

Marshall Islands
Marine
Resources
Authority



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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Printed October 2014

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Michael Konelios**

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Glen Joseph**

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'Sustainable development is the guiding principle for MIMRA'



On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Management and Staff of the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA), I am delighted to provide this report summarizing the Authority's activities and achievements in FY2013.

The four divisions that implement MIMRA policies and programs are Oceanic and Industrial Affairs, Coastal and Community Affairs, Legal Affairs, and Corporate Services/Finance.

FY2013 showed a dramatic increase in revenue from fisheries in large part due to the Marshall Islands' membership in the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) and implementation of the Vessel Day Scheme's minimum fishing day benchmark fee of \$6,000. The VDS now governs fishing by purse seiners in the region and PNA, with RMI support, is now moving to develop and implement a VDS for the longline fishing industry. This is another important policy instrument to improve monitoring and control over the longline industry by the PNA to ensure both that tuna catches are sustainable for the long-term and greater benefits of the fishing industry accrue to our islands. The Marshall Islands is a member of and active participant in the Forum Fisheries Agency, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission — all of which engage in implementing important fisheries policies and programs for our region. Key challenges going forward for the Western and Central Pacific Ocean fishery include reducing catches of bigeye and yellowfin tuna to sustainable levels, gaining cooperation of distant water fishing nations to provide required operational catch data to improve ongoing stock assessments, and

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MIMRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD MEMBERS

Permanent: Minister of Resources and Development, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Attorney-General

Two-year terms: Thomas Kijiner, Carlos Domnick, Diane Myazoe-deBrum, Sonny Milne

increasing the benefits of the tuna fishery to our domestic economy.

Sustainable development is the guiding principle for MIMRA, in both its Oceanic and Coastal Fisheries divisions. Our Coastal Division has focused for several years on developing sustainable fisheries management plans with outer islands local governments and communities. This is a painstaking but essential process of involving community leaders in problem solving and decision making on fisheries at the local level to ensure the health of coastal fisheries for food security in the RMI. MIMRA's aim is to expand this important fisheries development planning with outer island communities in upcoming fiscal years. MIMRA also initiated the Outer Island Fishery Development Fund in FY2013 with \$100,000 and provided the first awards to outer island communities. We anticipate reporting on implementation

of this new fund in FY2014 and expanding this initiative in coming years.

Although considerable progress has been made in developing the tuna industry in RMI, there remain further opportunities to increase the benefits arising from the industry. These opportunities include increasing fishing effort and catches inside the RMI EEZ, increasing licensing fees for distant water fishing vessels and increasing landings in Marshall Islands. Action in these areas will have positive flow on effects in terms of employment, government revenue and onshore industry development, but government will also need to take action to support development initiatives. The draft RMI Tuna Development Strategy that MIMRA began preparing in FY2013 sets out the framework for government support needed to develop the tuna industry and details the necessary follow up work needed to implement the strategy.

I hope this report gives readers a useful summary of significant developments in fisheries in FY2013, as well as the many challenges MIMRA faces as we continue to develop our Coastal and Oceanic fisheries programs and engagement.

Komol tata.

Michael Konelios
*Minister of Resources and Development
Chairman, MIMRA Board of Directors*

‘Getting data at the click of a button is the goal for our expanding IMS’



MESSAGE FROM THE MIMRA DIRECTOR

Fisheries management work at MIMRA expanded exponentially in FY2013 in response to increasing demands from both domestic and oceanic fisheries.

Three aspects of the oceanic fishery require considerable staff time: fisheries science, which includes data collection and stock assessments; monitoring, surveillance and enforcement to ensure compliance of fishing vessels with rules and regulations; and management and development of the fishery, which involves participation in negotiations (including the United States Treaty and Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union), and engagement as a member of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) among others.

To improve our “frontline” fisheries monitoring and enforcement, MIMRA, in cooperation with the FFA, Secretary of the Pacific Community, PNA and the College of the Marshall Islands, increased its pool of trained fisheries observers. The result is visible in the increase coverage of vessels by RMI observers in FY2013.

MIMRA is not only active in compliance work at the regional level, it is also actively enforcing RMI laws. Enforcement of RMI’s shark sanctuary act adopted by Nitijela in 2012, for example, has resulted in several \$125,000 fines paid by vessels flagged by distant water fishing nations that violated provisions of this law.

MIMRA’s collection and use of fisheries data improved significantly during FY2013 with the support of our regional partners SPC, FFA and PNA. The Marshall Islands, as a flag state, is meeting its obligations as a member of the WCPFC by providing all required fisheries catch data to the Commission.

‘Domestically, MIMRA’s goals are to continue to expand management of coastal fisheries at the local government and community level.’

We have greatly improved the quality and quantity of data we are collecting and feeding into our Information Management System (IMS) for managing our ocean resources. Oceanic data collection has taken off, and we are expanding our Coastal data collection and analysis to develop a holistic IMS. The ability to get data at the click of a button is the goal of our Information Management System.

Domestically, MIMRA’s goals are to continue to expand management of coastal fisheries at the local government and community level, while increasing the benefits of commercial fishing to the RMI as a whole. Key to this is reinvesting fisheries revenue in domestic development initiatives. It is becoming a challenge to do this because an increasingly large amount of MIMRA revenues are being used by Government for sectors outside of fisheries.

MIMRA has made sure the budget includes funds for outer island coastal program work.

MIMRA believes that a Tuna Development Strategy for the RMI, preparation of which was started in FY2013, will be a foundation for implementing activity that will increase benefits to the RMI from fisheries while ensuring their sustainable use.

An institutional strengthening review of MIMRA commenced toward the end of FY2013 and a report with a total of eleven recommendations was prepared for the consideration of the government. The recommendations cover the areas of the policy and planning framework, human resources framework including executive coaching and mentoring, organizational structure, internal financial management and control, stakeholder consultation, monitoring, control and surveillance components, and resource management and domestic industry development issues.

Looking ahead, MIMRA will continue to expand its collection and use of fisheries data, improve compliance and enforcement programs, continue engagement in regional and international fisheries organizations and negotiations, and work with remote outer island communities. The goal is to strike a balance between catch levels and conservation so that we ensure the sustainability of the fishery — both oceanic and coastal — for our current and future generations.

Glen Joseph

Director

COASTAL

'MIMRA's Outer Islands Resource Management Fund was launched in FY2013'

The Coastal Fisheries Division operates to ensure that outer island communities benefit from fishing projects and aquaculture/mariculture projects. MIMRA continues to encourage the development of culture fisheries and aquaculture for their potential to contribute to improving national fisheries production capacity and to stimulate local economies.

The Coastal Fisheries Division deals mainly with developing and managing community-based projects that provide benefits at the community level. The Division coordinates and consults with traditional leaders and local government councils during the planning and development stages of projects. Additionally, the Division consults with and advises local communities for development of sustainable management plans for inshore or coastal fisheries resources. An important aspect of the work with outer islands is to ensure community awareness of MIMRA policies and plans, and MIMRA's role and capacity to provide assistance to communities. The combination of limited staff, survey, policy and implementation work demands on Majuro, and transportation difficulties with Air Marshall Islands meant that MIMRA was able to send teams to only two outer atolls during FY2013.

At the same time, the division ensures the implementation of action plans and strategies. These plans and strategies reflect policy decisions made by the MIMRA Board of Directors, recommendations from sub-regional, regional and international organizations that RMI is a party to, and other policy-related activities that concern coastal fisheries. MIMRA continues focusing management measures



Ailuk City Hall meeting on the fisheries projects.

