



FFA
PACIFIC ISLANDS
FORUM FISHERIES
AGENCY

Regional Cooperation – FFA Experience

7th GFETW, Halifax



Outline

- FFA Overview
- Pacific Tuna Fisheries
- IUU Fishing in Pacific Tuna Fishery
- FFA Response to IUU fishing
- Regional Cooperative Arrangements
- Examples of Regional Cooperation – RFSC and NTSA Cooperative Activities
- Benefits of Regional Cooperation to FFA Members
- Success, Challenges and Opportunities
- Take Away Messages



FFA Overview

- ❑ Established in **1979**
- ❑ **17 Members¹**
- ❑ **Governance** - Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) meeting at Ministerial and Officials levels. Report to Pacific Islands Forum Leaders
- ❑ **FFA** - FFC, FFA Secretariat and FFA Members



1. Member Countries & Territories: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

Our Vision & Mission

Vision - Our **PEOPLE** enjoy the greatest possible social and economic benefits from the sustainable use of offshore fisheries resources

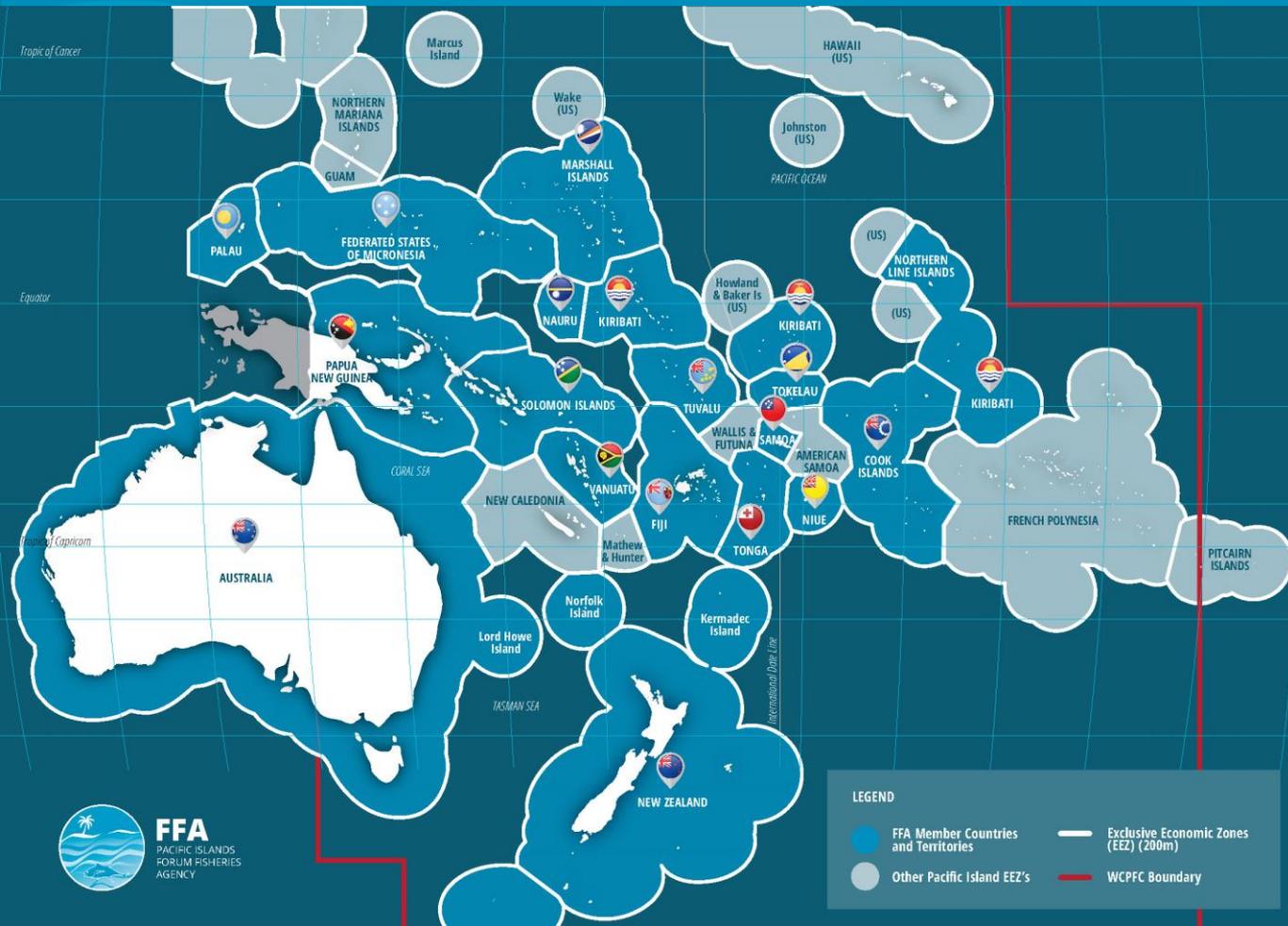
Mission – **EMPOWERMENT OF FFA MEMBERS**

