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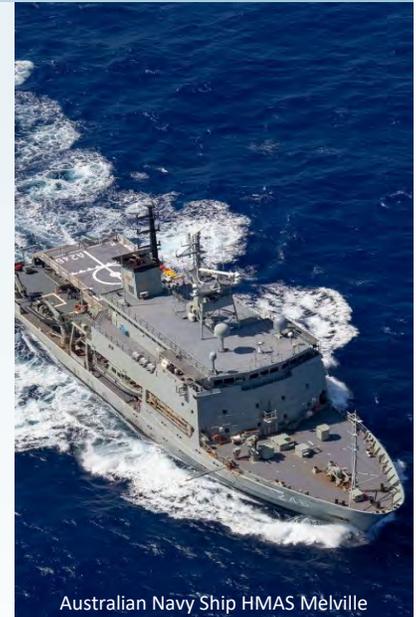
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National  
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Authority

Volume 1, Issue 2, April 2022

# Fisheries Newsletter



Australian Navy Ship HMAS Melville

## Advancing cooperation between Australia, FSM and Palau

At the recent Regional Operation Rai Balang that was conducted from March 8-15, 2022, three FFA Members engaged in joint surveillance activities. These involved a RAAF SPARTAN C27 aircraft conducting aerial surveillance in Palau EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone), Surface surveillance Navy ship HMAS Melville conducting fisheries law enforcement patrol in FSM EEZ and delivery of inspection suits resource support under the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement (NTSA). Requests for assistance were submitted by Palau and FSM to Australia under the NTSA.

The NTSA is an agreement that sets up a framework for FFA (Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency) members to cooperate in surveillance and law enforcement activities in the south pacific region through resource, data, intelligence and information sharing. It aims to effectively manage the fishery and ensure sustainability and economic and social benefits.

Australia in conjunction with the Forum Fisheries Agency has donated two new sets of equipment to FSM recipients at NORMA and the Division of Border Control and Maritime Surveillance.

Each set of equipment consists of a Freezer Suit and associated Personal Safety Equipment (PPEs) to allow fisheries inspection officers to efficiently enter freezer compartments on fishing vessels to check the vessels fish catch records against the actual freezer holdings.

Mr. Justino Helgen, Senior Fisheries Compliance Officer from NORMA stated "once again we would like to reiterate our sincere thanks to Australia and FFA for the continued assistance given to us and the surveillance provided by HMAS Melville in FSM EEZ which contributes to the management of our fisheries resources."

The Aid support was presented by Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) and Maritime Surveillance Adviser to FSM on behalf of Australia during HMAS Melville Port visit in Pohnpei, Micronesia.



(L to R) NORMA Senior Fisheries Compliance Officer Justino Helgen, Royal Australian Navy Lieutenant Commander David Perry, and NORMA Assistant Director for Fisheries Compliance Division Youky Susaia Jr.

## Did you know?

- How much does FSM gain from its tuna resource? (Go to page 5 to find out)

## Event Announcement

### World Tuna Day

**is observed globally on May 2nd every year.** This day is established by the United Nations (UN) to raise awareness about the importance of tuna fish and to further promote the sustainable management of the species. On May 2, 2022, FSM will join the rest of the Global Community to celebrate this important day. We invite everyone to keep an eye out for announcements on the activities to be hosted in each state.

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### Acronyms of the Issue

- **EEZ (Page 1):** Exclusive Economic Zone is defined from the coastal baseline towards 200 nautical miles (nm). NORMA manages the 24-200nm of the FSM EEZ.
- **FMY:** Fishing Management Year is a period of one calendar year (1 January to 31 December).
- **PS:** Purse Seine is the largest fishing vessel type that uses fishing nets (see featured National Fisheries Corporation (NFC) F/V Taiyu Waab photo above for an example of a PS).
- **LL:** Longline is a fishing vessel type that uses series of baited hooks (see featured Liancheng F/V Shenlian-cheng761 photo below for an example of a LL).



