January - March 2025
Issue No. 129

Fishing Technology Digest

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: PAGE NO:

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.

For more information regarding registration, exhibition and program details kindly visit:
https://tilapia.infofish.org/

Celebrating 80 Years of FAO: Call for nominations

Since 1945, FAO has been at the forefront of the fight against hunger and malnutrition. Recognizing the critical role of aquatic foods in nourishing communities and sustaining livelihoods, the FAO Conference established the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 1965, making FAO the leading global forum for advancing sustainable aquatic food systems and strengthening their contribution to combatting hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. However, achieving sustainable aquatic food systems depends on the actions of people and institutions all over the world. To celebrate its 80th anniversary and mark the 30th Anniversary of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, FAO is launching a special recognition to highlight effective practices and innovations that have contributed to the responsible and sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture, strengthening their contribution to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, and healthy aquatic ecosystems. This FAO special recognition will highlight efforts that have been driving progress under FAO's Blue Transformation.

For more information, please contact: NFI-Inquiries@fao.org

FAO: Unveils updated methodology for tracking the sustainability of fisheries

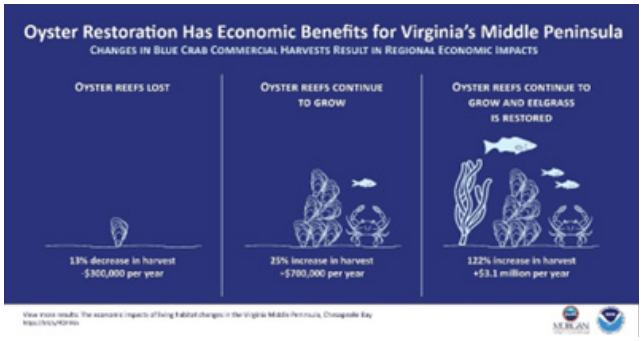
The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) revealed the details of a major update to the methodology of the State of Stocks Index (SoSI) at the Honiara Summit in Solomon Islands (24-27 February). This marked a significant step forward in tracking and managing fisheries more efficiently, supporting global efforts to promote effective management of the ocean and its resources. Besides details of the updated methodology, results from FAO Fishing Areas 71 and 81, both located in the Pacific, were presented. Full results will be published later this year in a Report on the State of World Fishery Resources, to be launched at the UN Oceans Conference in Nice, France.

Read more news: *here.*

NOAA-funded research highlights economic effects of oyster reef restoration

Scientists at Morgan State University forecast that restored oyster reefs especially when paired with eelgrass recovery boost habitat, blue crab harvest, and the economy. Researchers at Morgan State University's Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory quantified how restored oyster reefs in the NOAA Middle Peninsula Habitat Focus Area in Virginia would affect the local economy. They found that oyster reef restoration in the York and Piankatank rivers has a meaningful effect on the area's economy. Results of their work, which was funded through the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Research Program, were published in Ecological Modelling.

Oyster reefs provide habitat and food for commercially important species, including blue crabs. Healthier reef habitat means more blue crabs are available for harvest and for your dinner table. That provides financial benefits to watermen and supporting industries along the way. In recent years, the York and Piankatank rivers have been the site of large-scale oyster reef restoration projects. That effort has led to 204 acres of restored oyster reefs in the York River and 497 acres in the Piankatank River. These projects have been spearheaded by members of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Virginia Oyster Restoration Workgroup, including: NOAA, Virginia Marine Resources Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and The Nature Conservancy. These reefs support commercial and recreational fishing.



Find more information: *here.*

China expands marine ranching to strengthen food security

The country is enhancing its food security by expanding its marine ranching industry, with a focus on deep-sea and far-sea aquaculture. The nation's leaders emphasize utilizing both land and sea resources to meet the growing food demands of its 1.4 billion population. Marine ranches, dubbed "blue granaries," have become a key part of the country's efforts to diversify food supplies, with more investments and innovative technologies driving the growth of this sector. In 2024, Guangdong invested over 2 billion yuan to build marine ranches and supporting infrastructure, while Shandong Province leads the country with 71 national-level marine ranches. The industry has benefitted from technological advancements such as automated feeding and underwater imaging systems, making aquaculture more efficient. These technologies allow real-time monitoring of water quality, fish health, and environmental conditions, ensuring better management and sustainability. In addition, scientific breeding practices have improved fish quality and output while minimizing environmental impact. China's marine ranching efforts are seen as a significant step toward improving the nation's food production system.