**HIGHLIGHTS:
FISH FARMING,
MANAGEMENT
AND BLACK
PEARLS**

Five outer island projects were funded through the Outer Islands Resource Management Fund. Projects were funded in the amount of \$20,000 each for Ailuk, Namdrik, Namu, Arno and Rongelap. The projects range from fish farming in lagoon cages to pearl farming and lagoon management.

on sustainable resource practices to achieve community and local government fisheries development projects in a sustainable manner. In-house capacity building and community trainings are primary objectives for encouraging communities to continue to be self-sufficient and take charge of their resources.

MIMRA's new Outer Islands Resource Management Fund was launched in FY2013 with the first four grants to outer islands local governments. The purpose of the new fund is to provide a source of supplemental funding to outer islands

communities and local governments to support projects related to the sustainable use and management of both marine and terrestrial resources. This funding links with MIMRA's ongoing work supporting the Reimaanlok process and the regional Micronesia Challenge by helping to promote conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the Marshall Islands. For the first time during FY2013, local governments and community groups from outer islands were invited to submit proposals to MIMRA for projects promoting sustainable resource management within their atoll, island, or community.

Five projects were approved with \$20,000 grants each.

The Coastal Fisheries Division also finalized work in FY2013 on Aquarium Fishery Regulations, which await endorsement from the Cabinet. The Policy, Planning and Statistics Section of the Coastal Fisheries Division worked to improve fish data collection with the introduction of biological sampling and plans for more dive surveys to compliment on-going work with the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC), which comprises several other agencies and non-governmental organizations. The Division is also assisting outer atolls with the development of resource management plans and ordinances. With MIMRA support, Ailuk Local Government Council passed the first ever Fisheries Management Ordinances for an outer atoll.

Coastal fisheries staff played an active role in the implementation of the regional Micronesia Challenge that aims to effectively conserve 30 percent of near shore marine resources and 20 percent of terrestrial resources by 2020. Following the development of a regional Micronesia Challenge Communications Plan in 2011, MIMRA and its many partners in the Marshall Islands had the foundation in place to develop its own plan for engaging local and national audiences in the Micronesia Challenge. An integral part of the Micronesia Challenge is the Protected Areas Network in the RMI, which was the subject of major focus in FY2013. This included engaging with environment, community and political leaders from the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau on the Micronesia Challenge and Protected Areas Network.

MIMRA continued progress on a multi-nation pilot project to monitor the vulnerability and adaptation of coastal fisheries to climate change. The project includes biological sampling work involving the RMI, Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Federated States of Micronesia in developing reference data. Through surveys of 14 species of fish, MIMRA is developing baseline information on growth rates of key



MIMRA staff (above, left and opposite page) take samples from fish for laboratory testing as part of a five-nation pilot project monitoring vulnerability of coastal fisheries to climate change.

**HIGHLIGHTS:
MONITORING
IMPACT OF
CLIMATE
CHANGE**

coastal finfish. MIMRA staff made progress toward collecting a minimum of 30 individuals of each species. The second component of this project involves examining otoliths from the reef fish species collected in Majuro Atoll. Coastal fisheries officers who have been trained are continuing the survey work. When completed, the samples will be sent to laboratories at the French Institute of Research for Development and Secretariat of the Pacific Community in Noumea, New Caledonia for further analysis. The results are expected to improve our understand-

ing of fish growth rates in the Marshall Islands, leading to better management of domestic fisheries resources. MIMRA staff attempted to collect fish at least three times a month, including whenever an opportunity arose during the fiscal year, such as a dive survey or a monitoring trip. Challenges faced with this project include limited staff, huge workload, zero budget and sea/weather conditions. The aim is to complete collection of 30 fish of all species by early 2015.

Aquaculture is a priority for MIMRA and MIMRA continues to support giant clam farming on two outer islands. Gi-

be key to climate change issues

SEARCH FOR CHANGES IN COASTAL FISHERIES

MIMRA actively monitored climate change impacts on coastal fisheries resources. Over a period of one month, staff from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Coastal Fisheries Science joined field officers from MIMRA's Policy, Planning, and Statistics section to complete the first re-survey of baseline locations surveyed at Majuro Atoll in 2011. Fieldwork included monitoring of water temperature, benthic habitats, finfish, and invertebrate resources, creel surveys and biological sampling of key reef fishes.

The project also allowed the opportunity for capacity building as MIMRA officers were trained in survey design and methodologies, data collection and entry, and data analysis. The survey was part of a "Monitoring the vulnerability and adaptation to climate change project" supported by the SPC with funding assistance from the Australian Government's International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (ICCAI). The goal is to determine whether changes are occurring in the productivity of coastal fisheries and, if changes are found, to identify the extent to which such changes are due to climate change.



ant clam farming was first developed with MIMRA support in 1985 as a pilot project to determine its feasibility. Positive results of the early pilot program led MIMRA to establish hatcheries in Likiep in 1993 and Arno in 2003. The two hatcheries both have encountered setbacks during FY2013 that resulted in sporadic operations. Five of the nine raceway tanks at the Likiep hatchery are in urgent need of repairs. The limited number of tanks is the major issue at Likiep because there are 183 local farmers. The lack of tanks has resulted in insufficient clam seed availability. While Arno's tanks are in good condition, the

main problem challenging operations there is the constant breakdown of the salt-water pump, which curtailed operations in FY2013. Plans are in place to address these issues in FY2014.

One local company exported 24,251 kilograms of frozen fish. The species *Chlorurus microrhinos* was the most popular fish.

Marine ornamental (or aquarium) exports continued to rise in FY2013. Local companies exported giant clams, live fish, corals and various marine invertebrates for the overseas aquarium trade. For live fish, the Pomacanthidae family (angel fish) was

the highest in demand. With giant clams, the species *T. derasa* is in high demand.

For corals, *Sacrophyton* spp. (toadstool mushroom leather coral) species had the highest in production and export, and for Inverts, *Paguristes* Sp (hermit crabs) was high in demand. Clams and corals are raised by local farmers and by Marshall Island Mariculture Farm in Majuro. Certificates of origin and health are required when exporting marine ornamentals from the RMI. All clams exported from the Marshall Islands in FY2013 were hatchery-reared, a requirement of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered



**HIGHLIGHTS:
CREATING A
PROTECTED
AREAS
NETWORK**

Learning from Palau's



With a growing number of marine and terrestrial protected areas throughout the RMI as a result of Marshall Islands' commitment to the Micronesia Challenge, there was a clear need for a Protected Areas Network (PAN) to integrate existing and future protected areas into a single system to improve their effectiveness and allow for distribution of funding to the sites. Following initial work to develop a PAN by MIMRA, a delegation from the Marshall Islands traveled to Palau in October 2012 for a learning exchange about Palau's PAN, the first in Micronesia that was established in 2003. It was a valuable opportunity for elected and traditional leaders as well as technical staff from the RMI to learn from Palau's experiences in establishing a PAN and its sustainable financing mechanism.

There were useful exchanges between Palau conservation experts and RMI mayors and coast fisheries officers.

Following this learning exchange to Palau, a PAN development workshop was held in the RMI in March 2013 with participants from all of the organizations making up the RMI Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC).

This workshop helped to further develop plans for the RMI PAN including aspects such as its vision, mission, and goals as well as a proposed management structure.

Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (known as CITES). Although the Marshall Islands is not a party to CITES, the permits MIMRA issues meet the CITES standards.

