

## Press Release

### Fisheries creel survey at Abemama

The survey began from 21<sup>st</sup> February till 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018 in which two staff, namely Tekarimwi Bitaa and Rateiti Vaimalie from Research Unit of the Coastal Fisheries Division (CFD) of MFMRD, went to Abemama to collect information on reef and lagoon fish from fishermen, sampling of bonefish for biological sampling and also for training of new project recruit (Fisheries Extension Assistant) on creel surveys to complement the CFD ongoing monitoring surveys.

Creel survey was carried out for the purpose of documenting demographic and fishing behavior, catch size and weight, effort (fishing time spent and gears used) and fisher's perception on status of marine resource.

The team managed to carry out 18 surveys at different villages such as Kabangaki, Baretoa, Tekatirirake and Tabiang in which most of the fishermen (lead fishers) interviewed were using gillnet to catch fish like bonefish, trevallies, parrotfish, emperorfish, snapper, mullet and surgeonfish. Other fishing methods such as deep bottom fish and trolling are also practiced on the island. It was also found from exchanges of most fishermen that there is a decline in finfish resources compared to previous years (5 to 10 years).

Biological sampling of bonefish was also carried out for 81 bonefish for determining fish maturity stage and age in which otolith and fin samples extracted from bonefish to be sent to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) for laboratory analysis.



The team also managed to train a Fisheries Extension Assistant (FEA) and a Fisheries Assistant (FA) on creel survey with the idea that the survey could be continuously carried out by both FEA and FA as part of their data collection activity. These information would be analysed by the Research Unit of CFD in technical reports which will assist policy makers at both the island level and Government in making informed decisions, to manage the coastal fisheries resources.

Data collected are treated as baseline data for Abemama Island for monitoring purposes on status of marine resource. The creel survey is a component of the marine fisheries research and monitoring program which is currently supported by the Food Security (LDCF) project whose funding came from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) executed through UNDP and managed by Environment and Conservation Division (ECD) of MELAD. The same exercise had been undertaken at Nonouti island in late 2017 and Maiana will be the last island to be visited this May under this project.

Results and recommendations of these reports will be presented later to the island council as basis of an island coastal zone strategic plan, from which community based management plans could be derived.

### **Karaoaki te kakae i aon Ika n aon ora n te abamakoro ae Abemama**

Anaakin rongorongo ma irouia taan akawa i aon ika n aon ora bon teuana mai ibuakon ana mwakuri te Botaki n Akawa n mwangana are e tabe ma kakae ao tutuo i aon marin taari, are e karaoaki i nanon kawarakin te abamakoro ae Abemama man 21 n Beberuare nakon 9 Maati 2018 i aan te karikirake are e tabe ma te Tania n Maiu ibukin kaitaraan Bibitakin kanoan bong ke n ataaki n arana ae te LDCF Food Security project.

E boboto te kakae aio i aon rikoan rongorongo ma irouia taan akawa n te tai are a oki iai n akawa n aron aikai; aron akawaia, taabo ake a akawa iai, tauan mwaitin ao abwakin konaia, te kabanemwane i aon bwaai ake a kabonganai, mwaitin konaia ae e kona n reke n katoa akawaia ao ai bon rikoan aia rongorongo ke aia taratara i aon aron maiuraoin marin taari n taai aikai ni kabotauaki ma 5 ke 10 te ririki n nako.

N tain rikoan rongorongo ao bon 18 mwaitin te tai ae e karaoia te tiim ni butimwaei okiia taan akawa ao n karekei ana rongorongo riki ma irouia taan akawa man kaawa aika Kabangaki, Baretoa, Tekatirirake ao Tabiang. Angiin te kokona ae e nooraki irouia taan akawa bon te ikari, te rereba, te ikamaawa, te tabou (te rou), te ikanibong, te aua, te amori, te maebo ao a mwaiti riki. E kuneaki naba bwa angia taan akawa a kabongana te karaun (gillnetting) ao tabeman a

kabongana te akawa ae te katokitoki (deep bottom fishing) ao te katiki (trolling) moararariki ibukin te ika ni marawa. E kuneaiki naba bwa n aia rongorongō taan akawa aikai ao angiiina a kaotia ae iai te kerikaaki nakon marin taari moararariki i aon te ika n aon ora ike a kunea bwa e a rang n maan aia tai n akawa ao e a tibwa reke konaia ae mwaiti.

E reke naba ana tai te tiim n karaoa te mwakuri n kakae i aon anaakin bwaai aika a mena i atuun te ika aika a aranaki bwa 'otolith' n ikotaki ma mwakoron ingin te ika (fin) ibukin kakaeana ana ririki n maiu te ika ike a na kanakoaki nakon te rabwata ae te Secretariat of the Pacific Community ibukin karaoan te mwakuri n kakae i aoia.

E karaoaki naba te angareirei nakon te tia mwakuri are e kateirakeaki iaan te karikirake ae te Tania ni Maiu (Food Security project) n ikotaki ma te tia Akawa (Fisheries Assistant-FA) i karaon te mwakuri n kakae aei (creel survey). Te kantainga ikai bwa e na kona te tia Akawa aio (FA) n reitaanako te mwakuri aei i aon te abamwakaro ae Abemama.

Rikoan rongorongō aikai a bon rang n kakawaki ao n ibuobuoki bwa a na riki bwa waare n kabootau ibukin waaki n kakae ake a na manga karaoaki n ririki aika a na roko n kaineti ma kawakinan marin taari. Tiaki ti ngaia ma a bon rang n kakawaki naba ibukin karaoan oin tua ke taian bye-law, ibukin tikonan marin te aba moararariki ma i taari are e na kainanoi te abamakoro ao te Tautaeka. E na kona naba n ibuobuoki ibukin kawenean kainibaire ibukia te botanaomata ake a na irekereke ma aron aia mwakuri n boutoka ibukin kateimatoan kaubwaira ibukin te roro teuana ma teuana ao bwa a na kona n kaitarai kanganga ma bibitakin kanoan boong.

E mwanenaki te mwananga ao te kakae aio man te Global Environment Facility (GEF) ao n boutokaaki mwakuriana man te United Nations Development Program (UNDP) rinanon te karikirake ae te Tania ni Maeu n Kaitarai Bibitakin Kanoan Bong ke te LDCF Food Security Project are e barongaaki waakinana man te MELAD n mwananga ae Aobitin Tararuan te Otabwanin. Aio bon te kauoua n mwananga ke n kakae i aon abamakoro ake a tia n taaketenaki i aan te karikirake aei ma i mwiin moan kawaran Nonouti i nanon te ririki ae nako i aan naba te karikirake aio. Te kantaninga bwa e na manga kawaraki te abamakoro ae Maiana i nanon banen Meei ke Tuun n te ririki aio.



**For further information Contact**

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