



MINISTRY OF FISHERIES

FISHERIES QUARTERLY REPORT

FOURTH QUARTER 2023

October - December, 2023



MARINE EXPORTS

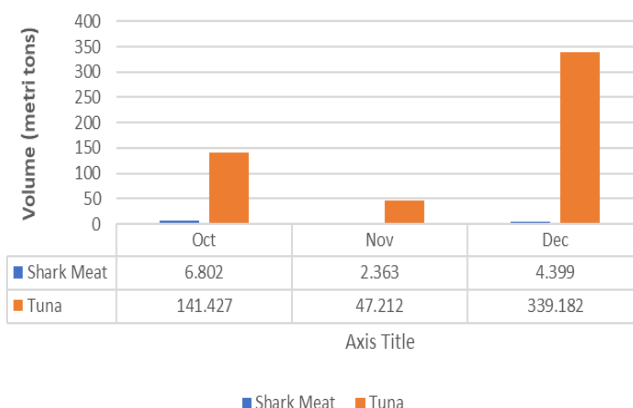
The total quantity of marine products exported this quarter was 541.385mt, where, 13.564mt of shark meat and 527.821mt of tuna. Snapper fishery hasn't been exported yet due to lack of market access, but they are sold locally. Tuna continues to dominate the overall exports in this quarter with a total of 97.5% and the remaining 2.5% was the shark meat. The trend of the exports for this quarter shows a decreasing from October to November then rapid increase in December due to the number of trips throughout the quarter.

The total quantity of fish products exported this quarter (not including aquarium) shows an increasing of 33.8% from the amount exported in the previous quarter (Q3, 2023), and there was a slightly decreased of 7.28% compared to the exports of the same quarter last year (Q4, 2022).

The total FOB value of marine exports recorded in this quarter was approximately valued at TOP 2.81 millions which is a 39.5% increased from the value of marine products exported in the previous quarter and decreased of 16.6% compared to the total value of exports in quarter 4 of the previous year (2022).

Source: Fisheries exports database

Marine Exports Performance for Q4, 2023.



**FOB = Free On Board, describes a price which includes goods plus the services at the time of offloading from the vessel at first landing. This is a static value designated to each export product. The value is an historical estimate and may not represent the true present value.*

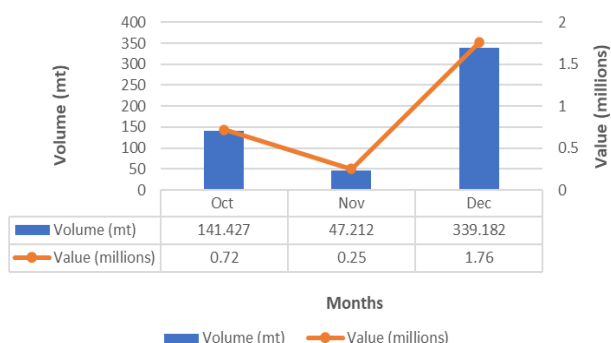
TUNA FISHERY

The total quantity of tuna exported this quarter was 527.821mt which is an increased of 41.3% from the amount of tuna exported in the previous quarter and it was decreasing of 7.9% compared to that of the same quarter last year. The total value for tuna exported in this quarter was valued at about 2.81 millions which is a 43.1% greater than the export values in the previous quarter and 13.5% less than that of same quarter last year. Tuna exported this quarter shows an increased trend in December.

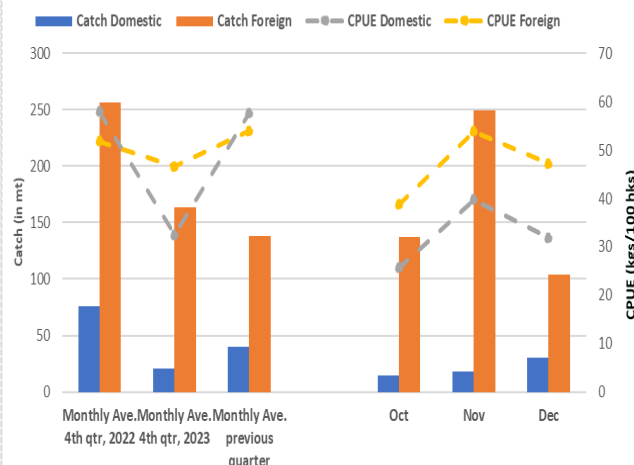
The total tuna unloaded this quarter was 534.8 metric tons which were caught from 44 trips with 12 foreign and 32 domestic trips. Foreign fleets continue to dominate in this fishery with total catch landing of 464.0mt. The catch effort for foreign fleets shows a increasing trend over October to November then decrease in December due to bad weather conditions with poor catch rates. However, the domestic vessel's landing for this quarter was only 70.9mt. Domestic catch effort slightly increased through out the quarter from October to December.

