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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.

Dear Fish-Tech Service Providers,

You will be glad to know that Fishing Technology Digest (FTD) Newsletter is expanding its network by engaging the Key Industry Stakeholders (all the facets of fisheries and aquaculture value & supply chains) with the target beneficiaries and emerging markets. If you are dealing with the Seafood, Fishing and Aquaculture business and handling Fishing Gears, Crafts, Methods, Vessels, Pre & Post-Harvest Processing, Equipment and Supplies, please take a couple of minutes by responding to the questions through: **FISH-IN-TECH Forum**

If your organisation/company featuring innovations and provides technological solutions or support that directly impacting the Responsible Fisheries, Aquaculture or Ocean Development, we are looking for you. Engage with the FISH-IN-TECH Forum and take the opportunity by publishing complimentary ad-materials and featuring technological review quarterly among thousands of subscribers across the globe.

Best regards,
Editor, FTD Newsletter

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Global Consultation Opens for 2027 Landmark Report on Aquatic Food Systems

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and its High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE-FSN) have launched an open consultation to shape an updated report titled "Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition," slated for release in 2027. This report builds upon the original 2014 study, which first established that "fish deserve a central position in food security strategies." The 2027 update acknowledges a decade of rapid transformation. Since 2014, aquaculture has become the world's fastest-growing food sector, now providing 59% of global aquatic production. However, this growth coincides with intensifying challenges: 35.5% of fish stocks are now unsustainably exploited, and geopolitical instability, climate change, and labor rights violations (including modern slavery) continue to threaten the sector. The FAO invites stakeholders to provide input on the report's scope, including specific challenges for small-scale fishers, Indigenous Peoples, and women. This e-consultation is a critical step in ensuring that the 2027 roadmap accurately reflects the needs of the world's most food-insecure populations.

Participate in the consultation (Open until 30 January 2026): *here.*

Australia Enhances Support for ASEAN Nations Against IUU Fishing

The country is strengthening technical cooperation and surveillance support with Malaysia and other South-East Asian countries to counter illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing networks that threaten maritime security, food resources and coastal livelihoods across the region. Senior Manager at the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) said the efforts include advanced vessel-monitoring systems, satellite-based maritime domain awareness, enforcement training and cooperative information-sharing programmes under the Regional Plan of Action to Combat IUU Fishing (RPOA-IUU)."We have had strong programmes with Malaysia on strengthening vessel-monitoring systems, which are fundamental to real-time tracking and oversight of fishing activity. "This capability helps authorities identify suspicious movement, target enforcement and build a clear picture of activities at sea," he said during a briefing to participants of the Southeast Asia Maritime Media Visits Programme (SEAMMVP). The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)-funded SEAMMVP initiative brings together 12 journalists from four ASEAN countries, namely Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, to deepen understanding of maritime security issues and foster a collaborative regional media network through exchanges with Australian officials, researchers and media experts. Australia is also working with regional partners and the Quad Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness Initiative to improve detection of "dark vessels" - boats operating without transmitting location signals. "Regional cooperation remains essential because illegal fishing is a shared challenge. By working together, countries can protect marine resources, ensure food security and uphold maritime rules in line with UNCLOS (the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)," he said. Through RPOA-IUU and ASEAN working groups, Australia continues to support technical exchanges, officer training, satellite-based monitoring and regional collaboration to strengthen maritime law enforcement.

Read more: *here.*

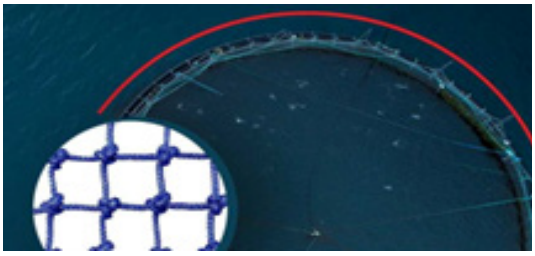
SEAFDEC Achieves World's First Natural Captive Spawning of Mackerel Tuna