Key Focus Areas:

- Maximise economic returns
- Enhance social benefits
- Combat Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing
- Extend regional solidarity
- Cornerstone of FFA's success is COOPERATION**



Pacific Tuna Fisheries



17
EEZs

Approximately
30,569,000 km²

55%
in 2020

of the world's tuna
originated from the
WCPO

\$500
million

in access fees for
FFA Members

\$900
million

in export earning for
FFA Members

IUU Fishing in the Pacific

Quantification of IUU Fishing in Pacific Tuna Fishery study (pub. 2016 updated in 2021)

Total annual **volume** and **value** of product harvested or transhipped involving IUU activity in Pacific tuna fisheries:

- ❑ 2016 Best estimates – total annual volume of **306,440t** with a estimate value of **\$616.11M**
- ❑ 2021 Best estimates – total annual volume of **192,186t** with a estimated value of **\$333.49M**
- ❑ Main reduction driven by changes in information base – some better, some different

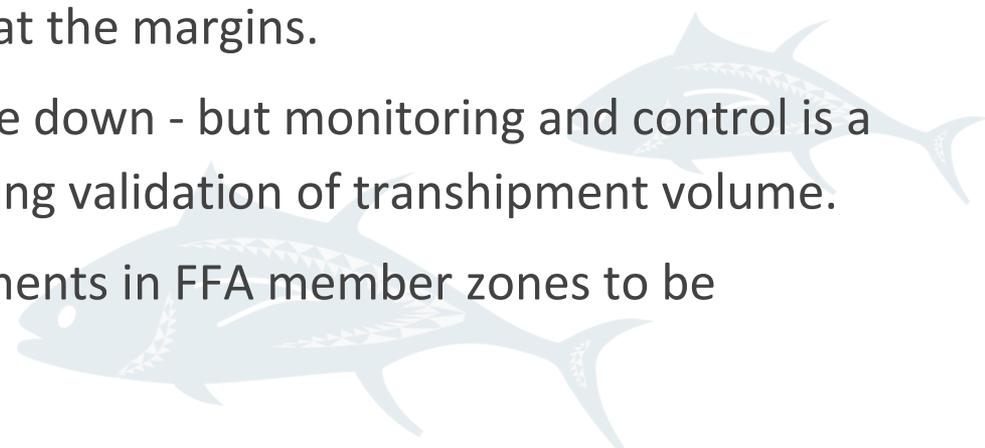


IUU Fishing in the Pacific

- ❑ IUU estimates dominated by **authorised and/or licensed fleet** who engage in **unreported** fishing.
- ❑ Cooperative MCS measures have impacted the nature and scale of IUU in the Pacific
- ❑ Need for the stronger MCS arrangements in FFA member zones to be mirrored on the high seas



