

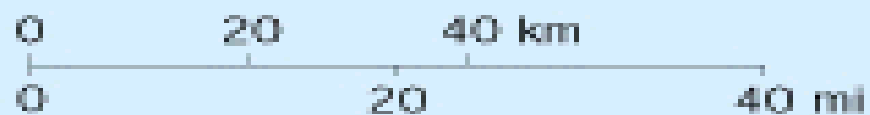


TOKELAU FISHERIES POLICY: Conservation for Food Security and Economic Benefits



Outline

- Introduction/Background
- Tokelau Fisheries Policy
 - – Inshore Fisheries
 - – Offshore Fisheries/EEZ Management



Atafu

South Pacific Ocean

Nukunonu



Fakaofu




Introduction

- ▶ Tokelau is a non-governing territory
- ▶ Situated between 171° and 173° W longitude and 8° and 10° S latitude,
- ▶ Midway between Hawaii and New Zealand & lie about 500 km (311 miles) north of Samoa.
- ▶ Consists of 3 atolls with total land area 12.2 sq km
- ▶ Nukunonu, biggest atoll 4.7 sq km
- ▶ Fakaofu 4.0 sq km and Atafu 3.5 sq km
- ▶ Average mean annual temperature of 28 degrees C and annual rainfall of 290 cm.
- ▶ Atoll consists of ribbons of coral motu (islets), 90 ft to 6km long and up to 200 meters wide, enclosing a broad lagoon

Nukunonu Atoll



Introduction continued.....

- ▶ The highest point 5m above sea level
 - ▶ In water area, the three atolls include 165 sq km of enclosed lagoons and 319,452 sq km of territorial sea.
 - ▶ Tokelau's population peaked in the mid 1960s when it reached 1950 people
 - ▶ On the decline ever since
 - ▶ The recent 2012 accounted for just over 1400 people.
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170°W



9°S

· Atafu

Nukunono ·

· Fakaofu

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Purpose

- ▶ Guide the management of Tokelau's fisheries to achieve the following goals:
- ▶ Consistent with the Vision and Goals in the Tokelau National Strategic Plan (TNSP), and builds on the Key Objectives and Strategies for Fisheries under Policy Outcome Area 4 of the TNSP.



Tokelau Fisheries Policy




Key terms

- ▶ Fisheries resources – living marine resources of the lagoon, reef and open sea (including fish, shellfish, seaweed, turtles, marine mammals)
- ▶ Inshore fisheries – fisheries resources in the lagoons, reefs, and coastal [open] sea out to the 12 nm
- ▶ Offshore fisheries – fisheries resources in the Tokelau Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

Constitutional Context

- ▶ Powers to self-regulate have been delegated to the three village councils (Taupulega), who in turn delegated authority to the National Fono (Tokelau parliament) to govern and manage on national matters.
- ▶ Tokelau has authority to manage its inshore fisheries
- ▶ Not recognised, under international law, as a state to enter into binding international treaties such as UNCLOS.
- ▶ New Zealand enters these treaties on Tokelau's behalf.
- ▶ New Zealand is accountable for meeting the obligations under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (WCPFC) to conserve and manage fisheries in Tokelau's EEZ.

Principles guiding fisheries policy

- ▶ Ecologically sustainable use of fisheries
 - ▶ Maintain and support customary decision-making
 - ▶ Equitable distribution of benefits
 - ▶ Create wealth for Tokelau
 - ▶ Protect the interests of future generations
 - ▶ Accountable governance and efficient management
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Inshore Fisheries

Goal

- ▶ Inshore fisheries are managed by Taupulega
- ▶ Reefs and coastal pelagic species, are:
 - ▶ sustainably managed,
 - ▶ provide for the ongoing food security and nutritional health of the community
 - ▶ sustains the ecological integrity of the reef, avoids local depletion, and protects biodiversity
 - ▶ managed by each island

Policy settings

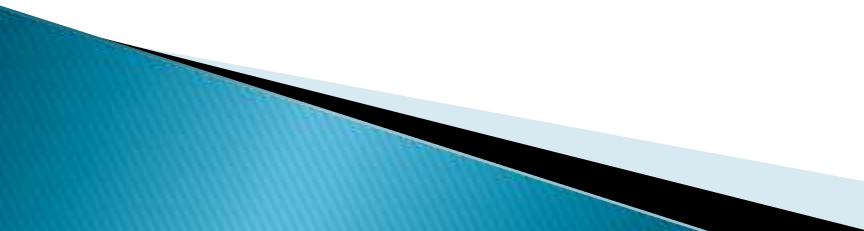
- ▶ Decision-making for inshore fisheries
- ▶ Buffer zone
- ▶ Commercial fishing of inshore fisheries
- ▶ Fisheries management measures
- ▶ Biosecurity threats and adverse effects of land-based activities on coastal ecosystems
- ▶ Ongoing costs of inshore fisheries management will be funded from appropriations determined by the National Fonofono.

Offshore fisheries

Goal

- ▶ Offshore fisheries are managed by Tokelau, in partnership with New Zealand, to maximise the wealth to Tokelau.
- ▶ Offshore fisheries are:
 - managed, in partnership with New Zealand and in cooperation with other Pacific Island countries to:
 - subject to well-specified, long-term rights which can be confidently leased but not sold/alienated.

Policy settings

- ▶ Generate income for Tokelau.
 - ▶ WCP tuna fisheries, working in partnership with NZ
 - ▶ Collaborate with other Pacific Island states
 - ▶ To maximise income
 - ▶ Managing EEZ fisheries
 - ▶ Net income generated from EEZ fisheries will be invested in Tokelau International Trust Fund
 - ▶ Licensing fees has been increased to provide greater return to Tokelau.
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Policy setting continued.....

- ▶ License fee will be set to cover the cost of issuing a vessel license (including any costs of ensuring the vessel and master are compliant with registry requirements)
 - ▶ Contracts for access rights may be issued for periods up to 10 years, and subject to specific terms and conditions.
 - ▶ Regulation-making for EEZ fisheries will be carried out by New Zealand in accordance with the Tokelau Fisheries Policy and in consultation with Tokelau.
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