

Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority

Annual Report 2009/2010



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COASTAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

OVERVIEW

The Coastal Fisheries Division continues its commitment to ensure that communities benefit from Outer Islands Fishing Projects, aquaculture/mariculture projects, and the fisheries management and catch data program. MIMRA continues to encourage the development of culture fisheries and aquaculture for their potential to contribute to improving national fisheries production capacity and stimulate local economies.

The Coastal Fisheries Division deals mainly with the development and management of community based projects that provide benefits to the people in the community. It is required to coordinate and consult with traditional leaders and local government councils during planning and development stages of projects. Additionally, it is required to coordinate and consult or advise local communities with respect to the development of sustainable management plans for inshore or coastal fisheries resources. It is also required to ensure community awareness of MIMRA policies or plans, and MIMRA's role and capacity to provide assistance to communities. At the same time, the division ensures the implementation of action plans and strategies. These plans and strategies must reflect the policy decisions made by the Board, recommendations made by sub-regional, regional and international organizations that RMI is a party to, and other policy-related activities that concern coastal fisheries. MIMRA continues shifting management measures towards sustainable resource practices to allow for continued and long-term achievement of project objectives and community and local government fisheries development plans and projects. In-house

capacity building, as well as community trainings, remain one of the main objectives in ensuring communities continue to be self sufficient and take charge of their resources.

This year there have been two major accomplishments for the Coastal Fisheries Division. First, through the generous assistance of the Government of Japan, an agreement was made for the construction of a new fish market center on Majuro and two new fish collection boats. The Coastal Fisheries Division will be better able to expand on its services in providing income-generating opportunities for outer island fishermen. Second, MIMRA and CMAC have improved the Reimaanlok Process by climatizing the community consultation process. This will allow CMAC to better help and prepare communities to adjust to the potentially adverse affects of Climate Change.



Image 1. Fish brought in from Outer Island Fishing Project (Photo: Darren Nakata)

OUTER ISLANDS PROJECTS

The Outer Islands Fish Market Center (OIFMC) on Majuro receives fish from Arno, Aur, Jaluit and Maloelap and has continued to provide fishermen with income by purchasing fish and fish products directly. For the Arno fishermen, a total of 9368.73 lbs of fish were purchased at a value of \$9271.26; Jaluit fishermen received \$12,252.65 for 11,205 lbs of fish; Maloelap fishermen received \$11,995.84 for 12,970 lbs of fish; and 13,695 lbs of fish were purchased from Aur fishermen at a value of

\$15,538.00. The monetary benefits that the fishermen of these four atolls received directly totaled \$49,057.75 for the 47,238.73 lbs of fish purchased. In comparison to last annual report, in an effort to increase the quality of fish being sold on Majuro, measures were put in place by Management when purchasing fish from community fishers. The number of trips remains low but compared to previous years but fish collections from fishers remains in high enough numbers to maximize cost recovery.

In anticipation of the move to the new Market facility in Uliga, new management directives have been put in place to promote the efficiency of fish collection and distribution activities from collections in the outer islands, the transportation to the Market, the sorting and reweighing, value adding of the products, and sales to customers.

Tables C1, C2 and C3 below reflect the transactions between the fishers and the project. Note that with the rotational nature of the trips to the outer islands, some months will have no record dated due to the fact that the MIMRA boats did not visit during those months.

The Kwajalein Atoll Fish Market Center (KAFMC) received the F/V Laintok for use in August 2010 after the transfer of two new fish transport vessels, F/V Jebro and F/V Timur to the new Outer Islands Fish Market Center facility on Majuro. Although KAFMC now has a vessel to use for trips to its fishbase partners and projects, due to limited availability of fuel on Ebeye and the high costs of fuel that is available on Ebeye, trips have remained limited and inconsistent. Nonetheless KAFMC still continues to supply limited fish to the Ebeye community through direct purchase of fish from Ebeye

fishers as well as to provide assistance in fuel and ice provisions. For the year 2009, fishers and the community received \$35,807.00 for fish and \$9217.00 for local produce sold to the KAFMC

Table C4 shows KAFMC activities in purchasing fish and local produce from Ebeye fishermen. The facility has continued operations in a limited capacity through selling fish and local produce purchased from Ebeye community as well as ice and other commodities. It continues to look for avenues to secure fuel purchases to allow for regular trips to the outer islands to purchase fish and local produce from the fishbase-communities of Likiep, Ailinglaplap, Namu and Ailuk.

Work is still underway in anticipation of the new JICA funded Fish Market Center. Fisheries Engineering Co. of Japan have been awarded the project contract to construct the new Fish Market Center to be located in the Uliga Dock area. Preparation and procurement for the project started in late 2009 and in January 2010 land reclamation was initiated for the site prior to construction of the facility and arrival of the two new fish collection vessels, F/V Jebro and F/V Timur, in July 2010. Arrival of the new vessels allowed for the transfer of F/V Laintok from OIFMC Management to KAFMC Management.

Table C1: ARNO ATOLL FISHERIES ASSOCIATION October 2009 to September 2010

Month	Market Sold		Purchases from Fishers	
	Amount (lbs)	Amount (\$)	Amount (lbs)	Amount (\$)
October	1370.8	\$ 2,341.01	1981	\$ 2,046.00
November	1144.37	\$ 2,433.06	2234	\$ 1,884.00
December	186.99	\$ 343.91	257	\$ 232.00
January	829.33	\$ 759.08	192	\$ 187.00
February	1298.86	\$ 1,967.25	1588	\$ 1,325.00
March	645.18	\$ 892.04	768	\$ 745.00
April	---	---	---	---
May	3335	\$ 2,773.00	2219.73	\$ 2,787.26
June	294.53	\$ 305.23	129	\$ 65.00
July	0.68	\$ 3.40	---	---
August	126.43	\$ 223.66	---	---
September	---	---	---	---
TOTAL	9232.17	\$ 12,041.64	9368.73	\$ 9,271.26

Table C2: Coastal Fisheries Development Assistance (COFDAS) Oct. 2009 to Sept. 2010

Month	Market Sold		Purchases from Maloelap		Purchases from Aur	
	Amount (lbs)	Amount (\$)	Amount (lbs)	Amount (\$)	Amount (lbs)	Amount (\$)
October	96.6	\$ 98.28	---	---	---	---
November	1391.95	\$ 2,307.07	3179	\$ 3,549.15	2776	\$ 3,022.50
December	2205.07	\$ 2,841.92	---	---	---	---
January	1477.82	\$ 1,893.42	---	---	---	---
February	248.13	\$ 471.24	2690	\$ 2,068.35	2662	\$ 3,035.40
March	4078.21	\$ 6,095.48	3008	\$ 2,650.44	---	---
April	4692.23	\$ 7,304.55	---	---	3165	\$ 3,401.00
May	2787.79	\$ 4,652.47	---	---	---	---
June	2320.33	\$ 3,793.56	---	---	3195	\$ 3,736.35
July	211.05	\$ 471.94	---	---	---	---
August	3387.84	\$ 5,103.26	4093	\$ 3,727.90	---	---
September	2551.13	\$ 4,591.59	---	---	1897	\$ 2,342.75
TOTAL	25448.15	\$ 39,624.78	12970	\$ 11,995.84	13695	\$ 15,538.00

Table C3: JALUIT ATOLL FISHING PROJECT (JAFP) October 2009 to September 2010

Month	Market Sold		Purchases from Fishers	
	Amount (lbs)	Amount (\$)	Amount (lbs)	Amount (\$)
October	111.18	\$ 2,170.72	2911	\$ 3,265.00
November	384.6	\$ 827.15	---	---
December	---	---	---	---
January	2265.89	\$ 3,140.41	3200	\$ 3,262.95
February	10.65	\$ 18.90	---	---
March	---	---	---	---
April	---	---	---	---
May	3529.37	\$ 5,949.41	5094	\$ 5,724.70
June	390	\$ 646.83	---	---
July	---	---	---	---
August	---	---	---	---
September	---	---	---	---
TOTAL	6691.69	\$ 12,753.42	11205	\$ 12,252.65

Table C4: KWAJALEIN ATOLL FISH MARKET CENTER January 2009 to December 2009

	PURCHASES FROM FISHERS/COMM		MARKET SOLD	
	Fish Value	Local Produce Value	Fish (\$)	Loc. Prod. (\$)
Jan.	\$ 4,035.00	\$ 988.00	\$ 3,664.00	\$ 1,026.00
Feb.	\$ 3,784.00	\$ 665.00	\$ 3,636.00	\$ 1,271.00
Mar.	\$ 5,101.00	\$ 273.00	\$ 4,652.00	\$ 694.00
Apr.	\$ 3,517.00	\$ 478.00	\$ 4,652.00	\$ 694.00
May	\$ 2,209.00	\$ 604.00	\$ 3,260.00	\$ 1,338.00
June	\$ 2,544.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 4,679.00	\$ 1,181.00
July	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 749.00	\$ 3,065.00	\$ 1,489.00
Aug.	\$ 4,419.00	\$ 631.00	\$ 3,855.00	\$ 892.00
Sept.	\$ 1,368.00	\$ 824.00	\$ 2,090.00	\$ 1,122.00
Oct.	\$ 3,426.00	\$ 2,524.00	\$ 2,392.00	\$ 1,962.00
Nov.	\$ 1,540.00	\$ 756.00	\$ 1,536.00	\$ 1,958.00
Dec.	\$ 2,064.00	\$ 485.00	\$ 2,180.00	\$ 1,174.00
TOTAL:	\$ 35,807.00	\$ 9,217.00	\$ 39,661.00	\$ 14,801.00

FDAPIN/FESAP - JAPAN

Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) began FDAPIN projects in the 1992/1993 fiscal year in the RMI. From the 1995 fiscal year, FDAPIN II was implemented for a duration of five years, consisting of assistance ranging from repairs and restoration of fisheries related facilities to related skills, technology and knowledge being transferred. Each year, during the annual OFCF Japan/Pacific Island Nations Fisheries Directors Meeting on Fisheries Cooperation, OFCF receives requests from each country for FDAPIN projects. After conducting field surveys and consultation with each government, the scope of the projects are developed and are followed by a drafting and signing of the MOU and Implementation Plan.

This year requests that were implemented are as follows:

1. Restoration and repair of the ice making machine at Jaluit Fish base;
2. Restoration and repair of Jolok outboard motors;
3. Restoration and repair of ice making machine (MIMRA); and
4. Continued advice on operation management for both KAFMC and OIFMC.

Request Submittal for fiscal year 2010/2011 are as follows:

1. Restoration and repair of the ice making machine at Jaluit fish base;
2. Restoration and repair of outboard motors for

- Jolok;
3. Restoration and repair of MIMRA ice making machines;
4. Business Advice for Kwajalein Atoll Fish Market Center; and
5. Business Advice for Jaluit Fish base.



Image 5. OFCF Expert Mr. Sakamoto with KAFMC staff during yearly FDAPIN/FESAP mission trip to Ebeye.

ICDF/MIMRA FISH FARM

The management of the ICDF/MIMRA Fish Farm has been transferred management to the CMI/Arrak Land-Grant Program from the ICDF Laura Technical Farm. MIMRA continues to support this initiative and will continue to assist where possible to

promote aquaculture activities as an alternative livelihood to Majuro and Outer Island communities as a means to address food security and generate income. The handover will take place late in 2010.

MARINE AQUARIUM TRADE

The marine ornamental trade (or aquarium trade) has continued to rise with exports increasing. Organisms exported out of the Marshall Islands by local companies are live fish, giant clams, corals and various marine invertebrates. There are five (5) local companies that export and as reflected in the following chart, this trade is based on the preference of the customers. With the giant clams, it is the *T. maxima* species that is in high demand. All clams exported out of the Marshall Islands are hatchery-reared and not from the wild, one of the requirements of CITES. All certificates of origin & health are required when exporting marine ornamentals. Although the Marshall Islands is not a party to CITES, these permits are the equivalent in authority to any permits to be issued pursuant to Fish and Wildlife in lieu of CITES (Annex II) statement RE: 50CFR-23(b3).

The Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) continues to collaborate with the Environmental Protection Agency (RMIEPA), and a letter of clearance is needed from the RMIEPA as part of the application process for all marine product exporters. MIMRA is working with shipping agents and other relevant government offices towards the implementa-

tion of regulations and policies to formally register companies, and implement best management practices by the industry from collection efforts to exportation of products.

CITES was established to regulate the trade in endangered species from the wild. All species of giant the clam family (*Tridacnidae*) are listed in Appendix II of CITES. **Table C5** shows the exported cultured giant clams from the Marshall Islands. The convention regulates international trade in over 33,000 species listed in its three appendices. Export is only permitted if a CITES document is presented, which may only be issued after the legal origin of the specimens has been verified and it has been determined that the export is taking place at a level that is not detrimental to the survival of the species.

At present, the Marshall Islands has not acceded to the convention due to the need to increase the capacity of Departments, Agencies and Ministries who will be responsible for reporting back to the CITES Secretariat as well as complying with CITES requirements. The Marshall Islands Competent Authority to CITES as was appointed in 2009 is the Director of MIMRA.

Table C5: Giant Clam Exports (*Tridacnae* spp.)
October 2009 - September 2010

October	2002
November	0
December	3090
January	1597
February	775
March	2522
April	2424
May	2075
June	1338
July	1854
August	1334
September	996

Table C6: Aquarium Fish Exports
October 2009 - September 2010

October	14401
November	26183
December	26122
January	16511
February	20164
March	27569
April	18108
May	24072
June	22429
July	26029
August	22335
September	24993

TURTLE CONSERVATION EFFORTS

In October of 2009, MIMRA launched an education and awareness program on Majuro and Wotje atolls in an effort to strengthen marine turtle conservation by effectively increasing public awareness, knowledge, and understanding regarding the significance of turtles and the urgent need to protect turtle populations as part of the “*Reimaanlok: Looking to the Future: National Conservation Area Plan for the Marshall Islands*”. Collaborative partners included Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS), Ministry of Education (MOE), and Ms. Regina Woodrom Rudrud, a sea turtle biologist at the University of Hawai’i at Manoa (UHM). The updates of the activities are included:

Collection and creation of turtle education materials for RMI middle and high schools: For this activity, MIMRA sought help from key agencies and educators (national, regional, and international) to obtain education and awareness materials on turtles as well as historical and cultural information. Ms. Rudrud met with various stakeholders including the MOE, MICS, Historic Preservation Office (HPO), and Youth to Youth in Health (YTYIH). Presently, Ms. Woodrom Rudrud and her team in Hawaii are still assessing materials before MOE’s review for final approval prior to printing and distribution to Majuro and Wotje schools.

Community awareness via theater: A 20-minute awareness skit on turtle conservation, solid waste issues with regards to the health of the oceans, and existing turtle laws in the RMI was created by YTYIH with technical assistance from MIMRA and MICS. The production was done in the style of a puppet show with nearly all props created from old or discarded items, and will be recorded onto DVD and distributed to communities and act as supplemental material to the curriculum.

Media information program on marine turtles:

Since December 2009, 9 full-page newspaper ads with the *Journal* have been produced on a monthly basis with versions available both in English and Marshallese, which will continue until September

2010. Topics discussed include sea turtle biology, historical importance of turtles, tracking and tagging, climate change, ocean pollution, maintaining biodiversity, turtle regulations, and plastics and biodegradable bags. Meanwhile, MIMRA is continuing to air turtle radio spots recorded by high school students in Marshallese language on V7AB, emphasizing the ban on selling turtles and turtle products, size limitations, and other regulations as well as turtle tagging information. MICS is providing additional support with their weekly half-hour radio show. MIMRA has also recently purchased necessary media equipment which will be used for future recordings.

Project activities yet to be implemented:

Academic and technical training to school teachers in Majuro and Wotje:

The purpose of this activity is to guide RMI’s educators regarding use of collated/produced materials. As an integral part of this initiative Ms. Woodrom Rudrud will coordinate with MIMRA, MICS, MOE, World Teach, and Dartmouth to conduct training workshops for teachers from Majuro and Wotje schools.

Promotion of degradable/biodegradable bags:

MIMRA and MICS have conducted a few informal meetings with Marshallese handicraft-makers to introduce the turtle project, raise awareness on the negative impacts of plastic bags on the environment, and explain benefits of using degradable/biodegradable bags compared to conventional plastic bags. MIMRA will facilitate an ‘*amimono*’ (handicraft) contest on reusable shopping bags and winning baskets/bags will be selected and purchased by MIMRA to be sold to the public. All handicraft artists will also be encouraged to sell their items on their own; an incentive that will not only benefit the environment, but serve as another source of income. More meetings and awareness with the handicraft makers need to be completed on this aspect of the project.

