



Brussels Policy Brief No. 38

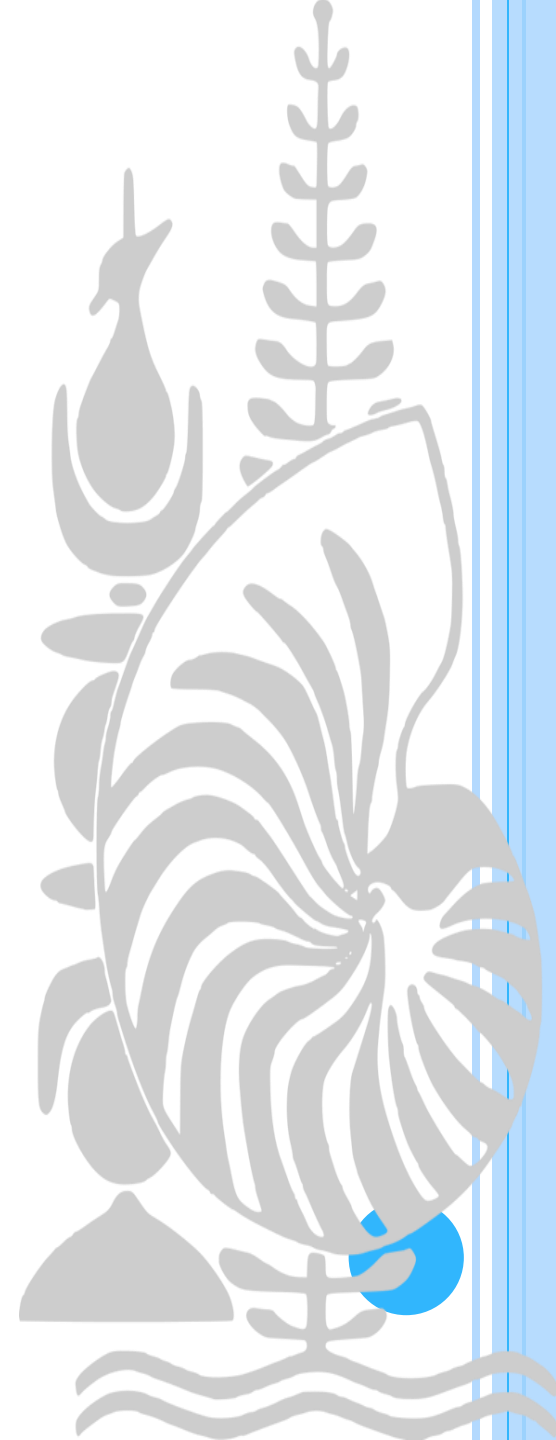
# FIGHTING AGAINST ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING (IUU)

