

GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT!

The goal of this Green Snail and Trochus Protection Campaign is to educate the public about these new possible commercial resources and most importantly to encourage a refrain from fishing and harvesting these species until they can grow to a sustainable abundance.

A total of 10,000-20,000 juvenile green snail and trochus bred in the Hatchery in Sopo, have been successfully transplanted to the inshore reefs of Tongatapu.

Thousands of hatchery bred juvenile green snail and trochus have also been introduced to the outer islands, such as Vava'u, Ha'apai, 'Eua and Niuatoputapu every year since 1998.



One of the major objectives of this program is to transplant green snail and trochus as a commercially viable species for the people of the Kingdom of Tonga.

However at present green snail and trochus are fragile resources not ready of harvesting just yet.

Once the species become sustainable the shells can be used for producing handicrafts, textile accessories and souvenirs to sell in the local community as well as exports to Europe, Japan and other parts of Asia.

Most of the neighbouring countries in the South Pacific are currently exporting crafts made from green snail and trochus.

In approximately 10 years time the population of these two species would have grown to abundance to be open to the public for fishing and harvesting.



Ministry of Fisheries

Telephone: 21399, 27799

Fax: 23891

P. O. Box 871

Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga

Ministry of Fisheries

Conservation and Management of Marine Resources

Green Snail & Trochus



Green Snail & Trochus Protection Campaign

Green Snail & Trochus

Introduction

Beginning in 1991, the Ministry of Fisheries began a comprehensive Aquaculture Research and Development Program to introduce green snail and trochus with the primary goal of creating new commercial opportunities for the citizens of the Kingdom of Tonga.

The government of Tonga made a request for technical assistance to the government of Japan to support this program.

As a result the Aquaculture Research and Development program was carried out in co-operation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Over a span of five years, 1991-1995, the Ministry of Fisheries successfully researched, bred and transplanted green snail and trochus.

Trochus was transplanted from Fiji in 1993 and green snail was transplanted from Vanuatu in 1994 and Japan in 1995.

On 30 May 1994, the Trochus Releasing Ceremony was conducted in the presence of HRH Prince 'Ulukalala Lavaka Ata.



It is very significant to distinguish these two species from the local species.

They are identified on the following pages.

Green Snail from Vanuatu and Japan



Shell colour—green/brown with white spot
Shell surface—smooth
Operculum—white/smooth
Shell height—20cm
Habitat—1~20m

Local Species

Silver Mouth Turban

Shell colour—green and brown
Shell surface—rough
Operculum—brown/rough feel
Shell height—9cm
Habitat—0~15m



Crassus Turban

Shell colour—green and brown
Shell surface—slightly rough
Operculum—brown/rough feel
Shell height—10cm
Habitat—shallow

Rough Turban

Shell colour—green and brown
Shell surface—rough
Operculum—white/smooth
Shell height—8cm
Habitat—shallow



Trochus from Fiji



Shell colour—white spot with red
Shell thickness—thick
Shell diameter—15cm
Habitat—top of the reef~15m

Local Species



Pyramid Top

Shell colour—green brown
Shell thickness—thin
Shell diameter—10cm
Habitat—top of the reef~10m



Ministry of Fisheries

Telephone: 21399, 27799

Fax: 23891