (24) ice plants of the Ministry, nine (9) breakdowns were encountered and repaired during the year.

Distribution of Assets, Services, and Products

Figure: 6 Map illustrating the Distribution of Our services Nationwide.


Source: Ministry of Fisheries

A summary of our services and offices:

- FAD Deployment – majority concentration in Kadavu, the Yasawa's and the top end of Vanualevu. 59 FADs deployed in total nationwide.
- 31 solar freezers distributed to islands that do not have access to Ice Plants
- 28 Ice Plants
- 32 Service Centers nationwide
- 6 Hatcheries nationwide

2020 – 2021 Key Highlights



BUDGET ALLOCATED - \$15.4 Million
BUDGET UTILISED - \$13.7 Million
UTILISATION RATE – 89.11%
AUDITOR GENERAL - unqualified audit opinion



APPROVED STAFF - 361
MANPOWER ON THE GROUND - 337
VACANCIES - 24
STAFFING STRENGTH – 93.4%



OPERATIONAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES – 20
OUTPUTS – 23
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – 194
ACHIEVEMENT RATE – 74%

Portfolio Leadership, Policy Advice and Secretarial Support – 72%
 Growing the Economy - Offshore Fisheries Strategy – 74%
 Management and Fisheries Conservation - Coastal Strategy – 68%
 Food Security - Aquaculture Strategy – 72%
 Quality Strategy - Deliver Impact – 79%
 HR & Administration Deliverables – 73%
 Finance Deliverables – 85%



EXPORTS 2020
FRESH FISH EXPORTS – \$62.3 Million
PREPARED / PRESERVED FISH EXPORTS - \$7.8 Million
FRESH FISH RE-EXPORTS - \$116.9 Million
TOTAL EXPORTS - \$187 Million



FISHERIES STAFF ASSISTED WITH FIJI'S COVID RESPONSE
LAMI CONTAINMENT ZONE - Wainadoi to Tamavua-i-wai
SUVA CONTAINMENT ZONE - Tamavua-i-wai to the 8 miles bridge
NAUSORI CONTAINMENT ZONE - 8 miles bridge to Logani village
NORTHERN, WESTERN & EASTERN DIVISIONS

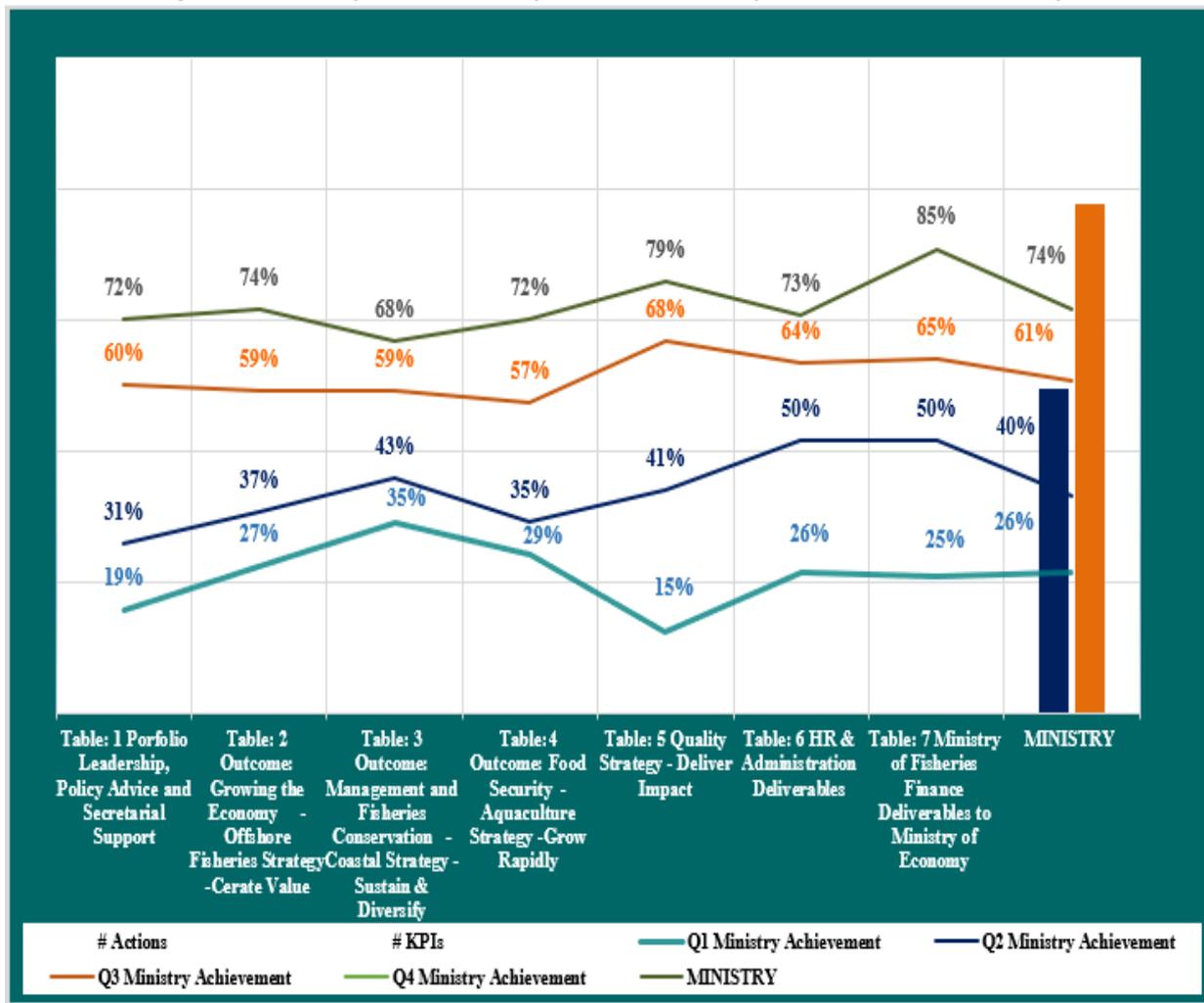
Summary of 2020 – 2021 Operational Plan Achievement

The Ministry during this period implemented three (3) key objectives in which we were determined to continue to deliver effective and tangible services to the Fijian people:

- **“Optimizing services delivered through our 32 fisheries service centers nationwide”**. Under this objective, the Ministry of Fisheries was determined to maximize utilization and outcome realized from the allocated budgetary provision to efficiently address short, medium- and long-term sustainable fisheries goals.
- **“Fostering food security”**. This objective underpinned the broader context of focusing our efforts in advanced research on aquaculture, increasing the value of fisheries products through additional value-adding and diversifying fisheries products targeted at niche markets; and
- **“Mitigating challenges through an innovative approach”**. This was an important goal for the Ministry of Fisheries given the growing issues in our national, regional, and global context.

Figure 7 below illustrates the Ministry operational plan implementation from quarter one (1) to quarter four (4) of the financial year.

