

PACIFIC TUNA WATCH

Solomon Islands celebrates World Tuna Day in

Noro. From Trimarine

The National Fisheries Development Company (NFD) and SolTuna host the fifth annual World Tuna Day on the 13th and 14th of May in Noro Town, Western Province. The two days' festival will celebrate the significance of the tuna industry and the role it plays in Solomon Islands and other Pacific island economies. The theme for this year's event is "Growing Our Tuna" and will feature a number of highly anticipated community activities.

"We are honored to help organize this important event," said Adrian Wickham, managing director of SolTuna. "Tuna is part of our daily lives. It is more than a business to us, it is a way of life."

The economic impact of tuna in the Pacific islands is critical. Total catch of tuna in the region is about 3 million tonnes, representing 60 percent of the world's tuna supplies and valued at more than \$5 billion. The Solomon Islands tuna catch is about 150,000 tonnes annually. About 30,000 tonnes of this tuna is processed locally at SolTuna.

NFD supplies all of the tuna processed at SolTuna. Together, NFD and SolTuna employ about 2,400 in the Solomon Islands providing much needed employment in a rural area of Solomon Islands.

SolTuna's production is exported to regional markets, the European Union and is an important supplier to the Solomon Islands domestic market. SolTuna supplies over 30 million cans of tuna each year to the Solomon Islands market. With a population of more than 500,000, that's over 60 cans per person.

"When one industry is such an important part of the everyday life of a community, it is important to take the time to recognize and celebrate tuna and what it means for our people," added Wickham.

Some of the activities planned for the weekend include: Tuna Marketplace – food and merchant stalls to sell island food and drinks. Tuna Speech Competition – a high school speech competition based on the annual theme, "Growing Our Tuna." Tuna Song Competition – an opportunity for local musicians to compose songs related to tuna and its importance for the people. Tuna Quiz – a tuna 'fun-fact' competition. Tuna Dish Competition – a tuna cooking challenge. Tuna Parade – a parade of workers from both NFD and SolTuna.

Other activities include music and entertainment, provided by the local Bamboo Bands, dancing, and kid's games, including a coloring competition.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Meetings;

TOKELAU ARRANGEMENT WORKSHOP

Nadi, Fiji. 8th – 10th June, 2016

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

World Tuna Forum in Bangkok - 2016

by Francisco Blaha.

In every two years, in late May the tuna commercialisation world meets in Bangkok. Is no doubt the biggest event of its kind and a total talk fest. I'm again being invited to talk about the developments in fisheries controls we are doing in the Pacific, and this year I focused on the eCDS initiative.

I'm always ambivalent about my presence here. Almost every speaker mentions sustainability, and fight against IUU and the whole lot. But then, the DWFN keep adding capacity, finding gaps in the system, employing people from the most desperate backgrounds and nations to pay them less every year, while milking to the max the subsidies cow.

On the other side, in this world if you are not seated at the table, you are dinner. So I learn to accept that these are the rules of the game, and here is a description of the players.

I have to admit that I appreciate INFOFISH invitations to be a speaker at all their Tuna events while my message is technical, I'm very forwards with the disparity in between what I hear in this meetings and what I see in the Pacific.

Pacific Island Developing States have, in my opinion, invested proportionately much more than the



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DWFN in MCS and Fisheries Information Management Systems. Particularly in comparison with the nations with the highest numbers of fishing vessels in the region, such as China, Taiwan and Korea. These nations have virtually not supported any Authorities strengthening programmes, nor seem to put much effort into their obligations to control they own vessels IUU fishing, as specified by various international treaties.

This year my presentation finished with one one of my usual questions:

How fair is expecting the Fisheries Authorities of small developing coastal and port states, to take on the burden of controlling the vessels of rich Distant Waters Fishing Nations that neglect their obligations, while subsidising their fleet with amounts that far exceed the global estimates of IUU fishing?