



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, OCEANS AND MARITIME AFFAIRS



“QUALITY MATTERS”

Glossary

Term	Definition
Activities	Activities are aligned within the Programs (specified in Budget Narratives) of the Ministry to deliver the objectives of Ministry Programs. Activities should be developed, bearing in mind the challenges identified to ensure delivery strategies can be implemented. Furthermore, the activities in the Corporate Plans should not only be informed by the NSDP goals and objectives but also by any other strategic policy documents that are relevant to those areas being planned, including any Sector Plans or Recovery Strategies that are in place.
Objectives	Objectives in the Corporate Plan are the over-arching organisational goals to be reached within the main program areas of activity of the Ministry. They should derive more or less directly from the NSDP, as expressed in the Budget Narratives. They express the expected outcomes (changes in the life of the target population) of the Ministry's endeavour. These objectives will be the same objectives as appear in the Budget Narrative.
Outcome	An Outcome can be expressed as a change in skills, attitudes, knowledge, behaviours, status, or condition, including life condition. An outcome is a long-term Impact Indicator. In the Vanuatu Government, outcomes are linked to the NSDP and objectives and are mapped against the Programs.
Output	Outputs (Service Targets/Indicators) are mapped against each Activity included in the Budget Narratives. Outputs (Service Targets/Indicators) are mapped against each Activity included in the Budget Narratives. In aligning targets to outcomes, Ministry planners will start with the baseline target level and project the desired level of improvement (taking into consideration available resources over a specific time period).
Program	A Program establishes the structure for internal responsibilities while providing clear line of sight regarding Ministry objectives. Programs have a broad focus, with most ministries developing at least two and most likely, no more than six strategic programs for the Corporate Plan. The identified Programs form the basis of the Budget Narratives against which the Appropriations Budget is allocated.
Risks	A risk is a factor that may make it difficult to achieve delivery of a planned activity. Options should be considered to lessen or mitigate against an identified risk
Service Targets	Service Targets or outputs are mapped against each Budget Narrative Activity. In aligning targets to outcomes, Ministry planners start with the baseline target level, and project the desired level of improvement (taking into consideration available resources over a specific time period). The Service Target indicates what the program will produce, with the resources provided to meet the identified need which the objectives are intended to address. Specific targets are expressed to measure results.
Strategic Direction	The Strategic Direction (often referred to as a Strategic Objective) of the Ministry includes the central forces that move the Ministry towards intended objectives, in particular the NSDP. This aligns the vision, mission, and core values so that strategies can be designed to reach the desired goal outcomes.
Strategy	A strategy is a plan or tactic to be followed to achieve objectives and related activities, considering resources needed and the potential risks.
SMART Indicators	<p>A SMART indicator or target is:</p> <p>Specific – clearly defined to anyone that has a basic knowledge of the project, program or policy.</p> <p>Measurable – to be counted, observed, analysed, tested or challenged.</p> <p>Achievable – is practical and can be done in time & with available resources – not too ambitious</p> <p>Relevant – contributes to the value of the activity</p> <p>Time-Bound – has clear dates for implementation/completion</p>

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1. Hon Minister's Message

Dear colleagues, partners, and stakeholders,



As we close the chapter on another year and I as a new Minister of the Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs, I'm pleased to present our Annual Report of 2025—a summary of our achievements, challenges, and the progress we've made together. This past year has been marked by meaningful growth, strengthened collaboration, and continued commitment to delivering value for our customers and communities as a new ministry.

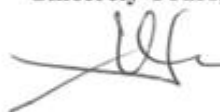
Whilst embracing the Government's policy to establish the new Ministry which primarily thrive to boost the prospect of blue Economy, it was not well prepared to position the ministry moving forward. However, we move graciously wholeheartedly noting the potential of this ocean sector is promising to the benefits of the population. It requires proper management and transparent Governance to maintain the marine resources in the sustainable manner.


Despite a dynamic economic environment and transition period to amalgamate the Corporate Service Unit (CSU) from the former Ministry of Youth Development and Sport, Department of Fisheries and Division of Oceans, Maritime Affairs and VMSA, we achieved strong performance across key areas of the business. Our strategic initiatives—focused on innovation, operational excellence, and customer-centricity—have positioned us for long-term success. We advanced critical projects, expanded our capabilities, and made significant strides in enhancing efficiency and quality across our operations.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication and resilience of our team. Your hard work, creativity, and commitment to our shared goals continue to drive our success. I want to extend my sincere gratitude for your contributions throughout the year.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on sustainable growth and continued transformation. The year ahead presents new opportunities to strengthen our market position, invest in emerging technologies, and build deeper relationships with our customers and partners. Together, we will continue to drive progress and achieve even greater results.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment. I look forward to what we will accomplish in the year ahead.

Sincerely Yours,

Hon Norris Jack KALME
Minister for Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs.

The official seal of the Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans & Maritime Affairs, Republic of Vanuatu. It is a circular seal with the text 'REPUBLIC OF VANUATU' at the top and 'MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, OCEAN & MARITIME AFFAIRS' at the bottom. In the center, it reads 'HON MINISTER' and 'MINISTRE' in both English and French.

2. Director General's Message

It gives me an honour and privilege as an incoming new Director General after serving as Diplomat and served in the foreign Mission for so long, I humbly acknowledge the **Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs** is a cornerstone of Vanuatu's national development strategy. It integrates modern marine governance, traditional stewardship, and sustainable economic development, particularly through fisheries and ocean resource management. With transformative legislation such as the Oceans Act No of 2025 and the establishment of national marine spatial planning, MFOMA is positioning Vanuatu as a regional leader in ocean governance and embraced the existing Fisheries Departmental programs.



The Financial Year 2025 started off well with the establishment of the new Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs, however several Director Generals were appointed at the Acting Positions during the transition period from January to Mid-December 2025.

Despite the continuous transaction changes and leadership for proper amalgamation, MFOMA continued to deliver programmes which are not reflected in the Annual Business Plan 2025. These activities are much related with or indirectly contribute to greater achievement of the Draft Corporate plan 2026 – 2030 and National Sustainable Development Plans of the People's Plan (NSDP) thematic pillars.

The greatest and much noticeable achievements after the COM Decision back then 2024 was successfully established the new Ministry of Fisheries and achieved the following at the Corporate Service Unit (CSU) level.

The two departments; Vanuatu Fisheries Department (VFD) and Department of Oceans and Maritime Boundaries (DOMB) Annual Business Plan (ABP) 2025 reports projected and outlined their respective program achievements. By reading through them, you will apprehend several achievements.

The greatest challenge is not having proper Director General at that time till, MFOMA recruitment the Director General in Mid December 2025. Additionally, immense pressure attained to fully and properly structuring of the MFOMA and alignment of Fisheries Staff and migrating to other departments and Division.

May I wish to take this opportunity to convey my gratitude to every officer who contributed one or the other way to achieve those above mention key indicators.

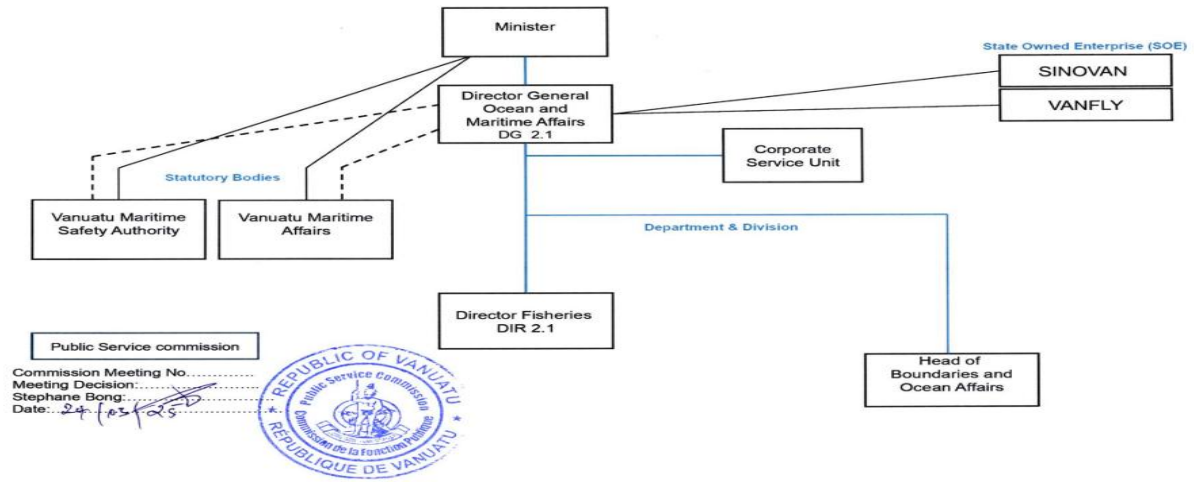
Wish you all the best.



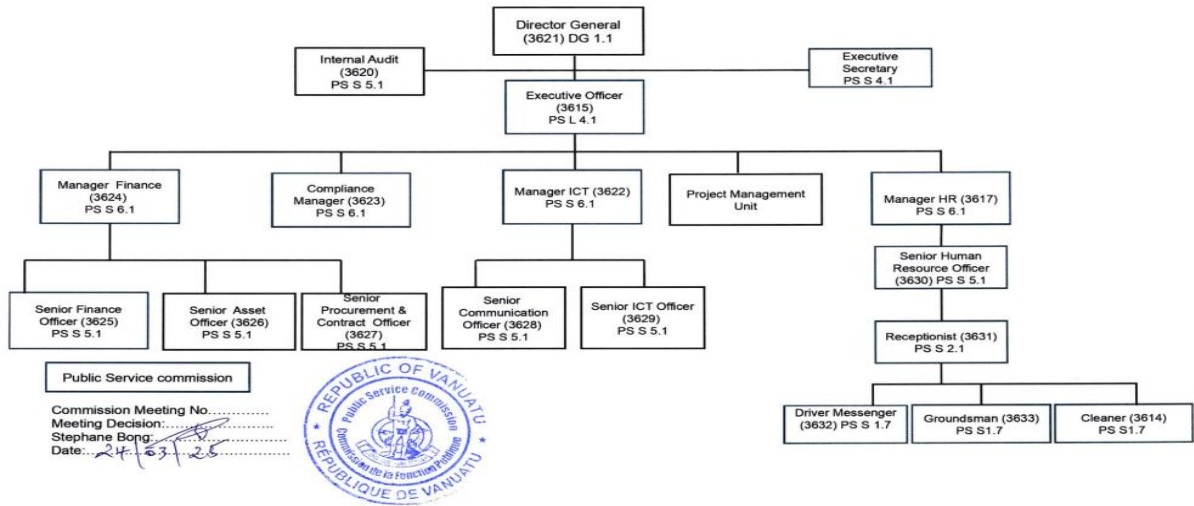
Samson VILVIL FARA
Director General Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs

3. Introduction of Ministry of Fisheries, Ocean and Maritime Affairs & Vanuatu Maritime Safety Authority (VMSA)

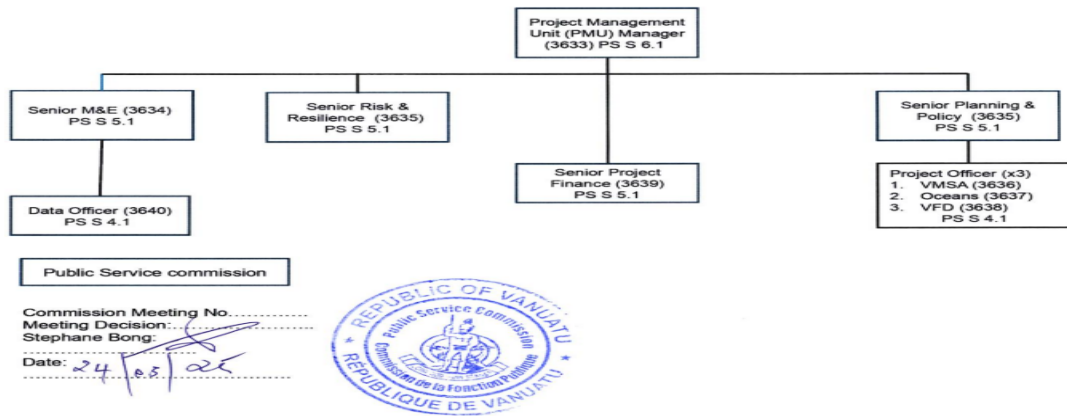
Ministry of Fisheries & Ocean and Maritime Affairs- Corporate Level



Corporate Service Unit - Ministry of Fisheries, Ocean and Maritime Affairs



Corporate Service Unit -Project Management Unit (PMU)



The Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs (MFOMA) was established in early 2025 by the Government of Vanuatu to lead the sustainable management, protection, and development of Fisheries, Marine resources. Led by Hon Minister Mr. Jack Norris KALMET. The ministry focuses on fisheries, ocean governance, and maritime affairs, aiming to enhance economic benefits and food security while addressing climate change impacts. On the whole, MFOMA aims to foster economic growth through the blue economy while safeguarding maritime rights and ensuring environmental sustainability

Key Aspects of the Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs (MFOMA):

- **MFOMA Establishment:** Created following a 2024 Council of Ministers decision and finalized in February 2025 under Article 42 of the constitution.
- **Core Responsibilities:** MFOMA to Oversees the Fisheries Department, maritime security, and integrated ocean governance.
- **Key Initiatives:** The Key initiatives include the implementation of the Oceans Act No of 2025, a national Marine Spatial Plan, and the strengthening of traditional inshore governance.
- **Strategic Focus:** The Ministry aligns with the National Ocean Policy to secure, protect, and manage Vanuatu's vast exclusive economic zone.
- **Fisheries Act:** The Vanuatu Fisheries Act No.10 of 2024 (as amended in 2029) is the primary legislation governing the management, development, and regulation of coastal and oceanic fisheries in Vanuatu. It defines the framework for licensing, conservation measures, aquaculture, and the enforcement of fishing laws, including prohibitions on destructive fishing methods and strict controls for commercial, local, and foreign vessels.

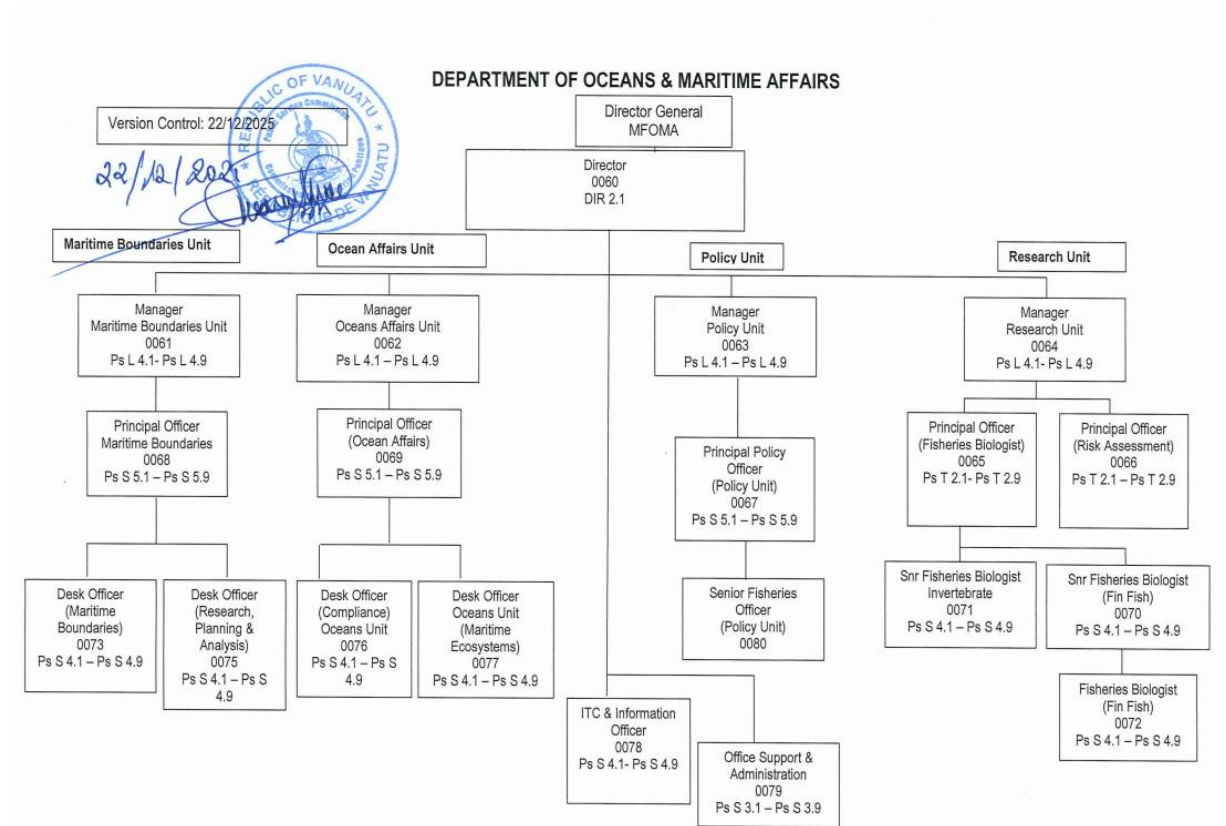
4. Overview & Core functions.

The Newly established **Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs (MFOMA)** is responsible for the stewardship, governance, protection, and sustainable development of the country's fisheries and expansive ocean resources. Public information describes MFOMA as an agency working to "safeguard our oceans for the future" while engaging communities and stakeholders across the archipelago.

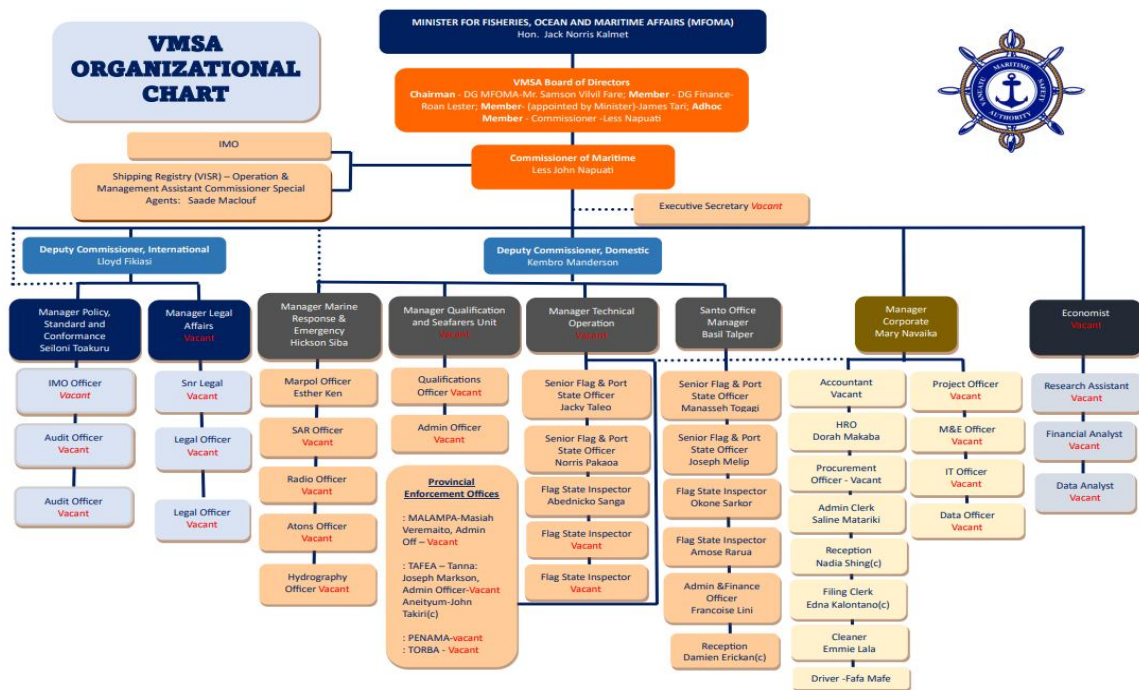
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration • Management & Policies • Development & Capture • Research & Aquaculture • Seafood Verification • Licensing & Compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries planning and regulation • Sustainable seafood verification • Data collection and resource monitoring • Community training and capacity building (e.g., handling practices, fish aggregating devices)
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B. Department of Oceans and Maritime Boundaries

The MFOMA oversees the **Department of Oceans and Maritime Boundaries (DOMB)**, established to strengthen national ocean governance and support traditional and modern marine management systems. MFOMA is the lead ministry for national ocean governance and responsible for:



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) • Oversight of coastal and offshore resource management • Policy coordination across government, provincial authorities, and traditional leader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National ocean policy implementation • Marine boundary negotiations • Leadership on maritime governance and climate-ocean issues
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c. Vanuatu Maritime Safety Authority

The functions of the Vanuatu Maritime Safety Authority (VMSA) are overseen by its own Governance in which Director General is the Chairperson.

The Vanuatu Maritime Safety Authority (VMSA) acts as the primary regulator for Vanuatu's Maritime sector, focusing on enforcing national laws (Shipping Act, VMSA Act, Maritime Act) and international conventions. Its core functions include promoting maritime safety, ensuring security, protecting the marine environment, registering vessels, and certifying seafarers.

Core Functions of the VMSA

- **Regulatory Enforcement:** Administers and enforces national maritime laws and international conventions (e.g., IMO conventions) to ensure safety, security, and compliance within Vanuatu's waters.
- **Vessel Registration & Safety:** Manages the registration of ships (cargo, fishing, passenger, and pleasure vessels) and conducts inspections/surveys to ensure they meet safety standards.
- **Seafarer Certification:** Handles the licensing, training standards, and certification of seafarers to ensure competency and safety.
- **Navigational Safety:** Provides and maintains aids to navigation (AtoNs) and hydrographic services.
- **Environmental Protection:** Monitors and manages risks related to marine pollution and oversees wrecks and salvage.
- **Port Security and Regulation:** Oversees safe, secure, and efficient port operations, including the enforcement of tariffs and regulations.
- **Emergency Response:** Strengthens maritime security and emergency preparedness.

Vanuatu Maritime Safety Authority (VMSA)'s Full Report shall be attached as an Annex.

VISION

“By 2030, the Ministry of Fisheries, Ocean, and Maritime Affairs (MFOMA) envision itself as the key player in directing resilient, sustainable development of fisheries, oceans and maritime governance, to promote resources sustainability towards food security, the socio-economic prosperity and human development for future generations.”

MISSION

The Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs is dedicated:

- To offer integrated and effective services in fisheries and maritime management.
- To enhance aquatic resources, ocean boundaries, and maritime safety through the National Sectoral Policies.
- To establishment of a maritime and fisheries college is part of its people development strategy.
- To foster responsible development to provide social, environmental, and economic benefits across Vanuatu.
- Embrace the establishment of Fisheries and Maritime College.

VALUES

MFOMA promotes the following values and its operations will be guided by:

- ◆ Respect
- ◆ Integrity
- ◆ Professionalism
- ◆ Collaborate and cooperate with stakeholders
- ◆ Transparency
- ◆ Accountability
- ◆ Self-reliance and resilience
- ◆ Teamwork

4.1. Report Against Relevant Corporate Plan Objectives

MFOMA has just developed its Corporate Plan 2025-2030 which outlined the following thematic objectives to be achieved over the next five years from 2026- 2030:

- 1. Maritime Infrastructure and Safety: Upgrading** the offices and ports, vessels, and navigational systems to ensure safe, secure and efficient maritime transit.
- 2. Sustainable Fisheries Management:** Strengthening governance, monitoring, and enforcement to protect fish stocks and support fisherfolk prosperity and access.
- 3. Ocean Conservation and Climate Resilience:** Safeguarding marine ecosystems while building adaptive strategies to counter climate change impacts.
- 4. Community Empowerment and Innovation:** Fostering inclusive partnerships, supporting traditional knowledge & governance, leveraging technology for job creation and equity.
- 5. International Maritime Boundaries:** Ensuring legally defined divisions of ocean space between our nation, based on international law—primarily the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**.
- 6. Defining Airspace boundaries:** The vertical and horizontal limits of our country’s sovereign control over the sky above its territory—including land and territorial waters.

These boundaries are crucial for national security, aviation regulation, and international laws.

7. Human Resource Development: Advocate to establish and support a Fisheries and Maritime College to meet the Vanuatu Human Resource Development Plan.

4.2. Report Against Annual Development Targets:

Achievement by the agencies of the Ministry prescribed in the Annual Development Report against the targets of the MFOMA Corporate Plan 2025-2026 and National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) are entitles in the Annual Business Plan 2025 Achievements Reports.

Divisions	Programs achieve against ABP2025.
<p>Corporate Services Unit</p> <p>The Ministry of Youth and Sports Development was dissolved in early 2025, and the CSU team was migrated and integrated into the new ministry under MFOMA. Despite the challenges and the reduced staffing levels, our dedicated team has shown remarkable commitment and resilience.</p> <p>We are pleased to share the list of deliverables that our small yet devoted group has successfully executed during this transition:</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>MFOMA structures established and approved in principle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create new Budget Code including cost centres • Submitted the NPP to implement the CSU PSC approved structure • Transfer of budget from the old cost centres to new cost centre • Completion of MFOMA Corporate Plan 2026 to 2030 & Quality Management System (QMS) • Appointment of the new Director General • Creation of new Department of Ocean & Maritime Affairs • Appointment of the Acting Director Oceans and Maritime Affairs • Establishment of Executive Management Committee • Establishment of Task Force as per COM Decision • Appointment of the Acting Director of Department of Ocean & Maritime Affairs • Procurement of two (2) MFOMA CSU Vehicles for DG & CSU Operation • Award 3rd Place on the TAFEA PSC Day, prize for best boot presentation • Secure of new office space for the MFOMA. </div> <p>Our team has put in considerable effort to ensure that these tasks were not only completed but done with a high standard of quality.</p>
Directorate	Department of Oceans and Maritime Affairs

A. Key Achievements in 2025

1 Institutional Establishment and Systems Development

- Established DOMA as a functional Department with defined mandate, structure and operational procedures;
- Developed internal governance systems, workplans, reporting frameworks and coordination mechanisms;
- Initiated recruitment processes for key technical and administrative positions;
- Established inter-ministerial coordination arrangements for oceans and maritime affairs.
- Oceans Act for Vanuatu

2 National Ocean Governance and Policy Coordination

- Led whole-of-government consultations on national ocean governance priorities;
- Supported alignment of sectoral policies (fisheries, environment, maritime transport, climate change) with national ocean objectives;
- Advanced groundwork for a National Ocean Policy and Integrated Ocean Governance Framework;
- Provided technical advice to line ministries on ocean-related legislation and regulatory reform.

3 Traditional Ocean Governance and Community Engagement

- Initiated work on strengthening Traditional Ocean governance through collaboration with customary authorities and custom courts;
- Supported pilot initiatives linking traditional marine tenure systems with formal governance frameworks;
- Facilitated consultations with communities on sustainable resource management, marine protected areas and locally managed marine areas;
- Promoted inclusion of traditional knowledge and cultural values in national ocean policy processes.

4 International Oceans and Maritime Affairs

- Coordinated Vanuatu's participation in regional and international ocean meetings and negotiations, including UNCLOS-related processes;
- Supported national engagement in negotiations on the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ);
- Facilitated capacity building for government officials on international ocean law and governance;
- Strengthened partnerships with regional organizations, UN agencies and development partners.

5 Blue Economy and Sustainable Development

- Initiated development of a National Blue Economy Roadmap to guide sustainable ocean-based economic development;
- Supported scoping studies and stakeholder consultations on fisheries value chains, aquaculture, marine tourism, renewable ocean energy and nature-based solutions;
- Promoted integration of climate resilience and environmental sustainability into ocean-based development planning;
- Engaged private sector and development partners to identify investment opportunities aligned with national priorities.

6 Marine Protection and Ocean Health

- Contributed to national efforts on marine biodiversity conservation, including support for marine protected areas and ecosystem-based management approaches;
- Supported initiatives on marine pollution prevention and waste management in coastal and marine environments;
- Promoted ocean literacy and awareness through public engagement activities and partnerships.

B. Programme Performance Against Annual Workplan

Programme 1: Ocean Governance and Policy Coordination

Objective: Strengthen integrated, whole-of-government governance of Vanuatu’s ocean space.

Key Outputs (2025): - National Ocean governance coordination framework developed; - Inter-agency working groups established and operational; - Policy briefs and advisory notes provided to Cabinet and senior officials.

Results: Improved coherence across sectoral ocean-related policies and strengthened institutional coordination.

Programme 2: International Oceans and Maritime Affairs

Objective: Enhance Vanuatu’s leadership and participation in regional and international ocean governance processes.

Key Outputs (2025): - National delegations supported to attend regional and international ocean meetings; - Technical inputs provided to international negotiations; - Capacity building workshops delivered to national officials.

Results: Stronger representation of Vanuatu’s national interests and enhanced institutional capacity on ocean law and governance.

Programme 3: Customary Ocean Governance and Community Engagement

Objective: Integrate customary governance systems into national ocean management frameworks.

Key Outputs (2025): - Community consultations conducted in selected provinces; - Policy concept notes developed on customary ocean governance and custom court integration; - Partnerships established with traditional leaders and civil society organizations.

Results: Improved recognition of customary marine tenure and community-based management within national governance processes.

Programme 4: Blue Economy and Sustainable Ocean Development

Objective: Promote inclusive, sustainable and climate-resilient ocean-based economic development.

Key Outputs (2025): - Blue Economy Roadmap concept framework developed; - Sector scoping studies initiated; - Stakeholder dialogues conducted with public and private sector actors.

Results: Stronger foundations for sustainable ocean-based economic diversification and investment.

Programme 5: Corporate Services and Institutional Strengthening

Objective: Build effective systems, human resources and financial management for DOMB.

Key Outputs (2025): - Internal policies, procedures and reporting systems established; - Staff recruitment and onboarding processes implemented; - Budget management and financial reporting strengthened.

Results: Improved organisational effectiveness and accountability.

c. Financial Performance

6.1 Financial Management and Accountability

DOMB complied with the Public Finance and Economic Management Act and Government financial regulations. Financial reports were submitted in a timely manner, and expenditures were aligned with approved workplans and budget allocations.

7. Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement

During 2025, DOMA strengthened partnerships with:

- Line ministries and government agencies;
- Provincial governments and municipal councils;
- Traditional authorities and community organizations;
- Regional organizations and multilateral agencies;
- Development partners and donors;
- Civil society organizations and academic institutions.

These partnerships were critical to delivering integrated ocean governance outcomes and advancing national and community priorities.

8. Gender Equality, Social Inclusion and Youth

DOMB is committed to inclusive ocean governance that recognizes the roles, rights and contributions of women, youth, persons with disabilities and marginalized groups.

In 2025, the Department: - Promoted gender-responsive approaches in consultations and programme design; - Supported participation of women and youth in ocean governance dialogues; - Integrated social inclusion principles into policy development and stakeholder engagement processes.

D. Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Environmental Sustainability

DOMA mainstreamed climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and environmental sustainability into all programmers, recognizing their central importance to ocean governance in Vanuatu.

Key actions included: - Integrating climate resilience into Blue Economy planning; - Supporting ecosystem-based management approaches; - Aligning Ocean governance initiatives with national climate and disaster risk strategies.

E. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

DOMB developed a results-based monitoring and evaluation framework aligned with Government performance management systems.

In 2025, the Department: - Established performance indicators and reporting templates; - Conducted internal reviews of programme implementation; - Documented lessons learned and good practices to inform future planning.

F. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Key Challenges

- Limited staffing and financial resources during establishment phase;
- Need for stronger cross-sectoral coordination across multiple ministries and agencies;
- Capacity constraints in specialized areas such as international ocean law and Blue Economy financing;
- Balancing national policy priorities with community needs and customary governance systems.

Lessons Learned

- Early investment in institutional systems and coordination mechanisms is critical for long-term effectiveness;
- Strong partnerships with traditional entities that will enhance legitimacy and sustainability of ocean governance;
- Regional and international engagement strengthens national capacity and policy coherence;
- Integrated approaches are essential to managing competing ocean uses and development pressures.

Summary Achievements

During the reporting period, the department achieved several milestones as are listed below:

- The signing of the Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding between The Government of the Republic of Vanuatu and the Waitt Institute;
- The launching of the 2023 Blue Prosperity Vanuatu (BPV) Coral Reefs Study Final Science Report (which are the results from the 2023 BPV Expedition);
- The successful expedition from the National Geography – Pristine Seas;
- The elevation of from the Maritime & Ocean Affairs Division to the Department of Oceans & Maritime Affairs;
- Deposition of BBNJ Treaty in Nice, France on the margins of UNOC 3
- The Vanuatu Oceans Act which was passed in Parliament, in November 2025;

- Resumption of maritime boundary talks between Fiji - Vanuatu and France - Vanuatu.

Activities

The department consist of two programs:

- Ocean Affairs – focusing mainly on Vanuatu’s management of the ocean space;
- Maritime Boundaries – focusing mainly on Vanuatu’s unresolved maritime boundaries with Fiji and New Caledonia/France.

Ocean Affairs Unit Activities

Month	Activity Implemented
February	Establishment of the Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs
March/April	BBNJ Conference – Palau
April	Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu and the Waitt Institute
May	Monitoring & Evaluation Training by SPC – YumiWok
June	United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC) – Nice, France
July	Development of the Oceans Act (Inception workshop – Ramada)
July	Launching of the ‘2023 Coral Reef Expedition’ – Final Science Report – NUV
July	Sea Sketch training – NUV (training by John Kaitu’u, Marine Spatial Planning Technical Manager)
July	Arrival of Ted Waitt to Vanuatu
September	National Geography – Pristine Seas Expedition
September	Panel Discussion on Traditional Governance followed by the Launching of a short documentary of the Laone - Lamalana MPA – NUV
September/October	Pacific Islands Oceans Conference (PIOC) – Honiara, Solomon Islands
October	Closing Event (Nat Geo Expedition Video) – National Geography: Pristine Seas – Jills Café
October	Ocean Use Survey Workshop – Ramada
October	Photo-camp, Nat Geo – Laone, North Pentecost
October	Establishment of the Department of Oceans and Maritime Affairs
November/December	Oceans Act No.45 of 2025 – Passed in Parliament and Assented

Maritime Boundary Delimitation Unit Activities

Month	Activity Implemented
April	1 st Meeting - National Committee on Maritime Boundary Delimitation
June	2 nd Meeting - National Committee on Maritime Boundary Delimitation
September	3 rd Meeting - National Committee on Maritime Boundary Delimitation
September	Fiji – Vanuatu Maritime Boundary Delimitation Technical Talks
October	4 th Meeting - National Committee on Maritime Boundary Delimitation
October	5 th Meeting - National Committee on Maritime Boundary Delimitation
November	6 th Meeting - National Committee on Maritime Boundary Delimitation
November	France – Vanuatu Maritime Boundary Delimitation Formal Negotiations

Directorate

Department of Fisheries.

The Vanuatu Fisheries Department (VFD), under the Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs (MFOMA), is responsible for the sustainable management, development, and conservation of

fisheries resources to maximize social and economic benefits. Core functions include enforcing fisheries laws, monitoring offshore/coastal activities, licensing fishing vessels, and supporting community-based management.

Core Functions and Responsibilities:

- **Fisheries Management & Policy:** Develops, implements, and reviews management plans for designated fisheries (e.g., deep-bottom fish, coastal, tuna) to ensure sustainable yields.
- **Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS):** Operates MCS to detect illegal fishing, enforces regulations via patrols (e.g., *RVS Takuare*), and supports maritime security in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- **Licensing and Compliance:** Manages licensing for both domestic and foreign fishing vessels.
- **Coastal Fisheries & Community-Based Management (CBFM):** Promotes sustainable practices, supports community-based resource management, and strengthens local fishing skills.
- **Research & Aquaculture:** Conducts research on fish stocks, aquaculture (freshwater hatchery production), and provides extension services to farmers.
- **Seafood Verification:** Ensures safety and quality standards for exported and local seafood products.
- **Infrastructure & Development:** Deploys fish aggregating devices (FADs) and supports fishing infrastructure.

The VFD operates across six main divisions—including Administration, Development, Research, and Licensing—and is guided by the National Fisheries Sector Policy 2016–2031 to enhance the sector.

Vanuatu Fisheries Department international Obligations.

The Vanuatu Fisheries Department (VFD) comply with international obligations to manage, conserve, and regulate fishing activities, particularly for tuna and high-seas species, in line with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and CITES, ensuring its flagged vessels follow international laws, including Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS).

Food and Agriculture Organization etcetera.

Key international obligations include:

- **Regional Fisheries Management Organisations. (RFMOs):** Compliance with Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) set by organizations like the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), particularly regarding catch reporting and gear restrictions.
- **Vanuatu Flag State Responsibilities:** Ensuring Vanuatu-flagged vessels operate sustainably on the high seas, comply with international laws, and avoid Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

- **International Authorization to Fish (IATFL):** Vessels operating outside Vanuatu waters must have specific, valid authorization and report to the Vanuatu Vessel Monitoring System.
- **CITES Compliance:** The Department acts as a scientific authority for CITES, regulating the trade of endangered marine species, including turtles, corals, and shells.
- **International Law Agreements:** Adherence to the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and relevant WTO
- **Regional Fisheries Management Organisations. (RFMOs):** Compliance with Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) set by organizations like the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), particularly regarding catch reporting and gear restrictions.
- **Vanuatu Flag State Responsibilities:** Ensuring Vanuatu-flagged vessels operate sustainably on the high seas, comply with international laws, and avoid Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- **International Authorization to Fish (IATFL):** Vessels operating outside Vanuatu waters must have specific, valid authorization and report to the Vanuatu Vessel Monitoring System.
- **CITES Compliance:** The Department acts as a scientific authority for CITES, regulating the trade of endangered marine species, including turtles, corals, and shells.
- **International Law Agreements:** Adherence to the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and relevant WTO

In conjunction to those requirements VFD has committed in these following international meetings.

RFMO	Annual meetings	Annual Technical compliance meeting	Annual Scientific Meetings
WCPFC	WCPFC Annual Meeting	WCPF Technical Compliance Committee Meeting	WCPF Scientific Meeting
SPRFMO	SPRFMO Annual Meeting	SPRFMO Compliance and Technical Meeting	SPRFMO Scientific Committee Meeting
NPFSC	NPFSC Annual Commission Meeting	NPFSC Annual Technical Compliance Committee Meeting	NPFSC Scientific Committee Meeting
IATTC	IATTC Annual Commission Meeting	IATTC Annual Technical Compliance Committee Meeting	CCAMLR Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting

VFD recorded 22 International trips officers attended across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. These trips supported regional/international meetings/collaborations, capacity building and strategic engagement with international partners and a record of 33 domestic trips throughout the Island of Vanuatu purposely implementing fisheries activities. While effective management of reporting is so significant, the Department is currently faced with the challenge of inefficiency of trip report submissions as summarized in the graph below.

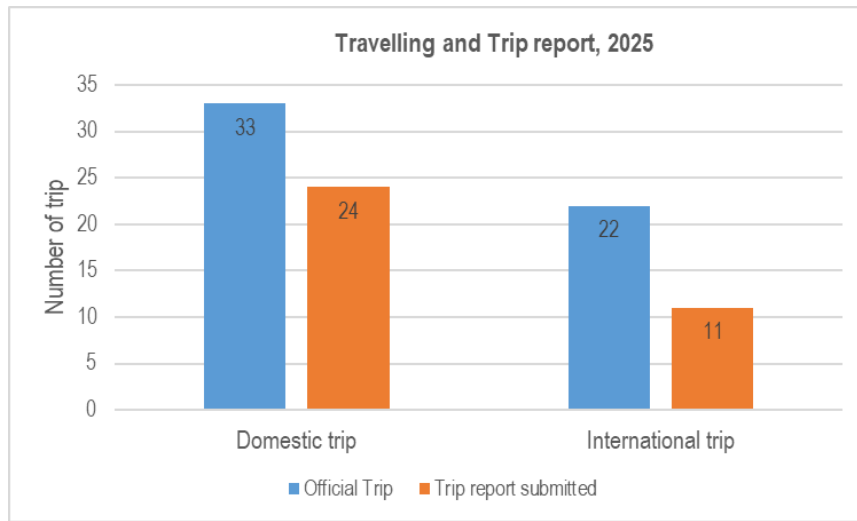


Figure 1: 2025 Fisheries Staffs Domestic and International Travelling Trips against reports submitted and not submitted

National Program Activities

a). Activity MAE – 48B – Fisheries Resource Management

Management of Tuna Fishery

Tuna fishery is managed and guided by revised Tuna Fishery management plan of 2014. The plan provides guidance to the sustainable harvesting for long term economic and social benefits whilst maintain international compliance in accordance with international conventions and treaties Vanuatu is party to. Key feature in the plan includes management of highly migratory species, management and controlling fishing licenses, promotion of locally based sustainable fleet and active engagement with regional RFMOs.

VU EEZ

In 2025, the total catch production by species in VU EEZ is 4,159.63 metric tons both by Foreign and local Vessels. The fish offloaded were exported and some were sold locally. The data are based exclusively on valid log sheets and data is sought from Tufman@ with 2025 log sheet overage summary at 54.5%.

Summary of Total catch production in the graph below.

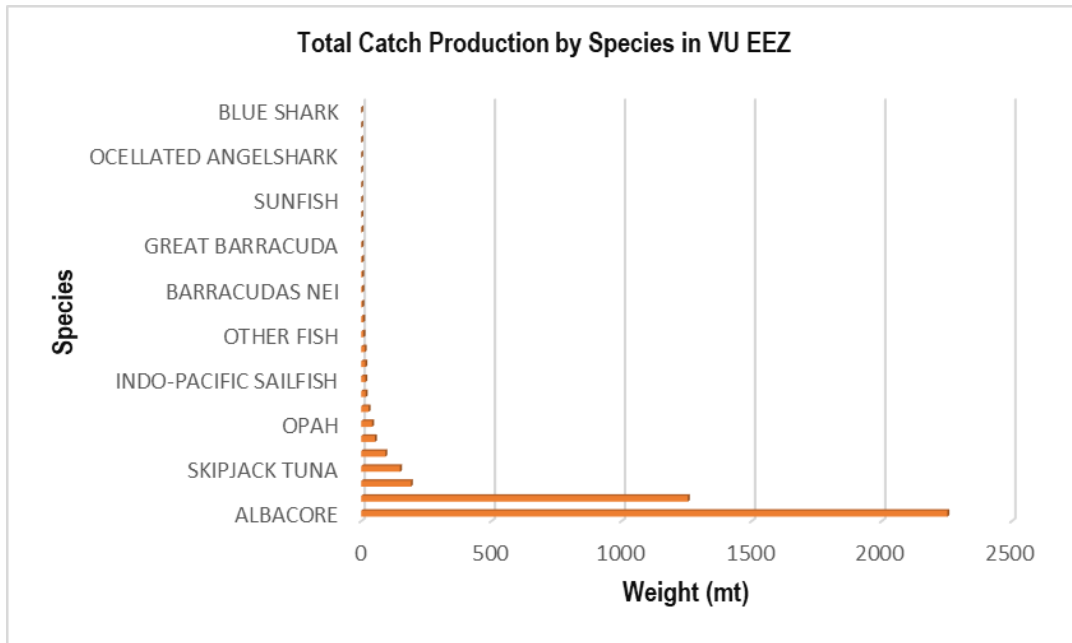


Figure 2: Bar graph showing total catch production by species for vessels operating in the VU EEZ.

Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO)

Vanuatu is a member of several Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) such as the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPFRMO). In addition, Vanuatu is a cooperating non-member to the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and the Commission on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

In 2025, Vanuatu entered and committed its engagement in FAO Area 41.

1. Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

WCPFC is an inter-governmental organization dedicated to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks across western and central Pacific Ocean, and it manages the largest tuna fishery.

Catch production for Longline vessels.

In 2025, VFD recorded 19 Vanuatu longline vessels fished for 2,765 days with a total production of 5,484.39 metric tons of tuna and bycatch. Summary of catch production outline below.

Table 1: Total catch production by 19 vessels by species

ALBACORE Mt	BIG EYE Mt	BLACK MARLIN Mt	BLUE MARLIN Mt	SKIPJACK Mt	SWORD FISH Mt	WAHOO Mt	YELLOW FIN Mt	OTHER S Mt	GRAND TOTAL Mt
1,812.39	1,739.21	1.16	75.49	129.30	408.79	24.09	552.01	741.95	5,484.39

Transshipment Events

VFD recorded transshipment for High seas events and In-Port transshipment events in WCPFC. For High seas transshipment, there were 14 Vanuatu Longline fishing vessels with a total of 24 transshipment events and a total catch production of 27,628.80mt. For In-Port Transshipment there were 4 Vanuatu carrier vessels with 35 transshipment events with a total production of 26,192mt. The graph below summarizes total catch production transhipped in the WCPFC.

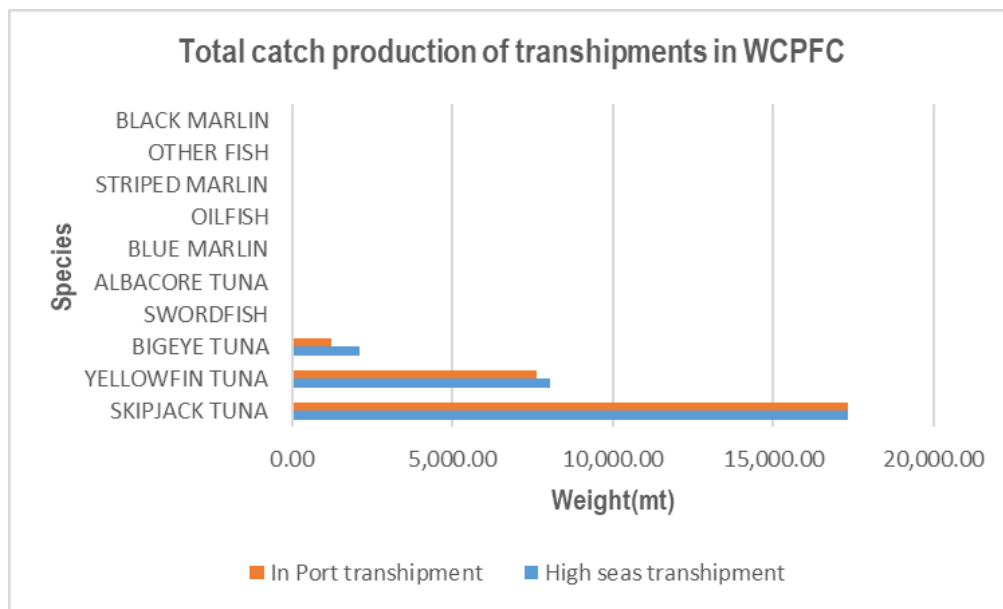


Figure 3: Total catch volume of 14 active VU-flagged long line vessels and 4 Vanuatu carrier vessels transhipped in WCPFC.

Unloading's

Table 2: Total catch unloaded by vessels in WCPFC region by species

Unloading ports	Albacore (Mt)	Bigeye (Mt)	Skipjack (Mt)	Yellowfin (Mt)	Other (Mt)
BUSAN	376.327	287.667	22.57	67.241	220.551
JAPAN	0	62.8913	0	20.405	0
KAOHSIUNG	514.147	189.039	19.043	62.935	367.955

PAGO PAGO	61.535	0	21.091	10.067	0
PAPEETE	175.07	22.44	0	21.05	5.8
SHIMIZU	11.442	532.7367	0.804	137.163	106.104
SUVA	601.35	0	19.586	0	136.379
Grand Total	1777.32	1345.63	84.286	465.859	869.748

Catch statistics for Purse seine vessels

In 2025, only 2 Vanuatu purse seine vessels fished in the WCPFC for 282 days with a total catch of 13,11.24mt of tuna and bycatch. The table below shows the catch of those vessels in 2025.

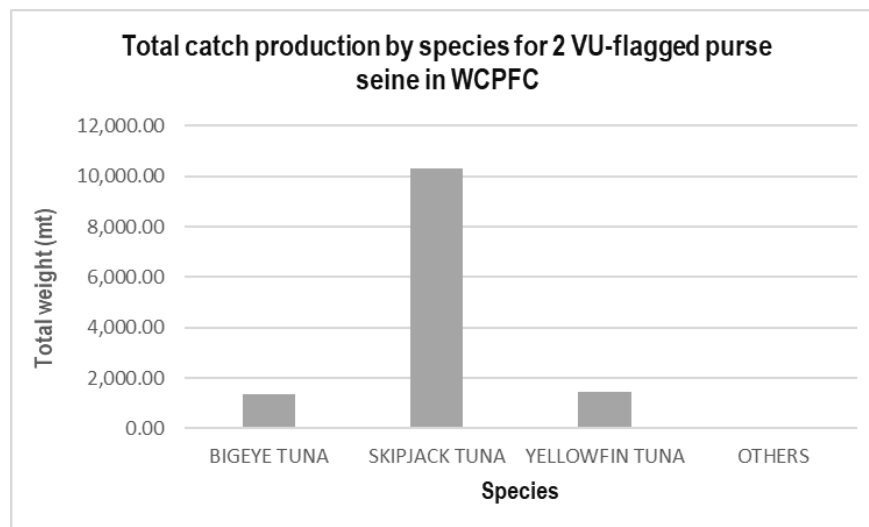


Figure 4: Total catch production by species of 2 active Vanuatu Purse Seine vessels in WCPFC.

Unloading of VU-Purse seine vessel in WCPFC

VFD recorded a total catch of 4542.85mt that purse seine vessels unloaded in 2025 within WCPF. Summary is presented in the graph below

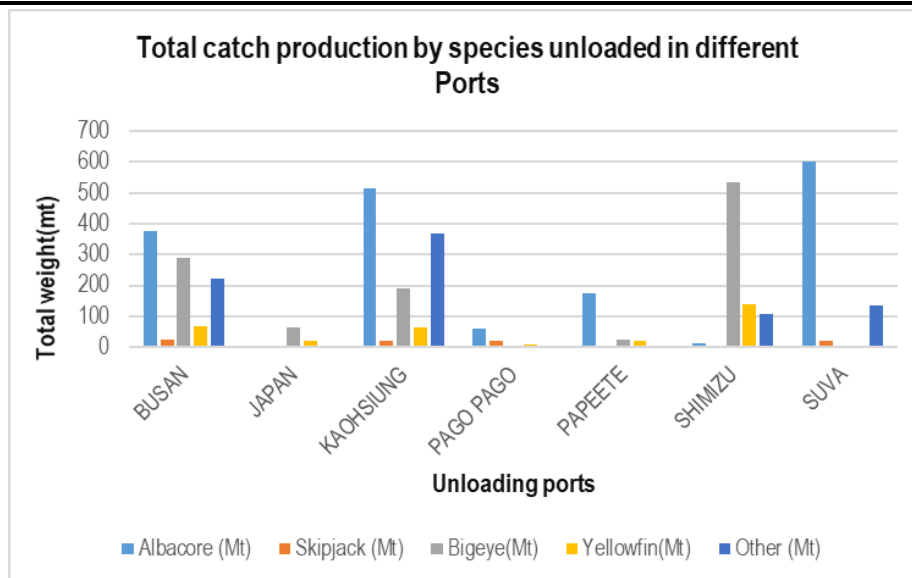


Figure 5: Showing total catch production by species unloaded by 2 active Vanuatu Purse Seine vessels in WCPFC.

2. Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

Vanuatu is also a member of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission responsible for long term conservation and sustainable management of tuna, tuna like species and other fish species in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

Catch production in IATTC

In 2025, 10 Vanuatu longline vessels fished in the IATTC for 987 days and caught over 1,329Mt of tuna and bycatch. The table below shows production by species.

Table 3: Total catch production in IATTC region by species

Bigeye _Mt	Yellow fin _Mt	Skipjack _Mt	Pacific bluefin tuna _Mt	Blue marlin _Mt	Black marlin _Mt	Stripe marlin _Mt	Sailfish _Mt	Spearfish _Mt	Swordfish _Mt	Grand total _Mt
724.45	196.16	3.08	0.54	29.55	0.89	20.16	0.28	3.76	315.27	1,329.84

Transshipment activity in IATTC

In 2025, VFD recorded a total of 9 Longline fishing vessels conducting 11 transshipment events in the high seas with a total production of 692.6 mt. Summary of the total production shown below.

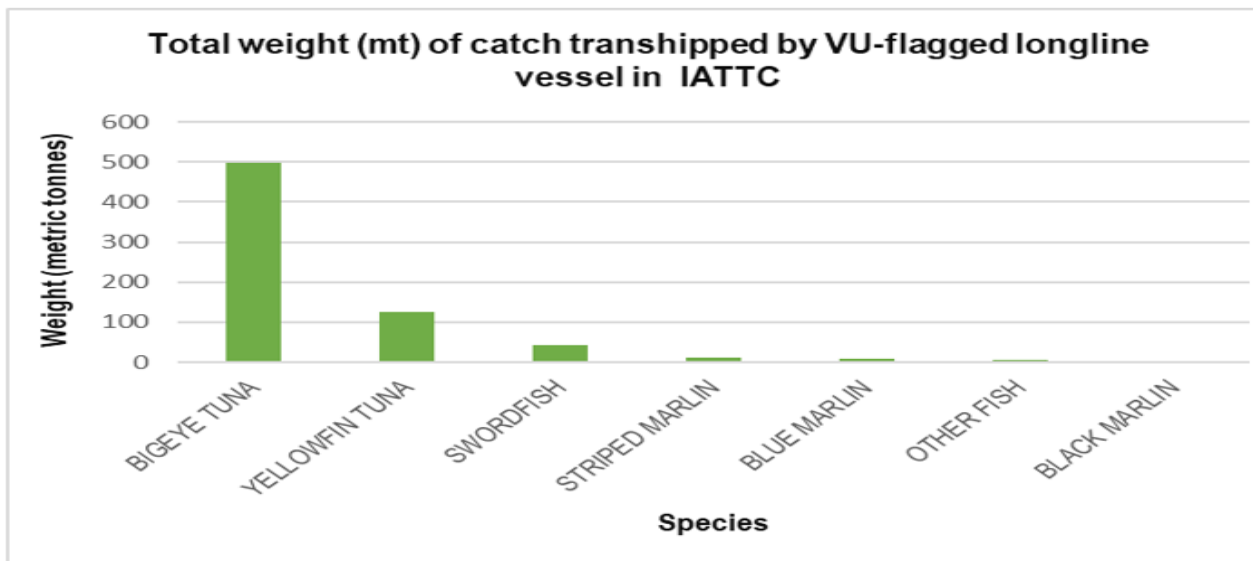


Figure 6 Total catch volume of 9 active VU-flagged long line vessels transhipped in IATTC.

3. South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO)

Vanuatu is a member of the SPRFMO commission and has been the signatory to the convention on Conservation and Management of Highly Sea’s Fisheries Resource on the 1st November 2013. In doing so, Vanuatu is committed to long-term conservation and sustainable utilization of fisheries resources throughout the Pacific Region. This therefore guides how Vanuatu as a member country conducts its activities within the SPRFMO.

In 2025, Vanuatu recorded 7 vessels operating within the SPRFMO area. These vessels only engaged in transshipments and not fishing. In 2025. A total of 23 transshipments worth 59,705,592.5 VUV have been recorded within the SPRFMO region. The targeted species transhipped includes Jambo Flying Squid (GIS) and Argentine shortfin squid (SQA).

Summary Of Activities Within SPRFMO Region

The following data summarized the activities carried out within the SPRFMO region.

Table 7 Showing number of Vessels that do transshipment and quantity transhipped in 2025 within the area of SPRFMO.

Table 4: Total catch volume transhipped in SPRFMO region by species

NUMBER OF VESSELS	SPECIES TRANSHIPPED	NUMBER OF TRANSHIPMENT	QUANTITY OF FISH TRANSHIPED (T)
5	GIS	20	58,321.7
2	SQA	3	1,383.9

Total squid species transhipped within SPRFMO in 2025

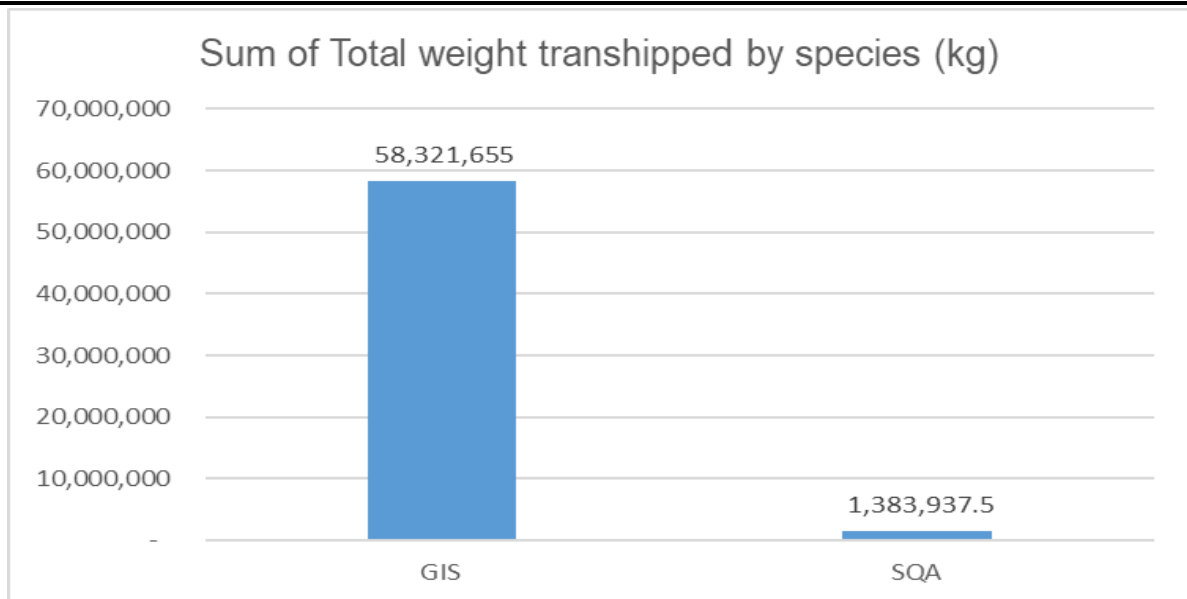


Figure 7: Total volume of squid species transshipped within the SPRFMO

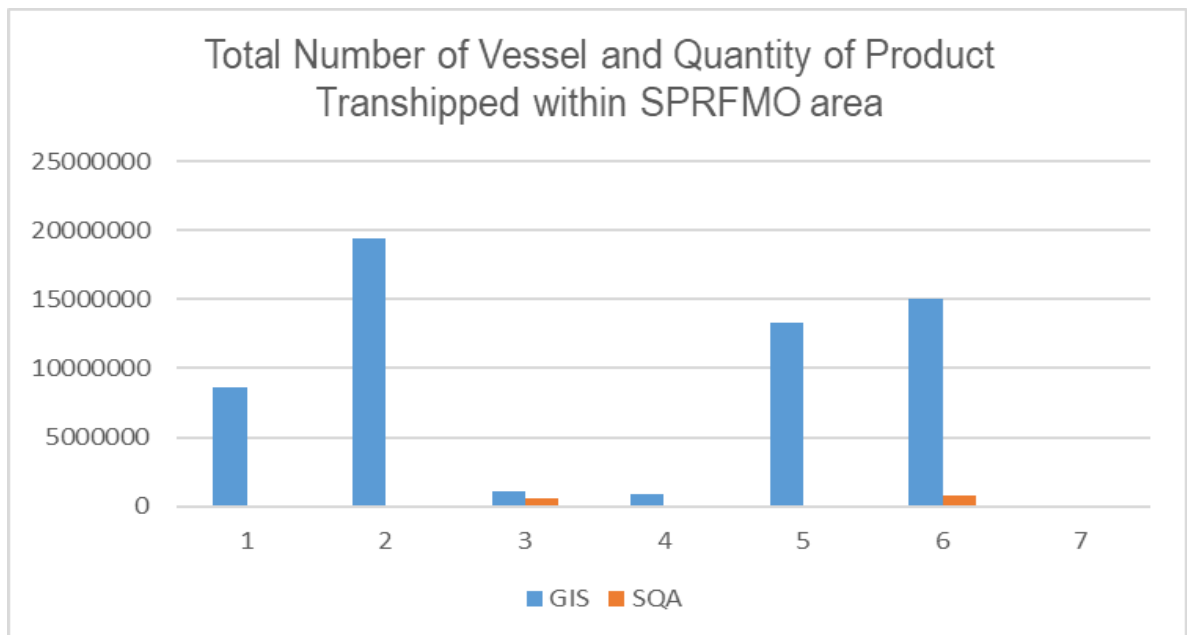


Figure 8: Total transshipment within the SPRFMO in kg in 2025

4. FAO Area 41

FAO Area 41, also known as the **Southwest Atlantic Ocean**, is a designated fisheries statistical area under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. This area encompasses high seas and exclusive economic zones (EEZs) off the coasts of South American countries, including Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina. It is recognized for its biologically productive waters and commercially important fish stocks, making it a significant area for distant-water fishing operations. There is not a single Regional Fisheries Management Organization that is specifically responsible for the entire FAO Area 41. Instead, multiple RFMOs manage different parts of the area, depending on the species and regional boundaries.

In 2025, VFD issued 49 International Authorization To Fish certificate (IATF) to permit

foreign-owned Vanuatu- flagged trawlers to operate in FAO Area 41 - the Southwest Atlantic Ocean and targeting mainly demersal fish (bottom-dwellers) and pelagic species such as hake, squid, and other finfish.

Catch volume and production

VFD recorded in 2025 a total of 21 active trawler vessels registered as VU-flagged fishing vessels with catch production estimates. A summary of the total catch production is depicted below

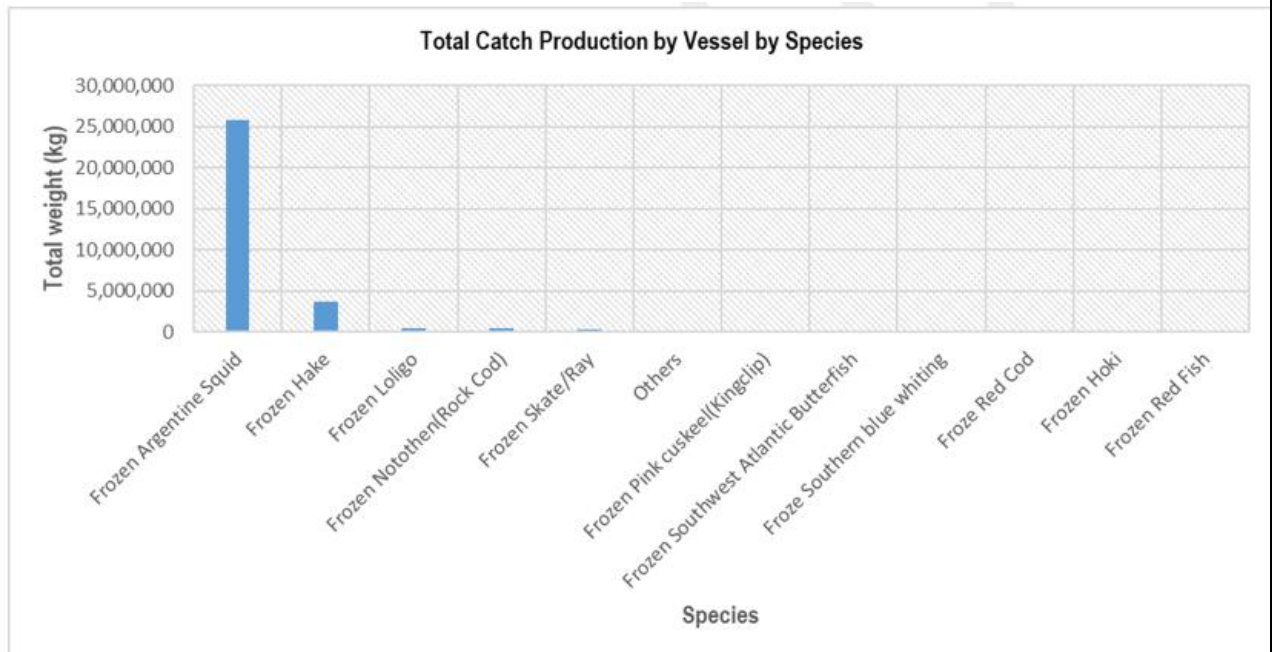


Figure 9: Total catch production of 21 active VU-flagged trawlers operating in FAO Area 41

Transshipment activity in FAO Area 41

Looking at the transshipment activities, VFD recorded in 2025 a total of 150 transshipment events conducted by 14 Vanuatu-flagged trawlers operating in FAO Area 41. A summary of the total transshipment events occurring in FAO Area 41 and the total volume of catches by species by vessel is depicted in the graphs below.

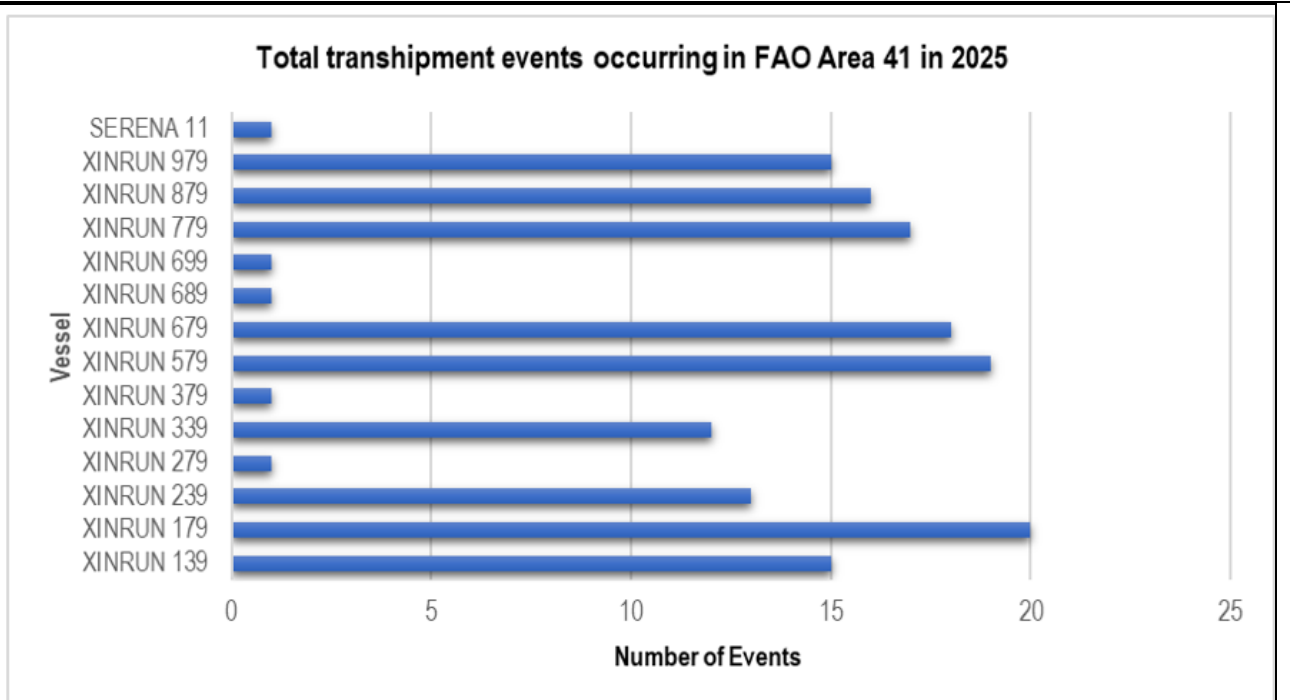


Figure 9: Illustrating the total transshipment events occurring in FAO Area 41 in 2025 by 14 Licensed VU-Flagged trawlers.

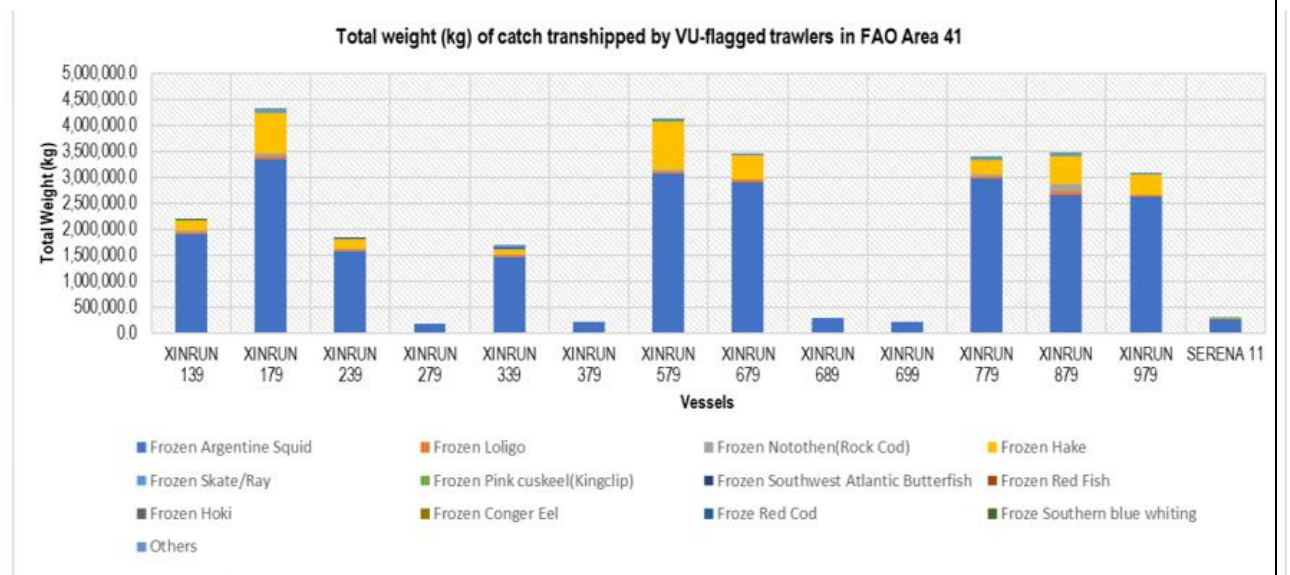


Figure 10: Total catch volume transhipped from 14 VU-Flagged trawlers in FAO Area 41.

Management of Deep Bottom Fishery

Vanuatu deep bottom fisheries are managed under the Vanuatu Fisheries Deep Bottom Fisheries Management Plan. The Plan was signed in 2016 with the purpose to ensure the long-term sustainability of the fishery for the benefit of current and future generations of ni-Vanuatu.

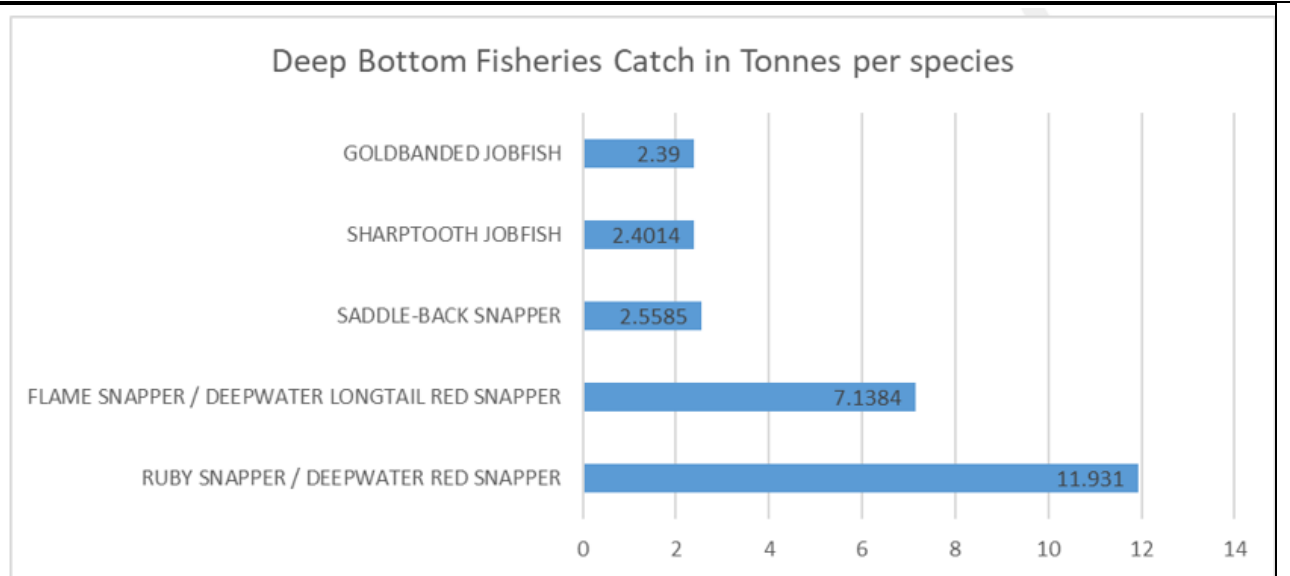


Figure 11: Total catch of Deep Bottom Fisheries and Species.

Management of Sea Cucumber Fishery

The sea cucumber fishery is managed under a management plan and has been implemented since 2019 up until now. In 2025, the harvest operation aimed at targeting the remaining quota or Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2024. In 2024, VFD issued a total of 16 licenses and allocated 249.960 metric tons as authorized TAC for nine commercial species, making a significant increase compared to 2023 and the previous years. Due to the ongoing pressures and challenges in the fishery, only one company showed interest in 2025 to harvest the remaining 2024 TACs. A total value of VT 230,000 was collected as revenue through licensing.

As a standard stock assessment protocol to ensure sustainability and feasibility of stocks, 10 management areas were re-assessed and a total of 33,000 kg was allocated for seven commercial species.

In 2025, the total recorded catch of deep-water species was 26.42 with a local market value of 39,628,950 VUV. The two most dominant species caught in 2025 includes Ruby snapper and Flame snappers.

The sea cucumber stock assessment was funded by the Project Development Fund (PDF) through the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). The survey identified that stocks are low compared to previous years.

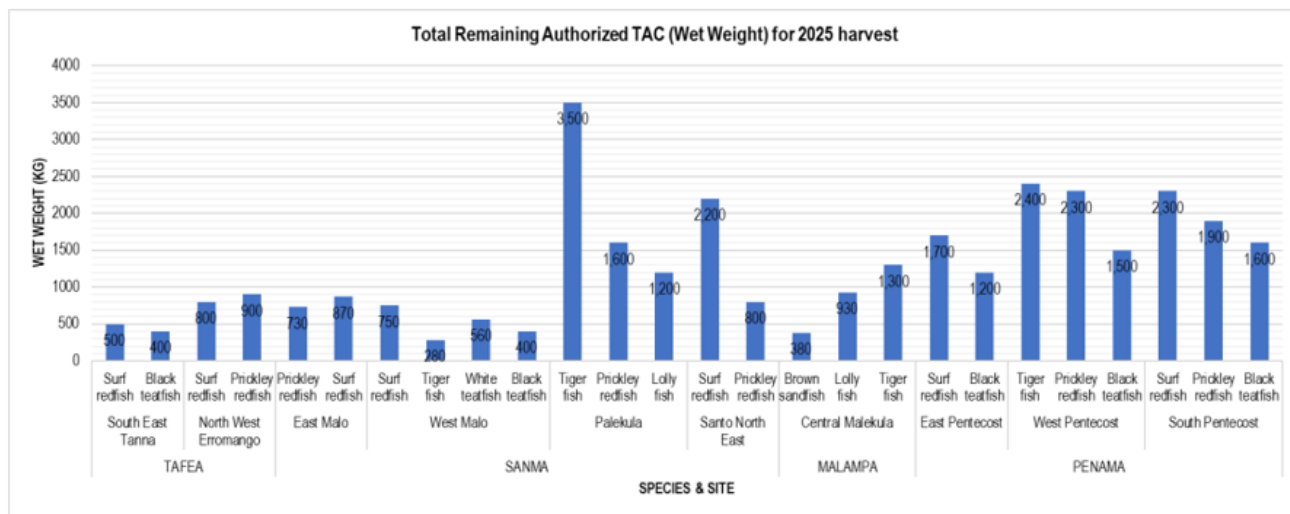


Figure 12: Total remaining TAC harvested in 2025

Management of Coconut Crab Fishery

Coconut crab is also another important fishery species being managed under the Vanuatu National Coconut Crab Fishery Management Plan which was made in accordance with section 3 of the Fisheries Act cap 315, No.55 of 2005. In 2025, Stock assessment happened in only two sites in Vanuatu (Torres and Futuna) and funding support was through the VCAP II project. In terms of License there was only one coconut crab license operational in 2025. Details shown in Table below

Table 5: Details of Coconut Crab Licenses issued

Licence no.	Type of Product	Type of Processing Authorised	Authorised Province	Authorised Licence Period	Issued Date
VAN 002-CCL-2025	Coconut crab	Buying and selling	Torres	2025-11-02 to 2026-09-29	24/11/2025

Management of Aquarium Fishery

The management of aquarium fisheries in Vanuatu is guided by a combination of national policies, legislative frameworks, and community-based strategies. The goal is to ensure that ornamental fish collection remains sustainable, supports local livelihoods, and protects marine biodiversity.

However, No Activity on aquarium fishery was done in 2025 but Vanuatu fisheries did have joint collaborations with DisKer Project in mid-2025.

The DisKer project is made up of 7 researchers from the University of Central Florida, USA and Leeds University, UK. The study focuses on understanding larval dispersal patterns of key fish species across New Caledonia, Vanuatu and Fiji

4 main goals of the study.

- 1) Dispersal kernels based on 7 species in three countries (Caledonia done, Vanuatu and Fiji).
- 2) Create a hydrodynamic model to better understand near-shore current.
- 3) Biophysics model to identify sources and sink populations to inform management.
- 3) Run conservation planning software under the directions of local managers

Mid 2025, DisKer project team up to 6 plus VFD (1 officer) to do field work over 6 weeks within 10 sites (2- Efate, 4- Malekula and 4- Santo/Malo). The survey achieved its target, collecting 25 tissue samples per fish species. These samples will require approximately three years for full processing. Environmental DNA (eDNA) 10 samples collected and eDNA techniques are being applied to develop models of reef connectivity, identifying source and sink reefs that support larval supply and deposition between the islands of Vanuatu. By 2029, data results should provide critical insights modeling between Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Fiji for fisheries management and marine

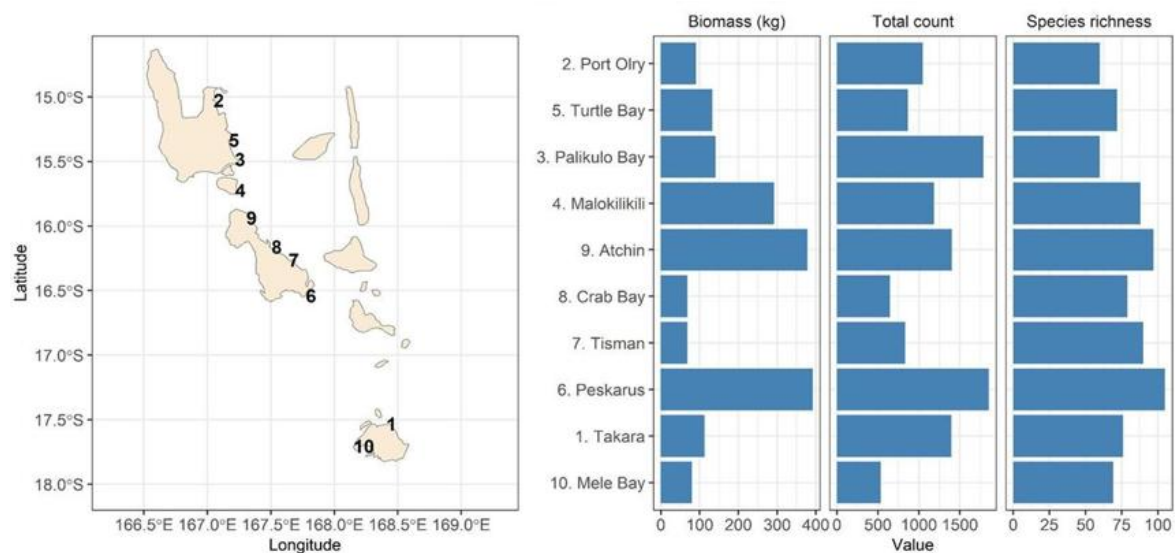


Figure 13 showing 10 ecological surveys conducted with respective biomass(kg), total count and species richness

Community-Based Fisheries Management

The Vanuatu Fisheries has a very active community-based fisheries management program that sets the platform for participatory approaches to fisheries management. The program is guided by the principle of Ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) stipulated by Coastal Fisheries Roadmap and the National Strategy for Scaling up Community-based Fisheries Management.

A total of 32 Community-based Management Plans was signed in 2025. From the 30 CBFM plan, 1 CBFM plan was facilitated by Pathways Project, whilst 29 CBFM plans were facilitated by VCCRP and 2 Community Conservation Area Plans were facilitated by VCAP II. In total, approximately 2000 hectares of coastal areas were managed by local communities throughout Vanuatu.

Ecological Assessment

Ecological Assessment is a core activity implemented by the research team aimed at collecting baseline information on coral reef fisheries to address data gaps and improve coastal fisheries resource management throughout Vanuatu. This involves field work, desktop analysis and sound recommendations to effectively address policy formulations and implementation of key

government priorities.

In 2025, there are 2 ecological assessments carried out in collaboration with the Pacific European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) and SwedBio in Wiawi community, Northwest of the Island of Malekula and from Loltong to Laone, North Pentecost. The assessment aims at describing the marine flora and fauna and collect baseline information on the status of reef fisheries.

The team also conducts socio-economic information to understand the dependency and risks to the local fisheries exist within these communities

Management of Crown of Thorns (COTs)

Management of the Crown of thorns outbreak is crucial as it leads to the prevention of loss of our coral reefs. Vanuatu Fisheries Department, in collaboration with NGO (Wan smol bag, VESS, Big blue), Foreign Partners and local communities, has conducted multiple rounds of Crown-of-Thorns cleanup across Efate and other provinces and also created awareness material for outreach programs and education to help the community understand reef treats, protections of reef and community involvement in COT cleanup which link to health reef, food security and livelihoods.

In 2025, Fisheries officers conduct awareness workshops in more than 60 communities and national events explaining the ecological role of reefs and the threat posed by COT using booklet (*Storian blong Manajem Risos blong yu*), Comic book (*Crown of Thorns*) and media (*Crown of thorns-Episode 1-4*)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50P8o_v2B5I. In addition, Fisheries has joint collaborations with the tourism divers and local divers in port vila to eliminate COT at Mele bay and outside hideaways using COT injection guns (Vinegar). A total of 1403 COTs were injected over 44 monitoring and culling events between 2024-2025.

Table 6: Summery table of COTS injected at Mele Bay by dive sites

Dive site	Number of logs	Total culled	Dive site	Number of logs	Total culled
Abyss	13	316	Hideaway 1	2	208
Anchor	12	561	Kathleen	2	0
Bonzer	1	36	Pinnacle	2	87
Clown Colony	1	54	Pink Panther	2	3
Eastside	4	51	Westside	3	87
Gotham City	2	0	TOTAL	44	1403

Fisheries Enforcement

Vessel Monitoring System

Vessel monitoring system (VMS) that VFD uses is a cost-effective tool for effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) of fisheries activities. VMS provides Fishery management agencies with accurate and timely information about the location and activity of regulated fishing vessels in accordance with part 19 of Fisheries Act.10 of 2014. Three vessel monitoring systems used included Vanuatu's VMS, FFA VMS, WCPFC VMS. Vanuatu's VMS applied to all VU flagged fishing vessels in the VU Vessel Registry, while FFA VMS is managed by FFA for FFA member countries to monitor all vessels within the FFA Member Countries 'EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) and WCPFC managed by WCPFC for vessels fishing in the high seas within the WCPFC Convention Area. It is an ongoing activity throughout 2025.

Fisheries Licensing

VFD has a vital role to perform in accordance with provisions given under the Fisheries Act No. 10 of 2014 and the Fisheries Regulation Order 28 of 2009. We are to ensure all fishing and related fishing activities controlled under the Act are conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Violations are dealt with accordingly or prosecuted in court.

Fisheries licensing is a vital MCS tool that aids in the sustainable management of fisheries by ensuring compliance, collecting data, and regulating access to marine resources. It plays a critical role in maintaining the health of fish stocks and the overall marine ecosystem.

In 2025, the total number of registered and licensed boats was 207 across all six provinces with Shefa (22), Malampa (3), Penama (2), Sanma (70), Tafea (90) and Torba (20).

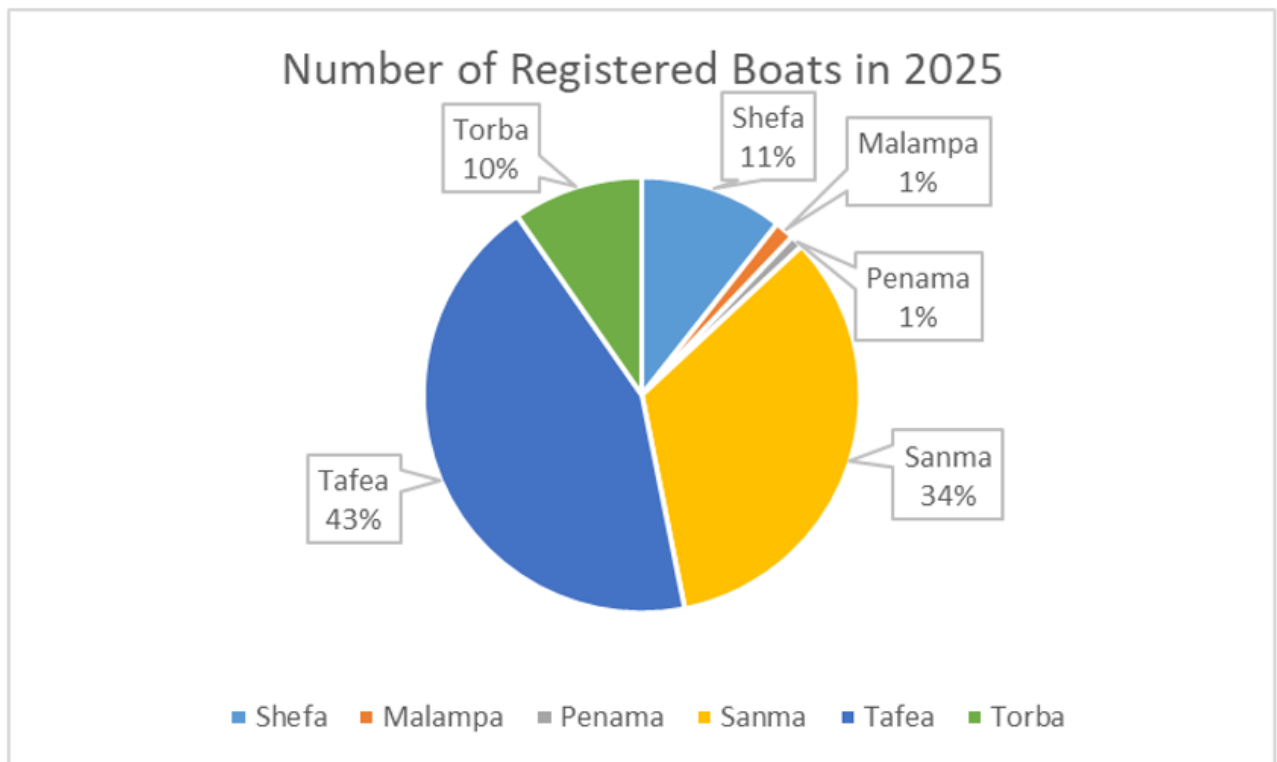


Figure 14: Percentage of registered and licensed boats by province.

Community-Based Authorized Officer Program

The community based authorized officer program initiated by VFD aims at enhancing the monitoring, compliance and enforcement of fisheries regulations for coastal fisheries resources at the community level. This program is very vital as it assists VFD in ensuring sustainability of coastal resources through reporting, enforcement and monitoring of fishing activities that ensures utilization of fisheries resources abide by the provisions of the fisheries laws and regulations.

Fish Monitoring and Data Collection – TAILS

Monitoring and data collection plays a very important role in determining the trends of population stocks of our resources and making informed decisions in fisheries policy making. The TAILS program has become a cornerstone of fisheries monitoring in Vanuatu. Introduced in late 2016 with support from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Asian Development Bank, it was designed to modernize coastal fisheries data collection by using tablets and electronic reporting. By 2019, the Vanuatu Government recognized its importance and took full ownership, funding the program entirely.

The TAILS program in Vanuatu is a professional database for fisheries monitoring initiative designed to collect catch data at landing sites. It operates across more than 60 active monitored sites, providing the Vanuatu Fisheries Department (VFD) with daily catch information. This data is submitted via electronically or manually through logbooks, ensuring consistent reporting of coastal fisheries production. For 2025, the program reported coastal catch production of approximately 143 tonnes. This figure reflects the combined landings from small-scale and coastal fisheries monitored under TAILS.

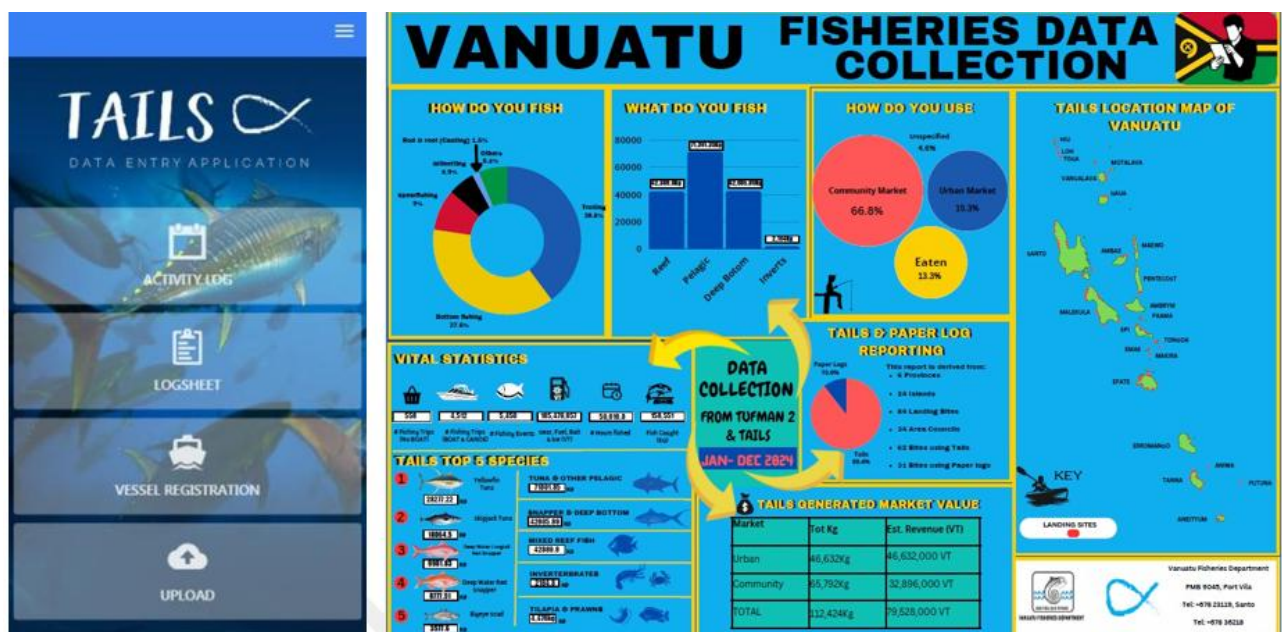


Figure 15: TAILS Program and data collections poster for 2025.

Vanuatu National Observer Program (VNOP)

Established in 2008 under the Vanuatu Fisheries Department, the Vanuatu National Observer Program (VNOP) serves as a vital instrument for monitoring commercial fishing activities within

the nation’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the broader Pacific region. Since its inaugural intake of eight observers in 2009, the program has maintained a consistent recruitment strategy, onboarding over 100 personnel to date. Currently managing a skilled workforce of approximately 60 active observers, the VNOP remains dedicated to its core mandate of collecting essential scientific and compliance data to ensure sustainable fisheries management.

The Observer Programme plays a vital role in fisheries management and sustainability, with responsibilities spanning four main areas: *Scientific data collections, Compliances & Enforcement, Environmental Surveillances* and *Supporting for developing Nations*. Most of the Observers are trained and supported through the FFA Regional Observer Programme and SPC ensuring standardized practices across the pacific.

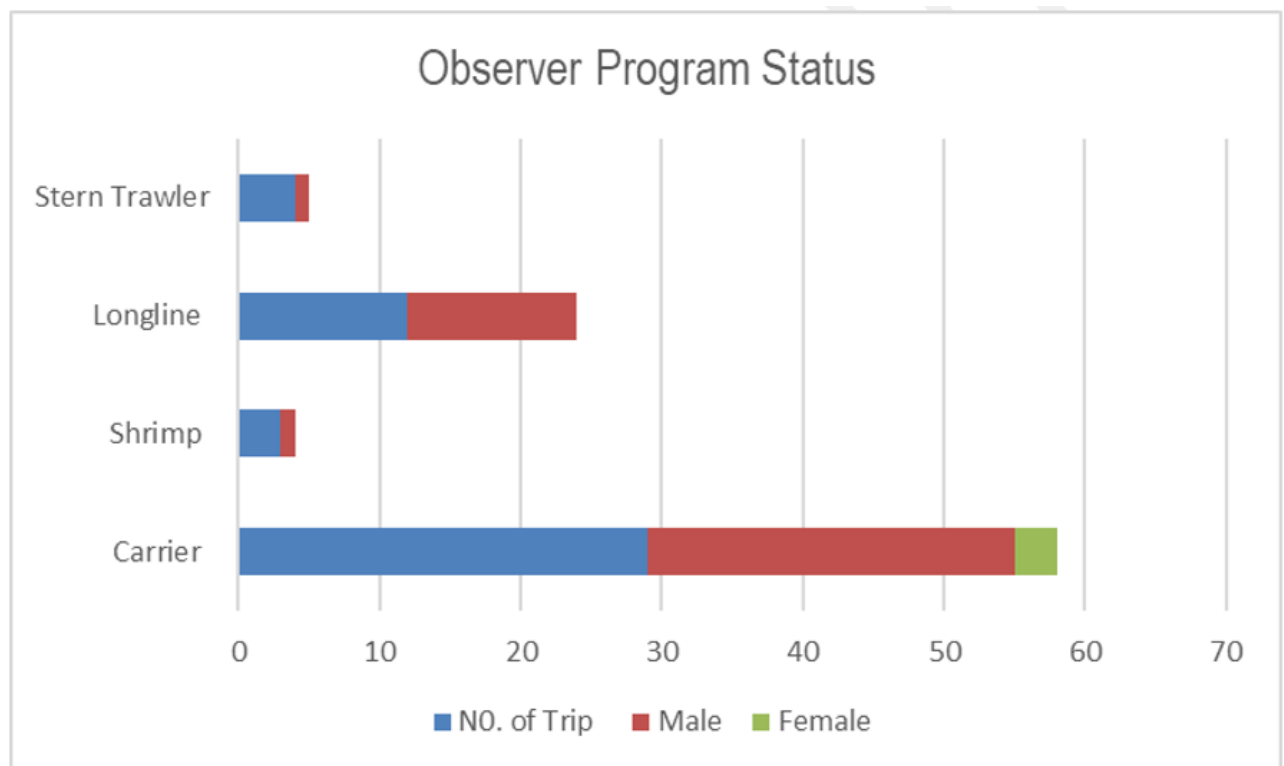


Figure 16: Total trips observed by our national observers throughout 2025

Regarding the longline fleet, the programme met regional requirements by maintaining 5% coverage in the WCPFC area and 10% coverage within the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) zone. Within Vanuatu’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the department upheld its 100% coverage mandate for all active industrial vessels. While no locally flagged vessels operated in-zone during this term, two foreign-flagged vessels owned by CNFC Fishery Company Ltd remained under continuous observer supervision through the conclusion of the business year, reinforcing Vanuatu’s commitment to transparent and sustainable Regional Fisheries Management.

Vessel Day Scheme (VDS)

The Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) was formally introduced and launched in Vanuatu as part of the country’s commitment to the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) framework. The launch

marked a significant step in aligning Vanuatu’s tuna fisheries management with regional sustainability and revenue-generation strategies.

In 2025, Vanuatu successfully implemented its Longline Vessel Day Scheme —a landmark achievement in our fisheries governance. Through the development and enforcement of dedicated VDS Policy and Regulations, transitioned to an effort-based management system that strengthens compliance, improves data collection, and ensures sustainable benefits from our tuna resources. Another achievement for 2025, VDS Regulations, final version is being reviewed and submitted to state law. If the minister of MFOMA endorses and signs them in early 2026, it would mark the transition from policy design to enforceable regulation.

The PNA Ministers formally welcomed and commended Vanuatu on this implementation during the 20th Annual PNA Ministerial Meeting in June 2025

b) Activity MAE-48C - Wild Capture Fishery

Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) deployment

FADs are important infrastructure that support nearshore fisheries and are used in Vanuatu to support coastal fisheries development aspirations. The deployment of FADs in Vanuatu involves placing anchored devices strategically in offshore waters and were designed to mimic natural habitats that attract pelagic fish species such as tuna, mahi-mahi and others. FADs are deployed within the range of small motorized artisanal boats and canoes to help increase fishing productivity, efficiency and to reduce fishing costs.

FAD program is an essential program of VFD under the Development and Capture division that supports food security, livelihood, and plays a vital role in supporting coastal fisheries management efforts and increasing economic return for local fishers in Vanuatu.

In 2025, VFD deployed a total of 17 FADs in five provinces and different locations. A table below summarizes the details and the status of the FADs deployed in 2025 by Provincial Fisheries Development Officers (FDOs).

Table 7: FAD deployment details and Statues of FADs by Provinces

Province	Area Council	FAD Name	Date of Deployment	Depth	Status
Shefa	Eton	Waetsands FAD	04/12/2025	700M	Active
Shefa	Malorua	Devils FAD	01/12/2025	745M	Active
Shefa	North Efate	Pele FAD	05/12/2025	700M	Active
Sanma	West Malo	South Santo Area 2 FAD		591M	Active
Sanma	West Coast	Vusi FAD		600M	Active
Sanma	West Coast	Kerapua FAD		600M	Active
Sanma	West Coast	Tasmate FAD		620M	Active

Sanma	Big Bay	Wunap FAD		604M	Active
Penama	South Maewo (Roronda)	Talise FAD	15/07/2025		Active
Penama	South Maewo (Roronda)	Bamba FAD	15/07/2025		Active
Tafea	North Tanna	Inalpat FAD	19/08/2025		Active
Tafea	West Tanna	West Tanna 01 FAD	19/08/2025		Active
Tafea	West Tanna	West Tanna FAD	04/08/2025		Active

Total FAD Catch Production.

Based on data collected through Tails and Tuffman 2, it shows that the Total FAD catch production from all provinces in 2025 is 24,065.17kg and the overall catch production 143,926.5kg

Table 8: FAD catch production by province

Province	Number of FAD	FAD Catch Production ONLY (Weight_kg)	Overall catch productions (FAD and NO FAD)
TORBA	2	0	31897.3
SANMA	6	3562.75	15,936.43
MALAMPA	1	13.2	30141.45
PENAMA	2	0	9928.59
SHEFA	9	2651.4	17,929.83
TAFEA	5	17837.82	38,092.9
TOTAL	25	24,065.17	143,926.5

Fisher Group (FG)

The establishment of Fisher Groups (FG) is an ongoing program coordinated by the Development and Capture Division to promote sustainable fisheries management and development. It is an initiative that drives fishers' interest to effectively participate in the small-scale fishing sector to enhance food security and livelihood benefits of local communities through Vanuatu. While this is not a new concept, however, there is no secured funding to implement the activity that has continued to develop over the years from Fishermen Cooperative Association to Fisher Groups focusing mainly on targeted fisheries primary product groups.

The Fisher Group concept was presented in the Provincial Fisheries Forum to harvest fishers feedback and to formalize the establishment of the Fishers Group. A draft Fisher Group policy was crafted in 2025 to support fisheries development in rural areas.

To date, the total active Fisher Groups in Vanuatu is currently 70, where 3 has registered with Vanuatu Financial Service Commission, 1 registered with the area council, 3 registered with the Cooperative Department, 1 has its registrations in progress and all the rest has not formally registered. From each province the Fisher Group total numbers are as follows:

Table 9: Number of Fishers group active by province

Provinces	Torba	Sanma	Malampa	Penama	Shefa	Tafea
Total	5	21	15	11	5	13

Cold Storage Facility

VFD continues to provide technical assistance in activities related to technology to better support the development of rural fishing activities in the rural areas with the aim of increasing production.

VFD with the support of its in-house projects have supported communities with cold storage facilities over the years to maintain fish quality especially within the Fishers Groups. While some areas are using private solar freezers, the table below provides detailed information of solar freezers provided by projects and VFD which are located within each Fisher group through-out the six provinces of Vanuatu.

Within the 70 Fisher Groups, 28 has active working solar freezers, 15 have non-working solar freezers, 1 has an electric powered freezer and the rest there is no information about any cold storage facility.

Boat Building Program

VFD continues to run the Fisheries Boatyard located in Santo to support production of small fishing boats and promote small-scale fisheries in Vanuatu. In 2025, the priority of the Boat Building Program is to design, construct and repair boats for local communities with five newly built and three repaired boats. Detail information summarised in the table below.

Table 10: Number of Fishers group active by province

	No. of boats	Length (m)	Sold at (amount VT)
Repaired	2 1	5.6 5	400,000 200,000
Newly built	2 2 1	5 5.6 6.2	440,000 630,000 870,000
Total	8	27.6	2,540,000

Activity MAD-48D - Aquaculture

Aquaculture

The Aquaculture Development program in Vanuatu is categorized into freshwater aquaculture and mariculture and both managed under a *Vanuatu National Aquaculture Sector Development and Management Plan 2022–2030*.

While the development of this sector continues to grow, the mariculture activities are implemented at a small-scale and focused mainly on breeding and culturing species such as giant clams, corals,

sea cucumbers to support rehabilitation of coastal reef ecosystems in rural communities. The freshwater aquaculture program has developed over the years and is now implemented as a development program to support farmers from all categories of pond sizes from backyard to commercial farms.

This is an effort built from past experiences of research work supported by external partners and now shifted into the development phase.

In 2025, Aquaculture Development program has focus on supporting farmers from all categories of pond sizes from backyard to commercial farms. The one effort that was carried out was the indication of efforts that have been put into Aquaculture Development for the last 5 years which shows a very big scope of efforts that have not clearly report but exist. Some farms were active and some are not active due to different challenges with management of farms. So, the data given are existing and new farms that were collected until end of 2025 and are diverse in all Provinces down to their Area Councils.

Therefore, Aquaculture Development feasibility must be a vital area to investigate the status of all the existing farms and their way forward to fixing and operate each farm.

Farm Production

The significance of fingerlings distributed and establishment of ponds is not relevant to the production outcome for 2025 as there has been so many misreporting from seed distribution to harvest production.

This challenge can be ruled out only when we have dedicated Officers to assist with data collection as farmers tend to harvest without contributing to production. In 2024 and 2025, production is dropping from 7 tonne to 2tonne due to unoperated farms. New farmers come in every year and older farms have farm management issues and other challenges with water issue and the issues escalate every year.

Table 11: Total production of Tilapia by province

Province	Q1 Fish productions (tilapia) by Province (kg)	Q2 Fish productions (tilapia) by Province (kg)	Q3 Fish productions (tilapia) by Province (kg)	Q4 Fish productions (tilapia) by Province (kg)	Total
Torba	0	0	0	0	0
Sanma	500.95	499.7	450.6	725	2176.25
Penama	52	5	27.5	461.4	545.9
Malampa	0	0	15	74	89
Shefa	15.5	23	0	41.6	80.1
Tafea	0	0	0	0	0
Total	568.25	527.7	493.1	1,302.90	2,891.25

Note: Data collected from backyard to commercial farms but still under reported due to HR issue to reach inland/remote farms

In 2025, VFD supported farmers with farming materials such as pond liners and pond construction. A table below indicates the number and size of ponds in each province.

Table 12: Total number of ponds supplies by province

Province	Number of ponds ($\geq 200\text{m}^2$)	Number of ponds ($< 200\text{m}^2$)
Torba	2	22
Sanma	24	737
Penama	6	112
Malampa	5	22
Shefa	27	84
Tafea	15	31
TOTAL	79	1008

Note: Not all farms established are recorded as active farms. Some farms are not active in 2025

Hatchery

The status of Aquaculture Hatcheries is indicated and as we noticed that Hatcheries are established in all Provinces except Malampa Province that has been distributed with seeds from Santo and Efate hatcheries.

As most Hatcheries requires repair and upgrades, 2026 will focus on establishment a holding facility for Malampa Province. While waiting, we have established natural breeding ponds that can be used as local supplies for Malampa Province.

Table 13: Number of hatcheries by locations

Hatchery Location	Number of Hatchery	Status
Torba – Sola	1	Repaired and breeding established
Sanma – Luganville & Sarete	2	Partial repair and upgrade of Sarete
Penama – Pangi	1	Community Holding Facility
Malampa	0	Project on 2026 Plan
Shefa – Tagabe	1	Replacement of new breeding tank installation. It requires upgrade and repair Tagabe requires a Maintenance Officer for the compound and cut slack on Hatchery Technician to focus on breeding and feed formulation and research.
Tafea – Isangle	1	Less breeding is happening since no sufficient water availability and only 2 breeding tanks
Total	6	

Production of Farming Seeds

Tilapia is farmed in several parts of Vanuatu as sources of protein and income. It's considered a healthy fish and relatively easy to culture. It is an ongoing activity to support the community and is farmed at a small scale in most rural communities. In 2025, VFD has recorded **1.4 tonnes** of Tilapia Harvested throughout Vanuatu.

The last year of review of our broodstock was over a decade for Aquaculture Calendar yet it does not limit the struggle of thriving for distribution of vibrant fingerlings from existing hatcheries with a very few Human resources to support each Hatchery facilities.

The Hatcheries keep breeding seeds yet a new broodstock must never fade from discussions that must stand as the biggest challenge with the seed quality of what we currently have.

Table 14: Production of seeds by each hatchery locations

Distributing Center	Q1 Seeds Distributed	Q2 Seeds Distributed	Q3 Seeds Distributed	Q4 Seeds Distributed	Total Seeds Distributed
Luganville Hatchery	10,682	3,500	12,937	5000	32,119
Tagabe Hatchery	1,200	250	500	3,300	5250
Tafea	0	0	0	0	3400
Total					40,769

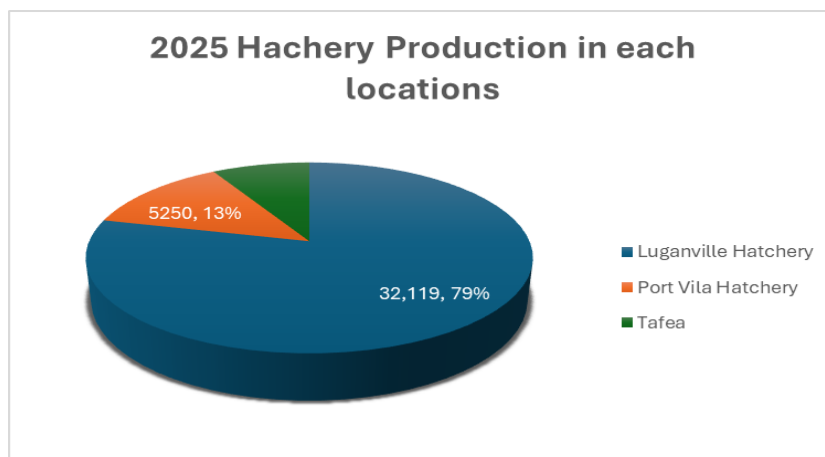


Figure 17: Tilapia fish productions by provinces.

Feed Formulation

Feed Formulation of existing feed mix of copra meal and meat meal has been formulated well and produced for hatchery uses and distribution for farmers. Feed formulation is only done in Port Vila and Luganville hatchery as shown below.

Table 15: Production of feeds by each hatchery locations

Distributing Center	Q1 Feed Weight (KG)	Q2 Feed Weight (KG)	Q3 Feed Weight (KG)	Q4 Feed Weight (KG)	Total Feed Weight (KG)

Luganville Hatchery	0	466	500	829	1,795
Tagabe Hatchery	0	167	20	216.7	403.7
Total					2,198

d) Activity MAC-48E - Food Security

Export Permit

In 2025, there are 54 export permits issued for trawlers in the area FAO 41 and 14 export permits issued to SINO-VAN Fisheries Limited.

House Consumption Permits and Sample Permits

Home consumption certificate (HCC) is issued for fisheries products to anyone wishing to take these products overseas for personal home consumption purposes. A total of 5 Home Consumption Permit was issued in 2025 with a total of 25 Kg worth of frozen type of seafood products being taken by individual travellers for personnel consumption overseas. Summary is presented in the table below.

Table 16: House consumption permits issued to respective countries by weights

Traveler ID	Sample Permit #	Type of seafood product	Weight_kg	Country
1	01/2025	Frozen Fish	5	Suva, Fiji
2	02/2025	Frozen Coconut Crab	5	Australia
3	03/2025	Frozen Fish	5	New Zealand
4	04/2025	Frozen Fish	5	Australia
5	05/2025	Frozen Fish	6	Australia
Total			25	

Only one (1) Sample permit was issued to one licensed exporting company in 2025. The total quantity of seafood product (Frozen Pacific Dragon Prawns) exported was 50 Kg as Sample Only.

Table 17: Sample permit details

Exporting Company	Seafood Product	Type of Processed Seafood	Quantity (Kg)	Country
Western Pacific Fishing & Trading Ltd	Pacific Dragon Prawns	Frozen	50	Narita, Japan
		Total:	50	

e) Activity MAI-48F- Research & Resource Assessment and Environmental Management.

Research Division Development Projects

Refers to projects that are contributing to fisheries aspects of development, management and research. Development projects are designed to drive economic growth and improve livelihoods through sustainable fisheries. From enhancing the deep-bottom fish fishery to expanding our capacity for data analysis and research, these initiatives are central to our strategy for a resilient and prosperous future. Fisheries development projects aim to improve fish production, enhance resource management, and increase livelihoods through innovative and adequate equipment, training support, infrastructure development, and market access. As of 2025, Fisheries Department has achieved these through the collaboration and support provided by projects such as Vanuatu Community Based Climate Resilience Project (VCCRP), Coalitions for Change in Sustainable National CBFM Programmes in the Pacific (Pathways II), Vanuatu Climate Adaptation Project (VCCP II), VANKIRAP Project, JICA project, DISKA project and National Geography Pristine Sea Expeditions.

Budget Expenditure

The total appropriated budget for the Fisheries Department for 2025 was VT535,061,236. The Fisheries Department budget represents 23.9 percent of the total budget allocated to the ministry of MALLFB. There is a slight increase of VT 67,260,00 from 2024 budget which was VT 457,465,801.

The budget was broken down into 6 main program areas which includes, Policy and Administration, Management of Tuna Fisheries, Wild Capture Fisheries, Aquaculture, Food Security, Research and Environmental Management.

The Vanuatu Fisheries Department was in a major transition from the Ministry of MALFFB to the Ministry of MFOMA. The transition comes with its own pressing challenges, one of which is centred around access to finance. From July to December, the department could not adequately spend from its budget due financial chapter head issues resulting with an underspend of VT 130,497,416. Despite these challenges, the Department remains firm to its mandate as stipulated in the Act.

Table 18: Budget expenditure as per project development under Research Division

Budget items	Amount (VUV)
Budget Appropriated for 2025	535,061,236
Actual Expenditure	350,810,843
Capital Expenditure	43,440,385
Virement	10,312,592

4.3 Report Against Ministry Budget Narrative.

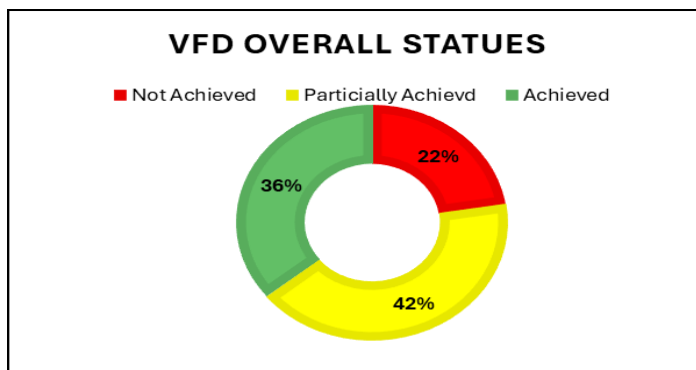
This section outlines the details and overall performance against the outputs (service target) of the Vanuatu Fisheries Department 2025 Budget Narrative and Business Plan.

The colour charts provide a visual representation of the status of overall performance against each activity item's service targets (or outputs) in the 2025 Budget Narrative and Business Plan.

Achieved, Partially Achieved, Not Achieved

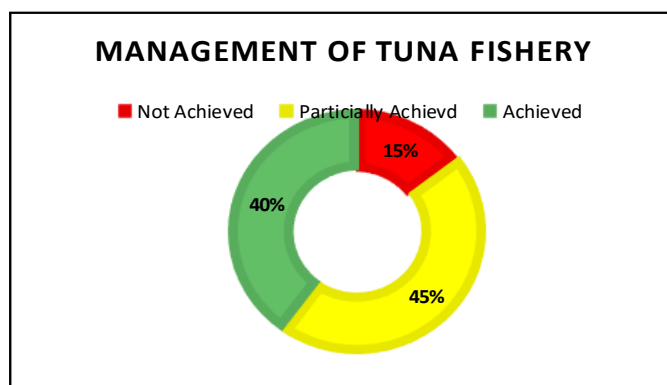
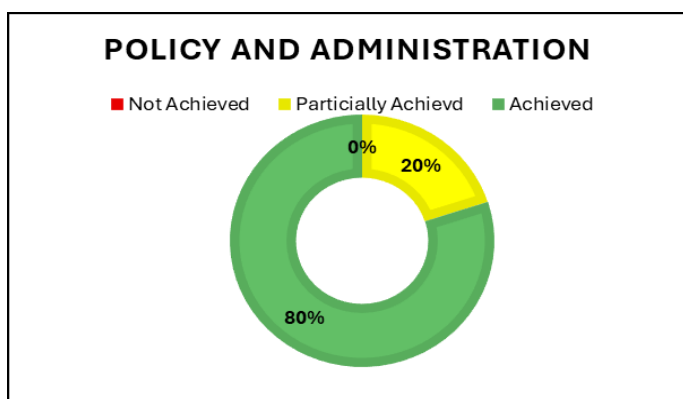
Summary of VFD progress against 2025 Budget Narrative and Business Plan

Total Targets: 114



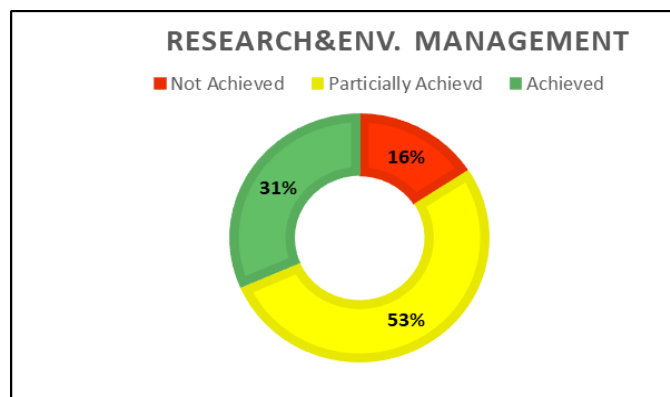
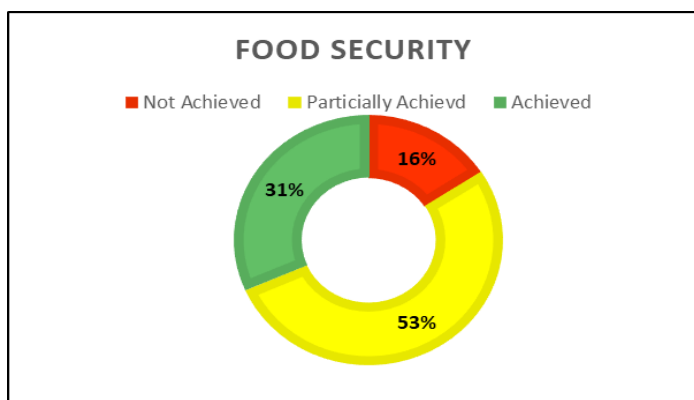
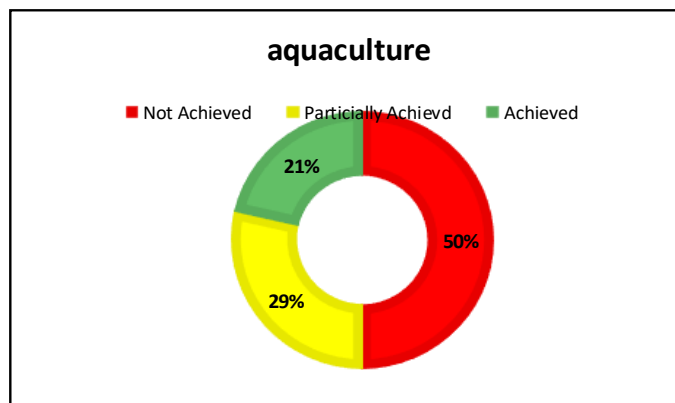
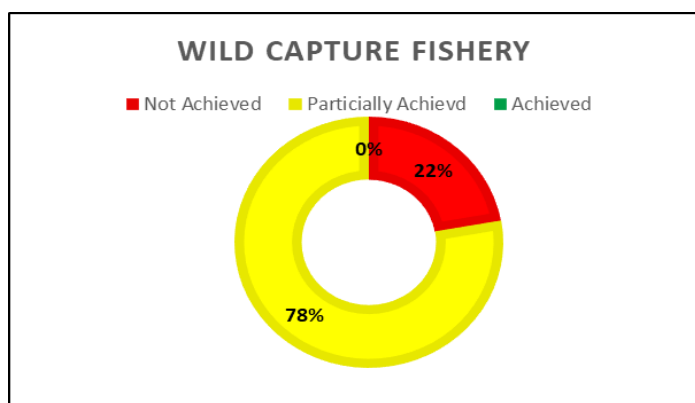
1.48 A Policy and Administration

2. 48B Management of Tuna Fishery



3.48C Policy and Administration

4. 48D Management of Tuna Fishery



4.4 Policy Development

In spite of the challenges MFOMA faces during the transition period, we are pleased to acknowledge that the following key policy documents have been developed. These documents will guide us in navigating the transition and ensuring smooth operations moving forward.

1. Draft Corporate Quality Assurance & Management System 2025
2. Draft Annual Business Plan 2025
3. Draft Corporate Plan 2025-2030
4. Draft Fisheries and Oceans Integrated Policy
5. The Launching of the 2023 Blue Prosperity Vanuatu (BPV) Coral Reefs Study.
6. National Fisheries Sector Policy 2016 – 2031
7. The National Roadmap for Coastal Fisheries 2019 – 2030.
8. Vanuatu National Roadmap for Coastal Fisheries Policy Review (2025)
9. Vanuatu National Deep-bottom Fish fishery Management Plan Review (2025)
10. Vanuatu National Coconut Crab Management Plan Review (2025)

4.5. Portfolio Legislative Framework

The Annual Report should contain a list of any new legislation that has been passed by the Parliament legislation or parts of legislation during the year by the Minister. Any transfer of responsibility of legislation occurring throughout the year should be specified.

1. DOMA Ocean Act of 45 of 2025 enacted.
2. (Amendment) Fisheries Act No. 10 of 2014 (Subsection 9(5,6,7) and 59,65,66,68,69 and 70)

4.6. Conventions

Any new Conventions agreed to in the reporting year for which the Ministry is responsible or contributes to should be added to a table of existing Conventions also indicating ratification status and implementation progress.

1. BBNJ Treaty in Nice, France on the Margins of UNOC3.
2. The signing of the Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding between The Government of the Republic of Vanuatu and the Waitt Institute;
3. BBNJ Treaty in Nice, France on the Margins of UNOC3.
4. The signing of the Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding between The Government of the Republic of Vanuatu and the Waitt Institute;

4.7. Risks/Challenges

Any major emerging issues that affected the Ministry's work (e.g. economic problems in a province, natural disasters). Vanuatu's fisheries, oceans, and maritime sectors face critical challenges, including high vulnerability to climate change (cyclones, sea-level rise), overfishing of reefs, inadequate infrastructure, and limited regulatory enforcement. Key risks include economic losses from Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, weak institutional capacity, and the need to balance traditional "Kastom" management with modern sustainable practices.

Governance and Program Key Risks and Challenges:

- **Administrative & Legal Hurdles:** The creation of the new ministry has faced legal challenges regarding structural compliance existing legislations.
- **Staff migrations:** The staff face challenges and difficult for unprepared migrations.
- **Infrastructure Gaps:** A lack of institutional Structure establishment, infrastructure for fishing, marketing, and shore-based industrial tuna processing hinders economic development in the sector.
- **Weak Enforcement & Regulation:** Limited monitoring leads to unreported fishing and lack of strictly enforced quotas.
- **Climate Change Vulnerability:** Natural disasters, rising temperatures, and sea-level rise threaten coastal ecosystems and food security.
- **Capacity Constraints:** Limited resources and technology hinder surveillance of Vanuatu's vast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- **Integration of Traditional & State Law:** Ensuring national policies (like the Ocean Act 2025) effectively support local, traditional management (kastom) is an ongoing process.
- **Economic Pressures:** High reliance on marine resources for income increases pressure on inshore areas, sometimes leading to overexploitation.
- **Climate Change & Natural Disasters:** As a nation on the "ring of fire" and in the cyclone belt, Vanuatu is heavily exposed to disasters (cyclones, tsunamis, earthquakes) and environmental shifts like rising temperatures and sea-level rise.
- **Coastal Resource Depletion:** Reefs and lagoons are overfished and suffering from degradation, threatening food security and local livelihoods.
- **IUU Fishing and Compliance:** Despite improvements in 2025, IUU fishing remains a threat, with challenges in monitoring, enforcement, and complying with international standards (e.g., EU yellow card recommendations).
- **Weak Institutional Frameworks:** There is a noted need for stronger national policies, better-trained staff, and more effective enforcement of regulations, according to the [FAO report](#).
- **Management Integration:** Merging traditional "Kastom" systems with modern, scientifically backed marine management remains a challenge for, as noted by the [Pacific Community](#).

Moving forward: To address these, the government introduced the [Oceans Act No. of 2025](#) to strengthen sustainable management.

Despite these challenges, the government is actively developing integrated policies through the new Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans, and Maritime Affairs to improve, with support from regional partners, ocean management.

5. Human Resources

Core functions of Human Resource Management and Development (HRM&D) centre on acquiring, developing, motivating, and retaining talent to achieve organizational goals. Key functions include **workforce planning, recruitment, training, performance management, compensation, employee relations, and compliance**. These functions work together to foster a productive, legal, and engaged workforce.

- **Recruitment and Selection:** Attracting, screening, and hiring the right talent for the company.
- **Training and Development (HRD):** Enhancing employee skills, knowledge, and competencies to improve performance and support career growth, including technical training and leadership workshops.
- **Performance Management:** Setting goals, monitoring progress, providing feedback, and conducting evaluations.
- **Compensation and Benefits:** Designing fair, competitive salary structures and benefits packages (e.g., insurance, retirement plans) to retain staff.
- **Employee Relations and Engagement:** Managing relationships, mediating conflicts, improving communication, and boosting morale.
- **Compliance and Risk Management:** Ensuring adherence to labor laws, health and safety regulations (e.g., OSHA), and company policies.
- **Strategic Workforce Planning:** Aligning HR strategies with organizational goals to ensure the necessary resources are available for success.

a. MFOMA Staffing

Table 19: Summary HR Information by Department

Categories	CSU	Fisheries	Maritime & Ocean
Total staffs per structure	27	79	3
Current Staffs	7 (3 Female and 5 Male)	78 (24 Female 47 Male)	3 (Male)
Permanent Staff	5	54	3
Contract	2 (1 Female and 1 Male)	17 (5 Female and 12 Male)	0
Vacant	18	8	0
Vacancy Rate (%)	52%	20%	100%
PSC Approved Dates	24 March 2025	7 January 2019	25 March 2021
Resignation	0	1	0
Disciplinary cases	0	0	0
Cessation of Employment	0	0	0
Compliance Report	0	0	0

b. Studies

Department	No. Of staff	Study Program	Training Institute	Gender	Scholarship or self-funded
Fisheries	2	Ma Marine	USP	Female	English

		Biology			
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c. Geographic distribution of officers throughout provinces;

For the Fisheries Department, there are 6 officers' station in each of the provinces.

d. Training

Several trainings have been conducted in the departmental levels. Below are several trainings captured in the Fisheries department

Table 20: Training information details

Department	No. Of staff	Training Program	Training Institute	Gov Funded or Fully Funded
Fisheries	6	Reef Cloud	Internal House Training	Gov Funded
Fisheries	11	Harmonizing the use of Technology and Increasing Engagement of Communities to Enhance Costal Fisheries Management	SPC	Fully Funded
Fisheries	5	Vessel Day Scheme Training	PNA	Gov Funded
Fisheries	15	Tuna Strategies	SPC	Fully Funded
Fisheries	15	R Training	SPC	Fully Funded
Fisheries	5	Facebook Information and Media	SPC	Fully Funded
Fisheries	5	Coconut Crab Fish Stock Assessment	PNG National Authority	Gov Funded SPC PNG National Authority MSG
Fisheries	7	Electronic Port State Measures (e-PSM) system	FFA	FFA Gov funded
Fisheries	20	High Seas Boarding and Inspection Training	FFA	Gov funded FFA
Fisheries	10	Vessel Day Scheme	PNA	Gov funded



Figure 18: Picture 1 showing VFD participant conducting coconut crab stock assessment training in Santo and R training at Ramada

6. Finance

The Annual Report should contain financial statements, as listed below, for audit purposes. The financial statements (as per Section 24 of the *Public Finance and Economic Management Act 1998*) Reports producing these statements are set up on the FMIS. Ministry senior financial officer (Finance Manager and/or Finance Officer) should liaise with MFEM to access these statements for inclusion in the Annual Report.

The total 2025 appropriation for the Ministry of Fisheries, Ocean and Maritime Affairs (MFOMA) amounted to VT 794,422,968. Total expenditures for 2025 reached VT 639,259,077, resulting in an unspent balance of VT 155,163,891, which was returned to the Ministry of Finance Economic Management Treasury.

The under-expenditure was primarily due to complications and delays experienced by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM), through the FMIS Unit, in facilitating the transfer of budget allocations from the former cost Centre under MALFB to the Fisheries Department under the newly established Ministry.

Financial management during 2025 was particularly challenging, and important lessons were learned. The Ministry remains committed to preventing similar situations in the future by strengthening forward planning, ensuring timely and targeted financial allocations, and improving the effective utilization of funds. These measures will support the continued delivery of transparent, accountable, and effective ocean and fisheries management services in Vanuatu

A. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2025

2. The Ministry OF Fisheries, Ocean and Maritime Affairs (MFOMA) has reviewed its Statement of Financial Performance and the Statement of Appropriations for the year ended 31st December 2025 and provided the required schedules as outlined in Financial Circular 9 of 2025.
3. The MFOMA verifies that:
4. The Statement of Financial Performance and Statement of Appropriations accurately reflect the financial activities of the Ministry of Fisheries, Ocean and Maritime Affairs for the period 1st January - 31st December 2025.
5. All LPOs were verified as being valid as of 31st December 2025, and any duplicate, invalid, or erroneous LPOs have been cancelled.
6. All standing and accountable imprests due before 31st December 2025 have not been retired and fully accounted for.
7. The asset register has not been updated to the best of MFOMA' ability and includes all known assets with a value of more than Vt100,000 as of 31st December 2025.

8. Employee leave transactions have not been updated, and the list of outstanding annual leave balances provided is valid and complete.
9. All known commitments, contingent liabilities, and contingent assets have not been identified as there hasn't been a proper stocktake to verify them.
10. All adjustment journals have been made and passed onto the Department of Finance for approval.

6.1 Statement of Appropriation

Table 21: MFOMA statement of appropriate

Code	Description	Original Appropriation	Supplementary Appropriations	Virements	Final Budget	Total Expenditure	Under/ (Over)
M16	Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs						
MAA	Resilience towards Climate Change and Natural Resources SHEFA						
48AZ	Fisheries Dept Payroll	43,825,294	-	-	43,825,294	-	43,825,294
MAAA	Payroll & Administration	43,825,294	-	-	43,825,294	-	43,825,294
MAA	Resilience towards Climate Change and Natural Resources SHEFA	43,825,294	-	-	43,825,294	-	43,825,294
MAB	Increase Production of Commodity Crops						
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,725,000	-	-	2,725,000	-	2,725,000
MABB	Increase production of commodity crops MALAMPA	2,725,000	-	-	2,725,000	-	2,725,000
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,625,000	-	-	2,625,000	-	2,625,000
MABC	Increased production of commodity crops PENAMA	2,625,000	-	-	2,625,000	-	2,625,000
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,665,000	-	-	2,665,000	75,145	2,589,855
48CB	Fishing Boats	12,500,000	-	-	12,500,000	-	12,500,000
MABD	Increase production of commodity crops SANMA	15,165,000	-	-	15,165,000	75,145	15,089,855
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,630,000	-	-	2,630,000	-	2,630,000
MABE	Increase production of commodity crops	2,630,000	-	-	2,630,000	-	2,630,000

	SHEFA						
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,680,000	-	-	2,680,000	215,100	2,464,900
MABF	Increase production of commodity crops TAFEA	2,680,000	-	-	2,680,000	215,100	2,464,900
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,675,000	-	-	2,675,000	-	2,675,000
MABG	Increase production of commodity crops TORBA	2,675,000	-	-	2,675,000	-	2,675,000
MAB	Increase Production of Commodity Crops	28,500,000	-	-	28,500,000	290,245	28,209,755
MAC	Improve Food Security						
48EE	Domestic landings inspection	2,700,000	-	-	2,700,000	-	2,700,000
MACA	Improve food security	2,700,000	-	-	2,700,000	-	2,700,000
MAC	Improve Food Security	2,700,000	-	-	2,700,000	-	2,700,000
MAD	Improve Quality and Safety of Agriculture Products						
48DB	Farming seeds production	1,500,000	-	-	1,500,000	-	1,500,000
48DC	Existing and New Farms	660,000	-	-	660,000	-	660,000
48DG	Trochus and giant clams	1,020,000	-	-	1,020,000	-570,000	1,590,000
48DK	R&D - investigate the ecological, productivity of integrated farming	900,000	-	-	900,000	-	900,000
MADA	Improve quality and safety of agriculture products	4,080,000	-	-	4,080,000	-570,000	4,650,000
MAD	Improve Quality and Safety of Agriculture Products	4,080,000	-	-	4,080,000	-570,000	4,650,000
MAE	Sustainable Management of Natural Resources						
48BA	Tuna Fishery Management	45,500,000	-	-	45,500,000	31,889,966	13,610,034
48BB	Deep Bottom Fishery Management	600,000	-	-	600,000	-	600,000
48BC	Sea Cucumber Fishery Management	1,800,000	-	-	1,800,000	-	1,800,000
48BE	Community fisheries management	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
48BF	Ecological surveys-habitat/fin-fish/inverts	600,000	-	-	600,000	-	600,000
48BG	Crown of Thorns (COT) out break Management	600,000	-	-	600,000	-	600,000
48BH	Fisheries Act enforcement	2,000,000	-	-	2,000,000	50,000	1,950,000

48BI	Fish Monitoring & Data Collection - TAILS	8,400,000	-	-	8,400,000	-	8,400,000
48BJ	Observer Program	12,750,000	-	-	12,750,000	-	12,750,000
48BK	Vessel Day Scheme	18,000,000	-	-	18,000,000	3,775,398	14,224,602
48BL	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation	42,000,000	-	-	42,000,000	-	42,000,000
MAEA	Sustainable management of natural resources	133,250,000	-	-	133,250,000	35,715,364	97,534,636
MAE	Sustainable Management of Natural Resources	133,250,000	-	-	133,250,000	35,715,364	97,534,636
MAH	Support Institutional Capacity, Policy, Communication and Administration						
48AB	infrastructure and Assets	1,400,000	-	-	1,400,000	-	1,400,000
48AD	Annual Fisheries Programs	-	-	-	-	244,133	-244,133
48AE	Planning and reporting	1,500,000	-	-	1,500,000	-	1,500,000
MAHA	Supporting institutional capacity, policy, communication and administration	2,900,000	-	-	2,900,000	244,133	2,655,867
48AD	Annual Fisheries Programs	2,000,000	-	-	2,000,000	1,187,083	812,917
MAHD	Support institution capacity, policy, communication, admin SANMA	2,000,000	-	-	2,000,000	1,187,083	812,917
48AD	Annual Fisheries Programs	-	-	-	-	-	-
MAHE	Support institution capacity, policy, communication, admin SHEFA	-	-	-	-	-	-
MAH	Support Institutional Capacity, Policy, Communication and Administration	4,900,000	-	-	4,900,000	1,431,216	3,468,784
MAI	Advancing Research and Development						
48FB	Fishing trial for Deep Bottom Shrimp	810,000	-	-	810,000	-	810,000
48FC	Fishing trial for Spider Crab	867,000	-	-	867,000	-	867,000
48FD	Research and development of new wild Fishery	840,000	-	-	840,000	-	840,000
48FE	Ecological aspects of FADs	-	-	-	-	-	-
48FF	Coral replanting	930,000	-	-	930,000	-	930,000
48FG	Coastal fin fish stock assessment	1,500,000	-	-	1,500,000	-	1,500,000
48FI	Coastal fisheries Management, diversification and food	5,000,000	-	-	5,000,000	-	5,000,000

	security Symposium						
MAIA	Advancing Research and Development	9,947,000	-	-	9,947,000	-	9,947,000
MAI	Advancing Research and Development	9,947,000	-	-	9,947,000	-	9,947,000
MDA	Cabinet Support						
7A0A	MFOMA Cabinet	65,048,961	-	-2,030,600	63,018,361	68,400,022	-5,381,661
7B0A	Office of the Director General	-	-	-	-	4,159,823	-4,159,823
7B0B	MFOMA Corporate Services Unit	-	-	-	-	3,317,775	-3,317,775
MDAA	Portfolio Management	65,048,961	-	-2,030,600	63,018,361	75,877,620	-12,859,259
MDA	Cabinet Support	65,048,961	-	-2,030,600	63,018,361	75,877,620	-12,859,259
MDB	Executive Management and Corporate Services						
7B0A	Office of the Director General	14,299,837	-	-	14,299,837	10,307,890	3,991,947
7B0B	MFOMA Corporate Services Unit	27,917,840	-	12,343,192	40,261,032	36,991,719	3,269,313
MDBA	Corporate Services	42,217,677	-	12,343,192	54,560,869	47,299,609	7,261,260
MDB	Executive Management and Corporate Services	42,217,677	-	12,343,192	54,560,869	47,299,609	7,261,260
MDC	Fisheries						
48AD	Annual Fisheries Programs	-	-	-	-	472,209	-472,209
48AZ	Fisheries Dept Payroll	129,289,653	-	-30,449,846	98,839,807	143,064,472	-44,224,665
MDCA	Payroll and Administration	129,289,653	-	-30,449,846	98,839,807	143,536,681	-44,696,874
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,725,000	-	-	2,725,000	3,023,097	-298,097
MDCB	Sustainable Fisheries Food Security & Livelihoods MALAMPA	2,725,000	-	-	2,725,000	3,023,097	-298,097
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,625,000	-	-	2,625,000	3,033,808	-408,808
MDCC	Sustainable Fisheries Food Security & Livelihoods PENAMA	2,625,000	-	-	2,625,000	3,033,808	-408,808
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,665,000	-	-	2,665,000	5,144,482	-2,479,482
48CB	Fishing Boats	12,500,000	-	-	12,500,000	12,517,392	-17,392
MDCD	Sustainable Fisheries Food Security & Livelihoods SANMA	15,165,000	-	-	15,165,000	17,661,874	-2,496,874
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,630,000	-	-	2,630,000	3,679,762	-1,049,762

MDCE	Sustainable Fisheries Food Security & Livelihoods SHEFA	2,630,000	-	-	2,630,000	3,679,762	-1,049,762
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,680,000	-	-	2,680,000	2,680,000	-
MDCF	Sustainable Fisheries Food Security & Livelihoods TAFEA	2,680,000	-	-	2,680,000	2,680,000	-
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,675,000	-	-	2,675,000	5,906,008	-3,231,008
MDCG	Sustainable Fisheries Food Security & Livelihoods TORBA	2,675,000	-	-	2,675,000	5,906,008	-3,231,008
48EE	Domestic landings inspection	6,300,000	-	-	6,300,000	6,252,902	47,098
MDCH	Coastal & Aquaculture	6,300,000	-	-	6,300,000	6,252,902	47,098
48DB	Farming seeds production	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000	1,763,564	-763,564
48DC	Existing and New Farms	440,000	-	-	440,000	989,270	-549,270
48DG	Trochus and giant clams	680,000	-	-	680,000	680,000	-
48DK	R&D - investigate the ecological productivity of integrated farming	600,000	-	-	600,000	600,000	-
MDCI	Improve quality and safety of fisheries products	2,720,000	-	-	2,720,000	4,032,834	-1,312,834
48BA	Tuna Fishery Management	24,500,000	-	-	24,500,000	28,938,806	-4,438,806
48BB	Deep Bottom Fishery Management	400,000	-	-	400,000	400,000	-
48BC	Sea Cucumber Fishery Management	1,200,000	-	-	1,200,000	1,047,600	152,400
48BE	Community fisheries management	-	-	-	-	60,150	-60,150
48BF	Ecological surveys-habitat/fin-fish/inverts	400,000	-	-	400,000	400,000	-
48BG	Crown of Thorns (COT) out break Management	400,000	-	-	400,000	400,000	-
48BH	Fisheries Act enforcement	2,000,000	-	-	2,000,000	1,975,000	25,000
48BI	Fish Monitoring & Data Collection - TAILS	5,600,000	-	-	5,600,000	5,586,690	13,310
48BJ	Observer Program	4,250,000	-	-	4,250,000	5,333,972	-1,083,972
48BK	Vessel Day Scheme	12,000,000	-	-	12,000,000	18,942,204	-6,942,204
48BL	Regional Fisheries Management Organization	28,000,000	-	-	28,000,000	27,693,191	306,809
MDCJ	Maximize Sustainable Economic and Social Benefits in Offshore Fisheries	78,750,000	-	-	78,750,000	90,777,613	-12,027,613
48AA	Monitoring and evaluation of program activities	1,500,000	-	-	1,500,000	723,925	776,075

48AB	Infrastructure and Assets	16,000,000	-	-	16,000,000	11,372,331	4,627,669
48AE	Planning and reporting	1,500,000	-	-	1,500,000	1,500,000	-
MDCK	Supporting institutional capacity, policy, communication and administration	19,000,000	-	-	19,000,000	13,596,256	5,403,744
48AD	Annual Fisheries Programs	8,000,000	-	-	8,000,000	7,503,040	496,960
MDCL	Support institution capacity, policy, communication, admin SANMA	8,000,000	-	-	8,000,000	7,503,040	496,960
48AD	Annual Fisheries Programs	32,001,289	-	20,137,254	52,138,543	51,420,467	718,076
48AE	Planning and reporting	-	-	-	-	1	-1
MDCM	Support institution capacity, policy, communication, admin SHEFA	32,001,289	-	20,137,254	52,138,543	51,420,468	718,075
48FB	Fishing trial for Deep Bottom Shrimp	540,000	-	-	540,000	846,785	-306,785
48FC	Fishing trial for Spider Crab	578,000	-	-	578,000	578,000	-
48FD	Research and development of new wild Fishery	560,000	-	-	560,000	560,000	-
48FE	Ecological aspects of FADs	-	-	-	-	675,275	-675,275
48FF	Coral replanting	620,000	-	-	620,000	620,000	-
48FG	Coastal fin fish stock assessment	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000	-
MDCN	Advancing Research and Development	3,298,000	-	-	3,298,000	4,280,060	-982,060
MDC	Fisheries	307,858,942	-	-10,312,592	297,546,350	357,384,403	-59,838,053
MDD	Oceans & Maritime Affairs						
3A0B	Finance & Administration	18,399,255	-	6,397,073	24,796,328	25,149,319	-352,991
MDDA	Finance and Administration	18,399,255	-	6,397,073	24,796,328	25,149,319	-352,991
3A0A	National Boundaries & Ocean Affairs	1,250,000	-	-	1,250,000	1,071,551	178,449
3A0B	Finance & Administration	6,397,073	-	-	6,397,073	3,264,873	3,132,200
Mddb	National Boundaries	7,647,073	-	-	7,647,073	4,336,424	3,310,649
3A0A	National Boundaries & Ocean Affairs	1,838,016	-	-	1,838,016	1,082,102	755,914
MDDC	Ocean Affairs	1,838,016	-	-	1,838,016	1,082,102	755,914
MDD	Oceans & Maritime Affairs	27,884,344	-	6,397,073	34,281,417	30,567,845	3,713,572
MDE	Maritime Authority						

1A0A	Vanuatu Maritime Safety Authority	87,101,838	4,751,381	-	91,853,219	91,262,775	590,444
MDEA	Maritime Authority	87,101,838	4,751,381	-	91,853,219	91,262,775	590,444
MDE	Maritime Authority	87,101,838	4,751,381	-	91,853,219	91,262,775	590,444
MOB	Dept of Foreign Affairs						
3A0B	Finance & Administration	-	-	6,397,073	6,397,073	-	6,397,073
MOBI	Corporate Services	-	-	6,397,073	6,397,073	-	6,397,073
MOB	Dept of Foreign Affairs	-	-	6,397,073	6,397,073	-	6,397,073
MOH	National Boundaries & Ocean Affairs						
3A0A	National Boundaries & Ocean Affairs	-	-	312,501	312,501	-	312,501
MOHA	National Boundaries	-	-	312,501	312,501	-	312,501
3A0A	National Boundaries & Ocean Affairs	-	-	312,501	312,501	-	312,501
MOHB	Ocean Affairs	-	-	312,501	312,501	-	312,501
MOH	National Boundaries & Ocean Affairs	-	-	625,002	625,002	-	625,002
MUE	Shipping Services						
1A0A	Vanuatu Maritime Safety Authority	-	-	18,938,383	18,938,383	-	18,938,383
MUEB	Maritime Authority	-	-	18,938,383	18,938,383	-	18,938,383
MUE	Shipping Services	-	-	18,938,383	18,938,383	-	18,938,383
M16	Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs	757,314,056	4,751,381	32,357,531	794,422,968	639,259,077	155,163,891
	Grand Total	757,314,056	4,751,381	32,357,531	794,422,968	639,259,077	155,163,891

6.2 Summary of Expenditures

Table 22: MFOMA summary expenditure per chapter head transactions between 1 January to 31 December

<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	Original Appropriation	Supplementary Appropriations	Virements	Final Budget	Total Expenditure	Under/ (Over)
<i>M16</i>	Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs						
<i>MAA</i>	Resilience towards Climate Change and Natural Resources SHEFA						
<i>48AZ</i>	Fisheries Dept Payroll	43,825,294	-	-	43,825,294	-	43,825,294
<i>MAAA</i>	Payroll & Administration	43,825,294	-	-	43,825,294	-	43,825,294

MAA	Resilience towards Climate Change and Natural Resources SHEFA	43,825,294	-	-	43,825,294	-	43,825,294
MAB	Increase Production of Commodity Crops						
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,725,000	-	-	2,725,000	-	2,725,000
MABB	Increase production of commodity crops MALAMPA	2,725,000	-	-	2,725,000	-	2,725,000
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,625,000	-	-	2,625,000	-	2,625,000
MABC	Increase production of commodity crops PENAMA	2,625,000	-	-	2,625,000	-	2,625,000
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,665,000	-	-	2,665,000	75,145	2,589,855
48CB	Fishing Boats	12,500,000	-	-	12,500,000	-	12,500,000
MABD	Increase production of commodity crops SANMA	15,165,000	-	-	15,165,000	75,145	15,089,855
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,630,000	-	-	2,630,000	-	2,630,000
MABE	Increase production of commodity crops SHEFA	2,630,000	-	-	2,630,000	-	2,630,000
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,680,000	-	-	2,680,000	215,100	2,464,900
MABF	Increase production of commodity crops TAFEA	2,680,000	-	-	2,680,000	215,100	2,464,900
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,675,000	-	-	2,675,000	-	2,675,000
MABG	Increase production of commodity crops TORBA	2,675,000	-	-	2,675,000	-	2,675,000
MAB	Increase Production of Commodity Crops	28,500,000	-	-	28,500,000	290,245	28,209,755
MAC	Improve Food Security						
48EE	Domestic landings inspection	2,700,000	-	-	2,700,000	-	2,700,000
MACA	Improve food security	2,700,000	-	-	2,700,000	-	2,700,000
MAC	Improve Food Security	2,700,000	-	-	2,700,000	-	2,700,000
MAD	Improve Quality and Safety of Agriculture Products						
48DB	Farming seeds production	1,500,000	-	-	1,500,000	-	1,500,000
48DC	Existing and New Farms	660,000	-	-	660,000	-	660,000
48DG	Trochus and giant clams	1,020,000	-	-	1,020,000	-570,000	1,590,000
48DK	R&D - investigate the ecological, productivity of integrated farming	900,000	-	-	900,000	-	900,000
MADA	Improve quality and safety of agriculture products	4,080,000	-	-	4,080,000	-570,000	4,650,000
MAD	Improve Quality and Safety of Agriculture Products	4,080,000	-	-	4,080,000	-570,000	4,650,000
MAE	Sustainable Management of Natural Resources						
48BA	Tuna Fishery Management	45,500,000	-	-	45,500,000	31,889,966	13,610,034
48BB	Deep Bottom Fishery Management	600,000	-	-	600,000	-	600,000
48BC	Sea Cucumber Fishery Management	1,800,000	-	-	1,800,000	-	1,800,000
48BE	Community fisheries management	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
48BF	Ecological surveys-habitat/fin-fish/inverts	600,000	-	-	600,000	-	600,000

48BG	Crown of Thorns (COT) outbreak Management	600,000	-	-	600,000	-	600,000
48BH	Fisheries Act enforcement	2,000,000	-	-	2,000,000	50,000	1,950,000
48BI	Fish Monitoring & Data Collection - TAILS	8,400,000	-	-	8,400,000	-	8,400,000
48BJ	Observer Program	12,750,000	-	-	12,750,000	-	12,750,000
48BK	Vessel Day Scheme	18,000,000	-	-	18,000,000	3,775,398	14,224,602
48BL	Regional Fisheries Management Organization	42,000,000	-	-	42,000,000	-	42,000,000
MAEA	Sustainable management of natural resources	133,250,000	-	-	133,250,000	35,715,364	97,534,636
MAE	Sustainable Management of Natural Resources	133,250,000	-	-	133,250,000	35,715,364	97,534,636
MAH	Support Institutional Capacity, Policy, Communication and Administration						
48AB	Infrastructure and Assets	1,400,000	-	-	1,400,000	-	1,400,000
48AD	Annual Fisheries Programs	-	-	-	-	244,133	-244,133
48AE	Planning and reporting	1,500,000	-	-	1,500,000	-	1,500,000
MAHA	Supporting institutional capacity, policy, communication and administration	2,900,000	-	-	2,900,000	244,133	2,655,867
48AD	Annual Fisheries Programs	2,000,000	-	-	2,000,000	1,187,083	812,917
MAHD	Support institution capacity, policy, communication, admin SANMA	2,000,000	-	-	2,000,000	1,187,083	812,917
48AD	Annual Fisheries Programs	-	-	-	-	-	-
MAHE	Support institution capacity, policy, communication, admin SHEFA	-	-	-	-	-	-
MAH	Support Institutional Capacity, Policy, Communication and Administration	4,900,000	-	-	4,900,000	1,431,216	3,468,784
MAI	Advancing Research and Development						
48FB	Fishing trial for Deep Bottom Shrimp	810,000	-	-	810,000	-	810,000
48FC	Fishing trial for Spider Crab	867,000	-	-	867,000	-	867,000
48FD	Research and development of new wild Fishery	840,000	-	-	840,000	-	840,000
48FE	Ecological aspects of FADs	-	-	-	-	-	-
48FF	Coral replanting	930,000	-	-	930,000	-	930,000
48FG	Coastal fin fish stock assessment	1,500,000	-	-	1,500,000	-	1,500,000
48FI	Coastal fisheries Management, diversification and food security Symposium	5,000,000	-	-	5,000,000	-	5,000,000
MAIA	Advancing Research and Development	9,947,000	-	-	9,947,000	-	9,947,000
MAI	Advancing Research and Development	9,947,000	-	-	9,947,000	-	9,947,000
MDA	Cabinet Support						
7A0A	MFOMA Cabinet	65,048,961	-	-2,030,600	63,018,361	68,400,022	-5,381,661
7B0A	Office of the Director General	-	-	-	-	4,159,823	-4,159,823
7B0B	MFOMA Corporate Services Unit	-	-	-	-	3,317,775	-3,317,775
MDAA	Portfolio Management	65,048,961	-	-2,030,600	63,018,361	75,877,620	-12,859,259
MDA	Cabinet Support	65,048,961	-	-2,030,600	63,018,361	75,877,620	-12,859,259
MDB	Executive Management and Corporate Services						

7B0A	Office of the Director General	14,299,837	-	-	14,299,837	10,307,890	3,991,947
7B0B	MFOMA Corporate Services Unit	27,917,840	-	12,343,192	40,261,032	36,991,719	3,269,313
MDBA	Corporate Services	42,217,677	-	12,343,192	54,560,869	47,299,609	7,261,260
MDB	Executive Management and Corporate Services	42,217,677	-	12,343,192	54,560,869	47,299,609	7,261,260
MDC	Fisheries						
48AD	Annual Fisheries Programs	-	-	-	-	472,209	-472,209
48AZ	Fisheries Dept Payroll	129,289,653	-	-	98,839,807	143,064,472	-44,224,665
				30,449,846			
MDCA	Payroll and Administration	129,289,653	-	-	98,839,807	143,536,681	-44,696,874
				30,449,846			
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,725,000	-	-	2,725,000	3,023,097	-298,097
MDCB	Sustainable Fisheries Food Security & Livelihoods MALAMPA	2,725,000	-	-	2,725,000	3,023,097	-298,097
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,625,000	-	-	2,625,000	3,033,808	-408,808
MDCC	Sustainable Fisheries Food Security & Livelihoods PENAMA	2,625,000	-	-	2,625,000	3,033,808	-408,808
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,665,000	-	-	2,665,000	5,144,482	-2,479,482
48CB	Fishing Boats	12,500,000	-	-	12,500,000	12,517,392	-17,392
MDCD	Sustainable Fisheries Food Security & Livelihoods SANMA	15,165,000	-	-	15,165,000	17,661,874	-2,496,874
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,630,000	-	-	2,630,000	3,679,762	-1,049,762
MDCE	Sustainable Fisheries Food Security & Livelihoods SHEFA	2,630,000	-	-	2,630,000	3,679,762	-1,049,762
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,680,000	-	-	2,680,000	2,680,000	-
MDCF	Sustainable Fisheries Food Security & Livelihoods TAFEA	2,680,000	-	-	2,680,000	2,680,000	-
48CA	Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD)	2,675,000	-	-	2,675,000	5,906,008	-3,231,008
MDCG	Sustainable Fisheries Food Security & Livelihoods TORBA	2,675,000	-	-	2,675,000	5,906,008	-3,231,008
48EE	Domestic landings inspection	6,300,000	-	-	6,300,000	6,252,902	47,098
MDCH	Coastal & Aquaculture	6,300,000	-	-	6,300,000	6,252,902	47,098
48DB	Farming seeds production	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000	1,763,564	-763,564
48DC	Existing and New Farms	440,000	-	-	440,000	989,270	-549,270
48DG	Trochus and giant clams	680,000	-	-	680,000	680,000	-
48DK	R&D - investigate the ecological, productivity of integrated farming	600,000	-	-	600,000	600,000	-
MDCI	Improve quality and safety of fisheries products	2,720,000	-	-	2,720,000	4,032,834	-1,312,834
48BA	Tuna Fishery Management	24,500,000	-	-	24,500,000	28,938,806	-4,438,806
48BB	Deep Bottom Fishery Management	400,000	-	-	400,000	400,000	-
48BC	Sea Cucumber Fishery Management	1,200,000	-	-	1,200,000	1,047,600	152,400
48BE	Community fisheries management	-	-	-	-	60,150	-60,150
48BF	Ecological surveys-habitat/fin-fish/inverts	400,000	-	-	400,000	400,000	-
48BG	Crown of Thorns (COT) out break Management	400,000	-	-	400,000	400,000	-
48BH	Fisheries Act enforcement	2,000,000	-	-	2,000,000	1,975,000	25,000

48BI	Fish Monitoring & Data Collection - TAILS	5,600,000	-	-	5,600,000	5,586,690	13,310
48BJ	Observer Program	4,250,000	-	-	4,250,000	5,333,972	-1,083,972
48BK	Vessel Day Scheme	12,000,000	-	-	12,000,000	18,942,204	-6,942,204
48BL	Regional Fisheries Management Organization	28,000,000	-	-	28,000,000	27,693,191	306,809
MDCJ	Maximize Sustainable Economic and Social Benefits in Offshore Fisheries	78,750,000	-	-	78,750,000	90,777,613	-12,027,613
48AA	Monitoring and evaluation of program activities	1,500,000	-	-	1,500,000	723,925	776,075
48AB	Infrastructure and Assets	16,000,000	-	-	16,000,000	11,372,331	4,627,669
48AE	Planning and reporting	1,500,000	-	-	1,500,000	1,500,000	-
MDCCK	Supporting institutional capacity, policy, communication and administration	19,000,000	-	-	19,000,000	13,596,256	5,403,744
48AD	Annual Fisheries Programs	8,000,000	-	-	8,000,000	7,503,040	496,960
MDCCL	Support institution capacity, policy, communication, admin SANMA	8,000,000	-	-	8,000,000	7,503,040	496,960
48AD	Annual Fisheries Programs	32,001,289	-	20,137,254	52,138,543	51,420,467	718,076
48AE	Planning and reporting	-	-	-	-	1	-1
MDCM	Support institution capacity, policy, communication, admin SHEFA	32,001,289	-	20,137,254	52,138,543	51,420,468	718,075
48FB	Fishing trial for Deep Bottom Shrimp	540,000	-	-	540,000	846,785	-306,785
48FC	Fishing trial for Spider Crab	578,000	-	-	578,000	578,000	-
48FD	Research and development of new wild Fishery	560,000	-	-	560,000	560,000	-
48FE	Ecological aspects of FADs	-	-	-	-	675,275	-675,275
48FF	Coral replanting	620,000	-	-	620,000	620,000	-
48FG	Coastal fin fish stock assessment	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000	-
MDCN	Advancing Research and Development	3,298,000	-	-	3,298,000	4,280,060	-982,060
MDC	Fisheries	307,858,942	-	-	297,546,350	357,384,403	-59,838,053
				10,312,592			
MDD	Oceans & Maritime Affairs						
3A0B	Finance & Administration	18,399,255	-	6,397,073	24,796,328	25,149,319	-352,991
MDDA	Finance and Administration	18,399,255	-	6,397,073	24,796,328	25,149,319	-352,991
3A0A	National Boundaries & Ocean Affairs	1,250,000	-	-	1,250,000	1,071,551	178,449
3A0B	Finance & Administration	6,397,073	-	-	6,397,073	3,264,873	3,132,200
MDDB	National Boundaries	7,647,073	-	-	7,647,073	4,336,424	3,310,649
3A0A	National Boundaries & Ocean Affairs	1,838,016	-	-	1,838,016	1,082,102	755,914
MDDC	Ocean Affairs	1,838,016	-	-	1,838,016	1,082,102	755,914
MDD	Oceans & Maritime Affairs	27,884,344	-	6,397,073	34,281,417	30,567,845	3,713,572
MDE	Maritime Authority						
1A0A	Vanuatu Maritime Safety Authority	87,101,838	4,751,381	-	91,853,219	91,262,775	590,444
MDEA	Maritime Authority	87,101,838	4,751,381	-	91,853,219	91,262,775	590,444
MDE	Maritime Authority	87,101,838	4,751,381	-	91,853,219	91,262,775	590,444
MOB	Dept of Foreign Affairs						

3A0B	Finance & Administration	-	-	6,397,073	6,397,073	-	6,397,073
MOBI	Corporate Services	-	-	6,397,073	6,397,073	-	6,397,073
MOB	Dept of Foreign Affairs	-	-	6,397,073	6,397,073	-	6,397,073
MOH	National Boundaries & Ocean Affairs						
3A0A	National Boundaries & Ocean Affairs	-	-	312,501	312,501	-	312,501
MOHA	National Boundaries	-	-	312,501	312,501	-	312,501
3A0A	National Boundaries & Ocean Affairs	-	-	312,501	312,501	-	312,501
MOHB	Ocean Affairs	-	-	312,501	312,501	-	312,501
MOH	National Boundaries & Ocean Affairs	-	-	625,002	625,002	-	625,002
MUE	Shipping Services						
IA0A	Vanuatu Maritime Safety Authority	-	-	18,938,383	18,938,383	-	18,938,383
MUEB	Maritime Authority	-	-	18,938,383	18,938,383	-	18,938,383
MUE	Shipping Services	-	-	18,938,383	18,938,383	-	18,938,383
M16	Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and retime. Affairs	757,314,056	4,751,381	32,357,531	794,422,968	639,259,077	155,163,891
	Grand Total	757,314,056	4,751,381	32,357,531	794,422,968	639,259,077	155,163,891

The **Ministry of Fisheries, Ocean and Maritime Affairs (MFOMA)** had an initial total appropriation budget of **757,314,056 VT** for 2025.

An additional **4,751,381 VT** supplementary budget was allocated under the **Vanuatu Maritime Safety Authority (VMSA)**, bringing the total approved budget to **794,422,968 VT** for the 2025 fiscal year.

During program implementation, the Ministry processed a **virement of 32,357,531 VT** from payroll savings within the Department of Fisheries. This virement was approved by the Head of Agency and reallocated to support:

- Fisheries staff entitlements
- Logistical costs associated with the Public Service Day held in **Tafea Province (July 2025)**
- Other unbudgeted but necessary operational activities

6.3 Total Expenditure

The Ministry's total expenditure for 2025, including operational and personnel costs, amounted to: **639,259,077 VT**. The remaining balance of: **155,163,891 VT** was returned to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management – Treasury. Below is the amount of expenditure by respective department.

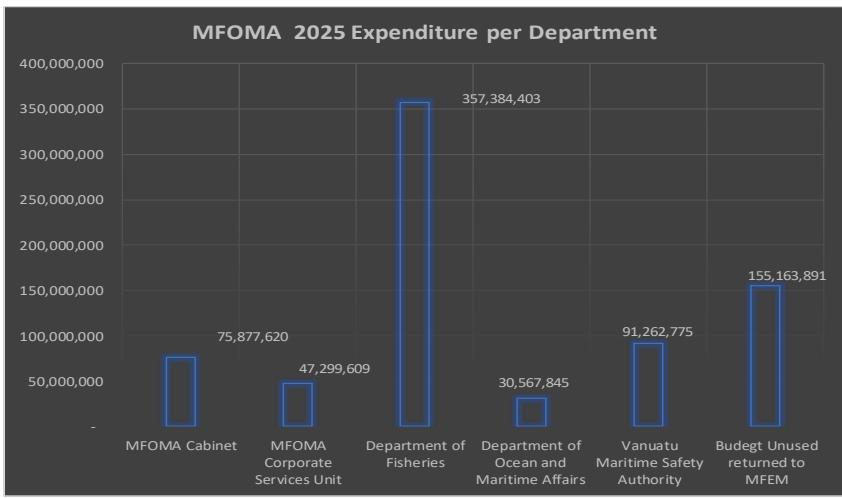


Figure 19: MFOMA 2025 Expenditure by Department

As illustrated in the graph above, the summary of expenditure by department shows the overall spending levels for the financial period. The graph also highlights the portion of the allocated budget that remained unused and was subsequently returned to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Treasury.

The under-expenditure was primarily due to complications and delays experienced by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM), through its FMIS Unit, in facilitating the transfer of budget allocations. These funds were being reallocated from the former cost center under MALFB to the Fisheries Department within the newly established Ministry. As a result, the delay in processing the transfer impacted on the timely utilization of the approved budget.

FIGURE 2: MFOMA 2025 OPERATING AND PERSONNEL EXPENDITURE BY PIE CHART INCLUDE THE PERCENTAGE.

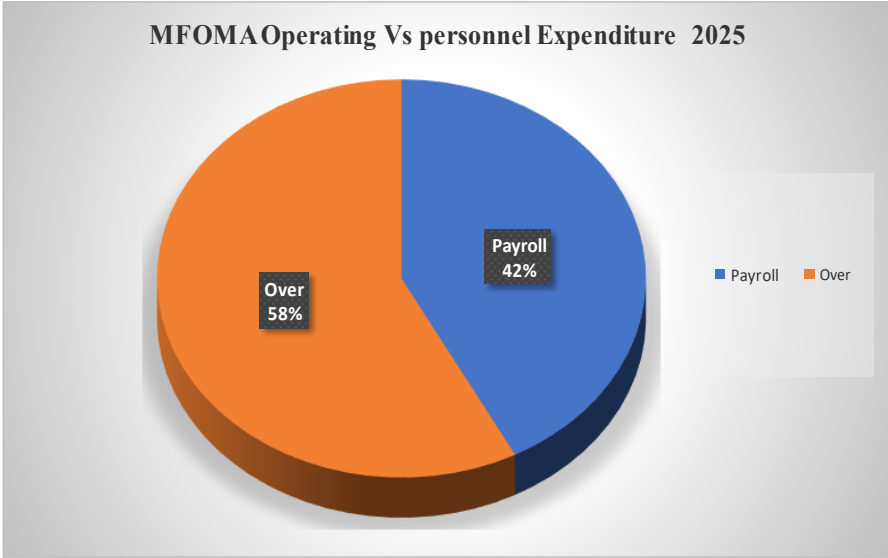


Figure 20: MFOMA Payroll role expenditure vs operational expenditure

The Ministry of Fisheries Ocean and Maritime Affairs allocate **58% of its total budget to program implementation and administrative management**, while **42% of the budget is allocated to payroll expenses**.

6.4 Summary of Revenue 2025

A comparison between Revenue Budget Forecast and Actual Revenue for the financial year.

Table 22: MFOMA Revenue collections by Vanuatu Fisheries department and Vanuatu Maritime Safety Authority

Account	Description	Revenue	Budget	Over/(Under)	Cash Received
	Revenue				
7LCH	Charters Charges	2,697,443	0	2,697,443	2,687,965
7LCN	Rentals Charges	0	3,000,000	(3,000,000)	0
7LSP	Products Sales	1,359,736	10,100,000	(8,740,264)	1,359,736
7NDT	Other Asset Disposals	72,000	0	72,000	72,000
7NFM	VMA Fees	67,336,270	60,000,000	7,336,270	52,066,866
7NFO	Other Fees	593,639	0	593,639	598,639
7NFR	Repairs Fees	17,391	0	17,391	17,391
7NIO	Other Fines	1,445,485	1,500,000	(54,515)	1,292,000
7NLO	Other Licenses	3,038,234	3,000,000	38,234	2,502,528
7NOL	Levies Recoveries	0	50,000,000	(50,000,000)	0
7NOO	Other Recoveries	0	500,000,000	(500,000,000)	0
7NOP	Permits Recoveries	187,344	2,000,000	(1,812,656)	187,344
7NOR	Rents & Leases Recoveries	2,347,830	0	2,347,830	0
7NTO	Other Items Revenue	0	55,000,000	(55,000,000)	0
7TLF	Fishing Licenses & Registration	1,440,894,998	1,000,000,000	440,894,998	1,511,201,541
7TLR	Residency Permits	50,486	0	50,486	50,486
	Revenue	1,520,040,856	1,684,600,000	(164,559,144)	1,572,036,496

The MFOMA revenue target for the reporting period was **1,684,600,000 VT**. The Ministry, through the Department of Fisheries and the **Vanuatu Maritime Safety Authority**, managed to collect a total of **1,572,036,496 VT**, resulting in a shortfall of **112,563,504 VT**.

The revenue target was not achieved due to several contributing factors. A number of fishing vessels did not renew their authorizations because they were either scrapped, remained in port for extended periods due to economic hardships, or deregistered from the Vanuatu International Shipping Registry.

Additionally, fishing effort within the Vanuatu Exclusive Economic Zone declined in 2025, particularly in terms of foreign fishing vessels licensed to operate in the zone. Furthermore, catch levies were not fully collected due to the incomplete submission of catch unloading data for 2024

6.5 Summary of Commitments

Table 23: MFOMA Commitments and Contingencies in 2025

MFOMA STAFF OUSTANDING ENTITLEMENT	
<u>Fisheries Department</u>	
Robert Jimmy	11,000,000
Graham Nimoho	5,000,000
<u>Cabinet Support</u>	
GRT Scale entitlement	2,000,000
<u>Vanuatu Maritime Safety Authority</u>	
Basil Talper	4,071,804
Barry Kennedy	2,773,687
Saline Matariki	2,299,609
Emmie Willie	1,405,202
Rarua	227,478
Total Outstanding Payments	28,777,780

We have a total of **7 staff members** with outstanding entitlements amounting to **VT 28,777,780**. These entitlements are to be settled by the Government through the Ministry of Fisheries, Ocean and Maritime Affairs (**MFOMA**) and Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM).

6.6 Summary of Assets

Table 1: MFOMA ASSETS Value in 2025

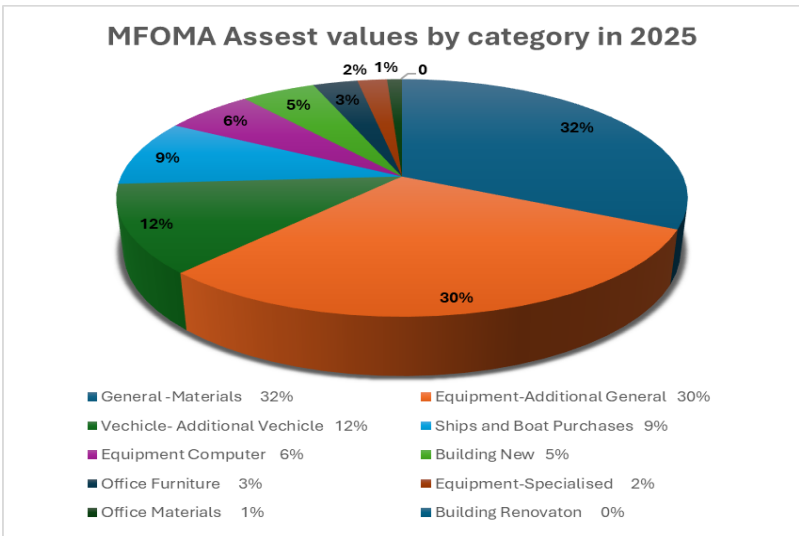


Figure 21: MFOMA Assets purchased by different categories

The MFOMA asset register for the year 2025 reflects the status of assets under management. To strengthen asset governance and improve accountability, the newly established Ministry should recruit dedicated Asset Officers responsible for annually updating all MFOMA asset records and developing comprehensive asset registry procedures and processes for both the Department of Fisheries and VMSA.

Appointing qualified Asset Officers will ensure systematic asset verification, accurate record-keeping, and compliance with financial management standards. This initiative will enhance asset tracking and management, support informed decision-making, and contribute to improved financial planning and efficient resource allocation across the Ministry

6.7 Procurement Summary

Table 24: MFOMA summery procurements in 2025

MFOMA PROCUREMENT SUMMARY REPORT 2025									
#	RFQ Reference	RFQ Description	DEPT.	NP	Amount	Contract Awarded to	LPO Issued	LPO #	Payment Status
1	RFQ/MF/VFD/W/1/25	Repair of VFD office Tagabe Port Vila	VFD		pending	pending	pending	pending	pending
2	RFQ/MFOMA/VFD/BOATENG/G/2/25	The Supply and Delivery of 2 x 200HP boat engines	VFD		8,824,640	Vila Marine	YES	LPO 480-020802	Complete
3	RFQ/MFOMA/VFD/FAD/G/3/25	the supply and delivery of 18 FAD	VFD		8,397,000	Saltwater Fishing	YES	LPO 480-020808	Complete
4	RFQ/MFOMA/VFD/BOAT/G/4/25	The Supply and Delivery of 2 x Fully Equipped Fishing boat	VFD		2,346,525	Vila Marine	YES		
5	RFQ/MALFFB/VFD/OFFICELEASE/PS/5/25	Lease of office space 2025 - top floor 5 offices located on the first floor of the Mingkai building in stade area	VFD		5,625,984	Caillard Kaddour		LPO 480-021210	
6	RFQ/MFOMA/VFD/FUEL/PS/6/25	The Supply and Delivery of fuel	VFD		2,043,665	Pacific Petroleum Company	YES	LPO 480-021300	Complete
7	RFQ/MFOMA/VFD/GLASS/PS/7/25	The Supply and installation of laminated glass for fisheries Office in Santo	VFD		3,777,440	Contract Glass and Aluminum	YES		Complete
8	RFQ/MFOMA/VFD/CLS/NEMO/PS/8/25	Supply and delivery of 200 x CLS beacons including its activation and annual subscription	VFD		21,000,000	CLS Oceania PTY LTD		LPO 480-021355	Complete
9	RFQ/MFOMA/VFD/OFFICEFURNITURES/G/9/25	The Supply and Delivery of PASO office fixtures and furniture's for new office located at Namba 2	VFD		2,000,000	PASO	YES		Complete
10	RFQ/MFOMA/VFD/GLASSPARTINEW/OFF/PS/10/25	The provision of Installation of Glass partition for new Fisheries Office namba 2 Port Vila	VFD		2,799,100	Ebenezer Construction	YES	LPO 480-021434	Complete
11	RFQ/MFOMA/VFD/SANTBOATYARDREPAIRSHED/W/11/25	Repair and renovation of Fisheries Boat yard and timber shed	VFD		pending	pending	pending	pending	pending
12	RFQ/MFOMA/VFD/ROC/WUNI/G/12/25	The Supply and Delivery of Unforms and Gifts for Reginal Observes Coordinators workshop (ROCW)	VFD		1,287,000	Garments	YES		Complete
14	RFQ/MFOMA/VFD/DG/CAR/G/13/25	The Supply and Delivery of 1 x Car for the DG	CSU		6,679,200	Intra Pacific Trading Co Ltd	YES		Complete

15	RFQ/MFOMA/VFD/CSUADMINCAR/G/14/25	The Supply and Delivery of 1 x Corporate Service (CSU) Adin Car	CSU		5,300,000,	Prestage Motor	YES		Complete
16	RFQ/MFOMA/VFD/OFFICELEASE/PS/15/25	Lease of office space of 500sqm - 1,000sqm including a kitchen and bathroom and toilet facilities	VFD		23,860,200	Vila Hand Prints Limited	YES		Complete
17	50625-RFQ#04-25-CONS-SEV-MFOMA	Undertake review of the establishment framework of the new Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs, identifying issues needing resolution and support in regards to Systems, Smart stream à FMIS, Hemiclonaal, Human Resources, Transition Approvals & Documents, Budget/Financial Issues	CSU		770,000	Advantage Management and Consultancy	YES	LPO#7B0-000062 LPO#7B0-000127	Complete
18	280525-RFQ#0625-CONS-SEV-MFOMA	Undertake review of the establishment framework of the new Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs, identifying issues needing resolution and support in regard to;	CSU		1,750,000	Advantage Management and Consultancy		LPO#7B0-000174 LPO#7B0-000150	In Progress
19	250429 RFQ#3-25-SEC-PS-MFOMA	Provide 24hours Security Services to MFOMA Offices and Minister Residence.	CSU		4,800,000	Etas Security Services			In progress
20	03072025 RFQ#5 MFOAM-PSC-CONT-SND-SYSTEM	Provide the main Stage, Sound System, Lightings, led screen, live streaming on Public Service Day 2025 event to be held from 31st July 2025 to the 4th August 2025 at Lenakel, Tanna.	CSU		1,200,000	HOBBIYSTS SOUND SYSTEMS	YES	LPO#7B0-000072	Complete
21	RFQ-MFOMA-VFD-BOAT-G-4-25	The Supply and Delivery of 2x fully equipped fishing Boat	CSU		4,660,000	VILA MARINE	YES	7B0-000082	Complete
22	251011 RFQ#07-25-QMS-CPP-MFOMA	Provide 3 Day Accommodations and Venue Hire for MFOMA Workshop to finalize the two (2) documents namely 'Corporate Plan 2026 – 2030' and 'Quality Management System'	CSU		1,509,000	E'NAUWI BEACH RESORT	YES	LPO#7B0-000202	Complete
23	070425 RFQ#1- MFOMA QMS & Corporate Plan 2025-2030	Review the draft MFOMA QMS, refined, finalize and launching. In consultation with MFOMA team to develop the new MFOMA Corporate Plan 2025-2030	CSU		1,600,000	Dion Palu Quality Solutions		LPO#7B0-000046 7B0-000027	In Progress
24	RFQ/MFOMA/VFD/CSU/PS/VENUHIRE/PS/17/25	Provide 4-day Hire for MFOMA Workshop to finalize the 2026 Annual Business Plan	SCU		1,322,000	Ramada Resort	Yes	LPO#7B0-000219	Complete

Procurement Summary Report

Table 25: MFOMA procurement summery report 2026

Category	Amount (VT)
Goods (G)	57,238,030
Works (W)	No records
Consulting services (CS)	8,920,000
Physical Services (PS)	38,771,724
Total Procurement Spend	104,929,754

However, to transitions in 2025, there has been no procurement plans presented, therefore the team processed documents according to quotes and details presented upfront.

7. Procurement Report

I. Executive Summary

This Procurement Summary Report provides an overview of the procurement activities within MFOMA for the year 2025. Procurement highlights key performance metrics, spending trends, plans, Vendor performance, and compliance with procurement policies. The report aims to identify areas for improvement, cost-saving opportunities, and strategies for enhancing procurement efficiency moving forward.

II. Procurement Overview

This section outlines the overall procurement activities during the reporting period for 2025, including the number of procurement transactions, procurement categories, and the primary objectives driving the procurement process.

A. Key Activities

- Processed a total of 22 procurement requests, under low Value, no High value recorded
- Focused on sourcing Goods, construction works, consulting services and Physical services
- Streamlined supplier negotiations to improve terms and reduce costs.

B. Procurement Goals

- Enhance supplier relationships and performance.
- Achieve cost savings through strategic sourcing.
- Maintain high standards of procurement compliance.

III. Spending Summary

The spending summary breaks down MFOMA’s procurement expenses for the year, categorized by vendor, department, and type of goods or services purchased and their values.

A. Spend by Department

IV. Performance by Procurement Plan

This section evaluates the performance of Department by the Procurement plan, measuring reliability, quality, and timeliness of delivery as stated in planning an to ensure that they are meeting the Departments expectations.

However, to transitions in 2025, there has been no procurement plans presented, team processed documents according to quotes and details presented upfront.

V. Supplier /Vendor Performance

This section evaluates the performance of suppliers, measuring contracts, managing vendors and suppliers and to put more effort's reliability, quality, and timeliness of delivery, to ensure that they are meeting the expectations.

We conclude that we will need to put more effort into managing vendors and supplies this year 2026

VI. Compliance and Risk Assessment

This section assesses how well procurement activities comply with internal policies and external regulations, while also identifying potential risks to the procurement process.

A. Compliance Overview

- 80% compliance with internal procurement policies.
- No significant breaches of contractual terms or procurement guidelines.

VII. Recommendations and Action Plan

Based on the findings in the report, the following actions are recommended to improve procurement efficiency and mitigate potential risks.

A. Action Plan

- **Vendor Management:** Strengthen communication and performance tracking with Supplier to address delivery delays.
- **Procurement plan:** Provide updating procurement plan so that, so that details are provided and completed timely.
- **Procurement Policies:** Strengthen and Comply with the Procurement guidelines
- **Specifications:** Team should be able to provide a clear specification on materials on details to be procured.
- **Cost:** team should also get proper confirmation of funding from team Finance so process can be started and completed in a timely manner.

B. Recommendations

- Continue fostering strong relationships with high-performing suppliers
- Training on procurement Procedures, requirement

8. Development Projects

Below are the projects reported under the Fisheries department

Table 26: VFD projects summery

GIP CODE	Project Description	DEPT.	Development Partner	Status and Progress as @ 31/12/25	Challenges and Responses
10C148	Vanuatu Observer and Port Sampling Program	FISHERIES		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project remains ongoing due to the observer program. Annual funding is being renewed to support the program, enabling officers to be deployed on Vanuatu-flagged vessels worldwide to monitor catches and report findings.
21A548	Feasibility and Cost-Benefit Assessment of Electronic Monitoring on Vanuatu Fishing Vessels	FISHERIES	(WCPFC) – Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing but not appeared on FMIS that there are funds available or not. Data extracted from DSPPAC database. 	
21B648	Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) arrangements to improved Tuna Longline Fishery Management and Control in Vanuatu Waters.	FISHERIES	(WCPFC) – Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing but not appeared on FMIS that there are funds available or not. Data extracted from DSPPAC database. 	

21D248	<p>Project Name: Pathways Project Phase II</p> <p>Project Title: COALITIONS FOR CHANGE IN SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL CBFM PROGRAMMES IN THE PACIFIC</p>	FISHERIES	DFAT, ACIAR, SPC, UOW	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disaster impacts ▪ Flight availability ▪ National restrictions
	<p>Project Name: VCCRP</p> <p>Project Title: Vanuatu Community Climate Resilient Project</p>	Fisheries	Green Climate Fund (GCF), Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Provincial Government	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishment of Community Tabu Area ▪ Train the Trainers workshop
20A748	MCS Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Enforcement	FISHERIES	FFA –Forum Fisheries Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing but not appeared on FMIS that there are funds available or not. ▪ Data extracted from DSPPAC database. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing but not appeared on FMIS that there are funds available or not. ▪ Data extracted from DSPPAC database.
24C448	Sea Cucumber Stock Assessment	FISHERIES	CHINA	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Surveys and harvest

9. Statutory Authorities

Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime has only on Statutory Authority which is Vanuatu Maritime Safety Authority. VMSA is govern by its own legislation and has its governing Body. Therefore, VMSA will provide its Annual Report 2025 and its attached here as an annex.

10. Non-Statutory Bodies

There are two companies under the MFOMA. The VanFly and Sino-Van however, no reports received.

11. Reports by the Auditor General

The Annual Report should contain a list showing the titles and tabling dates of reports by the Auditor General (if any) that were tabled in the Parliament during the year that referring to the operation of the Ministry and any remedial action that was taken. (Non)

12. Comments by the Ombudsman

The Annual Report should list and briefly describe the reports to the Ministry made by the Ombudsman (if any) and provide a summary statement of action in tabular form taken by the Ministry during the year in response to these reports. (None)

13. Right to Information

If requests have been received under the Right to Information Act, these should be listed in tabular form. No requests were received under this Act. (None)

14. Decisions of Courts

The Annual Report should contain a list of any judicial decisions handed down during the year which significantly affect, or in the Director General's view could in future significantly affect, the operation of the Ministry. (Non)

15. Complaints Mechanisms

Only compliant report is the PSC report on the suspension of the 4 staff.

16. Equity

The Annual Report should contain a summary of action taken by the Ministry during the year to enhance inclusion, equity, equality, access and participation for its staff and customers. (None)

17. Capital Expenditure

Whilst the Ministry for Infrastructure reports on capital works expenditure, the Annual Report should include brief information about each major approved capital item, including vehicles, acquired by the Ministry and its Departments/Agencies. Please refer to 6.7 Procurement in the Finance Section

18. Fraud Control

The Annual Report should contain a brief summary of any action taken by the Ministry during the year to assess the risk of fraud and to develop and implement plans or other arrangements for fraud control where a risk has been discovered or fraudulent activity has in fact occurred.

MFOMA Finance team develop internal procedures and process and to be included into the MFOMAs QMS.

19. Challenges

Corporate Service Unit (CSU)

Key challenges faced in 2025:

- MFOMA has not permanent main office.
- MFOMA struggles to implement programs effectively due to limited funding, institutional capacity, and coordination challenges and under staff.
- Climate change, overfishing, and marine pollution put pressure on both resources and communities.
- Balancing modern legal frameworks with customary governance and ensuring community engagement remain key hurdles.
- MFOMA was established without much ground work has being done.
- Staff migration was confusing and challenging

- No permanent rather proper Director General.
- Limited funding and institutional capacity restrict effective delivery of ocean and fisheries programs.
- Legislations and policies not reviewed and aligned accordingly

Fisheries Department

- Face challenges to assess funding form the old cost centre
- Plenty of staff under contract
- Old structure not fully implemented
- Natural Disaster displace staff at different locations.
- Communications and necessary logistical supports not available.
- PSC program takes over much funds.

Oceans and Maritime Boundary Department

Key Challenges

- Limited staffing and financial resources during establishment phase;
- Need for stronger cross-sectoral coordination across multiple ministries and agencies;
- Capacity constraints in specialized areas such as international ocean law and Blue Economy financing;
- Balancing national policy priorities with community needs and customary governance systems.

Lessons Learned

- Early investment in institutional systems and coordination mechanisms is critical for long-term effectiveness;
- Strong partnerships with traditional entities that will enhance legitimacy and sustainability of ocean governance;
- Regional and international engagement strengthens national capacity and policy coherence;
- Integrated approaches are essential to managing competing ocean uses and development pressures.

Contact Officer

Contact Officer: Mr Thomas Rex TANDAK

Position: Executive Officer, Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Boundaries

Email: trex@vanuatu.gov.vu

Telephone: +67833235/33225

MOB: +6787139120

Annex List:

1. Department of Fisheries Final Annual Report2025
2. Department of Oceans and Maritime Boundaries Annual Report2025
3. Vanuatu Maritime Safety Authority Annual Report 2025