FY2013 marked the second year that MIMRA's Outer Island Fish Market Center (OIFMC) has been operating in the Japan-donated fish market facility in Majuro. It was also the second year that the MIMRA vessel Laintok has been servicing atolls under the Kwajalein Atoll Fish Market Center (KAFMC). To respond to their customers' preference for certain fish, both fish markets have increased their value adding activities to include more

"ready-to-eat" products to address challenges to selling a high volume of less popular fresh fish.

The OIFMC on Majuro received fish from Arno (48 trips), Maloelap (18 trips), Aur (17 trips), Jaluit (8 trips), Wotje (2 trips), and one trip each from Mili, Likiep, Ailuk, and Namu that resulted in fishers directly receiving over \$116,000 for their fish and fish products.

The OIFMC enforced quality and size limits on the fish that were brought in from the outer islands and with fuel costs continuing to remain high, OIFMC has also initiated grouping atolls (Wotje-Likiep,

Wotje-Ailuk, and Aur-Maloelap) in one trip to maximize the amount of fish per trip landed on Majuro. Although the number of trips to individual atolls decreased for some, the total number of trips made by OIFMC vessels from Majuro increased to 98 trips compared with 55 for the previous fiscal year.

Although KAFMC now has a vessel to use for trips to its fish base partners and projects, due to limited availability and high cost of fuel on Ebeye, trips to the outer islands to collect fish and local food products remained limited and inconsistent.

**HIGHLIGHTS:
WORKING
TOGETHER TO
RAISE
AWARENESS**



PAN experiences

A second learning exchange was conducted in May 2013, bringing to the RMI a delegation from Palau made up of conservation leaders who have been involved in the establishment and implementation of Palau's PAN and sustainable finance mechanism.

This delegation included President Tommy Remengesau, Jr., Minister of Finance Elbuchel Sadang, Minister of Natural Resources Environment and Tourism Umiich Sengebau, former Speaker of the House of Delegates Noah Idechong, and Paramount High Chief Reklai Raphael Ngirmang.

In addition, a delegation from Pohnpei State Government includ-

ing the Governor, Speaker, and Chair of the Resources and Development Committee participated in the learning exchange, along with staff from The Nature Conservancy.

It was a valuable opportunity for traditional and elected leaders in the Marshall Islands to meet with their counterparts from Palau and Pohnpei to discuss issues related to establishing a Protected Areas Network.

These meetings were able to include a wide variety of the key stakeholders who will be involved in the passage of PAN legislation, development of PAN policies, and implementation of the PAN.

MIMRA coordinated a workshop to develop a Micronesia Challenge Communications Plan specifically designed for the RMI. The Communications Plan aims to strengthen the Reimaanlok process, raise awareness of the Micronesia Challenge for community support, and attract funds for conservation work.

The Communications Plan resulting from the workshop reflected collaboration among MIMRA, Marshall Islands Conservation Society, Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Resources and Development, Marshall Islands Visitors Authority, and International Organization for Migration. The workshop was sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and facilitated by the Micronesia Image Institute.

Nonetheless KAFMC supplied a limited amount of fish to the Ebeye community through direct purchase of fish from Namu, Ailinglaplap, Ailuk, Likiep and Ebeye fishers as well as providing assistance in fuel and ice provisions. For FY2013, fishers received \$32,040.64 for their fish and \$6,111.82 for local produce sold to the KAFMC. In March 2013, fish brought in from Ailinglaplap was suspected of ciguatera poisoning. All fish from that purchase were recalled and disposed of, resulting in an operational loss for KAFMC.

Ongoing support from the Japan Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation

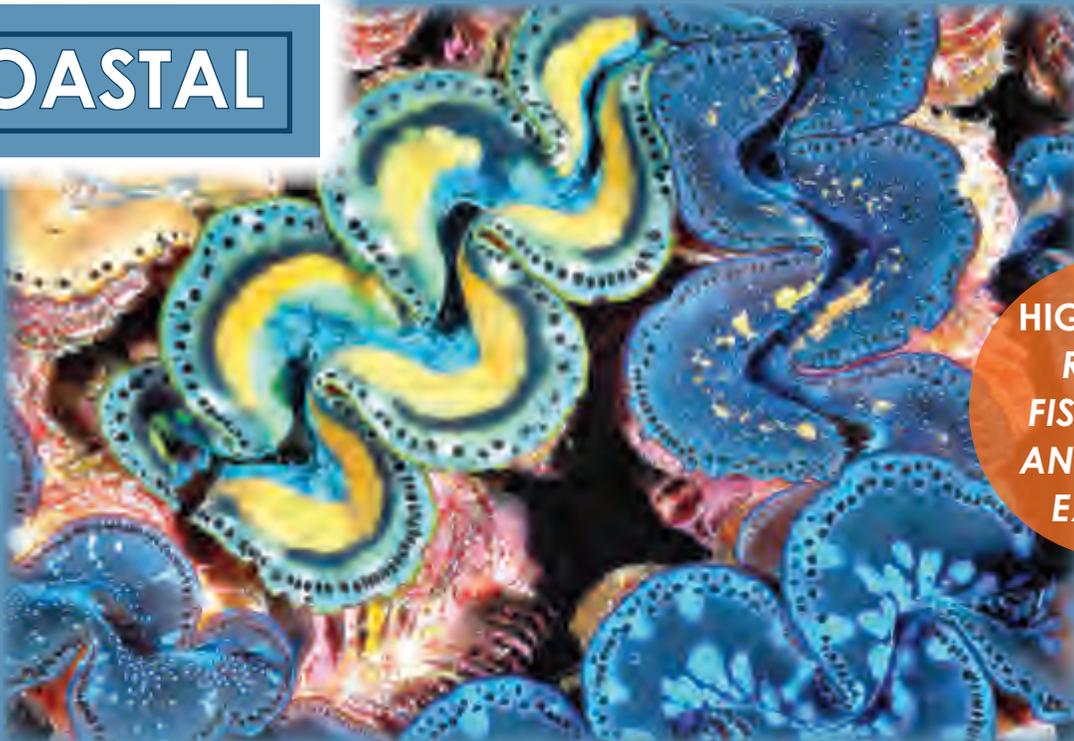
(OFCF) to provide new equipment and repair or renovate equipment and facilities continued in FY2013.

In response to a MIMRA annual request, OFCF officials conducted field surveys and consulted with MIMRA to develop an agreement and implementation plan for FY2013. OFCF-supported projects implemented in FY2013 included replacement of: community fishing boats and outboard motors; cold storage units IMFMC AND KAFMC in Ebeye. The project also involved repair and maintenance of MIMRA ice plant and KAFMC ice plant; advice for management of Jaluit fish base; and man-

agement advice for OIFMC. MIMRA is also seeking OFCF assistance for the repair and restoration of outboard motors of MIMRA community fishing boats; MIMRA transport boats; and MIMRA ice plant and KAFMC ice plant. MIMRA is also seeking workshop support for an in-service training for staff on the functions of MIMRA, and technical advice from counterparts to fishing boat operators.

Going forward, the Coastal Fisheries Division is focused on improving and streamlining its programs for outer atoll communities, and coordinating more with local partners on Majuro activities.

