

# Ministry of Fisheries

## June Newsletter



### Royal Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism and Trade Show 2018.

Their Majesties – King Tupou VI and Queen Nanasipau'u officially opened this year's Royal Agricultural Show. This year, Ha'apai is taking the lead in the Royal Agricultural Show to be held at the Lea 'a e Tohi Ground and to be followed by Free Wesleyan Church Annual Conference and His Majesty's Royal Birthday. The Ha'apai show concluded with the Royal Tour to Lofanga, Foa, Faleloa, Felemea and 'Uiha.

The Governor of Ha'apai – Rev. Dr. Mohenoa Puloka says the people are thrilled to welcome their Majesties. With the spirit of excitement and joyous the people of Ha'apai are displaying their finest products especially the dry octopus and the dry salted fish. Thousands of Ha'apai people from Tongatapu and abroad are already on the island to be part of the triple celebrations.

The Ministry's Ha'apai show committees efforts and hard work in preparing and delivering the Fisheries Ha'apai Show activities was greatly appreciated.





## **CEO's OFFICE**

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr Tu'kolongahau Halafihi and Deputy CEO for FSD Dr Siola'a Malimali participated at the International Fisheries Negotiation Course. The course is intended for Fisheries leaders and Managers with the objective to strengthen the capacity of Pacific Island States to prepare and participate effectively in international and fisheries negotiations, negotiate in support of their national and regional interests, and subsequently ensure that all national requirements are implemented.

The Ministry's Legal Officer Ms Salote Koloamatangi completed the Regional Prosecutors and Fisheries Observer Workshop. The theme for this Prosecutors workshop is The Crucial Role of an Observer. The workshop is intended to enhance the knowledge of participants on the tools as evidence. The workshop provides an excellent opportunity for prosecutors and Observers to work together and envisage that knowledge and cooperation gained from this workshop will be applied at national level.

The Ministry of Fisheries finalised and submitted its Annual Report for Financial Year 2016/17 to Cabinet and Legislative Assembly. As advised from both Cabinet and Legislative Assembly, the Ministry of Fisheries is the first Ministry to submit its Annual Report for Financial Year 2016/17. The contribution from CEO office, CSD, FMDD, FSD and FCD is highly appreciated towards the finalising of the Ministry's Annual Report.

## **CORPORATE SERVICE DIVISION (CSD)**

Deputy CEO for CSD Mr Vilimo Fakalolo participated at the Pacific workshop for SID for "Effective Fish trade and sustainable development". The workshop focused

in three pillars i: Jointly defining a path for describing the value of fisheries as required by SDG target 14.7. ii: Informing SIDS on the process of achieving positive outcomes on fisheries subsidies and iii: Presentation and discussion on a range of trade governance and regulatory framework issues, necessary for effective fish trade such as CITES, market access and trade barriers.

The Public Service Excellence Program for the Government of Tonga was launched by the Prime Minister of Tonga Hon. Samuela 'Akilisi Pohiva on 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2018. This is a 5 year plan that involves an annual conference of the Ministries in Tonga coming together to share where they are in regards to Leadership; Strategy; Citizens and Customers; Measurement, Analysis and Knowledge Management; Workforce; and Operations. Our Ministry participated with its booth to raise public awareness of our respective fields at the Queen Salote Memorial Hall in Nuku'alofa.

## **FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (FMDD)**

Deputy CEO for FMDD Mrs Mele 'Atuekaho represented the Ministry at the Australia National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) Law of the Sea short course. The purpose of the course is an initiative made by the Legal Section of the FFA and ANCORS to train officials from FFA members including Tonga. This opportunity included key provisions on the Law of the sea Convention and possible ways these relevant provisions of the convention can be incorporated and implemented in the legal framework at the national level through Fisheries Management Plans and Fisheries Policies.

Marketing Officer Mr Fotuika Vailea and Fisheries Officer Mr Samuela Pohiva undertook the 3rd Cruise ship survey at Vava'u. This opportunity focused in gathering and analysing of information relevant to sales of

pearls from local artisans and farmers in Vava'u to passengers of the cruise ship. The aim of the survey is to provide the outcome of the survey to pearl farmers. In addition, there is hope to overcome the challenge with pricing to avoid discrepancies over the pricing of identical products at the Mabe pearl centre and outside stalls.

Senior Fisheries Officer Mrs Manatu Maile completed the Fishery Using Resource Management Approach with our neighboring Pacific nationalities at Tokyo and Toyama. Mrs Maile experienced first hand exposure to a world leading country in the Fisheries sector taught her a lot during the three weeks training. She was able to learn different fishery resource management measures that are practiced in Japan and can be applied here in Tonga. In addition, sharing and learning of different resource management ideas with other participants from the Pacific Islands was an interesting experience.

## **FISHERIES SCIENCE DIVISION (FSD) AND FISHERIES COMPLIANCE DIVISION (FCD)**

Technical Officer Grade II Mr 'Otinili Fisi'ikava and Senior Fisheries Agency Frank Taufa represented the Ministry at the Marine Finfish Parasites at the James Cook University. The objective of the training is to improve the capacities and skills of participants on marine finfish diseases diagnosis, prevention, control and treatment. The training was organised by the Pacific Community (SPC) in collaboration with James Cook University at the JCU campus. The training was devoted to fisheries and aquaculture officers involved on farming of marine water/brackish water finfish species.

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