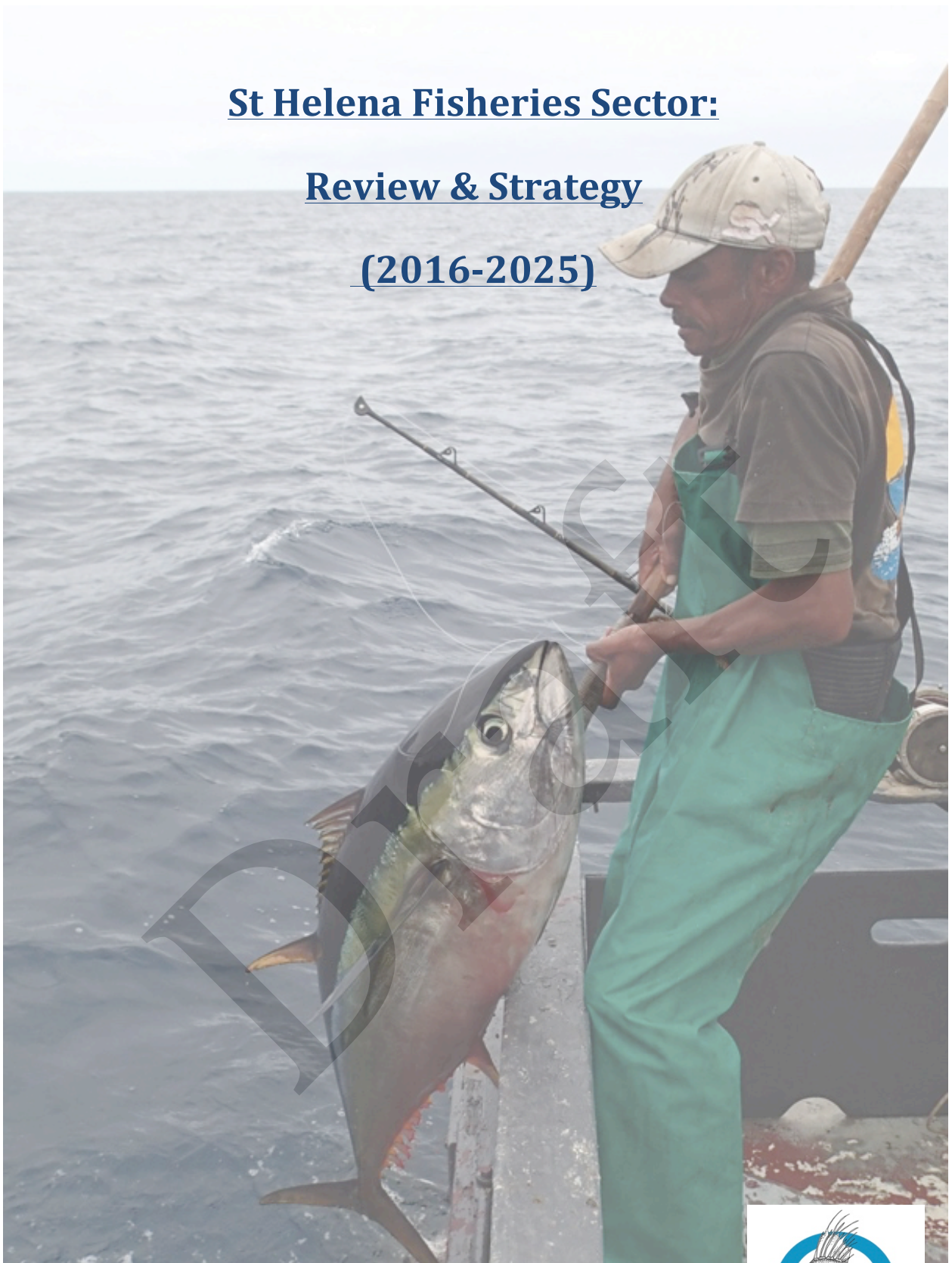
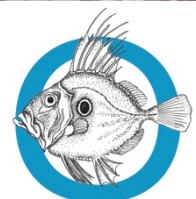


**St Helena Fisheries Sector:**  
**Review & Strategy**  
**(2016-2025)**



**Prepared by Martin Collins under contract to St Helena  
Government**



**MarEcol**

## Executive Summary

This review and strategy document was commissioned by St Helena Government to underpin the development of an economically and environmentally sustainable fishing sector. The development of the strategy comes at a key time for the fishing sector. The recent announcement of the Category VI Marine Protected Area (MPA) means that the marine resources must be sustainably managed, but also provides an opportunity to promote St Helena's sustainable fish products. The operation of the St Helena fish processing plant has recently returned to the public sector and, with four local vessels now capable of fishing the seamounts, there is an opportunity to improve catches and make the processing of fish on the island an economically viable operation for the first time.

The long-term goal for the sector is to have a safe, sustainable and environmentally friendly fishing industry that is locally owned & operated and makes a significant contribution to the local economy by producing high quality products for sale and export. The report reviews the marine environment, the fish resources available and the key aspects of the fishing sector and provides recommendations for the sustainable development of the sector. The final section of the report includes the ten-year strategy, with goals, desired outcomes and objectives for the next 2-3 years.

St Helena lies in the middle of a gyre in the SE Atlantic Ocean and is surrounded by relatively unproductive waters. The island of St Helena and the larger seamounts are likely to cause upwelling of nutrient rich waters, which stimulate production and provide relatively rich feeding grounds for migratory tuna. Four species of tuna (yellowfin, bigeye, albacore and skipjack) are the principal target species, but catches of skipjack and albacore are both seasonal and unreliable. Whilst there is potential to increase catches of tuna, any increases need to be sustainable at a local and Atlantic scale. The primary areas for increasing catches are the seamounts and further exploratory fishing should be encouraged, particularly at the large Cardno Seamount region. There is evidence from tagging studies that yellowfin tuna are resident for extended periods, making local depletions of stocks possible. Further tagging work is needed to determine movements and residency of both yellowfin and bigeye tuna. Inshore species provide an alternative to tuna, but the resources are small and an assessment of appropriate sustainable catch limits is urgently required. Further expansion of the inshore fisheries should be limited until such an assessment is undertaken.

St Helena's fishing fleet is comprised of thirteen small full- or part- time inshore fishing vessels and four larger vessels that are capable of fishing the offshore seamounts. Fish are caught using pole & line or rod & line methods, which are generally accepted as the most environmentally friendly method of catching tuna. The Marine Management Plan, which underpins the MPA, prohibits purse seining in the EFZ. Longlining has been tried in the past by local vessels, but has significant issues with shark by-catch. A commitment from the sector to only use pole and line methods for the next three years will bring significant support from a US charity through the International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF). The recent addition of two larger vessels means that St Helena now has greater fishing capacity than ever before, however there is a shortage of qualified and experienced fishermen to crew them. This is particularly the case for the offshore vessels. St Helena needs to establish a regular training programme to ensure there is a pool of suitably experienced fishermen available. Incentives to fish, such as the tax-free fuel, should be maintained and other incentives to fish considered. An increase in the value of catches is also likely to encourage Saints to consider fishing as a career. There is also a need to modernize some of the older vessels in the fleet.

Atlantic tuna stocks are managed by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), of which the UKOTs, as a group, are a member. The stocks have been overfished in the past, but current catch limits should lead to recovery. The UKOTs receive ICCAT quotas, which St Helena utilises, and St Helena is required to implement all regulations and recommendations from ICCAT. St Helena needs to engage fully with ICCAT at a science and policy level to ensure stocks are properly managed and to protect St Helena's share of the resources. At a local level St Helena's fish resources are managed under the Fishing Limits Ordinance (1977), which is in urgent need to repeal and replacement. A revised fisheries ordinance is in draft and will establish a new licensing and reporting system. There is also a need for greater surveillance and enforcement, and the appointment of a marine and fisheries enforcement officer is essential to limit the illicit landing of fish.

A fisheries science programme was established on St Helena in 2015, but its efficacy is limited by the quality of data collected from the fisheries. The revised fisheries ordinance should help improve reporting of catches. The science programme, and particularly the tagging, is providing valuable data on the tuna stocks, but needs to be extended to the inshore species. There is an opportunity to develop the marine and fisheries science programme under the Blue Belt (CSSF) funding stream (2017-2020) and St Helena should ensure they benefit from this.

The fish processing plant is an essential component of the sector and responsibility for its management and operation has recently reverted to SHFC after 15 years in the private sector. The plant has never been profitable, but the recent increase in local fishing capacity represents an opportunity to make the plant economically viable. If the local fleet prove unable to provide sufficient catch to make the plant viable the licensing of foreign vessels should be considered. The current requirement that all fish be first offered to the SHFC plant should be continued, for public health, economic and fishery monitoring reasons. Given this monopoly, the SHFC should index-link the price paid for fish to export prices to ensure that fishermen see the benefits of any price increases. Whilst there is an opportunity for SHFC to move to a new plant in the next few years, there is a need to upgrade facilities at the existing plant to improve efficiency, safety and hygiene. In particular it is recommended that a solar panel array be installed to reduce energy costs.

Ensuring a good price for exported fish is essential to the long-term viability of the sector. By providing high quality fish, caught in an environmentally friendly way from a marine protected area, St Helena has the opportunity to access niche markets and get a premium prices for some exported tuna. St Helena should work with IPNLF, Blue Marine and key buyers to determine what is required to obtain higher prices and develop a marketing strategy. It is likely that the capability to freeze and ship at -60 C will be required. The development of secondary processing to add value to tuna should be considered, particularly for species that would not otherwise attract premium prices.

The safety of fishermen and fishing vessels is paramount. St Helena needs to develop clear guidelines for the standards of safety on fishing vessels and for the qualifications necessary for fishermen, particularly officers on offshore vessels. It may not be possible to implement all the required standards immediately, so a timetable should be developed for staged implementation.

Recreational and sports fishing are also important components of the sector and should be regulated to ensure sustainability. Sports fishing is likely to increase with tourism and should be linked to the tuna tagging programme.

The fishing sector has the potential to develop and be economically and environmentally sustainable, however a coordinated approach is essential to make this happen. Local fishing capacity and effort must increase (or foreign vessels be licensed), better export value must be achieved and the processing plant must operate in a more efficient manner. The sector must be underpinned by an effective management system and a well-resourced science programme to ensure the long-term sustainability of the resources.

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## Recommendations

Section	Recommendations	Priority
3	Tagging work should be undertaken to determine residence time of large tuna on the seamounts and such information used to make management decisions.	1
	Given the residence time and growth rates of small yellowfin tuna, it should be recommended, or regulated, that all small fish (< 5 kg) be released alive.	1
	The capture and retention of swordfish should be avoided where possible.	1
	Scientific work should be undertaken to determine the sustainable catches of grouper and both species of lobster. In the absence of such information a precautionary catch limit should be established.	1
4	The IPNLF / Ocean 5 proposal should be accepted, but developed to ensure that funds are properly used to enhance St Helena's fishing sector	1
	A management plan for the FADs urgently needs to be submitted to ICCAT. Any further FADs should be constructed from biodegradable material (in accordance with the ICCAT guidelines).	1
	If the pole and line only approach is not adopted any longlining will require 100% observer coverage and should cease if by-catch (e.g. sharks & swordfish) consistently exceed tuna catch.	1
5	Further exploratory fishing of the Cardno Seamount should be encouraged, perhaps as part of any future tagging programmes.	1
	Consider the use of real-time seabird tracking data (during the winter period) to identify albacore aggregations.	2
	Seamounts on the high seas, to the north of the zone, be explored under a high seas fishing licence.	2
6	That the local fleet be given two years to demonstrate that they can deliver sufficient catches (around 500 tonnes) to make the Processing Plant financially viable (see Section 9). If the local fleet cannot deliver this amount, licensing of a foreign vessel to supplement catches should be considered	1
	A catch incentive scheme should be developed to encourage fishermen to deliver target catches each year.	2
	Options, including joint ventures with overseas investors, be considered to assist local businesses that wish to invest in fishing vessels, particularly vessels capable of regularly fishing the seamounts.	2
	That efforts be made to attract more young adults to fishing and that teaching in school and at adult classes include courses suitable for maritime and fishing careers.	1
	Options for, and utility of, frozen bait should be investigated to provide alternatives when live bait is not available.	2
7	That SHG maintain the existing science programme developed under the Darwin Plus project.	1
	That SHG develops local fisheries scientific capacity and gradually reduces reliance on external scientific support.	2
	That SHG work with CEFAS to identify priority science that can be undertaken as part of the CSSF programme and develop a three-year plan to coincide with the duration of funding	1
	SHG with the UK government (FCO / Defra / CEFAS) to increase St Helena's representation at, and scientific input to, ICCAT	2

Section	Recommendations	Priority
8	That the Fisheries Ordinance be finalised, consulted on, and enacted as soon as possible and certainly no later than June 2017	1
	That SHG should liaise with the FCO and DEFRA to ensure they are properly represented at ICCAT.	2
	That SHG appoint a Marine & Fisheries Monitoring / Enforcement Officer as soon as possible	1
	That SHG work with the FCO / CEFAS to use SAR / AIS to determine the nature and scale of any illegal fishing.	1
	That SHG ensure that accurate catch and biological data is reported to ICCAT and previous errors corrected.	1
	The High Seas Fishery Ordinance could be integrated with the Fisheries Ordinance, which would avoid duplication. If it is retained as a separate ordinance, it will need to be amended to be consistent with the Fisheries Ordinance.	2
	Determine if the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) Convention has been extended to St Helena. If not the Conservation and Management of Fishery Resources Ordinance (2003) should be repealed.	3
9	SHFC continue to run the processing plant with the objective of making the operation profitable within 3 years.	1
	The requirement to first offer commercially caught fish to SHFC should remain, but payments to fishermen should be indexed to export prices.	1
	That fishing vessels be given a catch target for each year and receive a bonus (e.g. 5 % of value) if they achieve their target.	2
	That funds be sought from SHG or DFID to install a solar panel array on the roof of the processing plant and that the existing Dhybrid proposal is subject to expert review. Alternately this could be funded by a loan (from SHG or commercial) repaid over 3-5 years.	1
	That funds be sought from SHG, DFID or elsewhere to upgrade facilities in the plant, including racking and the floor (dependent on the likelihood of the plant moving to new location) and that Public Health be consulted prior to undertaking any work.	1
	That further work be undertaken to explore opportunities to increase the value of exports, through access to niche markets or through enhanced / secondary products (e.g. -60 freezing, pouches).	1
	That initiatives to develop secondary products be funded by partnerships with the private sector.	2
10	SHG develops very clear guidelines on what is expected in terms of vessel safety and qualifications for fishermen.	1
	That there is a phased introduction of vessel safety regulations (over a maximum of two years) and that UK MCA Maritime Safety Notices 1770 and 1813 are used as the basis for St Helena's requirements.	1
	That a training programme be developed to ensure fishermen have that basic skills required under Marine Guidance Note 411.	1
	That skippers of larger (<16.5 m) that operate offshore (> 20 m) are required to have the courses recommended in MGN 411.	1
	That vessels > 16.5 m that operate offshore (beyond 20 m) have deck officers qualified in accordance with MGN 411.	1
	That any training programmes be timed to minimise disruption to fishing operations (e.g. perhaps training could coincide with any maintenance or refurbishment work in the cold store).	1
11	That a voluntary reporting scheme for rock fishermen to report their catches be introduced.	1
	That a general permit (notice) be issued under the EPO to allow rock fishermen to catch St Helena wrasse for bait, as the St Helena wrasse is protected under the EPO.	2

Section	Recommendations	Priority
11	That the revised catch limits for recreational fishing be agreed.	1
	That the sale of fish caught under recreational or sports fishing licences should be prohibited (by licence condition).	1
	That the current catch limits for sports fishing be retained, and any fish that are not part of the catch limit be released and handled in such a way as to maximize their survival. Any fish released in poor condition must count against the catch limit. Sports fishing should be linked to the tuna-tagging programme to ensure that the majority of released fish are tagged.	1
	That the use of gaff hooks in sports and recreational fishing is only permitted for landing fish in accordance with the catch limits and that it is prohibited to use a gaff hook for catches in excess of these limits or for catch and release.	1
	That inshore spear fishing be subject to the fisheries licensing regime, including catch limits, reporting requirements and the prohibition on selling fish.	1
	That pelagic spear fishing be reviewed at the end of the current trial period and future pelagic spear fishing be consistent with the vision of a sustainable and environmentally friendly fishing sector.	1



## **Fisheries Sector Strategy Statement**

### **Introduction**

The fisheries sector is a key one for St Helena, providing employment, a valuable source of protein for the island and has the potential to make a significant contribution to the sustainable development of the island's economy.

The sustainable development plan identifies three national goals, two of which are particularly relevant to the fisheries sector:

- I. *That St Helena has vibrant economy providing opportunities for all to participate*
- II. *That St Helena's environment is effectively managed*

In order to contribute to these goals, St Helena requires a clear strategy for the fishing sector, that will help the sector develop expand, whilst ensuring that the island's 200 nautical mile (144,000 km<sup>2</sup>) maritime zone is sustainably managed for future generations. This document outlines the goals and intended outcomes for the sector for the next decade, with detailed objectives for the first three years.

### **Brief overview of the Fisheries Sector**

St Helena is an isolated volcanic island in the sub-tropical South Atlantic, with an exclusive fishing zone of 446,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The oceanic waters around St Helena are relatively unproductive, but upwelling associated with island and larger seamounts, brings nutrients to the surface, which stimulate production at a local level. That production provides food for small fish and squid that in turn feeds tuna, seabirds and cetaceans.

In common with other small island communities, St Helena has a long history of fishing, which has provided an important source of protein for the island's population. Fishing has traditionally been artisanal, pole and line fishing from small inshore boats to catch migratory tunas and local inshore species. Since the 1960s there have been a series of initiatives to increase fisheries effort and exploit resources further afield, such as at the seamounts. Despite the various initiatives the fishing sector has never been profitable.

Four species of tuna (yellowfin, big-eye, albacore and skipjack) are the primary target species of the fishery, but their availability varies both seasonally and inter-annually. The tuna are part of pan-Atlantic populations, which are managed by the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The UKOTs are, collectively, a member of ICCAT and St Helena must observe the recommendations of ICCAT, which include catch limits for some of the species.

The fishing sector comprises the primary (catching) and secondary (processing) aspects and includes between 55 and 60 people in full-time employment. The current fishing fleet is comprised of 8 small inshore vessels (< 10 m) and four larger vessels (10-22 m) that are capable of fishing the seamounts. Catches vary annually and seasonally, depending on the availability of migratory tuna and fishing effort. In the last 10 years landings have varied from 114 tonnes (2013) to 880 tonnes (2011), with an average annual landed catch of 370



tonnes. Catches support local and export markets, with local supply (approx. 150 tonnes) taking precedence. Local fish sales are around £175,000 per annum (2014) and exports vary depending on the catch, but have averaged £247,000 per year over the last 10 years.

## **The Key Challenges and Opportunities in our Fisheries Sector Operating Environment**

Despite numerous initiatives and private investment, the St Helena fishing sector has never been an economic success. The reasons for this include the remoteness of markets, the migratory and unpredictable nature of the main target (tuna) species and the lack of fishing capacity on the island.

Recent years have seen some important changes, both in the fishing sector and to the island economy. The most significant change is the development of an airport, which should, eventually, facilitate regular commercial flights to and from the island. The airport development has brought new interest in investment in St Helena and provides an opportunity for the expansion of the tourism sector.

Increased food production from local sources and delivery of quality services with reduced resources continues to present challenges; however economic recovery in fisheries will result in opportunities for the fisheries sector.

In a fishery context the last few years have seen an increase in the island's capacity to fish the seamounts, the withdrawal of Argos Ltd from their 15-year tenure operating the fish processing plant and cold store at Rupert's Bay and the recent declaration of a Category VI Marine Protected Area in the St Helena maritime zone. These changes represent an important turning point and an opportunity for St Helena to develop the fishing sector.

The sector will be challenged to work in partnership to provide incentives and flexible opportunities for the fishing sector to acquire the workforce needed to operate commercial activities both onshore and offshore that increases and maintains local competitiveness.

The declaration of a Category VI Marine Protected Area in St Helena's EFZ, puts St Helena in the international spotlight. Whilst this makes it essential that St Helena's marine resources are managed sustainably (including target species, bait species, by-catch species and other dependent species), it also provides an opportunity for St Helena to promote the products from the fisheries. Consumer demand for environmentally friendly and sustainable fish is increasing and St Helena, with its low impact pole and line fishing has the chance to take advantage of this.

## **Our Vision**

The strategy provides a long-term vision for the St Helena fisheries sector. This will help guide our approach to develop and manage the sector, and provide more certainty to fisheries stakeholders as they make decisions about investments and activities. Our vision is:

**To have a safe, sustainable and environmentally friendly fishing industry that is locally<sup>1</sup> owned & operated and makes a significant contribution to the local economy by producing high quality products for sale and export.**

## **Our Key Principles**

The strategy draws on the principles as set out below, which outline the approach that will be used to make decisions, undertake the actions, and achieve the vision for our fisheries sector:

- **To ensure that the marine resources of St Helena's Marine Protected Area are exploited in a safe, sustainable and environmentally sensitive manner, consistent with the Marine Management Plan;**
- **That the economic benefits from St Helena's marine resources should be reserved for St Helenians;**
- **That where no information exists or information is uncertain or inadequate, a precautionary approach will be taken to ensure environmental sustainability.**
- **That we realise the opportunity to work better together in partnership as key stakeholders to implement changes that are necessary and being planned across the sector.**
- **That we are committed to the principle of continuous improvement and are open to external ideas and debate where they seek to improve our fishing sector.**

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<sup>1</sup> In this context local includes joint ventures between outside investors and local businesses or individuals, to facilitate investment

## Our Goals/Outcomes – where we want to be in 2025

	Goal	Outcome - where we want to be in 2025
Management	There is trust and confidence in the sustainable management of marine resources and fisheries sector	St Helena's fish resources are recognised internationally as being managed in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner.
		St Helena's fisheries are protected by an established legal framework, supported by appropriate monitoring, surveillance and enforcement.
		St Helena's fisheries are managed in accordance with appropriate international agreements, such as ICCAT.
		St Helena, through the UK, plays an active role in ICCAT at the scientific and policy levels, to ensure that migratory tuna species are sustainably managed and that St Helena has an equitable share of the resources.
		St Helena has a well-developed fisheries science programme to monitor and assess the sustainability of fish stocks and inform decision-making.
		That local institutional roles and functions and/or responsibilities for the development, management and regulation of the fisheries sector are clearly defined, cost-effective, properly coordinated, and efficient.
Economic	There is a vibrant and profitable fisheries sector	That the fisheries sector plays an important role in the growth of the economy, in providing sustainable employment opportunities and remains an important strategic priority for SHG.
		Local private sector enterprises have taken advantage of our reputation for meeting high international quality standards, and are producing and marketing secondary fish products for local sale and export
		That St Helena's fish and fish products are of high quality, meet international hygiene standards and, as a consequence of the high standards of sustainability, attain an enhanced price on international markets.
		The Rupert's Valley fish processing and storage facility operates in a safe, highly efficient and profitable manner, providing high quality products for export and local sale.
		Local consumer demand for fish is satisfied in terms of quality and variety of product, available at reasonable cost.
Fishermen & fishing capacity	There is capacity to catch the available fish resources in a safe, sustainable and economically viable manner	That our fishermen are appropriately trained to ensure their safety and the safety of their colleagues
		That the fishing fleet is of an appropriate scale and composition relative to the resource potential of our waters
		That the fishing fleet is maintained to internationally recognised safety standards and provides a safe working environment for fishermen.

## Our Objectives for 2017-2019

Headline Objective 2017-2019	Background	Detailed Objectives for 2017-2019
<b>Determine the extent and sustainability of the resources</b>	In order to meet the commitments to the Marine Management Plan, it is essential that marine resources be managed sustainably. Whilst the migratory tunas are managed by ICCAT on an Atlantic scale, there is evidence of extended residence times of yellowfin tuna around the island and the seamounts. Extended residence times mean it may be possible to deplete the local stocks if fishing effort increases. It is important to determine both the extent of the resource, by fishing in new areas (particularly around Cardno Seamount), and the potential sustainable harvest. For inshore species, determining sustainable harvest levels is imperative. For the seasonal tunas (skipjack and albacore), determining the environmental conditions that bring them to St Helena waters may help predict good and bad years and help the sector plan accordingly.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake tagging of bigeye and yellowfin tuna to determine residence times, movements and growth around St Helena and the seamounts. This should be part of the CSSF programme, but could also be funded as part of ICCAT ATTOP Programme;</li> <li>2. Assess the potential sustainable harvest from inshore resources with particular focus on grouper, spiny lobster and stump;</li> <li>3. Encourage / facilitate exploratory fishing around Cardno Seamount and other likely fishing locations;</li> <li>4. Develop an understanding of the local and broad-scale oceanography and productivity to help understand movements of migratory tunas.</li> </ol>
<b>Ensure that the SHFC processing plant is fit for purpose and able to become profitable</b>	The processing plant at Ruperts, which is an integral part of the fishing sector but has never been profitable, is now managed by SHFC. The lack of profitability is due to a number of factors including low catches; poor export prices and high running costs. Each of these issues needs to be addressed to make the operation profitable. Low catches and export prices are linked – the current price paid for fish does not make fishing an attractive career or investment opportunity. The plant has very high electricity costs, which means a high volume of catch is required to break-even. The plant is also in need of refurbishment to bring it up to the sort of standard expected by premium buyers. A move to a new, smaller plant is possible in future.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Install a solar panel array to reduce electricity costs by around £80K per annum, making the fishing sector more environmentally friendly and help the island meet its energy strategy. Ideally this will be funded (£160K) by SHG, but a loan over three years will still save during the repayment period.</li> <li>2. Refurbish the existing plant to improve efficiency, hygiene and safety. Repair damaged floor and consider fitting throughout with polyurethane flooring. Review storage / racking system.</li> <li>3. Consider other means of improvement / efficiency such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Dividing the cold stores;</li> <li>b. Use of UV treated seawater for initial wash of fish;</li> <li>c. Use of sea-water ice-plant.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Headline Objective 2017-2019	Background	Detailed objectives for 2017-2019
<p><b>Update management structures and systems</b></p>	<p>It is essential that the fishing sector is underpinned with appropriate legislation and that the management structures are in place to ensure it's implementation. With the declaration of the MPA there is an urgent need to finalise and enact the Fisheries Ordinance, which will establish in law many of the provisions of the Marine Management Plan. The MPA consultation also identified the need for a Marine &amp; Fisheries Enforcement post. There is currently no clear guidance on vessel safety standards and fishermen's qualifications. A proposal to fund a project to create the world's first pole and line only fishery in the EFZ has been tabled by IPNLF and Ocean 5 (US based NGO). The proposal would provide significant funding over three years for marketing, vessel safety enhancements and science. The risk and impact of illegal fishing in the EFZ needs to be established and, if necessary, addressed.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Finalise and enact the revised Fisheries Ordinance;</li> <li>2. Implement a new fisheries licensing and data reporting system;</li> <li>3. Establish Fisheries Advisory Board to include representation from all stakeholder groups;</li> <li>4. Review the need for a new marine and fisheries division in ENRD;</li> <li>5. Establish new Marine &amp; Fisheries Enforcement post;</li> <li>6. Develop clear guidelines for vessel safety and training requirements, with staged/timetable to full implementation;</li> <li>7. Retain the requirement to first offer fish to SHFC, but introduce index between export price and price paid to fishermen;</li> <li>8. Improve scientific and policy links with ICCAT;</li> <li>9. Adopt the pole &amp; line only proposal and develop project structure to maximise benefits to the sector;</li> <li>10. Develop satellite surveillance to determine extent, if any, of illegal fishing.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Increase local fish catching capacity</b></p>	<p>For the sector to develop and be profitable in the long-term, catches will need to increase (sustainably). Such increases may be achieved by the local fleet, but will require greater fishing effort by the existing vessels and, ideally, the addition of one or two new vessels. Increased effort could be stimulated by increasing the value of the catch, but will require the availability of suitably qualified officers, engineers and crew and a well-maintained fleet. The existing fleet is, in the post part, old and in need of upgrading. If the local fleet are not able to catch sufficient fish to ensure a profitable processing operation, the licensing of one or two foreign vessels should be considered, subject to investigations into the sustainability of the available resources.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase the price paid to fishermen and link (index) price to export prices, so that any increase is passed on to fishermen and give fishermen catch targets and bonuses;</li> <li>2. Retain the fuel subsidy for the duration of the first phase (Jan 2017- Dec 2019);</li> <li>3. Develop training programme for fishermen;</li> <li>4. Encourage (through ESH) investment in new vessels or the modernisation of the existing fleet;</li> <li>5. Adopt the pole and line only proposal from IPNLF and Ocean 5 and work with them to market St Helena fish products and improve export prices;</li> </ol>

Headline Objective 2017-2019	Background	Detailed objectives for 2017-2019
<p><b>Develop economically viable plans for improved products and secondary processing for local and export markets</b></p>	<p>Improved export products (e.g. -60 C frozen) and secondary processing (packaged cooked or cured fish) can add significant value to fish for both the local and export markets. Developing such products will require investment in new infrastructure and machinery and may only be viable if the catch volume is increased significantly. The opening of the airport may also facilitate export by airfreight of high value products.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with IPNLF and potential buyers of sustainable tuna to determine what new infrastructure is needed to achieve best export prices and evaluate the economic benefits and catch requirements.</li> <li>2. Seek support from other NGOs (e.g. Blue Marine) to help develop markets for St Helena products.</li> <li>3. Encourage local investment (in partnership with SHFC) in secondary processing businesses.</li> </ol>