MINISTRY OF FISHERIES

FISHERIES QUARTERLY REPORT

FIRST QUARTER 2026 January - March, 2026

QUARTERLY FISHERIES PRODUCTION SUMMARY

During the first quarter of 2026 (January–March), Tonga's fisheries sector recorded an estimated 643.6 metric tons (mt) of fisheries production, with a total estimated value of TOP $4.5million. This represents an increase of 16.6% compared with the previous quarter (Q4 2025), and an increase of 5.5% compared with the same quarter of the previous year (Q1 2025).

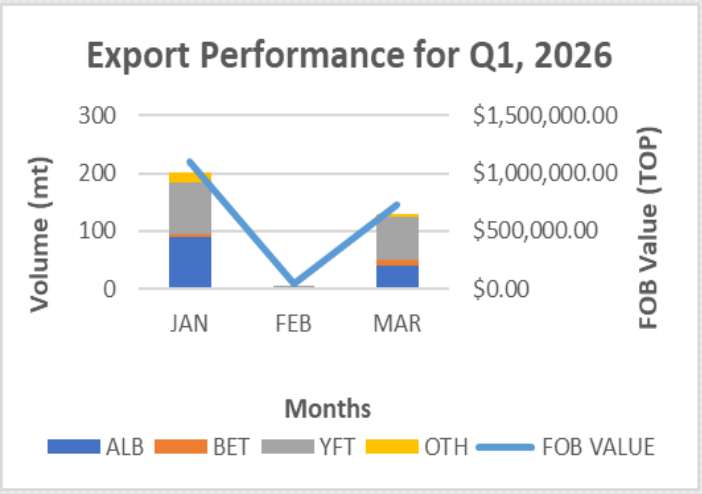
MARINE EXPORTS

This quarter, a total of 335.73mt of marine products were exported, consisting primarily of tuna target species and associated by catch species, including sharks, dolphinfish and other. No snapper exports were recorded during the period, as all snappers were sold on local market.

Tuna continued to dominate marine exports, accounting for the vast majority of total export volume. Export activity was highest in January with 200.6mt, followed by March with 129.2mt while February recorded the lowest export volume at 5.96mt, basically due to no exports from the foreign fleets.

Excluding aquarium products, the total volume of marine exports increased significantly by 57.0% compared to the previous quarter (Q4, 2025) and by 11.5% compared to the corresponding quarter last year (Q1, 2025). The total FOB value of marine exports for the quarter was approximately TOP 1.9 million, representing an increase of 62.6% from the previous quarter and 15.8% from the same quarter of the previous year (Q1, 2025).

***Source**: Fisheries exports database*



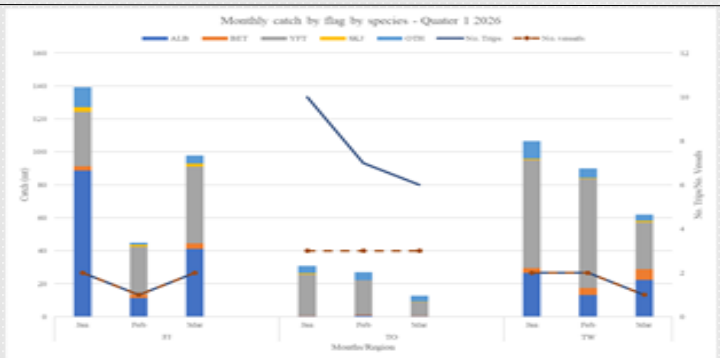
**FOB = Free On Board, describes a price which includes goods plus the services at the time of offloading from the vessel at first landing This is a static value designated to each export product. The value is an historical estimate and may not represent the true present value.*

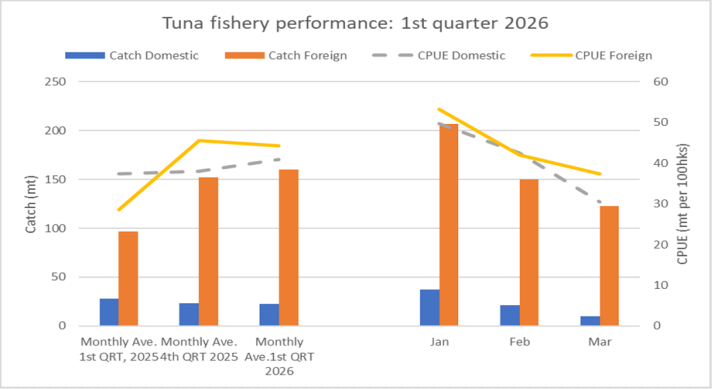
TUNA FISHERY

Tuna exports totaled 335.73mt this quarter, up 57.0% from the previous quarter and 12.7% higher than Q1 2025. Exports decline from January to March despite the overall increase.

