



MINISTRY OF FISHERIES ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024



Chapter 1 : Table of Contents

Chapter 1 : Table of Contents.....	2
Chapter 2 : List of Abbreviations and Acronyms.....	3
Chapter 3 : Foreword from the Honourable Minister for Fisheries	6
Chapter 4 : Chief Executive Officer Preface.....	8
Executive Summary of the Ministry of Fisheries overall performance.....	11
1. Overview of the Ministry of Fisheries.....	32
1.1 Introduction.....	32
1.2 Legislation, Mandate, Stakeholders	33
1.3 Operational Structure	37
1.4 Performance Management Framework – Results Map (Logframe).....	38
2. Ministry of Fisheries Performance	39
2.1 Human Resource Management.....	39
2.2 Results Management (Reporting outputs and outcome).....	47
2.2.1 Office of the Honourable Minister	47
2.2.2 Office of the Chief Executive Officer	48
2.2.3 Corporate Services Division	50
2.2.4 Fisheries Management and Development Division.....	56
2.2.5 Fisheries Science Division.....	71
2.2.6 Fisheries Compliance Division.....	109
2.2.7 PROP Project Management Unit (PMU).....	129
2.3 Financial Management	130
2.4 Procurement	132
2.5 Assets Management.....	132
3. Significant issues/challenges.....	134
3.1 Issues/Challenges	134
3.2 Risks and risk management.....	138
4. Disclosures and legal compliance.....	140
4.1 Audit statements	140
4.2 Ministerial and Cabinet directives.....	140
4.3 Governance disclosures	142
4.4 Government policy requirements.....	143
4.5 Board and Committee Remuneration.....	144
Chapter 5 : Conclusion.....	145

Chapter 2 : List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACE	Annual Catch Estimation
ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AMP	Annual Management Plan
ANCORS	Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security
AR	Annual Report
CBFM	Community Based Fisheries Management
CP	Corporate Plan
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFEC	Certificate in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CMM	Conservation and Management Measures
COVID 19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
CSU	Central Service Unit
DPD	Detailed Project Description
DWG	Data working group
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EFY	End of Financial Year
ESMF	Environment Social Management Framework
ER	Electronic Reporting
FAD	Fishing Aggregate Device
dFAD	Drifting Fisheries Aggregate Device
FAO	Food Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCD	Fisheries Compliance Division
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agencies
FFC	Forum Fisheries Committee
FFC MIN	Forum Fisheries Committee Ministerial
FLOW	Fisheries Licensing Officer Workshop
FOB	Free on Board
FY	Financial Year
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GPA	Government's Priority Agenda
HMAF	His Majesty Army Force
HTHH	Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai
HQ	Head quarter
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IIP	Internal Implementation Plan
IP	Internal Policy
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IUU	Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (fishing)
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LAN	Local Area Network
MC	Ministerial Conference
MCS	Monitoring Control Surveillance
MSC	Master Stewardship Certificate

MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOU	Memorandum of understanding
MoF	Ministry of Fisheries
NFOSC	National Fisheries Officer Surveillance Course
NDF	Non-Detriment Finding
NPOA	National Plan of Action
NTSA	Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement
NIWA	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric
NICT	National Information and Communication Technology
NZ	New Zealand
OPM	Observer Program Management
OIE	Office International des Epizooties
PC	Pacific Community (formerly Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC))
PH	Potential of Hydrogen
PSC	Public Service Commission
PMS	Performance Management System
PNA	Parties to Niue Agreement
POI	Person of Interest
POM	Project Operations Manual
PMU	Project Management Unit
PROP	Pacific Regional Oceanscape Programme
PSMA	Port State Measures Agreement
PMSP	Pacific Maritime Security Program
QGIS	Quantum Geographic Information System
RIMSW	Regional Management System Workshop
ROCW	Regional Observer Coordinator Workshop
RTMCFA	Regional Technical Meeting for Coastal Fisheries Aquaculture
R2R	Reef 2 Reef
SAW	Stock Assessment Workshop
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal (United Nations)
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
SMA	Special Management Area
SOP	Standard OF Procedures
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
TAILS	The Amnestic Incognito Live System
TC	Tropical Cyclone
TCC	Tonga Communication Corporation
TDW	Tuna Data Workshop
TFSP	Tonga Fisheries Sector Plan
TSDf II	Tonga Strategic Development Framework
TOR	Term of Reference
TPFES	Tonga Passenger Food Export System
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
USP	University of the South Pacific
WCPCF	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

WB World Bank
WTO world Trade Organisation
VMS Vessel Monitoring System
VO Vast Ocean
VEPA Vava'u Environmental Protection Association

Chapter 3 : Foreword from the Honourable Minister for Fisheries



It is my pleasure to present the Ministry of Fisheries Annual Report for the Financial Year 2023/2024 which provides an overview of the Ministry's achievements, outputs, and challenges encountered during the year.

The Financial Year 2023/24 was still a challenging period for the fisheries sector for the ongoing trying to recover from the impacts of the HungaTonga HungaHaapai (HTHH) volcanic eruption and the tsunami, followed by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite that, the Ministry has had to revamp its priorities, activities and targets accordingly to realign with the time and to a more realistic plan - one that was complex, challenging, and unlike any other, it has ever faced. Despite the situation, with the spirit of togetherness and resilience, we ensured that our priorities were met.

The ongoing management of special management areas for coastal communities, the development of aquaculture and commercial fisheries, and the diversification of fishing practices for the development of new fisheries such as artisanal fisheries and squid fisheries were the main priorities during this FY. The continuation of the implementation of the World Bank project "Pathway to Sustainable Oceans" (Halafononga ki he Ngatai Tu'uloa) made a great contribution to the overall development and management of fisheries.

In addition to the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the most global challenge up to this FY 2023/2024 was the climate change issue faced by the fisheries sector, especially the small islands developing countries, such as Tonga. This affected the distribution of tuna resources in our ocean, affecting the catches of tuna fishing vessels.

The impacts of human activities such as unsustainable harvesting of marine resources and illegal fishing were also major challenges faced by the Ministry of Fisheries every day. Attempts were always made to ensure cooperation between the Ministry of Fisheries, Government Ministries and all stakeholders, enforcing fisheries Laws and Regulations to promote and ensure sustainable fisheries.

The ongoing support of development partners, regional and international fisheries organizations, and other agencies, in terms of funding and technical assistance to the Ministry of Fisheries, is acknowledged with great appreciation. These made a big difference in the overall development and management of fisheries.

I would like to acknowledge the effective leadership of the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Fisheries, Dr Sione Vailala Matoto and also the technical support provided by the Fisheries staff. Dr. Matoto has the responsibility of implementing government policies and decisions and managing the administrative, operational, and broader functions and activities

of the Ministry. Through cooperation and collaboration, the fisheries sector will be developed to ensure its contribution to the food security and economic growth of Tonga.

Mālō ‘aupito,


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Lord Fohe
Minister for Fisheries



Chapter 4 : Chief Executive Officer Preface



The Financial Year 2023/24 is another challenging year for the Ministry. This was due to various challenges including the ongoing trying to recover from the HTHH volcanic eruption, tsunami, COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and technical and financial resource limitations.

Despite that, the Ministry delivered its mandate with the available time and resources to achieve the goals in the 2023/24 Corporate Plan. Therefore, this Annual Report presents the actual outputs achieved by the Ministry of Fisheries based on the Ministry's Corporate Plan 2023/24– 2025/26 with indicators that can be used to measure and report on our progress.

The key focuses of this financial year included the ongoing implementation of the Tonga Fisheries Sector Plan (TFSP) and the “Halafononga ki ha Ngatai Tu’uloa” project and also the recovery from the HTHH volcanic eruption. Under the TFSP, the Ministry focused on implementing the existing 65 Special Management Areas (SMA) in Tonga. In addition, aquaculture activities also increased including an increase in the number of *mabe pearl* farms) from 51 in the FY 2022/2023 to 52 pearl farms in the FY 2023/2024. There were seven (7) sea cucumber trial farms in FY2023/24 which are 3 successful trial farms, however, the rest of the 4 farms were relocated and re-trial again.

This FY is the eighth year of implementing the Performance Management System (PMS). At the End of the Financial Year 2023/24 assessment, there were 55 staff out of 82 overall of the Ministry's staff who were eligible to complete the PMS assessment. Every year's PMS awards show great improvement in the staff PMS assessment form and this was shown in their final moderated results by the PSC and the percentage of rewards at the end of FY. The quarterly performance of the Ministry shows the overall performance of the Ministry against its PMS Internal Implementation Plan for the FY, in quarter 1 (July – September 2023) 98%, quarter 2 (October – December 2023) 98%, quarter 3 (January – March 2024) 98%, these 3 quarters were green light in PMS traffic light; while quarter 4 (April – June 2024) 100%, with a Gold Champion in PMS traffic light.

The Ministry's budget decreased from \$5.16 million in 2022/23 to \$4.60 million in FY2023/24 and the actual spending was \$3.89 million. The revenue target for 2023/2024 was \$3.87 million but the Ministry managed to collect \$3.62 million

Tonga still relies on wild fisheries stocks for food and income. The two main export marine products from Tonga are tuna and aquarium species. The sea cucumber farm (Ngaifo) was also exported, although the farm was damaged by the HTHH event, but now trying to recover.

The total marine product exported (not including aquarium products), during the period was 1,689.7 metric tons. This is a 14.7% decrease from the total marine products exported in the last financial year which was predominantly due to a large volume of tuna being exported. All

fish exports in this financial year were valued at TOP\$8.6 million which is a 23.3% decrease from the value of fish exported in the last financial year.

A total of 1,605.1 metric tons of tuna were exported in this financial year which is a 19% decrease from the last financial year. Tuna was the main contributor to the total amount of marine products exported, making up 95%. The total FOB value of tuna within this period was valued at approximately TOP\$ 8.4 million, which is a 26% decrease from that of the previous period.

The total aquarium products exported in this FY2023/24 was 59,999 pieces and were valued at approximately TOP\$0.3 million. This was a 59.2% decrease in quantities and was associated with a 63.3% decrease in FOB value from aquarium exports in the previous financial year. The aquarium export was dominated by live fish with 47% followed by other species as shown in **Figure 2**. The main market for exported aquarium products is the United States.

The snapper fishery still experienced a significant impact since COVID-19 restrictions and difficulties with access to international markets and other export restrictions. As a result, there was no export until June 2024 with only 38.5kg of snapper being exported from the domestic tuna licence holder. However, Snapper fishers could still supply our local markets with the assistance of the Government by subsidizing the price of fish and baits.

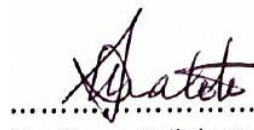
Due to the decline in wild fisheries stocks for various reasons, including climate change and overfishing, the Ministry has made new initiatives to ensure productions from the fisheries sector meet the demand of the country for food and income. The Ministry continued deploying fishing aggregating devices (FAD) around Tongan waters to increase production for artisanal fisheries. Aquaculture has been developed with the farming of mabe pearl, sea cucumber, giant clams, finfish, and others. Development of the squid fishery was ongoing and squid meat is very popular now at the local market.

The Ministry still emphasized the NCD project started in 2016 and aimed at combating non-communicable diseases in Tonga with affordable tuna at price. The project operates under a memorandum of agreement (MOU) between the Ministry of Fisheries and the authorized agent for foreign vessels fishing in Tonga's EEZ "Ngatai Marine Enterprises", whereby foreign fishing vessels are required to offload 3.5 tons of Tuna for the project in high peak seasons and 2.5 tons in low peak seasons. For this financial year, a total of 120 metric tons of tuna was sold locally with a value of approximately TOP\$1.8 million.

It is my sincere hope that the implementation of the Tonga Fisheries Sector Plan and Corporate Plan for this financial year effectively contributed to the overall development of Tonga.

Last but not least, I would like to acknowledge the effective support and cooperation provided by the Ministry's staff which greatly contributed to the achievements of the Ministry of Fisheries in FY 2023/24.

Malo 'Aupito,



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Dr. Sione Vailala Matoto
Chief Executive Officer for Ministry of Fisheries



Executive Summary of the Ministry of Fisheries overall performance

Output	Major Reform Activities	Summary Highlights
<p>Output 1: Better leadership for the Ministry of Fisheries, including at national, regional, and international levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Corporate Plan & Budget submission ➤ Annual Report 2022 – 2023 submission ➤ Marine Spatial Planning Workshop in Fiji on 7th Aug – 11th Aug 2023 ➤ Special Ministerial Meeting of Exploratory Pool Members under the US Treaty on 9th Aug – 11th Aug 2023 ➤ Special meetings of Fisheries Ministers & Officials to consider the distribution of funds under the new Economic Assistance Agreement and Climate Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Corporate Plan and Budget for FY2024/25 were submitted on 26 April 2024 ➤ Annual report for FY2022/23 was submitted to the Cabinet and Parliament before the due dates, and approved by the Cabinet on the 06th October 2023 to submit to LA; Submission to LA on the 25th October 2023. ➤ The programme is focussed on integrating climate and ocean information services and multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) in the five countries. The four project key results are strengthening the delivery model for climate information and services, improving community preparedness and response capabilities and resilience to climate risks, and enhancing regional knowledge management and cooperation for climate services and MHEWS ➤ Focus discussion confirmation even distribution funds via exploratory pool under the US Treaty ➤ An outcome of the Summit, the President and Pacific leaders issued the Declaration on U.S.-Pacific Partnership, a forward-looking vision statement reflecting our shared commitment to expand and deepen our cooperation in the years ahead. ➤ The Pacific Island Forum (PIF) member States have today discussed the final draft of the Pacific Regional Framework on

	<p>of the Multilateral Treaty on Fisheries on 14th Aug – 16th Aug 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regional Policy & Governance Dialogue in Fiji on 21st Aug – 24th Aug 2023 ➤ Annual Ministerial Forum Fisheries Committee meeting and the Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting 4th RFMM on 3rd Jul – 6th Jul 2023 ➤ Special Official FFC 129 & Special Minister FFC 22 on 2nd Sept – 7th Sept 2023 ➤ meeting on International Conference of Fishing Community 	<p>Climate Mobility - a first for the region and for the world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Framework is a collaborative effort of the Pacific member States led by the Governments of Fiji and Tuvalu, as co-chairs of the Joint Working Group, and supported by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Platform for Disaster Displacement (PDD), International Labour Organisation (ILO), UN Commission for Human Rights (UNCHR), International Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) ➤ The Annual Ministerial Forum Fisheries Committee 20 (FFCMIN20) and the Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting 4 (RFMM4) was held in Majuro, the Government of Marshall Island from the 3-6 July 2023. The Ministerial meeting was preceded by a one-day meeting of the Forum Fisheries Committees (FFC127). At this meeting, members of the FFC consolidated proposals and matters to be considered by Ministers at the FFCMIN20 and the RFMM4 and their Retreat on the final day of the meeting. ➤ Annual Forum Fisheries Committee and Ministerial & <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 4th Regional Fisheries Minister Meeting and sign the Country Partnership Agreement between the “PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY” and the KINGDOM of TONGA. ➤ To recognise the challenges that fishing villages worldwide face together and to prepare a forum for discussions on the preparation and implementation of cooperative countermeasures between countries and communities.
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	<p>on 19th Sept – 21st Sept 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ meeting in Honiara, Solomon-Climate Change ➤ meeting in Jiangsu Province, China- ➤ meeting in Panama, USA – Our Ocean Conference. ➤ virtual meeting- PACP- WTO Trade and Fisheries Officials Briefing ➤ 20th Annual Forum Fisheries Committee and Ministerial Meeting in Marshall, Majuro ➤ Annual 2024 SPRFO meeting, 21st Jan – 3rd Feb 2024, Manta, Ecuador 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fish and fisheries have massive economic and cultural significance in communities around the world. Stock collapses and declines in stock productivity mean there are fewer fish to go around, which is especially problematic given that billions of people around the world rely on seafood as a key source of protein. ➤ The exhibitors of CFSE 2023 will present different types of fish and seafood, delicacies from fish and seafood products, different services and technologies for processing, storage, and transportation of fish and seafood, as well as equipment for restaurants and trading. ➤ To draw international attention to the serious threats facing the world’s ocean and to take concrete action around the globe to support marine conservation and sustainable development. ➤ The Agreement marks a major step forward for ocean sustainability by prohibiting government support for illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; fishing of overfished stocks; and fishing on the unregulated high seas ➤ The 4th Regional Fisheries Minister Meeting and sign the Country Partnership Agreement between the “PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY” and the KINGDOM of TONGA. ➤ The "Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean", together with a Resolution regarding the holding of a Preparatory Conference to assist the efficient commencement of the work of the Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) established by the Convention. ➤ Promotion of Tonga Fisheries Commodities Production Value
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Vast Ocean Grand Opening Gala Day at Sydney, Australia 8th Feb - 9th Feb 2024 ➤ Blue Talanoa Forum, House of Tonga, 9th Feb 2024 ➤ FAO meeting, Auckland New Zealand 12th Feb – 16th Feb 2024 ➤ Climate Awareness Workshop Meeting at Wellington, New Zealand 19th Feb - 2nd Mar 2024 ➤ FFA meeting on improvement of albacore management & SPG at Wellington, New Zealand 2nd March - 4th March 2024 ➤ Japan Defence Dialogue meeting at Tokyo, Japan 18th Mar – 21st Mar 2024 ➤ Annual Monitoring Control Surveillance Working Group meeting, Honiara, Solomon 18th Mar – 22nd Mar 2024 ➤ International workshop on 	<p>with Vast Ocean Developing Partner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supporting island countries around the globe to develop sustainable blue economies to adapt to climate change, create jobs, boost economies, and improve quality of life for communities. ➤ Implementing recommendation on strengthening SMA program towards better manage of coastal fisheries resources. ➤ Climate Awareness Workshop (CLAW) with an emphasis on fisheries impacts in the Pacific, adaptation and loss and damage advocacy. ➤ The aim of delivering improved management of the southern longline fishery, focused on South Pacific albacore tuna. SPC provides scientific information and advice to inform management options, and works at regional, sub-regional and national levels to provide support for technical approaches to underpin appropriate management mechanisms. ➤ The meetings look at port calls of vessels and stopovers of aircraft of the JSDF, and capacity building, Japan has contributed to the peace and stability of the Pacific Islands Region, as well as its resilient and sustainable development. ➤ Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) plays an essential role in the overall fisheries management system by protecting the integrity of management measures designed to achieve FFA Members’ sustainable fisheries development objectives. ➤ Pacific Leaders, we are strongly committed to ensuring the health and wellbeing of our people, and to human rights and equity for all. We place great value on our ocean and land and celebrate a deep connection to our community, natural
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	<p>sustainable blue economy in Pacific Island and territories Guam, 20th Mar – 22nd Mar 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Head of Fisheries meeting at Noumea on 22nd April – 29th April 2024 ➤ FFC meeting at Nauru 3rd May – 14th May 2024 ➤ Reef Cloud meeting in Fiji on 31st May – 1st June 2024 ➤ Annual Ministerial Forum Fisheries Committee Meeting Twenty Third (FFCMIN23) and the Fifth Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM5) 22nd July – 26th July 2024 	<p>environment, resources, livelihoods, faiths, cultural values and traditional knowledge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Pacific Community (SPC)'s Heads of Fisheries meeting provides oversight of all SPC's work in the field of fisheries and aquaculture, as well as an opportunity to discuss relevant topics of regional interest. It covers SPC's Oceanic and Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Programmes, and Directors Office which collectively form the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystem Division of SPC. ➤ Annual Forum Fisheries Committee and Ministerial 4th Regional Fisheries Minister Meeting and sign the Country Partnership Agreement with Ministry of Fisheries – Tonga. ➤ Reef Cloud is a reef monitoring system developed by AIMS that uses underwater photographs analysed by Artificial Intelligence (AI) in combination with traditional knowledge. The initiative is also in line with the Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan 2021-2030, developed and endorsed by 26 Member countries at the 30th SPREP Meeting in 2021. ➤ Annual Forum Fisheries Committee and Ministerial 5th Regional Fisheries Minister Meeting and sign the Country Partnership Agreement with Ministry of Fisheries – Tonga.
<p>Output 2: Better leadership and management of Ministry's divisions, with good working relations and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Head of Division meetings held quarterly with the Minister. ➤ CEO approved the Ministry's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct and completed 4 x HODs meeting quarterly within every FY. (11th July 2023, 24th Jan 2024, 15th March 2024 & 22nd May 2024)

<p>communications, and a focus on output deadlines.</p>	<p>final Corporate Plan, Budget and Annual Procurement Plan for FY2023/24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CEO endorses the Ministry’s revised Corporate Plan, Annual Procurement Plan ➤ CEO approved the submission of final Annual Management Plan (AMP), Annual Cash Flow forecast, Training Plan, Performance Management System (PMS), Job Description Review, Annual Report (AR) ➤ Six-monthly activity reports to PSC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Submission of the Ministry's final CP, Budget and APP to PLMO / LA on the 27th of April 2024 ➤ Submission of revised CP and APP FY 2024/25 against the approved Budget on 29th July 2024 ➤ Submission of AMP, Annual Cashflow to PMO/MOF on the 31st July 2024, PMS FY2022/23 and EYR FY2022/23 on 11th August 2023 and Annual Report on 13th August 2023. ➤ Two bi-annual reports (July 2023 and January 2024) were submitted according to the deadline 5th March 2024
<p>Output 3: Manage to monitor and provide an effective and efficient legal service in a professional way to support good governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Attendance to emerging legal issues on provisions of legal advice & briefings ➤ Preparation of amendments to Acts, regulations and fisheries sectors when necessary ➤ Provide legal training and consultations for the Ministry’s staff and fisheries sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Legal Advices and Cases (Nukuleka, Kolonga, Ha’apai and Vava’u) ➤ National Policy and Labour Standards- Provided relevant legislation and advice ➤ Aquaculture/Aquarium Consultation/Meeting ➤ Fisheries Management (Conservation) Regulation amendments meeting with Legislative Drafter (AGO) ➤ Virtual training of “Law of the Sea” conducted by FFA and lecturers. ➤ Pacific Ocean Governance and Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction workshop. ➤ Filled in and completed the CITES implementation Report sent to the CITES Secretariat, which has already been published on the CITES website.

<p>Output 4: Improved liaison with national, regional & international agencies and donors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Liaise with donors and agencies National, Regional and International 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Correspondence with National Agencies and Donors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Liaise with the National Fisheries Council in upgrading and developing the management plans ➤ Liaise with the World Bank Team in organising quarterly reviews with Fisheries stakeholders ➤ Liaise in assisting the Acting CEO in prep for CEO Forum and other upcoming appointment ➤ Liaise with the GCF Fisheries staff in preparation for GCF with Finance ➤ Liaise with the Matangi Tonga officer for Fisheries update Press Release ➤ Liaise with Vast Ocean and FSD in preparation for Minister's travel to Australia for the Grand opening Gala ➤ Liaise with Niua representative for an appointment with CEO & Minister ➤ Liaise with PMU for Bob Gillet's visit on Aquaculture studies with CEO ➤ Liaise with OICs in preparation for CEO travel to Vava'u and Eua ➤ Liaise with PMO regarding Nippon Foundation boat distribution ➤ Liaise with the Minister for Finance appointment with the CEO for Fisheries on seeking funding for longline vessels and loan opportunities 2. Correspondence with Regional Agencies and Donors
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- Assist Acting CEO to debrief Acting Minister for Fisheries regarding International Conference Fisheries Community 2023
 - Support in preparation of co-signing MOUS for GCF
 - Support in responses for FFA & SPC nominees.
 - Coordinate with the sec of HE for the British High Commissioner
 - Assist Minister and Lord Fakafanua visit to the Aquaculture site
 - Coordinate with Hitomi regarding presenting Japan aid for Truck and Fisheries equipment
 - Coordinate with the Sec of Australia High Commissioner for farewell with Minister & CEO
 - Coordinate with Foreign Affairs regarding appointments with A/CEO and the Embassy of Canada
 - Coordinate with the Sec of JICA for Fisheries requests for volunteers
 - Coordinated responses for FFA and SPC nominees.
- 3. Correspondence with International Agencies and donors**
- Liaise with the liaison officer preparation travel to attend Special Official 129
 - Liaise with the liaison officer in preparation for the Acting CEO travelling to attend the Annual Ministerial Forum Fisheries Committee.
 - Liaise with the liaison officer in preparation for the Ministerial meeting in Korea
 - Liaise with the liaison officer in preparation for the Acting CEO

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Annual Report on Implementation of TFSP 	<p>travelling to Bali</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Liaise with the Secretary for nominees to participate in the SPRFO meeting ➤ Liaise with the Vast Ocean officer for the Minister attending the grand opening Gala ➤ Liaise with the FFA secretary for the CEO attending the FAO meeting and associate meetings in New Zealand ➤ Liaise with the FFA secretary for the CEO to attend the Japan Defence Dialogue meeting ➤ Liaise with the FFA secretary for the Minister and accompany officer to attend the International Workshop on Sustainable Blue Economy in the Pacific Island & Territories ➤ Updated submission of TFSP report mid-March 2024 to CEO
Output 5: Improved media and communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Media Releases ➤ Quarterly consultation meetings with stakeholder groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Weekly update on media releases on Facebook and Fisheries website. (TV and Radio programs, 11 Press Releases and 312 total radio announcements and advertisements) ➤ Engage in community outreach and educational programs
Output 6: Improved administrative and human resources support for all ministry staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Annual JD review ➤ Recruitment/promotions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Staff JDs reviewed and completed for PMS assessment FY 2023/24 in October 2023. ➤ During the FY 2023/24 we had a total of 85 staff (36 females, 40 males). The Ministry later had four (4) newly recruited staff, two (2) staff promoted, and one (1) died in service. Seven (7) staff resigned, and one (1) staff retired from the public service. The project management unit recruited two (2) new staff for the core team.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Project Management Unit (PMU) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 25 daily paid staff under the Ministry of Fisheries ➤ The project management unit recruited two (2) new staff for the core team.
<p>Output 7: Increasingly effective training and capacity development for ministry staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Staff Trainings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seven (7) Internal induction training was conducted for newly appointed staff. These trainings covered various areas. (HR matters, Internal Policy and PMS Training) ➤ Forty-nine (49) overseas travel meetings/training/workshops attended by some of the Ministry's staff for FY2023/24
<p>Output 8: Constantly improving budget, planning and reporting activities for the ministry's activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Internal Policy (IP) ➤ CP, AMP, IAMP ➤ Annual Report ➤ Performance Management System (PMS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 5 x Internal policies revised and approved during this FY ➤ Submission of final CP and Budget in both languages (English/Tongan) to the Ministry of Finance, Prime Minister's Office (Planning Section) and Legislative Assembly in accordance with the deadline (revised FY2023/2024: 28th July 2023; Final CP for FY2024/25: 26th April 2024) ➤ AMP/IAMP FY2022/23 finalized and sent to CEO for approval 31st July 2023 ➤ Completed the compiling of MoF Annual Report FY2022/2023 and submitted to CEO, Minister, Cabinet and Legislative Assembly after approval from Cabinet (Cabinet: 29th September 2023 – approved from Cabinet on 06th October 2023 to submit to LA; Submission to LA: 25th October 2023 ➤ The Ministry submitted its Performance Management System (PMS) assessment for the End of Financial Year 2023/24 on 25th July 2023

