



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

**ELECTRONIC MEETING**  
12-19 August 2020

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**Japan Trust Fund Status Report**

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**WCPFC-SC16-2020/ RP-JTF-01(Rev.01)**

**Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Secretariat**

**Introduction**

The majority of the WCPFC Members are developing states including Small Island Developing States (SIDS), whose implementation of conservation and management measures would benefit from strengthened capacity. The WCPFC Project on Capacity Building in Fisheries Statistics, Regulations and Enforcement for SIDS originates from a Japanese funding proposal to the WCPFC made in December 2005, the Japan Trust Fund (JTF). The primary objective of this project is to support capacity building of the developing countries of the WCPFC members, especially SIDS. Project implementation was planned to take place over 5 years starting from 2006 to 2011 with a total available funding of approximately USD 2 million.

Given the success of and general support for the project in its first 5-year phase, the Fisheries Agency of Japan sought and successfully secured a budget of around USD 2 million in total, for the second 5-year phase. The second phase objectives and terms of reference are similar to the previous phase, with an emphasis on enforcement and compliance. In 2016 the Japanese government granted an extension of one year to the second phase, supporting projects in 2017, which was further extended to include another year, 2018.

In 2019, there were five (5) successful proposals supported by JTF with a budget allocation of USD 232,821.00. The total JTF in 2020 is USD 232,821.00. After deduction of the 7.5% administrative fee of USD 17,461.58, the balance available for 2020 projects amounts to USD 215,359.42. Seven (7) proposals were received by the end of January 2020, requesting close to USD 284,436. Since there was a shortfall from the available funds, the selection of proposals was limited to main target recipients only. A summary of 2020 approved projects are in **Attachment 1**.

All JTF projects conducted are found on the WCPFC website at <https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/japan-trust-fund-summary-projects-2012-date>. Brief country reports of completed JTF projects in 2019 is found in **Japan Trust Fund Annual Report 2020, Attachment 2** (<https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/jtf-annrep-2020/japan-trust-fund-annual-report-2020>). While the status reports for carried-over projects from previous years are detailed in **Attachment 2** of this report.

## **Japan Trust Fund – Objectives and Expected Activities**

The objectives and expected activities are well described in the Consolidated Project Document (2019), which provides guidelines for the Steering Committee to select project proposals:

### *3. Objectives and expected activities*

*The basic objectives of this project are, within the purview of WCPFC, to assist SIDS Members, and other developing States Members as appropriate, in improving their capacities in:*

- a. Data collection and reporting of their fisheries and associated activities, in particular, those required by WCPFC, and*
- b. Establishment of fisheries regulation and its effective enforcement, in particular, the conservation and management measures adopted by WCPFC*

*In order to pursue these objectives, following activities may be implemented under the Project:*

- a. Data collection and reporting of their fisheries and associated activities, in particular, those required by WCPFC:*
  - identify and examine the source of uncertainty in data collection and reporting;*
  - develop and implement capacity-building programs to improve fisheries data collection and reporting;*
  - assist if necessary WCPFC to facilitate appropriate opportunities (e.g., meetings, workshops) to consider improved data collection and reporting of their fisheries by developing States and their participation in the Commission.*
- b. Establishment of fisheries regulation and its effective monitoring, control and enforcement, in particular, the requirements by WCPFC*
  - review enforcement and monitoring mechanisms in developing states Members in terms of legal, institutional and technical aspects and identify opportunities for strengthening these areas;*
  - develop and implement capacity-building programs to improve fisheries monitoring regulation and enforcement by developing states members;*
  - assist if necessary WCPFC to hold appropriate opportunities to consider improved enforcement by developing States under their jurisdiction and through their participation in the Commission.*

