



# Ministry of Fisheries

TO HAVE THE BEST FISHERIES IN THE PACIFIC

## Annual Report **2022 - 2023**

Parliamentary Paper No: 03/24



# Ministry of Fisheries

TO HAVE THE BEST FISHERIES IN THE PACIFIC

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## Annual Report 2022 - 2023



## Referral Letter

Honorable Alitia Vakatai Bavou Cirikiyasawa - Bainivalu  
Minister for Fisheries and Forestry  
Takayawa Building  
Suva

Dear Madam,

I am pleased to present to you the Annual Report of the Ministry of Fisheries for the period 1st August 2022 to 31st July 2023, for presentation to Parliament in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act 2004 and the Financial (Amendment) Act 2021.

Throughout the reporting period, the Ministry remained steadfast in its commitment to implementing Fiji's national fishing and aquaculture programs outlined in the Ministry's 2022 – 2023 Annual Operational Plan. These initiatives were aimed at ensuring food security through sustainable marine resource management and enhancing the facilitative role of the Ministry in supporting Fiji's private sector to foster economic growth.

I am proud to report that the Ministry received an unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor-General for this reporting period, marking the fourth consecutive year of maintaining a clean accounting record. This achievement underscores our dedication to transparency, accountability, and effective financial management.

Looking ahead, the Ministry is keenly focused on further strengthening our efforts towards the sustainable management of Fiji's fisheries resources. We are committed to contributing meaningfully to our people's food security, economic prosperity, and social well-being, while also recognizing the importance of preserving our resources for future generations.

As we continue our work, the Ministry is exploring new initiatives and partnerships to enhance our impact and effectiveness. We are committed to ongoing collaboration with stakeholders, including your esteemed office, to achieve our shared goals.

In closing, I express my gratitude for your continued support and guidance. The Ministry of Fisheries is dedicated to serving the interests of the Fijian people and remains committed to excellence in all our endeavors.

Yours sincerely,

.....  
**Sanjana Lal (Mrs.)**  
**Acting Permanent Secretary for Fisheries and Forestry**

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Pacific Fisheries Ministers convened at the 20th Forum Fisheries Committee Ministerial Meeting (FFCMIN) held in Majuro, Marshall Islands.



Villagers of Korotubu Village in Macuata completing a 3-day Fish Wardens training in November 2022. The training, co-facilitated by the Ministry of Fisheries and Community-Centered Communication (C3) based in Labasa, equipped participants with essential knowledge and skills in fisheries management, empowering them to safeguard their local marine resources effectively.

## Acronyms

<b>FBOS</b>	Fiji Bureau of Statistics
<b>Real GDP</b>	Real Gross Domestic Product
<b>MSC</b>	Marine Stewardship Council
<b>FFA</b>	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
<b>WCPFC IWG</b>	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Intersessional Working Group
<b>MCS</b>	Monitoring, control, and surveillance
<b>UNFAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>PSMA</b>	Port State Measures Agreement
<b>EEZ</b>	Exclusive Economic Zone
<b>CPUE</b>	Catch Per Unit
<b>ABNJ</b>	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
<b>OFMD</b>	Offshore Fisheries Management Division
<b>IFMD</b>	Inshore Fisheries Management Division
<b>SPC</b>	The Pacific Community
<b>PEUMP</b>	Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership
<b>JICA</b>	Japan International Cooperation Agency
<b>WWF</b>	World Wildlife Fund
<b>SPREP</b>	Pacific Regional Environment Programme
<b>ACIAR</b>	Australian Center for International Agriculture Research
<b>OFCF</b>	Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan
<b>FAD</b>	fish aggregation devices
<b>WFH</b>	work-from-home
<b>WFO</b>	work-from-office
<b>EM</b>	Executive Management
<b>VMS</b>	Vessel Monitoring System
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding



## Permanent Secretary's Foreword



I am delighted to present the annual report for the Ministry of Fisheries covering the financial year from 1st August 2022 to 31st July 2023.

During this period, the Ministry received a total budget of \$15.9 million, marking a significant increase of \$2.4 million (15%) compared to the previous year. Utilizing \$14.06 million (88%) of this budget for the implementation of our programmes and projects, we achieved 87% of our deliverables outlined in the Annual Operational Plan, with a staffing strength of 89%.

I am particularly proud to highlight several key events and achievements:

- The Ministry received an unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor-General, marking the fourth consecutive year of maintaining a clean financial record, a benchmark we are committed to upholding.
- The fisheries sector made significant contributions, generating \$207.1 million in export earnings, indicating a positive trajectory of recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy.
- We contributed \$3.4 million to state revenue through various avenues such as fisheries vessel registration, fishing licenses, sale of fish and ice, and offshore fisheries fees.
- Initiatives such as the distribution of solar freezers, boats and engines, and Fish Aggregating Devices across communities have bolstered food security and economic sustainability.
- Our promotion of the Commercial Shrimp Aquaculture and Food Security Program underscores our dedication to addressing both food security and economic growth needs.

I extend my sincere commendations to the entire Ministry staff and our fisheries stakeholders for their unwavering commitment. It is through our collective efforts and elevated collaboration that we continue to meet Fiji's food security needs and contribute to the growth of the national economy, all while ensuring the sustainable management of our fisheries resources.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sanjana Lal', is positioned above a dotted line.

**Sanjana Lal (Mrs.)**  
**Acting Permanent Secretary for Fisheries and Forestry**

# Overview of the Fisheries Sector in Fiji

Fiji, spanning approximately 1.3 million square kilometers of the South Pacific Ocean, boasts a diverse and vital fisheries sector comprising three primary sub-sectors: offshore fisheries, inshore or coastal fisheries (encompassing commercial and subsistence fishery), and freshwater aquaculture.

## The Major Categories of Fishing

### *Offshore Fisheries:*

Primarily targeting tuna (including albacore, yellowfin, and bigeye) for export markets, offshore fisheries utilize longline gear. While tuna remains a focal point, a variety of species are caught for both local consumption and overseas markets. The catch in offshore fisheries is influenced by factors such as vessel activity, oceanographic conditions, and fish migration patterns.

### *Coastal Commercial Fisheries:*

Conducted in lagoons, reefs, deep slopes, and nearby open ocean waters, coastal commercial fisheries involve a range of vessels, primarily under nine meters in length. Various gear types, including lines, nets, spears, and traps, are used to harvest a diverse array of finfish, invertebrates, and algae. Estimating catch volume is challenging due to numerous landing sites and fishers, but it's estimated around 11,000 tonnes annually, with a significant portion destined for domestic markets and some high-value species exported. Management of coastal commercial fisheries faces challenges in controlling fishing efforts, especially for high-value species and in urban areas.

### *Coastal Subsistence Fisheries:*

Focused on providing food for household consumption, coastal subsistence fisheries also involve sharing fish with friends and relatives. The catch is occasionally marketed, especially high-value species like lobster to resorts. Estimating catch volume is complex but approximated at 16,000 tonnes annually. Management challenges include assisting the 850 coastal communities to ensure the sustainability of fishery resources.

### *Freshwater Fisheries:*

Relatively small compared to other sub-sectors, freshwater fisheries in Fiji mainly target freshwater clams ("kai"), eels, various crustaceans, and introduced species like tilapia and carp. Freshwater clam harvesting is particularly significant and occurs across major river systems. Annual harvest estimates total around 3,700 tonnes. While freshwater fisheries lack active management, measures promoting freshwater resource conservation tend to benefit freshwater fisheries indirectly.

Fiji's fisheries sector is integral to food security, economic development, and cultural identity, requiring sustainable management practices to ensure its longevity and contribution to national well-being.



**Prime Minister Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka reiterated Fiji's dedication to safeguarding and sustainably managing the nation's oceanic territory by recommitting to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Waite Institute on 15th February 2023.**

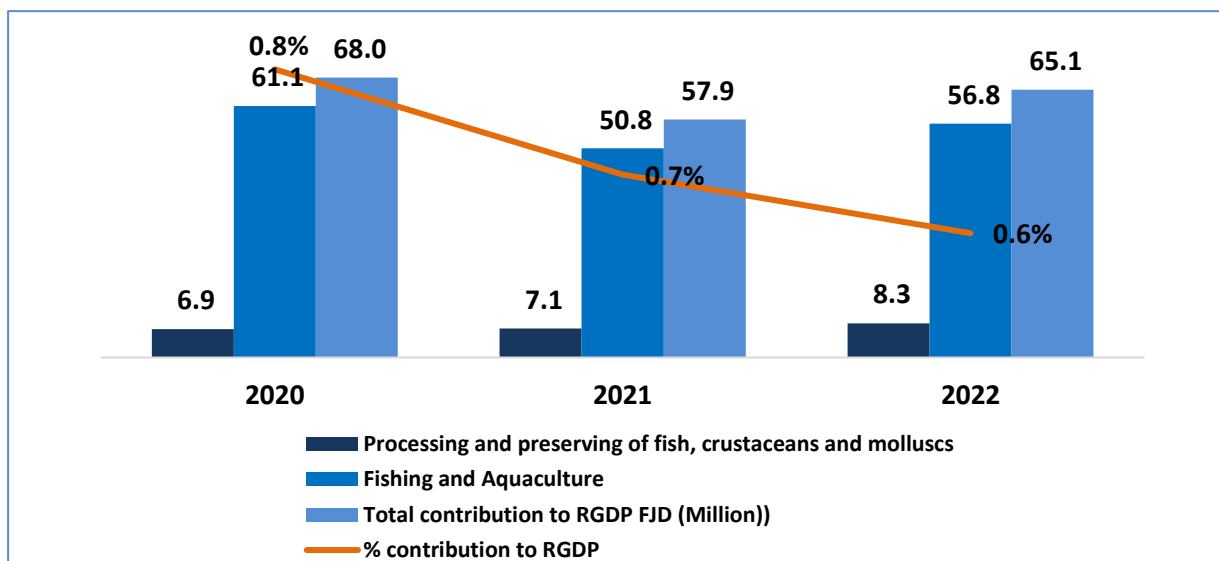


# Fisheries Sector Contribution to Fiji's Economy

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

According to the official statistics published by the Fiji Bureau of Statistics (FBOS), the fishing and aquaculture sector contributed FJD 56.8 million to Fiji's real gross domestic product (Real GDP) in 2022. This represents an increase of FJD 6 million (10.5%) compared to the 2021 contribution of FJD 50.8 million. Additionally, the sector contributed FJD 8.3 million to real GDP growth in the manufacturing industry in 2022, marking an increase of FJD 1.25 million (15.6%) from the 2021 contribution of FJD 7.1 million. Overall, the combined fisheries-related activities within the fisheries sector contributed FJD 65.1 million (0.6%) to the national real GDP in 2022.

**Figure: 1 Fisheries Sector Contribution to Real Gross Domestic Product 2020 – 2022 - FJD (Millions)**

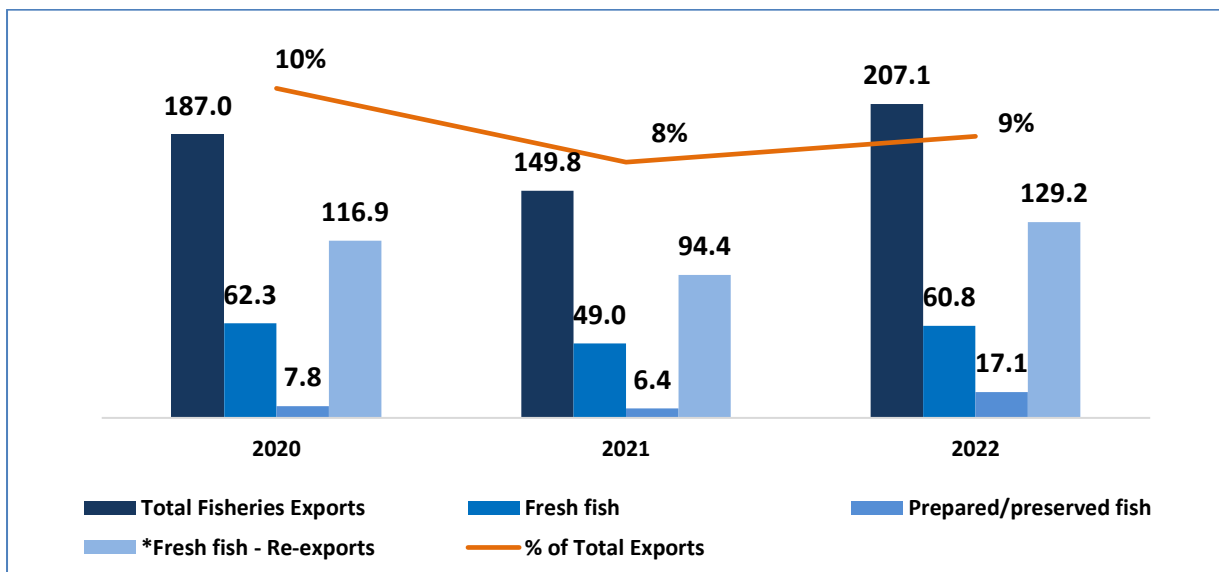


Source: Fiji Bureau of Statistics

## Fish Exports by Standard International Trade Classification

The fisheries sector contributed FJD 207.1 million (8%) to Fiji's national export earnings in 2022. This represents a sharp increase of FJD 57.3 million (38.2%) compared to the 2021 export earnings of FJD 149.8 million. The significant rise in export earnings can be attributed to the positive impact of lifting the sea cucumber ban on fisheries export contributions.

**Figure: 2 Fish Exports by Standard International Trade Classification 2020– 2022 - FJD (Millions)**

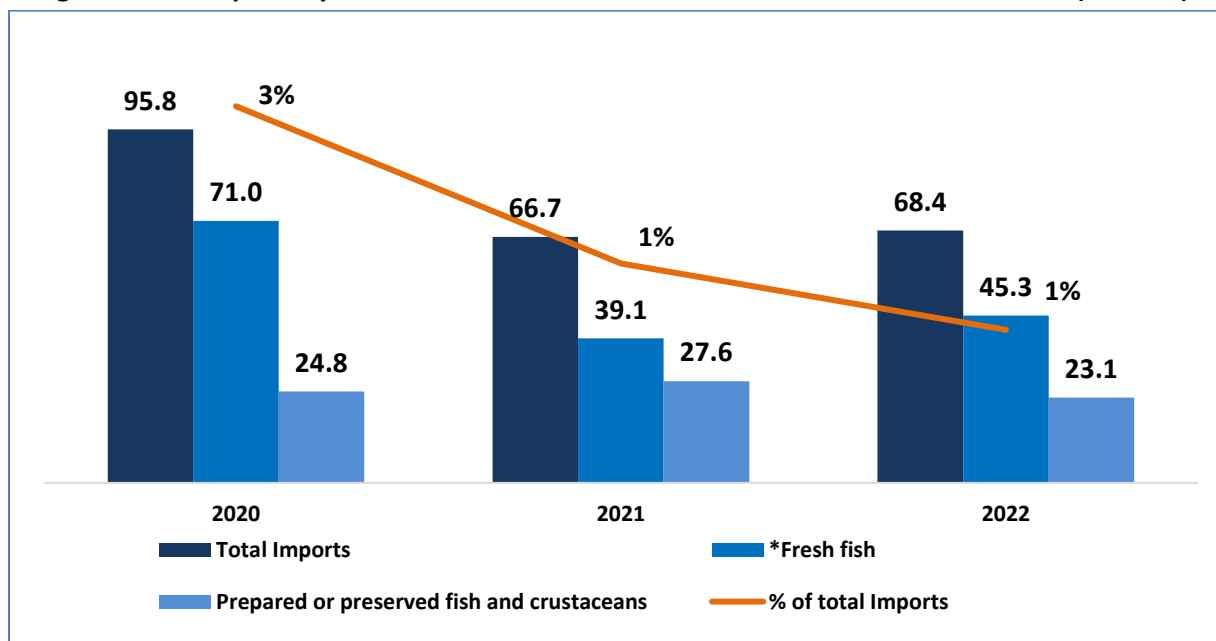


Source: Fiji Bureau of Statistics

### Fish Imports by Standard International Trade Classification

The fisheries sector saw imports totaling FJD 68.4 million in 2022, marking a rise of FJD 1.7 million (2.5%) compared to 2021. This increase was driven by a shift in consumer preference towards fresh, prepared, and preserved fish and crustaceans. In response, the Ministry aims to implement import substitution strategies to reduce the import bill by increasing local production and consumption of fish and seafood.

**Figure: 3 Fish Imports by Standard International Trade Classification 2019 – 2021 - FJD (Millions)**



Source: Fiji Bureau of Statistics

### Employment in the Fisheries Sector

The FBOS 2019 Annual Employment Survey reported that as of June 2019, there were an estimated 180,106 employees in registered establishments in Fiji. Within this total, the fishing sector directly employed 1,048 individuals. The combined Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing industries employed 5,745 individuals. Table 1 provides a detailed breakdown of employment within the fisheries sector for 2018 and 2019.

**Table 1: 2019 Formal Employment in Fisheries**

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

Source: Fiji Bureau of Statistics

# Agency Overview

## Our Core Business

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

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

## Corporate Profile



**"To have the best Fisheries in the Pacific Region"**

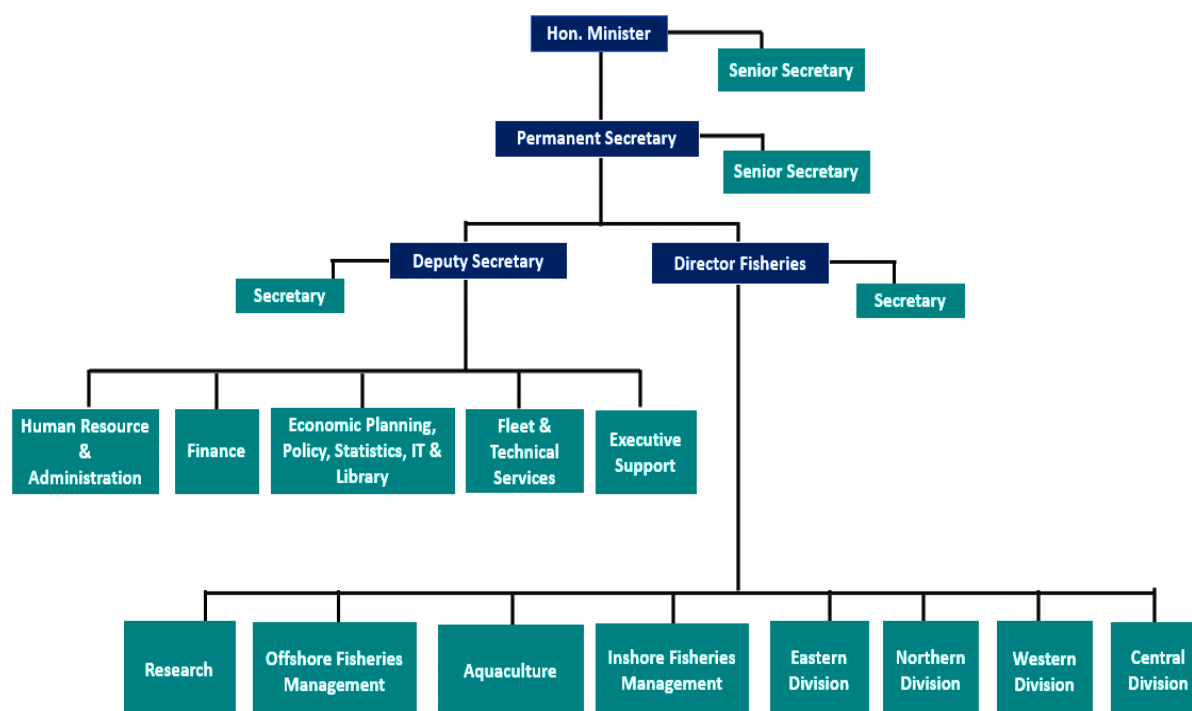


**"To Sustain, to Manage and to Protect Fiji's Fisheries"**



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

## Organizational Structure



## Human Resources

For the 2022/2023 financial year, the Ministry had a total of 353 established positions, with 310 staff members actively employed, leaving 43 positions vacant. During the year, the Ministry managed various staff movements, including processing 18 new positions, renewing 30 contracts, facilitating 11 transfers, experiencing the loss of three officers, seeing 21 staff members resign, one staff member proceeding on leave without pay, and seconding four staff members to The Pacific Community. Despite these changes, the Ministry continued its operations effectively, leveraging a substantial portion of its established workforce to meet its mandates and objectives.

