



REVISED TUNA MANAGEMENT PLAN

**A NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE MANAGEMENT
OF VANUATU TUNA FISHERIES**



FFA





REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

REVISED TUNA MANAGEMENT PLAN

**A NATIONAL POLICY
FOR THE MANAGEMENT
OF VANUATU TUNA FISHERIES**

produced by the
Vanuatu Department of Fisheries



FFA

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APPROVAL OF THE REVISED TUNA MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Revised Tuna Management Plan is made in accordance with Part 2, Section 3 of the Fisheries Act, No. 55 of 2005.

By virtue of powers conferred upon the Minister for Fisheries, under Section 2(2) of the Fisheries Act, No. 55 of 2005, I hereby give notice of the Vanuatu National Tuna Management Plan.

COMMENCEMENT DATE

This notice commences on the date on which it is approved by the Minister, according to Section 3(5) of the Fisheries Act, No. 55 of 2005.

Made at Port Vila this.....^{1st}..... day of*December*..... 2008.


.....
Honorable Havo Molisale
Minister Responsible for Fisheries





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GUIDE TO THE TUNA MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Vanuatu Tuna Management Plan is a working document that provides specific direction and guidance to managers and policy-makers while being linked to a clear set of objectives and principles. To meet these needs, the Plan has the following key sections:

Executive summary

A brief summary of the key management areas addressed in the Plan.

Introduction

An introduction to the Plan, why it has been developed, and the scope of its coverage.

Policy framework

A statement of the Plan's overarching objectives, the goals that have been developed to move towards those objectives, and the strategies that describe how these goals will be met¹.

Administrative framework for tuna management

Actions and policies that will provide the necessary administrative and management structure to allow the Plan to be implemented.

Strategies for conservation and management

Actions and policies that focus on managing vessels fishing for tuna and the conservation of the stocks.

Strategies for local tuna fishery development

Actions and policies that focus on ways in which local tuna fisheries and associated activities can be encouraged.

Schedules

Specific details on licensing, including fees and limits. These are placed in a separate Schedule so that they can be updated easily and incorporated in regulations without requiring the whole Plan to be formally amended.

Appendices

A collection of materials that support the Plan, including historical, biological and regulatory background information; and specific guidance on ways of implementing the Plan to maximize the likelihood of meeting its ultimate goals and objectives.

¹ In this Plan, "objectives" are the overarching long-term aims of management, "goals" represent the state of affairs that the plan is intended to bring about so that the objectives can be achieved, and "strategies" are specific actions and policies that are directed towards achieving the goals.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Tuna Management Plan, the following terms have been defined as follows.

Subsistence fishing

Fishing by indigenous inhabitants in fisheries waters where they are entitled by custom or law to fish, where the fish are taken in a manner that, as regards the vessel, the equipment and the method used, is in accordance with their customary traditions. Fish are taken primarily for household consumption.

Artisanal

Fishing by indigenous inhabitants in fisheries waters where they are entitled by custom or law to fish, where the fish are taken in a manner that, as regards the vessel, the equipment and the method used is small-scale and individually operated. Fish are taken primarily to be sold but the surplus may be used for household consumption.

Bycatch

Catch of non-target associated species.

Game/sport fishing vessel

A vessel that is being used for both recreational and commercial fishing.

Commercial fishing

Any fishing resulting in, or intended or appear to result in, the sale or trade of any fish that may be taken, caught or harvested during the fishing operations, but does not include recreational fishing.

Recreational fishing

Fishing done for leisure and without regard to earnings, gain or profit.

Exploratory and test fishing

Any fishing operations undertaken over a limited period of time for the purposes of testing the feasibility of commercial fishing operations with a view to establishing fishery operations based in Vanuatu or the region.

Fishing category

One of the seven categories of fishing:

- A. Tuna longline;
- B. Tuna purse-seine;
- C. Tuna pole-and-line;

- D. Other types of fishing, including trolling, vertical longlining and other small-scale local fishing techniques;
- E. Game/charter sport fishing
- F. Research fishing; and
- G. Exploratory and test fishing.

Foreign fishing vessel

Any fishing vessel other than a local fishing vessel, including any vessel in support of a foreign fishing vessel.

Highly migratory tuna and tuna like species

All tuna species specified under Annex I of the Law of the Sea Convention, 1982, including:

- albacore, *Thunnus alalunga*
- yellowfin tuna, *Thunnus albacares*
- bigeye tuna, *Thunnus obesus*
- skipjack, *Katsuwonus pelamis*.

All billfish species, including:

- southwest Pacific swordfish, *Xiphias gladius*
- striped marlin, *Tetrapturus audax*
- blue marlin, *Makaira nigricans*
- black marlin, *Makaira indica*.

And any other species that may be determined by the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific.

Deep-bottom fish

Includes all deep-bottom fish families of the Lutjanidae (subfamilies Etelinae, Lutjaninae and Apsilinae), Serranidae (subfamily Epinephelinae) and Lethrinidae.

Local fishing vessel

Includes any fishing vessel:

- (a) wholly owned and controlled by one or more natural persons who are citizens of Vanuatu or entitled by law to permanently reside in Vanuatu; or
- (b) wholly owned by any public corporation or body established by or under any law of Vanuatu, all shares of which are beneficially owned by one or more natural persons who are citizens of Vanuatu or entitled by law to permanently reside in Vanuatu; or
- (c) wholly owned by the Government of Vanuatu or by any public corporation or body established by or under any law of Vanuatu, all shares of which are beneficially owned by the Government of Vanuatu.

Locally based foreign fishing vessel

Includes any foreign fishing vessel:

- (a) based in Vanuatu that lands all its catch in Vanuatu; or
- (b) based in another South Pacific country and jointly operated by or on behalf of the Government of Vanuatu and one or more governments in the South Pacific region under an agreement to which the Government of Vanuatu is a party; or
- (c) fully owned and operated by a person or persons who are not citizens of Vanuatu, which is chartered by a person or persons who are citizens of Vanuatu to fish in Vanuatu and land all its catch in Vanuatu.

Longline tuna fishing

Fishing for tuna (particularly yellowfin, bigeye and albacore) with many baited hooks attached to a horizontal mainline.

Observer

Any person authorized to act as observer under Section 53 of the Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005, and any person designated in accordance with an access or related agreement to act as observer on board a vessel licensed under an access agreement.

Operator

Any person who is in charge of or who directs or controls a vessel, and includes the master, owner and charterer.

Pelagic drift net fishing

Fishing with a gill net or other net, the purpose of which is to enmesh, entrap or entangle pelagic fish by drifting on the surface of, or in, the water.

Pole-and-line tuna fishing

Tuna fishing using a combination of barbless unbaited hooks, live free-swimming bait and water sprays.

Purse-seine tuna fishing

Tuna fishing using a large encircling purse-seine net.

Regional Register

The Regional Register of Foreign Fishing Vessels maintained by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency.

Research fishing

The use of new fishing techniques not historically used in Vanuatu, or true scientific research. Research fishing status would not be granted to anyone using standard techniques covered by the other fishing category definitions.

Small-scale local fishing

Simple fishing techniques, including droplining, vertical longlining, trolling, mid-water handlining, and spear fishing.

Telex reports

Information provided by a fishing vessel in a standard format on the total catch on board by species, number of days fished, and location, when the vessel enters and exits the EEZ and on each Wednesday in the EEZ.

Transshipment

Transferring any fish or fish products to or from any vessel.

Vessel category

One of the three vessel ownership categories:

1. Local fishing vessels;
2. Locally based foreign fishing vessels; and
3. Foreign fishing vessels.

Vessel length

Defined as the overall length of the vessel from the farthest forward point to the farthest aft. When a vessel measurement is not a complete meter measurement, the next higher meter length applies (e.g. a vessel of 9.1 m length would be considered a 10.0 m vessel for licensing fees).

Vessel monitoring system

The system employed by Pacific Island States and coordinated by the Forum Fisheries Agency to monitor the position and activities of fishing vessels for the purposes of effectively managing fisheries.

ABBREVIATIONS

ALC	automatic location communicator
CCALMR	Commission for the Convention of Antarctic Living Marine Resources
CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CRP	Comprehensive Reform Program
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
FAD	fish aggregating device
FFA	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
IATTC	Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission
IATFC	International Authorization to Fish Certificate
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
MAQFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Quarantine, Forestry and Fisheries
MCS	monitoring, control and surveillance
PMW	Police Maritime Wing
TAC	total allowable catch
TMAC	Tuna Management Advisory Committee
VFFV	Vanuatu flagged fishing vessel
VFFFV	Vanuatu flagged foreign fishing vessel
VMA	Vanuatu Maritime Authority
VMS	vessel monitoring system
VMC	Vanuatu Maritime College
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Tuna Fisheries Commission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Objectives

The Tuna Management Plan has been developed to meet four key objectives:

- To ensure that the exploitation of the tuna resources that are found in and pass through Vanuatu waters is compatible with the sustainability of the stocks throughout their range.
- Within the limits of the sustainability objective, to ensure the harvest is taken in a way that maximizes the long-term economic and social benefits received by the people of Vanuatu.
- To contribute to the food security of ni-Vanuatu.
- To meet regional and international responsibilities for tuna management.