**Attachment 1. Summary of JTF Work Plan for 2020**

#	Beneficiary Member(s)	Contacts	Project Title	Purpose/Summary	Budget (USD)
1	Kiribati	<p><b>Aketa Taanga</b>                      Director of Licensing Compliance Division                      MFMRD                      Email: <a href="mailto:aketat@mfmrd.gov.ki">aketat@mfmrd.gov.ki</a></p>	Kiribati Capacity Building for Harvest Strategy for 2020	This proposal seeks to build capacity of Kiribati fisheries officers on harvest strategy (HS) work to enable them to fully participate in decision making process for HS as a member of the WCPFC.	54,010.00
<p><b><u>Status:</u></b>                      Kiribati received the fund in March 2020 and is now seeking assistance from SPC and others to assist in conducting a virtual workshop with Fisheries Officers and Managers on Harvest Strategy. The national workshop which will engaged SPC staff and the attachments of Kiribati's staff with SPC will be delayed until such time travel restriction is lifted.</p>					
2	Palau	<p><b>Kathleen Sisor</b>                      Fisheries Licensing/Revenue Officer II                      Ministry of Natural Resources Environment and Tourism                      P.O.BOX 117, Malakal Street Koror, Republic of Palau 96940                      Email: <a href="mailto:utau.sisor@gmail.com">utau.sisor@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Persis Omelau</b>                      Fisheries Specialist                      Division of Oceanic Fisheries Management                      Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism                      Palau Government                      P.O. Box 117 Koror, PW 96940                      Email: <a href="mailto:omelaupersis@gmail.com">omelaupersis@gmail.com</a></p>	Domestic Tuna Market Development Project	This proposal seeks to strengthen and improve data collection system in Palau in order to understand the catch landings by vessel and the market structure in order to inform and advise future management decisions.	70,011.35

**Status:**

The Palau National Marine Sanctuary Act (PNMS) has come into full implementation as of January 1, 2020. The Act designated an 80% no-take zone as a marine protected area and reserves a 20% fishing zone to allow sustainable fishing to occur, maintain existing regional and international obligations of the Republic of Palau, and promote local food security. The project activities have been ongoing with the following updates:

- i) There are currently two fishing vessels that are landing their catches in Palau as of January 2020.
- ii) Since April 2020, there has been a total catch of 2,410kg of YFT; 9,280kg of BET; and 4,450kg of OTH (other species).
- iii) The main local market includes: government agencies, hotels, restaurants, and wholesale stores.

Palau is currently facing constraints due to the COVID-19. Although Palau currently does not have positive COVID-19 cases, precautions still remain in place until further notice. Such precautions have limited mass gatherings which have hindered our proposed work to conduct workshops and trainings on data sampling methods. However, other approaches (e.g. virtual training) are taken into consideration to carry on project activities as planned.

3	Tonga	<p><b>Dr. Tuikolongahau Halafihi</b>  <i>CEO for Fisheries</i>            Email: <a href="mailto:supi64t@gmail.com">supi64t@gmail.com</a>;  <a href="mailto:thalafihi@tongafish.gov.to">thalafihi@tongafish.gov.to</a>,  <a href="mailto:ceo@tongafish.gov.to">ceo@tongafish.gov.to</a></p> <p><b>Dr. Siola'a Malimali</b>  <i>Head of Fisheries Science Division</i>            Email: <a href="mailto:s.malimali@tongafish.gov.to">s.malimali@tongafish.gov.to</a>;  <a href="mailto:siolaamalimali@gmail.com">siolaamalimali@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Mr. Martin Finau</b>  <i>Head of Offshore Section</i>            Email: <a href="mailto:finau.martin@gmail.com">finau.martin@gmail.com</a>,  <a href="mailto:martinf@tongafish.gov.to">martinf@tongafish.gov.to</a></p>	Support and maintain high level data collection and to improve management of tuna fisheries in Tonga, as well as providing awareness on conservation of tuna species ( <b>Port Sampling</b> )	This activity would like to continue funding tuna data collection through its port sampling activities for 2020 including training of all new vessel masters, port samplers and artisanal data officers on e-reporting. It is also expected that data collection will be expanded to outer islands of Tonga.	50,776.22
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**Status:**

Data collection and port sampling activities is ongoing throughout the year. Recruitment of new port samplers will be made in the next financial year (July-June). Data collection continues with 100% coverage of port sampling & logsheets data from longline vessels. Artisanal tuna data collection will be extended to outer island, but now we start with registration of small scales fishing boats to make data collection easier and also to fill in the requirement of TufMan2 database.

