

**AS-DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES
REPORT FOR THE 187TH WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING**

This report briefly describes the activities undertaken by the DMWR-Fisheries for the period April to June 2021.

**AMERICAN SAMOA SPORTFISH INVESTIGATION AND CONSERVATION
PROJECTS**

(Funding source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Marine Protected Area Program: Restore a viable sportfish stock through village-based fishery management and monitoring;

Staff has been working with staff of the Coral Reef Advisory group in the field coral reef restoration pilot studies and activities in Aua. The goal is to develop an appropriate coral restoration technique that can be applied to program villages.

Inshore Fishery Documentations Program: Determine the performance of the near shore sport fish fishery;

The Shore-based Creel Survey completed a total of 216 runs, accomplished 80 sampled surveys in Tutuila and Ta’u, Manu’a within 65 Weekdays and 13 Weekend/Holiday for this quarter. The monitoring team recorded 43 Participation counts and 26 Interview data including opportunistic interviews that will calculate an estimate of catch and effort data from April to June. The data accumulates and generates expansion totals that express the estimated fish catch landings by gear type of the near shore fishery.

Below are the results generated from the data collected this second quarter. Total expanded catch with pooling for this quarter is estimated at 2,565lbs; the total expansion for Gear/Hr totals to 4,137lbs; and the expansion total for Catch/ Gear-Hr is 0.62lbs.

The expanded catch/ effort summary by gear methods:

2021	Gleaning	Rod and Reel	Spear-Snorkel	ThrowNet
April to June	1,820 lbs	470 lbs	153 lbs	121 lbs

The catch summary also provides a list of species composition in total landings with pooling. The Six dominant species for this quarter are listed below.

1. Turban snail/ <i>Turbo undulata</i> / Alili	1,416 lbs
2. Octopus/ <i>Octopuses cynea</i> / Fe'e	418 lbs
3. Greater amberjack/ <i>Seriola dumerili</i> / Malauli	155 lbs
4. Titan triggerfish/ <i>Ballistoides verescens</i> / Sumu	141 lbs
5. Fringelip mullet/ <i>Crenimugil crenilabris</i> / Anae	111 lbs
6. Blue-banded surgeonfish/ <i>Acanthurus lineatus</i> / Alogo	64 lbs

Key Reef Species Program and Sportfish Life History Program: Evaluate the status of sportfish;

Staff coordinated with the Australian Genome Research Facility in obtaining microsatellite markers for the soldierfish *Myripristis berndti*. A microsatellite discovery project was also conducted and developed species-specific primers for the parrotfish *Scarus rubroviolaceus* and the soldierfish *Myripristis berndti*. These microsatellite discovery projects are conducted for species-specific primers for these two species. A total of 18 new microsatellite primers have been successfully developed for *S. rubroviolaceus*.

Staff analyzed the population structure of *Acanthurus lineatus* in the Samoan Archipelago using 9 polymorphic microsatellite markers collected from fin clips in Tutuila, Upolu and Savaii. The analyses indicated population genetic connectivity among these three islands with spearfishing targeting this surgeonfish.

Fish Aggregating Device Program: Provide an alternative resource access by enhancing sportfishing through fish aggregating devices;

Staff in coordination with other department staff deployed FADs A, C and E in time for the 2021 Catch-It/Log-It Fishing Tournament during the American Samoa G\Flag Day celebrations. Staff collected sportfish catch data from 6 active fishermen.



The newly-deployed FAD C that was later vandalized and lost.

Technical Guidance and Scientific Exchange: Provide technical guidance to agencies and communities in the territory, federal and regional partners on sportfish and sportfish habitat related issues

Chief of Fisheries: (1) attended US delegation tropical tuna discussion meetings and SPC Head of Fisheries meetings; (2) attended the SPC Heads of Fisheries (HOF13) meetings; (3) attended Council meetings for the Fisheries Data Collection and Research Committee; Archipelagic and Pelagic Plan Teams; the 140th SSC meeting, and; the 186th CM meetings (4) coordinated and attended the fisheries science and management meetings with Council, PIFSC and DMWR leadership; (5) coordinated with CRAG-CTC on developing a framework for giant clam recovery planning; (6) coordinated with the Western Pacific Fisheries Council in developing the American Samoa Bottomfish Management Plan and Community Development Plan; (7) coordinated the AS sustainable fisheries management planning and attended the USCRTF Fisheries Working Group meetings; and (8) attended the American Samoa-Coral Reef Monitoring Socio-Economic surveys update meetings;