MARSHALL ISLANDS FAD PROGRAM

Fish aggregating devices (FAD) were first introduced in 1986 by the Overseas Fishery Foundation Cooperation (OFCF) of Japan in Majuro and Arno atolls. Several FADs were deployed and prompted interest but the program was not continued.

In early 2007, MIMRA secured PDF funding through FFA to procure four sets of FADs to promote sustainable fishing and food security through FAD fishing in the Marshall Islands. Three FADs were deployed and proved to be productive over a two week period but were lost. The fourth FAD was deployed in 2009 and has been very productive. By 2009, another set of 3 FADs, again through PDF funding, were secured and successfully deployed with onsite technical assistance by SPC, followed

by a FAD Fishing Technique workshop to the staff.

All FADs deployed within Majuro Atoll are offshore, Indian Ocean designs. Trolling is the main fishing technique used around FADs with catches of yellowfin (*Thunnus albacores*), skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), mahimahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*), wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*) and marlin (*Makaira spp*) on some occasions.

Monitoring of the FADs is done every three months to inspect flotation, mooring rope, underwater hardware etc. With the rising fuel costs and other economic factors, FADs have shown to be effective and have a drastic positive impact on the fishing community.

MIMRA GIANT CLAM SATELLITE PROGRAM

MIMRA supports and facilitates the development of community-based management plans as the primary mode of resource management on outer islands. The guidelines for this program delivery are documented in Reimaanlok: National Conservation Area Plan for the Marshall Islands and the actions below relate directly to Reimaanlok. MIMRA is supported in this work by partner agencies in the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC). Part of this program will be to build the capacity of MIMRA and partner organizations, especially MICS, so that there are more people who are experienced in facilitating community-based resource management planning. Essentially this means actually being on-the ground in the outer-islands and learning by doing; learning by actually facilitating the process.

In 2009 CMAC has been involved in a number of onsite community consultations, local consultations and has worked to further advance the community based management by climatizing the Reimaanlok Process. This year CMAC conducted initiation trips to Namdrik and Mili Atolls. In addition, the 2nd CMI Community Resource Management took place with CMAC partners assisting in the facilitation

ranging from marine conservation and monitoring efforts, water quality management and alternative livelihood programs with over 10 atolls participating, both those that have resource management plans and those that are working towards a resource management plan for their atolls.

Micronesian Challenge

The Reimaanlok Process feeds into the greater regional initiative the Micronesian Challenge. From a regional standpoint the Marshall Islands has made great strides as a regional leader in community based adaptive management and has proven so with these key progresses:

- Building young generation's capacity through Internships
- Ongoing work with communities on resources management plan
- Marine conservation training certificate workshop
- Field guide book for facilitators
- Improved and more activities on sustainable land management
- Improved internal coordinators
- Internal capacity building on interactive tools
- Building pools of experts

Table 4. Juvenile seeds distribution to farmers

Farm er	Date	Species	Num- ber	cag es
PK	11-21- 09	<i>T.</i> <i>maxima</i>	5,000	1
JJ	11-21- 09	<i>T.</i> <i>maxima</i>	5,000	1
AN	11-22- 09	<i>T.</i> <i>maxima</i>	5,000	1
TA	11-22- 09	<i>T.</i> <i>maxima</i>	5,000	1
TT	11-24- 09	<i>T.</i> <i>maxima</i>	5,000	1
BJ	11-24- 09	<i>T.</i> <i>maxima</i>	5,000	1
Tobo R	12-27- 09	<i>T.</i> <i>maxima</i>	5,000	1
Akjen A	12-27- 09	<i>T.</i> <i>maxima</i>	5,000	1
Hatch ery	12-30- 09	<i>T.</i> <i>maxima</i>	25,000	5 + 1

Table 5. Farmers Paid from sales of market size

Farmer	Date	Size (cm)	Num	Amount
JJ	2-3-10	3-6	378	\$ 934.65
TA	2-3-10	3-6	437	\$1,070.60
BJ	2-5-10	3-6	360	\$ 903.55
AGCH	2-17-10	3-6	514	to be paid
AGCH	2-19-10	3-6	593	to be paid

Table 6. Arno Giant Clams Pricing Grid

Size (cm)	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	6-7
Price \$	1.9	2.3	2.75	3.45	4.2	5.5

MARINE AQUARIUM TRADE

The marine ornamental trade (or aquarium trade) has continued to rise with exports increasing. Organisms exported out of the Marshall Islands by local companies are live fish, giant clams, live rock, corals and various marine invertebrates. There are five (5) local companies that export and as reflected in the below chart, this trade is based on the preference of the customers. With the giant clams, it is the *T. maxima* species that is in high demand. All clams exported out of the Marshall Islands are hatchery-reared and not from the wild, one of the requirements of CITES. All certificates of origin & health are required when exporting marine ornamentals. Although the Marshall Islands is not a party to CITES, these permits are the equivalent in authority to any permits to be issued pursuant to Fish and Wildlife in lieu of CITES (Annex II) statement RE: 50CFR-23(b3). The Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) continues to collaborate with the Environmental Protection Agency (RMIEPA), more so that a letter of clearance is needed from the RMIEPA as part of the application process for all marine product exporters. MIMRA is moving forward with working with shipping agents and other relevant government offices towards the implementation of regulations and policies to move forward with formal registration of companies, and implementation of best management practices by the industry from collection efforts to exportation of products.

The CITES workshop held in August 4–7, 2009 in Nadi at the Tanoa International Hotel gave participants of environment and fisheries departments from 15 Pacific Island countries a chance to improve their knowledge about the



Image 9. Marine Product Export Application Checklist

convention, particularly because most of the countries in the region are relatively new members to CITES or are non-party states. Compliance is important because all of the major import markets, such as the US, Japan and EU are signatories to CITES. CITES was established to regulate the trade in endangered species from the wild. All species of the giant clam family (*Tridacnidae*) are listed in Appendix II of CITES. The convention regulates international trade in over 33,000 species listed in its three appendices. Export is only permitted if a CITES document is presented, which may only be issued after the legal origin of the specimens has been verified and it has been determined that the export is taking place at a level that is not detrimental to the survival of the species.

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capacity of Departments, Agencies and Ministries who will be responsible to report back to the CITES Secretariat as well as comply with CITES requirements.

The Marshall Islands Competent Authority to CITES as was appointed in 2009 is the Director of MIMRA.

Figure 4. Giant Clam Species exported in 2009

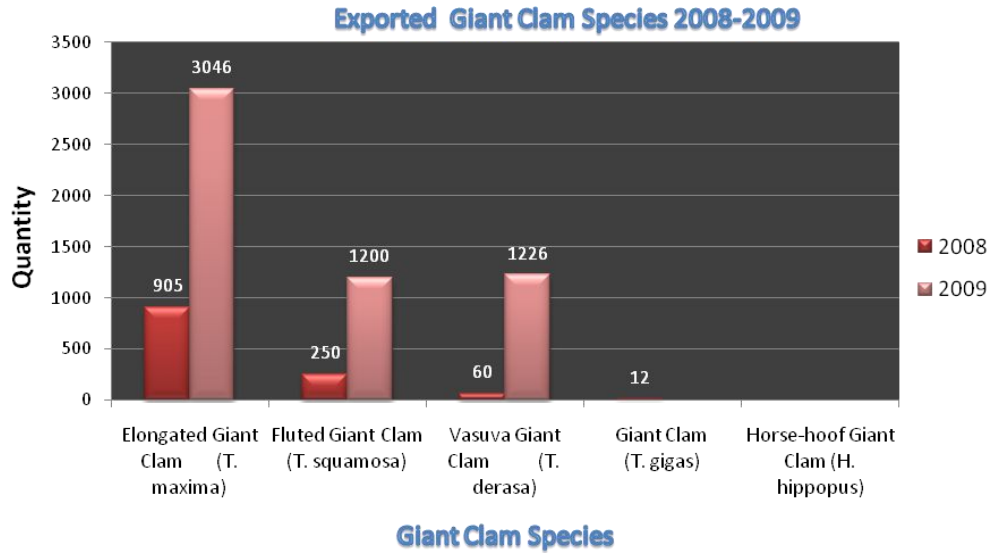


Figure 5. Export of Marine Invertebrate species 2008-2009

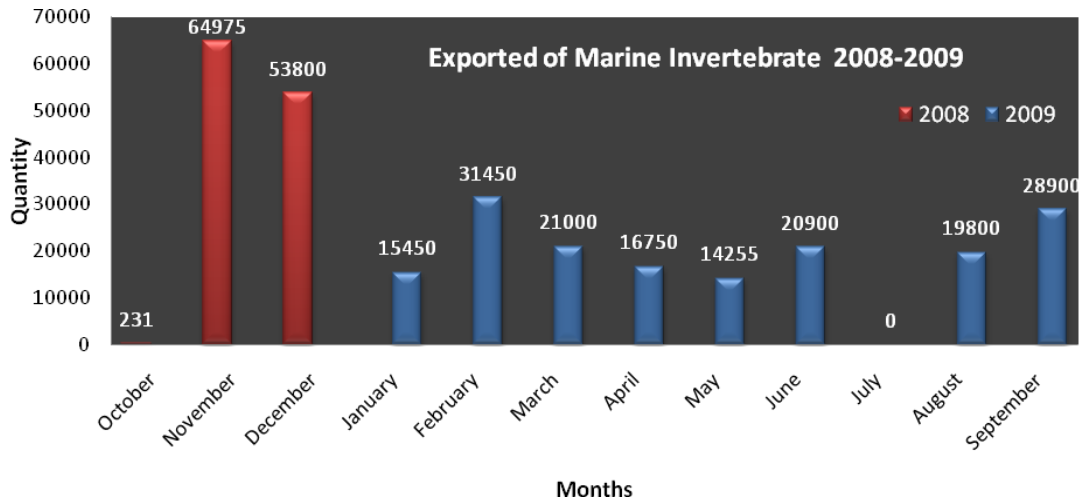


Figure 6. Total Quantity of Exported Marine Invertebrates for 2008 and 2009

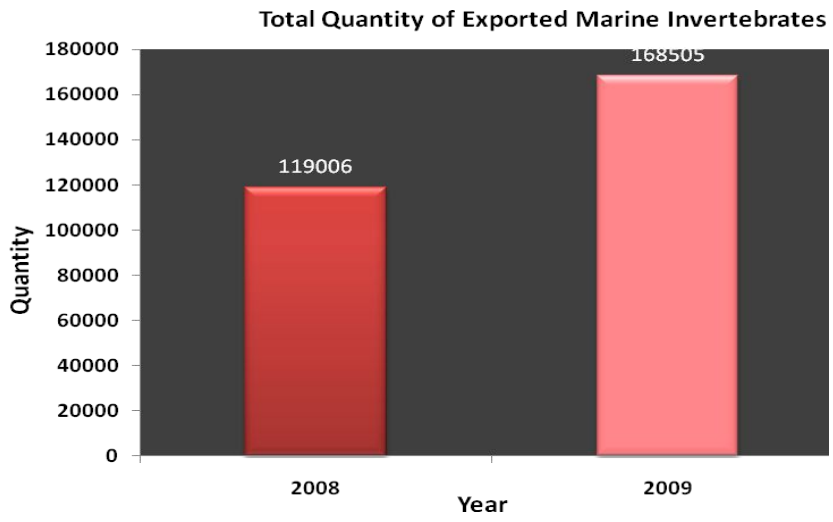


Figure 7. Exported Live Aquarium Fish for fiscal year 08/09

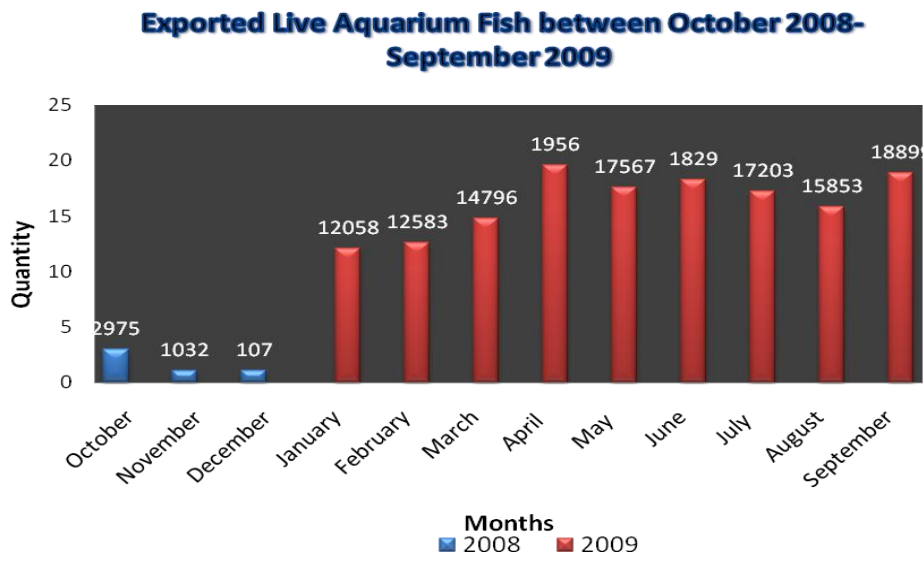
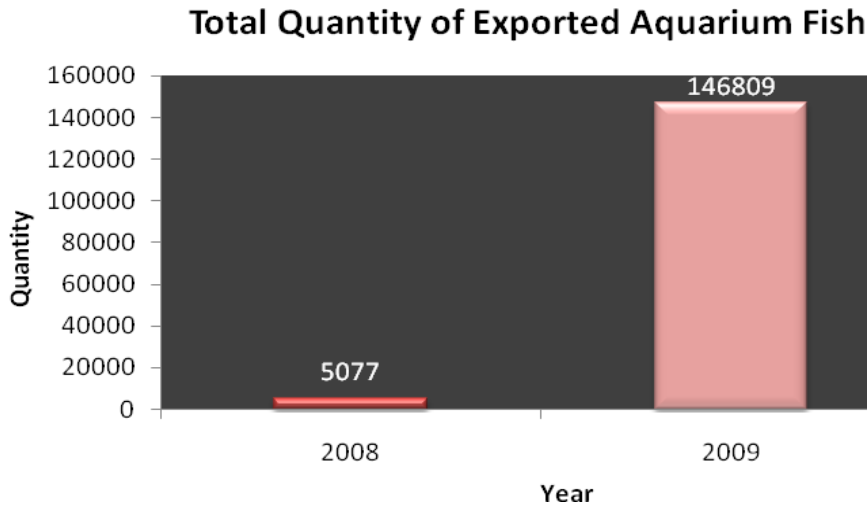


Figure 8. Total Quantity of Exported Aquarium Fish for 2008 and 2009



TURTLE CONSERVATION EFFORTS

In October of 2009, MIMRA launched an education and awareness program on Majuro and Wotje atolls in an effort to strengthen marine turtle conservation by effectively increasing public awareness, knowledge, and understanding regarding the significance of turtles and the urgent need to protect turtle populations as part of the “*Reimaanlok: Looking to the Future: National Conservation Area Plan for the Marshall Islands*” (*Reimaanlok*). Collaborative partners included Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS), Ministry of Education (MOE), and Ms. Regina Woodrom Rudrud, a sea turtle biologist at the University of Hawai’i at Manoa (UHM). Specific activities included:

Collection and creation of turtle education materials for RMI schools (middle school and high school): For this activity, MIMRA sought help from key agencies and educators (national, regional, and international) to obtain education and awareness materials on turtles as well as historical and cultural information. Ms. Woodrom Rudrud met with various stakeholders including with the MOE, MICS, Historic Preservation Office (HPO), and Youth to Youth in Health (YTYIH). Presently, Ms. Woodrom Rudrud and her team in Hawaii are still assessing materials before MOE’s review for final approval prior to printing and distribution to Majuro and Wotje schools.

Community awareness via theater: A 20-minute awareness skit on turtle conservation, solid waste issues with regards to the health of the oceans, and existing turtle laws in the RMI was created by YTYIH with technical assistance from MIMRA and MICS. The production was done in the style of a puppet show with nearly all props created from old or discarded items, and will be recorded onto DVD and distributed to communities and act as supplemental material to the curriculum.