Figure: 7 Ministry of Fisheries Operational Plan Implementation as at 30 July 2021



Source: Ministry of Fisheries

Summary of 2020 – 2021 Capital Projects Achievement

The Ministry was allocated a capital budget of \$4.09 million. As at 31st July 2021 the capital budget utilized was \$3.48 million with a utilization rate of 85.25%.

Table: 4 2020 – 2021 Capital Projects Summary

No	Description	Total Budgetary Provision	Wages	Project operation Budget	Targeted Outputs	Achievement	Impact
1	Fisheries Research & Conservation Programme	300,000	150,833	149,167	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marine Resource Inventory Survey - 4 MPA 2. Fisheries Stock Assessment for Targeted Species (High commercial value species) - 4 Sites 3. Trainings and Capacity Buildings - 5 Diving Certification 	115% Achieved (4 MPA, 6 BDM Assessment and 5 Staff Certified divers)	* Promoting sustainable fisheries management and the replenishment of fish stock through management tool.
2	Pearl Oyster Research & Development	295,200	77,405	217,795	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expansion of community based spat collection program - 5 Farms. 2. Mabe Pearl Production - 2 Farms. 3. Increase participation of communities in business ownership - 8 Farms 4. Industry Development & Farm Census - 3 Farms 	94% Achieved (8 Community based spat, 2 Mabe Pearl Farm, 6 Community based Oyster rack and 1 Industry Development)	* Carrying out Fisheries assessment survey to manage inshore fisheries. * Empowering communities through sustainable resource management and development initiative.
3	Makogai Mariculture Development Centre	300,000	78,414	221,586	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Giant Clam Production - 80,000 2. Trochus Production - 1 Pen 3. Reseeding of Giant clams in MPA - 10 MPA 	375% Achievement (300,000 Juvenile Clams, 1 Trochus Pen with 200 Brooders and 5 MPA reseeded)	* Developing and implementing a coherent approach to optimal and sustained fisheries development.
4	Coastal Fisheries Development	772,000	-	772,000	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fish Aggregation Device (FAD) - 20 FAD 2. Community Capacity Building - 10 Fish Warden Training 3. Conservation Fisheries - 15 Mangrove planting site and 10 Coral Planting Site. 4. Develop Governance Structures for existing Fishermen Association - 3 Solar Freezer 5. Monitoring, Control, Surveillance & Enforcement - 152 Land and Sea Patrol. 6. Operation of Rural Fisheries Service Centre's - 2 Fuel Shed and Solar Pilot Project 	93% Achieved (12 FAD Deployed, 4 Fish Warden Training, 25 Conservation Site, 3 Solar Freezer, 196 Land and Sea Patrol, 2 Fuel Shed and Solar Pilot Project in Rabi)	* Promoting of sustainable fisheries management * Empowering of Community based through integrated sustainable resource management and development initiative.
5	Cyclone Rehab - Seaweed Develop Programme	259,225	116,108	143,117	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administration Support - Recruit 2 Project Officer 2. Provide Income Generation through Seaweed Farm Development. - 40MT 3. Provide Farm Support 	55% Achieved (Successful recruitment of 2 Seaweed Project Officer, Harvesting of 20.2MT of Seaweed and Establishment of 2 Nursery Site)	* Improving our service efficiency

No	Description	Total Budgetary Provision	Wages	Project operation Budget	Targeted Outputs	Achievement	Impact
					through Nursery Development - 2 Nursery site		though technology.
6	Electronic Monitoring System	600,000	123,625	476,375	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recruitment and filling of vacant position 2. Tender for EMS Program 	100% Achieved (6 Newly created post, 47 Local Flagship using on-board EMS and 5 on-shore services)	
7	Freshwater Aquaculture Programme	400,000	-	400,000	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broodstock Management 2. Hatchery Operations & Seedling Production 3. Farm Development, Extension and Advisory services 	Farm revival - 535% achieved (107 ponds) and new ponds activated- 145% (58 ponds), farm visits - 21.7% achieved, including phone consultations - 123% achieved (370 activities for the central division).	* Support small scale farmers and community-based Aquaculture production for food and nutrition security livelihood.
8	Brackish Water Development	380,000	82,883	297,117	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broodstock Management 2. Hatchery Management & Production - 30,000 Sandfish 3. Shrimp Farm Development - 15 Shrimp Farmer 	92% Achieved (27,700 Sand Fish and 15 Shrimp Farmers visited)	* Support Commercial development of Aquaculture Industries including existing and potential commodities.
9	Food Security Program - Aquaculture	500,000	40,000	460,000	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of Farmers approved to be assisted this financial year 2. Number of Contractors engaged under FSP Program 3. Vendors engaged under the FSP Program 4. Engagement of 2 Officers under FSP Program 	100% Achieved (75 FSP Recipient, 15 Contractors Engaged for earthwork, 2 Feed Supplier and 4 Hardware Supplier engaged and recruitment of 2 FSP Officer)	* Ensuring Aquaculture farmers and producers have access to quality technical advice to improve on productivity yields.
10	Assistance To Commercial Aqua Farmers	250,000	33,636	216,364	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administration Support Services 2. Aquaculture Development through grant Assistance 3. Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting 	100% Achieved	* Food security and economic growth.
11	Upgrading Of Fisheries Office & Quarters	100,530	24,838	75,692	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recruitment of Clerk of Works 2. Solar Lights 3. Lautoka Fisheries Office Septic Tank 4. Lautoka Fish Market Septic Tank and Ablution Block 	100 % Completed	* Improving the standard of Government Offices and premises. * Support small scale farmers and community-based aquaculture production for food and nutrition security and livelihood.
12	Construction/Establishment Of Multi Species Hatchery	417,766	136,556	281,210	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project Staff Recruitment 2. Project Implementation Caboni Multispecies Hatchery 	100% Completed	

Source: Ministry of Fisheries



FISHERIES STAFF ASSISTED WITH FIJI'S



COVID-19 RESPONSE



Achievements from Functional Divisions



Port Sampling carried out by offshore fisheries management division staff

Offshore Fisheries Management Division

The Division continued to deliver its services to the Offshore Sector under the recent pandemic during this financial year towards maximizing the economic value of the fishery whilst maintaining its aims and these were facilitated under the following criteria:

Encourage Consultation, Coordination and Cooperation in Partnerships with Private Sector.

- Pursued the initiative to engage in private-public sector engagement with civil society organizations such as Conservation International towards the renewal of the ailing Fiji national long line fleet.

- Worked with the Fong Chung Formosa in development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) towards auditing of Fiji national long line crewing and welfare standards under criteria's set by the Seafood Task Force as part of its Social Responsibility Program (SRP).

