

Fishing Technology Digest

A Newsletter on Fishing Technology, Gear and Methods, Vessels and Equipment



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INFOFISH, based in Malaysia, and set up with the assistance of FAO, provides Advisory Services related to Fishing Technology for the Asia-Pacific. It strives to facilitate dissemination of information on fishing technology and equipment for the industry besides research and training. It also promotes links among research institutions, administration and industry. Since 1992, INFOFISH, issued a quarterly newsletter collating global fisheries news and advancements related to fishing technology.

Information on various aspects

of fisheries and aquaculture industry also appears in INFOFISH International. A supplementary section on 'Industry Notes' provides information on the latest developments in the global fisheries scene. New equipment and innovations are also featured. Comments and contributions are welcome. Please feel free to share the latest news on fishing technology and innovations that you want to see in the next issue. Suggest new equipment and supplies and mention name of the relevant industry experts for inclusion in the INFOFISH mailing list.



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COFI 36 adopts Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture

The [Committee on Fisheries \(COFI\)](#) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has adopted the [Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture \(GSA\)](#), which have been prepared to support efforts at all levels for enhancing the important role of aquaculture towards the eradication of hunger and poverty and to support socioeconomic

development, in full respect of the environment, biodiversity and ecosystem functions. The GSA are a major milestone and a collective achievement by FAO and its Members, underscoring the global recognition of the vital role of aquaculture and the need for its continued sustainable development for the sake of current and future generations.

[Download Report of the The Thirty-Sixth Session of The Committee on Fisheries](#)

FAO launches new Aquatic Genetic Resources Information System (AquaGRIS)

On land as in water, there can be no food security without biodiversity: it allows plants and animals to reproduce and grow, adapt to natural and human-induced impacts, resist diseases and parasites, and continue to evolve. Aquatic biodiversity is the basis on which aquaculture can exist and grow sustainably. It determines the adaptability and resilience of species to changing environments and is the foundation for the genetic improvement of farmed species. The effective management of aquatic genetic resources is therefore vital to secure future supplies of aquatic food in a sustainable way. One key enabler to make this happen is [AquaGRIS](#), a public online database of farmed aquatic species and their wild relatives. While similar online inventories exist for livestock and terrestrial plants, none had yet been developed

for aquaculture. AquaGRIS, a world first, is designed to support countries' efforts to transform their aquatic food systems in line with FAO's Blue Transformation Roadmap and the recently endorsed FAO Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture. "We need aquaculture to fulfil its potential to provide enough highly nutritious foods for everyone, to fight hunger and malnutrition and to do so sustainably." says Manuel Barange, Assistant Director-General and Fisheries and Aquaculture Director at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). "The capacity for us to record and monitor aquatic genetic resources through the use of AquaGRIS is a significant step on the path to the sustainable management and use of our precious aquatic biodiversity, for the good of current and future generations," adds Barange.

Find more information: [here](#).

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the ICES-FAO Working Group on Fishing Gear Technology and Fish Behavior (WGFTFB)



The ICES/FAO Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behavior (WGFTFB) studies measurements and observations relating to scientific and commercial fishing gears, design and statistical methods and operations, and fish behavior in relation to fishing. Under agreement between ICES and FAO, FAO hosts a meeting every third year at a location of its choosing. The group is normally attended by about 60–100 regular members and chair-invited members. Participation is approximately 100–150 in the year when FAO-ICES symposium is held. The numbers of attendees to the meeting have been growing in recent

years. This meeting years was hosted by Canada and held at the Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland and was physically attended by 95 participants during 3-7 June 2024. The ICES-FAO Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behavior (WGFTFB), chaired by Noëlle Yochum (USA), Antonello Sala (Italy), and Jon Lansley (on behalf of FAO), in accordance with the WGs Terms of Reference convened the 2024 annual meeting to deliberate, discuss and synthesise recent research on topics related to:

1. Designing, planning, and testing of fishing gears used in abundance estimation;
2. Selective fishing gears for the reduction of bycatch, discard and unaccounted mortality;
3. Environmentally benign fishing gears, including innovations to mitigate ALDFG and the risk of 'ghost fishing' and methods.
4. Improving fuel efficiency and reduction of emission from fisheries;
5. Fish behavior near and inside fishing gear as it relates to the previous topics; and
6. Summaries of relevant research activities by nation.

Read more: [here](#).

