

# PACIFIC TUNA WATCH

## Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Participates in Tokelau Arrangement Workshop

Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and representatives from the industry that have interest in the South Pacific Albacore Fishery met in Nadi, Fiji Islands for the Tokelau Arrangement (TKA) stakeholders workshop from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.

The workshop is an informal gathering meant purposely to engage stakeholders in open discussion of the draft TKA Catch Management Scheme and provide feedback for the ongoing drafting process. There is a particular focus on what this evolving regional arrangement will mean for different national fisheries management processes and discussions were also held on the potential impacts and opportunities for industry.

Tokelau Arrangement is an agreement aimed at controlling the South Pacific longline fishery by parties to the arrangement agreeing to a joint harvest control measures. This includes set catch limits for each zone. The signatory to the agreement are Australia, New Zealand, Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

## PNA Held LL VDS Workshop in Munda, Solomon Islands

Parties to the Nauru Agreement met in Munda, Western Province Solomon Islands on the 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 for the PNA Longline Vessel Day Scheme (LL VDS) Technical Working Group's 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop.

The workshop is aimed at getting the parties to better position themselves to manage and implement the LL VDS. The LL VDS is an initiative by PNA to better manage the Long Line fishery.

The workshop is updated by SPC and FFA on the status of the long line fishery and the stock.

The workshop also recommends that all the PNA parties implement the electronic vessel registration and place their vessels on the online vessel register.

Some of the management measures the workshop is also looking at includes the rolling out of the electronic reporting (E-R) and electronic monitoring (E-M). E-R involves real time reporting where data is sent via e-forms from the vessel. E-M involves video recording of a fishing trip

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources announced during the workshop that Solomon Islands will implement the LL VDS in 2017.

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### Meetings;

Pre - FFC Ministerial Meeting, 4<sup>th</sup> July, Port Vila, Vanuatu

FFC Ministerial Meeting, 5<sup>th</sup> July, Port Vila, Vanuatu

*Meetings that is on the travel calendar for PITIA to attend and events for the information of members.*

## Pacific Islands - US Treaty Survives After Intense Negotiation

The US Treaty has survived after intense negotiations in Auckland, New Zealand.

The access and aid envelope for Pacific Forum Fisheries members, which started life 28 years ago as the South Pacific Tuna Treaty, had been going through increasingly difficult negotiations and interim agreements since the last multi-year agreement ended in 2012.

The multilateral Treaty has paved the way for US vessels to fish in the Pacific since the 1980s as well as delivering critical economic assistance from the US Government. It had been under renegotiation since 2009 and while a series of annually negotiated 12-month deals had kept the arrangement working, recent signs did not bode well for its future.

At this stage, the agreement remains "in principle". The US will need to rescind its earlier withdrawal, a decision that can only be made at the highest political levels while the Pacific still needs the endorsement of its Fisheries Ministers when they meet in Vanuatu in early July. Nevertheless, the negotiation delegations have both indicated their strong support for the outcomes.

## PINA President Meets with MASI For Media Briefing.

President of the Pacific Islands News Association Mr. Moses Stevens had a briefing session with Members of the Media Association of Solomon Islands.

Mr. Stevens shared his experience as a media fellow with FFA Media Fellow Program which had led him to Palau, Solomon Islands where he was attached with Regional Fisheries Surveillance Center at the FFA HQ and Vanuatu where he will lead the TUNAnomics Training in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Mr. Stevens encourage the young journalist from Solomon Islands that they represent the voice of their people and they should ask the questions and report on issues of their people's interest. The Tuna resources is one resource commonly shared by the Pacific Islands Countries and there should be more emphasis on media reporting on tuna fisheries.

The FFA Media Fellow Program is aimed at strengthening media excellence, independent research and editorial leadership in following the Pacific tuna story.