



Happenings in the months of September and October 2018

- PNG FIA MSC Certification Process Begins with first Stakeholders' Roundtable Workshop, 18 September 2018, Manila
- FIA Meeting with New Ireland BDM Exporters, 2 October 2018, Malagan Lodge, Kavieng
- Workshop on Import & Export Commodity Trade Requirements for Fish and Fishery Products, 8 – 12 October 2018
- PNG FIA MSC Certification Process Holds its Second Roundtable Workshop, 17 October 2018, POM
- NFA Gives Financial Assistance to FIA for the PNG FIA MSC Certification Process, 17 October 2018, POM

PNG FIA Marine Stewardship Council Certification Process Begins with first Stakeholders Roundtable Workshop, 18 Sept 2018, Navotas City, Manila



FIA Media File: Group Photos of Participants attending the PNG FIA MSC Roundtable Workshop, Navotas City, Manila, Philippines

The PNG Fishing Industry Association (PNG FIA) held its first roundtable workshop with stakeholders in Navotas City, Manila, Philippines, to discuss the assessment process of the PNG FIA MSC certification.

In attendance were 5 representatives from the National Fisheries Authority, including the Deputy Chairman of National Fisheries Board, FIA secretariat and 24 representatives from PNG based fishing and processing companies which included Majestic Seafood Ltd, Frabelle PNG Ltd, RD Fishing Industry Inc., South Seas Tuna Corporation, Trans Pacific Journey Fishing Corporation, TSP Marine Industries and Fair Well Fishery (PNG) Ltd. Also in attendance were Bill Holden, Manager of MSC, Asia Pacific and Marcelo Hidalgo, FIA's expert consultant adviser, who both facilitated the workshop.

Following formal signing of service agreement with the Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) - SCS Global Services, the PNG fishery stakeholders were able to reviewed SCS's checklist on what is needed before assessment can take place and begin compiling all requisite documents and data needed for the assessment. It was very important that every stakeholder concerned was involved.

The assessment will be based on MSC's fishery standards of three key principles: (1) the fishery must be sustainable for longer term use, (2) minimizing ecosystem's environmental impacts and, (3) effective governance and management systems which incorporates institutional and operational frameworks.

The PNG FIA will have to demonstrate that it has met this standard before it can be certified.

Everyone expressed satisfaction on the outcome of the workshop, commenting; "the workshop has been productive in that the expert facilitators were able explain well and in detail the MSC certification process". The attendance demonstrated the commitment of all stakeholders to have a 100% owned PNG MSC Certification.

In mapping out the MSC process, the representatives of both NFA and FIA acknowledged they are now in a better position to prepare before the assessment takes place.

It was agreed that attaining the PNG FIA MSC certification for the tuna fishery is the first step towards eventually pursuing MSC certification for other national fisheries such as the prawn fishery, crab fishery, lobster fishery, and beche-de-mer.

The immediate benefits to PNG include improving the robustness of the PNG's national governance framework, opening new markets for PNG made products, which will result in expansion of the domestic tuna industry production base thereby effecting increased employment and foreign exchange receipts. It will also, promote a global image for PNG as "clean green sustainable", while adding value to PNG as a country that promotes a well-managed fishery resource

FIA Meeting with New Ireland BDM Exporters, 2 October 2018, Malangan Resort, Kavieng



FIA Media File: Representatives of NI BDM Exporters attending the meeting, Malangan Resort, Kavieng

A meeting was organised by Leo Kuso of Dybes Limited, who also presided as the chairman. He welcomed everyone and in particular made mention of the presence of FIA Secretariat staff, J Manieva (Exe. Officer) and D Papaol (Exe. Secretary) and CEO for Economic Sector, New Ireland Provincial Administrator, Benjamin Kimbe.

The meeting was attended by 9 Exporters which included, Dybes Ltd, Karasiva Marine Resources Ltd, Roivill Resources Ltd, Vulungan (WSEL), Lap3 Trading Ltd, Emirau Marine Products Ltd, 3 Sons Seafood Ltd, Justain & Rakai Main Trading Ltd and Vilae Works Ltd. An invitation was also extended to NFA enforcement officers but they could not attend.

