PUBLIC NOTICE

PROTECTION OF MARINE TURTLES IN SAMOA

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment ("the MNRE") wishes to advise the general public of the following:

1. Marine turtles in Samoa are conserved, protected and managed under the Marine Wildlife Protection Regulations 2009 ("the Regulations") administered by the MNRE.

2. In accordance with these regulations, it is an offence if any person:
   a. undertakes any activity related to the commercial fishing of turtles;
   b. takes, catches or fishes for turtles in the territorial sea or EEZ;
   c. fishes for or deliberately takes any marine turtles;
   d. fails to release any turtle which is accidentally caught or taken;
   e. fails to report the accidental capture of a turtle to the Division of Environment and Conservation of the MNRE;
   f. unlawfully keeps a turtle in captivity;
   g. takes a female turtle migrating to egg laying grounds;
   h. takes a nesting female turtle;
   i. interferes with or disturbs any turtle nest or eggs;
   j. takes or has in possession any turtle eggs;
   k. sells or purchases any turtle, including their eggs, shells or products; or
   l. imports or exports any turtle, including their shell or products.

3. If any person commits any of the above offences, that person will pay a fine not exceeding $5,000 Tala.
4. It is **not** an offence if the turtle caught or taken is for:-

   a. subsistence purposes/consumption (i.e. green or hawksbill turtle);
   b. traditional purposes; or
   c. taken for scientific purposes related to conservation, health or welfare of that turtle under requirements of the *Regulations*.

5. It is a must for any person who captures, injures or kills by accident a marine turtle in a fishing activity, to report the incident to the Division of Environment and Conservation of the MNRE. The Sui o le Nuu/Mālo (or Sui Tamaitai o le Nuu) is also tasked with the responsibility to report into the MNRE any turtle that is killed or held in captivity (other than a green or hawksbill turtle taken for consumption or for traditional purposes).

6. Let us work together to conserve, protect and manage these critically endangered marine species, for the health and sustainability of our marine environment and the ecosystem services it provides for our people.

Yours faithfully,

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Ulu Bismarck Crawley  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**