Niue Maritime Boundaries Delimitation Project

Christchurch FIGMM

30th April – 6th May 2016
Hubert Mana Kalauni
Secretary for Justice
Department of Justice, Lands and Survey
Ministry of Social Services (MOSS)
Department of Justice, Lands and Survey House the following Divisions

• Administration, Registration of Births, Deaths & Marriage & General Elections
• High Court – Land Division & Civil/Criminal Division
• Survey and Land Management
• Community Development – Social Welfare & Social Dev Services
Survey and Land Management

The Division is responsible for:

• All Surveys – primarily cadastral/title
• GIS/LIS
• Land Title Registration
• Management of Crown Land and Properties
• Assisting with the Maritime Boundaries Delimitation project (technical data).

Division staff by

• 2 surveyors, 3 chainmen, 1 GIS technical officer, 4 survey cadets, draughting officer and Land registration officer.
Niue geography and location

An isolated raised coral atoll consist of two terraces

- the first is at about 25 -35 metres above MSL
- 2nd at 70 metres.
- The centre of the island was once a lagoon and is lower than the top terrace, at about 45 metres above MSL.
- Approximately 21 km long and 18 km wide, no hills, no running streams or surface water
Niue geography and location

• Niue Total land area is 260 sq km
  95% Niuean land & 5% Crown
  Land not for sale, can lease
• Population at about 1 300 (2015)
Niue Maritime Boundaries Delimitation

Overview

• Niue maritime neighbouring states are
  ➢ Tonga 470 km to the west,
  ➢ American Samoa 550 km to the north,
  ➢ Cooks 900 km to the east and
  ➢ the high seas to the south.
Niue Maritime Boundaries Delimitation
Overview

• The total peripheral EEZ distances total 2,100 km (approx)
• 630 km shared with Tonga
• 550 km with American Samoa
• 230 km with the Cooks, and
• 700 km with the high seas
• The total EEZ area comprised approximately of 320,000 sq km
Niue EEZ Maritime Boundaries
Niue Maritime Boundaries Delimitation. Background and Development.

• The project for Niue starts in the early 1991
• By way of Maritime Boundary workshops in Suva, Apia, Rarotonga, Toronto Canada etc... attended by both Legal & Technical officers
• 1992 FFA commence compiling the first set of baseline data for the Territorial Sea limits.
• Compiled by Grant Boyes, FFA Coordinator.
• Facilitated one workshop for local staff.
Niue Maritime Boundaries Delimitation
Background and Development.

• In 2005 Niue with the assistance of SOPAC recomputed the baseline data for the Territorial Sea Limits using MarZone.
• Based on Niue Topographical map, 1991 GPS survey and satellite imageries.
• Data in terms of WGS84.
• The baseline data set was officially endorsed by Niue that year.
• The same data set was also use to compute the limits for Niue CZ and EEZ with the Cooks.
Niue Maritime Boundaries

Pacific Islands Regional Maritime Boundaries Information System (PIRMBIS)

Niue Maritime Boundaries Project

December 2005
SOPAC Technical Report
Signing of the 2005 Report
SOPAC Suva
## Basepoints

### Annex II: Table Showing Basepoints for 12M, 24M and 200M Limits and their Attributes

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Normal baseline
Normal Baseline
Critical with Tonga
Niue Maritime Boundaries Delimitation Negotiation and Signing

• Negotiation with the Cooks also commenced with the exchange of provisional baseline data in Suva in 2005.
• Delayed due to existing data for Palmerston island not in terms of WGS84.
• The baseline for Palmerston, Cooks, was updated early 2012.
Niue Maritime Boundaries Delimitation
Negotiation and Signing

• Negotiation with the Cooks also commenced with the exchange of provisional baseline data in Suva in 2005.
• Delayed due to existing data for Palmerston island not in terms of WGS84.
• The baseline for Palmerston, Cooks, was updated early 2012.
• Final Median line computed in 2012
• That agreement was concluded and signed in 2012
Niue Maritime Boundaries Delimitation Negotiation and Signing

• Median line with American Samoa.
• The initial and first contact commenced in the 1991 when American Samoa approach the Niue government through the Ministry of External Relations and Trade to start the negotiation on maritime boundary.
Niue Maritime Boundaries
Negotiation and Signing

• Median line with American Samoa.
• The initial and first contact commenced in the 1991 when American Samoa approach the Niue government through the Ministry of External Relations and Trade to start the negotiation on maritime boundary.
• The median data was computed by the AS authority using the baseline data from the FFA report.
• The agreement with American Samoa was signed in 1997.
Maritime Boundaries
Concluded and Signed 1991 - 2012

• The agreement with American Samoa was signed in 1997.
• The agreement with the Cooks was signed in 2012.
• Both Agreements Deposited with the UN.
Common Boundary with Tonga

• The two countries have yet to finalize the median line but currently checking the relevant baseline data.

• And these are Provisional baseline data exchanged late 2015

• A smaller working session is planned in Nadi early June 2016 to progress with the technical and legal negotiations between Tonga and Niue. Assist by Maritime Boundaries Team of the Geoscience Division, Pacific Community (SPC)
Tonga Critical Baseline
Niue baseline
All on the western side
Conclusion

Niue is looking forward to conclude its boundaries agreement with Tonga by the end of 2016 or 2017.

Fakaue and thank you.