



**ANNUAL REPORT FOR JAPAN TRUST FUND
THE THIRD PHASE**
(Covering 2022 Activities including Approved Projects for 2023)

JTF-AR-2023
27 March 2023

Participating Countries and the Secretariat

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Annual Report for Japan Trust Fund

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(Covering ongoing 2022 project activities including approved projects for 2023)

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Notation

- “The Project”: The WCPFC Project on Capacity Building in Fisheries Statistics, Regulation and Enforcement for Small Island Developing States
 - ✓ Phase 1 Program (2006-2011)
 - ✓ Phase 2 Program (2012-2018)
 - ✓ Phase 3 Program (2019-present)
- “Five-year Program”: Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3 Program, as of today
- “projects”: Member’s research activities funded by the Project as annually selected under the Five-Year Program

I. Background

In December 2005, the Government of Japan informed the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) of its intention to provide an extra-budgetary contribution to the WCPFC for the purpose of assisting the developing state Members’ capacity-building on fisheries statistics, regulation and enforcement. This resulted in a 5-year project entitled the “WCPFC Project on Capacity Building in Fisheries Statistics, Regulation and Enforcement for Small Island Developing States (the Project)” to be funded by the Government of Japan. The target recipient States of the Project are mainly SIDS Members of the WCPFC. The first 5-year Phase 1 Program was completed in 2011. Given the success of the Project, the Fisheries Agency of Japan sought and successfully secured a budget for the Phase 2 Program for the next five (5) years, commencing 2012. The objectives and terms of reference for the Phase 2 Program were similar to, but build on the previous Program, with an emphasis on enforcement and compliance. The Phase 2 Program was extended on an annual basis to include 2017 and 2018.

In 2018, the Fisheries Agency of Japan, in recognition of the usefulness of the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) for capacity building in fisheries statistics, regulation and enforcement for SIDS and the SIDS desire to continue this cooperation scheme, successfully secured further funding for the Phase 3 Program. The Phase 3 Program is the same as the previous two Programs in principle, but with an emphasis on new fisheries management procedures, including harvest strategy, and new monitoring technology related projects with a belief that the projects supported by the Phase 3 Program should be more advanced than those of the previous Programs.

This report includes details of the projects delivered over the previous years; presents the selected proposals for implementation in 2023; and the 2022 ongoing projects including their associated administrative issues.

II. Administration

The 2022 JTF project was coordinated and administered by the WCPFC Secretariat in cooperation with Japan (Mr. Shinji Hiruma, Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan and Ms. Aya Matsushima, Fisheries Agency of Japan).

The selection of the 2023 projects to be funded by the JTF among several proposals submitted by the WCPFC Members was administered by Japan in collaboration with the JTF advisory group, comprising the WCPFC Secretariat, the Pacific Community - Oceanic Fisheries Program (Dr. Graham Pilling), the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (Dr. Lianos Triantafillos) and the Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office (Dr Sangaa Clark).

The total JTF for 2023 is USD 217,787. This amount is slightly reduced due to the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. After deduction of the 7.5% administrative fee of USD 16,334.03, the balance available for 2023 projects is around USD 201,452.98.

The *Call for Proposals of the Japan Trust Fund for 2023* was sent out on 18th of November 2022 (WCPFC Circular 2022-81) and another circular (WCPFC Circular 2022-83) was sent on 20th December 2022 to extend the deadline to 20th January 2023. Six (6) proposals were received by the said deadline, with a total budget request close to USD 219,904.50. All proposals were approved and funded for 2023 but the original budgetary requests for some projects were slightly adjusted to address the fund deficit. A Summary of draft JTF Work Plan for 2023 is in **Attachment 1**.

All JTF-funded project summaries since 2012 are compiled in one document [Japan Trust Fund Summary of Projects. 2012 to Date](#) posted on the WCPFC website (under Key Documents/Implementation of Article 30 of the Convention). Brief reports of completed JTF projects in 2022 are in **Attachment 2**.

III. Progress of Ongoing Projects from Previous Years

1) Project #1 (2020, Phase 3 Program): Kiribati Capacity Building for Harvest Strategy

WCPFC11 agreed to CMM 2014-06 Conservation and Management Measures to develop and implement a harvest strategy approach for key fisheries and stocks in the WCPO. The objective of the CMM 2014-06 is "To agree that the Commission shall develop and implement a harvest strategy approach for each of the key fisheries or stocks under the purview of the Commission according to the process set out in CMM 2014-06." Harvest strategy is a new approach, and it acknowledges that CCMs should have consistent understanding of the harvest strategy approach, in terms of its structure, function and implementation within WCPFC. The Commission further recognizes the special requirements of Developing States Parties for its effective participation in Commission meetings and those of its subsidiary bodies undertaking work on harvest strategies.

This project seeks to continue and build capacity of Kiribati fisheries officers on harvest strategy (HS) work to enable them to fully understand and participate in the discussion of HS as a member of the WCPFC. Kiribati received the funds in March 2020 and sought assistance to SPC however there was no training since the outbreak of COVID-19 and its impact on flight restrictions. Kiribati has requested to carry over the funds in previous years based on their preference to have a more productive and interactive workshop if conducted physically. Kiribati national borders have re-opened, and commercial flights have also resumed. Since last year Kiribati (MFMRD) has communicated with SPC on the physical workshop and agreed to hold the workshop in May 2023.

2) Project #1 (2019, Phase 3 Program): Development of National Competent Authority [HACCP strategy] for Cook Islands Offshore Fisheries

A. 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.

B. Objectives

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

C. Proposed Work

- 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 2022
- 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

D. Project Update

Task	Progress	Comments	Future Activities
MoU – Develop and finalise a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of	In progress	The Ministry of Health administers the Food (Fish Export Processing) Regulations 2006 in	Due to the pandemic, the focus for MoH has been COVID-19 and preparing the Cook Islands health system at

