

License Certificate and inform the applicant to pay the appropriate license fee or inform the applicant that the license is not approved.

4. Appropriate application fees should also be paid when submitting applications.

CURRENT FEES FOR LICENSING

Fees upon application for and Registration License

1. Application to register and registration of a local fishing vessel:
 - a. the length of which is 6 metres - \$5.00
 - b. the length of which exceeds 6 metres, the fee used in 1(a) shall be used as a base then an amount of \$2.00 for every additional metre shall be added.
2. Application to register and operate a Fish Fence \$50.00.
3. Application for a license to operate a fish processing establishment \$550.00
4. Application and license to process and export sea weeds \$1,020.00
5. Application for a local fishing vessel license:
 - a. the length of which is 6 metres - \$5.00
 - b. the length of which exceeds 6 meters, the fee used in 4(a) shall be used as a base then an amount of \$2.00 for every additional meter shall be added.
6. Application for a commercial sport fishing vessel license:
 - a. the length of which is 6 meters - \$10.00
 - b. the length of which exceeds 6 meters, the fee used in 6(a) shall be used as a base then an amount of \$5.00 for every additional metre shall be added.
7. Application and Installation of a Vessel Monitoring System for Local Fishing Vessel. The current VMS fee is T\$2100, which is subsidized by Tongan Government and is also of limited stock.

(15% Consumption Tax is added to each of the above fees)

GUIDELINE FOR LICENCE APPLICATION

FOR

**LOCAL & FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS, FISH FENCE,
EXPORT SEA WEEDS, COMMERCIAL SPORT FISHING
VESSEL, INSTALLATION VMS, PROCESS & EXPORT
FRSH AND FROZEN FISH, EXPORT AQUARIUM FISH**



MINISTRY OF FISHERIES



CURRENT CODE OF PRACTICE REGARDING FISHING LICENCE

In the current practice of getting a fishing license, the interested party is required to submit **Fishing Business Proposal** to the Ministry of Fisheries. The proposal should be transparent in all facets with aims & objectives, company/shareholders, boats/gears to be used, financial source, personnel to be used, etc. The proposal with a covering letter should be addressed to the **Secretary for Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, PO Box 871, Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga**. The Ministry will acknowledge receipt of the proposal and advise on the availability of a fishing license and appropriate application forms and supporting documents required for processing of the appropriate License, Permit or Authorization. Any Fishing License, Permit or Authorization issued in accordance with the Fisheries Management Act 2002 (FMA 2002) is valid for the period stated on the License, Permit or Authorization.

General Backgrounds of Fishing License for Local Fishing Vessels:

The current license regime for Local Fishing Vessels is based on the number of boats. All fishing vessels with fishing license issued in accordance with the Fisheries Management Act 2002 are required to carry a Vessel Monitoring System (**VMS**). A fishing vessel with a valid fishing license is also expected to recruit Tongan crews only, with the exception of the senior officers (Captain, Chief Engineer and Fishing Master). Currently, the fisheries waters of the Kingdom of Tonga is closed from any Foreign Tuna Longline Fishing access, except for :-

- a. fishing vessels with license under the Fisheries Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and Certain Pacific Island Countries of which Tonga is a member, or
- b. a vessel being authorized for Test Fishing or Research Fishing operation; in accordance with the Fisheries Management Act 2002.

All the fishing vessels that are operating in Tonga at the present time are Local Fishing Vessels. A Local Fishing Vessel is a fishing vessel which is wholly owned by :-

- * the Government of Tonga or
- * a Tongan subject's) or
- * any company, society or other association of persons incorporated or established under the laws of Tonga; registered at the **Ministry of Marine and Ports, Nuku'alofa** as Tongan Vessel.

Deep Water Long Liners for Tuna species

The target number of Fishing License for longliners targeting tuna species in Tonga, is 50. At the present time, a total of 17 tuna longliners are in operation and two of which are Research and Training Vessels fully owned by the Government of Tonga.

Deep Water Bottom Fishing for Snapper Species

The current status of deep water bottom fishing is not encouraging as we have exceeded the number of fishing vessels recommended in our Deep Water Bottom Fishing Management Plan, but the Ministry of Fisheries still allowed new fishing license after seriously considering the fishing vessels with valid license but are not fully operational throughout the authorized license period.

Procedures for Application for a Fishing License

The following procedures are guidelines to assist all persons, companies or organizations applying for License, Permits or Authorizations for any fishing activities in the Fisheries Waters of the Kingdom of Tonga.

1. Applicants shall complete appropriate application forms, obtainable at Ministry of Fisheries, for related fishing activities. The appropriate forms should accompany other documents to support the applications e.g.
 - a. registration certificate from the Ministry of Marine and Ports certifying the ownership of fishing boats applying for fishing license.
 - b. site and establishment plan when applying for license to process and export Fresh or Frozen Fish, Live Fish and Corals, Sea Weeds or any other marine products that required processing before being exported.
2. Should the Secretary for Fisheries approved, he will direct the Licensing Section to process e application. This will also include inspections of boats or fish establishment sites as the case may. The vessels shall be certified for safety at sea, by the **Ministry of Marine and Ports, Nuku'alofa** and also be registered as a fishing vessel, by **Ministry of Fisheries**, before a fishing license is issued.
3. Should the Secretary for Fisheries approved or not approved the processing and inspection results, he will direct the Licensing Section to prepare the appropriate Fishing