Media information program on marine turtles: Since December 2009, 9 full-page newspaper ads with *Journal* have been produced on a monthly basis with versions available both in English and Marshallese, which will continue until September 2010. Topics discussed so far include sea turtle biology, historical importance of turtles, tracking and tagging, climate change, ocean pollution, maintaining biodiversity, turtle regulations, and plastics and biodegradable bags. Meanwhile, MIMRA is continuing to air turtle radio spots recorded by high school students in Marshallese language on V7AB, emphasizing the ban on selling turtles and turtle products, size limitations, and other regulations as well as turtle tagging information. Additionally, MICS is supporting with their weekly half-hour radio show. MIMRA has also recently purchased necessary media


equipment which will be used for future recordings.

Project activities yet to be implemented:


Academic and technical training to school teachers in Majuro and Wotje: The purpose of this activity is to guide RMI's educators regarding use of collated/produced materials. As an integral part of this initiative Ms. Woodrom Rudrud will coordinate with MIMRA, MICS, MOE, World Teach, and Dartmouth to conduct training workshops for teachers from Majuro and Wotje schools.

Promotion of degradable/biodegradable bags: MIMRA and MICS have conducted a few infor-

mal meetings with Marshallese handicraft-makers to introduce the turtle project, raise awareness on the negative impacts of plastic bags on the environment, and explain benefits of using degradable/bio-degradable bags compared to conventional plastic bags. Additionally, a facilitation of an 'amimono' (handicraft) contest on reusable shopping bags and, whereby winning baskets/bags will be selected and purchased by MIMRA to be sold to the public. All handicraft artists will be encouraged to additionally sell their items on their own; an incentive that will not only benefit the environment, but serve as another source of income. More meetings and awareness with the handicraft makers need to be completed on this aspect of the project.



Republic of the Marshall Islands
Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
 P.O. Box 860, Majuro, MH 96960
 Phone: (692) 625-8262/5632 Fax: (692) 625-5447



3. Out to the Open Ocean: Hatchlings continue to swim using ocean current patterns to navigate their way to the open ocean. Once they reach dinner plate size (3-8 years of age), the juveniles recruit to join older sexually mature turtles in coastal feeding grounds often thousands of miles away from the beach of their birth. It is in these feeding and developing areas that they live 98% of their lives, remaining in distinct feeding areas and returning to the exact same feeding area after each trip to the nesting beach.

3. Ilo Malo: Won jidk ko rej warm-tohok wot nan lomalo im beto betok ilo se ko. Ilo mallo rej bed im bok kiper ilo kajoka, ujoj in lojet, im men ko eserlok wot im rej beto betok. Ilo lore eo rej rotok nan loterein ailin ko, neritok im jakur enoj im kipor lok. Kar won jidk kein im rar tobal metok im kipon malo ko relap nerito kio.

4. Adult Males and Females: After 20 or more years of swimming and foraging out in the coastal waters, the sea turtles become sexually mature. Only 1 in 1000 hatchlings will reach reproductive age! Mating occurs several times and can take up to 7 hours at the surface, within the water column, or at the bottom of the ocean where female turtles occasionally surface to breathe.

4. Komaan im Kokora: Elikin nonou jima ilo in mour ilo malo, won kein mbok in kaine. Komaan ko rej jino jwara jilin kaine ko mokta jen kokora in. Ilo lore in komaan rej lo wot kokora ak rej jwadok lok eo kaine ak bokak ebok eton nwa kio. Ilo aer kaine ak bokak, won ko rej jidoon in ebar wot jet komaan ko rej koba lok im kottar an komaan eo wotok bwe ren maron in bar bokak libben eja kokora eo wot. Elik in jet wikk, kokora eo ej il.

From Sand to Sea – Sea Turtle Life Cycle
Jen Barijet nan Lomalo or Lojet
– Mour eo an won

Green Sea Turtles

2. The Long Crawl: The hatchlings wait for sunset (when surface sand temperatures fall below -35°C) to emerge out of their nests and start the long crawl out to the ocean. Only a few hatchlings per nest survive. Females return to the beach on average 2-3 years while the males will never return back.

2. Wan Meto Lok: Won jidk ko rej wakik elkin an jak marok im rej jino aer tobalbal metok. Wakik lok ilo bon enoj won ko jen menimour ko im remanon kani einwoot kidu, baru, bao in mejatoto eloba armj. Ipwatke mokta jen aer tobal metok, won ko rej bok aer ien bwe ren maron jela in eo rej bed ie im in eo rej jwadok. Jet ekakatok rej letmese bwe won ko rej warometok kin wot an menan lok ion lojet jen ene eo. Ilo an won ko tobar (jo ej bun ne ie, ej bulok im kotok bwe ae eo en bok metok. Kokora ko renj bar rid lok nan barijet eo rar lota ie elkin jowod jima ilo ak komaan ko rebak bar rotok.

1. Eggs / Lep

1. Lep Okmaanan eo ilo el eo ej ebar aurok einwoot ke ej karok bwe lep ko ren ru-brub im walokok ilo aer komaan ak kokora. Kin wawein in elomman bwe lep ko ilo el ko im rej bed joko romaanon rej rabub im walok kokora im el io io joko raimololo rej rabub im walok komaan.

5. Nesting / Lik

5. Nesting: Sea turtle nesting is seasonal with females usually nesting during the warmest times of the year. The nesting female crawls out of the water and if detects any predator, she will go back to the water waiting to return back to land. In general, sea turtles deposit their eggs onshore (100 eggs) although clutch size is determined by body size), above the high-tide line, most often at night, on the same beach on which they were born. A single female will often nest several times in a single season, with an egg-laying cycle of approximately 15 days, generally returning to the same stretch of beach for each laying.

5. Lik: Kokora ko elka aer ik ilo in mora ak lore eo emanan tala im rej rotok nan io im rar lotak ie io elkin io. Ilo lore eo kokora eo ej alo ejela ne ebar wor won io ej alo ie. Ilo in eo kokora eo ej alo elang ej kie bwe elon menin kalkure enoj bar warmetok im kottar. Ne ej lo ke ejelok menin kalkure, ej wormaok wot im alo nan io im enoj kommane el eo an ie. Kokora eo ej letoog el eo ilo an kogorbal ba im kein nan karneo io im el eo enoj bed ie. Im ej bareimwoot kojorbal ne ko iest nan an kubwaj el eo. Elik, ej kowotok 100 lok nan 200 lep ko oak niook ko. Oran lep ej bedbed wot ion joran an ritok won eo. Elikin an lik, kokora eo ej kalbwin lep ko im bar tobal metok. Ien lik in emoran ruo jima awa. Kokora eo emoran ik juon lok nan rotinjoun alen ilo juon ien kemmour.

Strengthening Marine Turtle Conservation through Education and Awareness **Kökkajoorlok wāwein köjparok won ilo kilaan leto-letak melele**

Image 10. MIMRA Turtle Ad posted in the Marshall Islands Journal

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RMI FADS DEPLOYMENT

FADs have proven to be very successful in attracting tuna, thus increasing the domestic landings of tuna to the local markets in Majuro. Past deployments with the Marshalls Billfish Club (MBC) has proven success, however, FADs have never been stable in one area over a year. Through the MBC and other local fisherman, Majuro has seen an increase in landings of tunas and tuna like species caught around the FADs. With the loss of the FADs deployed, landings were decreasing as fishermen had to search longer for surface schools of tuna to fish. This, coupled with the increasing cost of fuel, signaled an almost end to local fishing for the pelagic fish. There is a need for the government to assist fishers through the development of a FAD program in MIMRA.

In 1986, Japan, through OFCF, deployed several FADs in Majuro and Arno which prompted considerable interests, but did not materialize as a program. In 2000, several FADs were deployed by MBC, which at this time have either gone missing, been destroyed or drifted off with the tides and currents.

In 2009, MIMRA secured funding to procure three sets of FADs. The specifications and quantity of materials required was prepared by consultation with SPC, MBC, local fisherman, and MIMRA. These were in line with recommendations from the SPC FAD design consultant. MIMRA will deploy these FADs in 2010 in line with the new RMI National FAD Program through the assistance from regional partners such as SPC and FFA.



Image 11. FAD materials and deployment (Photo: Candice Guavis)

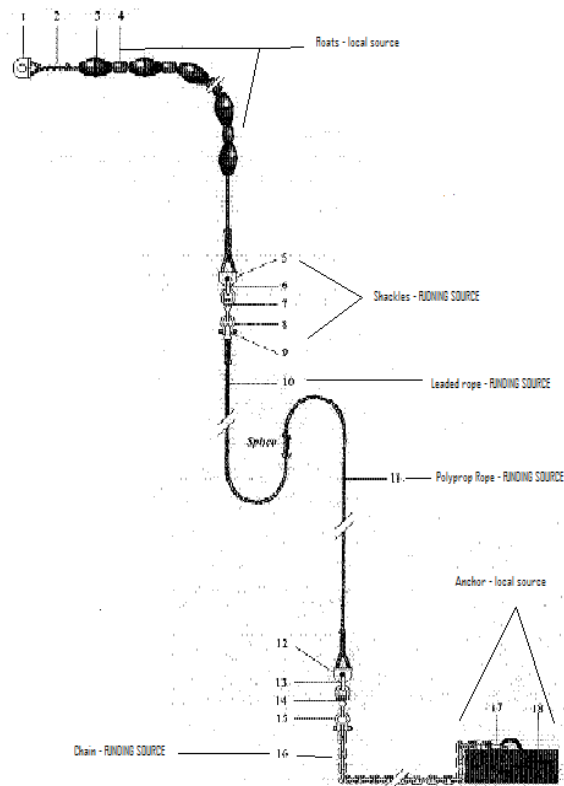


Image 12. Indian Ocean FAD

COASTAL MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (CMAC)

MIMRA supports and facilitates the development of community-based management plans as the primary mode of resource management on outer islands. The guidelines for this program delivery are documented in Reimaanlok: National Conservation Area Plan for the Marshall Islands and the actions below relate directly to Reimaanlok. MIMRA is supported in this work by partner agencies in the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC). Part of this program will be to build the capacity of MIMRA and partner organizations, especially MICS, so that there are more people who are experienced in facilitating community-based resource management planning. Essentially this means actually being on-the-ground in the outer-islands and learning by doing; learning by actually facilitating the process.

In 2009 CMAC has been involved in a number of onsite community consultations, local consultations and has worked to further advance the community based management by climatizing the Reimaanlok Process.



Image 13. Black Lipped Pearl Oyster strings on Namdrik (Photo: Darren Nakata)

This year CMAC conducted initiation trips to Namdrik and Mili Atolls. The teams that participated in the led these trips completed the first phase of the process. The phase includes:

- An awareness trip to identify the Reimaanlok Process and discuss issues observed by the community
- A baseline assessment of socio-economic conditions and marine resource use

Shortly after the Mili trip a workshop was held at CMI. The workshop to climatize Reimaanlok was conducted by Dr. Pam Rubinoff of the University of Rhode Island, Coastal Resource Center funded by US AID.

After discussing the current process conducted in community consultation, the facilitators showed how the current Reimaanlok tools could be used to assess community vulnerability and adaptive capacity. Additional tools were suggested to be used to further enhance the assessment of the communities. The following three participatory tools were resulted from the discussion in the workshop:

- Historical timeline
- Seasonal Calendar
- Resource Mapping

At the end of the workshop a practical assessment of the tools was conducted with Woja Community. This gave the CMAC team a chance to practice and adjust the tools to be most effective for future use.

Upon the completion of the URI-CRC workshop a second phase trip was scheduled for Namdrik Atoll. Namdrik became the first atoll to use the new climate lens tools with the Reimaanlok Process. During the consultation the team was able to further discuss community issues and potential solutions through the use of the participatory tools. Additionally, the community established a Namdrik Local Resource Committee to lead community in the future resource management planning process.

In addition to onsite consultations, throughout the year there have been local consultations with community leadership from Likiep, Maloelap, Wotje, and Ailuk Atolls as well as Woja Community and Bikirin Island from Majuro Atoll.

Micronesia Challenge

The Reimaanlok Process feeds into the greater regional initiative the Micronesian Challenge. From a regional standpoint the Marshall Islands has made great strides as a regional leader in community based adaptive management. To show its commitment MIMRA has agreed to put \$200,000 towards the Marshall Islands endowment fund at Micronesian Conservation Trust. This means that the Marshall Islands needs to find source for the remaining \$115,000 to see the full potential of the \$3 million endowment that will support future management and climate change adaptation activities. Additionally, CMAC and MIMRA plan to participate in upcoming regional meetings and workshops.

OCEANIC & INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS

OVERVIEW

. The tuna fishery in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is comprised of foreign flagged purse seine, pole-and-line and longline vessels and RMI-flagged purse seine and longline vessels. It continues to be dominated by purse seine fishing vessels, a majority of which are operated by distant water fleets, whose primary target catch is skipjack tuna. Most of the foreign flagged longline vessels operate in support of domestic development activities and are based locally at the MIFV Fishbase.

The RMI purse seine fleet experienced a decrease in overall catch in-zone in 2009, registering 4,421mt compared to 4,937mt of total catch for 2008.



Image 14. RMI purse seine vessel FV Koo's 108
(Photo: Amanda Hamilton)

The fleet has remain steady at 5 vessels for some time however, with a new purse seine vessel joining the fishery in 2009, total catch of the RMI national purse seine fleet operating throughout the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (i.e. the WCPFC Convention Area) was 44,342 mt, an increase of around 27% compared to the previous year. A portion of this increase can be attributed to the addition of this new RMI-flagged vessel in the purse seine fishery. Skipjack tuna catch, in 2009, accounted for about 91% of total catch with the rest comprising of yellowfin (4%) and bigeye tuna (5%). The fleet fish both within the RMI EEZ and throughout the Convention Area.

There was also an increase in catch from the national longline fleet however the increase was not as pronounced. The overall catch estimates by the

locally-based foreign longline fleets in 2009 indicate a slight increase from the previous year (3,918mt in 2008 compared to 4,363mt in 2009). Bigeye catch continues to account for the major part of the target catch composition.



Image 15: MIFV fleet docked at fishbase
(Photo: Amanda Hamilton)

In 2009, catches from the pole-and-line fleet continued to decline to 438 mt after a five-year peak of over 4,500 mt in 2007 (Table 10). Skipjack is the main species making up the catch composition for this fleet and in fact 100% of the reported catch in 2009 was of this species. However, there remains no observer data to from this fleet for validation purposes.

Overall catch estimates from licensed foreign fleets operating in the RMI EEZ in 2009 amounted to just over 20,000 mt with 76% of the catch attributed to the purse seine fleets and a majority of the catch comprising of skipjack tuna.

As briefly highlighted last year, the revitalized loining plant, managed by Pan Pacific Foods (RMI), Inc. resumed full production in April 2009 after a brief hiatus owing to technical issues and repairs. Details for 2009 are presented in the latter part of this report.

In summary, 2009 represented yet another mixed outcome from the oceanic tuna fishery in the RMI and can be fairly characterized as further downward trend in terms of catch productivity in the RMI EEZ.

FLEET STRUCTURE

Table 7 shows the various access agreements and between MIMRA and fishing parties conducting fishing operations in the RMI EEZ for the 2009 period.

Tables 8 – 10 provide a description of foreign-flagged vessels licensed to fish in the Marshall Islands waters over the past five years.

Domestically-based foreign longline vessels operating under the Marshall Islands Fishing Venture

fly foreign flags of registration and not necessarily the flag of the countries operating and managing these vessels, which is essentially the RMI.

As such the catch attribution from these vessels has always been flag-based as opposed to zone-based, an issue that MIMRA continues to iron out with all concerned, namely WCPFC and SPC among others.

Table 7. Access agreements with the RMI in 2009.

Country/Company/Association	Type	Adminstrator	Type
USA	Multilateral	FFA	Regional
FSMA	Multilateral	FFA	Subregional
Japan Far Seas Purse Seine Fishing Association (KAIMAKI)	Bilateral	MIMRA	Govt to Govt
Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Association (NIKKATSUREN) / National Offshore Tuna Fisheries Association (KINKATSUKYO)	Bilateral	MIMRA	Govt to Govt
Taiwan Deep Sea Boat Owners and Exporters Association	Bilateral	MIMRA	Industry to Govt
Korea Overseas Fisheries Association	Bilateral	MIMRA	Industry to Govt
Amaltal Fishing Co., Ltd., Nelson (New Zealand)	Bilateral	MIMRA	Industry to Govt
Fong Seong Fishery Group	Bilateral	MIMRA	Industry to Govt
Distant Water Fishing Association of China Fisheries Association	Bilateral	MIMRA	Industry to Govt

Table 8. Number of foreign purse seine vessels licensed to fish in the Marshall Islands EEZ, by year and flag.