COASTAL



**HIGHLIGHTS:
ROBUST
FISH, CLAM
AND CORAL
EXPORTS**

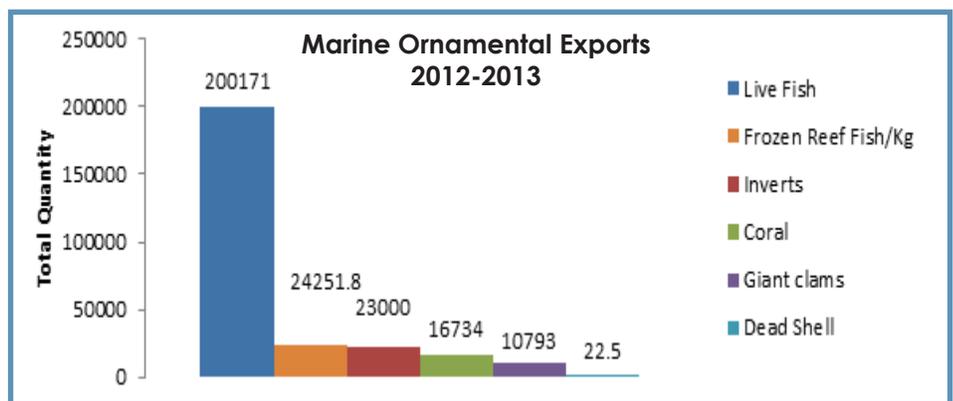
MIMRA provided permits for the legal export of over 200,000 live fish, over 16,000 pieces of coral, and over 10,000 giant clams.



**HIGHLIGHTS:
FINFISH
RESEARCH
PILOT
PROJECT**

MIMRA staff conducted ongoing underwater survey work to collect samples of 14 coastal fish for the finfish research pilot project. During FY2013, 28 percent of finfish species (four of 14) were completely collected. A total of 172 individual fish were collected and analyzed in FY2013. Fish collected in the Marshall Islands are measured for length, total body weight and gonad weight, and then otoliths are extracted and kept in vials that will be further analyzed at SPC lab in Noumea, New Caledonia.

Local and global



Outer Islands Fish Market Center (OIFMC) at Majuro and Kwajalein Atoll Fish Market Center (KAFMC) at Ebeye purchased fish from outer island fishers on 10 different atolls for a total of \$148,893.77, with the Majuro Center paying fishermen from Arno, Maloelap, Aur, Jaluit, Mili, Likiep, Ailuk, Namu and Wotje \$116,853.13, while the Kwajalein Center paid fishers on Likiep, Ailinglaplap, Namu and Ailuk \$32,040.64. In addition, the Kwajalein Center bought local produce for \$6,111.82 in FY2013.

**HIGHLIGHTS:
FISH MARKETS
EARN BIG
MONEY FOR
ATOLLS**

**HIGHLIGHTS:
ROBUST
FISH, CLAM
AND CORAL
EXPORTS**

COASTAL

Arno received nearly half of the 98 fish pickup trips by the Majuro OIFMC, accounting for 23,551 pounds of fish purchased, which paid local fishers \$32,219.63. Aur and Maloelap combined to sell 43,971 pounds of fish for \$47,394.50; Jaluit fishers received \$19,990.55 for 26,160 pounds of fish; 7,331 pounds of fish were purchased from Wotje, Ailuk and Likiep fishers for \$7,097.55; Namu fishers received \$7,246.45 for 6,566 pounds of fish; and Mili fishers received \$2,904.45 for 2,904 pounds of fish.

exports a financial bonus

**HIGHLIGHTS:
SERVICE
AND REPAIR OF
ALL MIMRA
VESSELS**

In addition to renovations and improvement of the KAFMC and the OIFMC, MIMRA staff carried out significant maintenance work on its assets.

This included yearly dry-dock and maintenance service and repairs of all MIMRA fish transport vessels (LIMAO, JOLOK, TIMUR, JEBRO, LENTANIR and LAINTOK); installation of two new engines on refurbished boat for Oceanic Division; maintenance and repairs on Jaluit Fishbase Building;

repairs to nine boats and nine outboard engines; ice machine repairs; maintenance and repairs on Arno Fishbase Building; maintenance and repairs on Aur Fishbase three boats and three outboard engines; maintenance and repairs on Maloelap Fishbase five boats and five outboard engines; OIFMC OFCF ice machine maintenance service and repairs; OIFMC solar inverter installation and solar panels service and repairs; service and repair on eight MIMRA vehicles.

Frozen reef fish exported in FY2013 totaled 24,251 kilograms (53,352 pounds), with *Chlorurus microrhinos* (steephead parrot fish) and *Epinephelus* sp. (white spotted grouper) accounting for over half of the frozen fish exported for the aquarium trade. A total of 222,851 live fish were exported during the period, with Pomacanthidae (angel fish) accounting for over half of the exports.

**HIGHLIGHTS:
THOUSANDS
OF FROZEN AND
LIVE FISH
EXPORTED**



OCEANIC



PNA management brings

MIMRA operates under the dual goals of maximizing domestic benefits from the oceanic fishery while at the same time promoting conservation measures that ensure the long-term sustainability of the fishery. This is accomplished through participation in both regional fisheries management organizations as well as domestically through legislation, vessel monitoring and data collection, and enforcement programs.

The RMI government's participation in the eight-member Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) has, more than any other factor, had the greatest impact on the Western and Central Pacific Ocean fishery. PNA management and conservation measures have resulted in greater control and benefits for Pacific Island member states, including the RMI, than ever before. PNA actions have affected virtually every area of the oceanic tuna fishery since 2010, greatly increasing fishing revenue paid to PNA members, the number of onshore facilities, commercial joint ventures between island nations and distant water fishing countries, and job opportunities.

The impact of the PNA for the Marshall Islands can best be seen in the following statistic: skipjack tuna caught in the Marshall Islands 200-mile exclusive economic zone accounts for less than two percent of the overall tuna catch in PNA waters, yet RMI membership in the PNA has resulted in a four-fold increase in revenue from the fishery.

Tuna volume caught in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean was at record levels



**HIGHLIGHTS:
OBSERVER
MONITORING
TRIPS UP 62
PERCENT**

WATCHING THE OBSERVER NUMBERS MARCH UPWARDS

Fisheries monitoring and data collection by RMI fisheries observers expanded in FY2013. The number of observers, though still well below the target of 100, increased 28 percent in FY2013 over the previous year, with 38 active observers working during the year. The number of monitoring trips taken by these

observers, mostly on purse seine vessels, increase 62 percent, from 108 to 175 in FY2013.

The observers averaged 4.6 trips each with each fishing trip averaging 27 days. The 4.6 average trips per observer was also up FY2012, when the average number of trips per observer was 3.5.

in FY2012 and FY2013. High demand in global markets for tuna spiked the world market price to a record level of about \$2,300 per ton in mid-FY2013.

MIMRA plays a significant role in regional fisheries management, participating in:

- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries

Commission (WCPFC) technical meetings on science and compliance, and the annual meeting.

- Forum Fisheries Agency technical and annual meetings.
- Parties to the Nauru Agreement technical and annual meetings.
- Negotiations on the United States fish-



‘An important and untapped opportunity is development of a domestic commercial fishing industry.’

huge benefits to Marshalls

HIGHLIGHTS: MIMRA'S SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP WITH CMI

MIMRA re-established observer training facilities at the College of the Marshall Islands Arak Campus on Majuro Atoll.

The MIMRA-CMI partnership has established a Maritime and Vocational Training Institute at the college campus, with dormitory and training facilities for teaching a variety of skills necessary for observers.

eries access treaty, the draft Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union, and others.

- Regular discussions and meetings with bilateral fishing partners, including Japan and S. Korea.

MIMRA continued to expand the number of its trained fisheries observers in

In-port monitoring and sampling of fish off-loaded by purse seiners and longliners produced valuable data in FY2013. MIMRA observers covered nearly 100 percent of all longline vessel off-loadings, recording and measuring over 80,000 fish — mostly bigeye and yellowfin tuna.