Scope

- All billfish and highly migratory tuna species, including albacore, yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack.
- All other species taken in the course of fishing.
- The Tuna Management Plan covers all Vanuatu waters, including the consideration of the area of Vanuatu's exclusive economic zone around Matthew and Hunter islands.
- Vanuatu flagged tuna fishing vessels wherever they fish.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Origins and development

The requirement for fishery management plans to be developed and maintained is described under Sections 2 and 3 of the Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005.

This Tuna Management Plan (hereafter referred to as Plan) is an updated version of the old Plan (18 August 2000) and addresses a number of management objectives and strategies, and in particular, focuses on the strategies concerned with improved monitoring, control, surveillance (MCS) and licensing systems with a particular emphasis on foreign vessels; managing Vanuatu flagged vessels; and strengthening linkages between organizations with common interests.

This Plan also addresses the need to both ensure good management of the resource and to examine ways of developing the local fishing industry.

The Fisheries Act requires that the preparation of a management plan involves wide consultation with local fishermen, local authorities, other persons affected by the Plan, government ministries or departments affected by the Plan, and fisheries management authorities of other states in the region sharing the same or interrelated stocks.

The broad consultation required by the Fisheries Act has been carried out in the review process of the Plan through a combination of focus meetings, public meetings, and interviews with a wide range of concerned parties.

As part of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency's (FFA's) programme of developing national tuna management plans for a number of Pacific Forum nations, the development of the first Vanuatu Tuna Management Plan was funded under the Canadian-South Pacific Oceans Development Programme (C-SPOD II). Its review was funded under the AusAID projects funds for the FFA ecosystem approach to fisheries management project.

1.2 Purpose

Consistent with Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005, this Plan:

1. Identifies the fishery and assesses the present state of its exploitation;
2. Specifies the objectives to be achieved in managing the fishery; and
3. Specifies the management and development measures to be taken; in particular the:
 - licensing programme for all commercial fishing vessels to be followed;
 - limitations to be applied to fishing operations; and
 - total allowable catch (TAC) for foreign fishing, locally based foreign, local and sportfishing vessels.

More specifically, the purpose of the Plan is to:

- provide a clear statement of objectives and direction for managing Vanuatu's tuna resources;
- provide a set of achievable and measurable goals and principles that will direct management towards the overall objectives;
- establish clear and transparent rules for licensing, monitoring and regulating tuna fishing activities; and
- put in place an administrative framework for ensuring the implementation of the Plan and mechanisms that allow it to be updated as conditions change.

1.3 Scope

This Plan includes:

- all commercial fishing activities in Vanuatu waters;
- all Vanuatu flagged tuna fishing vessels fishing for tuna in Convention Areas of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Living Marine Resources (CCALMR), and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);
- all Vanuatu waters, including those within six miles of the shore;
- all tuna fishing activities around Matthew and Hunter islands; and,
- The management of highly migratory species in the high seas pocket to the east of Vanuatu's exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

The scope of the Plan can be summarized as follows:

Species

- All highly migratory tuna and tuna like species; and
- All other non-target, associated or dependent species taken in the course of fishing.

Fishing activities

- Commercial fishing
- Artisanal fishing
- Subsistence fishing
- Sportfishing
- Research fishing
- Exploratory and test fishing.

Fishing methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longlining • Purse seining • Pole-and-line • Trolling • All other methods of fishing that target tuna and tuna like pelagic fish • Vertical and horizontal longline fishing for deep-bottom fish.
Related activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transshipping • Use of fish aggregating devices (FADs) • Bait fishing • Bunkering • Provisioning • All other services relating to the tuna fishery, including on-shore processing and provision of port facilities.
Areas covered for licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal waters • Archipelagic waters • Territorial sea • EEZ including those portions around Matthew and Hunter islands.
Areas covered for management of flagged vessels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All waters where Vanuatu flagged vessels fish for highly migratory tuna species.

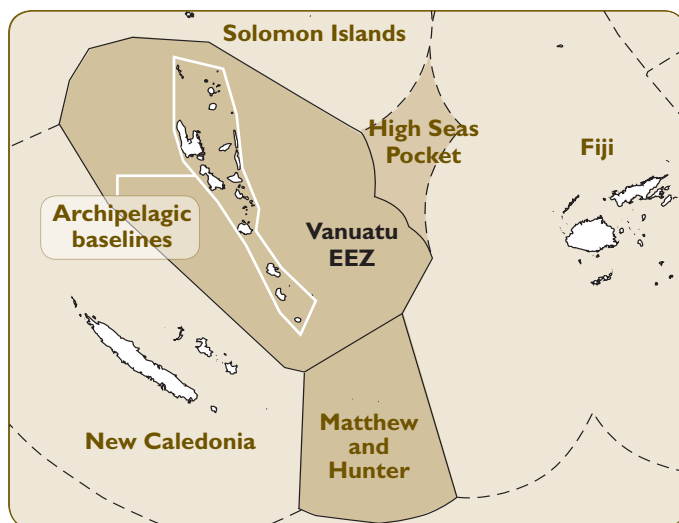


Figure 1. Vanuatu and neighboring countries, Vanuatu's EEZ, Matthew and Hunter islands, archipelagic baselines and eastern high seas pocket.

2. POLICY FRAMEWORK

2.1 Tuna management objectives

The Plan's four main objectives are to:

1. ensure that the exploitation of the tuna resources that are found in and pass through Vanuatu waters is compatible with the sustainability of the stocks throughout their range;
2. ensure the harvest is taken in a way that maximizes the long-term economic and social benefits received by the peoples of Vanuatu;
3. contribute to the food security of ni-Vanuatu; and
4. meet regional and international responsibilities for tuna management.

2.2 Principles

The following five key principles provide guidance to the development of goals and strategies of the Plan and will guide its implementation.

1. Equitable distribution of benefits

Benefits from the tuna fishery will be distributed equitably among the people of Vanuatu, with consideration given to rural/urban and geographic distinctions.

In the short and medium term, an important focus for tuna management will be on maximizing net revenues and other benefits to the people of Vanuatu from foreign and locally base foreign vessels fishing in Vanuatu waters, and from vessels fishing for tuna in other waters while under Vanuatu's flag.

Vanuatu intends to develop a sustainable, locally owned and based fleet that can extract a significant proportion of the available tuna resources from the EEZ with as much local processing and value adding as possible.

The Plan will support the use of tuna and deep-bottom fish resources by small-scale fishermen and in rural areas.

2. Use of the precautionary principle in management

In support of precautionary management at the regional level, Vanuatu will ensure that:

1. Necessary information is collected from tuna fisheries in its waters and from Vanuatu flagged tuna fishing vessels in other waters, and provided to appropriate regional organizations for stock assessment purposes;

2. Necessary management, legal and enforcement tools are in place to enforce limitations on catch, should this become necessary;
3. The management system is regularly reviewed to ensure that it can be responsive to changing situations.

3. Cost recovery

The increased level of management of tuna and deep-bottom fisheries that will result from implementing this Plan will require additional financial resources. Fishermen who benefit commercially from pelagic and deep-bottom fish resources will be expected to contribute to these increased management costs.

4. Public accountability and transparency

The government will be accountable to the people of Vanuatu for its management of tuna and deep-bottom fisheries, and will consult with stakeholders before making major policy decisions.

5. Limitation of adverse social and environmental impacts

Careful attention will be paid to any adverse environmental and social impacts resulting from the tuna and deep-bottom fisheries, and these will be limited to acceptable levels.

2.3 Goals

For the tuna fishery to be managed, the Department of Fisheries must have:

- Accurate data on the stock status, exploitation rates, and fishing activities within Vanuatu's EEZ;
- The necessary tools and procedures (e.g. licenses, MCS, terms and conditions, bilateral agreements, authorizations) for managing all Vanuatu licensed and/or flagged vessels fishing for tuna; and
- An administrative structure that effectively manages the fishery on an ongoing basis and responds to changing circumstances.
- A programme for developing a sustainable local tuna fishing industry. In order to meet the objectives of maximizing benefits to the people of Vanuatu and providing increased food security, the Plan also includes the specific goal of creating the following strategies.

2.4 Strategies

The strategies developed to implement the Plan's goals are shown in Table I, which serves as a "roadmap" that allows all parts of the Plan to be traced back to the goals they are based on.

Table 1. Summary of strategies for the Vanuatu Tuna Management Plan.

Goal	Strategies	Section No.
A. INFORMATION A system that will gather the information necessary to monitor and manage the tuna fishery.	1. Ensure there is a vessel monitoring service (VMS) on all foreign fishing vessels (including carrier vessels), locally based foreign fishing vessels, and all local fishing vessels.	4.3.1
	2. Establish a National Observer Programme.	4.3.2
	3. Establish a National Port Sampling Programme.	4.3.3
	4. Actively manage catch data logsheet information.	4.3.4
	5. Coordinate with aerial and surface patrols.	4.3.5
	6. Regularly review, compile, analyze and disseminate catch data.	4.3.6
	7. Negotiate MCS agreements with neighboring countries.	4.3.7
	8. Improve enforcement of terms and conditions.	4.3.8
B. MANAGEMENT TOOLS The necessary tools and procedures for managing all Vanuatu licensed and/or flagged vessels fishing for tuna.	9. Make improvements to licensing system; categories, uniform terms and conditions.	4.1 and 4.2
	10. Develop administrative and compliance procedures for monitoring and controlling all Vanuatu flagged fishing vessel operations.	4.4
	11. Actively participate in all regional and international tuna fisheries management organizations.	4.5
	12. Develop procedures to minimize environmental and social impacts.	4.6
C. ADMINISTRATION A pro-active and responsive organization that effectively manages the evolving tuna fishery.	13. Establish an active Tuna Management Advisory Committee.	3.1
	14. Create a Fisheries Development and Management Fund to implement a “user pays” system and ensure that the necessary resources are available.	3.2
	15. Cooperate and coordinate between all relevant national institutions involved in enforcement.	3.3
	16. Maintain the Plan as a living document.	3.4
	17. Provide support and input to the review of the Fisheries Act, including formulating and implementing required regulations and schedules.	3.5
	18. Identify the relationship of the Plan to the Fisheries Act.	3.5.1
	19. Resolve EEZ boundary issues.	3.5.2
D. DEVELOPMENT A programme to develop a sustainable, local tuna fishing industry	20. Fund a domestic fisheries development programme under the Fisheries Development and Management Fund.	5.2.1
	21. Develop a rural fisheries FAD development programme.	5.2.2
	22. Monitor and control duty exemptions to enhance domestic fisheries development.	5.2.3
	23. Provide information and support for domestic tuna fishery development.	5.2.4
	24. Develop legislation to facilitate fish exports.	5.2.5
	25. Implement ni-Vanuatu crew requirements in license terms and conditions.	5.2.6
	26. Develop crew support and training programmes.	5.2.7

3. ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR TUNA MANAGEMENT

3.1 Tuna Management Advisory Committee

The Minister responsible for Fisheries shall establish a Tuna Management Advisory Committee (TMAC) pursuant to Section 21(2) (b) of the Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005. The TMAC will be chaired by the Director of Fisheries.

Membership of the committee will include representatives from:

- Department of Fisheries
- Vanuatu Maritime Authority
- Foreign Affairs Department
- Police Maritime Wing
- State law office
- Civil society
- Department of Finance
- Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority
- Tuna industry association
- National fishermen association
- Provincial government (department of provincial authority).

The TMAC will be responsible for implementing all aspects of the Plan once it has been approved by the Minister in writing, pursuant to Section 3(5) of the Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005.

The TMAC will meet once a year to review the Plan's implementation status, and is expected to meet twice a month to deal with specific issues.

The TMAC will be responsible for:

- ensuring that the Plan is implemented;
- overseeing the management of the Fisheries Development and Management Fund;
- approving all fishing projects, including rural fisheries projects to be funded by the Fisheries Development and Management Fund;
- monitoring progress towards the Plan's goals and objectives;
- overseeing amendments to the Plan (when those are required); and
- preparing annual reports that document the state of the tuna fisheries, actions carried out, and progress made towards each of the Plan's goals.

3.2 Fisheries Development and Management Fund

Subject to the approval of the Director General of the Ministry of Finance, in consultation with the Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Quarantine, Forestry and Fisheries (MAQFF), a Fisheries Development and Management Fund will be set up, which shall be a special deposit account external to government's general revenue account.

The Fisheries Development and Management fund shall be used solely to finance activities associated with the Plan, including:

- An Observer Programme to gather information and increase compliance;
- Meeting responsibilities for Vanuatu flagged tuna fishing vessels around the world;
- Payment of membership contributions to all tuna regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), to which Vanuatu is a member;
- Meeting new requirements for tuna fishery management in relation to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention;
- Improved monitoring and enforcement of foreign, locally based foreign and local fishing vessels;
- Funding assistance to establish and develop rural a national fishermen association;
- Rural fisheries and aquaculture development programmes; and
- Participation at regional and international fisheries related meetings.

The Fisheries Development and Management Fund may be used to support the activities of any government agency involved in fisheries management including the Department of Fisheries and the Police Maritime Wing.

This Fisheries Development and Management Fund shall consist of monies paid into the special account from: a portion of license and related fees from all fishing vessels operating within the Vanuatu EEZ; a portion of authorization and permit fees from Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels; and penalties imposed on vessels for non-compliance.

The TMAC will be responsible for managing the Fisheries Development and Management Fund. The Director of Fisheries will make recommendations to the TMAC on the best uses of these revenues.

3.3 Coordination between government agencies

There must be close cooperation by the Department of Fisheries with relevant government institutions in five key areas:

- Monitoring, control and surveillance operations;
- National observer programme activities;
- Port sampling activities;

- Compliance and enforcement activities; and
- Data collection and management activities.

Effective and streamlined communication between core management authorities is essential for the effective management of tuna fisheries. Table 2 shows some of these important information flows in Vanuatu.

Table 2. Important information flows between agencies and direct responsibilities related to these flows.²

From \ To	Fisheries	Tuna Fishing Vanuatu Ltd	VMA	Police Maritime Wing
Fisheries	Department of Fisheries will be responsible for: 1. Cross checking VMS and telex reporting data with log sheets to ensure compliance with reporting requirements; 2. Maintaining a database of total tuna catch and bycatch in Vanuatu waters; 3. Prosecuting all fishing-related offenses in Vanuatu waters; 4. Operating and managing VMS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IATFCs for all Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels, including support, bunkers, carrier vessels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information requirements and other terms and conditions to be imposed on Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels; Information on Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels with IATFCs; Notification of violations that may require action by VMA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of valid licenses always updated for surveillance purposes; Notification of violations that require police involvement or follow up.
VMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification of Vanuatu flagged vessels requesting authorizations; Notification of actions taken against foreign flagged fishing vessels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of fishing vessels registered to operate as Vanuatu flagged. 	VMA will be responsible for: 1. All direct interactions with foreign flagged vessels operating outside of Vanuatu's EEZ, including informing them when they are authorized to fish by the Department of Fisheries; 2. Maintaining a record of all Vanuatu flagged foreign tuna fishing vessels and their catches and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of vessels currently in violation of terms and conditions.

(continued on next page)

² To determine the information outputs required from each agency look across the cells in the brown labeled with the agency. To determine the inputs expected of an agency look down the cells in the column labeled for that agency. The diagonal cells contain key information management responsibilities for each agency.

Table 2. (continued)

From \ To	Fisheries	Tuna Fishing Vanuatu Ltd	VMA	Police Maritime Wing
Police Maritime Wing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly reports on vessel activities and activities in the EEZ, including summaries of catch rates from telex reporting; Notification of violations of terms and conditions; Notification of actions taken against fishing vessels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly reports on vessels and activities in the EEZ; Actions taken against fishing vessels; Notification of violations of terms and conditions (VMA may be able to apprehend vessels in port). 	Police Maritime Wing will be responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operating patrol boat and coordinating air and surface surveillance complete and accurate.
Tuna Fishing Vanuatu Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly reports on Vanuatu flagged foreign fishing vessel activities in IOTC, IATTC, ICCAT, CCALMR and WCPFC; Catch data of all Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels (VFFVs); Fees for IATFCs; Revenue collected through application of % of value of catch by VFFVs; Actions taken against Vanuatu flagged foreign fishing vessels (VFFVs). 	<p>Tuna Fishing Vanuatu Limited will be responsible for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitoring and managing all Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels; 2. Flag state VMS; 3. Collecting government fees from VFFVs; 4. Collecting fines by VFFVs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly reports on Vanuatu flagged fishing vessel activities; Actions taken against VFFVs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on VFFV operations in Vanuatu's EEZ.

3.4 Managing the Plan

3.4.1 Adoption

Adopting the Plan requires the following steps:

- Recommendation by the Director of Fisheries;
- Approval by the Director General of MAQFF;
- Approval in writing by the Minister of MAQFF, as required under Section 3(5) of the Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005.

3.4.2 Evaluation and review

The TMAC is responsible for reviewing the Plan on an annual basis. This annual evaluation process may result in the decision to amend the schedules to the Plan or the Plan itself.

As part of this annual review the TMAC will ensure that the Plan is:

- effective in moving towards the stated goals and objectives; and
- consistent with the principles.

A report describing the review of the Plan's performance will be prepared annually by the Director of Fisheries under the supervision of the TMAC and submitted to the Minister responsible for Fisheries.

Table 3 presents a set of criteria that can be used to evaluate the Plan's progress.

3.4.3 Amendment

The schedules of fees and management limits can be updated, as required, through the following steps:

1. Recommendation of the Director of Fisheries and approval by the TMAC;
2. The signature of the Minister responsible for Fisheries Development; and
3. The revised schedules must be published in the Gazette.

Minor amendments to the Plan may be made through this same process, but major amendments to the Plan will require a more detailed review of implications and the same approval process described for the initial adoption of the Plan.

Table 3. Performance criteria to evaluate progress towards the management plan goals.

