



MINISTRY OF FISHERIES

FISHERIES QUARTERLY REPORT

FOURTH QUARTER 2020

OCT — DEC 2020



MARINE EXPORTS

The total quantity of marine products (not including aquarium products) exported in the fourth quarter of 2020 was 142 metric tons. This is a decrease of 74% from the quantity exported in the same quarter of 2019 and a 75% decrease from that exported in the previous quarter. The export of tuna alone declined by 76% from the previous quarter however contributed 85% to the total export for this quarter. Snapper export on the other hand contributed the least to the total marine export for this quarter with only 0.04%, mozuku seaweed contributed 11%, and shark meat contributed just 3%.

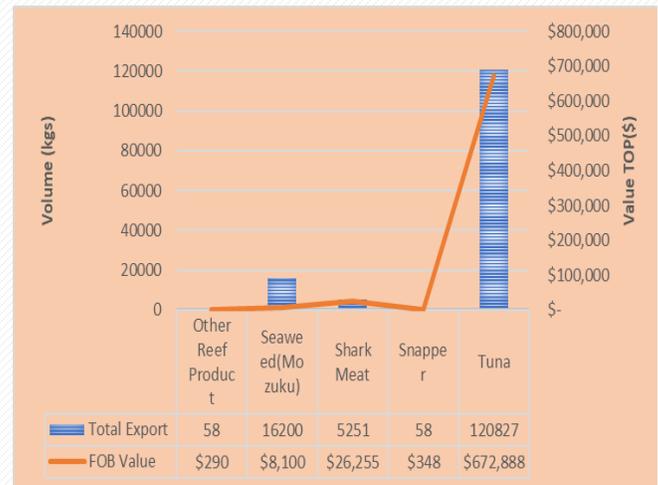
The total FOB value of marine exports in this quarter was TOP\$0.7million. This is a decrease of 75% in the FOB value of marine resources exported from that of the same period of 2019 but again a 75% decrease from the value of that exported in the previous quarter.

It is evident that the continuous lockdown of international boarders due to COVID-19 has constantly affected the total quantity of marine products (not including aquarium products) exported in this fourth quarter of 2020.

Source: Fish exports database

*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.

MARINE EXPORT DETAILS

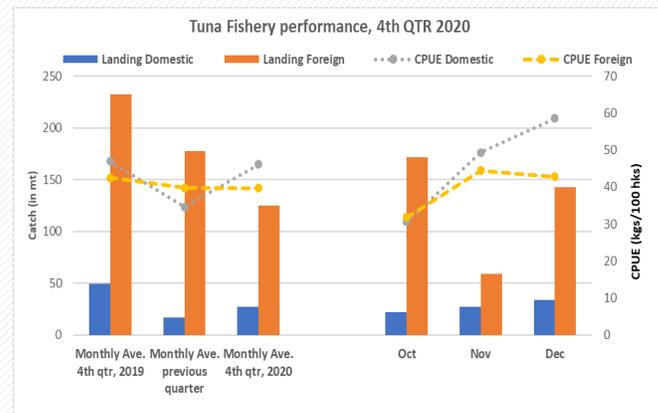


TUNA FISHERY

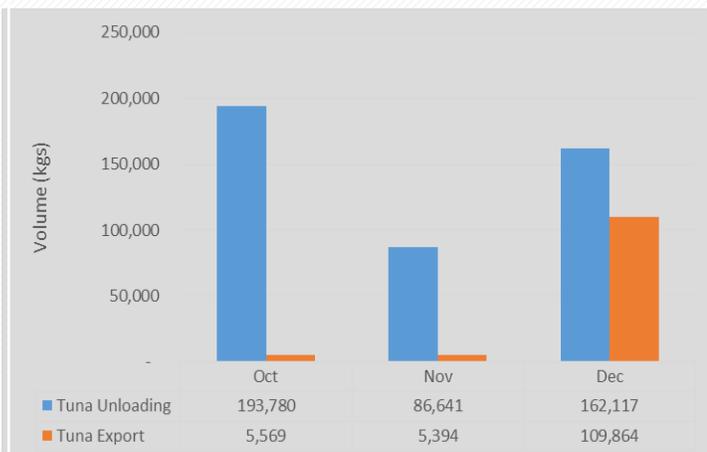
The export quantity of tuna and associated by-catch for this quarter was 120 metric tons compared to 479 metric tons in the same quarter last year and 503 metric tons in the previous quarter. This is a 74% decrease from the same quarter of last year and again a 76% decrease from the previous quarter. The total tuna unloaded in this quarter was 442 metric tons in which 321 metric tons remained locally after the export deductions. The total FOB value of tuna exported in this quarter was approximately valued at TOP\$0.6 million. This is a 75% decrease from the value of tuna exported in the previous quarter but and again a 75% decrease from the FOB value in the same period of last year.

Foreign fleets continue to dominate catch and effort interaction within tuna fishery in comparison to domestic fleets. CPUE and catch landed for domestic fleet increases throughout the quarter whereas CPUE and catch landed for foreign fleets slightly decreases compared to previous quarter and same quarter last year.

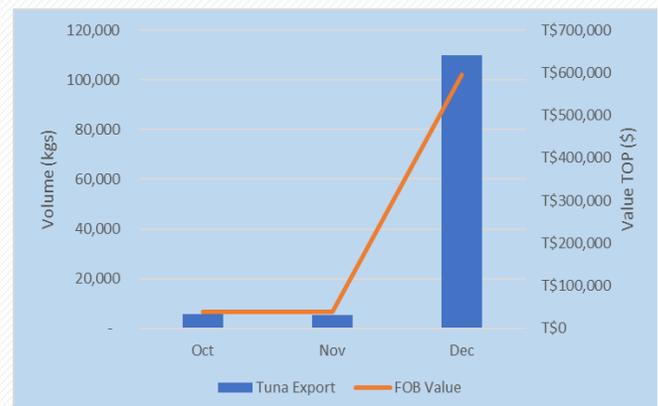
CPUE FOR TUNA



TUNA PERFORMANCE



FOB VALUE OF TUNA EXPORT



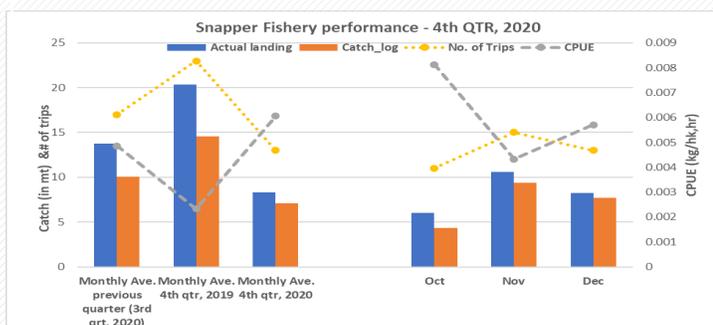
Source: Ministry of Fisheries Tuna exports database

SNAPPER FISHERY

Snapper export usually contributes the second largest marine export species from Tonga every year. However, since the closure of boarders and global markets, snapper export has declined to almost zero export. In the previous quarter, there was no record of any export of snapper and in this quarter, there was only an export of 58kgs. The FOB value of the quantity exported this quarter was only TOP\$348. This is a tremendous decrease of 99% compared to the same quarter of 2019. The total snapper unloaded for this quarter was 22,166kgs in which 22108kgs were sold locally after export.

The snapper performance in October was very low compared to November and December. The catch rate was high and not many trips occurred resulted in the lowest catch landed during the month. The average yield per unit effort, CPUE experienced in this quarter was high compared to the previous quarter and the same quarter of last year.

CPUE FOR SNAPPER



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 20,226 pieces compared to 40,347 in the previous quarter. This is a 50% decrease from previous quarter and again a decrease by 56% compared to the same quarter of last year. The export aquarium product was dominated by live hard coral by 34%, followed by live fish by 31%, invertebrate by 19%, soft coral by 16% and shell fish contributed the least with only 1%.

The total FOB value of the exported aquarium products for this fourth quarter was TOP\$118,257 compared to TOP\$289,532 in the same quarter of last year. This is a 59% decrease from export value compared to the same quarter last year and a again a decrease of 44% from previous quarter.

AQUARIUM PERFORMANCE



SEACUCUMBER 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 open the sea cucumber fishery as an option to support the community's livelihood and to help alleviate negative financial impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

As a result of the moratorium being lifted, a total of 86,730.74 kilograms of sea cucumber were exported during this quarter with an estimated FOB value of TOP\$856,101.10.

Sea cucumber continues to be an important source of cash income to coastal communities as well as a source of foreign currency earnings apart from providing job opportunities for locals.

SEA CUCUMBER PERFORMANCE

Common name	Export Volume (kgs)	FOB Value (TOP \$)
Amberfish	2,313.07	11,565.35
Black teatfish	1,028.42	25,710.50
Brown sandfish	12,312.81	123,128.10
Curryfish	3,909.81	78,196.20
Deep-water redfish	1,439.84	4,319.52
Elephant trunkfish	95.30	285.90
Greenfish	2,494.17	47,457.00
Hairy blackfish	739.40	2,218.20
Lollyfish	25,174.59	75,523.77
Prickly redfish	905.54	18,110.80
Sand fish	29.30	879.00
Snakefish	14,947.01	44,841.03
Stonefish	2,777.88	61,113.36
Surf redfish	6,800.76	136,015.20
Tigerfish	8,125.88	81,258.80
White teatfish	3,636.96	145,478.40

DOMESTIC MARKET

A total of 26 metric tons of marine resources was recorded in this quarter and approximately valued at \$0.24million. The increase in domestic marine production in this quarter was driven by significant increase in volume of fish by 60% from previous quarter.

The COVID-19 restrictions is still the major influence in marine production in terms of quantity that are available in the local market. However, the general average price of high value species such as crustacean, crabs and sea urchin remain the same in this quarter.

Source: Ministry of Fisheries market survey database

LOCAL PRODUCTION BY WEIGHT, BY VALUE

