


**FFA**

**FORUM FISHERIES COMMITTEE  
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH MEETING**

*Virtual*
**11 - 14 May 2021**

|                      |                                                       |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Agenda Item:</b>  | <b>x</b>                                              |
| <b>Paper Number:</b> | <b>FFC118-INFO.11</b>                                 |
| <b>Title:</b>        | <b>Investment, Employment and Other Opportunities</b> |

**Summary:**

This paper provides a summary update on activities to promote investment, employment and other opportunities covered under the New Zealand MFAT funded programme titled Increasing Employment and Economic Benefits from Tuna Fisheries

**Recommendations:**

The Committee is invited to:

- (i) Review progress and outcomes from the provision of technical and other relevant assistance;
- (ii) Note intentions for new and expanded initiatives, and those impacted by Covid19; and
- (iii) Note the intention for a second phase of the programme to commence in January 2022.

## Investment, Employment and Other Opportunities

### Introduction

FFC 114 informed members of new and ongoing initiatives by the Secretariat's Fisheries Development Division to facilitate investment and employment in member fisheries. The following summary updates the key initiatives tabled and new concepts under consideration.

### Key Initiatives

#### i) Gender Development

Three gender development activities have been pursued, billed under the banner of Improving Women's Employment in Fisheries, to lessen the constraints to employment of women in the sector through leadership development in private sector fisheries, increased financial literacy, and gender focussed crewing initiatives in the longline segment

##### a) *The lack of women in leadership positions in private sector fisheries*

A registered training organization has scoped a programme to expand access to management and leadership training for women in the private sector, and to identify, develop, and empower women in fisheries, having recognised a need for greater diversity in managerial and leadership roles in the industry. This activity is still under development for intended delivery in 2022.

##### b) *Low financial literacy and attendance of fish processing staff*

In partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and building on the successful development and delivery of financial literacy training at Soltuna, work has commenced to deliver IFC's financial literacy training to other processing companies in the region. Training is underway with one company in Fiji with two more expected later in the year. The benefits of this training, (delivered by local trainers on or near-site to fish processing staff), both economic and social, are significant. Click on the link for more details. <https://www.icrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/SolTuna2.pdf> Delivery of the training module is already in progress with one company, with two further companies anticipated for the second half of the calendar year.

##### c) *Gender-based job segregation in fisheries (and more specifically harvesting)*

To increase the participation of women in crewing fishing vessels FFA has commenced support for a private sector initiative to train and commission an all-woman longline deck crew, drawing on graduates from the Fiji Maritime Academy. Delivery of this activity is planned for the second half of 2021.

#### ii) Fisheries Investment Appraisal Activities

The number of investment referrals, reviews and appraisals has abated since Covid, however work has continued with capacity building for members, including activities such as the development of fisheries investment frameworks and advisory services to administrations. The first *Business Appraisal and Finance Training* course was delivered online in March 2021 to facilitate competencies in business and financial analysis, to support well informed investment and review decisions.

Targeting FFA members who play active roles in the appraisal of new business proposals and/or management of existing investments and operations the training covered i) Introduction to Finance and Accounting for Managers and Non-Accountants; and ii) Developing and Assessing a Business Case. The training will instil knowledge and skills in business planning and finance that will enable

participants to read and interpret financial statements to better understand financial performance of businesses and to develop a well-reasoned business case to justify investments. 21 attendees from 10 administrations completed their certification, which was conducted for two mornings per week over a four-week period.

### **iii) Support for Small to Medium Enterprises**

With the contraction of markets in the northern hemisphere and increased freight costs post-Covid heavily impacting Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) in the region, the Secretariat has sought to assist this group in several ways:

- Developing new export market opportunities closer to home. Focussing initially on SME access to the Australian market, a pilot project is nearing completion with prospects to extend the initiative into larger markets in South East Asia.
- Assess new product development options to move further down the value chain as an addition to the export of whole round fish.
- Seek out potential investors and/or joint venture partners which may be interested in sharing technology and distribution capabilities closer to our region.
- Business and strategic planning advice. The market downturn has severely impacted the cash flows of SME's, meanwhile they are still incurring significant overheads including vessel and plant maintenance, port charges and licence fees, and skeleton staff and crews to maintain operations pending a recovery. This has placed bank facilities for many SME's under severe pressure. Assistance is being provided to prepare business advice to support requests for continued funding support from financiers, as well as strategic options to consider to help get through the pandemic and capitalise on the recovery beyond.

### **iv) Socio-economic Indicators**

As detailed in FFC118-WP.14 the Secretariat has commissioned work to develop a framework of indicators to measure members' performance and contribution of tuna beyond purely economic metrics. The introduction of this broader framework incorporates measures of social and community benefits flowing from Pacific tuna fisheries that have not historically been measured.

The draft framework will be circulated to members for feedback before refining and finalising. Members will be further assisted with tailoring the framework to their own specific requirements and its implementation, on an as needs basis.

### **v) Pacific Islands Ocean Cluster (PIOC)**

Collaboration with Conservation International to establish an Ocean Cluster within the region to identify, develop and invest in innovative products and ideas to capture greater value and utilisation of fish. This innovation hub concept is modelled on the highly successful Iceland Ocean Cluster (IOC) which connects entrepreneurs, business and knowledge to create value and nurture new business opportunities ( <http://www.sjavarklasinn.is/en/> ). The IOC, together with FFA, SPC and a number of prominent fisheries experts and practitioners in the region, are contributing to this initiative.

### **vi) Programme Funding – IEEBTF**

The current MFAT funded programme of activities (Increasing Employment and Economic Benefits from Tuna Fisheries) was scheduled to terminate at the end of the 2020 calendar year, however, it has now been extended, by variation agreement, until 30 October 2021. A business case to support a second programme of funding is under submission with the intention to renew activities for a further four-year term commencing 2022.