MONITORING FISH STOCKS

Funding source: NOAA-NMFS

There were 7 active alias that have contributed to the landings from longline, bottomfishing, trolling, mix bottomfishing/trolling and spearfishing activities from April 2021 to June 2021. Throughout this quarter, these vessels have landed a total of 13,218 expanded pounds of fish. Surveys were conducted randomly throughout the month for at least 3 weekdays a week and 2 weekends per month. Throughout this quarter, there were 79 fishing trips with fishing effort recorded from 22 interviews.

The objectives of the project and corresponding activities for this reporting period are:

- 1. Monitor catches of highly migratory, species harvested within American Samoa's EEZ by means of port sampling of commercial vessels and continue documentation of market sales.**

Four active fishing vessels caught an estimate of 10,956 pounds of pelagic fish species this quarter which includes longline fishing activities. The most dominant fish caught was the Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*). Table 1. Lists the pelagic species caught from alia boats this quarter.

Table 1. Pelagic catches from alia boats throughout April 2021 to June 2021:

2021	Troll	BTM/TRL	TOTAL (lbs)
Mahimahi	33.7	-	256.7
Wahoo	121.3	-	218.0
Albacore tuna	-	-	2,113.7
Yellowfin tuna	1,117.7	391.0	4,243.5
Bigeye tuna	-	-	619.1
Great barracuda	12.5	-	12.5
Skipjack tuna	3,223.4	30.6	3,254.0
Kawakawa	28.4	-	28.4
Dogtooth tuna	-	165.4	165.4
Swordfish	-	44.7	44.7
TOTAL (lbs)	4,537.0	631.7	10,956.0

- 2. Monitor catches of Bottomfish species harvested within American Samoa's EEZ by means of documenting market sales and port sampling.**

There were three alias that contributed to the total landings of 1,007 expanded pounds of bottomfish species this quarter. Red snapper (*Lutjanus bohar*) was the

dominant species caught this reporting period with an estimated 188 pounds which accounts for 20% of the bottomfish species caught. The following table lists the ten most common species caught this quarter which accounts for 85% of the total bottomfish species landings.

Table 2. Total bottomfish landings by species/group from April 2021 to June 2021

Common Name	Scientific Name	Samoan Name	Bottomfishing	BTM/TRL	TOTAL (lbs)
Humpback snapper	<i>Lutjanus gibbus</i>	Mala'i	37.6	132.5	170.1
Redgill emperor	<i>Lutjanus rubrioperculatus</i>	Filoa pa'oomumu	28.2	98.2	126.4
Bluelined snapper	<i>Lutjanus kasmira</i>	Savane	-	109.7	109.7
Gray jobfish	<i>Aprion virescens</i>	Asoama	-	107.8	107.8
Multidens snapper	<i>Pristipomoides multidens</i>	Palusina ugatele	-	111.1	111.1
Red snapper	<i>Lutjanus bohar</i>	Mu/ Mumea	-	187.7	187.7
Bigeye trevally	<i>Caranx sexfasciatus</i>	Malauli matalapo'a	-	46.7	46.7
Silverjaw jobfish	<i>Aphareus rutilans</i>	Palu gutusiiva	-	14.4	14.4
Ruby snapper	<i>Etelis carbunculus</i>	Palu malau	-	18.1	18.1
Spotted grouper	<i>Epinephelus melanostigma</i>	Gatala pulepule	-	10.3	10.3
			Others	21.8	21.8
		TOTAL (lbs)	65.8	858.3	924.1

3. Monitor catches of Spearfishing activities within American Samoa's EEZ by means of documenting market sales and port sampling.

There were two alias actively spearfishing this quarter with a recorded catch of 1,255 expanded pounds of nearshore marine species. Normally, there would be one boat a day leaving for spearfishing activities since there are spearfishing activities 4 days a week. There were 2 interviews collected from 24 fishing trips recorded. The most dominant species caught is the Bluelined surgeonfish (*Acanthurus lineatus*) which accounts for 22% of total landing of nearshore fisheries caught. The following table lists the most common species caught this quarter.