<p>Health and MMR to provide legal powers to MMR as a CA</p>		<p>the Cook Islands under which the Competent Authority rests. The Secretary of Health has delegated authority to MMR, 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. This work has been delayed as well.</p> <p>In the meantime, preparation commenced to develop an interim Memorandum of</p>	<p>the border and to cope with cases if they were to arrive. This has hindered any progress on the MOU. MMR Secretary has been in discussion with the new Health Secretary, however as previously mentioned, this is not a priority for them at the moment.</p> <p>This work will be planned for 2022, however this may also lead in to 2023 workplan.</p> <p>MOH has appointed an MMR staff member to the Review Committee for all Food Safety legislation under their mandate, Negotiations re the Competent Authority will be carried out during that review commencing in late 2023.</p> <p>MMR proposes to include the Competent Authority under the MMR Bill. The tender process for a legal adviser to carry out this work July 2022 to June 2023 has commenced.</p>
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		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.	
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.	Internal discussion has begun with relevant Competent Authority staff and a TOR is being developed to bring someone on to review and update these drafts before moving on to the next stage – Consultation process. This work has been planned for 2022; however, this may also roll over in to 2023 due to COVID-19 restrictions. It is expected that the Legal Adviser for the MMR Bill will finalise the drafting of these policies
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 2022/23. Initially the work was supposed to be implemented during 2019, however due to staffing capacity in 2019 and COVID-19 restrictions	This work will be planned for 2023. With the bubble between New Zealand and Rarotonga, we are hoping to get this part of the project in action.

		present (2022), completion of this work may be delayed to 2023.	
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 September 2023.
Calendar – Finalise Competent Authority training and implementation calendar for 2023	Yet to start	Initially the work was supposed to be implemented during 2021, however due limited staff capacity this was delayed to 2023. Furthermore, due to Covid 19, we are experiencing further delays.	This may be pushed to the first half of 2022. An appropriate trainer has been identified to carry out the work and logistics planning has commenced.
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 2022 for rollout in 2023.
Consultation – Hold consultations with stake holders and the general public on CA work	Yet to start		This will be done either second half of 2021 or first half of 2022
Inspections – undertake	In Progress	1 x Fisheries Officer (FO)	Further inspections have been put on

inspections to train fisheries officers on HACCP CA requirements		participated in 2x inspections during 2023. The remaining FO to undertake sanitation inspections once travel is safe.	hold until the Covid-19 travel restrictions have been lifted. The Cook Islands is not a port state so all inspections are made overseas.
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E. 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.
- Border closures internationally have hampered inspections, including for training purposes.

F. Way forward

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

3) Project #2 (2019, Phase 3 Program): Improving the participation and engagement in international fisheries forums (Cook Islands)

A. Overview

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.

B. Proposed Work

Training modules will include:

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

C. 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.

D. 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	<p>A tender according to the CI Gov procurement policy was created in early 2022.</p> <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</p>	<p>The Content development stage of the project is completed</p> <p>Given the restrictions on travel brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, alternate methods for training delivery have been considered and are under negotiation.</p> <p>.</p> <p>Subject to the final development of alternate delivery methods, the project is still on track to be completed in 2022.</p> <p>It is planned that two cohorts of participants will receive the training over a two-week period at separate intervals.</p>

		<p>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 2022 and be completed by October 2022.</p>	
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E. 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.

F. Way forward

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

4) Project #4 (2018, Phase 2 Program): Capacity Building training for Tuvalu Fisheries and Maritime Police officers to conduct High Seas Boarding Inspections (HSBI)

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.

Tuvalu Fisheries Department has requested for an extension of this Project in 2021 and 2022 due to continuing impacts of COVID-19 pandemic where travel restrictions and border closures are in place. Tuvalu has recently advised that the HSBI training is scheduled from April 24 to 28, 2023 in collaboration with NZ MPI and the FFA, and will be conducted in Fiji.

5) Project #2 (2022, Phase 3 Program): Support to Solomon Islands National Electronic Monitoring (EM) Policy Consultations, Drafting and Launching

A. Project Objective/s

1. To provide financial support for our Solomon Islands National Longline EM Policy Internal and external Consultations with the Industries and stakeholders.

B. Expected Outcomes

1. Complete internal and external consultations within the Ministry and with the Longline Industries including the EM service providers.
2. Complete a Solomon Islands National EM Longline Policy.
3. Printing and distribution of the Solomon Islands National EM Longline Policy to the Longline Companies and stakeholders.

C. Results and Discussions

We completed the internal consultations within the Ministry and the external consultations with the companies, and already have a draft SI EM Policy to review and submit to the management for their inputs before we go for a validation workshop early next year 2023, before we go for printing and disseminations before June 2023.

D. Budget

The project hasn't completed yet as we have one final consultation to be completed next year quarter 1 and 2 of 2023, as well as the printing and disseminations of the Policy in Honiara and Noro, thus the remaining funds available to complete consultations next year 2023.

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	48,247.50
Funds Utilized	23,247.50
Funds remain to support EM Consultations	25,000.00

In-Kind Contribution (if any)	None
Other Funding Source/s (if any)	None

E. Fund Balance

The fund balance of USD25,000 will be used to complete the consultations in quarter 1 and 2 of 2023, including the validation workshop, printing, and disseminations of the Policy.

F. Comments/Conclusions/Feedbacks/Suggestions/Recommendations

The Ministry continue to thank the people of Japan for their funds through the WCPFC that supports our EM Policy activity this year 2022, and next year 2023, we are seeking permission to extend this project to June 2023 for us to complete our consultations and then launch our Solomon Islands National EM Policy that will guide the Ministry and the Longline companies in its EM program.

The Ministry will provide a full report at the end of June 2023 after the EM Policy Consultations is completed.

Attachment 1. Summary of JTF Work Plan for 2023 (Year 5, Phase 3 Program)

#	Beneficiary Member(s)	Contacts	Project Title	Objectives	Budget (USD)
A	Palau	<p>Ms Kathleen Sisor Acting Director Email: utau.sisor@gmail.com</p> <p>Ms Zilah D. Oiterong Licensing and Revenue Officer Email: dirremeang@gmail.com</p> <p>Mr. Everson Sengebau EM Officer Observer</p>	Development of Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring (ER/EM) Program for the Division of Oceanic Fisheries of the Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To assess and develop a fisheries electronic reporting and electronic monitoring program for information gathering and sharing. 2. To address known gaps in data collection in the longline fishery and enhance the capacity of fisheries personnel on proper methods of data collection through ER/EM. 3. To work in line with the newly amended and adopted WCPFC CMM 2013-05 on Catch and Effort Reporting, CMM 2014-03 on Standards, Specifications and Procedures for the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, FFA's Regional LL EM objectives, and Palau's Blue Prosperity Plan to improve the availability and Accessibility of quality-assured information for scientific and compliance purposes and contribute to improving economic viability of longline fisheries. 	45,500.00
B	Solomon Islands	<p>Mr. Derrick Tagosia Electronic Reporting and Monitoring Coordinator Email: DTagosia@fisheries.gov.sb Phone: +677 39143/30264</p>	Training of Solon Islands Fisheries Compliance Officers in Honiara and Noro on the use of Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS) Compliance Module to create, record and manage non-compliance cases and incidences electronically and the	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To train our Compliance Officers on the FIMS Compliance module to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Receive GEN 3 reports from the Observers. o Create new Incidences based on GEN 3 reports. o Create new Cases based on Incidences created 	34,965.00