For the first time, a mackerel tuna also known as kawakawa *(Euthynnus affinis)* and "tulingan," in the Philippines as and long considered nearly impossible to breed has reproduced naturally in captive conditions spawned at the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center Aquaculture Department (SEAFDEC/AQD) in Tigbauan, Iloilo, without the use of hormone injections. The first spawning event under fully captive conditions was recorded in July 2025, with repeated spawning observed through September. Tuna species pose exceptional challenges for aquaculture due to their highly migratory behavior, rapid swimming speeds, and acute sensitivity to confinement stress," shared Dr. Takahiro Sajiki, deputy chief of SEAFDEC/AQD and co-manager of the Japanese Trust Fund that supported the research project. He added that these traits have limited breeding efforts, forcing most tuna farming operations to rely on wild- caught juveniles. Kawakawa, a small neritic tuna widely consumed in Southeast Asia, has been particularly difficult to maintain and develop to maturity in enclosed systems, as well as induce to spawn under captive conditions. The milestone is the result of systematic, long-term research and broodstock management at SEAFDEC/AQD, despite early challenges with stress-related mortality and poor adaptation

to domestication. "Rather than relying on artificial spawning induction, we refined broodstock care, continuously monitored the fish, and used controlled environmental techniques to create conditions conducive to natural reproduction," said Ms. Irene Cabanilla-Legaspi, the SEAFDEC/AQD researcher who has led the kawakawa project since 2020. "Years of careful observation and environmental control culminated in the release of eggs by captive kawakawa in an enclosed tank," she added.

Read the full article: *here.*

Beyond the Mesh: Integrating Reporting Tech and Advanced Polymers in Modern Nets



Garware Technical Fibres is redefining aquaculture standards through a multidisciplinary approach that blends polymer science with client-focused engineering. By prioritising active listening and applied science, Garware develops bespoke netting solutions, ranging from recyclable materials to high-tech integrated reporting systems tailored to the unique operational demands of each farm. These innovations, led by flagship products like the durable CFR composite-core nets and the advanced Safemax predator-control line, are specifically engineered to maximise production performance while significantly reducing operational risks and long-term costs. As the industry moves into more extreme environments, Garware's next-generation materials, such as the low-drag ACE nets for exposed sites, provide the critical balance of strength and sustainability. By optimising variables like tensile strength, cut resistance, and mesh rigidity, their products effectively neutralise predator threats and withstand harsh currents. This commitment to high manufacturing standards ensures that as salmon farming expands, operators have access to efficient, safe, and eco-friendly infrastructure designed for the future of aquaculture.

Read more: *here.*

Emerging Satellite Technology Shows Promise for Accuracy in Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishing

The South Australian tuna fishers face increasing challenges locating Southern Bluefin Tuna *(Thunnus maccoyii)* as changing ocean conditions push fish further offshore. To improve efficiency and reduce fuel use, ASBTIA partnered with FRDC to test satellite imagery and AI for identifying likely tuna feeding zones. Two tools were developed: DarkChess and TunaChess. While TunaChess required more training data to be fully effective, DarkChess showed promising results by detecting biological cues and distinguishing tuna schools from clouds and other non-water features. These findings suggest DarkChess may be useful in real-world operations, provided its limitations are understood.

Photo Left: Tuna spotting plane flying out for surveillance Credit: ASBTIA, Photo Right: What Tuna farms look like aerially.

Read more: *here.*

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

The whitefish processing industry faces a confluence of challenges, from environmental pressure and fishing stock instability to labor shortages and strict traceability regulations. With the technical support of Marel we will try to address these challenges and continue for sustainable growth and sector modernisation. In this series, we will provide technical information for the readers regarding fish fillet skinning machines.

The integration of robotics and automated systems offers multifaceted benefits:

- Reduction of personnel in repetitive tasks.
- Improved food safety due to reduced manual handling.
- Increased yields with more precise and consistent cuts.
- Optimisation of raw material utilisation, contributing to sustainability.

