

## Manta Still Recovering from Earthquake

Tuna industry leader calls for more attention to aftermath of the April 17 tragedy

**MANTA, Ecuador – May 16, 2016** – It’s been one month since a powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Manta, Ecuador – the tuna capital of the Western Hemisphere, and home of Tri Marine’s large-scale tuna processing company, Seafman. The tragic natural disaster claimed the lives of 600 people and thousands were left homeless.



Earthquake damage to Manta.

“As an industry that relies on this region and has deep ties to the community of Manta, it is important that we not forget about the lingering needs of the region,” said Ramon Sierra, General Manager of Seafman. “While our facility was severely affected, our primary concern is for the workers and families that rely upon tuna for their livelihoods.”

The damage resulting from the earthquake stopped production at Seafman for two weeks.

“It was a proud moment for our company to see employees and management courageously and tirelessly come together and clean up the debris, making the critical repairs to restart production, minimizing delays to promised shipments that helped restore some semblance of routine to lives forever changed by the catastrophic earthquake,” Sierra added.

While Seafman was not processing at the time the April 17 quake hit, there were people in the plant preparing for the next load of fish to be processed. While one of those employees recovers from injuries sustained during the earthquake, the company has guaranteed that a job will be waiting for him when he is ready to return to work. Tri Marine has also set up a Seafman Family fund to help any employee who was injured or impacted by the quake, and hopes others in



Damage at Seafman following earthquake.

the industry and with interests in the region will consider supporting the much-needed aid effort.

With more than 1,500 employees, more than 80 lost their homes, nearly 900 had partial damage to their homes, and more than 300 are currently living in shelters or with relatives and friends. To date, Seafman is also aware of 23 deaths related to employees and nearly 80 injuries.

To bring some of these statistics to life, the company has asked permission to share some of the personal stories of its employees (below). The company is matching all donations made to its Seafman Family fund. It also encourages those who are moved to make a difference to consider donating either to its fund or to one of the other organizations listed below who are on the ground in Manta.



**Mirian Cecilia Alvia Alonzo**

**Position at Seafman: Quality Control**

**Loss: Family and her home (home collapsed)**



**Ramón Lizardo Cantos Macías**

**Position at Seafman: Fish preparation**

**Loss: Home severely damaged**



**Seida Mariana Mero Vélez**

**Position at Seafman: Home destroyed**

**Loss: Home destroyed**



**Martha Cecilia Moreira Pibaque**

**Position at Seafman: Production**

**Loss: Home**



**Nixon Joffrey Vilela Reyes**

**Position at Seafman: Sanitation**

**Loss: Home**



**Silvana Lourdes Reyes Vásquez**

**Position at Seafman: Fish Cleaner**

**Loss: Home**

## **Manta Earthquake Relief Organizations**

### **Rotary Club of Manta**

BANCO DE GUAYAQUIL

SWIFT CODE: GUAYEGXXX

BENEFICIARY: DISTRITO 4400 DE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 41233184

### **Samaritan's Purse**

[Fund specifically for the Ecuador earthquake](#)

### **Catholic Relief Services**

This is a fund specifically for the [Ecuador earthquake](#)

### **Seafman Families**

BENEFICIARY BANK: PRODUBANCO

AV. AMAZONAS N35-211 Y JAPON

SWIFT CODE: PRODECEQ

BENEFICIARY: SEAFMAN

SAVINGS ACCOUNT NO: 12303096018

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## **ABOUT TRI MARINE**

Tri Marine is a recognized leader in fishing, processing, trading and distributing high-quality tuna products to the world's markets. The company focuses on quality, sustainability, traceability, innovation and customer satisfaction. As an environmentally and socially responsible operator, Tri Marine has chosen to invest in communities closest to fishery resources. Together with its workforce of over 5,000 employees, Tri Marine is committed to all of its customers, suppliers and stakeholders for the long term. For more information, visit [www.trimarinegroup.com](http://www.trimarinegroup.com).