

The Fishing Lore of Tobi Island

by Peter W. Black © 1968, 2017

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Updated: January 19, 2017

The Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Note May 2005: This report was lightly edited and additional material added. Alternate spellings were included and the original [Glossary](#) was expanded. Isauro Andrew provided the correct spellings and pronunciations for [Canoe Parts](#) in July-August 2004. Palau District of the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific no longer exists. Tobi Island is part of Hatohobei State, one of the 16 states of the Republic of Palau.

Introduction

Tobi Island. Latitude 3 ° 00' 50" North Longitude 131 ° 10' 37" East is culturally the westernmost point of Carolinian influence and politically part of Palau district of the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific. Currently there are 58 people on the island and perhaps 25 more Tobians scattered throughout the Trust Territory. Together with the other three islands of the Southwest Islands, Sonsorol, Merir, and Pulo Ana, Tobi is visited by a field trip vessel three or four times a year, a U.S. Navy ship every six months, and various Japanese, Okinawan, and Taiwan Chinese fishing boats.

The following report was written by a Peace Corps Volunteer from information compiled during interviews, usually in the evening from February to June 1968. The report does not claim to be complete. Although the 40-some methods detailed here are, the author believes, the great bulk of the fishing styles of Tobi, there are undoubtedly some obscure types which the informants have forgotten and possibly some which they did not feel at liberty to discuss. All these methods, with the exceptions noted in the report, are practiced at the present time.

The translator for most of this material was Felix Andrew, the nurse-aide. His brother Isauro, the municipal clerk, helped at times as did Fabian Basillio, the principal of Tobi Elementary School. It was found that the most productive sessions were those in which three or four fishermen took part but this was usually impossible to arrange. Following is the format used in the interviews for Fishing Methods:

- What are the types of night fishing?
 - Give the types of equipment used for each—hook, line, sinker, net, pole
 - Bait—what and how to bait the hook
 - What tide
 - What time of day
 - What time of year
 - What are the best sea and climatic conditions
 - What moon
 - What is the best place to go
 - Any customs
 - Describe the whole operation

For each type of fishing, night and day, repeat each question.

- Who do you give fish to?

There are 13 fishermen on Tobi at the present time. For this report five of them gave their time to establish a permanent record of their knowledge. Those five are:

Name	Clan	Age
Nemesio Hatokuchi Mohoriparimaso	Hawareye	about 60
Matias Kuro Chorngrheng	Hafarmau	about 60
Esobio Chiheih	Hafarmau	about 60
Santos Horisan Manifaramau	Hapemohor	about 60
Patricio Mohorihotimoh	Hafarmau	68

The first three were the sources for Fishing Methods. Wherever their information differed, the various opinions have been identified by their first name.

Patricio is the only man on the island who grew up before the Japanese came (that is, prior to about 1920); thus he was used as the informant for the other sections of the report except [Tobian Fish Chart: A Key to the Fish of Tobi](#). For that section, it was felt that Santos would be the most informative man to ask. The author would like to express his gratitude to those men and to his translators for their patience and good humor throughout the many sessions it took to compile this report.

P.W. Black
June 1968
Tobi Island

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Updated: January 19, 2017

Old Tobi Fishing Song

Etai sahad tepamu	You don't enjoy your life
Meheouhemi nohar	The ocean is shining and calm
Etai fisiri hiheyar	You were never the "hiyahe" bird
Ngatai manariuor	Nor any sea bird
Taifiti baotaparar	There is no smell on your fingers (the smell of the sea birds)
Taimangau reni soubue	You don't get food from seriyout
Etai saso tsanah	You don't enjoy the taste of fish

Translated by: Felix Andrew

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Updated: January 18, 2017

Tobi Island 1968



- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Patricio | 6. Church |
| 2. Esobio | 7. Community Center and School |
| 3. Nemesio | 8. Chief Marino |
| 4. Santos | 9. Abai |
| 5. Matias | 10. Channel |

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Updated: January 19, 2017

How the First People Came to Tobi

Patricio

The first ruler of Tobi Island and also its discoverer was a woman from Fais called Ramoparuhe. She and her husband Yongoihari and her father Tahabech were fleeing a war on Fais and came directly to Tobi without stopping. Patricio does not know how long it took them to get here, or anything about Ramoparuhe's mother or about the equipment in the canoe except that she did have a piece of thatch which she used to eat her food off at every new moon. He doesn't know if they had a crew or not, but he does know that their god's name was Mabuwat. Ramoparuhe was the navigator.