- Represent the nation on vital fisheries related issues in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the membership of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). This aspect extended to collaborative works with the Commission's Science Service Provider and that being the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC).
- Worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) in the development the Marine Mammal Protection Act data submissions.
- Worked with the relevant Divisions within the Ministry, Conservation International (CI), the World Conservation Society (WCS) and the Fiji Fishing Industry Association on the facilitation of the proposed 30% Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).
- Worked with the Marine Stewardship Certification (MSC) process per the recent audit on the 16th of March 2021 in order to maintain Fiji's MSC certification on its Albacore, Big eye and Yellow-fin.

Legislative Review

- The division staff received training on the current Fisheries laws and regulation from the 08th to the 12th of February 2021 and cover all aspects from the interpretation of the law to the issuing of the relevant fixed penalty notices.
- Facilitated its duties under the Offshore Fisheries Management Act 2012 and its Regulations 2014. Recent amendments were aimed at ensuring that there were reduced costs of doing business for the tuna long line industry via the remove of certain provisional aspects of the bunkering and provisioning regulatory text in addition to increasing the licensing tenure from 36 months to 20 years.
- Developed a need analysis of the current fisheries' legal instruments in anticipation of the further legal amendments to be made.

Offshore Fisheries Licensing and Permitting

- facilitated 42 licensing applications to fish in Fiji's EEZ, with 1 exploratory license and 26 applications for authorisation to fish in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).
- A total of 52 "Fish Exporter and Importers" and 10 "Fish Processing Establishments" were registered in Fiji under the OFMD.
- 26 Offshore Fishing Companies were recorded in Fiji with 155 vessels being recorded for using Fiji's ports and with a further 190 Foreign Flagged vessels being recorded for the Entry and Use of Fijis Ports.
- 5,502 permits were vetted and processed according to market requirements in order to facilitate these companies' activities. This covered landings, export (fresh & frozen) and imports, bunkering and provisioning in addition to transshipment activities.

Facilitation Of Port State Measures

- 791 vessels were boarded and inspected with 325 vessels under the category of Fiji flagged and Fiji licensed or ABNJ authorised or bare boat-chartered vessels in addition to 466 being foreign flagged and foreign licensed.
- 339 departure clearances were facilitated prior to the vessels going out to the fishing grounds.
- 15 pre-fishing inspections were carried out in the months of November (7), December (3) and January (5).
- 18 port monitoring's were facilitated.
- Enforcement and Surveillance Unit participate in 2 at sea surveillances upon the RFNS Kikau and Savenaca for the Operation Island Chief and Kurukuru respectively.
- 826 Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) related surveillance actions were facilitated by the Surveillance Unit in addition to 44 transshipments and 29 provisioning monitored by the observers.
- The Investigation Unit closed 20 cases during this time frame with 8 cases pending the investigative process.
- 95 cases were presented and prosecuted, which included Inshore related cases with 2 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) being collected on, amounting to \$12,000.00. These were paid within 21 days of issues of the FPN.



Boarding and inspection by Offshore Fisheries Management Division staff

Engagement With Private Sector and Regional Bodies.

- Work in progress to develop e-services to improve service delivery through technology and reduce the cost of business for industry.
- Presently, the EMS project has secured 1 FTO EMS position and 5 FA EMS position. The ITC Steering Committee has also provided the tender waiver to proceed with the services of Satlink International as the Service Provider, on the 27/07/21. As such, the program has been able to complete 48 trip reviews with 1,055 sets having been analysed.
- 34 company visitations were facilitated. This cover specific company visits aside from the usual correspondence and day to day activities with the industry.

Research into Industry Value Adding.

- Observer placement at sea for the SPC related project on scientific data collection for the national observer program saw 64 placement trips and 67 regional observer program placement trips at sea and a total of 102 debriefings on the mentioned trips.
- 49 biological samples were collected at sea with 62 port sampling that were covered a total of 34,093 fish.

Regional And International Fisheries Partnerships.

- The Marine Stewardship Certification Audit was conducted on the 16th of March 2021 and cover albacore, Big-eye and Yellow-fin. OFMD edits to the MSC draft audit document were resubmitted on the 28th of May 2021.
- Inspections of all import and export consignments facilitated by the Enforcement Unit in collaboration with the Licensing and Permitting Unit totals to 127 inspections with 7 inspections for Swordfish commodities in the 4th quarter of 2020 and the 1st quarter of 2021.
- In terms of the annual process for the systematic monitoring of the offshore fisheries, a total of 34,163 data unit were entered covering log sheets and landing documents etc. It should be noted that for the provisional reporting period of the month of August 2021 to July 2021, 7,404 mt was the catch for the Fiji national long line fleet.

Develop And Implement Appropriate Standards.

- In terms of facilitating market requirements, ICCAT (369), MSC (181), FCC (197) and EU (43) catch documentations and certifications were facilitated totaling to 790 unit.
- 18 trainings were facilitated on the zoom online platform.

Electronic Monitoring Systems

In the 2020-2021 financial year reporting period, the Ministry of Fisheries (Ministry) had been provided with the budgetary allocation of \$600,000.00 FJD for the continuation of the Electronic Monitoring Systems under the Offshore Fisheries Management Division per Head 31, Programme 2, Activity 2, SEG 7.

During this financial year, the four main achievements of the project was:

- The establishment of Fiji's EMS - Data Review Center (DRC) was established under the FAO pilot project from the 4th quarter of 2015 up until this project phase ended in January 2020. As this financial year came about and heralded the continuity of the Fiji EMS program, by January 2021, the Ministry of Fisheries was able to secure 1 FTO EMS and 5 FA EMS position with two of the FA EMS positions being held under this new project criteria (R) by two women holding graduate degrees.
- The continuity of the Fiji EMS project, in alignment with the Cabinet Decision delivered - CP (19) 165), ensured that Fiji continued to take a lead position in the region as the fleet with the highest implementation of the EMS (i.e., 50 national long line fleet) sharing not only its best practices and lessons learnt on a regional and global scale but also the FAO/Ministry developed Costing Options.
- In line with the regional decision developed at the 16th Annual Session of the Forum Fisheries Committee Minister's meeting (FFC Min16), the Minister's tasked the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) secretariat to work with its members on the development of the Electronic Monitoring Policy in collaboration with the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC) and Members of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), in 2019. Fiji has continued to contribute heavily to this process and the associated review of Data Compliance Committee EMS data collection standards in ensuring that the EMS data is harmonised to regional standards.
- On the 27th of July 2021, the ITC Steering Committee provided the Ministry with a Tender Waiver in order to continue with the current Service Provider (Satlink International). This ensured not only the continuity of the Fiji EMS program but more so, allows the Ministry time to test the market in order to gauge other potential EMS suppliers and contribute to developmental R&D aspects of the EMS tool. This exercise is primarily being developed with the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC) via the harmonization of the EMS data into their current database.

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.



Fish caught in inshore fisheries waters

The re-establishment of the fisheries data collection program has been a major achievement of the Division, with the recruitment of 12 data collectors strategically placed in the 3 geographic divisions at 10 major markets. A scientifically robust methodology was developed to ensure standardised data collection across all our major fish markets. During the year, the data collection officers have logged 936 surveys and have recorded 281 different commercial food finfish species through our 10 major fish markets around Fiji. These market surveys took place on the established peak days of the week which are from Thursday to Saturday each week.

