



MINISTRY OF FISHERIES

FISHERIES QUARTERLY REPORT

FIRST QUARTER 2024

January - March, 2024



MARINE EXPORTS

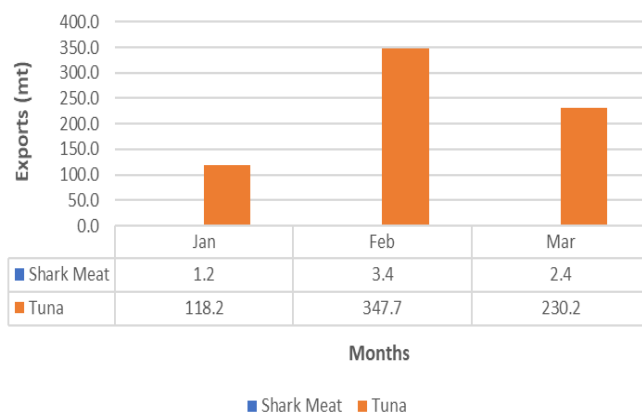
The total quantity of marine products exported this quarter was 703.1mt, with 7.04mt of shark meat and 696.02mt of tuna. Snapper fishery hasn't been exported yet due to lack of market access, but it is still sold locally. Tuna continues to dominate the overall exports in this quarter with 98.9% and the remaining 1.1% was the shark meat. The exports performance for this quarter shows an increasing trend from January to February then decrease in March due to number of trips and efforts throughout the quarter.

The total quantity of fish products exported this quarter (not including aquarium) shows an increasing of 23% from the amount exported in the previous quarter (Q4, 2023), and there was a slightly decreased of 9.1% compared to the exports on the same period of previous year (Q1, 2023).

The total FOB value of marine exports recorded in this quarter was approximately valued at TOP 3.7 millions which is an increased of 25% from the exported value last quarter (Q4, 2023) and a decreased of 10.2% compared to the exported value of the same quarter last year (Q1, 2023).

Source: Fisheries exports database

Marine Exports Performance for Q1, 2024.



**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.*

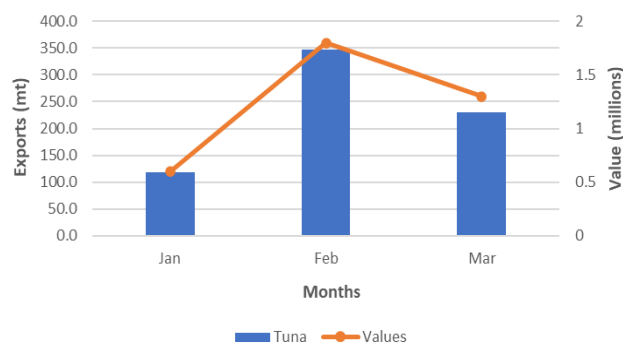
TUNA FISHERY

The total quantity of tuna exported in the first quarter of 2024 was 696.02 mt which is an increased of 24.2% from tuna exported in the previous quarter and decreasing of 99% compared to the amount of tuna exported the same quarter last year. The total value for tuna exported in this quarter was valued at about 3.69 millions which is an increased of 25.7% from exported values last quarter and a reduced of 10.5% from that of same quarter last year. Tuna exported this quarter shows an increased trend in February due to more active vessels with good catch rate.

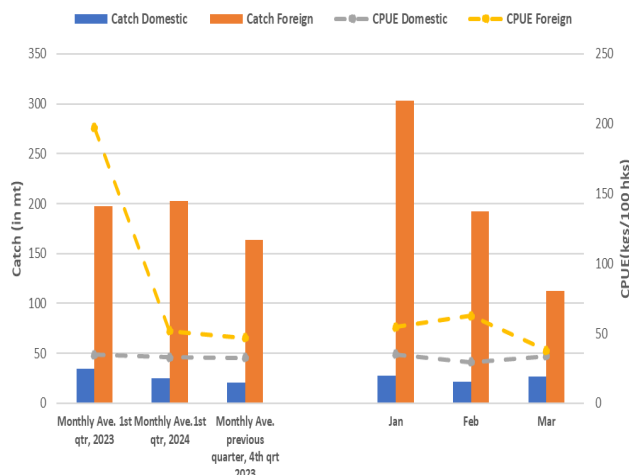
The total tuna catch unloaded this quarter was 811.6 metric tons which were caught from 45 trips, 10 foreign and 35 domestic trips. Foreign fleets continue to dominate in this fishery with total catch landing of 723.9mt. The total catch for foreign fishing fleets show a decreasing trend over from January to March due to bad weather conditions and decreased number of active vessels with poor catch rates. However, the domestic vessel's landings for this quarter was only 87.7mt, which shows a slightly decreasing from January to February then it increased in March.