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

	Aug 2021/ Jul 2022				Aug 2022/ Jul 2023		
	Established Officers	Government Wage Earners	Project Officers		Established Officers	Government Wage Earners	Project Officers
Approved staff - 361	189	105	62	Approved staff - 353	189	104	60
Strength – 337 (Manpower on the ground)	170	94	53	Strength – 310 (Manpower on the ground)	171	94	45
Weaknesses – 24 (Vacancies)	19	11	9	Weaknesses – 43 (Vacancies)	18	10	15

Source: Human Resources Division of the Ministry of Fisheries

## Vehicles

For the 2022/2023 financial year, the Ministry had 41 vehicles in operation. The breakdown of the vehicle distribution by division is tabulated in Table 3.

**Table: 3 Vehicle distribution by division for Aug 2022/ Jul 2023**

Division	Lease	Non-lease	S/Total
Executive Office – HM	2	1	3
Headquarters	2	0	2
Northern	5	2	7
Central	2	1	3
Eastern	5	1	6
Western	4	0	4
Research	1	1	2
Technical Service	1	3	4
Aquaculture	4	2	6
Offshore	1	1	2
Inshore	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>41</b>

Source: Human Resources Division of the Ministry of Fisheries

## Vessels

For the 2022/2023 financial year, the Ministry had 17 vessels in operation. The status of the vessel distribution by the station is tabulated in Table 4.

**Table: 4 Vessel distribution by the station for Aug 2022/ Jul 2023**

No.	Vessel Name	Year	Station	Remarks
1	Cevaninubu	2016	Central- Wainibokasi	In Operation
2	MV Dua Lei Ranima	2020	Lautoka	Operational
3	FV Sabutukula	2016	Namarai	Engine returned for return job with Asco.
4	FV Busa	2016	Lautoka	Requested for a re-quote with Asco - \$4785.65
5	FV Sabutu	2016	Lautoka	25 Hp. The engine was repaired by Mala (Wainikoro), though awaiting its return from Lami to Lautoka.
6	Qari	2019	Kavala, Kadavu	23ft fiberglass boat with 60HP outboard engine
7	Regurawa	2019	Vunisea, Kadavu	23ft fiberglass boat with 60HP outboard engine
8	Saqa	2019	Naroi, Moala	23ft fiberglass boat with 60HP outboard engine
9	Donu	2019	Natokalau, Cicia	23ft fiberglass boat with 60HP outboard engine
10	MV Jobfish	2020	Levuka	New boat - 25ft fiberglass boat
11	Lakeba	2009	Lakeba	The boat was given for the Seaweed project in Namukailau in 2009 and later transferred to Lakeba Fisheries
12	Lumiboso	2015	Gau	23ft fiberglass boat with 60HP outboard engine
13	Bai Ni Vualiku	2019	Labasa	In Operation
14	Onaga	2016	Labasa	Not operation, waiting for repair
15	Civa Loa	2016	Labasa	Not in Operation, waiting for repair
16	Long Tom	2016	Labasa	Boat is fully repaired, but waiting for the Engine
17	Tesia Akawa	2016	Rabi	In operation in Rabi

Source: Human Resources Division of the Ministry of Fisheries

## 2022 – 2023 Key Highlights



**BUDGET ALLOCATED** – FJD 15.48 million  
**BUDGET UTILISED** – FJD 14.06 million  
**UTILISATION RATE** – 90.87%  
**AUDITOR GENERAL** - unqualified audit opinion

**APPROVED STAFF** – 353  
**MANPOWER ON THE GROUND** - 310  
**VACANCIES** - 40  
**STAFFING STRENGTH** – 87.8%



### BUSINESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES** – 14

**KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS** – 284

**ACHIEVEMENT RATE** – 85.6%

1. Portfolio Leadership, Policy Advice & Secretariat Support – 92.1%
2. Education & Training – 90%
3. Public Awareness & Promotion – 92.7%
4. Sustainable Investment and Trade – 85.5%
5. Value Adding & Down Stream Processing – 80%
6. Research & Development – 83.3%
7. Fisheries Law Enforcement- Licensing, Compliance & Monitoring – 88.9%
8. Food Security & Income Generation – 76.3%
9. Strengthen Global/ Regional/National/ Sector/ Public & Private Sector Partnerships – 75.0%
10. Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation & Resilience – 85.0%
11. Promote Gender Equality, Women & Youth in Development – 85.0%

### EXPORTS 2022

**FRESH FISH EXPORTS** – FJD 60.8 million  
**PREPARED / PRESERVED FISH EXPORTS** – FJD 17.1 million  
**FRESH FISH RE-EXPORTS** – FJD 129.2 million  
**TOTAL EXPORTS** – FJD 207.1 million



# Summary of 2022– 2023 Operational Plan Achievement

In the fiscal year 2022-2023, Fiji's Ministry of Fisheries navigated global economic challenges while advancing its vision to lead Pacific fisheries. The ministry aligned with national development plans focused on sustainable management across offshore, inshore, and aquaculture sectors. Key achievements included enhancing leadership and policy support, conducting effective education and training programs, and successfully raising public awareness about fisheries issues. Efforts were also directed towards sustainable investment and trade, improving value-adding processes, and conducting vital research and development initiatives. The ministry maintained robust enforcement of fisheries laws, addressed food security concerns, and fostered partnerships at various levels.

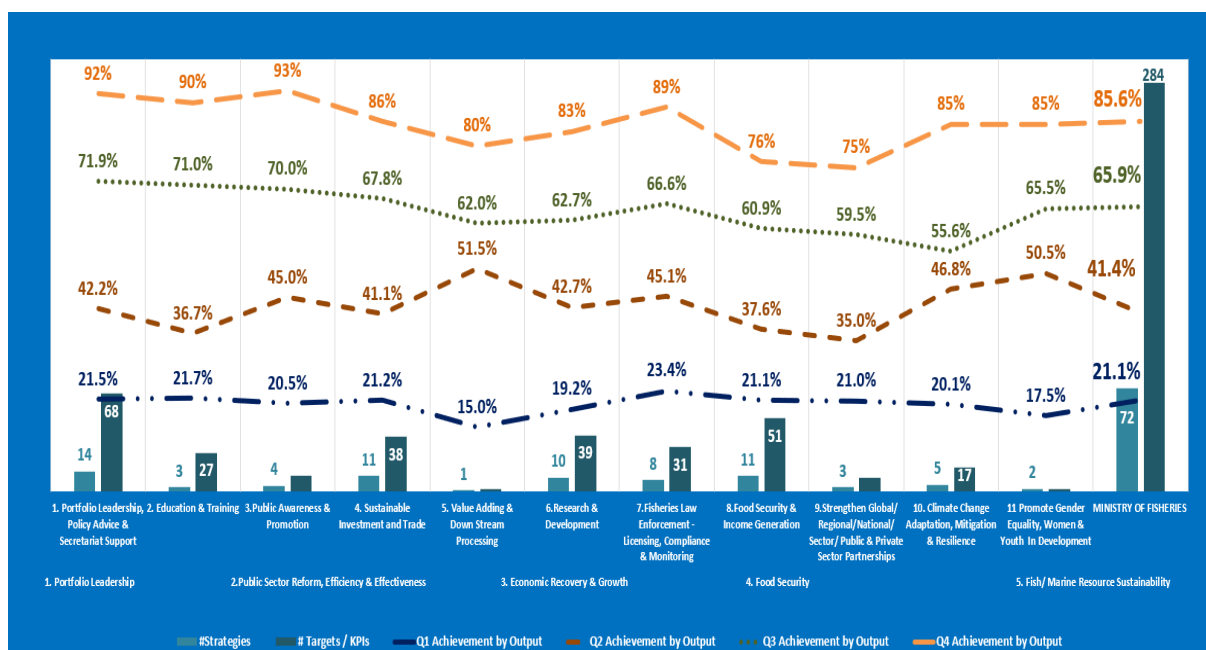
The Ministry of Fisheries achieved an average performance of 85.6% against its operational plan implementation, reflecting its commitment to transforming Fiji's fisheries and contributing to broader economic and environmental goals despite challenging conditions.

Table: 5 Summary of Outcome and Outputs for 2021 – 2022 Business Plan

Outcomes	Outputs
Portfolio Leadership	1. Portfolio Leadership, Policy Advice & Secretariat Support
	2. Education & Training
Public Sector Reform, Efficiency & Effectiveness	3. Public Awareness & Promotion
	4. Sustainable Investment and Trade
	5. Value Adding & Down Stream Processing
Economic Recovery & Growth	6. Research & Development
	7. Fisheries Law Enforcement - Licensing, Compliance & Monitoring
Food Security	8. Food Security & Income Generation
	9. Strengthen Global/ Regional/National/ Sector/ Public & Private Sector Partnerships
Fish/ Marine Resource Sustainability	10. Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation & Resilience
	11. Promote Gender Equality, Women & Youth in Development

Source: Ministry of Fisheries

Figure 5 below illustrates the Ministry's Operational Plan 2022 – 2023 Implementation by outputs



Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Economic Planning, Policy, Statistics, and IT Division

## 2022 – 2023 Capital Projects Achievement

The Ministry was allocated a capital budget of \$4.36 million. As of 31st July 2023, the capital budget utilized was \$4.12 million with a utilization rate of 94.6%.

Table: 6 Summary of the 2022 – 2023 Capital Projects

Description	Budget	Achievement	Impact
<b>COMMODITY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION</b>			
1	250,000	Stock assessment of high commercial invertebrates: Sea Cucumber, Sea Urchin, Giant Clams, Freshwater Mussels	Improved understanding of invertebrate populations for better management and conservation
2	378,000	13 Community-based spat projects, 2 Mabe Pearl Farms, 3 Community-based Oyster racks	Enhanced pearl oyster production and community involvement in sustainable aquaculture practices.
3	300,000	Procurement of new boat and engine, new submersible water pump, replaced old diving gears, installed new aerators and ring blowers, reseeded of Leleuvia Island resort	Improved mariculture infrastructure and efficiency, contributing to sustainable aquaculture practices and local economic support.
<b>Inshore/ Coastal Fisheries Commodity Development and Management</b>			
4	850,000	5 FADs Deployed, 6 Post Harvest and Cooperative Training sessions, 125 Land Patrols, 18 Sea Patrols	Enhanced fisheries management, improved sustainability, and community engagement in resource management.
5	200,000	Harvesting of 38.2 MT of Seaweed and Establishment of 3 Nursery Sites	Boosted seaweed production and resilience of coastal communities
6	550,000	Recruitment of 6 land dry observers	Enhanced fisheries monitoring and compliance through better data collection and analysis.
<b>Aquaculture</b>			
7	500,000	992,941 Fry produced, 802,220 Fry distributed to 159 Farmers; 104,718 PLs produced and distributed to 16 farmers; 50 Grass carp juveniles distributed to 2 farmers	Supported small-scale aquaculture, improved food security, and provided livelihoods for farmers.
8	500,000	150 kg Shrimp harvested at Galoa; 74,000 PLs produced and distributed; 15 Farm development activities carried out	Enhanced brackish water aquaculture, boosting shrimp production and local economies.
9	600,000	Northern: 390 total beneficiaries (47.95% male & 52.05% female); Western: 419 total beneficiaries (46.78% female & 53.22% male); Central: 882 total beneficiaries (48.98% male & 51.02% female)	Improved food security and supported gender-balanced community involvement in aquaculture activities.
10	250,000	3 Farmers were assisted through the grant this financial year	Provided financial support to commercial aqua farmers, enhancing production and economic stability.
<b>Service Delivery Infrastructure &amp; Vessel</b>			
11	100,530	18 % Completed	Improved infrastructure for better access and efficiency in fisheries activities
12	400,000	64% Completed	Progress towards establishing a multi-species hatchery to support aquaculture diversification and sustainability.
13	300,000		This project was not implemented this year due to some unforeseen details in the procurement process and requested through budgetary submission to be rolled over to the 2023 - 2024 financial year.
14	100,000	41% Completed	Progress towards establishing ice plants to support fish preservation and reduce post-harvest losses.

Source: Ministry of Fisheries



## Achievements from Functional Division

### Offshore Fisheries Management Division

The Offshore Fisheries Management Division (OFMD) serves as the advisory arm of the Ministry on matters relating to Fiji's pelagic fisheries in the Archipelagic Waters, Territorial Seas, EEZ waters, the High Seas, and for vessels fishing in other jurisdictions.

Our goals are to harness the potential of our fisheries, support our industry stakeholders, grow the economy, and ensure the equitable distribution of wealth and benefits. Simultaneously, we strive to strengthen our efforts to ensure the long-term sustainable management of our oceanic fisheries resources.

#### Achievements

##### Portfolio Leadership, Policy Advice, and Secretariat Support

During this fiscal year, the Offshore Fisheries Management Division actively engaged in various national, regional, and international meetings, surveillance operations, and training sessions. These engagements are a key part of Fiji's annual commitments and are essential for the professional growth of our staff.

A significant achievement during this reporting period was our officers' participation in a year-long professional development program at the Pacific Community in Noumea, New Caledonia. This initiative highlights our ongoing commitment to advancing our staff's professional skills and expertise, ensuring they are well-equipped to meet the evolving challenges of fisheries management and international collaboration.

#### Nationally

The division's responsibilities at the national level include policy formulation within the Ministry and collaboration with government agencies, development partners, academic institutions, and sector stakeholders. Throughout the year, the division produced meeting briefs, technical advice, parliamentary briefs, and speeches for the Ministry.

Key achievements include:

- Legal reforms: Extending license tenure to 20 years and simplifying business processes.
- Resilience and recovery of the industry during COVID-19.
- Continued operations despite COVID-19 lockdowns.
- Introduction of electronic payment platforms such as Electronic Funds Transfer at Point of Sale (EFTPOS) and use of the Vodafone M-Paisa app.
- Active participation in cyclone and COVID-19 response operations.
- Successful annual Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) audit and continued certification.
- Trials on e-reporting for vessel captains and observers.
- Submission of draft Crewing Policy and Tuna Management Plan.
- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Fisheries and Fong Chung Formosa Co. Ltd.

#### International Engagement

Given tuna's highly migratory nature and significant economic value, the division's responsibilities extend beyond national borders to regional and international levels. The division is tasked with ensuring that Fiji fully meets its obligations under various treaties and legally binding arrangements related to the harvesting and management of highly migratory fish stocks such as tuna.

Key achievements include:

##### Chairing of the Forum Fisheries Council (FFC):

The division successfully chaired the Forum Fisheries Council, overseeing numerous FFA meetings at both the officials and ministerial levels.



**Fisheries Enforcement Officer, Akosita Cavora (second from right), a ship rider on board the U.S Coast Guard Cutter Juniper.**

- US Multilateral Treaty Negotiations:**  
 The division played a pivotal role in the successful negotiation of \$600 million for the next licensing period under the US Multilateral Treaty.
- Chair of the WCPFC IWG on Albacore:**  
 Fiji assumed the chair of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Intersessional Working Group (IWG) on Albacore, guiding discussions on the sustainable management of this key species.
- Chair of the MCS Working Group:**  
 The division led the Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) Working Group, focusing on enhancing regional capabilities to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- Chair of the Observer Program:**  
 As chair of the Observer Program, the division ensured the continued effectiveness of monitoring and data collection efforts critical to fisheries management.
- Chair of the UN FAO PSMA Meeting:**  
 Fiji chaired the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO) meeting on the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), reinforcing its commitment to preventing IUU fishing by controlling port entry and use by foreign vessels.

**Fish Resource Sustainable Management  
Fleet Structure**

**Table 7. Fiji National Longline Fleet Structure, 2018 – 2022.**

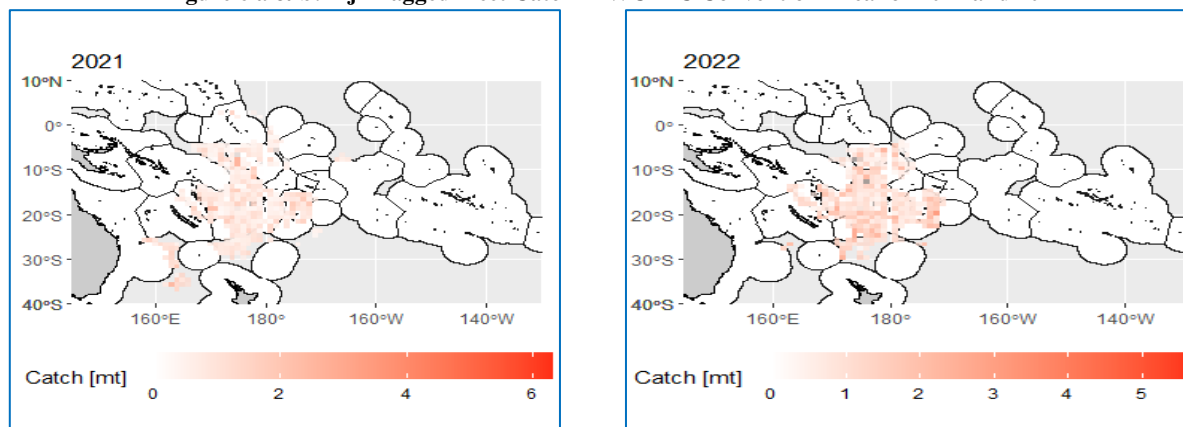
VESSEL LENGTH	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
< 21	13	14	14	6	7
21m – 30m	37	34	28	30	30
>31 m	46	45	44	31	36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>73</b>

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Offshore Fisheries Management Division

**Fishing Effort Distribution**

The fleet structure for 2022 consists of 73 Fiji national vessels; of which 4 vessels are chartered foreign-flagged vessels. The remaining 69 vessels are Fiji flagged and fished in Fiji’s Archipelagic waters, Territorial Seas, Fiji’s Exclusive Economic Zone [EEZ], other EEZs, and high seas within the WCPO.

**Figure 6 a & b: Fiji Flagged Fleet Catch in WCPFC Convention Area for 2021 and 202**



**Figure 1a 2021**

**Figure 1b; 2022**

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Offshore Fisheries Management Division

Figures 1a and 1b are snapshots of Fiji’s National Fleet catches for the 3 tuna species and billfish in 2021 and 2022 respectively. Both snapshots show that much of the catch is caught in Fiji’s EEZ with certain portions in other EEZs, where the vessels are licensed to fish and in the high seas. In 2022, around 76% of Fiji’s longline fishing effort took place within Fiji’s EEZ, compared to 69% in 2021. Approximately 6% of the total national catch was caught within the high seas, whilst the remaining 18% of the catches were from other EEZs our vessels were licensed to fish in 2022.

**Annual Catch**

Table 2 below shows the catches by Fiji’s Longline fleet in the Fiji EEZ, High Seas, and neighboring EEZs where some vessels are also licensed to fish.

**Table 8 Annual Catch Estimates for the Fiji National Fleet, 2018– 2022**

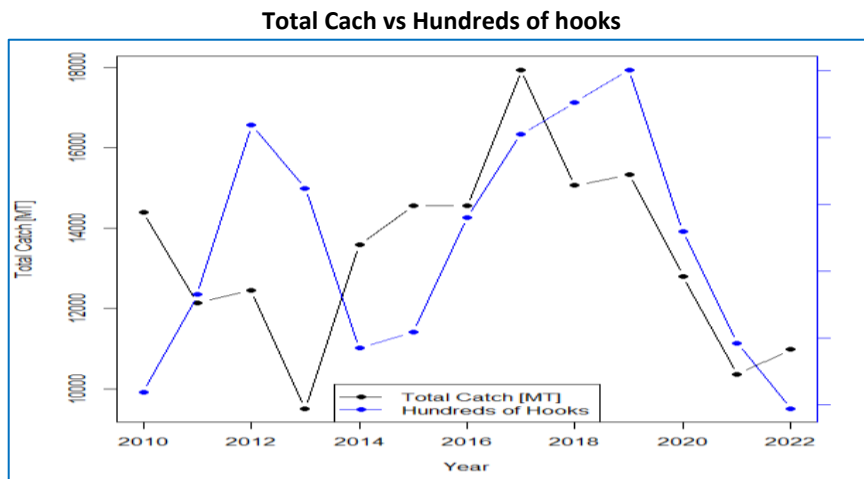
TOTAL ANNUAL CATCH [MT] FOR FIJI NATIONAL LONGLINE FISHING FLEET 2018 - 2022					
SPECIES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Albacore	9,327	8,588	6,320	6,496	7,337
Bigeye	879	1,144	692	498	425
Yellowfin	2,695	3,664	4,279	2,506	2,137
Tuna Like Species	2,159	1,940	1,512	966	1,089
<b>TOTAL [MT]</b>	<b>15,060</b>	<b>15,336</b>	<b>12,803</b>	<b>10,466</b>	<b>10,989</b>

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Offshore Fisheries Management Division

The data in the table shows that the Albacore catch is consistently the highest among the other species, with a total catch of 9,327 mt in 2018, decreasing to 6,320 mt in 2020 and then increasing to 7,337 mt in 2022. Yellowfin catch follows a similar pattern, with a peak of 4,279 mt in 2019 and then a decline to 2,506 mt in 2021 before increasing slightly to 2,137 mt in 2022. Bigeye and Tuna-like species catch, on the other hand, show more fluctuations over the years. Bigeye catch was highest in 2019 with 1,144 mt, while Tuna-like species catch was highest in 2018 with 2,159 mt. In 2022, the catch for Bigeye and Tuna-like species was only 425 mt and 1,089 mt, respectively.