Read more: *here.*

FAO launched improved fish drying technology in Bangladesh

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has introduced an improved fish drying technology in Bangladesh, aiming to enhance the economic, health, and environmental outcomes for fishing communities. At a ceremony in Chattogram, the FAO, in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries (DoF), demonstrated and distributed new drying racks covered with mosquito nets, which reduce reliance on harmful pesticides commonly used in traditional sun-drying methods. This initiative, under FAO's Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded Pesticide Risk Reduction project, will provide 93 improved drying racks nationwide. These racks help prevent insect infestation, improve hygiene, reduce spoilage, and increase the marketability of dried fish products. Training workshops will also be held to educate communities on proper usage and maintenance. According to Bangladesh's Fisheries Statistics Yearbook, the country produced 0.71 million tons of dried fish in 2023, making the adoption of safer and more sustainable drying methods critical. FAO representatives emphasized that this initiative supports sustainable fisheries while positioning Bangladesh as a key player in the global dry food market, contributing significantly to GDP and exports. The project aligns with FAO's "Four Betters" framework: Better Production, Better Nutrition, Better Environment, and a Better Life.

Read more: *here.*

Malaysia urges to use eco-friendly technology to sustain fish stocks

The Department of Fisheries (DOF) Malaysia is urging fishermen to adopt environment friendly fishing technologies and comply with conservation measures such as closed seasons and catch size limits to help sustain marine resources. DOF Director-General Datuk Adnan Hussain emphasized that reducing pressure on fish stocks is vital for the reproduction and sustainability of marine life. The department is promoting fishing gear like turtle excluder devices (TEDs), which help minimize bycatch, and is conducting training and awareness programmes to encourage adoption of such tools. Strict enforcement is also in place to prohibit harmful gear like 'bubu naga' traps. Real-time monitoring through the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) is being used to ensure compliance, alongside advanced fishing technologies like sonar and GPS through Fishing Site Identification (FSI) tools. Fishermen are playing a critical role as community enforcers, monitoring marine protected areas (MPAs) and reporting illegal activities. In addition, the DOF is promoting alternative livelihoods such as aquaculture and marine ecotourism to reduce reliance on capture fisheries, aligning with broader sustainable development goals.

Read more: *here.*

Umami expands advanced AI tool for farmed seafood production

Umami Bioworks, a Singapore-based start-up known for its innovations in cultivated seafood, has unveiled an advanced version of its AI tool, Alkemyst. Originally developed to optimise the production of cultivated seafood, the latest iteration now extends its capabilities across the entire seafood value chain, including aquaculture. The Alkemyst AI model has been meticulously trained on a diverse dataset that encompasses both public and proprietary information related to marine genomics, metabolomics and seafood sensory attributes. This extensive data foundation, alongside a growing proprietary dataset that includes production parameters, allows Alkemyst to facilitate

a comprehensive approach to cultivated seafood innovation. According to Umami Bioworks, key applications of Alkemyst include: Feed Optimisation, Increased Protein Content, Climate-Resilient Species Development, Land-Based Aquaculture Enhancement, Precision Optimization of Cell Culture Media, Product Nutrition and Sensory Enhancement and New Product Development. *"This next-generation version of Alkemyst represents a significant advancement in AI-driven seafood innovation,"* stated Mihir Pershad, CEO and co-founder of Umami Bioworks, in a press release. The launch of this next-generation tool is backed by notable global investors, including Aqua-Spark, Maruha Nichiro and Build Collective. These partnerships underscore Umami Bioworks' commitment to leveraging cutting-edge AI and biotechnology to foster a more sustainable seafood ecosystem.

Find more news: *here.*

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

X2 Ropes with V2 technology for aquaculture operations

It is the ultimate solution for reducing maintenance costs and increasing efficiency in aquaculture operation.