4	Tonga	<p><b>Dr. Tuikolongahau Halafi</b>            CEO for Fisheries            Email: <a href="mailto:ceo@tongafish.gov.to">ceo@tongafish.gov.to</a></p> <p><b>Mr Poasi Ngaluafe</b>            Deputy CEO, Compliance Division            Email: <a href="mailto:poasi66@hotmail.com">poasi66@hotmail.com</a></p>	Tonga Observer Programme	This proposal aims to support training of Observers for both longline and purse seine including a refresher course for Tonga Observers on how to use the new shark ID keys, 2018 Observer forms, and LL PS Debriefing	32,550.00
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		<b>Ms. Kalolaine Manuopangi</b> Observer Coordinator Email: <a href="mailto:kmanuopangai@gmail.com">kmanuopangai@gmail.com</a>		Guides. The funding support is also expected to train atleast one person to be a certified PIRFO Trainer	
<b><i>Status (any ongoing and future activities):</i></b> The work proposed for year 2020 which includes: a) 5 working days for upgrade training of 10-12 LL observers to PS Observers; b) 10 working days for refresher course for observes oh how to use the new shark identification keys, use 2018 observer forms and LL and PS Debriefing guides; c) to fund one Trainer Trainee to attend Sub-Regional Training in 2020. These activities are still planned within the year but maybe subject to delays due to impacts of COVID-19 pandemic.					
5	Tonga	<b>Dr. Tuikolongahau Halafihi</b> <i>CEO for Fisheries</i> Email: <a href="mailto:supi64t@gmail.com">supi64t@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:thalafihi@tongafish.gov.to">thalafihi@tongafish.gov.to</a> , <a href="mailto:ceo@tongafish.gov.to">ceo@tongafish.gov.to</a>  <b>Salote Koloamatangi</b> Legal Officer Ministry of Fisheries Email: <a href="mailto:skoloamatangi2016@gmail.com">skoloamatangi2016@gmail.com</a>	Capacity building and strengthening of Tonga's Fisheries Legal Section	The objective of the project is for capacity building and strengthening Tonga's Fisheries Legal Section by the recruitment of a paralegal officer to assist in research and administrative matters to help progress the ongoing legislative review that includes inclusion of WCPFC CMMs in the legislative framework.	8,011.85
<b><i>Status (any ongoing and future activities):</i></b> The Administrative Assistant supported under the JTF project have been providing great assistance in progressing work in the Legal Section both in the main island and in the outer islands of Tonga. This assistance has greatly contributed to progressing of various tasks relating to ongoing review of the law and terms and conditions of fishing vessels to ensure that they are in line with WCPFC-CMMs. The Legal section continues to function well with the great assistance provided by the Administrative Assistant through research and performance of administrative arrangements for the Legal section. Tonga Fisheries acknowledge with appreciation the financial assistance from the Japanese Government through the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) towards Tonga fisheries legal section. The 2020 JTF funding ensures continuation of the employment of the Administrative Assistant including other costs for the efficient and effective performance of Administrative Assistant duties.					
	<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>Sum of project budget requested</b>	<b>\$215,359.42</b>
	WCPFC	Aaron Nighswander <a href="mailto:aaron.nighswander@wcpfc.int">aaron.nighswander@wcpfc.int</a>	7.5% admin fee	Overhead	\$232,821.00 x 0.075 = \$17,461.58
	<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>Total JTF for 2020</b>	<b>\$232,821.00</b>

## Attachment 2. Carried-over projects from previous years

#	Beneficiary Member(s)	Contacts	Title	Summary	US\$
1	Cook Islands	Mr Andrew Jones Senior Fisheries Officer <a href="mailto:A.Jones@mmr.gov.ck">A.Jones@mmr.gov.ck</a>	Development of National Competent Authority [HACCP strategy] for Cook Islands Offshore Fisheries	This project seeks to support a comprehensive review of Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) Competent Authority programs to ensure that current systems respond to the needs of MMR's fisheries management framework.	74,500.00
<p><b>Status:</b> Cook Islands informed the last Steering Committee that the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) Bill is currently undergoing stakeholder consultations which has delayed the development of the HACCP regulations. During the last JTF Steering Committee meeting in August 2019, Cook Islands requested to carry over the funds for an additional year and Japan agreed to the request for extension. The work of this project is currently ongoing. <i>(Refer to Attachment 3.1 for additional information)</i></p>					
2	Cook Islands	Ms Pamela Maru Secretary MMR <a href="mailto:P.Maru@mmr.gov.ck">P.Maru@mmr.gov.ck</a>	Improving the participation and engagement in international fisheries forums	The Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) intends to implement a series of training sessions to engage and prepare staff to participate in regional fisheries meetings. This work supports professional development, including working with other Ministries training programs such as diplomatic protocols and negotiations, to ensure staff are adequately trained before they venture into international meetings to represent the Cook Islands.	62,886.10
<p><b>Status:</b> Cook Islands informed the last Steering Committee that a tender process of exemption from the Government's Tender Committee was requested to facilitate the use of funds for consultancy (above HoM discretionary level). With the assistance from FFA, a consultant from International Environmental Law Project was identified to deliver courses. The planning process on materials and course content is on progress. During the last JTF Steering Committee meeting in August 2019, Cook Islands requested to carry over the funds for an additional year and Japan agreed to the request for extension. The work of this project is currently ongoing. <i>(Refer to Attachment 3.1 for additional information)</i></p>					
3	Fiji	Mrs Alitia Bainivalu <a href="mailto:Bainivalu.alitia@gmail.com">Bainivalu.alitia@gmail.com</a>	The Fiji Port Monitoring Exercise	The Fiji Port Monitoring Exercise aims to track the movement of fish from the vessels, to onshore facilities	43,037.66

