The Forum Fisheries Agency fights IUU in the World’s largest tuna fishery

Submission to the International MCS Network
THIRD ANNUAL STOP IUU FISHING AWARD CONTEST
December, 2018
• The FFA Integrated Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Framework is an innovative model that uses a foundation of regional cooperation across 17 Pacific nations for combatting Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU) in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). It is led and implemented by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA).

• This Framework is effectively using regional cooperation and high-tech support from our partners in Australia, New Zealand, United States and France to prevent and deter IUU fishing within the world’s largest tuna fishery. Unlike anywhere else in the world, it has successfully reduced illegal fishing to where it now only a minor issue, and our MCS efforts are now effectively focussing on and reducing unreported or misreported fishing.

• The Framework has direct application for other developing countries, providing a model of cooperation that they can follow. It is a leading example of what developing countries, particularly coastal States, can achieve through focused and innovative collaboration and regional cooperation.

• FFA Member countries continue to further improve the FFA MCS Framework, as reflected in the FFA Regional MCS Strategy. For example, a new activity is focused on detecting and apprehending those ‘people of interest’ involved in IUU.

• The Regional MCS Strategy is a 5-year policy document (2018-2023) endorsed by all 17 FFA Member countries. Its purpose is “to guide compliance and enforcement with fisheries management frameworks and associated measures at national, sub-regional, regional levels to ensure FFA Members enjoy the highest level of social and economic benefit from the sustainable use of shared offshore fishery resources”.

• The FFA Integrated MCS Framework has generated strong interest and is already being mirrored in other regions of the world. FFA continues to develop and strengthen working relationships and avenues for “south-south” cooperation with other developing coastal States.

• By sharing FFA’s experience in developing its Integrated MCS Framework, FFA Members hope to assist other developing coastal States to achieve similar economic, environmental and social benefits.
• IUU fishing is a global issue. The further development of international cooperation and compatible regional MCS frameworks, through the sharing of experiences, processes and successes, will meaningfully contribute to the elimination of IUU fishing.

The Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency

FFA, established in 1979 and based in Honiara, Solomon Islands is an intergovernmental agency. Its primary role is facilitating regional co-operation and co-ordination on oceanic fisheries policies between its 17 member states to achieve conservation and optimum use of oceanic marine resources. The Agency has three technical divisions:

• The Fisheries Management Division provides support to members in fisheries management policy and process including within the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) processes and through support for national and regional fishery management plans and associated strategies.

• The Fisheries Development Division provides development related policy and technical coordination services, economic analysis, and appraisal and promotion of investment opportunities. It also assists members in upgrading national Competent Authorities and the standards that maintain access to major foreign markets.

• The Fisheries Operations Division provides a broad range of services and facilities in support of FFA’s comprehensive MCS functions across the region. This division is at the core of FFA’s Integrated MCS Framework to address IUU fishing.

These three Divisions are supported by an Executive (High Level Advice) and by a Corporate Services Division which oversees the allocation of resources to programs.

The Western and Central Pacific Tuna Fishery

• Some 70% of the world’s annual tuna harvest comes from the Pacific Ocean. Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) dominate the catch.
• The Western Tropical Pacific Warm Pool (WTPWP) provides approximately 90% of the catch of tunas and other pelagic species within the WCPFC Convention Area.

• Of this more than 60% of the catch comes from the eight countries of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA).
The giant green tower - fisheries context

The Majuro Plot - tuna stock status -
40 years cumulative MCS experience - Continuous organisational development and evolution

- FFA MCS systems, processes and services have evolved in response to demand and technology over the past 40 years and continue to do so.

- This is exemplified through the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre (RFSC) and its ever-evolving technology and operational systems which provide real time up-to-date information on vessels operating in the region to all 17 FFA members.

- The Regional Surveillance Picture (RSP) is conveyed to all FFA member countries for real time EEZ fisheries activity documenting.

  The Regional Surveillance Picture

- Over the past decade, FFA has developed unique but replicable MCS systems reflected in the Regional Fisheries MCS strategy (2018 - 2023). These include the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Arrangement, the Persons of Interest Strategy and the Pacific Island Regional Fisheries Observer Program.