<p>Output 9: Better financial, procurement and asset management services compliant with government standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Budget – expenditure ➤ Revenue ➤ Asset ➤ Procurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Budget approved \$4.60 million, actual spending \$4.61 million. ➤ Targeted revenue \$3.6 million, actual revenue collected \$3.25 million ➤ Annual asset report submitted to Ministry of Finance on 31st July 2023. ➤ 100% compliance with procurement policy as reported by the Procurement Division of the MOF. ➤ 7 x Procurement proposals were submitted to the Ministry of Finance during the FY APP2023/24.
<p>Output 10: Provide effective and quality ICT services, improve data system integrity, the accuracy of the system information, and professional digital information dissemination to support efficient management and development of fisheries services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Network system ➤ Security System ➤ Computer system. ➤ E-government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ongoing manage and control of the availability and consistency of the Ministry including outer islands. ➤ Upgrading core network from 1 Gigabit to 10 Gigabits. ➤ Successfully unify and standardize network equipment ➤ Major upgrade with user wireless system access from WPA2 (Wi-Fi Protected Access 2) to WPA2 Enterprise. ➤ 1 new additional server for virtual hosting ➤ Liaise with e-government on the support of the outer island internet connection through Starlink Satellite.
<p>Output 11: By June 2023, Nine Higher standard fisheries management and development plans and policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Management Plan developed, reviewed, and monitored ➤ Policies monitored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New Plan, 1 x drafted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sportfishing has been drafted and will be reviewed and

developed, reviewed, approved and monitored to support sustainable fishery resources, and profitable industries		<p>finalised by the end of 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 3 x Review Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Review of Aquaculture Fisheries Management Plan 2024-2029 (completed and approved)) • Review Marine Aquarium Plan 2024-2027 (completed and approved) • Review of Deepwater Plan 2024-2026 (completed and approved)
Output 12: Improved quality of fisheries statistics to support decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Statistical Data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Analysis of the tuna fishery completed and submitted to HoD in the quarterly bulletin reports. ➤ Data analysis is provided to line ministries as well as other stakeholders with the approval of the CEO ➤ Statistical data are updated and reports are provided upon request and promptly ➤ All Quarterly bulletin reports for this financial year were completed and have been published on the Ministry’s website
Output 13: Improved quality and accuracy of economics reports to support decision-making, and export of fisheries products and developed and implemented Natural disaster fisheries Response Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Export 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The total quantity of marine products (excluding marine aquariums) exported in this financial year was 1689.7 metric tons, which is a decrease of 14.7% from that amount of the previous financial year. However, the total FOB value was TOP 8.6 million which also shows a decrease of 23% compared to that value of the previous year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There were some snappers exported this fiscal year which were only 38kg with an approximate value of TOP\$269.00
Output 14: Improved quality and accuracy of market knowledge to support decision-making, marketing, and export of fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ National Fisheries Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Upgrade of Tu’imatamoana packing and export facility ➤ Fixed the Tu’imatamoana Chill Room, this is to gather for the

<p>products and Empowered and Strengthened Fisheries Councils and Associations.</p>		<p>storage of fish bait.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supplying packing and export equipment ➤ Renovation of the Tu'imatamoana market with a new roof ➤ Purchasing the Fish bait
<p>Output 15: Strengthening and building FMDD staff capacity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Training to build capacity of staff ➤ Attend meetings and workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Several attachments were made to build the capacity of plan and policy staff in developing and reviewing fisheries management plans and policies. ➤ Meetings and workshops assigned to staff to attend and build knowledge in those areas.
<p>Output 16: Increasingly targeted and focused aquaculture research and development that meets the needs of emerging industries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aquaculture farming activities 	<p>Hatchery production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Two (2) successful spawning induction for the pearl oyster (<i>p.teria penguin</i>) at the Ministry Mariculture and Sandfish (<i>holothurian lessoni</i>) by the Vast Ocean with assistance from Fisheries ➤ Distribution of Pearl oyster spats to the Ha'apai pearl farmers and Sea cucumber juveniles to the SMA communities <p>Farm established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A total of 52 licensed pearl farmers during 2023/24 FY. Total of 42 active farmers with longlines deployed. Ongoing deployment for the rest of the licensed planned and carried out by the Aquaculture section. ➤ A total of 3 lines for Tongatapu, 31 lines for Vava'u and 8 lines in total for the Ha'apai group ➤ One (1) new sea cucumber farm was established in the Taliuhau SMA community to introduce sea cucumber farming to the community for alternative livelihood

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Trial farming of new potential species ➤ Develop and monitoring small scale farming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Three (3) giant clam farms were established that belong to the Ministry at Sopus area, Pangaimotu SMA and Fangatapu SMA. Juvenile clams were transferred to the farms to increase production and restock Harvest & Grading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Harvesting of pearl oysters was carried out in both Vava’u and Ha’apai with a total of 318 mabe pearl. Seeding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seeding activities were conducted at both Vava’u and Ha’apai Pearl farmer associations with a total of 215 seeded mabe pearl oysters Trials of new aquaculture species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1 x new aquaculture species has been trial during this FY, which is tilapia fin fish ➤ 1x trial farming of sea cucumber for the Talihau SMA community. Monitoring programs On-going monitor for Ministry pearl lines in Tongatapu, sea cucumber farms in SMA communities, giant clam farms and fishpond (mullet and tilapia)
<p>Output 17: Expand the implementation of Special Management Area Program and Fish Aggregated Device development for coastal communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Special Management Area (SMA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2 x SMA Plan development still under development for Tongatapu (Lavengatonga & Ha’asini) ➤ 5 x redeployment of existing SMA boundary markers (Manuka, Kolonga, Olo’ua, Ofu, Taunga)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 34 x quarterly monitoring meetings with existing SMAs in Tongatapu ➤ 6 x signboards delivered to existing SMAs in Ha'apai that requested Signboard. ➤ 7 x new FAD developed and deployed along 'Eua
<p>Output 18: Higher standards of training, capacity development, outer island extension and support services, for SMA communities, aquaculture operators, and commercial fishers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stakeholder's capacity building 	<p>Aquaculture and Research Section Technical and Capacity building training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Harvesting and grading ➤ Seeding training ➤ Spat collector training <p>*Notes: All training conducted to both Vava'u and Ha'apai Pearl Farmers Association.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hatchery and production training ➤ Cage culture system training ➤ Equipment and machinery operation training <p>Coastal Community and Development Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coastal Community Management Plan consultation with Ha'asini coastal community. ➤ Coastal Community Management Plan consultation with Lavengatonga community. ➤ Navigation and boat vessel safety for Ha'atafu and Kolonga SMA community. ➤ 'Eua Fisheries Association <p>Inshore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6 Inshore technical training conducted ➤ 45 Inshore support services provided <p>Offshore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tails training in Ha'apai

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conducted Inhouse Electronic Reporting Training of all ER applications in Tongatapu and Vava'u ➤ Conducted dFADs data collection training in Ha'apai ➤ 278 Offshore services including fishing vessels fuel exemption scheme, logsheets provision, data provision to boat owners, and fish selling program. <p>Outer Island</p> <p>Vava'u</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Training of Mabe Pearl & Value added and handi-craft ➤ Spat collector training and deployment ➤ dFADs training ➤ Scoping Project Meeting- SMA ➤ Marine Species and their roles in the SMA ➤ Sea cucumber farm training at Tali hau ➤ Registration of small fishing vessels <p>SMA Catch Data Training & Socioeconomics Presentation (All SMA Communities)</p> <p>Ha'apai</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conducted training on regulation for fishers at Ha'apai (Foa and Lifuka) ➤ Royal Agricultural Show 2023 ➤ Compliance Enforcement <p>- 120 enforcement conduct</p> <p>- 57 fishing vessel inspection</p> <p>Aquaculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Monitoring of pearl farming ➤ Assisted with the farmers on seeding and Cleaning their pearl mabe ➤ Deploy 7 new license farmers
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Re-deploy Fisheries Line ➤ Harvesting Felemea Community Pearl Farm ➤ Fixed Anchor for New Pearl Line (7Farmers) ➤ Monthly Monitor all pearl farmers ➤ Monitor spat collector <p>Data Collection and Entry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 93 creel survey conduct and entry data ➤ 96 Saturday market survey conduct and entry data ➤ 44 Catch data from SMAs <p>Account & Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 12 financial reports submit monthly (71 Revenue & expenditure,12 reconciliation, 12 update vote books and 11 inventory & 0 assets register) ➤ Submit weekly staff timesheet overtime to HQ ➤ Submit 12 cashflow forecasts monthly ➤ 174 purchases order ➤ 36 supporting letters for fishermen ➤ Human Resources and JD Review ➤ Completed and submitted attendance & staff leave balance monthly <p>Special Management Area (SMA)</p> <p>Existing SMA monitoring conduct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 59 Monitoring of the Special Managemnet Area in Haapai. (
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		<p>estimates to WCPFC and SPC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Approval of the JTF project proposal to support Offshore Data collection. ➤ Tuna fishery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total unloading from July 2023 – Jun 2024 = 2465.6mt. 6 Domestic Vessels and 9 FFV with 169 trips made ➤ Snapper Fishery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total unloadings = 62.8 from 17 vessels with 109 number of trips including unloading in Vava’u ➤ Tuna Artisanal fishery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total landed = 35mt from the two Niuas, Vava’u Ha’apai and ‘Eua. ➤ Squid fishery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two trips made with no catch landed ➤ Biological Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 11545 tuna and tuna like species were sampled ○ 8414 snapper species were sampled ➤ New Biological survey – Close Kin Mark Recapture (CKMR) ➤ 2209 of Yellowfin, Bigeye and Albacore were sampled
<p>Output 21: Improving the integrity and accuracy of fisheries data collection and management systems, for sound policy development, better decision-making and responsible fisheries management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Database Management and Data Developments ➤ Coordinate, monitor, motivate and support Electronic Reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 10 Local Systems are currently utilized and accessibility to these systems were made available through the server 24/7 from outer island centres. ➤ 14 Regional databases system monitored, improved and

	(ER) activities	<p>upgraded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New online system for dFADs data collection implemented ➤ 5 Electronic Reporting (ER) applications implemented, Onboard, Onshore, Tails and Ikasavea, Olo ➤ 100% coverage Data quality checks. ➤ 3 Quarterly Data Working Group conducted
Output 22: Effective implementation and monitoring of flora and fauna, food safety and disease outbreak (Biosecurity), international trade of endangered species (CITES) and Water quality test.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CITES ➤ Ciguatera ➤ Biosecurity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 49 x export(s) CITES permit(s) for commercial purposes; 26 CITES permit for souvenir purposes. ➤ 27 Window Screen samples sent to Tahiti for molecular analysis ➤ 10 samples for microscopic analysis ➤ Water parameters including dissolved oxygen (DO), temperature, pH, and salinity were recorded at six sites in Tongatapu: Sopu, Fafa, Kolonga, Haateiho, Pangaimotu, and Atata. ➤ Planning on reviewing and update the Tonga national strategy on aquatic biosecurity – with SPC
Output 23: Efficient and effective compliance and enforcement services with regulatory programs that deter Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 11 x MCS policies and SOPs revised and approved. ➤ 574 x Patrols, boarding, inspections and enforcement conducted in accordance with SOPs. ➤ Ongoing implementation of Port State Measures Agreement and other treaties and conventions (e.g. NTSA, CITES).
Output 24: Provide a cost-effective way for licensing services as a legal mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Licensing services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 52 x fishing licences (commercial fishing, aquaculture, game fishing, exports and fish fence) issued.

to control Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 100% of processing the certificates and permits for exports, exemption duties and Tong Passenger Food Export System at the airport.
Output 25: Increasingly targeted Monitoring, Control & Surveillance (MCS) program for international and domestic fishing activities to deter Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Surveillance programs to deter illegal fishing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 100% observer’s coverage on Foreign Fishing Vessels achieved ➤ 20% of observer coverage on Local Fishing Vessels. ➤ More trainings for Observers and debriefers ➤ Start deployment of observers on Cook Island Flagged vessels ➤ On-going VMS snapshots on each licensed fishing vessel.
Output 26: Implementation of the Tonga Fisheries Sector Plan (TFSP), including effective governance of the World Bank-funded Tongafish Pathway project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tonga Fisheries Sector Plan (TFSP) projects oversight and management ➤ Annual report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ongoing the implementation of the project “Halafononga ki ha Ngatai Tu’uloa” in Tongan, and known in English, as “Pathway to Sustainable Oceans (TongaFish Pathway)” in 2019 with a total cost of USD \$10 million for 6 years. ➤ Ongoing PROP operation manual, procurement plan and Budget completed. ➤ Revised templates to be used by all IDA 18 Projects and to be due in October 2024.

1. Overview of the Ministry of Fisheries

1.1 Introduction

As reflected in the Financial Year 2023/24, the Ministry of Fisheries has navigated a period marked by significant transitions and achievements. This FY has been particularly noteworthy as we bid farewell to our esteemed CEO, Dr Tuikolongahau Halafishi, who has accepted a prestigious position with the Pacific Community (SPC). Dr Halafishi's leadership over the past years has been instrumental in advancing our fisheries management and conservation efforts, fostering sustainable practices that align with both local and international standards.

In light of Dr. Halafishi's departure, we are pleased to announce the reappointment of Dr. Sione Vailala Matoto brings a wealth of experience and expertise in marine resource management, having previously served in various capacities within our organization. His vision for sustainable fisheries development is expected to guide our initiatives moving forward, ensuring that we continue to meet our commitments to stakeholders and uphold our responsibilities towards environmental stewardship.

The Ministry of Fisheries operates with a focus on the national implications of the Tonga Strategic Development Framework II (TSDF II), which aims to create a “*progressive Tonga supporting a higher quality of life for all*”. This initiative is backed by the entire government, leading to specific outcomes at the organizational level. The TSDF II outlines both national and organizational results applicable to the entire public sector, including those relevant to the Ministry of Fisheries.

1.1.1 TSDF National Outcomes

- A: A more inclusive, sustainable and dynamic, knowledge-based economy.
- D: More inclusive, sustainable and responsive good governance with strengthened rule of law.
- F: A more inclusive, sustainable and effective land administration, environment management, and resilience to climate and risk.

1.1.2 TSDF Organisational Outcomes

Pillar 1. Economic Institutions:

- **Organisational Outcome 1.2:** Closer, more effective public/private partnerships with business, consumers and other community groups across the Kingdom to help better identify and address constraints to more inclusive, sustainable and resilient economic growth

Pillar 3. Political Institutions

- **Organisational Outcome 3.1:** More efficient, effective, affordable, honest and transparent public service with a clear focus on priority needs

Pillar 5. National Resources and Environment Inputs:

- **Organisational Outcome 5.2:** More equitable, inclusive, sustainable and appropriate management of the use of renewable and non-renewable natural resources to maintain a steady long-term flow of benefits rather than booms followed by bust and long-term recovery periods.

1.2 Legislation, Mandate, Stakeholders

The Ministry of Fisheries operated under the following legislative mandates;

1.2.1 Legislation

General	Specific to Ministry of Fisheries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitution of Tonga • Government Priority Agenda • Tonga Strategic Development Framework II • Government Act • Public Finance Management Act • Public Audit Act • Public Service Act • Code of Ethics and Conduct • Social Media Guidelines for Tonga's Public Service • Public Services (Grievance and dispute procedures) Regulations • Public Service (Disciplinary procedures) Regulations • Remuneration Act • Procurement Regulations • Public Revenue Regulations • Internal Audit Charter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tonga Fisheries Sector Plan 2016 • Aquaculture Management Act 2003 • Aquaculture Management (Amendment) Act 2005 • Aquaculture Management (Amendment) Act 2009 • Fisheries Management Act 2002 • Fisheries Management (Amendment) Act 2009 • Maritime Zone Act 2009 • Tonga Defence Services (Amendment) Act 2013 • Fisheries Management (Processing and Export) Regulations 2008 • Fisheries Management (Conservation) Regulations 2008 • Fisheries Management (Conservation) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 • Fisheries Management (Processing and Export) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 • Fisheries (Local Fishing) Regulations 2009 • Aquaculture Management Regulations 2008 • Fisheries Management Act 2002 Special Management Area Order (GS 20 of 2004) • Fisheries Regulations 1992 • Fisheries (Vessel Monitoring System) Regulations 2009 • Fisheries (Coastal Communities) Regulations 2009 • Fisheries (LimuTanga'u) Regulations 2009 • Special Management Area Order No.25/2013 • Stowage of Gear Regulations

1.2.2 Mandate

The mandate of the Ministry of Fisheries involves conserving, managing, developing, and sustainably utilising the Kingdom's aquatic resources to ensure food security, and to improve the social and economic well-being of the people of Tonga.

The Ministry of Fisheries operations are guided by the following:

1. Our National Constitution, whole-of-government Acts and Regulations, other general government policies and directives, the Tonga Strategic Development Framework 2015-2025, the Tonga Fisheries Sector Plan, the Tonga National Fisheries Policy, and Ministry

specific legislation including the Fisheries Management Act 2002, the Aquaculture Management Act 2003, and the Maritime Zone Act 2009, and associated regulations.

2. A range of international treaties and conventions of direct relevance to sustainable fisheries including and derived from the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) that defines the territorial sea and oceanic boundaries of coastal states, including the areas in which they may exploit marine resources. Of particular relevance to fisheries resource management, Tonga is a member of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Pacific Community (SPC), and is a signatory to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (WCPFC).
3. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” advocates significantly reducing all kinds of marine pollution and minimizing ocean acidification by 2025, as well as sustainably managing and protecting marine and coastal ecosystems by as early as 2020. It also aims, by 2020, to regulate harvesting in an effective manner and to halt overfishing by ending illegal and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices. In addition, SDG 14 aims to prohibit specific types of subsidies to fisheries.
4. The Budget for the FY2021/22 theme is “God is my refugees”. Fisheries sector is one of the economic sectors including Agriculture and Tourism identified from the Government’s Priority Agenda (GPA) 2021/22.
5. In particular, and of direct relevance to the Ministry of Fisheries, the TSDF II provides strong supporting language, stating:

“Appropriate management of our natural resources and our environment can help protect them and ensure that they provide benefits to current and future generations and ensure that we pass on our inheritance well preserved and improved”.

Ministry Vision and Mission

Our vision guides our thoughts and future planning, combining creativity with insight. Our mission provides us with a pathway to realize that vision.

Our Vision: *“To achieve economically, socially and environmentally sustainable fisheries that contribute to better living standards for all Tongans.”*

Our Mission: *“Providing quality and timely services characterised by integrity, teamwork and professionalism.”*

1.2.3 Stakeholders

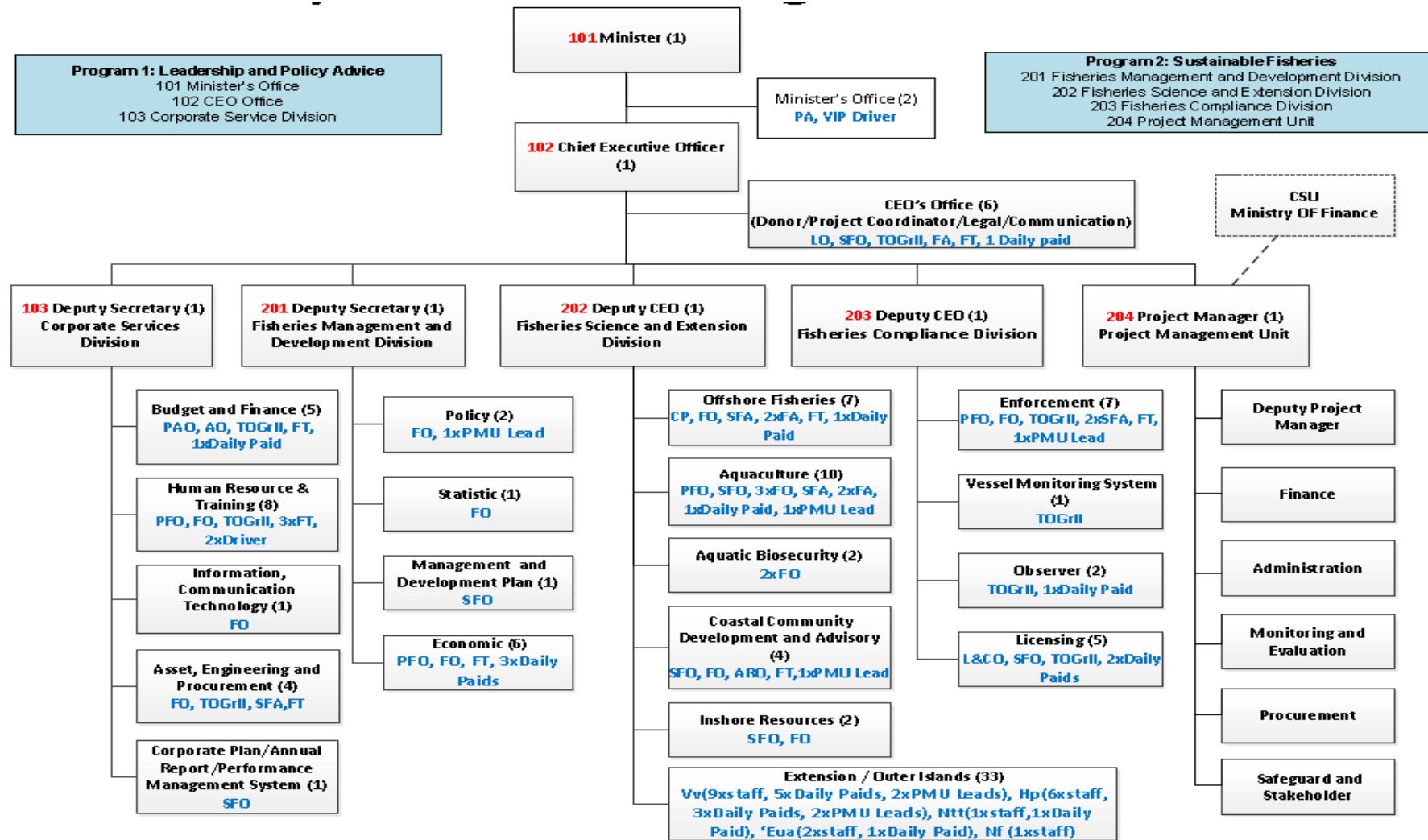
Stakeholder	Customer of MoF	Supplier to MoF	Partner with MoF	Oversight of MoF
Cabinet	Advice, Recommendations, Information	Decisions	Operating Effectiveness of Government	Direction
Parliament (Legislative Assembly)	Advice, Recommendations, Information	Decisions, Legislation		Direction
Central Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs especially MOF, PSC, AGO, MAFF, MEIDECC, MOFA, MET, MTED, MORC, MOI, Tonga Police, MOH – Marine/Ports and HMAF)	Advice, Guidance, Instructions, Information	Information	Operating Effectiveness of Government,	Oversight by PMO, PSC - Policy, Operations
Public Enterprises	Advice, Guidance, Instructions, Information	Information	Operating Effectiveness of Government,	
NGO	Advice, Guidance, Instructions, Services, Information	Goods, Services, Fees, Charges	Community Work, Education, Health	Monitor, Petition
General Public	Advice, Guidance, Instructions, Services, Information	Goods, Services, Fees, Charges		Vote, Petition
Investors, fish farmers, processors and export	Provide service information		Provide Services	
Regional and international agencies	Provide information and services	Information	Provide funding Providing information and services	
Development Partners	Advice, Guidance, Instructions, Services, Information	Development Assistance and Advice	Delivery of Aid Funded Programs	Oversight of the Use of Development Funds, General Performance Management

The Ministry of Fisheries (MoF) relies on the Cabinet and Parliament for overarching strategic guidance, as well as for assistance with policy formulation, legislation and budgetary allocations. MoF maintains strong relationships with various Ministries, Departments and Agencies. For instance, seeks financial planning support from the Ministry of Finance and the Prime Minister's Office, collaborates with the HMAF and Tonga Navy on fisheries patrols, and works alongside MORC to manage border controls related to fish product imports. Additionally, they address issues such as combating drug trafficking, tackling transitional crime and supporting health initiatives like COVID-19 protection.

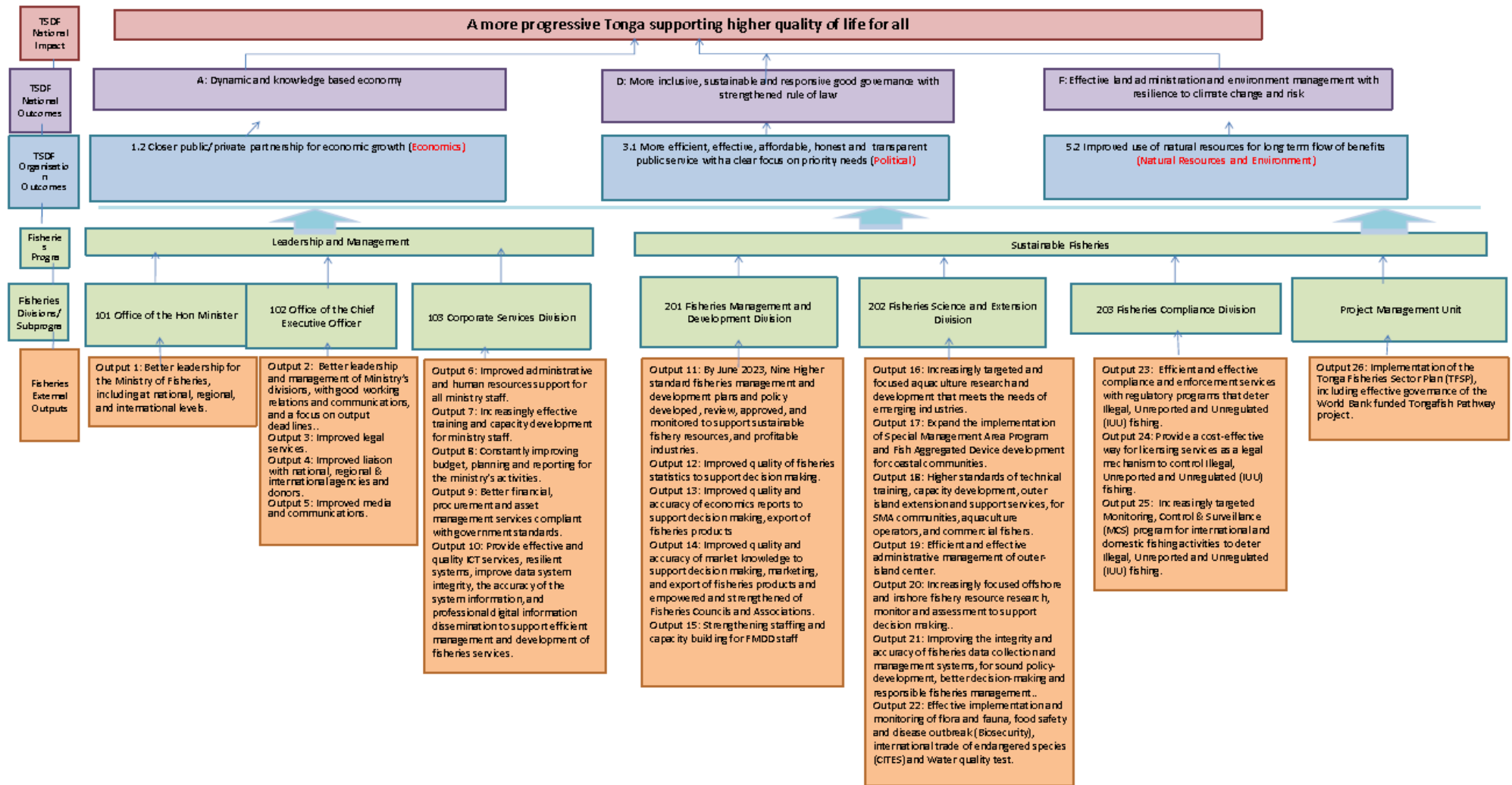
MoF works closely with key industry stakeholders towards sustainable fishery management, and with coastal communities on the establishment and administration of the Special Management Area Program. A range of species is being investigated for their potential for aquaculture, both as alternate livelihoods for coastal communities and for their potential for larger scale and export level production.

MoF has particularly close ties with two regional agencies, the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Pacific Community (SPC), and regularly attends workshops, training events and meetings. Bi-lateral MOUs are in place for the provision of services to Tonga, such as support for management planning, compliance, resource assessment, and aquaculture development. MoF works very closely with many development partners, in particular the World Bank, the NZ Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade, the NZ Ministry for Primary Industries, the Asian Development Bank, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, and the Japan Trust Fund, and is extremely grateful for the generous support provided.

