

## **9<sup>TH</sup> PACIFIC TUNA FORUM (PTF 2025)**

*“Pacific Tuna 2050: Resilience, Innovation, Equity and Sustainable Trade for a Prosperous Future”*

14 - 15 October 2025  
Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Denarau, Nadi, Fiji

### **PTF 2025 Conference Programme (tentative)**

Chairperson: Dr Manumatavai Tupou-Roosen (Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Regional Campuses & Global Engagements, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji)

#### **Monday, 13 October 2025**

17:00 - 20:00 Pre-Registration

19:00 - 21:00 Moderators and Speakers – Meet & Greet Session

#### **Day 1: Tuesday, 14 October 2025**

07:30 - 09:00 Registration (Tea/Coffee)

09:00 - 10:00 **Opening Ceremony**

Traditional opening

Welcome Address and Official Opening by **Guest of Honor**

Special Address by **H.E Jelta Wong, MP, Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources, Papua New Guinea**

Remarks by **Ms Gemma Meermans Matainaho, Acting Director, INFOFISH, Malaysia**

Group Photo of VIPs

10:00 - 10:30 Opening and Tour of the Exhibition by VIPs

Press Conference by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs)

Tea Break

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### Tentative Conference Programme

10:30 - 11:00 Forum Keynote Address: “Pacific Tuna 2050: Resilience, Innovation, Equity and Sustainable Trade for a Prosperous Future” - **Dr Manumatavai Tupou-Roosen (Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Regional Campuses & Global Engagements, University of the South Pacific, Fiji)**

#### *Session 1: Sustainable tuna resources and supply chains in the WCPO (Blue Pacific Continent)*

This opening session sets the stage with a comprehensive overview of tuna resources and supply chains at both the global and WCPO levels. As the heart of the world’s tuna industry, the WCPO is a model region for effective fisheries management, combatting IUU fishing, and advancing sustainability through strong partnerships and innovative standards. Discussions will span stock assessments, policy commitments, traceability, and Port State measures, highlighting how collaborative action is safeguarding tuna resources while strengthening supply chains for long-term global benefit.

**Moderator: Mr Noan David Pakop, Director General, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Solomon Islands**

11:00 - 11:15 The state of the global tuna industry (Blue Pacific Continent) – **Ms Bhakti Anand (International Trade Consultant, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - FAO, Italy)**

11:15 - 11:30 Stock status and fishery trends update: tuna and billfish – **Dr Paul Hamer (Principal Scientist - Stock Assessment and Modelling, Oceanic Fisheries Programme, Pacific Community - SPC, New Caledonia)**

11:30 - 11:45 Better partnerships, better sustainability for the tuna industry – **Mr John Maefiti (Commercial Manager, PNAO, Republic of Marshall Islands)**

11:45 - 12:00 How company and government policy commitments are being delivered through the adoption of the GDST standard – **Mr Huw Thomas (Executive Director, Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability - GDST, The Netherlands)**

12:00 - 12:15 Operationalising the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and reforming transshipment practices – **Mr Francisco Blaha (Independent Fisheries Advisor, New Zealand)**

12:15 - 12:30 Panel Discussion [15 mins]

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch

## ***Session 2: Investing in a sustainable and equitable Hubs & Spokes strategy for the tuna industry and strengthening resilience in the Blue Pacific Continent***

The Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO), or Blue Pacific Continent, accounts for nearly 60% of the world's tuna harvest, placing the region at the heart of the global industry. This session will highlight how Pacific nations are advancing the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, the East New Britain Initiative (ENBi), and the Hubs & Spokes concept – anchoring sustainability, equity, and resilience at the core of regional tuna development. Through a dialogue format, national leaders will share perspectives on fostering greater investment, strengthening participation across the value chain; and building collaborative pathways to ensure that the region's people, tuna resources, and ocean ecosystems continue to thrive.

**Moderator: Mr Noan David Pakop, Director General, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Solomon Islands**

14:00 - 14:15 East New Britain Initiative (ENBi) presentation – **Mr Tony Sullivan, Investment Facilitation Manager, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Solomon Islands**

14:15 - 14:25 Inclusion & equity in Pacific tuna fisheries – **Ms Rose Martin, GESI Advisor, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Solomon Islands**

14:25 - 15:00 Panel dialogue:

- **Fiji** – Mr Netani Tavaga, Deputy Secretary for Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Fiji
- **Papua New Guinea** – Mr Justin Ilakini, Managing Director, National Fisheries Authority (NFA), Papua New Guinea
- **Republic of Kiribati** – Ms Tereere Tioti, Director of Competent Authority Division, Ministry of Fisheries & Ocean Resources, Kiribati
- **Republic of Marshall Islands** – Mr Glen Joseph, Executive Director, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA), Marshall Islands
- **Federated States of Micronesia** – Mr Eugene R. Pangelinan, Senior Fisheries Advisor, National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA), Micronesia
- **Solomon Islands** – Ms Lisa Sugumanu, Deputy Secretary-Projects, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR), Solomon Islands

