



MINISTRY OF FISHERIES

FIHERIES QUARTERLY REPORT

THIRD QUARTER 2020

JULY — SEPT 2020



MARINE EXPORTS

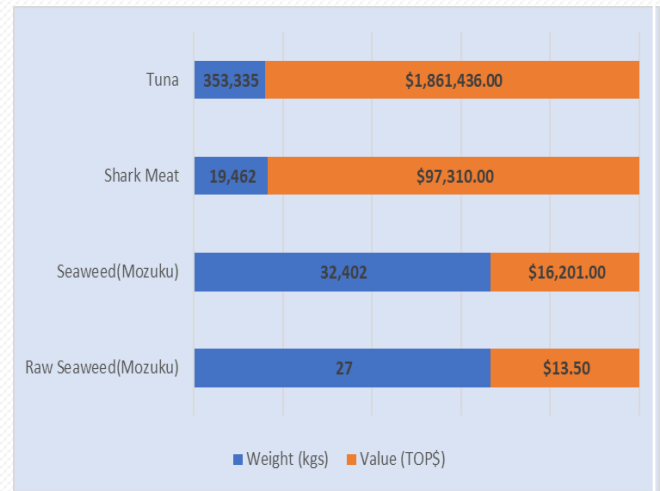
Continuous lockdown of international borders due to COVID-19 has constantly affected the total quantity of marine products (not including aquarium products) exported in this third quarter of 2020.

For this quarter, the total quantity of marine products (not including aquarium products) exported was 405 metric tons. This is a 44% decrease from the quantity exported during the same period last year though it was an increase of 41% from that exported in the previous quarter. Four marine species were recorded to be exported this quarter unlike only three species exported in the previous quarter. The export of tuna alone increased by 29% from the previous quarter however contributed 87% to the total export for this quarter. Seaweed contributed 7% to the total export for this quarter, whilst shark meat only 4% and raw seaweed contributed the least to the total export. Like previous quarter, there was still no export of snapper.

The total FOB value of marine exports in this quarter was TOP\$1.9million. This is a tremendous decrease by 83% compared to the same quarter of last year though an increase of 32% from previous quarter.

Source: Fish exports database

MARINE EXPORT DETAILS



* 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.

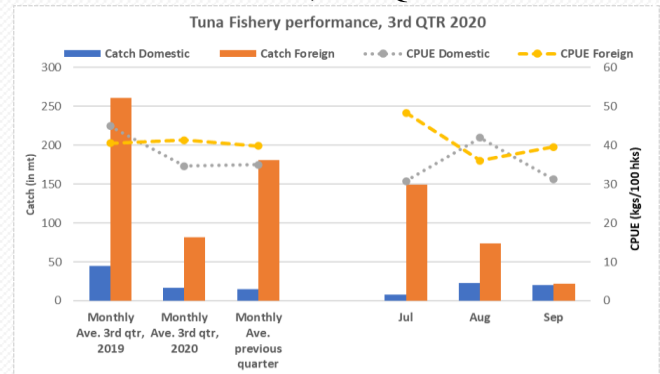
TUNA FISHERY

The export quantity of tuna and associated by-catch for this quarter was 353 metric tons which is a significant decrease from 605 metric tons in the same quarter 2019 but an increase from 273 metric tons in the previous quarter. This was a 42% decrease from the same quarter last year but a 29% increase from the previous quarter. The total catch unloaded in this quarter was 645 metric tons in which 292 metric tons remained for local consumption after exports. The quantity of Albacore contributed the most to the total unloaded with 53% followed by Yellowfin Tuna which accounted 28% to total unloaded.

The total FOB value of tuna exported in this quarter was approximately valued at TOP\$1.8million which is a 42% decrease from the value of tuna exported in the same period last year. In comparison with the last quarter, the export value of tuna fish increased by 31%.

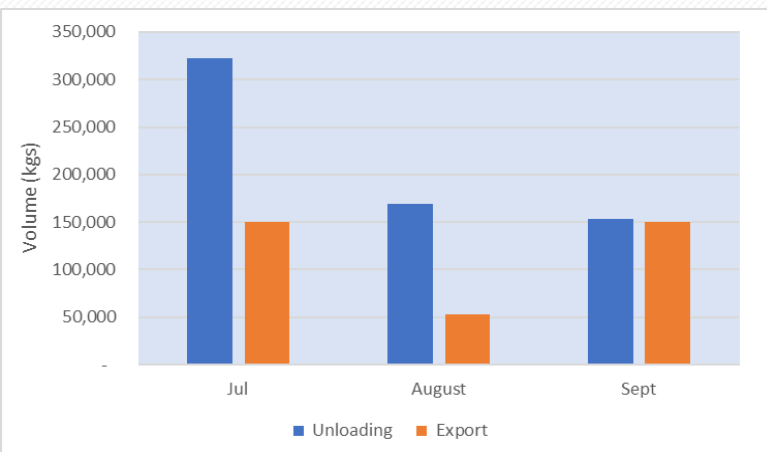
Foreign fleets continue to dominate and effort interact with tuna fishery within Tonga EEZ during the 3rd quarter. The average CPUE and total catch for domestic fleets fluctuates respectively, but for foreign fleets experience a continuous decrease in catch throughout the quarter.

CPUE FOR TUNA, 3RD QUARTER 2020

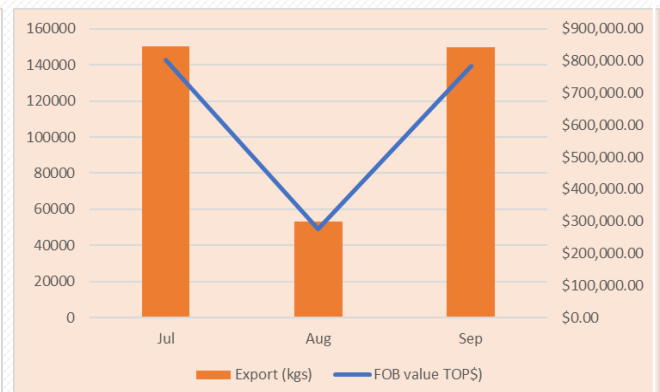


Source: Dorado - Tufman2 Report#11b Tuna catch & effort by EEZ

TUNA PERFORMANCE, 3RD QUARTER 2020



FOB VALUE OF TUNA EXPORT, 3RD QUARTER



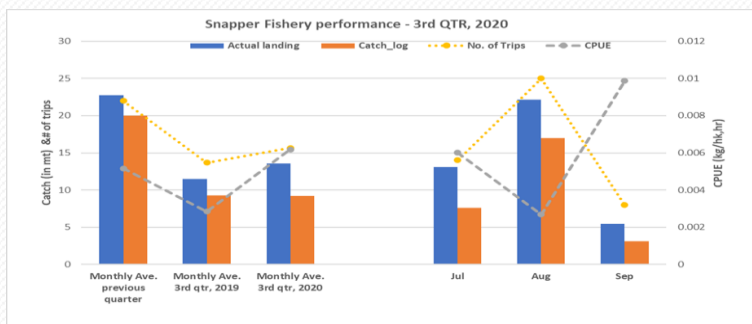
Source: Ministry of Fisheries Tuna exports database

SNAPPER FISHERY

Comparable to the previous quarter, there was no export of snapper from Tonga during this third quarter 2020. The closure of boarders and global markets had bring to a halt the export of fresh snapper from the Kingdom which usually contributes the second largest marine export species from Tonga every year. This however, does not mean that there was no snapper available locally. As recorded this quarter, a total of 41 metric tons of snapper were offloaded during the quarter and was sold locally.

Catch rate experience a huge decrease during this quarter compared to previous quarter but slightly higher than the same quarter of the previous year. Actual landing catch increased in August but the catch rate decreased accordingly. This is due to a huge increase in efforts (both number of vessels and hooks) applies into fishery in August. This increase in landings related to the government fish selling program and was decreased during the month of September due to bad weather with a smaller number of trips. These factors causes an increase of CPUE in September.