	YEAR				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
CHINA	5	8	12	10	4
FSM	6	1	3	4	4
JAPAN	34	33	35	28	30
KIRIBATI	1	1	1	1	1
KOREA	27	20	20	27	26
NZ	3	3	0	1	1
PNG	17	16	17	15	17
CH-TAIPEI	34	19	13	27	18
VANUATU	8	8	7	4	3
SOLOMON	3	0	0	0	0
USA	15	12	22	32	38
TOTAL	153	121	130	149	142

Table 9. Number of foreign longline vessels licensed to fish in the Marshall Islands EEZ, by year and flag.

	Longline						TOTAL
	CHINA	FSM	JAPAN	KOREA	CH-TAIPEI	BELIZE	
2005	43	6	25	2	5	7	88
2006	40	9	34	1	6	0	90
2007	36	6	21	0	1	0	64
2008	39	6	6	0	2	0	53
2009	33	6	6	0	0	0	45

Table 10. Number of foreign pole-and-line vessels licensed to fish in the Marshall Islands EEZ, by year and flag.

	Pole-and-line	
	JAPAN	
2005		35
2006		23
2007		22
2008		25
2009		12

Figure 9 illustrates the number of vessels licensed in the RMI for the periods since 1998/1999. For the reporting period, the number of fishing vessels licensed by MIMRA to fish in the RMI decreased owing to some bilateral fishing partners holding off from applying due to increase in license fees which took effect in early

2009. It should be noted that the list does not include the carriers and bunker vessels, which are, by definition, considered as fishing vessels given the nature of their direct support and provisioning operations. As in past annual reports, such vessels and their numbers are covered in the trans-shipment section of this report.

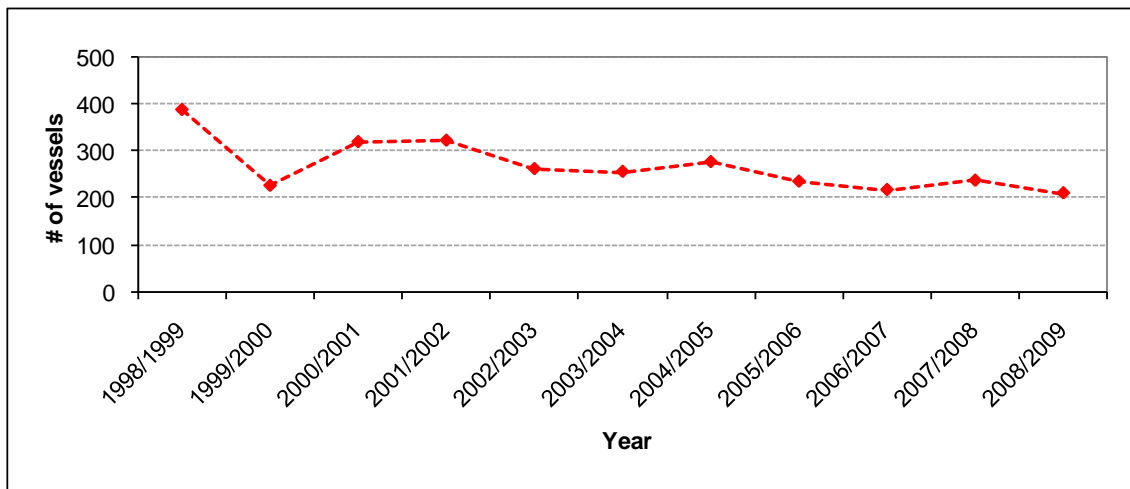


Figure 9: Number of licensed vessels 1998-2009

ANNUAL CATCHES IN THE WCPFC CONVENTION AREA, 2005– 2009 BY RMI FLAGGED VESSELS

Figure 10 below illustrates the trends in number of RMI-flagged fishing vessels active in the Convention Area since 2000. Tables 5 and 6 provide a list of RMI-flagged vessels, by size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area over the past five years. The national purse seine fleet is based out of Majuro and fishes throughout the region under the FSM Arrangement for Regional Access

(FSMA) administered by the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). Coverage of data collected from both the national purse seine and longline fleets satisfy the coverage levels recommended by the WCPFC. Additionally, the coverage of unloads data from the domestically-based foreign longline fleet continues to improve over time and is nearing 100%.

Figure 10. Historical annual vessel numbers for the Marshall Islands, by gear, for the WCPFC Convention Area

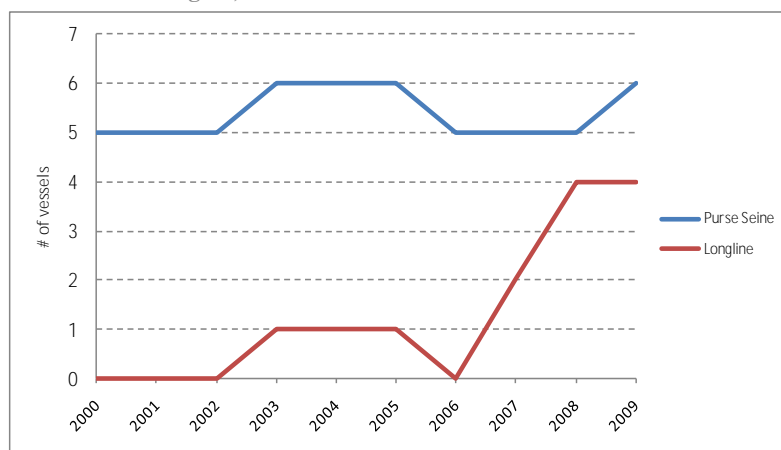


Table 11. Number of Marshall Islands purse seine vessels, by size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2005-2009

Size class (GRT)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
0–500					
500–1,000					
1,000–1,500	6	5	5	5	5
1,500+	0	0	0	0	1

Table 12. Number of Marshall Islands longline vessels, by size category, active in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2005-2009

Size class (GRT)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
0–10					
10–50					
50–200	1	0	2	4	4
200–500					
500+					

National purse seine catch/effort

Annual catch and effort estimates for the national purse seine fleet, fishing throughout the WCPFC Convention Area during the last five years, are presented in **Table 13** with historical estimates further provided in **Figure 11**. **Figure 12** provides an illustration of the distribution of effort for the national purse seine fleet over the past two years.

As the fleet is based out of Majuro, the effort is concentrated in the southern half of the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and other adjacent EEZs and high seas areas. There was an apparent eastward shift in fishing effort during 2009 possibly due to the development of an El Nino event in the latter part of the year.

Table 13. Annual catch (mt) and effort (days) estimates for the Marshall Islands purse seine vessels, by primary species, for the WCPFC Convention Area, 2005-2009

Species	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
DAYS FISHING AND SEARCHING	1233	976	1216	1041	1183
SKIPJACK	47565	38881	53916	26500	40517
YELLOWFIN	7628	1436	3370	4151	1577
BIGEYE	971	2032	2118	1567	2248

Notes

1. These catch estimates also apply to the WCPO Area (the Pacific Ocean west of 150°W)
2. Catches were taken from logsheet data and the coverage of the logsheet data is considered to be

Figure 11. Historical annual catch for the Marshall Islands purse seine vessels, by primary species, for the WCPFC Convention Area

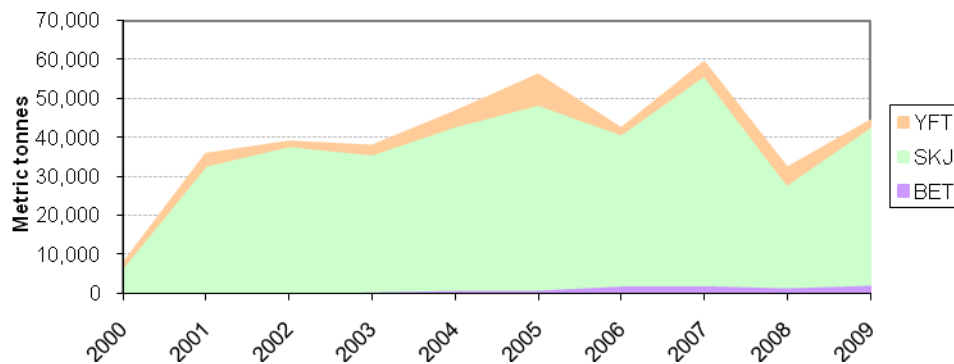
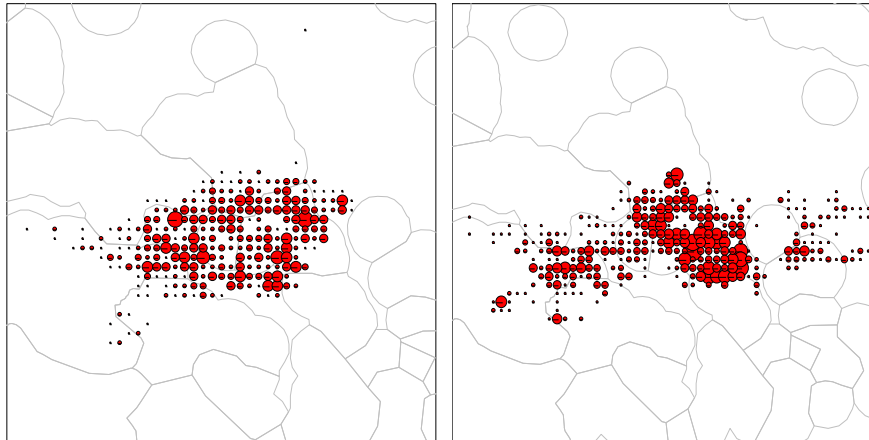


Figure 12. Annual distribution of effort (days fishing and searching) by the Marshall Islands purse seine vessels active in the WCPFC Convention Area for 2008 (left) and 2009 (right)



National longline catch/effort

Table 14 shows the reported catch and effort estimates from the Marshall Islands longline fleet over the past five years while Figure 13 shows the distribution of effort for these vessels during the last two years which has always been fishing

primarily in the RMI EEZ. Catches from the fleet in 2009 experienced an increase, albeit a slight one, with estimates totaling 567 mt, by primary species (Figure 14).

Table 14. Annual catch (mt) and effort (hooks) estimates for the Marshall Islands longline vessels, by primary species, for the WCPFC Convention Area, 2005-2009

Species	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
100s OF HOOKS				1834	1275
	0	0	177	7	6
YELLOWFIN	0	0	2	91	120
BIGEYE	0	0	3	375	381
BLUE MARLIN	0	0	1	63	52
BLACK MARLIN	0	0	0	0	0
SKIPJACK	0	0	0	0	0
ALBACORE					10
	0	0	0	15	
PACIFIC BLUEFIN	0	0	0	0	0
STRIPED MARLIN	0	0	0	1	0
SWORDFISH	0	0	0	7	4

Notes

- These catch estimates also apply to the following areas
 - The WCPO Area (the Pacific Ocean west of 150°W)
 - The WCPFC Convention Area north of the equator
 - The WCPO Area north of the equator
- The MARSHALL ISLANDS longline fleet does not fish in any other areas for which catch estimates

Figure 13. Annual distribution effort (100s of hooks) by the Marshall Islands longline vessels active in the WCPFC Convention Area for 2008 (left) and 2009 (right)

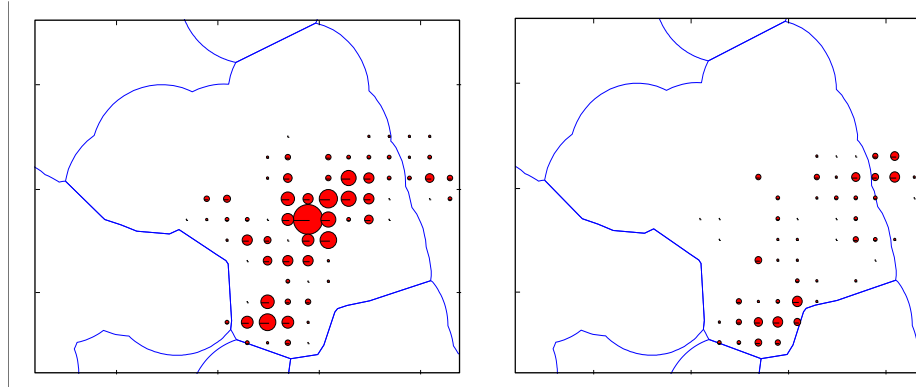
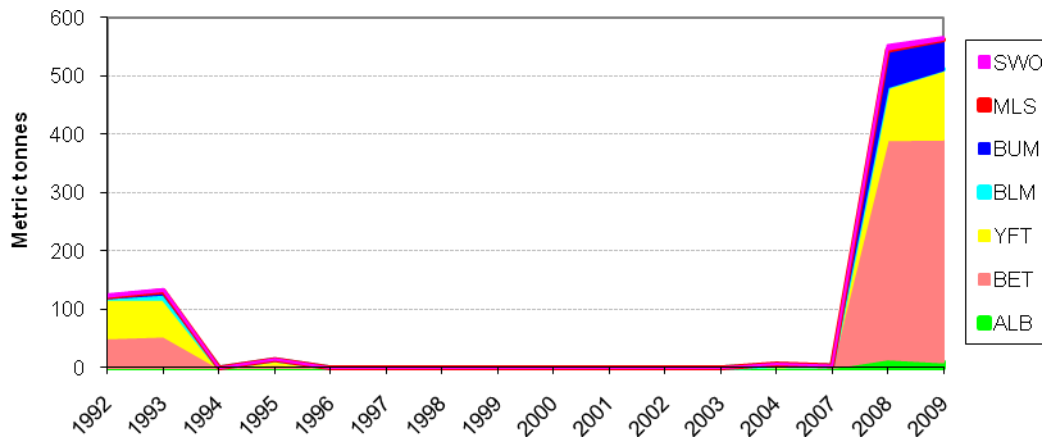


Figure 14. Historical annual catch for the Marshall Islands longline vessels, by primary species, for the WCPFC Convention Area



ANNUAL CATCHES IN THE RMI EEZ BY FOREIGN FISHING FLEETS, 2005 – 2009

Purse seine fleet catch/effort

Available logsheet data indicate that total catch by purse seine fleets operating in the RMI EEZ decreased from 24,158 mt in 2008 to 15,258 mt in 2009 (**Table 15**). Skipjack tuna continues to be the dominant catch, accounting for over 95% of the total catch in the last year. Most of the purse seine fishing in-zone is restricted to southern areas of the EEZ.

Overall trends in Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) indicate variable catch rates among fleets and years with Pacific Island fleets having highest catch rates of skipjack catches in recent years while there seems to be downward trend with regards to yellowfin catches (**Figures 16 & 17**).

