

WESTERN SAMOA OFFSHORE BOTTOMFISHING PROJECT

F/V TAUTAI MATAPALAPALA TRIP REPORT

TRIP NO. 1, Nov. 29 - Dec. 2, 1988. Stations 1 - 8. Upolu I. Aliepata, Lotofaga, and the banks South of Apolima I.

Moon phase: Last Quarter

Crew: Savali Time, Sr. Counterpart
Ueli OBrien, Counterpart
Iosefa Leoaniu, Sr. Fisherman
Siitia Amituanai, Fisherman
Eteuati Ropati, Data Collector
Stanley Weinberg, Capt.

Tautai Matapalapala cleared Apia Harbor at 1340 on November 29, 1988. She swung East along the North coast of Upolu in depths of 30-40 fathoms and headed for Aleipata on Upolu's East end. Weather was a light N.W. of 6-8kt. with 4' seas and scattered whitecaps and occasional showers.

Fishing began at Station 1 near Nu'ulua I. at 1745 hrs in 118 fathoms of water. Seven more stations were occupied over the next several days, the details of which can be found in the included tables and charts.

Fishing was concluded at 1000 hrs on Friday December 2, 1988. The vessel headed North through Apolima Straits and returned to Apia at 1500 hrs.

The trip was not successful from a fishing point of view. The catch rate was too low to give good data for later comparison. The overall catch rate was 0.29 fish per line hour. Based on data from Polovina's work in the Marianas in 1982-84, and on work currently being done by the Langi's in Tonga we should expect to be getting at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 fish per line hour on established fishing areas.

We may have been fishing too deep. Polovina gives a depth range for these fish of 91 to 123 fathoms. Our depths ranged from 115 to 200 fath. Fishing technique itself may also be a problem. No records of the matter were kept, but it seemed that quite a lot of time was lost through lines being hung up on the bottom and being tangled together. There may be improvements that can be made here. Another area that might bear some attention is the makeup of the terminal gear, and the methods of baiting the hooks. The sketch shows the rig used and a couple of alternates that might bear consideration.

shg
0.5
925



TABLE 1. TRIP 1. SUMMARY

Depart Apia	1300 hrs. Nov. 29, 1988
Return Apia	1500 hrs. Dec. 2, 1988
Total Trip Hours	74 hrs.
No. Stations Fished	8
No. Hours Fished	27.1
No. Line-Hrs. Fished	105.9
No. Fish Caught	31
Kg. Fish Caught	111.5 kg. (245.3 lbs.)
No. Fish per Line-Hr.	0.29
Av. Hrs. per Station	3.4
Blocks Ice Used	30 Blocks
Bait Used	8 Skipjack
Fuel Used	148 USGallons
Lube Oil Used	3 qt. in Engine, 3 qt. in Gearbox