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FAO Regional Workshop on Strengthening Sustainable Aquatic Food Value Chains for Enhanced Food Security and Nutrition in Asia

Group photo of the workshop participants, Credit: BOBP-IGO

A regional workshop titled 'Strengthening Sustainable Aquatic Food Value Chains for Enhanced Food Security and Nutrition in Asia' jointly organised by FAO-RAP and BOBP-IGO was held at Fortune Beach Resort, Chennai, India during 2-4 December 2025.The workshop gathered around 50 senior officials including the national delegations from 11 countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and experts from FAO, WorldFish, INFOFISH, SEAFDEC, and BOBP-IGO, Fisheries/aquaculture producers' preprocessors, Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) representative(s), cooperative and women entrepreneurs. The specific objective of the workshop was to review and validate the national reports and the regional synthesis, ensuring accuracy, relevance, and policy uptake, to enhance participants' technical understanding of methodologies and tools for assessing and improving value chains, to exchange experiences and best practices from across Asia to increase the national appropriation of the nutritional benefits of fisheries and aquaculture products, loss and waste reduction, small fish utilisation, gender inclusion, and compliance framework implementation and to promote collaboration among countries and stakeholders to address shared challenges and advance sustainable trade and nutrition outcomes. Countries shared national experiences and innovations, emphasis on regional cooperation and holistic approaches for sustainable aquatic food systems. This workshop served as a critical platform for regional dialogue and strategy development to bolster sustainable aquatic food value chains for better food security and nutrition across Asia.

The Ocean Decade: Strategic 2026–2027 Board Cohort Takes the Helm

From 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027, the new Decade Advisory Board, comprising 15 expert members from over a dozen countries, will define the Ocean Decade's strategic orientation through its second half. The new members including industry leaders and scientists from Brazil, Japan, Australia, and the Maldives will provide advice on strengthening the Decade's overall impact, refining governance models, and reinforcing collaboration across the UN system. This group is tasked with supporting the endorsement of new Decade Actions and increasing engagement from underrepresented groups to ensure that "Blue Transformation" is inclusive and global. Building on these achievements, the Ocean Decade now looks ahead to several critical 2026 milestones that will define the commercial and scientific landscape for the next three years. The inclusive preparatory process begins this year, leading to the 2027 Ocean Decade Conference in Rio de Janeiro. Key touchpoints include the 2026 Ocean Sciences Meeting in Glasgow, the UNFCCC COP31, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP17). Notably, the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement on 17 January 2026 creates a new legal framework for the high seas, signaling a major increase in demand for high-seas monitoring, traceability, and environmental impact technology.

Read more: *here.*

FAO Welcomes New Treaty on Safeguarding Marine Biological Diversity in International Waters

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has welcomed the entry into force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), and looks forward to contributing to its implementation. Following two decades of negotiations, the BBNJ Agreement, which so far has 145 signatories and 81 Parties, came into force on 17 January 2026. It is a binding global treaty, aimed at ensuring the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction. The Agreement covers four main issues: marine genetic resources; area-based management tools; environmental impact assessments; and capacity building and technology transfer. The BBNJ Agreement requires a cross-sectoral approach that integrates and builds on existing arrangements to manage human activities in ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), such as fishing, shipping, mining and research exploration. The BBNJ Agreement also stipulates that the benefits of marine genetic resources often used in pharmaceuticals, food supplements and cosmetics are fairly and equitably shared.

Read more: *here.*

Bangladesh: Govt Suspends Vannamei Post-Larvae Import Approvals

The government has suspended all new and existing approvals for the import of post-larvae for vannamei shrimp *(Litopenaeus vannamei)* and stressed the need to increase production of indigenous shrimp species such as black tiger shrimp *(Penaeus monodon)* and giant freshwater prawn *(Macrobrachium rosenbergii)*.The decision was made at a high-level meeting held at the fisheries and livestock ministry, chaired by Fisheries Adviser Farida Akhter. The meeting was convened to review the environmental, social, and economic impacts of vannamei shrimp farming in Bangladesh and to determine future courses of action, according to a statement from the fisheries ministry. Vannamei shrimp is an import-dependent species, and importing its post-larvae poses risks of disease transmission, environmental pollution, and adverse impacts on indigenous species, including black tiger shrimp and giant freshwater prawn. Experts at the meeting added that unrestricted expansion of vannamei shrimp farming would be harmful. The discussion emphasised that vannamei shrimp farming should be limited to controlled, intensive, and environmentally sustainable methods. Directions were given to closely monitor the activities of already approved vannamei farmers and to conduct on-site evaluations to ensure proper compliance with farming conditions, the press release said. It was decided at the meeting that until the completion of this evaluation, all new and existing approvals for the import of vannamei shrimp post-larvae will remain suspended. The meeting further resolved that necessary research would be conducted to assess the environmental, social, and economic impacts of vannamei shrimp farming. Subsequent policy and administrative decisions will be made based on the findings of this research. According to data from the Department of Fisheries, the annual demand for post-larvae in Bangladesh is approximately 750 million. In the 2024–25 fiscal year, import permission was granted for 50 million post-larvae, of which around 70 percent were imported. During the same fiscal year, import permission was also issued for 2000 pieces of vannamei broodstock, and all approved quantities were imported. These imports originated from Thailand, India, and the United States.