				and onward to the final destination. The project will provide useful information related to chain of custody, provide checks against other fisheries data and reporting and help to close loopholes in the current landing levy system.	
<p><b>Status:</b> This project has the following objectives: i) to monitor the onshore landing and in port transshipment process in accordance to issued landing and/or transshipment permits; ii) to collect the port monitored vessel's landing summaries from the processing facility and/or the cold storage facility; and iii) to cross validate the onshore landing and/or in port transshipment process against the logsheet submitted by the monitored vessels and the standardized landing summaries submitted by the processing companies and/or cold storage facilities.</p> <p>In the JTF Steering Committee meeting last August 2019, Fiji informed the Committee that there have been delays in receiving the funding from their Ministry of Economy [MoE] after request for roll over from 2018 - 2019 financial year. In addition, Fiji could not recruit ROP Observers and the use of boarding and enforcement officers to carry out port monitoring. Fiji requested approval to carry over the funds for an additional year to utilize the remaining funds to continue the port monitoring exercise for 2019 - 2020 and Japan agreed to the extension request. (<i>Refer to Attachment 3. II for additional information</i>)</p>					
4	Nauru	Charleston Debye Chief Executive Officer <a href="mailto:cdebye@gmail.com">cdebye@gmail.com</a>	Capacity building and transfer of technology on at sea boarding and inspection procedures for Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) vessel operators in Nauru's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).	NFMRA is keen to build the capacity of NFMRA officers in-country to improve its ability in conducting at-sea boarding and inspection within its area of jurisdiction to contribute to the conservation and management measures of fisheries resources of the region. Objectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To conduct training for NFMRA officers on best practice of at-sea boarding and inspection procedures.</li> <li>2. To develop Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) for NFMRA on at-sea boarding and inspection.</li> <li>3. To advise NFMRA on gears and equipment necessary for NFMRA officers in conducting at-sea boarding and inspection.</li> </ol>	12,519.50

**Status:** The Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) is keen to build the capacity of NFMRA officers in-country to improve its ability in conducting at-sea boarding and inspection within its area of jurisdiction to contribute to the conservation and management measures of fisheries resources of the region. This project has the following objectives: i) to conduct training for NFMRA officers on best practice of at-sea boarding and inspection procedures; ii) to develop Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) for NFMRA on at-sea boarding and inspection; and iii) to advise NFMRA on gears and equipment necessary for NFMRA officers in conducting at-sea boarding and inspection.

This Nauru project under the JTF experienced extended delays due to numerous logistical challenges and obstacles since it was first proposed. The first request for extension was granted in 2016. In 2017, Japan agreed for another extension. Noting that in April 2017, Nauru expected arrival of trailers for their multi-purpose boats, and thereafter they would be able to launch/retrieve the boats to and from the sea safely, after these the projects' at-sea boarding and inspection training would proceed. The former JTF Coordinator, Mr. Wataru Tanoue visited Nauru in 2018 and fully understand the difficulties Nauru faced. After Nauru has taken delivery of the trailers, there has been another setback that is due to the unseaworthiness of their boats. JTF recognising the importance of safety at sea has granted another extension into 2018 to allow the boats to be overhauled and the project activities be conducted. The project funds have not been utilized and the project activities has yet to be implemented. In August 2019 JTF Steering Committee, Nauru confirmed that a boat necessary for the project implementation were already secured. Nauru requested for approval to carry over the funds for an additional year (2020) and Japan agreed to the request for extension.