The average overall performance of the Tuna Fishery for this quarter shows a higher average performance of foreign vessels in compared to previous quarter (Q3, 2023) but lower than that of the same period last year (Q4, 2022). However, overall performance for domestic fleets in this quarter shows a lower performance compares to both the previous quarter as well as Q4, 2022. As for the average catch and effort, this quarter is lower than both CPUE for the previous quarter (Q3, 2023) as well as the same quarter last year (Q4, 2022).

Tuna Exports for Q4, 2023

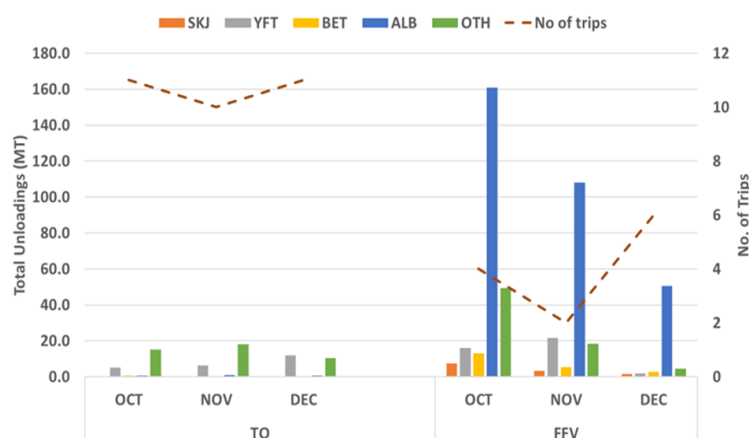


Tuna Fishery performance, 4th Qrt 2023



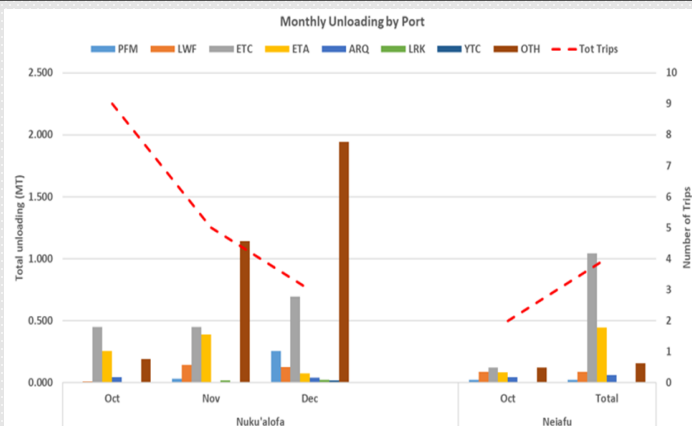
Source: Ministry of Fisheries Tuna exports database

Monthly Unloading by Tuna species



A total catch of only 8.125 metric tons of snappers were unloaded in this quarter, which consists of 1.446mt in October, 2.181mt in November and 4.498mt in December. This data were collected from two sites, which is Nukualofa Port with 6.307mt and Neiafu Port with 1.82mt. Landing of snappers for this quarter shows an increasing slope through out October to December due to increased active vessels with good catch rate.