Table 15. Annual catches by foreign purse seine fleets in the Marshall Islands EEZ, by flag and species, 2005-2009 (Source : Unraised logsheet data collected by MIMRA)

Fleet	Year	Catch (metric tonnes)				TOTAL
		ALB	BET	SKJ	YFT	
CN	2005	0	0	0	0	0
	2006	0	3	334	111	449
	2007	0	0	0	0	0
	2008	0	0	0	0	0
	2009	0	0	203	0	203
FSMA	2005	0	107	6,833	830	7,770
	2006	0	120	6,441	620	7,181
	2007	0	241	4,237	384	4,863
	2008	0	244	7,196	1,797	9,237
	2009	0	160	8,863	239	9,262
JP	2005	0	24	1,312	131	1,467
	2006	0	0	3,252	169	3,421
	2007	0	0	0	0	0
	2008	0	0	636	282	918
	2009	0	7	379	31	417
KR	2005	0	0	1,995	0	1,995
	2006	0	19	1,231	260	1,511
	2007	0	5	215	124	345
	2008	0	7	375	177	559
	2009	0	0	772	0	772
NZ	2005	0	5	661	37	704
	2006	0	0	0	0	0
	2007	0	0	0	0	0
	2008	0	0	0	0	0
	2009	0	0	0	0	0
TW	2005	0	0	1,488	0	1,488
	2006	0	11	1,705	218	1,933
	2007	0	38	1,672	338	2,049
	2008	0	144	3,630	1,610	5,384
	2009	0	6	1,564	49	1,619
US	2005	0	116	2,932	336	3,384
	2006	0	4	167	8	180
	2007	0	6	376	21	403
	2008	0	194	3,514	2,087	5,795
	2009	0	30	2,661	105	2,795
VU	2005	0	9	3,376	90	3,475
	2006	0	27	771	185	983
	2007	0	16	3,946	166	4,127
	2008	0	22	1,953	290	2,265
	2009	0	7	142	41	190
TOTAL EEZ	2005	0	261	18,597	1,425	20,283
	2006	0	185	13,901	1,572	15,658
	2007	0	307	10,446	1,034	11,786
	2008	0	611	17,304	6,243	24,158
	2009	0	210	14,584	464	15,258

Figure 15. Annual distribution of combined effort (days fishing and searching) by the main foreign purse seine fleets active in the Marshall Islands EEZ for 2008 (left) and 2009 (right)

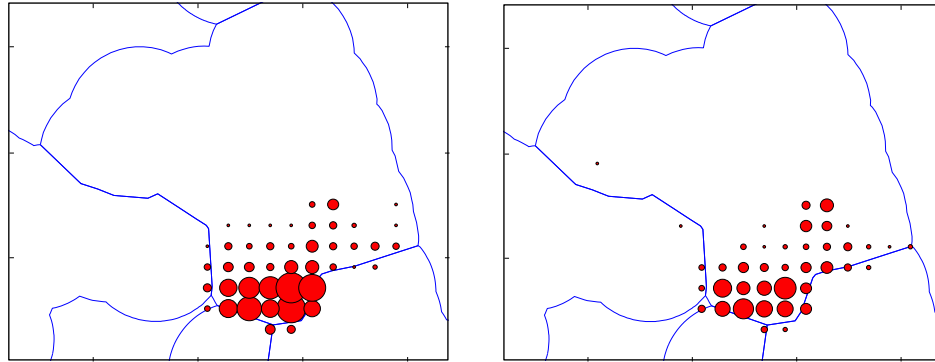


Figure 16. Trends in nominal catch rates of SKIPJACK TUNA taken by the main purse seine fleets operating in the Marshall Islands EEZ, 1998-2009

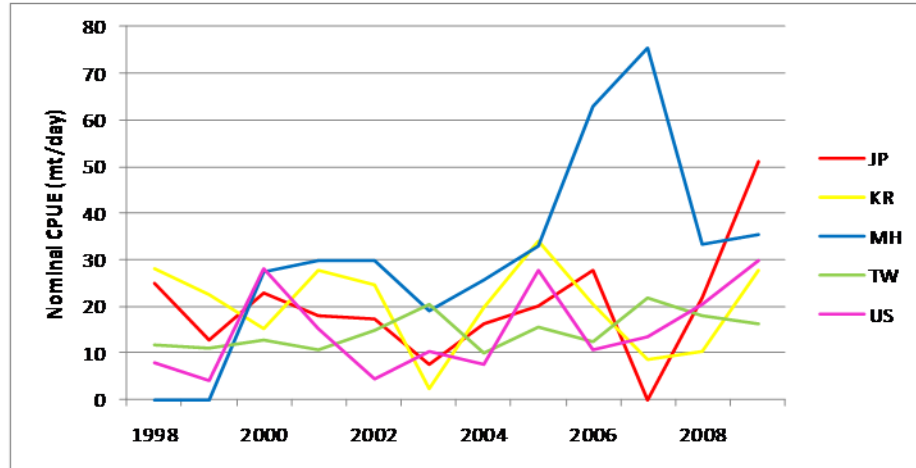
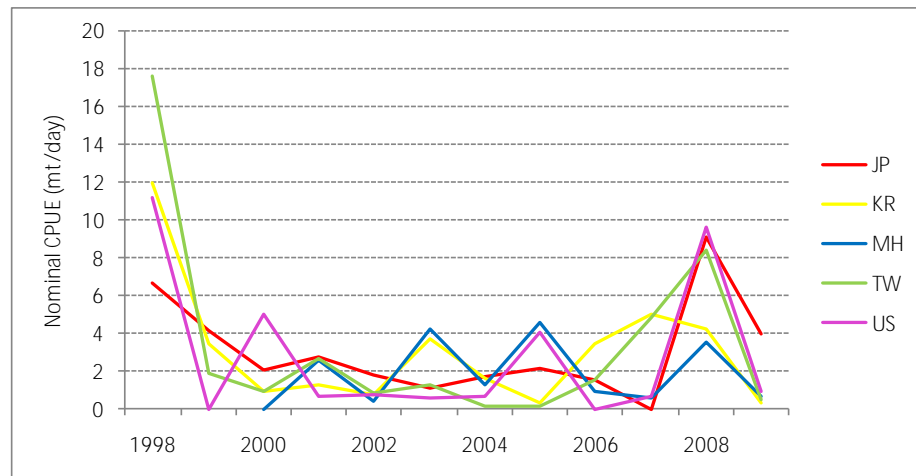


Figure 17. Trends in nominal catch rates of YELLOWFIN TUNA taken by the main purse-seine fleets operating in the Marshall Islands EEZ, 1998-2009



Foreign longline fleet catch/effort

The domestically-based foreign longline fleet comprises of vessels from China and FSM which are managed and operated through the Marshall Islands Fishing Venture (MIFV) fishbase where they routinely offload their catch. As for Japanese longline vessels, they continue to offload their catch directly in ports in Japan.

Catch estimates for 2006-2009 for the domestically-based vessels have been raised using unloadings data. As indicated earlier, the overall catch estimates by foreign longline fleets in 2009 indicate a slight increase from the previous year (Table 16).

Bigeye catch continues to account for the major part of the target catch composition. As with the purse seine fishery, most of the longline fishing effort occurs in the southern areas of the RMI EEZ however in the longline fishery, effort is more widely distributed throughout the zone (Figure 18).

Overall trends in nominal CPUE for both bigeye and yellowfin show stable catches in 2009 when compared to 2008 (Figures 19 & 20).

Table 16. Annual catches by foreign longline fleets in the Marshall Islands EEZ, by flag and species, 2004-2008 (Source : 2006-2008 catch estimates of locally-based fleet derived from best combination of logsheet and unloadings data, others are unraise)

Flag	Year	Catch (metric tonnes)				Total
		ALB	BET	YFT	OTH	
China	2005	20	1,030	600	2	1,651
	2006	39	1,908	1,478	388	3,811
	2007	14	2,028	727	348	3,116
	2008	58	2,270	554	394	3,275
	2009	57	2,156	732	359	3,304
FSM	2005	0	136	74	2	211
	2006	4	417	235	76	732
	2007	3	359	133	66	561
	2008	9	434	112	76	631
	2009	23	711	227	98	1,059
Japan	2005	12	106	45	0	163
	2006	23	120	70	0	212
	2007	5	114	40	0	159
	2008	0	0	0	0	0
	2009	0	0	0	0	0
Ch-Taipei	2005	0	35	21	0	56
	2006	0	5	7	0	12
	2007	0	0	0	0	0
	2008	0	10	2	0	12
	2009	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EEZ	2005	33	1,307	738	3	2,081
	2006	65	2,449	1,790	463	4,768
	2007	21	2,501	899	415	3,836
	2008	67	2,714	668	470	3,918
	2009	80	2,867	959	457	4,363

Figure 18. Annual distribution of combined effort (100s of hooks) by the main foreign longline fleets active in the Marshall Islands EEZ for 2008 (left) and 2009 (right)

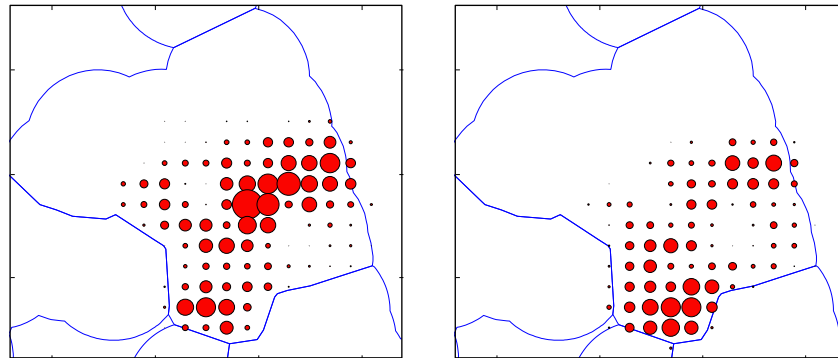


Figure 19. Trends in nominal catch rates of BIGEYE TUNA taken by longline fleets operating in the Marshall Islands EEZ, 1998-2009

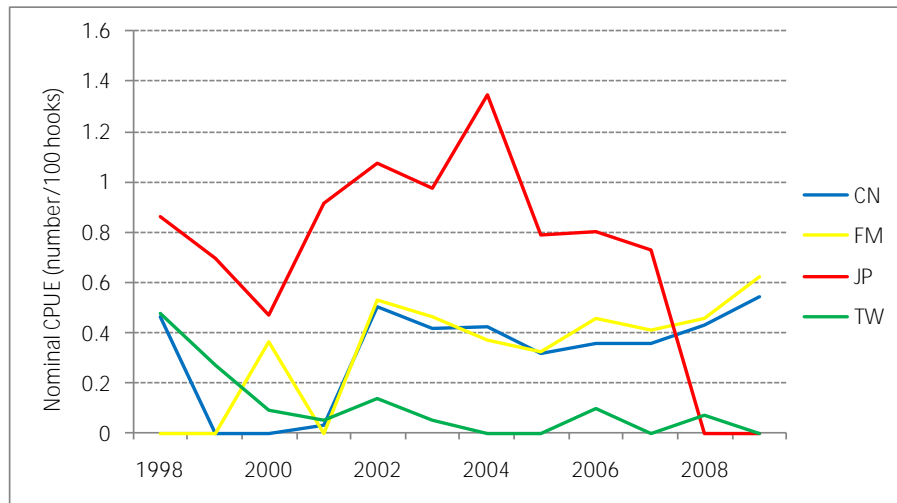
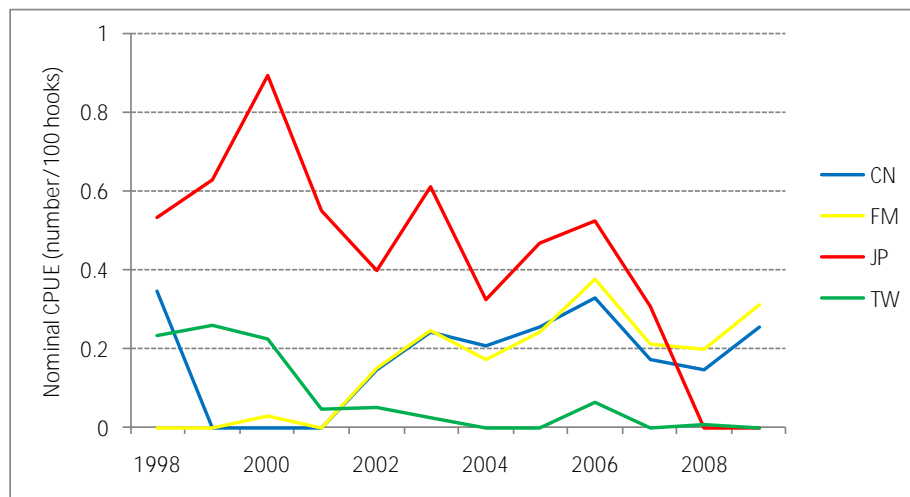


Figure 20. Trends in nominal catch rates of YELLOWFIN TUNA taken by longline fleets operating in the Marshall Islands EEZ, 1998-2009



Foreign pole-and-line fleet catch/effort

In 2009, catches from the pole-and-line fleet continued to decline to 438 mt after a five-year peak of over 4,500 mt in 2007 (**Table 17**).

Figure 13 shows a sporadic distribution of effort by the fleet throughout the RMI EEZ. Skipjack is the main species making up the catch composition for this fleet and in fact 100% of the reported catch in 2009 was of this species. However, given

that these vessels do not have observers placed on them, there remains no observer data to verify and validate these catch reports being submitted.

Overall trends in nominal CPUE for the pole-and-line fleet reflect the continuing decline in catch following the peak in 2007 (**Figure 22**).

Table 17. Annual catches by foreign pole-and-line fleets in the Marshall Islands EEZ, by flag and species, 2004-2008 (Source: Unraised logsheet data collected by MIMRA)

Fleet	Year	Catch (metric tonnes)				TOTAL
		BET	SKJ	YFT	OTH	
JAPAN	2005	0	653	1	1	655
	2006	0	978	8	1	987
	2007	0	4,517	1	0	4,518
	2008	9	2,447	6	0	2,462
	2009	0	438	0	0	438

Figure 21. Annual distribution of effort (days fishing and searching) by the Japanese pole-and-line fleets active in the Marshall Islands EEZ for 2008 (left) and 2009 (right)

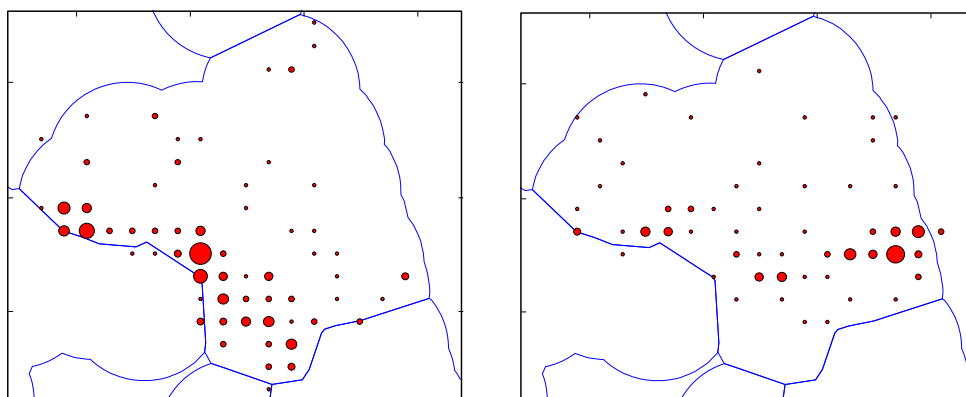
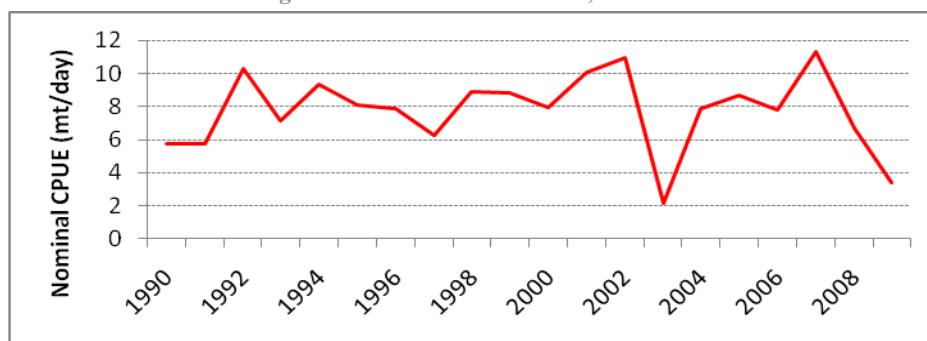


Figure 22. Trends in nominal catch rates of SKIPJACK TUNA taken by the Japanese pole-and-line fleet operating in the Marshall Islands EEZ, 1990-2009.



MARKETS AND DETAILS OF LOCAL INDUSTRY

The Marshall Islands Fishing Venture (MIFV) continues to operate the Longline Fishbase with domestically-based foreign longline vessels as well as the national longline fleet. There was an increase in total unloadings in 2009 compared to the previous year and most of the unloaded catches were bound for export markets (Tables 18 & 19).

The company exports mainly fresh chilled tuna species to markets in the US, China and Canada. Frozen fish (rejects and bycatch), designated as OTHER, are shipped to China via transport containers and/or sold locally.



Image 16. Frozen tuna processed at MIFV fishbase ready for export (Photo: Amanda Hamilton)

Table 18. Total unloaded catch (mt) for domestically-based longline vessels, 2008

SPECIES	EXP	OTH	TOTAL
ALBACORE	17	52	69
BIGEYE	2,706	107	2,813
YELLOWFIN	592	100	692
BLUE MARLIN	38	444	482
MAHI MAHI / DOLPHINFISH	13	37	50
OPAH / MOONFISH	12	44	56
SAILFISH (INDO-PACIFIC)	0	1	1
SHARKS (UNIDENTIFIED)	0	215	215
SHORT-BILLED SPEARFISH	0	0	0
SWORDFISH	19	28	47
WAHOO	20	97	117
	3,378	1,000	4,378

Table 19 . Total unloaded catch (mt) for domestically-based longline vessels, 2009

Species	EXP	OTH	TOTAL
ALBACORE	2	83	85
BIGEYE	2,989	142	3,131
BLUE MARLIN	51	424	475
MAHI MAHI / DOLPHINFISH	3	14	17
OPAH / MOONFISH	10	15	25
SAILFISH (INDO-PACIFIC)	0	2	2
SHARKS (UNIDENTIFIED)	0	70	70
SWORDFISH	15	34	49
WAHOO	9	48	56
YELLOWFIN	818	203	1,021
	3,895	1,035	4,931

TRANSSHIPMENT/PORT UNLOADING ACTIVITIES

Transshipment in Majuro port continues to pick up in recent years and remains an important catalyst for economic development in the RMI as it comprises a significant source of revenue for the RMI given the fact that Majuro port has become a very vital link and hub for transshipment.