Vaccine to prevent scale drop disease virus (SDDV) in Asian Sea Bass

[UVAXX](#), together with Singapore's [A*STAR Infectious Diseases Labs - ID Labs](#) have successfully developed a novel epitope-based vaccine that can defend against the Scale Drop Disease Virus (SDDV) infection in Asian sea bass Barramundi, (*Lates calcarifer*). The vaccine is a potential game-changer for the Asian sea bass aquaculture sector, as SDDV has caused devastating losses to farmers. This was facilitated with the visionary leadership of Professor Laurent Renia, A*STAR Senior Fellow (ID Labs) and support from the Singapore Food Agency and National

Research Foundation Singapore to enable the success of this project. Our heartiest congratulations to project members Dr Sunita Awate, Research Director (UVAXX) and Dr Ken Loh Zhixuan, Senior Scientist (ID Labs). The epitope-based vaccine technology is novel in fish health applications and can be adapted to counter emerging viruses in other fish species. We look forward to UVAXX and A*STAR identifying more use cases of this technology and developing vaccine solutions that help farmers reduce stock losses and the use of antimicrobials.

Read more: [here](#).

Thinking outside the fish tank

Five innovative tools and techniques that the FISH4ACP project set afloat to boost global aquatic food systems. The fisheries and aquaculture sector are a powerhouse of livelihoods for millions of people around the world. Yet there is still untapped potential for growth. At the same time, in many cases, poor fisheries and aquaculture management practices are putting stress on the marine environment and fish stocks. The [FISH4ACP](#) programme, implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) under the leadership of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), is focused on enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of value chains, while ensuring that economic improvements go hand in hand with environmental sustainability and social inclusiveness.

With funding support from the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the FISH4ACP programme spans 12 countries across three continents and harnesses innovation to strengthen fisheries and aquaculture value chains. Here are just five examples of innovative tools and practices that are helping countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific increase the effectiveness of this sector: 1) Collecting fisheries' data with a web-based application in Guyana, 2) Designing refrigerators to upgrade the cold chain in the Dominican Republic, 3) Boosting tilapia farming in Zimbabwe with innovative fish feed, 4) Repairing refrigerated containers in the Marshall Islands and 5) Teaching Gambian oyster harvesters how to swim.

Click [here](#) to read more about five innovative tools and techniques used in [FISH4ACP](#) Project.

Marina, the IFCO Fish Crate



The reusable and recyclable IFCO Fish Crates are specifically designed to transport chilled and frozen fish and seafood from ship to point of sale (POS). These nestable and stackable reusable packaging solutions cover all the modern supply chain needs and meet current and expected environmental legislation.

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- Reusable many times, infinitely 100% recyclable
- Sustainable, easy-to-handle alternative for single-use packaging and expanded polystyrene (EPS) boxes
- Reusable, 100% recyclable fish crates comply with current and anticipated environmental legislation
- Designed to meet high hygiene standards and prevent cross contamination
- Pooled through the IFCO SmartCycle, for a best-in-class service

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IFCO Systems US, LLC
3030 North Rocky Point Drive
Suite 300, Tampa FL 33607 USA
Phone: +1 800 444 4274
E-mail: RPC.CustomerSvc@ifco.com
Website: <https://www.ifco.com/>

FAO regional workshop on Opportunities and Challenges in Economic and Post-Harvest Issues Related to Market Access for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products



The three-day FAO Regional Workshop on Opportunities and Challenges in Economic and Post-Harvest Issues Related to Market Access for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products held on 1 October 2024, in Bali, Indonesia was declared open by Mr Lotharia Latif, Director General of Capture Fisheries, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Indonesia. Mr Rajendra Aryal, FAO representative for Indonesia and Timor Leste, also presented an address. Organised by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Indonesia, and supported by INFOFISH, over the next three days, this workshop will examine the issues such as those related to post-harvest

activities that impact the competitiveness of fisheries and aquaculture products in international markets; and also establish a platform for shared understanding of global requirements and instruments, particularly focusing on sustainability in fisheries and aquaculture. A total of 30 participants from 12 Asia-Pacific countries (Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) were present, together with a number of observers from WorldFish and local NGOs. The international speakers and facilitators who shared their expertise in-person and online, comprise Marcio Castro de Souza, Angela Lentisco, Dimitar Taskov, Omar Penarubia, Ansen Ward, William Griffin, Shelly Clarke, and Pinar Karakaya from FAO; Shannon Hardisty from the International Pole and Line Foundation; and Sainabou Taal from the World Trade Organisation (WTO), preceded by opening remarks presented remotely by WTO Deputy Director General Angela Ellard. INFOFISH, the intergovernmental organization for marketing information and technical advisory services for fishery products in the Asia and Pacific region, is privileged to collaborate with FAO and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Indonesia, as the Secretariat of this workshop.

