



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

BLUE FOOD VALUE CHAIN SOLUTIONS

Marshall Islands

MOBILISING KNOWLEDGE

Reefer maintenance and repair training

➔ ISSUE

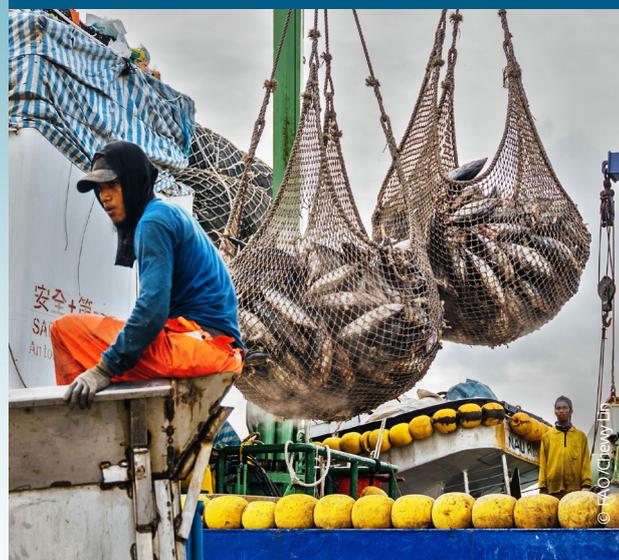
FISH4ACP is helping the Marshall Islands to bring more value of the tuna industry onshore by strengthening its position as a hub for tuna containerization. One of the bottlenecks is the lack of local maintenance and repair services of refrigerated containers, or reefers, that are used to transport fish. If container refrigeration malfunctions, it can have a negative impact on the quality of the fish inside which can result in rejection on arrival at the canneries. Lack of local repair capacity can mean a wait of many months before the shipping line that owns the container dispatches a technician to such a remote location as the Marshall Islands to fix the reefer.

➔ ACTIONS TAKEN

A training programme has been set up for technicians from major Marshallese tuna processing companies. During a five-day training in December 2023, 12 technicians learned how to maintain refrigerated containers and fix some of their most common malfunctions. The expert who delivered the training also assessed containerization services in Majuro and made recommendations to improve the process. A follow-up training for 15 technicians is scheduled for October 2024, while FISH4ACP, the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA), shipping companies and Marshallese marine services companies are looking into the possibility of establishing a permanent reefer maintenance service.

FISH4ACP

Unlocking the potential
of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific



LOCATION	The Marshall Islands
PARTNERS	Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA)
TARGET	Technical staff of tuna processing companies
DURATION	December 2023 – October 2024
COST (USD)	25 000

The training was very useful. It was really productive to be able to practice at our plant and on the dock. We learned a lot about container maintenance.

Ronie Gayanilo

Responsible for maintenance and tuna transport at Pan Pacific Foods



→ RESULTS

Before this training, there were no specialized personnel for reefer repair and maintenance. The first 27 people trained constitute the nucleus of a workforce providing a specialist solution to fill that gap. The establishment of a reliable source of reefer spare parts and the availability of local technicians to carry out repairs will dramatically reduce downtime, improve operational efficiency and ensure the integrity of the cold chain for tuna.

→ POTENTIAL FOR SYSTEM CHANGE

Building local capacities to service the tuna value chain is going to allow more tuna container transit through Majuro, significantly strengthening the position of the Marshall Islands as a tuna hub. In turn, bringing more value from the tuna industry onshore will boost domestic growth and job opportunities.

→ SUSTAINABILITY & TRANSFERABILITY

The maintenance and repair of refrigerated containers is problematic across the Pacific, where skilled labour is scarce and spare parts are often in short supply. Training can be easily replicated in other Pacific countries that depend on fish products, enabling them to boost their economy and generate local employment.

→ OUR GOAL

Strengthen Marshall Islands as a hub for tuna landings and make tuna sector more sustainable.



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CONTACT

✉ Sergio Bolasina
International Consultant, FISH4ACP
fish4acp@fao.org

🌐 fao.org/fish4acp/marshall-islands



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Fisheries and Aquaculture – Natural Resources and Sustainable Production
FISH4ACP@fao.org

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