			<p>training of the Industries Officers and the Fishing Vessels Captains on the use of iFIMS new eForms (Transshipment and Unloading) to record, send and manage catch data electronically.</p>	<p>from GEN 3 reports from Observers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update cases, upload documents and evidences to the Cases management module in FIMS. ○ Change cases status based on the progresses, depending on the progress of the case, either, start investigation, start interviewing, court hearing, or fined and settled and complete. <p>2. To train the Fishing Companies on how to use the FIMS Transshipment and the Unloading modules to record, report and manage catch data as well as viewing status of cases in FIMS.</p>	
C	Solomon Islands	<p>Mr. Derrick Tagosia Electronic Reporting and Monitoring Coordinator Email: DTagosia@fisheries.gov.sb Phone: +677 39143/30264</p>	<p>Training of the Longline Fishing Companies Technical people on the basic Electronic Monitoring (EM) Systems troubleshooting processes and support to the Ministry's technical officers to travel down to Noro port to fix failed EM systems.</p>	<p>1. To train the Fishing companies technical officers on how to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inspect and check for hardware and software faults and errors. ○ Remove and replace full hard drives in port when vessels arrive back in port. ○ Shuts down and start EM systems to try and hard reset EM systems. ○ Reset systems by pressing the reset button. ○ Check to see if dates and positional data are updated. 	24,675.00

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report faults and errors to the Ministry and plan for EM team to travel down to Noro to fix any serious faults and errors. <p>2. To travel down to Noro once every 2 months (6 times to Noro) this year 2023 to fix hardware and software faults; the faults to be fix when traveling to Noro include but not limited to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fix fault hardware ○ Remove and replace hardware spare parts including; cameras, antennas, cables, screen/server and UPS ○ Install software upgrades ○ Install updates 	
D	Tonga	<p>Dr. Tuikolongahau Halafihi <i>CEO for Fisheries</i> Email: supi64t@gmail.com; ceo@tongafish.gov.to</p> <p>Mr. Poasi Ngaluafe <i>Head of Fisheries Science Division</i> Email: poasi.ngaluafe@tongafish.gov.to</p> <p>Ms. Lavinia Vaipuna, <i>Head of Offshore Section</i> Email: lavinia@tongafish.gov.to</p>	Support and maintain high level data collection and to improve management of tuna fisheries in Tonga, as well as providing timely feedback through monitoring programs on conservation of tuna Species (<i>Port Sampling</i>)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To fund tuna data collection (port sampling) over one full calendar year (2023) in Tonga. 2. To fund artisanal tuna data collection over one full calendar year (2023) in Tonga. 3. To empower staff capacity to enable collection of data and enter into database. 4. To conduct E-Reporting training of all new tuna vessel masters, port samplers and artisanal data officers. 5. To improve management and provide awareness of data collection. 6. To enhance the capacity of fisheries personnel on data management and reporting by 	55,326.00

				attending the annual Tuna Data Workshop at SPC Noumea.	
E	Tonga	<p>Dr Tuikolongahau Halafihi CEO for Fisheries Email: ceo@tongafish.gov.to</p> <p>Mele To'a 'Atuekaho Deputy CEO, Compliance Division meletoaatuekaho@gmail.com</p> <p>Kalo Manuopangai Observer Coordinator kmanuopangai@gmail.com</p>	Capacity building and strengthening of Tonga National Observer Program (<i>Observer Program</i>)	<p>1. Building capacity of senior observers, who are also certified debriefers and creating a career path for these observers by utilizing them whilst on-shore to screen, debrief and enter observer data into the regional observer database called TUFMAN</p> <p>2. Building capacity of Tonga's national observers by encouraging and promoting quality observer data as well as creating a performance-based incentive to keep observers on the job.</p>	37,800.00
F	Tonga	<p>Dr. Tuikolongahau Halafihi CEO for Fisheries Email: supi64t@gmail.com;</p> <p>Salote Fa'otusia Legal Officer Email: skoloamatangi2016@gmail.com</p>	Capacity building and strengthening of Tonga's Fisheries Legal Section	<p>1. Continuation of the employment of the administrative assistant to help progress the ongoing legislative review that includes inclusion of the WCPFC CMMs into the legislative framework, and</p> <p>2. National workshops aiming at enhancing Ministry's staff knowledge and understanding of adopted WCPFC measures and consulting on how measures are to be implemented in to the national legal framework.</p>	8,697.10
	Sub-total			Sum of project budget requested	\$206,963.10
	WCPFC	Aaron Nighswander aaron.nighswander@wcpfc.int	7.5% administrative fee	Overhead	\$217,787.00 x 0.075 = \$16,334.025
	Grand Total			Total JTF for 2023	\$223,297.13¹

¹ Available JTF for 2023 is \$217,787.00 and \$5,510.13 came from the JTF fund balance from previous years for a total of \$223,297.125 for 2023.

Attachment 2. Brief Reports of Completed JTF Projects in 2022

1) Project #1 (2022): Training and supporting Solomon Islands Electronic Monitoring (EM) Analysts to continue analysing EM records from EM systems installed on Longline fishing vessels

A. Project Objectives

1. To provide financial support for our EM Analysts to continue analysing our EM records after March 2022 when the funds from the previous proposal is finished.
2. To strengthen MCS processes through EM systems on Longline fishing vessels, especially in this time where human observer coverage on fishing vessels is suspended.
3. To analysed and provide EM data to the management and other national and regional stakeholders for decision making.

B. Expected Outcomes

1. EM Analysts should be able to continue analysing EM data after March 2022 when the funds from the previous proposal finishes.
2. Analysts should be able to provide reliable EM data to management and other stakeholders for decision making.
3. Build technical and analytical capacity for our observers who will be recruited as EM Analysts.
4. Strengthens MCS processes in the Longline Industry through EM systems and data.
5. Strengthens monitoring of Longline fishing vessels especially in this time where human observers monitoring is suspended.

C. Results and Discussions

The proposal was for to continue supporting our 5 EM Analysts who are currently analysing our EM data, this supports our EM Analysts from April to December 2022, and funds is still available to support them until December 2022.

See below for the summary EM data analysed by our EM Analysts since April December 2022.

