

*Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority*

*Annual Report 2003/2004*

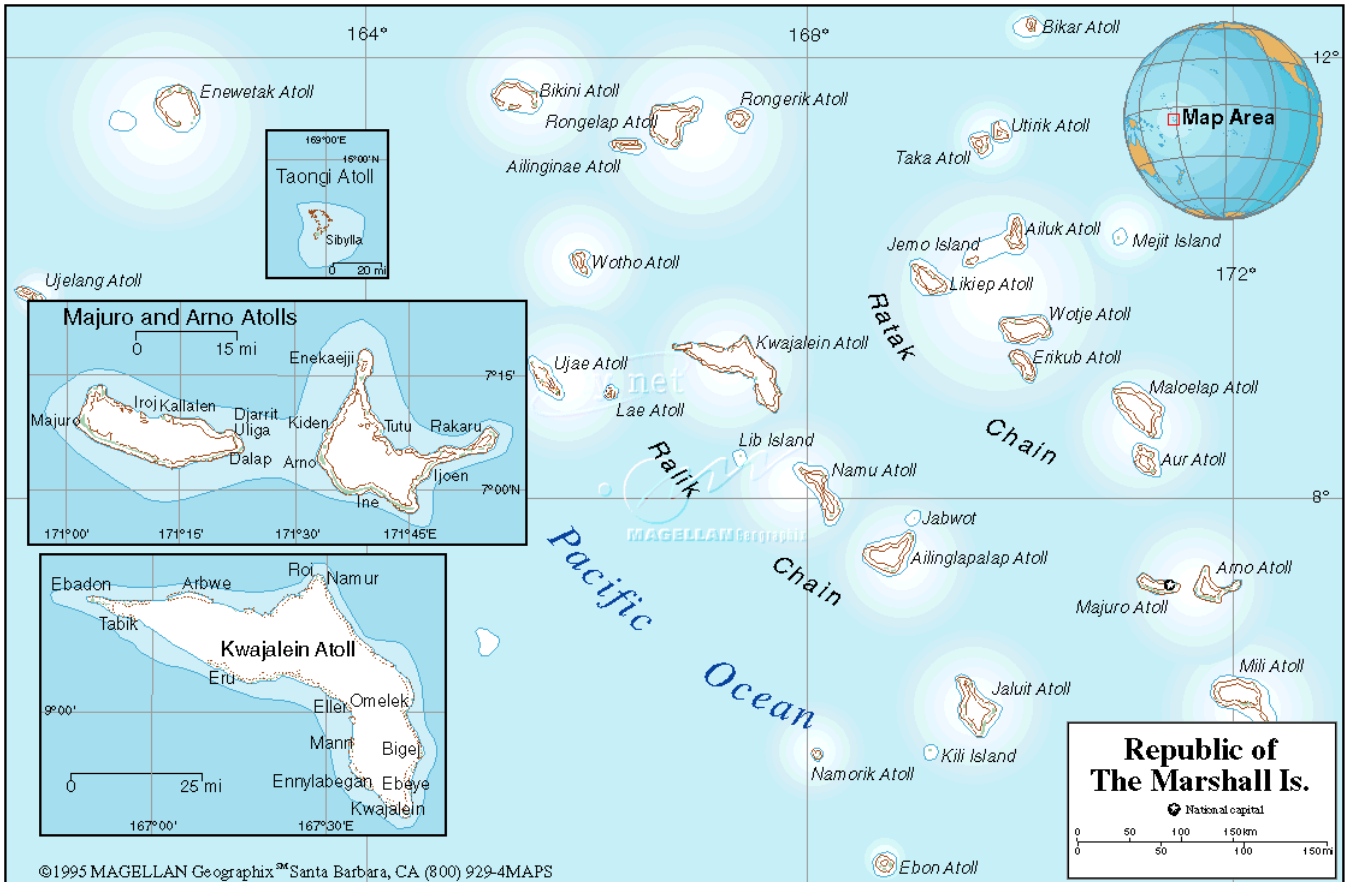


*September 2005*



## Table of Content:

	page
Message from the Chairman.....	1
Message from the Director.....	3
Oceanic & Industrial Affairs .....	5
▪ Overview.....	5
▪ Fleet structure.....	5
▪ Annual Catch.....	6
▪ Exports.....	13
▪ Transhipment.....	14
▪ Observer Program.....	15
▪ Tuna Management Plan.....	20
▪ WCPO Tuna Commission.....	20
Coastal and Community Fisheries .....	21
▪ Overview.....	21
▪ Outer Island Project.....	21
▪ Atoll Project.....	23
▪ FDAPIN-Japan.....	23
▪ JICCA.....	23
▪ Community Fisheries Development Programs.....	24
▪ Woja Hatchery.....	24
MIMRA Organizational chart.....	25
End.....	26



## Message from the Chairman

---



### *YOKWE once again!*

*It is with pleasure that I submit the MIMRA annual report for period 2003/2004.*

*The Authority is moving along implementing its policy plans for the development of the fishery sector in the RMI. I must note that the effort is not an easy one, sometimes requiring a lot of patience and changes in approach. For this, I would therefore like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the people behind the steering wheel, who have taken MIMRA to new heights this year.*

*First of all, Kommol (Thank you) to all the staff at the Authority. Your professionalism and dedication has indeed paid off for the year. For that, I look forward to working with you again next year, in working with the Marshallese people to under take fisheries and marine resources issues.*

*Secondly, Kommol Danny. This year marks the last year of Directorship by Mr. Danny Wase, and would like to offer tribute to his most outstanding leadership and overall assistance to the Authority, the government of the Marshall Islands, and to the people of the Marshall Islands.*

*Danny, as we all call him, has indeed accomplished so much during his tenure, I am sure the outer islands, and where fishbases are established is very grateful. He is a true representative of the Marshall Islands in the regional and the international arena. His accomplishments cannot fit this column but are very noteworthy. Infact, this entire report is but one aspect of the various accomplishments. The Authority will surely miss his leadership as well as his presence at the everyday work environment.*

*Thirdly, Kommol Junior. Mr. Alfred Alfred Jr., a distinctive Board member, is also readying to depart from his duty as member. Junior, as he is commonly referred to, will take up diplomatic posts at the RMI Japan Embassy in Tokyo*

*For Danny and Junior, on behalf of the Authority and the Government, I thank you for your valuable contributions, and wish you both every success in your future endeavors.*

*Lastly, I would like to welcome the new Director of the Authority, Mr. Glen Joseph. Glen, as you all know him by, is no stranger to the Authority, and certainly no stranger to the issues on hand. No doubt the road ahead is long and strenuous, however, I am confident that Glen, together with everyone involved can take the Authority forward, and possibly to new heights.*

*Kommol Tatta and God bless,*

*Hon. John Silk  
Minister of Resources and Development  
Chairman of the MIMRA Board*



## Message from the Director

---



### *Yokwe!*

*First and foremost, I would like to join the Chairman in thanking Danny for his most valuable contributions towards the Authority and the Marshall Islands in developing the fisheries. Danny is an inspiration to us all here at the Authority, a respected leader and most importantly a role model for us.*

*Danny has set a high standard and I only hope that along with the staff, we will continue to follow his legacy and footsteps in further developing the fishery in the RMI.*

*Much can be said about the fishery; development, state of the fishery, status of tuna stock, community fishery development program, and coastal fishery programs, etc. At the outset, it is obvious in some cases, from observations, the nature and status of some of these programs, fisheries; case in point, general comparison of environment, economy, stock status, etc, ten years ago and today. Having said this, the challenge lays ahead for the Authority to assist the RMI in the management, protection, conservation; developing while sustaining the fishery sector in the RMI.*

*This year, the Authority will implement a series of management measures in the tuna fishery sector, through the Oceanic fishery division. This is necessary to compliment our national, regional, and international obligations. Tuna being highly migratory specie, and the economic importance, it is critical that the RMI along with region, develop, implement and enforce sustainable management measures for the stock.*

*The Coastal fishery I is currently under review, in terms of its community development programs. The sector, with its limited capacity, has been tasked to assist outer island communities; local governments develop management plans for their marine resources and environment. The review takes into account the overlapping and cross cutting themes in which some of these concerns address, and in that respect, the Authority is looking to develop innovative integrated management approach through an established inter governmental, non-governmental group to mandate it advisory roles to the Authority efforts.*

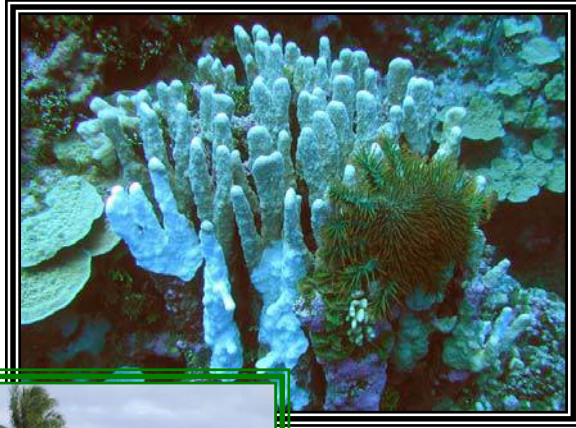
*While this report continues its tradition of project reports, it does not capture fully the motivations, constraints and challenges in implementation. For that matter, the Authority stands ready to assist/share this and with others, further information, and of course fishery in general.*

*God Bless,*

*Glen Joseph*







## OCEANIC & INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS

\*\*\*\*\*

### • OVERVIEW

The tuna fishing operation in the RMI for 2004 experienced a comeback for the purse seine fleet, however, for the pole and line fleet, catching relatively the same species, flopped to nearly zero level of operation. The longline experienced a mix level of comeback for the year, with Bigeye as its dominant catch, with continued decline in the Japanese fleet (large ultra freezer vessels), and increasing number of locally based foreign fleet.

In short, 2004 represent a slow comeback for the fishery in the RMI. Although indicatively, the number represent about half of the total catch in zone for 2002 (*31,000 tons for purse seine*), 2004 (*15,000 tons for purse seine*) can be viewed as a recovery from 2003 (*3,000 tons of total catch for purse seine fleets*).

Even the local purse seine vessels attribute an increase in catch overall, registering just over 42,000 tons of total catch for 2004, as appose to 35,000 tons for 2003.

The longline fleet catches drop slightly for 2004, however that is to be expected since the Japan fleet dropped from 28 licensed vessels in 2003 to just 15 licensed vessels in 2004. These are usually the ultra freezer vessels.