Mr Kuso outlined the purpose of the meeting which basically was to encourage all BDM exporters in New Ireland to become FIA members in order that matters of interest and issues affecting the BDM fishery in New Ireland Province are heard through the FIA channel provided at the NFA Board level by virtue of FIA President being an ex-officio member of the NFA Board.

FIA secretariat expressed sincere appreciation to the support provided by Mr Kuso to enable FIA staff to attend and participate in this important SME membership consultation. FIA welcomed such initiative to becoming full members of FIA, and suggested that NIP BDM Exporters will have to agree to specific details of how their actual membership could be formalised. FIA suggested having an umbrella association that would take up membership on behalf of its members or alternatively, individual exporters can apply direct to FIA for membership.

The NIP BDM Exporters took the opportunity of FIA secretariat presence at this meeting to raise to FIA specific technical and administrative matters and issues that they considered important to be communicated to NFA management and at the NFA Board level.

A list of issues of concern, in a nut shell, are summarised below:

- Concerns were raised over the increased number of exporters approved by the NFA Board for New Ireland in the 2018 season. In fact, New Ireland had the highest number in the country without any justification and economic rationale for such as increase.
- The increased number of exporters contradicts the Management Plan and is suicidal to the wellbeing of the sea cucumber stock in the Province.
- Evidence strongly suggests increased harvesting of a lot of under-sized/juvenile sea cucumber in this season. The fear now is stock may have been seriously affected or perhaps depleted in some areas. It'll be a game of wait and see!

- The role of the PMAC has to be fully supported and adequately resourced by NFA, while the decision-making mechanism needs to be re-evaluated so it is harmonised with the BDM Management Plan.
- Not enough awareness and adequate training of fishermen in post-harvest side of the fishery. This is evident by the amount of re-processing that had to be done by exporters. Additional processing facilities had to be established at additional cost just so that quality is maintained along the supply chain.
- Concerns were also raised that there were no effective monitoring and control across the board on all the various activities of every buyer and exporter. Various 'hot-spots' around the Province were not attended to.
- Exporters raised concerns that there wasn't adequate time allowed to prepare their facilities and most importantly, to arrange for financing of their BDM operation. The 'window' for approval leading up to issuance of licence by NFA Board was too short and not done in the best interest of local resource owners.
- For longer term planning and financial security of business operation, exporters needed some form of assurance regarding the term of their licences.
- There is a need to properly track and systematically monitor the many joint-venture arrangements between locals and foreigners that were established in the Province due to the BDM season.
- Lack of benchmark price was a serious concern for the exporters and buyers. They insist that NFA should regulate and set a benchmark price to protect the local resource owners thereby realising a fair and equitable return from their BDM resource.
- In terms of stock assessment done by NFA, the exporters have observed that such assessments are usually being carried out on the same locations all the time and therefore does not give a fair assessment of the overall potential of the sea cucumber stock in New Ireland. Exporters would very much like to encourage NFA to also target other areas, especially in the outer islands, for a holistic management approach and better appreciation of the baseline knowledge of the overall status of the stock in the Province.
- It was noted that the New Ireland Provincial Government is seriously contemplating requesting NFA to devolve the powers of managing this fishery back to the Province consistent with the autonomy process that New Ireland Province is undergoing. It is important that the Province takes full control of its resources in terms of income generation, resource security and management. It was noted that NFA should concentrate on the off-shore resource such as tuna and let the Province takes care of its inshore resources.

Workshop on Import and Export Commodity Trade Requirements for Fish and Fishery Products, 8 – 12 October 2018, Grand Papua Hotel



FIA Media File: Representatives of NFA and FIA attending the workshop at Grand Papua Hotel

A workshop was convened by the Audit & Certification Unit of NFA to review the draft PNG Standards, particularly on Part 2 - Export Commodity Trade Requirements and Part 3 - Import Commodity Trade Requirements.

