



PNG FRESH TUNA LIMITED

PNG Fresh Tuna Ltd is owned by Garamut Enterprises of Wewak and was established in 1990. As well as operating wholesale



and supermarkets, it went into fishing and exporting of tuna as part of the groups strategy to move from being only an importer to becoming an exporter. It currently operates three fishing vessels, FV Yasmin, FV Pinon and FV Mascot.

PNG Fresh Tuna Ltd mainly fish for yellowfin tuna but also other species caught as by-catch are sold locally at Garamut's Borko Foodworld supermarket in Port Moresby. The current market for their target fish species is Japan, however, they are also looking for markets in Australia. Tuna for the Sashimi market in Japan is airfreighted with Air Niugini the same day as the boat arrives with the catch, which ensures maximum freshness. They are exporting fresh whole chilled tuna and they are now looking at processing filleted tuna here and exporting them vacuum packed to Australia.

Operations Manager, Mr Monty Mongi said, the three fishing vessels spend a total of 12 fishing days at sea and come to shore to unloaded their catches, stay for four days and return to sea. "During the 12 fishing days, they burn about 10,000 litres of fuel from which we catch about 3-4 tonnes of yellowfin tuna. "About five years ago, we were exporting 6 tonnes of yellowfin compared to now. "We import sardine as baitfish from South Africa. We have eight crews per vessel and a total of twelve ground staff at our Badili processing office.



"We are a locally owned company and we are here to stay which is why we are looking at getting two more licences for



our proposed expansion into fish processing and filleting here.

"Our plan is to go into downstream processing of fish fillets and value-adding to our tuna products. That is why we will be applying to get two more licences.

"We have on board trained fishermen who are former

national fisheries college students. Our head-fisherman or bosun is a National. The quality of our catch depends on him. He was trained by an Indonesian captain and is now a qualified bosun.

"When we expand domestically, money will stay in the country as we reinvest. "All in all business has been tough this year because exports five years ago were about 6 tonnes per fishing trip per vessel and exports this year is barely 3 tonnes sometimes only 1 to 2 tonnes. There do not seem to be the volume of tuna this year that there has been in previous years and it is a serious cause for concern that the tuna resource may be becoming overfished.



"The almost tripling of fuel prices in the past two years has meant that it is extremely difficult for fishing boats to return a profit.

"This increased cost of fuel has wiped out profits and combined with low catches mean the ongoing viability of the operation is in question. Fishing companies here do not receive fuel subsidies which many other countries do give to fishing operators. To help keep locally owned operators viable perhaps NFA could arrange a subsidy scheme." Mr Mongi said.

PNG FRESH TUNA LIMITED



Mr Monty Mongi
Operations Manager



● Yellowfin Tuna being washed and cleaned.

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Main Business Activities

Fishing, processing and exporting yellowfin tuna

Export Product

Fresh chilled whole yellowfin tuna (main export product)

Fresh chilled whole bigeye tuna

Fresh chilled whole swordfish

Current Production Capacity

3tonnes of fresh chilled whole yellowfin tuna

400kgs of fresh chilled whole bigeye tuna

Current Export Market

Japan



● Yellowfin Tuna being iced and packed for export.



● Clearly labelled fresh chilled products, cool-covered ready for delivery to airport for export.



For further information on the activities of the National Fisheries Authority, please contact :



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