

# FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

## FISHERIES INFORMATION QUARTERLY REPORT

SECOND QUARTER 2015

APR—JUN 2015



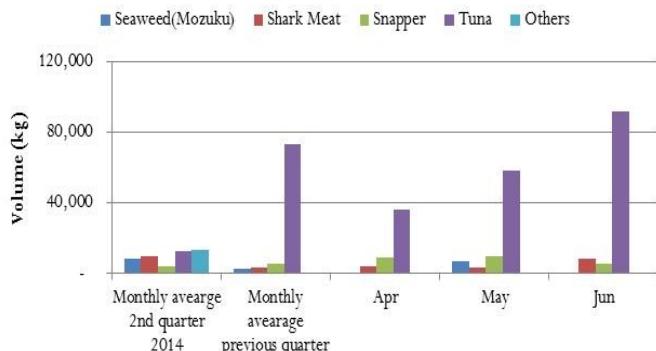
### MARINE EXPORTS

The total quantity of marine products (not including aquarium products) exported in the second quarter of 2015 was 232 metric tons. This is a 160% increase from the quantity exported during the same period last year but a 8% decrease from that exported in the previous quarter.

The total FOB value of marine exports for the second quarter was TOP\$1.6 million. This is a 195% increase in the FOB value of marine resources exported during the same period last year but a 4% decrease from value of that exported in the previous quarter. The decrease in total exports in this quarter compared to the previous quarter is due mainly to slight decrease in exports of tuna.

The harvesting, processing and exporting of bech-der-mer starts in April but due to ongoing work to put a 3-5 years moratorium on this fishery, the bech-der-mer fishery remained closed.

Total amount of marine products exported, 2nd Quarter, 2015



Source (above) : Fisheries Department Marine Export Product Database

\* FOB = Free On Board, describes a price which includes goods plus the services at the time of offloading from the vessel at first landing. This is a static value designated to each export product. The value is an historical estimate and may not represent the true present value.

### TUNA FISHERY

The export quantity of tuna and associated by-catch for this quarter was 201 mt, a 324% increase from tuna export in the same period last year but a 12% decrease from export in the previous quarter. The total FOB value for tuna exports was valued at T\$1.4 million, a 124% increase from that exported in the previous quarter but a 10% decrease from that exported in previous quarter. Frozen tuna were mostly exported to the canneries in Pago pago and the fresh tuna were predominantly to the Japanese market. The average price for fresh yellowfin tuna exported from Tonga to the Japanese markets was around ¥800/kg compared to ¥1,220 yen/kg in the previous quarter. The significant drop in the price could be a factor to the decline in tuna exports. The local average price for all tuna species for this quarter was around T\$9.50/kg.

### SEAWEED FISHERY

A total of 6.7mt of seaweed (mozuku or limutanga'u) were exported in this quarter and was valued at T\$3,400 compared to 16.8mt exported in the same quarter last year and was valued at T\$8,400. The seaweed exports did not change much from the previous quarter, quantities and values were similar to what was exported in this quarter. There is currently only one licensed seaweed exporter.

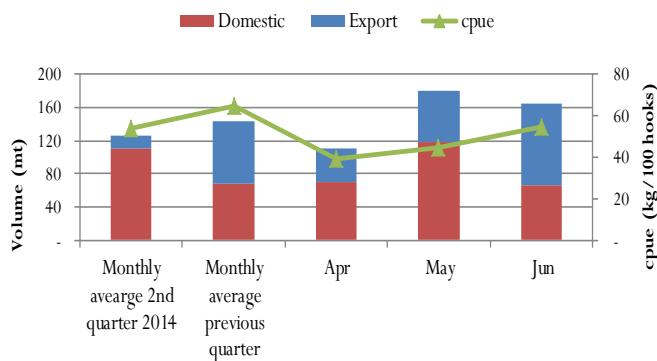
### HOME CONSUMPTION

A total of 4.2mt of seafood was taken for home consumption purposes in this quarter. This is a 10% increase from home consumption data from the previous quarter. The home consumption was dominated by fish which made up 44%, followed by holothurian, crustaceans and molluscs with 24%, 15% and 15% respectively. New Zealand (47%), Australia (26%) and US (23%) are the major destinations for home consumption products.

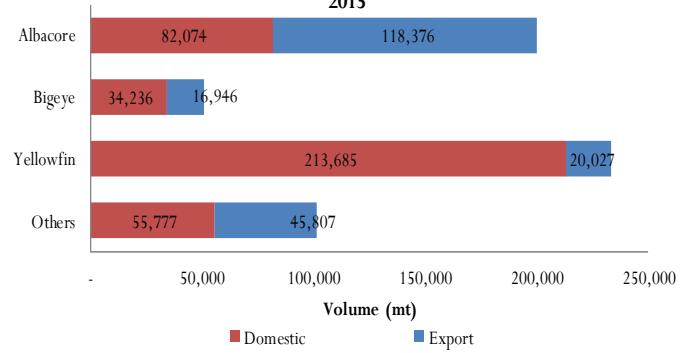
A total of 18,900 pieces of souvenir from marine organisms were taken under home consumption in this quarter. This is a 203% increase from the previous quarter. The reason behind this significant increase is unknown however it could be linked to the total num-