The workshop was held on the 8-12 October at Grand Papua hotels.

This was an internal NFA technical level consultation to review and refine the working draft of the Standards text. FIA was invited to attend.

The review looked at these requirements within the scopes of jurisdiction of NFA and the other line agencies specifically the National Department of Health (NDoH), NAQIA and Customs. Whilst a lot of the requirements and procedures were incorporated into the Standards, these were outside of NFA but within the mandates and jurisdiction of other line agencies.

NFA will be working closely with NAQIA on Import Risk Assessments on initial approval stages to issue import permits. NDoH lacks systems, capacity and resources to carry out its function and hence NFA has drafted MoU for NDoH to delegate this function but they refuse to do so, so NFA will continue to ensure collaborative working arrangements are in place and works effectively and efficiently.

Issue

The Import Protocol was limited to written mandates of NFA in imposition of requirements on licensed fishing vessels and exporting facilities. NFA highlighted that importation of fish and fisheries products by PNG based merchant traders (i.e. Papindo, Hugo Canning, BNG, etc.) are not scoped under this standard setting.

Food Safety Framework.

Health Department and NAQIA were the responsible mandated line agencies that undertake monitoring and control of fish and fisheries products under SPS standards and requirements.

IUU framework was lacking

NFA has direct mandate in IUU concerns. However, NFA legal officer maintains that the standards are to be only focused with SPS matters as per the basis of mandate prescribed in the Fisheries Act.

The whole objective of setting Standards for Export & Import is kind of shallow and without much control especially where the importation side is concern.

Part 3 - Import Protocols

Must accommodate for IUU concerns. Does the Fisheries Act and the IUU framework clearly articulate NPOA/Flag State responsibilities?

FIA Comment

The sticky point for industry was the fact that statement by NFA technical officers that NFA mandates as far as Export & Import requirements are specific over the Sanitary & Phytosanitary concerns thus covering only the NFA licensed operators (i.e. fishing vessels, shore-based processing and exporter facilities).

Thus, there is the consideration of lack of protocol to cover the PNG based traders that import and bring into country fisher and fisheries products.

In this particular scenario, Executive Officer-FIA had proposed to NFA to take note in this regard.

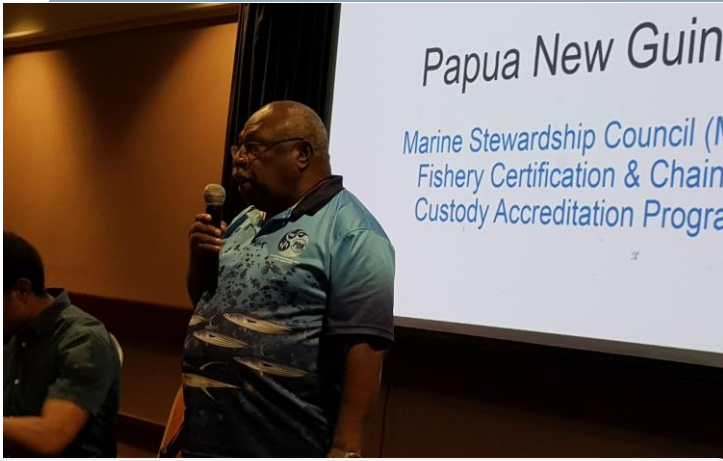
- NFA has EXPLICIT mandate under its MSC functions to curtail and prevent IUU. NFA has a National Plan of Actions (NPOA) for IUU. That's explicit mandate and basis for ensuring the current draft Standard in development to include requirements which will be implemented by NFA MCS officers to impose requirements on the entry points of Imports.
- The bigger objective of setting this Standard must and should cater for both Food Safety and IUU emphasis.
- The protection of our export regime in relation to IUU requirements must ensure there is internal control on the import side of the trade. Otherwise it will compromise our national competency and definitely has implication on our export market requirements.