15:00 - 15:15 Tea break

## ***Session 3: Global and regional tuna trade and market access***

Valued at USD 47 billion in 2024 and projected to reach USD 67 billion by 2034, the global tuna market presents both immense opportunities and complex challenges. This session brings together regional leaders and industry experts to examine how market access, supply chains, consumer behaviour, product innovation, investment, partnerships, and regulatory frameworks are shaping tuna's growth trajectory. Participants will gain region-specific insights into trade and market dynamics across Europe, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East, the United States, and China, offering a comprehensive view of how the industry can continue advancing towards sustainable development and inclusive growth.

**Moderator: Ms Gemma Meermans Matainaho, Acting Director, INFOFISH, Malaysia**

15:15 - 15:35 Europe – **Mr Henk Brus (CEO, Pacifical, The Netherlands)**

15:35 - 15:55 Asia/Pacific – **Mr Chris Hsu (General Manager, Kaohsiung Office of Tri Marine International PTE LTD)**

15:55 - 16:15 The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) – **Mr Arnab Sengupta (Chief Operating Officer, Prime Products Industry Co. Ltd, Thailand)**

16:15 - 16:35 United States of America – **Ms Bhakti Anand (International Trade Consultant, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – FAO, Italy)**

16:35 - 16:55 China – **Professor Dr Zhengyong Yang (Dean, College of Economics and Management, Shanghai Ocean University, China)**

16:55 - 17:05 Panel discussion [10 minutes]

17:05 - 17:15 Chair's wrap-up remarks

**19:00 - 21:00 *Opening Cocktail, Venue: Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Denarau, Nadi, Fiji (Hosted by the Ministry of Fisheries, Fiji)***

## **Day 2: Wednesday, 15th October 2025**

09:00 - 09:20 Special Address: Ensuring sustainable Pacific tuna stocks for the future – **Ms Katy Hladki (Senior Officer International Fisheries, Pew Charitable Trusts, United States of America)**

### ***Session 4: Challenges and opportunities: the Pacific tuna trade and market dynamics***

The Blue Pacific Continent faces the challenge of balancing economic gains with sustainability in the global tuna industry. This session will examine value retention, equity, and inclusive participation, while addressing regulatory reforms, subsidies, tariffs, and new business opportunities to drive sustainable growth and resilience.

**Moderator: Mr Rodney Ned Kirarock, Environmental Consultant, MRAG Asia/Pacific, Australia**

09:20 - 09:40 Aligning fisheries subsidies with sustainable development and trade aspirations in the Pacific: bridging capacity and market access through the ENBi framework – **Ambassador Merewalesi Falemaka (PIF Ambassador to the WTO, Switzerland)**

09:40 - 10:00 Tariff impacts on tuna trade: Implications for the Pacific – **Ms Bhakti Anand (International Trade Consultant, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - FAO, Italy)**

10:00 - 10:20 Driving sustainability, equity and market transformation in the Pacific Region  
– **Mr Bill Wall (Business Engagement Manager - Large Scale Fisheries, The Nature Conservancy, Australia)**

10:20 - 10:30 Panel discussion [10 minutes]

10:30 - 10:45 Tea break

### ***Session 5: Innovative tuna technologies and value creation for the Blue Pacific Continent***

Technology and innovation are redefining the global tuna industry, driving greater efficiency, sustainability, and market opportunities across the value chain. From cutting-edge digital tools and biotech testing to new innovation labs and value-creation models, these advances are transforming how tuna is harvested, processed, and traded. They also provide solutions to broader global challenges - strengthening food security, enhancing traceability, and building climate resilience.

#### ***Sub-session 5(a): Innovative tuna technologies for the Blue Pacific Continent***

*Technology frontiers shaping a smarter, more sustainable tuna industry*

Technology is rapidly reshaping tuna fisheries in the Blue Pacific, offering new tools to enhance efficiency, sustainability, and resilience. This session will spotlight breakthroughs ranging from advanced food safety testing and by-product optimisation to interconnected fishing systems, satellite and drone monitoring, and regional research capacity. Together, these innovations demonstrate how cutting-edge science and technology can support traceability, food security, and climate adaptation for the Pacific tuna industry.