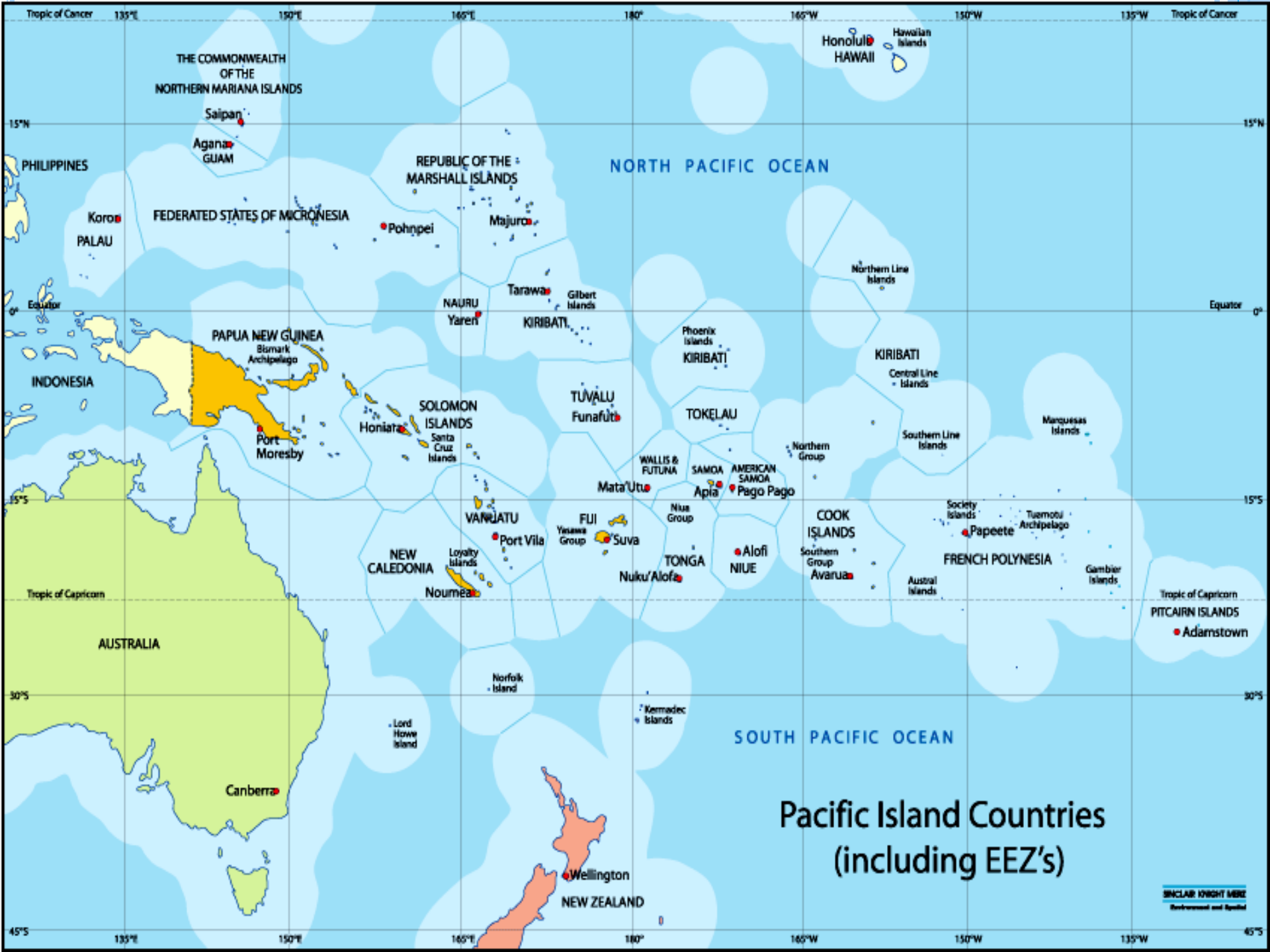
Successes in fighting IUU Fishing:  
The case of Fiji

27<sup>th</sup> October 2014

# OUTLINE

- Preface
  - Location
  - Background of Fiji
- Fiji Fisheries Resources
  - Inshore,
  - Aquaculture
  - Offshore
- Fiji's "Fall from Grace"
- Offshore Fisheries Management in Fiji:
  - Meeting to our Commitments
  - Additional Measures
- Concluding Remarks





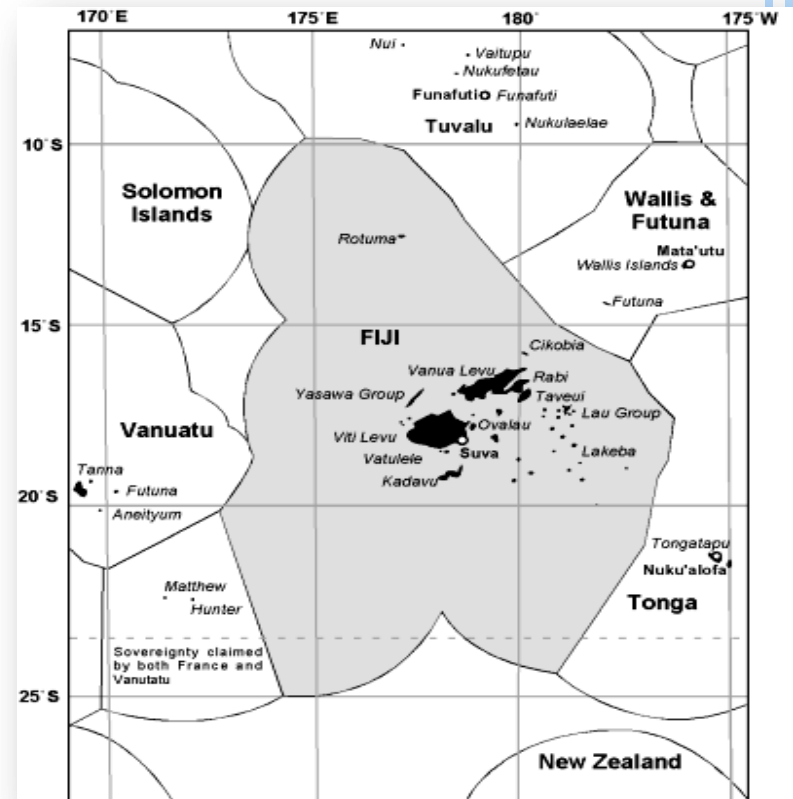
# Pacific Island Countries (including EEZ's)