This year Nauru is proposing for an extension of the project in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nauru acknowledges the JTF Steering Committee's dilemma and seeks understanding to the ongoing issues beyond Nauru's control in implementing its project.

5	Tuvalu	<p>Mr. Samasoni Finikaso, Director, Fisheries Department, <a href="mailto:samfinikaso70@gmail.com">samfinikaso70@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Mr Tupulaga Poulasi Principal Fisheries Officer Fisheries Department, <a href="mailto:etuati.ptauia@gmail.com">etuati.ptauia@gmail.com</a></p>	Capacity Building training for Tuvalu Fisheries and Maritime Police officers to conduct High Seas Boarding Inspections (HSBI).	This project seeks enhance the capacity of fisheries and Police Maritime personnel to conduct boarding Inspections in the High Seas in accordance with WCPFC Boarding and Inspection Procedures (CMM 2006-08); by the end of the project the officers will fully understand HSBI procedures and the application of the CMM 2006-08 in the WCPF Convention area	15,000.00
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**Status:** The project objectives are i) to enhance the capacity of fisheries and Police Maritime personnel to conduct High Seas Boarding Inspections in the High Seas in accordance with WCPFC Boarding and Inspection Procedures (CMM 2006-08); and ii) to prepare officers to fully understand the HSBI procedures and the application of the CMM 2006-08 in the WCPF Convention area.

Tuvalu has completed its project, but due to the support from other external funding there was a balance of AUD\$16,668.61. Tuvalu proposed to run similar training/workshop to make use of this funding, and to extend the capacity building activity within the Tuvalu Fisheries Department, Maritime Police officers and other relevant stakeholders on HSBI.



In 2019 the Steering Committee with advice from the JTF Coordinator accepted the Tuvalu's proposal to utilize the remaining funds and Japan also approved the request for extension by conducting a second workshop with the same objectives to the first.

In 2020, COVID-19 has presented numerous logistical challenges to conduct the second training, hence the department has decided for an extension of this project to 2021. New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industry has agreed to deliver this training in-country and due to the practical nature of the training; it will not be ideal to deliver the training on virtual mode. Tuvalu received its new Guardian Class Patrol Boat last year and there has been number of new officers recruited that needs to be trained. As the authorized HSBI vessel, the boarding and inspection evolutions for this training will be the ideal opportunity to test out the patrol boat new operating procedures as well as identifying the gaps and realign with HSBI procedures.

It is envisaged that the second training will also provide a trainer component for staffs from Fisheries and Police Maritime to deliver ongoing & future trainings, and to maintain the level of knowledge and skill to conduct HSBI as per CMM-2006-08. The current balance of the project fund is around AUD\$14,513.81.

## Attachment 3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM PREVIOUS YEARS PROJECT/S

### I. JTF PROGRESS REPORT FROM COOK ISLANDS

#### A. Development of National Competent Authority (HACCP Strategy) for Cook Islands Offshore Fisheries (*Project update 2019/20*)

##### Overview

Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) is a system that was developed for assuring pathogen-free foods. The Cook Islands have made significant legislative changes in recent years to meet competent authority requirements. With significant changes being made to fisheries management frameworks, and demands for responsible fishing nations to implement complementary Competent Authority (CA) regimes, it is timely that the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) undertakes an exercise to review its CA capabilities and determine how effective and responsive they are to meet the needs of its regulatory framework.

A review of all relevant legislation and policies, documenting CA needs and gaps – in accordance with international, regional and national law – comparing current CA programs and their effectiveness in response to management needs is required.

##### Objectives

To undertake a comprehensive review of MMR's offshore fisheries Competent Authority programs.

##### Work Proposed

- MoU – Develop and finalise a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Health (MoH) and MMR to provide legal powers to MMR as a CA
- HACCP Strategy – Development of a national HACCP strategy
- Implementation plan – Development of an implementation plan for the HACCP strategy, including completion of Part 2 training
- Regulations – Develop and finalise regulations, standards, policies and a CA Checklist
- Calendar - Finalise Competent Authority training and implementation calendar for 2019
- Awareness – Create awareness and education information packs for stakeholders and the general public on CA requirements, standards and legislation etc.
- Consultation – Hold consultations with stake holders and the general public on CA work
- Inspections – undertake inspections to train fisheries officers on HACCP CA requirements