Table four (4) shows the number of market surveys undertaken in each of the 10 major fish markets. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and three tropical cyclones in late 2020 and early 2021, the team missed out on a significant amount of data collection for this period.

Following Cyclone Yasa (17 December, 2020), all divisions had to be closed for a week and a half. The cyclone also affected the number of fish traded as fishers were not able to go fishing for roughly a month due to bad weather. From April 2021 to July 2021, with the second wave of the pandemic hitting Fiji, and the COVID-19 restrictions in place, limitations were placed on the team's ability to collect data. In addition, it was observed that there were limited fish sales in the

markets as both the Central and Western divisions had restricted movements. At the same time, the number of consumers at fish markets dropped. Table five (5) shows the top ten species of fish in terms of price per kilogram that was recorded through the surveyed markets. Table six (6) and Tables (7 and 8) below show the fin fish surveyed by volume and estimated values of the market surveys undertaken in Central, Western and Northern divisions for the financial year.

Table: 5 Number of Market Surveys undertaken in each division

Division	Market	No. of Market Surveys
Central	Suva Municipal Market	106
	Bailey Bridge Municipal Market	108
	Nokonoko Market	50
	Laqere Market	108
Western	Nausori Municipal Market	107
	Lautoka Fishermen Market	238
	Lautoka Municipal Market	40
Northern	Ba Municipal Market	30
	Labasa Fish Market	111
	Savusavu Municipal Market	39
Total		937

Source: Inshore Fisheries Management Division, Ministry of Fisheries

Table 6: Top ten species of fish by Price Per Kilogram

Scientific name	Common name	Price/kg (\$)
<i>Cephalopholis argus</i>	Peacock hind	16.63
<i>Epinephelus howlandi</i>	Blacksaddle grouper	15.81
<i>Variola louti</i>	Yellow-edged lyretail	14.76
<i>Plectropomus leopardus</i>	Leopard coral grouper	14.53
<i>Epinephelus polyphekadion</i>	Camouflage grouper	13.32
<i>Cephalopholis miniata</i>	Coral hind	13.16
<i>Epinephelus maculatus</i>	Highfin grouper	13.15
<i>Scarus dimidiatus</i>	Yellowbarred parrotfish	12.94
<i>Plectropomus laevis</i>	Blacksaddled grouper	12.78
<i>Epinephelus areolatus</i>	Areolate grouper	12.78

Source: Inshore Fisheries Management Division, Ministry of Fisheries

Table: 7 Total Fin Fish surveyed by volume (kilograms)

Weight (kg)	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Total
Central	7263	5178	5804	5034	3361	4432	4079	4421	4205				43,777
Northern	3670	4024	4404	2579	1498	1756	2147	3123	2675	108	215	302	26,501
Western	6720	4724	5006	3620	2754	2496	2983	2697	1448			510	32,958
Total	17,653	13,926	15,214	11,233	7613	8684	9209	10,241	8328	108	215	812	103,236

Source: Inshore Fisheries Management Division, Ministry of Fisheries

Table: 8 Estimated values (FJ\$) of total finfish surveyed

Value (\$)	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Total
Central	59240	46717	58710	51955	39340	46115	33895	38080	37270				411322
Northern	25705	27381	27426	19156	10113	13537	17047	18337	14161	554	851	1966	176240
Western	49031	34441	43743	28490	19812	16285	21440	17576	9151			2433	242402
Total	133976	108539	129879	99601	69265	75937	72382	73993	60582	554	851	4399	829965

Source: Inshore Fisheries Management Division, Ministry of Fisheries

Data Limitations

- Due to 3 Tropical Cyclones experienced in Fiji waters namely cyclones Yasa, Ana and Bina, market surveys for all markets from December to July were affected. There were only 19/332 market surveys conducted in the last three months of the Fiscal Year to get accurate real time data on the actual fish movements in the municipal markets being surveyed.
- The data from the Eastern division is not reflected in the national data as there are no Data Collection officers present and no identified market for continuous data collection.
- The data represented presents the sampling information and not necessarily the trends in the market as the Ministry continues to work on its data collection program and collect throughput data.

Data assumptions

- Not every single bundle that moves through the market is sampled, only surveyed are all the fish that are on display at the time of survey.



Inshore fisheries enforcement

- Response Bias Some response by the vendors may be exaggerated and need to be taken as such Not all vendors choose to share information or allow us to survey.
- The division conducted a total of 742 inspections.
- 532 inspections were land-based, conducted at fish shops, companies, municipal markets and roadside fish stalls around Fiji mainly concentrated in the Central, Western and Northern region.
- 210 sea-based boarding and inspections was conducted across the country during this period. From the inspections conducted both on land and at sea, 135 infringements were identified.
- Based on this information the national compliance rate is 82%.

Table 9 below shows the types of infringements that were identified during the compliance operations conducted in 2020-2021. The most common infringement identified is the harvesting, selling or exposing for sale undersize fish.

Table 9: Types of Infringements Identified during inspections

Infringement Types	2020					2021			Grand Total
	August	September	October	November	December	February	April	May	
Fishing Using UBA			1					1	2
Prohibited species	1	4	3		2				10
Seasonally banned species	5	15	1	6	5	9	1		42
Undersize commodities	9	2	9	11	2	1	16		50
Total	15	21	14	17	9	10	17	1	104

Source: Inshore Fisheries Management Division, Ministry of Fisheries

A total of 24 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) were issued during August 2020 to July 2021. FPNs were issued for offending against the Offshore Fisheries Management Act 2012 and Offshore Fisheries Management Regulations 2014.

The compliance unit attended a total of 264 court hearings as a result of 58 cases being registered in various Magistrates Courts around the country. There are a total of 47 active cases and 11 have closed as sentences have been issued by the Magistrates Courts. Three are formal charges laid for contravention against the Fisheries Act CAP 158, and the remaining 44 are a result of offenders not being able to pay their FPNs within 21 days of being issued to them.

The Policy and Planning Unit has continued to work on drafting key inshore fisheries management plans using the precautionary approach. New management plans developed within the fiscal year included:

- Coconut Crab Management Plan
- Kawakawa and Donu Management Plan
- Fish Warden Management Plan
- National Compliance Strategy

The Sea Cucumber Management Plan and Regulations were also finalised.

There was work undertaken to review all SOPs that IFMD had developed before the commencement of the 2021/2022 fiscal year. They include 10 SOPs from the compliance unit and 5 SOPs from the data analysis and management unit.

Sea cucumber ban lifting preparations.

The ministry undertook steps preparing to uplift the sea cucumber ban and IFMD took the lead role to ensure if harvesting is permitted, they are still sustainable based on available stock status reports and literature. In doing so the Sea cucumber draft regulations were fine-tuned and underwent a series of internal consultations.

