THE JOURNEY OF FISHERIES WARDENS
WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON OR VESSEL IN YOUR SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA (SMA)

Approach the person or vessel.

Hi there! My name’s Sio!

And mine’s Amanda.

Approach

Introduce yourself.

I don’t think it’s authorized to fish in our SMA.

We are both committee members for this SMA.

Explain the purpose of your intervention.

Come with me, we’ll check!

Our role is to ensure there are no illegal fishing activities.

Hmm. Weird... I don’t know this boat.
Identify the person or vessel.

My name's Tevita.

Verify if they are registered to fish in the SMA.

This guy is not recorded in our registry.

Determine if they were fishing.

Could you please tell us what you are doing here today?

If the person/vessel was not fishing

I'm just travelling to meet my aunty Mele.

I see no fish... and no fishing gear.

Everything is good to go.

Let them go.

If the person/vessel was fishing without being registered

We're having a birthday celebration tonight at home. I thought I'd go diving here to find lobsters.

We need to do a boat inspection. Is that ok with you?

Request to carry out an inspection.

I see...
2 HOW TO CARRY OUT AN INSPECTION

- Request an inspection

**If the fisher agrees...**

*Ok, go ahead with your inspection, but make it quick.*

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Thanks

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*...you can proceed to the inspection.*

**If you are concerned with your safety...**

*What? You want to inspect MY boat? Good luck with that!*

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*...abort and immediately contact the Ministry of Fisheries and Tonga Police.*

Contact numbers on last page.

**If the fisher disagrees...**

*I don't have time for an inspection. Leave me alone!*  

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*We'll leave you, but will report this situation.*

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*...leave and report immediately to your compliance officer. In this situation, a warrant must be issued for the search.*

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*Ok, go ahead with your inspection, but make it quick.*
If no offence was committed...

Ok. This fisher is registered, with a nice catch that follows the rules!

Everything is good to go! Thanks for your cooperation.

...fill in as much detail as possible on the SMA Incident Form. Report at next committee meeting.

If you detect one or more offences...

First, you are fishing without authorisation. Plus, these lobsters are definitely too small.

We'll have to confiscate them.

...collect the evidence.
How to Collect Evidence During the Inspection

Collect if illegal activity

Carefully collect, identify and tag the illegal catch...

...and any items used in the offence.

Only confiscate items if you have reasonable grounds that an offence has been committed.

Why are you taking my catch? You just want them for you to eat! Pfft...

Our goal is for everyone to fish smart and respect the rules...

No way we will eat these lobsters.

Here in this SMA, we have established rules that allow small fish to grow and reproduce before being caught, and there is a national regulation protecting lobsters.

...if not, as fisheries wardens, we seize the evidence.
Report

Fill in the SMA Incident Form and make sure you complete the Record of Seizure and Seizure Receipt sections. Use a notebook if forms are not available.

Take photos of the illegal catch or property, if possible.

Ask the fisher to sign the Record of Seizure and Seizure Receipt sections, then sign it yourself.

Detach the Seizure Receipt from the Incident Form and give it to the fisher as their record of the property that has been seized.

Hi Tupu! Here are the undersized lobsters that we collected yesterday. Could you please store them?

Hand over the seized catch or property to the Ministry of Fisheries or Tonga Police as soon as possible.

Last Monday, at 8:00 in the morning, Sione and I conducted a boat inspection near the reef...

Report what happened at the next community gathering.

Smile little lobsters!

Could you please sign here? This is the record of seizure.

Ok, and here's your receipt.
**Contact Numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOF Office Numbers</th>
<th>Tonga Police Head Office Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tongatapu</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Fisheries, Nuku’alofa 740 1200 / 740 1201</td>
<td>Central Police Station, Nuku’alofa 740 1630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vava’u</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Fisheries, Vava’u 70399/ 70892</td>
<td>Neiafu Police Station, Neiafu 70233</td>
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<td><strong>Ha’apai</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Fisheries, Ha’apai 60399</td>
<td>Ha’apai Police Station, Pangai 60222</td>
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<td><strong>‘Eua</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food 50122</td>
<td>‘Eua Police Station, ‘Ohonua 50112</td>
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Office hours 8:30-4:40pm