The increase in number of such activities carried out in Majuro lagoon/port has proven over time to be a positive indicator for economic spin offs in private sector areas dealing directly and indirectly when vessels call into Majuro port from time to time (e.g. fuel sales with Marshalls Energy Company, etc).

MIMRA acknowledges and appreciates this as both an opportunity for collection of revenue and as an opportunity with responsibility to collect catch data from vessels. Consistent with international agreements and under the *Marine Resources Act 1997*, transshipment at sea under any circumstances is prohibited.

It is envisaged that MIMRA and all concerned will continue and advocate for in-port transshipment noting the favorable economic spin-offs associated with this vital activity. Further clarity on this issue is evident in the recent adoption of the WCPFC transshipment measure on which the RMI was a strong advocate and was deeply involved in its initial formulation beginning in 2007.

A total of 208,706mt of tuna catch was transshipped in 2009 (**Table 20**) compared to just over 156,000mt in 2008. **Table 21** shows the number of support vessels (by flag) that were licensed by MIMRA in 2009 which undertook transshipment activities in the Majuro lagoon.

Figure 23 is indicative of transshipment activity, relative to the revenue collected by MIMRA from 1998 through to 2008/2009 and it clearly shows a pronounced increase in fees collected owing to changes in transshipment fee structures which came into effect in early 2009.

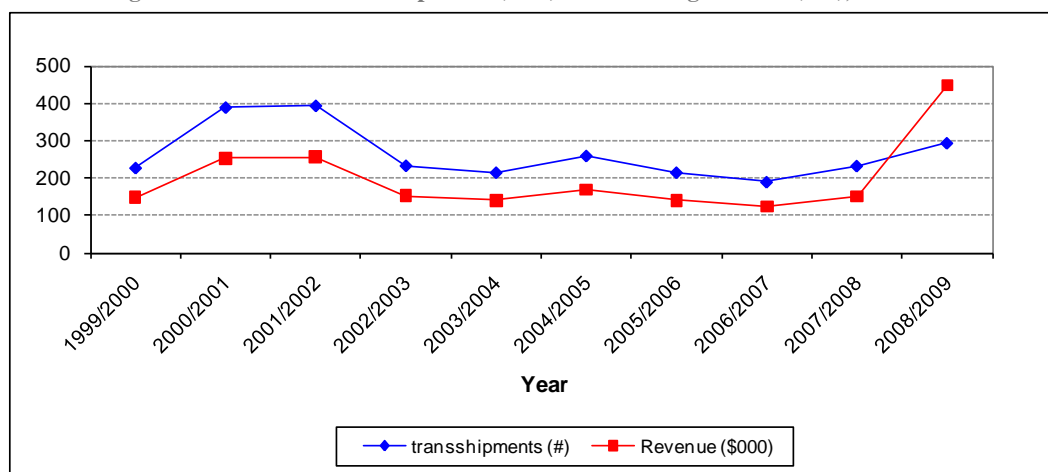
Table 20. Total catch transshipped in Majuro, 2009

	Catch (mt)			
	BET	YFT	SKJ	TOTAL
JAN	100	370	2,140	2,610
FEB	83	238	610	931
MAR	190	165	3,851	4,206
APR	152	181	4,297	4,630
MAY	270	841	9,069	10,180
JUN	349	1,918	10,088	12,355
JUL	988	2,188	20,922	24,098
AUG	214	1,084	21,244	22,542
SEP	51	707	15,757	16,515
OCT	330	1,091	25,826	27,247
NOV	109	745	43,740	44,593
DEC	274	1,669	36,857	38,800
TOTAL	3,109	11,196	194,401	208,706

Table 21. Number of RMI-licensed support vessels in 2009

FLAG	BUNKER	CARRIER
China	0	6
Cyprus	0	1
FSM	0	1
Kiribati	7	14
Korea	2	4
Lithuania	1	0
Malta	0	1
RMI	0	8
Panama	3	22
Singapore	3	0
Taiwan	0	1
Thailand	0	1
Vanuatu	0	5
TOTAL	16	64

Figure 23. Number of transshipments (blue) and income generated (red), 1999-2009



OBSERVER PROGRAM

MIMRA makes an attempt every year to carry observer trainings in order to meet the increasing demands placed on the RMI Observer Program. In 2009, there were 28 active observers and a provisional total of 102 trips and 2,653 sea days were completed on both longline and purse seine vessels (**Table 22**) compared to 17 active observers

and a total of 71 trips and 1,653 sea days in 2008. Unfortunately in the latter part of the year, there was no coverage on longline vessels due to increased demands for coverage on purse seine vessels (i.e. two-month FAD closure in latter part of 2009).

Table 22. Observed trips and days at sea in 2009

Month	Number of Trips			Number of Days		
	LL	PS	Total	LL	PS	Total
January	2	1	3	25	45	70
February	4	2	6	50	53	103
March	0	1	1	0	41	41
April	3	1	4	44	29	73
May	4	2	6	55	78	133
June	13	6	19	150	186	336
July	0	17	17	0	589	589
August	0	23	23	0	765	765
September	0	18	18	0	425	425
October	0	0	0	0	0	0
November	0	3	3	0	75	75
December	0	2	2	0	43	43
	26	76	102	324	2,329	2,653

Port Sampling

In 2009, port sampling activities continue to improve compared to the previous year (Tables 23 & 24). A total of more than 88,000 fish were measured during 2009 by a full-time port sampler stationed the MIFV longline fishbase. Collated data are sent directly to SPC-OFP on a monthly basis for analysis. Although not yet achieved, it is still an aim of MIMRA to acquire additional data entry staff to increase in-house processing to complement work undertaken at SPC.

The development of its data and statistical capability continues to be a vital tool for MIMRA. The SPC-OFP has been very instrumental in the Oceanic Division's data efforts, as evidenced by the successful integration and regular updates of the TUFMAN database at MIMRA.



Image 17. Port sampling and sorting of catch off-loaded at MIFV Fishbase (Photo: Amanda Hamilton)

Tables 23. Port sampling (locally-based longline vessels), 2008

Month	Port	Number (Measured)					Number (not measured)				
		ALB	BET	YFT	OTH	TOTAL	ALB	BET	YFT	OTH	TOTAL
January	Majuro	0	4,466	3,381	148	7,995	265	15	64	4,173	4,517
February	Majuro	8	5,027	2,059	157	7,251	14	9	69	4,157	4,249
March	Majuro	9	5,679	1,982	142	7,812	200	65	143	4,428	4,836
April	Majuro	83	7,353	1,777	255	9,468	139	36	131	4,994	5,300
May	Majuro	221	6,106	1,190	165	7,682	48	40	69	2,592	2,749
June	Majuro	100	6,157	1,304	73	7,634	49	40	136	2,645	2,870
July	Majuro	226	5,646	2,345	75	8,292	509	78	89	2,155	2,831
August	Majuro	0	4,741	1,406	83	6,230	95	38	109	2,358	2,600
September	Majuro	1	5,124	1,325	97	6,547	128	27	58	1,970	2,183
October	Majuro	8	4,335	891	73	5,307	221	15	37	1,567	1,840
November	Majuro	9	3,663	619	61	4,352	142	10	9	1,165	1,326
December	Majuro	0	84	39	0	123	0	0	0	0	0
		665	58,381	18,318	1,329	78,693	1,810	373	914	32,204	35,301

Tables 24. Port sampling (locally-based longline vessels), 2009

Month	Port	Number (measured)				Number (not measured)			
		ALB	BET	YFT	OTH	ALB	BET	YFT	OTH
January	MAJURO	0	2,792	1,280	31	182	23	13	1,227
February	MAJURO	0	7,160	3,617	37	596	144	51	1,998
March	MAJURO	0	7,692	4,389	65	386	79	63	2,501
April	MAJURO	9	6,260	2,505	102	266	96	84	1,871
May	MAJURO	1	6,909	1,098	94	60	102	142	1,967
June	MAJURO	1	6,175	1,951	127	177	83	259	2,206
July	MAJURO	2	5,363	2,719	141	56	52	88	1,614
August	MAJURO	4	5,157	1,602	191	69	27	76	1,397
September	MAJURO	1	6,710	1,948	116	149	35	11	1,104
October	MAJURO	0	4,666	1,543	384	114	36	58	1,144
November	MAJURO	0	4,090	1,417	79	24	25	54	515
December	MAJURO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		18	62,974	24,069	1,367	2,079	702	899	17,544

TUNA MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT(S):

In late 2004, MIMRA adopted its (revised) Tuna Management Plan (TMP). After the initial four years of implementation and taking into account the rapid changes taking place around the region with regards to conservation and management of tuna resources, MIMRA was able to seek assistance from FFA to conduct a review of the Plan. To this end, in early 2009, the Board of Directors

endorsed the current revised TMP (2009-11). It is envisaged that the revised TMP will further enhance and strengthen the management and organization of the Authority in its ongoing efforts to fulfill the RMI's national, regional, and international obligations given its robustness and comprehensive approach to addressing such issues from time to time.



TUNA COMMISSION



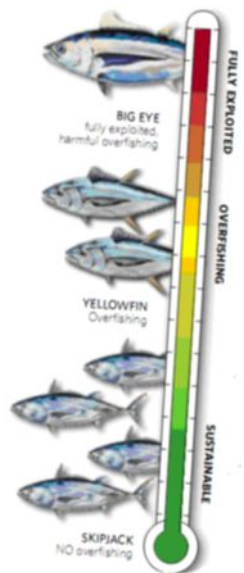
A number of meetings related to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) were held during 2009.

The Fifth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC5) took place at Port Vila, Vanuatu from 10–21 August 2009. It was chaired by Nao-

zumi Miyabe (Japan) and attended by the following countries as Members of the Commission and as participating territories: Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America (USA) and Vanuatu. The following members, cooperating non-members and participating territories (CCMs) were unable to attend: American Samoa, Belize, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, El Salvador, Guam, Indonesia, Mexico, Tokelau, Senegal and Wallis and Futuna. The Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP), Inter-

American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Birdlife International, Greenpeace, the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), and the International Sustainable Seafood Foundation (ISSF) attended as Observers.

The SC adopted a schedule of work to support discussions in the SWGs during the first week of the meeting, while the second week was reserved for plenary discussions. In addition, three Steering



Committees met to discuss:

- The Pacific Tuna Tagging Project;
- The Indonesia Philippine Data Collection Project (IPDCP)/West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (WPEA); and the
- The Japan Trust Fund.

Several Informal Small Groups (ISGs) were convened to consider the following matters:

- The Independent Review of Interim Arrangements for Science Structure and Function Report;
- The work programme and budget for the Scientific Committee;
- The 3-year arrangement with the SPC-OFP;

- Sea turtle handling guidelines;
- Peer review of stock assessment;
- Strategic Research Plan; and
- The process for formulating the work programme for the Scientific Committee.

The Fifth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC5) took place in Nagasaki, Japan, from 7–10 September 2009. Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan) chaired the meeting. The meeting was attended by members from Canada, Cook Islands, Japan, Republic of Korea, Chinese Taipei, United States of America (USA), and Vanuatu.

Among other issues and following on from the full stock assessment conducted in 2008, NC5 adopted a Pacific bluefin tuna measure for 2010 that will not apply to Korea’s EEZ or to artisanal fisheries and this was to be recommended to the Commission.

The Fifth Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC5) was held at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia from 01 – 06 October 2009. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Wendell Sanford (Canada).

The following CCMs attended TCC5: Australia, Canada, China, European Community (EC), Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, France, Japan, Kiribati, the Republic of Korea, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tokelau, Tonga,



Participants to PNA Legal Workshop, FFA HQ, Honiara, January 2009

Tuvalu, United States of America (US) and Vanuatu. El Salvador attended TCC5 as a Cooperating Non-member.

Observers representing Ecuador, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Greenpeace and Pacific Island Maritime and Law Association (PIMLA) also participated.

Among the issues considered at TCC5 was the draft measure on transshipment submitted by the RMI which was further reviewed by Members. After extensive discussion it was decided by TCC5 to carry on discussions electronically of bracketed text in this important matter in advance of WCPFC6 with a view to bringing a draft before WCPFC6 for its consideration.



Image 18. PNA Ministerial Meeting, Alofi, Niue

The Sixth Regular Session of the Commission (WCPFC5) met in Papeete, French Polynesia from 07 – 11 December 2009 under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Satya Nandan who began his first term after having been elected Chairman at the last annual meeting in Busan in 2008. All told, one of the main outcomes from WCPFC6 was the adoption of the transshipment measure put forth by the RMI as well as the agreement by all Members to retain the IUU vessel reported by the RMI and supported by all FFA Members in 2009.

Likewise, the FFA held various regional meetings throughout the year including the PNA Legal Workshop that took place in Honiara in early 2009.

Niue hosted the Annual Forum Fisheries Committee and Ministerial meetings in Alofi in May 2009. MIMRA Director and Deputy Director along with R&D Secretary accompanied the Minister to the meetings. A representative from the local industry also attended the meetings.

The RMI was represented by MIMRA and Sea Patrol at one of three FFA sub-regional WCPFC management options workshops as part of the preparations of FFA Members for WCPFC6.

As in past years, these workshops included reviews of FFA Members legislative implementation of WCPFC Convention and decisions, as well as discussion of key WCPFC issues for WCPFC5 and preparation for the FFA Management Options Consultation which was held in Honiara in October 2009. The workshops also covered issues of importance for SC5 and TCC5.

The workshops considered the national as well as regional perspectives on particular WCPFC issues as they arise and the rapid pace of progress to date and the ongoing concerns raised by Pacific Island countries, especially those with small administrations.

In late 2009, MIMRA Director attended the GEF International Water Conference held in Cairns alongside key FFA officials and consultants and Members in late 2009.



Image 19. MIMRA Director with FFA officials at GEF International Waters Conference, Cairns, Australia (Photo: Anouk Ride)

ONSHORE DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

Koo's Fishing Company, Ltd. (KFC) & Marshall Islands Fishing Company (MIFCO)

The Joint Venture (JV) between MIMRA and Koo's Fishing Company, Ltd. (KFC) continued with the vessel, Marshalls 201, operating under the FSM Arrangement for Regional Fisheries Access administered by the FFA. The vessel is owned by the Marshall Islands Fishing Company (MIFCO), a RMI corporation established pursuant to the JV. At the outset, the venture aims to further develop the local fishing industry and the RMI economy in general.



Image 20. KFC/MIFCO HQ Building

KFC has been operating in the RMI for over ten years and now has its own permanent headquarter offices for both KFC and MIFCO.

As reported last year, KFC has now completed construction of a fish (by-catch) processing and cold storage facility and is in position to commence processing in due course pending some technical issues required for complete operations. Investment in these new facilities is estimated at approximately \$3 million and it is anticipated that the new processing plant will employ up to 100 local employees.

Although KFC is managing partner for MIFCO, it is important to note that the RMI Government, through MIMRA, and even more importantly, the RMI economy are the immediate beneficiaries of the joint venture.

Aside from income derived from the fishing operations of the vessel, the RMI economy is further boosted by other favorable externalities by virtue of the fact that the vessel is based in the RMI and partially crewed by local Marshallese.

Both KFC and MIFCO continue to play a positive role in the economic development of the RMI. It is envisaged that the loan taken out by MIMRA on behalf of the Government for the purposes of the JV will be paid off momentarily.



Image 21. KFC Cold Storage Facility

Pan Pacific Foods (PPF RMI), Inc.

The PPF loining plant continued its ongoing efforts to meet market demands in 2009. For the reporting period, the total number of local Marshallese employed and listed on the payroll was 1,798 with daily average of 420 working only one shift per day. Production output for 2009 was at 25mt daily while total volume of inventory in 2009 was 667mt of pre-cooked loins and 136mt of tuna flakes compared to 25mt and 23mt respectively in 2008.