Aquaculture Division

The Aquaculture division supports the freshwater and brackish water aquaculture farm development within the Central, Eastern, Northern and Western division. The division manages and maintains the six (6) Hatcheries nationwide.

For the financial year the aquaculture division had the following achievements:



Aquaculture equipment received by Honorable Minister for Fisheries

- Cultured and distributed 1,601,091 tilapia frys with an estimated value \$145,112.
- 4278.38 kilograms of tilapia was harvested from farms with a revenue of \$37,069.21
- Cultured and distributed 83,000 shrimp post larvae with an estimated value \$8,300
- 4 kilograms of shrimp was harvested from farms with a revenue of \$140.00
- Cultured and distributed 166,790 prawn post larvae with an estimated value

\$25,018.50

- 45 kilograms of prawn was harvested from farms with a value of \$1,350.00
- Cultured 26,581 sandfish with an estimated value of \$13,290.50
- Cultured 146,599 grass carps with an estimated value of 29,319.80
- 9 brackish water farms were restocked
- 11 dormant farms were revived
- 20 new aquaculture farms were developed
- 703 aquaculture farm development activities were undertaken
- 2 trainings were conducted for potential youth farmers and for NATI graduates with CATD– 16/9/20
- Attended the World Cities Day Expo – 31/10/20, World Fisheries Day – 21/11/20 and the Agriculture Show – 3-6/11/20
- 2-day training conducted in collaboration with the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) for potential Aquaculture Farmers.

- Shrimp training at Waicoka Village in collaboration with the International Tropical Timber Organization: (ITTO) on 26-27/11/20.
- Fish Farmer Technical Training was conducted for Durubuabua Investment Limited at Nakorowiri Village - 18-21/11/2020.
- Galoa Hatchery upgrading – completion of water pump installation and electrical upgrade
- Naduruloulou Hatchery upgrading - Ministry of infrastructure visited the site to work on C-type design and estimates. 2 contractors visited the site to give estimates for upgrades. Feed room and feed machine mechanical and electrical work on-going. Back-up water installation on-going.
- Project Implementation Caboni Multispecies – Completion of installation of 3 phase power grid, construction of indoor shrimp hatchery and construction of 2 outdoor grow out ponds. Indoor hatchery constructed by Taiwan Technical Mission (TTM) worth \$220,000.
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) assisted Naduruloulou with hatchery and farm development equipment's worth \$301,000.00.
- 4 farmers approved by National vetting members to be assisted under Commercial Aquaculture Development project and be set up as model farms.
- Fiji National University (FNU) Student and staff visited Galoa station on the 12/04/2020.



Juvenile distribution Honorable Minister for Fisheries

Research Division

With the impact of COVID19 on the research operation and implementation, the RA&D Division still managed to achieve few significant outcomes to support fisheries management.

On portfolio leadership policy:

- Completed the review of the National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Sharks
- Cabinet memorandum submission on the gazette of Vanua Navakavu Marine Protected Area (MPA).

Supporting the coastal strategy to better manage the inshore fisheries:

- Surveyed three (3) proposed gazette MPA sites
- Fiji Ridge to Reef Initiative: completed the survey of Natewa Tunuloa lower catchment area

Supporting the aquaculture industry to grow rapidly:

- Produced 280, 000 *T.gigas* juveniles in Makogai Island Mariculture Hatchery
- Established 3 new community-based pearl farms
- Production of 473 mabe pearls (\$14,190) and 1,904 spats (\$3,806).

Develop appropriate policy guidelines and standard:

- Completed the draft Fisheries Research & Monitoring Strategic Plan: Complete the internal consultation and submission to the senior executive. Provided monitoring strategies that the Ministry intends to pursue in the next 5 years. Guide the prioritization and coordination of all research activities to support and inform effective fisheries management.
- Reviewed the National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Sharks: Undertake consultation with regional partner (SPC) and international shark expert. Submission of the draft to the senior executive. The NPOA for Sharks consolidates the scattered fragments of shark's management initiative and regulations into one and adopting best practices approach in shark conservation and management.

Support the trade of giant clams in the aquarium industry:

- Giant clam is a CITES listed species, thus work closely with the Ministry of Environment and WWF to produce the non-detrimental finding survey report on giant clams and the formulation of the cultured

giant clam implementation plan. Provided an enabling environment for investors and private run hatcheries to trade cultured giant clams in the aquarium market.

Implementation of Cabinet Strategy

- Cabinet Memorandum submission on the “Gazette of Vanua Navakavu Marine Protected Area” Rewa Province. Sustain biological diversity and ecosystem services, support fisheries productivity, support livelihood enhancement and sustainable economic growth.
- Contribute to Fiji’s national commitment on 30% protection of our seas.

Development of species prioritization plan and listing

- Established a Baseline Stock and Distribution Assessment of coconut crabs, Ugavule (*Birgus latro*): Coconut crab hunter’s survey in Naqelelevu Island, Yacata and Kaibu Island: information to improve resource profile and community-based management. Collaboration research with the Institute of Marine Resources (IMR), University of the South Pacific. Establish a coconut crab (ugavule) management strategy. The stocks of coconut crab are being overexploited and there is no management plan in place. Coconut crab have been reported across the far ends of Fiji’s northeastern and southeastern parts of Fiji namely Yadua Is, Aiwa Is, Cikobia plan in place Is (Macuata & Lau), Kabara Island, Qelelevu Island and the Ringgold Isles and few privately owned islands.
- Establishing a Baseline Stock and Distribution Assessment of Sand Fish, Dairo (*Holothuria scabra*): Biological survey on Rakiraki/Naisogoliku & Tavua (7th to 15th December 2020) Completed on the 18th to 27th January 2021. Lakeba Is (24th Feb – 5th Mar 2020), Vanuabalavu Is, Verata/Kubuna District, Kubulau (22nd to 26th February 2020) and Lekutu (22nd to 26th February 2020): information to provide quota and community-based management. Establish a Sand fish (Dairo) quota and management strategy per CFRAs surveyed.



Survey team, Semisi Seru (MoF), Aseri Tubuna (MoF) and Kalisiana Marama (USP) measuring conducting baseline survey in Naqelelevu Island. A – Thoracic lengths was measured and recorded; B – animals were also marked for capture and recapture purposes.

Fiji Ridge to Reef Initiative: funded by GEF/UNDP

- Completed the biological and socioeconomic fisheries survey in Vanua Natewa/Tunuloa CFRA on 6th – 24th April 2020. Objective of the survey is to determine fish and invertebrate abundance and diversity.
- Compiled 2 Technical Reports: Vanua Natewa/Tunuloa Fisheries Resources Assessment Report to contribute to the management of the Natewa/Tunuloa lower catchment area.

MPAs established

- Biological assessment conducted on the coral reef area around Navini Island on the 23rd to 28th September 2020.
- Baseline Resource Assessment conducted on the coral reef area around Narokorokoyawa Island on the 28th September to 3rd October 2020.
- Baseline resource assessment conducted on MPA area around the Matokana CFRA on the 2nd of October 2020.