The data indicates a slight decline in catches since 2018, with a plateau in 2019 and a significant drop in 2020. The drop in 2020 is largely attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, which had a major impact on the fishing industry. Many vessels targeted fresh tuna markets were either fishing at their lowest efforts or not fishing at all due to canceled flights and decreased demand. This resulted in a decline in catches for all species in 2020 and 2021. In 2022, the Tuna catch (which includes Albacore, Bigeye, and Yellowfin) accounted for 90% (9,899 mt) of the total catch of 10,989 mt. This indicates that Tuna is an important species for the Fiji National Fleet, both in terms of the catch volumes and its economic importance. However, other Tuna-like species also contribute significantly to the overall catch, making up 10% (1,089 mt) of the total catch in 2022.

**Figure 7 Historical total annual catch estimates for the Fiji National Longline Fleet for the WCPF Convention Area, 2010 – 2022.**

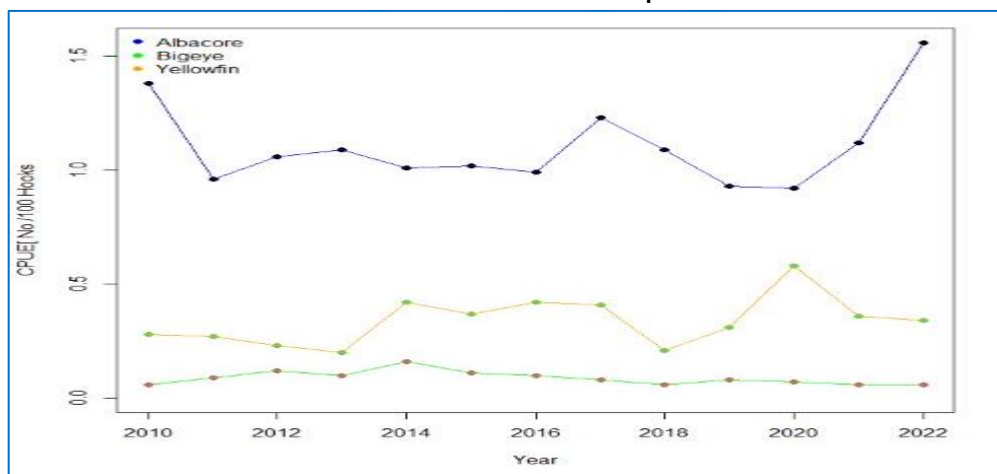


Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Offshore Fisheries Management Division

It is important to note that trends in nominal CPUE should not be solely relied upon as an indicator of abundance, as other factors such as targeting strategy, effort, size composition of the catch, recruitment, and environmental conditions can also impact the fishery. Therefore, it is essential to consider all of these factors when analyzing the CPUE data. *Figure 8* shows that the nominal CPUE for albacore has steadily increased over the last five years, from 0.99 in 2016 to 1.56 in 2022. The biggest increase was observed in 2022, where the CPUE increased by 0.46 from the previous year. This increase could have been influenced by other factors, such as changes in the targeting strategy or fishing effort. In contrast, the nominal CPUE for bigeye tuna appears to be relatively stable over the time series, with a slight drop in 2018 and an increase again in 2019 to 0.08. It then dropped again in 2021 to 0.06. Overall, the CPUE for bigeye tuna remained relatively steady throughout the time series.

The nominal CPUE for yellowfin tuna remained steady at around 0.4 from 2010 to 2020, before dropping slightly to 0.37 in 2021 and then remaining at the same level in 2022. While the data suggests that the nominal CPUE for albacore tuna has steadily increased over the past five years, it is crucial to consider other factors that may impact the fishery when interpreting the data. The CPUE for bigeye tuna remained relatively steady throughout the time series, and the nominal CPUE for yellowfin tuna remained relatively consistent with a slight drop in 2021.

**Figure 8: Shows Tuna nominal CPUE for Fiji Longline Fleet.**  
**Catch Per Unit Effort for Tuna Species**



Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Offshore Fisheries Management Division

Trends in nominal CPUE are sometimes used as an indicator of abundance, but must be considered in association with other direct (e.g. targeting strategy, patterns of effort, size composition of the catch, recruitment, etc.) and indirect (e.g. environmental) factors affecting the fishery. *Figure 4* shows the trends in tuna nominal CPUE for the Fiji longline fleet. In last five years the nominal CPUE for albacore increased steadily from 0.95 in 2016 to 1.23 in 2017 and at 1.01 in 2021. Bigeye nominal CPUE appears relatively stable over the time series with a slight drop in 2018 and increase again in 2019 at 0.08 then drop in 2021 at 0.06 but overall, steady. Yellowfin nominal CPUE remained consistent at and around the 0.40 in the past years and slightly dropping to 0.37 fish per 100 hooks in 2021.

#### Effort Controls: Licensing and Permitting

Fiji has a licence cap of 60 vessels allowed to fish in Fiji's fisheries waters. For the period a total of 3 fishing licenses were issued for operations within Fiji's fisheries waters, along with 4 authorisations granted for fishing beyond Fiji's fisheries waters. Table 9 shows the number of permits, licences, catch certificates, and statistical documents issued for the period are presented as follows:

**Table 9. Number of permits, licences, statistical documents, and catch certificates issued for the period.**

Permits and Certificates	Numbers Issued
Landing	1921
Transshipment at sea	194
Export	1110
Import	532
Transshipment in port	147
Fresh Export	76
The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna's Certification (ICCAT)	242
Marine Stewardship Council Certification (MSC)	59
Fiji Catch Certificate (FCC)	115
European Union Catch Certification (EUCC)	15
Entry and Use of Ports	179
Record of Vessels using Fiji's ports	128
Record of Offshore Fishing Companies	32
Fiji Fisheries Waters (FFW) License	3
Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4757</b>

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Offshore Fisheries Management Division

**Table 10 Total volume of landing and transshipment.**

Permits	Volume (MT)
Landing	33,201.79
Transshipment in port	70,563.98
Transshipment at sea	487.48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104,253.25</b>

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Offshore Fisheries Management Division

\*\* Data obtained from permits issued from Aug- 2022 – July – 2023.

#### Monitoring

##### Observer Programme

###### Placement

The Fiji National Observer coverage for 2022 was 28.26% compared to 2021 which was at 16.90%, a noticeable increase post-pandemic. Observer coverage remains within the 5 % minimum observer coverage CMM standard requirement by WCPFC. Fiji observers are placed on board the Fiji National Fleet covering areas within Fiji's national jurisdiction, and beyond (ABNJ). Fiji also contributes its observers to sub-regional observer programs such as the US Multilateral Treaty. The Fiji Observer Programme [National and regional observers] continued engagement in national placements on Fiji vessels fishing within Fiji's national jurisdiction and beyond (ABNJ), within approved national COVID-19 protocol and guidelines.

### De-briefing

Fiji Observers are de-briefed at the end of every trip to ensure data reporting quality is maintained. In 2022 a total of 117 trips were de-briefed, registered, and processed. Fiji maintains a minimum 95% accuracy debriefing standards on observer placement trip reports.

### Port Sampling

Fiji's port sampling program is carried out on Fiji's National Fleet at Suva Port. In 2022 a total of 85 port samplings were achieved [60 %]. A target of 144 Port sampling is set for each year, carried out by either one port sampler or by observers whilst not on placement. All species and size compositions are submitted to SPC.

### Biological Sampling

A total of 60 biological samplings was conducted by Fiji observers in 2022, with 44 samples sent to SPC in 2023.

### Electronic Monitoring System

A total of 333 sets were reviewed and analyzed during the period. The service provider, SATLINK, conducted a training for the analysts on the new SVM 4.0 analysis tool for the period.

### Investigation

The Investigation unit produced the following for the period August 2022- July 2023:

Description	Total Number
Investigation case files closed	23
FPN issued from Investigation Case Report	2
Case Report with no case to answer	11
Ongoing Investigation (Serious Offence)	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Offshore Fisheries Management Division

### Economic Growth

The Ministry had set an annual export target of FJ\$160M for the 2022-2023 fiscal year which exceeded the target to an estimated FJ\$190M, mainly through the frozen re-exports.

**Table 11: Tuna and Tuna Like Species Export data for the fiscal year 2022 – 2023**

OFFSHORE EXPORT FIGURES WITH EST.VALUE[FJD]2022-2023		
SPECIES	EXPORT[MT]	EST. VALUE[FJD]
Albacore Tuna	18,594.80	\$ 85,644,974.24
Bigeeye Tuna	1,079.88	\$ 16,507,191.79
Yellowfin Tuna	6,587.97	\$ 58,335,132.01
Barracuda	50.69	\$ 116,809.77
Black Marlin	5.02	\$ 21,776.61
Blue Marlin	15.95	\$ 92,518.70
Escolar	51.66	\$ 134,009.29
Mahimahi	27.09	\$ 108,666.54
Marlin	288.52	\$ 1,376,223.08
Oil fish	360.30	\$ 1,945,564.47
Sailfish	86.28	\$ 420,704.50
Skipjack Tuna	937.52	\$ 3,234,860.91
Striped Marlin	10.50	\$ 58,579.21
Swordfish	93.21	\$ 941,705.24
Spearfish	34.17	\$ 158,092.97
Wahoo	196.19	\$ 740,639.33
Opah	105.62	\$ 294,731.47
<b>TOTAL[MT]</b>	<b>28,525.34</b>	<b>\$ 170,132,180.13</b>

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Offshore Fisheries Management Division

**Table 6: Inshore Export data for the fiscal year 2022 – 2023**

INSHORE FIGURES WITH EST.VALUE[FJD]2023			
SPECIES	EXPORT [MT]	PIECES	EST.VALUE[\$FJD]
Non-Aquarium	559.88		\$ 18,880,083.81
Aquarium Fish		576,600	\$ 1,198,356.00
Aquarium Invertebrates		67,300	\$ 81,904.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>559.88</b>	<b>643,900</b>	<b>\$ 20,160,343.81</b>

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Offshore Fisheries Management Division

\*\* Data obtained from permits issued from Aug- 2022 – July – 2023.

**Industry Support**

The industry and trade unit continues to bridge the gap with stakeholders by providing accurate and timely services and advice on industry and trade issues. The unit provides a supporting role and has organized two virtual industry-wide stakeholder consultations with executive management to discuss the draft OFMDP, draft Crewing Policy, and other issues, in doing so, provided timely submission of industry feedback on draft OFMDP, Crewing Policy, and other support to Executive Management. The unit has engaged with stakeholders formally on six occasions covering issues under market access and certification, operational issues, and initiatives to mitigate the MPA30 by 30 processes.

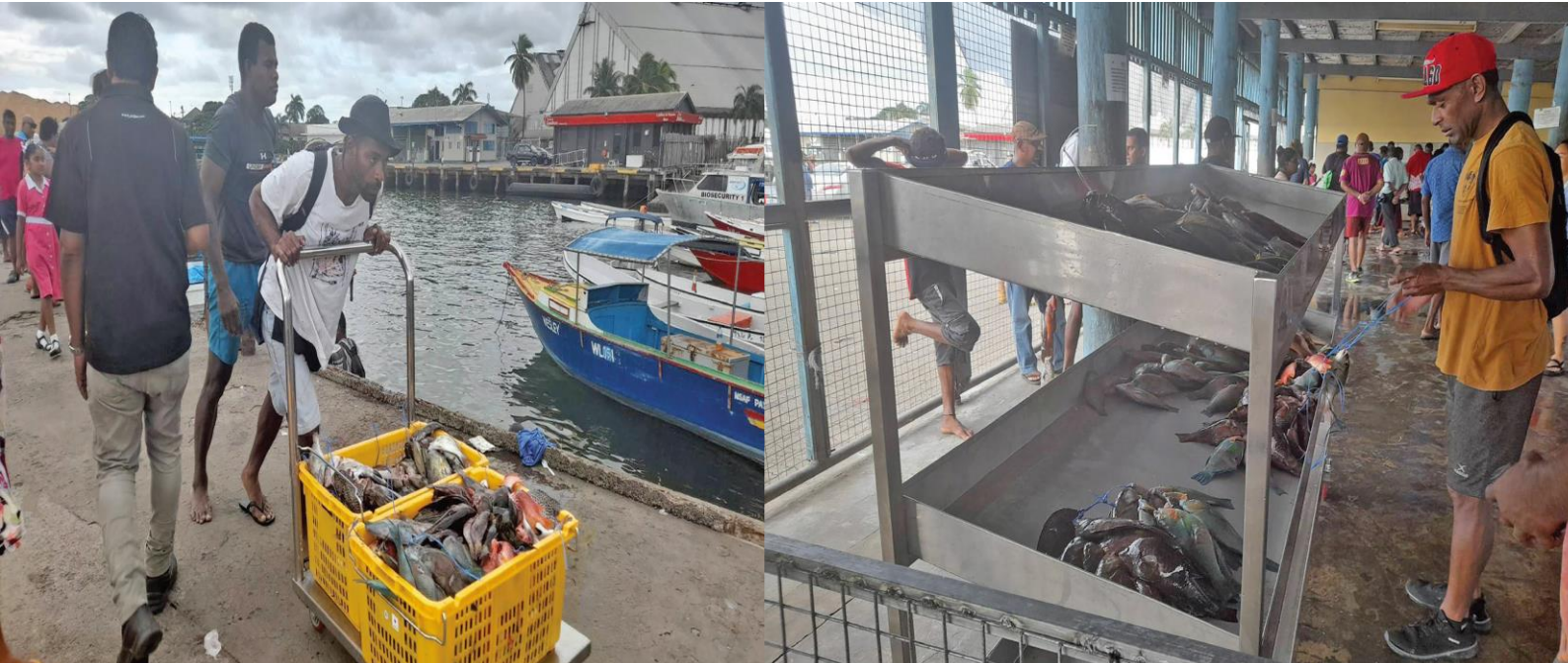
**Opportunities For Investment and Capacity Building**

The Division is actively exploring avenues to further enhance and empower our officers in this sector. These include:

- Investing in advanced platforms and systems aimed at improving the licensing, permitting, traceability, and documentation of catches.
- Forging partnerships and collaborations with key agencies and industry stakeholders to strengthen the management of Oceanic Fisheries.
- Providing support for market incentives that encourage sustainable fishing practices for our fishing industry.
- These strategic initiatives underscore our commitment to not only enhance the capabilities of our officers but also to fortify our efforts in the sustainable management of oceanic fisheries.



**Mr. Mohammed Shaheed’s company has been exporting fish to the United States of America since November, 2021**



Assistance rendered by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been useful with operations at the Lautoka Fish Market. The Lautoka Fishers Cooperative Limited was grateful to the Government and JICA.

### Inshore Fisheries Management Division

The Inshore Fisheries Management Division (IFMD) was established in November 2017 through a Cabinet decision, as per Cabinet Decision (17) 131 on 5th June 2017. The division plays a role in ensuring sustainable management and compliance with Fisheries legislation related to inshore fisheries in Fiji.

#### Compliance Unit

The Compliance Unit within the Inshore Fisheries Management Division (IFMD) was established in May 2019. This section highlights the work carried out by the Compliance Unit from August 2022 to July 2023, underscoring its ongoing commitment to ensuring adherence to fisheries laws across the nation.

#### Land and sea-based Patrols

For the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the Compliance Unit set a yearly target to conduct 400 land-based inspections and 16 sea-based boarding and inspections. By the end of the fiscal year, the unit carried out a total of 206 operations, which included 781 inspections. Figure 9 below illustrates the targets set and the achievements of the Compliance Unit for the year. Figure 10 shows that of the inspections conducted on land and at sea, a total of 219 infringements were identified. Of these, 212 infringements were identified during land-based inspections, while 7 were identified during sea-based inspections. As a result, the national compliance rate stands at 72%, with a non-compliance rate of 28%, as depicted in the graph below.

Figure: 9 Target vs Achievements of Land and Sea-based Patrols

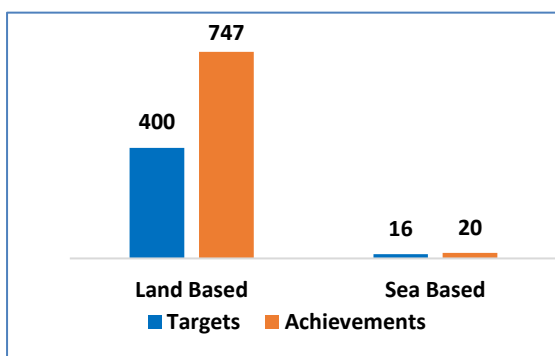
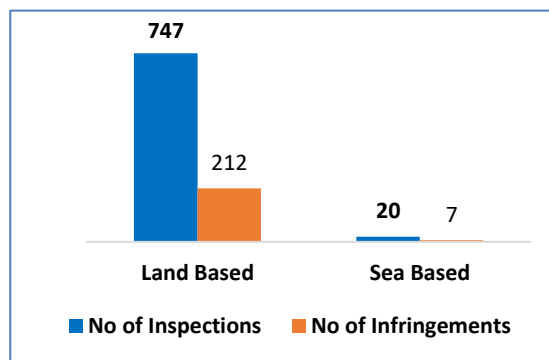


Figure: 10 Number of Infringements identified during Patrol



Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division



Table 7 below details the types of infringements identified during compliance operations conducted in 2022-2023. The most common infringement, as highlighted in the table, involves the harvesting, selling, or offering for sale of prohibited and restricted species regulated under Regulation 4 of the Offshore Fisheries Management Regulations (OFMR) 2014.

**Table 7:** Types of infringements that were identified during the 2022-2023 fiscal year

Infringements Identified	2022						2023						Grand Total
Legal Notice 17 of 1997, Fisheries Act CAP 158							1						1
Regulation 19, Fisheries Act CAP 158	2		1	5			2			1		5	16
Regulation 25B, Fisheries Act CAP 158							6						6
Regulation 4 - OFMR 2014	75	11	7	1			3	8		23	4		132
Regulation 5 - OFMR 2014		4	5		4	2	1		5	1	3	5	30
Regulation 7 - Fisheries Act CAP 158							1						1
Schedule 6, Regulation 18 - Fisheries Act CAP 158		3	3	11	12	4	3	2		3			41
Section 10 (4)				1									1
Section 5(3) - Fisheries Act CAP 158										3			3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>231</b>

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, 132 infringements were identified against Regulation 4 of the Offshore Fisheries Management Regulations 2014. These infringements included the possession and exposure for sale of fish that were subject to seasonal or species restrictions. Additionally, 41 infringements were identified against Schedule 6, Regulation 18 of the Fisheries Act CAP 158, which involved the exposure for sale of undersized fish. Furthermore, 30 infringements were noted against Regulation 5 of the Offshore Fisheries Management Regulations 2014 for the possession or exposure for sale of fish species listed in CITES Appendices I and II.

Three types of formal actions are undertaken for identified infringements:

1. **Formal Warnings** are issued for minor offenses and certain first-time offenses.
2. **Formal Charges** are laid for violations of the Fisheries Act CAP 158.
3. **Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)** are served for offenses against the Offshore Fisheries Management Act 2012 and the Offshore Fisheries Management Regulations 2014.

**Table 8:** Formal Charges laid and Fixed Penalty Notices served during the 2022-2023 fiscal year

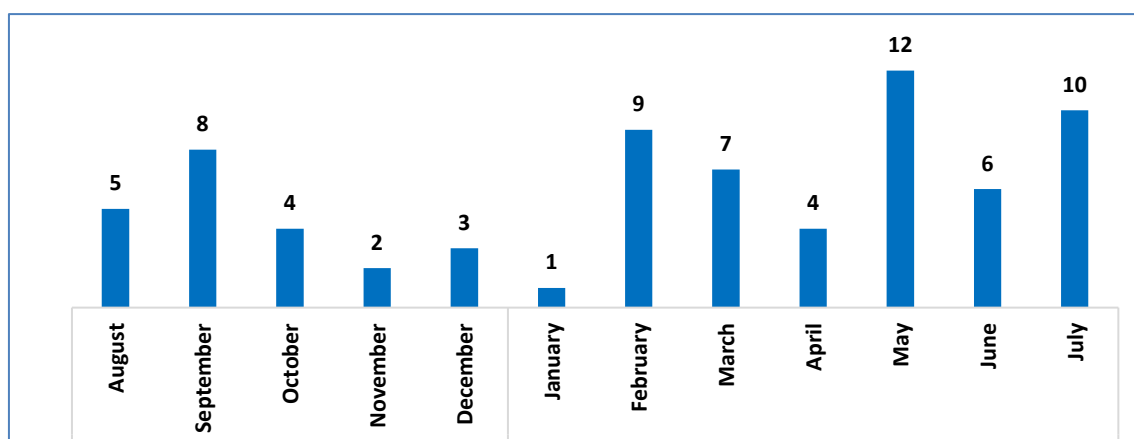
Infringement Identified	2022				2023		Grand Total
	June	August	October	November	February	June	
Legal Notice 17/1997, Section 9 - Fisheries Act CAP 158				3			3
Regulation 4 - OFMR 2014	2						2
Regulation 5 - OFMR 2014		1	3		1	1	6
Section 5(3) - Fisheries Act CAP 158				3			3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

A total of 8 Fixed Penalty Notices were served for offending against the Offshore Fisheries Management Regulations, 2014. In addition, 6 formal charges were laid for offending against the Fisheries Act CAP 158.

