



Review of Marine Turtle Legislation in Samoa

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PREFACE

The SPREP regional Marine Turtle Action Plan 2008-2012 places high priority to legislation as shown by the selection of the area "Policy and Legislation" as one of the nine themes of the Action Plan. The priority actions identified under this theme by member countries and territories as well as partners are:

- Action 5.1: Review and identify gaps and conflicts in current policies and legislation (in member countries and territories) that support / limit the RMTCP, including conventions, treaties, MOUs, agreements etc. [Priority: High].
- Action 5.2: Encourage the need to address gaps and conflicts found in the review of policies and legislation as described in action 5.1 where required. [Priority: High].
- Action 5.3: Encourage and support compliance mechanisms that are more effective at the community level, drawing upon and supporting existing laws and controls and conflict resolution systems, and using local community members. [Priority: High].
- Action: 5.4: Amend relevant policies and legislation regarding turtle size limits to better reflect the impact of removing mature females from populations and, where possible, to ensure that preference is given to using smaller-sized animals. [Priority: High].
- Action: 5.5: Incorporate relevant traditional knowledge, customary marine tenure and practices into policy, legislation management plans where appropriate. [Priority: Medium]
- Action 5.6: Ensure adequate protection is provided for nesting beaches and other known critical habitats for turtles through policy and legislation. [Priority: High].

This review then documents existing legislation and policies as well as the country's participation in international/regional agreements and conventions relevant to marine turtles. It attempts to identify gaps and then make recommendations for relevant legislation to improve and/or clarify existing ones and improve protection/management of marine turtles.

To help with the identification of legislation gaps, a team at SPREP constructed a matrix of legislation from existing legislation in the region dealing with turtles as well as creating new ones based on available information.

The involvement of national officials from relevant agencies is a vital component of this work.

This review has been used as an example for the review of marine turtle legislation in other SPREP member countries by national officials. That project is funded under financial assistance of CMS/UNEP Abu Dhabi Office.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Marine Turtle Species present: Three species of marine turtles have been recorded to occur in Samoa waters. The most common species are hawksbill [*Eretmochelys imbricata*] and green [*Chelonia mydas*] turtles, while only a few specimens of leatherback turtles [*Dermochelys coriacea*] have been caught tangled in long-line fishing lines for tuna in Samoan waters. Marine turtle satellite tagging by L'Aquarium des Lagons (New Caledonia) and NOAA in 2008 showed that one of the juvenile loggerheads released from the Marine Nationale Patrouilleur la Glorieuse, New Caledonia, travelled eastward and was near Samoa's EEZ when the signal ceased. It is very likely that that loggerhead entered Samoan waters thus indicating the presence of that species. Hawksbill turtle is the only species known to nest in Samoa.

Marine turtle nesting: While turtle nesting occurs at several isolated beaches through-out Samoa, the main-nesting sites are the small islands off Aleipata, Nuulua and Nuutele. Annual hawksbill nesting population on these islands has been estimated to be about 100 nests although recent surveys have indicated a dramatic decline. Turtle nesting have also been recorded on the other Aleipata islands of Namu'a and Fanuatapu. On Savaii, turtle nesting is certain to still occur at Falealupo and Aganoa (Faala).

Importance of marine turtles locally: Turtles have been an important part in the traditions of Samoa. It is often included in legends, folklores and songs of the past and is often referred to as *i'a sa* (sacred fish). It was one of the few marine animals that in certain communities it was presented to a certain chiefly title within the village when caught during a fishing expedition. Fishing for turtles had also been a special tradition in certain villages for traditional events such as matai title bestowment, dedications, funerals and weddings. Today, these traditions seem to have disappeared, likely due to increased awareness on marine turtles' status and successful conservation effort. However, turtle eggs poaching still seems to be a problem and that coastal development is impacting on turtle nesting sites. The level of exploitation at the subsistence level is not know but presumably moderate.

2. CURRENT MANAGEMENT/PROTECTION OF MARINE TURTLES IN SAMOA

2.1 EXISTING LEGISLATION

(i). Local Fisheries Regulations 1995 [made under the Fisheries Act 1988]

Regulation 4

- The Director may declare a period or periods when fishing for Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*- laumei fai uga) and Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas* – laumei) is prohibited.

Regulation 7 (i) and (ii)

- No person shall undertake fishing for, or possess, or sell any turtle known as *laumei* (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, *Chelonia mydas*) whether alive or dead the shell of which is less than 700 mm (27.6 inches) in length at its longest part of the carapace measured along the curve of the carapace from that part of the carapace nearest the head to that part nearest the tail.
- No person shall at any time disturb the nest of any turtle, or take, use or sell or destroy the egg of any turtle.

(ii). Marine Wildlife Protection Regulations 2009 [made under the Lands, Surveys and Environment Act 1989]

- Reporting incidents involving turtles - Regulation 7 (1), (2) and (3)
 - Any person who accidentally captures, injures or kills a marine turtle whilst undertaking any fishing activity in Samoan waters shall report the incident as soon as practicable to the Division of Environment, and the Fisheries Division.
 - A person who is required to report an incident shall provide such information and verification of the matters reported as is required by the Division of Environment and the Fisheries Division.
 - The Pulenuu of any village at which a turtle (other than a green turtle or hawksbill turtle taken for subsistence purposes) is killed or held in captivity shall report the matter as soon as possible to the Division of Environment and the Fisheries Division, and shall take all practicable steps to ensure that any such turtle held in captivity is released or kept alive until the arrival of an officer of the Division of Environment or a Fisheries Officer.

- *Offences against turtles - Regulation 8 (1)*

It is an offence to:

- Undertake any activity related to the commercial fishing of turtles.
- Take, catch or fish for turtles in the territorial sea or the exclusive economic zone, except when taking green or hawksbill turtles for subsistence purposes and that the taking is in accordance with any requirement applying under the fisheries legislation in relation to size, closed seasons or any other matter.
- Take, catch or fish for turtles beyond the barrier reefs of any part of Samoa, except when taking green or hawksbill turtles for subsistence purposes and that the taking is in accordance with any requirement applying under the fisheries legislation in relation to size, closed seasons or any other matter.

- *Regulation 8(2)*, it is also an offence when:

- fishing for or deliberately taking any marine turtle except when taking green or hawksbill turtles for subsistence purposes and that the taking is in accordance with any requirement applying under the fisheries legislation in relation to size, closed seasons or any other matter.
- failing to release any turtle which is accidentally caught or taken;
- failing to report the accidental capture of a turtle to the Division of Environment or the Fisheries Division;
- keeping a turtle in captivity, except under the authority of a permit for scientific purposes or any other lawful purpose related to the conservation, health or welfare of that turtle; or
- taking a female turtle migrating to egg laying grounds between the 1st day of November and the last day of February of each year
- taking a female turtle while laying eggs or which is in an egg laying ground;
- disturbing any turtle eggs;
- taking or has in his or her possession any turtle eggs;
- selling or purchasing any turtle eggs;
- interfering with or disturbing any turtle nest;
- exporting any turtle shell or other turtle product without a permit.

- *Turtle watching and eco-tourism activities - Regulation 9 (1)*

- Any tourism or turtle watching related activity conducted for commercial, scientific or any other purpose within the vicinity of turtles and their nesting areas must be licensed by the Division of Environment and shall be undertaken in accordance with any condition imposed in relation to the licence, in accordance with any Guidelines approved from time to time by the Minister and published by the Division of Environment and so as to not affect their movement and activities.

- *Planning requirements applying to turtle nesting areas - Regulation 10*

- Where any development requiring a development approval under any law is proposed in the vicinity of a turtle nesting area, the assessment of the development shall be in accordance with any guidelines relating to the protection of turtles and their nesting areas, approved from time to time by the Minister; and otherwise take account of all potential impacts on the turtles and their nesting areas.

- *Permits - Regulation 16 (1)(a)(i), (b), (c), (e), (f), (g) and (h)*

A permit is required for the following activities:

- Scientific research into turtles;
- Keeping in captivity of turtles;
- Capture and display of any marine wildlife for tourism or scientific purposes;
- The taking of any marine wildlife for the marine aquarium trade;
- Commercial diving tours and other tourism operations affecting marine wildlife and the marine habitat;
- The export of any marine wildlife or their product as provided for by CITES
- The export of any sample of marine wildlife collected during any scientific research.

