

**Theme:**  
*Oceans, Sea and Biodiversity*

**Focus:**  
*Fisheries in the Pacific, the balance between economic and sustainable development*

## Presentation Today

- This presentation is by Tokelau as the current Chair of the Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) which comprises 17 members of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA).
- This year Tokelau hosted FFC Officials in May and the FFC Ministerial in July.
- Joe Suveinakama – General Manager, Apia. Also acknowledge the Team Tokelau present: Mika Perez – Director for EDNRE, Robin Pene – GM, Energy, Mark Bonin – SIDS Advisor, Lise Suveinakama – Legal Advisor, Miti Ngau-Chun – Executive Office, and Jaap Jasperse – Comms Adviser

## Pacific Context on Fisheries

- Pacific EEZ comprise of over 20 million square km;
- 1.6 million tonnes of tuna caught each year;
- 40% of the global supply of tuna for canning;
- 2/3 of tuna caught in Pacific is taken by foreign vessels;
- 10% processed in the region

## Balance between economic and sustainable development

- Fisheries Resources are under pressure in many areas, including:
  - High dependence on fisheries for food security, exacerbated by population growth;
  - Depletion of fish supply (over-fishing/IUU/lack of sustainable management);
  - High dependence on fisheries to derive income;
  - Price and cost (fuel etc) shifting fishing attitudes;
  - Subsidization and technologies.

## Pacific Fisheries Strategy

In response to identified pressures, Pacific fisheries ministers resolved to a Pacific Fisheries Strategy geared towards:

*“transformative change and collective action towards greater sustainable returns from fisheries.”*

## Call for Action: Rights-Based Management for Albacore

- At the heart of rights-based management is the determination of Total Allowable Catches (TAC) and capacity.
- Secure your slice of fisheries and how it is accessed. Increase revenue from rights given to vessels. There are different mechanisms to “sell”.
- The difficulty is getting these limits. If there are too high then they don’t hold value and are not sustainable. Similarly benefits erode if we set it too low. We got to get it right.

## Progress

- Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) is proving to be successful. Current discussions are mainly around financial packages – UST Renegotiation
- FFC Ministerial (July 2014 in Tokelau) have agreed to the rights-based management for Albacore (Tokelau Arrangement). A workplan (Atafu Declaration) has been agreed to have the Tokelau Arrangement by end of October.

## Progress (continued)

- FFC Ministers also endorsed a robust Pacific Fisheries Strategy (FFA Strategic Plan 2015-2020) that deals with the "hard parts" of fisheries leadership and governance. This includes:
  - sustainable limits,
  - allocation of resources,
  - distribution of benefits,
  - investment in fisheries management, and
  - legal and institutional frameworks
- to achieve shared strategic goals and a unique opportunity for us to secure sustainable development for all our peoples.

## Progress (continued)

- Support to a regional rights-based management measure for albacore (to be presented to upcoming WCPFC11 and other RFMOs);
- Approval of the new FFA Strategic Plan (2015-2020);
- Further strengthening community and institutional capacity to address coastal fisheries;
- Pacific leaders endorsed action on fisheries.

In summary: Strong awareness and commitment to regional solidarity from Pacific Fisheries ministers.

## Questions

- What do we want of our fisheries? What is the value that we wish to derive from fisheries in our national development?
- In attempting to respond to this, how do we build regional solidarity?

## Considerations

- ***Fisheries is a strategic issue in the Pacific***
- ***It is critical and important for the Pacific to truly address the balance between economic and sustainable development in our region:***
  - ***Look beyond our EEZ;***
  - ***Look beyond fish.***

## Conclusion

- *The region is called to work together for transformative change and collective action towards greater sustainable returns from fisheries.*

Thank you...