# FIJI

- **Population** : 848,000
- **EEZ Area** : 1,282,978 sqkm<sup>2</sup>
- **Land Area** : 18,272 sqkm<sup>2</sup>
- **Land Area as Percentage of EEZ** : 1.5%
- **Fisheries Contribution to GDP**: 2.7%
- **Fisheries and aquaculture activities:**

Oceanic fisheries, coastal fisheries, freshwater and estuarine fisheries, coastal and freshwater aquaculture.

- **Membership of regional fisheries management arrangements:** Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA); Secretariat to the Pacific Community (SPC), Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC); South Pacific Tuna and Billfish subcommittee; Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG).

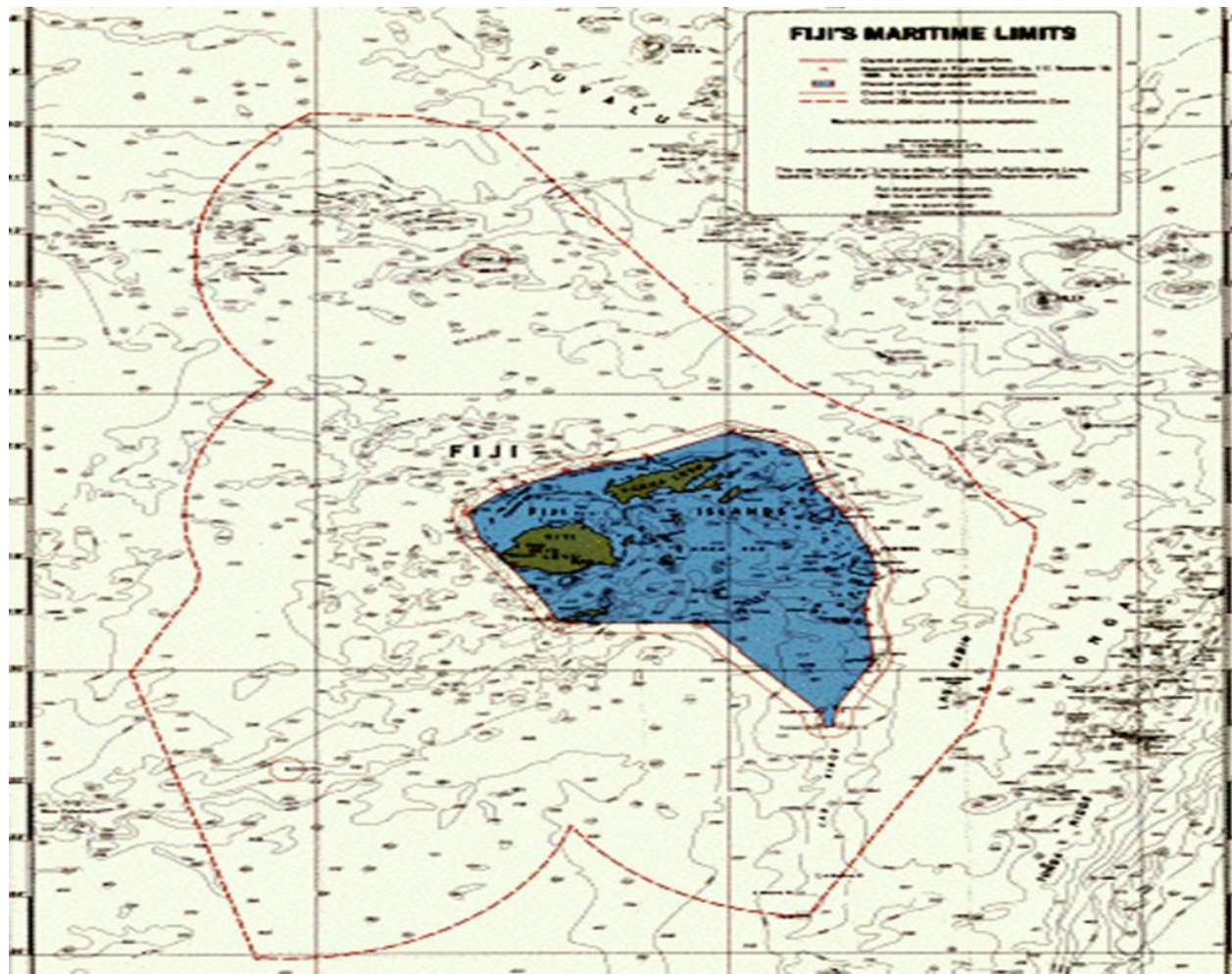


# FIJI

- **Terrain:** Mostly mountainous of volcanic origin.
- **Climate:** Tropical with temperatures ranging from 18°C to 23°C. Pronounced wet and dry zones on the two main islands. The wet season is from November to April and the dry season is March to October. Rainfall 1500 mm up to 6000 mm at higher elevations.
- **Geography:** Includes 332 islands of which approximately 110 are inhabited. Two main islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu with more than 300 smaller islands. Capital City “Suva” is situated on Viti Levu.
- **Economy:** Important industries include sugar and tourism. Fish, sugar, garments, gold and timber dominate export commodities.



# FIJI'S MARITIME LIMITS



**Internal  
waters: 25,558  
sq.km**

**Archipelagic  
waters:  
134,470 sq.km**

**Territorial  
seas:  
45,375 sq.km**

**EEZ :  
1.3 million sq.km**

# FISHERIES RESOURCES: INSHORE FISHERIES

- Comprises of :
  - ❖ *Artisanal Fisheries* :
    - Reef Fish & Invertebrates
    - Local & Export market orientated
  - ❖ *Subsistence Fisheries* :
    - Estimated at between 18 to 19,000 tonnes per annum
- Archipelagic waters divided on into 410 I'Qoliqoli's that's is "customary fishing grounds".
- Marine resources, particularly from inshore waters, are a main staple in the rural diet
- 50% of all rural households participate in some form of subsistence fishing
- Targeted species include:
  - ❖ *Lethrinidae*
  - ❖ *Serranidae*
  - ❖ *Carangidae*
  - ❖ *Lutjanidae*
  - ❖ *Mugilidae*
  - ❖ *Scrombidae*
  - ❖ *Scaridae* and
  - ❖ *Sphyraenidae* .
- There are also invertebrates that are fished intensively, such as sea cucumbers, crabs, bivalves molluscs, prawns, lobsters and octopus.
- Mainly collected by women and children.

# FISHERIES RESOURCES: AQUACULTURE

- Aquaculture is a sector strongly encouraged and supported by state to:
  - ❖ Strengthen food security;
  - ❖ Improve livelihoods;
  - ❖ Encourage rural development;
  - ❖ Create income generation avenues and alternatives;
  - ❖ Import substitution;
  - ❖ Address negative impacts of Climate change
- Aquaculture potential in Fiji remains to be fully explored;
- Fiji Government has shown commitment through investing in a new Multi-species hatchery and has introduced a new commercially viable Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) species [*p.vannamei*];
- Major aquaculture commodities are:
  - ❖ Pearls
  - ❖ Seaweed
  - ❖ Tilapia
  - ❖ Carps
  - ❖ Clams
  - ❖ Brakishwater Shrimp
  - ❖ Freshwater Prawns
  - ❖ Ornamental Fish
  - ❖ Aquarium trade