Sampling of fish transhipped by purse seiners in Majuro lagoon was also stepped up in FY2013, with over 20,000 fish sampled by MIMRA observers. All of the data collected is fed into MIMRA's computerized statistics data base.

HIGHLIGHTS: BIG INCREASE IN SAMPLING OF SEINER FISH

FY2013, and in an effort to regularize and strengthen ongoing observer training, MIMRA is collaborating with the College of the Marshall Islands to deliver observer training as part of its academic program.

The Authority's capacity for data collection and analysis also improved during FY2013 with the support of the Forum

HIGHLIGHTS: RMI-FLAGGED VESSELS HAUL IN 77,634 TONS OF TUNA

Since 2010, 10 RMI-flagged purse seiners have operated throughout the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. The catch, made up primarily of skipjack tuna, by these 10 purse seiners was estimated at 77,634 tons for FY2013, a 22 percent increase over the previous year.

Of this total tonnage, 19 percent was caught within the RMI's 200-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Fisheries Agency and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

An important and, as yet, largely untapped opportunity is development of a domestic commercial fishing industry. One domestic proposal under consideration is to use a small purse seine vessel to fish on anchored fish aggregation devices



**HIGHLIGHTS:
MOST MARINE
MAMMALS
RELEASED
ALIVE**



MIMRA observers monitored interactions with cetaceans, whale sharks, silky sharks and other species of special interest by RMI-flagged purse seiners during FY2013.

During FY2013, there was only one turtle interaction, but its fate was unknown. There were 28 instances of marine mammal interactions, with most being released alive. These included 22 rough-toothed dolphins, 12 of which were released

alive, three dead and seven unknown. Two unidentified dolphins were observed, and both died. Three false killer whales were observed, two of which were released alive with the disposition of one unknown. Six whale sharks were observed, with four released alive and two dead.

A total of 121 silky sharks were identified, with 114 released alive and the balance dead. There were no seabird interactions observed.

(FADs) inside the closed areas around Majuro and Kwajalein atolls.

These closed areas have been reserved for sports and small scale fishing operations.

Further consultation is required on this proposal, particularly given the potential negative interaction with sports and small scale fishing and uncertainties surrounding catch rates and catch composition.

But the proposal is worthy of further analysis because of its focus on fishing within the RMI EEZ. Deployment of FADs could also benefit small scale and sports fishing.

Implementing domestic industry development projects will require some strengthening of the capacity of MIMRA, particularly in the areas of market access with the highest priority being the establishment of Competent Authorities and the recruitment of staff for the Competent Authorities, and implementing domestic industry development proposals.

Competent Authorities are needed in order for fish exports to meet health and sanitary standards of the European Union and other overseas markets.

One option for domestic industry development is the establishment of a Project

Management Unit that would be responsible for finalizing arrangements for domestic industry development projects and overseeing the implementation of the investment strategy.

A new RMI Tuna Development Strategy was in the drafting stage during FY2013. Its objective is to maximize economic benefits flowing to the RMI from the sustainable utilization of tuna resources, including harvesting, processing and marketing. Once approved by the MIMRA Board of Directors, it will guide MIMRA work to develop the Oceanic Fishery going forward.

meet overseas health standards



Trainee observers on the bridge deck of a purse seiner.



**HIGHLIGHTS:
FISHING IN
RMI EEZ UP IN
2012 AND
2013**

**HIGHLIGHTS:
ONLINE PORTAL
BEING USED
TO COLLECT
DATA**

Computerized data systems continued to improve as part of a three-nation information management system involving the RMI, Federated States of Micronesia and the Cook Islands with funding assistance from the Government of Japan and technical assistance of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

Through this multi-agency collaboration, MIMRA is now using an online portal for collecting and accessing vital fisheries statistics, which allows access to data "at the click of a button."

**HIGHLIGHTS:
LONGLINERS
SWITCH TO
BEING FSM
FLAGGED**

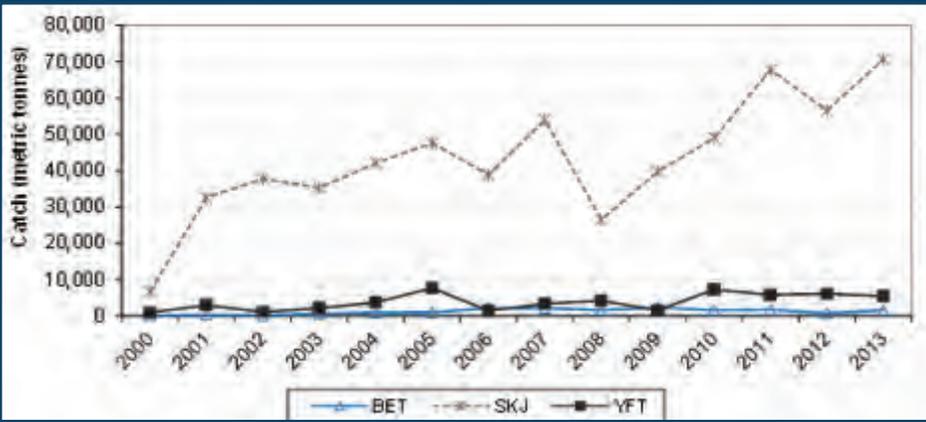
Only three RMI-flagged longliners were active at the beginning of FY2013. During the year, they all reflagged in the FSM, resulting in the longline catch for the year by national longliners declining

For both RMI-flagged purse seiners and longliners, fishing within the RMI's EEZ increased in both FY2012 and FY2013 over previous years, in part because domestically registered vessels are exempt from the region-wide four-month fish aggregation device (FAD) closure while fishing in the RMI's EEZ.

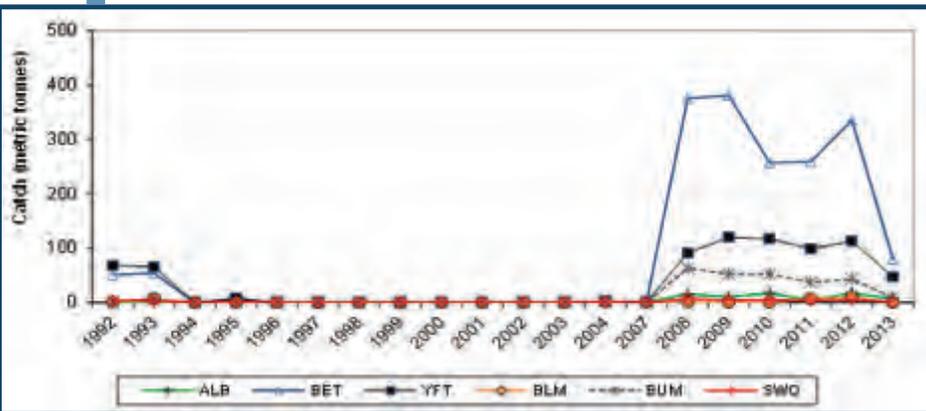
significantly in FY2013. In FY2012, the catch by four RMI longliners was 505 tons, predominantly bigeye and yellowfin; the catch dropped to 144 tons in FY2013.

