

Live Bait Draws Fish

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Live bait can attract bonitos.

In the first trial by the Fisheries Division using live bait last week 83 bonitos and even seven sharks were lured and caught within fifteen minutes, according to one of the fishermen, Tau Faraimo. He said the catch on average was far more than would have been possible by using only the line and hook.

The success of the trial contradicted previous reports that this type of fishing could not be done in Samoan waters, he claimed.

The idea was to get to the school of bonito and then turning on a spray of sea water that the school would take as smaller fish, he said.

That would immediately attract the school to the boat. Fish are allowed to come as near as possible before the live bait is put into the water.

The school would then feed on the live bait and grab at anything in the water including the hooks, he continued.

All this was to be done while the boat was in motion, he said.

Because the run was ex-

perimental, it would be quite some time before the division could raise enough bait for selling to local fishermen, he said.

The division had been raising mosquito fish (the ones commonly found in ditches and ponds) for bait in the past months, and they have proven to be the most ideal type, he said.

This was because the

mosquito fish could survive in conditions other fishes could not and could withstand vibration within containers which would normally kill the others, he continued.

Bait is being raised in ponds at Vaitele and men from the division are collecting mosquito fish from the ditches in the town area to replace the ones

being used, he said.

Experiments would also be done on what time of day would be most appropriate for fishing and on whether the new type of fishing would work when the bonito season was off.

Unsuccessful attempts using live bait on different kinds of fish led to the conclusion that this type of method was not possible around Samoa, he said.