At the end of the financial year, 35 cases were being heard in the Magistrates Courts, handled by the Ministry Prosecutors. These prosecutors are trained Fisheries Officers by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. For the same period, 6 cases were being heard in the High Court in Labasa, as a result of the defendants appealing their sentences from the Magistrates courts, handled by prosecutors from the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions.

Figure: 11 Number of court cases attended monthly for the 2022 – 2023 fiscal year.



Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

### Training attended

Table 9 shows the details of the 5 training sessions attended by compliance officers for capacity building in the 2022–2023 fiscal year.

Table 9: Table of training attended in the 2022 -2023 fiscal year

Date	Training	Officer Attended
06/06/22 - 11/11/22	Certificate IV – Coastal Fisheries in Aquaculture and Compliance	Emoni M
14/03/23 - 15/03/23	Investigation training	Priyashna S
15/05/23 - 20/05/23	Compliance Authorization Training	Priyashna S George N
26/06/23 - 30/06/23	Japan International Cooperation Agency Coastal Fisheries Management Training	Emoni M
05/07/23 - 07/07/23	Japan International Cooperation Agency Crab Training	Liliana R

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

### Challenges and Possible solutions

In the 2022-2023 financial year, the compliance unit faced key challenges, including resource constraints and operational inefficiencies. The lack of vessels and captains led to the suspension of sea operations, reducing visibility at sea. To address this, partnerships with the Fiji Police Force, Fiji Navy, and other regions are being strengthened for joint operations and resource sharing. The small operations team also struggled with comprehensive inspections in busy markets, leading to missed compliance data. To improve this, regional officers are being trained and involved in operations to enhance documentation and reporting.

Additionally, the absence of a dedicated compliance database hindered timely data updates due to reliance on Google spreadsheets and connectivity issues. Ongoing discussions with SPC aim to implement a tailored compliance database for better data management. The unit also faced challenges with inconsistent enforcement messaging due to varying legal interpretations, which will be addressed by developing standardized information packages. Lastly, the high cost of bringing prosecutors from Suva to the Northern Division will be mitigated by training local staff in prosecution, building regional capacity, and reducing expenses.

### Policy and Intelligence Unit

The unit is primarily responsible for formulating evidence-based coastal fisheries policies and management plans that align with existing fisheries legislation and propose amendments to the current Act. Despite being operated by a single officer, the unit has made significant progress, drafting six commodity management plans and five policies, and formalizing partnerships through Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with various agencies. A priority project, the Sea Cucumber Management Plan, is currently under final review by the **Pacific Community (SPC) Legal Advisor** before endorsement. The unit has also engaged with the New Zealand Government and SPC for policy reviews, training, and expert guidance on policy formulation. Stakeholder meetings and consultations have been critical in information sharing and planning with agencies such as the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, the Republic of Fiji Navy, and the Fiji Police Force. These meetings have focused on operational planning, intelligence gathering, and drafting an MoU to strengthen joint efforts in monitoring, control, surveillance, and enforcement.

The unit has also been involved in reviewing the **Fisheries Act of 1941**, the **Offshore Fisheries Management Act (OFMA) of 2012**, and the **Offshore Fisheries Management Regulations (OFMR) of 2014**, completing a legal gap analysis to develop fit-for-purpose legislation. An MoU with the Ministry of Local Government is under discussion to enhance cooperation on data collection and enforcement within municipal markets. Additionally, the unit has been reviewing the Beche-de-mer (BDM) Management Plan with input from **Te Patuitanga, New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (NZMPI)**, and SPC. Training sessions such as the **Indian Ocean Regional Information Sharing (IORIS)** have been conducted to improve information sharing and operational coordination among participating agencies.

Challenges faced by the Policy and Intel Unit include limited data and information, balancing socioeconomic considerations with conservation objectives, lack of technical expertise, and limited institutional capacity. Solutions include equipping the Research Division with necessary resources, balancing conservation and socioeconomic needs, building capacity, and expanding the divisional structure to address complex issues. For intelligence-related challenges, improved data collection and sharing, capacity building, resource allocation, public-private partnerships, and technological modernization are recommended. These steps aim to enhance the effectiveness of fisheries management and intelligence operations, ensuring sustainable fisheries practices in Fiji.

### Data Management Unit

The re-establishment of the Data Collection program represents a significant achievement for the Data Management Unit this fiscal year. We successfully recruited 12 data collectors who are based in respective regional divisions. A robust methodology was developed to ensure standardized data collection across major fish markets in Fiji, providing valuable information that supports effective monitoring and policy development.

### Activities and Achievements

#### Inshore Fisheries Database

The development of the inshore fisheries database is ongoing. The original version, created using Microsoft Access, has faced numerous user issues despite training and trials conducted in the four divisions. Looking ahead, the plan includes centralizing the database/server at the Ministry Headquarters, incorporating data needs from various divisions, and transitioning to an online domain for easier access and efficient management. This approach aims to streamline database management and enhance user accessibility.

#### Transition to Electronic Market Survey Data Collection

The transition from manual data collection forms to electronic data collection using the Ikasavea App has been a major advancement. Data collectors have been using tablets provided by SPC and JICA to record market data. Initially focused on finfish, the data collection program has expanded to include non-fish commodities under the JICA SDG small-scale project. This fiscal year, a total of 38,108 entries were recorded, with an average of 3,175 entries per month.

The transition to electronic data collection offers several advantages, including a paperless method that simplifies data recording and transfer, and the elimination of the need for data entry from paper forms. However, there have been challenges such as minor issues with data uploading from the Ikasavea App, occasional system crashes, and difficulties with new software updates. The Division is working closely with SPC and the FAME Division to address these issues.

### JICA Project

The Inshore Fisheries Management Division proposed a small-scale project under the JICA SDG 14 initiative, focusing on non-fish data collection and analysis. The project aims to estimate the value of inshore non-fish commodities in Fiji's formal and informal markets. The Project Design Matrix (PDM) outlines objectives to enhance data collection and develop management strategies for these high-value commodities.

As part of this project, market vendor profiling was conducted in major markets selling non-fish commodities, including additional profiling in the Central, North, and West Divisions. These efforts have contributed to a better understanding of the market dynamics for non-fish products. A total of 133 formal market vendors, 7 formal market vendors and 8 fish shops have been profiled under the JICA SDG 14 small scale project in the 3 Divisions (Table 10).

**Table 10:** the number of vendors and fish shops profiled in the 3 Divisions

Division	Markets	Number of Formal Market Vendors	Number of Informal Market Vendors	Number of Fish Shops
Central	Bailey Bridge Municipal Market	1	7	8
	Fletcher Roadside Stall	1		
	Laqere Market	11		
	Nausori Municipal Market	10		
	Nokonoko Market	1		
	Suva Municipal Market	3		
Western	Lautoka Fishermen Market	22	-	
Northern	Nabouwalu Fishermen Association	2		
	Labasa Fish Market	73		
	Nuku Fish Market	2		
	Savusavu Fish Market	1	-	
	Savusavu Municipal Market	13		

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

### Training

Output 1, Activity 3 of the Project Design Matrix (PDM) focused on training Data Collectors in the Northern Division on non-fish data collection. This year, from January 5 to January 8, 2023, the Senior Fisheries Officer from the Inshore Fisheries Management Division (IFMD) and the FA Data team conducted training sessions in the Northern Division. Subsequently, from January 13 to January 14, 2023, similar training was provided to IFMD officers in the Western Division.

The primary objective of these training sessions was to enhance the skills of IFMD officers, including Data Collectors and Compliance Officers, stationed at the regional offices. The training covered two main areas:

- Non-fish Species Identification:** Officers were trained to accurately identify various non-fish species, which is crucial for reliable data collection and analysis.
- Non-fish Market Survey Data Collection Methodology:** The training also focused on methodologies for collecting market survey data related to non-fish commodities, ensuring that the data gathered is consistent and of high quality.

**Table 11:** List of training participants for the 2 trainings in the Northern and Western Divisions.

Division	Number of Participants	Name of the Participants	Role
Northern	5	Mataiasi Bose	Data Collector
		Alisi Diuvu	Data Collector
		Vane Voce	Data Collector
		Ratu Joji	Compliance Officer
		Emoni Muatabu	Compliance Officer
Western	3	Usenia	Data Collector
		Seremana	Data Collector
		Saula	Data Collector

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division



Fisheries Assistant Data, Ms. Litea Visa, demonstrates techniques during the practical session with Northern training participants (Data Collectors : Vane, Alisi, and Mataiasi) (right)

#### Non-Finfish Data Collection Program

Under the JICA small-scale project, the team collected non-fish data from three divisions. 396 market surveys were conducted, resulting in the recording of 43 non-fish species traded through these markets.

**Output 1, Activity 4** of the Project Design Matrix (PDM) involves incorporating non-fish data into the Ikasavea database managed by SPC. Since May 2023, the Ikasavea App has been used to record and upload data to the SPC online database, with 115 entries recorded as of July 24, 2023.

**Output 1, Activity 5** of the PDM focuses on conducting consistent market surveys for non-fish commodities. While data collection using the Ikasavea App began in May 2023, non-fish data collection has been ongoing since January 2022 in the Western, Northern, and Central Divisions by IFMD Data Collectors.

Since the initiation of data collection on non-fish commodities in early 2022, the IFMD Division has recorded a total value of \$555,685.00, with a corresponding volume of 41,087 kg (41 tonnes) at seven major markets in Fiji (Table 12). This non-fish data collection extends the ongoing finfish data collection at these markets.

The Lautoka Fishermen Market recorded significant sales of high-value commodities such as lobsters (*Panulirus versicolor* and *P. pencilatus*) and slipper lobsters (*Parribacus caledonicus*), and octopus. Conversely, the Nausori Municipal Market reported the largest volume of non-fish commodities, totaling 21,885 kg (21 tonnes). This market primarily deals in freshwater mussels (*Batissa violacea*) and mud crabs (*Scylla serrata*), which are generally of lower value compared to the lobsters sold at Lautoka Fishermen Market.

Overall, the four major markets in the Central Division—Suva Municipal Market, Nokonoko Market, Laqere Market, and Nausori Municipal Market—reported a combined total of \$296,763 and 29,618 kg of non-fish commodities. In the Western region, the Lautoka Fishermen and Lautoka Municipal Markets reported a total of 10,731 kg of non-fish commodities valued at \$255,033. The Labasa Fish Market in the Northern Division

recorded 738 kg of non-fish commodities, with a value of \$3,889.00

**Table 12** The summary of the non-fish commodities from seven markets

Market	Total Weight (Kg)	Total Value (\$)	No. of Pcs in heaps	No. of heaps
Suva Municipal Market	3552.76	\$112,077.50	4813	4045
Nokonoko Market	135.5	\$290.00	0	54
Laqere Market	4043.597	\$10,275.00	99	2126
Nausori Municipal Market	21885.844	\$174,120.21	8061	9441
Lautoka Fishermen Market	10014.0667	\$251,755.47	833	0
Lautoka Municipal Market	717.4	\$3,278.00	95	158
Labasa Fish Market	738.12	\$3,888.67	96	271

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

**Table 13** Total weight and value of the finfish recorded at Lautoka Fishermen Market from 2022 – 2023 in the throughput data collection.

Local Fish Name	Total Weight (Kg)	Total Value (\$)
Rawarawa/Uravi/Ulurua/Nakarawarawa	17950.44	\$135,081.13
Donu(Batisai)	15068.03	\$288,002.02
Kawakawa	14046.52	\$160,051.97
Saqa / Vilu	13827.74	\$120,879.94
Ta	11999.70	\$102,045.36
Walu	10985.21	\$166,807.79
Ogo/Silasila	10650.70	\$77,301.64
Kolekole(Sevaseva)	8458.44	\$67,001.46
Balagi	7847.04	\$58,286.75
Corocoro	5025.51	\$35,462.15
Kabatia	4978.05	\$35,121.43
Dridri	4821.07	\$34,285.27
Damu (Tiri damu)	4221.08	\$31,185.44
Nuqa	3694.46	\$25,721.93
Bo / Rosi ni bogi	2960.81	\$20,918.29
Yatu (Tuna/Skip Jack)	2170.00	\$20,206.70
Sabutu/Sabutu Damu	2048.18	\$14,159.83
Kawago	2001.58	\$14,649.91
Dokonivudi(Gusula)	1760.53	\$15,424.59
Kerekereicula	1524.97	\$10,869.43
Latinidaveta(Baba/Vunavuna)	1103.42	\$7,936.57
Kake	1073.71	\$7,325.78
Draunikura	1028.20	\$7,054.99
Ose/ Cucu	972.26	\$6,721.10
Qitawa	703.83	\$4,795.25
Dabea	603.96	\$4,560.18
Utouto	549.14	\$3,996.88
Mama (Matauliwai)/ Snapper	507.02	\$3,394.33
Kacika	441.52	\$3,039.15
Kanace	406.18	\$2,829.21
Sokisoki	303.10	\$2,092.68
Ika ni Vatu	168.99	\$1,168.19
Mesa/Regurawa	132.62	\$906.79
Salala(Mackerel)/ Salala ni toga	126.20	\$692.60
Batidamu	99.12	\$708.24
Laidamu	91.36	\$604.01
Guru	81.74	\$572.18
Kavu	62.60	\$438.20
Saku	45.16	\$351.53
Matu	43.55	\$233.10
Cumu	25.87	\$181.09
Big Eye Tuna	15.45	\$92.70
Ika Toa	15.30	\$107.10
Yavula	13.65	\$95.55
Aluya	13.60	\$95.20
Pakapaka	12.80	\$89.60
Busa	6.88	\$48.16
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>154,687.29</b>	<b>\$1,493,593.38</b>

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

### Fisheries Production Data Collection

The data collection on Fisheries production is only undertaken at the Lautoka Fishermen's Wharf. This data is a representation of the number of finfish and non-fish commodities that are landed at the wharf and passes through the Lautoka Fishermen's Wharf at a point in time. This data can also be reflected as the throughput data. The main sources for these fisheries products are from the maritime islands of Mamanuca and Yasawas.

#### Finfish

The production data at the Lautoka Fishermen Market is collected using the local names and usually grouped together by families as it makes the process quicker for the fishermen. This data is subjected to finfish landed at the Lautoka Fishermen Wharf and is passing through the Lautoka Fishermen market at the time of data collection.

The production data is categorized by 47 local fish names (Table 13) with a total weight and value of 154,68kg and \$14, 935, 93 FJD respectively (Figure 8). Rawarawa/ Ulavi/ Ulurua/ Nakarawarawa (*Chlorurus microrhinos*) recorded the highest total weight of 17, 950kg and Busa (*Hemiramphus far*) recorded the least i.e. 7kg. On the contrary, the highest value of finfish is recorded for Donu/Batisai (*Plectropomus areolatus*) at \$28, 8002 FJD and lowest recorded for Busa (*Hemiramphus far*) at \$48 FJD. The volume for Donu (Batisai), which is a high valued A-Grade fish, was recorded at 15 tonnes i.e. 15, 068kg.

It is also important to note, that majority of the fisheries products being landed at the Fisheries Wharf is sold directly to middlemen and are not traded at the Fishermen market.

#### Note:

- Rawarawa/Ulavi/Ulurua/Nakarawarawa – Parrotfish Family
- Donu (Batisai) – Coral Trout
- Busa - Black-barred halfbeak

#### Non-finish

The total volume recorded was ~ 13 tonnes and at a value of FJD 454,975 (Table 14). The commodities are categorized and summarized under common names. For example, the crab category contains crab species which includes *Carpilius maculatus* and *Etisus splendidus*. Spiny lobsters mainly include *Panulirus versicolor* and *P. penicillatus* while slipper lobsters include *Parribacus caledonicus*. Giant clams and Octopus include all the species of giant clams and octopus.

**Table 14: Estimated total volume of non-finish commodities recorded at the Lautoka Fishermen Market for 2022-2023**

Non-Finish Commodities	Total Weight (Kg)	Total Value (\$)
Reef Crab	3,762.45	23,759.75
Slipper Lobster	2,471.69	71,068.83
Spiny Lobster	6,876.64	351,201.28
Octopus	591.70	8,098.15
Giant clam	117.40	847.75
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13,819.88</b>	<b>454,975.76</b>

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

#### Market Survey Data Collection Program

During the fiscal year 2022-2023, the data collection officers have logged 18,568 surveys and have recorded 221 different commercial food finfish species through the 10 major fish markets around Fiji.

#### National Market Survey Summary

A total of 1,116 market surveys have been conducted in this fiscal year. Central Division accounted for the majority of market surveys undertaken i.e. 553; Western Division at 382 and Northern Division at 181 (Table 15). The target set for market surveys for 2022-2023 was 900. The target has been over-achieved with the dedication and commitment of the data collectors and the team including the support from the Regions and Functional Divisions.

**Table 15:** Number of market surveys conducted at major fish markets in Fiji.

Division	Market	Number of market surveys conducted
Central	Suva Municipal Market	94
	Bailey Bridge Municipal Market	112
	Nokonoko Market	89
	Laqere Market	125
	Nausori Municipal Market	133
Western	Lautoka Fishermen Market	292
	Lautoka Municipal Market	57
	Ba Municipal Market	33
Northern	Labasa Fish Market	140
	Savusavu Municipal Market	34
	Nuku Fish Market	5
	Nabouwalu Fishermen Association	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,116</b>

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

### Top Ten Species of Most Valuable Finfish Recorded Nationally

**Table:16** Top 10 species of finfish of most valuable recorded nationally for 2022-2023.

Species	Common Name	Local Name	Average Price (\$) / kg
<i>Variola albimarginata</i>	White-edged lyre tail	Varavaranitoga/ damu/ Nitoga	25.00
<i>Plectropomus leopardus</i>	Leopard coral grouper	Donu/Donu damu	23.68
<i>Epinephelus coeruleopunctatus</i>	White spotted grouper	Kawakawa ni tiri	20.98
<i>Epinephelus maculatus</i>	High fin grouper	Kasala/Kasalaninubu/ Kawakawa	20.48
<i>Plectropomus laevis</i>	Black saddled coral grouper	Donuloa/Lava/Donu	19.75
<i>Epinephelus polyphekadion</i>	Camouflage grouper	Kasala/Kawakawa/ Kerakera/ Qenuku	19.37
<i>Variola louti</i>	Yellow-edged lyre tail	Varavaranitoga/ damu/ Nitoga	18.21
<i>Plectropomus areolatus</i>	Squairetail coral grouper	Donu/ Donudamu	17.77
<i>Epinephelus cyanopodus</i>	Speckled blue grouper	Ceva/Raravuya/ Rogoceva	16.08
<i>Epinephelus howlandi</i>	Black saddle grouper	Kawakawa	15.80

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

The table above (Table 16) shows the top ten (10) average prices of finfish species (\$/kg) being recorded during market surveys. It is very interesting to note that the top ranging prices is recorded for species belonging to the Grouper (Serranidae) Family and these includes *Variola albimarginata*, *Plectropomus leopardus*, *Epinephelus coeruleopunctatus*, *Epinephelus maculatus*, *Plectropomus laevis*, *Epinephelus polyphekadion*, *Variola louti*, *Plectropomus areolatus*, *Epinephelus cyanopodus* and *Epinephelus howlandi*.