- A total of 10 Trips conducted with EM Systems on 9 Longline Fishing vessels was analysed.
- From these 10 Trips, a total of 350 sets were recorded, of which a total of 200 of these sets were analysed by our EM Analysts since April 2022 to December 30 2022.
- Of these sets analysed, on average, a total of 450 (45 per set) hooks and a total of 150 (15 per set) floats between hooks were declared and recorded as fishing efforts.
- Of the total sets analysed, a total of the Target, By catches, Other species and Discards declared are as follows;
 - o Albacore
 - Retain Catch (Kg) – On average 12,000 Kg per trip
 - Number of Retain by species – On average 1,200 per trip
 - o Big Eye

- Retain (Kg) – On average 760 Kg per trip
 - Number of Retain – On average 36 per trip
- Yellow Fin
 - Retain (Kg) – On average 116 Kg per trip
 - Number of Retain Catches – On average 9 catches per trip
- By Catches (Sharks, Stripped Marlin, Blue Marlin, Black Marlin, Sword Fish) – On average – Number of Retain catches - 116 per trip
- Other Species – On average number of Retain catches - 12 per trip
- Discards – On average number of discards per trip is 52.

D. Budget *(if the project has been completed, please provide details)*

The project was completed in December 30, 2022 and it has supported our EM Analysts from April to December 2022.

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	47,226.82
Funds Utilized	47,226.82
In-Kind Contribution (if any)	None
Other Funding Source/s (if any)	None

E. Fund Balance *(if any, after the project has been completed)*

The proposal has supported our EM Analysts from April to December 2022, and the fund is now full utilized.

F. Comments/Conclusions/Feedbacks/Suggestions/Recommendations

We wish to thank WCPFC Japan Trust Fund for the support rendered to us since 2020 until now, our EM Analysts continued to analyse our EM data until December 2022 because of this funding support. The ministry especially the management were able to make some very critical decisions because of the data provided to them, and EM is one of those data collection MCS tools we are using, especially on Longline vessels to complement its monitoring.

2) Project #3 (2022): 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 (*Port Sampling*)

A. Project Objectives

1. To fund tuna data collection (port sampling) over one full calendar year (2022) in Tonga
2. To fund artisanal tuna data collection over one full calendar year (2022) in Tonga.
3. To empower staff capacity to enable the collection of data and enter it into the database.
4. To conduct E-Reporting training for all new tuna vessel masters, port samplers and artisanal data officers.
5. That the excess amount from each month (when the estimated number of vessels did not reach the target which means less than 20 unloading duties on tuna vessels per

month) will be available to improve management and provide awareness of data collection.

B. Results and Discussions

Tonga’s Tuna fishery operations were affected by a double blow from the HTHH volcanic eruption and the first local outbreak of COVID-19 beginning of 2022. Most of the foreign fishing vessels left although licenses were still valid. The number of trips decreases for both FFV and Domestic vessels. A few exports were made by the FFVs while exports for domestic vessels were still on hold due to border closes and international markets for fresh chill tuna also closed.

Despite the stricter restrictions experienced and more policies to comply with, the fishery tried its best to still maintain its fishing operation. The port samplers continue to collect all sorts of data with a 100 % coverage of logsheets, unloading and port sampling data regardless of the slight decrease in the number of trips made by the fishing vessels as the impact of both catastrophes, the volcanic eruption and COVID-19 outbreak.

However, international bold support provided to the government of Tonga greatly assist in the speedy recovery of the nation and beginning of the second half of 2022 the fishery started coming back. The financial support that Tonga received from the JTF project in 2022 without a doubt gave us the strength and motivation to still keep going and to reach our goal of maintaining high-level data collection and improving the management of the tuna fisheries as well as providing awareness on conservation of tuna species.

With the fund support, we recruited more daily paid labourers including our outer island centres to assist in data scanning, port sampling, artisanal data collection and data entry to TUFMAN 2. TAILS data collection has now been implemented in ‘Eueiki, Ha’apai, ‘Eua and Vava’u and the two Niua islands. There is a tuna artisanal training is scheduled for the 1st of February 2023 for some local communities in Tongatapu Island and ‘Eueiki.

The project also assisted and improved Tonga’s electronic reporting through the OnBoard OnShore and TAILS data collection and data submission. Training of skippers and vessel captains was conducted on one-to-one bases, depending on when the vessel comes to port. ONBOARD application is 100% implemented on the Domestic tuna vessel and 50% implemented on Foreign fishing vessels. Tuna artisanal data submissions from outer islands are using TAILS for data submissions.

Details are summarized below:

There were a total of 121 port sampling made by 6 Foreign Fishing Vessels and 6 Domestic Vessels in 2022. Within these trips, 95 Logsheets used the onBoard application for their data submissions whereas 120 port sampling logsheets were submitted using the onShore applications. With the Artisanal Data Collections, there were 263 log sheets submitted from ‘Eua and Vava’u.

C. Budget

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	USD55,326.00
Funds Utilized	Port sampling fees + Daily paid data officers = USD38,651.69

	Internet Payment = USD120.00 Refresher training = USD5,355.00 Quarterly consultation = USD2,100.00 Total Utilized = USD46,226.69 Remaining fund = USD9,099.31
In-Kind Contribution <i>(if any)</i>	Vehicle Tablets for eReporting
Other Funding Source/s <i>(if any)</i>	NA

D. Fund Balance

[The beneficiary may indicate if and how the balance is to be passed down to a project in the coming year]

Port sampling and daily paid data officers' fees

The remaining fund has been committed to funding the daily paid wages of the current five officers until the approval of the next proposal.

E. Comments/Conclusions/Feedback/Suggestions/Recommendations

On behalf of the Government of Tonga and its' Ministry of Fisheries, I hereby extend our great appreciation with thanks to the Government of Japan for granting us this financial support through Japan Trust Fund. We have witnessed many benefits of this project on our current port sampling program through providing employment, strengthening and increased coverage on TAILS data collection, improving our electronic reporting and also meeting our obligation to WCPFC and other regional organizations. Malo 'aupito!!!!



TAILS data training in Ha'apai



Daily Paid Officers in Ha'apai using Tufman 2 and TAILS app for data entry



OnBoard Training with a Chinese sea captain – one of the Foreign fishing Vessel licensed to fish in Tonga’s EEZ



3) Project #4 (2022): Capacity Building and Strengthening of Tonga National Observer Program

A. Project Objectives

This project seeks to strengthen Tonga’s national observer program by:

1. Building capacity of senior observers, who are also certified debriefers and creating a career path for these observers by utilizing them whilst on-shore to screen, debrief and enter observer data into the regional observer database called TUFMAN 2.
2. Building capacity of Tonga’s national observers by encouraging and promoting quality observer data as well as creating a performance-based incentive to keep observers on the job.