1.3 Operational Structure



1.4 Performance Management Framework – Results Map (Logframe)



2. Ministry of Fisheries Performance

2.1 Human Resource Management

During the FY 2023/24 we had a total of 85 staff (36 females, 40 males). The Ministry later had four (4) newly recruited staff, two (2) staff promoted, and one (1) died in service. Seven (7) staff resigned, and one (1) staff who retired from the public service. The project management unit recruited two (2) new staff for the core team.

Project Management Unit (PMU)

New appointees	2
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New Appointments

No.	Name	Post	Division	Date of Assumption of duty
1-	Miss. Talahiva Laumanu	Fisheries Assistant	Fisheries Science and Extension Division	28 th August 2023
2-	Dr. Sione Vailala Matoto	Chief Executive Officer	CEO Office	23 rd November 2023
3-	Mr. Filimone Paea	Fisheries Trainee	Fisheries Science and Extension Division	26 th February 2024
4-	Miss. 'Ema Lu'isa Tohi a.k.a Angela 'Anita Vivili	Fisheries Officer	Fisheries Management and Development Division	20 th May 2024

PMU appointment

No	Name	Post	Division	Date of Assumption of duty
1.	Miss Haitelenisia Mataele	Finance Officer	Tongatapu	01 st March 2024
2.	Mr. 'Otinili Fisi'ikava	Compliance Lead (Vava'u)	Tongatapu	24th July 2023

Promotions

No.	Name/Previous post	Post promoted to	Division	Date of assumption of duty
1.	Mrs. Manatu Maile	Principal Fisheries Officer	Fisheries Management and Development Division	03 rd October 2023
2.	Mr. Siuola-I- Humberside 'Alofi	Technical Officer Grade II	Corporate Services Division	14 th May 2024

Resigned

No	Name	Post	Division	Date of resignation
1.	Dr. Tu'ikolongahau Halafihi	Chief Executive Officer	Fisheries	26 th July 2023
2.	Mrs. Holani 'o Funga'alaki Fatafehi Pohahau Kilikiti	Fisheries Trainee	Fisheries Management and Development Division	19 th October 2023
3.	Mr. Michael Jason Po'uliva'ati	Fisheries Officer	Fisheries Management and Development	27 th October 2023
4.	Mr. Latu Tangataevaha	Driver	Corporate Services Division	07 th November 2023
5.	Mr. Viliami Teu-Ki-Falemaama 'Ofa	Fisheries Trainee	Fisheries Science and Extension (Vava'u)	03 rd April 2024
6.	Mr. Damien 'Ofa Ki Canada Kolo	Fisheries Trainee	Corporate Services Division	15 th May 2024
7.	Miss. 'Asinate Lolohea	Technical Officer Grade II	Chief Executive Officer Office	15 th May 2024

Died in Service

No	Name	Post	Division	Effective date
1.	Mr. Poasi Fale Ngaluafe	Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Fisheries Science and Extension Division	26 th April 2024

Retirement

No	Name	Post	Division	Effective date
2.	Mr. Pala'a Mausia	Technical Officer Grade II	Corporate Services Division	18 th December 2023

Daily Paid Contracts

NO.	Full Name	POST TITLE	Division
1.	Mrs. Motulalo Tufunga	Administrative Assistant	CEO Office
2.	Miss. 'Ilisapesi Fakatupuhoi Fua'anga Vaikaka	Assistant Accountant	CSD
3.	Mr. Samisoni Tu'akalau	Fisheries Trainee	FMDD
4.	Mr. Master Pohiva	Fisheries Trainee	FMDD
5.	Mrs. Sitela Vehikite	Fisheries Trainee	FMDD
6.	Miss. Fa'aki Latu	Fisheries Trainee	FMDD
7.	Mr. Penisimani Kaufusi	Enforcement & Compliance Officer	FCD
8.	Miss. Losana Fonua	Tuna Observer & enforcement Data entry	FCD
9.	Mr. Kauni Kavea 'Ohuafi	Fisheries Compliance & Enforcement Officer	FCD
10.	Mr. Viliami Tuanitoni Taufa	Tuna Data Collection Officer	FSED
11.	Miss. 'Etina Lenitita Loupua Fakahau	Tuna Data Collection Officer	FSED
12.	Miss. Fifita Kauvaka Ika	Tuna Data Collection Officer	FSED
13.	Miss. Soana 'Atu Finau	Tuna Data Collection Officer	FSED
14.	Mr. Fuatapu Taulua-Moe-'Eiki Topui	Tuna Data Collection Officer	FSED
15.	Miss. Lusiola Oloa Samoa Tangitau	Fisheries Aquaculture Trainee (Vava'u)	FSED
16.	Miss. Marilyn Tanya Tupu'ivaha	Assistant Marketing/Data Collection Officer (Vava'u)	FSED
17.	Mr. Siaosi Tapa'atoutai	Boatman (Vava'u)	FSED
18.	Mr. Loni Latu Tuiono	Fisheries Science Assistant (Vava'u)	FSED
19.	Mr. Siaosi Kaloni	Compliance Trainee (Vava'u)	FSED
20.	Mr. Senituli Finau	Tuna Data Collection Officer (Vava'u) 'Ofisa Tanaki Fakamatala Toutai Tuna	FSED
21.	Mr. 'Osaiasi Mo'ale	Compliance Trainee (Ha'apai)	FSED

22.	Mr. Sione Siulua	Boatman (Ha'apai)	FSED
23.	Mr. Lapila Lolohea	Tuna Data Collection Officer (Ha'apai)	FSED
24.	Mr. Vungakoto Lauaki	Tuna Data Collection Officer ('Eua)	FSED
25.	Mr. Salesi Faka'osi	Aquaculture Assistant (Niua Toputapu)	FSED

This table shows the numbers of staff in each Band Level excluding the Minister's position

Band Level	Numbers
E	1
G	3
H	1
I	1
J	9
K	6
L	19
M	11
N	6
Q	4
R	16
S	8
Total	85

The table below shows the number of qualifications of the staff. Therefore, a total of 47 staff has attained qualifications such as PhDs, Masters, Postgraduate, Bachelor Degrees and Diplomas. The remaining 38 staff hold either Fisheries certificates and secondary school (Form 5, 6, 7).

Qualifications	Number
PhD	2
Master's Degree	7
Postgraduate	1
Bachelor Degrees	21
Diplomas	16

Staff development and training

A total of forty-nine (49) overseas travel meetings/training/workshops were attended by some of the Ministry's staff for FY2023/24

FY 2023/2024	Training/workshops/attachments
3 rd – 6 th July, 2023	Meeting Annual Ministerial Forum Fisheries Committee Meeting (FFCMIN20) and the Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting 4 (RFMM4), Majuro, Marshall Islands, 3-6 July 2023
3 rd – 5 th August, 2023	Special Pacific Islands Fisheries Ministries Dialogue, Kokopo, east New Britain, Papua New Guinea
5 th - 12 th August, 2023	SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE
7 th – 11 th August, 2023	Marine Spatial Planning Workshop
10 th – 24 th August, 2023	FFA Preparatory, Meeting for the 19th Regular Session of the WCPFC Scientific Committee, 10-14 August 2023, Koror, Palau, 19th Regular Session of the WCPFC Scientific Committee, 15-24 August 2023, Koror, Palau
14 th – 16 th August, 2023	Special Meetings of Fisheries Ministers and Officials to consider the Distribution of Funds under the new Economic Assistance Agreement (EAA) and Climate Change Strategy of the Multilateral Treaty on Fisheries (Treaty on Fisheries between the Government of certain Pacific Islands States and the Government of the United States of America), (commonly referred to as the U.S. Treaty)
21 st – 24 th August, 2023	Regional Ocean Policy and Governance Dialogue
21 st – 25 th August, 2023	Certificate IV Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance Course - Assessment in Suva
26 th August – 2 nd September, 2023	Attachment to finalize Tonga Deepwater Fisheries Management and Development Plan 2023 – 2026
28 th August – 1 st September, 2023	Board of Directors and Governance Training Course
28 th August – 7 th September, 2023	Initiative to Leverage Sustainable Change on Complex Issues by the Pacific Fisheries Leadership Programme (PFLP)
14 th – 27 th September, 2023	Seminar on Marine Spatial Planning and Blue Economic Development for Latin American, Caribbean and South Pacific Countries
19 th – 21 st September, 2023	International Conference of Fishing Community
20 th – 27 th September, 2023	The FFA Pre-TCC19 Working Group Meeting 14th - 20th September, and the 2023 Nineteenth Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee, 20th - 27th September, 2023
26 th – 30 th September, 2023	Pacific Regional Workshop on WTO Fisheries Subsidies
10 th - 11 th October, 2023	5th Ministerial Meeting and 1st High-Level Meeting of the Archipelagic and Island States Forum

16 th - 20 th October, 2023	Operation Kurukuru 2023
21 st – 27 th October, 2023	The Thirteenth Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF - 13)
22 nd October – 2 nd November, 2023	Fisheries Development Knowledge Exchange for Pacific Island Countries
23 rd October – 3 rd November, 2023	To attend the Pre-MOC, MOC & Special FFC 130 Meetings 23rd Oct - 3rd November 2023 Honiara Details of the meeting
4 th – 8 th November, 2023 & 27 th November – 3 rd December, 2023	The FFA Pre-WCPFC 20 Working Group Meeting 27th November - 3rd December 2023, and the Twentieth Regular Session of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in The Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC20)
6 th – 13 th November, 2023	The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies - Renegotiation
7 th – 10 th November, 2023	Workshop on Food Security, alternative income options and community-Based FAD Fisheries- what Need doing?
11 th – 20 th November, 2023	Sixth SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture
27 th November – 08 th December, 2023	Cohort Certificates IV for Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Compliance.
12 th – 16 th February, 2024	Regional Coordination Meeting on the FAO Agreement on Port State Measure
27 th February – 1 st March, 2024	Review of the FFA Regional Monitoring Control and Surveillance Strategy (RMCSS) 2018-2023
9 th – 22 nd March, 2024	FAO Fourth meeting of the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) Open-ended Technical Working Group on Information Exchange (TWG-IE3)
18 th – 22 nd March, 2024	27th MCS Working Group Meeting (MSCWG27) 18-22 March, 2024
6 th – 12 th April, 2024	Gender and Social Inclusion in Fisheries Forum
8 th – 12 th April, 2024	18th Tuna Data Workshop (TDW-18)
8 th – 12 th April, 2024	FFA Electronic Port State Measure (e-PSM) Information Management System
15 th – 19 th April, 2024	Face to Face workshop in Suva for Graduate Certificate in Fisheries Management Cohort
17 th – 26 th April, 2024	16th Annual Heads of Fisheries Meeting and HoF Pre-meeting
22 nd -25 th April, 2024	Cites Youth Leadership Programme 2024
23 rd – 25 th April, 2024	Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Strategic Communications Training for National Fisheries Communications Staff
6 th - 24 th May, 2024	Operation Tu'imatamoana
21 st – 22 nd May, 2024	ASEAN-Australia Indo - Pacific Workshop on the Use of Technology for Sustainable Aquaculture
25 th May – 25 th August, 2024	Secondment for 3 months
25 th May – 10 th June, 2024	Work Attachment for 2 Weeks
28 th – 31 st May, 2024	Reef Cloud Phase II design workshop - towards

	supporting integrated and efficient efforts in coral reef monitoring that informs conservation actions in the Pacific
3 rd – 7 th June, 2024	Attend the Advanced Fisheries Negotiations Workshop held at FFA
4 th – 7 th June, 2024	CKMR Sampling of SP Albacore
17 th – 21 st June, 2024	Regional Fisheries Prosecution Workshop
17 th – 21 st June, 2024	COHORT 11 - Certificate IV Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance Face-to-Face Assessment
24 th – 27 th June, 2024	FAO Regional Workshop training on (Agricultural) Sampling surveys
24 th – 28 th June, 2024	Face-to-face training based on the Certificate IV in Resilience Programme
22 nd – 29 th June, 2024	Capacity Development Needs Analysis Workshop and Inter-agency CMM Workshop

Ministry of Fisheries Staff Performance for FY2023/24

The Performance Management System (PMS) is a structured approach designed to improve organizational performance through effective management of employee performance. The Ministry of Fisheries has been implementing this system for eight (8) years within the Public Service, focusing on enhancing accountability, efficiency, and service delivery.

The Ministry of Fisheries completed and submitted its Performance Management System assessment for the End of Financial Year 2022/23 in August 2023 and the Mid-Year Review (MYR) Assessment for the FY2023/24 in February 2024.

The Ministry continues to adhere to the PSC PMS traffic light criteria as per its PMS Internal Implementation Plan (IIP). Our quarterly assessment indicates the level of compliance and keeping up its performance vary 98% ~100%. The table below illustrates the quarterly performance % of the Ministry's PMS.

Quarter	Percentage	Traffic light
Quarter 1	98%	Green
Quarter 2	98%	Green
Quarter 3	98%	Green
Quarter 4	100%	Gold

The Ministry of Fisheries also participated in the celebration of Public Service Day in June 2024, which is an annual event aimed at recognizing the contribution of public servants to society. This involvement included attending the Best Practice Conference, where various ministries shared successful strategies and innovations in public service delivery. This function is also essential for fostering collaboration and improving service efficiency.

Additionally, the Ministry engaged in cleaning activities every Friday around the shore area, this initiative not only promotes environmental cleanliness but is also part of the preparation for Tonga hosting the Pacific Island Forum Leaders 53rd Meeting which was conducted in August 2024.

2.2 Results Management (Reporting outputs and outcome)

2.2.1 Office of the Honourable Minister

TSDF II Outcomes					
<p>A: A more inclusive, sustainable and dynamic, knowledge-based economy.</p> <p>D: More inclusive, sustainable and responsive good governance with strengthened rule of law.</p> <p>F: A more inclusive, sustainable and effective land administration, environment management, and resilience to climate and risk.</p>					
Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Targets	Achievements (based on the targets and KPIs.)	Beneficiaries	Cross cutting implications	Future plans
Output 1: Better leadership for the Ministry of Fisheries, including at national, regional and international levels.					
Number of meetings.	5	38	Ministry of Fisheries, PSC, Ministry of Finance, Cabinet, Legislative Assembly	The Government is well informed about fisheries activities	Inform key stakeholders and relevant ministries of policy and regulations
Annual submission of CP and Budget to MOF (Finance)	1	1	Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Finance, Cabinet, Legislative Assembly, Prime Minister's Office	The Government is well informed of fisheries activities	Maintain submission on time of the report
Annual submission of AR FY2021/22 to LA	1	1	Ministry of Fisheries, Cabinet, Legislative Assembly	Improve Fisheries management	Attend all meetings

2.2.2 Office of the Chief Executive Officer

TSDF II Outcomes					
<p>A: A more inclusive, sustainable and dynamic, knowledge-based economy.</p> <p>D: More inclusive, sustainable and responsive good governance with strengthened rule of law.</p> <p>F: A more inclusive, sustainable and effective land administration, environment management, and resilience to climate and risk.</p>					
Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Targets	Achievements (based on the targets and KPIs.)	Beneficiaries	Cross cutting implications	Future plans
Output 2: Better leadership and management of Ministry's divisions, with good working relations and communications, and a focus on output deadlines					
Number of meetings.	4	4	Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Finance, PSC, Cabinet	Contribute to final Approval of Budget, CP, Annual Management Plan of the Ministry of Fisheries	Suggest a one-week training for preparation of the CP, budget and Management Plan
Number of activities approved each year (CP, AMP, Budget, Cash flow forecast, procurement plan, training plan, PMS, JD review and Annual Report)	9	11	Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Finance, PMO, LA, PSC, Cabinet	The budget is well monitored	Follow up with monthly cash flow First, identify fisheries activities to be included in the annual procurement plan
Number of bi-annual report submitted each year.	2	2	Ministry of Fisheries, PSC	PSC is well informed of fisheries activities	Maintain the submission of the report in accordance with the deadlines
Output 3: Improved legal services.					
Monthly briefing summary.	12	6	Ministry of Fisheries, Attorney General Office, Cabinet, Legislative	Ministry and Government of Tonga are well informed of legal requirements L/O was recruited in April 2022	Increase legal activities to improve public awareness

			Assembly	and then resigned on April 2023. New and current Legal Officer commenced on the 26 th of June, 2023.	
Number of amendments of act and regulations and fishery notices activities conducted each year	2	1	Ministry of Fisheries, FFA, WCPFC	Improve fisheries management.	To keep updated with the Acts and Regulations, and to establish good working skills and awareness
Quarterly legal training conducted	4	1	Ministry of Fisheries	Legal training, consultations and briefs conducted to Fisheries staff, local fishermen, communities and outer islands. L/O was recruited in April 2022 and then resigned in April 2023. New Legal Officer commenced on the 26 th of June, 2023.	Increase staff and public awareness of Fisheries Laws & Regulations. Determination of the availability of staff members and whether they want training on legislation needs to be confirmed.
Output 4: Improve liaison with national, regional & international agencies and donors.					
Number of Liaisons and correspondences with national, regional & international agencies and donors conducted each year	12	9	Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of MEIDECC, Ministry of Internal Affairs, PSC, FFA, SPC, WCPFC, World Bank, FAO, ACIAR, JICA	Increased understanding of fisheries issues among shareholders The Liaison Officer was recruited in Mid May 2022	Increase engagement with national, regional and international agencies.
Number of TFSP reports	1	1	Ministry of Fisheries, World Bank and Ministry of Finance	MOF is well aware of activities implemented by the TFSP	Maintain the received of the TFSP report from PMU

Output 5: Improved media and communications.					
Monthly media releases (TV, radio and official website, FB)	18	311	Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Finance, PSC, FFA, SPC, WCPFC, World Bank, FAO, ACIAR, MFAT, DFAT, JICA, NFC, Pearl farmer	Increased understanding of fisheries issues among stakeholders. A number of consultation and awareness programs were crossed out due to the tsunami and COVID-19 restrictions	Increase engagement with stakeholders, regional and national agencies
Quarterly public awareness program	8	12	Ministry of Fisheries	The public is well informed of fisheries activities	Increase the number of media outputs

2.2.3 Corporate Services Division

TSDF II Outcomes					
<i>A: A more inclusive, sustainable and dynamic, knowledge-based economy.</i>					
<i>D: More inclusive, sustainable and responsive good governance with strengthened rule of law.</i>					
<i>F: A more inclusive, sustainable and effective land administration, environment management, and resilience to climate and risk.</i>					
Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Targets	Achievements (based on the targets and KPIs.)	Beneficiaries	Cross cutting implications	Future plans
Output 6: Improved administrative and human resources support for all ministry staff.					
Annual submission of JD review to CEO	1		Ministry of Fisheries, Public Service Commission (PSC)	Sixteen (16) JD was revised and two (2) were submitted to PSC for re-	Consistency in agreement of JD review between staff/supervisor

		1		evaluation on the required deadline.	
% of vacant post complete within Financial Year	80%	85%	Ministry of Fisheries, Public Service Commission, Ministry of Finance	All recruitments complied with PSC Recruitment Policy.	Fill in the remaining vacant positions
Annual upgrade and update of the Ministry's filing system (Maintenance of filing and administration services)	1	1	Ministry of Fisheries	Ongoing Maintenance of filing and administration services More storage space is required especially space for scanned files.	Continuing weekly and monthly updating Ministry's file
Number of internal policies approved per FY	5	5	Ministry of Fisheries	Ongoing	Five (5) policies are currently being reviewed.
Output 7: Increasingly effective training and capacity development for ministry staff.					
Timely submission of the Ministry's annual training needs/analysis	1	1	Ministry of Fisheries, Public Service Commission	Donor availability, relevant training offered.	Ongoing implementing the PSC work force training plan for FY2023/24
Number of induction and policy trainings conducted.	4	9	Ministry of Fisheries	Ongoing	Ongoing
Output 8: Constantly improving budget, planning, performance and reporting for the ministry's activities.					
Annual submission of CP/APP	2	4 - Revised CP & APP for	Mistry of Fisheries, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance, Legislative		

		FY2023/24 -Developed of CP & APP for FY2024/25	Assembly		
Annual submission of AMP/IAMP in accordance with the deadline set.	2	4 - Revised AMP/IAMP for FY2022/23 - Developed AMP/IAMP for FY2024/25	Ministry of Fisheries, Public Service Commission		
Biannual assessment of PMS (MYR & EFY) completed and submission.	2	2	Ministry of Fisheries, Public Service Commission	i) Partial complete of remarks in the PMS form ii) Improper 1-2- 1 process iii) Delaying in compliance with PMS internal schedule	i) Conduct a refresher training before MYR and EFY go over the whole PMS form ii) Prompt compliance of the internal schedule
Annual submission of PMS IIP in accordance with the deadline set at the Ministry's submitted IIP.	1	1	Ministry of Fisheries, Public Service Commission		
Quarterly submission of PMS report in accordance with the deadline set	4	4	Ministry of Fisheries, Public Service Commission		

Biannual submission of M&E report to PMO in accordance with the deadline set (CP & JNAP M&E)	2	2	Ministry of Fisheries, Prime Minister's Office, MEIDECC		i) Close consultation with PMO regarding feedback ii) Close consultation with PMO/Statistics regarding the SDG iii) Lack of Coordination on JNAP2
Annual submission of Annual Report (AR)	1	1	Ministry of Fisheries, Cabinet, Legislative Assembly, Public (after approval from the LA)	Delays in meeting internal schedule deadlines towards the compilation of Division contributions to the Annual Report against the CP targets of the FY	Prompt compliance with the internal schedule
Output 9: Better financial, procurement and asset management services compliant with government standards.					
Annual submission of expenditure cash flow forecasts	1	1	Ministry of Fisheries, PSC, Ministry of Finance	Delays in submitting divisional cash flow in accordance with deadlines	Auto reminder to all HOSs/HODs
Annual submission of revenue forecast reports	1	1	Ministry of Fisheries, PSC, Ministry of Finance 2 July 2022	Better monitoring and update of forecast reports	Auto reminder to all HOSs/HODs
Annual submission of annual PAYE	1	1	Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Finance, MORC submitted to Revenue August 2022	Better monitoring and accuracy of staff PAYE	Internal auto reminder for PAYE.

Annual submission of asset reports	1	1	Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Finance	Undertake asset count to meet deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Friendly reminder on assets transferred without advice. ii) Updating of Asset and Inventories from the outer Islands
Annual submission of procurement plan%	1	1	Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Finance, PMO	Divisional work plans should take into accounts any activities that would pass the procurement margin (\$20,000.00) in cost to advise the Procurement unit, to include this in the APP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Friendly reminder for better planning, to demise revising of APP ii) Ensuring that technical specifications, BOQ or any other related documents or inputs to their procurement projects are well laid out and in line with what they need so the procurement proceeding will be done according to the divisions and their precise plans. iii) Staff turnover
Output 10: Provide effective and quality ICT services, resilient systems, improve data system integrity, the accuracy of the system information, and professional digital information dissemination to support efficient management and development of fisheries services.					
Number of Policies, Plans and Manuals approved.	18	25	Ministry of Fisheries, FFA	Delaying in completions of plans due to the problem with the internet from volcanic eruption	Ongoing discussion with e-government for the internet backup
Infrastructure reliability	>=95%		Ministry of Fisheries	due to the problem with the internet from volcanic eruption	Ongoing discussion with e-government for the internet backup
Application reliability	>=95%		Ministry of Fisheries	due to the problem with	Ongoing discussion with e-

				the internet from volcanic eruption	government for the internet backup
Technical support reliability	>=95%	>=90%	Ministry of Fisheries	Manging Main Computer Systems (Sopu-ICT)	

2.2.4 Fisheries Management and Development Division

TSDF II Outcomes					
<p>A: A more inclusive, sustainable and dynamic, knowledge-based economy.</p> <p>D: More inclusive, sustainable and responsive good governance with strengthened rule of law.</p> <p>F: A more inclusive, sustainable and effective land administration, environment management, and resilience to climate and risk.</p>					
Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Targets	Achievements (based on the targets and KPIs.)	Beneficiaries	Cross-cutting implications	Future plans
<p>Output 11: By June 2023, Eight Higher standard fisheries management and development plans and policies developed, approved, implemented and monitored to support sustainable fishery resources and profitable industries.</p>					
Number of Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) developed and submitted. (Develop – FAD, Coastal Plan, Sport Fishing)	2	0 - Sport fishing has been drafted and will be finalised by the end of 2024	Ministry of Fisheries and relevant stakeholders for each management plan.	Some delay due to availability of staff	- Continue on with the management plans implementation and monitoring activities.
Number of Fisheries Management plans reviewed and submitted. <i>Mid-Review: Deepwater Snapper</i> <i>Full-Review: Aquaculture, Tuna, Marine Aquarium, NPOA Shark Plan</i>	3	3 Deepwater, Aquaculture and Marine aquariums have been revised, submitted and approved. This activity was completed with assistance from SPC and MPI, NZ	Ministry of Fisheries and its stakeholders (Aquaculture and Marine Aquarium)	- Availability of technical assistance from MPI and SPC. - Other work commitments such as preparation for the Royal Agricultural Show which put delays in implementing some	- Continue with the management plan implementation and monitoring activities.

				activities.	
<p>Number of completed monitoring for each plan</p> <p>(Tuna (2), Aquaculture (2), Deepwater (2), Aquarium (2) Coastal (1), NPOA Shark Plan (1).</p>	12	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -3 consultations with Deepwater plan stakeholders completed - 3 consultations with Aquaculture plan stakeholders completed (Tt, Hp, Vv). - 3 consultations with Marine Aquarium Management Plan consultations conducted (Tt, Hp,Vv) - 2 FMAC meeting to approve Aquaculture and Marine Aquarium Plans - Monitors completed - NPOA Sharks - Coastal - Deepwater - FAD Plan - Tuna Plan 	Ministry of Fisheries and relevant stakeholders	Currently on going as planned.	Ongoing with monitoring these management plans.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marine Aquarium - Aquaculture 			
<p>Number of completed monitoring for each policy (FAD Policy (1), NFP (1))</p>	2	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAD Policy monitored - National Fisheries Policy monitored 	Ministry of Fisheries	<p>Some changes were put into consideration with regard to the status of some proposed policies outlined in the national fisheries policy, whether they have been implemented or not.</p> <p>For example, the establishment of the Coastal Plan, and the FAD Plan.</p>	<p>i)Ongoing monitoring and reporting of the fisheries policies which were monitored on an annual basis.</p>
<p>Number of proposals developed and monitored (Tuna GCF, Coastal Fisheries GCF (2), NIIP (1) Tongafish Pathway to Sustainable Ocean Project (1))</p>	4	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -assist GCF tuna project - Coastal Fisheries GCF recruited and ongoing work in progress - assist Master Plan report with the Tongafish project - assist climate 	Ministry of Fisheries	<p>FMDD has assisted with proposals, developing TORs, submitting comments on reports, and other related tasks on several projects with other agencies.</p>	<p>FMDD will continue to help with project-related work and develop project proposals for opportunities for development.</p>

		change projects			
Output 12: By June 2023, three higher standard fishery policies developed, approved, implemented monitored and evaluated to support sustainable fishery resources and profitable industries					
Number of reports submitted.	4	4 -Quarterly bulletin reports were prepared & submitted and also uploaded to the Ministry's website upon CEO approval, on a quarterly basis.	Ministry of Fisheries	This activity has completed in a timely manner.	This work is ongoing.
Number of reports submitted.	4	2 - There were surveys conducted on the seafood market price where this data was basically analysed using the unloading data and figured out the average price for each species based on the survey.	Ministry of Fisheries	-There were only 2 surveys conducted in this financial year (the first 2 quarters), due to some concerns and issues from the license holders, where they found so much pressure on them from the Ministry on this activity.	The way forward was that the Ministry would use the unloading data, and get the average price of each species from license holders and report on that.
Number of data set submitted to line Ministries by quarter.	4	4 -Fisheries sets of data, were completely collated and disseminated to	Ministry of Fisheries	-There were issues raised on this activity, where some of the data distributed was delayed due to the	The Ministry of Fisheries will continue to disseminate fisheries data to line Ministries (NRBT, TSD & MOF) when requested on a quarterly basis.