### Count of Finfish Surveyed

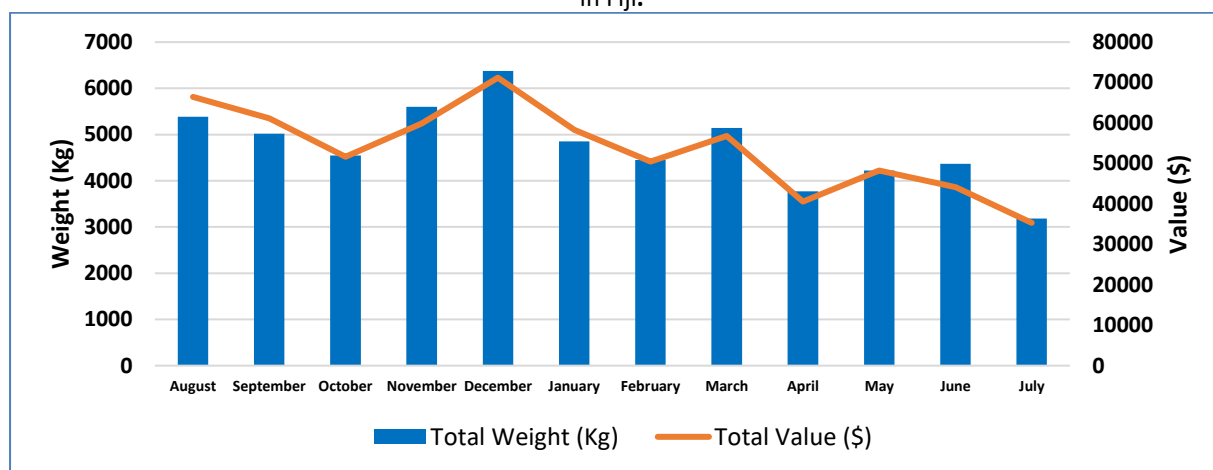
**Table 17:** Total number of fish surveyed in each division during 2022-2023

Division	Fish Count
Central	34,167
Northern	19,162
Western	27,690
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,019</b>

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division



**Figure: 12** The national annual estimated volume (kg) and value (FJD) of finfish at the designated fish markets in Fiji.



Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

The graph above (Figure 12) depicts the total annual volume and value of finfish recorded at 10 markets around Fiji, amounting to 56,918 kg and \$644,148 FJD, respectively.

Overall, there was a general decline in the data collected from the markets due to the following reasons:

1. The lifting of the ban on beche-de-mer allowed many fishermen to engage in this fishery, potentially reducing the focus on finfish.
2. The IFMD Data Unit was generally understaffed due to vacancies left by resignations or promotions, leading to reduced data collection.
3. The increase in fuel costs could have contributed to a reduction in fishing effort, thus resulting in a decline in catch.
4. There were issues with a lack of drivers or vehicles in the Northern and Western Divisions, which limited data collection at markets like Ba Municipal Market in the Western Division and Savusavu Municipal Market in the Northern Division.

**Table 18.** Total volume (kg) of finfish surveyed by month during 2022-2023.

Division	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Central	2031.901	2252.471	1880.13	2112.48	2354.74	2244.71	2404.41	2714.16	1828.97	1969.71	1669.57	1573.78
Northern	1273.143	912.79	492.56	1046.29	794.74	709.23	599.22	747.18	819.45	862.78	996.1	616.47
Western	2080.733	1854.07	2173.02	2442.96	3227.56	1895.55	1445.9	1684.05	1122.9	1390.7	1698.45	994.89
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5385.777</b>	<b>5019.331</b>	<b>4545.71</b>	<b>5601.73</b>	<b>6377.04</b>	<b>4849.49</b>	<b>4449.53</b>	<b>5145.39</b>	<b>3771.32</b>	<b>4223.19</b>	<b>4364.12</b>	<b>3185.14</b>

**Table 19.** Estimated value (in FJD) of finfish surveyed during 2022-2023.

Division	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Central	\$29,350.30	\$30,811.00	\$23,635.00	\$25,745.00	\$28,676.00	\$31,459.00	\$29,682.30	\$32,380.15	\$21,218.40	\$25,364.00	\$20,230.00	\$20,354.00
Northern	\$12,042.22	\$8,748.55	\$4,804.72	\$9,650.41	\$7,719.90	\$6,218.60	\$5,307.91	\$6,298.30	\$6,540.49	\$6,972.35	\$7,437.45	\$4,723.83
Western	\$25,067.00	\$21,624.00	\$23,225.50	\$24,448.00	\$34,807.60	\$20,592.00	\$15,476.70	\$18,090.00	\$12,836.60	\$15,900.00	\$ 6,479.00	\$10,232.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$66,459.52</b>	<b>\$61,183.55</b>	<b>\$51,665.22</b>	<b>\$59,843.41</b>	<b>\$71,203.50</b>	<b>\$58,269.60</b>	<b>\$50,466.91</b>	<b>\$56,768.45</b>	<b>\$40,595.49</b>	<b>\$48,236.35</b>	<b>\$44,146.45</b>	<b>\$35,309.83</b>

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

The tables provided offer a detailed breakdown of the total volume and estimated value of finfish surveyed monthly across the Central, Northern, and Western Divisions during the 2022-2023 period. Table 18 highlights that the Central Division consistently recorded the highest volumes of finfish, particularly in December, while

the Northern Division exhibited lower volumes, with a significant dip in October. The Western Division experienced its peak in December before declining in subsequent months. Correspondingly, Table 19 shows the estimated financial value of the finfish, with the Central Division contributing the highest values throughout the year, peaking in January. In contrast, the Northern Division consistently reported lower financial returns, with its lowest in October. The Western Division, similar to its volume trend, reached its highest estimated value in December. Tables 20, 21 and 22 show the top ten species by value found during the market surveys in the Central, Northern, and Western divisions respectively.

**Table 20:** Top ten species by value for Central Division found during the 2022-2023 market surveys

Species	Common Name	Local Fish Names	Value (\$)
<i>Naso unicornis</i>	Bluespine Unicornfish	Ta/Talele/Jivijivi/Tivitivi/ Lele	36,623.21
<i>Plectropomus leopardus</i>	Leopard Coral Grouper	Donu/Donu damu /Salmon Cod	32,720.75
<i>Hipposcarus longiceps</i>	Pacific Longnose Parrotfish	Ulavi	24,397.25
<i>Caranx papuensis</i>	Brassy Trevally	N Saqa/Kodro	24,320.66
<i>Lethrinus olivaceus</i>	Longface Emperor	Dokonivudi/ Gusula/Leu	20,740.3
<i>Epinephelus fuscoguttatus</i>	Brown-marbled Grouper	Kasala/Kawakawa/Kerakera / Celabulewa/ Votoqa	20,241.2
<i>Acanthurus xanthopterus</i>	Yellowfin Surgeonfish	Balagi/Balagi nawa/lakere	19,889.24
<i>Lutjanus argentimaculatus</i>	Mangrove Red Snapper	Damu/Damuniveitiri	18,088.58
<i>Lethrinus nebulosus</i>	Spangled Emperor	Kawago	15,669
<i>Plectorhinchus chaetodonoides</i>	Many-spotted Sweetlips	Sevaseva/Gusubi/Kolekole/Kolele	15,647.06

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

**Table 21:** Top ten species by value for Northern Division found during the 2022-2023 market surveys.

Species	Common Name	Local Name	Value (\$)
<i>Naso unicornis</i>	Bluespine Unicornfish	Ta/Talele/Jivijivi	\$9,964.91
<i>Caranx papuensis</i>	Brassy Trevally	Saqa/Kodro	\$5,925.96
<i>Rastrelliger kanagurta</i>	Indian Mackerel	Salala/Salala bitubitu	\$5,892.05
<i>Crenimugil crenilabis</i>	Fringelip Mullet	Kanace/Seni kanace/Sevou	\$5,595.80
<i>Lethrinus olivaceus</i>	Longface Emperor	Dokonivudi/ Gusula/Leu	\$3,652.95
<i>Hipposcarus longiceps</i>	Pacific Longnose Parrotfish	Ulavi	\$2,038.25
<i>Lutjanus gibbus</i>	Humpback Red Snapper	Bo/Yabo/Sabuta damu	\$2,022.55
<i>Lethrinus xanthochilus</i>	Yellowlip Emperor	Kacika/kasika	\$1,937.88
<i>Acanthurus xanthopterus</i>	Yellowfin Surgeonfish	Balagi/Balagi nawa/ laker	\$1,937.24
<i>Caranx ignobilis</i>	Giant Trevally	Saqa/Saqa leka	\$1,483.47

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

**Table 22:** Top ten species by value for Western Division found during the 2022-2023 market surveys.

Species	Common Name	Local Name	Value (\$)
<i>Plectropomus leopardus</i>	Leopard Coral Grouper	Donu/Donu damu	\$ 27,985.00
<i>Hipposcarus longiceps</i>	Pacific Longnose Parrotfish	Ulavi	\$ 12,944.00
<i>Naso unicornis</i>	Bluespine Unicornfish	Ta/Talele/Jivijivi	\$ 12,189.30
<i>Plectorhinchus chaetodonoides</i>	Many-Spotted Sweetlips	Sevaseva/Gusubi/ Kolekole/Kolele	\$ 10,364.00
<i>Epinephelus fuscoguttatus</i>	Brown-Marbled Grouper	Kasala/Kawakawa/Kerakera / Celabulewa/ Votoqa	\$ 9,345.00
<i>Epinephelus coioides</i>	Orange-Spotted Grouper	Soisoi/Votosiga/ kawakawa	\$ 8,682.00
<i>Acanthurus xanthopterus</i>	Yellowfin Surgeonfish	Balagi/Balagi nawa/ lakere	\$ 8,552.00
<i>Plectropomus areolatus</i>	Squairetail Coral Grouper	Donu/ Donudamu	\$ 8,422.40
<i>Lutjanus argentimaculatus</i>	Mangrove Red Snapper	Damu/Damuniveitiri	\$ 7,414.60
<i>Caranx ignobilis</i>	Giant Trevally	Saqa/Saqa leka	\$ 6,660.00

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

### Annual Estimated Volume and Value of Non-finish

Table 23 shows the non-finish data collected in the three Divisions through the market surveys conducted in designated markets. The total value of non-finish recorded from the market survey is estimated at \$548,159 FJD. This is an extrapolated analysis from data collected under the JICA small scale project.

**Table 23:** Annual estimated value (FJD) of non-finish commodities at the Central, Western, and Northern markets.

Commodities	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	
<b>Gastropods</b>													
Strombus Shells		\$200.00											
Trochus	\$1,700		\$560	\$250	\$315	\$825	\$520	\$650		\$400	\$95	\$24	
<b>Mollusks</b>											\$15		
Chiton													
Cone Snail	\$2	\$70		\$35									
Moon Snail	\$120	\$15		\$95	\$105	\$35	\$80	\$40		\$15			
Red-lipped	\$190	\$50	\$425	\$498	\$120	\$380	\$147	\$30					
Stromb													
Sea Hares	\$15	\$15	\$20				\$5				\$20		
Sea snail						\$175		\$15					
Spider Shell		\$8	\$10		\$60	\$80	\$110	\$30		\$35	\$50	\$30	
Strombus Shells		\$15	\$95										
Top shell								\$15					
Wormsnail		\$5	\$70	\$80	\$150	\$40	\$120	\$35					
<b>Edible</b>												\$261	
Sea Grapes													
Seagrapes	\$235	\$80	\$150	\$146	\$262	\$325	\$299	\$392	\$170	\$319	\$249	\$48	
Seaweed	\$85	\$60	\$40				\$19	\$45	\$42	\$24	\$8	\$53	
<b>Freshwater Mussels</b>	\$1,835	\$845	\$1,820	\$2,770	\$4,085	\$4,305	\$4,769	\$3,692	\$1,825	\$2,227	\$2,438	\$3,150	
<b>Bivalves</b>													
Giant Clams	\$65	\$450	\$175	\$275	\$238	\$557	\$315	\$260		\$353	\$17	\$474	
			\$720	\$510	\$765	\$1,180	\$115	\$875	\$745	\$335	\$30	\$1,120	
<b>Land Crabs</b>													
<b>Lobster</b>													
Brown Lobster	\$11,496	\$430		\$4,958	\$6,745	\$6,082	\$2,752	\$2,888	\$585	\$8,654	\$6,074	\$4,641	
Green Lobster	\$23,758	\$1,400	\$12,146	\$16,311	\$18,943	\$19,599	\$18,819	\$9,949	\$3,367	\$30,368	\$17,317	\$20,380	
Red-clawed crab (Kuka)	\$50		\$95	\$80		\$110	\$20	\$20					
Mangrove Oyster			\$400			\$40	\$230			\$30	\$10	\$70	
Marine	Antique Ark	\$25	\$50	\$85			\$10	\$30				\$90	
Bivalves	Granular Ark	\$190	\$130	\$120	\$160	\$185	\$92	\$240	\$257	\$142	\$286	\$252	\$423
Marine	Giant triton shell						\$5						
<b>Gastropods</b>													
Mud Crabs		\$10,635	\$9,140	\$8,095	\$12,102	\$8,820	\$16,440	\$17,648	\$14,096	\$2,540	\$7,285	\$5,189	\$8,005
Mud Lobster						\$200	\$325	\$30	\$495	\$140	\$195	\$30	\$150
Octopus		\$1,669	\$375	\$565	\$975	\$355	\$525	\$635	\$1,178		\$1,660	\$4,447	\$1,051
<b>Prawns</b>													
Giant Tiger Prawns		\$320	\$625	\$483	\$475	\$595	\$740			\$1,715	\$515	\$420	
Mangrove Prawn	\$797	\$626	\$498	\$579	\$423	\$1,655	\$1,129	\$944	\$337	\$706	\$248	\$401	
Monkey River Prawn											\$80	\$1,050	
Rough River Prawn	\$3,391	\$2,865	\$1,805	\$2,755	\$2,801	\$4,380	\$2,770	\$3,655	\$1,155	\$2,495	\$535	\$335	
Tiger Prawns							\$250	\$632					
<b>Reef Crabs</b>													
Red Splendidus Crabs	\$337												
Brown Splendidus Crabs	\$520		\$796	\$523	\$1,614	\$1,487	\$621	\$866	\$217	\$1,324		\$122	
Spotted Reef Crabs	\$1,232		\$333	\$240		\$1,526	\$231	\$31		\$810	\$898	\$800	
Sea cucumber	\$105	\$45	\$495	\$570	\$490	\$460	\$490	\$580				\$50	
Sea Urchin		\$10		\$90	\$20								
Slipper Lobster	Caledonia mitten Lobster	\$3,819	\$510	\$2,053	\$2,481	\$4,030	\$7,902	\$3,493	\$3,150	\$313	\$8,958	\$2,832	\$2,896
Squid		\$15											
Tiger cowry		\$4				\$30	\$15						
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$62,271</b>	<b>\$17,733</b>	<b>\$32,195</b>	<b>\$46,966</b>	<b>\$51,201</b>	<b>\$69,150</b>	<b>\$56,626</b>	<b>\$44,849</b>	<b>\$11,578</b>	<b>\$68,194</b>	<b>\$41,349</b>	<b>\$46,044</b>	

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

### Limitations

- In July 2022, the BDM (Beche-de-Mer) fishery was temporarily opened for harvest. This led to a decrease in fish supply, resulting in reduced data collection from the markets.
- Data from the Eastern Division is not included in the national dataset due to the absence of Data Collectors and the lack of an identified market for continuous data collection.
- Recent changes in weather and climatic conditions have also contributed to decreased fishing effort and a reduction in the volume of products sold in markets.

### Data Assumptions

- **Sampling Bias:** Not every bundle that passes through the market is sampled; only the fish on display at the time of the survey are surveyed.
- **Response Bias:** Some vendor responses may be exaggerated, and this should be considered when interpreting the data.
- **Non-Response Bias:** Not all vendors choose to share information or allow their products to be surveyed.

### Awareness Programs

- **Fisher Forum for Central Division:** Organized by CChange, with presentations by Litea (Data) and Lui (Compliance) on 05/04/23.
- **Fiji Day Celebration:** Attended by DCO Usenia and Saula in the Western Division on 08/10/22.
- **World Oceans Day:** Fisheries Exhibition held at Albert Park, Suva, on 08/06/23.

### Stakeholder Collaboration and Meetings

- **BDM Data Collection:** Meeting with SFO West regarding BDM Data Collection in the Western Division from 12/09/22-14/09/22.
- **SPC Meeting:** Meeting with Andrew from SPC at Walu Bay Office, attended by PFO IFMD, SFO IFMD, FO Data, and FA Data on 15/02/23.
- **IMR Team Meeting:** Held at Walu Bay Office, attended by DCO Litia Y., DCO Priyashna, and DCO Adiwaqa on 20/02/23.
- **CChange Collaboration:** Meeting regarding the Central & Eastern Fisher Forum on 14/03/22.
- **Fisheries Report Review:** Review of the Characterization Fisheries Report, attended by SFO IFMD & FA Data, organized by the Waitt Foundation on 29/03/23.
- **Science Expedition:** Meeting on Science Expedition in Fiji Waters at the SPC Nabua Conference Room, organized by Blue Prosperity Fiji, on 14/04/23.

### Training Facilitated by Data Analysis and Management Unit

Facilitated by the Data Analysis and Management Unit:

- **Non-Finfish Training in Northern Division:** Conducted from 05/01/23 – 07/01/23.
- **Non-Finfish Training in Western Division:** Conducted from 13/01/23 – 14/01/23.
- **Landing and Market Survey Data Collection Training:** Conducted from 08/05/23 – 13/05/23.

The major inter-divisional training undertaken by the Data and Management Unit under IFMD was the Landing and Market Survey Data Collection training. The purpose of this training was to equip officers from the Eastern, Central, and Research Divisions with the skills to collect data as an extended arm of the data collection program in the inshore fisheries sector. A total of 23 Fisheries Officers were trained, including 2 participants from the Central Division, 12 from the Eastern Division, 6 from the Research Division, and 3 from the Fiji Navy.

### Training and Workshops Attended by Data Unit Officers

**Table 24:** Training and Workshops Attended by Data Unit Officers

Training/Workshop	Organisation	Officers Attended	Date
Certificate IV Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Compliance CBA	USP	Litea Visa	10/11/22 - 11/11/22
Practical for Marine Invasive Species Detection	USP	Shivam Jalam	14/11/22 – 18/11/22
JICA Training on Offshore Fisheries Management	JICA	Vane	29/01/23 – 31/01/23
Turtle Monitoring and Conservation Fiji Workshop	USP	Mataiasi and Alisi	09/08/22
Sea Sketch Workshop			17/08/22
Disaster Risk Management Workshop	MCS	Shivam J & Lolohea	22/09/22
Women's Leadership Training	KOICA	Vane Vocea	26/09/22 – 30/09/22

<b>Program in Marine Bio-Resources Information System</b>			
<b>Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture</b>	FAO/SPC	Litia Yaranamua & Priyashna Singh	18/10/22 - 19/10/22
<b>JICA Training on Offshore Fisheries Management</b>	USP	Vane	01/02/23 – 03/02/23
<b>Disaster Risk Management &amp; Standard Operating Procedures Consultation Workshop</b>	MCS	Litia Y & Priyashna	08/02/23
<b>Surcharge Training</b>	MCS	Litia Y & Litea Visa	28/02/23
<b>Induction Training</b>	Unit	Litia & Priyashna	29/02/23
<b>Discipline Guideline Investigation Officer</b>	MCS	Priyashna S & Adiwaqa Luse B	13/03/23 – 14/03/23

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

**Challenges**

**Table 25:** Challenges Faced by Data Analysis and Management Unit During 2022-2023

Challenges	Solutions
No designated driver to transport data collectors for market surveys in Central Division.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage officers based at IFMD Walu Bay Office to learn driving and get approval for authority to drive.</li> <li>• Request other divisions (Central, Research, Offshore, and Aquaculture) to assist with driving duties.</li> </ul>
Vacant Data Collector positions affecting data collection in Central Division.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Push for vacant positions to be filled as soon as possible.</li> <li>• Officers from Research Division assisted occasionally with market surveys.</li> </ul>
Acting positions undertaken by data collectors leaving positions vacant in Central Division.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek approval for relieving officers to temporarily fill vacant positions.</li> <li>• FA/FO Data to assist with data collection activities in Central Division.</li> </ul>
SPC applications experiencing issues due to updates, slow internet, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request SPC to update apps regularly.</li> <li>• Use paper-based data collection methods; undertake manual data entry on the web database.</li> </ul>
Unavailability of transport in Northern and Western Divisions for data collectors to conduct market surveys.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reimburse travel costs and use petty cash for public transport.</li> </ul>
Difficulty in fish and invertebrate identification for some data collectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue refresher training on fish and invertebrate identification.</li> </ul>

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

**Heads of Division Attendance to Meetings/Workshops and Trainings**
**Table 26: Heads of Division Attendance to Meetings/Workshops and Training**

Training/Workshop/Meetings	Organisation	Officers Attended	Date	Remarks
Virtual Meeting with Regional Director/US Director- CI on GCF Regional Tuna Programme	CI-US and Region	DF, PFO IFMD	14/02/23	Meeting to discuss National consultations on GCF Regional Tuna Programme (scheduled for 20-22 Feb in Fiji).
GCF Ministerial Consultation	CI/SPC (Oceanic)	DF and Managers/SFO	21/02/23	Consultation on gathering information regarding FADs and Tuna catch.
Meeting with SPC Senior Coastal Fisheries Scientist	SPC	PFO IFMD, SFO IFMD, FA Data	15/02/23	Discussions on review and progress of e-data monitoring program and next steps on analysis, reporting, standardization across regions, and coverage.
Aquaculture Regional Consultation - West, North, Central	MoF	PFO IFMD, RMS, PFO Aquaculture	23/02/23, 27/02/23, 28/02/23	Regional consultations on the Aquaculture and Inshore Fisheries sector plans.
Border Agencies - Marine Domain Awareness - US Governance	US Governance	PFO IFMD, PRO, SRO OFD, FO OFD	07-10/03/23	Inter-agency workshop on Maritime domain awareness and proposed way forward in tackling issues in the wider maritime space.
Police and MoF Consultation	MoF	PFO IFMD, SFO IFMD, PRO, FO Compliance, FTO Compliance, Police	09/03/23	Consultation to finalize the draft of the MoU between MoF and Fiji Police Force, including legal review by SG's and EM endorsement and correspondence to FPF.
WCS Meeting on Oceans 5 Funding	MoF/WCS	PFO IFMD, FA Data, WCS	17/03/23	Meeting to discuss proposal from WCS related to Oceans 5 Funding and Activities in the work plan, including support for data collection in the inshore sector.
Heads of Fisheries Meeting	SPC/Noumea, SPC Member Countries	DF, PFO IFMD, PFO Aquaculture	20-26/03/23	Heads of Fisheries Meeting – HoFs15.
Regional SPC Coastal Card Workshop	SPC	PFO IFMD, FA Research	11-12/04/23	Regional Virtual Workshop on reviewing the indicators on Coastal Report cards and Group Sessions by Country reporting.
Fiji Navy/MoF Meeting	MoF	PFO IFMD, FO I&P	14/04/23	Meeting to discuss co-partnership and joint MCS efforts in inshore space, including training needs, secondment opportunities,

					and resource sharing.
Pacific Fisheries Leadership Programme	SPC	PFO IFMD, DC-Adi, FO I&P, FA MCS North-George	26/04/23		Mini-workshop on Leadership and Difficult Conversations, with group work and practical application on team management.
USP/MoF Meeting on Lobster Implementation Plan and Training	USP/IMR, Research/MoF	PRO, IFMD, Fieldman Research, USP/IMR (3)	PFO SFO	16/06/23	Meeting to discuss the data sharing agreement, Lobster Data Collection, and Training under the PEUMP Project, including circulation and review of the Concept Paper.
Courtesy Visit to Director WCS	WCS	PRO, IFMD, Director, WCS Manager	PFO WCS	22/06/23	Meeting to discuss WCS support for MoF priorities and funding opportunities for collaboration on implementing fisheries activities.
Audit Finance Meeting	Ministry of Economy	PFO IFMD, Auditors from MoE		18/07/23	Meeting to discuss IFMD operations with financial risks.