B. Results and Discussions

OBSERVER DATA ENTRY & OBSERVER BONUS

In late last year, October to December there was an increase in number of Foreign Fishing Vessels licensed to fish in Tonga EEZ. Tonga Observer coverage for Foreign Fishing Vessel is 100% coverage and 20% for Local Fishing Vessels. There was high demand for observers as number of fishing vessels increase.

A performance-based incentive was awarded to observers after data has been debriefed by a certified debriefer and scrutinized by Tonga Observer Coordinator and data deemed satisfactory. This incentive encouraged observers to collect good and quality data. There is a great improvement on their data collection as reported by debriefers. It also keeps most observers on their job as some has left and join the seasonal worker programme.

In the past, data were scanned and send to SPC to enter. Currently, Tonga enters their own observer data into Tufman 2. Observer data are updated and observers gain more understanding of the importance of their data collection.

Despite the world-wide effects of Covid 19, these two incentives keep observers on their job and it is recommended that a similar proposal submitted this year.

C. **Budget**

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	\$37,800.00
Funds Utilized	\$35,240.00
In-Kind Contribution (<i>if any</i>)	-
Other Funding Source/s (<i>if any</i>)	-
Balance	\$2,560.00

D. **Fund Balance**

By the time this report submitted a total of USD\$2,560.00 left to be utilized. We continue to use this remaining fund for entering observer data and bonus for good quality data provided by observers until fund is fully utilized.

E. **Comments/Conclusions/Feedbacks/Suggestions/Recommendations**

As we all aware that the worldwide effect of Covid 19 pandemic affect all observer program throughout the region. This project helps minimizing the high rate of observer turn over. They are paid by vessels operators for observer fees, awarded bonus for quality data and also entering their data are both funded by Japan Trust Fund. These incentives help observers and their families during these difficult times.

Tonga Fisheries would like to acknowledge with appreciation the financial assistance from the Japanese Government through the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) towards Tonga Observer Program. Also acknowledge with appreciation the administration assistance rendered by WCPFC secretariat.

4) **Project #5 (2022): Capacity Building and Strengthening of Tonga Fisheries Legal Section, 2022**

A. **Project Objective**

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.

B. **Results and Discussions**

The Administrative Assistant has been providing great assistance in progressing the work in the Legal Section both in the main island and the outer islands. This assistance has greatly contributed to progressing the various tasks relating to ongoing review of the law and terms and conditions of fishing vessels to ensure that they are in line with CMMs. Moreover, as a result the employment of the Administrative Assistant has been very helpful in the performance of legislative research and administrative assistance to progress the process.

C. **Comments/Conclusions/Feedbacks/Suggestions/Recommendations**

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. Continuation of the employment of the Administrative Assistant is sought

for with anticipation that it would be approved. Tonga Fisheries would like to acknowledge with appreciation the financial assistance from the Japanese Government through the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) towards Tonga Fisheries Legal section. I also acknowledge with appreciation the administration assistance rendered by WCPFC Secretariat. Finally, I wish to continue collaborating with the JTF project in funding of our proposed projects for the year 2023.

5) Project #6 (2022): Development of Tuvalu Observer Program Debriefers to Debrief Observer Data Collected Electronically

A. Project Objectives

1. To equip the Tuvalu debriefers with the required knowledge and skills needed to conduct e-debriefing effectively and efficiently through an on-the-job training programme.
2. To enhance the debriefing capacity of the Tuvalu Observer Programme in meeting the demand required in providing efficient and effective e-debriefing services

B. Expected Outcomes

The following outcomes were expected from this training Attachment.

- Tuvalu Debriefers are equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skills to conduct e-debriefing
- Capacity building for two selected Tuvalu Debriefers.
- E-debriefing training is delivered by the two Debriefers to other debriefers.
- Tuvalu Observer Programme is equipped with the appropriate equipment to provide effective and efficient e-debriefing
- Enable Tuvalu Observer Programme to implement 100% observer e-reporting efficiently and effectively to compliment e-reporting.

C. Results and Discussions

To ensure this training in PNG gets underway, the Principal Fisheries Officer of the Tuvalu Oceanic unit sent a request to the PNG National Fisheries Authority (NFA) Managing Director for the PNG Observer Programme to provide the technical skills and know-how to train Tuvaluan Debriefers in Electronic Debriefing in PNG.

Approval was granted by the NFA Managing Director so the Tuvalu team flew out to Port Moresby on the 06th of October, 2022.

The team was made up of 4 debriefers. Two are regular debriefers while another is the Tuvalu Observer Coordinator and Debriefers and another is the Tuvalu Observer Technical Advisor and Debriefers Trainer.

The training attachment was scheduled for 15 working days (3 weeks) and started on the 10th of October and ended on the 28th of October. The team returned to Tuvalu on the 3rd of November.

During the 3 weeks training in PNG, the Tuvaluan participants learnt about:

- How to conduct electronic debriefing using the PDF softwares used by PNG Debriefers to

- conduct their electronic debriefings.
- How to correct observer data using the software to write on the PDF format of the Observers' data.
 - How to fill the Debriefing and other relevant forms in their PDF format by using the software
 - How to compile Critical incidents Reports and upload them to the Cloud storage.
 - Observe the daily administration and operational aspects of the PNG Observer Programme.
 - Discussed electronic observer data issues with PNG electronic data experts.



Tuvalu Debriefing Coordinator (sitting) being guided by a PNG Debriefing Trainer (standing)



Tuvalu Debriefing Coordinator doing electronic debriefing in Port Moresby



Tuvalu Obs. Coordinator (left) working alongside a PNG Debriefing Trainer in Port Moresby

D. Outcome / Outputs achieved

This was a very successful training with most of the tasks in the training checklist and the training plan was observed and carried out during this period. The training checklist and training plan are provided in the table below.