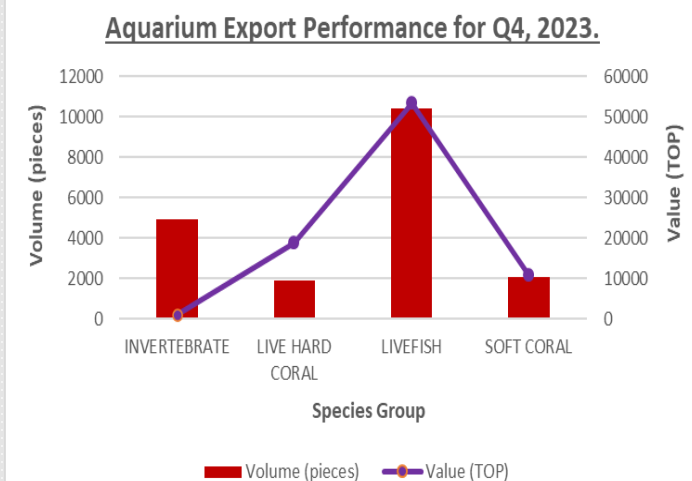
However, the overall average catches of snapper in this quarter is lower than the catches in the previous quarter by 99% and also decrease in compared to the same quarter of previous year (Q4, 2022). The average number of trip shows a decreasing trend from the previous quarter where it went down from 29 trips last quarter (Q3, 2023) to 21 trips in this quarter. However, the total catch effort for this quarter increases through out this quarter, from October to November and in December.



The total quantity of aquarium products exported this quarter was 19,264 pieces, which is an increased of 10.9% from the total aquarium products exported in the previous quarter where 17165 pieces exported. Hence, in compared with the amount of aquarium products exported in the same quarter of the previous year, which was 26652 pieces, it shows a decreased of 38.4%.

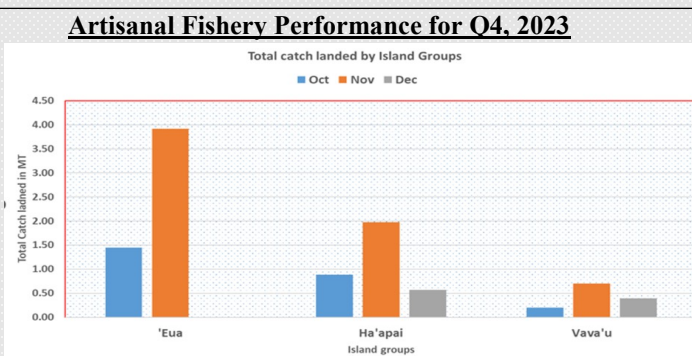
The exported aquarium products for this quarter was dominated by live fish exporting 10436 pieces, followed by invertebrates with 4897 pieces, then soft corals exporting 2060 pieces, and the least exported aquarium product for this quarter was live hard coral with 1871 pieces.

The total FOB value of the exported aquarium products in this quarter was approximately TOP 0.084 millions, 0.062 millions in the previous quarter (Q3, 2023) and 0.16 millions in quarter 4 of the previous year (Q4, 2022). This trend shows an increasing of 26.2% from the previous quarter and it was decline by 90.5% in compared to the same quarter of the previous year (Q4, 2022).



The total quantity of tuna artisanal fish recorded in this quarter was 10.08 metric tons which were caught and collected from 3 different sites. The highest volume of tuna-like species recorded during this quarter was at the Nafanua Wharf with 5.37 mt, then Taufaāhau Wharf with 3.42 mt, then Halaevalu Wharf with the least catch of 1.29 mt.

The highest catch landing this quarter was recorded in November with 6.6mt, followed with 2.53mt in October and 0.96 mt in December. The artisanal performance for this quarter shows an increase trend of 63.3% in compared to the previous quarter (Q3, 2023) and also increase slope of 35.8% from that of the same quarter last year (Q4, 2022).



There were total of 18.1 metric tons of marine resources recorded in this quarter, from different sites within Tongatapu, Haapai and Vavau. This shows an increase of 34.8% from the previous quarter and also increase from the same period last year with 59.1% However, the amount recorded this quarter was valued at approximately TOP\$0.3 millions which shows an increasing trend from both the previous quarter (Q3, 2023) and Q4, 2022.

The average domestic price varied from time to time according to market demand for fish but usually the changes in fish market price is determined by the quantity of marine products available at that time in the market.

Source: Ministry of Fisheries Artisanal database.