Strategies	Measures	Information		Target	Current Status
1. Vessel monitoring system (VMS) on all foreign vessels (including carrier vessels) and larger local vessels	Proportion of vessels with Vanuatu fishing licenses with VMS installed and operating	100%	All foreign fishing vessels have VMS. Domestic fishing vessels do not have VMS.		
2. Observer Programme	Number of observer days in Vanuatu waters	Initial target is to get a programme in place and get a small number of observers active. A longer-term target should be developed by the TMAC.			No National Observer Programme
3. Port Sampling Programme	Proportion of catch sampled in port and during transshipments	Initial target is to get a programme in place and to make routine port sampling a part of tuna fishery management			No Port Sampling Programme
4. Active management of log sheet information	Proportion of logsheets collected in a timely manner	100%	Number of logsheet submissions is low		
5. Coordination with aerial and surface patrols	Number of successful vessel interceptions	To be determined by PMW			As determined by PMW
6. Compilation and review of data	Number of cross checking reviews carried out per year to determine compliance and detect violations of agreements	Regular			Irregular

7. Negotiate MCS agreements with neighboring countries	Agreements in place with neighboring countries	Agreements with Solomon Islands, Fiji, New Zealand and New Caledonia	No agreements
8. Improved enforcement of terms and conditions	Proportion of vessels fishing in Vanuatu waters providing required statistical information in a timely fashion	100%	Unknown
Management Tools			
9. Improvements to licensing system; categories, uniform terms and conditions	Proportion of vessels operating under the new terms and conditions and bilateral template laid out in the plan	100%	100%
10. Administrative procedures and requirements for monitoring and controlling Vanuatu flagged tuna vessels	Proportion of Vanuatu flagged tuna fishing vessels routinely reporting fishing activities	100%	All VFFVs (longline & purse seine) under management of Tuna Fishing Vanuatu Limited
11. Participation in RFMO meetings	Active participation	100%	
12. Procedures to minimize environmental and social impacts	Management plans reviewed for environmental and social impacts	All fisheries management plans	Tuna management plan
Administration			
13. An active TMAC	Number of meetings per year of the permanent TMAC	Minimum of 12 meetings	Permanent TMAC not yet formed

(continued on next page)

Table 3. (continued)

Strategies	Measures	Target	Current Status
14. Creation of a Fisheries Management Fund to implement “user pays” system and ensure that necessary resources are available	Annual revenues	Will depend on the details of the account structure to be agreed upon with the Minister of Finance.	No account
15. Increasing capacity within the Department of Fisheries and provincial government	Implement new Department of Fisheries organizational chart	All positions filled within the Compliance Division	New organizational chart for the Department of Fisheries approved
16. Cooperation and coordination between all agencies involved in enforcement	Proportion of routine information flows between agencies (as described in the Plan (Table 2) that are active	100%	Partly
17. Maintaining the Plan as a living document	Annual review of Plan prepared	Once a year	Plan reviewed in June 2007
18. Resolution of EEZ boundaries	Clear definition of EEZ	Definition included in terms and conditions	No definition
	Boundaries resolved with neighboring countries	Resolution with Solomon Islands, Fiji and New Caledonia	No boundaries formally resolved
Development			
19. Programme funded from fees and penalties that are part of the Tuna Management Plan	Revenues in local development sub account of Fisheries Management Fund	Will depend on the details of the account structure to be agreed upon with the Minister of Finance	No account
20. Funding assistance for establishment of national fishermens association	Established fishermens cooperative associations (FCAs)	Six established provincial FCAs	Only Shefa FCA formally established

21. Development of rural fisheries market	Increased fish production	Six provincial fish markets	Lakatoro Fish Market
22. Development of rural fishing gear shops	Access to affordable fishing gear	Six provincial fishing gear shops	None
23. Development of FAD programme	Number of FADs in place and being actively fished	To be reviewed by TMAC	I
24. Expansion and clarification of duty exemptions	Proportion of fishermen with licenses and duty exemptions on fuel and fishing equipment	100%	60%
25. Information and support for tuna fishery development	Accurate information provided to foreign investment promotion agency and entrepreneurs	Information resources in place and reviewed regularly	Database being developed
26. Legislation to facilitate fish exports	Status of legislation and regulations for health and sanitation	Necessary health and sanitation laws/regulations in place	Health and sanitation regulations not in place
27. Ni-Vanuatu crew requirements in license terms and conditions	Proportion of foreign vessels with significant ni-Vanuatu crew participation	100%	Unknown
28. Crew support and training programmes	Number of trained ni-Vanuatu fishermen and crew available	To be determined by TMAC	Unknown

3.5 Legal and regulatory issues

3.5.1 Relationship of the Plan to the Fisheries Act

Part 2, Sections 2 and 3 of the Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005 obligates the development of fisheries management plans. The fisheries management plan must:

- a) identify each fishery and its characteristics, including the present state of its exploitation;
- b) specify the objectives to be achieved in the management of the fishery to which it relates;
- c) specify the management and development strategies to be adopted for the fishery to which it relates;
- d) provide for a scheme of licensing, if necessary, or other appropriate management measure;
- e) specify, if applicable, the licensing regime to be applied, including the limitations, if any, to be applied to local fishing operations and the amount of fishing, if any, to be allocated to foreign fishing vessels;
- f) specify the information and other data required to be provided by persons licensed to fish for that fishery; and
- g) take into account any relevant traditional fishing methods and practices.

3.5.2 EEZ boundaries

In light of the stated policy of the Government of Vanuatu, the Plan includes consideration of tuna fishing activities in all of the declared EEZ, including that portion (230,000 square kilometers) around Mathew and Hunter islands.

In order to facilitate resource management and remove ambiguity, the Department of Fisheries will promote the rapid and equitable resolution of EEZ boundaries with Fiji, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia and France.



4. STRATEGIES FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

4.1 Licensing framework

4.1.1 Definitions

Definitions used herein are consistent with the Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005.

4.1.2 Categories of license

License fees, terms and conditions, and restrictions on fishing will be determined by the ownership of the vessel (vessel category), the type of fishing (fishing category), and the size of the vessel. The terms used in this section are defined at the beginning of the Plan.

Vessel categories:

Vessel ownership falls into three categories:

1. Local fishing vessels;
2. Locally based foreign fishing vessels; and
3. Foreign fishing vessels.

Fishing categories:

Type of fishing is broken into seven categories:

1. Tuna longline;
2. Purse-seine;
3. Pole-and-line;
4. Other types of fishing, including trolling, vertical longlining and other small-scale local fishing techniques;
5. Game/charter sport fishing;
6. Research fishing; and
7. Exploratory and test fishing.

4.1.3 Vessels requiring a commercial fishing license

1. All commercial fishing vessels will be required to obtain a commercial fishing license to fish in Vanuatu waters pursuant to Part 3, Section 4(1) of the Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005;
2. Charter sport fishing vessels that sell their catch are considered to be commercial fishing vessels, will be required to obtain a commercial fishing license and will follow the same rules for determining fees and licensing conditions as any other commercial vessel;
3. All commercial fishing enterprises are eligible for duty exemption on fuel, fishing gear, and fisheries development-related equipment;

4. All artisanal fishing enterprises will require a commercial fishing license; and
5. Recreational and subsistence fishing will not require a commercial fishing license.

4.1.4 License fees

License fees are composed of three parts:

1. The “rent” or return on the fishery;
2. A fee that represents the cost of managing the fishery, including supporting the Observer Programme; and
3. A fee that goes towards supporting and developing the domestic fisheries, particularly the rural fisheries sector.

4.1.4 (a) Catch value

A return of 4–5% on the value of the fish removed from within Vanuatu’s EEZ by foreign fishing vessels and locally based foreign fishing vessels will be paid in addition to the fishing license fees.

4.1.4 (b) Guidelines for fishing license fees

The following guidelines will be used in setting license fees:

1. Detailed license fees will be set for the various combinations of vessel category, fishing category, and vessel length in the schedules to the Plan.
2. Licenses shall be issued for a period of 12 months and shall not be prorated for lesser periods of time except in the research, and exploratory and test fishing categories.

4.1.4 (c) Management of license revenues

Revenue collected through payment of license fees will be managed according to the following guidelines:

1. License revenues will be split between four accounts:
 - General Revenue,
 - Management Fund in the Fisheries Development and Management Fund,
 - National Fishermen Association, and
 - Local Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund in the Fisheries Development and Management Fund.

2. The Development and Management Fund will be used for all management-related activities, participation of tuna RFMO meetings, membership payment of tuna RFMOs, and the operations of the national and provincial port sampling, enforcement and observer programmes.
3. A proportion of the license revenues will go towards establishing of the National Fishermen Association.
4. A significant proportion of the license revenues will go to the Rural Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund.
5. The proportion of revenues going to the Development and Management Fund will be set based on best estimates of the revenue required to manage the fishery. This proportion will be set in the schedules.
6. The proportion of revenues going to Rural Fishermen Cooperative Associations and Rural Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund will be based on estimates of the revenue required for the development programme. This proportion will be set in the schedules.

4.1.5 Maximum numbers of licenses

There will be a maximum number of licenses, for which tuna or tuna like species and deep-bottom fish species, are authorized target species that can be issued in each fishing category.

A fishing license for which tuna or tuna like species and deep-bottom fish species are a target may only be issued if issuing that license will not increase the number of active fishing licenses above the maximum for that fishing category.

When more licenses are applied for than are available, they will be allocated according to the following scheme:

- The priority scheme for allocating licenses between vessel categories will be:
 - a) First priority to local fishing vessels;
 - b) Second priority to locally based foreign fishing vessels; and
 - c) Third priority to foreign fishing vessels.
- The priority scheme for allocating licenses between fishing vessels within a fishing category will be based on a number of factors including:
 - a) Contribution to Vanuatu's economy associated with the application;
 - b) Previous compliance of the applicant with laws, regulations and agreements, including the provision of information; and
 - c) Historical participation of the applicant.³

³ A fishing license is linked to a combination of the vessel and the owner. If a vessel is sold and there is a limited number of licenses, then the "right" to the license, based on historical participation, stays with the original vessel owner.