Key features:
- Higher strength to weigh ratio
- Lower elongation
- Faster handling
- Ease of splicing
- Delayed biofouling growth

Technical Specifications:
Material: X2-V2 Neo Yarn
Construction: 8 Strand
Color: FO Brown
Elongation @break: 8-12%
Specific gravity: 0.92

Contact details:
Garware Technical Fibers Ltd
Plot No 11, Block D1, M.I.D.C., Chinchwad, Pune-411019
Maharashtra, India
E-mail: sales@garwarefibres.com
Phone: +91 20 27990301- 06

WORKSHOP AND TRAINING

Regional small-scale fisheries workshop in Asia: A decade of progress and the road ahead

Held in Bangkok, Thailand from 26–27 March 2025, the *Regional Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Workshop in Asia* marked the 10th anniversary of the *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines)*. The event brought together 66 participants (27 women and 39 men) from 13 South and Southeast Asian countries, along with representatives from international organizations and academic institutions. Co-organized by the FAO and SEAFDEC, the workshop provided a platform to reflect on a decade of progress, share experiences, and identify future strategies for supporting small-scale fishers. Countries represented included Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Timor Leste, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Key partners such as ICSF, TBTI, RAG, BOB-IGO, WorldFish, and Mahidol University contributed to dynamic discussions focused on strengthening policy frameworks, enhancing data collection, promoting gender equality, improving climate resilience, and ensuring fair market access. The workshop concluded with a set of actionable recommendations to advance sustainable small-scale fisheries, emphasizing the need for inclusive, cross-sectoral collaboration and stronger regional cooperation.

Read more: *here.*

Brazil, the first country in the world, to commit a national school curriculum on Ocean Literacy

In a global context marked by the growing impacts of climate change extreme rainfall, heatwaves, coastal erosion, and socio-economic and public health challenges Brazil takes on international leadership and becomes the first country in the world recognized by UNESCO to commit to including Ocean Literacy in its national curriculum (Blue Curriculum), integrated into schools across the country and adapted to regional and local contexts. This pioneering action responds to the recommendation of the Director-General of UNESCO for all Member States to begin incorporating Ocean Literacy into school curricula by 2025. In Brazil, this unprecedented initiative results from strategic collaboration among the Ministry of Education (MEC), the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI), UNESCO and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC), federal universities, local governments, and school networks, establishing a global milestone in environmental, scientific, and civic education. Ocean Literacy promotes an integrated understanding of the ocean, recognizing it as a climate regulator, an essential source of life, and a catalyst for sustainable solutions to eradicate poverty, promote health, technological innovation, culture, economy, and environmental justice. Brazil takes on international leadership and becomes the first country in the world recognized by UNESCO to commit to including Ocean Literacy in its national curriculum.

Read the full article: *here.*

Australia: CSIRO scientists hope to transform seafood industry with new fish species

A staggering 62 per cent of seafood eaten in Australia is imported, prompting the CSIRO to embark on an ambitious project to find a new variety of native white-flesh fish that can be farmed sustainably. Successful breeding trials by the national science agency and promising early market tests with chefs and consumers are encouraging. CSIRO livestock and aquaculture research director Mat Cook said Australians ate 350000 tonnes of seafood a year, and more than 50 per cent of that came from aquaculture. "That number is growing. So aquaculture needs to fill that gap between wild fisheries and consumers," he said. The agency has landed on pompano *(Trachinotus anak)* a fish endemic in Australia, found in warmer northern waters from about Yamba in New South Wales to Exmouth in Western Australia. "Similar species are grown overseas, and so that was one of the reasons why we chose pompano, we weren't reinventing the wheel," Dr Cook said. The project started in late 2019 with a long checklist before the most suitable fish was found. At Queensland's Bribie Island facility, Polly Hilder is the lead scientist on the project. The project is now halfway through and the team is optimistic pompano will reach the commercial market by the early 2030s.

Read the full article: *here.*

Bangladesh: 58-day fishing ban started

The 58-day fishing ban in the bay imposed by the government started on 15 April 2025 aiming at proper breeding, production, preservation and collection of marine fisheries. The fishing ban will be effective till June 11, said a gazette notification from Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock earlier. "As per the marine fisheries rules 2023, the government has imposed restrictions on catching all kinds of fishes by all sorts of fishing vessels for a total of 58 days from April 15-June 11 like every year for proper breeding, production, preservation and sustainable collection of fishes in the maritime zone of Bangladesh", the notification said. Earlier, the government has imposed a 58-day ban on all fishing activities in the coastal district of Bhola and nearby areas in the Bay of Bengal, effective from April 15 to June 11. To support the affected communities during this period, each registered fisherman of the district will receive 78 kg of rice as government aid. Bhola District Fisheries Officer Biswajit Kumar Deb said around 65 000 sea-going fishermen in the district will halt their fishing activities during the ban. A joint task force comprising the Coast Guard, Navy, and the Department of Fisheries will carry out regular patrols in the coastal area to enforce the ban, the official added.