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division

**Table 27: Outcomes from Meetings/Workshops and Training**

Activity/Training	Led by/Person Responsible	Outcomes
Workshop on Regional Implementation Guideline of Community-Based Fisheries Management in Port Vila, Vanuatu by Vanuatu Fisheries Department and JICA Vanuatu	SFO IFMD and SFO Eastern	Contributions to the development guideline made during the 1-week workshop. Draft guideline reviewed and feedback provided to JICA Vanuatu.
Fisheries Characterization Report by WAITT Foundation	PFO and SFO IFMD	Comments on draft documents provided through Zoom meetings and written submissions.
FRCS – Presentation for Collaboration at Border	PFO IFMD and FO C	Awareness created on fisheries laws.
SPC Coastal Fisheries Report Card	PFO and SFO IFMD, FO C	Report card compiled and submitted to SPC.
KOICA Fellowship Program - Sustainable Development of Marine and Fishery Sector in Response to Climate Change	PFO IFMD, RMW, RMC	An action plan on border agencies' cooperation on tackling IUU fishing was drafted and presented. KOICA selected the Samoan Action Plan. The presentation was submitted to Executives.
United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Workshop – Oct 2022	PFO IFMD and FO C	Operation planning for joint operations with partner enforcement agencies to combat wildlife crime developed.

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Inshore Fisheries Management Division



Government and private hatcheries continue to work towards maximizing supplies to farmers across Fiji.

## Aquaculture Division

Aquaculture has emerged as a crucial element in economic recovery, livelihood enhancement, and food security, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. As demand for aquaculture products rises, the Division aims to provide better opportunities for local farmers and investors, reduce the import bill on fisheries products, create employment, address food security, and alleviate pressure on coastal harvesting.

The Aquaculture Division operates three major hatcheries:

1. **Naduruloulou Research Station:** Focuses on freshwater aquaculture.
2. **Galoa Research Station:** Specializes in brackishwater aquaculture.
3. **Caboni Multispecies Hatchery:** Handles mariculture activities.

These facilities are managed by a dedicated team of fisheries technical staff and supported by 30 staff members who oversee daily operations and activities.

### Aquaculture Policy and Goals

The Division's goals are:

1. Import substitution
2. Employment creation
3. Support for strategic development goals
4. Climate change adaptation
5. Disease and pathogen-free aquaculture farming





### Key Projects

- **Freshwater Aquaculture Program:** With a budget of FJD 500,000, this program supports approximately 400 freshwater farmers. It includes the installation of HDPE-lined earthen ponds and preparations for introducing genetically improved Gift strain tilapia. Collaboration with SPC and BAF is ongoing to import improved freshwater prawn brooders.
- **Brackishwater Program:** Managed at Galoa Research Station, this program focuses on shrimp broodstock management and sandfish breeding.
- **Mariculture Program:** At the Caboni Hatchery, efforts are concentrated on the domestication of milkfish and other species such as rabbitfish, mullets, and groupers. The program is advancing towards research breeding and commercial production.

### Food Security Program

With a budget of FJD 600,000, this program addresses food security and income generation for rural and urban aquaculture farmers. Since 2015, it has supported nearly 200 small-scale farmers, with some transitioning to medium and large-scale operations. This year, 59 applicants received various forms of assistance, including pond construction, repairs, feed, and liming. Additionally, four pilot projects for tank-based tilapia culture have been approved to promote innovative farming techniques and support vulnerable communities.

### Commercial Shrimp Program

The Commercial Aquaculture Development Program (CADP) provides grants to expand commercial aquaculture activities. This initiative aims to meet a target of 1,000 metric tons of tilapia and shrimp by 2029. Over the past four years, CADP has supported 10 farmers, including three new enterprises in 2022-2023 financial year.

### Production Statistics

- **Freshwater Tilapia:** Target production was 2 million fries; approximately 1.7 million fries were produced and 1.4 million were distributed. Private hatcheries contributed an additional 0.1 million fries. Estimated production and consumption totalled 220 metric tons, valued at FJD 1.6 million.
- **Freshwater Prawns:** With 636,333 post-larvae produced in public hatcheries and 200,000 in private hatcheries, an estimated 7 metric tons were harvested, generating FJD 245,000 in revenue.
- **Brackishwater Shrimp:** 745,050 vannamei shrimp post-larvae were supplied, resulting in a harvest of 7 metric tons valued at FJD 280,000. King Prawns resumed operations, producing over 1 million monodon shrimp post-larvae.

### Farm Development Activities

Despite COVID-19 disruptions, the Farm Development section visited around 1,000 farmers, assisted 300 with stocking, conducted 700 monitoring activities, and supported 70 farmers with demo harvests and marketing. Additionally, 110 grass carp were distributed to manage pond vegetation.

### Training and Capacity Building

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has continued to support the Aquaculture Division by developing tilapia training programs for 20 farm development and hatchery staff. This training included the production of tilapia pellets using locally available ingredients, which are more cost-effective compared to commercially manufactured feed. JICA also facilitated the training of three additional Aquaculture staff members in various fields of aquaculture and fisheries.

In collaboration with SPC, three officers from the Brackishwater Division underwent training at the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in the Philippines. This training focused on the collection and breeding of sandfish and algae culture.

The staff benefited from in-house training sessions covering first aid, fire safety, and occupational health and safety (OHS).



2022 World Fisheries Day: "Forging Smart Partnerships for Sustainable and Resilient Aquatic Food Systems"



**Pearl Oyster Research, Assessment, and Development Program**

## Research Division

### **Pearl Oyster Research, Assessment, and Development Program**

The Pearl Oyster Research, Assessment, and Development Program was introduced in 2005 to support both semi-commercial and commercial local pearl farms while providing livelihood support for coastal communities. A key element of this program is the Ministry of Fisheries' implementation of a spat collection program, which sustains the local pearl industry.

Currently, the program oversees 12 existing community-based spat collection sites and six mabe pearl farms. The Ministry assists these farms by providing spat collection materials sourced from China and training communities in deploying, monitoring, and harvesting their lines.

In collaboration with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the Ministry is establishing mabe pearl farms at the existing spat collection sites in the northern and western divisions. This initiative began in 2016, recruiting existing spat collection sites that already have penguin oysters (Melamela) on their collector lines. Communities were trained in implanting semi-nuclei into oysters, handling, monitoring, harvesting, and grading pearls. The first major harvest of mabe pearls occurred in 2019 in Raviravi, Macuata, where over 700 oysters were harvested, generating revenue of more than \$20,000.

Another component of the program is the mangrove oyster initiative, which was reinstated in 2018 in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Originally initiated in the 1960s but faced with initial setbacks, the program was relaunched in Muanaira and Vutia in Rewa. Since 2018, five trial sites have been successfully established, with plans for further expansion.

The economic activities of the Muanaira women's group in Vutia have been particularly noteworthy, as they generated over \$3,000 from oyster sales, demonstrating the program's effectiveness. To further enhance its impact, the program is actively pursuing the expansion of collector racks to support new sites.



For the 2022-2023 fiscal year, \$378,000.00 has been allocated to the Pearl Oyster Research, Assessment, and Development Program.

### Pearl Oyster Project Output – 2022-2023

#### Spat Collection Program

Spat collection is a critical process in Fiji's pearl farming industry, laying the foundation for a sustainable and thriving pearl farming sector. This year's project aimed to establish three new community-based spat collection sites, with recruitment based on the availability of spat collection materials.

**Table: 28** New Established Community-Based Spat Collection Sites

Site Name	Division/Province	# Lines Deployed
Vanuavou	Cakaudrove	2 lines
Nasau	Bua	Site Inspections conducted
Natokala	Bua	Site inspection conducted
Naigani	Lomaiviti	2 lines

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Research Division

**Table: 29** Monitoring of Existing Sites

Site Name	Division/Province	# Lines Deployed
Vanuavou	Cakaudrove	2 lines
Nasawana	Bua	5 lines
Sawani	Bua	5 lines
Nasavu	Bua	10 lines
Taukena Farm	Bua	12 lines
Sawaieke	Gau-Lomaiviti	6 lines
Nawaikama	Gau-Lomaiviti	6 lines

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Research Division

**Table: 30** Harvesting of Spat Collector Lines

Site Name	Province	# Lines Harvested	# Blacklip Oyster Harvested
Nasawa	Bua	3 lines (5 deployed)	620 oysters
Sawani	Bua	1 line (5 deployed)	1,583 oysters
Nasavu	Bua	7 lines (10 deployed)	4,384 oysters
Ravita Womens	Cakaudrove	3 lines	113 oysters
Gaunavou Youth	Cakaudrove	3 lines	190 oysters

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Research Division

#### Black-Lip Oysters Farming

Four community-based sites in the northern and western regions successfully harvested spats. They sold them to Civa Fiji Pearls in Taveuni, generating a total revenue of \$19,881.00 for the fiscal year 2022-2023.

**Table: 31** Black-Lip Oysters Sales

Site	Province	# Oysters Sold	Market Price per Piece	Revenue Earned
Nasavu	Bua	4,384 oysters	\$2.50	\$10,960 (\$4,000 paid)
Sawani	Bua	1,583 oysters	\$2.50	\$3,957.50 (\$2,000 paid)
Nasawana	Bua	620 oysters	\$2.50	\$1,550
Ravita Womens	Cakaudrove	113 oysters	\$2.50	\$282.00
Gaunavou Youth	Cakaudrove	190 oysters	\$2.50	\$380.00
Namarai	Ra	502 oysters	\$2.50	\$1,255.00
Naocobau	Ra	599 oysters	\$2.50	\$1,497.00

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Research Division

### Mabe Pearl Farming

In the current fiscal year, a new mabe pearl farming site was established in the northern division, bringing the total number of operational community-based mabe pearl farms to six. These farms have implanted oysters on their mainlines, which are scheduled for harvesting in the upcoming fiscal year. The main lines for implanted and non-implanted oysters were monitored, with recent harvests graded before being marketed. The project, in collaboration with ACIAR, assisted four community-based sites by implanting their penguin oysters, with the following details:

**Table: 32** Mabe Pearls Implanted

Site Name	Province	# Penguin Oysters Implanted	# Black-Lip Oysters Implanted
Taukena Spat Farm	Bua	266 oysters	5 oysters
Ravita Womens Group	Cakaudrove	431 oysters	Nil
Namarai Community	Ra	Nil	121 oysters
Naocobau Community	Ra	5 oysters	42 oysters

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Research Division

The implanted oysters are expected to be harvested in October–November 2023. The Ministry and ACIAR are working to secure a local market for Fiji’s mabe pearls, with several proposed markets identified. Communities produced pearls that were graded and purchased by the ACIAR project. Efforts are underway to establish a local market for these pearls. The table below shows the communities that have harvested, graded, and marketed their pearls:

**Table: 33** Mabe Pearl Sales

Site Name	# Oysters	Estimated Revenue
Viani Youth Group	300 oysters	\$8,955.00

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Research Division

### Mangrove Oyster Farming

In 2018, the Ministry reintroduced mangrove oyster farming with a pilot farm in Vutia, Rewa, in collaboration with SPC. Initially attempted in the 1960s, this farming technique faced setbacks, but the renewed initiative has shown promising results. Currently, there is one fully operational farm and five trial farms, with plans to recruit two additional trial farms and deploy over 50 collector racks in the upcoming fiscal year.



Cash handed over to the Naocobau community by the Principal Research Officer for black -lip oyster sales



## Mabe Pearls Grading at Viani

**Table: 34** Harvesting of Collector Racks

Site Name	# Collector rack Harvested	# Oyster harvested	Size of oyster on each grow-out basket		
			3mm-4mm	5mm-6mm	7m-9mm
Vutia, Rewa	102 racks	7553	600	300	200

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Research Division

The project aims to expand operations by providing communities with collector materials, hands-on training, and consultations. Site surveys are conducted to identify the most viable locations for mangrove oyster farming, aligning with the project's goals of promoting sustainable and profitable mariculture practices.

### Administration

The project made several significant acquisitions, including project assets and other relevant items to support its activities.

**Table: 35** Acquisitions for the Project 2022 – 2023 Financial Year

Items	Allocated Funds	Comments
New Boat and Engine	\$23,000.00	A 21-foot fiberglass boat (Civaloa III) with a 60HP outboard engine was procured for the Savusavu Office. This boat is crucial for overseeing operations at ten community-based spat collection farms, three mabe farms, and two pearl farms in the Northern Division.
Indenting of Spat Materials	\$20,000.00	Materials were sourced from China, delivered, and distributed to four existing farms in the northern and western divisions, with two new farms also receiving materials.
Purchase of Additional Materials for Namarai	\$40,000.00	The project's rollout was delayed due to challenges encountered during material delivery and implementation in 2022-2023.

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Research Division

### Makogai Mariculture Research Program

During the 2022 - 2023 financial year, the Makogai Project managed its allocated funds to deliver work plans and leverage the available resources. The project facilitated requests from divisions to reseed MPAs for hotels and coastal communities. Notably, the internet connection was re-established after several years without proper access, enhancing daily reporting and activity implementation.

The project also addressed queries regarding the maintenance of the Makogai Project vessel and the procurement of new outboard engines, which were successfully secured using project funds. In terms of capacity building, a project officer attended a week-long coral planting training and workshop co-funded by Coral 4 Change in the Western Division. Additionally, the Makogai Project officers participated in a turtle tag and release program and displayed giant clam juveniles and broodstock during World Fisheries Day and World Ocean Day events held at Siria Park and Albert Park, respectively.

Despite the financial limitations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the project successfully implemented most of its operational plans. The re-establishment of telecommunication services allowed for efficient communication between Makogai officers and senior management in Lami. Work programs and data collection were improved through increased discussions facilitated by phone and internet access.

**Table: 36** Giant Clam Censors for the Month of May 2023 Land-Based Giant Clam Nursery

Date of Spawning	Raceway Number	Species	Sizes	Total
24/06/2021	R2	Derasa	1cm-3cm	210
Attached to Slab	R8	Gigas	1cm-2cm	41
Attached to Slab	R8	Squamosa	1cm-3cm	43
10/11/2022	R11	Squamosa	Small Juvenile	
10/11/2022	R12	Squamosa	Small Juvenile	
03/11/2021	R13	Gigas	1cm-3cm	301
02/01/2021	R15	Squamosa	Small Juvenile	203
15/03/2021	LT1	Squamosa	Small Juvenile	360
21/01/2023	LT2	Maxima	Small Juvenile	8000
10/11/2022	LT3	Squamosa	Small Juvenile	
02/01/2023	LT4	Maxima	Small Juvenile	6000
	LT5	Maxima	Small Juvenile	
	LT6	Maxima	Small Juvenile	442
	R17	Squamosa	3cm-4cm	110
	R18	Squamosa	3cm-4cm	563
	R19	Squamosa	3cm-4cm	109
	R20	Derasa	3cm-4cm	85
	R23	Derasa	3cm-4cm	9
	R24	Gigas	3cm-4cm	62
Attached to Slab	R24	Gigas	3cm-4cm	16

\*Total number of juvenile Giant Clams in the land-based raceways: 16,554

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Research Division

**Table: 37** Giant Clams in Ocean-Based Nurseries

Species	Sizes	Total	
Gigas	90cm-98cm	6	Broodstock
Vasua Dina	16cm-22cm	8	
Maxima		2	Broodstock
Vasua Cega		3	Broodstock
Gigas	3cm-4cm	90	90 - Cleaned and transferred to Raceway 8 for attachment
Vasua Dina	1cm-2cm	18	18 - Cleaned and transferred to R8
<b>Tabaka</b>			
Species	Sizes	Total	
Gigas	2cm-3cm	50	
Squamosa	2cm-3cm	50	

\*Total Giant Clams in the Ocean Nursery: 227

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Research Division

#### Fisheries Research Conservation Program

**Table 38** Achievements of Research and Conservation Program 2022 - 2023

Action/KPI/Strategies	Achievement	Impact
<b>Develop Technical Policy Guidelines, Plans, and Standards</b>	Developed the NDF survey report of Giant Clam and formulated a draft Giant Clam Management and Conservation Plan through collaboration with WWF, SPREP, and the Ministry of Environment.	Effective management of the Giant Clam resource within Fiji Fisheries Waters. Provides guidelines and mandatory conditions for the trade of cultured Giant Clam, contributing to economic growth and livelihoods.
<b>Implementation of Cabinet Strategy</b>	Submitted Cabinet Memorandums on: - Gazette of Tavarua Island MPA, Vanua Malolo, Nadroga Navosa - Lobster Resource Interim Size Limit and Harvesting Strategy cabinet paper.	Supports biological diversity, ecosystem services, fisheries productivity, livelihood enhancement, and contributes to Fiji's commitment to protecting 30% of its seas.
<b>Collaboration with Existing Donors and Development Partners</b>	- Reshuffled research staff to Rakiraki and Sigatoka landing sites during the BDM Operation lifting of the ban. - Developed and finalized the SDG 14 Projects work plan for Moturiki Island and the project proposal for JCC committee.	Enhances staff knowledge and competency, contributes to economic growth, livelihood opportunities, community engagement, and gender participation, and improves fisheries management.
<b>Explore Development Partners for New Areas (Training, Education, etc.)</b>	Conducted: - Landing Survey Training from 27/02 – 17/03/2023. - Fish & Inverts data collection at Municipal Markets and Landing sites. - IKASAVEA Application and Database training. - Data Entry and Data Analysis using	Familiarized staff with the IKASAVEA app and database, provided a refresher course on data collection methods, analysis, and interpretation.