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FISHERIES BY THE NUMBERS



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



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

FLAG	GEAR	Year				
		2000	2010	2011	2012	2013
CHINA	LL	33	22	22	21	23
	PS	4	1	2	2	2
FSM	LL	5	11	11	15	11
	PS	1	0	7	7	3
JAPAN	LL	6	14	16	5	1
	PL	12	26	25	21	15
	PS	30	31	30	26	24
KIRIBATI	PS	1	2	5	6	9
KOREA	PS	25	0	0	26	27
CH-TAIPEI	LL	0	2	2	2	2
	PS	18	16	16	9	6
TUVALU	PS	1	1	1	1	1
VANUATU	PS	19	20	22	16	11
USA	PS	38	38	39	39	39
TOTAL	LL	45	49	51	44	57
	PL	12	26	25	21	15
	PS	142	116	122	138	122

Number of foreign longline, pole-and-line and purse seine vessels licenced to fish in the RMI EEZ, by year and flag. (Note: Vanuatu includes PNG home party vessels)



Tuna transfer in Majuro lagoon.

**HIGHLIGHTS:
MAJURO A
MAJOR HUB
FOR FISHING
VESSELS**

Majuro Atoll continued to be of importance to the Western and Central Pacific Ocean tuna fishery, with significant use of the lagoon by purse seine fishing vessels for tuna transshipment in FY2013.

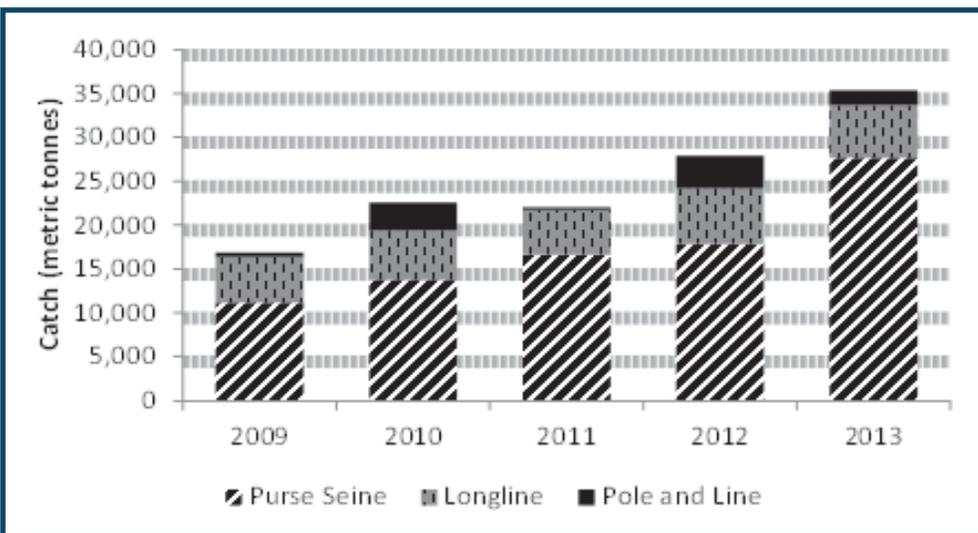
The volumes and number of vessels were almost identical from FY2012 to FY2013, with 270 purse seine transshipments in FY2013 (one fewer than FY2012) accounting for the movement of 182,382 metric tons of tuna — mainly skipjack (159,848 metric tons) — to offshore processing facilities, an increase of about 2,000 metric tons over FY2012. Revenue generated from transshipment fees, however, increased significantly from \$272,500 in FY2012 to \$413,000 in FY2013.

In addition to fees paid by the vessels transshipping tuna, there is a significant spinoff economic benefit to local businesses from the many vessels and hundreds of crew members using Majuro Atoll.

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Flag	No. of PS transshipments	Transhipped catch (metric tonnes)					TOTAL
		SKJ	YFT	BET	YFT + BET	SKJ + YFT + BET	
China	25	14,670	1,273	0	320	402	16,665
El Salvador	1	956	113	71	0	0	1,140
FSM	2	390	0	0	0	0	390
Kiribati	1	5	0	0	0	0	5
RMI	113	68,479	5,358	0	520	1,425	75,782
NZ	3	0	0	0	0	2,961	2,961
Tuvalu	6	4,410	310	0	0	20	4,740
Taiwan	59	28,769	3,355	0	0	2,472	34,596
USA	40	28,472	1,114	50	0	1,955	31,591
Vanuatu	20	13,697	815	0	0	0	14,512
TOTAL	270	159,848	12,338	121	840	9,235	182,382

Above: Provisional purse seine transshipments in Majuro port in 2013.



Left: Total catch by the different gears operating in the RMI EEZ.

Below left: Total exports (mt) for Pan Pacific Foods loining plant in 2013, by product and destination.

Destination	Product (mt)			
	Loin (SKJ)	Whole (Mixed SKJ BET YFT)	Fishmeal	Flakes
Algeria	0	0	0	52
China	0	210	0	0
Taiwan	0	0	316	0
Thailand	39	952	0	0
USA	548	0	0	0
Vietnam	0	855	0	0
TOTAL	587	2,017	316	52



Left: Observer trips in 2013, by arrangement.

Arrangement	Trips		SeaDays	
	Purse Seine	Longline	Purse Seine	Longline
FFA	69	0	1839	0
MIMRA	47	3	1223	42
RA	50	0	1625	0
FFA/FSMA	2	0	25	0
PNAO/FSMA	4	0	34	0
TOTAL	172	3	4746	42

The Marshall Islands Fishing Venture (MIFV) operates a Fish Base in Majuro for domestically-based foreign longline vessels. In FY2013, 5,246 tons were offloaded in Majuro by the longliners working for MIFV, down from the 5,867 tons offloaded in FY2012.

MIFV exports fresh chilled tuna to markets in the United States, China and Canada. Frozen fish (rejects and bycatch) are shipped to China and the Philippines in containers or sold locally.

Pictured right is the step-by-step process used to get the fish from the water onto a plane.

**HIGHLIGHTS:
FRESH CHILLED
TUNA SENT TO
US, CHINA,
CANADA**

**HIGHLIGHTS:
2013 SEES
HIGHEST
COMBINED
CATCH**

CATCH VOLUME DOUBLES IN 4 YEARS

Total volume of catch in the RMI EEZ has doubled from 2009 to 2013. The catch of skipjack, primarily by the purse seine fleet, has risen from 10,471 tons in FY2009 to 27,635 tons in FY2013. Over half of the FY2013 skipjack tonnage was caught by RMI-flagged purse seiners.

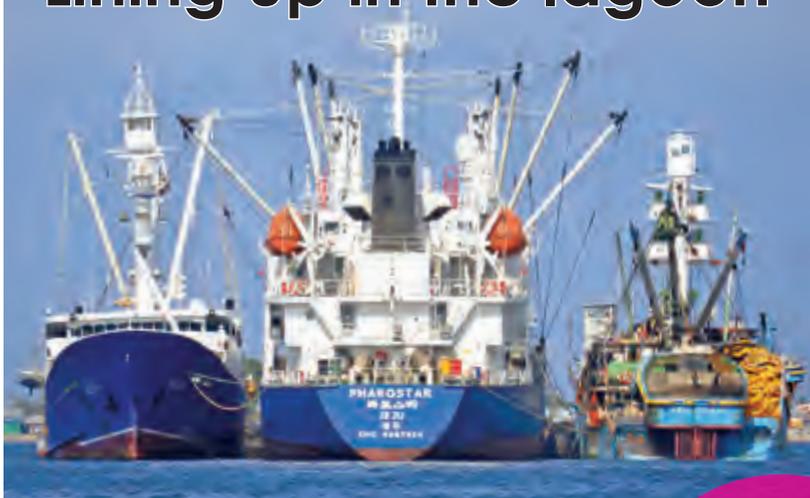
The longline catch has grown more modestly, from 5,199 tons in FY2009 to 6,002 tons in FY2013. The pole-and-line catch has fluctuated with the number of vessels active in the RMI EEZ from year to year, with 476 tons caught in FY2009 compared to 1,726 tons caught in FY2013.