Read this article: *here.*

Cambodia: Advances sustainable fisheries with EU-funded CAPFISH programme

Cambodia is making strong strides in promoting sustainable fisheries and improving community livelihoods through the EU-funded CAPFISH Capture programme. During a recent field visit to Preah Sihanouk province, a delegation from the Fisheries Administration (FiA) and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) observed various initiatives, including mangrove reforestation, Community Fisheries (CFi) activities, and the use of advanced Vessel Monitoring Systems. FAO Assistant Director-General Manuel Barange highlighted that while global fisheries production has remained stable over the past 30 years, overfishing remains a serious

concern. He pointed to aquaculture as a critical solution, noting Cambodia's potential for growth in this sector if supported by strong legal frameworks and private sector involvement. Rebekah Bell, FAO's Representative in Cambodia, emphasized the country's reliance on fish as a primary protein source, with 75 to 80 percent of dietary protein derived from fish. She underscored the importance of climate-adapted, well-managed fisheries to ensure food security, protect aquatic environments, and support livelihoods. The CAPFISH programme has made notable achievements, such as safeguarding 136 hectares of mangroves, installing over 1 000 demarcation poles, and mapping coral and seagrass ecosystems. Modern monitoring tools, including drones and SMART patrolling, are used to track over 900 marine vessels, ensuring compliance with sustainability standards. Community involvement has been a central focus, with grants provided to 150 CFis and 100 CFRs, empowering 250 community groups nationwide. Capacity-building efforts have trained more than 1250 fisheries officers and community members in sustainable management and GIS applications. Barange reiterated the FAO's commitment to supporting Cambodia's aquaculture growth, calling it the fastest-growing food production system in the world. He noted that adding value to aquatic products domestically could open new markets and boost local economies. Bell also stressed the critical yet often overlooked role of women in the fisheries sector, particularly in fish processing and marketing. She called for greater recognition of their contributions to ensure truly sustainable aquatic food value chains.

Read more: *here.*

Fiji: Inaugurates new monitoring centre to battle illegal fishing

The country's efforts to combat Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing has been significantly strengthened with the inauguration of a new, state-of-the-art Fisheries Monitoring Centre in Suva, Fiji. This initiative is part of a larger regional strategy to enhance Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) capabilities across the Pacific region. Fiji's Minister for Fisheries, Alitia Bainivalu spoke of the critical timing of this development: "This new monitoring centre arrives at a pivotal moment for Fiji's fisheries sector. Recent data indicates that IUU fishing costs our nation approximately FJD50m (USD21.8 million) annually in lost revenue." Minister Bainivalu added, "With this enhanced technology and the support from the European Union through the FFA, we are taking a significant step towards protecting our blue economy and ensuring compliance with our recently strengthened fisheries legislation." FFA Director-General Noan Pakop applauded the development and acknowledged the importance of such infrastructure in building long-term capacity. He said the support reflects what FFA is advancing at the regional level through our Country Partnership Agreements and the FFA Regional MCS Strategy 2024–2029. "Building capacity across our membership is not only about training or technical skills, but also about providing the right infrastructure. Fiji's new centre is a strong example of that. It contributes to a collective regional effort to combat IUU fishing across over 30 million square kilometres of ocean." The EUR 45 million PEUMP programme promotes sustainable management and sound ocean governance for food security and economic growth, while addressing climate change resilience and conservation of marine biodiversity. It follows a comprehensive approach, integrating issues related to oceanic fisheries, coastal fisheries, community development, marine conservation and capacity building under one single regional action.

Find more information: *here.*

India: Pushes for global certification in fisheries sector

The state fisheries secretary, underscored the urgency of adopting sustainable practices in India's fisheries sector due to challenges like climate change and declining fish stocks. During a workshop for government officials, the fisheries secretary highlighted the state's goal to achieve Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification. This certification would boost the global competitiveness of India's seafood exports while promoting the sustainability of marine resources. He emphasized that research-driven management measures will be implemented to support sustainable fishing practices. He warned that decreasing fish catches and the adverse effects of climate change are threatening the livelihoods of those in the sector, making sustainability imperative. Sunil Mohamed, a former CMFRI scientist, shared concerns over the decline in species like shrimp and squid, noting that MSC certification could play a crucial role in restoring fish stocks and ensuring the long-term health of the industry.

