



3rd Quarter

# QUARTERLY REPORT

July-September  
2022

**Prepared By:**

Competent  
Authority Team



## SCOPE OF THIS MEETING

- Assessment of all fishery operators on the implementation of the BSM Standards and enforcement policies
- Update on the EU authorization process
- Identify all fishery operators in the chain of fishery activities and their roles to be done for meeting health and sanitary conditions for the fish exports

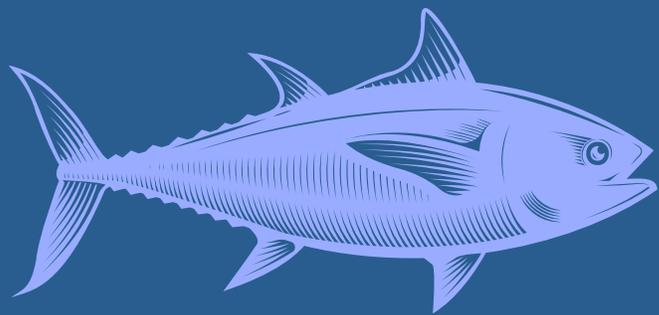
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# Introduction

Much of the third quarter of 2022 was focused on responses to the EU regarding the RMI CA documentary assessments. World Bank PROP meetings were also conducted for confirming long-term budgetary allocations for the CA, for purposes such as participating in FFA training. The 3rd Quarter also involved a stint by an intern candidate who was part of the CA team.

Although Covid-19 continues to disrupt scheduled activities, the 3rd quarter gained momentum in task progression, as the RMI transitioned to a new norm with the arrival of Covid-19.



## RMI EU Assessment Response

*EU assessment outcome:*

The EU assessment of the RMI CA documents assessment concluded as a satisfactory assessment, with only minor areas for the CA to provide responses to. The most important issue is for the CA to provide documentary evidence that at least one RMI facility complies with EU requirements, which will allow the RMI to be listed as an authorized country. A meeting was later conducted with operators to highlight this important requirement, cumulating in action needed by the industry and the Competent Authority to fulfill the condition.

# Training

## SAW ADVANCE

Tatiana and Lyla participated in the advanced Stock Assessment Workshop, which was a continuation of the introductory workshop at the end of the 2nd quarter. This workshop mainly focused on the stock assessments that support the Western and Central Fisheries Commission's (WCPFC) tuna management strategy. The models used for assessment are difficult to construct and operate without substantial skills in mathematics and statistics. The subjects covered in this workshop include:

- Data preparation of stock assessment
- Advanced stock status
- Projections
- Review of skipjack assessment
- Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE)
- Advanced Majuro/Kobe polts
- Harvest strategies
- Stock structure



## FFA Jope & Cushla

FFA Jope & advisor Cushla held an online training session for both the CA and RMI Industry members on HACCP. The CA of FSM and Samoa were also invited to attend this zoom meeting as they are also newly-developing CAs, similar to the RMI. The training session was a good refresher on the previous lessons presented by both Cushla and Jope, and it included exercises that consisted of going over HACCP plans for fisheries processing facilities.



# Inspections and Samplings



## Environmental swabs at the MIFV lab

As part of the CA verification on the hygiene and sanitation practices, the CA team, assisted by the MIFV personnel, did environmental sampling on contact surfaces such as fish butchering knives, tables, and cutting band saws. Factory workers' hygiene practices were also evaluated to see if MIFV sanitation and hygiene practices are adequate. The results indicated good practices but lacked proper hand-washing techniques, which is usually the case in most food processing operations.