The maximum number of licenses for each fishing category will be set by the TMAC based on the recommendations of the Director of Fisheries. The maximum number of licenses in each fishing category will be primarily based on consideration of the TAC for each tuna species and deep-bottom fish species.

4.1.6 Total allowable catch

The Government of Vanuatu, through the Department of Fisheries, will determine the TAC for the major species of tuna and tuna like species taken in Vanuatu waters. These TACs will be specified as appropriate in schedules (III.1 and III.2) to the Plan, regulations or by gazette notice.

The TAC for each species will be used as a guide for determining the number of licenses to issue. The fishery will not necessarily be closed when the TAC for a year is reached, rather, the maximum number of licenses will be adjusted as necessary to control future catch levels.

4.1.7 Areas closed to fishing

Details of closed areas are contained in the schedules (I.1 and I.2) to the Plan. The following guidelines will be considered in setting closed areas:

1. Give maximum opportunity to artisanal and smaller local fishing vessels less than 8.0 meters in length;
2. Keep larger local fishing vessels (> 8.0 meters) farther offshore;
3. Keep locally-based foreign fishing vessels and foreign fishing vessels farther offshore to give local fishing vessels a competitive advantage;
4. Protect seamounts and other areas determined to be important to marine diversity and productivity; and
5. Protect areas designated as marine protected areas and reserves under Section 43 of the Fisheries Act.

4.1.8 Prohibited gear types

Pelagic drift net fishing for tuna and tuna like species will not be permitted in Vanuatu waters pursuant to Part 7 of the Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005.

4.1.9 License terms and conditions

Guidelines for the terms and conditions to be applied to different categories of vessels are shown in Table 4. More details on the requirements for observers, information submission, enforcement, and surveillance are covered in Section 4.3 (MCS).

4.1.10 Research fishing

Proposals for research fishing will be considered from well-known and respected research agencies and organizations, and not for commercial purposes. The Director of Fisheries may exempt activities carried out as part of an approved research programme from certain standard terms and conditions and other management measures in the fishery.

Table 4. Summary of license terms and conditions for vessels of different sizes and categories fishing in Vanuatu waters.

	Local fishing vessels less than 8 meters	Local fishing vessels 8 meters or longer	Locally based foreign fishing vessels	Foreign fishing vessels
License	The master must keep the license and a provincial access license (or a certified copy), and must produce it at request of an authorized officer.	The master must keep the license and a provincial access license (or a certified copy), and must produce it at the request of an authorized officer.	The master must keep the license (or a certified copy) on board the vessel at all times while in Vanuatu waters, and must produce it at the request of an authorized officer (as defined in the Fisheries Act).	
Restrictions	No restrictions	Licenses may restrict the holder in a number of ways, including but not limited to, fishing method, gear used, and areas that can be fished.	Licenses may restrict the holder in a number of ways, including but not limited to, fishing method, gear used, and areas that can be fished.	
Information	All fishing vessels must submit daily catch and fishing information in a format approved by the Department of Fisheries.			
Transshipment	Can transhipped fish from or into another local vessel while in Vanuatu waters.	No fish may be transhipped from or into the vessel while in Vanuatu waters except with the permission of the Director and in accordance with such conditions as he may specify.		
Vessel identification	All vessels will be required to be marked in an approved manner with an easily visible unique identifier.			
Observers	Department of Fisheries reserves the right to place observers on board at the vessel's expense and in consultation with respective provincial governments, with respect to 6 nautical miles provincial waters.			
Boarding and port sampling	All vessels must allow an authorized and identified officer to board the vessel in Vanuatu waters or in port for the purposes of inspection and examination.			
Standard bilateral agreement	Not required		Not required	Required
Minimum terms and conditions	Required		Required	
FFA Regional Register	Not required while fishing in Vanuatu waters.		Required to be in good standing.	

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Table 4. (continued)

	Local fishing vessels less than 8 meters	Local fishing vessels 8 meters or longer	Locally based foreign fishing vessels	Foreign fishing vessels
Ni-Vanuatu crew requirements	Local vessels must be crewed by ni-Vanuatu and, wherever possible, this should include the master and engineer.		Ni-Vanuatu crew must be carried as required by the Director of Fisheries.	Use of Ni-Vanuatu crew is strongly encouraged.
Catch landing	Can land catch any where in Vanuatu.		Must land all of their catch in Vanuatu.	Landing of catch in Vanuatu is strongly encouraged.
VMS	VMS may be required for safety purposes by VMA.	VMS is required to be fitted and operating at all times in Vanuatu waters.		
Reporting requirements at sea	Strongly encouraged	Strongly encouraged when fish across national EEZ		Vessels must complete Telex Reports, including entry to and exit from the EEZ as well as weekly reporting, as prescribed by the Fisheries Department.
Marine pollution	No fishing vessel shall dump or discharge into the sea, whether directly or indirectly: 1) any non-biodegradable material or any fuel or oil; 2) any biodegradable material within 3 nautical miles of the appropriate archipelagic baseline; and 3) any fishing gear, except in an emergency or circumstances involving the safety of a vessel or its crew. Reasonable efforts will be made to recover discarded fishing gear. (General provisions relating to marine pollution should be consistent with the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 – MARPOL.)			



Figure 2. A portion of Vanuatu's EEZ, and the 12- and 24-mile zones.

4.1.11 Exploratory and test fishing

The proponent will be required to submit a detailed proposal in justification of the requested license. The proposal will include:

1. Reasons for test and anticipated economic benefits for Vanuatu;
2. Method(s) of fishing and associated fishing activities, including a full description of gear, deck machinery and technique to be used;
3. Area to be fished;
4. Proposed dates and duration of fishing;
5. Target species; and
6. Details of vessel(s), including name, registration, measurements, insurance and survey.

Key issues that will be considered by the Director in evaluating proposals for exploratory and test fishing licenses will include:

1. Whether the proposed activities differ significantly from those already being undertaken, particularly in regard to the proposed target species, fishing method, and area;
2. The potential contribution the activity would make to the development of Vanuatu's tuna and fishing industry;
3. The capacity of the existing fishing industry to undertake the proposed activity;
4. Whether the proposed activity is consistent with the objectives, goals and principles of the Plan;
5. Potential interactions with other fisheries;
6. Potential for adverse impacts on the status of living resources or the marine environment; and
7. The ability of the Department of Fisheries to adequately monitor and supervise the proposed activities.

Additional conditions may be imposed by the Director of Fisheries on licenses in the exploratory and test, and research categories. In general, these will include enhanced reporting requirements, particularly more detailed catch and bycatch data, and economic information. Where possible, full observer coverage will be required.

4.1.12 Related activities

4.1.12.1 Transshipping

Pursuant to Section 45 of the Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005, no fish shall be transshipped from a foreign fishing vessel or locally based foreign fishing vessel, into a vessel while in Vanuatu waters except with the permission of the Director of Fisheries at an approved port and in accordance with such conditions as he may specify. All transshipments of catch shall be subject to inspection by authorized officers, including the port sampling officers and observers.

No fish shall be transshipped from a local fishing vessel to a foreign or a locally base foreign reefer or carrier vessel while in Vanuatu waters and outside Vanuatu's EEZ except with the permission of the Director of Fisheries at an approved port and in accordance with such conditions as he may specify. All transshipments of catch shall be subject to inspection by authorized officers, including port sampling officers and observers.

No fish shall be transshipped to any vessel other than a carrier vessel that is in good standing on the FFA Regional Register and has a valid Carrier License issued by the Department of Fisheries. Details of fees for transshipping are contained in the schedules (IV.6) to the Plan.

Reefer/Carriers will be liable for port entry fees as set by the appropriate authorities.

4.1.12.2 Fish aggregating devices (FADs)

The Department of Fisheries will:

1. Develop a National FAD Management Policy;
2. Maintain a Register of FADs deployed in Vanuatu waters and submit this to the appropriate national agency in the interests of navigational safety; and
3. Collect information on fishing activities around FADs and, if necessary, introduce controls on their use.

Pursuant to the National FAD Management Policy, locally based foreign and foreign fishing vessels are prohibited from deploying FADs within Vanuatu waters as well as fishing around FADs while in Vanuatu waters.

Only local fishing vessels are eligible to fish around FADs. There will be no specific closed area around them for local fishing vessels less than 10 meters and sport fishing vessels. Commercial tuna longline local fishing vessels are not eligible to fish within a radius of 3 kilometers from a FAD.

4.1.12.3 Bait fishing

Bait fishing is not permitted unless specifically noted on the fishing license. Terms and conditions will be set by the Director of Fisheries for each license with due consideration for potential social and environmental impacts.

4.1.12.4 Shark fishing

Shark fishing in Vanuatu waters is reserved only for local fishing vessels pursuant to terms and conditions as may set by the Director of Fisheries.

4.1.12.5 Discards

All fishing vessels fishing in Vanuatu waters shall retain their fish catch. There shall be no discards of fish from all fishing vessels operating in Vanuatu waters.