Source: [INFOFISH](#)

UNESCO awarded for its action to protect the ocean



Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, received the 2024 La Vanguardia Prize in the Sustainable Development category at a ceremony held at the Palau de Congressos in Barcelona, in the presence of Pedro Sanchez, President of the Spanish Government. The award recognizes UNESCO's global leadership in ocean protection. The La Vanguardia Prizes, created by the newspaper of the same name, are presented each year to half a dozen personalities and institutions for outstanding achievements in fields such as culture, science or entrepreneurship. UNESCO has become the very first international organisation to receive this award, in the Sustainable Development category. The award recognises UNESCO's cross-

disciplinary action to protect the ocean and marine biodiversity, especially through its programmes that support scientific research, environmental education and the safeguarding of marine sites, as well as ancestral know-how and knowledge linked to the ocean. UNESCO is among the most pioneering organisations in the field of ocean sciences, with the creation in 1960 of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission which has established itself as a global authority within ocean science community. The Organisation is behind the creation of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS), which has inventoried more than 190,000 species to date. The Organisation also coordinates high-resolution mapping of the seabed. Since 2021, UNESCO has been leading the United Nations Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development, which has already raised USD 1 billion to fund more than 500 projects. The Organisation is also helping more than 100 countries to develop their ocean and environmental education, by adapting their school curricula and textbooks. Finally, UNESCO protects nearly 300 marine sites around the world, which include exceptionally rich ecosystems, thanks to its World Heritage Convention and its Biosphere Reserves programme.

Read more information: [here](#).

Bangladesh: 22-day hilsa fishing ban began



A 22-day government ban on catching, selling, hoarding and transporting hilsa fish began from October 13 to save mother hilsa during peak breeding season. The ban will remain in place till November 3. Fisheries and Livestock Adviser Farida Akhter said the decision was taken at a meeting at the Secretariat. She said the ban is going to be imposed with an aim to protect the hilsa spawners which lay eggs during the period. She said that action will be taken against those who will violate the law during the brood hilsa conservation campaign.

It is important to mention here that, this euryhaline and anadromous fish species attains growth and maturation in the sea and migrates towards freshwater rivers during the spawning season. Hilsa, the national fish of Bangladesh, (Bengali name: ilish, English name: Hilsa shad or hilsa herring, and Scientific name: *Tenualosa ilisha*), extremely popular both in Bangladesh and West Bengal, India. This important aquatic resource well known for its unique taste and always a prime choice by the fish consumers and considered as the symbol of Bengali culinary tradition. About 75 percent of the world’s hilsa is netted in the country. Some 0.57 million tonnes of Hilsa produced in Bangladesh during 2022-23 FY, making Bangladesh as the top producer of Hilsa, followed by Myanmar and India. Chandpur is one of the largest trading hubs of hilsa in Bangladesh while the fish captured from the river Padma is immensely popular due to its distinctive taste and flavour.

Source: [Observer Online Report](#)

Cambodia: PM calls for promotion of aquaculture



H.E. Prime Minister Hun Manet called for processing aquaculture to ensure the needs of the people and exporting, while Cambodia achieved a total of 314 000 tonnes of freshwater and marine aquaculture in 2023. Addressing the 19th National Fisheries Day in Boeung Thom, Kompong Samnang village, Mean commune, Prey Chhor district, Kampong Cham province, Mr Hun Manet said, “This National Fisheries Day is to inspire more fish farming movements across the country to ensure more food security and food for our people. We cannot guarantee using and supplying natural fish as 30 or 40 years ago due to the shallow of lake or pond, that require replenishment by encouraging more fish farming.” Dith Tina, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, said that Cambodia has just achieved good results in the recent hatching of Giant fish which is a representative fish of Cambodia and Macrognathus fish and experts from the Fisheries Administration