The overall performance of foreign vessels for this quarter shows higher average catch compared to both of previous quarter (Q4, 2023) and to that of the same quarter last year (Q1, 2023), and their CPUE is slightly higher in this quarter compared to previous quarter but lower than that of the same period last year. However, overall performance for domestic fleets in this quarter shows a higher average catch compares to previous quarter (Q4, 2023) and slightly lower than that of the same period last year (Q1, 2023) and their CPUE is proportion to their catch performance.

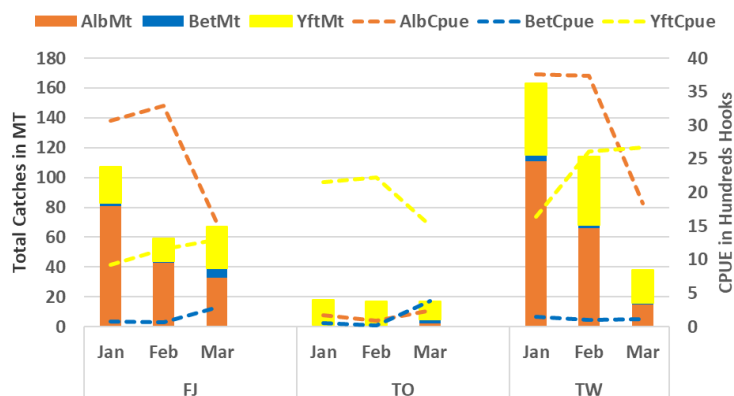
Tuna Exports Performance, Q1, 2024.



Tuna fishery performance, 1st QRT 2024



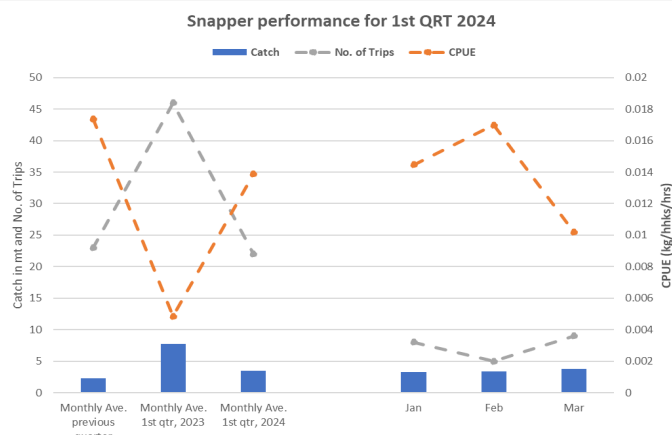
CPUE (MT/Hundred hooks) by Flags



Source: Ministry of Fisheries Tuna exports database

A total catch of only 15.9 metric tons of snappers were unloaded in this quarter, which consists of 4.9mt in January, 6.42mt in February and 4.61mt in March. This data were collected from two sites, which is Nukulōfa Port with 12.47mt and Neiafu Port with 3.44mt. Landing of snappers for this quarter shows a slightly decreasing slope from January to February and then increase in March due to the number of active vessels with their trips through out the months.

