



MINISTRY OF FISHERIES

FISHERIES QUARTERLY REPORT

FIRST QUARTER 2021

JAN — MAR 2021



MARINE EXPORTS

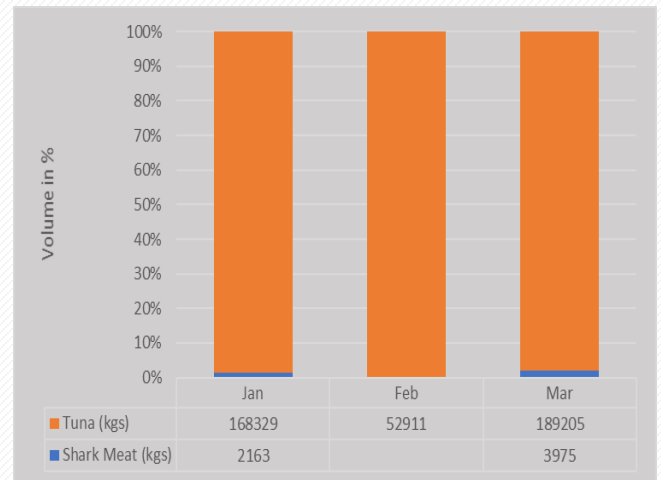
Marine export continues despite the impact of the ongoing lockdown of international borders due to COVID-19.

The total quantity of marine products (not including aquarium products) exported in the first quarter of 2021 was 416 metric tons. This is a 9% decrease from the quantity exported during the same period last year but a tremendous increase of 192% from that exported in the previous quarter. There were only two (2) marine species exported this quarter in which tuna contributed the most to the total marine export with 99% and shark meat with only 1%.

The total FOB value of marine export in this quarter was TOP\$2.3 million. This is a 7% decrease in the FOB value of marine resources exported during the same period last year but an enormous increase of 225% from the value of that exported in the previous quarter. The fluctuation in FOB value is determined by the quantity exported in each quarter.

Source: Fish exports database

MARINE EXPORT DETAILS

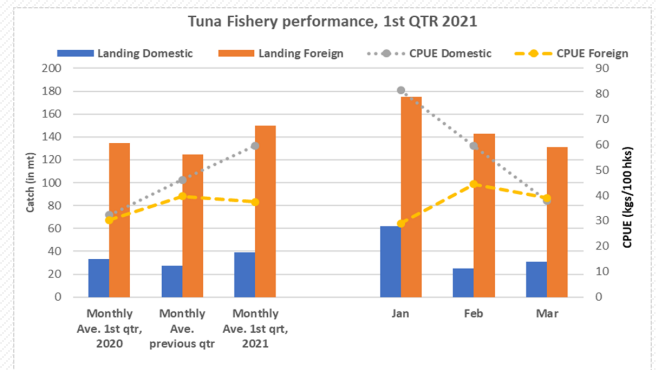


TUNA FISHERY

The export quantity of tuna and associated by-catch for this quarter was 410 metric tons compared to 430 metric tons in the same quarter last year and 120 metric tons in the previous quarter. Total volume of tuna unloaded in this quarter was 566 metric tons. Yellowfin tuna contributed the most to the total unloaded with 46%, followed by Albacore which accounted to 36% of the total unloaded. About 72% of tuna unloaded was exported during the quarter. In the month of March, total export exceeded the total unloaded due to a portion of total unloaded in February exported in March. The total FOB value of tuna exported was approximately valued at TOP\$2.3 million which is a tremendous increase of 238% from the value of tuna exported in the previous quarter.

