



**CLIENT:** SolTuna

**LOCATION:** Noro, Western Province,  
Solomon Islands

**INVESTMENT:** US\$10 million senior  
loan from IFC

## DEVELOPMENT IMPACT

- Allow Solomon Islands to retain a greater share of the revenue from their tuna catch.
- Boost the local economy by creating 500 direct new jobs.
- Support improved fishing processes and standards to enhance the sustainability of the Pacific tuna fishery.
- Fund the rebuilding of the Noro wharf that was damaged during a tsunami in 2007.
- Help SolTuna become a long-term sustainable business supporting the local community and provincial economy.



# IFC and SolTuna Help Solomon Islands Retain More Tuna Revenues and Create Jobs

With IFC financial support, Solomon Islands' only tuna loining and canning facility, SolTuna, will be upgraded and expanded to help the nation benefit more from the income generated by its tuna resources.

SolTuna is the first of IFC's investments in Pacific fisheries and its first wild-catch investment in more than 15 years.

## Capturing a Greater Share of the Tuna Value Chain for Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands tuna accounts for around 7 percent of the total Western and Central Pacific Ocean catch – more than 150,000 tonnes – with an estimated value of US\$180 million. However, the bulk of the catch is taken by foreign fishing vessels under licensing agreements and processed elsewhere. Access fees paid to Solomon Islands represent only around 5 percent of the landed (not retail) value of the catch.

## Increasing Solomon Islands' Processing Capacity and Boosting Exports

SolTuna is the only tuna loining and canning processor in Solomon Islands and is based in Noro, Western Province. SolTuna is the largest employer in Noro, with about 1,500 staff, 65 percent of whom are women.

IFC's \$10 million loan is part of a \$27 million upgrade and expansion project, which is expected to increase the company's processing capacity from 90 tonnes a day to 150 tonnes a day. The loan will also allow SolTuna to upgrade and refurbish the Noro wharf facilities, which were damaged during the 2007 tsunami, and to construct a new cold-storage facility, wastewater treatment plant and additional employee housing.

With expanded and upgraded facilities, SolTuna will not only be able to process more tuna domestically, but process it to a higher quality, securing more income from their exports.

## Creating Jobs and Increasing Skills

Five hundred new jobs will be created at the SolTuna plant in Noro. The company is committed to providing training and opportunities for its staff and IFC has offered to help it review its labor standards and enhance supervisory skills for production-line employees.

IFC will also help integrate local enterprises into SolTuna's supply chains to ensure that the local people will receive the full benefit of the nation's growing fishing industry. The increase in the number of fishing boats landing at the new Noro wharf and the flow-on effects of the SolTuna expansion will provide new opportunities and income streams in the region, particularly for small- to medium-sized local businesses.



## Protecting Fisheries for the Future

Several development partners have been working with the Solomon Islands government and regional organizations to improve the country's fisheries management capacity, control illegal fishing and protect tuna resources for the future.

IFC is assisting Solomon Islands to manage prospective new fisheries investments and is working with SolTuna to better understand the impacts of fishing methods used in its supply chain and to promote improved practices. IFC will work with SolTuna and Tri Marine (51 percent owner of SolTuna), and other related partners, to evaluate the benefits of, and opportunities for, certifying their product to an accredited international sustainable seafood standard.

Alongside the SolTuna investment, IFC has launched the Pacific Islands Tuna Sector Advisory Program, which will link public and private sector engagement, and ensure fisheries investments are environmentally and economically sustainable. The program aims to provide long-term benefits to the Pacific Islands.

Solomon Islands is the focus for the first phase of the program, which will be extended to other Pacific States in the future, in collaboration with the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA), and supported by our Pacific development partners.



## Why Tuna Is a Priority for IFC in the Pacific

Small and remote island nations in the Pacific are custodians of the last great ocean fishery, but face huge challenges in economic development and managing the impact of climate change. The Pacific fisheries have been feeding the world's tuna appetite for many decades and have now reached their maximum yield potential, according to experts. While some tuna species are in decline, management efforts are focused on achieving a safe long-term catch limit that will ensure sustainability of the fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific.

Although access fees equate to only a fraction of the catch value, such revenues are of critical economic importance for many Pacific island economies where the scale of marine resources typically outweighs other natural-resource wealth. This is particularly true for the smaller island and atoll states, most of which have few other opportunities for sustainable economic development.

The World Bank Group is committed to helping Pacific nations manage their precious oceanic resources through partnerships between global and local players, public and private sector interests, and regional institutions and community organizations. By playing a greater role in managing their fisheries, Pacific nations can garner more benefit from their lucrative ocean resources while protecting their fish stocks and boosting prosperity in this region where a third of the population lives in poverty.

IFC would like to acknowledge the support of many people in enabling its SolTuna investment, particularly SPC, FFA, and PNA for providing scientific and technical information, and Australia (AusAID) and New Zealand (NZ MFAT) for their financial support in developing the complementary tuna-sector advisory program.

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