

Ministry of Fisheries

April Newsletter



CEO's OFFICE

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Deputy CEO for Fisheries Science Division (FSD) Mr Siola'a attended the High Seas Limits and Allocations Workshop and US Treaty Annual Consultation. The High Seas Limits and Allocation Workshop aim to improve management of fishing on the high seas is a priority of FFA members towards negotiation and operation of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The US Treaty Annual consultation 2018 was focused on the implementation of the Treaty under its revised terms and new "business model", update ratification of the Amendment 2016 and operational issues.

CORPORATE SERVICE DIVISION (CSD)

Deputy for CSD Mr. Vilimo Fakalolo and Fisheries Officer Mrs. Makeleta Mahe completed the outer-islands Vava'u and Ha'apai PMS checks. Vilimo and Makeleta are the Ministry's PMS managers and their visits are to ensure that teams at outer island are ready to undertake their End of Financial Year assessment, Mid Year Review in place and briefing on PSC-PMS team visit.

The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). Computer Programmer Mrs. Lavinia represented the Ministry at the 12th annual Tuna Data Workshop.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (FMDD)

Dr Salome Taufa with the assistance of Principal Officer Mrs Elaine Havealeta and Fisheries Officer Mrs Alice Helu completed the consultation in 'Eua on

Right-based Fisheries Management (RBM). This activity is to give the public a better understanding of RBM which is a new tool introduced to better manage fishing activities.

Principal Officer Mrs. Elaine Havealeta and Fisheries Officer Mr Samiuela Pohiva completed the 2018 Training workshop in Fisheries Economics. This is an opportunity for the Ministry to develop and increase its capacity to undertake and interpret economic analyses related to the national, sub-regional and regional management of its tuna fisheries and associated industries.

FISHERIES SCIENCE DIVISION (FSD)

Deputies CEO for FMDD and FSD Mrs Mele 'Atuekaho, Dr. Siola'a Malimali, Legal Officer Ms Salote Koloamatangi and supporting staffs visited including Vava'u staffs completed the community consultation on Sea Cucumber Management Plan 2020-2025. The community consultation focused Vava'u island on the Draft Implementation of the new policy in the Sea Cucumber Management Plan 2020-2025. As part of the direction from Cabinet the consultation is a requirement on management and development of sea cucumber resources in all Tonga Fisheries Waters.

Acting Head of Section for Offshore Mrs. Lavinia Vaipuna and Senior Fisheries Assistant Mr. Malakai Faletau attended the Tufman 2 Observer Module. The Tufman 2 is the Tuna Management System developed by SPC hosted in the cloud which allows the online data entry of the Tuna data (log sheets, unloading and port sampling). This training is crucial to our Ministry given Malakai is in charge for observer log sheets data entry and Lavinia is in charge of the system's technical sites.

Fisheries Officer Mr. Latu 'Aisea represented the Ministry at the Second Meeting of the Coastal Fisheries Working Group (CFWG). This initiative is to provide adequate level of support, resources and

services towards assisting national fisheries agencies and local communities management of coastal fisheries resources.

The WAITTS foundation team and Fisheries Officer completed the Biological and Ecological survey at Holeva and Koloa Special management Area. This is an opportunity for Hulita whom is in charge of scientific survey to build her capacity in biological and ecological survey.

Fisheries Assistant Mr. 'Ioane Finau and labors 'Aisea Vailea, Viliami 'Ofa and 'Otinili Fangupo completed the seaweed planting at 'Umuna island. The opportunity is to replant more seedlings to increase the production as part of the Ministry's development of aquaculture to sustain resources.

FISHERIES COMPLIANCE DIVISION (FCD)

Legal Officer Ms. Salote Koloamatangi, Senior Fisheries Officer Mrs. Manatu Maile and Technical Officer Ms. Kalolaine Manuopangai completed the Joint PNA and FFA workshop on Insurance coverage for Fisheries Observers. This opportunity enables Salote, Manatu and Kalolaine to learn more about issues face by fisheries observers and also take part in first hand discussion on how to further improve insurance coverage for our local Fisheries Observers.

Technical Officer Ms. Kalolaine Manuopangai completed the introduction and promotion of the Observer Program to outer islands Vava'u and Ha'apai. The promotion is to increase the number of observers at outer islands given the past 5 years more than 30 observers at Tongatapu have been trained but only 5 are still interested.

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