have been taking care of these fish fry. “In 2023, both the Fisheries Administration and aquaculture have hatched more than 269 million species of local fish to be released into the natural, contributing to farmers and doing business locally,” he said. Tina added that Cambodia achieved 314 000 tonnes of freshwater and marine aquaculture by 2023, which helped reduce pressure on natural fisheries resources, reduce imports, sustain the living standard of aquaculturists and boost the national economy. Cambodia has exported nearly 3000 tonnes of fresh and processed fishery products by 2022 and more than 3500 tonnes by 2023 to neighbouring countries. The country also exported 50 tonnes of fishery products in 2023 and 38 tonnes in the first five months of 2024 to China after the two countries signed a free trade agreement in 2020, said Tina. He noted that earlier this year, Cambodia also exported 3.7 tonnes of dried fish to Australia for the first time. “These are the results of close cooperation with development partners on improving the quality, safety and processing of Cambodian fishery products for both domestic and foreign markets,” Tina said, adding, that processing by small and medium enterprises will help solve the market problem of fishermen for natural harvested and aquaculture products that easily lose quality and provide a choice of quality, hygienic and safe fishery products for local diners as well.”

Read the full article: [here](#).

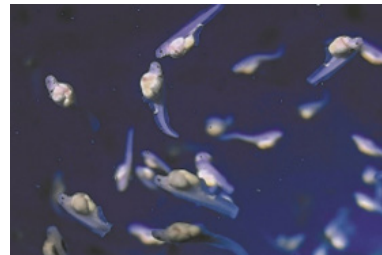
China: Unveils its first artificially bred sturgeon fish

Researchers from the Shanghai Aquatic Wildlife

Conservation and Research Center have successfully bred Chinese sturgeon *Acipenser sinensis* through artificial insemination for the first time, hatching nearly 5000 fry of the endangered species. At around

10pm on Oct 1, the centre's base in Shanghai's Chongming district saw the first artificially bred Chinese sturgeon hatchling emerge after over 100 hours of incubation, followed by thousands more in the ensuing days. After one week, the very first fry had grown to 18mm in length, with all other newborn sturgeons from the same cohort showing healthy development. This is the first time that Shanghai has artificially bred Chinese sturgeon. "After 20 years of efforts, we've finally artificially bred Chinese sturgeon in Shanghai with our own hands, thanks to the Yangtze River protection initiatives," said deputy director of the research centre Zheng Yueping. Chongming island, where the research centre is located, sits at the mouth of the Yangtze River. The Chinese sturgeon, revered as a "living fossil" crucial to understanding fish evolution, has roamed the rivers for some 140 million years. Despite being wildlife under first-class protection in China, its ability to naturally reproduce in the wild had ceased. In July 2022, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) declared the Yangtze sturgeon extinct in the wild. In 2021, the centre launched its programme to master artificial sturgeon breeding techniques. After forming a special task force in late 2023, researchers started on selecting and preparing suitable parent fish. The team refined water conditions, feed sources and temperature controls through trial and error, and overcame setbacks like sub-par fish health. Their effort finally paid off when

13 parent fish eight males and five females passed health checks.



On Sept 24, four adult male Chinese sturgeons and four female ones were inseminated in two batches to maximise the chances of success. The researchers overcame hurdles like difficulties inducing ovulation and unsynchronised egg development during this critical period. The centre will refine its procedures and techniques to lay the groundwork for future large-scale artificial breeding of Chinese sturgeons in Shanghai. While this effort is Shanghai's first in artificial sturgeon reproduction, other institutions across the Yangtze River basin have been engaged in such conservation efforts for this endangered species. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, more than one million artificially bred Chinese sturgeons have been released as of June 2024.

Find more news: [here](#).

Fiji: New fisheries policy prioritises food security

Cabinet has endorsed the National Fisheries Policy 2024–2028. The policy provides a strategic framework for managing Fiji's fisheries and aquaculture sectors, focusing on sustainability, economic growth and food security. The policy includes strategies for specific sectors within the fisheries sector, including offshore

fisheries, aquaculture and coastal and inland fisheries. It will also focus on cross-sectoral issues and assist in addressing marine spatial management, gender and youth involvement, environmental policies, and the intersection with tourism. The policy is the result of extensive stakeholder consultations and aligns with national objectives and international commitments.

Find the news: [here](#).