## Purse Seine & Longline Transshipment/Unloading in FSM 2022

At the beginning of Fishing Management Year (FMY) 2022, there was a total of 24 Purse Seine (PS) called to FSM Ports for transshipment/unloading (Table 1). Both Kosrae and Pohnpei received 12 (50%) calls to port each respectively. Pohnpei may have had little activity from January to February; however, it is worth noting later in March there was a 90% increase in port calls for Pohnpei. As for Kosrae, there are port calls for January and March; however, in February there were zero (0) port calls reported for PS. It is also evident that March recorded the highest port calls in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of FMY2022.

As for PS volume in metric tons (MT) transshipped/unloaded in FSM ports, Table 2 depicted same activities and trends as Table 1.

In Table 3, a total 11 Longline (LL) were called to FSM Ports for unloading. Kosrae and Pohnpei received port calls with a total of 7 (64%) and 4 (36%), respectively. It is evident that LL port call particularly in February is higher than PS port call for transshipment/unloading. Nonetheless, there are still consistent port calls in Kosrae port by the end of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022.

As for LL volume in MT unloaded in FSM ports, Table 4 shows similar trend as Table 3 and with higher number of LL and volume visited and unloaded in Kosrae. As a result, Kosrae tends to be more attractive for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022.

**Table 1: Number of PS Transshipped/Unloaded in FSM Ports by Month, FMY 2022**

Month	Kosrae	Pohnpei	Total by Month
January	7	1	8
February	0	1	1
March	5	10	15
<b>Total by Port</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>

Source: NORMA (Preliminary data)

**Table 2: PS Volume(MT) of Transshipped/Unloaded in FSM Ports by Month, FMY 2022**

Month	Kosrae	Pohnpei	Total by Month
January	6,135	950	7,085
February	0	760	760
March	3,925	6,872	10,797
<b>Total by Port</b>	<b>10,060</b>	<b>8,582</b>	<b>18,642</b>

Source: NORMA (Preliminary data)



**Table 3: Number of LL Unloaded in FSM Ports by Month, FMY 2022**

Month	Kosrae	Pohnpei	Total by Month
January	4	0	4
February	2	3	5
March	1	1	2
<b>Total by Port</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>

Source: NORMA (Preliminary data)

**Table 4: LL Volume (MT) of Unloaded in FSM Ports by Month, FMY 2022**

Month	Kosrae	Pohnpei	Total by Month
January	163	0	163
February	60	174	234
March	16	37	53
<b>Total by Port</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>450</b>

Source: NORMA (Preliminary data)

## NORMA visits Pehleng Elementary School

On March 18th, NORMA, in collaboration with the SPC Micronesia Regional Office including the Pohnpei State Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture, visited Pehleng Elementary School to present various coastal and oceanic topics. These included the anchored fish aggregation devices (FAD), sea safety and tuna species. The NORMA Fisheries Science Division staff, Mr. Paulino James and Mr. Francisco Sigrah, presented the three different tuna species (yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye) targeted by the fishing industry in the FSM Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and sustainably managed by NORMA. The tuna presentation is in support of the upcoming World Tuna Day celebrations on the 2nd of May.



NORMA Assistant Observer Coordinator Paulino James (left) and NORMA Observer Debriefer Francisco Sigrah (right) presenting to the Pehleng Elementary School students

## FSM and Liancheng Partner to Meet T3 Challenge

NORMA and Liancheng Overseas Fishery Co., Ltd (Liancheng) are poised to meet the “T3 Challenge” by the target date of 2023. The T3 Challenge (Technology for Tuna Transparency) was launched by the FSM in 2018 and aims to achieve full transparency in fishing activities in the FSM’s longline fishery by 2023, using technology such as electronic monitoring (EM) and electronic reporting (ER) tools to support data collection.

With ongoing support from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), NORMA has been working to establish its national EM program, including development of performance standards for EM systems and protocols for reviewing video footage. As a major fisheries partner in the FSM, Liancheng joined the T3 Challenge soon after its launch and has been working collaboratively with the FSM on EM trials throughout the development period. Liancheng’s fleet of longline vessels fishing in the FSM are on track to meet the T3’s 2023 deadline and deliver the required data to support both FSM’s fisheries

management goals and Liancheng’s sustainability objectives.

