



**WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL**

**American Samoa Enforcement Report
159th Council Meeting
Fiesta Resort, Saipan
Tuesday, March 18th, 2014**

This Quarterly Report briefly describes activities undertaken during the month of October 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 by the Conservation/Enforcement Division.

Objectives: Given the Authority to enforce laws and regulations enacted for the protection of our marine and wildlife resources.

CONSERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT

1. Conservation and Enforcement Activities:

INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING MONITORING: Conservation/Enforcement Officers were scheduled as inspectors to monitor the arrival of carrier vessel M/V Lady Naomi.

Coolers/boxes and baggage were inspected to ensure that no illegal fish or wildlife products were imported with a total of 3 trips being inspected with a total of 186 passengers from Samoa during this period. Total numbers of coolers/boxes shipped for

Personal consumption	- 16
Commercial purposes	- 18

Total number of coolers/boxes shipped and inspected - 34

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT MONITORING – Conservation/Enforcement Officers were at hand at the Pago Pago International Airport for the arrival of International flights from Western Samoa plus Hawaiian Airline flights from Hawaii. During that period, a total of 56 coolers/boxes containing fish, crabs, lobsters and handicrafts were transported. Most of the coolers inspected were for personal consumption.

PATROLS AND STORES INSPECTION: Conservation/Enforcement Officers were also scheduled to inspect local fishing vessels, fishermen and fishing method used in waters of American Samoa. This also includes illegal catches and area restricted to fishing included in the Village Marine Protected Areas. A total of 18 contacts were made during this period.

Continue Inspection of declared fishery products from fishery agencies for inspection of imports and exports. A total of 6 fishery containers were inspected containing pelagic species, by-catch and also bait. A total of 5 exports weighing 246-lbs for personal consumption. These include reef and bottom fish, lobsters, palolo as well as pelagic, to Samoa and US mainland.

Officers were also schedule to conduct patrols, monitoring the waterfront of American Samoa. These patrol are mainly focus on activities occurred from the beach side of the reef to shoreline. Any activities from swimming to fishing occurred during these patrols are logged in plus the time of their occurrences. They also respond to public concern on suspicious activities whether on land on the wildlife side but also at sea.

An attempt to capture an invasive duck in Pago Pago was a success. The duck was believed to be side tracked from its migration pattern from the US travelling west and end up in our land. It is with the wildlife division.

A team response on stranding sperm whale in Avau have had the Officers used all of their equipments. Although it took 5-days to remove and buried, it was a success for the department.

As mentioned on last quarter report, the dynamite incident which occurred on August 24 at the Avatele point in Lyons Park which 3 individuals were cited for using dynamite. The court have issued an arrest warrant for the 4th individual for failing to appear. The 4th suspect is now being caught and is in the Tafuna Correctional Facilities. Court proceeding still pending and will inform of the schedule court date.

OUTREACH AND AWARENESS: Enforcement Officers were also task to conduct outreach and public awareness. A booth display at the Lyon's Park in which more than 500 participants attended the Veterans Day commemoration. The display featured our departments programs as well as the Enforcements seized items. The Department held their first ever Fish and Wildlife EXPO with displaying of each division booths to show case their work activities to the public. An opportunity to close its participation during the government PALS week initiatives in which close 1000 participants Another outreach is the Nu'uuli Youth in which 30 participants attended and gain knowledge of our work capacity. A positive feedback from all of these awareness from the participating groups.

AFTER HOUR RESPONSE:

A number of after hour response from the public as well as the police department on turtles, sea cucumber and a stranding dolphin.

Contact with Happy Trucking regarding use of cinder at the seawall in Aua causing a murky stream on the coral was a concern. Contact DOC representative and ask to review PNRS condition.

Respond to the west side regarding whale sighting also occurred during the weekend. Officers were also dispatched and report no illegal activities or endangerment to the mammals.

Also poachers were reported shooting bats and birds. The officers were also dispatched to the scene and no findings reported. Will continue to monitor target area as report for illegal take of wild birds.

CITATION AND VIOLATIONS:

- 1- Hawksbill turtle shell seized from local vendors at the main dock for cruise ship.
- 42- Seized containers of sea cucumber
- 4 - Verbal warnings to sea cucumber processors in Pavaiai, Malaeimi, Nuuuli and Tafuna.

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

During this period, Enforcement Officers continued dockside boarding for both foreign and domestic fishing vessels as well as fish carriers that are called into port. A total of 44 long line fishing vessel were inspected and 1 purse seine vessels which DMWR and NOAA conducted an investigation for altering logbook. The case stems from a previous captain on which he used local Pacific Standard Time instead of Greenwich Mean Time that also affects their date of sets. No further action warranted as the case is under NOAA OLE.

Another incident occurred in the vicinity of the Anu'u unit in which a fisherman was warned of the boundaries.

All other vessels were boarded and inspect for compliance. Activities included during this period includes

- Combined total of 40 land patrols and 56 at-sea patrols to the Sanctuary units listed under the National Marine Sanctuary were conducted on a weekly schedule bases. This includes the Fagatele, Fogama'a, Fagalua and Aunu'u.
- Monitoring of unload at Star Kist and Samoa Packing for Tri-Marine International and Samoa Tuna Processors on both importation and exportation of fisheries species.
- Port/Waterfront check for any illegal activities especially the domestic and foreign longline fleet.
- Assistance call upon the NOAA Office for Law Enforcement officers on joint boarding such as purse seine vessel Ocean Challenger.

All hours accumulated for contract during this period have been submitted for payment.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: During this period, the Enforcement division participated in assisting the inter-agencies workshop and training activities. These include:

The governments PALS activities which was highlighted by the DMWR Fish and Wildlife Expo.

The execution of the Governors' Moratorium on sea cucumber.

The US-Coast Guard meeting on the Maritime Transportation Secure Recovery Unit. This was presented by USCG lieutenant Gomez on the need of critical infrastructure when damaged by natural disaster and the assistance provided by the USCG to maintain the flow of assistance through the port and airport. Upcoming meetings schedule to discuss assistance on facility, funding and proposals cover under grant.

Summary/Recommendation:

The Enforcement division will continue to provide these services in carrying out their duties and at the same time request our staff for assistance if the need arise. Funding is also being discussed other than the JEA to assist with the Local accounts.

More coverage is needed due to the vast area of responsibilities.

Concern has also been expressed about the age profile of staff and loss, without replacement, of team members due to sickness, ill-health and retirement. This creates additional pressure on the limited numbers of remaining staff if replacement resource cannot be provided.

Looking forward in ways to enhance to capacity of our enforcement and promote the inter-agency collaboration. Thus, in recommendations to review our existing regulations as well as the penalty schedule set forth.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve our Territory and the people of American Samoa. As well as to protect the marine and wildlife resources of our island nation for the future.

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Enforcement Division