4.2 Bilateral agreements

Pursuant to Section 7(1), Part 4 of the Fisheries Act No. 55 of the 2005, bilateral fishing agreements are required prior to the issuance of tuna fishing licenses for all foreign and locally based foreign vessels. Bilateral fishing agreements will be based on a standard template agreement that is maintained by the Department of Fisheries and approved by the Director.

The bilateral fishing agreement will clearly define terms and conditions including but not limited to:

1. Obligations for the timely provision of logsheet data and associated information on all fishing activities and catches in Vanuatu waters;
2. Requirement to accept observers as stipulated under Section 54 of the Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005;
3. Requirement for all fishing and carrier vessels to carry and operate an FFA approved automatic location communicator (ALC) registered with the FFA VMS Registry;
4. Permitted target species;
5. The definition of areas closed to fishing;
6. The definition of approved gear types and fishing methods;
7. Requirements to take all reasonable measures, as defined by the Director of Fisheries, to minimize bycatch;
8. License fees; and
9. Penalties for failure to comply with terms and conditions of the agreement.

While bilateral fishing agreements may specify a maximum number of licenses to be issued under the agreement, no license will be reserved or guaranteed under any agreement until it has been paid in full.

Bilateral agreements shall have a maximum duration of 5 years to allow for the amendment of terms and conditions to reflect changing management plans.

The fees to be paid for licenses are described in the schedules (IV.1, IV.2, IV.3 and IV.4) to the Plan and are not negotiable.

Where the number of licenses applied for under various arrangements exceeds the maximum number of licenses available as specified in the schedules (II.1, II.2 and II.3) to the Plan, licenses will be allocated in order of priority as described in the Plan (see Section 4.1.5).

Bilateral agreements may include:

1. Performance bonds with schedules of administrative penalties that will be charged against them for failure to comply with specified terms and conditions; and
2. Additional fees to be charged over and above the fees for individual licenses to reflect administrative and management costs.

4.3 Monitoring, control and surveillance

4.3.1 Vessel monitoring system (VMS)

4.3.1 (a) FFA approved VMS

An approved ALC, registered with the FFA VMS Registry, must be installed on all foreign and locally based foreign fishing vessels and foreign carriers in Vanuatu waters.

Each vessel's operator shall be responsible for the costs of the ALC and for the costs of all transmissions by that device that originate from the vessel.

Each vessel's operator shall ensure that the ALC is operational at all times while the vessel is in all Vanuatu waters, including those around Matthew and Hunter islands.

4.3.1 (b) Vanuatu flag state VMS

An approved ALC—registered with the Vanuatu Flag State VMS Registry operated and managed by the Government Authorized Management Body, Tuna Fishing Company (Vanuatu) Limited—must be installed on all Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels.

The operator of each Vanuatu flagged fishing vessel and local fishing vessel shall:

- be responsible for the costs of the ALC and for the costs of all transmissions by that device that originate from the vessel.
- ensure that the ALC is operational at all times while the vessel is in Vanuatu waters, including those around Matthew and Hunter islands, including other tuna RFMO Convention Areas and high seas within which the Vanuatu flagged fishing vessel is operating.

4.3.2 Observer Programme

An Observer Programme will be coordinated by the Department of Fisheries to provide data collection, monitoring and surveillance services.

All foreign, Vanuatu flagged and locally based foreign fishing vessels in Vanuatu waters and local vessels will be required to accept observers on board on request by the Department of Fisheries for scientific, compliance, monitoring and other functions. Vessels less than 8 meters will be required from time to time to take observers under certain conditions as required by the Department of Fisheries.

All Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels operating in high seas and within other Tuna RFMO Convention Areas shall be required to accept observers on board on request by the Department of Fisheries for scientific, compliance, monitoring and other functions.

Pursuant to Section 54 of the Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005, fishing vessel operators are required to assist the observer in their duties and to cover direct costs.

License holders shall be charged a fee of not less than USD 500.00 as part of their license fee to cover the basic costs of the National Observer Programme.

Foreign fishing vessel and Vanuatu flagged fishing vessel owners will be responsible for per diems, costs and logistics of getting observers from Vanuatu to the port of embarkation and back to Vanuatu.

4.3.3 Port Sampling Programme

The Department of Fisheries shall develop a Port Sampling Programme for the purposes of both compliance monitoring and scientific sampling. This programme will sample a portion of the catch from vessels in all categories that land and transship their catch in designated ports in Vanuatu.

All vessel operators will be required to cooperate with authorized officers in the course of port sampling activities.

4.3.4 Logbook data

Operators of all licensed fishing vessels operating in Vanuatu waters, including all Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels, shall provide catch data logsheets in an approved format to the Compliance Division of the Department of Fisheries.

4.3.5 Aerial and surface patrols

Overflights and patrol boat operations will be coordinated by the Police Operation Center and strategically deployed by the Police Maritime Wing in consultation with the Compliance Division of the Department of Fisheries in order to:

- detect and deter illegal fishing activities;

- ensure licensed vessels are complying with the terms and conditions of their licenses and bilateral agreements; and
- increase the safety of the fishing industry through effective search and rescue activities.

4.3.6 Routine compilation and review of information

Information on fishing activities in Vanuatu waters collected through VMS, data logsheets, telex reports, Observer Programme, and surveys from aircraft and patrol vessels will be compiled and verified on a regular basis by the Fisheries Compliance Division and the Police Maritime Wing.

Appropriate measures shall be taken against vessels that are in violation of their terms and conditions as specified in their fishing licenses and bilateral fishing agreements.

4.3.7 Cooperative regional arrangements

Vanuatu will pursue cooperative agreements provided under the Niue Treaty with its neighbors (Australia, Fiji, France, New Caledonia, New Zealand and Solomon Islands) to better monitor, control and manage fishing activities close to the EEZ boundaries.

4.3.8 Enforcement mechanisms

Alternate mechanisms of enforcement, including the use of performance bonds and administrative penalties, shall be used.

4.4 Management of Vanuatu flagged vessels

4.4.1 Management framework

The TMAC will carry out regular assessments of the costs, risks and benefits of flagging foreign fishing vessels, and the mechanisms available to ensure compliance with international and regional agreements pursuant to Part 5 of the Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005.

In order to ensure that effective measures are put in place to monitor and control the operation of all Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels, the Director of Fisheries or his/her alternate shall:

- participate in regional and international convention meetings with responsibility over convention areas within which the Vanuatu flagged fishing operate;
- require all Vanuatu flagged vessels fishing to have an International Authorization to Fish Certificate (IATFC) issued by the Department of Fisheries pursuant to Section 14 of the Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005;
- ensure that all IATFCs issued are subjected to conditions outlined under Section 15 of the Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005;

- ensure that the prescribed fee for the IATFC is payable to the Department of Fisheries prior to issuing the IATFC;
- ensure that the operator of a Vanuatu flagged fishing vessel must not undertake fishing or related activities inside and outside of Vanuatu waters without an IATFC;
- pursuant to Section 16 of the Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005, take appropriate actions where vessels violate the terms and conditions of their IATFCs; and
- ensure that the development interest of all Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels are taken into account when negotiating fishing access agreements with other nations and when discussing management arrangements within all tuna RFMOs.

An IATFC shall include certain terms and conditions relating to:

- Accurate and up-to-date data catch reporting;
- Timely submission of catch data logsheets;
- Compliance and enforcement;
- Use of Vanuatu flag state VMS (or similar systems appropriate to the region of activity);
- Use of observers;
- Port sampling; and
- Transshipment.

Penalties for fishing without an IATFC, or for violating terms and conditions, shall include:

- Fines;
- Revoking IATFC and all relevant permits;
- Restricting or removing fishing privileges;
- Removal from the appropriate registers of fishing vessels such as the Regional Register;
- Removal of the right to fly the Vanuatu flag.

IATFC prescribed fee

There shall be a fee charged for issuing an IATFC by the Department of Fisheries, which shall not be less than USD 5000.00 per vessel per year.

4.4.2 Responsibilities

The Vanuatu Maritime Authority will act as the enforcement branch for fisheries matters relating to violation by the Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels. If the Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels are not fulfilling their obligations in terms of provision of information or other fisheries related

matters,VMA will take whatever action is necessary, up to and including revoking their right to fly the Vanuatu flag.

IATFCs will be issued and approved by the Director of Fisheries pursuant to Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005. These authorizations will be communicated to vessel operators through an authorized Government Management Body responsible for monitoring and managing the operations of all Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels.

The Authorized Government Management Body is responsible for:

- Activities related to flag state responsibility, including the collection of fisheries related information;
- Keeping a register of all Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels;
- Keeping a VMS register of all Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels;
- Managing the routine collection and management of fisheries-related information from these vessels;
- Developing and maintaining the Vanuatu flag state VMS;
- Payment of all IATFCs;
- Collecting revenue owed to the Government of Vanuatu by operators of the Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels; and
- Meeting part of the expenses incurred as a result of participating in the meetings of RFMOs by the Vanuatu government delegation.

The Director of Fisheries will develop a standard data requirement for all Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels that is designed to meet the needs of the tuna RFMOs, and fishing treaties, agreements and arrangements to which Vanuatu is a party or active member. This information will include on an ongoing basis:

1. Vessel operator's name,
2. Vessel owner's name,
3. Target tuna species,
4. Allocated catch quota,
5. Allocated number of fishing days,
6. Area of fishing activities, and
7. Details (quantities and location) of catches and bycatch.