Alois Kinol and David Karis, agreed to my intervention and suggest that this needed to be flagged at the managerial level so when the IUU framework is progressed in the review of legislation and policy, this concern is catered for.

David intervened that there is work in progress for a collaborative platform between NFA & Customs - ASYCUDA/FIMS. These would enable NFA officers to exercise its mandate to monitor and require at point of entry points (ideally CUSTOMS) the minimum set of requirements on the importers. I.e. CDS certificate from the manufacturing source

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PNG FIA Marine Stewardship Council Certification Holds its Second Roundtable Workshop, 17 October 2018, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Port Moresby



FIA Media File: FIA President/Chair welcomes participants to the 2nd MSC Roundtable Workshop. Crowne Plaza Hotel. Port Moresby

Following the first roundtable workshop in Manila, a second one was convened at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Port Moresby on 17 October 2018. This is to allow for a wider participation of all relevant NFA staff, the industry, provincial representatives, NGOs, FIA staff and other relevant stakeholders to better understand and appreciate the MSC certification process, especially the roles and responsibilities that each one will play.

The facilitators of the workshop were Rodney Kirarock of NFA and Jonathan Manieva of FIA.

The FIA Chair/President, Mr Pokajam, welcomed and thanked everyone to the second roundtable workshop and gratefully conveyed his appreciation to the Managing Director of NFA, Mr John Kasu, for supporting the PNG FIA MSC certification process by hosting this workshop. Mr Pokajam shared a brief history as well as lessons learnt from PNG's involvement in the PNA MSC and *Pacifical* and vowed to correct past mistakes by ensuring the PNG FIA MSC certification process is completed and duly certified to enable its industry and the people of PNG to enjoy the benefits in perpetuity from a sustainable tuna fishery in PNG. He also acknowledged the support of the Industry in hosting the first roundtable workshop in Manila and also acknowledged the support of NFA Board and NFA staff in attending as well. He hopes the Conformity Assessment Body, SCS Global Services (SCS), will soon make a public announcement for the commencement of full assessment of the PNG FIA MSC certification.

The Executive Manager for Fisheries Management, Mr Leban Gisawa, stood in for NFA MD Mr John Kasu who unfortunately couldn't make it and gave a few remarks on his behalf. He welcomed everyone to this workshop and gave the assurance of NFA's support, and the Government for that matter, to fully attaining PNG's own MSC certification that is being led by the FIA. He especially reiterated the announcement by the Fisheries Minister, Hon Patrick Basa, in Nauru of PNG's intention to pursue its own 100% PNG MSC certification.

Mr Gisawa recalled it has taken quite a long time for PNG to begin this process and acknowledged RD Fishing Company for taking the initial lead in recent past to begin the process to have its own MSC certification. Although RD Fishing Company was not able to attain its MSC certification, the experience was no doubt valuable and will now be used and channelled into achieving the wider PNG FIA MSC certification for the benefit of its entire industry.

Several presentations were made by FIA and NFA. Jonathan Manieva of FIA made a presentation prepared by Mr Marcelo Hidalgo during the first roundtable workshop in Manila on the MSC certification assessment process of the Fishery and the Chain of Custody (CoC) Standards.

The workshop noted that all requisite data and technical information have been submitted to SCS Global Services. SCS will confirm whether the information are sufficient and adequate to begin the assessment then a formal announcement, hopefully in December, will be made and subsequently posted on the Marine Stewardship Council's website. This is an important milestone.

