



Law of Fishing



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There were dozens of undersized fish and seafood confiscated by MAF officials at the Fish Market on Sunday morning. Nine Fisheries officers and police officers spanned the fish market in the early hours of Sunday morning and identified at least 12 fish vendors carrying and selling undersized fish, egg carrying lobsters and crabs with soft shells - that are all illegal stock.

Assistant Chief Executive Officer for Fisheries Division, Magele Eteuati Ropeti said the team observed that Sunday's have a higher prevalence of illegal fish, due to the lack of fisheries officers on the job.

Earlier this month, a large fisheries team canvassed the market and within a few hours they interviewed the vendors who were breaching fisheries regulations. "Possible charges have been laid out to suspected offenders. We are yet to complete the whole process passing over the cases files to the legal team for their review, that's a task assigned for this week and hopefully completed by next week." Senior Fisheries Officer Yohni Fepuleai said.

Magele said during the operation itself he observed several vendors being supportive and cooperative of the operation, because they are aware of the law. In a "perfect world" operations like Sundays would be carried out every day, Magele said. Constrained by resources and several priorities, the Fisheries Division will continue to carry out various degrees of operations as they see fit.