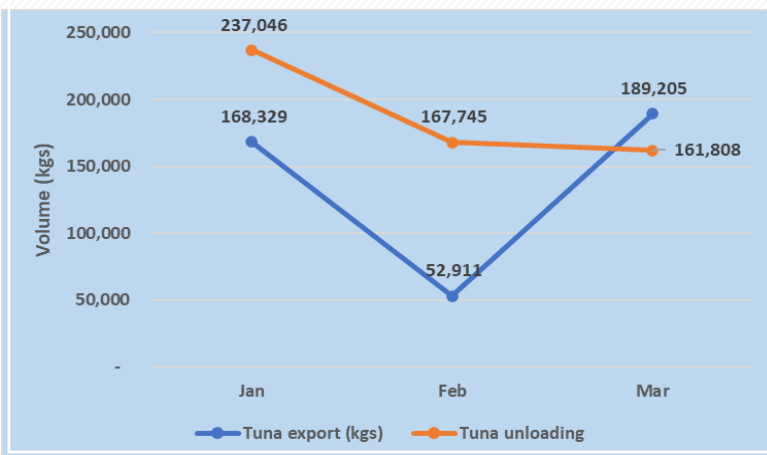
Foreign fleet CPUE increases in February and slightly decreases in March whereas the catch landed decreases throughout the whole quarter. Domestic fleets CPUE decreases while catch landed fluctuates. Overall performance for both foreign and domestic fleets in CPUE and catch landed is higher compared to previous quarter and the same quarter of last year.

TUNA CATCH COMPOSITION.

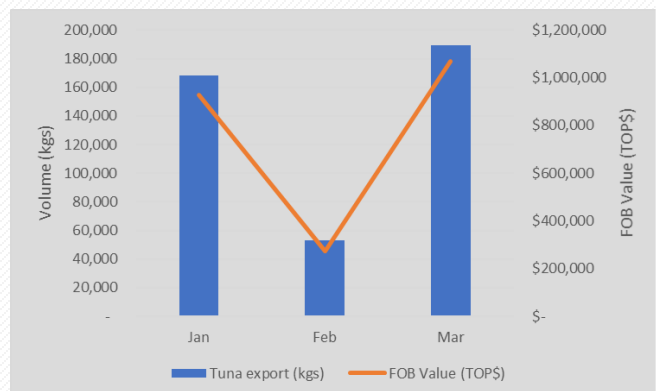


Source: Dorado - Tufman2 Report#11b Tuna catch & effort by EEZ

TUNA PERFORMANCE



FOB VALUE OF TUNA EXPORT



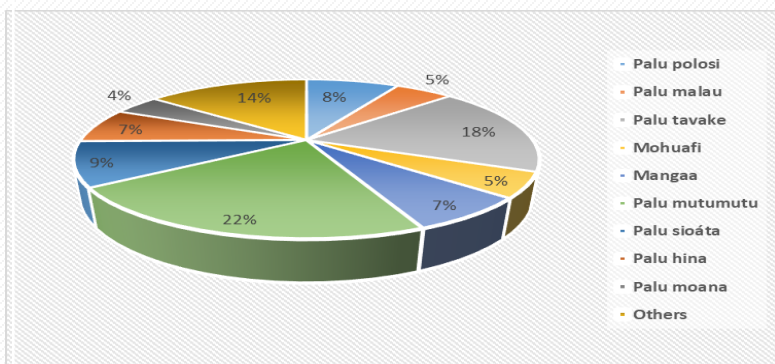
Source: Ministry of Fisheries Tuna exports database

SNAPPER FISHERY

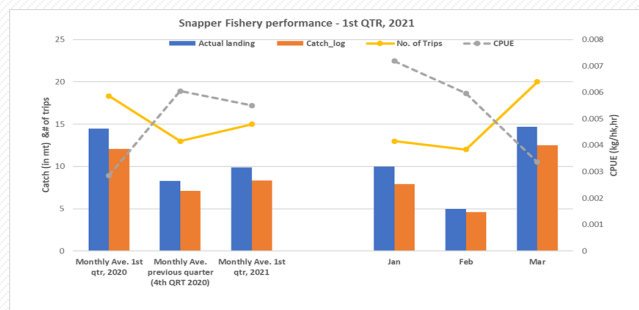
Comparable to the previous quarter, there was no export of snapper from Tonga during this first quarter 2021. The closure of boarders and global markets had bring to a halt the export of fresh snapper from the Kingdom which usually contributes the second largest marine export species from Tonga every year. This however does not mean that there was no snapper available locally. As recorded this quarter, a total of 29 metric tons of snapper were offloaded during the quarter and was sold locally.