In line with Western and Central Pacific Ocean tuna catches, the volume of tuna caught by all fishing vessels in the RMI EEZ steadily increased from FY2009 through FY2013, with FY2013 having the highest combined total catch of 35,000 metric tons.



Lining up in the lagoon

OCEANIC



174 foreign purse seiners, longliners and pole-and-line vessels were licensed to fish in RMI waters in FY2013, though not all were active. This was a 14 percent decline in licenses from the previous year.

**HIGHLIGHTS:
174 VESSELS
LICENSED TO
FISH IN RMI
WATERS**

The Pan Pacific Foods (PPF) tuna loining plant received 5,704 tons of tuna from the three PPF-affiliated purse seiners and Koo's Fishing Company purse seiners and in turn exported 2,972 tons of pre-cooked tuna loins and related products. Pictured below is the Lojet in Majuro.

**HIGHLIGHTS:
PAN PACIFIC
FOODS EXPORTS
2,972 TONS OF
PRODUCT**



**HIGHLIGHTS:
JOINT VENTURE
WITH KOO'S A
WIN-WIN
DEAL**

MIMRA has engaged successfully in a joint venture with Koo's Fishing Company for several years with the purse seiner Marshalls 201. MIMRA has retired its initial investment debt for the joint venture and the vessel is now generating revenue for the Marshall Islands. This joint venture vessel has proved extremely successful and is a demonstration of the value of joint ventures. Pictured is the Marshalls 201 at Delap Dock.



LEGAL

Illegal shark fins line the deck of a fishing boat in Majuro.

MIMRA strengthens its

MIMRA set a record in FY2013 for the number of enforcement actions and fines collected for violations of fisheries rules. The procedure for handling all fisheries violations has been streamlined as a result of the Marshall Islands Attorney General's Office giving standing consent to the MIMRA Director to proceed with enforcement activity. The MIMRA Attorney has a standing appointment as a Special Attorney General to prosecute fisheries violations. This arrangement between the Attorney General's Office and MIMRA has made the enforcement process effective and efficient as demonstrated by the five successfully handled cases in FY2103.

Between October 2012 and September 2013 there were five violations by fishing vessels ranging from obstructing the work of an Observer and violating the conditions of fisheries agreements to violations of Marshall Islands fisheries law.

These five cases were settled administratively, netting MIMRA \$870,000, an enforcement record. Fisheries violation can be either prosecuted as a civil case or criminal case. Before prosecuting a violation in court, the MIMRA Director is al-

lowed to proceed with summary administrative proceedings. This is the preferred and most cost effective way to proceed. Most cases get settled at this stage without resorting to court proceedings. The only pending case in court is the RMI vs. Fong Seong Fishery Group and Yeh P. Wen. This case from FY2013 was settled in FY2015 with the company paying a \$300,000 fine.

New domestic regulations were adopted by MIMRA to regulate harvest and export of sea cucumbers, and to regulate the marine ornamental export industry. Some of the specific provisions of the new regulations include:

Sea Cucumber Regulations 2012

This is the first measure of its kind to regulate commercial harvest of sea cucumber. Now that the new regulations are in place, MIMRA has limited licenses for sea cucumber export to three companies. Each license is valid for three years. Licenses were not issued in FY2013 awaiting finalization of agreements with the companies. The new regulations provide for significant penalties for anyone exporting sea cucumbers without a license. A violation of the licensing provisions can

result in a fine of up to \$100,000 in addition to the value of sea cucumbers harvested for export.

Aquarium Fishery Regulations of 2012

As FY2013 ended, this regulation was with Cabinet for approval. The goal of this new measure is to ensure conservation of coastal marine resources and management of the RMI commercial aquarium fishery. Once the regulation is approved by Cabinet, it will allow MIMRA to regulate the holding, purchase, sale and export of marine ornamentals and by providing measures to control and support local governments' capacity to regulate the collection of marine ornamentals.

Two additional regulations have been drafted and remain pending: Fish Processing and Export Regulations, and MIMRA General Licensing Regulations. MIMRA is seeking assistance from the Forum Fisheries Agency to assist the final stage of preparation of these two regulations.

MIMRA also provided legal assistance in the drafting of outer island local government ordinances related to fisheries. MIMRA's Legal Advisor and a representative from Marshall Islands Conservation Society went to Ailuk and conducted a



LEGAL

RMI police and MIMRA officials raid a boat carrying shark fins.

role in enforcement

public hearing on a draft Fisheries Management Ordinance that the Council had prepared in consultation with MIMRA. After the public hearing, the Ailuk Council adopted the new ordinance, becoming the first outer island local government to establish fisheries legislation to guide sustainable development of the resource.

MIMRA is keen to see this type of management ordinance adopted by other Local governments in the RMI. MIMRA has offered its assistance to local governments for drafting fisheries-related ordinances. With the new sea cucumber regulations, MIMRA has a plan in place to provide legal and technical assistance to local governments to regulate the harvest of sea cucumber in their respective jurisdictions.

At the regional level, MIMRA is playing a role in the eight-member Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA). Vessel licensing provisions of what is known as PNA's Third Implementing Arrangement were adopted as domestic regulations by MIMRA on December 23, 2009. These regulations set minimum terms, requirements and conditions of fishing agreements and licenses of vessels fishing in PNA fisheries zones in accordance with the principles of the Third Implementation Arrangement.

Among conditions set out in this regulation:

- Fishing vessels are required to retain all catch of bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin tuna.
- Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) cannot be used for fishing for three months each year as a conservation measure.
- Prohibited fishing in certain areas of the high seas as a condition of licensing to fish within PNA EEZs.
- 100 percent observer coverage on purse seiners and the use of Automatic Location Communicators.

Provisions of the Third Implementing Arrangement were updated in early 2014 by PNA Ministers during a meeting in Nauru. It was agreed to open up the Eastern High Seas for fishing. In FY2014, MIMRA will amend its regulation to implement this decision by the PNA Ministers.

MIMRA continued work with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community/Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SPC-SOPAC) during FY2013 to complete computation of the outer limits of the maritime boundaries the RMI. A maritime boundaries consultation conducted by representatives of SOPAC's Ocean and Islands Program and the Aus-

tralian Government's Attorney General's Department was held in Majuro April 25–May 3, 2013. The session provided technical and legal development for existing maritime boundaries under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. This was followed by “stock-take” of existing high-resolution satellite imagery and metadata for all islands and atolls in RMI and other relevant data in MIMRA Geographic Information System dataset.

The organization Independent Diplomat also assisted the work in terms of satellite imagery acquisition for baseline development and verification work. This work was also undertaken as part of the technical review of RMI's baselines in the south during the negotiations with Kiribati and Nauru in 2012.

The Government of RMI successfully signed its southern exclusive economic zone (EEZ) boundaries with Kiribati and Nauru in 2012.

MIMRA continues to provide technical support for the development of RMI maritime boundaries and to meet its international obligations to deposit with the United Nations information on its maritime zones and boundaries and to register its maritime boundary agreements.

