



IPNLF

INTERNATIONAL POLE
& LINE FOUNDATION

International pole & line foundation for one-by-one fishers

Annual report 2022 | 2023

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One hook, one line, one fish at a time



Mission

Our mission is to empower responsible fisheries, which give back to the seas and the people that depend on them.

Vision

A world with thriving fisheries that work in balance with nature by catching one fish at a time.



From our chair

This year, the International Pole and Line Foundation has demonstrated an increased appetite for dialogue and business networking, paving the road for a responsible tuna fishing industry's future.

With a focus on international market opportunities, creating market access for small-scale fisheries, human rights and social issues, and a broader look at environmental sustainability, we have been able to take the first steps in integrating new technologies and innovation in the fisheries we work with, making them more competitive globally and ultimately creating progress towards more climate-friendly practises. Throughout 2023, we have remained steadfast in our commitments to develop, support, and promote global one-by-one tuna fisheries while providing greater security to the many coastal communities connected to them. We took advantage of the numerous opportunities to participate in international events and conferences to promote one-by-one fisheries and generate positive environmental, social, and economic change for our oceans and the communities that rely on them.

As we move on from the 2022 International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA), we can shift our focus towards the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that focus on poverty alleviation, sustainable use of our natural resources and improving livelihoods for all. The SDGs provide governments and the corporate community with a clear route and targets for ensuring sustainable development that leaves no one behind. This is an essential component of IPNLF and our network of members; the primary beneficiaries of our work are the small-scale tuna fishers catching tuna one at a time.

Our organisation has grown into an impressive, dedicated, and dynamic expert group of staff with robust guiding ideals. In 2023, we welcomed the expertise of Urs Baumgartner and Mohamed Rasheed to our Board of Trustees, as well as new staff worldwide. Our employees continue to excel; Zacari Edwards was appointed to the Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions (CASS) board. Roy Bealey has been chosen as the Conservation Committee Chair of the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) Africa Regional Council.

By working together, we continue to make a crucial difference in protecting our marine resources and the livelihoods of those who rely on them. The IPNLF network is expanding, and worldwide buyers continue to back our efforts to develop more effective management methods, which will help safeguard the long-term survival of global tuna fisheries. We added nine new members to our worldwide one-to-one supply chain business network throughout the year, representing major new countries and commercial sectors.

Our expanding membership base reflects consumer demand for responsibly sourced seafood and IPNLF's role in connecting responsible firms to one-by-one tuna fisheries. We are thrilled to deepen our collaboration with like-minded companies, prioritising market support while planning for 2030 and beyond.

This year, we enjoyed connecting with other non-governmental organisations (NGOs), market partners, and ocean advocates at the FAO World Food Forum, the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, the RFMO annual and special sessions, and Indonesian harvest strategy workshops. The IPNLF team was instrumental in organising and attending the 7th International Coastal Tuna Business Forum (ICTBF) and the International Tuna Conference (ITC) in Bali, Indonesia. We were able to unify seventeen worldwide retailers, brands, and buyers in Blue Transformation with the signing of the Bali Declaration 2023 by the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and IPNLF.



While IPNLF achieved substantial progress in 2023, we recognise the ongoing challenges of climate change, overfishing, human rights, and evolving market demands. Small-scale, one-by-one tuna fishing, supported by years of tradition, is at the heart of many coastal communities worldwide. Many are located in remote areas and exist outside the market, having been pushed aside by industrial giants who have come to control the high seas. They are forced to compete for tuna populations that have been overexploited for profit for so long that stocks are often a shadow of what they once were. In addition to their challenges, individuals are frequently left behind by decision-makers and marketplaces that need to provide an equitable opportunity to participate.

We will continue to advocate for policies that protect our global ocean resources and the communities that rely on them, alongside coastal states and small-scale tuna representatives, at ongoing RFMO meetings.

The past year has been characterised by a united effort to push for effective dFAD management, harvest control rules, monitoring and surveillance, and improved labour standards. How to best address human and labour rights issues is still a relatively recent conversation in seafood compared to other sectors. At IPNLF, we are actively working towards integrating social equity and social responsibility as key priority areas that need to be better addressed in the seafood industry, and our programme is tailored to ensure we maximise our unique position to make this a reality.

We see opportunities to strengthen collaboration with stakeholders and explore technological innovations to impact our fisheries significantly. Many exciting and creative projects are now in the works to combat climate change and carbon reduction, like our Solar Ice Maker partnership with GIZ, the creation of the eDhumashi smartphone app to support female processors in the Maldives, and the Baitfish Alternatives collaboration with Darwin. Just to name a few.

We would like to thank our donors, partners, and supporters for their unwavering dedication to our cause. There is a definite feeling of enthusiasm about the years ahead as we begin to approach the culmination of our 2025 Strategic plan. The sector is ever-changing, and we are curious to see what IPNLF will look like in 2030 and beyond.

Rahim Hoosen, IPNLF Chair

Impact

Safeguarding fishers' livelihoods and their communities underpins all we do at IPNLF. Through our collective efforts to advance scientific research, policy and advocacy, marketplace relations, and fishery improvements, we hope to have a lasting impact on the fisheries we work with. By creating market access for small-scale fishers in the industry and helping them to reduce their environmental impact, we aim to make responsibly sourced tuna more readily available, protect ecosystems, and safeguard the livelihoods of local fishers.



Through close collaboration with our international partners, we have implemented solutions to the many challenges faced by one-by-one tuna fisheries across the globe. In support of the U.N. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we will continue to promote the environmental and social benefits of one-by-one fishing to ensure a better future.

IPNLF IMPACT AS OF 2023

12%

ONE-BY-ONE FISHERIES REPRESENT 12% OF GLOBAL CATCH

CELEBRATING 11 YEARS

90%

SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES EMPLOY MORE THAN 90% OF ALL FISHERS GLOBALLY

MEMBERS 67

COMMIT TO IMPLEMENTING IMPROVEMENTS IN AT LEAST **75%** OF THEIR ONE-BY-ONE TUNA SUPPLY CHAINS BY 2025

ACROSS 25 COUNTRIES

SUPPORTING TRANSPARENCY ACROSS **58 FISHERIES**

4 PLASTIC NEUTRALITY PROJECTS
IN THE AZORES AND THE MALDIVES

9 YEARS INFLUENCING POLICY AT RFMOS

21 FISHERY IMPROVEMENT IPNLF PROJECTS

OUR FIT ACTS AS A FRAMEWORK TO IMPLEMENT TARGETED FISHERY IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS 5 KEY AREAS.

- PLASTIC NEUTRALITY
- ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT
- SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
- TRACEABILITY
- SEAFOOD QUALITY

FULLY ALIGNED WITH 11 SDGS
AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE OTHERS

RECEIVED 3 AWARDS



Key achievements

- With the help of IPNLF members and partner organisations, we pushed the IOTC to adopt two new resolutions on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)
- We welcomed new Trustees, Mohamed Rasheed and Urs Baumgartner
- Hosted the 7th annual International Coastal Tuna Business Forum in Bali, which over 200 local and international participants attended
- The Bali Declaration, an agreement by 17 Global Retailers, Brands, and Buyers to unite in Blue transformation, was signed by the Indonesian Director of Fisheries Resources Management, Dr Ridwan Mulyana and IPNLF Chair Rahim Hoosen.

- Supported the Fair Trade certification of the Indonesian pole-and-line fishery alongside IPNLF member Fish Tales, which will be renewed up to 2026.
- The UNDP Oceans Innovation Challenge selected Yayasan IPNLF Indonesia's solar ice maker project to promote sustainable fisheries and the Blue Economy and to receive incubation and financial support for 18 months.
- IPNLF-Maldives prepares to launch the 'eDhumashi' app as part of the UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge to support gender equality and equity.
- The Azores plastic collection competition concluded, in which 17 vessels took part in removing 735 kg of marine litter from the ocean.
- Introduced the first Bluefin Tuna Fisheries on IPNLF's Sourcing Transparency Platform (STP)
- Welcomed 9 new IPNLF members to its business network
- Supported the first pole-and-line Fair Trade fishery certification in Indonesia.
- IPNLF published three multi-page articles in INFOFISH this year.
- Our documentary "Tuna Tales in Balance", which unites the six shorter episodes, won the Best Focus on Science award at the World Food Forum Film Festival.



Moving from a Reactive to a Proactive Social Responsibility Programme

During the past year, we have revised the approach of our Social Responsibility Programme. The intent behind putting this action plan together was to outline a more proactive approach to addressing social responsibility-related challenges and offer a path that steers IPNLF towards emerging priority areas ahead of our strategic planning process post-2025. What sets us apart from many other organisations is that our Social Responsibility Programme aspires to go beyond ensuring minimum human rights protections for workers towards increasing human well-being and improving the quality of life of the resource-dependent fishing communities we represent.

Our program is specifically designed to capitalise on our unique position and lead the charge in incorporating a social equity perspective into the seafood industry's social responsibility initiatives. What sets us apart is that our Social Responsibility Programme aspires to go beyond ensuring minimum human rights protections for workers towards increasing human well-being and improving the quality of life of the resource-dependent communities we represent. To achieve this in practice, we have committed to the following goals:

Goal 1 - The social benefits and key social challenges within the fisheries we work with are comprehensively understood, informing our practical social responsibility improvement work.

Goal 2 - The social benefits of one-by-one fisheries of resource-dependent coastal communities are enhanced directly from IPNLF's on-the-ground improvement work.

Goal 3 - Key social responsibility challenges are proactively addressed, ensuring fair and decent working conditions across the fisheries we work with.

Goal 4 - Social equity issues receive greater attention, and the human rights of fishers receive greater protection as a direct result of the IPNLF's advocacy efforts.

Goal 5 - Fishers are empowered to have more agency to protect their rights best and utilise worker voice through IPNLF's pioneering worker-driven initiatives.



Social Responsibility Project Updates

Maldives Tuna Sector Social Assessment

IPNLF-Maldives completed a nationwide social assessment of the Maldivian tuna fishing sector. The social assessment survey targeted both migrant and Maldivian workers. It was focused on documenting existing working conditions, catch and profit share allocation, working hours, employment and recruitment norms, and worker satisfaction. The assessment has been crucial in documenting the sector's current recruitment and employment practices, identifying existing social risks, and assessing gaps in current practices with relevant international best practices.

Indonesia National Harvest Strategy - Socioeconomic Indicator Development

To assess the potential impact of social impacts that may arise from the prospective Harvest Strategy (HS), Yayasan IPNLF Indonesia (YII) established a Sosec Working Group made up of government representatives, researchers, tuna NGOs, and tuna fisher associations to identify and harmonise social data collection activities in Indonesia. This year, key progress occurred during multi-stakeholder meetings coordinated by YII, where priority indicators were selected and discussions around the data collection responsibilities of different parties. Our ultimate hope is that this work can help ensure social impacts on small-scale fishers are accurately captured to inform further adjustments to the Harvest Strategy and policies regarding Total Allowable Catch (TAC).

Improving Economic Empowerment of Female Tuna Processors in the Maldives

With the support of UNDP OIC, IPNLF launched a project aimed at increasing the economic benefits gleaned by local female fish processors. The project has been focused on improving women fish processors' knowledge of food hygiene and safety, business management skills, digital literacy, and financial literacy through workshops and training. An online app prototype named 'eDhumashi' has also been developed and tested with the female processors of Gemanafushi.

Establishing a National Grievance Mechanism in the Maldives

IPNLF is assisting the Maldivian government in establishing an online platform and mobile application promoting worker rights, incorporating a national grievance mechanism in the Maldivian tuna fishery, and producing associated supporting materials for migrant workers. The Ministry of Economic Development (MoED) has begun the grievance mechanism development process after receiving support from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The IPNLF team is still engaged in discussions to ensure that what is built aligns with the UNGP's best practice guidance for grievance mechanisms.

National Fisher Center (NFC) in Indonesia

The grievance mechanism currently being implemented by Destructive Fishing Watch (DFW), the National Fisher Center (NFC), has been approved by Fishery Progress for use within the six FIPs IPNLF manage. IPNLF subsequently organised training workshops in partnership with Ulula to ensure the knowledge and practises of partner organisations responsible for managing and/or promoting the NFC are better equipped to deliver maximum benefit to fishers.

NGO Tuna Forum Labour & Social Working Group - Aligned guidance on worker rights

As a member of the NGO Tuna Forum, IPNLF contributed to developing worker rights guidelines for the tuna industry's market and supply chain. These guidelines were designed to provide clear steps for tuna fishing companies to address labour rights issues within their supply chains and to unambiguously outline the minimum actions all companies engaged in tuna fishing must undertake.

Labour Policy Engagement with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs)

In partnership with Human Rights at Sea and other like-minded organisations, IPNLF coauthored a joint public statement targeted at WCPFC delegations concerning the ongoing development of a labour CMM. The letter outlined the enhancements required from the labour CMM to ensure adequate minimum protection for fishers and their families who become victims of human and labour rights abuses in the Pacific region. IPNLF has also engaged with the ICCAT ad hoc Labour and Social Working Group, contributing to work plan review, draft resolution on labour standards discussions, and planned future work of the group.

IPNLF's Social Responsibility Director joined the SEA Alliance advocacy working group in an advisory role this year. The working group aims to encourage better protection of human rights and improved labour standards by carrying out advocacy and engagement with key governments and RFMOs. This work will complement ongoing RMFO advocacy with Human Rights at Ewa and present IPNLF with an opportunity to engage in a rapidly growing and influential collective action initiative.

A Year Raising the Profile of Human Rights and Social Equity Issues for Small-Scale Fisheries

While the seafood sector is rightly concerned with addressing human rights and labour risks in supply chains, the acute relationship between improving social equity and protecting the human rights of small-scale fisheries is often left unrecognised. This year, the International Pole & Line Foundation has been focused on raising the profile of social equity issues in the sector, market access, and how this impacts the human rights of small-scale fishers. As we look back on the past year, we are pleased with our impact and how we've raised the profile of these issues in the following ways:

INFOFISH Article “How can seafood companies meet human rights challenges whilst ensuring social equity for small-scale fisheries? ,

This article catalysed our efforts to discuss how seafood companies can address human challenges in their supply chains while ensuring social equity for small-scale fisheries for this year. The article, authored by Zacari Edwards, IPNLF's Social Responsibility Director, outlined why it's essential for companies to recognise the importance of how social equity and human rights intersect, how businesses can adapt their procurement policies, and buying practises better to protect the human rights of vulnerable fishing communities; and what IPNLF believes a transformative approach to advancing social equity and human rights needs to look like in the seafood sector.

Seafood Expo Global Session on “Meeting Human Rights Challenges and Ensuring Social Equity for Small-Scale Fisheries in Alignment with SDG14b”:

In this IPNLF-hosted session, experts came together to discuss the various barriers small-scale fisheries face, how these differ from

industrial distant water fleets, and how companies can take greater responsibility in the elimination of human rights abuses while also aligning with SDG14b- Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets. Our panellists for this session included Andy Hickman (Head of SEA Alliance), Tulika Bansal (Senior Adviser at the Danish Institute for Human Rights), and Cristina Pita (University of Aveiro).

ICTBF Panel on ‘Developing economic growth while safeguarding livelihoods’:

IPNLF's Indonesia Strategy Manager hosted a panel session titled ‘s,’ with IPNLF's Social Responsibility Director as a panellist. In our presentation, IPNLF outlined the changing landscape of social responsibility demands in the sector and their potential effects on Indonesian fisheries unless social equity issues are better addressed. The session fostered a fruitful discussion among the attendees and outlined the IPNLF's programme and general approach to a new audience.

Human Rights at Sea (HRAS) Interview

HRAS interviewed Social Responsibility Director Zacari Edwards, who discussed the vital work of the IPNLF Social Responsibility programme. The interview also covered IPNLF's initiatives to secure lasting social change in small-scale fisheries, the most significant threats facing the seafood fisheries sector in 2023, the particular vulnerabilities of workers in fisheries, the industry's tendency to overlook human sustainability, and the responsibility and power consumers have in driving change.



“At IPNLF, we see the integration of social equity and social responsibility as a key priority area that needs to be better addressed in the seafood industry, and our programme is tailored to ensure we maximise our unique position to make this a reality. Ultimately, we want to see the sector take more responsibility for improving the well-being of fishers and uplifting the coastal communities that provide us with the seafood we eat.”

Zacari Edwards, Social Responsibility Director, IPNLF



Plastics

We don't talk about it enough, but fishing gear contributes significantly to oceanic plastic and, even worse, is the most destructive to the marine environment. They can range from lost fishing nets and buoys to floating Fish Aggregating Devices (dFADs) that are purposefully left at sea to attract marine life.

Building on the success of previous plastic programmes, IPNLF continues to collaborate with fisheries worldwide with the goal of plastic reduction or offsetting. The concept of fisheries becoming “plastic neutral” is still a significant focus of our work. We aim to achieve this by eliminating as much plastic from the ocean as our fisheries lose each year to have an overall neutral and, where possible, positive impact.

“The oceans are in a crisis due to climate change, overfishing, pollution, and the destruction of marine habitats. Human actions cause these problems, and only we can reverse this situation. Everyone is responsible, and each, even small, action is fundamental to creating change.”

— Alexandra C.S. Garcia Guerreiro Regional Director for Fisheries, Azores

Maldives Plastic Neutrality Project, Noonu Atoll

Based on the success of the Gemanafushi pilot project in removing non-native abandoned, lost, and discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) from the water in 2021, the IPNLF and Olive Ridley Project collaborated again in 2022 to undertake a similar initiative in Noonu Atoll Lhohi.

The goal this time was to incentivise individual N. Lhohi tuna fishers to remove ghost nets from the water. IPNLF Maldives joined the Lhohi Council, Lhohi School, Women's Development Committee, and local NGOs on a beachcombing expedition. Over 500 kilogrammes of harmful fishing nets and various plastic bottles and marine debris were gathered. Furthermore, the IPNLF team organised capacity-building exercises in N. Lhohi for handline fishers and other stakeholders, emphasising the environmental relevance of removing ghost gear, turtle disentanglement, handling, and release practices.

Plastic Collection Competition 2022/2023, Azores

In partnership with the Azores Ocean Observatory (OMA), Azores Fisheries Observer Program (POPA), Associação de Produtores de Atum e Similares dos Açores (APASA), Federação das Pescas dos Açores (FPA), and the Institute of Marine Research (IMAR) in the Azores, the Plastics Collection Competition has been increasingly successful since its inception in 2021. This ghost gear retrieval competition, held among the APASA vessels of the Azores pole-and-line fleet, incentivises fishers by pitting them against the entire fleet's plastic contributions - to remove more plastic in three months than they had collectively lost all year - and against the other vessels to remove the most as an individual vessel.

The 2022 competition ended in October, with 17 vessels removing 735 kg of marine debris from the ocean. A staggering 620.65 kg was confirmed to be lost or abandoned fishing gear. The Azores pole-

and-line fleet collectively loses around 0.5kg of plastic per year, implying that the fleet achieved plastic-positive status for the 2022 fishing season, with vessels removing 1241 times more ghost gear than lost through their fishing operations.

The pole-and-line fishery became the world's first plastic-neutral fishery in 2021. With the 2022 results, the Azores tuna fishery shows it leads the industry in cleaning the ocean. Based on POPA data, fisheries observers discovered that one-by-one tuna fisheries produce minimal plastic pollution — a minimal amount by weight compared to massive industrial fisheries. IPNLF and partners are looking into how these accomplishments may be replicated in other fisheries and how this new best practice standard can hold the most polluting fisheries accountable.





Fisheries development

Our fisheries development approach addresses the numerous issues that individual tuna fisheries face worldwide. We are actively working to ensure that these traditional one-by-one fisheries will survive in the face of a globalised seafood system that continues to prefer cheap, subsidised tuna. Our work on the water to help fishers apply best practices is where the real progress is made, and the insights and outcomes that arise serve as the foundation for our policy and seafood market engagement work. As customers worry about their food's origin, so do we need to positively distinguish one-by-one tuna fisheries from other tuna fleets that use damaging fishing gear.

This year saw the commencement of a 5-year-project for IPNLF under the Common Oceans Tuna Project, which aims to ensure that tunas are fished more sustainably by mobilising a global partnership in support of responsible tuna fisheries management and the conservation of biodiversity in ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). IPNLF will improve water quality by training on best handling, cold storage, and traceability technology practices. In addition, we provide skipper workshops and knowledge exchanges while establishing a solid financial case for the transition from ecologically destructive gillnet fishing methods to low-impact handline fishing methods. In 2023, the team conducted baselining and skipper workshops in established geographies such as the Maldives and Indonesia, as well as assessing additional high-potential geographies such as Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Madagascar, allowing IPNLF to expand its global impact.

“Site visits like these are an integral part of what we do at IPNLF, designed to collect valuable information from the ground and understand first-hand fishers’ determination to overcome their challenges and how we can establish a collective voice. As we collectively navigate the industry’s complexities, we strive to ensure that these fishers’ efforts are recognised and their catch valued. Their livelihoods preserved for generations to come.”

Roy Bealey, Fisheries Director, IPNLF

“With climate change and overfishing posing a threat to the marine ecosystem, urgent action is required to address these challenges and move towards a blue economy agenda. IPNLF’s partnership with Samaki Bluu will not only help fishers safeguard their livelihoods into the future, but it will also serve as a role model for how other artisanal fisheries can gain the most value from their natural resources while reducing post-harvest losses and ensuring safer seafood is produced. By supporting livelihoods, preserving the health of the marine ecosystem, and advancing the blue economy agenda, this project will help build a brighter future for the island’s inhabitants and the ocean surrounding them.”

— Zahor El Kharouby Director, Department of Blue Economy Development and Coordination, Zanzibar, Tanzania



Fisheries Improvement Toolbox (FIT) projects

IPNLF's team contains global small-scale tuna fishery and supply chain specialists who proactively help our members apply global best practices at various globalised seafood supply chain nodes to benefit people and the planet. Our Fisheries Improvement Toolbox (FIT) encourages IPNLF members to make targeted improvements in their one-by-one operations and associated supply chains. Over the past year, we have implemented several improvement projects linked to our five FIT tools, as outlined below.

1. Social Responsibility

IPNLF has been assisting the Maldivian government in efforts to build an online platform promoting worker rights and implementing a national grievance process in the Maldivian tuna fishery, with support from our members Sainsbury, World Wise Foods, and the SEA Alliance. To date, IPNLF has assisted the Ministry of Economic Development (MoED) in developing the grievance mechanism, advising on key criteria required from the prospective grievance mechanism and ensuring that it effectively uses existing avenues for workers to submit complaints. This project aims to ensure that fishers may readily report concerns and that the grievance procedure adheres to the best practice criteria outlined by the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

"Our partnership with the IPNLF provides a fantastic avenue to engage with fishing communities in the Maldives. Over the past 12 months, the collaboration has enabled us to understand recruitment and employment better practises at the vessel level. With the support of IPNLF colleagues, we are excited to continue our work to promote best practices in this small-scale fishery."

Rachel Munns, Head of Sustainability, World Wise Foods

2. Plastic Neutrality

The Plastic Neutrality Tool explores a new best practice standard within tuna fisheries, highlighting the variations in pollution consequences between small-scale and industrial fleets and demonstrating how one-by-one fisheries can significantly contribute to solutions. We have continued a three-year plastic collection competition with the entire fleet of pole-and-line vessels from IPNLF members Associação de Produtores de Atum e Similares dos Açores (APASA), with additional support from project partners Biocoop and IPNLF member Fish4ever, using this tool. The project's outcomes continue to exceed plastic neutrality significantly.

3. Seafood Quality

We continue to discover great opportunities to help remote, one-by-one tuna fisheries improve the quality of their harvests. We assist fishers in taking better care of their harvests by identifying gaps in the cold chain and promoting the use of best practices at sea. This work will increase their prospective profitability and provide access to premium markets through IPNLF membership, all while reducing product spoilage or waste. Indonesia, Oman, Tanzania, Kenya, Madagascar, and Malaysia are among the countries where IPNLF seafood quality improvements have been discovered or are now happening, and we are delighted to continue this workstream with our members by offering market incentives in the future.

4. Ecosystem Management

This tool encompasses a variety of actions that understand the significance of using an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and the broader idea of sustainability. This technology is being used in collaboration with IPNLF member PRIME Seafood Brazil on a fisheries improvement project (FIP) for a handline fishery in Brazil. In Indonesia, our collaborations with IPNLF members AP2HI and MDPI continue to support fishery and governance improvements while also assisting us in maintaining eight FIP profiles.

IPNLF has also taken the lead in MSPEA's Maldives handline yellowfin tuna FIP, and we are working directly with local IPNLF members Horizon, Cyprea, and Big Fish Maldives. We will shortly begin activities to enhance the sustainability and efficiency of live bait utilisation, including skipper training on applicable best practices. Following a successful skipper course in Malaysia, we are revising harvest volume estimates to potentially engage IPNLF members in sourcing from a tuna handline fishery operating off the coast of Borneo Island.

5. Traceability Improvement

Improving the traceability of one-by-one tuna products not only allows us to demonstrate and promote the excellent work of our fisheries and market partners but also allows conscientious consumers to choose responsibly caught one-by-one tuna products from restaurant menus and retail shelves. With so much greenwashing in today's world, it's more crucial than ever for consumers to readily discover and identify companies caught using appropriate one-by-one procedures. We have active traceability projects in Indonesia and the Maldives that use various novel technologies, and we are also preparing new traceability initiatives in Tanzania and Oman at the time of writing this report.

FIT Case Study

"IPNLF can deliver value directly to our members through our FIT. We can identify and deliver actionable points along their value chains where improvements can result in higher-value products with a reduced environmental impact, ultimately enabling reduced costs, waste, better yields, and improved market access. The additional income linked to such improvements could make a huge difference in the lives of local fishers and the direct community."

Craig Turley, Fisheries Improvement Manager, IPNLF





Policy and Advocacy

IPNLF's policy work across the Indian, Atlantic, and Pacific Oceans focuses on building strong relationships to advocate for the rights and needs of one-by-one tuna fisheries and coastal states and to ensure that regulations are developed to protect our global ocean resources and the communities that are the most reliant upon them.

This year has seen turbulence at various RFMOs, particularly at the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), where important measures have received objections and challenges, and at the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), where nations have struggled to agree on a path forward with the bigeye tuna rebuilding plan. We have collaboratively pushed to increase the recognition of scientific advice in policy decisions, with a precautionary attitude and more fair approaches to allocation, while establishing venues for small-scale fishers' perspectives to be heard and considered.

In addition to our specific technical support and work with national governments, we have also been engaging with advisory councils to the European Commission: the Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC) and the Outermost Regions Advisory Council (CCRUP), where we are vice-president of the pelagics working group and advocate for

the rights and needs of small-scale fishers in fishing-dependent communities in these regions.

"The time has come for tuna RFMOs and national governments to work together to achieve the long-term objectives to ensure an environmentally sustainable and socially equitable future. To create transparent, responsible, and equitable food systems, tuna populations must be conserved through a precautionary management approach and steps to address key issues such as bycatch, plastic pollution, and accountability for abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear."

M. Shiham Adam, Science and Maldives Director, International Pole and Line Foundation

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

In recent years, our ongoing efforts to improve the sustainability and equity of tuna fisheries management in the WCPFC area of competence have focused on working with the Indonesian government to achieve positive outcomes for tunas, one-by-one fisheries, and the communities that rely on their capture and trade. Simultaneously, we enable data collection across several Indonesian sites, and our initiatives incorporating vessel tracking and traceability technology inform such policy engagements. The signing of the 2023 Bali Commitment and the execution of Indonesia's new Harvest Strategy are recent milestones that have gained IPNLF assistance. These actions promote fruitful talks at the WCPFC. In this location, improved support for small-scale, one-by-one tuna fishing could pay dividends for Pacific island communities' future livelihoods and food security.

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

After 12 years of negotiations, discussions in the Atlantic Ocean have yielded historic results this year, such as adopting management procedures for bluefin stocks in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean Oceans. However, progress on managing the overfished bigeye tuna stock has been slow and unpredictable since a rollover of the prior action was adopted at the Commission's 23rd Special Meeting in November 2022. To reach unanimity, the Commission will have held three Panel 1 sessions this year before the Annual Session. However, major differences persist in total allowable catch (TAC), FAD management measures, and allocation. IPNLF continues to cultivate ties with ICCAT delegations to advocate for effective FAD management based on the precautionary principle and equitable allocation for coastal states.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

The past twelve months have been a busy and dynamic period in the IOTC. IPNLF has assisted coastal state delegations on essential issues while also helping generate solutions and advice for the Commission. This year we got off to a turbulent start with new regulations on anchored FADs being quickly endorsed and a two-thirds majority of IOTC member states also voting in new regulations for drifting FADs through Resolution 23/02. In the following months, however, it has been concerning to see objections being made to the drifting FAD regulations, with much misinformation being spread regarding the new dFAD rules and their application. IPNLF will continue to pursue more responsible and equitable fisheries management in this critical region.

With similar measures already being successfully implemented in other oceans, we hope that high juvenile catch volumes, ghost fishing,

habitat damage, and pollution caused by drifting FADs will be dealt with more effectively in the Indian Ocean. There is strong precedent and broad scientific acknowledgement that implementing better controls will serve long-term benefits for all fishery stakeholders, not least the developing state coastal communities we most intrinsically support.



The Sourcing Transparency Platform (STP)



Since the Sourcing Transparency Platform (STP) launch in 2022, we have seen it expand from 31 to more than 40 companies in published industry profiles in just one year. The platform remains a significant component of the IPNLF's Strategic Plan 2020-2025, serving as a tool to shed light on individual tuna supply chains and create a dialogue between businesses and customers.

As we approach the STP's second anniversary in January 2024, our focus has moved from platform promotion to partnering with our members to ensure their profiles and all member data remain accurate. The STP has received a positive reaction from our members, with over 40% of our commercial members' profiles being approved within one month of our initial requests.

In addition, we are collaborating with IPNLF members, local fishery associations (AP2HI), and partners (MDPI) to update all pertinent fisheries information in Indonesia, such as vessel details, fleet capacity, and local employment figures. We are also collaborating with our in-country teams to provide current and reliable information asset banks, such as RFMO stock status reports, IUCN red lists, and national reports for all the fisheries represented on the STP. These updates are tracked and scheduled regularly to position the STP as the "one-stop shop" for all information relevant to our business, the businesses of our members, and the seafood industry.

The past year saw IPNLF introduce our first Bluefin Tuna Fisheries on the platform, along with our members One Tuna (Canada) and Bluefin Balear (Mallorca) support. This was an exciting opportunity to highlight a new species of tuna in our members' supply chains while also addressing various emerging sustainability concerns surrounding a once-threatened species.

Reflecting on almost two years of the STP, we want to evolve the platform further. To build on the success around the launch of the STP and provide an even more intuitive experience for our members and consumers visiting the platform in 2024 and beyond.

"With the launch of the Sourcing Transparency Platform, we can now demonstrate to a larger audience what we do and stand for as a company. It also allows us to evaluate our approach to the seafood business. Our presence on the platform is not solely to advertise Fish Tales; like all other companies on the STP, we disclose our sourcing and how we serve a diverse variety of markets by being transparent in our operations and connections. This is an excellent opportunity to explain how we are all interconnected."

Irene Kranendonk, Impact Manager at Fish Tales



Marketing and Communications

In our marketing and communications at IPNLF, we primarily focus on raising awareness and highlighting the holistic sustainability of our one-by-one fisheries with essentially one goal in mind: helping small-scale fishers and local communities connected to them by guiding you to understand the critical role local fisheries play in coastal communities.

Signing the 2023 Bali Declaration, we united the Indonesian government and some of the world's biggest retailers, brands, and organisations to advocate for one-by-one fisheries in Indonesia. We gave fun and exciting fisheries content such as 'One-by-one Cribs' and the 'World Tuna Day' Campaign while organically maintaining channel growth. We consistently informed, advised, challenged, and impacted the industry with our announcements, reports, press releases, and opinion pieces, highlighting the work of IPNLF and that of our members. We won an award for 'Tuna Tales' at the FAO's World Food Forum Film Festival. We empowered our field teams to produce several 'Stories from the Field', and the larger IPNLF team has been featured in various international press articles, interviews, and speaking events. Additionally, we welcomed nine new companies to our IPNLF membership network. This has strengthened our relationships with the global business community and, more importantly, has strengthened market access for small-scale tuna fisheries.

By elevating our marketing and communications efforts, we continue to build an online movement based on our belief that by prioritising one-by-one fishing practices, we can ensure that tuna remains a healthy and viable resource for future generations. We are incredibly grateful to be in a position to defend the livelihoods of the people who share their natural resources with the world!

"Whether it's a one-man-handline-canoe fisher in Brazil or a full national pole-and-line fleet operating in a different ocean, shining a light on the important social contribution that all these fishers make and uniting these fisheries to have a voice in decision-making is what gets us up every morning. Receiving the award for "Best Focus on Science" at FAO HQ last year in Rome for our Tuna Tales documentary was a great achievement, not just for us as an organisation but also for the respect it provides to the fishing communities that genuinely deserve it."

Philippine Wouters, Marketing & Communications Director, IPNLF



Maldives

We continue working in the Maldives on the conservation and management of live bait, a critical component of our one-by-fisheries. Furthermore, we are shifting our focus to social responsibility within the harvesting sector, where we have made accomplishments thanks to collaboration with the industry and the Ministry of Economic Development. In addition, we are working with the outer islands to improve the lives of small-scale female processors by providing direct market access through an internet programme.

Developing Livebait Best Practices

In the Maldives, livebait is essential to all one-by-one fisheries. Historically, the necessity of resource management has been relatively underestimated. Recognising this, and based on our observations throughout the observer programme, we have concentrated on building practices with the least harmful influence on the environment and the ecosystem. The reduction of post-harvest mortality and rationalisation of its usage are critical parts of the Best Practise Guides being prepared with considerable support from UNDP under a GEF/SGP.

Livebait assessment and development of fishing area maps

A challenge for fishers is the increasing loss of or access to bait fishing sites due to economic activity allocation, particularly for tourism development. This is due to a lack of information (or maps) on bait fishing locations. The research addresses the problem by finding live bait fishing places through interviews with local fishers. Questionnaires accompanied by comprehensive maps aid in the delineation of areas,

including the type and manner of fishing. The research also examines live bait fishery literature and analyses live bait data collected by the IPNLF bycatch sampling programme. This data will benefit spatial planning and the management and protection of crucial live bait fishing sites.

Increasing Economic Benefits for Women Fish Processors in the Maldives

Despite their considerable contributions to the Maldivian fisheries sector, women face challenges, particularly in the outer islands, such as poor market information, unequal payment terms, and limited financial help. To overcome these challenges, the initiative creates a centralised e-market platform to provide women with direct access to local markets. The innovation intends to move away from existing trade strategies that limit women's authority over the final pricing of their products. We created an application named 'eDhumashi' in partnership with the women of Gemanafushi. Food hygiene regulations, as well as marketing and branding, have been covered in digital literacy training. The e-Dhumashi platform will improve transparency and traceability throughout the fisheries value chain, resulting in value addition in small-scale fisheries. The UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge has kindly sponsored the project.

"In the Maldives, it is women who are the ones that turn the fish into money. On the other hand, women fisher folk frequently face delayed and unjust payment conditions, untrustworthy buyers and middlemen, and limited access to financial information, tools, and training. These women can account for their production and sales data, get payments directly without a middleman, conduct financial transactions online, develop credit histories, and use financial tools by connecting to the eDhumashi application."

Ubaida Raheema, Programme Manager, IPNLF Maldives

Impacts and Achievements

Fisheries

IPNLF stays at the forefront of innovation and fishery improvement in the Maldives, specifically in baitfish management and sharing best practises. The IPNLF-Maldives team has ongoing data collection through the observer programme and remains to have a strong connection with the fishers, island councils, and direct communities on multiple islands.

Marine Plastics

Together with Zero Waste Maldives, the Women's Development Committee, divers from Surf Square, and students from Lhohee School, the IPNLF-Maldives team did a tremendous beach cleanup programme. By the end of the day, the team had collected all sorts of plastic bottles, marine debris, and destructive fishing nets!

Social

With the completion of the nationwide social assessment of the Maldivian tuna fishing sector, the Maldives team and the Maldives Ministry of Economic Development (MoED) now aim to collaboratively enhance the protection of migrant workers through worker voice and empowerment within IPNLF's Social Responsibility Programme.



Partners

Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Marks and Spencer (M&S)
Maldives Fishermen's Association
Maldives Marine Research Institute
Maldives Ministry of Economic Development (MoED)
Maldives National University (MNU)
Maldives Ocean Plastics Alliance (MOPA)
Maldives Seafood Processors and Exporters Association (MSPEA)
Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources & Agriculture
Olive Ridley Project (ORP)
UN Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge
World Wise Foods
Zero Waste Maldives



Indonesia

The Yayasan IPNLF Indonesia (YII) team remains steadfast in improving sustainable fisheries management and increasing the value offering of Indonesian tuna to the global market. YII has maintained its commitment to developing the Tropical Tuna Harvest Strategy in Indonesian archipelagic waters. We have taken a comprehensive approach, with activities ranging from policy-centric work, such as the formation of a socioeconomic working group, to bait and dFAD management research, fisher empowerment activities, and technological pilots that have the potential to improve and streamline transparency and catch reporting. Furthermore, YII continues executing six FIPs while securing Bitung's fourth year of Fair Trade certification.

Improving and sustaining the quality of Indonesian one-by-one tuna while assisting Indonesian fishers remains a core element of our work, allowing us to expand in exciting directions. The YII team has started a baseline effort to identify the sources, risks, and solutions to the entry of histamines into various cold chain types, with funding from the STDF World Bank, while providing handling training to fishers. The UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge support has resulted in an exciting collaboration with GIZ, AIREF, and PT ASTB to create a solar-powered ice-maker with new battery technology in a remote fishing community in North Seram. This study combines the need to address



climate change challenges in the most vulnerable areas, strengthen fishers ability to preserve and improve catch quality and contribute to the growing market demand for climate-friendly solutions. We are proud to report that the International Coastal Tuna Business Forum (ICTBF), which was held in Bali in collaboration with the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), provided incredible opportunities for IPNLF and its partners to highlight our ongoing commitment to supporting sustainable Indonesian tuna both in-country and internationally.

YII works closely with the central government, such as MMAF and the National Research and Innovation Agency; local governments, universities, fisheries associations, private companies, NGOs and fishing communities to implement its work in the field. The spirit of multi-stakeholder collaboration is the leading choice in delivering our work.

"I believe that with our collective dedication and the cooperation of all parties, including the central government, provincial governments, tuna stakeholders, and non-governmental organisations, we can achieve our goals for the long-term management of tuna resources and the tuna fishing sector in Indonesia."

- Dr. Ridwan Mulyana, Indonesian Director of Fisheries Resource Management

Impacts and achievements

Fisheries

The YII solar-powered ice maker project is well along, with the machine nearly completed, three stakeholder meetings held, and a cold chain and vessel quality assessment completed, with suggested improvements adopted. On several of the vessels, we have also installed eight Pelagic Data Systems (courtesy of Global Fishing Watch). We have kept eight one-by-one tuna fisheries MSC certified, Fair Trade certification in Bitung's pole-and-line fishery and six FIP profiles.

Social

As part of the UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge project, YII collected baseline Sosec data in North Seram. Three Sosec Working Group meetings have taken place, with over 150 stakeholders and experts participating in selecting socioeconomic indicators that

will help monitor the impact of harvest strategies, inform future model development, and contribute to Indonesia's data compliance with the Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). YII has collaborated with Destructive Fishing Watch (DFW) and PPS Kendari to develop a fisher information centre to give fishers information on worker rights and contemporary slavery and serve as a grievance mechanism. YII has offered many training opportunities on managing rights and grievance mechanisms in three locations.

Policy

YII has continued to host two fishery co-management committees in South East Sulawesi and West Papua and provide industry representation at other FCMCs individually. YII has represented the Indonesian government at WCPFC RFMO meetings on a global scale. Notably, the Indonesian government launched the Harvest Strategy for tropical

tunas in archipelagic waters, a process in which YII has been deeply involved for many years.

Data

The First Mover forum has highlighted several cutting-edge data-collecting options to enhance traceability across one-by-one fisheries. We completed our Electronic Monitoring (EM) pilot in Bitung, Indonesia, using cameras and contributing to the advancement of artificial intelligence in CPUE calculation. Our work with FAME transponders on handline vessels is ongoing, and we are constantly improving the use and efficiency of these solar-powered traceability devices.



Partners

- AIREF
- Asosiasi Perikanan Pole and Line dan Handline Indonesia (AP2HI)
- Integrated Monitoring (IM)
- Destructive Fishing Watch (DFW)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Fair Trade USA
- Fish Tales
- Futuristic Aviation and Marine Enterprises (FAME)
- Global Fishing Watch
- Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF)
- IPB University
- Masyarakat dan Perikanan Indonesia (MDPI)
- PT ASTB
- PT. Jaya Bitung Mandiri
- PT. Megah Surya Persada
- PT. Nutrindo Fressfood
- International Resonance
- Standards and Trade Development Facility - World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge
- Walton Family Foundation



Tuna Tales

The most powerful stories are real stories. The Tuna Tales Project is a documentary series that shows the lives of one-by-one fishing communities from the Azores, Canary Islands, Cape Verde, Maldives, and Indonesia. The film series provides viewers with a glimpse into the struggles and livelihoods of one-by-one tuna fishers from around the world who offer an alternative future - a future in balance with nature.

Since their debut, the films have been submitted to several film festivals worldwide. The documentary Tuna Tales in Balance, which combines the six episodes, earned the World Food Forum Film Festival's 'Best Focus on Science' award.

These films aim to increase awareness and drive change amongst all market players within the tuna supply chain, especially consumers, governments, and policy-makers at both national and international levels. Tuna Tales made an impression at the EU Commission and general ICCAT sessions, demonstrating that it is essential, effective, and successful. We want to expand the Tuna Tales series into additional markets, such as Brazil and the United States. We hope to share additional solution-based stories from the fisheries we represent as the film progresses.

"These are the kind of people who have a huge, special connection to nature. These are people who, for instance, follow seabirds to tell them where the tuna shoals are. These men still let themselves be guided by the currents. They let themselves be guided by the winds. By the moon and its phases, and the seabirds."

Tommy Melo, Biosferra Association President, Cape Verde



Moving forward

Following the worldwide pandemic, coastal communities face new and far-reaching concerns, and direct action is required to actively conserve biodiversity and the lives of people who rely on their marine resources. What we hear from experts about their findings and recommendations is very much in line with what we see on the ground in the small-scale fisheries we work with daily; the effects of climate change are real, and where coastal communities' livelihoods are inextricably linked to the ocean, less tuna is coming to shore, threatening their food security and household income. Although discussions about this subject among fishers, scientists, and legislators are not new, the sense of urgency for action is growing.

We must take a nature-positive approach to transforming our food systems. IPNLF has taken a comprehensive approach to seafood sustainability for over a decade. We have an excellent understanding of shifting decision-makers and commercial firms and their linked supply chains to a responsible seafood industry because of our vast knowledge of and direct involvement with small-scale fisheries, governments, scientists, fishers, and their communities. Truly sustainable fisheries need to help secure livelihoods and restore ocean life, and seafood production systems need to play their part in protecting and restoring ocean biodiversity, making a hopeful future for today's and future generations possible.

One-by-one fishing is regularly recognised as the most sustainable fishing technique because of its capacity to catch commercially viable volumes of tuna while being highly selective with little to no bycatch compared to other fishing gear types. These fisheries play an important role in global tuna supply chains, especially given the increased demand for ethically sourced and environmentally conscious seafood.

Despite media attention on plastic straws and bottles, industrial overfishing is the greatest threat to our ocean. According to data from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, which includes both artisanal and industrial catches, the overall annual harvest is close to 7.4 million metric tonnes of tuna, with the majority caught using destructive and non-selective fishing methods such as bottom trawling, gill nets, and, in tuna fisheries, the use of entangling drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs). Reducing bycatch and avoiding abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) from destroying marine environments, as ghost fishing can help maintain vital ecosystems and preserve biodiversity.

Together with our IPNLF members, a network of industry leaders (commercial companies, large retail companies, seafood brands, food services, civil society organisations, and associations), we make targeted improvements in their one-by-one operations and associated supply chains. In the coming years, we will focus more on climate change solutions, reducing carbon emissions, and incorporating nature-friendly commitments into their commercial operations. The Bali Declaration, signed by the Indonesian government and supported by seventeen IPNLF commercial members, is a great example of how we can integrate new technologies and innovation in Indonesia's small-scale tuna fisheries to make them more competitive globally and ultimately progress them towards more climate-friendly practices in 'Blue Transformation'.

We're looking into new geographies with our Common Oceans research to increase our reach and influence, and our beyond innovative research investigating alternatives to utilising live bait in pole-and-line fisheries helps unlock the potential to promote ocean conservation and alleviate the effects of climate change.

To be at the forefront of such an innovative project for small-scale tuna fisheries is truly exciting. We have the potential to develop a new standard in pole-and-line tuna fishing that can offer a replicable model to other low-impact one-by-one fisheries globally. This form of nature-positive food production may be exactly what we should imagine for wild-caught tuna. When one-by-one fisheries create little harm to the oceans in which they fish, establishing these fisheries for market success could alter the existing tuna industry's paradigm towards a more positive future — a future in which no one is left behind.

"With approximately 800 million people dependent upon fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihoods worldwide, the global seafood industry has a clear responsibility to deliver upon the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, environmental sustainability in tuna fisheries can only be fully achieved by ending the overfishing and destructive fishing practices that are driving the degradation of already threatened marine species, habitats, and ecosystems. Markets must be an important driver to achieve holistic sustainability by purposefully supporting the most socially responsible and ecologically sustainable seafood choices."

— Martin Purves, Managing Director IPNLF



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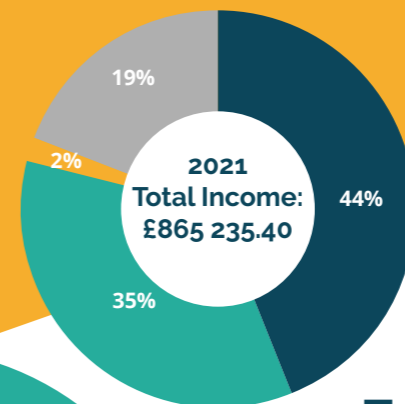
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 Azores Fisheries Observer Program (POPA)
 Blue Marine Foundation
 Break Free From Plastic
 Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions (CASS)
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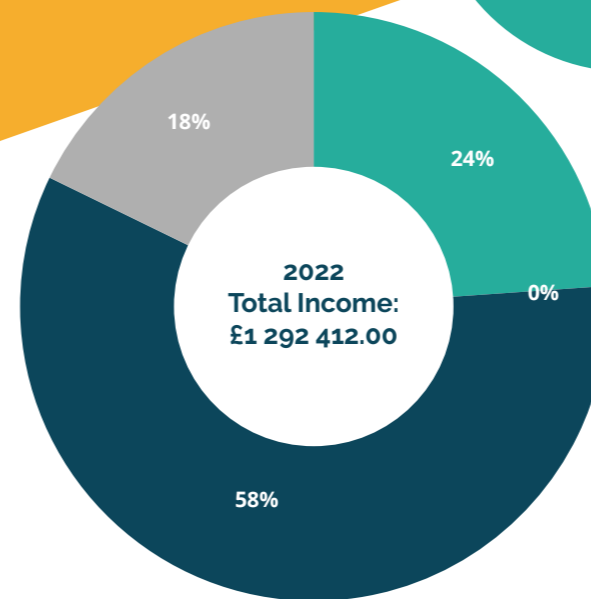
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 Maldives Ministry of Economic Development
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 Maldives Marine Research Institute
 Maldives Ocean Plastics Alliance (MOPA)
 NGO Tuna Forum

Olive Ridley Project
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 Rise Up For The Ocean
 SEA Alliance
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 Small-Scale Fisheries Hub (SSF Hub)
 South Africa Department of Fisheries
 Standards and Trade Development Facility - World Trade Organisation (WTO)
 Transform Bottom Trawling
 UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
 UN Food Systems Summit
 UN Global Compact

UN Development Programme (UNDP)
 UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge
 Walton Family Foundation
 World Cetacean Alliance



- 44% Philanthropic Foundation Funding
- 35% Annual IPNLF Membership Fees
- 2% Member Project Sponsorship
- 19% Corporate Donations

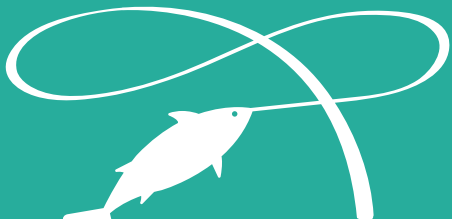


- Annual IPNLF membership fees 24%
- Member project sponsorship 0%
- Philanthropic foundation funding 58%
- Corporate donations 18%

Funding and Finance

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