The CPUE throughout this first quarter decreased. The catch landed dropped in February due to bad weather and few vessels went out fishing while March recorded the highest catch landed for the quarter. The average CPUE experienced in this quarter was lower than the previous quarter but still higher than the same quarter last year.

SNAPPER UNLOADING COMPOSITION BY SPECIES

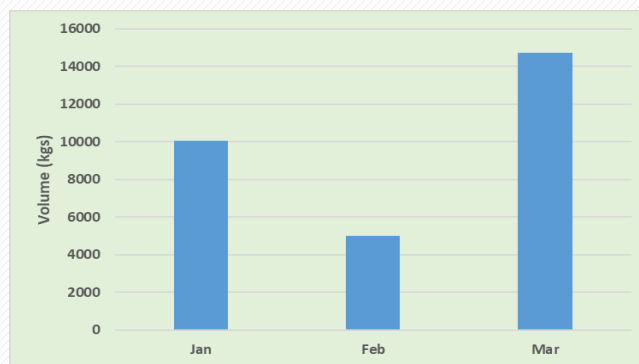


SNAPPER CATCH COMPOSITION



Source: Dorado - Tufman2 Report#1a All species catch and effort -cpue kg / hk.hr

TOTAL SNAPPER UNLOADING

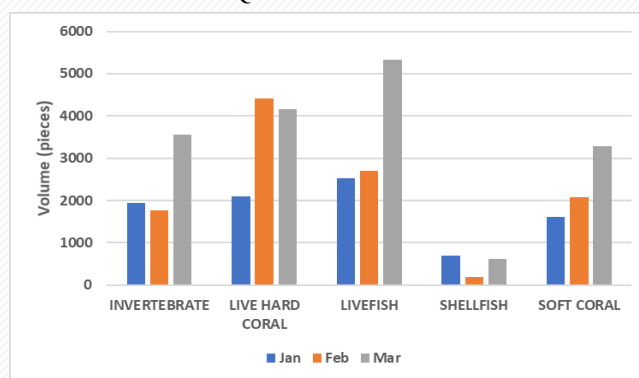


AQUARIUM FISHERY

The total quantity of aquarium products exported in this quarter was 36,978 pieces compared to 20,226 pieces in the previous quarter. This is a 32% decrease from the same quarter last year but an increase of 83% from that exported in the previous quarter. The export of aquarium product was dominated by live hard coral and live fish by contributing 29% each, followed by invertebrate by 20%, shellfish with 4% and soft coral contributed the least with 0.2%.

The total FOB value of the exported aquarium products in the first quarter of 2021 was TOP\$204,991 compared to TOP\$237,141 in the first quarter of last year and TOP\$118,257 from the previous quarter. This is a decrease of 14% from export value of the first quarter of 2020 but an increase of 73% from the export value of the previous quarter.

ACQUARIUM EXPORT



DOMESTIC MARKET

A survey is conducted every week in some main local fish market with a purpose to gather information based on marine resources market price and estimated volume sold in local markets. This survey includes Vava'u, Ha'apai and six main fish market in Tongatapu. For this quarter, a total of 29 metric tons of marine resources was recorded and approximately valued at TOP\$0.27 million.

There were several stalls added in the month of March and it contributed to 12% increase in the quantity of marine product sold in this quarter. However, the average price of all species remains the same as of the previous quarter while supply and demand remain to be the factors that determined the price. The top 4 high value species in the market are crustaceans, mix holothuria, other mollusc and sea urchin. The fluctuation of price is depending on the demand and quantity of marine product that are available in the market at a particular time.

Source: Ministry of Fisheries market survey database

GENERAL AVERAGE PRICE