##### **Project Update**

Task	Progress	Comments	Future Activities
MoU – Develop and finalise a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Health and MMR to provide legal powers to MMR as a CA	In progress	The Ministry of Health administers the Food (Fish Export Processing) Regulations 2006 in the Cook Islands under which the Competent Authority rests. The Secretary of Health has delegated authority to MMR,	This work will be planned for 2021

		<p>Offshore Fisheries Mr Andrew Jones as an authorised officer to carry out the responsibilities of the Competent Authority since 2013.</p> <p>Negotiations commenced in 2016 to transfer the Competent Authority functions from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Marine Resources via the Marine Resources Bill 2017. The section of the Bill pertaining to the Competent Authority was completed. A number of changes that brought about new legislation impacted on the MMR Bill (particularly the Marae Moana Act ). The Bill did not proceed due to the need for MMR to include further matters in the Bill and is likely to be ready for cabinet in late 2021.</p> <p>In the meantime, preparation commenced to develop an interim Memorandum of Understanding between the Health and Marine Resources Ministry to formalize the arrangement between the parties regarding the Competent Authority functions, until the MMR Bill is passed into legislation.</p>	
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HACCP Strategy – Development of a national HACCP strategy	In progress	Draft policies for the CA have been developed. Internal discussions on these drafts will be the next step before going through the consultation phase with stakeholders.	This work will be planned for 2021
Implementation plan – Development of an implementation plan for the HACCP strategy, including completion of Part 2 training	Yet to start	This work has been moved to 2020/21. Initially the work was supposed to be implemented during 2019, however due to staffing capacity in 2019 and Covid 19 restrictions present (2020), completion of this work may be delayed to 2021.	This work will be planned for 2021
Regulations – Develop and finalise regulations, standards, policies and a CA Checklist	In progress	Draft policies for the CA have been developed. Internal discussions on these drafts will be the next step before going through the consultation phase with stakeholders	Review current drafts to be circulated internally for commenting by December 2020.
Calendar - Finalise Competent Authority training and implementation calendar for 2019	Yet to start	Initially the work was supposed to be implemented during 2019, however due limited staff capacity this was delayed to 2020. Furthermore, due to Covid 19, we are experiencing further delays.	This work will be planned for 2021
Awareness – Create awareness and education information packs for stakeholders and the general public on CA requirements, standards and legislation etc.	Yet to start	Internal discussions on this have begun within the Offshore Division.	Internal discussion on the awareness programme and info packs will commence in October 2020.
Consultation – Hold consultations with stake holders	Yes to start		This will be done 2021

and the general public on CA work			
Inspections – undertake inspections to train fisheries officers on HACCP CA requirements	In Progress	1 x Fisheries Officer (FO) participated in 2x inspections during 2019. The remaining FO to undertake sanitation inspections once travel is safe.	Further inspections have been put on hold until travel restrictions have been lifted.

### Challenges faced

- Limited staffing capacity and competing priorities caused delays in progressing the work.
- The Cook Islands Government's plan of action regarding the Covid 19 pandemic this year has seen the Health Ministry's focus taken up in preparing and activating plans regarding the pandemic. In July 2020 however, negotiations have commenced to firm up the MOU.

### Way forward

Cook Islands have requested to carry over the funds for an additional year.

## B. Improving the Participation and engagement in international fisheries forums

As part of its capacity building and succession planning initiatives, MMR will be implementing a series of training sessions to engage and prepare staff to participate in regional fisheries meetings. This proposal complements other initiatives MMR is undertaking to support professional development, including working with other Ministries training programs such as diplomatic protocols and negotiation, to ensure staff is adequately trained before venturing into international meetings to represent the Cook Islands.

Training modules will include:

- International fisheries arrangements – hard and soft law
- Regional fisheries management organisations and regional fisheries organisations in the Pacific
- Governance, structure and procedural engagement
- Relationships between Pacific regional fisheries organisations and WCPFC
- Decision-making processes and implementation requirements
- Project – specific research topic relating to Pacific engagement in RFMOs / international fisheries arrangements

### Objective

To develop the professional capacity of MMR staff, and related agencies, to ensure the effective participation of the Cook Islands in international fisheries meetings, in particular the WCPFC.