TAUTAI NATAPALAPALA

Trip No. 1

Stations 1 to 8

Date Nov 29 '88 to Dec 2, '88

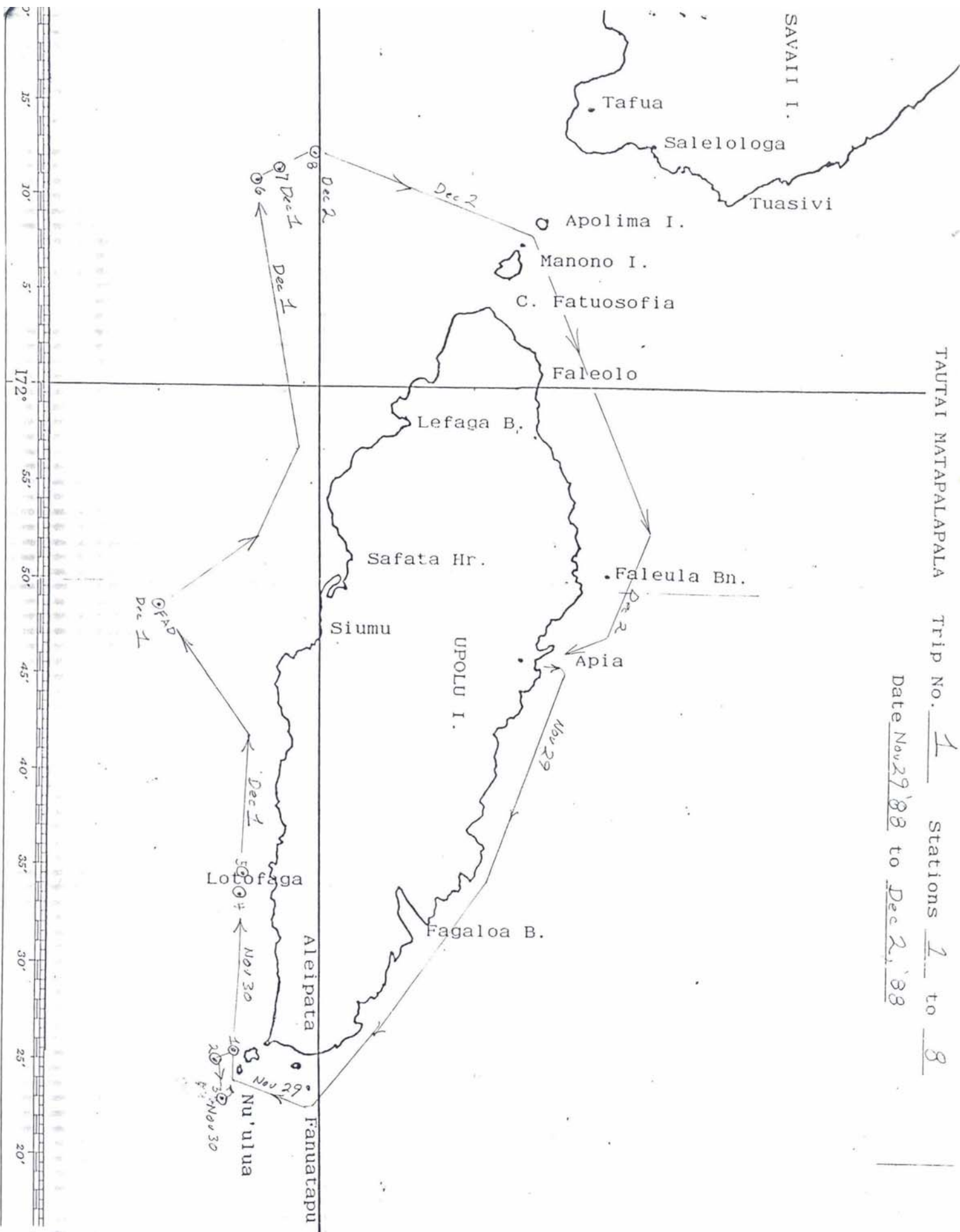


TABLE 2. STATION DATA

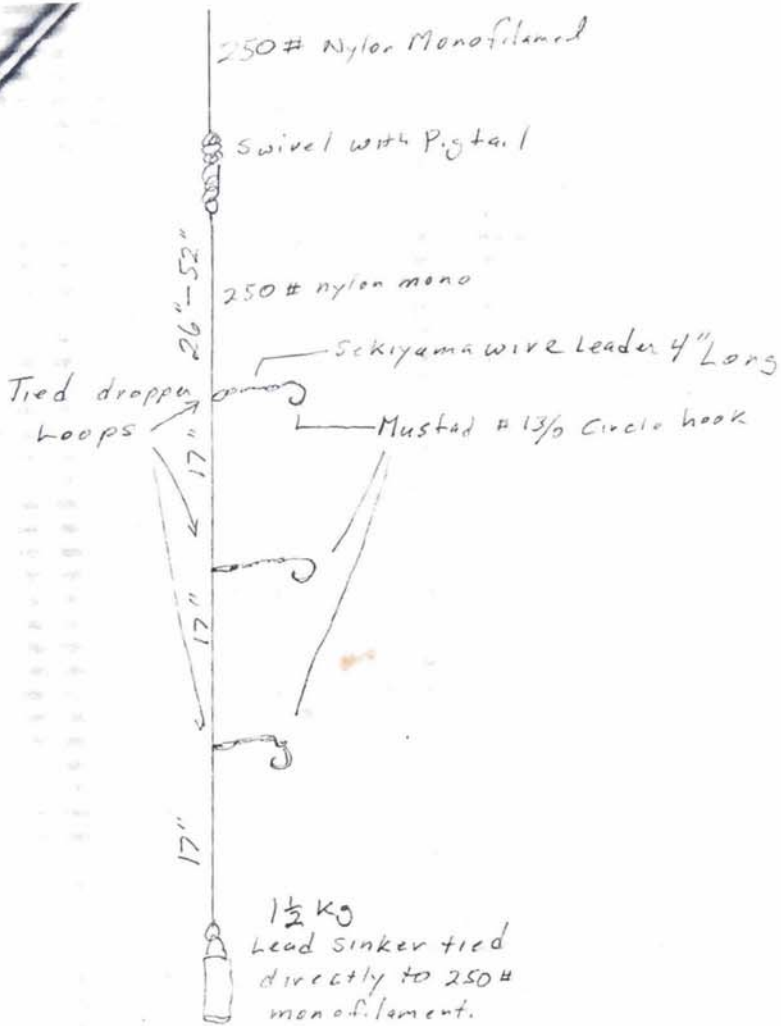
STATION	1	1	2	3
DATE	Nov. 29	Nov. 30	Nov. 30	Nov. 30
S. LAT.	14°04.3'	14°04.6'	14°04.5'	14°04.8'
W. LON.	171°25.6'	171°23.5'	171°25.1'	171°23.9'
DEPTH start	118 fm	115 fm	165 fm	190 fm
DEPTH end	115 fm	115 fm	193 fm	199 fm
TIME start	1745	0500	0800	1139
TIME end	2400	0620	1050	1240
NO. FISH				
LINE 1	1	0	0	0
LINE 2	0	0	0	0
LINE 3	2	0	2	0
LINE 4	0	0	2	0
TOTAL FISH	3	0	4	0
HOURS FISHED	6.25	1.3	2.8	1
LINE-HRS	25	5	11.3	4
FISH/LINE-HR	0.12	0	0.35	0
CURRENT	N/A	N/A	N/A	strong
WEATHER	6-8kt NW Seas 4' Showers	Light E'ly breeze Seas 1-2', Ptly Cldy	Light N.E.	Light N.E. Seas 2-3' Squally

TABLE 2. TRIP 1 STATION DATA (Cont.)

STATION	4	5	5	6
DATE	Nov. 30	Nov. 30	Dec. 1	Dec. 1
S. LAT.	14°04.0'	14°03.9'	14°03.9'	14°03.2'
W. LON.	171°33.5'	171°34.7'	171°34.7'	172°10.9'
DEPTH start	151 fm	166 fm	200 fm	121 fm
DEPTH end	155 fm	150 fm	N/A	155 fm
TIME start	1505	1845	0500	1235
TIME end	1753	2300	0600	1440
NO. FISH				
LINE 1	2	0	Not Used	3
LINE 2	3	0	Not Used	1
LINE 3	3	0	0	2
LINE 4	0	0	0	2
TOTAL FISH	8	0	0	8
HOURS FISHED	2.8	4.25	1	2.1
LINE-HOURS	11.1	17	2	8.3
FISH/LINE-HR	0.72	0	0	0.96
CURRENT	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEATHER	Light N E , Seas 2-3' Squally		N/A	Light E.S.E. breeze Small Whitecaps Sunny

TABLE 2. TRIP 1 STATION DATA (Cont.)

STATION	7	8
DATE	Dec. 1	Dec. 2
S. LAT.	14°02.0'	14°00.1
W. LON.	172°11.3	172°12.3'
DEPTH start	145 fm	110 fm
DEPTH end	142 fm	N/A
TIME start	1550	0550
TIME end	1715	1000
NO. FISH		
LINE 1	0	0
LINE 2	0	4
LINE 3	0	1
LINE 4	0	3
TOTAL FISH	0	8
HOURS FISHED	1.4	4.2
LINE-HOURS	5.5	16.7
FISH/LINE-HR	0	0.48
CURRENT	Strong	Strong
WEATHER	See St. 6	E.S.E. 10kt, 5'Seas Squally, Overcast



NB one variant has been to put a #13/0 hook on top leader and #11/0 hooks below it. One fisherman tends to use 4 hooks instead of 3.

Terminal Gear in Use, TRIP 1