- *Research methodologies - Regulation 16*

No permit shall authorise the use of methodologies of scientific research into turtles which result in the death of any member of these species.

- *Authorized tagging operations – Regulation 18*

Regulation 18 (1): applies to any activity undertaken by the Division of Environment for the purpose of any scientific study.

Regulation 18(2): Conditions for tagging operations - conditions may be imposed to tagging operations which

- Limit the right to remove tags
- Prohibit the sale of any tagged marine wildlife
- Require the reporting of any matter upon the taking or finding a tagged marine wildlife
- Require the release and reporting of any tagged marine wildlife taken or found
- Otherwise facilitate the scientific research being undertaken in connection with the tagging operation

Regulation 18 (3): The Pulenuu of any village at which a tagged animals is caught, stranded or found shall report the matter to the Division of Environment and the Fisheries Division.

(iii) By-laws [authorised under the Fisheries Act 1988, and made by the districts of Aleipata and Safata under their Marine Protected Area project]

The harvesting of any turtles and/or turtle eggs is prohibited in any area within the Safata and Aleipata Marine Protected Areas. For the Aleipata MPA, this also includes the offshore islands of Namu'a, Nu'ulua, Nu'utele and Fanuatapu which are turtle nesting areas.

2.2 OTHER MARINE TURTLE PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT MECHANISMS

(i) Local customary/traditional practices that protect/manage turtles

There are no specific traditions that protect turtles although villages can make village rules concerning the harvesting of any marine animals.

(ii) National sanctuary and local marine protected areas

At its meeting on 13 May 2002, the Samoa Cabinet approved the establishment of a national marine sanctuary in its EEZ for marine animals such as whales and dolphins, marine turtles and sharks (F.K. (02) 18). However, a management plan/programme for implementation as directed by Cabinet has not been completed yet.

(iii) Regional arrangements

There is currently no specific regional MoU or agreement that deals specifically with the protection and conservation of marine turtles in the Pacific Islands region. However, Samoa is a member of SPREP that has a regional marine turtle action plan 2008-2012. Samoa is also a member of FFA that has an action plan for turtle by-catch mitigation.

(iv) International conventions/agreements

International species-specific conventions and agreements that involve protection or management of marine turtles to which Samoa is a party are:

- The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as CMS or Bonn Convention), and
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

3. GAPS/CONFLICTS IN LEGISLATION

While existing legislation seems to adequately cover the protection and management of marine turtles in Samoa, there are, however, areas for improvement as extracted from the matrix of protection for turtles (Table 1). These include the following:

- *Protection for the breeding-size turtle population*, apart from nesting turtles: there is evidence that, for areas where harvesting is allowed, protecting the breeding-size turtle population is more beneficial than protecting immature turtles.