The domestic industry is severely hampered by the closure of the loining plant, resulting in over 500 employees (locally) jobless. That is a huge gap for a small island such as Majuro, and will effect the national GDP for the next fiscal year.

### • FLEET STRUCTURE

All of the parties in 2003 retained access in the RMI during 2004. The fleet component and the number of licensed vessels in 2004 is shown in table 2. It should be noted that for the new entrants, Sanko Busan and Pacific Food and Beverages, their catch reports will form the reporting for 2005.

**Table 1: Access Agreements in RMI for 2004**

Country/Party	Type	Administrator	Type
USA	<b>Multilateral</b>	<b>FFA</b>	<b>Regional Arrangement</b>
Japan	<b>Bilateral</b>	<b>MIMRA</b>	<b>Government to Government</b>
Taiwan	<b>Bilateral</b>	<b>MIMRA</b>	<b>Industry to Government</b>
Korea	<b>Bilateral</b>	<b>MIMRA</b>	<b>Industry to Government</b>
FSM Arrangement	<b>Multilateral</b>	<b>FFA</b>	<b>Sub-Regional</b>
Fong Seong Co.	<b>Bilateral</b>	<b>MIMRA</b>	<b>Industry to Government</b>
*Shandong Fishery Co.	<b>Bilateral</b>	<b>MIMRA</b>	<b>Industry to Government</b>
*Shangai Fishery Co.	<b>Bilateral</b>	<b>MIMRA</b>	<b>Industry to Government</b>
*MIFV	<b>Bilateral</b>	<b>MIMRA</b>	<b>Industry to Government</b>
New Zealand	<b>Bilateral</b>	<b>MIMRA</b>	<b>Industry to Government</b>
Hsiang Sheng Fishery Co	<b>Bilateral</b>	<b>MIMRA</b>	<b>Industry to Government</b>
Fair Well Fishery (PNG) Ltd.	<b>Bilateral</b>	<b>MIMRA</b>	<b>Industry to Government</b>
Pacific Food & Services, Inc	<b>Bilateral</b>	<b>MIMRA</b>	<b>Industry to Government</b>
Sanko Bussan (Guam) Co	<b>Bilateral</b>	<b>MIMRA</b>	<b>Industry to Government</b>
Clear Water Fishery.	<b>Bilateral</b>	<b>MIMRA</b>	<b>Industry to Government</b>

Table 1 (above) shows those who in the fishing operation in the RMI for 2004.

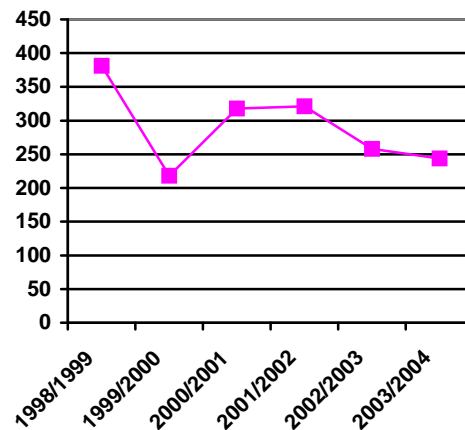
Table 2: Access Agreements in RMI for 2004-

gear types/flag/fleet/numbers

Country/Party	Gear/method	Number of Boats	Flag
USA	Purse Seine	14	USA
Japan	Purse Seine	34	Japan
Japan	Longline	15	Japan
Japan	Pole and line	7	Japan
Taiwan	Purse Seine	34	Taiwan
Korea	Purse Seine	27	Korea
!FSM Arrangement	Purse Seine	31	FSM,RMI,KI, SI, PNG
Fong Seong Co.	Purse Seine	5	Vanuatu
Shandong Fishery Co.	Purse Seine	2	PROC
Shangai Fishery Co.	Purse Seine	1	PROC
MIFV	Longline	38	PROC, Taiwan
New Zealand	Purse Seine	3	NZ
Hsiang Sheng Fishery Co	Purse Seine	1	Taiwan
Fair Well Fishery (PNG) Ltd	Purse Seine	1	Vanuatu
*Pacific Food & Services, Inc.	Longline	11	Japan
*Sanko Bussan (Guam), Inc.	Longline	14	Japan
Clear Water Fishery	Longline	6	FSM

\*New Entrants

Graph 1: Licensed vessels since 1998.



Graph 1 shows relatively the number of vessels licensed in the RMI for the periods since 98/99. It should be noted that the list does not include the carriers and bunker vessels, which are also by definition, fishing vessels. These vessels and numbers are covered in the transshipment part of this report. For the period 2003/2004 a huge drop in the number of Japanese longline and pole and line vessels resulted in 244 vessels (total) as appose to 258 vessels in 2003. Although the new entrants more or less marginalize the vessels numbers for the two years, their catch is not part of this years report.

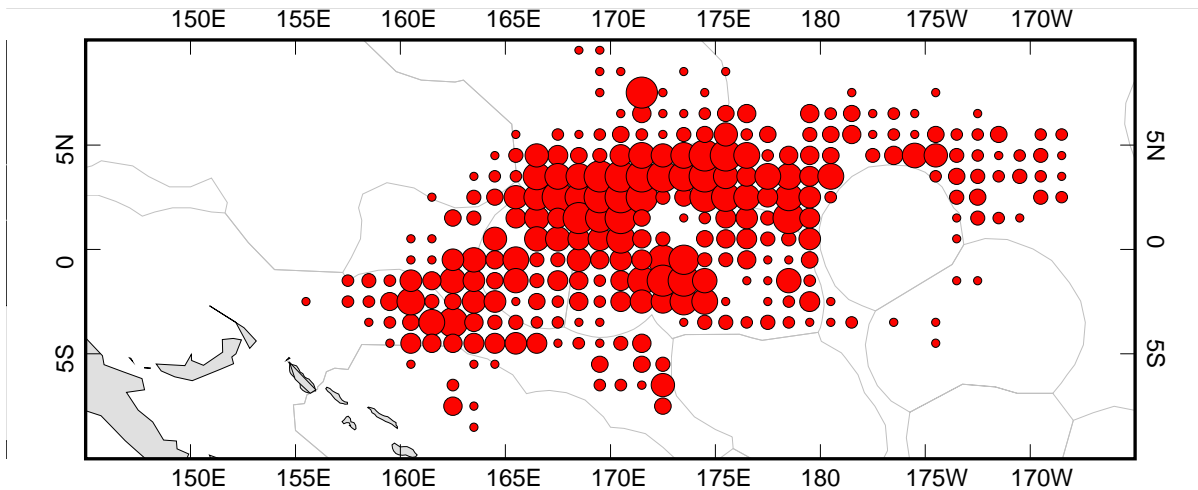
- ANNUAL CATCHES IN THE WCPFC CONVENTION AREA, 2000–2004 FOR THE RMI FLAGGED VESSELS:**

There are 6 vessels flagged as RMI vessels operating in the region. At the outset, these vessels are part of the FSM Arrangement, a sub

regional arrangement administered by the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA).

**Table 3. Estimates of the catch by species for the Marshall Islands purse seine fleet in the WCPFC Convention Area, 2000–2004 (Source : logsheet data)**

Year	Boats	Catch (metric tonnes)				Total	% cov. (logs)
		Skipjack	Yellowfin	Bigeye	Other		
2000	5	6,625	900	35	0	7,560	100%
2001	5	32,583	3,052	139	0	35,774	100%
2002	5	37,732	1,132	88	0	38,952	100%
2003	6	35,272	2,267	336	0	37,875	100%
2004	6	42,078	2,102	2,492	0	46,672	100%

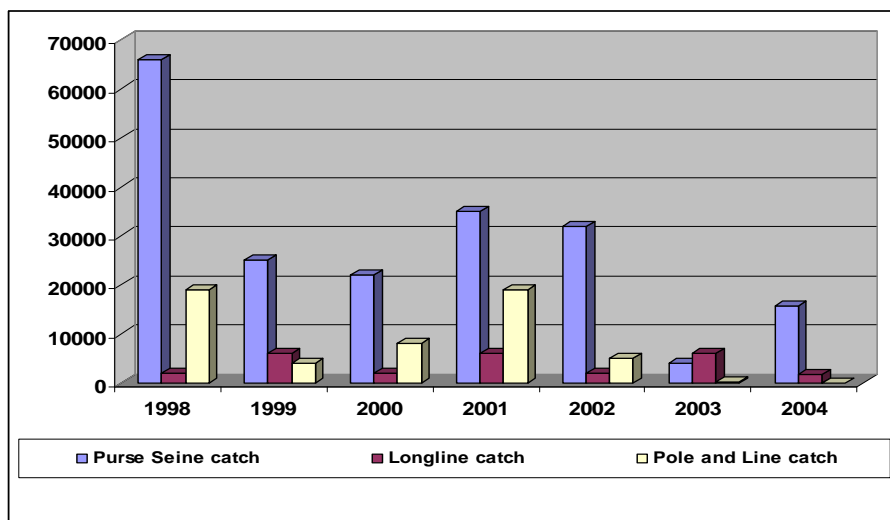


**Figure 1: Distribution of effort by Marshall Islands purse-seine vessels during 2004**

- ANNUAL CATCHES IN THE RMI EEZ, 2000–2004**

Graph 2 shows the catch in zone by the three major gears licensed or authorized (longline, purse seine, and pole and line). Purse seine catch dominated the take in zone for 2004 (15,700 tons), while the long line experienced a decrease in catch in zone (44 tons). Table 4 shows the annual purse catch in the RMI zone since 2002 through to 2004.