Fiji: Japan backs fisheries with USD 10.6 million grant

The Japanese government is set to formalise a grant agreement with the Coalition Government for the purchase of a fishery research vessel and ice-making machines. This procurement, valued at USD 10.6 million is part of Japan's Economic Social Development Programme and aims to support Fiji's sustainable fisheries management efforts. At a signing ceremony later today, Japan's Ambassador to Fiji, Rokuichiro Michii and Minister for Fisheries and Forests, Alitia Bainivalu will finalise the grant. According to a statement from the Japanese Embassy, the assistance aligns with Fiji's National Development

Plan which prioritises the sustainable management and protection of marine resources. The project also supports Japan's free and open Indo-Pacific policy which aims to enhance regional cooperation and development. The initiative consists of three key components. First, a new fishery research vessel will be procured. The 16-meter vessel will be equipped with a 500kW inboard engine, have a three-tonne fish storage capacity and accommodate 10 passengers. It will play a critical role in monitoring and regulating fisheries along Fiji's barrier reef system, conducting fish stock assessments, marine environment evaluations and supporting capacity-building efforts.

Read more: [here](#).

India: Govt designates CMFRI as a Centre of Excellence for seaweed cultivation

The Department of Fisheries under the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has designated the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries

Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI) as a Centre of Excellence for seaweed cultivation. The regional centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) at Mandapam in Tamil Nadu will serve as a hub for research, development, training and capacity building in seaweed cultivation. "The centre will promote sustainable seaweed farming practices and address key challenges in the area with an aim to enhance India's role in the global seaweed industry," said by CMFRI in a press release. Dr Grinson George, Director of CMFRI termed this development as a crucial step in unlocking the country's potential in seaweed cultivation. "The centre will focus on several key areas, including works on improving seaweed cultivation techniques and addressing challenges," he said. The release said a seed bank will be established to maintain the genetic diversity

of indigenous seaweed species and ensure a steady supply of high-quality seedlings. It said environmental impact assessments will be conducted by the centre to ensure sustainability. "Training and capacity building programmes will be offered to farmers, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders to take up seaweed cultivation and allied activities in the country," George added. The Centre of Excellence would also focus on international collaboration, engaging with global experts and institutions to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building programmes, George said, adding that seaweed farming offers a bright prospect for economic growth, coastal livelihood and environmental conservation.

Read the full article: [here](#).

Indonesia/Australia: New IQA prior notice requirements for fish and fish products

On 4 July 2024, Indonesian Quarantine Agency (IQA) notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of their intention to issue a new regulation (regulation 9/2024) regarding Quarantine Documents and Seals. The regulation includes new requirements for exporters of animal and animal products, including fish and fish products, to submit prior notice of export to IQA. There is additional information on the portal used to apply for prior notice, including a user manual. English translations of the regulation can be found through the [United States Department of Agriculture, Global Agricultural Information Network reports](#). The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia is aware these requirements intend to be implemented by IQA from 1 October 2024. Exporters are encouraged to work closely

with their Indonesian importers to understand the requirements for product exported to Indonesia from 1 October 2024. The department continues to engage with Indonesian authorities as a matter of urgency to better understand the impacts of these requirements on Australian industry and will provide relevant updates once more information becomes available. The [Manual of Importing Country Requirements \(Micor\)](#) will be updated to reflect this market access advice. The department encourages users of Micor to subscribe to the [Micor update service](#) for a commodity-specific email that lists changes that have been made in the preceding week. The department encourages exporters to contact the department via exportstandards@aff.gov.au should they be advised of issues with consignments prior to or on arrival in Indonesia relating to these requirements.

Find the notice: [here](#).

Japan: Discusses aid for fisheries industry amid China ban

The government discussed measures to support the fisheries industry amid a hit from China's prolonged import ban on Japanese seafood. "We've confirmed and we'll firmly maintain without any change our commitment to take full responsibility" over the matter, H.E. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told a meeting of relevant ministers. He said that the commitment will remain the same until Tokyo

Electric Power Company Holdings (Tepco) completes the discharges of tritium-containing treated water from its meltdown-stricken Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant into the ocean. Kishida voiced his intent to maintain assistance for the fisheries industry to let stakeholders continue their work. "We'll do our utmost to assist the fisheries industry nationwide by steadily implementing these measures, as well as steps in an economic stimulus package expected to be decided in autumn," he added. The Chinese government introduced the blanket ban on Japanese seafood in



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response to Japan discharge of the treated water from August last year. Japan has repeatedly asked China to lift the ban, saying that the measure is not based on scientific evidence. But China has refused to do so. In monetary terms, Japan's fisheries exports to China in 2023 fell 29.9 percent from the preceding year to ¥61 billion (USD 420 million). While the government has been working to increase sales of such products to other countries, those efforts have been unable to make up for the loss from the Chinese