SNAPPER CPUE FOR 3RD QUARTER 2020



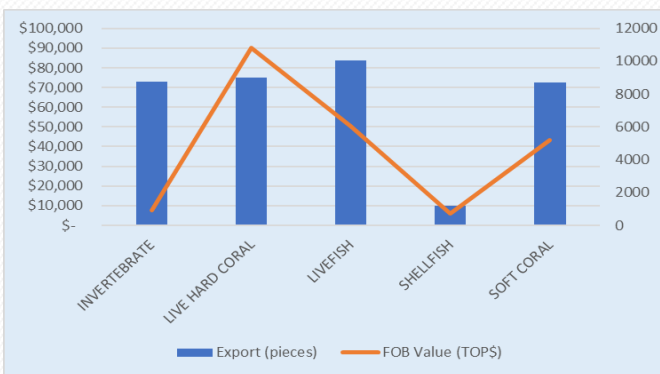
Source: Dorado - Tufman2 Report#1a All species catch and effort -cpue kg/hk.hr

AQUARIUM FISHERY

The total quantity of aquarium products exported in this quarter was 37,686 pieces compared to 29,906 pieces in the previous quarter. This is a 26% increase from previous quarter but a 22% decrease compared to the same quarter of last year. The export of aquarium product was dominated by live fish with 27%, followed by live hard coral with 24%, invertebrate and soft coral both contributed 23% each and shellfish contributed the least with only 3%.

The total FOB value of the exported aquarium products in the third quarter of 2020 was TOP\$197,474 compared to TOP\$329,584.70 in the third quarter of last year. This is a 40% decrease from export value compared to the same quarter last year though an increase by 40% from the previous quarter.

AQUARIUM EXPORT, 3RD QUARTER 2020



SEA CUCUMBER FISHERY

In 2015, a moratorium on the harvesting of sea cucumber was enforced to enable sea cucumber resources to be replenished. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government of Tonga in June 2020 approved to lift the ban on sea cucumber harvesting to help alleviate negative financial impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. As a result of the moratorium being lifted, a total of 15,316.55 kilograms of sea cucumber was exported during this quarter with an estimated FOB value of TOP\$199,529.36.

The Ministry of Fisheries in partnership with the Vast Ocean Company Ltd have conducted farming of sea cucumber (sandfish) since 2018. The first trial to export sea cucumber farmed species was sent out this quarter with a total of 1kgs with an estimate FOB\$30.

SEA CUCUMBER PERFORMANCE, 3RD QUARTER

Prd_Common name	Export Volume (kgs)	FOB Value (TOP\$)
Amberfish	31.25	TS156.25
Black teatfish	277.39	TS6,934.75
Brown sandfish	3375	TS33,750.00
Curryfish	1000.2	TS20,004.00
Elephant trunkfish	1.3	TS3.90
Greenfish	306	TS6,120.00
Hairy blackfish	1.3	TS3.90
Lollyfish	1702.32	TS5,106.96
Prickly redfish	44.45	TS889.00
Snakefish	3365.2	TS10,095.60
Stonefish	356.1	TS7,834.20
Surf redfish	2446.44	TS48,928.80
Tigerfish	1222.4	TS12,224.00
Sandfish (farmed species)	1	TS30.00
White teatfish	1186.2	TS47,448.00
TOTAL	15316.55	TS199,529.36

DOMESTIC MARKET

A total of 15 metric tons of marine resources was recorded in this quarter and approximately valued at TOP\$0.14 million. This is a 48% decrease compared to same quarter of last year and a 12% decrease from previous quarter.

The opening of sea cucumber in July was a major factor that contributes to the significant decline in the volume of marine resources sold in domestic market during this quarter. Most Fishers shifted from fishing to sea cucumber harvest. However, the average price for all species remain the same in this quarter except for the price of fin fish in Ha'apai which was increased from \$9 to \$10 per kilogram in this quarter.

Source: Ministry of Fisheries market survey database

General average price as of 3rd quarter 2020