Read more: *here.*

Cambodia: Strengthens Food Control System to Boost Fish Trade, Market Access

The country has made significant strides in establishing a robust food control system for the kingdom's fisheries sector, as the CAPFISH-Capture: Post-harvest Fisheries Development project approaches its conclusion in December, according to a joint press release. Funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Fisheries Administration (FiA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), this initiative aligns with international food safety standards, paving the way for increased access to global markets and fostering local economic growth." The project has successfully established an official fisheries control system, providing technical guidelines that enhance quality assurance across the industry," the press release said. "As a result, 22 Cambodian enterprises have received the Cambodia Quality Seal certification, boosting their credibility both domestically and internationally," it added. Additionally, nine enterprises have adopted the CamTrace digital traceability tool, ensuring compliance with international tracking standards, according to the press release. "This project goes beyond reports and certifications; it represents a legacy of change and a symbol of hope for a more prosperous future in our fisheries sector," FiA's Director General Poum Sotha said. Legal advancements are on the horizon, including the new Fisheries Law, which has been in effect since June 2025, according to the press release. This law aims to strengthen safeguards for sustainable fishing practices and protect marine resources. Preparations are underway for the critical 2026 DG SANTE audit, which will facilitate the listing of Cambodian enterprises for export to the EU, it said. Additionally, FiA is pursuing a memorandum of understanding with other ASEAN member states to enhance regional trade cooperation. "Successfully passing this audit will unlock new market opportunities for low-risk fisheries products and solidify Cambodia's reputation as a trusted supplier of high-quality fish products," Koen Everaert, acting head of cooperation at the EU Delegation to Cambodia, said. Sok Narin, UNIDO country representative, stated that the UN agency remains committed to supporting Cambodia in achieving global standards and expanding market access. "Together, we are building a resilient fisheries sector that can thrive in a competitive global marketplace," he said.

Read more: *here.*

China: Revises Fisheries Law

Chinese lawmakers voted to adopt a revision to the Fisheries Law, which aims to further boost the high-quality development of the sector. The revised law, passed at a session of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, will take effect on May 1, 2026. The revision highlights provisions on the promotion and regulation of aquaculture, stricter management of fishery harvesting, enhanced fishery resource protection, and strengthened fishery supervision and administration. The revised law stipulates that China will encourage organisations and individuals to scientifically utilise suitable waters and tidal flats for aquaculture development, and support resource-saving, environmentally friendly and quality-assured farming practices. Regarding the protection of fishery resources, the revised law stipulates that China will further enhance the collection and preservation of aquatic germplasm resources, while banning fishing activities in prohibited fishing zones. China's current Fisheries Law came into force in 1986.

Read more: *here.*

Fiji: Fisheries Ministry Modernises Framework and Outlines 2026 Strategic Roadmap

Ministry of Fisheries, Fiji has kicked off 2026 by establishing a comprehensive strategic roadmap during its first senior management summit in Suva. A primary focus of this agenda is the modernisation of Fiji's regulatory framework, including the finalisation of the Inshore Fisheries Management Bill and crucial updates to Aquaculture and Marine Spatial Planning regulations. Additionally, the Ministry is prioritising a formal review of the Offshore Fisheries Management Act to ensure the sector remains resilient and well-governed. To streamline operations, the Ministry is establishing an internal legal department to expedite contract reviews and improve compliance efficiency. Significant focus is also being placed on economic recovery and industry visibility, highlighted by the recent decision to lift the sea cucumber ban and the launch of a nationwide rebranding initiative. By strengthening inter-departmental collaboration and administrative oversight, the Ministry aims to bolster sustainable development and support local livelihoods across Fiji's evolving fisheries landscape throughout the 2025–2026 financial year.