- FFA coordinates four large annual MCS operations which provide coordinated regional surveillance combining all information sources through the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre including VMS and AIS data, aerial and patrol ship support from the four FFA Quad Partners (Australia, New Zealand, the
United States and France), Police and Fisheries MCS personnel from all FFA member countries, a dedicated analytical hub and national patrol boat operations.

- Commencing in 2018, the FFA also programs over 1,000 hours of year-round dedicated aerial surveillance support through the Pacific Maritime Security Program (PMSP) to complement both national and regional surveillance operations.

- FFA continues to secure a wide range of donor funded MCS based projects which include Port State Measures (PSM), Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS), and the Regional Information Management Facility (RIMF). These new programs reflect enduring donor confidence in FFA MCS activities and in FFA being able to successfully deliver IUU mitigation outcomes.

- FFA has ensured that Pacific Leaders are well informed on all aspects of oceanic fisheries management and MCS. In 2017, “fisheries” was adopted as a standing agenda item for the annual Pacific Island Forum Leaders meeting, bringing together the Heads of Government of all 17 Member countries.

- FFA input to the leaders is channelled through the annual Forum Fisheries Committee Meetings comprising the heads of fisheries administrations and the subsequent annual FFC Ministerial and Pacific Fisheries Ministerial meetings.

- Close liaison and collaboration with other key regional bodies including the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) and the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division of the Pacific Community (SPC-FAME).

The RFSP review and analysis team during Operation Rai Balang 2017
The Fisheries Operations Division (FOD)
The FFA MCS Framework

Regional MCS Strategy
Regional Fisheries Surveillance Facility
Regional Information Management Facility

The Regional Surveillance
The Regional Maritime Security

Vessel Monitoring
Vessel Registry
Fisheries Observer

NIUE TREATY SUBSIDUARY ARRANGEMENT
Harmonised Minimum Terms and Conditions of Support for National MCS Administrations

Support for National MCS Administrations
PORT STATE MEASURES AND CATCH DOCUMENTATION
MCS WORKING GROUP OFFICER

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING
Regional Standard Training - Certificate IV in MCS, Pacific Island Qualified Fisheries Observer Framework
Boarding and Inspection, Evidence and Investigation, Prosecution
The Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Strategy (RMCSS)

**Purpose**

To guide compliance and enforcement with fisheries management frameworks and associated measures at national, sub-regional, regional levels to ensure FFA Members enjoy the highest level of social and economic benefit from the sustainable use of shared offshore fishery resources.

**Vision**

Social and economic development through the sustainable management and use of FFA Members’ offshore fishery resources will be supported by continued elimination of IUU fishing.

**Goal**

The reduction of IUU fishing in Pacific tuna fisheries through enhanced MCS programmes and strengthening compliance and enforcement throughout the regional MCS framework.

**Scope**

This Strategy applies to all 17 FFA Members as the implementation of many of its components requires full regional cooperation. However, effective national implementation is fundamental to the success of the Strategy. At the national level, MCS risks, priorities, and capabilities differ between Members and therefore national MCS programmes will need to be tailored to specific national needs and priorities, cooperating.
Objective 1. Regional standards are in place for effective and efficient MCS systems

1.1 Licensing
1.2 Port State measures (PSM)
1.3 E-reporting & E-monitoring
1.4 Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)
1.5 Harmonised Minimum Terms and Conditions (HMTCs)

Objective 2. Quality information is available and accessible to national and regional officials to assess IUU risks and plan MCS activities

2.1 Development of e-licensing systems for national administrations that are compatible with regional systems and regional developments (CDS, E-Reporting).

2.2 Finalise and/or implement regional strategies relating to the availability, quality and/or accessibility of information.
   2.2(a) Regional Monitoring Strategy
   2.2(b) Regional Information Management Strategy
   2.2(c) Persons of Interest Strategy
Objective 3. Procedures established and operationalised to conduct effective MCS activities

3.1 Develop MCS data analysis procedures to guide national MCS officers to identify, analyse and verify IUU fishing

3.2 Enhance the capacity and capability of national MCS officers through strengthened and continued practical and theoretical MCS training.

