



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

## FISH4ACP

Unlocking the potential  
of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture  
in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific

# Marshall Islands

**FISH4ACP** supports the Marshall Islands in making its tuna sector more sustainable and in strengthening its position as a hub for tuna landings with a view to bolster economic growth and local employment, while safeguarding the environment.

### VALUE CHAIN AT A GLANCE

## Skipjack, Yellowfin and Bigeye tuna

(*Katsuwonus pelamis*, *Thunnus albacares*, *Thunnus obesus*)



### PRODUCTION METHOD

Commercial  
purse seine  
fishery



### VOLUMES

379 000  
tonnes  
(2019)



### VALUE

USD 526  
million  
(2019)

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,  
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### WHAT WE **focus** on

- ➔ **Value chain analysis and upgrading strategy** to stimulate tuna landings in the Marshall Island and make its tuna sector more sustainable.
- ➔ **Raising the added value** of tuna fishing locally by increasing the volume of containerized catch.
- ➔ Improving tuna storage and sorting facilities by **expanding cold storage capacity**.
- ➔ **Improving social and environmental sustainability**, promoting cultural and gender sensitivity and the use of renewable energy.
- ➔ **Increasing tuna landings and exports** through establishment of a Competent Authority (CA).





## Facts & figures

Majuro is the world's busiest tuna transshipment port. **315 000** tonnes of tuna were moved to offshore canneries per year on average from 2014 to 2019.

In 2019, less than **5%** of catches was containerized locally.

**Tuna** represents nearly **100%** of the fish caught by purse seine vessels in the West and Central Pacific Ocean region to which the Marshall Islands belong.

The West and Central Pacific Ocean is the only ocean in the world where tuna is not subject to overfishing due in large part to **full observation** of offshore fishing vessels and **monitoring** of transshipments.

Around **10%** of workers in the Marshall Islands are employed in fisheries, mainly in the tuna sector.

Tuna accounts for nearly all of the national fisheries production and exports from the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Most tuna caught in the waters surrounding this chain of coral islands and atolls in the Central Pacific Ocean derives from industrial offshore fishing, particularly purse seine fishing.

Most tuna is transshipped in the port of Majuro, the capital of the Marshall Islands, to other regions for processing. Yet, increasing catches have not translated into domestic growth in the post-harvest and processing sector.

In close collaboration with the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority, FISH4ACP is supporting the Marshall Islands to strengthen its position as a tuna hub generating an estimated USD 33 million of direct value added from purse seine tuna fishing in ten years' time, ensuring that 30 per cent of tuna catches will be containerized.

FISH4ACP is working to expand post-harvest and value-addition activities, promoting the use of renewable energies and facilitating access to export markets, set to reach USD 55 million in ten years, in a bid to improve local food security and employment opportunities, while safeguarding fish stocks and reducing the environmental footprint of the tuna purse seine sector.

**FISH4ACP** is an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) aimed at making fisheries and aquaculture value chains in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific more sustainable. FISH4ACP is implemented by FAO and partners with funding from the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

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