

CREW PROFILES

 A woman with short dark hair, wearing a coral-colored t-shirt, stands in front of a blue and white banner. The banner features the Sea Quest (Fiji) Limited logo at the top, which includes a small illustration of a fishing vessel. Below the logo, the text reads: "Choose MSC certified sustainable Fiji Albacore Tuna for a future full of fish". The background of the banner shows a splash of water.	<p>Joana Kotoicikobia Vakaucutadra Chief Officer</p> <p>Joana Vakaucutadra is the Chief Officer on the Seaquest Fiji vessel Seaka II, holding a Master Class 5 certificate. As CO she supports the captain by overseeing the operation of the vessel. One of the barriers for women in commercial fisheries is that male crews often underestimate the skills of women, when they can be just as effective. Joana says women have a place in the industry and she is seeking higher qualifications. All-female crews will one day work their own vessels.</p>
 A woman with short dark hair, wearing a white sleeveless top with "RVCA" printed on it, stands in front of the same Sea Quest (Fiji) Limited banner as in the first profile. The banner text is identical: "Choose MSC certified sustainable Fiji Albacore Tuna for a future full of fish".	<p>Linda Fong Engineer cadet</p> <p>Linda Fong joined the fishing industry for the experience, travel and income. Her initial training is in engineering and as a watchkeeper. While there are few females on the commercial fishing vessels, Linda says she and her colleagues are showing they are just as good as anyone else at their jobs. More people are becoming aware of careers for females in the industry. She hopes to advance her own career and become a marine engineer.</p>
 A woman with curly dark hair, wearing a blue t-shirt, stands in front of the same Sea Quest (Fiji) Limited banner. The banner text is identical: "Choose MSC certified sustainable Fiji Albacore Tuna for a future full of fish".	<p>Sereana Railala Cakacaka Bosun</p> <p>A love of travel and fishing led Sereana Cakacaka to start as a deckhand for a tuna longliner operating out of Fiji. Her work covers fishing operations, basic maintenance and general duties. While females make up only a small number on commercial fishing boats, this is changing as the industry becomes more inclusive. Sereana's advice is to</p>

	<p>listen and learn. Apart from her own job satisfaction, her work is making a difference in her family and community. Sereana sees good opportunities in the future and wants to go higher in her career.</p>
	<p>Kasanita Vakarairai Deckhand</p> <p>Kasanita Vakarairai says women are commonly found in jobs such as teaching and nursing, but fisheries also offers potential. Her job offers a good income and the opportunity to travel. Kasanita says barriers to fisheries for women can be overcome with work experience and support. More people are becoming aware of careers in fisheries and she aims to gain more senior roles.</p>
	<p>Joana Kasani Deckhand</p> <p>Joana Kasani has spent nearly a year as a deckhand on both a fishing and merchant vessel. She completed a basic fisheries course after wanting to try something new, and enjoys her time at sea. As her experience and skills increase, Joana is confident that she, and other women, have a future in fisheries. Anything is possible, she says, with hard work and more awareness.</p>

	<p>Adi Kelera Lutunauga Deckhand</p> <p>Adi Kelera completed a fisheries course on fish handling, vessel maintenance and general duties. Apart from earning an income, she enjoys going out to sea and the chance to visit different places. Women are often unaware of fisheries as a career and the mostly male industry can be challenging. It is important to work at a very high level, and aim to succeed. Her own ambitions are to learn more and to one day be captain.</p>
	<p>Viviana Vakavuraka Bogitini Deckhand</p> <p>Viviana Vakavuraka Bogitini believes this career is not only for boys, that we should also encourage young women to pursue this field. This is Viviana's very first trip in a fishing boat. The mother of one is looking forward to learning new things and pursuing this career opportunity. She has undertaken a deckhand training course.</p>

FACT SHEET- WHAT IS LONGLINING?

The two most important industrial fishing methods for tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean are purse seine fishing and longline fishing.

Longline fishing feeds out long lines with hooks into the open ocean. The crew of a longliner bait single hooks (manually or by machine) and feed out lines that may be more than 60 km long. The hooks are on short lines (called branch lines) that hang off the main line.

One longline may have 3,000 hooks. The depth at which the hooks hang in the water is crucial for attracting the desired tuna. This is regulated with a line thrower to produce a curved mainline between floats, and thus cover a range of depths. Longlines are not anchored: they drift near the surface, and are marked by radio beacons which the vessel uses to find them. It may take up to 11 hours to haul in a longline.

There are different types of longline vessels. Most are large vessels of between 30 m and 70 m long. The length of time they spend away from port fishing determines the type of refrigeration they use to store the tuna catch. Vessels that are at sea for short periods usually have ice for cooling, whereas those that are at sea for many months at a time contain freezers capable of snap-freezing the tuna and keeping it at less than -40°C .

Longline fisheries target adult bigeye, albacore and yellowfin tuna. This fishery accounts for 10–13% of the tuna caught in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. However, the tuna caught this way is more valuable, as they are larger and can be landed in better condition. This is the main fishing method used for producing high quality sashimi.

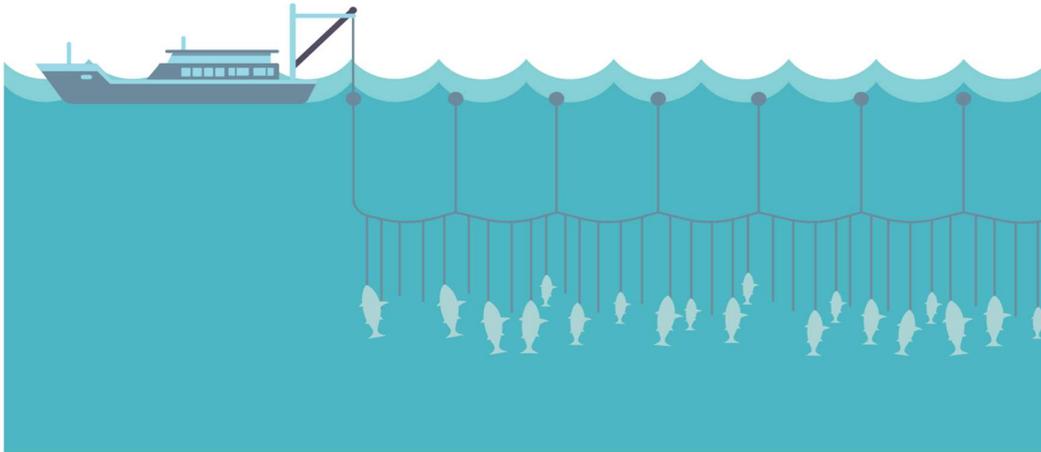


Image: Longlining vessel