		line Ministries when requested, upon approval from CEO on a quarterly basis.		slow updating of databases, but still, this activity was completed in a timely manner.	
Number of performance reports on Duty-free and CT exemption	4	4 This report on CT exemption was recorded on a quarterly basis.	Ministry of Fisheries	This fisheries information is collated from databases and reported to HOD in a timely manner.	The Ministry of Fisheries continues to ensure that this work is recorded for future reference and to identify gaps and constraints that this may cause.
Number of census reports completed	1	0 There were no reports yet on this, where this census was postponed to the next FY.	Ministry of Fisheries	This census was delayed to the next financial year due to a delay from the Ministry of Finance.	The Ministry ensures close collaboration with the Tonga Statistics Department & Ministry of Agriculture on the commencement of this activity.
Output 13: Improved quality and accuracy of economics reports to support decision making, and export of fisheries products and developed and implemented Natural disaster fisheries Response Plan					
Number of performance reports (Aquaculture, Aquarium)	2	0 - no performance reports were submitted	Ministry of Fisheries	Lack of economic data collected due to no economic officer recruited at the time.	The Ministry of Fisheries will continue to ensure data collection is conducted to reflect the performance of each fishery.
Number of cost-benefit analysis reports. (Mullet and shrimp activities)	2	0 - there was no cost-benefit analysis report submitted	Ministry of Fisheries	Not completed because recruitment of economic officer was not completed yet.	The Ministry will continue to conduct a cost-benefit analysis for future development

Number of fisheries economic data collected, presented and reported. (Tuna-1, Snapper-1, Aquarium-1, Aquaculture-1)	4	0 - lack of fisheries economic data collected	Ministry of Fisheries	This activity is important in terms of GDP contribution.	The Ministry will continue to conduct this activity in the current financial year.
Number of reports submitted. (Natural Disaster Response Plan HTHH)	1	4 - HTHH reports submitted	Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Finance.	This activity is important to report all assistance provided and reported to the donor	This activity has been completed and will not continue in the next financial year.
Number of response plan developed	1	0 There was no natural disaster happens in this financial year.	Ministry of Fisheries	The response plan will be developed base on damage assessment in the fisheries sector.	This activity will continue to be reflected in the next financial year and can only be achieved when there is a natural disaster and a damage assessment conducted.
Number of reports submitted	4	0	Ministry of Fisheries	No report due to no disaster in this financial year	This activity will be carried on to the next financial year and implemented when there is a natural disaster happened.
Output 14: Improved quality and accuracy of market knowledge to support decision making, marketing, and export of fisheries products and Empowered and Strengthened of Fisheries Councils and Associations.					
Number of research plan reviews. (Pearl & Snapper)	2	0 Research plan review was not conducted due to no market officer recruited during this	Ministry of Fisheries and its stakeholders	No recruitment of a market officer that will focus on developing and reviewing of market research plan	The Ministry will continue to conduct this activity to provide market availability for its stakeholders.

		financial year			
Number of reports completed and submitted. (Pearl & Snapper)	4	0 Was not be able to completed due to no market officer to conduct this work	Ministry of Fisheries and its stakeholders	Recruitment processes issue	The Ministry will continue to report on the market research plan for all its fisheries.
Number of capacity building capacity building for the National Fisheries Council and Fisheries Association. (Tongatapu, Vavaú, Haápai & Éua).	4	1 Budget Finance Training by BSP	Fisheries Council and Ministry of Fisheries	Delayed and wait for recruitment of a market officer	The Ministry will continue to build capacity and support National Fisheries council and their activities
Number of reports submitted. (Squid promotion project to address food security and livelihoods in Tonga)	4	4 Reports on squid promotion project completed and submitted	Ministry of Fisheries	This squid project is presented during data working group	This project fund has been completed and the Ministry will continue to develop squid fisheries to address food security and livelihoods in Tonga
Number of reports submitted. (MoF Project to address non-communicable disease (NCD) in Tonga).	4	4 -Reports completed and submitted quarterly on the NCD project	Ministry of Fisheries and Ministry of Health	NCD project continues to provide cheaper fish to the public	The Ministry of Fisheries will continue to sell cheaper tuna catch to the people of Tonga as a source of protein.
Output 15: Strengthening and building FMDD staff capacity					
Number of trainings	5	3	Ministry of Fisheries		The Ministry of Fisheries will continue

<p>conducted. (Training and attachment for FMDD staff to strengthen capacity building and staffing).</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attachment to MPI to finalise Aquaculture and Marine Aquarium Management Plan - Face to face Course with University of Wollongong - Food Security, Alternative Income Option and community-based FAD fisheries Workshop 	<p>staff and its stakeholders</p>		<p>to build the capacity of its staff to improve performance</p>
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Export Performance

Marine Export

The total marine products exported (excluding aquarium products) for this financial year were 1,689.7 metric tons, with a value of \$8.6 million, representing a 23.3% decrease from the previous financial year's exported value. The primary marine products exported are from the tuna fisheries. Compared to the last financial year, there was a 14.7% decrease in the volume of fisheries exports. The decrease in marine exports for the 2023/24 financial year compared to 2022/23 is primarily due to a decline in tuna catch volume and fishing effort, including a decrease in the number of fishing days and the number of fishing vessels.

Several other factors, including the increasing impacts of climate change, have influenced the decline in fisheries production. Frequent bad weather has disrupted both snapper and tuna fishing operations, resulting in reduced fishing days and lower overall catch availability. Additionally, the migration of tuna to the east driven by changing ocean temperatures and currents, have further impacted fishing efforts. These climate-related challenges continue to affect the sustainability and economic viability of Tonga's fisheries sector.

Table 1: Total weight and value of Marine Export from July 2023 – June 2024

Species	Volume (MT)	FOB value (M)
tuna	1605.059	8.41
shark meat	33.895	0.16
seaweed (mozuku)	16.48	0.008
snapper	0.0385	0.269*10 ⁻³
TOTAL	1,689.7	8.6

Tuna Fishery

The export quantity of tuna and associated bycatch for this financial year was 1605.059 metric tons, showing a 19% decrease from the amount exported in the previous financial year. In 2022/23, the total catch was 2,839.45 metric tons (mt), with 15 active vessels, comprising ten (10) foreign and five (5) local vessels. However, in 2023/24, the total catch decreased to 2,501.27 metric tons, with only 12 active vessels (8 foreign and four local). The reduction in the number of operating vessels, particularly among foreign fleets, has contributed to lower overall landings, directly impacting export volumes.

In response, the Ministry, with the support of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), is undertaking a review of the current licensing framework to assess its effectiveness and ensure it remains fit for its purpose. This review aims to enhance fishing efforts, improve fleet participation, and strengthen tuna exports in the years to come.

Table 2: Catch and export volume and Fishing Effort from Tuna Fisheries in the past financial years.

Year	Number of Active Foreign Fleets	Number of Fishing Days	Total Catch volume (metric tons)	Catch per Unit Effort (kg/100 hooks)	Tuna Export volume (mt)
2021/22	14	1565	1556.2	450.3	883.3
2022/23	15	2197	2839.5	589.9	1938.7
2023/24	12	2126	2501.3	523.4	1605.1

Figure 1: Total catch and export volume from 2021/22 – 2023/24 Financial year compared to the catch per unit effort (CPUE) in kilograms of tuna fish per hundred hooks.

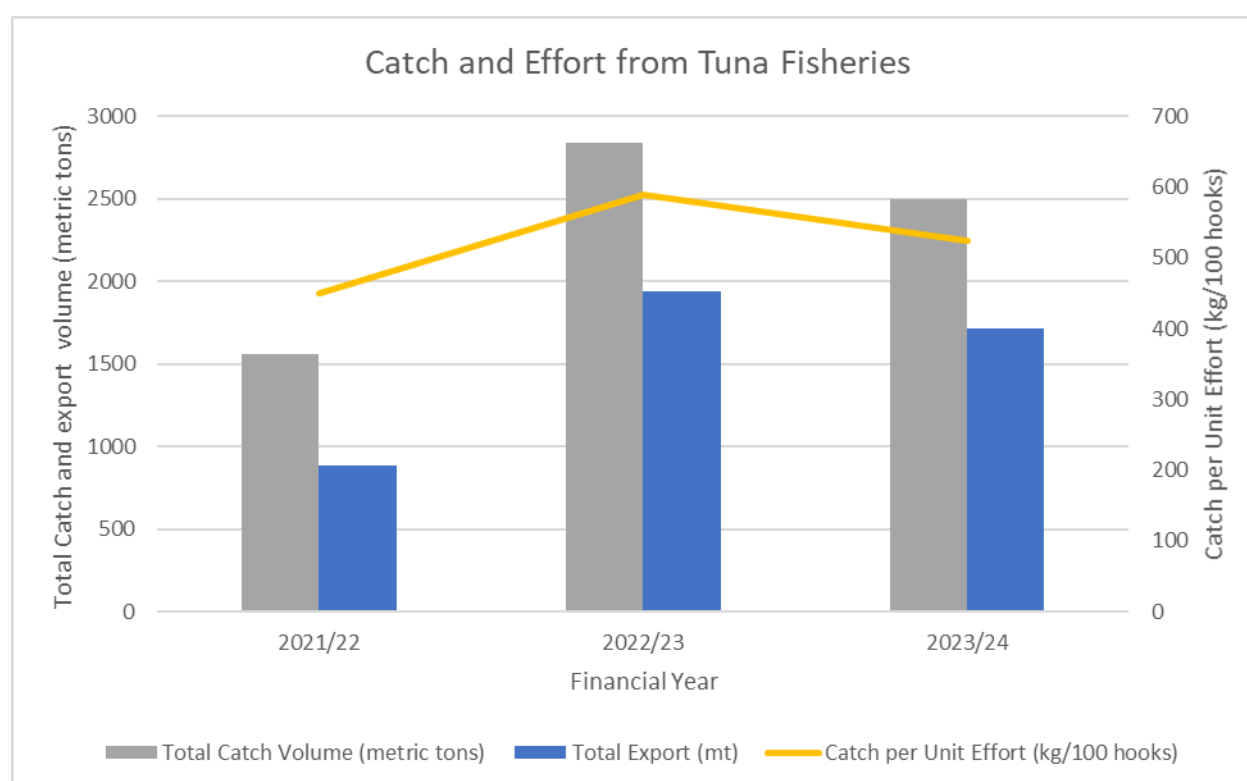


Figure 2: Fishing effort in the tuna fisheries relevant to the number of fishing days and several active fleets to fish in Tonga EEZ between the 2021/22 – 2023/24 financial years.

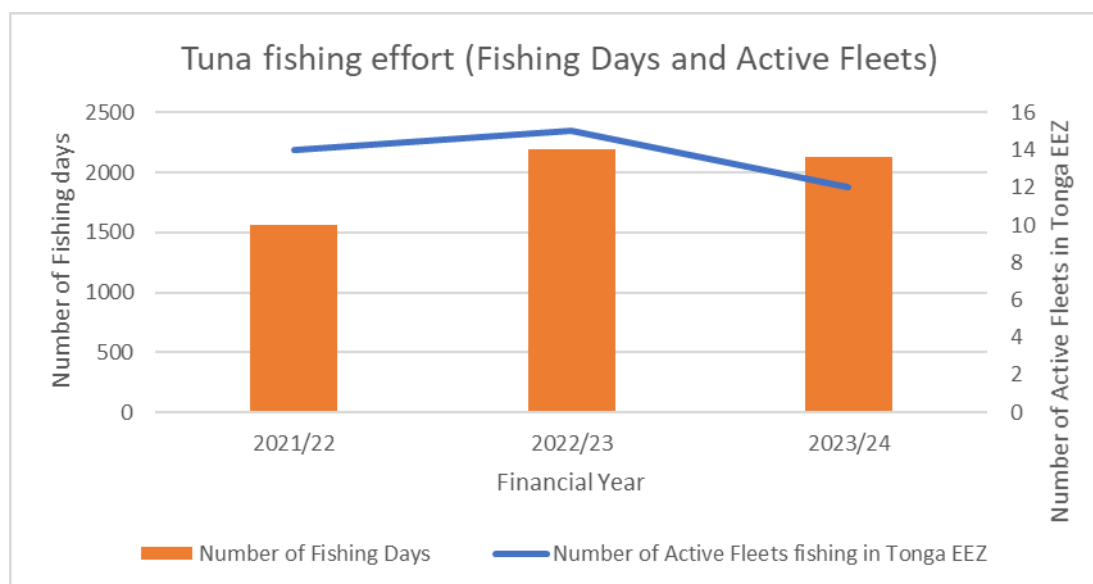
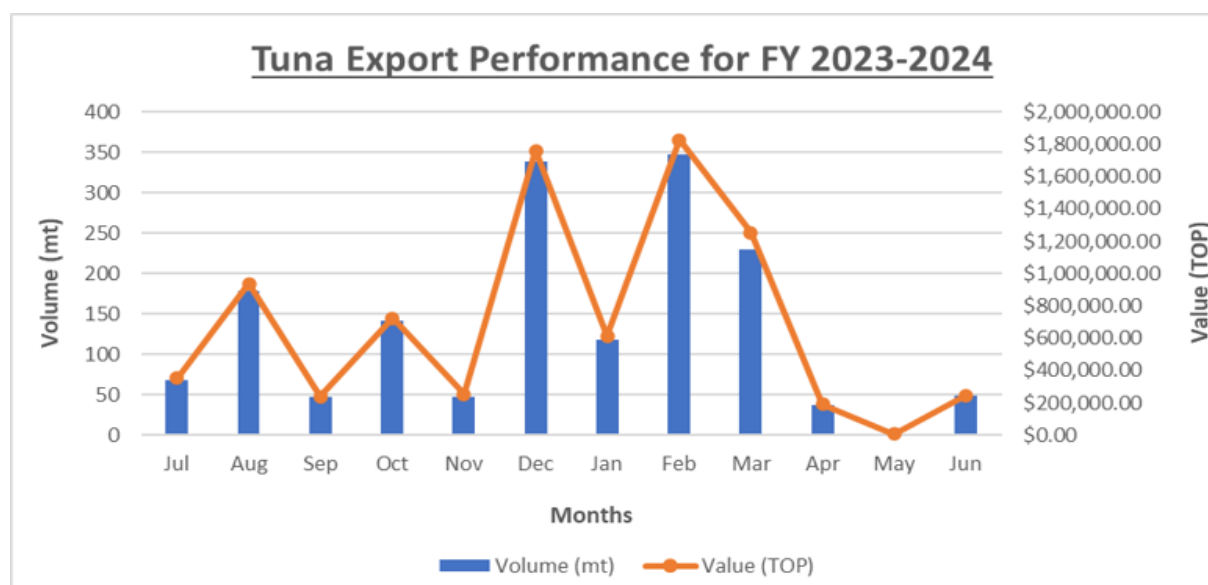


Figure 3: Total Tuna Export by weight (kgs) and FOB value (TOP\$) from July 2023 - June 2024



Deepwater Fishery (snapper)

There were no exports of snapper until June 2024, with only 38.5kg of snapper being exported from the domestic tuna license holder. Since COVID-19, the snapper export market was closed but has now reopened due to demand from Hawaii. Tonga is actively working to re-establish its presence in this market; however, to fully capitalise on this opportunity, significant upgrades to export processing facilities are required. To meet Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) standards, renovations and improvements in processing infrastructure are essential. Investing in these improvements will strengthen Tonga’s snapper industry and enhance export opportunities.

Sea Cucumber

Sea cucumber fishery is currently on moratorium. Sea cucumber farming has been successfully developed with a partnership arrangement between the Ministry of Fisheries and the Vast Ocean company. The ongoing collaboration of the Ministry with the Vast Ocean Company assisted with the harvesting and processing of sea cucumbers. However, the Vast Ocean continues to successfully harvest a total quantity of 3400 pieces in this financial year.

Exported bech-de-mer

However, VO continued to successfully process the harvested sea cucumber in preparation for exportation. Therefore, A total of 1122.2kg wet body quantity was exported during the second quarter of this financial year which was gutted into 645.4kg.

Aquarium Fishery

The total aquarium products exported in this period was 59999 pieces and was valued at approximately TOP\$0.3 million. This was a 59.2% decrease in quantities and associated with a 63.3% decrease in FOB value from volume and values exported in the previous financial year. The aquarium export was dominated by live fish with 47% followed by other species as shown in Figure 4 below.

Figure 4: Percentage of Aquarium products exported from July 2023 – June 2024

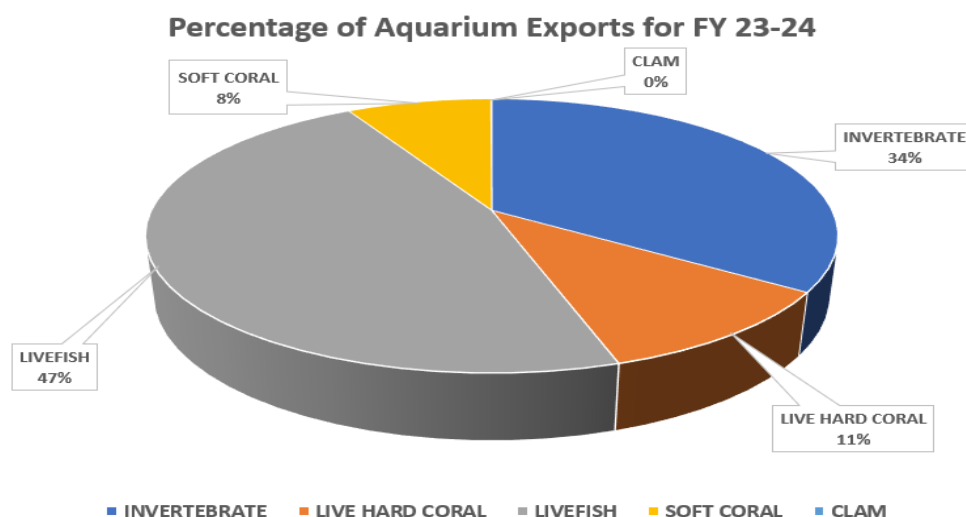
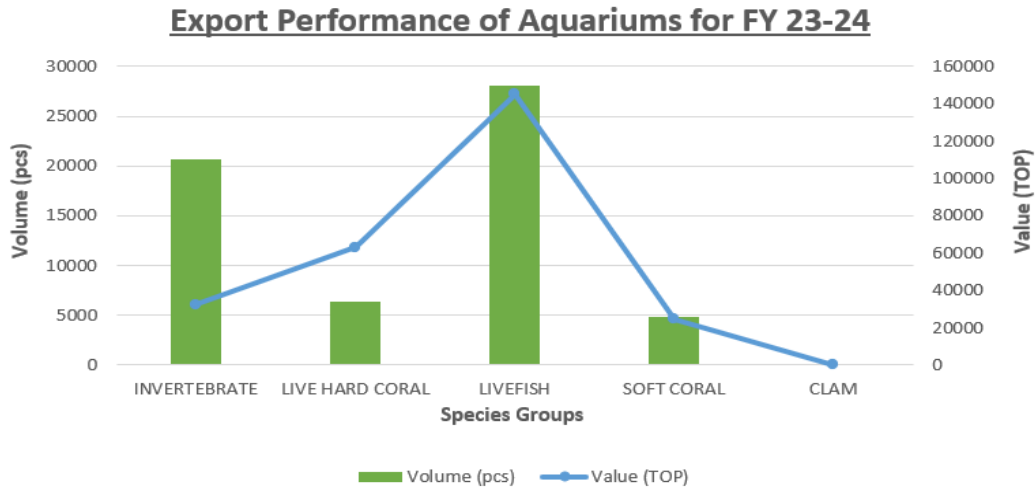


Figure 5: Aquarium export by pieces vs FOB value as of July 2023 – June 2024

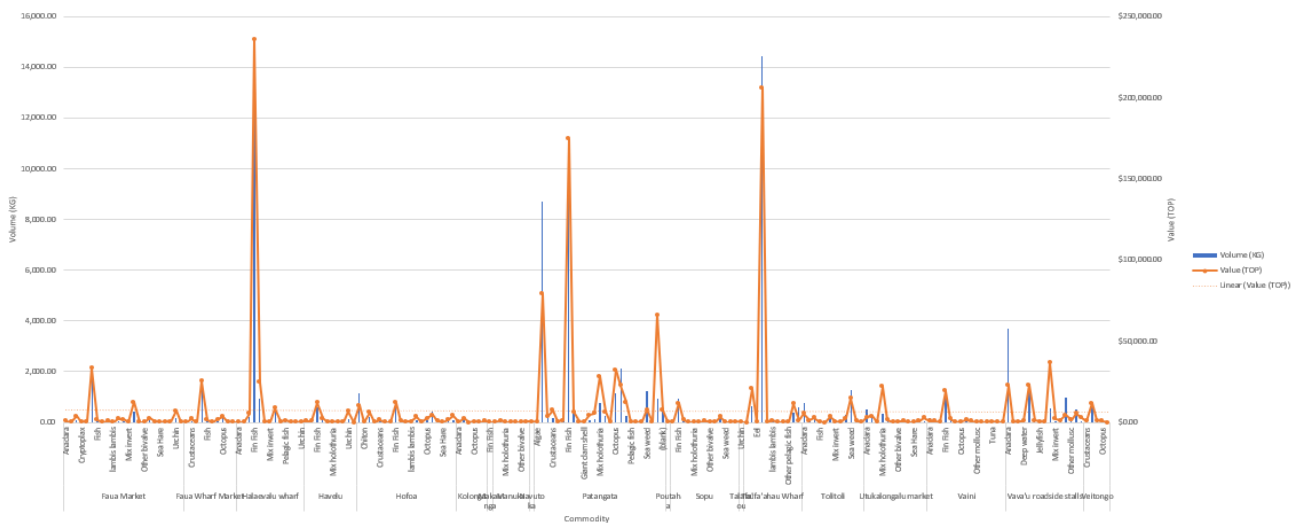


Domestic Market Survey

A market survey is conducted twice and even three times every week in a local fish market to gather information based on marine resources market prices and estimated volume sold in local markets. This survey includes Vava’u, Ha’apai and all fish market stalls in Tongatapu. A total of 84.4 metric tons of marine resources was recorded in this financial year which is approximately valued at TOP \$1.4 million.

The average market price of fin fish was \$14 per kilogram and sold at prices ranging from \$20 to \$70 per bag. Middle buyers also influence the price of marine products depending on the quantity available in the market, especially the main fish market at Fua and Vava’u. Figure 6 shows the average volume and price for all recorded commodities in this financial year.

Figure 6: Average Volume and Price by Commodities for Domestic Market Survey FY 23-24.



NCD Project

The purpose of the NCD Project is to supply fish at lower prices to the public and contribute to addressing non-communicable disease (NCD) health issues in Tonga. The project aimed to operate under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Fisheries and the authorised agent for foreign vessels fishing in Tonga's EEZ “Ngatai Marine Enterprises”.

Licensed foreign fishing vessels are required to offload 2.5 - 5 tons of tuna per trip for the NCD project. These are sold to the public at a price agreed upon, as outlined in the table below. The money collected from the sales is returned to Ngatai Marine Enterprises. The Ministry provides services for cutting, packing, and selling fish to the public.

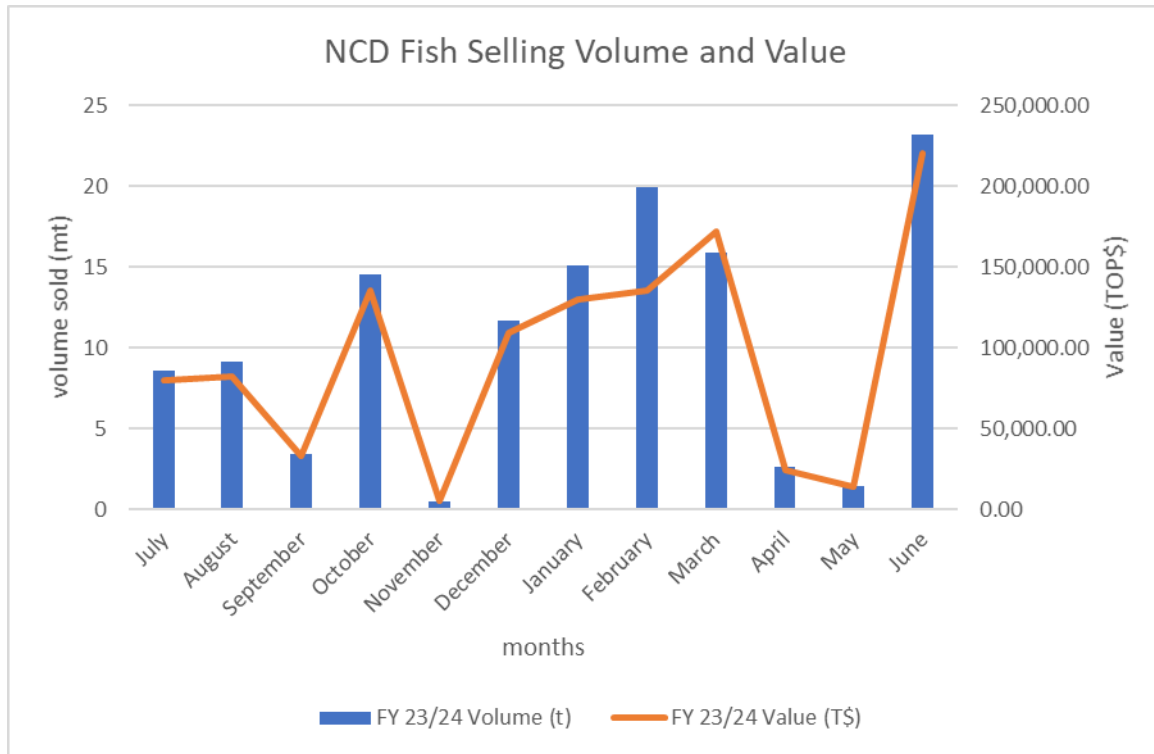
Table 3: Average Volume and Price by Tuna Commodities

Species	Agreed Prices(\$/kg)
All marlins	\$10.00
Swordfish	\$12.00
Wahoo	\$10.00
Mahimahi	\$10.00
Skipjack	\$3.50
Offcut	\$3.50

Table 4: Volume and value of NCD Project for 2023/24

Month	FY 23/24	
	Volume (t)	Value (T\$)
July	8.6	79,872.00
August	9.1	82,635.00
September	3.4	33,206.00
October	14.5	135,122.6
November	0.5	4,893.6
December	11.7	109,110.8
January	15.1	130,122.80
February	19.9	135,630.80
March	15.9	172,286.10
April	2.6	23,937.6
May	1.4	13,821.8
June	23.2	220,559.4
Total	126.0	1,141,198.5

Figure 7: Volume and value of tuna bycatch sold through the NCD Project



2.2.5 Fisheries Science Division

TSDF II Outcomes					
<p>A: A more inclusive, sustainable and dynamic, knowledge-based economy.</p> <p>D: More inclusive, sustainable and responsive good governance with strengthened rule of law.</p> <p>F: A more inclusive, sustainable and effective land administration, environment management, and resilience to climate and risk.</p>					
Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Targets	Achievements (based on the targets and KPIs.)	Beneficiaries	Cross cutting implications	Future plans
Output 17: Increasingly targeted and focused aquaculture research and development that meets the needs of emerging industries.					
Number of successful spawning events	6	<p>(2)</p> <p>2 x successful spawning during this duration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 x pearl oyster (<i>P. teria penguin</i>) species – 24.11.24 with ~30million larvae - 1 x sandfish by VO – 05.03/2024 with 80million larvae 	<p>Pearl farmers</p> <p>Special Management Areas (SMAs) communities</p> <p>Sea cucumber farmers</p> <p>Coastal communities</p>	<p>Sustainable economic development</p> <p>Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change</p> <p>Sustainable and good governance</p>	<p>Preparedness for the next cyclone season.</p> <p>To expand the hatchery facilities and improve the laboratory equipment</p> <p>To recruit aquaculture staff to increase the number of spawning activities and increase hatchery production</p> <p>To conduct ongoing</p>

					<p>monitoring and assessment of individual farming activities</p> <p>To continue trials of different culture techniques for each species</p>
Number of new farms established	15	<p>(4)</p> <p>3 x giant clam farms (Sopu area, Pangaimotu SMA & Fangatapu SMA)</p> <p>1 x sea cucumber farm established (Talihau)</p>	<p>Ministry of Fisheries</p> <p>Special Management Areas (SMAs) communities</p> <p>Sea cucumber farmers</p> <p>Mud crab farmers</p> <p>Coastal communities</p>	<p>Sustainable economic development</p> <p>Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change</p> <p>Sustainable and good governance</p>	<p>To supply SMA communities with adult giant to minimized mortality of juveniles upon transfer</p> <p>Continue spawning trials and development of farming technique for sea cucumber on hatchery and ocean nursery</p> <p>Extend farming of sea cucumber to SMA communities</p> <p>To develop farming and culture technique of mud crab and extend to other coastal communities of Tongatapu with</p>

					suitable environmental condition.
Number of aquaculture operators support with aquaculture activities	40	(538) Pearl Spat Distribution (2) - 1 x Vava'u - 1 x Ha'apai Pearl Harvest & Grading (318) - 183 x for Vava'u pearl farmer association - 135 x for Ha'apai pearl farmer association Pearl seeding (215) - 51 x for the Vava'u Pearl Farm Association - 164 x for the Ha'apai farm association Sea cucumber Distribution (3) - Makave, Tali hau & Talafo'ou Communities	Aquaculture farmers SMAs and Coastal Communities	Sustainable economic development Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change Sustainable and good governance	Increase hatchery production of pearl oyster spats, giant clam and sea cucumber to accommodate farming application Provide more training activities to farmers and SMA communities
A number of new potential species identified for trials. (Sea cucumber, mud crab, shrimp)	3	(3) Sea cucumber trial farming (3) - Tali hau, Talafo'ou & Makave	Aquaculture farmers SMAs and Coastal Communities	Sustainable economic development Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change	Continue of farming trials of current species of sea cucumber, shrimp, mud crab, sea grapes (seaweed) and fin fish.

