

Niue

Employment

Available information on fisheries-related employment includes:

- SPC (1999) states that of the population aged 15 years and older, 49% are in the paid labor force and 22% are in the unpaid labor force. Of the 693 with paid jobs, 28 were classified as “skilled agricultural and fishery workers.”
- In June 2001, Niue had 62 registered boats and about 200 canoes. This suggests there was a minimum of at least 262 people who fish, either commercially or for subsistence, from boats, plus those that dive and fish/gather from shore (B. Pasisi, pers. com., June 2001).
- Dalzell et al. (1993), citing the 1989 agriculture census which surveyed 522 households, indicate that 61% of the households performed some form of fishing activity. Of the 2,934 fishing trips made in September 1989, 39% were from shore, 38% from canoes, 16% from outboard skiffs, with the remainder being diving trips and trips on the government catamaran.
- Dalzell et al. (1993) state that, in July 1990, “only four men on Niue could be truly regarded as full-time fishermen. Two or three other individuals are serious part-time fishermen.”

Volumes and Values of Fish Harvests

Because Niue’s fisheries are not well documented in terms of catch, fishing days, and general fishing activity (Anonymous 2001b), what information that does exist on harvest levels for the coastal fisheries is scattered through several documents, including:

- The 1988–1992 fisheries development plan estimates the fishery production to be between 20 and 50 mt per year.
- McCoy (1990) estimates the total production to be 100–150 mt, about 50% from the reef and 50% from “beyond the reef.”
- Dalzell et al. (1993), using information from an SPC nutrition survey carried out on Niue in 1978, estimate the total catch to be about 115 mt per year, with an additional 4.9 mt per

year exported to New Zealand during periods of direct air connections.

- Dalzell et al. (1996), using reference material from 1990, estimate that the annual production from the subsistence fisheries was 103 mt worth US\$471,504 (or about NZ\$7.64 per kg), and the production from the commercial fisheries was 12 mt worth US\$54,720.
- The Niue Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries uses the figure of 120 mt as the production from all Niue fisheries (B. Pasisi, pers. com. June 2001).
- During the work to compile the national accounts, a survey of 20 households (3.6% of all households on Niue) was carried out in June 2000. The results of the survey indicated that the annual catch from the subsistence fisheries was about 194 mt, worth NZ\$315,640.

Available information on the offshore fisheries production consists of:

- The SPC Catch and Effort Logsheet Database shows that in 1999 the offshore catch by foreign-based vessels was 2 mt.
- There are no locally-based offshore fishing vessels in Niue.
- Anonymous (2001b) states that no foreign fishing vessels are currently operating in the Niue zone under bilateral licensing arrangements.
- In 15 years of licensing US purse seiners under the multilateral treaty, there has only been one successful set in Niue waters: 27.2 mt of tuna taken in late 1998 (Leolahi 2000).

Some comments should be made on the valuation of the subsistence catch:

- Dalzell et al. (1993) use a value of NZ\$8.0 per kg. This was apparently an average market price for fish on Niue during the survey work in June 1990. The Dalzell et al. (1996) valuation of subsistence fisheries relied on this June 1990 price information.
- Lewington (2000) follows national accounting conventions and values subsistence production based on a price gathered from the local market which is subsequently discounted by 20–30%, being an allowance for getting the product to market. The adjusted prices per kg used in Lewington (2000) are:

<i>wahou</i>	–	NZ\$7.00
skipjack/tuna	–	NZ\$6.00
<i>bonita</i>	–	NZ\$5.00
other ocean fish	–	NZ\$1.20
reef fish (including flyingfish, kaloama)		NZ\$1.20

In summary, by selectively using the above information and the knowledge of current developments, a crude approximation of the Niue annual fisheries production in recent years is presented below:

Table A2.33: Estimated Annual Fisheries Production of Niue, late 1990s

Fishing Sector	Volume (mt)	Value (NZ\$)
Coastal Subsistence	194	315,640
Coastal Commercial	12	96,000
Offshore Locally-based	0	0
Offshore Foreign-based	2	8,000
Total	208	419,640

mt = metric ton; NZ\$ = New Zealand dollar.

Fishery Exports and Imports

There is currently no commercial export of fishery products from Niue. The only fishery exports are those carried by traveling Niueans as baggage (B. Pasisi, pers. com, June 2001). Dalzell et al. (1993) estimate that 5 mt of fish and 2 mt of crabs were exported annually during periods when there was direct air service to New Zealand.

Anonymous (2001b) states that annual imports of fishery products are about 20 mt.

Access Fees

Anonymous (2001b) states that no foreign fishing vessels are currently operating in Niue under bilateral licensing arrangements.

In 1999, under the US multilateral treaty, Niue received US\$151,793.

Levels of Marine Resource Consumption

Dalzell et al. (1993) estimate per capita fish consumption using a 1987 SPC nutrition study. It is estimated that the annual per capita consumption is 40.8 kg food weight, or about 49.0 kg whole fish weight.

Considering (i) the Niue population of 1,900 people in 2000 (Ryan and Stepanoff 2000); (ii) the subsistence fisheries production of 194 mt; (iii) the commercial fisheries production of 12 mt; and (iv) imports of 20 mt, the annual per capita consumption of fishery products on Niue appears to be about 118.9 kg.

Exchange Rates

New Zealand dollar (NZ\$) to the US dollar (US\$) as per ADB average-of-period rate:

1995	–	1.5239
1996	–	1.4549
1997	–	1.5124
1998	–	1.8683
1999	–	1.8896
2000	–	2.2012