Image 22. PPF production line at loining plant
(Photo: Amanda Hamilton)

Also in 2009, the managing company opted to purchase a purse seine vessel to help supply raw materials to the plant. The vessel, F/V LOJET, operated by Pan Pacific Fishing (RMI), is duly

registered in the RMI and is authorized and listed on the WCPFC Register of Fishing Vessels. In addition to fishing in the RMI EEZ, the vessel is also licensed to fish in both Nauru and Kiribati. The company has since then acquired 2 additional new fishing vessels operational details of which will be presented in the next Annual Report.



Image 23. RMI purse seine vessel FV LOJET

Future Prospects

As previously mentioned, transshipment in Majuro port continues to pick up in recent years and remains an important catalyst for economic development in the RMI. Further justification on the importance of this issue is evident in the transshipment discussion paper and measure submitted

by the RMI through the WCPFC Secretariat in April 2009 which eventually led up to its extensive review and debate during TCC5 in Pohnpei and adoption by WCPFC6 in Papeete in December 2009

At the same time, MIMRA is keen to shift longline catch attribution from a flag-based to zone-based approach noting the recent developments stemming from recent WCPFC meetings and inter-session discussions all the while being very mindful of the immediate implications as far as assessed annual financial contributions to the WCPFC is concerned.

In late 2009, the RMI, through MIMRA, formally wrote to the SPC-OFI to notify of its clear intention to attribute all longline catches in the RMI EEZ to the RMI. This is in line with the recent efforts by FFA Members to shift longline catch attribution from a flag-based to a zone-based arrangement.

MIMRA remains keen to further develop the small yet vibrant domestic fishery through innovative and sustainable means. All of these prospects are lined up in accordance with the Tuna Management and Development Plan (2009-2011) bearing in mind the ongoing crucial scientific advice and conservation concerns through practicable measures to safeguard the last remaining

FISHERIES AND NAUTICAL TRAINING CENTER

Overview

The Fisheries & Nautical Training Center (FNTC), established in 1993, aims to provide an opportunity for young Marshallese men in the local, regional and international fisheries industry by providing the following:

- Basic education & understanding global fishing industry;
- Fisheries and nautical training; and
- Target recruit of HS dropouts but opened to interested individuals;

The training courses offered by the FNTC are designed in accordance to safety training stan-

dards of FAO with IMO approval and Certificate Programs includes Fisheries & Marine Engineering, Fisheries/Seamanship & Nautical, and STCW Code (IMO Standard). The objectives of the trainings is to provide the opportunities for the acquisition of knowledge and skills to strengthen the acceptability, efficiency, productivity and competitiveness of MIMRA FNTC trained fisherman personnel to meet the current employment opportunities overseas, to upgrade the skills and knowledge of trained fisherman personnel to meet the international standards of training required in the fishing industry, and to raise the present level of training to professional level.

FNTC Courses

BASIC SUBJECT

- Maritime English; Applied Mathematics & Basic Algebra

FISHERIES SUBJECT

- Fish Biology; Fishing Gear Materials & Design; Fishing Techniques; Fish Handling Quality Control

NAUTICAL SUBJECT

- Seamanship I; Seamanship II; Navigation; Meteorology & Oceanography; Marine Law; Marine Communication; Buoyage Systems; Rule of the Road

MARINE ENGINEERING SUBJECT

- Ship Machinery; Auxiliary Engine; Basic Electricity; Marine Refrigeration; Engineering Workshop

SAFETY CERTIFICATE SUBJECT

- Survival Techniques; Fire Prevention & Control; Basic First Aid at Sea; Occupational Health and Safety

To date, over **359** young men who have successfully completed regional and international standard trainings most are now employed Locally (PII, MI Shipping Corporation), Regionally (MIMRA, Mid-Pacific Hawaii Fishery) and internationally (FMS Inc. WA.). For 2009, four sea safety training courses were conducted by the FNTC resulting in 52 individuals completing 4

modules (STCW 95 under IMO Requirements) from Majuro, Jaluit, Kwajalein and Ebeye now involved with RMI Maritime Fleet and 27 individuals with knowledge of Maritime Safety from Namdrik and Ailuk completing 2 modules under IMO Regulations. See **Table 25**.

Since 2006, the Staff Quota not been met. Instructors are needed to cover Nautical Training, Marine Engineering, Fisheries (longline and purse seine) as well as others. Some applications have been submitted for these positions from off-island applicants. In addition to staff, equipment is also needed, such as a training boat, facility equipment and materials to assist in building technical assistance. At this time financial assistance is needed to move forward in this endeavor.

Additionally, promotion of the FNTC courses is also needed. Due to the long periods out at sea, certain courses that require short periods out at are more in demand than others such as the Purse Seine Safety course which has only had 22 participants to date.

Currently, more collaboration with National & Regional organizations is being pursued. It would be beneficial to increase collaboration with TVET partners to explore & expand opportunities in order to increase capacity building opportunities in the fisheries and nautical sector and increase employment opportunities for RMI workforce.

Table 25 Conducted by MIMRA FNTC Year of 2009

No	Sea Safety Courses	STCW 95 Under IMO Requirements	Participants
1	16	Completed four modules	Kwajalein
2	18	Completed four modules	Ebeye
3	6	Completed four modules	Jaluit
4	12	Completed four modules	Majuro
	Total 52		
No	Fisheries Courses	Under IMO Regulations	Participants
1	14 fisheries officers	Completed two modules	Namdrik
2	13 fisheries officers	Completed two modules	Ailuk
	Total 27		

PARTIES TO THE NAURU AGREEMENT

The PNA Office was established on 1 January 2010 in Majuro following the decision of the PNA Fisheries Ministers at their meeting in Tarawa. MIMRA facilitated the provision of the Office, furnishing and supplies and offered as part of the hosting arrangements to meet the utilities and rentals for the first 12 months of the PNA Office's operations. MIMRA also provided a vehicle for the use of the Director as part of its contribution towards the establishment of the Office. Other sources of funding for the PNA Office's establishment were provided by a US\$1 million grant provided by the National Fisheries Authority of Papua New Guinea. Part of the grant was used to offset the meetings of the PNA steering committee on the establishment of the PNA Office.

The PNA Office was established with an initial staff complement of 3, Dr. Transform Aqorau Director, Maurice Brownjohn Commercial Manager and Anton Jimwereiy PNA Coordinator. An Accountant and Administrative are being recruited locally. Long term funding for the PNA Office is being secured through the Vessel Day Register and Conservation Levy. This is a charge on all foreign fishing vessels and those fishing under the FSM Arrangement. Also a number of initiatives are being developed that will support the funding for the PNA Office to run on a more commercial basis.

The PNA Office was officially opened on April 22 by His Excellency President Zedekaia Jurelong and attended by PNA Fisheries Ministers, Officials, Director General of FFA Dan Su'a and the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Mr. Tuiloma Neroni Slade. additional furnishing and the PNA Office sign board was provided by the National Fisheries Authority of Papua New Guinea. The Marshall Islands became the Chair of PNA for the next 12 months taking over from Kiribati who had chaired PNA over the preceding 12 months.

Since its establishment, it has facilitated the first ever PNA Heads of Government Summit in Palau on February 25 The Summit agreed to the Koror Declaration in which Leaders agreed to develop additional mechanisms to control effort and output, close off additional high seas areas and subject the free school skipjack fisheries to assess-



ment against the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) performance criteria.

The development of a trading mechanism for the Vessel Day Scheme which is the primary instrument for managing the purse seine fishery is also underway which would see PNA become a truly integrated fisheries management body. A crewing program is also being developed following the decision by PNA Ministers in April to develop a program for mandatory crewing. an agency that would manage an integrated PNA observer and placement agency is also being developed.

With regards to commercial and additional economic benefits discussions are now being held between countries and between countries and different companies on cross border investments and trading. as a permeir fisheries hub with plans for expansion of processing capacity, Marshall Islands needs global sourcing of tuna products from other neighboring EEZs. The discussions on the EPA has also been one in which the PNA have taken a keen interest.

The establishment of the PNA Office in Majuro gives the Marshall Islands a unique role in regional fisheries management and development. The PNA Office is the conduit through which PNA Fisheries Ministers see PNA maximizing the economic benefits from the fisheries.

LEGAL AFFAIRS

OVERVIEW

The Legal section is new to MIRMA and was created in late 2009 after the recruitment of a Legal Advisor. Prior to that MIMRA has been relying on the Office of the Attorney General for legal services. With limited man power in the Attorney General's Office to meet the needs for all Government's Ministries and Agencies, MIMRA saw the need to have an in-house attorney. However, even with the presence of a Legal Advisor, MIMRA still consults with the Attorney General when necessary.

The role of the Legal Advisor is to handle any legal issues related to marine resources in both the Oceanic and Coastal Divisions. Issues may include drafting and review of legislations, regulations and agreements; provide legal advice and the enforcement of relevant legislations and regulations. The purpose of this section of the report is to highlight some of the activities undertaken by the Legal Office and any legal related areas in 2009.

FISHERIES VIOLATION CASES

Shortly after the creation of the Legal Office in 2009 it was put to work. The office aided in a case where a fisheries violation was reported. This case was dealt with by Administrative Procedure and was settled with an Administrative fine of US \$200,000.00.

The Legal Office will be kept busy as future violations arise. The Office is expected pursue few cases in 2010.

REGULATION/LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

In late 2009 MIMRA promulgated a Fishing License (Third Implementation) Regulations of 2009 (RMI 3IA). This regulation gives legal effect to the "Third Arrangement Implement the Nauru Agreement setting Forth Additional Terms and Conditions of Access to the Fisheries Zones of the Parties" (3IA). The 3IA was signed in Koror, Palau by the PNA members, of which include the RMI.

The RMI 3IA regulation imposes additional terms and conditions of access to fishing in the RMI EEZ. These conditions are:

- Catch retention – Fishing vessels are required to retain juvenile tuna. Before, they can discard juvenile tuna, now they cannot.

- Prohibition of Fishing on Fishing Aggregation Devices – Now it is prohibited to fish on FADs during the months of July to September every year.
- Prohibition of fishing in certain areas of the High Seas – there are two high seas pockets that have been closed for fishing.
- 100% Observer coverage – the arrangement before was that any licensed vessel should have 20% Observer coverage. Now it is 100% coverage

To comply with the 3IA Regulations, most of the current fishing access agreement have been amended to incorporate the terms and conditions in the RMI 3IA.

PENDING/UPCOMING PROJECTS COLLABORATIONS

- MIMRA draft FAD Management Plan
- Review of the Oceanic Fisheries Legislation
- Review of the Coastal Fisheries Legislation
- Review of the Marshall Islands Fisheries Regulation of 1997
- Regulations on the Marine Ornamental Trade of Maine Aquarium Species
- Processing, Marketing and Export Regulations
- Reviewing the template for Local Governments Fisheries Management Ordinance. Work with FFA, SPC and other regional organizations to update or amend National Legislation and Regulations
- Work locally with MOFA, the Trade Office and the maritime administration

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS

OVERVIEW

This section of the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) annual financial report presents our discussion and analysis of MIMRA's financial performance for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009. Please read it

and verify any clarification to the financial statements, which follow this section. The below table summarizes the financial condition and operations of MIMRA for fiscal year 2009 and 2008.

	2009	2008	% Change	2007
ASSETS:				
Current and other assets	\$2,226,586	\$1,713,840	30%	\$1,120,309
Capital assets	152,279	175,471	-13%	233,272
Investment in JV	4,479,727	4,192,609	7%	3,872,761
Total Assets	\$6,858,592	\$6,081,920		\$5,226,342
LIABILITIES:				
Current liabilities	\$706,221	\$338,670	108%	396,570
Long-term liabilities	2,208,607	2,526,813	-13%	2,800,717
Total Liabilities	\$2,914,828	\$2,865,843		3,197,287
NET ASSETS:				
Investment in capital Assets	152,279	175,471	-13%	232,272
Unrestricted	3,791,485	3,040,966	25%	1,796,783
Total Net Assets	\$3,943,764	\$3,216,437		1,503,475
Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets:				
Operating Revenue	\$2,014,914	\$2,131,989	5%	\$1,205,168
Operating Expenses	1,714,137	1,603,786	7%	1,761,005
Operating Income	\$300,777	\$528,203		-555,837
Non-operating revenues	421,913	652,941	-35%	1,068,747
Non-operating expenses	4,637	6,238	-26%	12,670
Net non-op rev (expenses)	426,550	659,179		1,081,417
Capital contributions	0	0	0%	0
Changes in net assets	727,327	1,187,382	-39%	525,580
Net assets at beg. of year	3,216,437	2,029,055	58%	1,503,475
NET ASSETS at end of year	\$3,943,764	\$3,216,437		2,029,055

ANALYSIS

In FY 2008 there was a 77% increase in revenue compare to the revenue generated in FY 2007. For the current year-FY2009, from the high of 77% increase, the revenue generated is 5% lesser than that of FY2008. Though some of the revenue generation increases, due to the increase in license payment, it was pulled down by Korea because, there was no access agreement signed by both parties. Out of the 26 boats registered in FY2008, only one boat has been registered and that means a 96% decrease of the license fees for Korea alone. Taiwan registered 17 boats compare to the 24 boats registered in FY 2008, but total collection from Taiwan increases by 28% this year because of the new license rates. Though the locally registered boat has maintained the registration, the non increase of their registration payments has no effect in the overall revenue picture of the current year. Licensing fee collection decrease by 20% but the effect was not that significant because all other revenue generated during the year has increase specifically transshipment with 37% increase and registration and admin fees which has 240% increase. Overall, the operating revenue in FY2009 resulted in a decrease in collection by 5% compare to FY2008 and is short by \$ 371,000 against the budgeted collection of \$2.386M during the year. Budgeted amount of collection here in MD&A do not include Japan bilateral, FSM & US Treaty and interest and other income.

Though there was a 20% decrease in collection of license fees, transshipments and registration & admin fees has increase due to the increase in fees which started in the 2nd quarter of FY2009. So that, as mentioned above the effect of lesser license fees collection has no significant effect in

Fund Analysis

As MIMRA completed the year-FY2009, the agency's combined fund (Savings and Current Account) has a total balance of \$ 1,673,262.00 which was \$ 133,748.00 higher compared to FY2008. The reason for the increase is due to the unspent grants receive during the year and license fee collection for FY2010 but paid during

Budget Variances

Actual operating revenues is on the unfavorable by as much as \$ 1,534,137.00 compare to the final budget (***budget income includes that of Japan***

the overall picture of the MIMRA financial condition during the current FY2009. Operating expenses for FY 2009 is a higher by 7% compare to what has been spend in FY2008. MIMRA has spent more than \$110,351 over the expenses in FY2008 but compare to FY2007, FY2009 expenses is still lesser by \$46,868.00. The biggest expense increase (amount wise), so far during the current year is professional fees-100% (due to the hiring of FNTC consultant), miscellaneous-37%, membership dues & subscription-27% (due to the increase of the WCPFC-Tuna Commission dues), boarding & observers fee-27% (due to FAD closure & 100% coverage) and the highest decrease is utilities which is 17% lower compare to FY2008 expenses. Salaries and wages also decrease by .2% a saving of around \$ 2,500.00. Almost all other expenses went down though there are increases with high percentage but with lower amounts. So that, the overall effect of the above resulted to an operating income for MIMRA for the current year at \$.301M lower by \$ 227M compare to FY2008 income.

MIMRA's financial condition as shown on the Changes in Net Assets shows an overall 39% decrease compared to FY 2008 but higher by at least 38% compare to FY2007.

Management's Discussion and Analysis for the year ended September 30, 2009 is set forth in MIMRA's report on the audit of financial statements, which is dated August 10, 2010. That the Management Discussion and Analysis explains the major factors impacting the 2009 financial statements and can be obtained from MIMRA's Administrator via the contact information in page 4.

FY2009. Interest earned in FY2009 is higher by almost \$4,000.00 over FY 2008, but it has really almost no effect in the overall picture of the MIMRA financial condition. Transfer Out to REPMAR, at \$ 635,572.00 is higher than FY2008 but should be covered by the FSM arrangement share which is still for release from FFA.

bilateral, FSM arrangement and US Treaty). But since the payment from the mentioned group is not included in the MIMRA financial state-

ments, the unfavorable amount is only around \$ 371,000.00. Actual expenses of \$1,714M com-

pare to the budgeted for the current year of \$ 1,805M is at least favorable by 5%.