				Sustainable and good governance	To include Tilapia and revise milkfish farming with other sea cucumber species
Number of trial farming system stock with fingerling.	3	(3) Daily monitoring of pond (fin fish farm)			Continue of farming trials of current species of sea cucumber, shrimp, mud crab, sea grapes (seaweed) and fin fish.
Number of community small-scale farming established (Develop and monitor community small scale farming of new potential species and provide status reports of all aquaculture activities (hatchery runs and farming of aquaculture species))	8	(4) Sea cucumber farm monitor (3) - Makave, Tali hau & Talafo'ou Communities 2) Tilapia & mullet -Monitoring and feeding of the fish farms	Ministry of Fisheries, Aquaculture farmers, Aquarium companies, SMAs, and Coastal Communities	Sustainable economic development Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change Sustainable and good governance	New Fisheries Science section Aquatic Bio-security will responsible to Finalize SOP, Regulation, and implementation
Number of aquaculture reports provided	Number of aquaculture reports provided	10	(12) Aquaculture reports - 4 DWG quarterly report - 4 x HOD report - 4 Aquaculture quarterly	Ministry of Fisheries	Sustainable economic development Sustainable environment management and

			newsletter		resilience to climate change Sustainable and good governance
Output 18: Expand the implementation of the Special Management Area Program and Fish Aggregated Device development for coastal communities.					
Number of new SMA established	5	0 1) No new SMA communities in Tongatapu were gazetted. <i>-Plans for Tongatapu were directed towards 'Ahou SMA communities but the confirmation meeting was delayed by the community of 'Ahou and is still on hold.</i> <i>-The establishment process moved on to Ha'asini and Lavengatonga coastal communities and the status now is to present to these communities their first draft.</i>	SMA Communities Ministry of Fisheries	Sustainable economic development Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change Sustainable, good governance and Food Security	Recruit more staff to the SMA section and outer island Directing more time for the monitoring programs, especially with data collection and reviewing of Management plans and Acts/ Regulations. The next in line for the interested communities of Tongatapu are on hold for the approval of our regulation amendments for more than one SMA community. Output 18: Expand the implementation of the Special Management Area Program and Fish Aggregated Device

					development for coastal communities.
Number of new SMA implemented	5	0 No new SMAs were gazetted so no new implementation all new SMA communities are still under the development stage.	SMA Communities Ministry of Fisheries SMA donors – VEPA, Pathway to Sustainable Ocean Project (World Bank)	Sustainable economic development Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change Sustainable, good governance and Food Security	Recruit more staff to the SMA section and outer island Build the capacity of the SMA teams in the outer region to carry out implementation on their own to minimize the expanses of the implementation process. More focus on the monitoring of current SMA communities to ensure that the programs are effective.
Number of monitoring and evaluations	98	34 Only 34 monitoring programs were	SMA Communities	Sustainable economic	Recruit more staff to the SMA section and

conducted		conducted in Tongatapu alone. Redeployment of Manuka and Kolonga SMA community.	Ministry of Fisheries SMA donors – VEPA, Pathway to Sustainable Ocean Project (World Bank)	development Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change Sustainable, good governance and Food Security	outer island Better planning of work plan throughout the year and remaining with it to ensure it is completed.
Number of FAD deployment	7	7 We deployed seven new FADs in the Island of ‘Eua.		Sustainable economic development Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change Sustainable, good governance and Food Security	This is the beginning again of the FAD activities which started in ‘Eua region and will continue to the rest of the regions.
Number of FAD monitoring	4	7 Monitored the seven new FADs along the waters of ‘Eua. Also started the sounding of 5 FAD locations in Tongatapu and three locations in Vava’u region.	Ministry of Fisheries Fishermen & women	Sustainable economic development Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change	To continue construction of FAD and the redeployment and these new positions. Also the consistence of monitoring of these new FADs.

				Sustainable, good governance and Food Security	
Output 19: Higher standards of training, capacity development, outer island extension and support services, for SMA communities, aquaculture operators, and commercial fishers					
Number of technical Trainings conducted. (Technical trainings conducted and capacity development attended).	137	8 x Aquaculture Trainings 5 x Pearl - Harvest & grading training for Vava'u pearl farmer association - Harvest & grading training for Ha'apai pearl farmer association - Seeding training & farm management in Vava'u - Seeding training & farm management in Ha'apai - Aquaculture- Spat Collector Training for Pearl Farmer. - 1 x Hatchery & production training - 1 x Cage culture system training - 1 x equipment and machinery operation training 4 x Coastal and Community (SMA) - Coastal Community Management Plan consultation with Ha'asini coastal community. - Coastal Community Management Plan consultation with Lavengatonga community.	Ministry of Fisheries SMA communities Small scale fishermen SPC with other regional organization Stakeholders Government Line Ministries	Sustainable economic development Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change Sustainable and good governance	Recruit more staff to the SMA section and outer islands Improve working together with the communities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Navigation and boat vessel safety for Ha’atafu and Kolonga SMA community. - ‘Eua Fisheries Association FAD construction and deployment training. <p><u>2 x Offshore</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 x dFADs training in Ha’apai and a refresher TAILS training - 1 x ER training with new recruits for FSED <p><u>6 x Inshore</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 x SMA Data collectors Refreshment training - 2 x landing and Market survey training to MoF staff in Vavau & Ha’apai - 1 x Rescue and advanced diver training <p>Vava’u</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Training of Mabe Pearl &Value added and handy-craft -Spat collector training and deployment -Sea cucumber farm training at Talihau <p>Ha’apai</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 x Supporting letters for fishers - Maintenance of small vessel <p><u>Fishing gear</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist Holopeka Community(Mending 	<p>General Public</p>		<p>To improve data collection through staff capacity building. And to encourage and implement electronic reporting for data entry and data submission.</p> <p>To continuously train and maintain Tuna Artisanal data collection at the outer islands. And to implement TAILS in Tongatapu</p>
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		<p>fishing net)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signboard installation (Fotua, Fangaleounga, Lotofoa) 			
Number of capacity development training attended.	125	<p>5 x Aquaculture Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Microscope Operation training - Aquaculture Capacity Building Training (Indonesia) -Sixth RTMCFA meeting in Noumea - Training Program of Chinese Learning + Crew Skills + Breeding technology - Marine Spatial Planning & Blue Economy <p>5 x Community development advisory section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -dFAD workshop by SPC in Tongatapu. -Microplastic data collection workshop by USP in Tongatapu. -Sixth RTMCFA meeting in Noumea. -Biosampling Workshop by SPC in Tongatapu -CBFM Upscaling Workshop in Fiji. <p>6 x Inshore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 SMA Data collectors Refreshment training - 2x Creel and Market survey training to MoF staff in Vavau & Ha'apai - 1 x Rescue and advance diver training 	<p>Ministry of Fisheries</p> <p>SMA communities</p> <p>Fishermen</p> <p>Ministry of Fisheries</p> <p>SMA communities</p> <p>Small scale fishermen</p> <p>SPC with other regional organization</p> <p>Stakeholders</p> <p>Government Line Ministries</p>	<p>Food security</p> <p>Sustainable economic development at the community level</p> <p>Sustainable economic development</p> <p>Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change</p>	<p>To improve technical skills and capacity of the Fisheries staff in particular with proper pearl harvesting, grading and carving through further trainings with the ACIAR project consultant in order to assist he pearl farmers to do the work on their own successfully.</p> <p>To improve equipment and facilities in order the assist pearl activities.</p> <p>Need to improve financial supports from government in order to assist smoke fish activities throughout the islands in Tonga.</p>

		<p>1 x Aquatic Biosecurity Foundations in CITES Non-Detriment Findings and using SPC Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Programmes new online Non-Detriment Finding tool.</p> <p>Vava'u -dFADs training -Scoping Project Meeting- SMA -Marine Species and their roles in the SMA -Registration of small fishing vessels -SMA Catch Data Training & Socioeconomics Presentation (All SMA Communities)</p> <p>Spat distributed to farmer include new farmer deployment in Vava'u - Deploy 17 spat collector line - Deploy new pearl farm line – Ofu transfer 50 juvenile oysters</p>	General Public	<p>Sustainable and good governance</p> <p>Sustainable economic development</p>	
<p>Number of Extension services events provided</p> <p>(Extension service events conducted, including technical support for cyclone and disaster resilience and adaptive rehabilitation training)</p>	879	<p>(858)</p> <p>20 x Aquaculture - 2 x sea cucumber cage expansion (Talafo'ou & Makave) - 5 x distribution of sea cucumber juvenile (1xMakave, 2xTalafo'ou & 1xTalihau) - 3xMonitor of sea cucumber farm (Talafo'ou) - 2 x harvesting & grading (Ha'apai and Vava'u pearl farm association) - 2 x Seeding activities (Ha'apai and</p>			

		<p>Vava'u Pearl Farm Association) -2 x Carving & design (Ha'apai and Vava'u Pearl Farm Association) -2 x Distribution (Ha'apai & Vava'u pearl farm association) -Farm management training activities (Ha'apai and Vava'u Pearl Farm Association)</p> <p>278 x Offshore - 278 supporting services (fuel scheme log sheets provision, logsheets provision to boat owners, data provision supporting fishers and fish selling programme to public). - 6 Fish selling programs</p> <p>45 x Inshore - 45 x Services provided to fishermen (Consult fishermen on surveys conducted by Fisheries and Fisheries mandate)</p> <p>75 x Aquatic - 75 Permits issued</p> <p>2 x Extension services and technical support provided in Vava'u -Preparation for Royal Agriculture Show -Deploy boundary marker FHR at Ofu, 'Olo'ua, Taunga -Sounding FAD at Hunga</p> <p>232 x Compliance Services;</p>			
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		<p>Vava'u: 176 x enforcements conducted – 3 cases -29 x fishing vessels boarding -27 x fishing vessels inspections</p> <p>Ha'apai: - 177 x Enforcement - 120 x enforcement conduct - 57 x fishing vessel inspection</p> <p>29 x Aquaculture - Assisted with the farmers on seeding and cleaning their pearl mabe - Deploy 7 new license farmers - Re-deploy Fisheries Line - Harvesting Felemea Community Pearl Farm - Fixed Anchor for New Pearl Line (7Farmers) - 12 Monthly Monitor all pearl farmer</p>			
Number of data collections conducted (Annual Data Collection)	550	<p style="text-align: center;">(1,065)</p> <p>Vava'u -146 x Compliance data -70 x TAILS data collected</p>			

		<p>Ha'apai</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 93 x landing survey conduct and entry data - 96 x Saturday market survey conduct and entry data - 44 x Catch data from SMAs - 121 x compliance Data - 72 x TAILS data collected <p>'Eua</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 x compliance data - 376 x TAILS data collected <p>Niuafo'ou</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 x TAILS data collected <p>Niutopotapu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 43 x TAILS data collected 			
<p>Number of Monitoring and Evaluation conducted.</p> <p>(Monitoring and evaluation of existing SMAs)</p>	185	<p style="text-align: center;">(158)</p> <p>Vava'u</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 84 SMA monitoring conducted <p>Ha'apai</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 59 x Monitoring of the Special Management Area in Ha'apai. (Kotu, Ha'afeva, Matuku, 'Oua, Lofanga, 'Uiha, Felemea, Mo'unga'one, Muitoa, Ha'ano, Pukotala, Fakakakai, Koulo, Holopeka, Faleloa, Lotofoa, Fotua, Fangale'ounga 			

		- 3 x Implementation of New SMA (Fotua, Lotofoa, Fangaleounga) 'Eua - 12 x SMA monitoring conducted			
Number of hatcheries (Establishment of new hatchery for aquaculture)	1	0			Seek funding
Output 18: Efficient and effective administrative management of the outer-island centers.					
Inshore					
Number of administration services (Manage & Monitor administration services (Annual report, CP and Budget, HR management))	324	Vava'u -20* fisheries support letter -financial report completed (weekly, monthly, quarterly) Ha'apai Account & Administration - 12 x financial reports submitted monthly - 71 x Revenue & expenditure -12 x reconciliation of budget with Finance - 12 x update vote books - 11 inventory - Submit weekly staff timesheet overtime to HQ			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -12 x budget cashflow forecast monthly submitted - 174 x purchases order process - 36 x supporting letter for fishermen <p>Number of Eventually- 265</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human Resources and JD Review for the outer island staff - Completed and submitted attendance & staff leave balance monthly 			
Number of district meetings attended	22	<p>Vava'u</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -14 x consultation attend 			
Output 20: Increasingly focused offshore and inshore fishery resource research, monitoring, and assessment to support decision making.					
<p>Number of data collection conducted</p> <p>(Annual data collection of inshore fisheries resources)</p>	96	<p style="text-align: right;">104</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 48 x landing survey - 48 x Market survey - 4 x SMA catch data - 4 x Aquarium harvest data 	<p>Ministry of Fisheries</p> <p>SMA's communities</p> <p><u>SMA's Donors</u></p> <p>VEPA (NGO's)</p> <p>R2R Projects</p> <p>Government of Tonga</p>	<p>Sustainable economic development</p> <p>Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change</p> <p>Sustainable and good governance</p>	<p>Recruit more staff.</p> <p>Time management.</p>

<p>Number of stock assessments conducted</p> <p>(Stock assessment of key inshore fisheries resources)</p>	2	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 x invertebrate assessment survey (sea cucumber survey) 	<p>Sea cucumber farmer</p> <p>Ministry of Fisheries staff</p> <p>Government of Tonga</p> <p>SMA's data collector and SMA communities</p>	<p>Sustainable economic development</p> <p>Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change</p> <p>Sustainable and good governance, Food Security</p>	Recruit more staff
<p>Number of Annual assessments for key offshore species</p> <p>(Stock assessment of key offshore fisheries resources (i.e Tuna, Snapper, Tuna Artisanal, squid))</p>	4	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 x Data collections of tuna fishery, snapper fishery, tuna artisanal, squid and dFAdS and biological sampling. - 1 x new data collection implemented (Close Kin Mark Recapture) 	<p>Stakeholders</p> <p>Ministry of Fisheries staff</p> <p>Government of Tonga</p> <p>Fishers and communities</p> <p>Regional and International Organisations</p> <p>Researchers</p>	<p>Sustainable economic development</p> <p>Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change</p> <p>Sustainable and good governance, Food Security</p>	<p>Recruit more staff</p> <p>Encourage timely data collection and reporting</p>
<p>Number of scientific and data reports submitted (national, regional and international)</p>	16	<p>23</p> <p>16 x Inshore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 x Market survey reports - 4 x Landing survey reports 	<p>Stakeholders</p> <p>Ministry of Fisheries staff</p> <p>Government of Tonga</p>	<p>Sustainable economic development</p> <p>Sustainable environment</p>	Recruit more staff

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 x Aquarium harvest data reports - 4 x SMA catch data reports <p>7 x Offshore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 x quarterly report - 1 x six-month report - 1 x WCPFC part 1 report - 1 x Annual Catch Estimation (ACE) report - 1 x annual report 	<p>Fishers and communities</p> <p>Regional and International Organisations</p> <p>Researchers</p>	<p>management and resilience to climate change</p> <p>Sustainable and good governance, Food Security</p>	
<p>number of surveys conducted</p> <p>(Fisheries natural disaster impact and resilience assessment)</p>	1	<p>0</p> <p>No survey (no disaster)</p>			
<p>Number of administrative operations completed</p> <p>(Managing of the Inshore/offshore sections administrative operations)</p>	70	<p>46</p> <p>Inshore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 x Revise CP, AMP and IAMP - 5 x Review JD and PMS - 14 x Prepare annual budget and monthly cash flow - 4 x Quarterly report <p>Offshore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 x Revise CP, AMP, IAMP, annual report - 2 x PMS assessment - 1 x Annual Budget and Cashflow 			

		- 12 x Monthly Cash flow			
Output 21: Improving the integrity and accuracy of fisheries data collection and management systems, for sound policy-development, better decision-making and responsible fisheries management.					
Number of existing databases managed, monitored, reviewed and new databases developed (Regional and Local database systems)	23	28 28 x Databases - 9 x Local Systems maintained and managed - 16 x regional module systems maintained and monitored - 1 x New local dbase developed for Fish Selling Programme - 1 x New Online database development – CITES Permit for Export (SPC CFP portal) - 1 x Aquarium export permit migrated online (SPC CFP portal)	Ministry of Fisheries Regional agency's Government Line Ministry's Stakeholders Researchers	Sustainable economic development. Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change. Sustainable and good governance.	Continue developing more systems to accommodate new fishing activities. Coordinate and Implement Regional Systems developed by FFA and SPC for Regional Obligations and national obligations Maintained all data systems. Migration of local systems to online systems Implementing more ER tools More data feedback consultations with stakeholders. Ensure Outer islands access to database system is revived, active and effective.

<p>% coverage of data quality check conducted</p> <p>(Conduct Data Quality Checks (DQC) to ensure the integrity and accuracy of fisheries data collected before reporting)</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>100% coverage of data quality check</p>	<p>Ministry of Fisheries Regional agency's Government Line Ministry's Stakeholders Researchers</p>		
<p>Number of ER applications implemented and on trials</p> <p>(SPC and FFA for Electronic Reporting (ER) Applications Programme)</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6 x ER applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Onboard - Onshore - TAILS - OLLO - IkaSavea - BOJAK2 	<p>Ministry of Fisheries Regional agency's Government Line Ministry's Stakeholders Researchers</p>		
<p>Number of Logsheets (ER and Manual) submitted by Tuna and Snapper Fishery. (ER logsheets submissions from vessel masters, port samplers, data monitors and fishers)</p>	<p>668</p>	<p>1163</p> <p>Tuna Fishery</p> <p>187 x Logsheets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 145 x ER Logsheets submitted - 142 x Logsheets manually submitted <p>Port Sampling (Tuna and Snapper)</p> <p>295 x logsheets</p>	<p>Ministry of Fisheries Regional agency's Government Line Ministry's Stakeholders Researchers</p>		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 273 x ER logsheets - 22 x Manual <p>TAILS</p> <p>350 x Logsheets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 246 x ER Logsheets - 104 x Manual <p>Unloading</p> <p>331 x Logsheets</p>			
Number of logsheets (ER and Manual) submitted by Artisanal Fishery.	282	542	<p>TAILS</p> <p>505 ER Logsheets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 37 x Manual 	<p>Ministry of Fisheries</p> <p>Regional agency's</p> <p>Government Line Ministry's</p> <p>Stakeholders</p>	<p>Encouraging communities to work closely with island centre staff supporting this data collection.</p>
Number of Data Working Groups conducted.	4	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 x DWG conducted 	<p>Ministry of Fisheries</p>	
Output 22: Effective implementation and monitoring of flora and fauna, food safety and disease outbreak (Biosecurity), international trade of endangered species (CITES) and Water quality test.					
Number of biosecurity activities conducted and implemented (Review and implement the aquatic biosecurity activities within	30	7	<p>Ministry of Fisheries</p> <p>Government Line Ministry's</p> <p>Farmers</p> <p>Stakeholder(s)</p>	<p>Sustainable economic development</p> <p>Sustainable environment management and resilience to</p>	<p>To review the aquatic biosecurity national strategy plan and conduct training on aquatic animal health for relevant staff and farmer(s).</p>

management plan)				climate change Sustainable food Security	Conduct training on sample collection for diagnostic and to collaborate with other regional partners who will support with the diagnostic. Work closely with other relevant Ministries and stakeholder to prevent the introduction and spread of diseases
Number of environmental and epidemiological surveillance conducted (Implement Ciguatera epidemiological surveillance and environmental monitoring)	65	74 - 5 x SOP(s) – Ciguatera Environmental Monitoring (Field sampling and preparations of samples) - 45 x window screen deployed; - 8 x window screens missing; - 10 x window screens preserved in formalin for microscopic analysis; - 27 x window screen samples preserved in ethanol and sent to Tahiti for molecular analysis. - 24 x Water parameter(s); DO, Temp,	Ministry of Fisheries Regional agency's Government Line Ministry's Stakeholder(s) Communities	Sustainable economic development Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change Sustainable, good governance and Food Security	

		pH and salinity of each sampling site(s) was recorded			
Number of CITES activities conducted and implemented (Implement CITES in the fisheries sector focusing on the scientific aspect)	30	75 - 49 x export(s) CITES permit(s) for commercial purposes; - 26 x CITES permit for souvenir purposes Notes: NDF for corals, giant clams and sharks (Oceanic White tip and Silky shark) were developed and the results are ALL NEGATIVE . Therefore, NO TRADE or EXPORT is allowed until management actions have been completed.	Ministry of Fisheries Regional agency's Government Line Ministry's Stakeholder(s) Communities	Sustainable economic development Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change Sustainable, good governance	
Number of reports submitted (Note: Implement CITES in the fisheries sector focusing on the scientific aspect)	14	8 - 1x Analyses report for Ciguatera received 4 th March 2024. - 2x OIE six-monthly report submitted on WAHIS system; first semester 2023 and second semester 2023 - 1x CITES annual report for 2021-2022 on trade of marine species.	Ministry of Fisheries Regional agency's Communities Stakeholders	Sustainable economic development Sustainable environment management and resilience to climate change Sustainable, good governance	

		- 4x DWG reports for quarters 3 and 4 of 2023 and DWG for quarters 1 and 2 of 2024.			
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Catch Performance by Fishery

Tuna Fishery

Table 2: The total catch (mt) estimates for the National Fleets (Tonga flagged longline vessels), for the period July 2023 to June 2024

FLAG	YY	MM	ALB	BET	BLM	BUM	BSH	DOL	GBA	SFA	MAK	OIL	LAG	SSP	SKJ	MLS	SWO	WAH	YFT	OTH	Grand Total	
TO	2023	Jul	6.7	3.4		4.9		3.0	0.0	0.7	0.7		0.3	0.6	0.1	1.9	0.8	0.1	18.2	0.4	41.6	
		Aug	2.5	1.5	0.5	5.5		2.5	0.0	1.1	0.7		0.0	0.8		1.7	0.9	0.3	7.5	0.3	25.8	
		Sep	0.7	0.6		2.9		2.9			0.5	0.3			0.7		1.2	0.3	0.4	3.3	0.0	13.6
		Oct	0.5	0.4		2.9		2.1			0.4	0.1			0.6		3.9	0.6	0.2	4.7	0.0	16.3
		Nov	0.9	0.4		3.8		4.9			0.8	0.3			0.5	0.2	7.1	0.8	0.4	7.8	0.1	27.9
		Dec	1.5	0.6		2.0		3.9			0.4	0.1			0.1	0.1	4.1	2.5	1.2	13.4	0.1	29.9
	2024	Jan	1.3	0.4		3.3		1.5	0.0	0.2	0.2				0.1	0.1	1.6	0.7	1.3	16.8	0.1	27.4
		Feb	0.7	0.1		1.4		1.3	0.0	0.5	0.1				0.1		0.3	0.3	0.4	16.0	0.0	21.2
		Mar	1.8	3.0		3.9		2.6	0.0	0.8	0.1				0.1		0.7	1.1	0.4	11.7	0.1	26.3
		Apr	1.7	1.8		5.6		3.5	0.0	1.4	0.1				0.2	0.0	0.3	1.0	0.2	15.4	0.0	31.1
		May	2.4	2.0		1.2		1.6	0.0	0.4		0.2			0.6	0.2	1.1	2.3	0.0	3.8	0.0	15.7
		Jun	1.2	0.8		2.5		1.7	0.0	1.0		0.3			0.5	0.0	1.6	0.4	0.1	5.1	0.0	15.2
		Jul	0.8	0.3		1.1		1.3	0.0	0.2		0.5			0.6	0.0	1.7	0.4	0.0	4.9	0.4	12.1
	TOTAL			22.6	15.2	0.5	40.8	0.0	32.8	0.1	8.4	3.7	0.0	0.3	5.4	0.6	27.1	12.0	5.1	128.6	1.5	304.0

Table 3: The total catch (mt) estimates for the Foreign Fishing Vessels, for the period July 2023 to June 2024.