Training Plan

Participants	Status	Training requirement
1. Vaelei Failautusi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tuvalu Trainee ● Certified Debriefing Trainer ● Debriefing Assessor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Observations of e-debriefing - Conduct e-debriefing under the supervision of PNG e-debriefing Trainer - Insert missing forms to make a complete trip - How to compile a Gen 3 file during e-debriefing as part of the debriefing process. - Store the Gen 3 files as a separate document
2. Alipele Etoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tuvalu Trainee ● Certified Debriefing Trainer ● Debriefing Assessor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Observations of e-debriefing - Conduct e-debriefing under the supervision of PNG e-debriefing Trainer - Insert missing forms to make a complete trip - How to compile a Gen 3 file during e-debriefing as part of the debriefing process. - Store the Gen 3 files as a separate document.
3. Onosai Takataka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tuvalu Observer Coordinator ● Certified Debriefing Trainer ● Debriefing Assessor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Observations of PNG E-debriefing set up - Take note of the following - Equipment (hardware) needed to set up or establish e-debriefing in Tuvalu - Software needed by debriefers to carry out e-debriefing - Advantage of e-debriefing in terms of accommodating other Oceanic units' functions - How much space is needed to set up E-debriefing - Conduct e-debriefing under the supervision of PNG e-debriefers - Meet with E-reporting trainers to enhance e-reporting skills and knowledge - The way forward in e-debriefing training for the rest of Tuvaluan debriefers. - How PNG Observer Programme created their shared folder
4. Manoi Kutan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PIRFO Observer and Debriefing Training Specialist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liaise with PNGOP to conduct appropriate training for Tuvalu Trainers - Liaise with IFims Inc Trainer for appropriate training to the Tuvalu Trainers - Ensure all training provided by PNG to Tuvalu Trainers meets the training objective

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TNOP Technical Advisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure all other e-debriefing equipment and resources to implement e-debriefing are captured. - Provide assistance to the TV Observer Coordinator in meeting and discussion with the PNG Observer Programme team. - Develop procedures and process for Tuvalu E-debriefing process - Discuss issues in e-reporting with PNG Electronic data reporting trainers.
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E-Debriefing Training Attachment Training Outcome

Participant	Did the participant	Yes	No	Comments
Debriefer Trainees	Observation of E-Debriefing			
	Observed e-debriefing conducted by the PNG Debriefing	X		<i>Observed on the first day of the training</i>
	Observed PNG Debriefing Corrected e-data issues on the observer electronic data sheet (forms)	X		<i>PNG Debriefers used the PDF Wondershare and Xodo to write on the data in its PDF Format.</i>
	Observed PNG Debriefing Filled the debriefing form according to the data field questions	X		<i>Used the two PDF softwares to fill the debriefing form</i>
	Observed PNG Debriefing filled the debriefing score sheet as required in the debriefing process	X		<i>Used the two PDF Softwares to fill the score sheet</i>
	Observed the process of providing feedback to the observer	X		<i>The completed debriefing form was prepared to be emailed to the observer</i>
	Was shown the process of filtering Gen 3 issues as part of the debriefing process	X		<i>Gen 3 filtering is done during the pre-debriefing phase.</i>
	Observed and took note of any issue in each of the task above	X		<i>Completed debriefing form will be emailed to the observer. The observer was not present during the debriefing which is against the debriefing protocol.</i>
	Observed and took note of data issues caused by the e-reporting app itself	X		<i>Brought the data issues from Tuvalu training and observed discussions of issues during the Observer refresher in PNG.</i>
	Observed and took note of any debriefing issue in general done differently from own experience/ knowledge and the PNG Debriefing	X		<i>Difference in opinion of data fields. Data goes through third party checks before being sent to SPC. Absence of observers is the main disadvantage of e-debriefing</i>
	Debriefing Under Supervision			
	Conduct e-debriefing under the supervision of PNG e-debriefer	X		<i>Completed. Alipele conducted e-debriefing under PNG Debriefers Karl Klembassa, Rollo Masi and James Kamola. Vaelei completed debriefing under the supervision of PNG Debriefing Simon Polon.</i>
	Corrected e-data issues on the observer electronic data sheet (forms)	X		<i>Done. Used the two softwares to write on the PDF Data.</i>
	Filled the debriefing form according to the data field questions	X		<i>Completed as required during debriefing</i>
	Filled the evaluation form as required in the debriefing process	X		<i>Completed as required after completing debriefing.</i>
	Filled the debriefing score sheet as required in the debriefing process	X		<i>Completed after debriefing.</i>
	Insert Missing e-forms from a trip to produce a complete completed e-reporting trip	X		<i>Completed as part of the training to use the software.</i>
Conduct filtering Gen 3 issues under the supervision of the PNG Debriefing	X		<i>Conducted Gen 3 filtering by reviewing Gen 3 and creating a new case file.</i>	

	Completed the Gen 3 filtering process and stored the file as a separate document	X		Completed and copied the folder onto the desk top.
	Rate your e-debriefing experience. Was e-debriefing Easy Moderate Hard			Moderate. E-debriefing was similar to manual debriefing. It's just that the software used to conduct e-debriefing needed time to get used to.
TVOB Observer Coordinator	Made Observations of PNG E-debriefing set up	X		Noted the resources and discussed admin and operational issues with PNG staffs
	Take note of the following			
	- Equipment (hardware) needed to set up or establish e-debriefing in Tuvalu	X		<i>Dual screen desktops</i>
	- Software needed by debriefers to carry out e-debriefing	X		<i>Wondershare and Xodo. Installed in the laptops</i>
	- Advantage of e-debriefing in terms of accommodating other Oceanic units' functions	X		<i>Files are all soft copies that can be moved around easily and can be stored in a location that is easy to access. Relevant information needed by other unit can be extracted and compiled based on the need.</i>
	- How much space is needed to set up E-debriefing			<i>Space enough to cater 2 x dual screen desk tops</i>
	- How PNG Observer Programme created their shared folder	X		<i>A Tuvalu Observer Programme Google drive folder has been created</i>
	- Number of Desktops per debriefer	X		<i>1 x Dual screen desktop per debriefer</i>
	- E-Debriefing application or model and / or software used in the AJN Technique.	X		<i>PDF Wondershare and Xodo</i>
- Any current development with e-debriefing app?	X		<i>E-debriefing app will be discussed for approval to use by early next year</i>	
TA (PIRFO Trainer)	Liaise with PNGOP to conduct appropriate training for Tuvalu Trainers	X		<i>Because this was the first ever attachment training, it was essential that the training we receive fulfills our goals.</i>
	Liaise with IFIMS Inc Trainer for appropriate training to the Tuvalu Trainers	X		<i>IFIMS Inc Trainers willing to assist Tuvalu trainers. However, time would not permit. Ho</i>
	Ensure all training provided by PNG to Tuvalu Trainers meets the training objective	X		<i>The training received did actually meet the training objective.</i>
	Ensure all other e-debriefing equipment and resources to implement e-debriefing are captured.	X		<i>Captured and documented</i>
	Provide assistance to the TV Observer Coordinator in meeting and discussion with the PNG Observer Programme team.	X		<i>Tuvalu Observer Coordinator met with IFIMS team leader, Debriefing Coordinator, Rabaul Port Coordinator, Observer Data Entry Officer, Observer Administration and Operations Officers.</i>
	Develop procedures and process for Tuvalu E-debriefing process	X		<i>Development of the Tuvalu E-debriefing SOP is underway</i>
	Discuss issues in e-reporting with PNG Electronic data reporting trainers.	X		<i>Discussed issues with the PNG Trainers on the issues we identified here in Funafuti during our e-reporting refresher.</i>

E. Budget

When Tuvalu received the funding, the Tuvalu National Bank was going through a transition period with international transactions; especially the exchange rate. The rate applied by the bank when we wanted to access the fund was given as USD 1: 1AUD.