Kiribati: YSFRI team visited MFMRD to expand technical cooperation

A team from Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute, China led by Professor Xu Yongjiang, Professor Liao Meijie, Associate Professor Bian Xiaodong, accompanied by Zhejiang Ocean Family delegates Mr Sun Mingliang and Ms Zhang Qingyu met with Secretary Riibeta Abeta, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development (MFMRD) and his Deputy Mr Tieri Tamo, to discuss areas of mutual interests and cooperation on marine research topics ranging from marine genetics, mariculture and aquaculture, and many more. China and Kiribati shared mutual interests on expanding work on fisheries, mariculture, fish farming, saving the declining fish

Maldives: Permanently bans longline fishing

To protect the marine life that is often caught as bycatch, a campaign led by local and international conservation NGOs, local fishers, and tourism groups came out with a co-signing letter by more than 100 international scientists urging the government to

PNG: Leading regional fisheries development

H.E. Prime Minister James Marape has commended Fisheries and Marine Resources Minister Jelta Wong for his role in organise regional cooperation in the area of fisheries through the appointment of a Papua New Guinean (PNG) to head the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). Marape said his government supported the East New Britain Pacific Industrial Park initiative (ENBi) which was a fisheries centre. Former National Fisheries Authority senior manager Noan Pakop is head of the FFA. The ENBi is an initiative developed for the catching, processing and export of tuna for PNG and member countries of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). Pakop was recently appointed by the 23rd Forum Fisheries Committee Ministers in Honiara, Solomon Islands, and becomes FFA's 10th director-general. Since the establishment of PIFFA in 1979, no Papua New Guinean had held this position. "It is a strategic move that strengthens our vision to take fisheries development to the next level, especially in downstream processing of tuna for the

ban. Kishida met with representatives of the fisheries industry in Fukushima Prefecture, where the nuclear plant stands, on 24 August 2024, a year after Tepco began discharging the treated water. Tepco President Tomoaki Kobayakawa also attended this. "We'll fulfill our roles and responsibilities until the last drop" of the treated water is released, he told reporters after the meeting.

Read the full article: [here](#).

population and climate change for the greater benefit of their people and global humanity in terms of research.



Source: Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development, Kiribati.

halt the issuance of longline fishing licenses. This stance against harmful yet efficient fishing methods demonstrates that the Maldives sets an example for other countries on how to balance fishing income with ocean health and environmental protection.

Find more: [here](#).

Pacific in PNG," Marape said. "Pakop's candidacy was endorsed by the National Executive Council, and we are confident he will represent the region in a professional manner, bringing to the fore his years of experience in the sector." Marape added that the ENBi was an all-encompassing platform providing opportunities in innovation and the development of transport, communications, customs, immigration, labour mobility, international trade besides fisheries and marine resources. The initiative was endorsed at the 52nd PIF as members see the value of uniting in a singular, stronger voice to advocate for the development of the region's marine resources; and became a point of discussion in the recently-ended Japan-Pacific Islands Leaders' Meeting in Tokyo, Japan. "East New Britain was chosen because of the availability of Rabaul port, and the social stability offered by the people," Marape said. "Domestically, the roadmap for fisheries is clearly defined and the alignment with the Medium-term Development Plan Four through the Fisheries Strategic Plan has PNG on course to achieve great milestones for the country.

“This project has a big potential to impact not just for PNG but all the small island nations of the Pacific and become a catalyst for real economic empowerment for our people in the region. “The small island countries of the Pacific own huge marine resources, but lose much of these, especially tuna, to outside countries

because we continue to sell raw tuna when we should be talking about onshore processing. “Adding value to the resources harvested in our waters.”

Read more: [here](#).

Thailand: Netted 1.3 million kilograms of invasive tilapia

Thailand has netted more than 1.3 million kilograms of highly destructive blackchin tilapia fish, the government said Tuesday, as it battles to stamp out the invasive species. Shoals of blackchin tilapia, which can produce up to 500 young at a time, have been found in 19 Thai provinces, damaging ecosystems in rivers, swamps and canals by preying on small fish, shrimp and snail larvae. As well as the ecological impact, the government is worried about the effect on the kingdom's crucial fish-farming industry.