Read more: *here.*

India: Hosting the 13th World Seafood Congress in Chennai

Themed 'Sustainable Solutions for Inclusive Growth-*Building Safer, Fair and Resilient Global Seafood Trade*', the 13th edition of the World Seafood Congress 2026 (WSC2026), will be held in Chennai, India, from February 9-11, 2026. It's a global platform to unite industry leaders, policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders across the seafood supply chain to discuss sustainability, food safety, innovation, and trade. WSC 2026 organisers announced the confirmed list of keynote speakers and stage is ready to welcome the audience. WSC 2026 includes four-days Conference, Workshops, Poster Competition, Trade Fair, dissemination of Peter Howgate Award and a Technical Visit on the 5th. INFOFISH will be attending this prestigious conference as an invited speaker and exhibitor at the event.

Please check out the conference brochure, tentative programme and registration details for WSC 2026: *here.*

Indonesia: Aquaculture Output Surpasses 5 MT

Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) reported that national farmed fish production hit 5.02 million tonnes (MT) by the third quarter of 2025, reaching nearly 97% of the annual target. Additionally, seaweed production reached 8.2 million tonnes. This growth is part of a "Blue Economy" strategy focusing on five high-value commodities: shrimp, seaweed, tilapia, crabs, and lobsters. To sustain this momentum, KKP is developing massive infrastructure projects, including a USD 420 million integrated shrimp farming zone in East Sumba and a 315-hectare tilapia pilot project in Karawang. These initiatives aim to modernise the sector through "aquaculture villages" and pond revitalisation, balancing economic export goals with environmental sustainability.

Read more: *here.*

Kiribati: Achieves Record Fishing Revenues Amid Climate Challenges

Kiribati's Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources (MFOR) announced historic fishing revenues of AUD 202 million in 2025, marking the third consecutive year the nation's oceanic fisheries have exceeded AUD 200 million. This achievement comes despite prolonged La- Niña conditions, which typically

shift tuna populations eastward and create difficult fishing conditions in the country's expansive exclusive economic zone (EEZ). MFOR attributes the success to adaptive management strategies, strengthened monitoring and surveillance, and coordinated regional governance through the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), ensuring sustainable utilisation of the country's high-value tuna stocks. Coastal fisheries also recorded a historic milestone, surpassing AUD 1 million in revenues for the first time, highlighting the growing potential of small-scale, community-based operations across Kiribati's 33 atolls and reef islands. Investments in maritime technology, strategic market access, and responsive policy frameworks have enabled sustainable resource management, bolstered government revenues, and supported local livelihoods. MFOR emphasised that these results provide a foundation for continued growth, demonstrating that robust planning and innovative management can sustain economic returns even under challenging environmental conditions.

Read more: *here.*

Malaysia: Integrating GIS and Resilient Seed Systems for 2026

The Department of Fisheries Malaysia (DOF) has unveiled an integrated resilience framework to protect the national aquaculture industry during the 2025/2026 Northeast Monsoon. Central to this strategy is the MyDOFGiS platform, a geospatial system developed in collaboration with the Malaysian Space Agency (MYSA). This technology provides fish farmers with real-time Early Warning System (EWS) alerts, allowing for rapid intervention against rising floodwaters and harmful algal blooms. By digitising the monitoring of aquaculture zones, the DOF enables farmers to adjust stocking densities and cage management protocols well before a disaster strikes. In tandem with digital monitoring, the government is prioritising the "Blue Transformation" of the national seed supply through the Aquaculture Breeding and Seed Development Plan. Operating through the Nucleus Breeding Centre and Master Multiplier Centre, this initiative now produces over five billion resilient seeds annually, with an estimated trade value of USD 176.36 million (RM 700 million). These specialised breeding programs focus on climate-resilient traits such as thermal tolerance and disease resistance, distributed via 490 private hatcheries. This high-standard seed infrastructure is designed to ensure that even after significant monsoon-related losses, the industry can rapidly restock with high-quality genetic material for the 2026 farming cycle.