## Imports Inspections

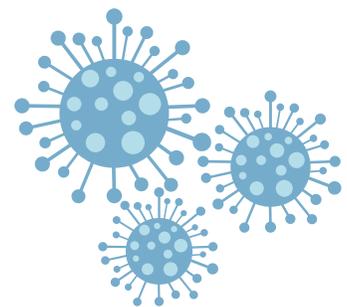
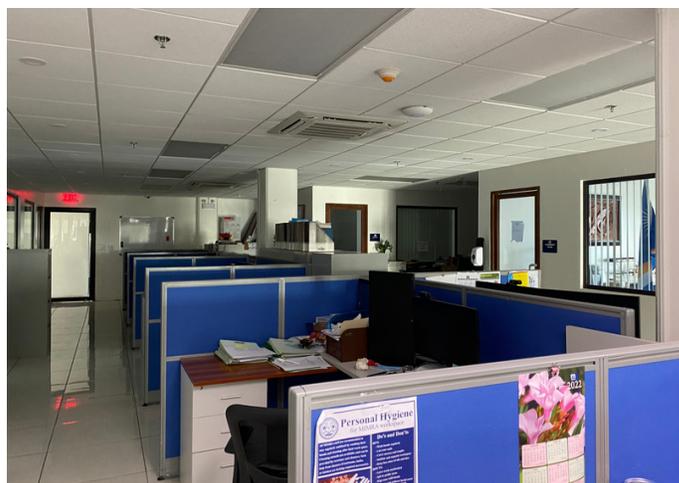
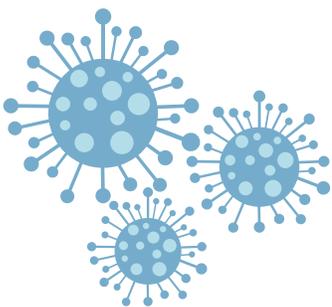
MIFV imports containers of frozen and CO-treated tuna loins, which are later reprocessed and exported to buyers. The CA, along with Oceanic officer Melvin Silk, has been monitoring said containers to verify that their information is correct and accurate.

These containers have been inspected by the CA team and the Oceanic team officers on various occasions. The inspections will continue to be regularly conducted by the two teams.



# Covid enters the RMI

After remaining free of Covid-19 for over two years, the Marshall Islands saw its first community transmission of the Covid-19 virus. With its first report of public transmission on August 8th, 2022, workplaces throughout the country, including MIMRA, implemented emergency action to mitigate the spread of the virus. Staff who have contracted the virus were given a week-long leave to recover and isolate. Employees who remained negative were instructed to wear a mask while in the MIMRA compound. Shortly after the first community transmission, the RMI adapted to the pandemic, resumed normal work activities throughout the country, and opened its borders, allowing for travel in and out of the RMI. The opening of the border will allow for the CA team to participate in trainings and workshops, visit industry sites in other island countries, and meet with consultants and stakeholders to the CA and industries. The border opening also allows labor forces to come into the RMI, which has jump-started the long-awaited construction of the MIMRA annex, which will house the laboratory that the CA will be using.



# Industry Meetings

## Meeting with PII

Aquina and Tatiana held a meeting with PII representative Isaiah Kramer at Kramer Dock (PII landing site) to discuss requirements to meet RMI Industry Standards. Isaiah presented to the CA PII's efforts in meeting the industry standards, and expressed PII's interest in export opportunities that may arise in the RMI. The CA commends PII for their proactivity to grab hold of this opportunity.



## Industry & CA briefing and awareness

The CA held a meeting with industry representatives for awareness of all fisheries operators on the implementation of the RMI standards and enforcement process, and an update on the EU authorization process. In attendance were PPF, MIFV, Koo's, PITP, and PII representatives. The industry members were notified that the RMI Industry standards will be fully enforced at the beginning of next year (2023). This will prompt the industry to conform work environments of vessels and facilities, and prepare the necessary documents that will be assessed.



# Farewell to CA officer *Lyla Lemari*

The Competent Authority, along with MIMRA staff, bid farewell to CA officer Lyla Lemari, as she ventured on to a great opportunity in Livermore, California. There she will be working at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, a federal research facility, in which she will study and conduct testing on fish from atolls in the Marshall Islands that were affected by radiation. We thank her for all the years she spent at MIMRA and wish her luck and happy days on her journey forward.



# Budget

The CA budget is currently under PROP World Bank Fund and will be in effect in 2023.