Read more: *here.*

India: The 14th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum held in New Delhi

The 14th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (14AFAF), a scientific forum organized by the Asian Fisheries Society, took place from 12-15 February 2025 in New Delhi, India. As a triennial event, the forum is a crucial platform for discussing global trends and addressing challenges in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The forum facilitated the exchange of innovative ideas and research experiences under the theme 'Greening the Blue Growth in Asia-Pacific.' The discussions underscored sustainable development goals, emphasizing the balance between economic advancement and ecological conservation to ensure the long-term viability of fisheries and aquaculture. The forum was inaugurated by India's Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Panchayati Raj, Shri. Rajiv Ranjan Singh and featured the participation of over 1 000 delegates from 24 countries, including researchers, scientists, policymakers, industry leaders, and other stakeholders. The forum facilitated 15 technical sessions covering a wide range of topics crucial to the advancement of fisheries and aquaculture sector. Some of these sessions included sustainable fisheries, sustainable aquaculture intensification and diversification, fish marketing, value chains and trade, fisheries policy, law, and governance. The forum also organized parallel events such as the Dialogue on Riverine Fisheries and Ecology, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)-WorldFish Panel Discussion, Symposium on "Aquatic Animal Diseases: Emerging Challenges and Preparedness" and Academia-Industry-Government Meet on the theme "De-risking Shrimp Aquaculture Value Chain for Improved Global Competitiveness." The forum reinforced the need for a holistic approach blending technology, ecology, and equity to transform it into a globally competitive, socially just, and environmentally resilient industry. Regional cooperation for transboundary resource management and equitable benefit-sharing among small-scale fishers were found to be crucial for the sector to safeguard livelihoods and ecosystems.

Read the full article: *here.*

Indonesia: Partners with WWF to strengthen sustainable fisheries

Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries has signed a collaboration agreement with WWF Indonesia to promote sustainable and competitive fishery products, especially targeting micro and small-scale fishery businesses. Key highlights of the partnership: 1) Raising public awareness on choosing responsibly sourced seafood, 2) Enhancing market access and compliance with global standards, including the U.S. Marine Mammals Protection Act (MMPA), 3) Capacity-building for business actors through coaching and mentoring and 4) Support for shrimp export compliance and sustainable livelihood development for fishers and fish farmers. The collaboration runs from 2025 to 2030, with potential for extension based on annual evaluations. WWF Indonesia emphasized that this strategic partnership aims to boost the global competitiveness of Indonesian fishery products while ensuring healthy marine ecosystems through responsible practices.

Read more: *here.*

Kiribati: Minister welcomes new purse seine vessel

Kiribati is moving forward to realize her vision of becoming a fishing nation in the Blue Pacific Continent. The Honourable Minister Ribanataake Tiwau and his MFOR team, paid a visit to a brand-new purse seine vessel named, Maribo 61. This vessel was owned by the Government of Kiribati and its Chinese shareholders through their Joint Venture Companies. This domestic purse seine vessel is among 6 other purse vessels that are fully owned by the joint venture companies and are currently operational. The name 'Maribo' came from the Kiribati language, which literally means industrious, hardworking, healthy, and fit for purpose. The Maribo 61 purse seine vessel was built in China in 2024, and contained state of the art equipment, an outstanding living condition of the crews and a storage capacity of 1200 ton. The minister and his team also witnessed the unloading of their first catch which reaches the full capacity of the vessel. Some of the catch caught in this first fishing

trip of Maribo 61 will be processed and distributed to the communities of Kiribati to emulate the Kiribati culture called, Kakimoaan te kokona. In our Kiribati's culture, we believe that if you share the first catch of your new canoe/boat to your communities and friends, your boat and future fishing trips will receive tons of blessings and catch in the future. Minister Tiwau bestowed his traditional blessings to the Captain/ Fishing Master, the crews and the Maribo 61 boat in their future fishing endeavors. The MFOR acknowledge our joint venture shareholders for believing in our arrangement and continue to pursue the journey of becoming a fishing nation to maximize more benefits from our tuna resources for the people of Kiribati.

