

PACIFIC TUNA WATCH

PITIA signs MOU with WWF Pacific Programme

Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association signs MOU with WWF Pacific Programme on the 29th August, 2016 and was officially launched on the 27th of September 2016 in the Heritage Park Hotel, in Honiara Solomon Islands.

PITIA chairman Mr. Frank Wickham said they are committed to act on the activities stipulated in the MOU. PITIA is really pleased that the two organizations collaborate as expressed in the MOU and we are looking forward to roll out some of the activities.

Mr. Wickham also thank WWF for their support recently in a joint workshop between the Solomon Islands tuna industry and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources on the long line fisheries management workshop which is one example of practical area where this collaboration is taking place.

WWF Pacific Programme Coordinator Ms Kesai Marama Tabunakawai says the MOU will depends WWF's Pacific engagement with PITIA especially in strengthening sustainable fisheries, conserving biological diversity and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption. She added the challenges confronting the health of the region's ocean are quite broadly varied and these are exacerbated by unsustainable fishing, mercury and plastic pollution, dying corals and she is confident that this cooperation will significantly assist in addressing this issues. She says it is their hope that this MOU will add value to each of the organization's work and pave the way forward towards joint stronger cooperation and capacity building.



Figure 1 WWF PP representative Ms Kesaia Marama Tabunakawai and PITIA Chairman Mr. Frank Wickham

The WWF has been working in the Solomon Islands for almost 20 years with the focus on community based resource management with the Western Province. Overtime, they work in Partnership with various government ministries especially the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

The signing of the MOU is a historic one for the region. It will facilitate a mutually beneficial partnership between WWF and PITIA. It is expected to promote sustainable sea food development and strengthen the systems, institutions, organizations and individuals concerned with the tuna fisheries and marine species conservation management in the Pacific. The launching for the MOU is attended by the representative form WWF Asia Pacific Programme, WWF Pacific Programme, PITIA, local industry and the media.