

Underwater Survey Report for the Status of Trochus and Clams at Foailalo village

6th October 2009



Prepared By: Aquaculture Section

Fisheries Division
Apia,
Samoa

INTRODUCTION

Food security is one of the major aims of the Fisheries Division in Samoa, to ensure sufficient available source of protein from marine and freshwater organisms. The establishment of the Community Based Fisheries Management Program (CBFMP) is a means to manage and enhance the coastal areas of villages. Hence, in 2000 Foailalo became a member under this program but was later on inactive. However, it's currently active once more as of this year.

Clams of the type *Tridacna derasa* were initially introduced to Foailalo in 2001 as a reef enhancement initiative. *Trochus niloticus* were also introduced to the community's lagoon for the same purpose. *Tridacna derasa* (introduced species) being nursed can reproduce at a maturity of 5-6 years. Therefore, the possibility of juveniles along the site is likely according to the species life cycle and reproduction.

A survey was then conducted on the 6th October 09 by members of the Aquaculture section and Savaii staff

Objective

To investigate and identify the status of the recruitment of giant clams and trochus, at Foailalo coastal area.

Method

The assessment was conducted in three groups (A, B and C) each was provided with 50m tapes, caliber/ruler and clipboards for recording. Each group consists of 2 people.

Group A was located at about 10 metres seaward from the beach. Group B were next and about another 6 metres from group A. Group C were further out at about 15 m. The groups started from the West to the East side and covered about 30 m horizontally.

Tide prediction: Low tide
 Sea Slightly Rough

Result & Discussion

The search was conducted for almost 2 hours, but was unsuccessful. No clams or trochus of any size were found. The same results came up with the three groups from their coverage areas; that neither clam nor trochus were found in the studied site.

Live corals were also observed actively in several parts.

Factors that contribute to the unsuccessfulness of the survey include:

- The waves were rough in addition to the low tide which made it very difficult to stay in the covered area.

- Due to the rough sea, it was extremely dangerous and unsafe to survey beyond the reef.
- Area being covered is diminutive due to minimum number of people present.

Conclusion

In due course, the survey has been unsuccessful; neither clams nor trochus were found at the studied area of the coast of Foailalo.