Source: *News - Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources Development*

Malaysia: Leads ASEAN efforts to combat overfishing

Malaysia, through its Department of Fisheries (DOF), is taking the lead in a major regional initiative to curb overfishing across ASEAN member states between 2024 and 2026. The project, titled *Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity*, aims to address excessive fishing activity within the exclusive economic zones (EEZ) of ASEAN countries to ensure the sustainable management of fish stocks. DOF Director-General Datuk Adnan Hussain stated that this initiative would help reduce overcapacity and optimize fishery resources. Under Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship for 2025, the DOF is also participating in multiple regional efforts such as the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) and the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU), both of which are central to tackling illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. Malaysia is also engaged with SEAFDEC through its office in Terengganu to support regional fisheries resource management. This year, DOF is leading a study on pelagic fish stocks along Malaysia's east coast, while also contributing to ASEAN-level capacity-building and aquaculture cooperation projects. Under the theme "Inclusivity and Sustainability," Malaysia chairs ASEAN for the fifth time, reaffirming its commitment to responsible fisheries governance and regional collaboration.

Read more: *here.*

New Zealand: Aquaculture Development Plan aims to grow industry to 3 billion a year

The government has announced a new plan which aims to grow the aquaculture industry and provide vital jobs in regional communities. Oceans and Fisheries Minister Shane Jones launches the New Zealand Aquaculture Development Plan 2025 - 2030 at the Havelock Mussel and Seafood Festival in Marlborough. Jones said in a statement this came alongside a NZD 9.9 million loan from the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) to improve Havelock Marina, a key piece of infrastructure for the mussel industry in Marlborough. The Aquaculture Development Plan was a roadmap for expanding New Zealand's marine industry, Jones said. "The industry brings in NZD 760m in annual revenue and employs more than 3000 Kiwis. The Development Plan sets out the steps we will take to grow it to a NZD 3 billion a year industry and double the jobs." Making the most of existing marine farms, growing production through open ocean aquaculture and supporting Māori leadership in the sector were all key factors identified for industry growth over the next 10 years, he said. "The launched development plan recognises that aquaculture is a key industry for the prosperity of the nation and shows what the coalition government will do to deliver a bigger and better aquaculture sector for New Zealand."

Read the full article: *here.*

PNG: NFA looks to fully domesticate fisheries sector

The launching of the Tuna Domestication Strategy and an updated National Tuna Fisheries Management Plan during the first half of this year will consolidate the sustainable management and development of PNG's tuna fisheries sector. "So, when the Domestication Policy comes in, it's going to be a transitional process," said Mr Justin Ilakini, NFA Managing Director. "And that transitional process has already happened. Every year, more and more of our fish will be caught and processed onshore. It's happening already. "From 10 per cent that we expect to be landed from locally based foreign vessels, and 25 per cent from business-led vessels, we anticipate more and more to be caught and processed over the years. "We have to take into account the fishing realities, we have to take into

account the infrastructure capabilities that we have, and we will allow the transitional infrastructure measures to take its course. But one thing is very clear, bilateral fleets will be reduced. “Let me make it clear” "As we transition to fully domesticating the sector, bilateral fleets, those that are flying foreign flags and fishing in PNG waters, the fleet will be reduced. "Because all the fish that are caught by bilateral fishing vessels are presented as an option. "But as part of the domestication, we will no longer prioritise maximising resource rents, and we will be promoting locally based foreign vessels and business-led vessels. "We are not going to be collecting rent for the rest of our lives, for the next few years. "That message has to be clear. So, locally based foreign vessels and business-led vessels, you will be prioritised, you will be supported, so that we begin to process more catches in country."

Read more: *here.*

Philippines and Palau : Sign MOU to strengthen sustainable fisheries cooperation

The Philippines and Palau have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to deepen collaboration in sustainable fisheries, boost trade and investment, and enhance technical cooperation. Key areas of the agreement include: 1) Combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, 2) Sharing technology and developing fisheries infrastructure, and 3) Promoting compliance with international standards, such as those of the EU and Japan. The MOU also focuses on the conservation of highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, especially species like tuna and billfish which are vital to the regional economy. A Joint Committee will be formed to implement the agreement, with annual meetings to assess progress. The MOU will be reviewed every five years to adapt to new challenges and priorities. Philippine Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. emphasized that the agreement is a major step toward environmental stewardship and sustainable industry growth, calling it a potential blueprint for global marine conservation efforts.

