

5TH WESTERN PACIFIC TUNA TAGGING CRUISE 2019

The National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) in collaboration with the Pacific Community (SPC) Oceanic Division participated in the 5th Western Pacific Tuna Tagging Cruise to collect critical information for the assessment of tuna species. The tuna tagging cruise began in July from Solomon Island port and entered FSM port in the month of September 2019. NORMA fisheries observer Athanasio Emaengilpiy participated on a 24 day tagging cruise. Over 10,000 yellowfin and skipjack tuna have been tagged since the beginning of the tagging cruise.

The tuna tagging research is to obtain information on the growth, movements, natural mortality and fishing mortality of the tuna. Tuna tagging involves the capture, tag and release of large numbers of tuna with numbered plastic dart tags, and the documentation (time, location, fishing method, fish size) of subsequent recaptures of these fish by the various types of fisheries across the region. Tagging is carried out mainly using the pole-and-line fishing method, in which fish are caught, tagged and released in a matter of seconds.



FM Fishery Observer
Athanasio Emaengilpiy



Four types of tag are used by SPC:

- Archival tags and satellite tags to measure a range of environmental parameters;
- Sonic tags use in monitoring the behaviour of tuna around FADs;
- Conventional tags (commonly used) to monitor movement, growth and fishery interaction studies.

Please report tuna tags found to NORMA office and you'll receive a cash reward from the SPC office.

There are 3 colored tags:

1. **Orange** tag \$260
2. **White** tag \$100
3. **Yellow** tag \$10

If it's an **orange** or white tag found, we'd like the whole fish with the tag.