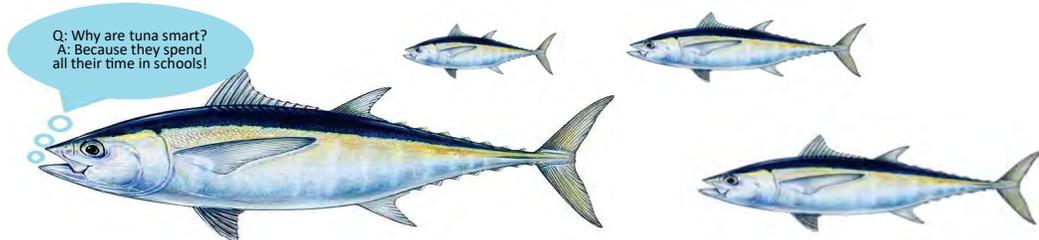
“EM is an important new addition to FSM’s existing set of monitoring tools and we look forward to closing key data gaps in our longline fishery. Liancheng’s cooperation over the last several years is greatly appreciated and we are pleased to be jointly implementing the T3 Challenge in 2023,” said NORMA’s Acting Executive Director Limanman Helgenberger. NORMA leads the region alongside the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Solomon Islands, New Zealand, and Australia in establishing a national EM program to support its national fisheries objectives. Liancheng added that “electronic monitoring has always been a key feature of their management approach and they are excited to join forces with NORMA to improve traceability in one of their key tuna fisheries.” Liancheng will kick-off NORMA’s phased EM implementation in January 2023 with up to 20 longline vessels providing EM data of their fishing activities in the FSM Exclusive Economic Zone.

### Acronyms of the Issue

- **EM:** Electronic Monitoring is an emerging technology tool that uses cameras to monitor fishing activities.
- **ER:** Electronic Reporting is any report that is compiled and generated electronically for statistical use and compliance.



*“EM is an important new addition to FSM’s existing set of monitoring tools and we look forward to closing key data gaps in our longline fishery...”*  
 - NORMA Acting Executive Director Helgenberger

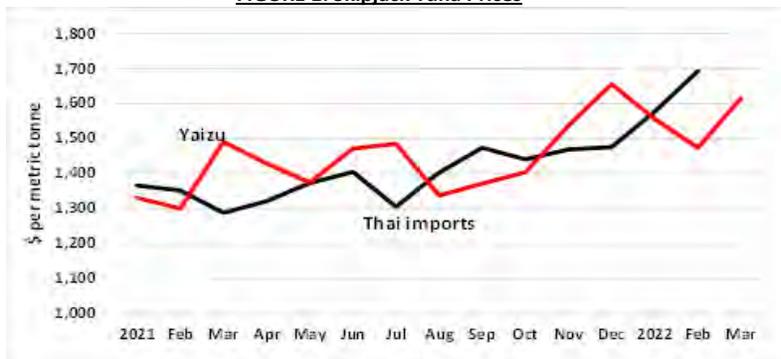


## Tuna Market Prices March 2022

Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

Monthly market prices in 2022 were mixed with prices for purse seine caught product were increasing. Thai imports averaging \$1,635/mt from January to February in 2022 which was higher than 2021 levels. In contrast Yaizu skipjack was on a downward trend in the first two months of 2022 before it increased 10% to \$1,615/mt in March (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1: Skipjack Tuna Prices



### Tuna Figures

Figure 1 Monthly skipjack prices, Thai imports (C&F) and Yaizu (ex-vessel) import prices.

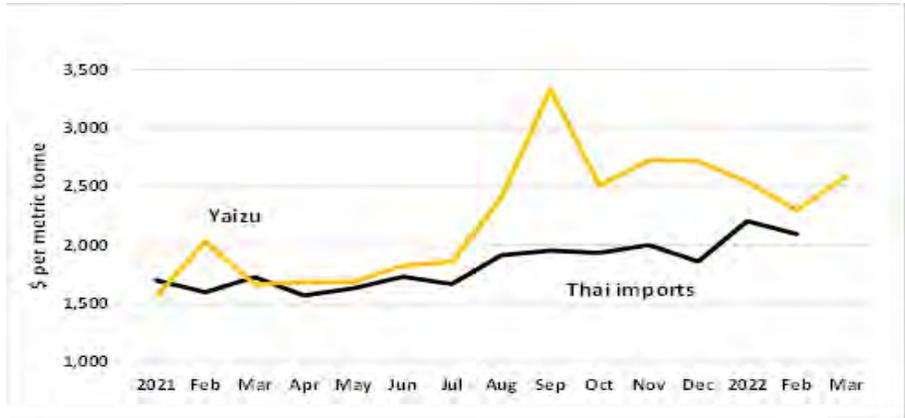
**Note:** \*2022 prices for period to February for Thai import price.