They landed on Tobi about where the present channel is and Ramoparuhe buried a clam shell in a small hill near the beach. The island was much smaller then than it is now; it was about the size of Helen Reef. There was only one tree on the island, a tree called Moh. Moh is now extinct on Tobi, but they do grow on Sonsorol, Merir, Helen Reef, and maybe Pulo. There were no spirits on the island either.

They decided to go back to Fais for a while and they went straight back, not stopping on the way. After a short stay in Fais, they decided to go back to Tobi and once again they left Fais.

On arriving back on Tobi, they found Souhopit, Ramoparuhe's full brother. A dispute arose because Souhopit and Ramoparuhe both claimed the island.

Souhopit asked: "You say that you were first but where is your sign?"

So they dug in the hill and found her clam shell, but underneath it they found an old piece of thatch which Souhopit said belonged to him and that proved he was the first to come to Tobi. Ramoparuhe said he had put it underneath her clam shell and chased him off the island. A little while later Tahabech left Tobi for Fais but his daughter and son-in-law remained.

On his way back to Tobi, Tahabech stopped at Merir where he found Souhopit who had discovered Merir after being chased off Tobi. Tahabech didn't stay long but continued on to Tobi. After several years had passed, Tahabech, Ramoparuhe, and Yongoihari decided to go up to Merir and visit Souhopit. When they arrived Ramoparuhe was seasick so Tahabech asked Souhopit to take her ashore and keep her for awhile. But Souhopit answered that if she came ashore he would kill her and burn her like a turtle. So they turned back to Tobi, where Tahabech left the other two and went to Fais—never to return.

Ramoparuhe had her first child soon after this. His name was Yango and he was to be the next ruler of Tobi.

Ramoparuhe had six more children and from them she made five clans. About this time a woman named Roubah drifted to Tobi from Wolei on a bundle of material used in making mats. Her children became the sixth clan, Haworei, and Yango and Ramoparuhe were in the seventh or chief's clan.

Patricio does not know the story of the first settlers of Sonsorol but he does know that it was settled before Tobi, and that Palauans used to live there until killed off by people from Wolei. Merir, of course, was settled by Souhopit who was the first king and Pulo had a god named Martaifur.

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Fishing Methods of Tobi Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

The fish, hooks, and nets listed under each technique are keyed to a reference chart, the [Tobian Fish Chart: A Key to the Fish of Tobi](#).

Night Fishing

1. [Hapeh Hapeh](#)
2. [Haheh](#)
3. [Haburoh](#)
4. [Fasuwoh Ri Bong](#)
5. [Bauru Bong](#)
6. [Chur](#)
7. [Tahowes](#)
8. [Turumat](#)
9. [Uhorimatau](#)
10. [Mungo Pes](#)
11. [Hamahiyach](#)
12. [Hasaucha](#)
13. [Yasoyes](#)
14. [Tur](#)

Day Fishing

15. [Man Waru Hoch](#)
16. [Petchamai](#)
17. [Faramwe](#)
18. [Firong](#)
19. [Bwere](#)
20. [Fasuwoh Ri Bwere](#)
21. [Fen](#)
22. [Fofu](#)
23. [Hachaiho](#)
24. [Hamar](#)
25. [Fatun Bauch](#)
26. [Fatun Mahabu](#)
27. [Fatun Mungah](#) (also Hasu)
28. [Riperiecho](#)
29. [Taturamar](#)
30. [Harie Chor](#)
31. [Tareyar](#)
32. [Pahisehe](#)
33. [Hairir](#)
34. [Tab](#)
35. [Biyeu](#)
36. [Hatuf Charau](#)
37. [Hamaneningat](#)
38. [Pahutuhor Yefangi](#)
39. [Pahu Pu](#)
40. [Tir](#)
41. [Tuna Fishing](#)

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Tobian Fish Chart *

from the Fishing Lore of Tobi by Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Fish Number	Tobian Name	Width	Shape	Color	Length	Habitat	Lives in Hole	Feeds	Caught in Method	Bait in	Quantity
F0036	Mor	Medium	F	Red		A & B	Yes	Night	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10	3, 3, 5	Plenty
F0043	Chimosou	Medium	F	Red	1 to 3 inches	A & B	Yes	Night	32, 37, 39	12, 15, 17	Plenty
F0046	Ret	Medium	F	Red	8 to 10 inches	A & B	Yes	Night	5	19, 20	Plenty
F0040	Saha	Medium	F	Red	10 to 18 inches	A & B	Yes	Night	19, 14, 38	27, 30, 33	Plenty
F000_	Marbeiye	Medium	F	Red with white stripe	1 to 8 inches with less bones than chimosou	A & B	Yes	Night	4		Plenty
F0039	Tatah bur	Medium	F	Red with big mouth	1 to 8 inches	A & B	Yes	Night	4		Plenty
F000_	Martahum	Medium	F	Red with big mouth	3 to 4 inches	A & B	Yes	Night			Plenty
F0045	Martamuch	Medium	F	Red with black fins	3 to 10 inches	A & B	Yes	Night			Plenty
F0056	Hari (see Haugus) Hari pahoti	Medium	C	Light brown and black spots	3 inches to 5 feet	A & B	Yes	Day	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15, 42		Plenty
F000_	Hari morang	Medium	C	Light brown and big black spots	3 inches to 5 feet	A & B	Yes	Day			Plenty
F000_	Hari chauruyong	Medium	C	Light brown and smaller black spots; thin mouth	3 inches to 5 feet	A & B	Yes	Day			Average
F000_	Harie chimerifas	Medium	C	Light brown and smaller black spots with big head	3 inches to 5 feet	A & B	Yes	Day	36		Plenty

