



FISHERIES

DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS FISHING HARBOURS IN THE MALDIVES



MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT & TRADE



INVEST
MALDIVES

Development of Sports Fishing Harbours in the Maldives

A First-Mover Opportunity in Marine Recreation and Blue Economy Infrastructure

The Government of Maldives invites investors to participate in the development of the country's first-ever sports fishing marinas. With a fast-growing interest in recreational fishing and a thriving tourism base of over 170 resorts and 150 safari vessels, the Maldives is poised to become a premium destination for sportfishing tourism in the Indian Ocean.

This project offers the opportunity to build and operate full-service sports fishing harbours with mooring, logistics, and hospitality facilities, tailored to international anglers, safari operators, and guesthouse visitors. Designated five marina zones across the country offer calm waters year-round, ease of access, and proximity to established tourist infrastructure.

Project Overview

The marinas will serve as purpose-built hubs for sports fishing activities, integrating safe mooring, boat servicing, and value-added facilities. By creating focal points for the currently scattered sportfishing sector, the project enhances visitor experience, improves fish handling quality, and unlocks new income streams through charters, services, and local supply chains.

Project Objectives:

- Establish dedicated marinas for sports fishing in five selected zones
- Provide high-quality infrastructure for mooring, vessel maintenance, storage, and logistics
- Offer value-added services including accommodation, dining, gear shops, and fish processing
- Generate employment and support local businesses through a new blue economy vertical

Designated Marina Sites

Each site offers calm conditions in both monsoons and sizable land/water area for marina development:

Location	Atoll	Size(ha)	Latitude / Longitude	Features
Kaafu BOCHUFALHU	Kaafu	71	4°18'35.0"N/ 73°31'8.50"E	Accessible / Calm in both monsoons
Vaavu MAADHIGGARU FALHU	Vaavu	311	3°31.7'00"N/ 73°31'00"E	Calm in both monsoons
Gaafu Dhaalu BOLIMATHIDHOO FALHU	Gaafu Dhaalu	110	0°13'59.2"N/ 73°07'35.3"E	Calm in both monsoons

Key Components

1. Harbour Infrastructure

- Mooring berths for recreational fishing vessels and safari boats
- Fueling stations and freshwater supply
- Cold storage and shore-based fish handling facilities

2. Support and Commercial Services

- Boat repair workshops and gear shops
- Office space for charters, marketing, & tour operations
- Restaurants, cafés, and retail for visitors and locals
- Accommodation and lodge-style rooms for sport fishing enthusiasts

3. Tourism and Economic Integration

- Charter and trip booking services
- Supply linkages with local businesses and artisans
- Platform for community-based tourism and training

Why Invest in Fishing Marinas?

- Untapped Niche Market: No dedicated sportfishing marinas exist despite proven interest and demand
- Growing Tourism Sector: Over 170 resorts and hundreds of safari vessels already operating
- Geographic Spread: Sites available across north, central, and south Maldives
- Natural Advantage: Calm lagoons, rich biodiversity, and scenic anchorages
- Strong Government Backing: Land secured, incentives approved, fast-track engagement

Investment Model and Incentives

- 100% Foreign Ownership Permitted
- Land Lease Available: Long-term lease options in designated marina zones
- Incentives:
 - No land acquisition fee
 - Import duty exemptions on marina-related inputs
 - Rent-free period of up to 3 years

Next Steps

The Government of Maldives welcomes proposals and inquiries from investors seeking to develop one or more of the designated marina zones. Concept proposals, technical capacity, and preferred development structures can be submitted to the Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources.

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