A total of 611.29mt of tuna was offloaded this quarter, with foreign fleets landing 540.66mt and domestic fleets landing 70.63mt. Catches from both fleets declined throughout the quarter.

Compared with the previous quarter and Q1 2025, foreign fleets recorded higher average catches but lower CPUE than the previous quarter. Domestic fleets recorded similar average catches but higher CPUE than both comparison periods.





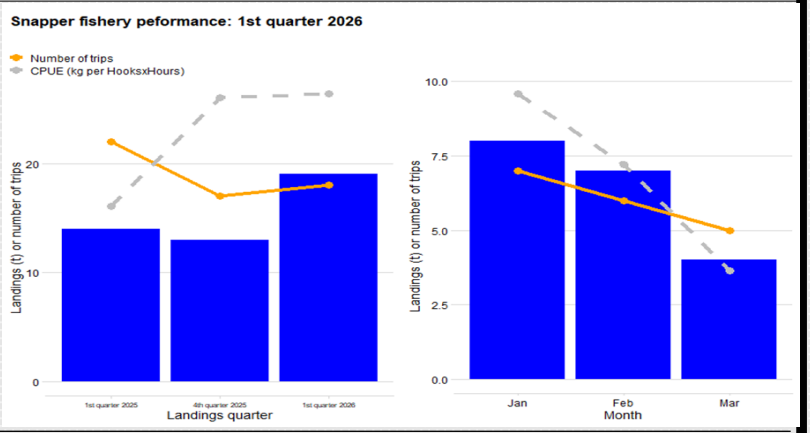
Flag	MM	SKJ	YFT	BET	ALB	OTH	TOTAL	No. Trips	No. Vessels
TO	Jan	0.614	25.2125	0.299	0.294	4.425	30.8445	10	3
	Feb	0.1995	20.7235	0.5525	0.7355	4.8625	27.0735	7	3
	Mar	0.2155	8.2355	0.282	0.3145	3.6595	12.707	6	3
FJ	Jan	3.014	32.852	2.637	88.717	12.039	139.259	2	2
	Feb	0.947	29.176	2.044	11.371	1.488	45.026	1	1
	Mar	1.781	46.582	3.402	41.09	4.934	97.789	2	2
TW	Jan	0.618	65.816	2.818	26.613	10.64	106.505	2	2
	Feb	0.347	66.486	4.105	13.228	5.886	90.052	2	2
	Mar	0.722	28.544	6.529	22.27	3.964	62.029	1	1
TOTAL		8.458	323.6275	22.6685	204.633	51.898	611.285	33	19

***Source:** Ministry of Fisheries Tuna exports database*

SNAPPER FISHERY

During this quarter, a total of 18.98mt of snappers were landed, representing a 33.7% increase compared to the previous quarter, but a 27.3% decrease relative to the corresponding quarter in the previous year, Monthly landings amounted to 7.99mt in January, 6.85mt in February and 4.15mt in March, indicating a gradual decline throughout the quarter. No snapper exports were recorded during this period, as all landings were sold locally.

Overall, the average snapper catch for this quarter was higher than that recorded in both the previous quarter (Q4 2025) and the corresponding quarter last year (Q1 2025). Similarly, the catch per unit effort for the snapper fishery was slightly higher than in both Q4 2025 and Q1 2025, indicating an improvement in fishing efficiency during this quarter.

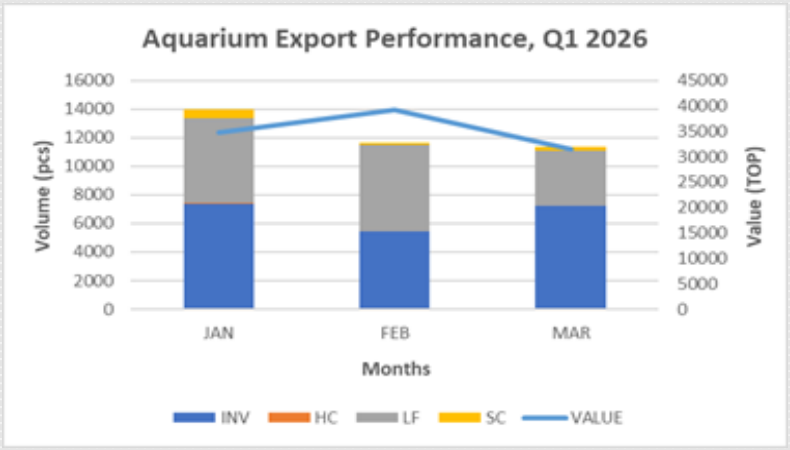


AQUARIUM FISHERY

A total of 36968 pieces of aquarium products were exported during this quarter, representing a 2.9% decrease from the 38072 pieces exported in the previous quarter. However, compared to the corresponding quarter last year, when 13416 pieces were exported, it reflects a substantial 175% increase in volume.