**Graph 2: Catch by three main gears in the RMI EEZ since 1998-2004.**



**Table 4. Annual purse seine catch by fleet and species in the Marshall Islands EEZ, 2002–2004**

YEAR	FLAG	Days	Boats	SKIPJACK		YELLOWFIN		BIGEYE		OTHER	TOTAL	
				MT	CPUE	MT	CPUE	MT	CPUE	MT	MT	CPUE
2002	CN	12	3	25	2.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	25	2.1
2002	FM	17	3	237	13.9	73	4.3	0	0.0	0	310	18.2
2002	JP	480	34	8,010	16.7	865	1.8	5	0.0	248	9,128	19.0
2002	KI	2	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
2002	KR	453	27	10,630	23.5	305	0.7	5	0.0	0	10,940	24.2
2002	MH	115	5	2,620	22.8	35	0.3	35	0.3	0	2,690	23.4
2002	PG	75	7	1,960	26.1	225	3.0	0	0.0	0	2,185	29.1
2002	SB	3	1	49	16.3	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	50	16.7
2002	TW	401	39	5,401	13.5	300	0.7	21	0.1	0	5,722	14.3
2002	US	6	4	27	4.5	5	0.8	0	0.0	0	32	5.3
2002	VU	33	2	495	15.0	45	1.4	0	0.0	0	540	16.4
<b>1,597</b>				<b>29,454</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>1,853</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>31,621</b>	<b>19.8</b>
2003	CN	2	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
2003	FM	2	2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
2003	JP	63	20	476	7.6	76	1.2	0	0.0	23	575	9.1
2003	KR	25	13	50	2.0	75	3.0	0	0.0	0	125	5.0
2003	MH	89	5	1,205	13.5	245	2.8	0	0.0	0	1,450	16.3
2003	NZ	15	4	184	12.2	63	4.2	0	0.0	0	246	16.4
2003	PG	17	7	58	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	58	3.4
2003	TW	46	16	782	17.0	50	1.1	11	0.2	1	844	18.4
2003	US	37	9	366	9.9	22	0.6	21	0.6	0	408	11.0
2003	VU	10	3	30	3.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	30	3.0
<b>306</b>				<b>3,151</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3,737</b>	<b>12.2</b>
2004	CN	8	2	345	43.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	345	43.1
2004	FM	4	2	45	11.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	45	11.3
2004	JP	147	17	2,256	15.3	263	1.8	6	0.0	38	2,563	17.4
2004	KR	70	20	1,450	20.7	115	1.6	0	0.0	0	1,565	22.4
2004	MH	213	6	4,792	22.5	235	1.1	275	1.3	0	5,302	24.9
2004	NZ	3	1	0	0.0	15	5.1	0	0.0	0	15	5.1
2004	PG	116	10	2,881	24.8	109	0.9	5	0.0	1	2,996	25.8
2004	TW	139	18	1,335	9.6	20	0.1	0	0.0	1	1,356	9.8
2004	US	20	6	133	6.7	13	0.6	0	0.0	0	146	7.3
2004	VU	49	6	1,417	28.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	1,417	28.9
<b>769</b>				<b>14,654</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>15,750</b>	<b>20.5</b>

The local purse seine fleet dominated the effort inzone with just over 5,000 tons of fish caught inzone for 2004. The purse seine fleet mostly concerts their fishing efforts down south of the RMI bordering with Kiribati, Nauru and the FSM.

The long line effort in the RMI continues to decline by the Japanese fleet, however picked up with the Marshall Islands Fishing Venture (MIFV) fleet through the locally based foreign longline operation. As shown in Table 5, the Japanese fleet dominated the sector since 2002, when in 2004, catches by the Chinese fleet over took the Japanese fleet by a margin.

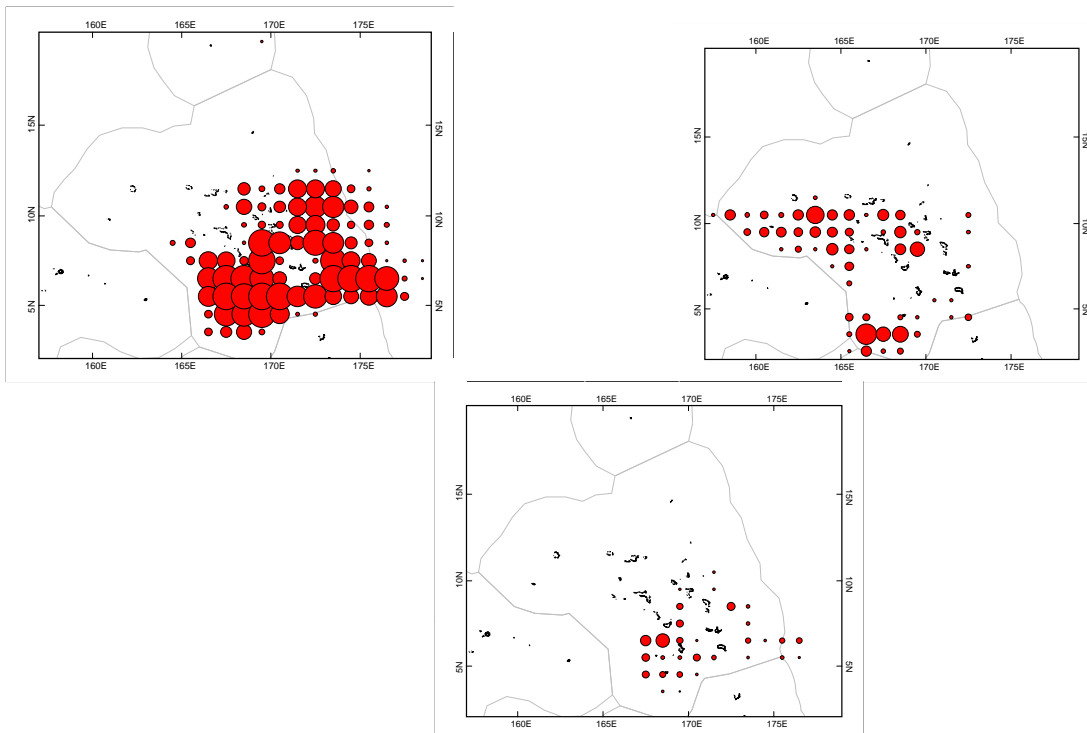
It should be noted that there are different types of longlines, with different methods of catch storage as well as vessel size. The MIFV fleet, or the fleet that form the Locally Based Foreign Vessels currently operating through the Longline fishbase, has a maximum fishing days of about 20 per boat. They carry flake ice for storage of tuna and therefore, cannot afford to stay out longer than when the ice start to melt. Thus, this affects the quality of the tuna produced by MIFV to its various markets. The MIFV fleet comprise of Mainland China and Taiwan, as well as FSM and Belize longline vessels with a maximum capacity of between 5-10 tons. Their effort is more concerted during lunar (full moon) cycles, at the end of the months with sets deeper than usual

(over 200 meters deep). There were just over 30 vessels registered during the 2004 period under the locally based foreign fishing fleet, with the number expected to drop without the Belize flag vessels, as a commission rule (WCPFC). The Japanese fleet registered 15 vessels during the period, however, with more hooks (effort)

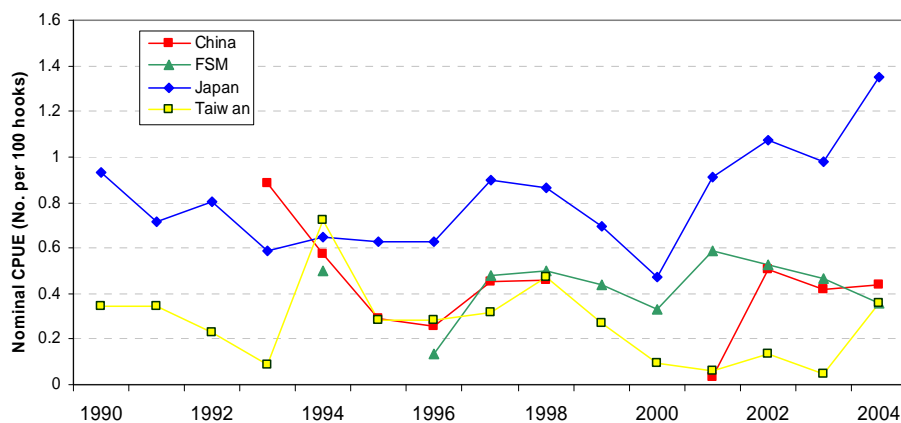
deployed than the other longline fleet because of the nature of its operation, as depicted in the nominal CPUE graphs (3 and 4) for the different target species (yellowfin and bigeye) for the longline efforts.

**Table 5. Annual longline catch by fleet and species in the Marshall Islands EEZ, 2000–2004 (Source : logsheet data)**

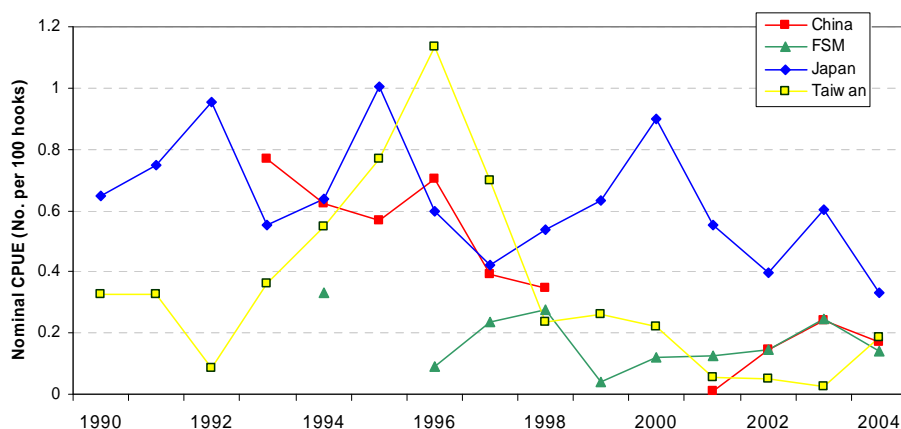
YEAR	FLAG	BOATS	ALB MT	BET MT	YFT MT	BLM MT	BUM MT	MLS MT	SWO MT	OTH MT	TOTAL MT
2002	CN	36	3	390	89	23	11	1	13	42	572
2002	FM	7	0	105	21	5	2	0	4	2	139
2002	JP	24	13	1,151	322	0	56	2	14	0	1,558
2002	TW	10	1	12	4	0	6	0	1	3	26
			17	1,657	435	29	75	2	32	48	2,295
2003	CN	36	3	708	298	46	17	2	25	160	1,259
2003	FM	6	0	135	51	5	5	0	3	6	205
2003	JP	24	17	1,314	510	2	97	1	24	19	1,983
2003	TW	7	0	4	1	1	3	0	1	2	12
			20	2,161	860	53	123	3	53	186	3,459
2004	CN	42	3	651	187	6	56	0	13	77	994
2004	FM	4	0	180	52	0	20	0	3	14	269
2004	JP	8	4	341	67	0	16	0	4	3	437
2004	MH	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	6
2004	TW	1	1	25	9	0	6	0	1	2	44
			8	1,197	316	6	100	1	21	100	1,750



**Figure 1. Distribution of Chinese (top left), Japanese (top right) and Taiwanese (bottom) longline effort in the Marshall Islands EEZ for 2004**