Table 3. Total of nearshore fish species landed by boat-based spearfishing activities.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Samoan Name	Total (lbs)
Redlip parrotfish	<i>Scarus rubroviolaceus</i>	Fuga/Laea	280.9
Bluespine surgeonfish	<i>Naso unicornis</i>	Ume/ Umelei	230.7
Redtail parrotfish	<i>Chlorurus japanensis</i>	Fuga/Laea	210.7
Orangespine unicornfish	<i>Naso lituratus</i>	Ume/ Ili'ilia	156.3
Spiny lobster	<i>Panulirus sp.</i>	Ula	119.0
Bluebanded surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus lineatus</i>	Alogo	99.1
Orangespot emperor	<i>Lethrinus erythracanthus</i>	Filoa apamumu	46.7
		Others	111.1
		TOTAL (lbs)	1,254.5

4. Disseminate information of American Samoa’s Fisheries and Data Collection efforts

- a. Posters on local fish species caught by Spearfishing, Longline, Troll and Bottomfishg were distributed to up to 33 community members.

5. Fund Enforcement activities related to interjurisdictional fish species.

- a. The department issued 21 commercial fishing licenses for local fishermen this quarter. Eleven were renewals and ten newly issued fishing licenses.
- b. Commercial Invoice Collection is scheduled on/or before the 16th of every month. The team was able to collect commercial invoices from 59 vendors this quarter.
- c. The Enforcement Division conducts random checks at local commercial vendors to see if they are selling fresh and/or frozen local fish. Any new vendors are referred back to the team for registration. The survey team enrolls the dealers into the commercial invoice system and then conducts training for the vendor representative(s) on filling out vendor invoices. Representatives are informed of any regulations regarding commercial invoices and the scheduled pick up of commercial receipts.

ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Objectives: To enforce laws and regulations enacted for the protection and preservation of our Marine and Wildlife Resources.

This 3rd Quarter Report contains all activities undertaken by our Conservation and Enforcement officers during the month of April 1 to June 31, 2021.

Land and At-Sea Patrols:

Objective: To ensure compliance with ASCA 24.0925 on illegally Taken Fish and Shell fish. Monitor the Community based Fisheries Management Program. Village Marine Protected Areas for illegal fishing activities contrary to by-laws. ASCA 24.1001

During this period, officers conducted multiple land patrols and a total of 2 at-sea patrols conducted covering the Fagatele and the Aunu’u units.

Monitoring of Commercial and Recreational Fishing Fleet:

Objective: *To ensure compliance with ASCA 24.0938 License*

During this period, a total of 25 vessels were boarded including 18 foreign and 7 domestic and MV Lady Naomi which was stopped by twice.

- **Foreign Vessels**

- FFV CHUAN SHYANG-98
- FFV DAR LONG CHENG
- FFV YU LONG FA-22
- FFV YU LONG FA-36
- FFV MAAN YIH FENG-166
- FFV CHUAN HSIN-128
- FFV CHUAN HSIANG-866
- FFV YU FEND-513
- FFV JIN MAAN-66
- FV TRACY C
- FV PRINCESS KARLINA
- FV LADY CHRISTINA
- FV PACIFIC PRINCESS
- FV SEA ENCOUNTER
- FFV LI HUNG 666
- CHAO FA-6
- CHUAN HSIANG-368
- LI CHENG-28

- **Domestic Vessels**

- FV RIVAL
- FV AMERICA
- FV SIVAIMOANA
- FV TIFAIMOANA
- FV ADELITA
- FV MANAOLEMOANA

Port and Airport – International Shipping and Flight – Import and Export:

Monitoring of offloads and reloads at the canneries and also the main dock for bait. A total of 9 fish bait containers of Albacore was inspected as well.

Our officers also participated 6 repatriation flights for the third quarter.

Outreach and Awareness:

Objective: *To conduct outreach on all levels of education as well as the public and village.*

As with the ongoing issuance of newly issued commercial fishing license holders, an in-house outreach continues to help license holders with the awareness on the Village Marine Protected Areas, the approved fishing methods and illegal fishing activities.

During this, Boat Based – Creel Survey conduct an outreach for food vendors, so they would understand the rules and regulations. Also, how to fill out the receipt log book catch that is sold in the stores.

An outreach was also conducted for the two elementary schools (Siliaga Elementary and Lupelele elementary). This outreach was to brief the students and the teachers on the safety rules and regulations of preparing for a patrol as well as operating a boat.