Read more: *here.*

Maldives: Transforming the Fleet Through Youth Tech-Internships

The Maldivian Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources has launched a targeted Youth Internship Programme under the World Bank-supported TRANSFORM Project, placing new recruits on the nation's highest-performing vessels. Designed to modernise the local workforce, the program began with a 36-hour General Navigation Course conducted by the MNDF Coast Guard to ensure participants are proficient in current maritime standards. By embedding interns on vessels equipped with advanced bridge electronics and sonar, the initiative aims to phase out foreign labor dependency in favor of a local, tech-literate generation capable of managing the complexities of the South-West Indian Ocean's commercial fisheries. This strategic investment in human capital reflects a broader regional shift where professional certification and technical fluency are becoming industry benchmarks. Minister Ahmed Shiyam emphasised that the three-month hands-on training focuses on high-earning vessels to showcase the economic potential of modernised fishing. For the technology sector, this program underscores a growing demand for sophisticated navigation and fish-finding systems that require formal training, positioning the Maldives as a key player in integrating youth empowerment with industrial-scale technological adoption.

Read more: *here.*

Papua New Guinea: East New Britain Initiative Strengthens Regional Tuna Value Chains and Fisheries Development

Papua New Guinea has launched the East New Britain Initiative (ENBi) as a regional framework to enhance tuna development and economic participation among Pacific Island nations. The initiative focuses on retaining greater value within the tuna supply chain, from harvest to processing and export, including plans for MSC certified processing to supply major markets such as the US and EU. By fostering regional collaboration and reducing dependence on foreign intermediaries, ENBi aims to strengthen both governance and market access for tuna fisheries. Beyond tuna, the initiative supports development in coastal and inland fisheries and aquaculture, targeting high-value species such as reef fish, beche-de-mer, lobsters, and mud crabs, with emerging markets in China and Singapore. Strategic investments include cold-chain infrastructure, solar-powered freezers, and community fishing vessels, designed to commercialise fisheries, improve supply chains, and ensure sustainable economic benefits for both industrial and small-scale operators. ENBi exemplifies how coordinated regional strategies can combine sustainable resource management with enhanced revenue generation for Pacific Island nations.

Read more: *here.*

The Philippines: DA-BFAR Advances Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2026

DA-BFAR unveiled its 2026 plan, focusing on science-based fisheries management, aquaculture modernisation, and strengthened enforcement to ensure food security and support fisherfolk livelihoods. Key initiatives include continued implementation of the Fisheries Management Area (FMA) framework, hatchery and feed technology upgrades, the USD 8.5 million (PHP 500 million) Marawi Fisheries Project, and expansion of fisheries complexes, fish ports, and post-harvest facilities. The operationalization of BFAR–Negros Island Region aims to improve regional service delivery and coordination. The Bureau is promoting high-potential species such as Big African Catfish *(Clarias gariepinus)* while building on 2025 achievements, including improved tuna traceability, enhanced maritime enforcement, and stronger compliance with IUU fishing regulations. DA-BFAR reaffirmed its commitment to a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable fisheries sector, integrating science, policy, and market strategies to secure long-term growth and food security.

Read more: *here.*

Thailand: Emerging as Asia's Premier Hub for Norwegian Salmon

Thailand has overtaken Japan and South Korea to become Norway's second-largest Asian market for salmon and trout, capturing a dominant 73% market share in 2025. This surge marks a significant pivot in regional seafood trade, as Norwegian exporters increasingly look toward Southeast Asia to offset declining export shares in the EU. According to the Norwegian Seafood Council, Thailand's dual role as a high-volume domestic consumer and a strategic processing hub for re-export has solidified its status as a critical node in the global aquaculture supply chain. For the technology and logistics sectors, Thailand's ascent signals a growing demand for cold-chain infrastructure and advanced processing technology suited for Atlantic salmon specifications. As Asia's share of Norwegian export value rises, the Thai market is driving innovation in "Blue Economy" trade routes. This shift emphasises the need for high-efficiency traceability and processing systems that can handle the increased volume of air-freighted fresh product arriving in Bangkok's distribution networks.

Read more: *here.*

Vietnam: Shifts to High-Tech HDPE Cage Farming

Khanh Hoa Province of Vietnam is rapidly transitioning from traditional wooden cages to storm-resilient HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) technology. In 2025, the province's aquaculture output reached 41,751 tonnes, with marine farming contributing half of that volume. As a national leader in seed production, Khanh Hoa also supplied 51.8 billion aquatic seedlings this year, meeting 35% of the country's total demand for shrimp seed. Under the new Pilot Project on High-Tech Marine Aquaculture (Decision 231/QD-TTg), the province is incentivising farmers to adopt automated feeding systems and environmental sensors to improve productivity. Major players like Australis Vietnam are already seeing results, producing up to 300 tons per cage using modern offshore systems. To ensure long-term stability, the province is also developing specialised insurance policies to protect farmers against natural disasters and climate change.

