

Ministry of Fisheries

October Newsletter



CEO's OFFICE

Key events and meetings

The Chief Executive Officer Dr Tu'ikolongahau Halafihi, Deputy CEO for CSD Mr Vilimo Fakalolo and Senior Fisheries Officer Ms Alisi Helu attended Managing Option Consultation (MOC) and Special Official Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) 104. This opportunity included discussion on Non PNA proposals, Tokelau arrangement, Japan promotion fund, discussions on Ocean management fisheries project 2 and strategies on IUU risks related to illegal small scale fishing vessel.

CORPORATE SERVICE DIVISION (CSD)

Key events and meetings

Senior Fisheries Officer Lupe Fe'iloaki represented the Ministry at the second PMS Sub Committee at Tungi Colonade along with PMS members from line ministries. The Sub Committee involved group discussions, challenges identified within line ministries, Mid year review readiness, outer island status check, monitoring progress and quarter 1 traffic light outcomes.

This week several Tonga fisheries staff participated in a training workshop run by Lucy Joy and Andrew Hunt from the Pacific Community (SPC) to learn how to use tablets for electronic collection of catch information from small-scale fisheries. The application 'Tails' which was

built by Bruno Deprez from SPC's fisheries data management program allows fisheries officers to collect and upload data from remote locations around Tonga, providing timely fisheries data to inform policy and fisheries management decisions. Ms. Lavinia Vaipuna from Tonga Fisheries was the key contact for the training, she is excited to see the progress of the new application over the coming months. "Obtaining catch data from outer island locations has always been a challenge for us. 'Tails' allows us to receive data from places like Vava'u and 'Eua everyday as soon as the fishing happens" said Ms. Vaipuna. The data from 'Tails' will be used for both national and regional reporting obligations.

FISHERIES SCIENCE DIVISION (FSD)

Key events and meetings

Senior Fisheries Assistant Mr Ratu Tonga Tu'iano travelled to Vava'u to monitor the seaweed trial monitoring with the Aquaculture Section. This opportunity may bring new potential culture commodities to Vava'u and Tonga overall.

Head of Coastal and Community Development Section, Mr Latu 'Aisea attended the Coastal Fisheries Management Operationalizing Policy Australia—Pacific workshop 2017 in Australia. The meeting addressed the critical importance of Coastal fisheries throughout the Australia-Pacific region for subsistence and local livelihoods.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (FMDD)

Key events and meetings

Deputy for FMDD Mrs Mele 'Atuekaho and Fisheries Officer Ms Sisi Mafile'o led with the assistance and support of Andrew Hunt and Ian Freeman from the Pacific Community (SPC) installed solar powered vessel tracking devices on four aquarium fishery boats as part of a 6-months trail of remote vessel monitoring. The devices, provided by Pelagic Data Systems, allowed fisheries staffs to monitor the movements of aquarium fishery boats to ensure compliance with local policy and guidelines ensuring a sustainable aquarium fishery in Tonga for the future. "This trail will allow us to see if these devices can help in monitoring and managing aquarium fishery boats to ensure the fishery is profitable and sustainable for everyone" Ms. 'Atuekaho said. The Pelagic Devices were purchased due to generous support from MFAT and the New Zealand Government.

Principal Fisheries Officer Mrs Elaine Havealeta undertook a one month work attachment with the Economic at FFA. This opportunity enabled Elaine to grasp a better understanding and to build her capacity in Fisheries Economic areas from a regional point of view.

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