- *Prohibition of the use of certain fishing gear* to catch turtles: some countries have introduced prohibition of the use of certain gear (e.g. spear and nets) to catch turtles. This would result in likely lesser catches and a good means of managing any minimum/maximum size limit regulations in place.
- *Use of "turtle-friendly" fishing methods* such as circle hooks for long-line, TEDS for nets, de-hooking gear mandatory on long-line fishing vessels. Even though there are no records available of any turtle by-catch in commercial fishing such as long-lining, it is now becoming a common practise throughout the world to use "turtle friendly" fishing equipment and gear and to have available on board equipment for the safe release of any hooked turtle.
- *Minimum/maximum size limit for turtles kept in captivity*: While the Local Fisheries Regulations 1995 applies the minimum size limit (estimated size at first reproduction), there is the concern that keeping newly hatched turtles interferes with their navigational ability and that providing "easy" food while in captivity may make them loose their ability to search for food in the wild when released. There should also be consideration to prohibit "breeding-size" turtles to be kept in captivity.
- *Local sales of turtles*: While the Local Fisheries Regulations 1995 prohibits the sales of marine turtles with a carapace less than 700 mm, it does not take into account the need to have the turtle sold "whole" so that the measurement can be taken. In addition, the Marine Wildlife Protection Regulations 2008 prohibits any activity related to the commercial fishing of turtles and the taking, catching or fishing for turtles in the territorial sea or the exclusive economic zone, except when taking green or hawksbill turtles for subsistence purposes.
- *Export of turtles*: While Section 16 (1)(g) of the Marine Wildlife Protection Regulations provides for a permit for the export of any marine wildlife, or product of marine wildlife, as provided for by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Animals and Plants (CITES) 1973, there can be confusion on commercial trade as opposed to export for "home use".
- *Protection of all important turtle nesting areas*: Even though turtles that come up to nest are protected, and the taking of their eggs are prohibited, it is difficult to "legally" protect nesting areas given most (if not all) are on land that are traditionally owned. The community-based MPAs e.g. at Aleipata and Safata, are good avenues for protecting turtle nesting sites.
- *Protection of turtle foraging areas*: No work has been conducted to identify important turtle foraging areas in Samoa even though dive operators have indicated some sites as areas where turtles seem to congregate.
- *Incorporation of relevant traditional knowledge, customary marine tenure and practises*: There does not seem to be relevant customary tenure and practises relevant for incorporation.
- *Declaration of period (e.g. nesting season) when the catching of turtles is prohibited*: Even though there is provision in the Local Fisheries Regulations 1995 for the Director to declare a period or periods when fishing for hawksbill and green turtle is prohibited, none has ever occurred since that regulation came into force.
- *Research methodologies*: While Part VII, 16 of the Marine Wildlife Protection Regulations 2008 states that no permit shall authorise the use methodologies which result in the death of any member of these species, it would be necessary to include exceptions to accommodate the use of turtles legally harvested, those stranded dead, hatchlings from controlled incubation and those trapped in nests, as well as for clarification.
- *Euthanizing marine turtles*: No legislation exists to accommodate sick or injured stranded turtles that would better be euthanized.
- *Translocation of eggs*: There is currently no legislation that accommodates translocation of turtle eggs to more suitable areas to avoid turtle egg loss to tides, heat etc. This is particularly important with the increasing impacts of climate change/sea-level rise on areas used by turtles for nesting.
- *Tagged turtles*: The current legislation only covers tagging activities undertaken by the Division of Environment. SPREP is coordinating the regional turtle tagging programme and given the migratory nature of these animals, turtles tagged elsewhere and by other local projects agencies should be accommodated.
- *Marine sanctuary*: When Cabinet confirmed the establishment of a marine sanctuary in Samoa's EEZ for marine animals such as whales, dolphins, turtles and sharks, it appointed the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to work together with other relevant Government Ministries, private sector and NGOs to develop a programme to action the initiative.

- *Enforcement:* Due to limited resources (manpower and funding) and inadequate collaboration among relevant Government agencies, enforcement of legislation is ineffective and difficult to conduct particularly in communities.

4. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are the major recommendations for consideration for incorporating into current legislation to improve marine turtle protection in Samoa as well as clarify some. Recommendations on certain activities not dealing with legislation are also included:

- *Protection of the breeding-size turtle population* by incorporating in the current Local Fisheries Regulations maximum size limits to exclude catching of the large mature and breeding turtles.
- *Introduction of a means to manage minimum/maximum size limit* regulations by incorporating the prohibition of the use of certain fishing gear to catch turtles, e.g. spear and net in Local Fisheries Regulations.
- *Prohibition of the "local" sales of turtles* by amending the relevant regulation in the Local Fisheries Regulations 1995 that refers to the sales of marine turtles with a carapace less than 700 mm.
- *Requirement for a permit to export* turtles, turtle meat or any part thereof for any purpose. This can be done by inserting a new part to this effect under Section 16 (1) of the Marine Wildlife Protection Regulations 2008.
- While it is difficult to make the use of e.g. circle hooks mandatory at this stage for long-lining, the *Use of "turtle-friendly"* devices such as TEDS for purse seine nets and availability of turtle de-hooking gear on long-line fishing vessels be mandatory and accommodated in the Local Fisheries Regulations.
- *Protection of turtle hatchlings and breeding-size turtles from been kept in captivity* by incorporating a minimum and maximum size limits in current legislation, especially in the Marine Wildlife Protection Regulations where it deals with turtles in captivity. The minimum size limit applies to the size when the species enters foraging grounds from the "lost years" and the maximum size limit is the size at first sexual maturity.
- Most of the turtle nesting in Samoa occurs on traditionally owned land and thus difficult to legally render *protection to these turtle nesting areas*, unless agreed to by those land owners. However, protection of these turtle nesting areas can be done via community projects and recognized legally under by-laws agreed to by communities/land-owners concerned. In addition, effort can be made to directly negotiate with traditional land owners for the designation of turtle nesting areas as protected areas. This aspect can be accommodated under the Marine Wildlife Protection Regulations.
- *To ensure protection of breeding turtles, a closed season* be incorporated into current Local Fisheries Regulations rather than the current provision of declaring of a period (e.g. nesting season) when the catching of turtles is prohibited. Nesting surveys have confirmed the peak turtle nesting season in Samoa.
- Addition of a provision under the Marine Wildlife Protection Regulations incorporating the following exceptions concerning research methodologies and use of dead turtles for research purpose:
 - Parts and samples from turtles legally harvested or dead stranded to be used for research purposes;
 - Hatchlings resulting from incubation under controlled conditions can be sacrificed for gonad histology etc under an approved project or research;
 - Hatchlings trapped in nests that would otherwise die may also be sacrificed for research into sex ratio etc.
- Addition of a provision in the Marine Wildlife Regulations allowing *euthanizing of marine turtles* when determined by a veterinarian or other suitably qualified biologist that a sick or an injured stranded turtle should be euthanized and necropsied to determine the cause of the illness/disease or whatever is impact in the turtle internally.
- Addition of provisions under the Marine Wildlife Regulations to allow for the *translocation of eggs* to suitable areas by a suitably qualified biologist or trained personnel, upon approval, if the nest is on a high risk area, and the moving of eggs for incubation under controlled conditions requiring a permit/approval.

- Addition of a provision under the Marine Wildlife Protection Regulations to cover any *tagged turtle*, whether tagged outside of Samoa and under any projects and by any other agencies whether under a regional or national programmer/project.
- *Marine sanctuary management plan and regulations*: The development of the sanctuary management plan, including recommended regulations, has been initiated. Completion and finalization of this first step in collaboration with relevant agencies is a priority.
- *Enforcement*: limited resources (manpower and funding) makes enforcement of legislation very limited and difficult. One way of improving enforcement is by empowering pulenuu/or communities. Villages conduct enforcement through untitled men carrying out the decisions of the village council. By-laws can make this process more formal and a certainty and makes it easier to gain support from external enforcement agencies. A provision should be added under the Environment Act (currently in review) to accommodate the making of by-laws to this effect and for other related matters.
- *Local consumption of marine turtles to refine regulations*: In order to further refine legislation dealing with marine turtles, it is highly recommended for a combined effort by the Fisheries Division (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries) and the Division of Environment and Conservation (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment) to conduct proper detail surveys to assess the level of turtle consumption throughout the country. The assessment should include documentation of customs that involve turtle consumption. The assessment would determine whether it would be necessary to go into a permitting system when harvesting marine turtles for traditional use etc.

Table 1: Matrix of areas covered concerning marine turtle protection in current legislation of Samoa.