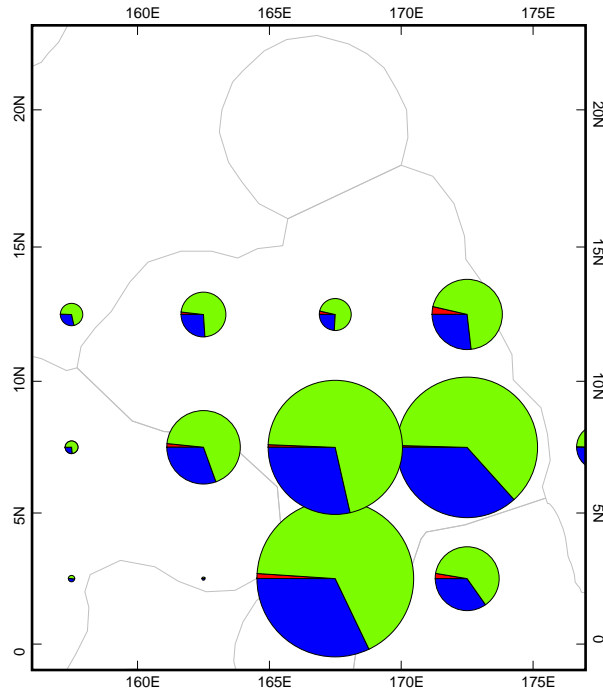


**Graph 3. Annual trends in nominal bigeye CPUE (number of fish per 100 hooks) for longline fleets operating in the Marshall Islands EEZ**



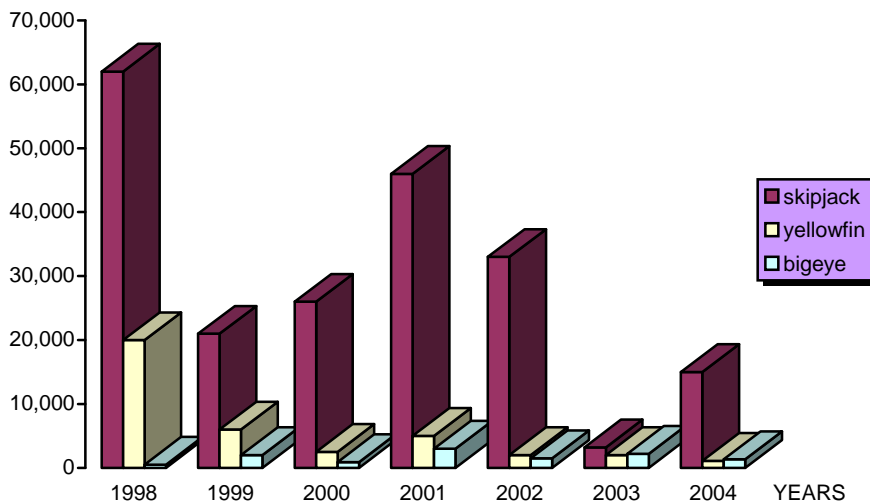
**Graph 4. Annual trends in nominal yellowfin CPUE (number of fish per 100 hooks) for longline fleets operating in the Marshall Islands EEZ**

Figure 1 shows fishing area within the RMI EEZ by the flag fleets, longline efforts, for the period 2004. The most effort as depicted, shows the China fleet. The Chinese fleet recently made a comeback in the RMI zone from 2000, with the re-establishment of the locally based longline fishbase. Figure 2, below, shows the relative distribution of species as caught by the longline operation. As indicated, bigeye formed large part of the longline catch in zone as compared to yellowfin (over 50% BET). Most of this is attributed to the locally based fishing fleet



**Figure 2. Distribution of the longline catch (metric tones) by species in the Marshall Islands EEZ, 2000–2004 (Red–Albacore; Green–Bigeye; Blue–Yellowfin )**

**Graph 5. Catch by 3 major species in the RMI EEZ from period 1998-2004.**

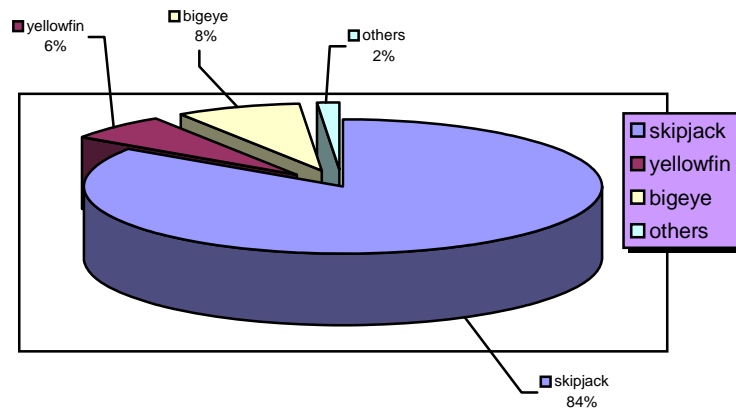


Skipjack continues to be the major species caught in the RMI. For this period, a total of 17,500 tons of mixed fish were caught inzone by all gears. About 15,000 tons were skipjack, 1,100 tons were

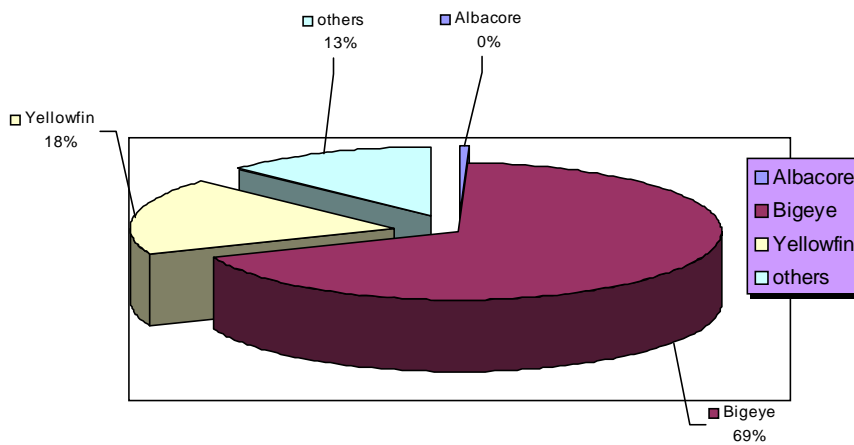
yellowfin, and just over 1,300 tons were bigeye tuna. Graph 6 shows the proportion of catch by all species of which 80% is skipjack caught inzone.



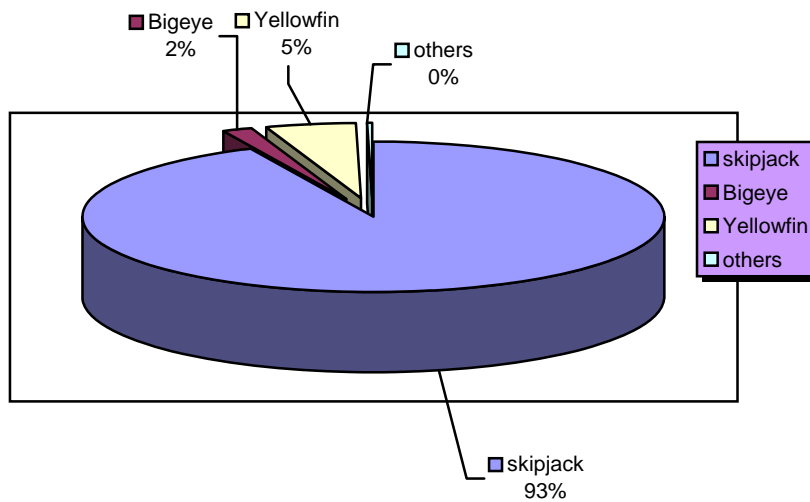
**Graph 6: Proportional catch of species by ALL GEARS in RMI in 2004.**



**Graph 7: Proportional catch of species by LONGLINE (all fleet) for RMI in 2004.**



**Graph 8: Proportional catch of species by PURSE SEINE (all fleet) for RMI in 2004.**



**Table 6: Annual pole-and-line catch for the Japanese fleet by species in the Marshall Islands EEZ, 2000–2004**  
(Source : logsheet data)

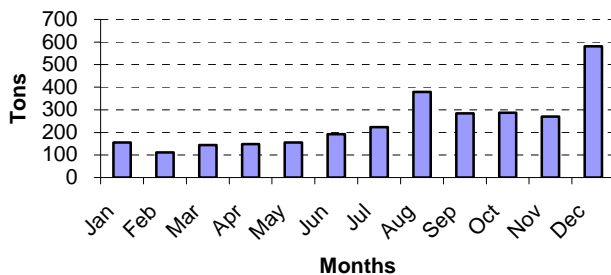
YEAR	FLAG	Days	SKIPJACK		YELLOWFIN		OTHER	TOTAL	
			MT	CPUE	MT	CPUE	MT	MT	CPUE
2001	JP	37	16,207	10.1	29	0.0	7	16,243	10.1
2002	JP	35	7,312	11.0	4	0.0	0	7,316	11.0
2003	JP	2	83	5.2	0	0.0	0	83	5.2
2004	JP	1	23	2.5	0	0.0	0	23	2.5

The pole and line fishery operation in the RMI continues to decline in 2004 (graph 2). The second most dominant fleet since 1998, the effort started to stumble in 2003, resulting in 7 vessels licensed with one fishing day registered at 23 tons total catch in 2004 (table 7). Japan operates the only pole and line effort in the RMI, and accordingly, economic hardship and a shift in free school movements, resulted in the reduced effort for 2004.

#### • MARKETS AND DETAILS OF LOCAL INDUSTRY

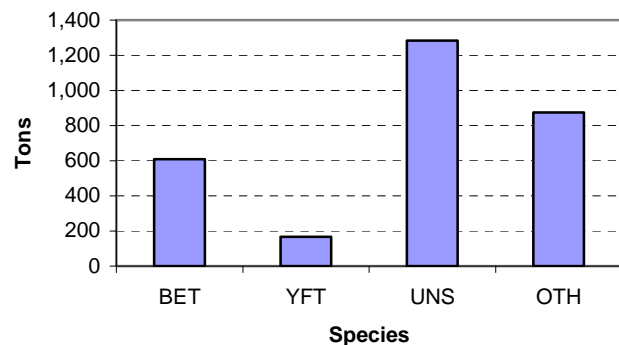
The Marshall Islands Fishing Venture (MIFV) operates the Longline Fishbase with locally based foreign longline vessels. 2004 records revealed a low export for the first few months with monthly total exports below 500 tons. August saw a rise in exports with a total of 379 tons. It declined for the next three months but shot up towards the end of the year, with 581 tons of fish exported from the RMI in December, bringing the total exports to 2,933 tons. Details of unloading by species are covered below in details in the transshipment report, in particular, table 8.

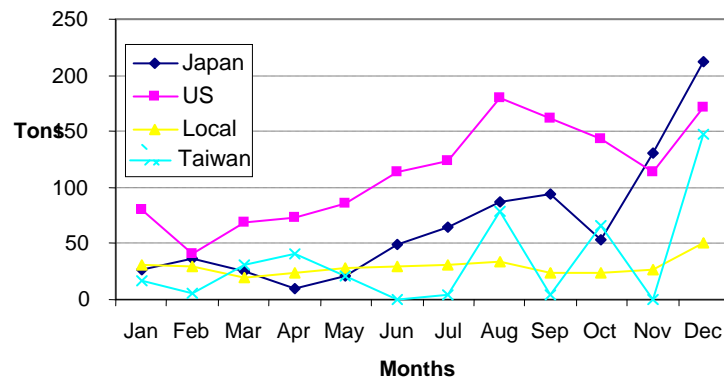
**Graph 9: MIFV Exports for period 2004**



The MIFV exports mainly fresh chilled tuna species to markets in Japan, the US, and Canada. Frozen fish (rejects and bycatches) are shipped to Taiwan by carriers and sold locally. Fish are also sold to the local market but as Indicated in graph 11, total fish sold locally remained below 50 tons for most of the year, with over 2,000 tons of mixed tuna registered as exports. Japan data are recorded by species therefore; the total BET and YFT in graph 10 represent the amounts send to Japan. Graph 11, shows the US has the dominant market overall, 1356 tons, from the MIFV. Most of these are the second grade, lower quality tuna that would not have made it to the Japanese market, a very particular market based on quality. Most of the quality fish produced at the MIFV are aimed for the higher end market in Japan. The company admits that producing quality tuna for the Japanese market is a problem, hence, the high volume of second grade and loins exports to the U.S.

**Graph 10: Total export by species 2004 (MIFV).**



**Graph 11: Monthly exports to major markets 2004 (MIFV)**

### • TRANSSHIPMENT/PORT UNLOADING ACTIVITIES

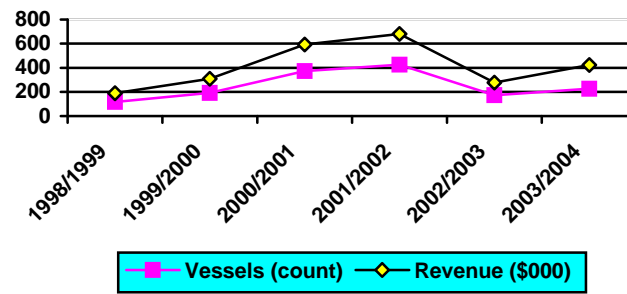
The transshipment activity in Majuro lagoon for purse seine fleet also increased from 2003. As usual, the Taiwan fleet (PS) dominated the activity, with 63 port calls registered for 2004. Graph 12 is an indicative of transshipment activity, relative to the revenue (MIMRA only) collected from 2001 through to 2004 (PS and support vessels). There are also effects to having such transshipments conducted in the lagoon; environmental costs due to the threat of spillage

of fuel, rubbish or waste water; and social costs due to the vessel crews coming ashore seeking entertainment after weeks at sea. While there are adequate legislations to monitor these, strict enforcement and continued education and awareness with boat operators, owners, companies and even vessel agents are needed to ensure stability. The proposed MIMRA Tuna Management Plan has measures to this effect and others concerning the tuna fishery in the RMI.

**Table 7: Annual purse-seine unloadings in Majuro port, 2002–2004** (source : Logsheet data – regional tuna database, SPC)

YEAR	FLAG	UNLOADINGS	METRIC TONNES				TOTAL
			SKJ	YFT	BET	OTH	
2002	CN	11	4,570	520	0	0	5,090
2002	FM	8	3,868	617	0	0	4,484
2002	JP	4	1,361	126	0	4	1,491
2002	KI	1	613	50	7	0	670
2002	KR	44	19,435	1,830	50	0	21,315
2002	MH	62	35,032	942	128	0	36,102
2002	NZ	10	4,624	608	5	0	5,237
2002	PG	37	23,849	1,144	5	0	24,998
2002	PH	3	1,187	88	3	9	1,287
2002	TW	217	121,640	6,965	586	0	129,191
2002	VU	12	9,835	665	0	0	10,500
		<b>409</b>	<b>226,013</b>	<b>13,555</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>240,366</b>
2003	FM	1	154	32	0	0	186
2003	KR	1	930	30	0	0	960
2003	MH	67	34,472	2,563	0	0	37,035
2003	NZ	6	3,154	616	0	0	3,770
2003	PG	11	3,172	1,866	0	0	5,038
2003	TW	63	18,921	5,092	435	3	24,451
2003	US	4	2,527	876	22	0	3,425
2003	VU	19	13,206	2,185	0	0	15,391
		<b>172</b>	<b>76,537</b>	<b>13,259</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>90,255</b>
2004	CN	1	336	0	0	0	336
2004	FM	1	610	35	0	0	645
2004	KR	2	705	25	0	0	730
2004	MH	70	42,078	2,102	2,492	0	46,672
2004	NZ	7	2,299	296	0	0	2,595
2004	PG	39	28,330	1,533	14	7	29,884
2004	TW	63	36,343	2,694	39	8	39,084
2004	US	1	731	476	0	0	1,207
2004	VU	43	38,714	3,121	60	4	41,899
		<b>227</b>	<b>150,146</b>	<b>10,282</b>	<b>2,605</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>163,052</b>

Graph 12: Transshipment in Majuro port by Purse Seine



A significant source of revenue for the RMI, the transshipment activity is a positive indicator for economic spin offs in private sector areas dealing directly and indirectly with the vessels in port (fuel sales with Marshalls Energy Company, etc).

Table 8: Locally Based Foreign Longline Monthly offloadings for 2004.

2004	Number of Unloading	Tuna BET/YFT Kg	Swordfish Kg	Blue/Black Marlin Kg	Logsheets %
	45	12341	2483	8393	100
Feb	27	10405	2819	6619	100
Mar	29	10219	3010	8516	89
Apr	54	10645	2240	12922	100
May	35	7780	1991	10598	100
Jun	40	19222	4393	23423	100
Jul	49	31608	5755	31891	100
Aug	49	49369	5289	31953	100
Sep	48	54314	5133	29695	100
Oct	34	30025	2640	20135	100
Nov	40	31436	341	25283	100
Dec	66	53379	2529	50527	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>320743</b>	<b>38623</b>	<b>259955</b>	<b>1197</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>26729</b>	<b>3219</b>	<b>21663</b>	<b>99</b>

- **OBSERVER PROGRAM:**

MIMRA continues to build on the revised Observer Program, initiated with the assistance of the SPC OFP. The program is still in its infancy and needs increased support to improve its effectiveness as more demands are placed upon it. There are just over twenty (20) trained observers on staff providing a minimal level of coverage of fishing activity. The number of observers needs to be increased to 30 in order to maintain coverage at the target of 20%. The MIMRA observer program can also expect to be called upon to support the observer program of the Commission in the area of the Convention outside

the EEZ. This implies increased workload in training, deployments, communications, briefing, debriefing, analysis, and data entry. It also implies the observer program needs an expanded base to work from: a base that includes adequate working space and environment for carrying out the observer program taskings and the anticipated expansion.

The mandate of the program needs to be expanded to include making enforcement observations and collecting information for follow up by Sea Patrol, the authorized fisheries enforcement

agency. This may be accomplished with some coordination with Sea Patrol and an additional training module for observers to incorporate basic enforcement observations in their inspection routine.

The program aims to provide coverage and collect data for purse seine transshipment, port sampling, and actual trips on fishing vessels. Table 10 provides a summary of port samplings by Observers in 2004 for the locally based foreign longline fleet. Table 11 provides a summary of samplings as Observed on the transshipping purse seine vessels in Majuro lagoon for 2004. Other expansion lies in the area of validating data, to qualify and quantify data production with the SPC, through logsheets, observer reports, debriefing and briefings, etc.

The Observer program began deploying and observing the longline fleet, as well as purse seine as a strong basis to form national coverage on foreign fleets. At the same time, the program contributes towards the regional U.S Treaty program and the sub-regional FSM Arrangement program (FSMA). Table 12 shows the coverage in terms of trips under national and regional arrangements. 2004 saw an expansion for the program in placement, registering a total of 45 trips, 21 on 24 on purse seine vessels. Of that total, 28 of those were on national trips, 26 on the FSMA, and 1 on the U.S Treaty. 1006 sea days were expended by the program covering the 45 vessels undertaken for 2004.

**Table 10: Annual port sampling summary, 2004** (Source : Port Sampling data collected by MIMRA)

2004	LL Port Sampling Summary, 2004				
	Unloadings	Sampled	Sampled (%)	Fish sampled	Cover Logsheet
Jan	45	15	33	946	100
Feb	27	3	11	235	100
Mar	29	2	7	87	90
Apr	54	0	0	0	100
May	35	0	0	0	100
Jun	40	0	0	0	100
Jul	49	41	84	2588	100
Aug	49	33	67	2884	100
Sep	48	14	29	1496	100
Oct	54	32	59	2008	100
Nov	48	6	13	270	100
Dec	91	8	9	752	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>10320</b>	<b>1190</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>99</b>

**Table 11: Purse seine unloadings and sampling 2004**

2004	Unloadings	Sampled	Sampled (%)	Sampled	of all vessels %	Logsheets (%)
Jan	8	5	63	20	16	100
Feb	12	10	83	52	21	100
Mar	14	5	36	22	9	100
Apr	20	5	25	16	5	100
May	13	2	15	7	4	100
Jun	16	0	0	0	0	100
Jul	11	0	0	0	0	100
Aug	12	0	0	0	0	100
Sep	22	0	0	0	0	100
Oct	23	7	30	27	8	100
Nov	22	9	41	31	8	100
Dec	16	4	25	15	7	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1200</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>

The program also monitors the transshipping activity in Majuro lagoon, table 11, and is expected to expand to provide compliance duties as well. The program was fortunate to get assistance from the U.S NOAA, in developing a turtle mitigation program, as well as shark identifying work in late 2003.

So far for the upcoming period (2005) the observer program has achieved 36 trips, to date, with 16 longline trips and 20 purse seine trips. So far, some of the results data collected are shown in figure 6 and 7, observed size composition yellowfin and bigeye tuna.

Most of the Observer data are stored at the SPC, therefore, other analysis can be requested.

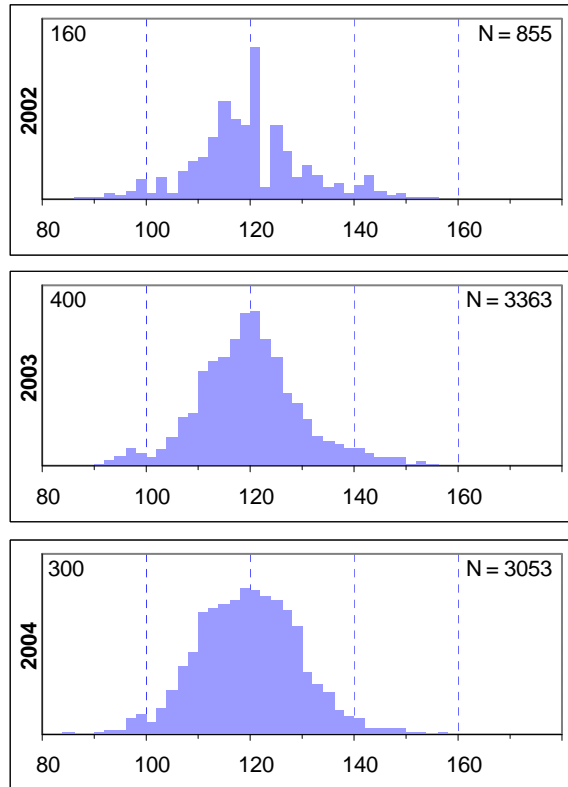
Information such as observed by-catch, turtles, and gear interactions are also available. While it is noteworthy of the expanded effort for the period, placement of observers on all fleet operating in the RMI for all gears, are targeted for the period 2005, with efforts to increase, expand coverage level to improve catch estimates from the main method of fisheries.

**Table 12: Annual observer summary, 2004** (Source : Observer data collected by MIMRA)  
Trips by month by MIMRA observer on certain observer programmes in 2004

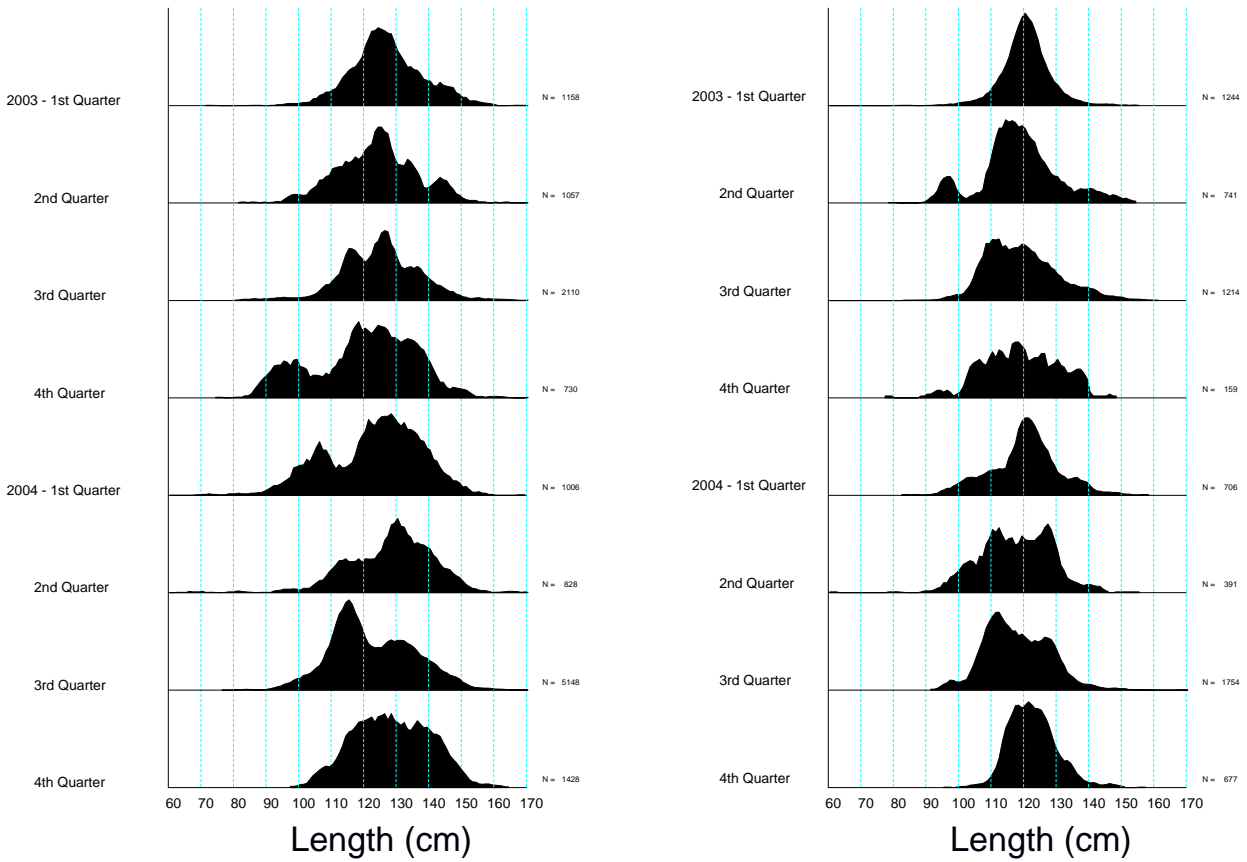
2004	Trips		Programme				Sea Days			
	Numbers	Gear	NATIONAL	FFA		Gear	National	FFA		
				FSMA	US Treaty			FSMA	US Treaty	
Jan	2	LL	1	0	0	LL	12			
		PS	1	1	0	PS	0	54		
Feb	6	LL	2	0	0	LL	27			
		PS	4	2	0	PS	57	70		
Mar	4	LL	2	0	0	LL	26			
		PS	2	2	0	PS	0	47		
Apr	7	LL	4	0	0	LL	54			
		PS	3	3	0	PS	0	46		
May	7	LL	6	0	0	LL	71			
		PS	1	1	0	PS	0	23		
Jun	9	LL	3	0	0	LL	42			
		PS	6	3	1	PS	119	145	68	
Jul	0	LL	0	0	0	LL	0			
		PS	0	0	0	PS	0	0		
Aug	0	LL	0	0	0	LL	0			
		PS	0	0	0	PS	0	0		
Sep	8	LL	5	0	0	LL	57			
		PS	3	3	0	PS	0	69		
Oct	1	LL	0	0	0	LL	0			
		PS	1	1	0	PS	0	7		
Nov	0	LL	0	0	0	LL	0			
		PS	0	0	0	PS	0	0		
Dec	1	LL	1	0	0	LL	12			
		PS	0	0	0	PS	0	0		
45	24		28	16	1	LL	301	461	68	
		21				PS	176			
Sub Total Sea Days							477	461	68	
GRAND TOTAL							1006	Sea Days		

Table 13: 2004 –Purse seine trips by MIMRA observers

	<i>Observer Name</i>	<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>Observer Program</i>	<i>Departure date</i>	<i>Departure port</i>	<i>Arrival date</i>	<i>Arrive Port</i>	<i>Sea Days</i>
1	Jerry Tuisue	Castel Braz	PS	FSM Arrangement	7-Jan	Majuro	1-Mar	Pohnpei	54
2	James Elio	Miss Luen	LL	MIMRA FSM	28-Jan	Majuro	9-Feb	Majuro	12
3	Aniba Jabkoj	Koos 103	PS	Arrangement	4-Feb	Majuro	9-Mar	Majuro	34
4	Joran Joran	Yue Yuan Yu 613	LL	MIMRA	12-Feb	Majuro	25-Feb	Majuro	13
5	Jacob Keju	Fong Seong 666	PS	MIMRA	15-Feb	Majuro	14-Mar	Majuro	28
6	Makbi Bwisko Richard Carland	Da Lian Yu 809	LL	MIMRA	19-Feb	Majuro	4-Mar	Majuro	14
7		Fong Seong 696	PS	MIMRA FSM	23-Feb	Majuro	23-Mar	Majuro	29
8	James S Elio	Koos 101	PS	Arrangement	21-Feb	Majuro	28-Mar	Majuro	36
9	Lomodro Jibas Dike	Clear Water 05	LL	MIMRA	11-Mar	Majuro	24-Mar	Majuro	13
10	Poznanski	Clear Water 03	LL	MIMRA FSM	13-Mar	Majuro	26-Mar	Majuro	13
11	Jacob Keju	Koos 107	PS	Arrangement FSM	27-Mar	Majuro	25-Apr	Majuro	29
12	Jerry Tuisue Dike	Koos 102	PS	Arrangement	29-Mar	Majuro	16-Apr	Majuro	18
13	Poznanski	Yue Yuan Yu 028	LL	MIMRA	1-Apr	Majuro	15-Apr	Majuro	14
14	Makbi Bwisko	Clear Water 06	LL	MIMRA	1-Apr	Majuro	16-Apr	Majuro	15
15	Joran Joran	Hu Yuan Yu 11	LL	MIMRA	1-Apr	Majuro	10-Apr	Majuro	9
16	Lomodro Jibas	Da Lian Yu 810	LL	MIMRA FSM	3-Apr	Majuro	19-Apr	Majuro	16
17	Aniba Jabkoj	Koos 101	PS	Arrangement FSM	4-Apr	Majuro	20-Apr	Majuro	16
18	James Elio	Koos 103	PS	Arrangement FSM	5-Apr	Majuro	28-Apr	Majuro	23
19	Jerry Tuisue Dike	Koos 102	PS	Arrangement	20-Apr	Majuro	27-Apr	Majuro	7
20	Poznanski	Yue Yuan Yu 037	LL	MIMRA	6-May	Majuro	12-May	Majuro	6
21	Lomodro Jibas	Fu Yuan Yu 039	LL	MIMRA FSM	8-May	Majuro	24-May	Majuro	16
22	James Elio	Koos 108	PS	Arrangement	8-May	Majuro	31-May	Majuro	23
23	Makbi Bwisko	Fu Yuan Yu 032	LL	MIMRA	11-May	Majuro	24-May	Majuro	13
24	Joran Joran	Hu Yuan Yu 12	LL	MIMRA	19-May	Majuro	1-Jun	Majuro	13
25	Jacob Keju Richard Carland	Yue Yuan 154	LL	MIMRA	21-May	Majuro	29-May	Majuro	8
26		Clear Water 02	LL	MIMRA	27-May	Majuro	11-Jun	Majuro	15
27	Makbi Bwisko	CFA 06	LL	MIMRA	3-Jun	Majuro	16-Jun	Majuro	13
28	Jacob Keju	Chi Tai 866	PS	MIMRA FSM	8-Jun	Majuro	10-Jul	Wewak	32
29	Jerry Tuisue	Koos 107	PS	Arrangement	14-Jun	Majuro	30-Jul	Majuro	46
30	James Elio	Yue Yuan Yu 618	LL	MIMRA	15-Jun	Majuro	29-Jun	Majuro	14
31	Lomodro Jibas	Yue Yuan Yu 617	LL	MIMRA	15-Jun	Majuro	30-Jun	Majuro	15
32	Aniba Jabkoj Dike	Fong Seong 767	PS	MIMRA	17-Jun	Majuro	12-Sep	Majuro	87
33	Poznanski Richard	Lone Wolf	PS	FFA/US Treaty FSM	28-Jun	Pago	4-Sep	Pago	68
34	Carland	Eastern Marine	PS	Arrangement FSM	25-Jun	Majuro	16-Aug	Pohnpei	52
35	Makbi Bwisko	Mathawmarfach	PS	Arrangement FSM	27-Jun	Majuro	13-Aug	Pohnpei	47
36	Jerry Tuisue	Tuna Queen	PS	Arrangement	4-Sep	Majuro	19-Sep	Majuro	15
37	Joran Joran	Yue Yuan Yu 198	LL	MIMRA	14-Sep	Majuro	19-Sep	Majuro	5
38	Joran Joran	Yue Yuan Yu 198 Shen Lian Chen 701	LL	MIMRA	23-Sep	Majuro	6-Oct	Majuro	13
39	James Elio		LL	MIMRA	14-Sep	Majuro	26-Sep	Majuro	12
40	Lomodro Jibas	Yue Yuan Yu 668	LL	MIMRA FSM	16-Sep	Majuro	29-Sep	Majuro	13
41	Jacob Keju	Koos 108	PS	Arrangement	21-Sep	Majuro	11-Oct	Majuro	20
42	Makbi Bwisko	Yue Yuan Yu 667	LL	MIMRA FSM	24-Sep	Majuro	8-Oct	Majuro	14
43	Jerry Tuisue	Tuna Queen	PS	Arrangement FSM	25-Sep	Majuro	29-Oct	Majuro	34
44	Jacob Keju	Koos 108	PS	Arrangement	13-Oct	Majuro	20-Oct	Majuro	7
45	Makbi Bwisko	Fu Yuan Yu 033	LL	MIMRA	30-Dec	Majuro	11-Jan	Majuro	12