Main Messages

- ❑ Significant reduction in IUU estimates since 2016 is positive.
 - ❑ **Cooperation works** - Cooperative regional MCS measures have impacted on nature and scale of IUU.
 - ❑ IUU estimates continue to be dominated by **authorised or licensed fleet** who engage in unreported fishing.
 - ❑ Unlicensed fishing remains an issue at the margins.
 - ❑ Estimates of illegal transshipping gone down - but monitoring and control is a work in progress such as strengthening validation of transshipment volume.
 - ❑ Need for the stronger MCS arrangements in FFA member zones to be mirrored on the high seas.
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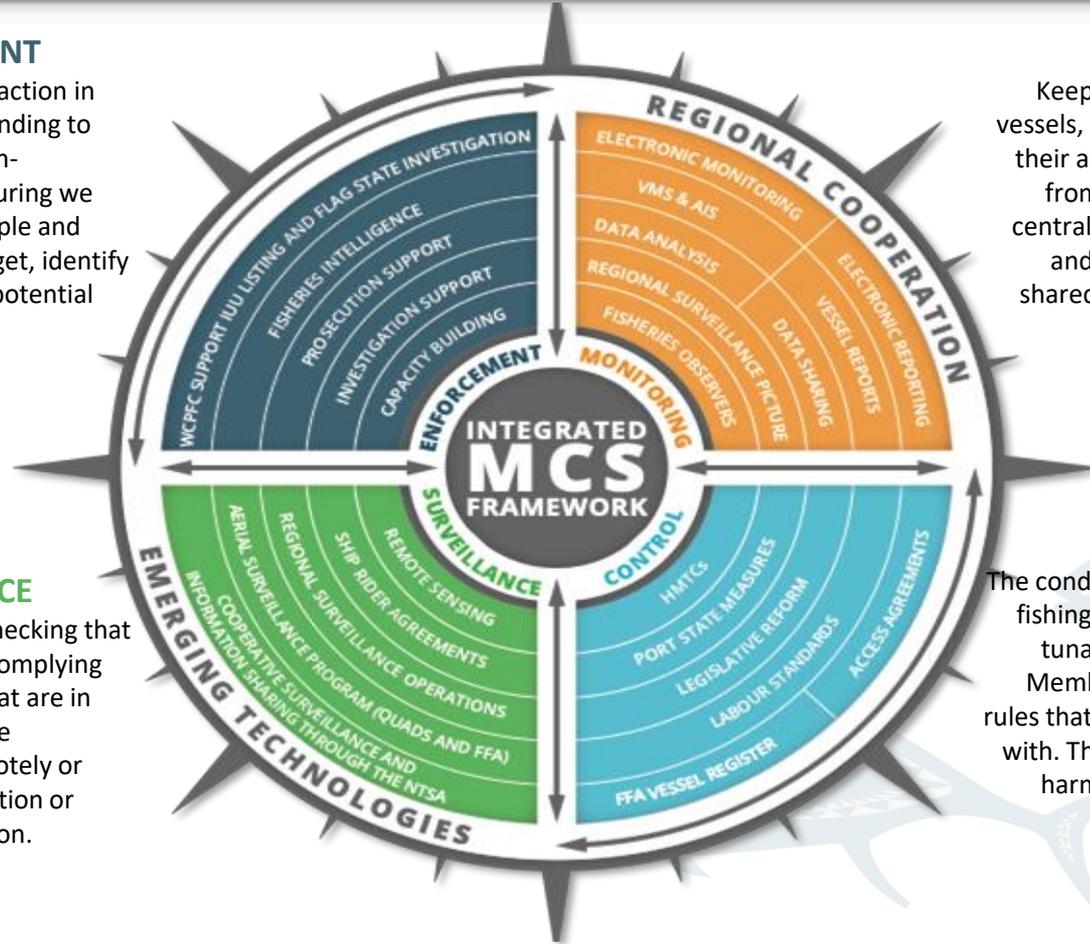
FFA Response

ENFORCEMENT

Taking effective action in response to offending to deter further non-compliance. Ensuring we develop our people and processes to target, identify and investigate potential incidents of non-compliance.