LEGISLATION		Reference/Comment
HARVEST / DIRECT TAKE		
• Minimum size limit	√	LFR ⁵ 1995, Regulation 7(1)
• Maximum size limit		
• No egg taking/disturbing	√	LFR 1995, Regulation 7(2); MWPR 2008: Regulation 8(2)(g) and (h)
• No taking of Nesting Turtle	√	MWPR ⁶ 2008: Regulation 8(2)(e) and (f)
• No taking from within management area	√	AMPAB ⁷ 2008?: By-law 5 SMPABL ⁸ 2008?: By-law 5
• Taking for traditional purposes only (permit required?)	√	MWPR 2008, Regulation 8(1)(a)
• No taking for commercial purposes	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 8(3)
• Permit to taking for research/educational purposes	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 16(1)(a)(ii)
• No taking at all		
• Quota/limited number		
• No taking during nesting (closed) season	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 2(e)
• No taking when a period or periods are declared when fishing is prohibited	√	LFR 1995, Regulation 4
• Moratorium		
• Taking not allowed in certain zones e.g. territorial seas, EEZs,???? MPAs	√	MWPR 2008: AMPAB 2008?: By-law 5 SMPABL 2008: By-law 5
FISHING GEAR (specifically for catching turtles)		
• Spearing not allowed		
• Net not allowed		
TAGGED TURTLE		
• Right to remove tags	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 18 (2)(a)
• Prohibit the sale of any tagged marine wildlife	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 18 (2)(b)
• Release when caught	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 18 (2)(c)
• Report with particulars to authorities when caught/seen	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 18 (2)(d)
INDIRECT TAKE (BY-CATCH)		
• Release when accidentally caught and is alive	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 8 (2)(b)
• Reporting to relevant authorities	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 7 (2)
• Use of turtle friendly gear (TEDs, circle hooks etc)		
• De-hooking gear mandatory on long-line fishing vessels		
KEEPING TURTLES IN CAPTIVITY		
• Not allowed at all		
• Not allowed except through a permit (for research, educational, income generating, hobby, rehabilitation), with guidelines	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 8 (2)(d); MWPR 2008: Regulation 16 (1)(b)
• Minimum/maximum size of a turtle allowed to be kept	√	LFR 1995, Regulation 7(1)
• Maximum size of a turtle allowed to be kept		
TOURISM-RELATED ACTIVITIES		
• In the wild-Permit required (nesting and foraging)	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 9(1) MWPR 2008: Regulation 16 (1)(f)
• Guidelines for best practice available	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 9 (1)(b)
• Turtle kept in captivity requiring permit	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 16 (1)(b) and (c)
• Guidelines available and enforced		
• Head-start requiring permit with conditions	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 16 (1)(b)
TRADE		
• Local sale of turtles prohibited	√	Minimum size limit: LFR 1995, Regulation 7(1) MWPR 2008: Regulation 8 (1)(a)
• Export of turtles prohibited unless through a permit, e.g. CITES	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 16 (1)(g)
• Local sale of any products derived from turtles prohibited	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 8 (1)(a)
• Export of any products derived from turtles prohibited	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 8(2)(k)
HABITAT PROTECTION		
• Nesting beaches protected	p	
• Foraging grounds protected		

⁵ Local Fisheries Regulations⁶ Marine Wildlife Protection Regulations⁷ Aleipata Marine Protected Area By-law⁸ Safata Marine Protected Area By-law

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• Sanctuary for turtles	√	Cabinet Decision F.K. (02) 18
• Nesting beaches considered in coastal development plans and EIAs	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 10
RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES		
• Only non-lethal research methodologies allowed	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 16
Exceptions:		
• Parts and samples from turtles legally harvested or dead stranded can be used for research		
• Hatchlings resulting from incubation under controlled conditions can be sacrificed for gonad histology etc under an approved project or research		
• Hatchlings trapped in nests that would otherwise die may also be sacrificed for research into sex ratio etc		
EUTHANIZING MARINE TURTLES		
• Veterinarians or other suitably qualified biologists shall determine if a sick or an injured stranded turtle should be euthanased and necropsied to determine the cause of the illness/disease or whatever is impact in the turtle internally		
TRANSLOCATION OF TURTLE EGGS		
• Turtle eggs can be translocated to suitable areas by suitably qualified biologist or trained personnel, upon approval, if the nest is on a high risk area		
• Moving of eggs for incubation under controlled conditions requires permit/approval		
TAGGED TURTLES		
• Limit the right to remove tags	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 18 (2)(a)
• Prohibit the sale of any tagged turtle	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 18 (2)(b)
• Require the reporting of any matter upon the taking or finding a tagged turtle	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 18 (2)(c)
• Require the release and reporting of any tagged turtle	√	MWPR 2008: Regulation 18 (2)(d)
• Application of all above to tagging activities done elsewhere and by other agencies etc		
COMMUNITY/CUSTOMARY		
• Incorporates relevant traditional knowledge, customary marine tenure and practices		
• Effective at the community level, using local community members	p	
ENFORCEMENT		
• Enforcement provisions		
• Fine provisions	√	
AGREEMENT AFFILIATIONS		
• Party to CITES	√	
• Party to CMS	√	
• Signatory to MoU for the conservation of marine turtles in the Pacific Islands region (hopefully in the next few years!!)		