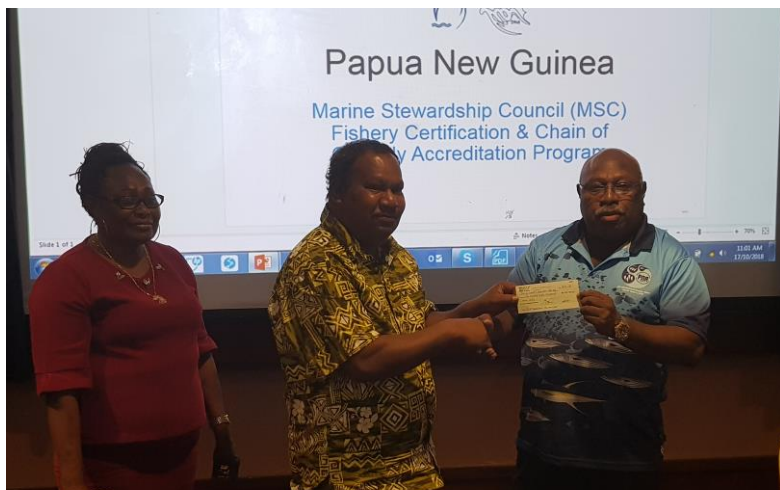
Mr Leban Gisawa of NFA made a presentation on the PNG MSC Area of Assessment (PNG EEZ and Archipelagic Waters), an overview of the PNG flag and Locally Based Fishing (LBF) purse seine fleets, including the Catch Data for the two categories of fishing vessels. Historical number of vessels showed a steady increase since 1993 due to change of policy. In 2017, PNG flag vessels have reversed their position to reflag elsewhere due to change in policy on VDS and rebate scheme. Recommendations were made during the workshop for NFA to compile the historical catch and effort data for all fishing vessels (Bilateral, LBFV & PNG flag) fishing in the PNG waters. With regards to the use of LAR database system as opposed to the NFA FIMS, NFA was encouraged to use only one system, i.e., the FIMS database system, in public domain. This will allow for the harmonisation of all data analysis and subsequent result consistent for public usage.

Mr Herman Kisokau made a presentation on the observer requirement for the PNG FIA MSC certification. The workshop noted that all PNG observers are trained under the Pacific Island Regional Fisheries Observer (PIRFO) standards. PNG Observers are also trained in MSC CoC standards under this standard. In PNG there are about 274 MSC trained and certified observers that can effectively and adequately cover all MSC trips when PNG FIA MSC has been fully certified.

Jasper Laurente of RD advised the workshop that procedures, standards and manuals are already in place but would only need to contextualize to FIA requirement and needs. He also advised that a mock trial trip would need to be carried out within 3 months before assessment is carried by SCS against the Group CoC Management. The Group CoC management documentation for decision-making and resolution have already been developed. In addition, the FIA management structure including personnel has already been developed by Marcelo and waiting internal clearance and auditing before being assessed externally by SCS Global Services.

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National Fisheries Authority Gives Financial Assistance to FIA for MSC Certification Process, 17 October 2018, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Port Moresby



FIA Media File: FIA Chair/President receiving the cheque from Mr Leban Gisawa on behalf of the MD of NFA while looking on is Ms Welete Wararu of NFA

In show of NFA's overwhelming support towards the PNG FIA MSC certification process, a cheque of K250, 000.00 was presented to the FIA President/Chair by Mr Leban Gisawa, Executive Manager of Fisheries Management, on behalf of the NFA Managing Director, Mr John Kasu.

In handing over the cheque, Mr Gisawa reiterated the commitment by NFA to the whole MSC certification process. He alluded to the challenges and lessons learnt from the PNA MSC and *Pacificall* and believes that PNG stands to benefit greatly by having its own MSC certification and especially the double value-adding to PNG from MSC certified catches in its EEZ and the archipelagic waters. He noted that it is encouraging to see two of PNA members, Solomon Islands and FSM, having gone ahead in attaining their MSC and is therefore optimistic that PNG will eventually attain its MSC certification for its yellowfin and skipjack purse seine tuna fishery.

The FIA President/Chair conveyed his sincere appreciation to the NFA Managing Director, Mr Kasu, for the timely financial support despite the current financial difficulty that NFA is going through and assured that it'll be put to good use towards the PNG MSC certification process and related activities.

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Important Announcements

15th Regular Session of the WCPFC, 9 – 14 Dec 2018, Hawaii Convention Centre, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA