Survey Report Draft¹

Ha'apai

Date: 13, 15 and 16 Aug 2002

Participants: Asipeli, Peter, Dee and Seiji

(Ministry of Fisheries @ Ha'apai: Sione Mailau, Taliauli Napa'a)

Prepared by: Seiji Nakaya

1. Objectives

(1) There are no data available on coral reef ecology of the Ha'apai group. We conducted a survey to obtain baseline information on the coral reefs of the Ha'apai area. We visited two of the 3 reefs that were once proposed by Ha'apai Environment Conservation Committee to be MPAs based on suggestions from the Ministry of Fisheries²,³.

- (2) There are few, if any, people who are capable of conducting scientific survey on coral reefs in Ha'apai. One of the objectives of the survey was to transfer basic skill of coral reef survey and monitoring to the staff of the Ministry of Fisheries as well as to a DoE-affiliated Peace Corps member based in Ha'apai.
- (3) Start obtaining information for evaluating the accuracy of the data collected by the spot check method and for standardization of this method.

2. Methods

Spot check method was used to survey Mu'i kuku (August 13), Kito/Kito si'i (August 15) and Lua hoko (August 16). Reef Check method was used at Kito si'i Reef on August 15, where two staff members of the Ministry of Fisheries participated.

For obtaining information for standardizing spot check method, the spot check data were compared with other data set collected by using a different method. That was:

- a) A 50m tape measure was laid at the depth contours of 10m and 3m, and
- b) a series of underwater digital photographs of the reef surface were taken along

¹ The trip consisted of underwater surveys, meeting of Ha'apai Conservation Committee, and visits of sites for environmental issues. This report draft covers only underwater surveys.

² We have yet to obtain documents for this proposal.

³ This survey was not more than a preliminary reconnaissance survey. We have learned, from our experiences of the management of MPAs established in the Nuku'alofa area in 1979, that establishing new MPAs requires a long process of baseline biological/physical and socio-economic studies and that public participation for decision making for the MPAs is critical to expect the support of users and the community.

entire length of the line (50m).

The coverage of types of substratum such as live hard corals and of soft corals was calculated by the following procedures similar to the video transect method (English 1997):

- 1) Attach a piece of transparent sheet with randomly placed 5 dots to a PC monitor;
- 2) Display underwater photos one by one on the monitor;
- 3) Record the number of dots that are on each category of substratum such as live hard corals, soft corals, rocks, etc. for each photo;
- 4) A series of photos along the 50m line was divided into 4 parts, for each of which the coverage in per cent was calculated⁴;
- 5) Obtain average and standard error for each data sets (10m and 3m).



3. Results and discussions

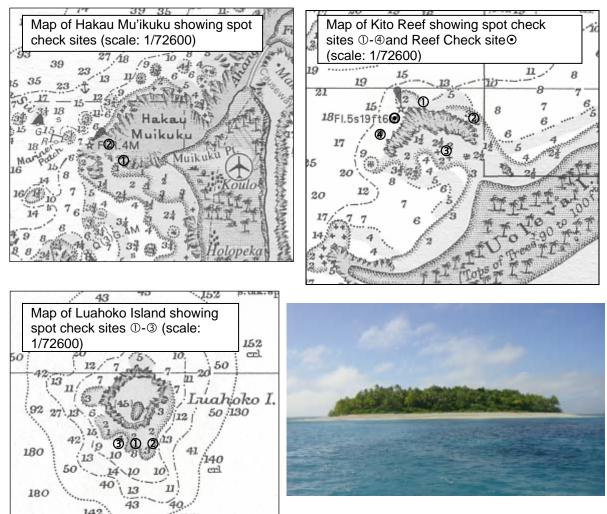
(1) Spot check

Mu'i kuku Reef on the western coast of Lifuka Island near its northern tip showed low coverage of live hard corals (<15%) consisting of high variety of colony types as well as a moderate coverage of soft corals (<10%) (Appendix 1). The low coral coverage was observed with no obvious threats such as sedimentation, recorded outbreaks of Crown-of-thorns starfish or bleaching.

Kito and Kito si'i Reefs also showed low percentage of corals (at most 7.5%) with a variety of coral types. At some sites of Kito some large colonies of massive *Porites* were observed. An isolated island of Lua hoko also showed low coverage of corals (<5%) on

⁴ The line was divided into 4 parts to obtain variance for comparison, even though this method is not statistically convincing due to interdependency of data among these parts. Ideally, multiple numbers of shorter tapes should be placed randomly on the reef.

its southern reefs (this was the only part of the reefs surrounding the island that we were able to access due to rough seas).



It was found that the variation among observers within site was large. Therefore, it is necessary to standardize data by using objectively collected data.

(2) Reef Check



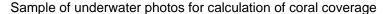
For the Reef Check survey, we selected a part of the reef on Kito si'i where hard-bottom slope continues to more than 10m deep. Live hard coral cover was $19\% \pm 0.7\text{SE}$ and $16\% \pm 0.3\text{SE}$, and soft coral $24\% \pm 1.2\text{SE}$ and $31\% \pm 1.0\text{SE}$, at 10m deep and 3m deep, respectively.

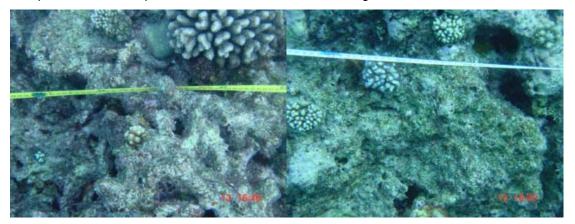
Few fish were recorded during the survey except butterflyfish. The record spreadsheets are attached in Appendix 2.

Understanding situations including that there are not available data on ecology of Ha'apai coral reefs, that there is no staff of DoE in Ha'apai, and that there are few, if any, personnel capable to conduct reef surveys, it is essential for DoE to collaborate with staffs from the Ministry of Fisheries, experts of AusAID who are undertaking a community-based management project in Ha'apai and DoE DoE affiliated US Peace Corps members.

(3) Digital photos

On Mu'i kuku Reef at the depth contours of 3 and 10m, the coverage of live hard corals, dead hard corals, soft corals, rubble, rock, fleshy algae and sand were calculated as below. It is noticed that coral cover at 10m deep contour was comparatively high (28% ±7.1SE).





Data obtained by using underwater photos.

Depth		Live hard corals	Dead hard corals	Soft corals	Rubble	Rock	Fleshy algae	sand
10m	Mean%	27.5	0.7	14.6	0.0	56.4	0.0	0.7
	SE	7.1	0.7	2.5	0.0	8.5	0.0	0.7
3m	Mean%	10.0	0.3	4.3	10.3	75.3	0.0	0.0
	SE	3.1	0.3	3.9	2.7	5.1	0.0	0.0

Data obtained by using spot check method.

Diver	Depth m	Live hard corals%	Dead hard corals %	Soft corals%	sand
Α	3-3	7.5 (range 5-10)	10	7.5	20
В	2-5	15	10	1(<5)	0

The results of photo analysis were compared with the data from Spot Check at the same site. As the divers conducting spot check use only snorkel, the reef deeper than some 5m may be uncertain, depending on the visibility. Therefore, the data only from 3m contour was compared. The coverage of live hard corals measured by digital photo method and by spot check method were 10%±3.1SE and 7.5 - 15%, respectively.

As noticed during the spot check surveys, the variation within treatment was too high to make a statistically meaningful comparison of data among different sites or different times. It is necessary to reduce variation within the data sets. For this, it may be useful to consider stratification for sampling, reducing the number of parameters to be measured and increase replicates. The variation of data may also affected by skill and experience of surveyors and by reef conditions such as coral cover and topography. Use of underwater video may also be useful to make underwater time short, to reduce effort in the field and therefore to increase the number of replicates.

Appendix 1. Results of Spot Check surveys in Ha'apai between August 13 and 16, 2002.

													Largest				
								Domi		Type of			plate				
								nant		substratum		Sedi	Acropor				
Site					LHC	DHC		coral	СОТ	with no			a cm	Dept			
name	No	Diver	Date		_	_		type	No.		%	(0-4)		h m	Remarks	South	West
Mu'i kuku					7.5	10	7.5	5		sand	20	0-4)	ulamete	3-3	Nemans	19°46'13.7"	174º21'24.2"
Mu'i kuku			02/08/13					-	_	Sanu	-	-		5-5		19°46'13.7"	174°21'24.2"
Mu'i kuku			02/08/13 02/08/13		13 15	10 10	10	5	0		0	0	60	5-5 2-5		19°46'13.7"	174°21'24.2"
Mu'i kuku	-					10		5 5	0		0	0		2-5 3-5		19°46 13.7 19°45'58.7"	174°21'24.2
			02/08/13		7.5	_	15	5 5	0		-	_				19°45'58.7"	174°21'07.9"
Mu'i kuku			02/08/13		5	1	5		0		0	0		2-3			
Kito			02/08/15	945	1	5	5	5	0		0	0		5		19°50'04.4"	174°25'03.6"
Kito		,	02/08/15	945	1	1	5	5	0		0	0		0.5-4		19°50'04.4"	174°25'03.6"
Kito			02/08/15	945	7 -	1	7	2		sand	10	0		4-6	manager Deutter	19050'04.4"	174°25'03.6"
Kito		•	02/08/15		7.5	1	5	4	0		0	0		5-5	massive Porites	19°50'10.5"	174°24'46.2"
Kito		,	02/08/15	1015	5	1	'	5		sand	10	0		5-6	massive Porites(>5m		174°24'46.2"
Kito		Dee	02/08/15	1015	5	1	5	5		sand	10	0		4-6		19°50'10.5"	174°24'46.2"
Kito			02/08/15		1	5	1	5		sand	50	0		1-3		19°50'10.5"	174°24'46.2"
Kito					1	5	1	5		sand, rubble		0	-	2-2		19°50'23.3"	174°24'43.7"
Kito		•	02/08/15		1	1	1	5		sand, rubble		0	_	1-2		19°50'23.3"	174°24'43.7"
Kito	_		02/08/15	1050	1	1	1	5		rubble	15	0		4-6		19°50'23.3"	174°24'43.7"
Kito		•	02/08/15	1145	1	1	1	5	0			0		5-6		19°50'27.5"	174°25'19.2"
Lua hoko		•	02/08/16		1	1	1	5	_	sand	30	0		1-3		19°40'26.2	174°23'39.4"
Lua hoko			02/08/16	1545	1	1	1	5	_	sand	30	0	20	1-3		19°40'26.2	174°23'39.4"
Lua hoko		Dee	02/08/16	1545	1	1	1	5		samd	5	0		1-5		19°40'26.2	174º23'39.4"
Lua hoko		,	02/08/16	1605	5	1	1	5		sand, rubble		0		2-5	many Zoanthidae		
Lua hoko		Dee	02/08/16	1605	1	5	2	5	0	sand	5	0		1-5			
Lua hoko			02/08/16		1	1	1	5	0	sand	10	0		1-3			
Lua hoko		Peter	02/08/16	1640	5	1	1	5	0	sand	10	0	_	3-5			
Lua hoko	3	Dee	02/08/16	1640	1	1	1	5	0	sand	10	0	15	1-5			

Photo: 20020813Haapai, 20020815Haapai and 20020816Haapai

Appendix 2. Spread sheets for the results of Reef Check in Kito si'i Reef on 15 August 2002

Site name	Kito si'i (near Uoleva	Island of Halanai	Group)	
Date	15-Aug-02		Croup)	
Time of day that work started	1300			
Time of day that work ended	1730			
Longitude of transect start point	19,50'16.2"S			
Latitude of transect start point	174,25'16.9"W			
From chart or by GPS? (If GPS,	174,23 10.9 VV			
indicate units)	chart	GPS_X WGS	Q./I	
Orientation of transect	N-S	NE-SW X	E-W	SE-NW
Distance from shore	1300 m	INE-SVV X	L-VV	OL-1400
Distance from nearest river	180 km (No river ex	l viete in thie ielar	d group: a etro	am oviete on a
River mouth width	<10m_X	11-50m	51-100m	101-500m
Weather		cloudyX		101-300111
	sunny_X	cloudyX	raining_X	
Air temperature	23 degrees C			
Water temperature at surface	23_ degrees C			
Water temperature at 3 m	23_ degrees C			
Water temperature at 10 m	? degrees C	not able to me	asure	
Distance to nearest population centre	7 km			
Approximate population size	3x1000 people			
Horizontal visibility in water	25 m			
Why was this site selected?				
Is this site -	sheltered_X	exposed		
Any major coral damaging storms in				
past years?	yes	no	unknown_X	
How do you rate this site overall in				
terms of anthropogenic impact?	none	low	moderate_X	heavy
What types of impacts do you believe				
occur?	linefishing, spearfis			
Dynamite fishing	none_X	low	moderate	heavy
Poison fishing	none_X	low	moderate	heavy
Aquarium fish collection	none_X	low	moderate	heavy
Harvest of invertebrates for food	none	low	moderate_X	heavy
Harvest of invertebrates for curio sales	none	low_x	moderate	heavy
Tourist diving	none	low_x	moderate	heavy
Sewage pollution	none_X	low	moderate	heavy
Industrial pollution	none_X	low	moderate	heavy
Other forms of fishing? (Specify)	none	low	moderate_x	heavy
Other impacts? (Specify)	none	low	moderate	heavy
Is there any form of protection (statutory				
or other) at this site?	yes	no_x(once the	fishery agency	proposed this
If yes, what type of protection?				
Other comments				
Submitted by (enter TL/TS and your name)	TL: 'Asipeli Palaki; TS	S: Seiji Nakaya (s	submitted by S. N	akaya)

Site	name:		Kito si	''i											
Dept			10m					Date:	#####						
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		9.5 m			25 - 4				50 - 6				75 - 9		
1	RC	21	SC	41	SC	61	rc	81	rc	101	RC	121	SC	141	rc
2	FS	22	SC	42	rc	62	rc	82	rc	102	RC	122	rc	142	rc
3	SD	23	SC	43	rc	63	rc	83	rc	103	RC		fs	143	rc
4	RB	24	rc	44	sd	64	rc	84	rc	104	fs	124	rc	144	rc
5	RB	25	rc	45	SC	65	hc	85	SC	105	fs	125	rc	145	hc
6	SC	26	rc	46	hc	66	hc	86	hc	106	fs	126	hc	146	SC
/	HC	27	hc	47	rc	67	SC	87	hc	107	SC	127	rc	147	rc
8	SC	28	rb	48	sd	68	rc	88	rc	108	RC	128	hc	148	sc
9	HC	29	SC	49	rc	69	rc	89	rc	109	RC	129	hc	149	SC
10	SC	30	SC	50	SC	70	rc	90	rc	110	RC	130	hc	150	hc
11	SC	31	hc	51	SC	71	rc	91	hc	111	RC	131	rc	151	SC
12	RB	32	rc	52	rb	72	hc	92	rc	112	SC	132	rc	152	rc
13	HC	33	hc	53	rc	73	hc	93	rc	113	SC	133	rc	153	rc
14	rb	34	SC	54	rc	74	fs	94	hc	114	SC	134	rc	154	rc
15	hc	35	SC	55	rb	75	fs	95	SC	115	RC	135	hc	155	rc
16	hc	36	rc	56	rc	76	SC	96	SC	116	RC	136	hc	156	SC
17	SC	37	rc	57	hc	77	rc	97	SC	117	RC	137	SC	157	SC
18	rb	38	sd	58	SC	78	rc	98	hc	118	hc	138	SC	158	hc
19	rc	39	fs	59 60	SC	79	rc	99	rc	119	hc	139	rc	159	rb
20	sc	40	rb	60	rc	80	rc	100	rc	120	RC	140	sd	160	SC
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SC	13	SC	8	SC	8	SC	10	SC	39		SC	9.8	SC	2.4	
RKC	0	RKC	0	RKC	0	RKC	0	RKC	0		RKC	0	RKC	0	
FS	2	FS	2	FS	3	FS	1	FS	8		FS	2	FS	0.8	
SP	0	SP	0	SP	0	SP	0	SP	0		SP	0	SP	0	
RC	8	RC	20	RC	22	RC	18	RC	68		RC	17	RC	6.2	
RB	7	RB	2	RB	0	RB	1	RB	10		RB	2.5	RB	3.1	
SD	2	SD	2	SD	0	SD	1	SD	5		SD	1.3	SD	1	
SI	0	SI	0	SI	0	SI	0	SI	0		SI	0	SI	0	
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3	rc	23	rc	43	rc	63	rc	83	rc	103	SC	123	rc	143	hc
4	SC	24	SC	44	SC	64	rc	84	rc	104	RC	124	rc	144	hc
5	SC	25	rc	45	SC	65	rc	85	rc	105	hc	125	rc	145	rc
6	SC	26	rc	46	SC	66	hc	86	rc	106	rc	126	hc	146	hc
7	hc	27	rc	47	rc	67	rc	87	rc	107	SC	127	rc	147	sp
8	rc	28	SC	48 49	hc	68	sp	88	hc	108	SC	128	SC	148	rc
9	SC	29	rc	49 50	rc	69 70	sd	89 90	hc hc	109 110	SC	129	SC	149	rc
10 11	rc	30 31	sc rc	50 51	rc	71	sd rc	90	rkc	111	sc rc	130 131	rc sc	150 151	hc
12	rc	32	SC	52	SC	72	hc	92	SC	112	rc	132	SC	152	sp rc
13	SC	33	rc	53	rc	73	SC	93	SC	113	rc	133	SC	153	rc
14	hc	34	sc	54	sc	74	sc	94	SC	114	rc	134	SC	154	sp
15	SC	35	rc	55	hc	75	SC	95	rc	115	rc	135	hc	155	SC
16	rc	36	sc	56	hc	76	rc	96	SC	116	sc	136	rc	156	rb
17	SC	37	hc	57	rkc	77	hc	97	sd	117	rc	137	rc	157	rb
18	rc	38	rc	58	sc	78	sc	98	sd	118	rc	138	rc	158	rb
19	SC	39	hc	59	SC	79	rc	99	sd	119	rc	139	rc	159	rb
20	hc	40	rc	60	SC	80	rc	100	rc	120	hc	140	rc	160	rb
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HC			6	HC	6	HC	7	HC	26		HC	6.5	HC	0.6	
SC	15	SC	12	SC	12	SC	10	SC	49		SC	12	SC	2.1	
RKC		RKC		RKC	1	RKC		RKC	2		RKC	0.5	RKC	0.6	
FS	0	FS	0	FS	0	FS	0	FS	0		FS	0	FS	0	
SP	0	SP	1	SP	0	SP	3	SP	4		SP	1	SP	1.4	
RC	18	RC	18	RC	18	RC	15	RC	69		RC	17	RC	1.5	
RB	0	RB	0	RB	0	RB	5	RB	5		RB	1.3	RB	2.5	
SD	0	SD SI	2	SD SI	3	SD	0	SD	5		SD SI	1.3	SD	1.5	
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REEF CHECK 2001- Please fill in all Black ou	ıtlined bo	xes					
Site Name:	Kito si'i						