The Ministry of Finance's Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will act as the enforcement branch for fisheries matters relating to violation by Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels. If Vanuatu flagged

fishing vessels are not fulfilling their obligations in terms of provision of information or other fisheries related matters, TAG will take whatever action is necessary, up to and including revoking vessels' right to fly the Vanuatu flag.

4.5 Regional and international agreements

4.5.1 Tuna RFMOs

The implementation of the Tuna management plan shall take into account the requirements and resolutions of all the Tuna RFMOs to which Vanuatu is both a member and signatory.

4.6 Management of environmental and social impacts

4.6.1 Bycatch

All fishing vessels operating in Vanuatu waters shall retain all of their bycatch. An Observer Programme and catch reporting by all commercial fishing vessels will be developed by the Department of Fisheries to monitor bycatch taken by the tuna fishery. Where necessary for conservation purposes, management actions will be taken to limit or eliminate bycatch including, but not limited to, imposing closed areas, closing the fishery for certain periods, and limiting gear types. Of particular concern in the bycatch are billfish and other game species, sharks, marine mammals, turtles and birds.

The tuna bycatch within Vanuatu waters shall be monitored and, where required, may also be subjected to management actions.

4.6.2 Seamounts and marine reserves

The importance of seamounts and other areas considered important for sustaining the biodiversity and natural resources within Vanuatu waters, will be considered in the management of tuna fisheries. Areas that are considered to be of special biological importance will be protected by closed areas specified in the schedules (V.I) to the Plan or other regulations.

4.6.3 Pollution, social and cultural impacts

The TMAC strongly supports the implementation of appropriate environmental impact assessments for major fisheries development projects related to the development of Vanuatu's domestic tuna industry.

5. STRATEGIES FOR LOCAL TUNA FISHERY DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Options for development

The Plan supports the development of all aspects of the tuna fishing industry including:

Tuna fishing

- Small artisanal vessels catching tuna and tuna like species around FADs.
- Medium size multipurpose vessels that engage in tuna fishing in addition to other forms of marine harvesting and other maritime activities such as cargo transportation.
- Charter sportfishing vessels that may also act as commercial vessels and sell some of their catch to the local market.
- The development of a small locally based and owned fleet targeting tuna and focusing on the export market with some local sales.
- The development of larger locally based tuna fishing operations where appropriate domestic investment can be found to develop a long-term sustainable operation.
- The development of domestic processing operations.

Other tuna and deep-bottom fish related industries

- Local retail sales and consumption,
- Provincial small-scale fish processing facilities,
- Provincial fish market outlets,
- Small- to large-scale tuna and deep-bottom fish export processing plants, and
- Maintenance, supply and provisioning of foreign vessels and locally based foreign fishing vessels.

Creation of employment

- Ni-Vanuatu crew on foreign fishing vessels operating in Vanuatu EEZ,
- Ni-Vanuatu crew on Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels operating inside and outside Vanuatu's EEZ
- Ni-Vanuatu crew on local and locally based foreign vessels,
- Observers and port samplers, and
- Associated service industries.

Strategies to support the development of Vanuatu's tuna fishery are described in more detail in Section 5.2 below. Table 5 summarizes the benefits that these strategies have for different sectors within the industry.

Table 5. Target groups benefiting from strategies for local development.

Development strategies ⁴	Target groups						
	Small boats	Medium sized multipurpose vessels	Charter sportfishing vessels	Specialized local tuna vessels	Large scale operation with local vessels	Local processing facilities	Ni-Vanuatu crew
20. Development programmes funded through license fees	3	3					
21. FAD programme	3		3				
22. Broaden and simplify duty exemption	3	3	3	3	3		
23. Information and support for tuna fishery development					3	3	
24. Support for legislation to facilitate export		3		3	3	3	
25. Crew requirements on licenses							3
26. Crew training programmes				3	3		3

5.2 Development strategies

5.2.1 Local development fund

A component of license revenues will be set aside in the Fisheries Development and Management Fund specifically for the purposes of funding rural fishery and aquaculture development activities (Schedule IV.5).

5.2.2 FAD programme

A FAD development programme will be developed under the supervision of the Director of Fisheries. The local development sub-account in the Fisheries Development and Management Fund will be used for constructing and maintaining FADs within Vanuatu's six provincial government regions. This sub-account will, in part, be funded by users through a portion of their license fees.

⁴ Numbers for strategies as listed in Table 1

5.2.3 Duty exemption

To encourage participation in the development of the domestic tuna industry, all locally based vessels with a valid Commercial Fishing License will be eligible for duty exemptions on fuel and fishing gear including bait, fishing equipment and spare parts for their fishing operation, provided they fully comply with all conditions and requirements of their fishing licenses. This exemption excludes charter sportfishing vessels that are operating with a Commercial Fishing License and locally based foreign fishing vessels.

5.2.4 Support for tuna fishery development

5.2.4.1 Development and Capture Division services and training

Fisheries Development and Capture Division officers will:

1. in collaboration with respective provincial enforcement officers, carry out the duties of the authorized officers within their area of jurisdiction pursuant to Section 48(2), Part II of the Fisheries Act No. 55 of 2005;
2. act as a liaison for the Vanuatu Maritime College (VMC), provincial governments and fishermen to promote standard courses developed by the VMC;
3. provide specific rural training on tuna fishing and handling techniques where this is not available from the VMC;
4. develop and assist in implementing provincial FAD programme activities in rural areas;
5. be an information resource on fisheries laws, regulations and management plans; and
6. provide fisheries-related technical support in rural areas when traveling for other purposes.

5.2.4.2 Infrastructure development

The current lack of basic infrastructure in Vanuatu impedes the development of a larger-scale tuna fishing industry. Development plans that include constructing (or reconstructing) infrastructure and resources with long-term benefits to the domestic fishing industry—such as wharves, processing facilities and slipways—will be given preference by the Department of Fisheries.

5.2.4.3 Information resources

The Department of Fisheries will provide appropriate technical assistance to facilitate the development of domestic tuna businesses in Vanuatu.

5.2.4.4 Foreign investment

In order to assist in attracting foreign investors, the Department of Fisheries will provide information and support to the Vanuatu Foreign Investment Board and other agencies to actively promote and attract genuine foreign investment in Vanuatu's tuna industry.

Joint ventures with significant involvement of Vanuatu owned companies and ni-Vanuatu will be given preference.

5.2.5 Legislation to facilitate fish exports

To facilitate the export of tuna and tuna products to foreign markets such as the USA and European Union, the TMAC will actively support the development and implementation of appropriate health and other legislation required to ensure that the food safety requirements of importing countries can be met.

5.2.6 Ni-Vanuatu crew requirements

All Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels and all locally based foreign fishing vessels will be obligated to employ ni-Vanuatu as officers and fishing crew, while placing ni-Vanuatu on foreign fishing vessels operating in Vanuatu's EEZ will be strongly encouraged.

Local vessels must be crewed by ni-Vanuatu and, wherever possible, this will include the master and engineer. At the discretion of the Director of Fisheries, non ni-Vanuatu may be used in senior positions in certain circumstances, including (but not limited to) where this is a temporary situation required to train ni-Vanuatu replacements, or where there are no suitably trained or experienced ni-Vanuatu personnel.

All non ni-Vanuatu working on local and locally based foreign vessels must have the necessary immigration and residency permits to live and work in Vanuatu.

5.2.7 Training and support of ni-Vanuatu crew

This Tuna Management Plan encourages the use of well trained ni-Vanuatu crew on a range of vessels to ensure necessary levels of safety as defined by the VMA and in accordance with SCTW standards. Specific training requirements and active management of these crew is outside of the scope of the Plan.



SCHEDULES

I. CLOSED AREAS

I.1 Area restrictions for foreign and locally based foreign fishing vessels

Fishing category	Foreign	Locally based foreign
A. Tuna longline	Outside 12 nautical miles No fishing on specified seamounts	
B. Purse seine		
C. Pole-and-line	Outside 12 nautical miles	
D. Other	Not allowed	Restrictions specific to each license
E. Game/sportfishing	Conditions apply to each license	
F. Research fishing	Restrictions specific to each license	
G. Exploratory and test fishing		

I.2 Area restrictions for local fishing vessels

Fishing category	Local <10 meters	Local ≥ 10 meters	Local >15 meters
A. Tuna longline	Comply with provincial bylaws	Outside 6 nautical miles	Outside 12 nautical miles
B. Purse seine	Comply with provincial bylaws	Outside 6 nautical miles	Outside 12 nautical miles
C. Pole-and-line	Comply with provincial bylaws	Outside 6 nautical miles	Outside 12 nautical miles
D. Others			
1. Artisanal fishing	No restrictions	Outside 6 nautical miles	Outside 12 nautical miles
2. Commercial fishing boats/ others (e.g. Lady Christina, Ocean Fishing Ltd)	Comply with provincial bylaws if overly efficient	Outside 6 nautical miles	Outside 12 nautical miles
3. Aquarium fish, sea cucumber, trochus	Comply with provincial bylaws	Comply with provincial by-laws and Department of Fisheries terms and conditions	Not allowed
E. Game/sport fishing	Comply with provincial bylaws	No restrictions	No restrictions
F. Research fishing	Restrictions specific to each license		
G. Test or exploratory fishing	Restrictions specific to each license		