Read more: *here.*

Thailand: Strengthen efforts to eradicate invasive Blackchin tilapia

Thailand’s Department of Fisheries has announced plans to remove an additional 3 million kilograms of blackchin tilapia *(Sarotherodon melanotheron)*, a highly invasive fish species that has severely impacted local aquatic ecosystems. The department is employing a seven-pronged strategy, including the introduction of predator species, promoting consumption of the fish, and advancing research in chromosome manipulation to produce sterile male fish (4n). According to Director-General Bancha Sukkaew, the department has already eliminated 3.5 million kilograms of blackchin tilapia, successfully reducing their presence from 19 provinces to 16, with densities now rated as low to moderate. Additional funding has been requested from the Budget Bureau to further support the campaign. However, representatives from affected provinces have voiced dissatisfaction, calling for a more transparent and inclusive investigation into the origins of the infestation. They are urging the government to establish an independent committee comprising officials, farmers, academics, and environmental experts. Farmers have warned that protests may follow the upcoming no-confidence debate unless stronger action is taken.

Read more: *here.*

PUBLICATION

International markets for fisheries and aquaculture products
First issue 2025, with January–September 2024 statistics

FAO. 2025. *International markets for fisheries and aquaculture products – First issue 2025, with January–September 2024 statistics*. GLOBEFISH Highlights, No. 1-2025. Rome.

Published quarterly since 1987, GLOBEFISH Highlights is a globally recognized point of reference for information and analysis on international markets for fisheries and aquaculture products. The publication contains a detailed quarterly update on market trends for a variety of major commodities. Combining the price information collected for the European Price Report with other market survey data collected by FAO GLOBEFISH, the report provides a detailed update on market trends for a variety of major commodities. Key market data are presented in a time series tabular or graphical form with a written analysis of trends and key events and news affecting commodities such

as tuna, groundfish, small pelagics, shrimp, salmon, fishmeal and fish oil, cephalopods, bivalves and crustacea. Established in 1984, the FAO GLOBEFISH project has been providing governments, and national and international stakeholders with relevant data, information and knowledge on fish trade in order to assist them in designing and implementing efficient and inclusive market and trade strategies. These strategies contribute to the sustainable development of the fish trade sector (including the economic, social and environmental aspects) and, at the same time, contribute to improving food and nutrition security and strengthening livelihood opportunities and are directly linked to Strategic Objective 4.

Download this complimentary publication: *here.*

EVENT CALENDAR

MAY
6-8,
Seafood Export Global,
Barcelona, Spain.
https://www.seafoodexpo.com/global/

7-10,
International Indonesia Seafood & Meat Expo,
Jakarta, Indonesia.
https://iism-expo.com/

JUNE
9-11,
5th Edition of the World Aquaculture and Fisheries Conference,
Rome, Italy.
https://www.worldaquacultureconference.com/

AUGUST
20-21,
14th Aquaculture Roundtable Series®
(TARS) 2025,
Chiang Mai, Thailand.
https://tarsaquaculture.com/

SEPTEMBER
22-25,
Aquaculture Europe 2025,
Valencia, Spain.
https://aquaeas.org/

NOVEMBER
3-5,
5th INFOFISH World Tilapia Trade and Technical Conference & Exhibition 2025
(TILAPIA 2025),
Swissotel Hotel Bangkok.
https://tilapia.infofish.org/

10 - 13,
World Aquaculture India 2025,
Hyderabad, India.
https://was.org/meeting/code/WAI2025

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.

Here is how INFOFISH helps:

- providing technical advisory services on all phases of harvesting, handling, processing of fish, aquaculture and marketing of fishery products
- offering marketing links to and from the largest fish producing area in the world
- assisting the day-to-day fish trade by identifying new marketing opportunities for companies in the Asia-Pacific Region and new sources for supply importers
- offering technical and sales support services through informative publications
  i) INFOFISH Trade News
  ii) INFOFISH *International*
  iii) Special studies
- offering training and consultancy services
- organising conferences, seminar & workshops

The next issue of **INFOFISH Fishing Technology Digest** will be distributed in **July, 2025**. Please forward any information you may wish to have disseminated through this digest to: **The Editor, INFOFISH, 1st Floor, Wisma LKIM, Jalan Desaria, Pulau Meranti, 47120 Puchong, Selangor DE. Tel:+603-8066 8112, Fax:+603-80603697, Email: sujit@infofish.org**

Editor: Sujit Krishna Das, INFOFISH, Malaysia.