Capital Asset

At the end the current year FY 2009, MIMRA has a net asset of \$ 152,279.00. Though there was a total addition of \$ 46,597.00 on the capital assets, the net effect is a reduced balance of capital assets. The decrease which is equivalent to 13% compared to the previous years is not a good indi-

cation. But at least FY2009 is a lot better compared to the 25% decrease in FY2008 over FY2007. The capital assets MIMRA right now are not in good standing, thus the management need to look at it carefully. (See table below).

MIMRA Capital Assets

	2009	2008	2007
	-----	-----	-----
Buildings and improvements	\$176,367.00	\$176,367.00	\$176,367.00
Equipment improvements	90,330.00	86,070.00	78,920.00
Vehicles	146,595.00	146,595.00	146,595.00
Equipment	220,216.00	206,354.00	198,665.00
Furniture & Fixtures	25,828.00	24,654.00	23,792.00
Motorboats	90,617.00	63,316.00	63,316.00
Grand Total	\$749,953.00	\$703,356.00	\$687,655.00
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	597,674.00	527,885.00	454,383.00
\$152,279.00	\$175,471.00	\$233,272.00	
Construction in Progress	-	-	-
NET	\$152,279.00	\$175,471.00	\$351,799.00

Fiscal Year 2009 major capital asset addition includes:

E Q U I P M E N T (computer equipment)	\$ 13,861.68
Equipment improvement	4,260.43
Furniture & fixtures	1,174.00
Motorboats	27,301.00
TOTAL	<u>\$46,597.11</u>

Long-Term Debt

Long term debt shown in the financial statements is the cost of the boat for the Joint venture with Koo's Fishing Ltd., which represents 49% ownership of the Joint Venture. MIMRA will be charged interest at 3% per annum for the share of

the joint venture which the capital contribution is provided for MIMRA by Koo's. As per the agreement, MIMRA's share for the first two years will be 100% applied to the liability and 50% thereafter.

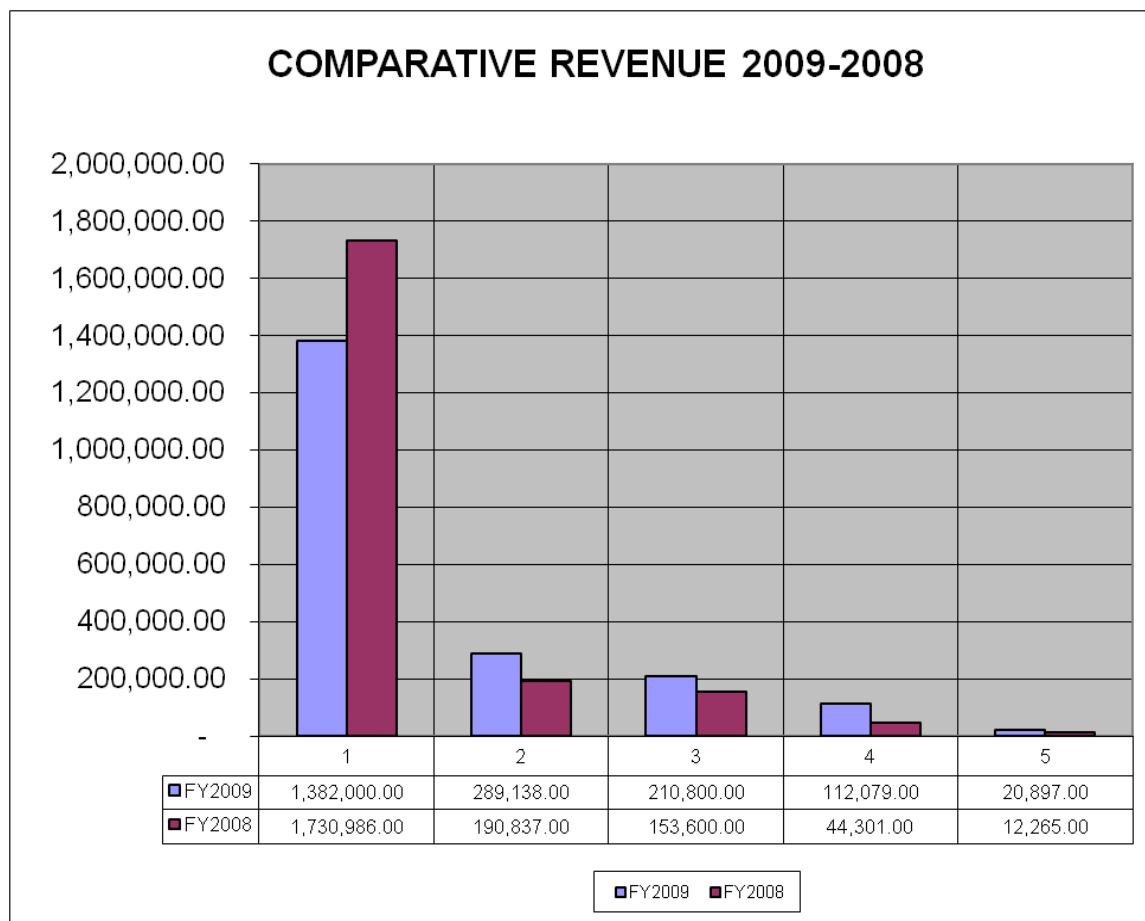
Economic Factors and Next year Budgets and Rates

Budgeted expenditure is increased to 3% in FY2010. The highest increase budgeted is the observers expense which has a 29% increase due to the 100% coverage of boats as per agreements approved during the commission meeting. On the other hand the highest decrease in the budget (amount wise) is travel for domestic and international. It has been agreed upon internally that international travel shall only be limited to a funded travel, except in cases where it is necessary for MIMRA to fund the travel.

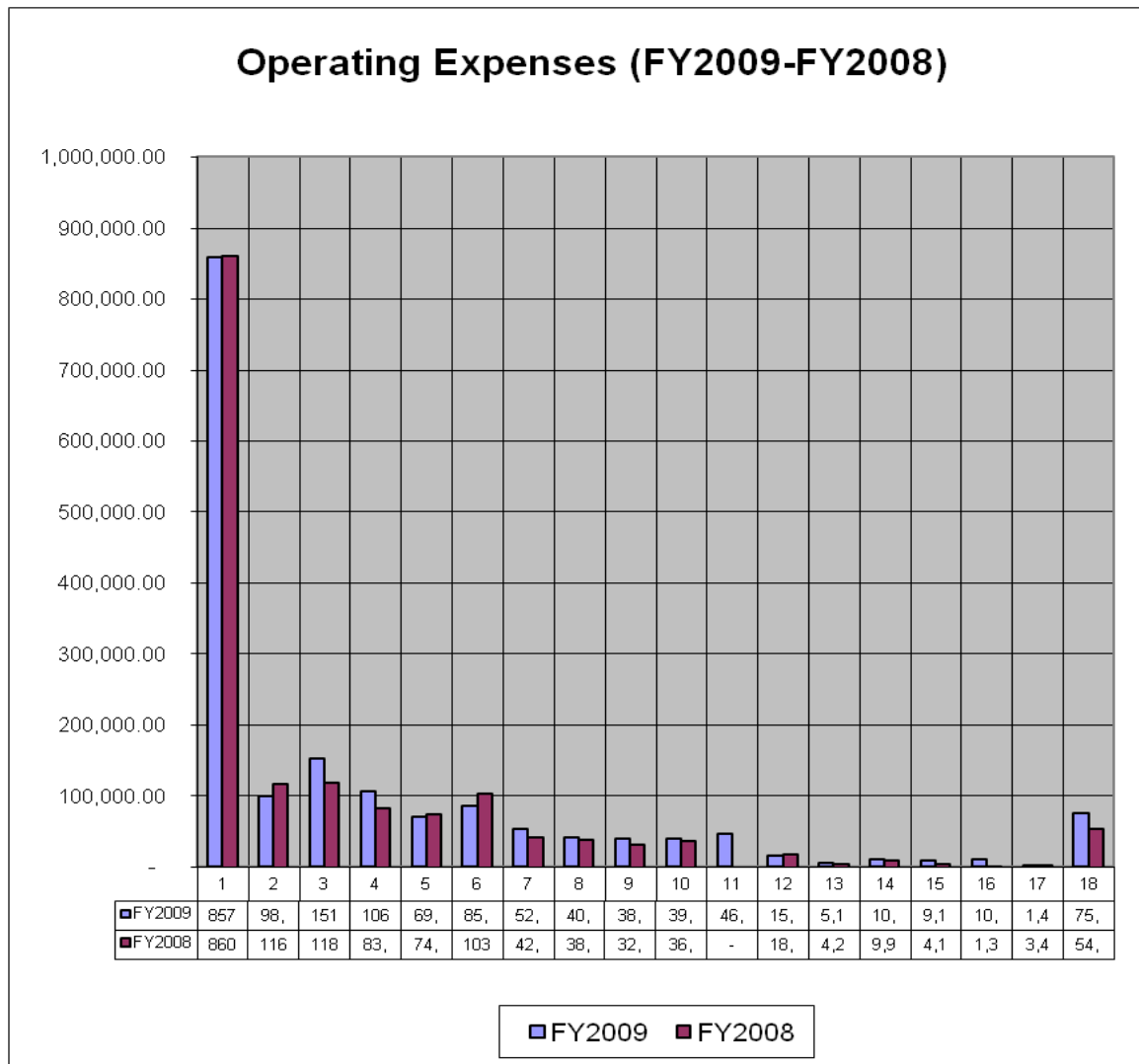
The continuing up and down prices of fuel in the world market also affected the Marshall Islands. In fact, Marshall Islands has the highest fuel prices in the Micronesia by at least a little bit over 50% of the pump prices. Thus, commodities in the island has a high prices compare to that of the previous years. Due to the increases of prices in the island, the agency has adopted a savings and conservation measures and is applied to the

budget for FY2010 by maintaining and/or lowering some expenditures. Salaries and wages though has a budgeted 9% increase but before giving out increases, review will be done first if an increase will have to be effected.

The state of the climate change and global warming is still impacting Marshall Islands. It is expected that the phenomenon will affect the island up to June of this year. Not only the mentioned phenomena is affecting the collection, the increase in the access fees and other fees implemented in the second half of FY2009, to follow the VDS program by the Tuna Commission is also a factor of a lesser collection for FY 2009. During December, 2009, the negotiation between Korea and Taiwan is not on a positive note, so that, another set of negotiation will be done within the second half of 2010. Compare to the first six months of FY2009, FY2010 license fee collection is lesser by 10% or \$49,000.00.



		2009	2008	2007
1	License fee collections	1,382,000.00	1,730,986.00	751,799.00
2	Other fees and charges	289,138.00	190,837.00	130,952.00
3	Transshipment fees	210,800.00	153,600.00	105,600.00
4	Grants	112,079.00	44,301.00	166,153.00
5	Others	20,897.00	12,265.00	50,664.00
TOTAL		2,014,914.00	2,131,989.00	1,205,168.00
OVERALL CHANGE IN 2009 COMPARED TO 2008		(117,075.00)	-5%	



			2009	2008	2007
	Salaries and wages		857,985.00	860,469.00	874,612.00
	Bad debts		98,241.00	116,961.00	164,189.00
	Membership dues & subscription		151,590.00	118,877.00	119,162.00
	Boarding and observers fees		106,209.00	83,937.00	111,245.00
	Depreciation and amortization		69,789.00	74,877.00	98,545.00
	Utilities		85,346.00	103,041.00	75,857.00
	Travel		52,916.00	42,050.00	46,145.00
	Communications		41,422.00	38,567.00	40,862.00
	Repairs & maintenance		38,625.00	32,669.00	37,960.00
	Petroleum, oil and lubricants		39,476.00	36,554.00	31,976.00
	Professional fees		46,042.00	-	23,633.00
	Supplies		15,172.00	18,162.00	15,924.00
	Contributions		5,140.00	4,255.00	10,296.00
	Training		10,693.00	9,938.00	6,400.00
	Entertainment		9,116.00	4,102.00	6,113.00
	Advertising		10,833.00	1,325.00	2,528.00
	Freight		1,498.00	3,489.00	1,858.00
	Miscellaneous		75,044.00	54,514.00	93,700.00
	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		1,714,137.00	1,603,786.00	1,761,005.00
	Overall change in OPEX (FY2009 versus FY 2008)		110,351.00	7%	

OCEANIC CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2009		
January		
13 - 15 January	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Scoping Workshop	Majuro, Marshall Islands
19 - 22 January	PNA Legal Workshop on Third Implementing Arrangement	FFA Conference Centre, Honiara, Solomon Islands
February		
16 - 19 February	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework Workshop	Auckland, New Zealand
16 - 21 February	Regional MCS Project Planning Meeting ANCORS	Wollongong, Australia
23 - 26 February	Regional Legal Workshop on WCPFC Regulations	FFA Conference Centre, Honiara, Solomon Islands
March		
9 - 10 March	DEVFISH Meeting	Koror, Palau
10 - 12 March	21st Annual Meeting of the Pacific Islands Parties (PIPs)	Koror, Palau
12 - 14 March	21st Annual Consultation with the US	Koror, Palau
14 - 15 March	VDS Consultation between United States and PNA	Koror, Palau
17 - 18 March	FFA Preparatory Meeting - to consider the FFA brief	Guam, USA
18 - 22 March	3rd Inter-sessional Working Group on the WCPFC Regional Observer Programme (IWG-ROP)	Guam, USA
22 - 23 March	FFA Preparatory Meeting - to consider FFA brief	Guam, USA
23 - 25 March	WCPFC Adhoc Task Group [MCS data]	Guam, USA
30 March - 1 April	2nd Joint Committee Meeting of Japanese Promotion Fund	FFA Conference Centre, Honiara, Solomon Islands
April		
6 - 11 April	12th MCS Working Group Meeting	Honiara, Solomon Islands

May		
5 - 10 May	Subregional Workshops (PNA, FSM & Palau Arrangement)	Alofi, Niue
11 - 16 May	Ministerial & 70th Forum Fisheries Committee Meeting - Annual Session	Alofi, Niue
18 - 23 May	7th International Meeting of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization	Lima, Peru
June		
16 - 18 June	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Stakeholders Consultation	TBA
July		
13 - 18 July	Observer Coordinators Workshop	
August		
7 - 9 August	FFA Preparatory Meeting - to consider FFA brief	Port Vila, Vanuatu
10 - 22 August	5th Regular Session of the WCPFC Scientific Committee (SC5)	Port Vila, Vanuatu
September		
October		
1 - 7 October	5th Regular Session of the WCPFC Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC5)	Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
November		
30 November - 6 December	Special FFC – FFA Preparatory Meeting to consider the FFA brief)	Papeete, French Polynesia
December		
6-12 December	6th Regular Session of the WCPFC (WCPFC6)	

COASTAL FISHERIES CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2009		
January		
5 January to 24 February	FDAPIN/FESAP 2009/2010	Majuro, Marshall Islands
March		
4-5 March	Laura Catch Data Workshop	Majuro, Marshall Islands
17-19 March	Regional Invasive Species Committee Meeting	Majuro, Marshall Islands
28 March—6 April	Ecosystem-based Approach to Fisheries Management	Guam
April		
31 March—7 April	Namdrik Atoll Resource Management Consultation Trip 1	Namdrik, Marshall Islands
2-8 April	SPAG Training	Pohnpei
May		
11-16 May	Sasakawa Foundation Meeting	Japan
18-26 May	Underwater Visual Census Survey of Woja, Denmweo & Bikirin	Majuro, Marshall Islands
June		
15-27 June	Rapid Ecological Assessment Training	Majuro, Marshall Islands
23-26 June	Protected Area Network Coordinators Learning Exchange	Kosrae
29-30 June	Aquarium Trade Industry Consultation	Majuro, Marshall Islands
July		
1-15 July	Rongelap & Rongerik Expedition	Rongelap/ Rongerik
13-18 July	11th Micronesian Chief Executive's Summit 9th Micronesia Presidents' Summit	Majuro, Marshall Islands
August		
3-7 August	CITES Workshop	Nadi, Fiji
17-20 August	Reef Resilience and Climate Change Workshop	Guam
September		
8-15 September	Reimaanlok Climate Change Integration Workshop	Majuro, Marshall Islands
10-14 September	Coral Connectivity Meeting	Majuro, Marshall Islands
28 September—2 October	Community Based Adaptive Management Training	Majuro, Marshall Islands
October		
12-15 October	Regional Workshop for Asia and the Pacific on the Review of Implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas	Dehradun, India
November		
30 November - 4 December	12th Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit	Guam