

# Over 150 Fishermen Attend Safety Training

*Martha T'aumata*

Safety on the fishing vessels was the focus of a training for fishermen over the last 3 weeks in which 156 fishermen participated. Yesterday the participants were presented certificates in a special ceremony at the office of the Fisheries Division.

The ceremony was addressed by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Le Mamea Ropati Mualia. Le Mamea stressed

the importance of the fishing industry in Samoa's economy. However Le Mamea said that the industry has very serious safety issues which are the big number of people who have lost their lives at sea while out fishing and the high incidence of damages to the boats and the equipment on board the boat.

Le Mamea cited the causes of these as the lack of knowledge of the fishermen, not observing the safety rules

and that the fishing boat is not sturdy. Le Mamea also said that some fishermen have been found to be taking drugs while out fishing.

The fishermen were taught to use equipment to make contact during emergency, not to venture out too far in the open seas and how to check the engine and other equipment on the boat. The training was provided by the National University of Samoa and was funded by the FAO.



*TRAINED : A couple of your fishermen receiving certificates after 3 weeks of safety training*

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