

## **MONTHLY REPORT (August 2011)– TECHNICAL**

### **FOREIGN FISHING VESSEL**

In 2004 Tonga placed a moratorium on foreign fishing vessel and as a result no tuna fishing licence was issued to foreign fishing vessel. In 2006 the Foreign Investment Regulations came into force and it stipulates that commercial fishing comprising tuna fishing, aquaculture, bottom fishing in waters deeper than 500m and other water fishing not less than 100m shall be conducted subject to their resource management plan administered by the Ministry responsible for Fisheries. In August 2011 Tonga opens tuna fishing to foreign fishing nations and the annual licensing fee for locally based foreign fishing vessel to fish in Tonga waters is USD20, 000. Tonga is now having one licensed locally based foreign fishing vessel.

It must be noted that it is a requirement that all foreign fishing vessels must be registered in the FFA register before licensing by a FFA member state.