

Under the Fisheries Management Act 2002, so far six local communities have been designated as Coastal Communities with Special Management Areas (SMAs), for the purpose of community-based fisheries management in their coastal areas. This was mainly due to their general concern of declining coastal fisheries resources which they significantly rely on for food and income.

These communities therefore take the leading role in managing their coastal fisheries resources with assistance from the Fisheries Division. Coastal community management committees (CCMCs) and coastal community management plans (CCMPs) were developed to assist in their management role. Key management objectives in their CCMPs include controlling fishing activities, restoring fish stock and habitat in no-fishing areas (Fish Habitat Reserves (FHRs)), raising community awareness on fisheries conservation and management, promoting sustainable fishing practices and improving living standards in the community. The Fisheries (Coastal Communities) Regulations 2009 were also gazetted to assist in the implementation of their CCMPs and to complement existing fisheries legislation for enforcement within SMAs.

It is their community vision and goal that their SMAs and management efforts will help revive the health and status of their coastal fisheries resources for current and future generations.

GENERAL FISHING CONDITIONS FOR SMAS

- Only registered persons and fishing vessels listed in the Fishers Register and Fishing Vessels Register of the respective SMA, are authorized to fish in that SMA.
- Any other person not listed on the Fishers Register or the Fishing Vessels Register may apply for a fishing permit from CCMC to fish in SMA.

- No person shall use destructive fishing methods such as using metal bars and iron rods.
- No person shall harvest any marine organism for the aquarium industry which includes hard coral, soft coral, small invertebrates and aquarium fish.

Additional fishing conditions to the 'Atata SMA

Green snail

In addition to the general fishing conditions above, no person shall be allowed to:

- Harvest any ark clam less than 45mm in length.
- Harvest any green snail species.
- Harvest any trochus species.
- Gut any Curryfish species at shore.





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Trochus

Additional fishing conditions to the 'Eueiki SMA

In addition to the general fishing conditions above, no person shall be allowed to:

• Harvest any octopus species under one foot in length.

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR FHRS

- No person shall access or undertake fishing of any nature in FHRs, unless:
 - o CCMC may allow access for observation, monitoring and restocking activities.
 - o CCMC may allow tourist activities (site-seeing).
 - o Any other activities shall require a CCMC endorsement and written authorization from the Secretary for Fisheries and be in accordance with such conditions as may be specified.
 - o In an emergency or circumstances involving the safety of a vessel or its crew.
- In the case of Ha'afeva's FHR Zone 1, boat passage and women's pandanus activities are permitted

FISHING CONDITIONS IN THE GIANT CLAM AND LOBSTER PROTECTIVE ZONE

• No person shall undertake fishing of any nature for giant clam or lobster in this Protection Zone unless authorised by the Secretary for Fisheries and CCMC.





Giant clam

Lobster

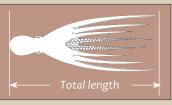


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COMMUNITY-MANAGED SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS IN TONGA