**Figure 6. Annual size composition of longline-caught bigeye (left) and yellowfin (right) taken in Marshall Islands waters, 2002–2004** (Source : Port sampling data collected by MIMRA)



**Figure 7. Quarterly size composition of longline-caught bigeye (left) and yellowfin (right) taken in Marshall Islands waters, 2003–2004** (Source : Port sampling and observer data collected by MIMRA)



- **TUNA MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT(S)**

The Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) is under going institutional changes as part of the proposed national tuna management plan (TMP). The plan itself has been formally adopted in mid 2005. This plan for management of tuna species in the RMI is prepared pursuant to Section 25 of the Marine Resources Act 1997. As a designated fishery under the Marine Resource Act, the Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority MIMRA is fulfilling its responsibility to prepare a fisheries management plan with measures for effective conservation and optimum utilization of the tuna species.

While implementation of the specific provisions will be in 2005, and subsequently be reported next year, some of the key issues and highlights to undertake and note, includes;

- i. Status of stock (assessment)
- ii. National, regional, international instruments for management of highly migratory fish stock
- iii. Social, economic and environmental issues
- iv. Institutional review
- v. Conservation and sustainable management measures
- vi. National fisheries development issues
- vii. Monitoring, control and surveillance issues
- viii. Etc.

The TMP, as much as it's a development option for the RMI, it is also a challenge in terms of the objectives of which some of the issues represents, i.e., in pursuing infrastructure development to support the fishery sector, given the size and availability of land. The tuna fishery provides the Marshall Islands with national income through licensing fees and trans-shipment. Refueling and other activities/spin-offs are a major benefit to the country, through employment opportunities, economic spin offs, value adding of products (processing), and income opportunity through industry growth.

The tuna industry can also open up opportunities for investment and partnerships for the local population. This could include opportunities for further development of small-scale tuna fishing activities for local fishermen, which is a major

part of the current tuna management and development plan.

While the TMP is brief, it certainly captures the development and management aspects of the tuna fishery from the national perspective, through its developments, stakeholders meetings, scientific input (SPC), and economic outlook on the fishery. The specific scope and implementation details will form part of next years report.

- **TUNA COMMISSION:**

The Western and Central Pacific Tuna Commission held its first/inaugural meeting in Pohnpei, in December 2004. Attending the session as members of the Commission and participating territories, are, Australia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tokelau, Tonga and Tuvalu. Canada, European Community, France, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Japan, New Caledonia, Palau, Philippines, United States of America, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna attended as observers. The Commission extended observer status to the following regional and international intergovernmental organizations that had attended sessions of the Preparatory Conference in that capacity: South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Forum Secretariat, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Organization (IATTC), the Pacific Community (PC), the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and the University of the South Pacific (USP).

Without contest, Mr. Glen Hury of Australia was elected as chair of the commission, with Mr. Liu Xiaobing of China as Vice-chair. At its first session, the commission considers and endorses the recommendation of the PrepCon for Mr. Michael Lodge as Executive Director of the WCPO Tuna Commission. Further, the Commission adopted the Rules and Procedure developed from the PrepCon Process. The Commission also endorsed the *Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia*, as WCPO Headquarter site, as recommended by the PrepCon Process.

## COASTAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

\*\*\*\*\*

### • OVERVIEW

Coastal fisheries have been a traditional source for subsistence. Currently, the coastal and lagoon marine resources are a priority for community nutrition, long-term food security and income-earning opportunities. The Authority is shifting management measures towards sustaining resource practices, to allow for continued and long term achievements of project objectives and community and local government fisheries development plans and projects.

To this end, the Coastal division, in particular the community affairs section has been actively involved in Community fisheries development plans. Coastal fisheries in RMI are composed of principally of small operations, primarily in the outer islands, which are conducted within the context of a subsistence economy. These fisheries draw on the available resources in RMI waters as an integral part of the national economy and play a major role in supplying animal protein to the nation's population. The small-scale coastal fisheries operate primarily to catch fish on a daily basis for consumption by the fisher's own household, using traditional simple fishing methods. One can only see the environment to know how important the coastal marine resources are to the every day lives of the community. As reported in previous editions of MIMRA annual reports, many households are engaged in these small-scale fisheries and, particularly on the outer islands, the bulk of the residents are engaged in fisheries; in Ailinglaplap, for example, 82 percent of household's fish and, in Jaluit, the percentage rises to 87%. In the outer islands, fish is the major source of animal protein, so that fishing is very active. In the urban areas, on the other hand, in view of the large number of residents working in the public and private sectors, there are virtually no full-time fishermen. Hence, the supply of fish in these urban areas is chronically inadequate. Annual fish demand on Majuro is estimated at about 400 tons, but at the present time, the volume of fish from Arno reaching Majuro through organized distribution channels is only 50 tons per year. In terms of the comparative prices of animal proteins, fresh fish is very expensive; 2.5 times that of broilers. Thus, it has been determined that demand for fresh fish in the

urban markets is by no means small, reflecting a strong preference for fresh fish.

MIMRA continues to encourage the development of culture fisheries and aquaculture for its potential to contribute to improving national fisheries production capacity and stimulate local economies. Furthermore, it is envisaged that the private sector will lead the development of culture fisheries and that environmental considerations related to culture activity in line with the Government policy are of main concern.

Two export-oriented sea farming activities are operating; 1) Black Pearl farms, and 2) giant clam hatchery in Likiep Atoll and in Majuro, of which both are largely private sector driven, with the latter exports mainly to the U.S aquarium market.

### • Outer Island Fishing Projects

The Outer Island Fishing Projects were set up to help outer island communities supplement their income generation opportunities. The Outer Island Fish Market Center and Kwajalein Atoll Fish Market Center are the destination for distribution for the fish coming in from Arno, Aur, Ailinglaplap, Likiep, Namu, Maloelap, Jaluit and most recently, Ailuk. Fish purchased from the outer island fishermen are sold in the urban centers of Majuro and Ebeye the capital gained is then reinvested to purchase more fish from the fishermen. The following tables reflect the amount of fish purchased by MIMRA from the fishermen that were transported by F/V Ieplap (Ebeye), F/V Lentanir (Majuro), F/V Laintok (Majuro), F/V JOLOK and F/V ALELE.

**Table 14: AAFA monthly fish purchase in Arno**

ARNO ATOLL FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (AAFA)	
FY 03/04	
Total Fish Purchases from Fishermen	
Nov	1493 Lbs
Dec	2882.1 Lbs
Jan	1681 Lbs
Feb	2552 Lbs
Mar	2589 Lbs
Apr	1858 Lbs
May	4285 Lbs
June	2516 Lbs
July	2765 Lbs

Aug	553.45 Lbs
Sep	3039 Lbs
Oct	2985 Lbs

**Table 2: Monthly fish purchase from Jaluit**

JALUIT ATOLL FISHING PROJECT (JAFF) FY 03/04 Fish Purchases from Fishermen (lbs)					
GRADE	A	B	C	D	Total
MONTH					
Nov	291		1168	1519	2978
Dec	178		1499	1815	3492
Jan					****
Feb	76.7	1451.5	66	1763.9	3358.1
Mar	333	1142	22	1610	3107
Apr	397	49		474	920
May	1731.6	1460.9	116.8	3708.2	7017.5
June					****
July	177.0.7	2128.2	175.8	4156.6	6460.6
Aug	1551.4	1074.1	100	2955	5680.5
Sep	133	322.5	1335	2254.5	4045
Oct					

\*\*\*\* Trips to Jaluit were not conducted in the months of January 2004 and June 2004 due to the rotational nature of the boat schedules.



Coastal fisheries in RMI are composed of principally of small operations, primarily in the outer islands, which are conducted within the context of a subsistence economy. These fisheries draw on the available resources in RMI waters as an integral part of the national economy and play a major role in food security to the nation's population. The small-scale coastal fisheries operate primarily to catch fish on a daily basis for consumption by the fisher's own household, using traditional simple fishing methods and simple modern gears (masks and spears). To this end, the projects became a source of revenue for these subsistence fisherman, where in most outer islands case, the primary source of revenue is producing copra.

