

# Ministry of Fisheries

## May Newsletter



### CEO's OFFICE

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Tu'ikolongahau Halafihi and Deputy for CSD Mr Vilimo represented the Ministry at the Audit Committee; Tokelau Arrangement (TKA); NZ Project Steering Committee; OFMP2 Steering Committee, Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement Parties (NTSA); PEUMP Planning meeting; Annual FFC 106.

The World Bank team Mrs Cary Anne Cadman and Cedric Boisrobert completed its mission visit this month to the Ministry towards its preparation of the Tonga Fisheries Sector Plan activities. This visit included discussions on the review of project concept note, scope, scale, components and implementation arrangements involved discussions with CEO, HODs and MFNPS key staffs. Deputy for FSD Dr. Siola'a Malimali and Senior Fisheries Officer Mrs Alice Funaki completed the facilitation visits with World Bank team towards the Ministry's potential project under the PROP program. The visit included visiting 'Ovaka island as part of the SMA visit.

### CORPORATE SERVICE DIVISION (CSD)

Senior Fisheries Officer Mrs Lupe Fe'iloaki completed the Capacity building of fisheries officers for practical support for sustainable local fisheries development. The training emphasized the importance of the Fisheries Cooperative Agency within Fisheries Sector, Japan's Sustainable Development Goals and Project Cycle Management.

Fisheries Officer Miss Faka'osilea Moala completed the 2 weeks Regional seminar on Fisheries Development for the viewpoint of Gender and Disaster Risk Management at Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, Minami-sanriku, Sendai and Iwaki city. Faka'osilea aims to build her capacity in fisheries development in sharing information on coastal resources management activities in South Pacific islands. The seminar included impacts and effect of coastal resources management activities on disaster risk management and women empowerment.

### FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (FMDD)

Deputy CEOs for FMDD and FSD Mrs Mele 'Atuekaho, Dr. Siola'a Malimali, Legal Officer Ms Salote Koloamatangi and supporting staffs visited including Ha'apai staffs accomplished the community consultation on Sea Cucumber Management Plan 2020-2025. The community consultation focused at Ha'apai island on the Draft Implementation of the new policy in the Sea Cucumber Management Plan 2020-2025. As part of the direction from Cabinet the consultation is a requirement on management and development of sea cucumber resources in all Tonga Fisheries Waters.

Fisheries Officer Mr Samuela Pohiva attended the FFA Economic Indicator Workshop. The workshop addressed the issues and outcomes on MC11 which was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 10 - 13 December 2017. Tonga is a member of PIF Secretariat and WTO, this workshop will help enhance understanding on the outcomes of the WTO Ministerial Statement Conference (MC11) and its implications for the Pacific island countries. It will also help on the status of the WTO decisions taken at MC11 especially the one on Fisheries subsidies and way forward.

### FISHERIES SCIENCE DIVISION (FSD)

Principal Officer Mrs Eileen Fonua and Fisheries staffs Mr 'Ioane Finau and Tevita Havea accomplished the Fishery Training Course for Pacific Island hosted by Ocean and Fisheries Department of Guangzhou. The training focused on aquaculture techniques, aquatic product processing and fisheries management.

Acting Head of Sections for Offshore and Inshore Ms Lavinia Vaipuna and Ms Hulita Fa'anunu completed the 2018 Oceanic Fisheries Stock Assessment Training workshop at New Caledonia. The aim of this workshop is to increase fisheries officers ability to understand and interpret the results from the regional oceanic fisheries stock assessment, communicate information to fishery managers within their countries and increase their confidence to participate in scientific discussion of the WCPFC in particular during meetings of its Scientific Committee.

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) has been working along with United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to develop a set of best practices for small-scale fisheries centred around Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The best practices are being documented following a Pacific-Caribbean Near shore FAD Fisher Exchange with representatives from 7 SIDS in the Caribbean and the Pacific who recently participated in a study tour in Barbados, Grenada, and Dominica. Gaining knowledge about the use of FADs in the Caribbean will help the Pacific to fulfill the mandate of the 2015 Road Map for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries, which calls for the supply of tuna for domestic consumption in that region to be increased by 40,000 tonnes a year by 2024.

Officer in charge at Vava'u, Mrs Silika Ngage and support staffs completed the socio-economic household survey at Nuapapu island, Vava'u. This survey will help staff in providing means of improvement and understanding of local resource management systems, use and importance of resource to household and the community. Also

Officer in Charge in Vava'u, Mrs Silika Ngage and staffs 'Akosita Leakona and 'Aisea Vailea undertook the regular meeting with the new existing Coastal Community Management Committee (CCMC) at Hunga, Falevai and Ofu. This opportunity included following up of activities with the SMA communities on their Manage Plan (CCMP).

### FISHERIES COMPLIANCE DIVISION (FCD)

Senior Fisheries Assistant Mr Malakai Faletau completed the Operation Tuimoana 2018. The operation is to support our staff with fishing vessel activity inside Tongan water once vessels enter Tonga's EEZ. The operation also involved exposure to reliable technology and tools to counter for IUU activities.

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