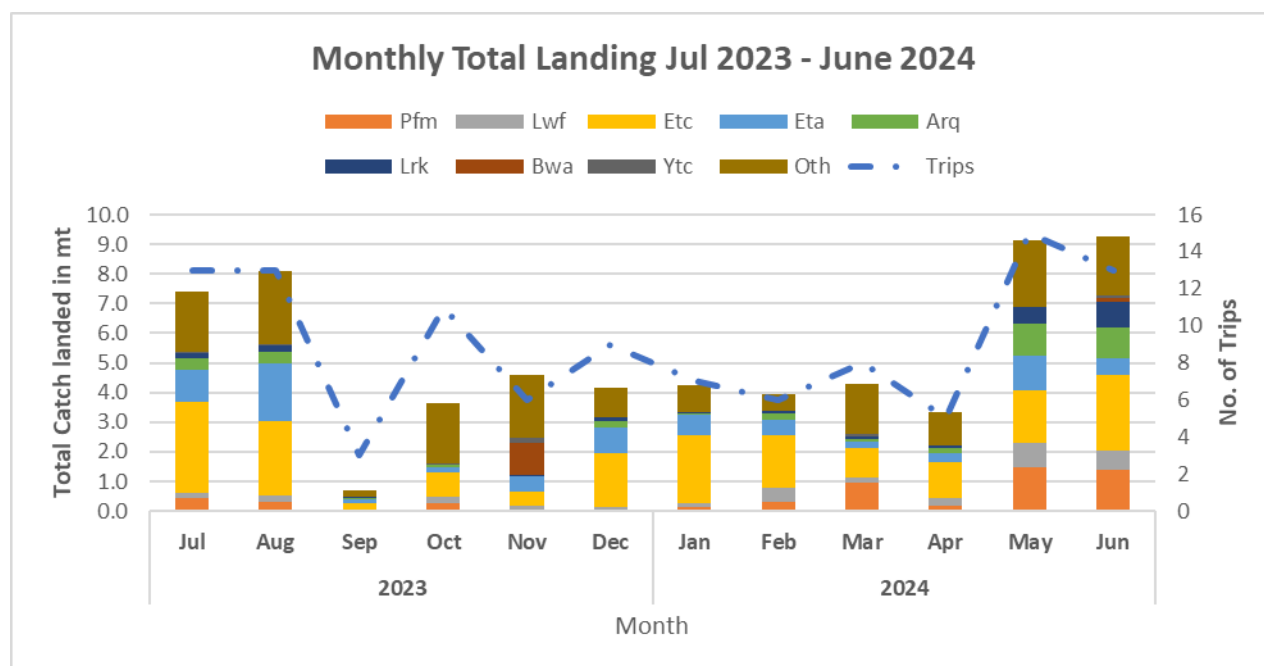
FLAG	YY	MM	ALB	BET	BLM	BUM	BSH	DOL	GBA	SFA	MAK	OIL	LAG	SSP	SKJ	MLS	SWO	WAH	YFT	OTH	Grand Total	
FFV	2023	Jul	126.4	10.8		3.3	3.4	0.5		0.1	0.7	1.2		2.8	2.2	4.2	1.2	0.8	14.9	0.1	172.4	
		Aug	74.8	6.3	0.3	2.4	2.0	0.5		0.1	0.5	0.6	0.2	1.9	1.8	4.2	1.3	0.2	6.4	0.6	103.9	
		Sep	103.2	7.8		3.3	3.5	0.5			0.6	0.5	2.1	0.2	3.0	4.6	8.4	1.7	1.6	11.4	2.1	153.5
		Oct	119.8	8.2	1.3	6.1	3.1	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.7	1.7	0.3	1.7	4.3	15.6	2.7	1.8	14.4	1.1	183.4	
		Nov	236.9	6.5	0.7	7.5	3.0	0.5			0.5	0.7	3.6	0.1	1.0	7.0	12.7	1.4	7.0	69.2	0.4	358.5
		Dec	172.3	5.0	0.3	3.9	1.8	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.2	1.3	0.2	0.2	1.5	3.0	1.1	7.8	52.5	0.5	252.0	
	2024	Jan	197.0	6.3	0.6	7.3	4.1	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.4	1.1	0.0	0.2	1.2	1.6	1.4	15.2	74.5	0.0	311.5	
		Feb	141.3	3.5	0.3	6.2	1.9	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.6			0.3	1.6	1.2	0.1	8.5	73.5	0.0	240.3
		Mar	53.3	8.4		2.2	1.9	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2			0.3	0.5	1.2	0.1	1.8	58.0	0.0	128.5
		Apr	21.5	1.1		1.0	1.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0			0.2	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.5	16.5	0.0	43.6
		May	52.3	2.4	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2			1.2	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.7	20.9	0.0	82.8
		Jun	101.2	3.5	1.5	3.2	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1			1.3	4.5	0.9	0.2	0.2	35.1	0.0	153.0
		Jul	61.5	2.9	0.5	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.2			1.8	4.2	2.2	0.4	0.6	24.3	0.0	101.2
	Total			1461.6	72.6	6.6	48.7	28.3	4.7	1.2	3.6	4.6	12.9	1.0	15.8	34.9	55.7	12.0	46.5	471.7	4.9	2284.6

Deepwater Snapper Fishery

Table 4: Total monthly catches of main Deepwater snapper species and bycatch, for the period of July 2023 – June 2024.

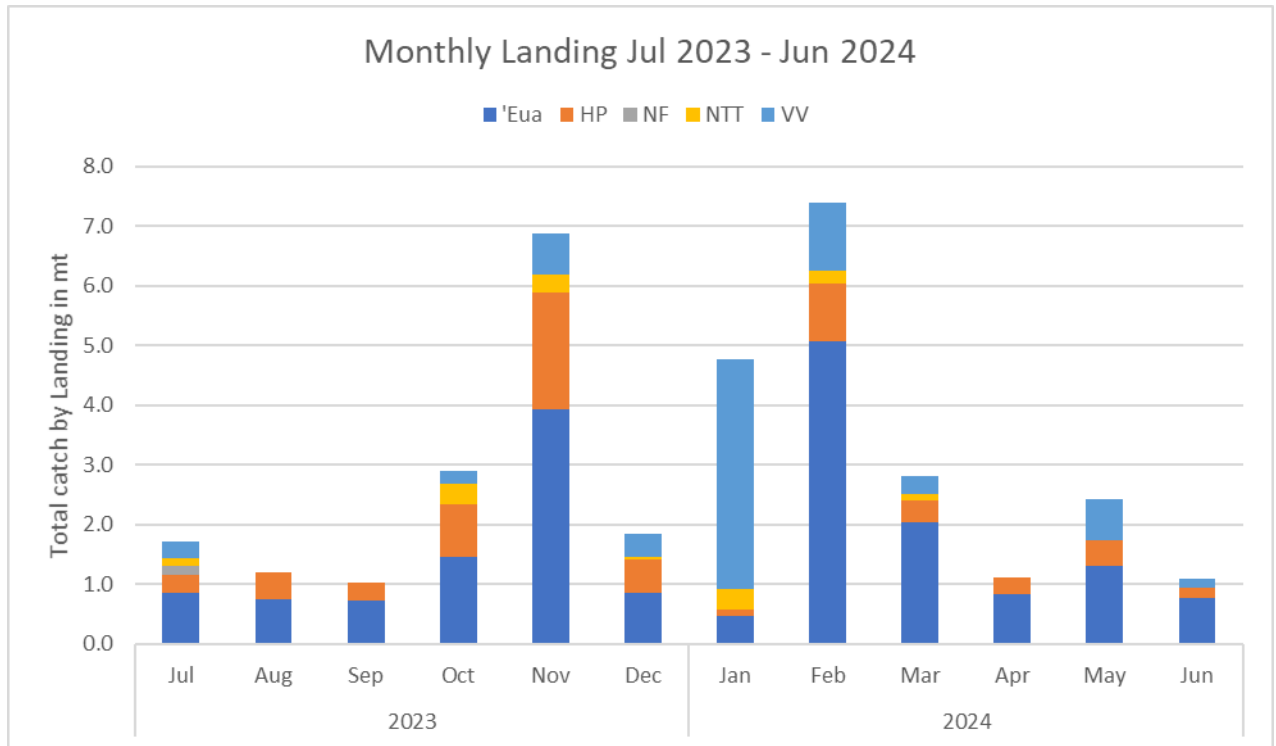
YY	MM	Trips	Pfm	Lwf	Etc	Eta	Arq	Lrk	Bwa	Ytc	Oth	Grand Total
2023	Jul	13	0.4	0.2	3.1	1.1	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.1	2.0	7.4
	Aug	13	0.3	0.2	2.5	2.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.4	8.1
	Sep	3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.7
	Oct	11	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	3.7
	Nov	6	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.2	2.1	4.6
	Dec	9	0.0	0.1	1.8	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.0	4.2
2024	Jan	7	0.2	0.1	2.3	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	4.2
	Feb	6	0.3	0.5	1.8	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	3.9
	Mar	8	1.0	0.2	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.7	4.3
	Apr	5	0.2	0.3	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.1	3.3
	May	15	1.5	0.8	1.8	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	2.2	9.1
	Jun	13	1.4	0.7	2.6	0.6	1.0	0.8	0.2	0.1	2.0	9.3
Total		109	5.5	3.4	19.5	8.2	3.7	2.3	1.3	0.5	18.4	62.8

Figure 5: Monthly total catches (in metric tons) for main deep-water snapper species and number of trips per month for the periods from July 2022 to June 2023.



Artisanal Fisheries

Figure 6: Monthly catch for artisanal fisheries by landing sites from July 2023 – June 2024.



Drifting Fishing Aggregate Devices (FADs) Data Collection

Figure 7: Drifting FADs data collection in Vava'u.



Aquaculture section

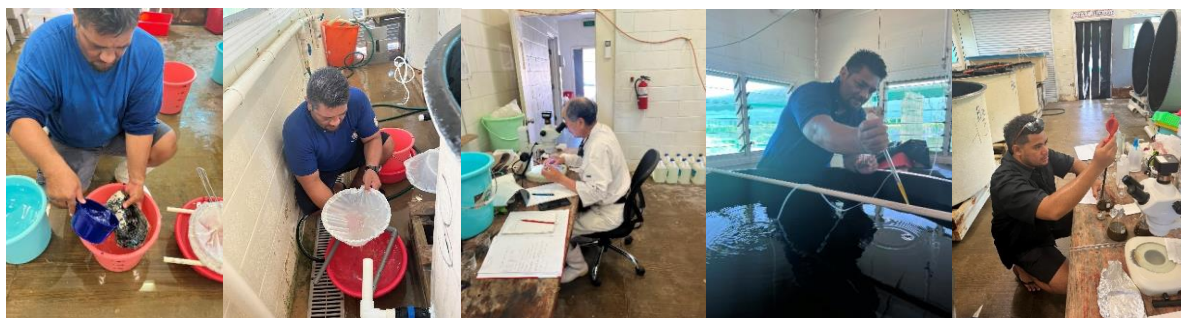
Pearl Farm

Table 5: Number of Pearl farmers

Pearl Farming License					
	Tt	Vava'u	Ha'apai	NTT	Total
ADL approved	4	34	14	-	52
Lines deploy with spat	3	31	8	-	42
Lines deploy with NO spat	0	0	0	-	0
Line NOT deployed	1	3	6	-	10
Deploy Spat Collector	-	25	-	-	25

Pearl Oyster Spawning

Figure 8: Successful spawning of pearl oysters conducted by Aquaculture team



Giant Clam Activities

Table 6: Information on juvenile clams transferring and monitoring at SMA

Ocean Location	Number of tray	Approximate number of clams
Fangatapu SMA	56	~5600
Sopu Area	61	~6100
Raceway	45	4500
Total	117	~16200

Monitoring is ongoing by the Aquaculture team with records of clams that are still thriving at the farms.

Figure 9: Monitoring and cleaning of juvenile giant clams in each race tank



Figure 10: Planting juvenile clams onto cement trays and transfer to the ocean nursery



Ongoing monitoring of juvenile clam farms at farming areas conducted by the team

Sea cucumber

Successful farming of sea cucumbers has resulted in expanding the previous cage to bigger cages in the hope of more successful growth for the sea cucumbers

Table 7: Sea Cucumber Juveniles transfer to SMA farms

Date	SMA Communities	Number of juveniles
23-May	Talafoóu	1704
14-Jul	Makave (Vavaú)	2000
17-Nov	Talafoóu	600
29-Nov	Talafo'ou	1100
30-Nov	Talihau (Vavaú)	2000

Figure 11: Fisheries staff assisting and working together with Vast Ocean for harvest and process of cultured sea cucumbers: Golden sandfish (*Holothuria lessoni*) at the Vast Ocean facility



Table 8: Details below of harvest and process data of cultured sea cucumber farm

Location	Year	Total Release (psc)	Harvesting&Processing (psc)	Export	
				kg	to
Sopu	2023	1526193	10954	181	Aust

Figure 12: Monitoring activities at SMA community sea cucumber farms carried out by staff.

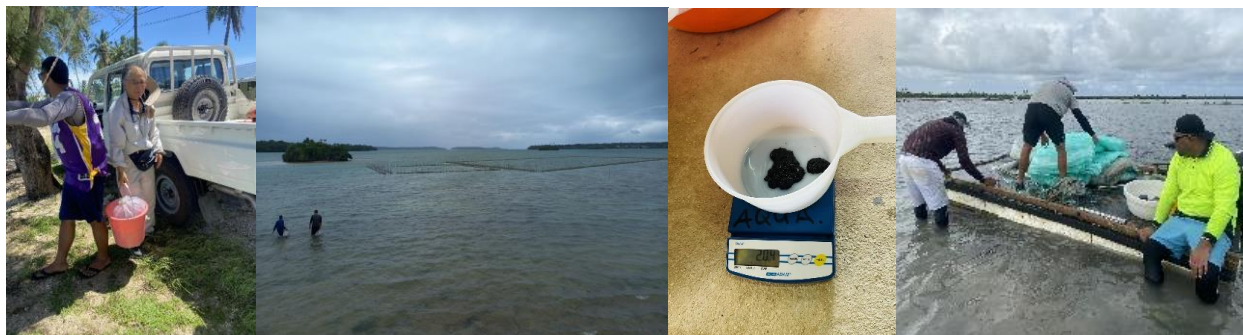
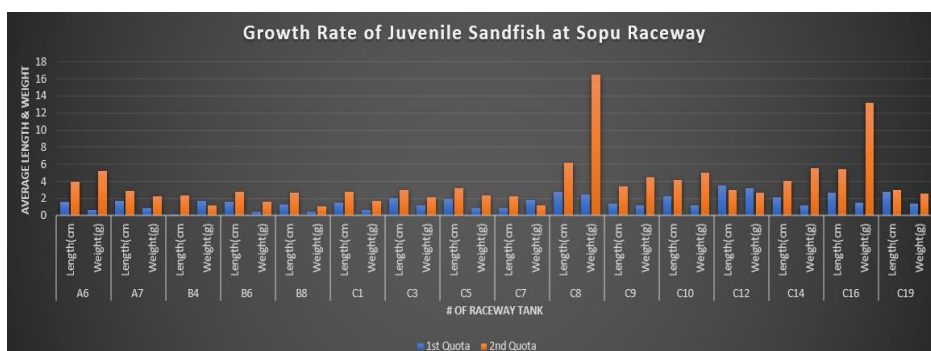


Figure 13: Graph showing the growth rate for sea cucumber juveniles at the Sopu Raceway as preparation for distribution to communities



Mullet and Tilapia

Figure 14: Daily monitoring and feeding of the fish farm as well as measuring water quality at the pond is ongoing carried out by the team.



Inshore Section

Invertebrate assessment survey

Below are figures that indicates the average density by species over time. Sea cucumber was a species of interest and this shows the average density by species and by market value. These market values are low, medium and high depends on their historical harvest data.

Figure 15: Figure below shows the average density for low value species. They were dominated by Lollyfish (*Holothuria atra*), Greenfish (*Stichopus chloronotus*) and then pink lollyfish (*Holothuria edulis*). As indicated, there is a difference between the density of each species over time but the difference is not significant.

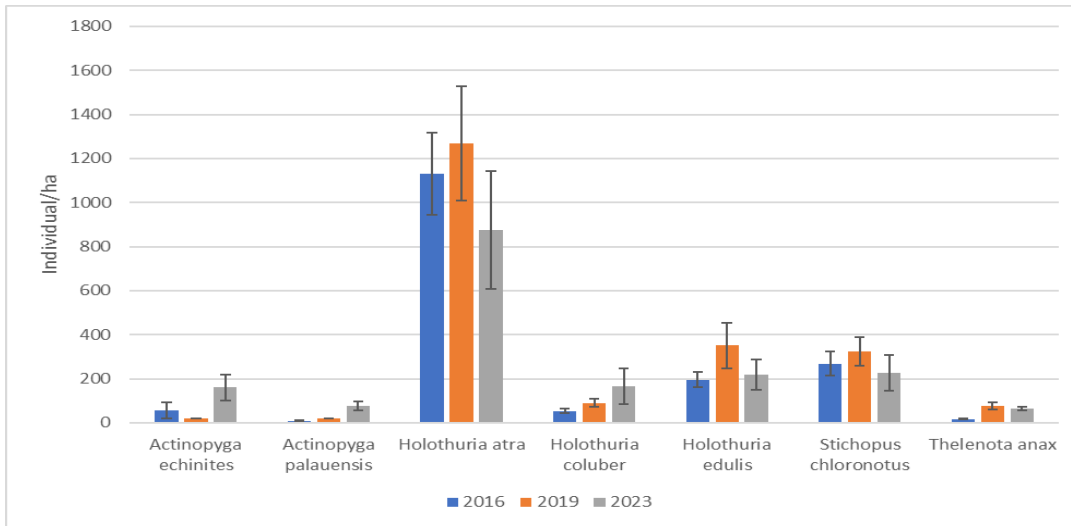


Figure 16: The figure below shows the average density for medium-value species recorded. The most abundant species was Leopardfish (*Boharschia argus*) followed by Brown sandfish (*Bohadschia vitiensis*) and then Herman’s Sea cucumber (*Stichopus hermanni*). As indicated, there is a difference between the density of each species over time but the difference is not significant.

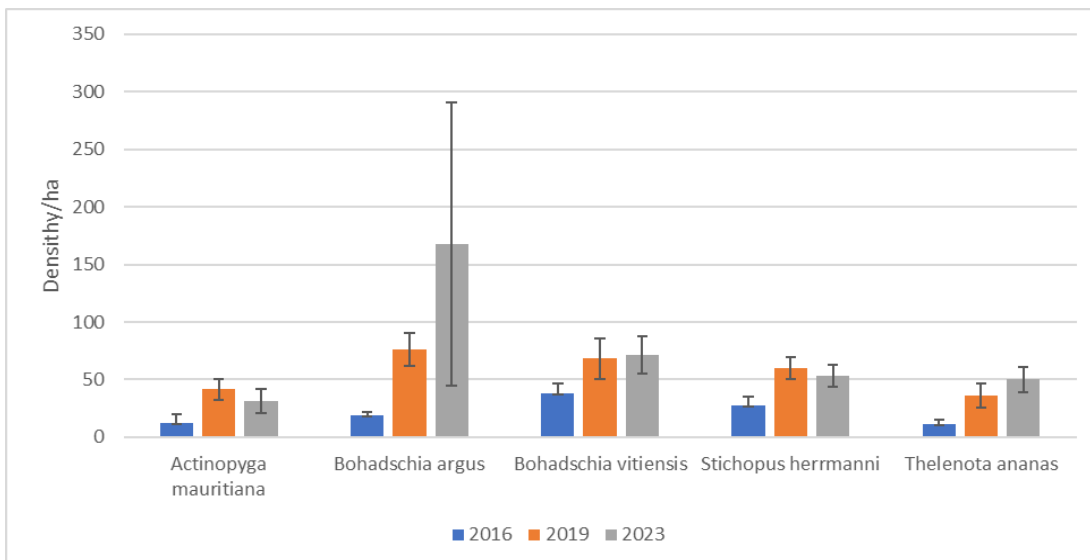
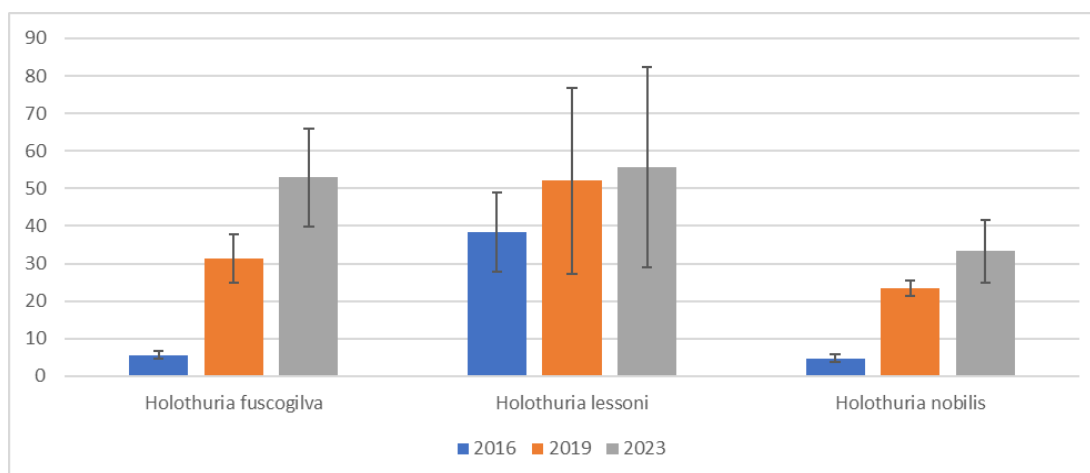


Figure 17: Figure below shows the average density for high value species that were encountered by the surveyors. It was dominated by White teatfish (*Holothuria fuscogilva*), golden sandfish (*Holothuria lessoni*) and then Black teatfish (*Holothuria nobilis*)

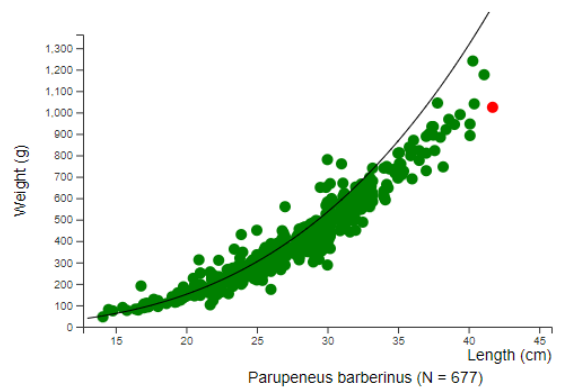
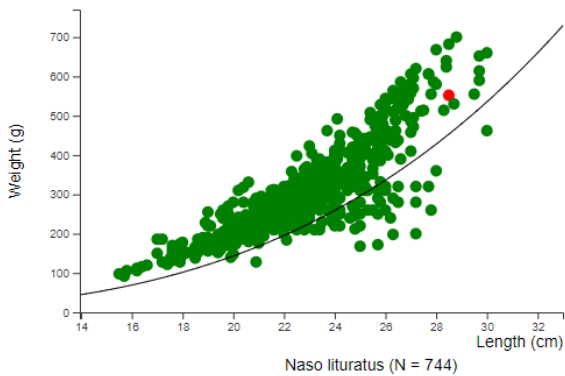
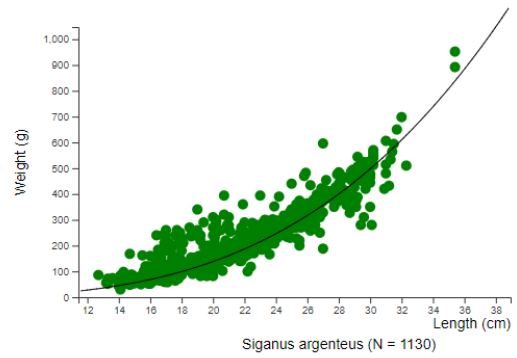
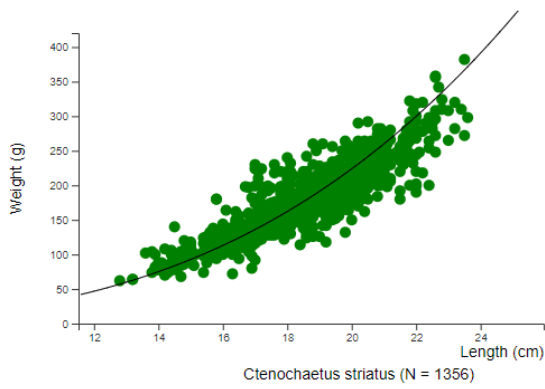
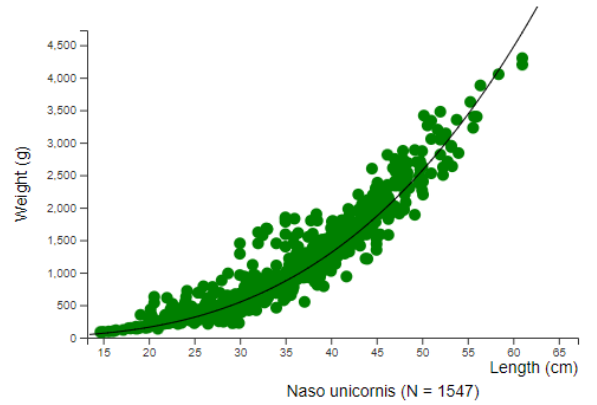
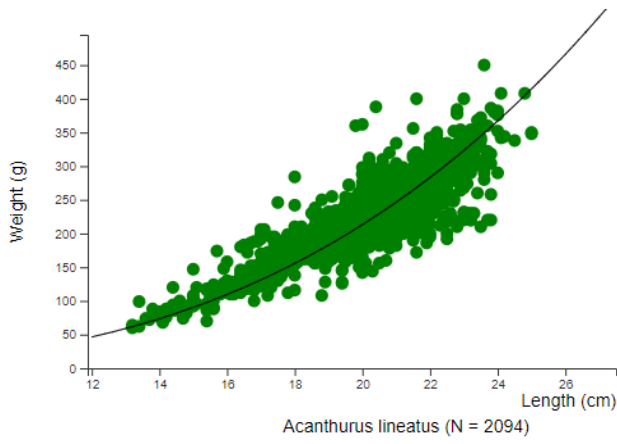


Landing survey

Table 9: The table below presents the common species fished and landed at Tongatapu's landing sites. The number of samples for each species reflects the quantity of photos collected from all sampled fishers' catches. The size at maturity for each species was sourced from the SPC online database, while the size limits shown are those proposed by the Ministry for regulatory purposes

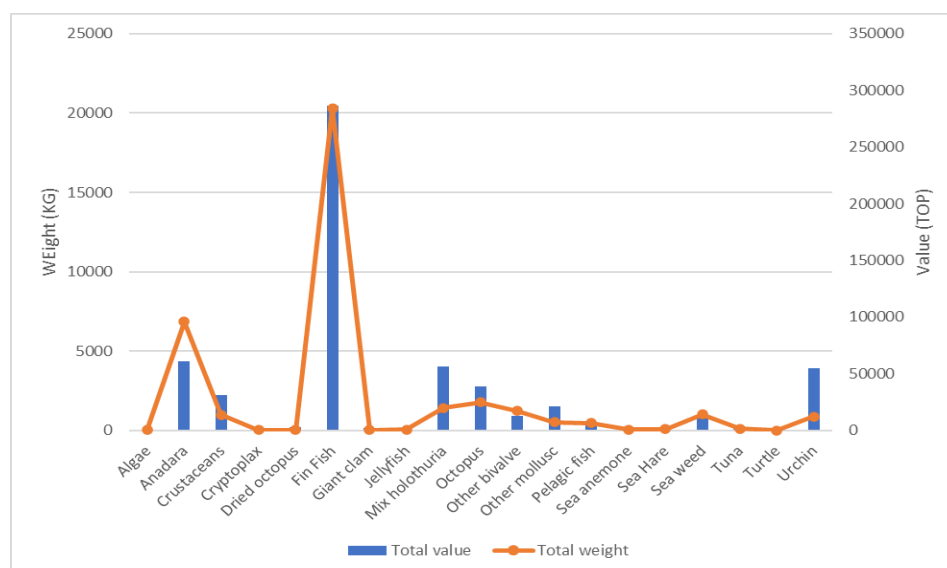
Common name	Species name	Tongan name	Number of samples	Average size (cm)	Size at maturity (cm)
Lined surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus lineatus</i>	Ponetuhi	2094	20.0	18
Bluespine unicornfish	<i>Naso unicornis</i>	'Ume kaki	1547	31.6	40.8
Striated surgeonfish	<i>Ctenochaetus striatus</i>	Pone'uli	1356	18.4	13.8
Streamline spinefoot	<i>Siganus argenteus</i>	Ma'ava	1130	20.6	20
Orangespine unicornfish	<i>Naso lituratus</i>	'Umelei	744	22.7	18
Dash and dot goatfish	<i>Parupeneus barberinus</i>	Tukuleia	677	27.2	32.5
Pacific yellowtail emperor	<i>Lethrinus atkinsoni</i>	Hoputu	609	29.2	25.3
Bridled parrotfish	<i>Scarus frenatus</i>	Hohomo	538	30.1	20.5
Sabre squirelfish	<i>Sargocentron spiniferum</i>	Ta'a	532	21.6	22.2
Steephead parrotfish	<i>Chlorurus microrhinos</i>	Sikatoki	393	36.8	37.5

Figure 18: The figures below display the size-to-weight relationship graphs for the top six most fished species. The green dots represent the size of each sample.



Market survey

Figure 19: The figure below shows the total weight and value by commodity sold at local fish markets and roadside stalls in Tonga. This does not indicate the production of the fishery. Fish alone was the dominant commodity in all markets at all Island groups.



SMA catch data

Table 10: These are the SMA communities submitted their catch data to main office or the record the Minsitry has. A total of 31 SMA submitted their catch datasheet from 59 SMA altogether.