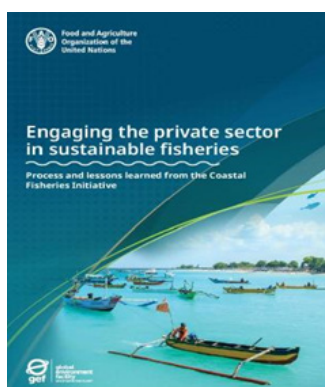
Fishing authorities caught 1 332 000 kilograms (1332 tonnes) of blackchin tilapia between February and August 28, according to Nattacha Boonchaiinsawat, the vice-president of a parliamentary committee set up to tackle the spread of the fish. "We talked to local residents and found out that the spread of tilapia has got worse. They found them in small canals, which

was not the case before," he told AFP. The outbreak of tilapia will cost the Thai economy at least 10 billion baht (USD 293 million), Nattacha said. The fish, native to West Africa, were first discovered in Thailand's rivers in 2010 before spreading rapidly in 2018 and are now also found in the US state of Florida and in the Philippines. In July, the Thai government declared the eradication of the species a national priority and began encouraging people to consume the fish. Promotional activities in central Phetchaburi province advertised tilapia-based fish sauces and sausages. Restaurants have also increasingly used fish in their cuisine, fried with garlic or sun-dried. It remains unclear how the fish arrived in Thailand, but local media reports have said they could have been imported by a company from Ghana in 2010. A parliamentary investigation is under way to determine the cause of the infestation, Nattacha said. The Thai government has encouraged locals to catch the fish, offering to pay people 15 baht (USD 0.42) per kilogram. It has also designated 75 vending areas around the country where the fish can be sold. Authorities have released predator species to hunt down the tilapia and are also developing genetically modified blackchin tilapia to produce sterile offspring. A UN science panel warned last year that tilapia is spreading faster than ever, wrecking crops, distributing disease and upending ecosystems. More than 37,000 alien species have taken hold far from their places of origin, costing upwards of USD 400 billion a year in damages and lost income, the UN panel said.

Find more news: [here](#).

Engaging the private sector in sustainable fisheries

Process and lessons learned from the Coastal Fisheries Initiative



The CFI programme - a global partnership between FAO, UNDP, UNEP, Conservation International, the World Bank and the WWF has developed three legacy Global Knowledge Products (GKPs) to consolidate experience and lessons learned and to make its successful approaches and tangible impacts sustainable beyond the end of its five-year cycle. This e-book is the third of the series and describes CFI efforts to drive responsible investments in the seafood value chain in order to make and keep small-scale marine fisheries sustainable. A key part of this approach is enabling SSF entrepreneurs to come up with viable business plans that will attract investors, and also to stimulate coalition-building as a way to address the complexities of the fisheries sector and achieve successful outcomes – ones that will both protect the environment and lead to thriving businesses and livelihoods. This e-book

describes how the CFI mentored stakeholders in Cabo Verde, Ecuador, Indonesia and Peru to harness the power of coalitions and come up with innovative startups and business cases that drive sustainability and have real investment potential. This e-book is

aimed at investors, private sector actors, practitioners and national and international policymakers.

Click [here](#) to download the complimentary publication.

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9-11, AQUACULTURE VIETNAM, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

<https://www.aquafisheriesexpo.com/en/aquaculture-vietnam/>

30 Oct - 1 Nov, China Fisheries & Seafood Expo (CFSE), Qingdao, China

<https://chinaseafoodexpo.com/>

NOVEMBER

6-8, Busan International Seafood & Fisheries Expo 2024, Busan, South Korea

<http://www.bisfe.com/>

DECEMBER

3-6, The 8th International Fisheries Industry Exhibition (IFEX), Tehran, Iran

<https://fisheries-expo.ir/>

FEBRUARY

3-5, Saudi International Marine Exhibition (SIMEC AquaFish), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

<https://en.simec-expo.com/>

12-15, 14th Asian Fisheries & Aquaculture Forum (14AFAP), New Delhi, India

<https://14afaf.in/>

MARCH

26-28, VIETSHRIMP AQUACULTURE

INTERNATIONAL FAIR (VietShrimp 2025), Can Tho City, Vietnam

<https://vietshrimp.net/>

The Fishing Technology Digest for Asia-Pacific Region



INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION FOR MARKETING INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

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Editor: Mr Sujit Krishna Das - INFOFISH, Malaysia