Read more: *here.*

Domestic tuna value chain in Kiribati

Analysis and ten-year upgrading strategy (2023–2033)

Park, S. and Diffey, S. 2025. *Domestic tuna value chain in Kiribati – Analysis and ten-year upgrading strategy (2023–2033)*. Rome, FAO.

With a population of just 119 000, the remote island nation of Kiribati boasts one of the world's largest exclusive economic zones, with abundant marine resources and tuna stock within its waters. The country's economy is heavily reliant on fisheries, with subsistence, artisanal fisheries and small-scale commercial fishing play a further critical role in local food security and protein intake. In light of the economic and social benefits derived from the tuna value chain, a comprehensive value chain analysis report was developed, serving as a foundation for local intervention under the Sustainable Fish Value Chains for Small Island Developing States (SVC4SIDS) project. The focus is on the domestic market, especially in the areas of South Tarawa, Makin and Nikunau, with the aim of enhancing sustainable development and competitiveness of the domestic tuna value chain in Kiribati. The analysis is divided into two main sections. Firstly, a functional analysis examines the dynamics, performance as well as roles and interactions of the different actors involved within the domestic tuna value chain. It delves into the various stage of the value chain, from the harvesting of tuna to the final sale in domestic markets, considering the value chain importance to national food security in Kiribati. The functional analysis is followed by a triple-bottom sustainability assessment. This draws from a range of primary and secondary sources; primary data was obtained through stakeholder and actor interviews conducted in South Tawara, Makin and Nikunau. These are complemented by various reports and studies from government and academic bodies that detail the performance of relevant actors. The assessment further evaluates the resilience of the value chain, paying particular attention to responses to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic to better understand the mechanisms underpinning the country's systematic responses and resilience.

The publication can be downloaded complimentarily from: *here.*

Lobster value chain in Kiritimati, Kiribati

Status and ten-year upgrading strategy (2023–2033)

Harvey, A., Kienene, R., Ichibane, M. and Bougouss, N. 2025. Lobster value chain in Kiritimati, Kiribati – *Status and ten-year upgrading strategy (2023–2033)*. Rome, FAO.

The report was developed under the Republic of Korea-funded "Sustainable Fish Value Chains for Small Island Developing States" programme, which aims to contribute to economic growth, job creation and food and nutrition security. This publication focuses on the lobster value chain in Kiritimati, Kiribati, complementing the significant role that it plays in ensuring food security and reducing poverty in the island nation. The analysis presented in this publication is based on an adapted market-based approach to development, with particular attention to improving the environmental sustainability of the lobster fishery. Drawing on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis, and detailed assessment of bottlenecks and feasible options in the geographical context, a comprehensive ten-year upgrading strategy and implementation plan were developed to achieve environmental sustainability, socioeconomic development through improved financing and investment opportunities, and enhanced economic performance of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

Download this important publication: *here.*

EVENT CALENDAR

JANUARY
26-28, Saudi International Marine Exhibition, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
https://www.simec-expo.com/en

FEBRUARY
9-11, World Seafood Congress (WSC), Chennai, India.
https://www.wsc2026.com/

MARCH
11-13, VIETSHRIMP Asia, Aquaculture, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam.
https://www.aquafisheriesexpo.com/en/

15-17, Seafood Expo North America, Boston, USA.
https://www.seafoodexpo.com/north-america/

APRIL
21-23, Seafood Expo Global, Barcelona, Spain.
https://www.seafoodexpo.com/global/

MAY
6-8, Aquaculture Taiwan, Tainan, Taiwan.
https://www.aquaculturetaiwan.com/

19-21,Seagriculture World 2026, Bangkok, Thailand
https://seagriculture.world/

JUNE
2 - 5, World Aquaculture Singapore 2026, Singapore.
https://was.org/

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 **April, 2026.** Please forward any information you may wish to have disseminated through this digest to:

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