Island group	Village Name	2023							2024					
		Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Eua	Futu						X	X	X					
	Houma						X	X	X	X	X	X		
Haapai	'Uiha								X					
	Felemea	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X		
	Ha'ano										X		X	
	Ha'afeva			X	X	X	X							
	Holeva				X									
	Koulo				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Lofanga			X		X			X					
	Matuku													
	Mo'unga'one					X	X			X	X			
	Muitoa					X		X	X		X			X
	Nomuka						X		X	X				
	'O'ua	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
	Tongatapu	'Eueiki	X											
Ha'atafu					X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Kolonga				X	X					X	X	X		
Manuka			X	X	X									
Vava'u	'Utulei												X	
	'Otea	X	X											
	'Utungake		X	X		X			X	X	X			
	Falevai						X			X	X	X	X	X
	Hunga	X	X	X	X				X	X	X		X	

	Kapa	x		x	x	x				x	x			
	Koloa		x	x			x			x	x	X	x	
	Lape		x	x		x								
	Makave			x		x	x	x		x	x			
	Matamaka	x					x				x		x	
	Nuapapu	x	x	x	x									
	Ofu	x	x	x	x	x	x				x			
	Okoa			x	x	x		x	x		x		x	

Figure 20: Fish family composition fished by SMA communities by fish family. Acanthuridae dominate the number of individuals caught, followed by Carangidae.

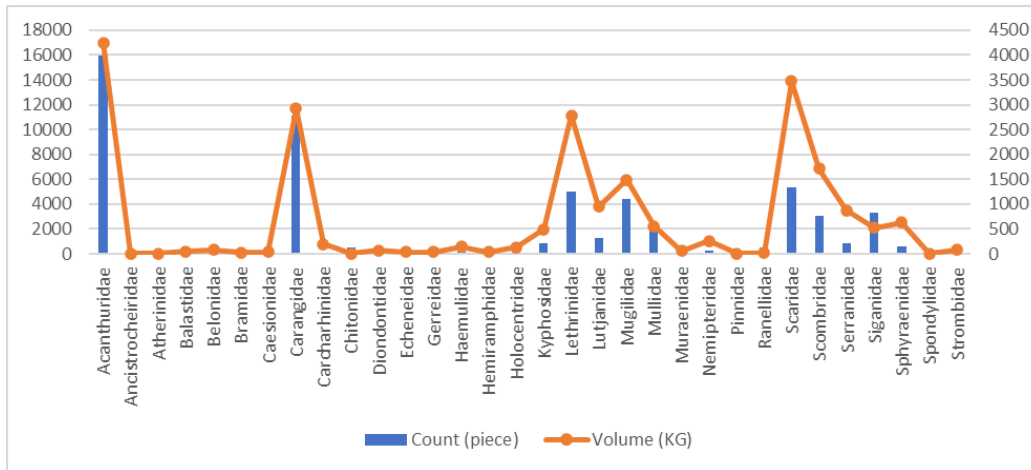


Figure 21: Invertebrate composition fished by SMA communities by family name.

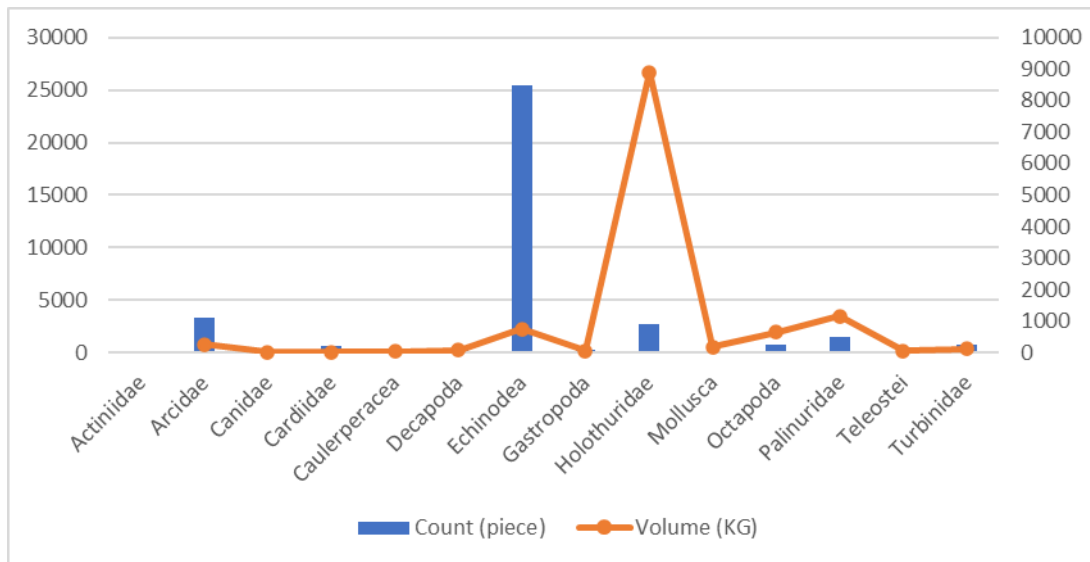
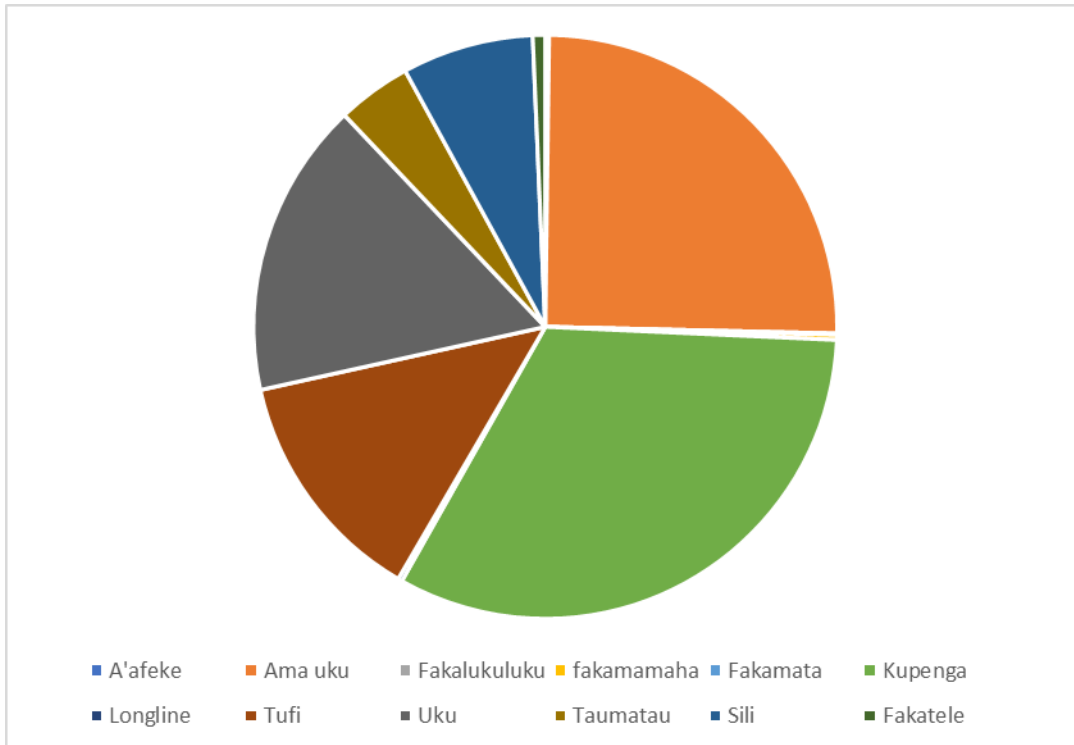


Figure 22: The figure below illustrates the composition of fishing methods. Fishing gears have been categorized based on the similarity of each method. The larger the segment, the greater the quantity of marine products caught using that particular gear. These are the various fishing gears practiced by all SMA communities for the sustainable management of their resources..



Community section

Figure 23: Deployment of 3 new SMA's (Lotofoa, Fangale'ounga, Fotua) under the Tongafish Pathway Project in Ha'apai.



Figure 24: Redeployment of existing SMA's



Table 11: Number of Monitoring Conduct for 2022-2023.

Region	Total number of SMA Community	Number of Monitoring Conducted
Tongatapu	17	34
Ha'apai	24	59
Vava'u	21	84
'Eua	3	12
Total	65	189

Royal Agriculture and Fisheries, Tourism and Trade (RAFTT) 2023/24

This was the first annual show to be held after a break of three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Hunga-Tonga Hunga-Haápai volcanic eruption and tsunami in 2022. This event was successfully completed throughout all the islands in Tonga. Ha'apai RAFTT was held on the 13th of July 2023, Vava'u on the 20th of July 2023, Niuatoputapu on the 25th of July 2024 and Niufo'ou on the 27th of July 2024. The theme was focused on **“Recovering from Hunga-Tonga Hunga-Haápai and COVID-19”**. This event allowed fishers to showcase their resilience throughout the pandemic and the natural disaster.

Figure 25: Tongatapu RAFTT 2023

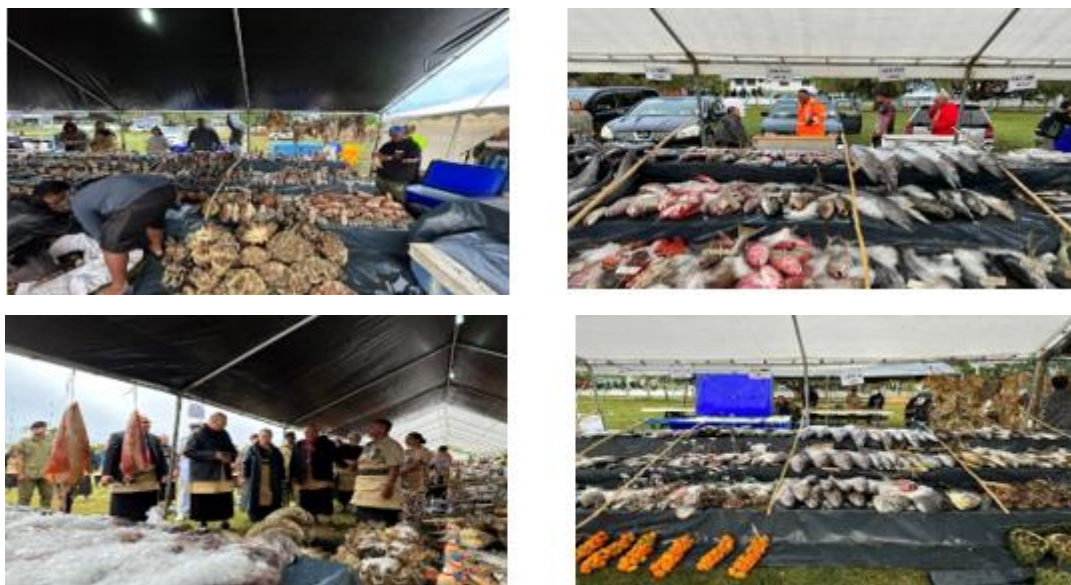


Figure 26: 'Eua RAFTT 2023



2.2.6 Fisheries Compliance Division

TSDF II Outcomes					
<p>A: A more inclusive, sustainable and dynamic, knowledge-based economy.</p> <p>D: More inclusive, sustainable and responsive good governance with strengthened rule of law.</p> <p>F: A more inclusive, sustainable and effective land administration, environment management, and resilience to climate and risk.</p>					
Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Targets	Achievements (based on the targets and KPIs.)	Beneficiaries	Cross cutting implications	Future plans
Output 23: Efficient and effective compliance and enforcement services with regulatory programs that deter Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing					
<p>Number of compliance policies and strategies, SOPs develop, review and implement</p> <p>(Fisheries Management Act 2002 and its subsidiary Regulations, Aquaculture Management Act and Regulation 2003 and Maritime Zone Act 2009), Fisheries Management Plans (FMP)(Tuna Management and Development Plan 2018 -2022, Deepwater Fisheries Management 2020 – 2023, Marine Aquarium Management</p>	6	<p>11</p> <p>MCS Policies and Strategies Developed and Reviewed</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Final Tonga National MCS Strategy, through FFA assistance Finalise the Regional MCS Strategies Develop the draft the Port State Measure (PSM) SOP with the 	<p>Ministry of Fisheries, Police, HMAF (Navy), Customs Department, Port Authority, Marine Department.</p> <p>Meet the minimum requirements of regional fisheries bodies in which Tonga is a member (FFA, WCPFC, SPC, FAO, etc.)</p>	<p>Mandate of the Ministry provided in the legislation is achieved</p> <p>Tonga supports the implementation of the regional fisheries arrangements to deter IUU fishing</p> <p>Improve monitoring of illegal fishing activities</p>	<p>Involved all the FCD staff including the outer island in developing of the MCS Policies so that they understand the policy.</p> <p>Increasing training on MCS policies and SOP's</p> <p>Encourage staff participation in developing policies</p> <p>Hire more technical expertise on MCS areas to assist FCD.</p>

<p>and Development Plan 2020-2021, Aquaculture Management and Development Plan 2018 – 2022) and Tonga National MCS Strategy and National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU).</p>		<p>assistance of MPI</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Reviewed and submitted the update Annex C 1 and C2 to FFA for NTSA 5. Reviewed the SOP for NTSA 6. Finalise the development of Snapper Fisheries SOP 7. Finalise the development of Aquarium SOP 8. Draft SOP for Aquarium complete for consultation (Feb) 9. Review fishing vessel 72 hours notification to address shark 10. Continuing working on 			
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		<p>collecting information to spot fine</p> <p>Ongoing collecting information for developing SOP for CDS.</p>			
<p>Number of activities being conducted and measures being implemented;</p> <p>a. FAO Port State Measures Agreement to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU)</p> <p>b. Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) conservation and management measures on management of tuna resources</p> <p>c. Niue Treaty Subsidiary</p>	5	<p>13</p> <p>Implementation of National, Regional and International agreements and treaties to deter IUU fishing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete/Submit Tonga's WCPFC Annual Part 2 Report 2. Complete/Submit Tonga's WCPFC Fish and did not fish Report 3. Consultation with FFA on trial of eCDS and ePMS in Tonga 4. Consultation 	<p>Ministry of Fisheries, Police, HMAF (Navy), Customs Department, Port Authority, Marine Department.</p> <p>Meet the minimum requirements of regional fisheries bodies in which Tonga is a member (FFA, WCPFC, SPC, FAO, etc.)</p>	<p>Mandate of the Ministry provided in the legislation is achieved</p> <p>Tonga support the implementation of the regional fisheries arrangements to deter IUU fishing</p> <p>Improve monitoring of illegal fishing activities</p>	<p>Every case brought into the attention of the division should be considered and prioritize whether it is a low/medium risk or high-risk offense, so that decision and enforcement act apply to the case is reasonable and managed accordingly in terms of prosecution or official warning.</p> <p>Closely collaborate with related Ministries and related agencies especially the donors from overseas who funded patrols and aerial surveillance.</p> <p>Increase the budget allocation to financial support the Joint operation planned for combatting the IUU Fishing in Tonga.</p>

<p>Agreement (NTSA)</p> <p>d. Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agencies (FFA) Regional Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) Strategy</p> <p>e. FFA Regional Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) and other treaties</p> <p>f. Regional Longline Strategy</p> <p>g. Tonga National MCS Strategy</p>		<p>with FFA on conducting gap analysis on labour crewing and also developing Labour crew policy</p> <p>5. Participate on discussion the FFA priorities for the Commission meeting</p> <p>6. Participated on Tuna Management and Development Plan review – Support the review of the Plan.</p> <p>7. Participated on promote export to the US markets.</p> <p>8. Submit U.S MMPA import provision</p>			
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		<p>questions regarding Tonga comparability finding application</p> <p>9. Participated on Tonga SMA Strategy – Attend the internal consultation on the draft SMA strategy</p> <p>10. Regional CDS workshop – Attend the CDS workshop</p> <p>11. Participate in the review of the FFA IMS</p> <p>12. Conduct Gap analysis of the fishing vessels registration</p> <p>Participate in the review of the SPC - MCS database</p>			
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<p>Number of enforcement activities (inspection, fishing operations) being conducted.</p> <p>(Provide land and surface patrol with aerial surveillance and planned Fish Compliance Operation for both offshore and inshore fisheries (boarding (both in-port and at-sea) and inspection of all licensed fishing vessels, inspect of domestic fish markets and roadside stalls, inspect the export facilities (FPE) for packing of marine products for export, inspect of fish fence) to ensure compliance with fisheries law and regulations).</p>	360	<p>574</p> <p>Enforcement and compliance activities conducted</p>	<p>FFA, WCPFC, NOAA, Flag States, Ministry of Fisheries, License vessel operators, fish processing and export license, Tonga Navy (HMAF), Customs Department, Port Authority, Police Department, Marine and Ports Department</p>	<p>Mandate of the Ministry provided in the legislation is achieved</p> <p>Tonga support the implementation of the regional fisheries arrangements to deter IUU fishing</p> <p>Improve monitoring of illegal fishing activities</p>	<p>Consistent reminder to fisheries licensee regarding their license expiration date to be renewed before their fisheries activities.</p> <p>Increasing public awareness on agreement and treaties that approved to implement.</p> <p>Increasing training on MCS policies and SOP's</p> <p>Develop an integrated national system for all PSMA parties for sharing information</p>
<p>Number of meetings, fishing operation being conducted.</p> <p>(Strengthen interagency cooperation and</p>	4	<p>11</p> <p>Interagency cooperation (MCS Meetings) and fishing</p>	<p>Ministry of Fisheries, Custom Department, Marine Department, Navy, Police Department, Fishery License Holders,</p>	<p>Mandate of the Ministry provided in the legislation is achieved</p> <p>Tonga supports the implementation of the regional fisheries arrangements to</p>	<p>Draft SOP for each fishery license to allow consistent monitoring of inactive licensee(s) and efficient enforcement of such items on terms and conditions consistently to allow fair decision</p>

<p>partnership with line Ministries in national MCS committees to coordinate fisheries operations and other MCS activities)</p>		<p>operation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joint Operation for illegal fishing of sea cucumber during the close season 2. Air surveillance program in Tonga from 22 - 26 August 2022 – Fisheries officer board the air craft and support the crew during the air surveillance 3. Virtual meeting on using NTSA system for preparation for Kurukuru Operation 4. Join Maritime Surveillance Patrol (8 – 22 Feb, 2023) 5. FFA Aerial 	<p>Fisheries Stakeholders, Local fishermen</p>	<p>deter IUU fishing Improve monitoring of illegal fishing activities</p>	<p>upon breaching any of them</p>
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		<p>Surveillance (7 Jan – 13 Feb, 23)</p> <p>6. Participate on Ocean 7 Meeting regarding compliance on National Plan for Ocean</p> <p>7. Participated on Senior Official Briefing the Secretariat for Pacific Forum on Blue Pacific</p> <p>8. Participate on Human and Gender Equality</p> <p>9. Participated on MCS Working Group Meeting, and Regional Information Management System Meeting</p> <p>10. Regional</p>			
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		<p>operation - Tu'imoana operation 23 conducted through FFA assistance</p> <p>TWG Preparation meeting for National Validation workshop of Tonga Action Plan to counter Trafficking in Persons</p>			
<p>Number of MCS trainings being conducted and quarterly bulletin being developed, approved and disseminate</p> <p>(Strengthened voluntary compliance through conduct of MCS training and provide quarterly bulletin on MCS activities conducted to Coastal Communities with established Special Management Areas (SMA), schools and community to encourage voluntary</p>	15	<p>15</p> <p>MCS Training conducted and MCS training/workshop attended by fisheries officers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attending the Third Electronic Monitoring workshop 2. WCPFC inter-sessional WG on Labour standards for fishing crew 3. ePMS and eCDS 	<p>Ministry of Fisheries, Custom Department, Marine Department, Navy, Police Department, Port Authority, Fishery License Holders, Fisheries Stakeholders</p> <p>Local fishermen</p>	<p>Mandate of the Ministry provided in the legislation is achieved</p> <p>Tonga support the implementation of the regional fisheries arrangements to deter IUU fishing</p> <p>Improve monitoring of illegal fishing activities</p>	<p>Draft SOP for each fishery license to allow consistent monitoring of inactive licensee(s) and efficient enforcement of such items on terms and conditions consistently to allow fair decision upon breaching any of them</p> <p>Introduce e-permitting</p>

<p>compliance with fisheries law.)</p>		<p>regional workshop</p> <p>4. SMA compliance training and Judicial Process with Tongatapu, Vavaú and Haapai SMAs</p> <p>5. PSMA Training with Vava'u Taskforce team</p> <p>6. Conducted the Refresher training with the staff on PSMA and Dockside boarding</p> <p>7. In-house outreach program about the gap analysis of fishing boat register</p> <p>8. Attended the FFC and Ministerial</p>			
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		<p>Meeting</p> <p>9. Participated on Pre - PSMA Meeting with FFA members in preparation for PSMA meeting in Indonesia</p> <p>10. Participated on PSMA Meeting (UN) held in Indonesia</p> <p>11. Participated on TCC Meeting</p> <p>12. Participated on WCPFC Annual Meeting</p> <p>13. Participated on UN – PSMA Technical Meeting</p> <p>14. Participated on MCS Working meeting and related MCS Meeting</p>			
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		15. Participated on Debris Conference with Technical meeting			
Output 24: Provide a cost-effective way for licensing services as a legal mechanism to control Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated					
Number of databases/SOPs developed (Develop, review, implement and update national standard and SOPs to address the activities of the fishery licensing system (e-licensing, databases, HACCP Plan))	3	2 Licensing Policy, National standards and databases 1. Complete update and use of the home consumption database 2. Complete and use the SOP of the Small-Scale Fishing Vessel Registration database. 3. RIMF 2 Database for small-scale fishing vessel registration. Other support from the Licensing Section 4. SOP for	Ministry of Fisheries, License holders	Mandate of the Ministry provided in the legislation is achieved Tonga supports the implementation of the regional fisheries arrangements to deter IUU fishing Improve monitoring of illegal fishing activities	Develop SOP to guide all the relevant activities of the Licensing Section An ongoing update of the database

		<p>snapper/Aquarium fisheries - Support Enforcement Section in the development of SOP for snapper and aquarium</p> <p>5. SOP registration and pre-inspection of small-scale fishing vessel - Support Enforcement Section in the development of SOP for small-scale fisheries vessel registration</p> <p>Ongoing activity</p> <p>6. Update of the RIMF2 database (fishing vessel licenses (foreign/local/game fishing))</p> <p>7. Complete Aquarium database system and being used</p>			
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<p>Number of T&C reviewed and implemented</p> <p>(Review Minimum Terms and Conditions (T&C) of the fishing license for each commercial fishery and Access agreement for tuna fishery)</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Fishing licence Terms and Conditions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review TC Aquaculture 2. Review terms and Conditions for Tuna Longline vessels to include CMM on Mobulid Rays. 3. Review the Terms and Conditions for the Aquarium plan. 	<p>Ministry of Fisheries, Government of Tonga from revenue from licensing fees, Vessel owners, and operators</p>	<p>The mandate of the Ministry provided in the legislation is achieved</p> <p>Tonga supports the implementation of the regional fisheries arrangements to deter IUU fishing</p> <p>Improve monitoring of illegal fishing activities</p>	<p>Encourage foreign fishing vessels to license as local fishing vessels to ensure their catch is counted in the GDP of Tonga. Even though there was only one foreign vessel</p>
<p>Number of licences issued</p> <p>(Review, process and issue all fishery licences [commercial fishing-local/foreign/game fishing, aquaculture, aquarium fish, fish processing & export, and fish fence])</p>	<p>80</p>	<p>52</p> <p>Total Number of Fishing licenses issued in the FY</p> <p>- 17 renewed in Quarter 1 (FPE-Marine AQ, Fish fence, commercial fishing - local/foreign)</p>	<p>Ministry of Fisheries, Government of Tonga from revenue from licensing fees, Vessel owners, and operators</p>	<p>Target not achieved</p>	<p>Promote different fisheries not only the snapper, and tuna but encourage aquaculture to help in the uplifting social and economic standards of everyone. The reason for not achieving the target was due mainly for not renewing some of snapper vessel license and some of the local tuna vessel in this FY. This is due to mechanical problem of the boat</p>

		<p>- 17 new licenses issued in Quarter 2 (FPE - Marine AQ, Fish fence, Commercial fishing-local/foreign)</p> <p>- 4 x renewed in this Quarter 3 (1 Local snapper vessels and 1 Foreign Fishing vessels, 1 Aquarium, 1 seaweed license)</p> <p>-Quarter 4: 14 renewed licenses (3 snapper, 2 local tuna license and 2 Foreign Fishing vessels)</p> <p>Fish fence: 8</p> <p>Note: low numbers are due to the majority of the licenses still valid</p>			<p>or personal reasons for boat owners. The way forward for this problem is to encourage foreign fishing vessel to come to Tonga licensed as a snapper fishing vessel.</p>
Number of certificates/permits issued	270	<p>482</p> <p>Certificate and permit issues</p> <p>- Quarter 1: 125 (53</p>	Ministry of Fisheries, Government of Tonga from revenue from licensing fees, Vessel	Target was exceeded	Limitation of exporting through the freezing container.

(Validate and issue all certificates and permits for commercial exports, and exemption duties)		<p>export permits, 72 fuel exemptions)</p> <p>- Quarter 2:110 (18 fuel exemptions,92 export permits)</p> <p>- Quarter 3:151 (56 exemptions, 95 export permits)</p> <p>- Quarter 4: 96 (58 exemption certificates, 38 permits</p>	owners, and operators		
<p>Number of permits issued</p> <p>(Validate and issue all certificates and permits for home consumption purposes, and TPFES, at the airport and main office)</p>	4,000	<p>15300</p> <p>Number of permits issued</p> <p>- 15300x home consumption permits and certificates</p>	Ministry of Fisheries, Government of Tonga from revenue from CITES permit. The government of Tonga will benefit from the conservation of the CITES species.	Target exceed.	This financial year transferred all activities to implement CITES to the Fisheries Science Division (FSD).
Output 25: Increasingly targeted Monitoring, Control & Surveillance (MCS) program for international and domestic fishing activities to deter Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.					
<p>Number of observer deployment</p> <p>(Manage and coordinate the Tonga</p>	60	<p>62</p> <p>Observer deployment</p> <p>-39x observer</p>	Ministry of Fisheries (Government of Tonga) Fisheries Observers,	Target achieved for Observer deployments on both Foreign and Local Fishing Vessels	Recruit more observers to gather for foreign fishing vessels observer coverage which is 100% coverage and 20% for local fishing vessels, also for Cook

National Observer Program (TNOP) and FFA Regional Observer Programme (ROP))		deployments on foreign fishing vessel; 22 on local fishing vessels and 1 on Cook Island Longline Vessel	Fishing Companies/Agents Debriefers	In addition, some of the qualified observers join the seasonal work provide by New Zealand and Australia	Island flagged vessels when requested Observers are offloaded when needed to participate in trainings and workshops Develop new initiative(s) in the Tonga Observer Program (TOP) to ensure the retention of trained observers
Number of SOP developed (Develop MCS policies/SOP/Manual to guide the activities under the TNOP and the ROP and VMS processes)	4	1 Tonga National Observer Program Manual -1 x review of Observer Manual - Complete and approved by CEO	Ministry of Fisheries (Government of Tonga), Vessel Owners, Vessel Masters, and Agents	Target achieved, The plan was to review four (4) separate SOPs for different activities under the Observer Program. However, it was agreed during the review to review the Manual as one document to guide all different activities under the Tonga National Observer Program	Implement the Observer Manual to guide closely all the activities of the Tonga National Observer Program.
Number of Tongan observers recruited, trained and certified (certified observer, debriefer, trainer) AND number of trainings for existing observers and debriefers	15	10 Observer recruitment and training Three trainings (3) training (Ollo, E-debriefing and Refresher trainings for existing observers) 3 workshops for	Ministry of Fisheries (Government of Tonga), SPC, FFA, Observers, Debriefers and Trainer	Target not achieved there was no observer recruitment	Seek fund to run an Observer Recruitment Training

		trainers 4 trainings for debriefers			
Number of observer trips using OLLO for data collection	40	43 OLLO trips and Observer data entry using OLLO applications and updated to TUFMAN 1. Forty (43) OLLO trips and 18 manual trips updated on TUFMAN 2 4. 61 x total debriefed data, uploaded and entered into TUFFMAN 2	Ministry of Fisheries (Government of Tonga), Observers	Target achieved and show improve in the use of OLLO applications by the Observer in entering observer data at sea	Conduct more training of Observers in using the OLLO applications for data entry at sea. Train debriefer in conducting e-debriefing of observer data with the observers
Number of VMS update submitted to HOD	230	168 VMS data update 1.55 x VMS update submitted to HOD 2.113 x VMS update saved to the server	Ministry of Fisheries (Government of Tonga), Fishing	Target not achieved, lack of staff in the Section to conduct the analysis when VMS officer is not working	Train other staff in the Compliance Division to assist the VMS Officer in doing the VMS data analysis.