SURVEILLANCE

Supervising or checking that the vessels are complying with the rules that are in place. This can be undertaken remotely or through observation or physical inspection.



MONITORING

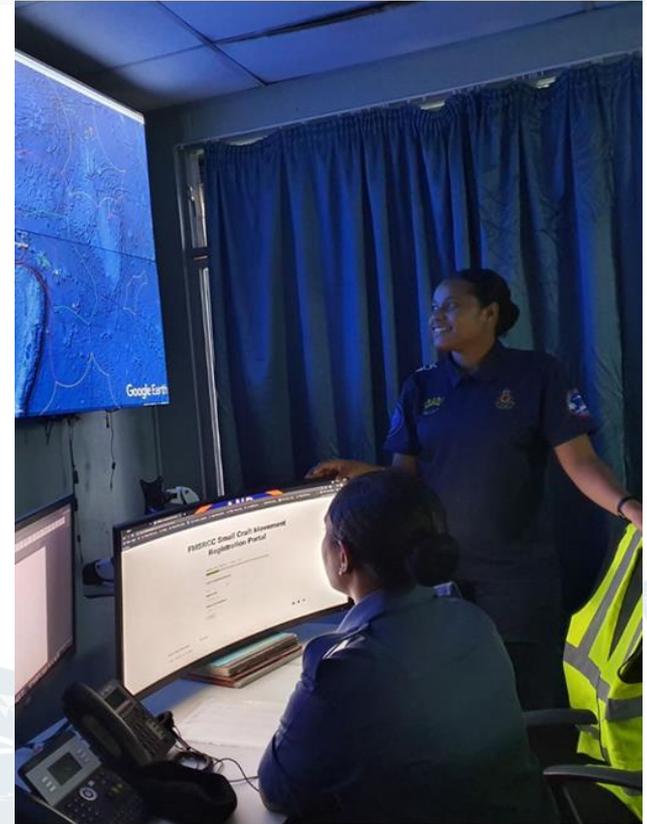
Keeping track of fishing vessels, their locations and their activities. Reporting from onboard vessel is central to this monitoring and the information is shared between FFA and Members.

CONTROL

The conditions under which fishing vessels access the tuna fishery within FFA Member waters and the rules that they must comply with. These conditions are harmonised across FFA Members' waters.

Cooperative Arrangements to Combat IUU Fishing

- ❑ FFA Regional Vessel Register
- ❑ FFA Vessel Monitoring System
- ❑ Niue Treaty and Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement
- ❑ Harmonised Minimum Terms and Conditions
- ❑ Regional Observer Programme
- ❑ FFA Regional Port State Measures Framework
- ❑ FFA Regional Catch Documentation Scheme Framework
- ❑ Regional Aerial Surveillance Program
- ❑ Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre
- ❑ Regional Fisheries Surveillance Operations



Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre

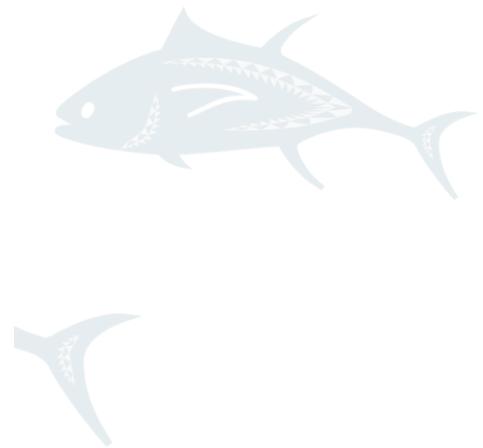
- ❑ Provide analysed **Surveillance Picture** to FFA Members and Pacific QUAD Surveillance Partners to support national MCS activities
- ❑ Analytical capacity complimenting Members' **MCS efforts**
- ❑ Coordinate Pacific QUAD surveillance activities with Members'
- ❑ Assist Members through provision of **case packages** (incl. evidence to support prosecutions)
- ❑ **Capacity build** Members on regional MCS tools
- ❑ Plan, coordinate and host the Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) for **regional Monitoring & Surveillance operations.**
- ❑ Operational Control of the Regional Aerial Surveillance Programme