Invertebrates accounted for the largest share of exports, with 20027 pieces exported, followed by live fish at 15872 pieces. Soft corals contributed 1041 pieces while hard corals recorded the lowest export volume at 28 pieces.

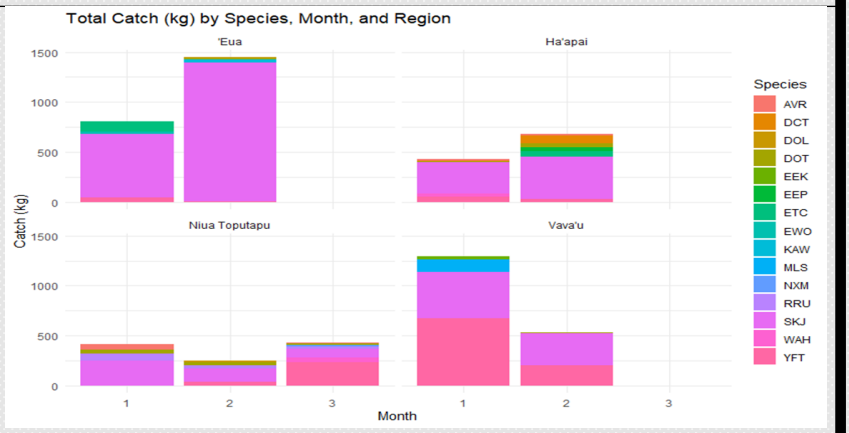
The total FOB value of aquarium product exports during the quarter was estimated at approximately TOP 0.1million, representing an increase of about 10% compared to the previous quarter (Q4 2025) and 30% higher than the corresponding quarter in the previous year (Q1 2025).



ARTISANAL FISHERY

The total artisanal tuna catch recorded this quarter amounted to 6.28mt, collected from four different sites. The highest volume of tuna-like species was recorded at Nafanua Wharf with 2.3mt, followed by Halaevalu Wharf with 1.8mt, Taufaáhau Wharf with 1.1mt then Pasivulangi Wharf with 1.09mt.

Monthly landings were highest in January with 2.94mt recorded, closely followed by 2.92mt in February, while March recorded a substantially lower catch of 0.43mt. Overall, artisanal tuna performance this quarter were significantly lower than in previous period, declining by 72.5% and 66.6% compared to the corresponding quarter in Q1 2025.

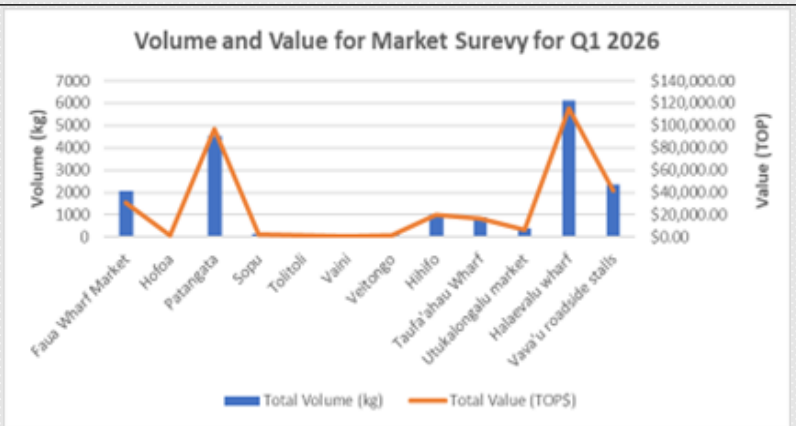


DOMESTIC MARKET

In this quarter, a total of 17.83mt of marine resources were recorded across various sites in Tongatapu (7.1mt), Haápai (1.9mt) and Vavaú (8.9mt). This represents a 25% increase compared to previous quarter (Q4, 2025) and a 76.1% decrease compared to the same period last year (Q1, 2025).

Despite the growth in volume, the total value of the recorded marine resources this quarter was approximately TOP $0.34 million, which is a 26.5% increase in compared to previous quarter and 58.8% decrease compared to same quarter last year.

Average domestic prices for marine products continued to vary among species, largely reflecting prevailing market demand and supply conditions. In general, fluctuations in fish prices are influenced by the availability of marine resources in the market and increasing fishing operation costs.



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