Tuvalu Fisheries used additional funding from the Tuvalu Observer Fund to support this training. The total amount used to fund this training was AUD 58,041.00

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	21,062.00
Funds Utilized	21,062.00
In-Kind Contribution (<i>if any</i>)	1,500.00
Other Funding Source/s (<i>if any</i>)	36,979.00

F. Fund Balance

The cost involved was over then expected as we had to make very important adjustments to the initial proposal. We increased the number of participants to 4 instead of 2 as we hope to have this training as a one-off training. Our intention was to develop our own training after this attachment training. Therefore, as can be seen from the table above, the funds from this project was fully utilized.

G. Comments/Conclusions/Feedbacks/Suggestions/Recommendations

First and foremost, the Tuvalu Fisheries Department through the Tuvalu Observer Programme wishes to thank the Japan Trust Fund Board and the WCPFC for facilitating and approving our application.

Electronic data reporting is very essential to our data collection protocol and such assistance will go a long way to help us implement one of our key goal for 2022 – 2023 and that is, to have a 100% electronic data collection system.

This was our first time to apply for this funding and also our first time to initiate such training with another organisation. Therefore, the actual costs involved was not really available or known. Now that we have completed this project, we are in a better position to provide real / actual cost should we require future types of training.

On the training itself, we learnt so much from working with our colleagues in PNG. PNG has a very well established electronic debriefing system in place and that we consider ourselves very fortunate to undertake this initiative of learning from them. This training has given us the confidence that we (Tuvalu Observer Programme) can deliver and develop our own debriefers once we get the necessary resources of electronic debriefing in place here at the Tuvalu Fisheries. The benefits of such funding opportunities will also go a long way to help us meet the challenges that limits us to take our Observer Programmes forward.

6) Project #1 (2021, Phase 3 Program): Training and supporting Solomon Islands Electronic Monitoring (EM) Analysts to continue analysing EM records from EM systems installed on Longline fishing vessels

A. Project Objectives

1. To provide financial support for our EM Analysts to continue analysing our EM records after September 2021 when World Bank closes its PROP project.
2. To strengthen MCS processes through EM systems on Longline fishing vessels, especially in this time where human observer coverage on fishing vessels is suspended.
3. To analysed and provide EM data to the management and other national and regional stakeholders for decision making.

B. Expected Outcomes

1. EM Analysts should be able to continue analysing EM data after closure of the World Bank PROP project in September 2021.
2. Analysts should be able to provide reliable EM data to management and other stakeholders for decision making.
3. Build technical and analytical capacity for our observers who will be recruited as EM Analysts.
4. Strengthens MCS processes in the Longline Industry through EM systems and data.
5. Strengthens monitoring of Longline fishing vessels especially in this time where human observers monitoring is suspended.

C. Results and Discussions

The project was intended for recruiting, training and supporting five (5) EM Analysts to continue analysing Solomon Islands EM data from EM systems installed on Longline fishing vessels. The project has initially attained its expected outcomes which recruited five EM Analysts, trained them on how to use the EM Data Analysis Software, and they are now analysing our EM data to this date. The pictures below showed the training of EM Data Analysts conducted at the data centre and/or at the vessel.

One of the challenge in the training was the time difference, since that the training was conducted via Zoom, and the trainer conducted the training from Madrid, Spain, the time difference was a challenge, especially to the trainer, because he had to woke up at 1AM Madrid time to conduct the trainings, so we had only 3 to 4 hours for every session, but we manage to complete the training, and the EM Analysts are now analysing our EM data from the vessels installed with EM systems since October 2021 to this date, and will continue to do so with the remaining funds until March 2022.

The summary of EM data analysed by our EM Analysts since October 2021 until March 2022 are shown below.

- A total of 24 Trips conducted with EM Systems on 8 Longline Fishing vessels was analysed.
- From these 24 Trips, a total of 720 sets were recorded, of which a total of 650 of these 495 sets were analysed by our EM Analysts since October 2021 to March 2022.

- Of these 650 sets analysed, on average, a total of 29,250 (45 per set) hooks and a total of 8,000 (15 per set) floats between hooks were declared and recorded as fishing efforts.
- Of the 400 total sets analysed, the total target, by-catches, other species and discards declared are as follows:
 - Albacore
 - Retain Catch (Kg) – On average 30,000 Kg per trip
 - Number of Retain by species – On average 2,200 per trip
 - Bigeye
 - Retain (Kg) – On average 1,900 Kg per trip
 - Number of Retain – On average 101 per trip
 - Yellowfin
 - Retain (Kg) – On average 5,500 Kg per trip
 - Number of Retain Catches – On average 300 catches per trip
 - By-catches (Sharks, Stripped Marlin, Blue Marlin, Black Marlin, Swordfish)
 - On average – Number of Retain catches - 350 per trip
 - Other Species
 - On average number of Retain catches - 80 per trip
 - Discards
 - On average number of discards – 85 per trip

D. Budget

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	39,765.75
Funds Utilized	39,765.75
Fund Balance	0
In-Kind Contribution (if any)	None
Other Funding Source/s (if any)	None

E. Fund Balance

The proposal was to support our EM Analysts from October 2021 to March 2022, and as far we have supported our EM Analysts from October 2021 until March 2022, funds for this project was fully utilized as indicated in the balance above.

F. Comments/Conclusions/Feedbacks/Suggestions/Recommendations

If I may on behalf of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, thanked the Japan Trust Fund Board and the Commission for approving our proposal that really supported our EM Analysts since closure of World Bank PROP project in September 2021, and continued to support the analysts until March 2022. The funding support was timely as we all know the negative impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on all government's economy, including Solomon Islands.