## Tuna Market Prices March 2022 cont.

Prices for purse seine caught yellowfin increased for Thai imports averaging \$2,151/mt from January to February 2022, 30% higher than in the same period in 2021. The Yaizu purse seine caught yellowfin prices (ex-vessel) declined 10% in February 2022 before it increased 13% in the following month. This was 56% higher than in the same period in 2021 (Figure 2).

**FIGURE 2: Yellowfin Tuna Prices**



*“...the volumes for sashimi grade bigeye and yellowfin continue to decline to lower levels in January to February 2022 and this is largely driven by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.” -FFA on Tuna Prices*

### Tuna Figures

Figure 2 Monthly yellowfin prices, Thai imports (C&F) and Yaizu (ex-vessel) import prices.

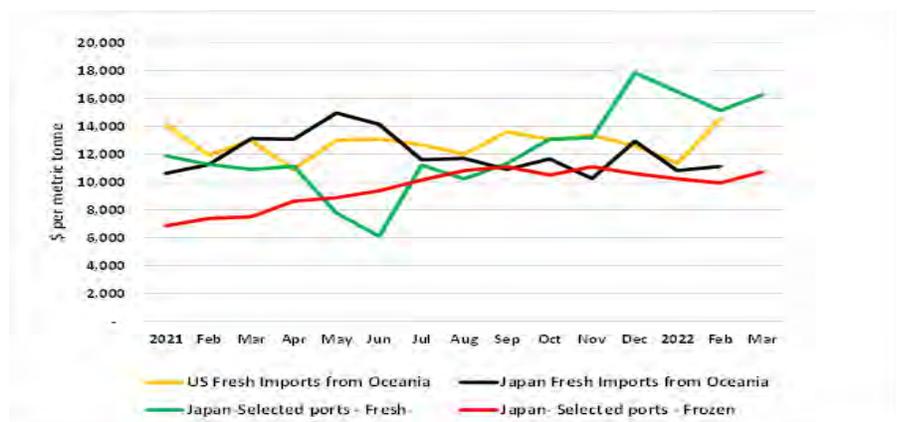
**Note:** \*2022 prices for period to February for Thai import price.

Figure 3 Monthly Japan and US bigeye prices.

**Note:** Japan fresh imports from Oceania are C.I.F. prices, Japan selected ports are ex-vessel prices and US imports are F.A.S. prices. Frozen at selected ports excludes purse seine caught landings. 2022 prices for period to February for US and Japan fresh import prices.

The US longline fresh bigeye import price declined 10% to \$11,363/mt in January 2022 before it increased in February by 28% to \$14,550/mt which was higher than 2021 levels. Similarly, the Japan bigeye fresh imports price declined 16% to \$10,830/mt in January 2022 and then increased in the next month by 3%. The bigeye selected ports prices for March 2022 were \$16,286/mt and \$10,733/mt for fresh and frozen bigeye products respectively, an 8% increase from the previous month. In addition, both of these prices were significantly higher than in the same period in 2021 by 49% and 43% for fresh and frozen bigeye selected ports prices respectively (Figure 3). It is important to note that the volumes for sashimi grade bigeye and yellowfin continue to decline to lower levels in January to February 2022 and this is largely driven by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**FIGURE 3: Bigeye Tuna Prices**

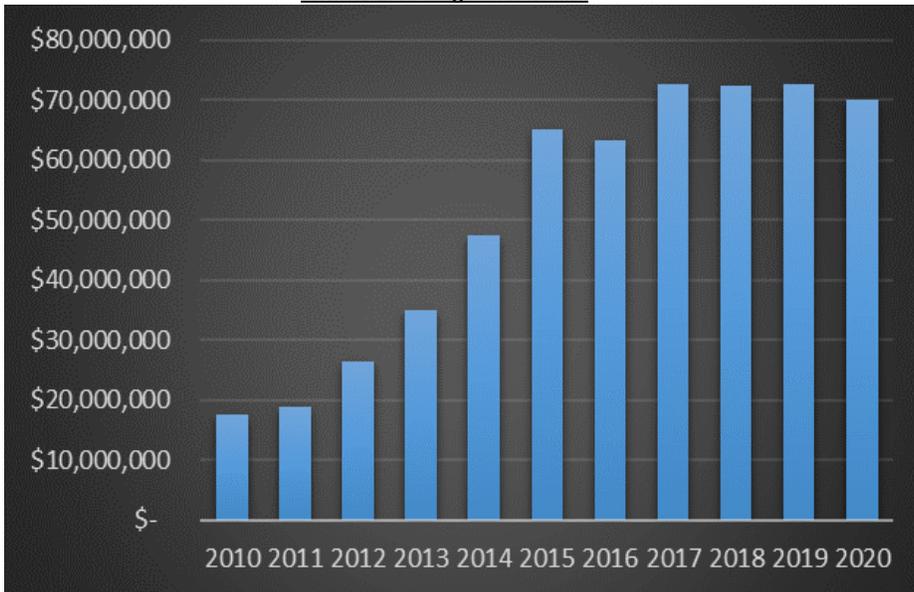


### Fishing Humor

What is the difference between a fish and a piano?  
-You can't tuna fish.

## FSM Fishing Revenues (2010-2020)

FIGURE 1: Fishing Fee Revenue



Source: Office of the National Public Auditor (ONPA)

### Revenue Figure

Figure 1 Shows a 10-year historical trend of FSM's Revenue from fishing fees.

## Upcoming Price Movements Due to Consistently Upward Trend in Oil Prices since May 2021

Vital FSMPC Press Statement February 4-2022 [www.vitalenergy.fm](http://www.vitalenergy.fm)

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia – The Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation (“Vital”) takes this opportunity to advise its valued customers of three scheduled price movements in the coming months. Due to the consistently upward trend in global oil prices since May 2021, wholesale prices for unleaded gasoline (ULP), diesel (ADO), and kerosene (DPK) for FSM customers are now confirmed to move:

**By +\$0.15 per gallon on Monday, February 21, 2022;**

**By +\$0.15 per gallon on Monday, March 21, 2022; and**

**By +\$0.10 per gallon on Wednesday, April 20, 2022.**

*“...wholesale prices are no longer sustainable and will need to increase to meet the rising costs.”-Vital Chief Financial Officer Mendiola*

Vital analysts note that in the past eight months, global oil prices have been consistently on the rise, and that FSM prices followed the same upward trend by moving a total of +\$0.75 in 2021. The last price increase in the country went into effect in September 2021, bringing the national average for a gallon of gasoline to \$4.65, and \$5.45 for a gallon of diesel.

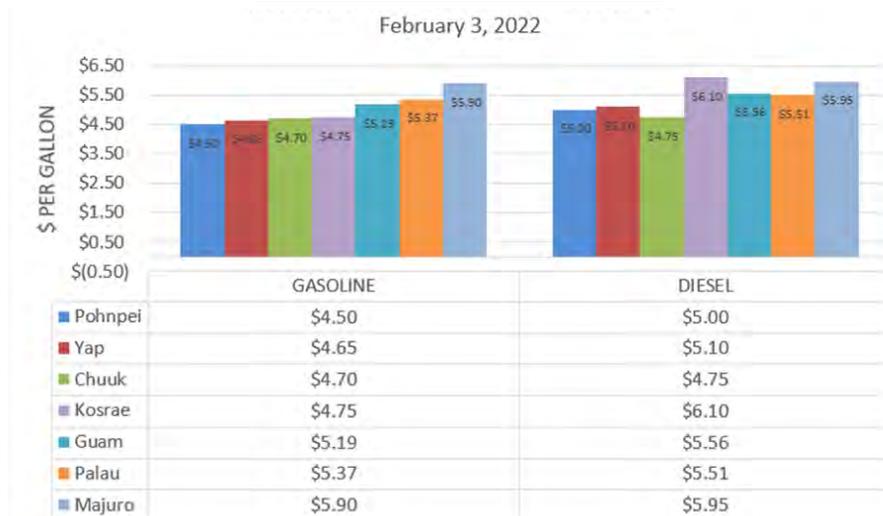
Vital Chief Financial Officer Ms. Cherish Mendiola commented, “The data clearly shows that the MOPS price is above pre-COVID levels and continues to rise. You can see proof of the upward trend in places like Guam, where motorists have seen the price of gas jump forty-five cents per gallon since January 5, 2022. Thankfully, the stabilizing mechanism in our pricing framework has deferred any further price movements for the country since September,” Mendiola continued, “and FSM motorists are paying retail prices that are up to sixty cents lower than retail prices in Guam. This is great for FSM motorists but realistically speaking, wholesale prices are no longer sustainable and will need to increase to meet the rising costs.”