FINANCE



PNA's vessel day scheme a winner

Operating revenues for MIMRA were over 100 percent more than budgeted for FY2013, reflecting the overall growth in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean tuna fishery that was stimulated by record-setting prices for tuna on the world market. The RMI government's participation in the eight-member Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) is, and has been since 2010, the most important driver of MIMRA's increased revenue. The PNA's Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) minimum benchmark price for a fishing day increased to \$6,000 during this reporting period, significantly increasing VDS revenue. The VDS accounted for 66 percent of MIMRA's revenue in FY2013

The joint venture with Koo's Fishing Company, licenses and fishing rights agreements with fishing vessels, observer fees, enforcement of fines for fishery violations, an expansion of tuna transshipment in Majuro Atoll, and other activity related to the oceanic fishery are all generating revenue for the Marshall Islands.

The annual four-month fish aggregation device (FAD) closure, from July through October, has a negative im-

pact on MIMRA's revenue collection because it does what it was designed to do, which is to reduce tuna catches. This reduces revenue for tuna transshipment because fewer boats offload tuna during this period of the year.

In FY2013, MIMRA transferred over half of its operating revenue to the RMI national government to support operations in other areas of government.

Looking to the future, VDS revenue can be anticipated to increase, particularly in FY2015 when PNA will increase the cost of a fishing day under the VDS from the current \$6,000 to \$8,000. In addition, new bilateral agreement with Japan was signed during the year and is expected to increase fisheries revenue accruing to MIMRA in FY2014. MIMRA expenditures are budgeted to increase moderately by about 10 percent in FY2014, similar to the increase in FY2013. MIMRA is able to keep travel costs down as a significant portion of travel for both international and domestic movement of staff is paid for by various donors. The MIMRA Board of Directors also approved a 15 percent increase in employee salaries for FY2014.

**HIGHLIGHTS:
OPERATING
INCOME UP BY
NEARLY 50
PERCENT**

MIMRA's current assets, net assets at year end, and operating revenue all increased significantly in FY2013. At the same time, MIMRA's operating expenses increased only nine percent. As a result, MIMRA recorded an operating income increase of nearly 50 percent over FY2012, increasing from \$6,200,354 operating income in FY2012 to \$9,262,006 in FY2013. Net assets increased from \$12.1 million at the end of FY2012 to \$17.7 million at the end of FY2013.

**HIGHLIGHTS:
FLUCTUATION
OF LICENSES,
REGISTRATION
FEES**

Fishing license and registration fees fluctuate from year-to-year depending on the location of tuna schools. In FY2013, license and registration fees declined 20 percent, from \$1.4 million to \$1.1 million.

Financial condition and operations of MIMRA for the fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011

	2013	2012	% Change	2011
ASSETS:				
Current and other assets	\$12,627,881	7,968,672	58%	\$5,145,331
Capital assets	224,570	194,231	16%	101,599
Construction in Progress	19,794	-0-		-0-
Investment in JV	5,240,001	4,195,986	25%	5,259,874
Total Assets	\$18,112,246	\$12,358,889		\$10,507,044
	=====	=====		=====
LIABILITIES:				
Current liabilities	\$362,138	\$246,525	47%	551,170
Long-term liabilities	-0-	-0-		-0-
Total Liabilities	\$362,138	\$246,525		551,170
NET ASSETS:				
Investment in capital Assets	244,364	194,231	26%	101,599
Construction in Progress	-0-	-0-		-0-
Unrestricted	17,505,744	11,918,133	47%	9,854,235
Total Net Assets	\$18,112,246	\$12,358,889		10,507,004
	=====	=====		=====
Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets:				
Operating Revenue	11,641,057	\$ 8,385,782	39%	\$7,865,925
Operating Expenses	2,379,051	2,185,428	9%	2,007,390
Operating Income	\$9,262,006	\$6,200,354		5,858,535
	=====	=====		=====
Non-operating revenues	3,118,299	2,121,176	47%	1,990,569
Non-operating expenses	6,742,561	6,165,000	9%	3,250,000
Net non-op rev(expenses)	(3,624,262)	(4,043,824)		(1,259,431)
Capital contributions	-0-	-0-	0%	-0-
Changes in net assets	5,637,744	2,156,530	161%	4,599,104
Net assets at beg. of year	12,112,364	9,955,834	22%	5,356,730
NET ASSETS at end of year	\$17,750,108	12,112,364		9,955,834
	=====	=====		=====

FINANCE

**HIGHLIGHTS:
2013 SEES
HIGHEST
COMBINED
CATCH**

The major driver of MIMRA revenue is increasingly the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS), which is the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) management system for the skipjack tuna fishery in the region that is fished by purse seiners from many different nations, including 10 flagged in the RMI. Revenue generated from the VDS set an all-time record in FY2013 at \$7.7 million, up 170 percent on the \$2.9 million the VDS generated in FY2012. VDS revenue generated 66 percent of MIMRA's overall operating revenue. Through the VDS system employed by the eight PNA nations, MIMRA can sell unused days to other PNA members so that it does not lose the value of a fishing day even if tuna fishing is concentrated in the exclusive economic zones of other PNA members.

**HIGHLIGHTS:
BIG INCREASE
IN VESSELS
ANCHORED IN
MAJURO**

Transshipment fees for use of Majuro Atoll as tuna transshipment port also increased substantially in FY2013, from \$272,500 in FY2012 to \$413,000 in FY2013. Transshipment revenue is up because the number of purse seiners, carriers and bunker vessels using Majuro increased from 282 in FY2012 to 396 in FY2013.

**HIGHLIGHTS:
LEGAL
ENFORCEMENT
BRINGS IN
\$870K**

Aggressive monitoring and enforcement of fishing laws and regulations netted MIMRA \$870,000 in FY2013, more than double the \$335,000 it collected in fines in FY2012.

**HIGHLIGHTS:
OPERATING
EXPENSES
SEE A MODEST
RISE**

Operating expenses rose nine percent, from \$2.2 million to \$2.4 million in FY2013. This mainly reflected modest increases in personnel, professional fees, training, travel and miscellaneous expenses.

MIMRA transferred \$6.3 million to the RMI government in FY2013, a slight increase over the \$6.1 million transferred in FY2012.

Revenues for 2013, 2012, 2011

	2013	2012	2011
Fishing Rights	2,478,875.00	3,071,879.00	2,116,371.00
Vessel Day Scheme Revenue	7,746,478.00	2,865,099.00	3,636,500.00
License fee collections	1,140,200.00	1,410,236.00	1,415,952.00
Transshipment fees	413,000.00	272,500.00	312,000.00
Fishing violation fines	870,000.00	335,000.00	10,000.00
Observers fees	261,286.00	397,749.00	370,601.00
Others	38,813.00	33,319.00	11,508.00
TOTAL REVENUES	12,948,652.00	8,385,782.00	7,872,932.00
Allowance for bad debts	(1,307,595.00)	-0-	-0-
NET REVENUES	11,641,057.00	8,385,782.00	7,872,932.00
Overall Change FY2013 vs FY2012	3,255,275.00	39%	

Fishing rights also fluctuate from year-to-year depending on bilateral agreements with distant water fishing nations. The \$2.5 million received from fishing rights was about 20 percent lower than FY2012's \$3.1 million revenue. The FY2013 figure represents revenue derived from a bilateral agreement with Japan, the US Fisheries Treaty, and the FSM Arrangement (under which many purse seiners fish).

Total revenues for FY2013 set a record at \$12.9 million, continuing a steady increase seen over the past four years. An allowance for bad debts of \$1.3 million reduced the net revenue figure to \$11.6 million, a figure nearly 40 percent higher than the previous year.

**HIGHLIGHTS:
2013 SEES
HIGHEST
COMBINED
CATCH**