   3.2(a) Certificate IV in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance
   3.2(b) Attachments
   3.2(c) Deployment
   3.2(d) National requests
   3.2(e) Regional MCS workshops

3.3 Continue to optimise the use of surveillance and response assets at the national, sub-regional and regional level

3.4 Enhanced implementation of port State measures by FFA Members.

Objective 4. Effective compliance and enforcement through efficient use of available information, analyses and intelligence, achieved through whole of government engagement

4.1 Ensure timely and effective responses to all potential non-compliance identified by national or regional agencies or by other Members.

4.2 Strengthen voluntary compliance tools and initiatives relating to awareness, enforcement, detection and penalty
The Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre

• Since its inception, FFA has continued to apply new technology in innovative ways across MCS activities. This is highlighted by the ongoing innovation applied to the RFSC.

• The overarching functions of the RFSC include:
  • Providing MCS services that are best delivered at a regional level;
  • Identifying and facilitating opportunities to strengthen MCS arrangements across the region through enhanced cooperation;
  • Strengthening regional MCS arrangements by assisting members to optimise MCS arrangements at the national level; and
  • Providing air surveillance services to members.

Specific roles of the RFSC include:

• **Collection, analysis and dissemination of fisheries Information** - The RFSC uses the Regional Information Management Facility (RIMF) to collect fisheries information, store it in secure databases and provide easy access for analysis in developing the Regional Surveillance Picture (RSP). The RIMF is constantly being developed to incorporate new MCS data streams to facilitate MCS data analysis, compliance and enforcement efforts.

• **Support to regional and national MCS effort** - Each FFA member country is ultimately responsible for the conduct of national MCS in its EEZ and in some cases adjacent high seas areas. However, these efforts are supported by the RFSC on an ongoing basis through developing and disseminating the RSP to each partner country. This gives these countries access to positional VMS data on vessels in their EEZ and in some cases vessels approaching their areas. The RSP also provides analysed fisheries information, which identifies the level of risk each vessel poses regarding potential IUU fishing. This means member countries can prioritise and make more efficient use of limited surveillance and patrol assets.

• **Planning and coordinating annual regional multilateral MCS Operations** - The RFSC plans and coordinates four regional multilateral MCS operations per year. The aim of these Operations is to foster regional MCS coordination and cooperation and national self-sufficiency, and to continue to improve the MCS tools and communication to support regional and national efforts. These are Operations Kurukuru, Island Chief, Tui Moana and Rai Balang. The
RFSC also supports other Operations run throughout the region by other FFA members and by the Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Group (QUADs) countries.

Senior Fisheries Officer with Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in Samoa shows the Prime Minister, Hon. Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi the operations of the national Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) at World Food Day celebrations. FFA supports the Fisheries Division by analysing the VMS and Regional Surveillance Picture, as well as regularly training VMS Officers.

• Liaison with Quadrilateral Defense Coordination Operational Working Group (OWG) The OWG is made up of Defense representatives from Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States. The role of this group is to share joint and combined operational plans for the SW Pacific region. The RFSC has a strong liaison relationship with the OWG and is involved in allocating aerial surveillance assets to support regional MCS operations. It also coordinates the surveillance assets provided by the QUAD member nations in support of national and regional MCS activities.

• Liaison and relationship with WCPFC Secretariat and Compliance Officers - Whilst no formal arrangement exists between the FFA and WCPFC Compliance officers, there is good professional relationship between the RFSC and the WCPFC Secretariat in the coordination of regional MCS effort, especially with regards to the high seas’ areas.

• Regional law enforcement agencies and other regional organisations - FFA member countries may decide on a national basis to use fisheries information provided by the RFSC in MCS operations for broader law
enforcement activities. The multilateral Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement (NTSA) is an innovative multilateral treaty that improves the opportunities for partner countries to use fisheries information to identify other threats to national security. Where data sharing rules allows, the RFSC can provide fisheries information and the RSP to regional law enforcement agencies and other organisations which have a key role in regional enforcement.

