**TUVALU FISHERIES AUTHORITY**

**Positions: Three Independent Board Directors**

**Background**

The Tuvalu Fisheries Department is seeking applicants from suitably qualified and experienced individuals to fill three vacancies on the new Fisheries Authority Board from 1st July 2025. The Authority will have eight Board members: the Minister of Fisheries Tuvalu (*Chair*), the Secretary of Natural Resources Tuvalu, the Secretary of Finance Tuvalu, the Secretary of Home Affairs Tuvalu, the Managing Director of the Authority and three Independent Directors. The Independent Directors may be recruited domestically or internationally.

Independent Directors are appointed under the authority of the Tuvalu Fisheries Authority Act 2023. All applicants should familiarise themselves with this Act to understand the general functions and powers of the Authority; the Act can be found [here.](https://tuvalu-legislation.tv/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/2023/2023-0001/2023-0001_1.pdf)[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Tuvalu Fisheries**

Tuvalu is one of the most fisheries-dependent nations on earth. Fisheries are important for both the commercial and social wellbeing of the people of Tuvalu.

Revenue from fisheries accounted for around 62% of government revenue in 2020. This was primarily through the sale of access rights under the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (*PNA*) purse seine Vessel Days Scheme (*VDS*), and through longline licensing and transshipment fees. For context, revenue from taxes accounts for 17% of government income. As such, fisheries revenue is essential to fund government services and provide for the wellbeing of the people of Tuvalu.

In addition, coastal fisheries play an essential role in nutrition, food security and the Tuvalu way of life. Tuvaluans are one of the highest per capita consumers of fish in the world, estimated most recently at 72 kgs annually per person (other well-known consumers of fish eat less, e.g. Norway 66kg and Japan 58kg).

Given the shared nature of highly migratory fish stocks in the region, many of the important fisheries management decisions are taken collectively, at a regional level. In practical terms, Tuvalu is unable to effectively manage these stocks alone. At the sub-regional level, management and policy coordination is undertaken through the Forum Fisheries Agency (*FFA*) and the PNA (the latter being particularly important to Tuvalu given agreements through the PNA establish the basis for the VDS).

At the regional level, management is undertaken through the Western and Central Fisheries Commission (*WCPFC*), which also covers areas of the high seas beyond national jurisdiction. In practice, protecting and growing Tuvalu’s interests in tuna and like species (including its current revenue streams) relies on robust, effective, and influential participation in these forums.

By contrast, most of the reef fishes harvested by small-scale commercial and subsistence fishers are resident within Tuvalu and can be managed effectively locally. Tuvalu’s legislation delegates much of the responsibility for managing inshore fisheries to the Kaupule (i.e. Council) of each island, with the Authority playing an advisory and supporting role.

In that context, some of Tuvalu’s key interests in future fisheries governance arrangement are that it:

1. protects and grows revenue from oceanic fisheries by allowing Tuvalu to be an active, informed and influential participant in regional fisheries management processes;
2. protects and enhances the contribution of coastal fisheries to food security and livelihoods through effective stewardship and investment;
3. protects and enhances Tuvalu’s sovereignty and security through effective monitoring, control and surveillance of its maritime domain (and flagged vessels); and
4. ensures that Tuvalu is properly equipped to secure its fair share of any zone-based or high seas allocations in future negotiations.

**Responsibilities and Duties**

The Board is the governing body of the Authority and performs and exercises the functions and powers conferred by the Act. Subject to the Act, the Board is responsible for the policy, control, and strategic direction of the Authority. The Board ensures that the policies of the Authority are directed towards the national interest of Tuvalu, as determined by Cabinet.

The Managing Director is responsible to the Board and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Authority, including all operational issues, staff management and recruitment and budgeting.

**Attendance**

The Board meets at a minimum every two months and more frequently if urgent issues arise. Given the importance of this Authority to the future of Tuvalu, all Directors are expected to attend every meeting of the Board.

If Directors are appointed from outside of Tuvalu, it is expected that they will attend the first meeting in person and then attend subsequent meetings online. Directors that reside in Tuvalu but outside Funafuti are expected to attend Board meetings in person. In both cases, the Authority will cover the costs of travel, accommodation and meals. The Board may amend these travel requirements.

**Qualifications, Skills and Experience**

The selection of the three Independent Directors will be based on merit, industry experience, special knowledge, profession or skill which will be of benefit to the Authority, to provide a range of expertise in the areas of fisheries management, international business, accounting and finance, and other commercial and strategic skills. Experience in fishing and processing, organisational governance, fishing business development and management, sourcing donor and philanthropic funding, and domestic and regional coastal fisheries management would also be an advantage.

In addition to the above, the Authority expects Directors will be able to demonstrate extensive high-level experience and achievements that will enhance the sustainability, and economic and social contribution fisheries make to the people of Tuvalu.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate proven ability aligned to the following skills:

1. knowledge of the context of the operating environment for the Authority, including regional and domestic strategies and challenges;
2. knowledge of legal issues that may affect the Authority;
3. knowledge of emerging issues for the Authority and the international tuna fishing industry;
4. strong communication and teamwork skills;
5. commitment to the role;
6. integrity and credibility;
7. respect, trust, enthusiasm and honesty;
8. strategic thinking.

**Appointment term and Remuneration**

Independent Directors are appointed for a 4-year term. Subject to a performance review and the skills required by the Board, re-appointments can be made.

Directors will receive an annual allowance of AUD$3,000 paid quarterly and will also be entitled to an additional sitting fee of $250 per day.

**How to Apply**

Applicants should, after reading the Act and understanding Tuvalu fisheries and their importance to the country, apply in writing, highlighting their skills and experience and providing a brief curriculum vitae.

Appointments to the Board are made pursuant to the Public Enterprise (Performance and Accountability) Act 2009 that sets out additional requirements of those being appointed to the Authority. Consequently, applicants must also complete and attach to the following forms with their application:

* Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Convictions
* Public Enterprise (Performance and Accountability) Act Compliance

These forms are attached

Applications must be received by 31st March 2025 and should be sent to:

Mr Sam Finikaso

Director of Fisheries

Tuvalu Fisheries Department

Email: samf@tuvalufisheries.tv

or by delivering a hard copy to:

Tuvalu Fisheries Department

Te Auala O Tuvalu

Vaiaku

Tuvalu

**DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND CONVICTIONS**

**Office: Director of the Tuvalu Fisheries Authority**

I, (Name ………………………………………) of (Address ……………………………………………………………) being an applicant for a position of Director of the Tuvalu Fisheries Authority, do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1. I consent to being considered for my appointment as a Director of the Tuvalu Fisheries Authority.
2. My Personal details are as follows:
	1. Full Name: ……………………………………………………………………………….
	2. Residential Address: ………………………………………………………………….
	3. Business Address: …………………………………………………………………….
	4. Date of Birth: ……………………………………………………………………………
	5. Place of Birth Including Country: …………………………………………………
	6. Business Occupation (if any)? …………………………………………………….
3. My Directorships and other interests are as follows:
	1. Particulars of any directorships or other offices which I hold in other companies or Public Enterprises are set out in Part 1 of this Declaration.
	2. Particulars of any membership of partnerships and interests in trusts, joint ventures or other arrangements for the sharing of profits, are set out in Part 2 of this Declaration.
	3. Except as set out in Part 2 of this Declaration, I:
		1. do not have a beneficial interest in any shares; and
		2. do not have a beneficial interest in any securities (however described).
4. Except as set out in Part 3 of this Declaration, I am not directly or indirectly interested in any contract or proposed contract with a Public Enterprise, or any of its subsidiaries.
5. Except as set out in Part 4 of this Declaration, I do not have a beneficial interest in any property or office.
6. Except as set out in Part 5 of this Declaration, I have no conviction in Tuvalu or elsewhere for dishonesty or any other offence.
7. Other than the matters detailed in this Declaration, I have no direct or indirect interest which conflicts or which could conflict with my duty as a director of a Public Enterprise.
8. If appointed, I request that this Declaration be brought up and read at the next meeting of Directors of the Tuvalu Fisheries Authority.
9. If appointed, I declare that if any of the matters referred to in this Declaration change I will execute a further declaration immediately and file it with the Secretary for Justice.

PART 1: OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS OR OFFICES HELD

[Details]

PART 2: RELEVANT INTERESTS IN PARTNERSHIPS, TRUSTS, JOINT VENTURES, OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHARING PROFITS, SHARES AND SECURITIES

[Details]

PART 3: INTERESTS IN CONTRACTS WITH ANY PUBLIV ENTERPRISE OR THEIR SUBSIDIARIES

[Details]

PART 4: OTHER PROPERTY AND OFFICES HELD

[Details]

PART 5: CONVICTIONS

[Details]

Signature: …………………………………………………

Name: ……………………………………………………..

Declared at ……………….………………………..….. (location) on ………………..…………… (date)

before me:

(Signature)

(Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Tuvalu)

(or a person authorised to take a statutory declaration in the Applicant’s country of residence)

**PUBLIC ENTERPRISE (PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY) ACT**

**COMPLIANCE DECLARATION**

Appointments to the Board are made pursuant to the Public Enterprise (Performance and Accountability) Act 2009 which sets out additional criteria.

Please answer the following questions, if you would like to make any comments regarding your answers, please do so on the reverse of this form.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No |
| 1. I am under 21 years of age.
 |[ ] [ ]
| 1. I am an undischarged bankrupt.
 |[ ] [ ]
| 1. I have been adjudged to be mentally defective under the Mental Health Ordinance 1961.
 |[ ] [ ]
| 1. I am disqualified from being a Director under sections 202, 203 or 204 of the Companies Act 1991.
 |[ ] [ ]
| 1. I have been convicted in Tuvalu or elsewhere of an offence punishable by death or by imprisonment for a term of 2 years or more.
 |[ ] [ ]
| 1. I have attended a Directors’ training course, or am willing to do so prior to my appointment.
 |[ ] [ ]
| 1. I have been a director or manager of a company at the time the company has been placed in receivership or liquidation, whether such receivership or liquidation occurred in Tuvalu or elsewhere.
 |[ ] [ ]
| 1. I have a history of failing to repay on time any money legally owed to any Public Trading Enterprise.
 |[ ] [ ]
| 1. I am an employee, director or shareholder in another enterprise or institution whose business is similar to or potentially in conflict with the Tuvalu Fisheries Authority.
 |[ ] [ ]
| 1. I am a Member of Parliament, Public Servant or a Constitutional Officer.
 |[ ] [ ]
| 10 a. If the answer to the previous question was “Yes”, has Cabinet certified your appointment. |[ ] [ ]

The information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and no material omissions have been made:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(signed)\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_\_

1. <https://tuvalu-legislation.tv/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/2023/2023-0001/2023-0001_1.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)