

NOTED:

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## 'All we want is a fairer share'

***Our Ocean's Promise: From aspiration to inspiration: The Marshall Islands Fishing story***, by Giff Johnson. Majuro: Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority, 2021, 200 pages.

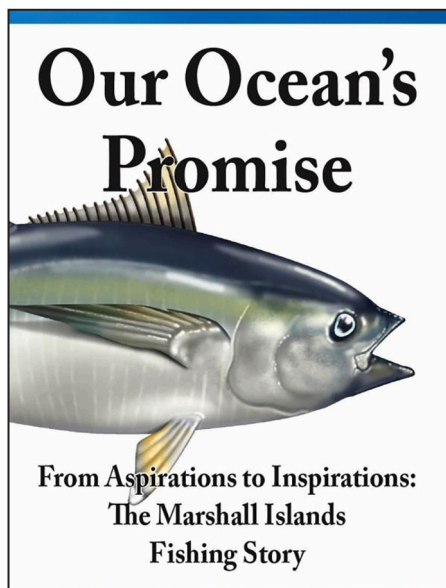
**T**HIS lavishly illustrated history of the development of commercial fishing in the Marshall Islands will be of interest to anybody concerned with economic development and sensible management of fishing stocks in the Pacific.

For many islands their offshore economic zones and fishing fields have been a source, even potentially, of wealth. However, overfishing and the loss of fishing stock through legal agreements, leasing arrangements and outright piracy have been a problem for many island states in recent years.

The question has been how to manage this for the benefit of each nation. This book shows the path the Marshall Islands took and the financial growth that resulted. In 2010 returns from tuna fishing were US\$4 million. By 2017 they were US\$30 million.

A desire to benefit directly from the island's nation's marine resources was paramount in the minds of the country's fisheries programme, as it worked under the Parties to Nauru Agreement.

Dr Transform Aqorau, who was founding CEO of the PNA office in



Majuro, approvingly cites one Marshalllese negotiator as declaring: 'All we want is to get a fairer share of the benefits from our tuna resources—now is that wrong?'

The Marshall Islands Marine Authority has been involved in a range of activities to promote the industry, from promoting work experience through schools, partnering with the US, Australia, New Zealand and France to monitor fishing stocks, establishing facilities for approved operators and transforming the industry from one where the government simply sold licences to one where the country is more and more involved in the whole tuna supply chain.