

**AS MOTU RIPOTI**  
**193 CM Dec 5-8, 2022**

**WILL SWORD**

**Fuel Prognosis:**

American Samoa Continues to suffer from drop in marine fuel sales year to year – a good indicator of the number of fishing boats stopping into the port. As the purse seiners are 85% of the fish processed their use of fuel indicates the amount of time overall that they stop in Pago harbor. The lone cannery Star Kist has had to resort to bringing in reefers with fish or loins to augment the lack of fishing boats and keep the cannery operating. There are still 11 US flagged purse seiners that frequent Pago Pago.

Recently several Taiwan FCF boats have stopped by to deliver albacore and they had no problems entering American Samoa. US Coast Guard has been very helpful in making their visit hassle free. This was a reprieve of sorts as only one purse seine vessel came to port during the FAD closure time.

**Shipyards Update:**

Under the leadership of CEO Carlos Sanchez the shipyard had brought up over 25 boats on the 3000 ton drydock. Plans are underway to widen the slipway to accommodate purse seiners many of whom have shown interest in using the facility. The fish hold repair equipment is ready to repair any purse seine vessels fish hold. Shipyard will be closed for the Christmas holidays.

**Recreational Fishing update:**

The Buds and Suds two day fishing tournament was held on the weekend of November 25-26. Six (6) boats from Samoa (highest number yet!) and 8 from American Samoa participated. The first days catch was several YF over 100 lbs with the largest at 111 lbs, 3 marlin, and numerous other species. A 90 lb dogtooth tuna, a 30 lb masi, 43 lb wahoo and 88 lb sailfish took the other categories. All fish weighed amounted to over 2500 lbs and was sold to local restaurants with all proceeds going to benefit the old age home, Hope House. One enthusiastic trevally angler had a mishap on the reef but fortunately ended the day with only minor injuries.

Participants also reported a large number of shark predation encounters during the tournament.

The I'a Lapo'a International Gamefishing tournament will be held in April 2023 and will include 8 fishing boats from New Zealand.

**ARCHIE SOLIAI**

***Cannery update***

- New CEO named – Chae-Ung Um, effective 1/1/2023, replaces Andrew Choe.
- Production levels have improved since the last CM, production tonnage is at approx.. 400mt/day
- Guest workers supporting the capacity needs for the cannery
- Albacore landings (local/foreign/containers) has doubled Q2-MTD Q3 2022 vs 2021. Increase in foreign LL deliveries & containerized fish during COVID
- Light meat landings similar to 2021, but still below 2020. Note that 2020 was a banner year for production. Since COVID, production is down approximately 25% over last 2 years

***Cares Act 2.0***

- PSMFC provided advice that their reviews for CARES funding for California & Hawaii were still underway, and that American Samoa will be reviewed until completion those states are completed

#### *Atoa-o-Samoa Talks*

- The bilateral discussions between the two Samoa's was held in October. It was deemed to be very successful and an MOU was signed between the parties. Key outcomes for the fisheries:
  - The Meeting underscored the importance of the fisheries sector in the food security and economic development of both countries. Ensuring the continued viability of the Starkist Samoa tuna cannery was critical, noting benefits accrued to both countries including remittances and with more than 85% of its workers coming from Samoa. On labour mobility arrangements with Starkist, the Samoa government recalled the request for additional workers by Starkist and further noted that it had sought the same process as Australia and New Zealand for Samoan workers, including tenure of work/contracts, accommodation arrangements for Samoan workers, and the protection of migrant workers' rights. The Taskforce was tasked to consider using "open access" arrangements between the two countries.
  - The two governments acknowledged the importance of working collaboratively at the regional and global levels on the sustainable management and conservation of fisheries, including at the annual meetings of the WCPFC. This included discussions on limits to high seas access at the Commission. The Samoa government noted and welcomed American Samoa's interest in becoming a member of the South Pacific Group and agreed to work closely with its government in that regard
  - The Meeting acknowledged the need to further improve the performance of local (alia) longline fleets in the two Samoas. As well, the Meeting noted assistance that could be provided to American Samoa with regard to coastal fisheries and aquaculture including strengthened cooperation to prevent and address marine pollution and diseases affecting marine environments and coastal fisheries. Conscious of maritime security threats to both countries, the two governments agreed to work collaboratively to strengthen their respective responses to maritime security concerns, as well as to provide mutual support to each other as needed.
- Since the bilateral, the Samoa government has gifted 500 giant clam seedlings to American Samoa, and have offered to provide guidance and support towards aquaculture initiatives (giant clams, seaweed, etc).