**Moderator: Mr Epeli Loganimoce, Pacific Program Officer, Global Fishing Watch (GFW), Fiji**

10:45 - 11:05 Screening and quantification of histamine in fish: A comparative overview of ELISA and lateral flow methods – **Mr Kyriakos Eleftheriadis (APAC Export Area Manager, ProGnosis Biotech, Greece)**

11:05 - 11:25 The growth of by-products for marine ingredients – **Mr Francisco Aldon (CEO, Marin Trust, United Kingdom)**

11:25 - 11:45 Interconnected solutions for efficient and sustainable tuna fishing – **Mr Jorge Pérez-Bouzada (Director of Sustainable Fishing, Marine Instruments, Spain)**

11:45 - 13:00 Lunch

13:00 - 13:20 From data to impact: Real-time EM and smart fishing tools for a sustainable ocean future – **Mr Javier de la Cal (Regional Sales Director APAC, Satlink S.L., Spain)**

13:20 - 13:40 A new fisheries research vessel for the Pacific – **Mr Robert Christie (Project Director - Pacific Research Vessel SPC, New Caledonia)**

13:40 - 14:00 Fishing Vessel Observation Network (FVON) “Monitoring Ocean environmental variables using fishing vessels as Ships of opportunity (SOOPs)” – **Ms Cynthia Wickham (FVON Coordinator SPC, Solomon Islands) & Mr Bipendra Prakash (Pacific Island Global Ocean Observing System Coordinator, Pacific Community - SPC, Fiji)**

14:00 - 14:10 Panel Discussion [10 minutes]

***Sub-session 5(b): Innovation labs and value creation in Pacific tuna supply chains***

From by-products to business ventures – creating new value for Pacific Islanders. Pacific-led innovation is opening new pathways for value creation in tuna. This session highlights the Pacific Island Tuna Ventures Programme (PITVP) creating initiatives that transform turning side streams (by-products) into high-value products by creating and scaling new ventures through regional and global partnerships.

**Moderator: Mr Tony Sullivan, Investment Facilitation Manager, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Solomon Islands**

14:10 - 14:15 PITVP Introduction - continuing the Development Pathways for Pacific-led entrepreneurship, inclusive investment, and job creation

14:15 - 14:30 Proving the case for future Pacific-led value creation - leveraging the circular economy principles of 100% Fish to valorise tuna processing side streams across product horizons (Blue-X approach) – **Mr Alex Ogg (Managing Director, Blue-X Ventures, Australia)**

14.30 - 14:55 Panel discussion [25 minutes]

- **Mr Andrew Rodgers (CEO, Carbon Earth Pty Ltd, Australia)**
- **Mr Namal Rajapakse (CEO, Golden Ocean Fish, Fiji)**
- **Mr Scott Maltby (Global Division Manager, Shiino Foods Co., Ltd. Japan)**
- **Mr Allen Haroutonian (Founder/Director, Blue-X Ventures, Australia)**

14:55 - 15:10 Tea break

## ***Session 6: Future-proofing the tuna industry and its sustainable development in the Blue Pacific Continent***

This session explores how the Blue Pacific Continent can future-proof the global tuna industry by strengthening resilience, enhancing participation and ensuring shared benefits across the value chain in a more equitable, transparent and sustainable way. It will address the balance between safeguarding tuna resources and supporting the wellbeing of workers, communities and the ecosystem, with a focus on certification, industry standards, worker welfare and social accountability amongst other considerations; and ultimately, towards ensuring a sustainable future for the tuna industry in the Blue Pacific Continent.

**Moderator: Mr Francisco Blaha, Independent Fisheries Advisor, New Zealand**

15:10 - 15:25 An introduction to the new Green Climate Fund (GCF) Regional Tuna Programme (GCF-RTP) – **Mr Martin Chong (GCF Regional Tuna Programme Coordinator, Pacific Community - SPC, Fiji)**

15:25 - 15:40 Future-proofing WCPO tuna fisheries through certification: tuna fisheries in the MSC program – **Mr Bill Holden (Senior Tuna Fisheries Outreach Manager, Marine Stewardship Council - MSC, Australia)**

15:40 - 15:55 Industry standards, worker welfare and wellbeing – **Mr Mike Kraft (Executive Director, FISH Standard for Crew, United States of America)**

15:55 - 16:10 From due diligence to a robust social accountability-at-sea model – **Mr Marcelo Hidalgo (Chief Operating Officer, PNG Fishing Industry Association - PNG FIA, Papua New Guinea)**

16:10 - 16:25 Panel discussion [15 minutes]

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**16:25 - 16:45 Wrap-up and closing remarks**

- PTF 2025 Chair: **Dr Manumatavai Tupou-Roosen, Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Regional Campuses & Global Engagements, University of the South Pacific, Fiji**
- INFOFISH: **Ms Gemma Meermans Matainaho, Acting Director**

**19:00 - 23:00 Closing Dinner. Venue: Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Denarau, Nadi, Fiji (Hosted by the Ministry of Fisheries, Fiji)**