• **Support the Implementation of the NTSA** - RFSC supports FFA Members’ role as Coordinating Party of a multilateral/bilateral cooperative surveillance activity under the NTSA.

• **Operational control of Pacific Maritime Security Program (PMSP) Aerial Surveillance Program** - The RFSC is responsible for scheduling and prioritising over 1,000 hours of annual aerial surveillance under the PMSP in support of regional and national surveillance and enforcement activities.
The Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre (RFSC)

**Satellite Data Sources**
- FFA VMS
- WCPFC VMS
- AIS
- SAR Imagery

**Regional Surveillance Picture**
(Displays all VMS datasets and MCS info on a single picture for ease of use)

VMS datasets are validated and correlated, and cross-referenced with regional and national info on eOps to determine level of IUU risk.

**National Information Management System**

**FFA Electronic Operations Room (eOps)**
(One-Stop-Shop for MCS info to aid analysis)

Analysed fisheries info disseminate to Members to support national MCS activity.

Regional MCS Information feed into eOps

National MCS Information feed into eOps

Licensed info

Boarding Reports

Other data
## Tangible Results from FFA REGIONAL OPERATIONS (2015 - 2018)

### GRAND TOTALS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of sightings and radar contacts by ship and by aircraft for the period</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of boardings conducted by ships at sea and shore authorities for the period</td>
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<td>Total number of infringements issued by ships at sea and by shore authorities for the period</td>
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### Operation Metrics

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<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Sighting by ship</th>
<th>Boardings by ship</th>
<th>Infringements issued by ship</th>
<th>Boardings by Shore Authorities</th>
<th>Infringements issued by shore authorities</th>
<th>Sighting and radar contacts by aircraft</th>
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<td>Op Rai Belang 2015</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Op Tui Moana 2015</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nil reported</td>
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<td>200</td>
<td>No Shore boardings recorded</td>
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<td>69</td>
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<td>56</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>515</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Op Rai Belang 2016</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>Ship and shore Metrics not in PAR</td>
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<td>99</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>88</td>
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<td>265</td>
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<td>53</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>59</td>
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<td>86</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>96</td>
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<td><strong>Op Island Chief 2018</strong></td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>104</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Op Kuru Kuru 2018</strong></td>
<td>123</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>96</td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>899</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>16</td>
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No shore based boardings recorded in the PAR.
INTER-Agency Cooperation During Multi-Lateral Operations

FFA Technical & Operational Support

Other Law Enforcement Agencies (PTCC, BPC etc)

Australian Department of Defence (IP Division)

National & QUAD HQ

National Law Enforcement Agencies (Customs, Immigration, TCUs etc)

National Enforcement Assets (PPB)

Media

Air Assets (Where direct liaison is granted)

QUAD Aerial Surveillance HQ

National Fisheries Agencies
Pacific Island Regional Fisheries Observer (PIRFO) programme

- The PIRFO programme is perhaps the world's largest fisheries observer program with more than 800 observers trained since 2007 in a regional standard competency-based program pioneered by FFA and the Oceanic Fisheries Program of the Pacific Community (SPC).

- The PIRFO program has continued to evolve with new standards developed as required; for example, for Electronic Reporting and Monitoring and Certification of Marine Stewardship Council Chain of Custody.

- The PIRFO program now contains qualifications for basic observers, observer de-briefers, de-briefer trainers, PIRFO trainers and most recently for Observer Program Managers.

- The WCPFC requires 100% observer coverage of purse-seine fishing vessels and that means up to 300 - 400 Observers at sea at any one time.

- Increasingly, Pacific Island Observers are comprehensively equipped with tablets and communication devices to enable real time data reporting and IUU monitoring.

A well-equipped PIRFO Observer with buoyancy vest, electronic communicator and tablet for data recording
Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring

- Under the PNAO Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS), there are now 240 purse seine vessels in the FFA region using daily electronic reporting of catch logsheets. This real time reporting allows for daily monitoring of catch across the region.

- Similarly, PIRFO fisheries Observers are increasingly using electronic reporting for daily upload of data forms.

- When combined with VMS reporting, this daily reporting from vessels and observers eliminates the need for Fisheries Administrations to rely on and analyse paper-based reports. This means member countries can carry out more effective and accurate analysis of fishing data for possible IUU anomalies.