EM Analysts during the Online Zoom training at our data centre and at the vessels

7) Project #2 (2021, Phase 3 Program): Training of Solomon Islands Fisheries Observers on the Electronic Reporting Observer e-Obs App to collect data electronically on observer trips to strengthen MCS processes

A. Project Objectives

1. To train our observers on how to use iFIMS electronic reporting system to:
 - Record and enter observer trip data on an android app installed in a tablet
 - Verify and send observer data via satellite device to the ministry's Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS)
 - Use iFIMS app to:
 - Start new observer trip
 - Fill PS-1 e-form
 - Add Edit Wells in the app
 - Fill Daily data forms (PS-4, PS-3 and PS-2 e-forms)
 - Fill other trip eforms (GEN-1, GEN-2, GEN-3, GEN-4, GEN-5 and GEN-6)
 - Fill unloading and Transhipment e-forms
 - Send daily data to Ministry's FIMS
2. To train our observers to use electronic reporting system to enter and send daily trip data to the ministry for monitoring, control and surveillance purposes
3. To train our remaining observers on e-reporting and trial out the system until such a time where we can go paperless with our observer trip reporting
4. To train our observers on e-reporting system to provide timely, consistent and accurate data to the ministry as well as other parties and stake holders like WCPFC, FFA, PNA, SPC and other NGOs.

B. Expected Outcomes

1. Trainees should know how to use iFIMS Observer App to fill PS-1, PS-2, PS-3, PS-4 and GEN-1, GEN-2, GEN-3, GEN-4, GEN-5, GEN-6 e-forms.
2. Trainees should be able to Use Tablet and RockStar/Inreach satellite Devices for E-Reporting
3. Trainees should be able to troubleshoot tablet and RockStar devices
4. Trainees should be able to send e-reporting data to FIMS via RockStar

5. Trainees should be able to fill Transshipment and Unloading e-forms
6. Trainees should be able to know when to use SOS
7. Trainees/Observers will be monitored when at sea and when arrive back to port at the end of each trip making sure they use iFIMS Observer App for reporting
8. Trainees will be monitored to make sure they put what they will be trained on into practice
9. MFMR Observer Coordinator and Electronic Reporting Office will make sure that trainees use Tablets and RockStar/Inreach satellite devices for E-Reporting only when on trips by signing the Asset Usage Regulation Agreement.

C. Results and Discussions

The project was intended to train all Solomon Islands active observers to be able to use electronic reporting using the Observer App (eObs App), and initially Solomon Islands trained 48 of the total 89 observers. The remaining 41 observers were trained this year (2022), using the remaining balance as indicated in the budget below. The first training which was participated by 48 observers was successful which follows the PNAO observer electronic reporting model that has 16 modules to complete and covers both theoretical and practical aspects. One of the challenges was to recall the observers back for training as most of the observers were no longer around since the suspension of the observer work in the region. However, some observers were still taking domestic trips, so they were called back for the trainings, and now they are ready to conduct electronic reporting whenever they are deployed on domestic trips.

Another challenge was the rolling out of trainings. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, movements are restricted which also affects PNAO trainers coming to Solomon Islands to conduct trainings. So, we have to conduct the trainings ourselves, it was a challenge but also a learning experience for us, especially to conduct these trainings ourselves, which to me is a plus for the ministry, because now we won't be depending on PNAO to send their trainers which costs a lot of money for the members, but we can conduct our own trainings. The trainings includes both theoretical and practical aspects.

D. Budget

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	41,291.25
Funds Utilized	41,291.25
Fund Balance	0
In-Kind Contribution (<i>if any</i>)	None
Other Funding Source/s (<i>if any</i>)	None

E. Fund Balance

The project was intended to train all our 89 active Observers in year 2021, and so far 48 observers were trained last year 2021 and another 41 observers were trained before the end of March 2022. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Observer program was

suspended, but our observers are still taking domestic trips within Solomon Islands EEZ, and the plan is to train all our observers to conduct electronic reporting for trips on our domestic vessels, as well as on our foreign locally based longline vessels and trips.

F. Comments/Conclusions/Feedbacks/Suggestions/Recommendations

On behalf of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, we wish to thank the Commission and the Japan Trust Fund Board for approving our proposal that supports our observer electronic reporting trainings, the importance of our observer work especially on data collection and being our MCS eyes at sea monitoring and making sure that our laws are followed. We do also know the challenge we are facing when suspending our observer work, and the fact it affects our observer's livelihood especially when they only get paid when they are on trips, so this training opportunity become an avenue where they get daily allowances to support their families in meeting basic needs. We will continue to support the Commission as its member and ensure that the assistance provided to us through this project meets its intended purpose. We can see from our trainings that the observers are excited to learn a new way of reporting that is much faster, consistent and accurate, and of course more safety for them especially the inclusions of satellite In reach devices that has the SOS capability, where they can press and rescue will be send to them whenever they are faced with near death situations, also using the app makes reporting much easier and faster and near real time. Despite the many challenges we faced especially with COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns, activities were completed in Quarter 1 of 2022.

8) Project #6 (2021, Phase 3 Program): Feasibility and Cost-Benefit Assessment of Electronic Monitoring on Vanuatu fishing vessels

A. Project Objectives

Feasibility and Cost-Benefit Assessment of Electronic Monitoring on Vanuatu Fishing vessels Project objectives is to establish reliable, effective arrangements for the transfer of e-monitoring data (hard drives) from Vanuatu-flag vessel unloading ports to the VFD in Port Vila and to establish systems and procedures for the viewing and analysis of e-monitoring video and other records from Vanuatu-flag vessels and entry of this data into the SPC e-monitoring database

Also, to develop follow-up procedures in cases where incidents or irregularities are detected that require investigation. The project also to undertake a comparative analysis of the costs and benefits of electronic monitoring relative to the use of human observers.

B. Results and Discussions

Vanuatu has trained 8 senior observers for analysing the EM data and analysing 4 new hard drives. These observers completed the analysing 1 hard drive in 2021 and completed the other 2 hard drives in 2022. Vanuatu has also managed to expend from the fund for the establishment of a dedicated room within the Vanuatu Fisheries Department premises specifically for data analysis.

EMS Virtual Training with Digital Observer System (DOS)



New EMS Room



C. Budget

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	51,287.32
Funds Utilized	51,287.32
In-Kind Contribution <i>(if any)</i>	None
Other Funding Source/s <i>(if any)</i>	None

D. Fund Balance

Fund balance was zero when the project ended.

E. Comments/Conclusions/Feedbacks/Suggestions/Recommendations

Analysis of EMS in Vanuatu has been slow when it got started but is now becoming better. One system has crashed which left us with only one operational. The EM Analyzers are more committed with analysis but they must wait for a long period of time to make an analysis. EMS have sustained a few analyzers during the COVID-19 lockdown and ban on observer trips regionally by the WCPFC.

We would recommend for the number of System increase by 2 as it makes more convenient for more data analyzed at the same period other than waiting longer period for a single data to complete.