

Summary of formal fishing regulations, conservation efforts by the Fijian Department of Fisheries compared to fishing enforcement, and traditional *tabus* observed by the villagers of Nasinu in Natewa Bay.

Governmental Fishing Regulations:

The Department of Fisheries Mission Statement: Improving Livelihood Through Smart Policies and Sustainable Management of Fisheries and Forest Resources. Regulations under the Fisheries Act CAP 158 Includes applicable regulations such as:

- Prohibiting any practices or methods, or employment of equipment or devices or materials, which are likely to be injurious to the maintenance and development of a stock of fish.
- Prescribing areas and seasons within which the taking of fish is prohibited or restricted, either entirely or with reference to a named species.
- Prescribing limits to the size and weight of fish of named species which may be taken.

Formal Conservation Efforts:

The Fijian Government has set up the Reef Enrichment Initiative (REI) in 2013 to “Restore, Improve, Sustain, and Enhance” the reef systems of Fiji. The project aimed to the planting of mangroves, corals, and coastal littoral forests, while also restocking and reseeding clams and trochus. The extension services of the Fisheries ministries concentrates in rural fishing communities, including the Macuata area of Vanua Levu, which does not include Natewa Bay.

Local Fishing Enforcement in Nasinu:

Joe Kevu, our host in Nasinu, serves as an Honorary Fish Warden for Natewa Bay along with his brother, who lives in neighboring Viani. Fisheries CAP 158 provides that an honorary fish warden’s “duties shall be the prevention and detection of offences under this Act and the enforcement of the provisions thereof.” Joe outlined a few of his duties:

- Regulate fishing territory of Nasinu, whom have territorial areas of Natewa Bay.
- Check fishing and vessel permits of fishermen, and encourages those without them to purchase permits.
- Check fish and clams for regulation size for commercial selling.
- Enforces the use of appropriate sized nets, to protect juvenile fish.

Fishing *Tabus* of Natewa Bay:

In our interviews, we found that there are traditional regulations that can be set by a chief or that is a long standing practice in the area. Amongst other things, a chief might set a *tabu* area in which no one could fish for a year in honor of a death in the family, or for conservation purposes. Many interviewees confirmed that this made for good fishing afterwards. Other *tabus* included ones associated with certain fish or areas. Some fish are considered poisonous if eaten, while certain families have *tabu* animals such as sharks or vonu (turtle) in which negative repercussions if they catch or consume the animal. Areas such as the Great Salt Lake are *tabu* to collect fish for market.