## 3rd Quarter Evaluation

Item Number	Area of Program	Implementation Status	Comments
1	<p>Initial of the EU listing process</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lodging of the official letter</li> <li>2. EU questionnaire submission</li> <li>3. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd document assessment, feedback, and response</li> <li>4. External CA assessment ( TBA)</li> <li>5. RMI authorization (TBA)</li> </ol>	80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All elements 1-3 attended to</li> <li>• 3rd EU assessment response in progress</li> <li>• All elements have been compiled except               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Demonstration that an RMI facility meets EU standards, provide a lab that EU standards testing for histamine and, provide RMI certification protocols</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2	<p>Workshop /Legal Framework/Standards</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of the CA regulatory instruments (regulations, standards, and protocols)</li> <li>2. Certification of the CA regulatory Instruments</li> <li>3. Awareness and training</li> <li>4. Transitional period</li> </ol>	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All CA regulatory instruments have been developed, promulgated, certified, workshop internal and external were held</li> <li>• Comments from EU 2nd assessment was incorporated</li> <li>• Internal review including comments from EU incorporated</li> <li>• Transitional period in progress</li> </ul>

Item Number	Area of Program	Implementation Status	Comments
3	<p>Development of database and all e-reporting for the CA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated database for inspection, imports, sampling, testing, traceability, and CDS</li> </ul>	70%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good progress made for inspections, imports, exports and traceability</li> <li>• Review needed once implemented to amend and improve</li> </ul>
4	<p>MIMRA and CA Meetings and Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Bank Prop budget meeting</li> <li>• Corporate meetings</li> </ul>	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CA is fully participative in meetings and collaborative initiatives within MIMRA</li> </ul>
5	<p>Training and stakeholder awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAW advanced training</li> <li>• Internal CA team /presentation</li> <li>• Industry and stakeholder presentation</li> </ul>	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CA has continuous training and awareness, which is essential for the team, industry, and stakeholders</li> </ul>

Item Number	Area of Program	Implementation Status	Comments
6	Laboratory 6.1 Building/Construction  6.2 Testing requirements	100%  50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction has started</li> <li>• Due to covid-19, only tests that can be tested in RMI can be carried out such as water and histamine using fluorometer method</li> <li>• There are still numerous tests that require an external lab</li> </ul>
7	Official control undertakings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facility inspection</li> <li>• Sampling of water, products, and submission for testing</li> <li>• Organoleptic assessment</li> </ul>	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 import inspections</li> <li>• 3 water samples</li> <li>• Covid-19 so 3rd QTR activities suspended until 4th QTR</li> </ul>
8	Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Series of meetings held with World Bank in relation to CA Budget</li> </ul>	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CA budgetary allocations completed with PROP</li> <li>• Ready for implementation in 2023</li> </ul>
9	Records Management and Files <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspection records: reviewed and up to date</li> <li>• Staffing records of training up to date including CVs.</li> </ul>	80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review is needed to ensure records are up to date</li> </ul>

Item Number	Area of Program	Implementation Status	Comments
10	Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual reports</li> <li>• Quarterly newsletters</li> <li>• Quarterly reports</li> <li>• Inspections reports</li> </ul>	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produced every quarter detailing all the CA work for the last 3 quarters including annual reports</li> </ul>
11	Evaluation and Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly review of records of CA official control activities</li> <li>• Quarterly work plan evaluation</li> </ul>	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly reviews on official control needed</li> <li>• Work plan evaluation completed in this report</li> </ul>
Performance in the 3rd Quarter			89%

## Achievements

Progress continues to be made on the EU evaluations of the RMI CA documents. The evaluations conclude that all legal frameworks, obligations, powers of the Competent Authority, and establishment of the official control system and certification processes, if currently implemented, will provide sufficient guarantees of compliance with the EU rules and regulations. The resulting objective is now to demonstrate that a facility in RMI meets those requirements.

## Challenges

Industry must continue to progress in meeting the RMI Industry Standards. Regulators are also needed to enforce RMI Standards and to work towards having at least one vessel EU-compliant.

The MIMRA Oceanic division and CA will work with FFA on CDS efforts to integrate electronic monitoring processes and protocols into the RMI.

## Recommendations

All RMI stakeholders and MIMRA must get on board and do what is necessary to gain EU market access.



# Acknowledgments

Competent Authority | 3rd Quarter Report 2022

MIMRA Management and the Board

Fisheries Industry

Competent Authority Team

World Bank

Prop World Bank Team

We thank you for your continued support.

## Contact

**Marshall Islands Marine Resources  
Authority**

P.O. Box 860, Delap Village, Majuro,  
MH, 96960

(692) 625-8262

[www.mimra.com](http://www.mimra.com)

[apyanne@mimra.com](mailto:apyanne@mimra.com)

[tshoniber@mimra.com](mailto:tshoniber@mimra.com)



**MIMRA**  
Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority