



Report

SIMA Culminating Workshop on National Shipping Asset & Maritime Workforce Accounts

Solomon Islands Maritime Authority
sima.gov.sb

Introduction

The Ocean Accounting for Maritime Transport Workshop marked a significant milestone in strengthening evidence-based maritime governance in Solomon Islands. The workshop was convened by the Solomon Islands Maritime Authority (SIMA) in partnership with the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) Secretariat at the University of New South Wales, with support from the Pacific Community.

As a Large Ocean State with over 900 islands and 98% of its territory comprising ocean, Solomon Islands depends fundamentally on maritime transport for connectivity, economic activity, and public service delivery. However, maritime data has historically been fragmented across registries and institutions, limiting its usefulness for planning, investment, and climate finance engagement.

The Ocean Accounts Pilot for Maritime Transport addresses this gap by transforming dispersed data into internationally standardized, auditable accounts aligned with global statistical standards. The workshop provided a platform to present the pilot findings, validate their policy relevance, and discuss the next phase of expansion and institutional integration.



Figure 1: Participants paused for a group photo.

Purpose & Objective

Purpose

The purpose of the workshop was to present and validate the findings of the Solomon Islands Ocean Accounts Pilot for Maritime Transport, and to demonstrate how ocean accounting can support national planning, fleet modernisation, workforce development, and climate finance mobilisation.

Objectives

The specific objectives were to:

1. Present the methodology and framework underpinning the Ocean Accounts, aligned with the System of National Accounts (SNA 2025).
2. Share key findings from:
 - The National Shipping Asset Account
 - The Maritime Labour Account
 - The Input-Output Analysis of economic linkages
3. Demonstrate the Maritime Transport Dashboard as a decision-support tool.
4. Engage stakeholders in discussions on data integration, governance, and Phase 2 expansion.
5. Position Solomon Islands as a regional leader in maritime ocean accounting among Pacific Small Islands Developing States (SIDS).

Meeting Arrangements

Date: Thursday 13 February 2026.

Location: Heritage Park Hotel, Honiara.

Proceeding & discussion points

Opening

The Director of SIMA emphasised:

- The strategic importance of maritime data for national development and climate resilience.
- The need to move from fragmented datasets toward integrated, standardised accounts.
- SIMA's commitment to strengthening data governance and institutional capacity.

Presentations and interactive sessions

The technical session commenced with an introduction to the project and Ocean Accounts framework delivered by Dr. Ben Milligan of the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). He outlined the Ocean Accounts Framework and its alignment with international

statistical standards, including the SNA 2025 and System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). The presentation clarified the objectives of the Solomon Islands Maritime Transport Pilot and highlighted the collaborative partnership between the Solomon Islands Maritime Authority (SIMA), GOAP/UNSW, and the Pacific Community (SPC).



Figure 2: Dr. Ben Milligan

This was followed by the presentation of the finalised accounts by Dr Cheryl Joy Fernandez-Abila (GOAP). The National Shipping Asset Account provided a comprehensive valuation of the domestic fleet, estimating a current fleet value of USD 25.8 million against a full replacement cost of USD 75 million, covering 183 vessels with a combined 80,332 GT and an average age of approximately 25 years. Discussion centred on the USD 50 million capital renewal gap and the risk of a “replacement cliff” as vessels approach end-of-life. Participants emphasised the importance of sequencing fleet replacement over budget cycles and using the USD 75 million replacement envelope as a credible baseline for climate finance proposals aligned with the 2023 strategy of the International Maritime Organization.



Figure 3: Dr. Cheryl Joy Fernandez-Abila

The Maritime Workforce and Skills Account was then presented, estimating a mid-range workforce of 1,365 seafarers with annual compensation of approximately USD 24 million. The certification-based wage hierarchy highlighted structural gaps within the sector. Discussion focused on shortages of Class 2 and Class 3 officers, the need for structured training pipelines, and the importance of upskilling deckhands—who represent 45% of the workforce—to strengthen long-term sector resilience.



Figure 4: Participants separated into 3 groups and discuss during the workshop.

The session proceeded with a demonstration of the Maritime Transport Dashboard by Dr Edoardo Santagata (GOAP). The dashboard was presented as a practical decision-support tool capable of monitoring fleet composition and value, tracking workforce data, and supporting investment scenario analysis. Participants discussed the importance of linking the dashboard to live SIMA databases, automating vessel operational status tracking, and enhancing its usability for senior decision-makers and Cabinet reporting.



Figure 5: Dr. Eduardo Santagata

Questions/Answers session

Comments were made as follows:

- A participant stressed that agriculture should be elevated as a key priority within maritime connectivity planning.
- The discussion underscored a shared commitment among all stakeholders to exchange data to ensure the ocean accounts initiative can advance effectively.
- Participants acknowledged that data integration across organizations is essential for producing comprehensive and policy-relevant accounts.

Participants emphasized that investment in fleet assets and the maritime workforce should be approached as an integrated strategy rather than treated as separate, unrelated priorities. The discussion highlighted the interconnected nature of these investments and the need for coordinated planning:

- Participants indicated a willingness to share maritime data, contingent upon the establishment of appropriate safeguards and data protection measures.

- The discussion revealed the absence of institutional frameworks such as formal data sharing agreements, legislative mandates, and governance structures, that would make data sharing safe, accountable, and mutually beneficial.
- This gap was identified as a key barrier requiring immediate attention.

Closing & Outcome

The workshop concluded with a facilitated session to reflect on the day’s discussions and findings. The session resulted in a set of formally endorsed outcomes representing the shared commitments of all stakeholders present, as outlined below.

The workshop:

- **Expressed appreciation** to the Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of New South Wales (UNSW), through the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP), for successfully implementing the Ocean Accounting for Maritime Transport pilot in Solomon Islands and establishing a credible, internationally aligned evidence base for maritime governance.
- **Endorsed Ocean Accounting** as a scalable and transferable methodology capable of capturing the economic, social, and asset value dimensions of the ocean sector, and as a foundation for integrated, evidence-based decision-making.
- **Recommended upscaling** the Maritime Transport pilot into a comprehensive national programme, led in collaboration with SPC and UNSW, to support large-scale development planning and investment in fleet modernisation, port infrastructure, workforce development, and climate-aligned maritime transition.
- **Encouraged other ocean-related sectors** (including fisheries, tourism, and coastal development) to adopt Ocean Accounting as a governance and investment planning tool to strengthen ocean policy coherence and sustainability.
- **Called for strengthened collaboration** among the Solomon Islands Maritime Authority (SIMA), Ocean12, UNSW/GOAP, SPC, relevant government agencies, provincial authorities, industry stakeholders, and development partners to expand and institutionalise Ocean Accounting under the Solomon Islands Ocean Policy framework.
- **Agreed to formally report** the workshop outcomes to the Ocean12 Steering Committee to guide strategic coordination, institutional alignment, and future resource mobilisation efforts.

Following the endorsement of the workshop outcomes, Mr. Allen Ofea, Manager Executive Office at SIMA, delivered the closing remarks. He expressed sincere appreciation to GOAP and UNSW for their technical leadership in delivering the Ocean Accounting for Maritime Transport pilot, and acknowledged SPC for its financial support.

Mr. Ofea also thanked government officials, maritime stakeholders, ship operators, and partners for their active participation and valuable data contributions. He encouraged continued collaboration as the initiative moves into its next phase.

Event Programme

Time	Details	Speakers
1:00pm – 1:30pm	Registration	SIMA
1:30pm – 1:45pm	Opening Remarks Strategic importance of maritime data for Solomon Islands' development and climate resilience; SIMA's commitment to data governance.	Mr Thierry Nervale SIMA
1:45pm – 2:00pm	Introduction to the Project and Ocean Accounts	Dr Ben Milligan GOAP
2:00pm – 2:30pm	Finalised Account Findings and Q&A National Shipping Asset Account; Maritime Workforce & Skills Account; Policy implications	Dr Cheryl Joy Fernandez-Abila GOAP
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Dashboard Demonstration and Q&A	Dr Edoardo Santagata GOAP
3:00pm – 4:20pm	Phase 2 Expansion and Data Governance <i>Activity</i>	GOAP
4:20pm – 4:30pm	10 mins break	
4:30pm – 4:45pm	Workshop Outcomes & Closing Remarks	Mr Allen Ofea SIMA
5:00pm - 7:00pm	Cocktail Reception	

List of participants

Name	Organization	Contact
Heartly Tepai	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology	HTepai@meccdm.gov.sb
Mathew Wale	Ministry of National Planning & Development Cooperation	MWalekoro@mnpdc.gov.sb
Selwyn Riumana	Uta Shipping Company LTD	selwynriumana@gmail.com
Kirby Perez	Elite Shipping Service	kirby.perez@gmail.com
Seru Tema	Earthmover Solomon Islands	serutema6@gmail.com
Austin Holmes	Earthmovers Solomon Islands	holmes_al@yahoo.com
Philip Malana	Uta Shippings Company LTD	Philip.malana70@gmail.com
Dick Sikapu		
Teorae Kabure	Solomon Islands Maritime College	Teorae.Kabure@sinu.edu.sb
Oscar Vahimana	HKKH Shipping Services/SIMTA President	md@hkkhshippingservice.com.sb
Alfred Pagepitu	Solomon Islands Broadcasting Cooperation	evapitua@gmail.com
Alex Dadamu	Solomon Islands Broadcasting Cooperation	alexdamu@gmail.com
Andrew Kilimani	Solomon Islands Ports Authority	akilimani@sipa.com.sb
Tony Langston	Callido Pacific LTD	tonylangston1966@gmail.com
John Hugo Bugoro	SIMA Board Chairperson	hugojohn1967@gmail.com
Caroline Laore	Henderson Logistics Transportation/SIMTA	cvlaore@gmail.com
Maurice Vaqalo	Vatate Investment & Development Company	mvaqalo@gmail.com
Ashley Vasula	Solomon Islands Ports Authority	avasula@sipa.com.sb
Godwin Bebeu	Solomon Islands Ports Authority	gbebeu@sipa.com.sb
John Dalomae	Solomon Islands Maritime Authority	malesi.mani@sima.gov.sb
Maselyn Kopuria	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology	MKopuria@meccdm.gov.sb
Agnetha Vave Karamui	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology	AVave-Karamui@meccdm.gov.sb
Brian Akwasia	Ministry of Foreign Affairs & External Trade	Brian.Akwasia@mfaet.gov.sb
Steneth Kaniki	Ministry of Forestry & Research	skaniki@mofr.gov.sb
Barbara Qaqa	Solomon Islands Ports Authority	bqaqa@sipa.com.sb
Lawinta Kii	Kii's Shipping	lawinterkii@gmail.com
Rieka Kwalai	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources	RKwalai@fisheries.gov.sb
Robert Kaua	Ministry of Provincial Government & Institutional Strengthening	RKaua@mpgis.gov.sb