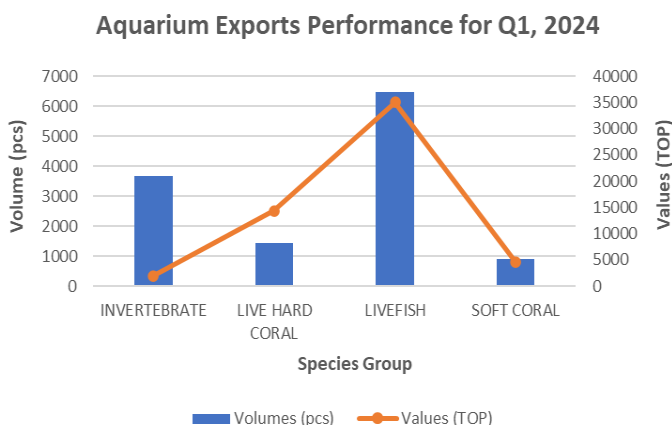
However, the overall average catches of snapper in this quarter is higher than the catches in the previous quarter with 48.9% and then decrease in quantity compared to that of the same quarter of previous year (Q1, 2023) with 45.3%. The average number of trip for this quarter shows a decreasing trend from both the previous quarter and from that of the same quarter last year. However, the total CPUE for this quarter shows a decreasing trend from previous quarter (Q4, 2023) and there's an increasing trend compared to that of the same period last year (Q1, 2023).



The total quantity of aquarium products exported this quarter was 12507 pieces, which is a decreased of 54% from aquarium products exported in the previous quarter where 19264 pieces exported. Hence, in compared with the amount exported in the same quarter of the previous year, which was 25650 pieces, it shows a highly decreased of 105%.

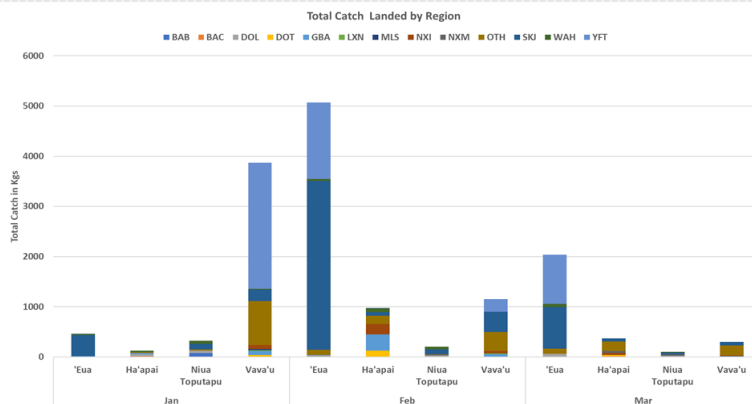
The exported aquarium products for this quarter was dominated by live fish exporting 6483 pieces, followed by invertebrates with 3684 pieces, then live hard corals exporting 1431 pieces, and the least exported aquarium product for this quarter was soft coral with 909 pieces.

The total FOB value of the exported aquarium products in this quarter was approximately TOP 0.06millions, which is a decreased of 49.5% compared to the previous quarter (Q4, 2023) and again a decreased of 52.2% compared to estimated values of aquarium products exported in the same period of the previous year (Q4, 2023)



The total quantity of tuna artisanal fish recorded in this quarter was 15 metric tons which were caught and collected from 4 different sites. The highest volume of tuna-like species recorded during this quarter was at the Nafanua Wharf with 7.6mt, then Halaevalu Wharf with 5.3mt, then Taufaaáhu Wharf with 1.5mt then with the least amount of 0.6mt from Niuatoputapu..

The highest catch landing this quarter was recorded in February with 7.4mt, followed with 4.8mt in January and 2.8mt in March. The artisanal performance for this quarter shows an increase trend of 32.8% compared to the previous quarter (Q4, 2023) and also an increased of 67.3% compared to that of the same quarter last year (Q1, 2023).



There were total of 60.4 metric tons of marine resources recorded in this quarter, from different sites within Tongatapu, Haapai and Vavau. This performance shows an increasing trend 70% compared to the previous quarter (Q4, 2023) and also increase from the same period last year (Q1, 2023) with 80.5%. However, the amount recorded this quarter was valued at approximately TOP\$0.65 millions which shows an increased trend compared to both of the previous quarter (Q4, 2023) and that of the same quarter last year (Q1, 2023).

The average domestic price for each species 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.