## Trend in Oil Prices cont.

As of February 3, 2022, retail prices in the FSM range from as low as \$4.50 in Pohnpei (Panuelo's Gas Station), \$4.65 in Yap (YCA, Coco Tree Service Center), \$4.70 in Chuuk (K&I), to \$4.75 in Kosrae (Senny's Gas Station.) Retail prices in other Micronesian islands are currently at \$5.19 in Guam (Mobil); \$5.37 in Palau (Belechel M-Dock Gas Station); and \$5.90 on Majuro (Ace's One Stop).

**FIGURE 1: Regional Retail Price Comparison**



## Meetings (WCPFC, PNA, FFA)

### APRIL

- 1 – 25th MCS Working Group meeting (MCSWG25)
- 5-8 – Pacific Leadership Fisheries Program L4C Module 4: Managing yourself
- 6-7 – Tuna Data eWorkshop
- 13-14 – Our Oceans Conference
- 22 – 3rd ABC Meeting
- 26-27 – PNA 4th Implementation Arrangement Workshop
- 27 – Regional Fisheries Economics Refresher Workshop
- 28-29 – EM SSPs Workshop

### MAY

- 3-6 – PFMP Leadership in Times of Uncertainty
- 3 – OFMP III Inception Meeting (FMD)
- 3 – Observer Insurance Meeting & Observer livelihood & safety update meeting
- 3-4 – HS Limits and Allocations Workshop
- 10-12 – 5th Workshop on South Pacific Albacore (SPA5)
- 11-13 – 5<sup>th</sup> Renegotiation of US Treaty
- 17 – Audit & Risk Committee Meeting (ARC22)
- 18 – Gender Forum
- 24-27 – 122th Annual Forum Fisheries Committee Meeting (FFC122)
- 25-27 – Pacific Oceans Alliance Meeting

### JUNE

- 13-17 – 17th PNA Ministerial Meeting (PNAMIN17)
- 27-July 1 – UN Ocean Conference – Lisbon
- 28-July 1 – Observer Report Incident Analysis Training

### JULY

- 5 – Pre-Ministerial Special FFC123 and RFMM 3 Meetings
- 6 – 19<sup>th</sup> FFC Ministerial Meeting (FFCMIN19)
- 7 – Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM3)

## Fishing Humor

Why are fish so easy to weigh?

-Because they have their own scales

## NORMA

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Our mission at the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) is to be an effective guardian and manager of the marine resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Federated States of Micronesia for people living today and for generations of citizens to come. The Authority works to ensure that these resources are used in a sustainable way; obtain the maximum sustainable economic benefits from the resources; and promote economic security for the nation through their use.

## *Meet the NORMA team...*

Our Assistant Director, Mr. Youky Susaia, Jr., heads the Fisheries Compliance Division (FCD) at the Authority. His team is responsible for managing monitoring and control measures to ensure that fishing vessels comply with national laws and regulations and regional and international obligations.

Youky graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy with a degree in Management. Upon graduation, Youky assumed the duties and responsibilities of Assistant Director for the Fisheries Compliance Division at NORMA. A major part of his roles and responsibilities is coordinating and collaborating with fisheries law enforcement agencies across the region in combatting illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) fishing. Should you have any questions, please email us at [info@norma.fm](mailto:info@norma.fm).

Our next issue will feature another NORMA team member, stay tuned...



Youky Susaia Jr.  
Assistant Director