- FFA member countries are adopting a range of new and emerging technologies with a strong focus on improved electronic reporting by fishers and higher levels of independent electronic monitoring of fishing activity. These two technologies are boosting the analytical and enforcement capabilities of fisheries authorities across the region and improving the timelines and reliability of data required for fisheries management.

- E-monitoring is particularly useful in longline fisheries where only 5% of fishing effort is independently monitored by observers.

- E-monitoring builds on the existing observer program and allows coverage levels to be increased substantially in a cost-effective way. The e-monitoring system includes cameras, GPS and gear sensors that record all fishing activity. The sensor data is transmitted over satellite back to fisheries authorities so they can verify vessels movements and activity. The camera imagery is recorded securely on the vessel and reviewed by the fisheries authorities after each trip to verify what is caught and check for compliance issues.

- FFA and the Solomon Islands ran the first e-monitoring trial in the Pacific Islands during 2014 which showed that e-monitoring systems are a robust and effective monitoring tool that can meet the data standards required for Pacific longline fisheries.

- Since then, implementation has gathered pace and we now have eight countries using e-monitoring. There is a really strong commitment amongst FFA members to improve monitoring and control of the longline fisheries and the Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands and Fiji are implementing e-monitoring on all longline vessels that they licence.

- With higher levels of monitoring in the longline fishery and strong collaborative management, FFA members are increasing their analytical and enforcement capabilities to secure their resources for future generations.

The Electronic Monitoring System
Electronic Monitoring Analysis in Action

The Pacific Maritime Security Project (PMSP)
• The Pacific Maritime Security Program (PMSP) is a 30 year commitment to regional maritime security by the Australian Government that comprises the following three integrated components:
  ○ Construction and gifting of replacement Guardian-class Patrol Boats (GPB) as sovereign assets to 12 Pacific Island nations.
  ○ Region-wide contracted civilian aerial surveillance across the Western and Central Pacific region. The PMSP aerial surveillance is operationally controlled and coordinated by FFA.
  ○ Improvements to regional coordination and communication.

• The PMSP aerial surveillance service supports target-driven surveillance efforts to enhance regional maritime efforts. The project has engaged two aircraft to undertake 1400 annual hours of aerial surveillance coordinated by the RFSC and based on vessel locations as provided by the VMS monitoring picture.

• The two aircraft are each equipped with a specialised Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) conversion package to facilitate the surveillance goals of the region. This includes:
  ○ Multi-mode maritime surveillance search radar facilitates 50 nm, 360 degree search (100 nm total swath width)
  ○ SatCom satellite internet for real-time data communications to FFA
  ○ SatPhone, HF, and VHF radios to support long range communications to FFA
  ○ FLIR EO/IR HD Gimbal to support high resolution imagery of vessels

Persons of Interest (POI) Strategy - A key element in the NTSA

• FFA members have all acceded to the Agreement on Strengthening Implementation of the Niue Treaty on Cooperation in Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement in the South Pacific Region (the multilateral NTSA). This agreement means regional cooperation and coordination of MCS operations, including cross border access in pursuit of IUU suspect vessels.

• One of the key minimum mandatory data standards to be shared by Parties is fisheries data and intelligence on ‘Persons of Interest for fisheries purposes’

• A Persons of Interest (POI) list is compiled, subject to any relevant national laws, of any specific natural or legal persons who may be suspected of being involved in IUU. The list includes the reasons the person is included on the POI list, and any specific requests regarding action to be taken with respect to the person. The list is provided in electronic form using XML format (or through a standard form developed by the Administrator), and updated on an ongoing basis.

• There are 7 key outcomes for this Strategy, each requiring specific actions to be taken. The Secretariat holds the primary responsibility for implementing these actions, in close consultation with, and through consideration and final decision of, FFA Members. The POI outcomes are:
  o Outcome 1: A sound legal basis to collect, share and use POI data
  o Outcome 2: Clear criteria for listing a ‘Person of Interest’
  o Outcome 3: Unique Person Identifier
  o Outcome 4: Clear procedures for sharing of information for fisheries purposes
  o Outcome 5: Clear procedures for sharing of information for broader law enforcement purposes
  o Outcome 6: Clear procedures for the use of POI information
  o Outcome 7: Sharing of POI data with WCPFC Members and with other regions to enable wider decision-making on fishing access around the world

• Collecting, using and sharing information on Persons of Interest will serve as a strong additional tool to the current MCS framework in the region. The POI Strategy sets out the proposed actions required to successfully develop and implement this tool. This work can only be achieved through cooperation:
  (a) at national level between fisheries and line agencies;
  (b) at regional level between FFA Members, and with the FFA Secretariat and the PNAO; and
  (c) more widely with non-FFA Members in the WCPFC, other RFMOs and relevant organisations, as well as key States such as port States and market States.
This approach underlines the Leaders’ call for “coherent and coordinated approaches” to addressing IUU fishing.
Port State Measures

• In 2017, WCPFC adopted a Commission Management Measure (CMM) proposed by FFA members to establish Commission-wide minimum standards for the implementation of Port State Measures (PSM).

• To help achieve this CMM, FFA is implementing a New Zealand funded project in support of FFA member adoptions of a PSM measure that meets or exceeds the standards of the PSM CMM. This project has 4 desired outputs:

Output 1: Framework for regional port state measures recognising international agreements developed.

Output 2: National strategies and implementation tools developed.

Output 3: Improved national regulatory and governance framework in PICs in support of strengthened PSM.

Output 4: Training programmes to implement port state measures developed and rolled out.

Purse Seine Port Arrival inspection in action
Catch Documentation Schemes

• Development of standards in the WCPFC in support of Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS) has been a priority for FFA members for some time.

• FFA members are united in agreeing that systems are required to ensure the seamless tracking of fish landings from the point of catching via unloading and processing to the final market and there are a range of options as to how this can be achieved.

• In support of CDS development, New Zealand is providing support to FFA and Members for a five-year project to enhance CDS across FFA Members. This project includes:

Output 1: Regional framework for electronic Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) developed.

Output 2: National electronic Catch Documentation Scheme strategies and implementation tools developed.

Output 3: National regulatory and policy frameworks for Catch Documentation Schemes in PICs developed.

Output 4: National and regional tools to implement electronic Catch Documentation Schemes developed and rolled out.

CDS principles – catch tracking and mass balance
• FFA MCS and IUU monitoring covers the largest ocean in the world. The Regional Surveillance Strategy involves MCS and IUU mitigation systems established within the Secretariat which are all replicated in each FFA member country.

• FFA countries simply do not have the resources to individually develop complex monitoring systems. Through the regional cooperation, which underpins the way FFA members work together, individual small countries have their own well supported MCS capacity resourced through the Secretariat.

• The FFA secretariat sustains an ongoing program of national level capacity building in support of MCS systems and IUU mitigation. This includes formal training, informal training, attachment training, in country workshops and technical country visits across the spectrum of MCS work areas. Examples of these are discussed in the final section of this submission.

• The FFA approach to supporting the national administrations is unique and offers the only cost effective and feasible option of providing support to FFA Members to ensure they are effectively resourced in support of IUU mitigation.

• There are also options for wider international cooperation in sharing FFA MCS and these are discussed more fully in the next section.

**FFA Members Meetings and Workshops**
South across South Cooperation

• In February 2018, FFA hosted a South across South workshop which brought together twenty senior personnel from fisheries organisations across Africa, the Indian Ocean and Indonesia for a three-day focused workshop on FFA MCS systems, lessons learned and the operating context of the WCPFC from an FFA Members perspectives.

• The visitors were able to gain a comprehensive insight into FFA systems and the extent to which they might apply in the context of other regions.

The South across South Workshop Participants
Delivering the FFA message to other regions

• In 2016, the FFA Deputy Director General was invited to Chair the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) G 16 meeting of Coastal States and deliver the FFA message of regional cooperation.

FFA Chairs the G 16 Meeting
Cooperation with non-FFA States

• In 2017, FFA was invited to attend and deliver a presentation at a meeting of the Seafood Task Force, a Thailand based industry-led organisation committed to supporting initiatives in Supply Chain Mapping. The taskforce has a strategy to focus on IUU because of the links between social and environmental issues associated with IUU.

• The FFA presentation focused on FFA MCS tools and the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre and its tracking capabilities. As a result of an intervention in that presentation, The Thailand Department of Fisheries now send between 2 and 4 formal PSM based requests per week to the RFSC for verification of vessel areas of fishing from purse seine vessels who have been fishing in the FFA region and whose fish is being unloaded from a carrier vessel in Thailand for processing.

• FFA is able to provide almost immediate responses to these requests, reporting back to Thailand on where a particular vessel has been fishing in a given period of time.

• This provides a very tangible example of how the FFA resources can be used by non-FFA countries operating in the WCPO.
Training and Capacity Building for FFA Members

• FFA is not a dedicated training organisation. However, as requested by members in respect of cost effective and efficient capacity-building, FFA has developed and delivers a range of specialised MCS related training courses.

• This includes the PIRFO fisheries Observer training program, which has now developed into a complete career pathway program.

• Other regular key courses and workshops include:
  - Dockside boarding and Inspection
  - Evidence and Investigation
  - Prosecutions
  - Vessel Monitoring Systems operational matters
  - The annual MCS working group meeting (MCS heads from all Members for a week every March)
  - The annual Licensing Officers Workshop (Heads of licensing from all Members for a week)
  - NTSA workshops on cross Member MCS cooperation

• In addition, the Secretariat hosts regular technically-based attachment training programs for Members on the FFA MCS frameworks.

MCS Certificate IV standards-based qualification

• In 2012, FFA conducted a regional study to determine FFA Membership training needs in support of MCS capacity building.

• One of the key findings of this study was, that while there were a range of MCS related short courses available to Members, there was nothing that integrated the M, the C and the S to provide a comprehensive overview to MCS. There was strong support for the Secretariat to take the lead in developing a regional standards-based curriculum with associated learning and teaching resources.

• A small technical working group then collaborated in the development and delivery of the first Regional MCS Foundation course in 2014. The course has been delivered annually since then and has moved from being a 4-week intensive short course to a web-based learning program with annual workshops to conduct face-to-face assessments.
With initial funding support from the EU and more recently from the FAO via the GEF funded Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) project, the course has now been established as a recognised and certified University of the South Pacific (USP) Certificate IV in MCS. While delivered under the USP umbrella, FFA technical staff continue to take the lead in course resource material preparation and assessment.

Importantly, FFA has demonstrated a capacity to develop and continuously evolve this program which continues to sustain 30 or more enrolled students each year.

Replcation of FFA Training Initiatives

The GEF funded Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) project has an activity area to establish a more global MCS qualification. Curriculum for this course has been drafted and is around 70% generic, as is the FFA developed program.

FFA is currently in the process of developing a letter of agreement with FAO for FFA to take the lead over the next 12 months in developing this course to take account of various national and regional legal and regulatory frameworks.

Clearly, a number of other FFA courses can be further replicated for non-FFA countries subject to demand and the identification of resources required for development and delivery.

Participants at the Swedish-funded Fisheries Officers Licencing Workshop (FLOW) in Honiara, March 2017.
Summary of how FFA is fighting IUU

• Supporting a rights-based management approach to the world’s largest tuna fishery

• Ensuring strong, efficient and effective collaboration amongst all 17 member countries

• Leading national and regional IUU activities through its world-class Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre (RFSC) and anti-IUU programs

• Sustaining regional focus to promote uniform and transparent Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS)

• Using innovative and cutting-edge IT solutions, including electronic monitoring and reporting

• Aggregating support from donors and the broader international community

• Ensuring the safety of the observers at sea

• Committing to gender issues and the elimination of barriers to women

• Promoting regional solutions and effective collaboration amongst all 17-member countries and internationally with South-South Cooperation

• Providing practical and effective training across a wide range of MCS functions to our members

• Supporting other international activities such as the Port State Measures and catch documentation schemes

• Monitoring and evaluating continuously - results-driven programs