*Home consumption data refers to the seafood taken by airplane passengers overseas for home consumption.*

Tuna performance, 2nd Quarter 2015



Tuna catch and export species composition, 2nd Quarter 2015



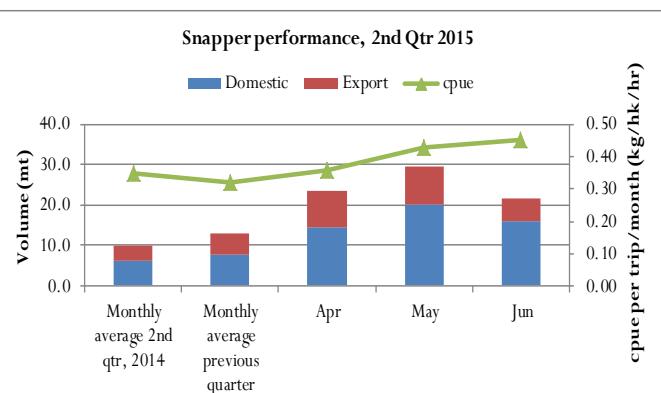
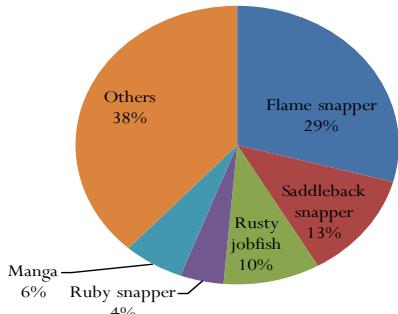
## SNAPPER FISHERY

The total quantity of snapper and grouper exported in the second quarter 2015 was 24mt. This is a 111% increase in the quantity of snapper and grouper exported during the same period last year and a 46% increase from the previous quarter.

The total FOB values of snapper and grouper exported in the second quarter 2015 was T\$0.16 million. This is a 108% increase from the values of snapper and grouper exported in the same period last year and a 47% increase from that exported in the previous quarter.

Snapper and grouper exports was dominated by flame snapper (59%) followed by grouper and crimson jobfish, contributing 17% and 14% respectively. More than 90% of snapper and grouper exports were exported to the Hawaiian market.

### Snapper Catch Species Composition 2nd Quarter



Source (above and left) : Fisheries Department Snapper Database

A total of 14 boats were licensed by the end of this quarter, however, only 12 boats were active. Total landed snapper and grouper catch of 50.8mt was recorded in this quarter, a 121% increase from catch landed in the same period in 2014, and a 268% increase from that landed in previous quarter. Catch of the major snapper and grouper species were increased significantly in this quarter compared to the previous one. Flame snapper dominates the total amount of snapper and grouper caught, was increased by 86%. Catch of manga, rusty jobfish, ruby snapper and saddleback snapper were increased by 200%, 97%, 88% and 43% respectively.

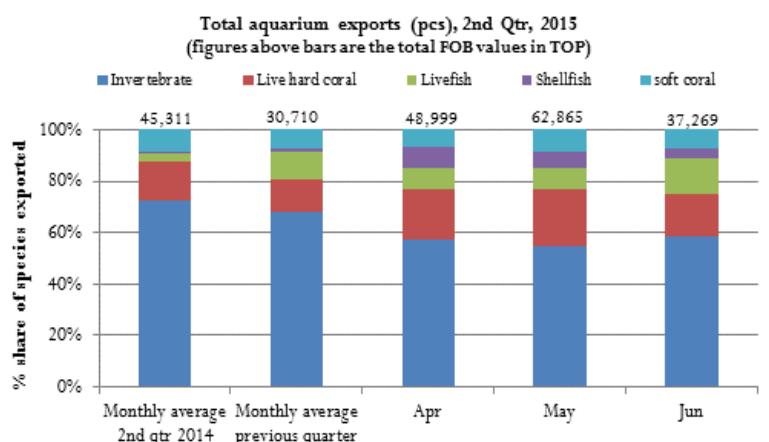
## AQUARIUM FISHERY

The total quantity of aquarium products exported in this quarter was estimated at 44,000 pcs. This is a 23% decrease in total pieces exported compared to the second quarter 2014 but a 16% increase from the previous quarter.

The total FOB value of the exported aquarium products in the second quarter of 2015 was TOP\$0.15million. This is a 10% increase from the value of products exported in the same quarter of 2014 and a 62% increase from the value exported in the previous quarter.

The main reason for the decline in export is the decreased demand for aquarium products from the main markets where the Tongan exporters are exporting to, which is the US market.

Exports of live rock is still banned.



Source (above) : Fisheries Department Aquarium Export Database

## DOMESTIC MARKET

A weekly survey of the domestic fish market is conducted every Saturday at the main market, Faua Fish Market, roadside stalls and Ha'apai. The survey will commence in Vava'u at the 3rd Quarter. A total of 27.8mt of seafood products were sold at the domestic fish market with an estimated value of T\$0.2million. 94% of the total quantity sold were at Tongatapu in which 74% were sold at Faua Market and 26% at road side stalls. Only 6% were sold in Ha'apai. These figures reflects the production at inshore fisheries only.