Cooperation - Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre & Partners



- Tasking
- Liason
- Bilateral Diplomatic Agreements



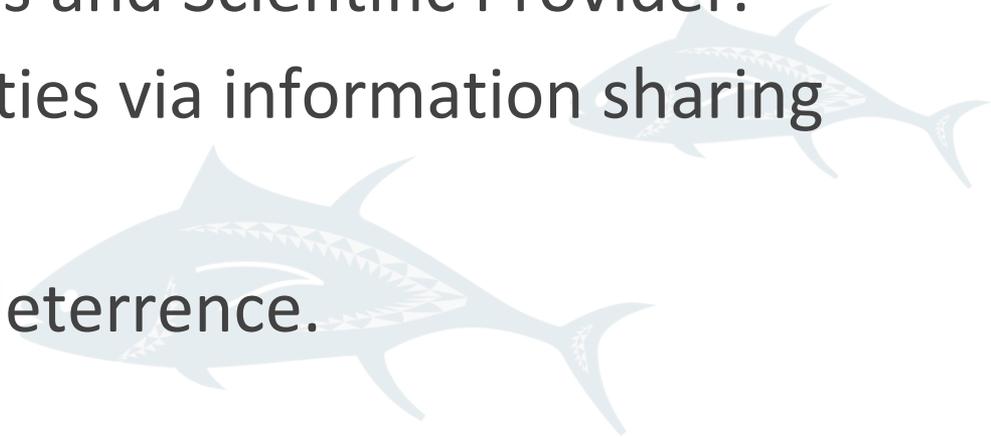
NTSA – Cooperative Enforcement Activity

- Majority of cooperative activities are associated with NTSA Parties' requests for **Aerial and Surface surveillance assistance**.
- **Cooperative activities for legal, forensic and investigation support** between Parties – Cook Island and New Zealand
- **Multilateral exercise** through the delivery of the **Boarding Inspection & High Seas Boarding Inspection Training** for Samoa, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu - Australia and New Zealand.
- **Freezer Inspection Suit Resource support** - Australia and FSM, Tuvalu, Tonga, Vanuatu.
- **Cross vesting of AO powers** - Niue and CK cooperative surveillance patrol on Niue EEZ (MPA).



Benefits of Regional Cooperation

- ❑ Improve cost effectiveness through cooperative mechanisms.
- ❑ Enhances greater MCS coverage.
- ❑ Enhances accurate stock assessments via information sharing between Members and Scientific Provider.
- ❑ More targeted MCS activities via information sharing
- ❑ Faster response times.
- ❑ Improved detection and deterrence.



Our Success, Challenges & Opportunities



Strong **collaboration** and **cooperation**



Develop **capacity** amongst our people



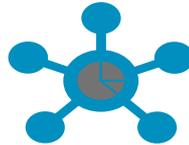
Focus on **continual improvement**



Supporting **regional and national** implementation



Integrated MCS using a broad suite of compatible tools



Data, information sharing and **availability** across membership



Clear strategy for regional MCS priorities

Key Take Away Messages

- ❑ Cooperation is the cornerstone of our Pacific success story – 44 years of cooperation and collaboration.
- ❑ Cooperation across all levels – operational and strategic.
- ❑ Cooperation exist at regional, sub-regional, bilateral and intra-national levels.
- ❑ Cooperation also exist outside of FFA membership - through cooperating with other States and agencies given the transboundary nature of fish stocks and global nature of fishing fleets.



Thank you

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