### Project Update

Task	Progress	Comments	Future Activities
Develop a Tender for proposals to carry out the content development and delivery of the training.	In progress	A tender according to the CI Gov procurement policy was created in early 2020.	The second stage Terms of Reference for delivery of the training is under construction and will be circulated for quotes by the end of August

		<p>Due to Covid 19 and the closure of Cook Islands Borders in March 2020, the scope of the Tender as written became difficult to carry out.</p> <p>A review of the scope of works was conducted and it was resolved that the project be split into two components: Content Development first and then Delivery as better options for the methods of delivery of training became available.</p> <p>In accordance with the CI Govt Procurement Policy, the option to seek quotations was implemented and a Terms of Reference for Content Development circulated to eligible consultants on and offshore.</p> <p>Quotes have been received and are currently being scrutinized by the MMR tender/quotes team to make the final recommendation to the MMR Secretary.</p> <p>The Content Delivery phase is expected to commence by the end of July 2020 and be completed by October 2020.</p>	<p>2020 and that a selection will be made during the month of September.</p> <p>It is expected that the project will be completed in 2021.</p> <p>It is planned that two cohorts of participants will receive the training over a two week period at separate intervals.</p>
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### Challenges faced

- The Cook Islands Government's plan of action regarding the Covid 19 pandemic this year has caused MMR to re-design the project to include possibilities for a mixed mode of delivery. As the Border restriction continue to remain in place, splitting the project into two components became the best option for progressing the project.

### Way forward

- Cook Islands has requested to carry over the funds for an additional year.

## II. JTF PROGRESS REPORT FROM FIJI

### Fiji Port Monitoring Exercise (*Project Update 2019-2020*)

#### Overview

Fiji as a Port State carries out certain port activities for all vessels visiting Fiji. One of these activities is the supervision of catch that is landed into Fiji's designated port(s).

Under the Offshore Fisheries Management Act (OFMA) 2012 and its Regulations, any landing of fish in Fiji is to be approved by the Director of Fisheries. Therefore, all vessel operators must seek / apply for permission to land their catch in Fiji if landing is needed.

As such, the landing of catch is monitored or supervised by authorized officers on a regular basis. Vessels to be monitored for their landing are selected from a few reasons including but not limited to the identification of vessels of interest (VOI) and discrepancies in catch declared during boarding and inspection and that applied to be landed.

#### Objectives

1] To monitor the onshore landing and in port transshipment process in accordance to issued landing and or transshipment permits.

2] To collect the port monitored vessel's landing summaries from the processing facility and or the cold storage facility.

3] To cross validate the onshore landing and or in port transshipment process against the log-sheet submitted by the monitored vessels and the standardized landing summaries submitted by the processing companies and or cold storage facilities.

#### Current Update:

Port Monitoring Activities 2019:

Month	No. of vessels port monitored	Breakdown by Flag	Total tonnage monitored (MT)
August	10 vessels	2 Fiji, 7 China	778.00
September	14 Vessels	2 China, 10 Fiji, 2 Vanuatu	722.04
October	5 Vessels	5 Fiji	210.28
November	1 Vessel	1 China	118.38

Port Monitoring Activities 2020:

Month	No. of vessels port monitored	Breakdown by Flag	Total tonnage monitored (MT)
January	6 Vessels	4 China, 2 China	278.60
February	7 Vessels	5 Fiji, 2 China	277.90

Swordfish Export Monitoring 2019:

Month	Processor	Vessels	Total tonnage Inspected (MT)
August	2 Processors	10 Vessels	0.69
September	2 Processors	11 Vessels	1.55
October	2 Processors	7 Vessels	0.71
November	1 Processor	9 Vessels	0.32
December	1 Processor	12 vessels	1.18

Swordfish Export Monitoring 2020:

Month	Processor	Vessels	Total tonnage Inspected (MT)
January	2 Processors	4 Vessels	1.20
February	2 Processors	2 Vessels	0.12
March	2 Processors	3 Vessels	0.62

**Note:**

1. A total of 43 vessels port monitored and with a total tonnage of 2,385 mt from August 2019 – February 2020.
2. A total of 51 vessels swordfish catch was monitored and with a total tonnage of 6.39 mt from August 2019 – February 2020.
3. We expanded the monitoring works to companies' warehouse to inspect and monitor commodities for export prior to shipment.
4. Monitoring works to be continued in the coming months.

**Constraints:**

Fiji encountered some difficulties to recruit ROP [Observers] due to non-availability as exploratory licenses increased in our waters and had a new requirement for 100% observer placement so most officers were engaged there hence the use of boarding and enforcement officers to carry out port monitoring.