The export quantity of tuna and associated by-catch for this quarter decreased by 88% as compared to the 1st quarter 2013 and also a decrease by 21% as compared to the previous quarter (4th Quarter 2013). The total FOB value of marine exports for the first quarter is TOP$884,065. This is a 34% decrease in the FOB value of marine resources exported during the same period last year and a 51% decrease from value of that exported in the previous quarter.

The decline is due mainly to the significant decline in seaweed export, which made up 12% of the total marine products exported in the first quarter, 2013. In this quarter however, no seaweed were exported. Decline in the export of shark meat export, the second largest contributor to marine products exported (18% in 1st quarter, 2013), also contributes to the significant decline in total exports which is associated with decline in total tuna exported.

* 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 export quantity of tuna and associated by-catch for this quarter decreased by 88% as compared to the 1st quarter 2013 and also a decrease by 21% as compared to the previous quarter (4th quarter 2013). The local price for all tuna species for this quarter was between T$10.00 – T$13.00. The international prices for yellowfin was around 950 yen/kg in this quarter while the prices for bigeye fell below 1,000/kg in March from close to 1100yen/kg earlier in the year. (according to FFA Trade and Industry News, Volume 7).

The albacore prices showed improvement early this year and reached US$2,700/mt by March compared to around US$2,400/mt at the beginning of this quarter.

**Tuna Catch Composition and Fishing Locations of Second Quarter**

**Catch Effort 2014 by QRT**

**Source (above) : Locations from VMS and catch data from Fisher Supplied Logsheets**

**Source (Left) : Fisheries Department Tuna Landing Database**
**Snapper Fishery**

The total quantity of snapper and grouper exported in the first quarter 2014 was 10,785kg. This is 25% decreased in the quantity of snapper and grouper exported during the same period last year and a 41% decrease compared to the previous quarter.

The total FOB values of snapper and grouper exported in the first quarter 2014 was TOP$73,512. This is a 24% decrease from the values of snapper and grouper exported in the same period last year and a 42% decrease from that exported in the previous quarter.

**Snapper Catch Species Composition 1st Quarter**

![Chart showing snapper catch species composition, 1st quarter, 2014]

* live rock excluded as it is measured in weight while other products are measured in pieces, however, value includes all aquarium products.

Snapper performance, 1st Quarter, 2014

Source (above and left) : Fisheries Department Snapper Database

5 out of 9 licensed fishing vessels were actively fishing during the 1st quarter of 2014. Total landed catch of 16,967kg was recorded in this quarter, a decrease by 44% by weight in comparison to the same quarter last year and a 12% decrease from the previous quarter. The decline has been a result of fewer fishing trips made by the snapper boats.

**Aquarium Fishery**

The total quantity of aquarium products* exported in this quarter has increased by 64% compared to the first quarter 2013 and 33% increase in the previous quarter.

The total FOB value of the exported aquarium products in the second quarter of 2014 was TOP$143,649. This is a 19% decrease from the value of products exported in the same quarter of 2013 and a 7% decrease from the value exported in the previous quarter. The increase in quantity yet decrease in value was due mainly to the ban on harvest and export of high value live rock, and increase in production of low value invertebrates.

Source (above) : Fisheries Department Aquarium Export Database

**Seaweed (Limu Tanga’u) Fishery**

No seaweed were exported in this quarter. In the same period last year, 98 metric tonnes of seaweed were exported and 32 metric tonnes were exported in the previous month (4th quarter, 2013).