- Demarcation and monitoring of marine protected area (MPA) within the jurisdiction of Vanua o Matokana.
- Biological assessment conducted on the coral reef area around Tivua Island on the 3rd to 8th October 2020.
- Baseline resource assessment conducted on the coral reef area around Batiki Island on the 8th to 10th of November 2020.
- Monitoring of marine protected area (MPA) within the jurisdiction of Vanua o Batiki.
- Contribute to the Fijian government national commitment on the 30% protection of our fisheries waters.

Establish 3 new community spat farms (per division) -

Establishment of 4 new sites:

- Nasavu Youth Group (Bua)
- Taukena Farm (Bua)
- Sawaieke Womens Group (Gau)
- Nawaikama Womens Group (Gau)

Spat production - Harvest of spats:

- Namarai, Ra – 1,171 pieces valued at \$2, 342
- Naocobau, Ra – 702 pieces valued at \$1,404
- Verevere, Ra – 12 pieces valued at \$24
- Saioko, Ra – 19 pieces valued at \$38

Total spat production: 1,904 pieces valued at \$3,808



Black lip oyster spats harvested from community-based farms

Mabe pearl production Harvest of mabe pearls:

- Namarai, Ra – 81 pieces valued at \$2,430
- Naocobau, Ra – 97 pieces valued at \$2,910
- Verevere, Ra – 145 pieces valued at \$4,350
- Saioko, Ra – 150 pieces valued at \$4500
- Total mabe production: 473 pieces valued at \$14,190

The following farms were implanted with mabe and will be harvested in 2022:

- Viani Youth, Cakaudrove – 365 melamela with an estimated revenue of \$7,300
- Navatudua Women, Raviravi, Macuata – 237 melamela with an estimated revenue of \$4,740

Community based Farm development - Monitoring and Expansion of existing community-based farms:

- Somosomo, Gau – 4 new lines
- Navatudua Women, Raviravi, Macuata – 16 new lines
- Ravita Women’s Group, Cakaudrove – 13 new lines
- Mahana Pearls, Tunuloa, Cakaudrove – 17 new lines
- Expansion of the pearl oyster-based livelihood to coastal and maritime communities in the Lomaiviti Group. Support livelihood initiatives and income generation in coastal and maritime areas and simultaneously contribute to economic growth through the export of pearl oyster product and maintaining ecological balance. Encourage the participation of women and youths in the fisheries livelihood projects and empower women participation in business.

Reseeding of Giant Clams in MPA

- Through the Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association (FHTA) MOU with the Ministry of Fisheries, twenty-three (23) resorts have expressed their interest of venturing into marine conservation projects) Through the Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association (FHTA) MOU with the Ministry of Fisheries, twenty-three (23) resorts have expressed their interests of venturing into marine conservation projects).
- Reseeding in 2 resorts: Castaway Island Resort and Tropica Island Resort. Establishment of conservation sites and provide an opportunity for partnership between the Tourism Operators, CFROs and the Government.

Giant clam production in Makogai Island Mariculture Research Station

- 3 spawning cycles conducted: 280, 000 juveniles produced
- Support the reseeded of giant clams in marine protected areas and boost the wild population stock.

Pond culture research for groupers, mullet and rabbitfish

- Undertaken at Caboni Research Station: collection of brooders from the wild and preparation of pond.
- Relieve fishing pressure on the wild fisheries stock and address food security and economic recovery.

Training/Workshop/Meetings attended

- IKASAVEA Training on 30/12-31/12/2020. Provide efficiency in data collection.
- Implementation of the 2003 Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention Implementation of the 2003 Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention Workshop on 24th – 26th February 2021.
- World Fisheries Day Celebration and Launched the One Million Coral Planting Initiative on 10th October 2020.
- Online Professional Development Training on Project Management: 30th – 31st September 2020.
- Engagement in the containment of the COVID19, staffs engaged in the COVID 19 operation: Lam Zone/Suva Zone/ Nausori Zone/ Nasinu Zone/ Tavua Zone/ Lautoka Zone.

Technical Services

2020 – 2021 activities completed to ensure 100% operation of ice plants:

- OFCF Project - Rakiraki, Navua and Nabouwalu ice plants completion of repairs and maintenance
- Ba Ice Plant crusher bearing was replacement completed. This was due to wear tear of the old structure.
- Nabouwalu Ice Plants changing of the Ice plates completed.
- Vunisea Ice Plant change of compressor completed
- Cicia Ice Plant completed installation of new generator
- Navua Ice Plant Security Gate and installation of the new OFCF 1.5 Ice Plant completed
- Kadavu Ice Plant compressor replaced completed. The compressor was replaced with Navua Ice Plant compressor.
- Vanuabalavu Generator starter was repaired.
- Namarai Generator Starter and battery was connected with switch.
- Lautoka Ice Plant undergoing servicing and change of electrical parts such as relays and circuit breakers
- Levuka Ice Plant - replacing Condenser fans.
- Kavala Ice Plant - change of the belts and Timers.



Hype truck donated by the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan to the Fisheries Technical Services Division.

Defects outstanding at the end of the financial year:

- Rotuma Ice Plant Generator
- Cicia Ice Plant
- Levuka Ice Plant - gas leak and change TX valve
- Gau Ice Plant - control Board change
- 2 generators at the workshop -to be tested

Constraints

- COVID Lockdown - Logistics travel to eastern has been on hold because of COVID
- Activities was on hold from the 19/04/2021
- Gau parts was to be procured from Japan.

Achievements from Regional Divisions

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

Central Division:

- 1 Fish warden training was conducted in Kiuva village on 26/08/2 and attended by the participants from Natogadravu (2) and Kiuva village (16). This was requested by the Hon. Prime Minister's office.
- 3 Fish Aggregation Device were deployed at Beqa, Dawasamu and Naigani from 13-15/04/21.
- Through the Ministry, one boat and 60hp engine was handed over to the Kaba Seaweed farmers by the honorable minister for Fisheries, Mr. Semi Koroilavesau on 25/02/21.
- 1 by 6 feet and 1 by 8 feet normal chest freezers were handed to the Kiuva Agro Cooperative limited on 08/01/21 and Honorable Prime Minister attended the handing over.
- Facilitated the handing over of Aquaculture materials kit to the aquaculture farm development and extension officers for the Central and Eastern division on 30/03/21. This was done by the hon. minister for Fisheries. 4 kits were handed over to Central and 1 for the Eastern division.
- 33 fish farmers from the Central division were assisted under the FSP program for the 2020-21 period. The total cost of this assistance was \$185, 105.14.
- Attended meetings for all the Bose in Yasana (Tailevu, Naitasiri, Rewa, Serua and Namosi) and Bose ni Tikina and raised awareness on fisheries development programs for the communities to be aware of.
- A total of 198 Inshore Licenses were issued and 17 DWS License for the same period
- Completed 42 sea and 18 land patrols during the financial year, with an aim to enforce fisheries laws and regulation on fish harvest and sales. Sometimes these patrols were combined with our seaweed monitoring, FAD monitoring and coastal fisheries project monitoring programs.
- Disaster Management Committee (DISMAC) operations in the aftermath of the 2 main tropical cyclones, TC Yasa and TC Ana. Team
- Seaweed project –The seaweed project suffered intensive damages to planted lines and nurseries due to the events of 2 tropical cyclones, namely Yasa and Ana. In addition, the lockdown and restrictions period further disrupted our field work. 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. In spite of the challenges, the project managed to produce 22 metric tons of seaweed, from a total target of 40 tons
- Awareness program was carried out at Beqa Island in March 2021 on Fisheries issues such as poaching, conservation and fisheries legislations.
- Muanaira Mangrove Oyster Project at Muanaira village, in the district of Vutia, Rewa. This project is carried out by the women's 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).