			Companies/Agents		
<p>Number of VMS units installed on fishing vessels and number of inspections conducted</p> <p>(Install and inspect VMS units on tuna and snapper fishing vessels to monitor fishing activities of the fishing vessels within our EEZ)</p>	200	<p>204</p> <p>VMS installed in licensed vessels</p> <p>- 8 solar units installed on Snapper vessels</p> <p>196 inspections of units when fishing vessels arrived at the port</p>	<p>Ministry of Fisheries (Government of Tonga),</p> <p>Fishing Companies/Agents</p>	<p>Target achieved and show improvement in the use of VMS systems by all tuna and snapper vessels.</p>	<p>Seek assistance to provide more VMS units to be installed in the remaining licensed snapper.</p> <p>Encourage vessel owner to comply with the terms and conditions of the fishing license and install VMS in the fishing vessels</p>
<p>Number of activities implemented at the National level</p> <p>(Implement FFA Regional Longline Electronic Monitoring (EM) Policy)</p>	1	<p>No activity implemented at the National level</p>	<p>Ministry of Fisheries (Government of Tonga),</p> <p>Fishing Companies/Agents</p>	<p>Target not achieved</p> <p>Ongoing discussions with consultants on how to implement the Electronic Monitoring</p>	<p>Seek fund to implement Electronic Monitoring</p>

<p>Number of VMS data provided upon request</p> <p>(Provide accurate, near real – time vessel position for vessel owners, support surveillance operation and other compliance purposes)</p>	<p>40</p>	<p>VMS data to support fishing operations and air surveillance activities</p> <p>1.2 x for Regional Fishing Operation Kurukuru and Tuimatamoana</p> <p>2. 3x sea patrol and aerial surveillance</p> <p>3. 12 Request vessels position from Snapper fishing vessels owners</p>	<p>Ministry of Fisheries (Government of Tonga),</p> <p>Fishing Companies/Agents</p> <p>HMAF</p>	<p>Target not achieved. Only a few activities seek assistance from the Ministry to provide the VMS data.</p>	<p>Train more staff in the Compliance Division to assist the VMS Officer in doing the VMS data analysis.</p>
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2.2.7 PROP Project Management Unit (PMU)

TSDF II Outcomes					
<p>A: A more inclusive, sustainable and dynamic, knowledge-based economy.</p> <p>D: More inclusive, sustainable and responsive good governance with strengthened rule of law.</p> <p>F: A more inclusive, sustainable and effective land administration, environment management, and resilience to climate and risk.</p>					
Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Targets	Achievements (based on the targets and KPIs.)	Beneficiaries	Cross cutting implications	Future plans
Output 20: Implementation of the Tonga Fisheries Sector Plan (TFSP), including effective governance of the World Bank-funded Tongafish Pathway project.					
Monthly report to CEO	12	Y	Ministry of Fisheries, Line Ministries	Formal reporting ongoing	Monthly reports to the CEO/HODs are due the second week of the following month. Quarterly Finance, Procurement, and M&E Report submission 45 days from the end of the quarter
Annual report for Tonga pathway project (World bank project management requirements)	1	Due in October 2021	PMU, Ministry of Fisheries and World Bank	Revised templates to be used by all IDA 18 Projects.	To complete and submit the Annual report for the Tonga pathway project.

*Y/N (yes/no)

2.3 Financial Management

2.3.1 Budget

The total Budget for Expenditure decreased from \$5,160,000 in 2022/23 to \$4,600,000 in 2023/24. Revenue target sources increase by \$130,000 from \$3,300,000 in 2022/23 to \$3,681,400 in 2023/24.

The salary allocation accounted for FY2023/24 is the largest share of the budget accounting for 47.6% and the contract labour was 2.9% of the approved budget; the operating budget accounted for the remaining portion i.e. 49.50%. The details of the budget allocation are provided in the Table below.

Table 12: Fund Comparison by Major Component for FY 2022/23 – FY 2023/24

Expenditure by Major Component	2022/23	2023/24	Variance
Established staff (10)	2,454,100	2,079,300	-374,800
Un-established staff (11)	149,200	114,400	-34,800
Travel and Communication (12)	436,100	430,300	-5,800
Maintenance and Operations (13)	359,100	329,500	-29,600
Purchase of Goods and Services (14)	1,112,300	1,103,700	-8,600
Grants and Transfers (15)	125,600	130,600	5,000
Assets (20)	523,600	401,000	-122,600
Total	5,160,000	4,588,800	-571,200

2.3.2 Revenue Performance

Total revenue reported was \$3,454,847 of which \$2,487,527.25 (67.6%) was received as proceeds from the Multilateral Treaty on Fisheries with the USA (USD\$1,072,132); \$232,542.57(6.3%) was received from Fishing Licenses, \$718,644.81 (19.5%) received from Rental and the remaining 6.6% (\$16,132.13) from the sale of produces and products.

Table 13: Revenue collected from in-kind

Revenue Sources	Target FY2023/24	FY2023/24 Actual	Variances
Sales of produce and product	168,100	16,132	-29,922
FFA (US Treaty)	2,424,400	2,487,527	-139,931
Rentals	679,000	718,645	-97,420
Licenses	409,900	232,543	487,879
S/Total	3,681,400	3,454,847	220,606
Consumption Tax		114,848	
Fish Bond		200	
Development projects		3,201,549.98	
S/Total		3,316,598	
G/Total		6,771,445	

Table 14: Revenue Performance for Target Sources

Sources	Budget 2023/24	Collecting as of 30 June 2024	Plus/minus balance	Percentage (%)
FFA treaty	2,424,400.00	2,487,527	-63,127.25	102.6
Sales of produces & products	168,100.00	16,132.13	151,967.87	9.6
Rental	679,000.00	718,644.81	-39,644.81	105.8
License	409,900.00	232,542.57	177,357.43	56.7
Grand Total	3,681,400.00	3,454,846.76	226,553.24	93.8

Table 15: Revenue Performance from non-target sources and development projects

Sources	Revote / Collecting from 2023/2024	New Fund 2023/2024	Budget Revised	Actual	Collecting 2023/24	Remain balanced as of 30 th June 2024	Percentage (%)
CT	114,847.77				114,847.77	-	
Fish bond	200.00				200	-	
Development project	3,214,068.64	\$3,201,549.98	6,415,618.62	4154632.31		\$2,260,986.31	35.2
Grand Total	3,329,116.41	3,201,549.98	6,415,618.62	4,154,632.31	115,047.77	2,260,986.31	35.2

Table 16: Comparison of Budget and Actual Amount collected FY2022/23 and FY2023/24

Revenue Sources	FY2022/23	FY2023/24	Variances
Target Sources	3,300,000	3,681,400	381,400
Sales of produce and product	17,431	168,100	150,669
FFA (US Treaty)	2,287,898	2,487,527	199,629
Rentals	266,390	718,645	452,255
Licences	684,087	232,543	-451,544
S/Total	3,255,806	3,606,815	351,009
Consumption Tax	108,635	114,848	6,213
Fish Bond	300	200	-100
Development projects	2,952,698.77	3,201,549.98	248,851
S/Total	3,061,634	3,316,598	254,964
G/Total	6,317,440	6,923,412	605,973

2.4 Procurement

Financial Year	No. of Received Proposals	No. of Endorsed Proposals	No. of Compliance	No. of Non-compliance	% Of Compliance	% Of Non-Compliance
2021/2022	10	7	7	0	100%	0%
2022/2023	11	6	6	0	100%	0%

Method of Procurement	FY 2021/2022	FY 2022/2023
Request for Quotation (RFQ)	1	2
National Competitive Bidding	7	4
International Bidding	0	0
Limited Bidding	1	0
Direct Source (Limited Bidding)	1	0
Restricted Bidding	0	0

2.5 Assets Management

Table 17: Ministry of Fisheries Asset Registry as of 30 June 2024

Fixed Asset Registry Items	FY2022/2023	FY2023/2024	Notes
Building	\$23,444,012.33	\$23,444,012.33	Remains the Same
Infrastructure	-		Ministry currently has no major Infrastructure
Vehicles	\$998,487.19	\$1,038,973.19	This increase was due to the construction of a new boat and the purchase of a new outboard motor for the 'Eua Office.
Computer Software	-	-	No new software
Computer Hardware	\$247,672.23	\$361,678.45	Cost amount increased as new staff members were recruited, thus equipping these new recruitments.
Office Equipment	\$105,053.65	\$119,608.15	Cost increased due to the increase in staff recruitment.
Furniture & Fittings	\$35,240.00	\$35,240.00	Remains the same.

(i.e. Desk, Shelves)			
Other Plant and Equipment (i.e. Printers, Scanners, Office equipment)	\$448,254.24	\$459,014.24	Cost increased due to a newly installed Ice flake machine for Haapai Office.
Total Cost	\$25,318,015.64	\$25,458,526.36	Increased by 0.6 %

3. Significant issues/challenges

3.1 Issues/Challenges

Division	Challenges	Way forward
Cross-cutting issue	Implementation of the current Performance Management System	Bi-annual refresher training on PMS rating and remarks
	Shortage of staff	Every new post must be submitted via staff proposal Delaying in the process for staff proposal.
	Budget limitation	Increase the Ministry's Budget allocation with strong justification and include in the CP
	Lack of quality technical equipment (boat and vehicle)	Seeking additional funds for donors
	Lack of Project Development and Management skills/experience	Provide training on project development and management
	Lack of capacity-building training (short-term and long-term)	Provide Annual Training needs for MoF, seek donor fund
	Lack of infrastructure such as office buildings	Seeking additional funds to donors and increasing the Ministry's Budget allocation with strong justification
CEO office	Technical equipment for media	Seeking additional funds to donors and increasing the Ministry's Budget allocation with strong justification
	Training techniques relevant to communities	Develop appropriate training techniques
Fisheries Science Division (FSD)	Effective legislation for SMAs and commercial fisheries	Revised the SMA Regulation included commercial fisheries.
	Upgrade current hatchery facilities to accommodate two species per hatchery run at a time and expand to Vava'u and Ha'apai	Need funding and land space
	Improving live algae production for better larval survival and growth rate.	Upgrade the current Laboratory to accommodate algal culture and equip it with proper equipment. Building capacity of staff and training

	for algal culture production.
Increasing giant clam and pearl oyster production to accommodate demand from aquarium markets and pearl farmers respectively.	Need more staff for the aquaculture section and also the upgrade current hatchery facilities. Conduct more spawning activities during the spawning season. Deploy spat collectors for Vava'u areas to support pearl farmers.
Aquaculture farming of new potential species for food security and livelihood (eg. Finfish, sea cucumber, shrimp)	Staff capacity building (training) on farming practices and management Staff recruitment
Hatchery production and artificial propagation of new potential species	Need training and work attachment for aquaculture staff
Monitoring the progress of SMA communities with regular meetings.	Need more staff for the SMA section and funding to support the monitoring program.
Continue commitment to the establishment of new SMAs.	Need more staff for the SMA section to provide technical support through the extension services program.
Ensuring quality of fisheries data collected.	Improve skills and conduct training for the Science Division for fisheries data collection.
Expanding the FAD network.	Improve the human capacity of the Ministry and funding to deploy and replace lost FADs.
Improved support for pearl oyster production, development and marketing.	Need to conduct more training on pearl crafting and design. Conduct training on economic model including marketing
Conduct farming trails for fish cage culture systems for tilapia and other fin fish commodities.	Liaise with SPC for technical assistance and funding to provide culture materials.
Identify potential for training and capacity building for stakeholders in co-management, fish handling, fisheries management, and business management.	Need a training analysis for the fisheries sector and Ministry of Fisheries
Low percentage of data coverage for scientific data collection both	Recruit more port samplers

	for tuna and snapper fisheries.	
	Low levels of data on artisanal and other coastal fisheries	Recruit port samplers
	Lack of biological samples (gonads and otoliths) from snapper species to enhance stock assessments	Improve the collaboration between MoF with the snapper vessel owner. Need more funds to buy the fish samples
	Develop knowledge and experience in Giant squid (Diamondback & Neon Flying squid) ecology, biology and stock assessment	Liaise with SPC and NIWA on staff capacity building and training
Fisheries Compliance Division (FCD)	Infrastructure is a key challenge in terms of monitoring coastal areas (i.e. vessels for enforcement) especially targeting illegal fishing (i.e. dynamite fishing, using SCUBA and hookah diving air apparatus, etc.).	More emphasis towards conducting the enforcement duties, that are carried out accordingly despite challenges faced when dealing with illegal fishing and breaching of the regulations guided by the FCD to the public.
	Need to certify inspection and boarding officers for High Seas.	Providing training to the Compliance officer
	Need more effective enforcement procedures for coastal areas.	Request for more Technical Assistance training to help in the review and development of the SOP
	Seeking public support for reporting of illegal fishing activities.	Increasing the number of consultations with communities and encouraging public awareness of illegal fishing activities, maybe incorporated into the school syllabus for effective learning of students hence keeping in mind that every information given by an individual involved in voluntary compliance is strictly confidential.
	Strengthen the knowledge of the task force team including the outer island for implementing the Port State Measures Agreement.	Regular refresher training with the PSMA Task Force team to advance their capacity on all MCS activities required by the PSMA. From the line Ministries who are directly associated with PSMA, they encounter new recruitment onboard with no idea about PSMA. To better accomplish PSMA target goals, regular refresher training should reach out to outer

		island line ministries to improve their performance and understanding
	Enforcement of licensing terms and conditions for fishing vessels, fish fences, exporters of tuna and snapper, and aquariums.	Establish more simple and creative methods to broadcast the license activities and awareness through brochures, pamphlets, television programs, and posters to advertise our service to the public and tourists.
	Information regarding marine products allowed to be exported or import to Tonga is vague and unclear to the public	Establish strong networking with other biosecurity border control overseas as a way to improve our service to our customers especially the licensees in considering their needs, complaints, and challenges, and continue to serve them in a great professional manner.
	Need to build up collaboration with other Ministries with a mandate to conduct enforcement as a way forward for more effective compliance activities.	There is also a need for more technical assistance skills to capture by the team in enhancing more effective cooperation when working with the Line Ministries such as Tonga Navy for patrolling in Tonga Water and air surveillance provided by NZ and Australia Defence, Police Maritime Rescue Division in term of conducting operation activities to enforce Fisheries Acts & Regulations.
	Develop a national integrated electronic system for PSMA in terms of sharing information for Boarding & Inspection and entry and exit of fishing vessels.	Regular meetings with the Task Force to advance their capacity on MCS. Need to train task force team in terms of boarding & Inspection for both Foreign & Domestic Licensed vessels.
Licensing & Certification	Consistent enforcement of terms and conditions for all fishery licenses	Draft SOP for the licensing process to monitor the licensing system. Establish more creative and straightforward methods to broadcast the license activities and awareness through brochures, pamphlets, television programs and posters to advertise our service to the public. Review the existing licensing fee structure to accommodate new licensing fees needed for new licensing activities for eg. Commercial

		sample/market research (both fees and RR), etc.
	Information regarding marine products allowed to be exported or imported to Tonga is vague and not apparent to the public.	Establish vital networking with other international biosecurity border control overseas as a way to improve our service to our customers, especially the licensees, in considering their needs, complaints, and challenges and continue to serve them in an excellent professional manner.
Tonga Observer Program	Need to employ observers as port samplers or other related duties to keep them on the job, to avoid high turnover.	Continue to seek funding support from WCPFC (Japan Trust Fund) to support ongoing and new activities under the TOP
VMS	Need VMS unit for Local fishing vessels	Seek funds to purchase low-cost VMS units for local fishing vessels Develop a cost-recovery mechanism to fund purchasing and maintenance of VMS units
	Unstable internet connection	Stand-alone internet connection for VMS

3.2 Risks and risk management

Ministry of Fisheries Strategic Output	Risk	Risk Management
All divisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural disasters such as cyclones tsunamis, flooding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure staff are aware of risks and disaster management plans in place and practised.
All divisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duty travel accident, injury, stranding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure staff are aware of risks and what to do in an emergency, carry insurance, and know not to take risks
All divisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local travel such as vehicle travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure vehicles are well maintained and operated at the speed limit
All divisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illness - tropical disease, infection, and illness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage vaccinations, seriously ill staff to not attend work, good practice hygiene at work

All divisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunburn and exposure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear sunscreen and protective clothing, carry fresh water
Fisheries operations (science, compliance and extension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vessel use, diving, maintenance and repair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure staff are properly trained and safety equipment carried • Good practice in diving procedures
Fisheries science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of chemicals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure staff are properly trained and safety equipment used
Fisheries Science (Port sampler)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trips, slips and falls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure proper footwear and risks assessed of slippery or loose surfaces such as fish markets, rocks, and steps
Fisheries compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attack or injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training, patrol planning, never working alone
Tonga Observer Program Deployment of the observer on both foreign fishing vessels and local fishing vessels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attack by crew whilst at sea • Injure while on duty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure observers take safety and first aid courses

4. Disclosures and legal compliance

4.1 Audit statements

The last audit report covered the period of;

- January 2023 – June 2024 for Tongatapu

4.2 Ministerial and Cabinet directives

Decision date	Cabinet Decision number	Purpose
12th July 2023	629	Green Climate Fund (GCF) Rapid Readiness Support for Resilient Recovery Project (TON-RS-007) Project Staff Recruitment
4 th August 2023	706	Acting Minister responsible for Fisheries to attend the Special Ministerial Meeting of Exploratory Pool Members under the US Treaty and Special Meetings of Fisheries Ministers and Officials to consider the Distribution of Funds under the new Economic Assistance Agreement and Climate Change Strategy of the Multilateral Treaty on Fisheries (Treaty on Fisheries between the Government of certain Pacific Islands States and the Government of the United States of America) commonly referred to as the US Treaty
4 th August 2023	709	Support To the Agricultural Sector
25 th August 2023	765	Ministerial attendance at the Specific Pacific Islands Fisheries Ministers Dialogue, Papua New Guinea AND The International Conference on Fishing Communities 2023, Republic of Korea.
22 nd September,2023	810	Budget Timetable for the Financial Year 2024/2025 Annual Budget Process.
22 nd September,2023	817	EL-NINO Alert Remains in Force
22 nd September,2023	872	Travel of the Acting Prime Minister, Hon.Samiu Kuita Vaipulu to attend the 5 th Ministerial Meeting & the 1 st High-Level Meeting of the Archipelago Islands Forum, Bali, Indonesia,10 th – 11 th October 2023
6 th October,2023	884	The report on the outcomes of the 1 st International Conference on Fishing Communities (ICFC 2023), the world's first international conference to implement the new future vision and sustainability of fishing communities, offers a variety of additional events such as performances, promotions, and exhibition halls, as well as academic events. The Conference was held from 19 th - 21 st of September,2023

6 th October,2023	889	Ministry of Fisheries Annual Report for Financial Year 2022 – 2023
19 th October,2023	907	Report on the outcomes of the Special Ministerial Meeting of Fisheries Ministers and officials of the Exploratory Pool members under the US Treaty 9 th - 11 th August 2023, Auckland, New Zealand AND Special Ministerial Meetings of Fisheries Ministers and Officials of FFA members to consider the Distribution of Funds under the new Economic Assistance Agreement and Climate Change Strategy of the Multilateral Treaty on Fisheries, 14 th – 16 th August 2023, Suva, Fiji(Treaty on Fisheries between the Government of certain Pacific Islands States and the Government of the United States of America), commonly referred to as the US Treaty
27 th October, 2023	996	Submission regarding the recruitment of the Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Fisheries
19 th January, 2024	28	Feature Ministry of Fisheries Government of Tonga Logo on Vast Ocean (Tonga) Aquaculture Company Sea Cucumber Products. Ref CD No.1214 of 20 th December 2023.
2 nd February, 2024	53	Ministerial attendance at the Presentation of the Tonga Golden Sandfish Sea Cucumber at the Australia Chinese New Year Gala 2024, Australia, 8 th – 13 th February 2024.
2 nd February, 2024	61	Economic and Financial Impacts of the remuneration adjustment and related policy changes.
16 th February, 2024	95	RE: Proposed amendments to the Fisheries Management (Conservation) Regulations.
1 st March, 2024	149	Travel Report: Ministerial attendance at the Australia Chinese New Year Gala 2024, Australia.
15 th March, 2024	237	Ministerial attendance at the International Workshop on Sustainable Blue Economics in Pacific Islands and Territories.
11 th April, 2024	315	Report on the outcome of the International Workshop on Sustainable Blue Economies in the Pacific Islands and Territories, 20 th - 22 nd March 2024, Guam
28 th June, 2024	580	10 th Pacific Islands Leaders Meetings (PALM-10), Japan,16 th – 18 th July, 2024

Ministerial Decision

Ninety-eight (49) overseas travel approvals and reports were approved during this FY2023/2024

Twenty-five (25) Contract Laborers were approved

Five (5) Cabinet Submissions

Two (2) Fisheries Management and Development Plans were approved during this FY2023/2024

4.3 Governance disclosures

International Agreement and Treaties

Tonga is a party to and has obligations under, a range of international agreements and treaties that support the sustainable harvest of our fisheries resources.

FFA Tonga is a member of the Honiara, Solomon Islands-based Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), as a signatory to the 1979 Convention. The FFA supports its 17 member countries in managing, conserving, and using the tuna resource through enhancing national capacity and strengthening regional solidarity.

SPC Tonga is a member of the Noumea, New Caledonia-based Pacific Community (PC) (formerly the Secretariat to the Pacific Community (SPC)) which aims to develop the technical, professional, scientific, research, planning, and management capability of Pacific Island people and directly provide information and advice, to enable them to make informed decisions about their future development and well-being.

WCPFC The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention aims to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific.

UNCLOS The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS), is an international agreement that defines the rights and responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources.

UNFSA The United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) (relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks) sets out principles for the conservation and management of those fish stocks and establishes that such management must be based on the precautionary approach and the best available scientific information. Signatory States should cooperate to ensure conservation and promote the objective of the optimum utilization of fisheries resources both within and beyond the exclusive economic zone.

CODE OF CONDUCT the Code of Conduct for Sustainable Fisheries is a non-binding though internationally agreed instrument that states fisheries management rules should be based on the precautionary approach which it prescribes is typically implemented in concrete management rules through such provisions as minimum spawning biomass, and maximum fishing mortality rates.

CITES the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild. It provides varying degrees of protection to more than 35,000 species of animals and plants.

US Treaty the Multilateral Treaty on Fisheries between Certain Governments of the Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America (US Treaty) provides for multilateral access by USA-flagged tuna purse-seine fishing vessels to Pacific Island Parties Waters the US Treaty was agreed in 1987 and has moved through several phases.

Niue Treaty The “Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement was ratified in 2015 as a regional effort to strengthen our current surveillance and enforcement mechanisms to fight against Illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU fishing) as an ongoing global challenge.

OIE the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The OIE is the intergovernmental organization responsible for improving animal health worldwide. The need to fight animal diseases at the global level led to the creation of the Office International des Epizooties through the international Agreement signed on January, 25th 1924. In May 2003 the Office became the World Organisation for Animal Health but kept its historical acronym OIE. Tonga is not a signatory but as a member of SPC follows the policies and practices of OIE with respect to aquatic species.

Port State Measures Agreement Port States Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing, ratified by the Government of Tonga in December 2019.

4.4 Government policy requirements

The Ministry fully support and promote the public service code of conduct under the Public Service Act 2002.

The Ministry has an obligation under the Western and Central Fisheries Pacific Convention (promulgated under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) to submit reports to the Tuna Commission. The Ministry can report that both its reports were in full compliance for the reporting period.

The Ministry has been progressively reviewing its policies and procedures since becoming a stand-alone Ministry after its separation from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Food and Fisheries.

A significant effort has been made to comply with the government’s new policies for corporate planning and for staff performance management.

A range of training events have been held (mentioned above) to improve effectiveness and efficiency.

The Ministry of Fisheries is supporting the Forum Fisheries Agencies (FFA) Gender Equity Framework 2016 was adopted and approved by the FFC Ministers to promote equality in the workplace and to help remove barriers to women’s involvement in all aspects of the Fisheries sector.

4.5 Board and Committee Remuneration

Fisheries Management Act 2002 section 8, The Minister shall establish a Fisheries Management Advisory Committee which shall advise him on such matters relating to the conservation, management, sustainable utilisation and development of fisheries in the Kingdom.

The committee shall comprise the following members listed below. The members other than ex officio members shall be appointed for a period of 3 years.

Table 18: Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (FMAC)

Position	Name
<i>Chair</i>	<i>CEO for Fisheries</i>
<i>Member</i>	<i>Secretary for Lands or his nominee</i>
<i>Member</i>	<i>Secretary for Labour, Commerce and Industry or his nominee</i>
<i>Member</i>	<i>One member representing commercial fisheries interest nominated by Tongan Fish Exports Association</i>
<i>Member</i>	<i>One member representing women's interests nominated by the Minister</i>
<i>Member</i>	<i>Two members representing local fishermen nominated by the Minister</i>
<i>Member</i>	<i>One member representing Coastal communities nominated by the Prime Minister</i>
<i>Member</i>	<i>Such other persons not exceeding two whom the Secretary may think fit to appoint</i>

Ministry of Fisheries Internal Committee

- Technical Management Committee
- Data Working Group
- Tuna Management Committee
- Deep Water Snapper Management Committee
- TFSP Committee
- Project Management Group (New Zealand-funded project for Deepwater snapper fisheries)
- Aquarium Management Committee

Chapter 5 : Conclusion

The Ministry of Fisheries Annual Report for the Financial Year 2023/24 provides a comprehensive overview of fisheries management, sustainability practices, and economic contributions. The report highlights several key areas that have been addressed throughout the year.

The Ministry report emphasizes the commitment to sustainable fishing practices. It outlines various initiatives aimed at reducing overfishing and protecting marine biodiversity, this includes promoting aquaculture as an alternative source of seafood and enhancing monitoring systems to ensure compliance with regulations.

The Fisheries Sector continue to play a vital role in the national economy. The report details how fisheries contribute significantly to employment, food security, and export revenue. It notes an increase in fish production levels compared to previous years and discusses strategies for improving the market access for local fishers. The Ministry also prioritized community involvement in fisheries management decisions. The report discusses outreach programs designed to educate local communities about sustainable practices and encourage their participation in conservation efforts.

Despite progress, this report acknowledges ongoing challenges such as pressure from the risks of overfishing, climate change, ocean acidification, sea level rise, and global warming. There are still challenges that affect our fisheries resources and ecology and the work of the Ministry with our key stakeholders remains of paramount importance to ensure we strive for our vision to achieve economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable fisheries that contribute to better living standards for all Tongans.

The ongoing implementation and recruitment of the World Bank project titled, “Halafononga ki ha Ngatai Tu’uloa” in Tongan, known in English, as “Pathway to Sustainable Oceans (TongaFish Pathway)” since 2019 with a total cost of USD \$10 million for 6 years was a great milestone to the Ministry.

The Ministry of Fisheries Annual Report for the FY2023/24 reflects a proactive approach towards ensuring that fisheries are managed sustainably while also supporting economic growth. We thank our Minister for his support and relentless commitment to improving fisheries, and all our stakeholders for their support, hard work, and commitment.