

Ministry of Fisheries

November Newsletter



CEO's OFFICE

The Chief Executive Officer Dr Tu'ikolon-gahau Halafihi, Legal Officer Ms Salote Koloamatangi and Deputy CEO for FCD Mr Poasi Ngaluafe attended the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Working Group at Philippine International Convention Centre (PICC) at Manilla, Philippines.

CORPORATE SERVICE DIVISION (CSD)

Senior Fisheries Officer Lupe Fe'iloaki undertook the PMS quarterly visit to Ha'apai and Vava'u to refresh and ensure our internal PMS is aligned with the Ministry's overall PMS internal implementation plan. The visit was brought forward from its initial planned from December to accommodate PSC's PMS outer island visit. At end of November.

FISHERIES SCIENCE DIVISION (FSD)

Deputy CEO for FSD Dr Siola'a Malimali, Deputy CEO for FMDD and staff Sisi Mata'itohi Mafile'o met and consulted with interested stakeholders in the sub-sector at Vava'u on Tonga Aquaculture Management and Development Plan. The Plan involved collaboration between the Ministry's FMDD and SPC team to present the draft plan and discussions with stakeholders.

Deputy CEO for FSD Dr Siola'a Malimali and Fisheries Officer Ms Hulita Fa'anunu attended the First SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries at SPC conference centre in Noumea, New Caledonia. This opportunity was arranged by SPC to address some specific outcomes as agreed by representatives at the Tenth Heads of Fisheries Meeting held in Noumea in March 2017. The meeting focused on specific issues, in this case coastal fisheries data, with input from member country government and territory administrations.

Head of Coastal Community Development Section Mr Latu 'Aisea and Assistance Research Officer Mr Sione Ma'ilau monitored the implementation of new established SMA areas funded by the Tonga Health SMA project at Ha'apai. The visit also involved monitoring of the current existing SMA areas in Ha'apai siland groups. This opportunity involved meetings with the community, training on constructing markers, deploying boundary, restocking giant clams to Fish Habitat Reserves of interested existing SMA areas.

The FSD staffs had commenced within this month their main activities 1) worked with the Nukunuku community to develop the Management plan for their Special Management Area (SMA) 2) conducted a fisheries monitoring survey at Fanga'uta Lagoon for the potential SMA.

FISHERIES COMPLIANCE DIVISION (FCD)

A one-week workshop on Formulation of National strategies and action plans to improve compliance with the agreement on Port State Measure. The workshop was opened by Honourable Minister followed by the CEO with words of thanks to FAO and FFA for agreeing to conduct the Workshop which will contribute to the Government's commitment to fight IUU fishing. The workshop was attended by experts from Food Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Pacific Community (SPC), Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) – New Zealand, Fisheries officials from Cook Islands and government officials from line ministries. The meeting included discussions, identified areas for legal and policy actions, institutional and capacity development and MCS operational issues relating to implementing of the agreement.

Fisheries Trainee Mr Malakai Faletau attended a two week Electronic Monitoring Process Standards workshop at Pacific Community (SPC) in Noumea, New Caledonia. The opportunity also involved three days of debriefs in Biological sampling training.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (FMDD)

The FFA team with the assistance of the FMDD team led the second workshop to review the Tuna Management and Development Plan Review 2015 - 2017. Also included is the review of the new Sport Fishing Plan 2018 - 2022. The purpose and expected outcomes of this workshop is to present the review report of the performance of the existing Tuna Management and Development Plan 2015 - 2017 (TMDP), Review and confirm activities in the Implementation schedule of the 2015 - 2017 Tuna Plan, Present the draft review plan to Fisheries official and Present the draft Sport Fishing Plan 2018 - 2020.

Deputy CEO for FMDD Mrs Mele 'Atuekaho attended the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) workshop on exploring SDG 14.b and its proposed indicator 14.b.1 in Gaeta, Italy. The workshop explored indicator methodology, related issues on data and information sources and analysis and reporting including use of the e-learning platform specifically created for this proposed indicator. That said, it also identified capacity development needs in relation to reporting on SDG 14.b.

The final consultation meeting for the review of the Aquaculture Management and Development was held on 13th of November. The purpose of this meeting is to present the final draft of the plan to both stakeholders in Vava'u and Tongatapu for their final inputs and comments on the final draft.

The final consultation workshop for the formulation of the Game Fishing Plan was also held in November with the same purpose as the Tuna workshop.

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