	<p>IKASAVEA application. Facilitated by the SPC coastal fisheries team. Produced 1 Sea Cucumber Stock Assessment Training - Dive Sites.</p>	
<b>Identify Inshore Fisheries Commodities (Product Research &amp; Profiling)</b>	<p>Conducted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sea Urchin (<i>Tripneustes gratilla</i>) landings at Waiqanake and Malomalo.</li> <li>- Market survey in Suva involving 20 vendors.</li> <li>- Produced 2 maps for Sea Urchin Landing Sites (Waiqanake and Malomalo).</li> <li>- Interviewed Kerevanua Enterprise &amp; INFO Seafood Investment.</li> </ul>	Improved product preparation, handling, hygiene, packaging, display, and marketing.
<b>Kaikoso (<i>Andara violacea</i>) Landing &amp; Market Survey</b>	<p>Conducted surveys at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nakini (Naitasiri): 16th - 18th &amp; 23rd - 25th November 2022</li> <li>- Nawamagi (Nadroga): 7th - 9th &amp; 14th - 16th December 2022</li> <li>- Nasolo (Ba): 11th - 14th &amp; 18th - 21st January 2023</li> </ul> <p>Involved 23 kai harvesters. Produced 3 maps for Nakini, Nawamagi, and Nasolo landing sites.</p>	Improved understanding and management of kai resources.
<b>Collaboration with Communities, Stakeholders, and Development Partners</b>	<p>Attended more than 20 meetings with stakeholders, communities, and partners to discuss fisheries research issues.</p>	Improved project implementation and service at the national and community levels.
<b>Fisheries Resource Inventory Survey</b>	<p>Conducted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sea Cucumber Stock Assessment Survey for I Qoliqoli Rotuma from October 27th to November 1st, 2022.</li> </ul> <p>The survey consisted of 4 research officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Produced 1 map for Beche De Mer Stock Assessment surveyed sites - Rotuma Island.</li> </ul>	Provided baseline information for CFRA management plans, guiding custodians on fisheries management, and identifying critical areas for protection and research opportunities.
<b>Fisheries Environmental and Impact Assessment Framework</b>	<p>Produced several Fisheries Impact Assessment (FIA) Survey Reports and maps, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proposed Development by Roshika Dea and Sheik Ashil</li> <li>- FIA for Yati Rajan Narayan Development</li> <li>- Victoria Marine LTD Development - Habitat</li> <li>- FIA Gillnet Sites for Victoria Marine LTD Development</li> </ul>	Determined compensation values for fisheries resource loss due to coastal development, ensuring fair compensation to customary fishing right owners.
<b>Inshore Fisheries Marine Species Research</b>	<p>Produced 10 habitat maps for various sites, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rotuma Island Benthic Habitat Map</li> <li>- Bekana Island (Benthic) Map</li> <li>- Marine Habitat Mapping: FIA of the Foreshore Development site by Tengy Cement LTD</li> <li>- Proposed Ocean Nursery Site at Makogai Island</li> <li>- Moturiki Island (Mangrove Coverage)</li> </ul>	Supported technical reports and provided essential data for fisheries resource management.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Moturiki Island Benthic Map</li> <li>- Reef and Benthic Coverage of Qoliqoli Vitogo, Western, Fiji</li> <li>- Yanuca Island Qoliqoli Boundary Map</li> <li>- Victoria Marine LTD Development - Habitat</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Ciguatera Fish Poisoning</b></p>	<p>Conducted data entry activity with FAO from December 12th - 20th, 2021. Entered past years' data (2012-2019) into the CIGUAWATCH Database. Produced 1 map for Senimua Reef of iQoliqoli Tavuki, Kadavu: An implicated Ciguatera Hotspot.</p>	<p>Enhanced monitoring and management of ciguatera fish poisoning hotspots.</p>
<p><b>Establishment &amp; Monitoring of Marine Protected Areas</b></p>	<p>Established 1 marine protected area:                  - Naidiri Village, Nadroga.                  Produced maps for Marine Protected Area: Naidiri Village and Proposed Marine Protected Area: Yakawe Reef, Malolo.</p>	<p>Conserved biodiversity, enhanced resilience, and protected and restored en</p>

Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Research Division



Ministry of Fisheries staff Timoci Nakaruru showcase one of the green turtle to students during World Oceans Day at Albert Park on June 8, 2023



## Kubulau OFCF Carbon Neutral Project

### Technical Services Division

#### **Kubulau Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) Carbon Neutral Project**

The Kubulau OFCF Carbon Neutral Project focused on a solar system installation funded by the project, which included a 30kVA system with 93 panels (400 watts each). The inspection was conducted by Ministry staff and OFCF Expert Hatano San from March 14 to March 17, 2023.

The installation of this solar system has resulted in significant savings, with an estimated \$12,000 saved annually on diesel procurement, freight costs, and allowances costs of staff. The reduced generator running hours at the station has allowed for quarterly servicing by divisional engineers, thereby decreasing maintenance costs. Notable achievements include high customer satisfaction, improved climate change adaptation, and the expectation of zero breakdowns for the next five years.

#### **Lautoka Government of Japan's Economic and Social Development Programme (ESDP) Project**

The Lautoka ESP Project involved the removal of an old ice-making machine that had been in operation for over 30 years and the installation of a new system by the Technicians from the Ministry and a Nitto Seimo Expert, the low Global Warming Potential (GWP) refrigerant ice-making machine.

This new ice machine system can produce 3.3 tons of ice in 24 hours (9.9 tons daily). The project successfully phased out all ODS R22 ice machines in Fiji, leading to high customer satisfaction, enhanced climate change adaptation, and anticipated zero breakdowns for the next five years.

#### **Lekutu OFCF FADPIN Project**

The Lekutu OFCF FADPIN Project aimed to phase out a high Global Warming Potential gas ice-making machine that was frequently defective and costly due to gas leaks. A new 1.8-ton ice-making machine with low GWP was installed, and a new shed was built for the machine. These included a reduction in energy consumption by

20%, lower maintenance costs for the next five years, and decreased operational costs, thus supporting climate change adaptation and the phase-out of high GWP machines.

### **Ba Project**

The Ba Project involved the construction of a new shed, the removal of an old ODS ice-making machine, and installation of a new low-GWP ice-making machine capable of producing 2.3 tons of ice in 24 hours (4.8 tons daily). This project spanned one year undertaken by Ministry technicians and a Nitto Seimo Expert. Despite the challenges, including being loaded with three projects, reduced funding, and operational issues with the existing machines, the shed was completed, and the new ice machine became operational. Pending tasks include fitting downpipes, installing drainage, constructing a driveway, and adding a roller gate. The project has achieved high customer satisfaction, climate change adaptation, and the phasing out of all ODS R22 ice machines in Fiji, with expectations of zero breakdowns over the next five years.

### **Operation Status**

The division successfully committed 100% of the procurement budget, submitted all required reports, and received PS approval for all activities. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for procurement and inventory were submitted online, and all budget submissions were completed. Operational achievements included a 90% rating for average delivery services, with a perfect score in May. Breakdown incidents were reduced in Lautoka, Ba, and Lekutu due to project implementations, and operational times were nearly 90% in Rotuma, Vanuabalavu, Lakeba, Levuka, and Kavala. All 24 ice plant stations completed their Preventive Maintenance Schedule (PMS), and the activity achievement rate was 75%. However, tax liabilities of \$250,000 and a lack of funds in the fourth quarter hindered the completion of planned projects, which were pushed to the first quarter of the new financial year (2023/24). These include various projects at Ba, Navua, Sigatoka, Moala, Lakeba, Namarai, Taveuni, Labasa, Rabi, and Lautoka.



On August 30, 2023, a Handover ceremony for the “Provision of Ice Making Machines” procured under the Government of Japan’s Economic and Social Development Programme (ESDP), was held at the Lautoka Fishery Port.



Villagers in Sawakasa, Tailevu assisted the women in harvesting 1013kg of seaweed. They thanked the government for the provision of a boat & engine which has made farming easier.

## Achievements from Regional Divisions

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

### Central Division

The Central Division provides fisheries administrative and development services to the four provinces: Tailevu, Rewa, Naitasiri, and Serua/Namosi. It operates three Service Centers: Nausori Service Center (Level 1 River House, Nausori), Wainibokasi Service Center (Wainibokasi), and Navua Service Center (Main Street, Navua Town).

For the financial year, the Central Division achieved the following:

- 794 Inshore Fishing License were issued
- 14 Deepwater Fishing License were issued.
- 217 Bech-de-mer License were issued (165 in 2022 first opening and 52 in 2023 second opening)
- 27 freshwater farmers were approved for assistance from the division. For the financial year, the division had 304 active freshwater farmers. (Tailevu 135, Naitasiri 139, Rewa 13 and Serua/Namosi 17)
- 349.88 metric tons ice sold at \$65,886.57: 144.98 metric tons at Navua Ice Plant (\$30,722.51) and 204.90 metric tons at Wainibokasi Ice Plant (\$35,164.06).
- The division contributed to the Budget 2023-2024 preparation work and submitted an Excel sheet for the Central Budget (OPEX & CAPEX) and capital project budget for the seaweed project to the Manager of Finance on 24/03/23.
- Post the national budget announcement on 30/06/23, the division finalized the necessary plans for the Seaweed Capital Project and divisional operational plans and their respective budgets.



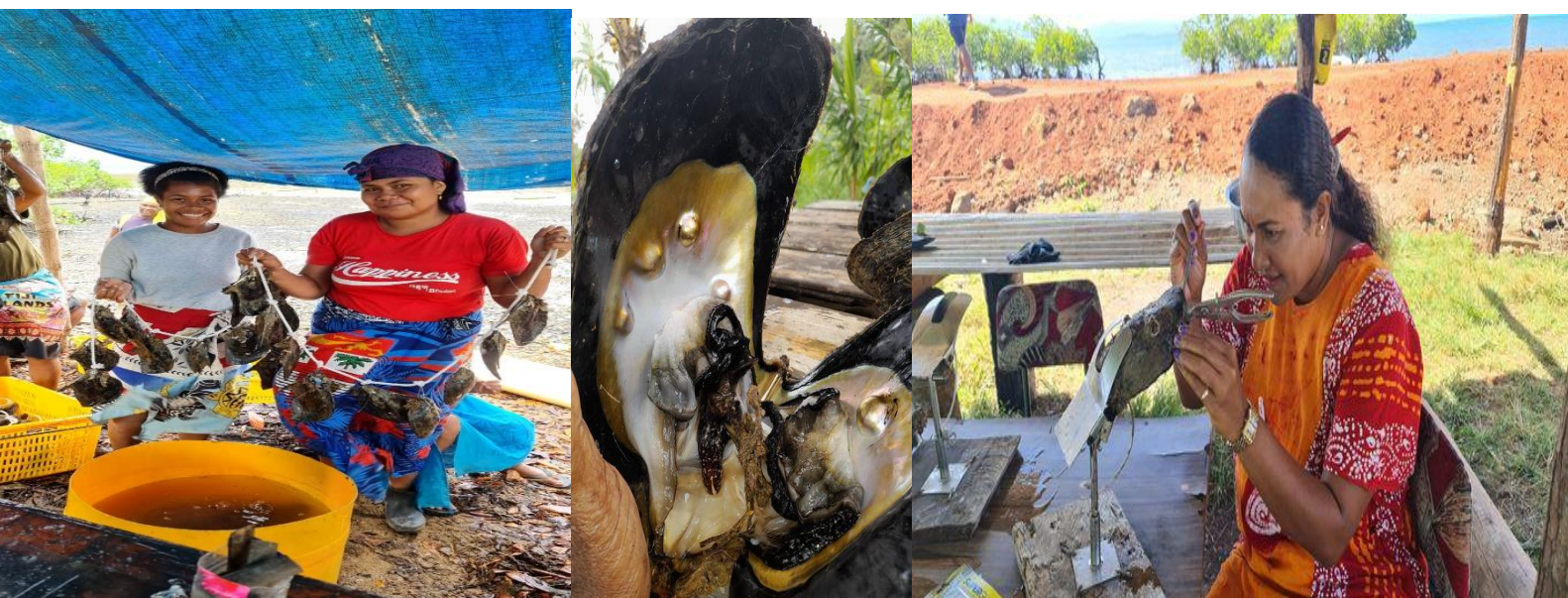
- Facilitated the BDM Harvester's License for the central division for the second opening from July to December 2023. Issued a total of 52 harvester's licenses till August 2023.
- Attended meetings for all the Bose in Yasana (Tailevu, Naitasiri, Rewa, Serua, Namosi) and Bose ni Tikina, raised awareness on fisheries development programs, and clarified issues raised during the meetings.
- Completed 17 sea and 28 land patrols during the financial year to enforce fisheries laws and regulations. Patrols were sometimes combined with seaweed monitoring, FAD monitoring, and coastal fisheries project monitoring.
- Attended and provided awareness on all National and Divisional Awareness Programs.
- Organized the National Launch and Celebrations of World Fisheries Day 2022 in Nausori on 21st November 2022.
- Implemented the FAO Fish FAD Project in Silana and Naigani (Tailevu province), deploying 2 out of 4 planned FADs. Resulted in the formation of the first-ever fisher cooperatives in these communities.
- Handed an 8-foot 818 Liter Chest Freezer to the Silana Fishers group on 1st December 2022 at Silana village, Dawasamu.
- Provided a 23-Footer Fiberglass Boat and 40HP Outboard Engine for the Muanaira Women's mangrove oyster farming project on 3rd August 2023 at Muanaira village, Vutia, Rewa.

#### Seaweed Project:

- After disruptions from Covid-19 lockdowns, managed to produce 38.2 metric tons of seaweed from a target of 40 tons.
- Established 2 main companies for purchasing dried and wet seaweed: Soluk Island Fresh Company Pte Limited (dried seaweed) and Sea and Soil Pte Fiji Limited (wet seaweed).
- Developed a PPP/MOU with Soluk Island Fresh for planting seaweed and construction of drying racks, with the Ministry covering nursery planting, maintenance, technical training, staff support, and transportation during initial stages.
- Planned expansion into Vanua Levu and the Ra coastline in Viti Levu with Soluk and Sea and Soil Company.
- Facilitated a visit from the Sitting Committee on Natural Resources (SCNR) on 25th April 2023 for Fisheries projects in the Central Division.

#### Challenges and Needs:

- Urgent need for an additional twin cab 4x4 vehicle to support farm development and seaweed extension work.
- Continuous disruption in internet services from service centers, suggesting investment in Wi-Fi internet services.
- Need for Boat Master Licenses for staff and Group 6 license upgrades for drivers.
- Infrastructure maintenance needed at Wainibokasi and Navua Service Centers including security lights, fence repairs, and washroom construction.



## Eastern Division

The Eastern Division provides fisheries administrative and development services to the four (4) provinces (Kadavu, Lau, Lomaiviti, and Rotuma). There are nine (9) Service Centers in the division (Eastern Division Lami Office, Levuka, Vanuabalavu, Cicia, Kavala, Vunisea, Gau, Moala and Lakeba).

For the financial year, the Eastern Division achieved the following:

- 6 Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) were deployed: 1 in Lakeba, 1 in Nabukelevuira, 1 in Nakasaleka, 1 in Batiki, and 2 in Vanuabalavu.
- **Training Programs:**
  - 1 Package Training conducted on Batiki Island, consisting of Deep-Sea Fishing Training, Post-Harvest Training, and FAD Fishing Training.
  - 3 Post-Harvest Training programs were conducted in Lakeba, Nabukelevu (Kadavu), and Vabea (Ono, Kadavu).
  - 3 Cooperative Trainings were conducted in Lakeba, Nabukelevuira, and Vabea (Ono, Kadavu).
- 856 Inshore Fishing Licenses issued, with an invoice value of \$6,640.53.
- **Beche-de-Mer (BDM) Data:** 44,483 kg, 161,404 pieces valued at \$597,478.66.
- **Catch Data:**
  - **Finfish:** 7,921.50 kg, valued at \$59,504.60.
  - **Non-finfish:** 1,471.6 kg, valued at \$12,129.80.
- **Solar Freezer Estimated Catch Data:**
  - Estimated catch from the 13 solar freezers (6ft): 300 kg/month per freezer x 13 freezers = 3,900 kg.
  - 3,900 kg x \$6/kg = \$23,400 per month.
  - \$23,400 x 11 months = \$257,400 per year.
- 1 Fish Warden Training conducted in Batiki, with 19 Fish Wardens appointed.
- **Environmental Initiatives:**
  - 1,500 pieces of coral planted.
  - 1,700 dogo seedlings planted (1,000 in Vanuabalavu, 600 in Moala, and 100 in Moturiki).
  - 40 giant clams deployed in Sowana Marine Protected Area (MPA).
- **Freezer Handover:**
  - **10 solar freezers** distributed to:
    1. Buliya, Ono, Kadavu
    2. Dravuni, Ono, Kadavu
    3. Vabea, Ono, Kadavu
    4. Matasawalevu, Nakasaleka, Kadavu
    5. Lagalevu, Nakasaleka, Kadavu
    6. Matanuku, Ravitaki, Kadavu
    7. Talaulia, Nabukelevu, Kadavu
    8. Niubasaga, Moturiki, Lomaiviti
    9. Salia, Nayau, Lau
    10. Tuvuca, Vanuabalavu, Lau
  - **2 electric freezers** handed over to:
    1. Tubou, Lakeba, Lau
- 240 metric tons of ice produced, valued at \$50,031.89.
- 31 staff members attended various training programs organized by the Ministry and other stakeholders.
- **Aquaculture Farmers Assisted:**
  - 6 farmers in Ovalau received assistance.
  - 1 prawn farmer in Levuka harvested 50 kg of prawns, sold at \$30/kg, valued at \$1,500.
- **Challenges:**
  - Misallocation of funds to other projects which affected the implementation of programs in the Division
  - Lack of resources in terms of vehicles



National Launch and celebrations of World Fisheries Day 2022 were held in Nausori on Monday 21st November 2022.





## Northern Division

The Northern Division provides fisheries administrative and development services to the three (3) provinces (Cakaudrove, Bua, and Macuata). There are nine (9) Service Centers in the division (2 in Labasa, Lekutu, Nabouwalu, Kubulau, Savusavu, Rabi, Taveuni, Wainikoro).

For the financial year, the Northern division had the following achievements:

- 1089 Inshore Fishing Licenses were issued.
- 5 Deepwater Fishing Licenses were issued.
- 153 Bech-de-mer License were issued across various regions: Labasa/Wainikoro (55), Lekutu (15), Nabouwalu (24), Kubulau (21), Savusavu (28), and Taveuni (10)
- 1,232.24 metric tons ice sold at \$187,836.66
- Solar Freezers:
  - On 14th November 2022, the installation of a solar freezer was completed at Tavea Island
  - On 16th November 2022, the installation of a solar freezer was completed at Kia Island. This was commissioned by the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Honorable Ravu on 17th November 2022.
- The Fishers Associations in Kioa, Laucala, Naiqaqi, Nagigi, Ravita, and Kia were facilitated to register as cooperatives. Fisher associations and cooperatives were registered:
  - Duvata Fishers Association
  - Rabi Fishers Association
  - Four fishing schemes
  - One sub-scheme
  - Senivutu Fishers Cooperative
  - Udu Fishers Association
  - Namuka Fishers Association
- 16 Fish Aggregation Devices (FAD) were deployed in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) :
  - 19th - 20th Jan: Deployed one FAD at Kia in collaboration with FAO.
  - 24th Jan: Deployed one FAD at Yaqaga in collaboration with FAO.
  - 25th Jan: Deployed one FAD at Galoa in collaboration with FAO.
  - 26th Jan: Deployed one FAD at Tavea in collaboration with FAO.
  - 17th May: Deployed a FAD at Vunidawamoli.
  - 18th May: Deployed a FAD at Kioa at a depth of 68 meters (Position: 16.40.717 S; 179.54.546 E).
  - 19th May: Undertook an echo sounder test at Vuniwai.
  - 22nd May: Deployed a FAD at Vuniwai at a depth of 78 meters (Position: 16.24.608 S; 179.46.230 E).
  - 24th May: Deployed a FAD at Karoko at a depth of 37 meters (Position: 16.30' 593" S; 179.55' 183" E).
  - 24th May: Deployed a FAD at Rabi at a depth of 250 meters (Position: 16.29' 335" S; 179.59' 115" E).
  - 25th May: Deployed a FAD at Natewa Fishing Ground near Nadavaci Village at a depth of 170 meters (Position: 16-33.124 S; 179-46.230 E).
  - 30th May: Deployed a FAD at Waivunia at a depth of 100 meters (Position: 16-49.208 S; 179-26.854 E) in the Nasavusavu Fishing Ground.
  - 8th June: Deployed a FAD at a depth of 45 meters near Nasawanaa Village (Coordinates: 16-56.336 S; 179-49.498 E) in the Nadi Fishing Ground.
  - 9th June: Deployed a FAD at a depth of 28 meters near Batinivuriwai and Raviravi Village (Coordinates: 16-55.202 S; 178-59.320 E) in the Kubulau/Wainunu Border Fishing Ground.
  - 13th June: Deployed a FAD near Visoqo Village at a depth of 30 meters (Coordinates: 16-10.559 S; 179-38.008 E) in the Namuka Fishing Ground.
  - 15th June: Deployed a FAD near Kavewa Island (Coordinates: 16-11.430 S; 179-32.983 E) in the Nadogo Fishing Ground.
  - 16th June: Deployed a FAD near Ligau Village (on Kia Island) at a depth of 42 meters (Coordinates: 16-14.054 S; 179-04.894 E) in the Qoliqoli Cokovata Fishing Grounds
- Trainings conducted:

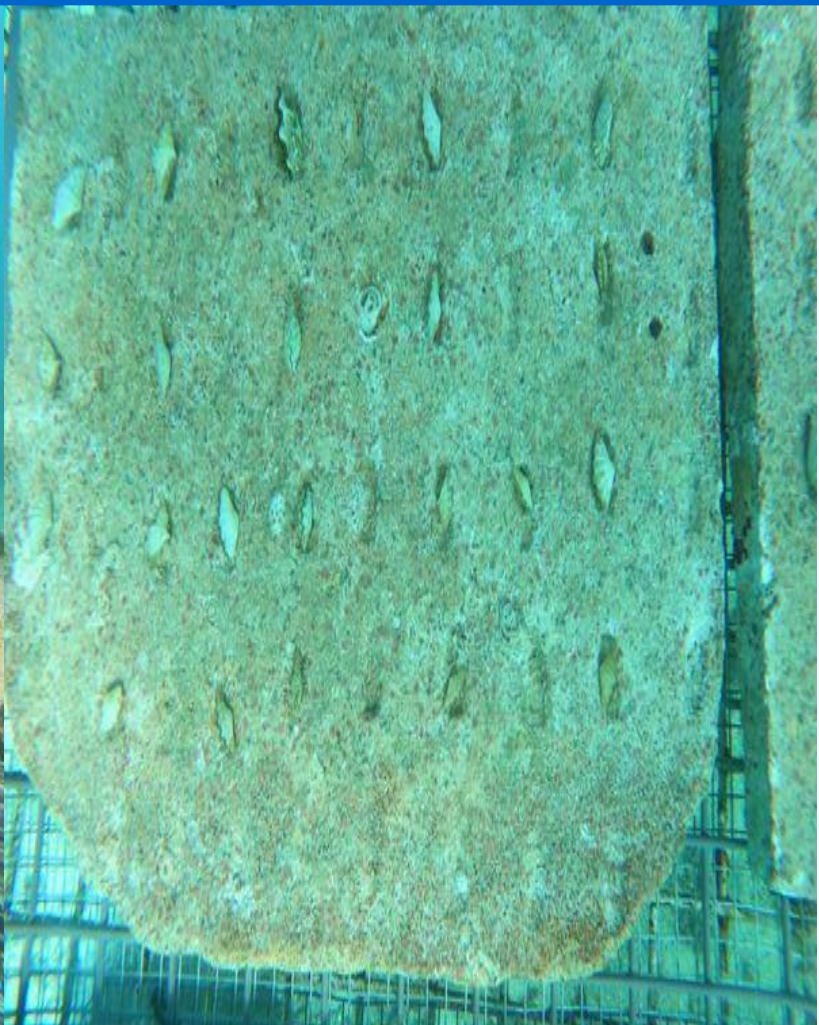
- 5th - 7th July: Mud Crab Training at Vunuku village, funded by JICA in collaboration with USP.
- 6th - 7th July: Tilapia Feed Formulation Training at Dreketi Station, funded by JICA in collaboration with USP.
- 19th - 20th Jan: Phase 2 Aquaculture Training at MoF, Macuata Support Centre.
- 3rd April: Aquaculture Awareness Training at Macuata Conference Room, Labasa.
- 6th - 10th Feb: Phase 2 Aquaculture Tilapia Hatchery Production.
- 18th - 20th Jan: Fishing Technique Training at Kia Island, in collaboration with FAO.
- 23rd - 27th Jan: Fishing Technique Training at Galoa, Yaqaga, and Tavea.
- 30th Jan - 3rd Feb: Post-Harvest & Fish Handling Training at Kia Island.
- 6th - 10th Feb: Post-Harvest & Fish Handling Training at Galoa Island.
- 14th - 17th Feb: Post-Harvest & Fish Handling Training at Yadua Island.
- 20th - 22nd Feb: FAO Post-Harvest Training at Tavea Island in coordination with MOF.
- 28th - 29th Feb: FAO Post-Harvest Training at Yaqaga Island.
- FAD (Fish Aggregating Device) Training:
  - Facilitated FAD Training at Kia, Tavea, and Yadua, funded by FAO.
  - 12th - 13th Oct: Conducted FAD Survey and Related Training at Kia Island.
  - 8th Dec 2022: Liaised regarding bookkeeping skills training for cooperative board members facilitated through Lekutu SC.
  - 7th - 9th Feb: Fish Warden Training at Nabubu village for the District of Namuka, Nadogo, Udu, and Macuata.
  - 8th - 12th May: Training for Kia Fishers Cooperative.
  - 8th June: Cooperative Management Training for Duavata Fisher Coop at Nabouwalu village, funded by FAO



The five villages namely Kia, Tavea, Galoa, Yaqaga, and Yadua Islands Participants in Vanua Levu are now equipped with knowledge on fish harvesting, fish preparation, and fish preservation through training received from FAO through the FishFAD project.



About 168 juvenile giant clams of the *Tridacna Squamosa* species locally known as *Vasua cega* was reseeded in the waters around Kokomo Resort in Kadavu & Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort in Savusavu.



## Western Division

The Western Division provides fisheries administrative and development services to the four (4) provinces (Nadroga, Ba, Tavua and Ra). There are seven (7) Service Centers in the division (Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka Port, Ba, Tavua, Rakiraki and Namarai).

For the financial year, the Eastern division had the following achievements:

- Import Permits:** A total of **167 import permits** were issued within the financial year, generating total revenue of **\$8,449.15** from permit fees. The total value of imported fisheries products was approximately **FJ\$7 million**, with prawn cutlet and canned mackerel accounting for the largest quantities. Eight (8) main importers consistently operated throughout the year, including **Five Star Foods Fiji Ltd., Haifeng Imports & Export Trade Pte Ltd., New World Pte Ltd., Orion Distribution Services Pte. Ltd., PMeghji Ltd., Paradise Cove Resort Ltd., Smart Chef Fiji Ltd., and Yees Cold Storage Ltd.** The top imported products included baby octopus, canned products, green half-shell mussels & oysters, mussel meat, prawn cutlets, salmon, seafood salad mix, shrimp, and squid tubes.
- Export Permits:** A total of **409 export permits** were issued, generating revenue of **\$5,062.53** from permit fees. The export value of fisheries products reached **FJ\$5.3 million**. Beche-de-mer exports from August 2022 to March 2023 accounted for **38 tonnes** and **FJ\$3.5 million** of the total export quantity and value, respectively. Other exports included aquarium fish, ornamental fish, soft coral (mainly from Walt Smith International Ltd.), camouflage groupers, marlin fillets, mud crabs, mullets, sea urchins, trochus shells, and unicorn fish.
- Compliance and Patrols:** The Western Division faced challenges in curbing illegal fishing activities. A majority of the **Offshore Fisheries Management Regulation (OFMR)** offences involved breaches of Regulation 4 (possession of seasonal & restricted species) and Regulation 5 (harvesting endangered species under CITES). Under the **Fisheries Act 1941 (FA 1941)**, breaches were related to Regulation 4 (fishing without a license) and Section 10 (use of UBA). **62 land patrols** and **4 sea patrols** were conducted, with inspections at exporters' facilities, importers' facilities, restaurants, fish shops, markets, landing sites, and fishing vessels. **9 offences** were encountered during land patrols, involving possession of banned sea cucumber species, undersized sea cucumber & mud crab, harvesting without permits, and possession of Kawakawa and Donu during their closed season. One offence involved the use of a home-made bomb for fishing.
- Fishing Licenses:** A total of **850 IDA fishing licenses** were issued across the division's six Service Centers. **105 licenses** were issued to women, who are mainly engaged in crab, freshwater mussel, seaweed, and sea cucumber fisheries, while **745 licenses** were issued to men, who primarily engage in finfish and sea cucumber fishing using handlines and diving.
- Ice Production and Sales:** **1,175,468.54 kg** of ice was produced, generating revenue of **\$174,326.22**. The Western Division has seven ice plants, three of which are in Lautoka, supporting the needs of commercial fishers and the public.
- Fishers Cooperatives:** The Western Division continued working closely with the Department of Cooperatives to register more fisher cooperatives. **Lautoka Fishermen Cooperative Ltd (LFCL)** was registered on **1st November 2022**, and an MoU was signed on **19th May 2023** with the Ministry of Fisheries for the use of the Lautoka Fisheries Fish Market. Support for LFCL came from JICA, USP, and the Ministry of Fisheries, with donations of equipment such as chest freezers, stainless steel tables, trolleys, heavy-duty bins, ice boxes, and fishing gear. Fisher cooperatives in Yasawa, including **Bouwaqa Fish Folks Cooperative, Yasawa-i-rara Fish Folks Cooperative, and Vatukarakarawa Fish Folks Cooperative**, received training in FAD fishing techniques and cooperative management.
- Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs):** **1 FAD** was deployed during the fiscal year off **Vatulele Island** to reduce fishing pressure on reef species by diverting fishers to offshore pelagic species.
- Aquaculture Production:** A total of **5,601.1 kg** of aquaculture products (tilapia, brackish water shrimp, and freshwater prawn) were produced, valued at **\$138,995.50**. The main challenges for farmers included inconsistent fry/post-larvae supply, high feed costs, and low market prices, particularly for tilapia.
- Women's Participation:** Women's groups, such as **Sai Women's Group** and **Vunayawa Women's Group**, were involved in tilapia farming, while **Nayavutoka Women's Group** focused on crab

fattening. In total, **105 fishing licenses** were issued to women for activities such as crab, sea cucumber, seaweed, and sea urchin harvesting.

- **Spat Collector Farms: Namarai Village and Naocobau** generated **\$7,005.49** from **3,137 pieces of spat** harvested.
- **Revenue Generation:** Total internal revenue generated for the 2022-2023 fiscal year was **\$228,958.29**, mainly from permit fees and ice sales. The total revenue from both internal and external sources was **FJ\$7,846,355.89**, including **\$5,267,479.91** from exports, **\$2,244,400.20** from local fish sales, and **\$105,517.49** from aquaculture production (tilapia, prawn, shrimp, and spat).



**500 corals were planted in Namalata Village, Vanua Balavu, Lau in a bid to engage communities and teach them about the important role of corals in the ocean.**

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

## OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Promoting Public Sector Accountability and Sustainability through our Audits



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File: 436

25 January 2024

The Honourable Kalaveti Ravu  
The Minister for Fisheries  
Takayawa Building  
Toorak Road  
**SUVA**

Dear Honourable Ravu

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES**

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

Audited financial statements for Ministry of Fisheries for the year ended 31 July 2023 together with my audit report on them are enclosed.

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

Sairusi Dukuno  
**ACTING AUDITOR-GENERAL**

cc: Mrs. Atelaite Rokosuka, The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries.

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT****Ministry of Fisheries****Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

I have audited the financial statements of the Ministry of Fisheries ("the *Ministry*") which comprises the Statement of Revenue and Expenditure, Appropriation Statement, Statement of Losses, and Trust Fund Account Statement of Receipts and Payments for the financial year ended 31 July 2023, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

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

**Basis for Opinion**

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

**Management Responsibilities for the Financial Statements**

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

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

**Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and to issue and auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISA will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

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

**Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements (cont'd)**

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

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



Sairusi Dukuno  
**ACTING AUDITOR-GENERAL**



Suva, Fiji  
25 January 2024

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

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We certify that these financial statements:

- (a) fairly reflect the financial operations and performance of the Ministry of Fisheries for the financial year ended 31 July 2023; and
- (b) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act 2004 and Finance Instructions 2010.



Atelaite Rokosuka  
**Permanent Secretary**

Date: 18/11/23



Taniela Naulu  
**Principal Accounts Officer**

Date: 18/11/23

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

	Notes	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
<b>State Revenue</b>			
Vessel Registration		-	408
Fishing Licence		5,105	1,131
Sale of Fish & Ice		506,569	430,606
Offshore Fisheries Management Fees		476,250	463,699
Offshore Fisheries Access Fees		329,108	328,461
Offshore Fisheries Application Fees		30,342	26,128
Offshore Fisheries Levies		104,221	95,404
Offshore Fisheries Related Activities		70,910	71,509
Offshore Fisheries Miscellaneous Fees		25,737	20,351
Offshore Fisheries Permitting Fees		177,678	142,757
Offshore Fisheries Authorisation to Charter		194	1,297
Offshore Penalty Notice		82,725	62,524
Commission		7,370	-
<b>Total State Revenue</b>	3 (a)	<b>1,816,209</b>	<b>1,644,275</b>
<b>Agency Revenue</b>			
Miscellaneous Revenue		8,586	9,440
<b>Total Agency Revenue</b>	3 (b)	<b>8,586</b>	<b>9,440</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>1,824,795</b>	<b>1,653,715</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
<b>Operating Expenditure</b>			
Established Staff	3 (c)	5,313,597	4,953,547
Government Wage Earners	3 (d)	1,441,467	1,397,680
Travel & Communications	3 (e)	330,494	281,715
Maintenance & Operations	3 (f)	1,553,561	1,425,231
Purchase of Goods & Services	3 (g)	156,819	90,791
Operating Grants & Transfers	3 (h)	9,674	9,891
Special Expenditure	3 (i)	805,882	480,672
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>		<b>9,611,494</b>	<b>8,639,527</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>			
Capital Construction		4,125,450	2,544,671
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	3 (j)	<b>4,125,450</b>	<b>2,544,671</b>
<b>Value Added Tax</b>		<b>330,543</b>	<b>272,731</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>14,067,487</b>	<b>11,456,929</b>

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
APPROPRIATION STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

SEG	Item	Budget Estimate (\$)	Appropriation Changes (\$) (Note 4)	Revised Estimate (\$) a	Actual Expenditure (\$) b	Lapsed Appropriation (\$) (a-b)
	<b>Operating Expenditure</b>					
1	Established Staff	5,848,567	-	5,848,567	5,313,597	534,970
2	Government Wage Earners	1,563,796	-	1,563,796	1,441,467	122,329
3	Travel & Communications	338,000	-	338,000	330,494	7,506
4	Maintenance & Operations	1,566,950	-	1,566,950	1,553,561	13,389
5	Purchase of Goods & Services	106,519	-	160,519	156,819	3,700
6	Operating Grants & Transfers	10,000	-	10,000	9,674	326
7	Special Expenditure	1,050,256	(105,505)	944,751	805,882	138,869
	<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>10,484,088</b>	<b>(105,505)</b>	<b>10,432,583</b>	<b>9,611,494</b>	<b>821,089</b>
	<b>Capital Expenditure</b>					
8	Capital Construction	4,478,000	(119,266)	4,358,734	4,125,450	233,284
9	Capital Purchases	300,000	(300,000)	-	-	-
	<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>4,778,000</b>	<b>(419,266)</b>	<b>4,358,734</b>	<b>4,125,450</b>	<b>233,284</b>
	Value Added Tax	710,371	(20,229)	690,142	330,543	359,599
13	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>15,972,459</b>	<b>(545,000)</b>	<b>15,481,459</b>	<b>14,067,487</b>	<b>1,413,972</b>

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
APPROPRIATION STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

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**Details of Appropriation Changes**

The Ministry of Finance approved the following transfer of funds during the year:

Virement No.	From	To	Amount (\$)
V31001	SEG 1	SEG 1	100,353
	SEG 2	SEG 2	89,393

Cabinet via Cabinet Decision 307/2023 approved the Redeployment of funds for the sum of \$545,000 from the following SEGs under the Ministry of Fisheries for Redeployment of Funds within the 2022-2023 Budget:

From	Amount (\$)
SEG 7	105,505
SEG 8	119,266
SEG 9	300,000
SEG 13	20,229

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
STATEMENT OF LOSSES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

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**Loss of Money**

There was no loss of money recorded for the financial year ended 31 July 2023.

**Loss of Revenue**

There was no loss of revenue recorded for the financial year ended 31 July 2023.

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

Following the 2022 – 2023 Board of Survey, items worth \$149,005 were written off as approved by the Permanent Secretary for Finance as summarised below.

<b>Asset</b>	<b>2023 (\$)</b>
Motor vehicles, Outboard motor vessels and Engines	36,823
Office Equipment	54,437
Furniture and Fittings	57,745
<b>Total</b>	<b>149,005</b>

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
TRUST FUND ACCOUNT - STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

	Note	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
<b>OPENING BALANCE</b>		-	262,472
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Interest earned		-	218
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>218</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Payment to Consolidated Fund account		-	262,690
<b>Total Payments</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>262,690</u>
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

There was no financial transaction recorded for the 2022-2023 financial year.

The Ministry has cleared the Trust Account from the Westpac Bank Corporation through the Ministry of Finance and closed off the True Trust Bank Account as per instructions via memo dated 01/06/2022, in line with Act No.13 of 2022 issued on 15/03/2022.



**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

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**NOTE 1 REPORTING ENTITY**

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

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

**NOTE 2 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**a) Basis of Accounting**

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

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

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

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

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

**c) Comparative Figure**

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

**d) Revenue Recognition**

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

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

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**NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS**

- a) State Revenue increased by \$171,934 or 10% due to the economic recovery after the impact of COVID 19 in 2020/2021 financial period and the increasing revenue activities from all our Divisions and Stations Fiji wide.
- b) Agency Revenue decreased by \$854 or 9% due to the increase in monitoring, control and surveillance activities carried out by our Inshore Fisheries Management Division to curb illegal activities.
- c) SEG 1 increased by \$360,050 or 7% due to the filling of vacant positions and the increase of the FNPF contributions from 6 to 7%.
- d) SEG 2 increased by \$43,787 or 3% due to the increase in FNPF contributions from 6% to 7% for 2022-2023. Also, the watchmen positions budgeted were at 44 hours but they worked 57 to 62 hours on weekends and also due to the realignment of our Person to Post.
- e) SEG 3 increased by \$48,779 or 17% due to the cabinet decision on sea cucumber ban uplift enforcement plan for 2022-2023 financial year, for the Beche-de-mer harvesting that necessitated increased travels and related expenses for monitoring, control and surveillance of harvesting by fisher folks and the exporters alike.
- f) SEG 4 increased by \$128,330 or 9% due to related Beche-de-mer activities and other technical utility and operational activities for the year.
- g) SEG 5 increased by \$66,028 or 73% due to the increased activities on the ground to support the Beche-de-mer Operations.
- h) SEG 6 decreased by \$217 or 2% due to the fluctuation in exchange rate on the payment of subscription fees to INFOFISH.
- i) SEG 7 increased by \$325,210 or 68% due to the Electronic Monitoring System [EMS] Project and the new e-service support project that was progressed on the ground for our digitisation project of our permitting and licensing systems.
- j) SEG 8 increased by \$1,580,779 or 62% due to budgetary increases for some of our projects.

**NOTE 4: DETAILS OF APPROPRIATION**

- **SEG 1** – This saving of \$534,970 was due to the vacancies that existed in our person to post listing. There was an increase in budgetary provision of \$85,118 for 2022-2023 financial year due to the increase in 7% FNPF provision.
- **SEG 2** - This saving of \$122,329 was due to the vacancies that existed in our person to post listing. There was an increase in budgetary provision of \$16,022 for 2022-2023 financial year due to the increase in 7% FNPF Provisions.

**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

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**NOTE 4 : DETAILS OF APPROPRIATION (cont'd)**

- **SEG 3** – This saving of \$7,506 was due to savings from the reduced travels and subsistence. There was an increase in budgetary provision of \$52,000 for 2022-2023 financial year.
- **SEG 4** - This saving of \$13,389 was due to increase in budgetary provision of \$100,500 for 2022-2023 financial year.
- **SEG 5** – This saving of \$3,700 was due to increase in budgetary provision of \$54,000 for 2022-2023 financial year.
- **SEG 6** – This saving of \$326 was due to fluctuations in foreign exchange rates for the payment of annual subscription to INFOFISH.
- **SEG 7** - This saving of \$138,869 was recorded due to the delay in e-services support RIE funds. A redeployment of funds of \$115,000 was recorded for EMS Project in 2022-2023 financial year. There was an increase in budgetary provision of \$398,500 for 2022-2023 financial year.
- **SEG 8** – This saving of \$233,284 was due to the delays in some capital projects progress and tender processes on the ground. A redeployment of \$130,000 was recorded for multi hatchery species project for 2022-2023 financial year. There was an increase in budgetary provision of \$1,290,434 for 2022-2023 financial year.
- **SEG 9** – The budgetary provision of \$300,000 was provided for purchase of aluminium boat but the project could not be implemented as MSAF did not approve the technical specifications of the sole bidder and supplier. The amount was redeployed for 2022-2023 financial year.





# Ministry of Fisheries

TO HAVE THE BEST FISHERIES IN THE PACIFIC

Comments and enquiries should be directed to:  
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