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Photo: WWF Pacific

OurFish OurFuture Project

Sixth Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries & Aquaculture, 13-17 November 2023, Noumea.

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



USP
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE
SOUTH PACIFIC

Strategic Approaches (SA)

(aligned to the Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling up Community based Fisheries Management)

SA1: Improving sustainable coastal fisheries management


SA2: Enhancing monitoring, control and surveillance in coastal fisheries,

SA3: demonstrate private sector partnerships contributing to sustainable supply chains

SA4: Strengthen resilience and engagement of marginalized actors in coastal fisheries.

Republic of Marshall Islands





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CRCSO COASTAL RESOURCE CENTER

OurFish OurFuture

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

Advanced Technology and Artificial Intelligence in Fisheries Sampling
Leading data collection efforts in Pacific Coastal fisheries

The Future → FAST (Fisheries Assisted Sampling Technology) Artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted catch documentation provides a fast and easy way for fishers, community members, and fisheries professionals to collect reliable data. The hardware automatically captures the weight and a picture of each fish in less than 2 seconds. If fish are moved continuously, about 300 fish can be completed in 10 minutes. The AI module will be trained specifically on the Marshall Island fish so that length and species ID (for those species commonly encountered) can be automatically generated after the first few months of sampling.

The Past → SLOW (and Expensive) The days of extensive training, clipboards, rulers, and mis-identification / handwriting errors are gone. Recent advances in computer vision technology provides a new opportunity to process large amounts of high-quality data that can be submitted from members of all communities.

A world class comprehensive database, collected by Marshall Islanders, curated remotely, and owned by MIMRA is now a cost-effective option.

We have the Technology!

The Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority (MIMRA) National Fisheries Policy, 2019-2029 (2019) includes the recognition and vision that:

"As a large ocean nation with a rich history in sustaining and being sustained by the resources of the sea, we commit to ensuring that our resilience in the face of global oceans challenges endures for generations to come."

While there is no obvious 'silver bullet' solution, the pathway to making scientifically informed management decisions begins with data evaluations and:

Efficient Data Collection for a Sustainable Future



Figure 1. The automation of data collection in the field

Why this approach?

- **Efficient** – Faster and cost-effective data collection.
- **Collaborative** – Fishers, students, and virtually all community members can participate → greater transparency and faith in the data and decisions.
- **Defensible and Verifiable** – Quality controlled, standardized, and documented with a *curated library of pictures*.
- **Simple Standardized Data** – Over time, or across the Pacific, a consistent format facilitates visualization tools, remote analysis, and basin wide use (e.g. evaluating impacts of Climate Change).
- **Rapid Availability** – Minimal data-entry is required and thus information is almost immediately available for analyses and/or adaptive management advise.
- **Proven** – Five-years and 60,000 images of use in Puerto Rico, USA. Currently expanding to other Caribbean partners.

AI Catch Data Collection Fact Sheet:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/17T_zd_pKlpMSYNfMgCf1RBmk0wXRd407C/view?usp=sharing

Republic of Marshall Islands

WOMEN FISHERS FORUM



USAID Pacific Islands

October 3 · 🌐

Today marks a new beginning in the Republic of the Marshall Islands! The two-day inaugural National Women Fishers Forum, hosted by [Marshall Islands Conservation Society](#) (MICS), took place in Majuro. Proudly supported by USAID, this forum is bringing together women fishers from communities all over RMI.

The forum aims to recognize and empower fisherwomen, acknowledging their vital role and contributions within the fishing sector. In partnership with MICS, using locally-designed, locally-led, and locally-owned approaches, we hope to adjust the perception that fishing is a masculine industry.

This forum is a testament to the strength and resilience of fisherwomen, and signifies a step towards a more inclusive and equitable fishing industry. 🐟 ✨ #OurFishOurFuture #EmpoweringCommunities #GenderEquality



Palau



Federated States of Micronesia