# FISHERIES RESOURCES: OFFSHORE

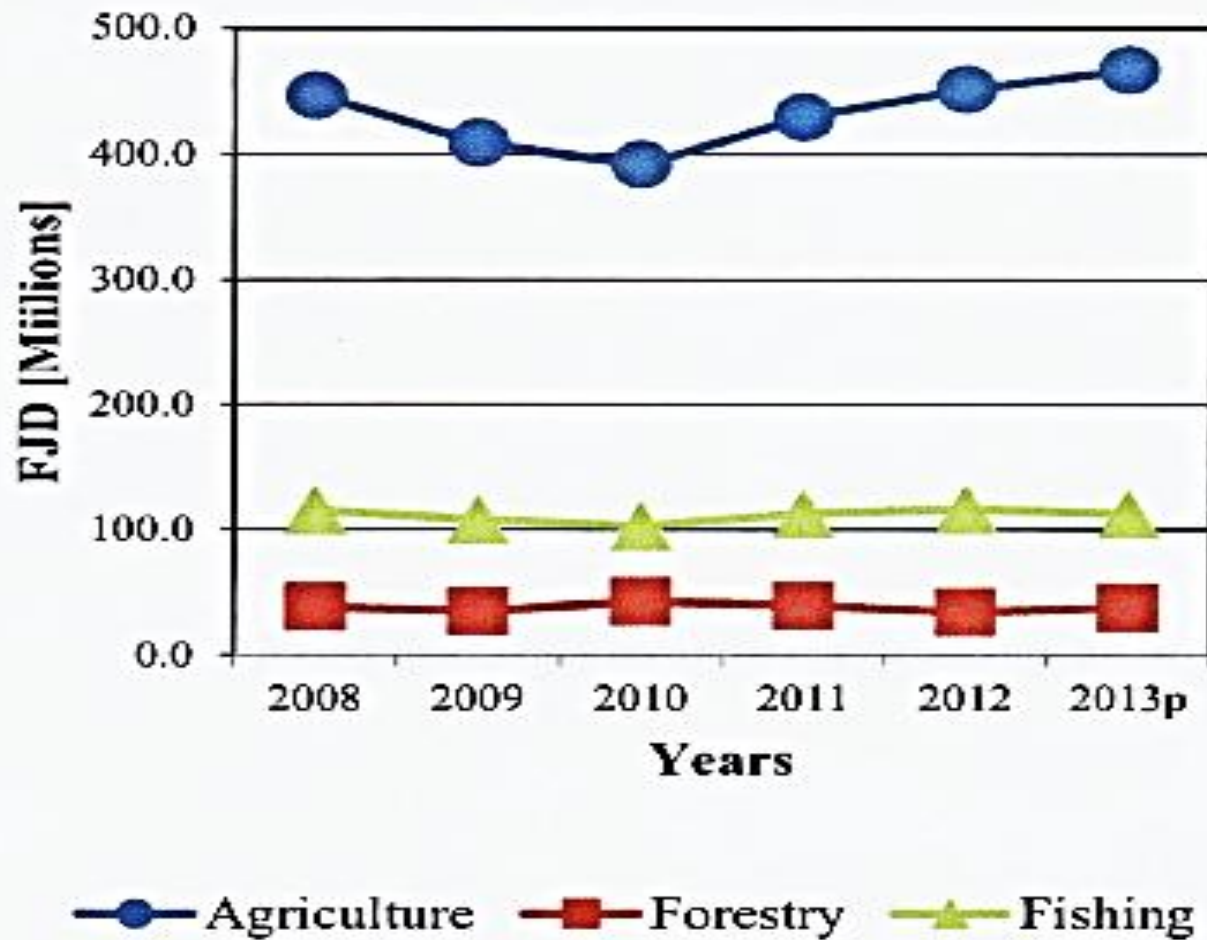
## Background:

- Fiji is one of the major flag states within the Pacific;
- Currently have 99 active long line vessels;
  - ❖ 16 fish within Fiji's archipelagic waters;
  - ❖ 78 fish either in Fiji's EEZ or/and other in-zones, high seas of Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO).
- Offshore fisheries contributes to majority of Fisheries contribution to GDP

## Major Export Markets & Commodities

- Major markets:
    - ❖ Japan
    - ❖ United States
    - ❖ Thailand
    - ❖ American Samoa
    - ❖ European Union - emerging
  - Commodities:
    - ❖ Fresh & frozen sashimi;
    - ❖ Tuna Loins;
    - ❖ Whole fish;
    - ❖ Other value-added products
- 

# SECTORAL CONTRIBUTION TO GROWTH



# FIJI'S "FALL FROM GRACE"

- In 2012, Fiji was visited by the Principal Advisor to the Director General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) with his team, and an on-site assessment was undertaken;
- The outcome of the visit confirmed that Fiji did not have in place the relevant legal and policy framework and capacity to appropriately contribute to combatting IUU fishing;
- Consequently, Fiji was warned through a yellow card to put our house in order by complying with the EU IUU Regulation 1005/2008 or else lose market access;
- This was a wake-up call for Fiji to positively assess our shortfalls, address them adequately and committedly move forward;

# MEETING TO OUR COMMITMENTS

- In order to fully comply with requirements set forth by EU, Fiji took stringent measures and the following legislation and policy frameworks were completed, of which most have been adopted by the Fiji Government:
  - ❖ Fiji Offshore Fisheries Management Decree 2012;
  - ❖ Fiji Offshore Fisheries Management Regulation 2014;
  - ❖ Revised Tuna Management and Development Plan – 2014;
  - ❖ Revised Fiji National Plan of Action on IUU – 2014;
  - ❖ Fiji National Plan of Action on Sharks – New (Awaiting formal adoption) and;
  - ❖ National Strategy for Fiji Fishing Vessels Operation in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction – New (awaiting formal adoption)



# ADDITIONAL MEASURES

## National Commitments

- Apart from the aforementioned laws & policies, the following additional measures were implemented by the Fiji Government:
  - ❖ Recruitment of 25 additional staff in 2013 to boost the Fiji Fisheries Offshore Division, now bringing the total number to 53 for the Division;
  - ❖ Implementation of limits for in-zone (EEZ) licenses to 60 long line vessels;
  - ❖ TAC limit for the 3 major targets species (albacore, yellowfin & bigeye) at 12,000mt;
  - ❖ Set limit on our fleet operating in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) at 85 (which also includes most of the 60 vessels licensed for in-zone);



# CONTINUED

- ❖ Prohibiting of our vessels to fish only in the high seas – they will need to also hold a valid license from any other coastal State within the WCPFC Convention Area;
- ❖ Continual capacity enhancement of our staff in specific areas;
- ❖ Establishment of an Investigation Section within the Offshore Fisheries Division;
- ❖ Instituting MOU's with the key border agencies – Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF), Fiji Ports Corporation Limited (FPCL) and the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FIRCA) to strengthen domestic capability in effectively combating IUU;
- ❖ Similarly working towards establishing MOU's with the Fiji Police Force, Fiji Navy, Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) based out of the Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF);



# CONTINUED

## **Further Commitments:**

- ❖ Fiji will pursue establishing similar MOU's with our neighboring Island States in the areas in terms of sharing information, sharing of surveillance assets, sharing of observers and authorized officers in order to strengthen regional capability in effectively combating IUU;



# CONCLUDING REMARKS

- ❖ Fiji places utmost priority on its Maritime and Fisheries Sector, particularly on the development of its Fisheries Sector through sustainable means and we will continuously work towards the eradication of IUU fishing;
- ❖ We thank our partners - Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), and their affiliated donor partners - EU, Japan and the United States of America, to name a few, in assisting Fiji to strongly work towards a better framework for sustainable fisheries; and
- ❖ We are indeed appreciative in formally receiving the confirmation from DG MARE, Ms. Maria Damanaki, on the lifting of the “yellow card”, and we hereby thank her team, especially Mr. Cesar Deben, that assisted in improving our status in contributing to the global combat on IUU fishing.





**VINAKA VAKALEVU**

**Thank you**