Boat and engine handed over to Kaba Seaweed Farmers by the honorable Minister for Fisheries

Covid 19 and Lockdown period 2021

- The second wave of community transmission in Fiji started on 19/04/21. This led to lockdown borders created in Wainadoi, Lami, Sawani, Nakasi and Logani. Curfew hours and restrictions were placed in the Central division. Navua, Lami, Suva and Nausori containment zones were created.
- The lockdown limited the movement of public and transport and restricted movement of staffs within these zones. Regional Manager Central was the coordinator for the Nausori containment zone and

provided updates on staffs, vehicle and vessel needs requested by the Commissioner Central and Ministry of Health to contact tracing duties.

- The Office of the Commissioner Central also formed the Divisional HOD COVID 19 Taskforce which included key agencies HOD's who met on a regular basis to share key updates with the line agencies.

Western Division:

- 70 import permits issued within the financial year with a total revenue of \$2,790.85 generated. There were 6 major importers in the western division that are consistently import products throughout the 12 months. These importers include Heifeng Import & Export Trade Pte Ltd., New World Ltd., P. Meghji Ltd., Orion Distribution Ltd., Rajendra Prasad Fiji Pte Ltd. and Smart Chef Fiji Ltd. The highest product imported in terms of quantity was canned products which were imported by the Supermarkets. The other commodities that were imported in high quantity were squid, prawn and shrimp. On the other hand, minor exporters include Tide Aquaculture Pte Ltd., Five Star Foods Fiji Ltd., Douglas Pharmaceutical and individuals who are mostly Chinese.
- 133 export permits issued within the financial year with a total revenue of \$2,156.05. There were 2 major exporters that are consistently export throughout the 12 months. These exporters were Walt Smith International Ltd. and Maqere Export Ltd.
- There were 12 cases closed from both offshore and inshore cases with a total of \$96,600.00 fine paid to the government while 20 cases still pending from the last financial year.
- 730 Inshore fishing licenses across its 6 Service Centers was issued. 182 were issued to the women while 548 to the men. In general, there was an increase number of license in the month of May 2021 to July 2021 which is unexpected. This is due to COVID 19 pandemic where a lot of people lost their job; therefore, they ended up fishing to support their family's livelihood.
- The demand of ice in the western division is huge due to high number of commercial fishing activities and also the public that need ice for other purposes like juice, medics, etc. The western division has 7 ice plants situated across the division to serve the fishing communities. Three of the seven ice plants are in Lautoka. Total ice produced within the fiscal year was 1,581,164.55kg which generated a total revenue of \$225,971.34.
- Worked closely with the Department of Cooperative and Westpac Bank to register 4 Fisher Folks Cooperatives in Yasawa (Yasawa-i-rara Fisher Folks Cooperative Ltd, Vatukarakarawa Cooperative Ltd, Teci Cooperative Ltd and Lomati Fish Folks Cooperative Ltd.
- The Ministry of Fisheries western division continues to support and promote gender equality in its programs. In the 2020-2021 fiscal year, women's group continue to participated in the aquaculture sector. These women's groups included:
 - Taunabe Women's group
 - Vunayawa Women's group in Vunayawa village
 - Welula Women's group in Nalele village



Inshore Sea Patrol

Eastern Division:

- The Division managed to deploy 5 FADs; 1 in Nalotu, Kadavu, 1 in Wakaya, 1 in Koro and 2 in Rotuma.
- 1 package training was done in Moturiki Island which consist of Deep-Sea fishing training, small engine repair training, post-harvest training and FAD fishing training
- 1 MPA and coastal rehabilitation training in the 14 villages in Koro Island,
- 9 sea patrols and 15 land patrols conducted in the Eastern Division
- 131 inshore fishing licenses issued with a value of \$779.65
- Estimated Catch Data returns for the 131 license fishermen per year - \$725,085



The honorable Minister for Fisheries handed over the solar freezer to the community.

- Estimated catch data for the 9 x 6ft solar freezers in the Eastern Division= \$194,400K
- 1 Fish Warden Training conducted in Wakaya Island and 8 Fish Wardens appointed
- 1 Fish Warden training conducted in Moturiki and 23 Fish Warden appointed.
- 1263 pieces of coral planted in the Eastern Division - 550 dogo seedlings planted, 200 in Vanuabalavu and 350 in Koro Island
- A total of 72 giant clams deployed in Tarukua MPA, Cicia and 100 in Tubou MPA, Lakeba.

- Handing over of 4 solar freezers:
 - Vatoa Island, Lau;
 - Naqara Village, Ono, Kadavu
 - Waiqori Village, Oneata, Lau
 - Matokana Village, Onoilau, Lau
- Production of 293 Metric tonnes of Ice produced and estimate valued at \$49,861.99.
- 3 farmers assisted in the last financial year in Levuka under food security program.

Northern Division:

- 1021 Inshore Fishing Licenses issued during the financial year.
- Issued Fixed Penalty Notice of \$20,000.00 to Duoyou Foods Import & Export Pte Limited at Namau, Bua-14/08/20
- Conducted 19 Land based inspections
- 4 Fish Aggregation Devices deployed in Nuku, Uma, Tabwewa, Kia, Namuka and Macuata.
- Total ice produced 1,136,220.84 kg with a value \$145,020.21
- Conducted the Durubuabua Investment Ltd Fish Farming Hands on training 18/11-20/11/20
- Conducted the Bua Post Harvest Training at Tavea island in Bua-11/12/20
- Completed Fish Warden training at Navunievu, Bua in collaboration with WCS from 6th - 8th Oct, 2020.
- Completed Fish Warden Training for Bua North@ Sawani village from 12/10 – 14/10/20.
- Completed literacy training:
 - Money Minded Program with ANZ - Financial Literacy Training – Nadogo Satellite- 20/10/20
 - Money Minded Program with ANZ - Financial Literacy Training - Bua 1 Satellite-21/10/20
 - Money Minded Program with ANZ - Financial Literacy Training – Natewa Satellite-22/10/20
- Completed Small Outboard engine repair training @ Sasa village from the 25/11 – 27/11/20
- Conducted the Fish Warden Training at Sasa village from 23/11 – 24/11/20



