



Ministry of Primary Industries
Fisheries Department

Toorak Road,
Suva

P O Box 2218, Government Buildings

Telephone : (679) 3301611

Fax : (679) 3318692



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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Please find below the relevant information in regards to the operations of Walt Smith International (Fiji) Ltd through the Department's, close monitoring of this Company operations since the Company established in late 1995 at Navutu, Lautoka.

Mr. Walt Smith and his operations as Walt Smith International [WSI] is known to the Department through close monitoring of the Company's operations in the exploitations of the Aquarium Trade Commodities for about 17 years, now. Please be informed that WSI has always fulfilled in complying to the Department's, processes and systems with 100% Compliance in utmost recognition to "Best Practices" be carried-out for the sustainability of Marine resources and their Ecosystems.

Mr. Smith works very closely with the villagers [stakeholders], he has dealings with and always ensures that his Company follows sustainable protocols from his monitoring and overseeing the harvests of aquarium trade commodities. The villagers in realizing the value for marine resources that otherwise have very little commercial or subsistence use however income is generated for villagers while sustainable harvest benefits export dollars for Fiji.

WSI has always followed the guidelines of our quota system set by the Department of Environment on Live Rock and coral, commodities. Since, there is no CITES convention quota for ornamental fish, this commodity has never been a problem. The Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (C.I.T.E.S.) has determined that ornamental fish (unlike tuna) are always abundant in any reef environment systems yet Mr. Smith takes it upon himself to extend his sustainable practice and rotate areas under "Collection Area Management Plans" from one qoliqoli to another on a weekly basis. This is sustainable practice and we admire him in carrying out such practices.

The Fisheries Department is proud to have Mr. Smith, as a leader in his Aquarium Trade Industry, here in Fiji. His pioneering efforts to create the World's first coral farm has brought recognition to Fiji and added much value to the Foreign Exchange earnings.

A good example of this commitment was on 19th June 2012 when Fiji hosted the "3rd African, Caribbean, Pacific Fisheries Ministers Meeting" at the Sofitel Hotel in Danarau. It was requested by the committee that the members of ACP forum visit at least an example of a sustainable harvest exporter that was important to the Fiji economy and its people. We chose the operations of Walt Smith International to showcase this "milestone" event at their request.

Mr. Smith welcomed 10 Ministers and 140 Senior Fisheries Officials from 79 ACP member Countries that have marine resources and gave them all an informative presentation and tour of his facility in Lautoka. After the presentation they were all treated to a traditional Welcome ceremony and lunch. During this lunch Mr. Smith was invited to more than 8 different Countries to help them establish his plan of sustainable harvest and coral farming techniques that he has pioneered here in Fiji. We were all quite impressed with his presentation and the reaction he received from the delegates.

WSI was the first company in the world to achieve Marine Aquarium Council (MAC) an organization which certifies that sustainable harvest practices are in place and that husbandry meets a world class standard, certifications for all three items he exports.

I am convinced that WSI would maintain the professionalism for sustainable practices while operating in the Northern Division that we have witnessed to be true here in Viti Levu.

May this letter serve my highest recommendations and we are grateful that Mr. Smith has honored our request to bring a part of his operations to the North to further serve the growing economy of Fiji.

Your faithfully,



Suresh Chand
for Director Fisheries
for Permanent Secretary Fisheries & Forests