Depth:	10m		Team Lea	ader:	Asipel	i Palaki	
Date:	######		Time:		1400		
Red Sea Belt Transect : Fish							
Data recorded by:	Peter C	loutier					
	0-20m		50-70m	75-100m	Total	Mean	SD
Butterfly fish	1	0	2	3	6	1.5	1.29
Sweetlips (Haemulidae)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Snapper (Lutjanidae)	0	0	1	1	2	0.5	0.58
Broomtail wrasse (Cheilinus lunulatus)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	
Discillati Wassa (Silaminas larialatas)							
Grouper >30cm (Give sizes in comments)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bumphead parrotfish (Bolbometopon							
muricatum)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humphead wrasse (Cheilinus undulatus)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Any Parrotfish (>20cm)	0	0	2	1	3	0.75	0.96
Moray eel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red Sea Belt Transect : Invertebrates							
Data recorded by:	Seiji Na	kava					
Data recorded by:			50-70m	75-100m	Total	Mean	SD
	0 20	20 40111	00 70111	70 100111	Total	Moun	
Banded coral shrimp (Stenopus hispidus)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diadema urchins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pencil urchin (Heterocentrotus							
mammilatus) `	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sea cucumber (edible only)	0	1	0	0	1	0.25	0.5
Crown-of-thorns star (Acanthaster)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Giant clam (Tridacna)	1	0	0	0	1	0.25	0.5
Triton shell (Charonia tritonis)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lobster	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
For each segment, rate the following as	: None=	0, Low=1	, Medium	=2, High=	:3		
Coral damage : Anchor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coral damage:Dynamite	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coral damage : Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Trash : Fish nets	0	0	0	0		0	
Trash : Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Comments:							
Grouper sizes (cm):							
Bleaching (% of coral population):	0	0	0	0			
Belaching (% per colony):	0		0	0			
Suspected disease (type/%):	Ť						
Rare animals sighted (type/#):							
Other:							
	-	Í.			-	1	

ıtlined bo	YAS					
_	7,00					
		Team Lea	ader:	Asipel	i Palaki	
######		Time:		1540		
					•	
Seiii Na	kava					
		50-70m	75-100m	Total	Mean	SD
0	1	0	3	4	1	1.41
0	0	0	0		0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0		0	0		0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	0	0	1	0.25	0.5
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0-20m	25-45m	50-70m	75-100m	Total	Mean	SD
١	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	_	_	_			0
- 	0	0	0	U	U	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
				_		0.82
+		-				0.02
			_			0.5
0		_				0
None	Ū	Madium	-2 Lliab	Ť		
				•	0	
						0
						0
	_	_				0
						0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0			
0	0	0	0			
0	0	0	0			
0	0	0	0			
	Kito si'i 3m #####	Seiji Nakaya	Kito si'i 3m Team Lea	Kito si'i 3m	Napa'a Company Compa	Note