II. LIMITS ON LICENSE NUMBERS

II.1 Maximum number of foreign fishing licenses that can be issued in each fishing category with tuna or tuna like species as a target species

Fishing category	Vessel/license limit
A. Tuna longline	100
B. Tuna purse seine	10
C. Tuna pole-and-line	10
D. Other	None
E. Game/sport fishing	None
F. Research fishing	2
G. Exploratory and test fishing	2

II.2 Maximum number of locally based foreign fishing licenses that can be issued in each fishing category with tuna or tuna like species as a target species

Fishing category	Vessel/license limit
A. Tuna longline	40
B. Tuna purse seine	10
C. Tuna pole-and-line	10
D. Other	5
E. Game/sport fishing	50

II.3 Maximum number of local fishing licenses that can be issued in each fishing category with tuna or tuna like species as a target species

Fishing category	Vessel/license limit
A. Tuna longline	40
B. Tuna purse seine	10
C. Tuna pole-and-line	10
D. Charter/sportfishing	15
Others: 1. Artisanal fishing	200
2. Commercial fishing (e.g. Ocean Fishing Ltd)	6
3. Beche-de-mer, aquarium fish, trochus	6
E. Research fishing	2
F. Exploratory and test fishing	2

III. TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH

III.1 TACs forw major tuna species

Species	Total allowable catch/year
Albacore	10,000 metric tonnes
Yellowfin	3,000 metric tonnes
Bigeye	1,000 metric tonnes
Skipjack	3,000 metric tonnes
Billfish	1,000 metric tonnes

III.2 Allocation of TAC

Species	Total allowable catch/year				
	Foreign fishing vessel	Locally based foreign fishing vessel	Local fishing vessel	Sportfishing vessel	Total
Albacore	7,000	2,800	150	50	10,000
Yellowfin	1,000	1,500	450	50	3,000
Bigeye	400	500	80	20	1,000
Skipjack	1,000	1,000	950	50	3,000
Billfish	200	500	250	50	1,000

IV. FEES

IV.1 Foreign vessel fees

Fishing category	Gross registered tons (GRT)	Foreign		Locally based foreign
		50% landing domestic	100% landing outside Vanuatu	
A. Tuna longline	<100	USD 15,000*	USD 30,000	USD 9,000
	≥ 100 and ≤400	USD 20,000	USD 40,000	USD 11,000
	≥400	USD 45,000		USD 20,000
B. Purse seine	-	USD 50,000		USD 20,000
C. Pole-and-line	-	USD 8,000		USD 4,500
D. Other methods		USD 8,000		(Based on length see Schedule IV.2)
E. Research fishing		USD 5,000		USD 5,000
F. Exploratory and test fishing		USD 8,000		USD 5,000

* USD = US dollar

IV.2 Fees for locally based foreign vessels fishing and locally based foreign-seasonal sport fishing vessels using

“D. Other Methods”

Vessel category	License fee
Seasonal sportfishing (3 months)	VUV 50,000*
≤ 8 meters	VUV 100,000
> 8 Meters	VUV 100,000 + VUV 15,000 per meter over 8 meters

*VUV = Vanuatu vatu.

IV.3 Fees for local fishing vessels (all fishing methods)

Efate and Luganville, excluding offshore islands and rural Santo

Vessel category	License fee
≤ 8 meters	VUV 20,000
> 8 meters	VUV 20,000 + VUV 5,000 per meter over 8 meters
Sportfishing	VUV 50,000

Other Islands

Vessel category	License fee
≤ 8 meters	VUV 10,000
> 8 meters	VUV 10,000 + VUV 2,500 per meter over 8 meters
Sportfishing	VUV 30,000

IV.4 Fees for authorizations for Vanuatu flagged vessels to fish under regional agreements

Regional agreement	Authorization fee
Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission	USD 5,000
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission	USD 5,000
Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna	USD 5,000
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission	USD 5,000
Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Living Marine Resources	USD 5,000
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	USD 5,000

(Charge – value of catch – of quota to VFFFVs)

IV.5 Fee proportions for different funds

Category	Local	Locally based foreign	Foreign	VFFFV
General Revenue	50%	60%	60%	60%
Management Fund	0%	20%	20%	20%
National Fishermen Association Fund	25%	0%	0%	10%
Local Development Fund	25%	20%	20%	10%

IV.6 Fees for reefer/carriers

Item	Fee
Reefer/carrier license (valid 12 months)	USD 700.00
Transshipment fee: sashimi grade tuna	USD 12.50 per metric tonne
Transshipment fee: cannery grade tuna	USD 2.00 per metric tonne

V. SPECIFICATION OF CLOSED AREAS

In order to protect fish stocks and biodiversity, fishing will be restricted within the rectangular closed areas defined by the geodesic lines linking the four points described for each area in Table V.1

V.1 Specified closed areas around seamounts

Area	Point	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
I	1	15° 59' 24.0"	165° 59' 24.0"
	2	15° 59' 24.0"	166° 11' 24.0"
	3	15° 50' 24.0"	166° 11' 24.0"
	4	15° 50' 24.0"	165° 59' 24.0"

And not within 3 nautical miles of any area declared as a marine reserve under the Fisheries Act.

APPENDICES



Appendix A

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The implementation process has been discussed from a structural point of view in the section on the Administrative Framework for Tuna Management (Section 3). This appendix is intended to be a practical guide to implementing the strategies outlined in the Plan, including timing and prioritization.

Priorities for implementation

The initial priorities for action should be focused around setting up the basic mechanisms through which the Plan will operate. These are:

- Adoption of the Plan through approval by the Council of Ministers;
- Ensuring a functional TMAC;
- Resolving financial issues around the proposed Fisheries Management Fund or other mechanisms that will ensure that there are resources to fund Plan activities; and
- Hiring a Tuna Management Coordinator to manage the implementation process.

Once the basic management mechanisms are in place the TMAC and the Director of Fisheries should initiate action on a small number of the strategies with careful regard to the resources available to ensure success. Some of the more important actions that should be initiated early are:

1. In collaboration with the state law office draft the notices and regulations required to be published in the Gazette to give legal power to the elements of the Tuna Management Plan with a particular focus on the table in the Schedules to the Plan and the terms and conditions for different vessel categories;
2. Renegotiation of the bilateral agreement with the Kaohsiung Fishermen's Association (KFA) to include the new standard bilateral terms and conditions and the new fee schedule;
3. Initiation of the fishing authorization programme for Vanuatu flagged fishing vessels fishing outside of Vanuatu waters;
4. Application of the new licensing terms, conditions, and fee schedules to all new and renewing licenses (following appropriate notification to current license holders) with particular emphasis on VMS for foreign vessels;
5. Input to the revision of Fisheries Act to ensure it is consistent with the Plan; and

6. Initiation of the Observer Programme through contact with FFA to request assistance in setting it up.

With the implementation of the Observer Programme it is recommended that this be initiated at a low level until the logistics of the system have been worked out. Because many foreign vessels do not land in Vanuatu and there are concerns about the cost of flying observers for embarkation or return home, it is important that the new license conditions requiring vessel owners/operators to pay costs are implemented as soon as possible.



Appendix B

TUNA MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Tuna Management Advisory Committee will be chaired by the Director of Fisheries or his delegate, and will include representatives of the VMA, Police Maritime Wing, Attorney-General's Office and Department of Foreign Affairs. Other members (e.g. industry representatives) may be invited to assist the committee in its deliberations from time to time as required. The TMAC should meet regularly—quarterly for the first two years, as the Plan is being established, then every six months once the main elements of the Plan are operational.

The functions of the TMAC will be as follows:

- act as a forum whereby each agency can report progress or difficulties with the implementation of those aspects of the Plan for which it is responsible;
- formally review progress in achieving the various time-bound or quantifiable targets defined within the Plan;
- where necessary, agree on modifications or amendments to the Plan;
- make recommendations to the Minister for Fisheries in regard to aspects of tuna fishery management;
- consider the rolling three-year income and expenditure budget for the Fisheries Management Fund and make recommendations to the Minister in this regard;
- consider specific projects or development activities proposed for funding from the Fisheries Management Fund and make recommendations to the Minister in this regard; and
- review the accounts of the Fisheries Management Fund and ensure that expenditure has been in accordance with previously agreed decisions.

As management plans and arrangements are put in place for other fisheries in Vanuatu there will be a need for advisory groups to consider and manage them. These could be formed in a number of different ways including:

1. A broad based Fisheries Management Council could be formed, based on the TMAC, with a core membership that brought in other specific representatives for sessions dealing with each management plan or fishery.
2. A Fisheries Management Advisory Council (FMAC) as described in the Comprehensive Reform Program (CRP) could be created that would be an umbrella body that considered high level policy while individual management committees will focus on their areas of specialty. This may represent too many levels of complexity and reduce the efficiency of decision-making.

3. The TMAC could be left in its current form and parallel committees established for other fisheries. This keeps the focus of the committees but would tend to lead to duplication since many of the same people will be involved on all of the committees.

The arrangements for the TMAC in the Tuna Management Plan do not preclude any of these options.





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