Fish Aggregation Device Deployment



Seaweed Harvest by community

- Conducted Small Outboard Engine Training at Tavea Island in Bua which involved 40 trainees from the 9 districts in Bua from the 01/12 - 02/12/20
- Facilitated Small Outboard engine repair at Yasawa village on the 10/12 - 11/12/20
- Completed the Bua Post Harvest Training at Tavea island in Bua- 03/12-04/12/20
- Deployed 35 metres main line for Mabe experiment at Raviravi – 07/10/20
- Deployed 35 metres main line x 5 metres depth for Mabe experiment & also conducting experiment at Ravita – 08/10 /20
- Conducted Mabe experiment at Raviravi – 09/10/20

- Completed Mabe implant at Raviravi – 27th – 29th / 10/ 20

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Promoting Public Sector Accountability and Sustainability through our Audits



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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 2021

Audited financial statements for Ministry of Fisheries for the year ended 31 July 2021 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.

S. A.

Sairusi Dukuno
ACTING AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

Encl.

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

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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 2021, 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 \$262,472 as at 31/07/2021.

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 2021**

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 2021, and
- (b) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act 2004 and Finance Instructions 2010.

 <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <p>Mr. G. P. N. Baleinabuli Permanent Secretary</p>		 <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <p>Mr. Taniela Naulu Principal Accounts Officer</p>
<p>Date: <u>05/07/22</u></p>		

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

	Notes	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
RECEIPTS			
State Revenue			
Vessel Registration		12,367	12,605
Fishing Licence		23,396	19,761
Sale of Fish & Ice		469,727	562,998
Offshore Fisheries Management Fees		495,956	569,377
Offshore Fisheries Access Fees		391,288	480,288
Offshore Fisheries Application Fees		37,220	40,628
Offshore Fisheries Fees		111,456	156,575
Offshore Fisheries Related Activity Fees		89,515	87,282
Offshore Fisheries Miscellaneous Fees		32,568	29,464
Offshore Fisheries Permitting Fees		162,284	135,378
Offshore Fisheries Authorisation to Charter Fees		2,508	6,151
Offshore Fisheries Record Fees		75,497	72,575
Total State Revenue	3 (a)	1,903,782	2,173,082
Agency Revenue			
Miscellaneous Revenue		4,530	19,324
Total Agency Revenue	3 (b)	4,530	19,324
TOTAL RECEIPTS		1,908,312	2,192,406
EXPENDITURE			
Operating Expenditure			
Established Staff	3 (c)	5,188,295	5,563,482
Government Wage Earners	3 (c)	1,294,541	1,409,530
Travel & Communications	3 (d)	386,087	590,626
Maintenance & Operations	3 (e)	2,015,346	2,171,077
Purchase of Goods & Services	3 (f)	192,158	261,366
Operating Grants & Transfers		9,593	10,000
Special Expenditure	3 (g)	818,887	337,843
Total Operating Expenditure		9,904,907	10,343,924
Capital Expenditure			
Capital Construction		3,488,190	3,878,354
Capital Purchases		-	-
Total Capital Expenditure	3 (h)	3,488,190	3,878,354
Value Added Tax		394,320	447,147
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		13,787,417	14,669,425

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
APPROPRIATION STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

SEG	Item	Budget Estimate (\$)	Appropriation Changes (\$) (Note 4)	Revised Estimate (\$) a	Actual Expenditure (\$) B	Lapsed Appropriation (\$) (a-b)
	Operating Expenditure					
1	Established Staff	5,390,926	(46,213)	5,344,713	5,188,295	156,418
2	Government Wage Earners	1,290,565	46,213	1,336,778	1,294,541	42,237
3	Travel & Communications	471,650	-	471,650	386,087	85,563
4	Maintenance & Operations	2,327,980	-	2,327,980	2,015,346	312,634
5	Purchase of Goods & Services	236,384	-	236,384	192,158	44,226
6	Operating Grants & Transfers	10,000	-	10,000	9,593	407
7	Special Expenditure	928,760	-	928,760	818,887	109,873
	Total Operating Expenditure	10,656,265	-	10,656,265	9,904,907	751,358
	Capital Expenditure					
8	Capital Construction	4,091,721	-	4,091,721	3,488,190	603,531
9	Capital Purchases	-	-	-	-	-
	Total Capital Expenditure	4,091,721	-	4,091,721	3,488,190	603,531
	Value Added Tax	725,020	-	725,020	394,320	330,700
13	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	15,473,006	-	15,473,006	13,787,417	1,685,589

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
STATEMENT OF LOSSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

Loss of Money

There was no loss of money recorded for the financial year ended 31 July 2021.

Loss of Revenue

There was no loss of revenue recorded for the financial year ended 31 July 2021. This is due to the strengthening of monitoring and internal controls within the Ministry and awareness conducted on the revised Finance Manual standards and for compliance.

Loss of Assets (other than money)

Following the 2020 – 2021 Board of Survey, items worth \$123,508 were written off as approved by the Permanent Secretary for Economy.

Asset	2021 (\$)
Motor vehicles, Outboard motor vessels and Engines	40,000
Office Equipment	23,141
Furniture and Fittings	60,367
Total	123,508

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
TRUST FUND ACCOUNT - STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

	Note	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
RECEIPTS			
One - third Subsidy Contribution		-	-
Interest earned		263	263
Total Receipts		<u>263</u>	<u>263</u>
PAYMENTS			
Retention Money		-	-
Bank Fees Charges		-	-
Total Payments		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Surplus/Deficit		263	263
Opening Balance as at 1 August 2020		262,209	261,946
Closing Balance as at 31 July 2021	5	<u>262,472</u>	<u>262,209</u>

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

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 2021

d) Revenue Recognition

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

NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS

- a) There is a decrease in state revenue by \$269,300 or 12% due to COVID19 pandemic restriction impacting the major centres.
- b) A reduction recorded in miscellaneous revenue by \$14,794 or 77% 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 \$490,176 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 2020/2021.
- d) Travel and communication expenditure decreased by \$204,539 or 35% 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 \$155,731 or 7% 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 \$69,208 or 26% due to a decrease in purchases as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic period during the year.
- g) Special expenditure increased by \$481,044 or 142% due to the implementation of the Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) Project
- h) Total Capital expenditure decreased by \$390,164 or 10% due to the delays in tender process and other planning aspects of the projects resulting in delay of the constructions 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 2021.

DV No.	From	To	Amount (\$)
V31001/20-21	SEG 1	SEG 2	46,213

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

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 \$262,472 as at 31/07/2021 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.



Comments and enquiries should be directed to:
The Permanent Secretary for Fisheries and Forestry
Ministry of Fisheries
Level 3 Takayawa Building
Suva, Fiji

Telephone: (+679) 3301 611
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