The Challenge for MIMRA is to further build the managerial capacities in these outer island fish base to implement sustainable management measures to ensure long term benefits of the resource. Though with limited resources to undertake the many responsibilities regarding fisheries management, training workshops were held for the outer island fishbase managers In 2004 in Majuro. The aim

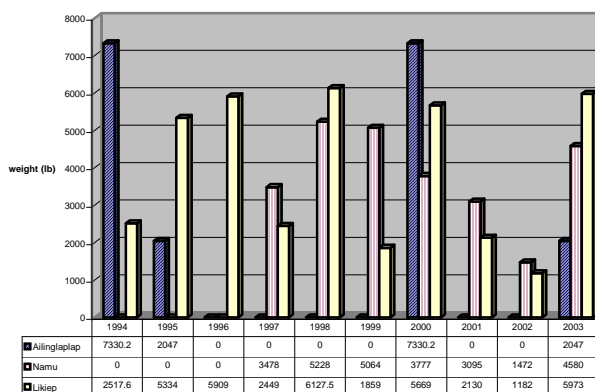
**Table 3: Monthly fish purchase from the other bases**

Coastal Fisheries Development Assistance (COFDAS) FY 03/04 Fish Purchases from Fishermen (lbs)					
GRADE	A	B	C	D	Total
MONTH					
Nov	209.67	476.2	809.15		1495.02
Dec	254			390	644
Jan	108	68	643	42	861
Feb					****
Mar	685	316	1150	31	2182
Apr	412	1172	831	870	3285
May	35	1922	660	21	2638
June	239	194	2166		2599
July	256	559	1099	108	2022
Aug					****
Sep	195.71	515.91	906.56	56.85	1675.03
Oct	197	55	452		704

\*\*\*\* Trips to Maloelap/Aur were not conducted in the months of February 2004 and August 2004 due to the rotational nature of the boat schedules.

was to improve the current system of reports and overall management of the system. This resulted in the increase in buying price for the Namu, Ailinglaplap, Likiep and Ebeye side and better coordination between the two Markets and all the fishbases.

**Graph 13: Total fish from outer island fish base through Kwajalein Fish Market Center**



- **RETAS/FDAPIN Project**

The Japanese Government continued to provide assistance towards the coastal fisheries program, although, as indicated by the OFCF, the continued overall economic slump in Japan over the previous years, will reduce the level (funding ) for support in future activities.

This is already evident, as Japan is not funding new and major projects. Accordingly, the current RETAS and Fisheries Development Assistance for Pacific Island Nations (FDAPIN) projects from Japan has been reduced to mainly maintenance and repair work on equipments and projects previously provided.

With regard to other fisheries development assistance programs or activities provided by OFCF to RMI, MIMRA has been receiving training/restoration assistance under the FDAPIN project , of which objective is to undertake transfer of technology to Government-provided counterparts through on-site training and restoration which includes the methods of maintenance and restoration of fisheries related facilities and equipment on a yearly basis. The RETAS project (through the FDAPIN project) has been provided to MIMRA since 1993, and it will continue to be provided for Japanese fiscal year as agreed to between MIMRA and OFCF through an MOU signed by both parties sometimes in July 2001.



*MIMRA is committed to a maintenance program under transfer of technology and capacity building from the Japan projects. Workshop at the MIMRA compound.*

This year under the FDAPIN Project, the following projects were undertaken:

- Repair & Maintenance of Majuro, Arno and Ebeye Ice machines and cold storage units;

- Replacement of F/V Jolok with new JOLOK II
- Maintenance course for Boat Operators (open for all)
- Replacement of Ine Generator

In addition to FDAPIN, OFCF has started a new project with the Arno Atoll Fisheries Association (AAFA) called FESAP. This project is aimed at improving the livelihoods of Arno fishermen. The project was first introduced as a ecotourism type project where a bungalow would have been constructed and managed by AAFA and with the Arno community working together to supply activities for prospective visitors. Due to disapproval from OFCF headquarters of the nature of the project, the change was made from ecotourism to improvement of AAFA management with the following intentions:

1. Improve AAFA sales
  - Increase fishermen productivity
  - Increase fish products (jerky, smoke fish, etc.)
2. Improve JOLOK schedule
3. Improve ice sales

- **JICA Project**

In November, a team from Japan International Cooperating Agency (JICA) came to assess the current situation of the fishbases in Ailinglaplap, Namu and Likiep as part of the next phase to the project "Improvement of Fish Marketing System in the Outer Islands" and resulted in the replacement of the solar batteries and other components in the above fishbases.

Since the departure of the JICA Expert, in late 2004, MIMRA is now self reliant in overall managing the outer islands fish bases. This includes providing necessary services to maintain equipments, identifying problems and implementing solutions to problems, Although JICA can be still sourced, given limited internal capitol and expertise on certain priority issues.

*Tino DeBrum wired new parties for the solar system in Namu*



- **Community Fisheries Development program**

In line with the MIMRA ACT to facilitate developing Fishery plan for a designated fishery, the MIMRA has developed, and approved by Board, the Tuna Management Plan. The same principal and effort will apply to the Coastal fishery division. For Coastal fishery, the methodology will obviously be different because of the varying communities, and the vast variety of resources involved.

MIMRA has been collaborating and cooperating with a wide range of government and non-governmental organizations in dealing with coastal fishery issues. The community based fishery development program is one very important initiative. In 2001, MIMRA requested the technical assistance (services) of the



*Community Workshop is an integral process in the fishery plan development.*

Since inception, MIMRA has formed an **ad-hoc** group to assist in the process. The group, initially called the MEIC, consists of MIMRA, EPA, Internal Affairs, and CMI, hence MEIC. Over time, the group has expanded to include the OFCF, OEPPC, MIVA, and NGOs, and have subsequently proposed to change the name of the group to Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC). The current projects the group has engaged in facilitating a fishery development plan includes, Arno Atoll, Mejatto, Likiep, and Majuro. Owing to the success of these, other local governments have submitted requests for assistance from MIMRA in facilitating their process, Ailuk, Mili, and Namodrik.

The process received positive feedbacks from the communities, but the fact is that MIMRA alone cannot facilitate the program. While MIMRA

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)-Coastal Management Adviser to assist develop the program in RMI. While the initial scope was to get the process going in the RMI, the objective, as a priority, is to facilitate the management of coastal fisheries towards the atoll communities, particularly the Local Government councils, with a view to fulfilling its role and expectations under the MIMRA ACT (1997).



takes the lead role in initiating the process, the group is an integral part of the implementation through workshops, resource assessment(s), policy advice, etc. The group, however, is non-binding and without a clear policy direction, other than assisting in the process on a case by case basis. There is a need to recognize and institutional the process within MIMRA, as we anticipate delivering the program to all 34 Atolls in the RMI.

- **Woja SPAT/NURSERY Farm**

The Authority is keen on developing the sector through provisions of oyster spats. The effort is to make available spats for farmers, private sector to grow black pearls, and induce the sectoral growth.

The black pearl industry is established in the RMI, but still require considerable assistance in many areas, including spat production. The Authority has secured the Woja farm in anticipation of this effort. An Australian, Mr. Provan Crum, joined the Authority during the period to assist in the production effort.

With this effort underway, the Authority is also looking for assistance from the SPC to conduct workshops on management and running black pearl farms in the RMI. Pending this, outer island communities, local interested farmers will be encouraged to participate and develop further the black pearl industry in the RMI.

**MIMRA CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2005**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Venue</b>
17 -25 Jan	Operation "Big Eye" Prep Conference	Koror, Palau
24 Jan – 14 Feb	Marshall Island Observer training course	Majuro, RMI
11-12 February	Strategic Plan Working Group Meeting	Brisbane, Australia
14-18 February	MCS/VMS Training	Canberra, Australia
17-18 March	17 <sup>th</sup> Internal Meeting of the Pacific Islands Parties (PIP) to the US Treaty	Nuku'alofa, Tonga
21-23 March	17 <sup>th</sup> Annual Consultation between the Pacific Islands Parties (PIP) and the United States	Nuku'alofa, Tonga
5-8 April	<i>8<sup>th</sup> MCS Working Group Meeting</i>	FFA HQ, Honiara, SI
31 May	<i>24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement</i>	Majuro, RMI
1 - 2 June	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Parties to the Palau Arrangement</b>	Majuro, RMI
3 - 4 June	10 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Parties to the Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement for Regional Fisheries Access	Majuro, RMI
6-8 June	59 <sup>th</sup> Forum Fisheries Committee Meeting "Official Meeting" (FFC59)	Majuro, RMI
9 June	59 <sup>th</sup> Forum Fisheries Committee Meeting "Ministerial Meeting")	Majuro, RMI
10 June	59 <sup>th</sup> Forum Fisheries Committee Meeting "Official Meeting" (FFC59)	Majuro, RMI
8 – 12 August	In-country Prosecution & Port Side Boarding Course	Majuro, RMI
4 – 5 August	FFA Science Working Group Meeting	SPC, Noumea, New Caledonia
8 – 19 August	Scientific Committee of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean	SPC, Noumea, New Caledonia
22 – 24 August	Third Licensing Officers Workshop	FFA Secretariat, Honiara
6 – 9 September	Further cooperation talks with Japan	Tokyo, Japan
19 – 22 September	International Fisheries Law Short Course	West Motor Inn, Nadi, Fiji
26-29 September	TEAG (Trade Experts Advisory Group) Sub-Committee on Fisheries	FFA Secretariat, Honiara
3-6 October	MCS Working Group/TCC Preparation Workshop IUU Fishing Risk Management Workshop Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Workshop	FFA Secretariat, Honiara
7-8 October	VDS Working Group Meeting	FFA Secretariat, Honiara

**MIMRA CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2005**

10-14 October	FFA Fisheries Management Options Workshop Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management GEF Project 1st Regional Steering Committee	FFA Secretariat, Honiara
25 October	Small Island State Leader's Summit Pacific ACP Leaders Summit Official Opening of the 36 <sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Forum	Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
26 October	Forum Leader's Summit	Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
27 October	Formal Session of the 36 <sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Forum	Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
28-29 October	17 <sup>th</sup> Post-Forum Dialogue Partners Meeting	Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
2-4 November	10 Broader Cooperation Talks	San Diego, USA
14-16 November	Sixth Western and Central Pacific Observer Coordinator's Workshop	FFA Secretariat, Honiara
14-18 November	Ministerial CRGA Meeting (SPC Governing Body)	Koror, Palau
1-2 December	Pre-Commission FFA workshop and FFC60 (PNA Ministerial?)	Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
5-9 December	Technical Compliance Committee Meeting	Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
12-16 December	2nd Meeting of the WCPF Commission	Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

*-END-*