F000_	Harie yuhuno	Medium	C	Light brown and tiny black spots	3 inches to 5 feet	A only	Yes	Night	15, 17, 36		Plenty
F000_	Harie chor	Medium	C	Black with blue spots	3 inches to 5 feet	A & B	Yes	Day	15, 26, 30, 36		Average
F0055	Bwere (see Haugus)	Medium	C								
F000_	Fosu fosu [Fasifoo?]	Medium	C	Red with black spots	5 to 9 inches	A	Yes	Day	15, 19		Average
F0055	Bwere ?	Medium	C	Red, black spot on head	5 to 9 inches	A	Yes	Day	19		Average
F000_	Mahahapo	Medium	C	Red, no spots. One black stripe around middle	5 to 9 inches	A	Yes	Day			Average
F000_	Matair	Medium	C	Red, no spots	3 to 6 inches	A	Yes	Day			Average
F000_	Farepie [Faurepie?]	Medium	C	Red, ? spots	6 to 12 inches	A	Yes	Day	19		Average
F000_	Haugus—a big Hari of any type or a big Bwere fosu fosu or Farepie	Medium	C		5 feet plus	C	Yes	Day	4, 20		Few
F000_	Man waru hoch	Medium	C	Red, darker than Saho	2 to 7 inches	A	Yes	Day	1, 15		Average
F000_	Ritetifach	Medium	C	Grey back, pink stomach, one black spot 2 inches above tail	2 to 12 inches	A & B	No	Day & Night	2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 36		Average
F000_	Chep	Thin	B	White	2 to 8 inches	A	No	Day & Night	2, 37	24	Average
F000_	Rahung (mature Chep)	Thin	B	Green	8 to 24 inches	A	No	Day	3, 26, 35, 37		Average
F000_	Yatam (mature Chep)	Thin	B	White	8 to 16 inches	A	No	Day & Night	2, 11		Average
F000_	Tangitenginam (mature Chep)	Thin	B	Black	8 inches to 3 feet	A	No	Day & Night	3, 11, 27		Few
F000_	Yeb (mature	Thin	B	Black	3 to 6 feet	A	No	Night	3, 11		Few

	Chep). Yeb is a big Tangitenginam										
F000_	Nimi (mature Chep)	Thin	B	Grey	8 to 14 inches	A	No	Night	3, 37		Few
F000_	Tahech	Thin	B	White	8 to 14 inches	A	No	Day & Night			Few
F000_	Ripau	Thin	F	Red	3 to 8 inches	A & C	Yes	Night			Few
F0041	Yetoh	Fat	C	Back light brown, stomach white	about 8 inches	A & B & C	Yes	Night	2, 9		
F000_	Hapichohoi	Thin	G	White	3 to 6 inches	A	Yes	Night	2		Very few
F000_	Mos	Medium	F	Red	8 to 30 inches	A	No	Day & Night	3, 4, 5, 18, 32		Few
F0026	Baugh: Marufach	Fat	D	Black back, white belly	1 to 5 feet	A	No	Day & Night	2, 25, 26, 27		Average
F0025	Baugh: Sahau [the only difference in the two Baugh is in their tails]	Fat	D	Black back, white belly	1 to 5 feet	A	No	Day & Night	2, 25, 26, 27		Average
F000_	Mahabu	Medium	C	Brown	6 to 12 inches	A	No	Day & Night	2, 26		Few
F000_	Maabunur	Medium	C	Brown	12 to 18 inches	C	No	Day	20		Few
F000_	Mam	Medium	E	Green	18 to 48 inches	A	Yes	Day & Night	3, 32		Few
F000_	Pahos	Medium	E	Green	8 to 12 inches	A	Yes	Day & Night	3, 32		Few
F000_	Hausih	Medium	D	Grey	10 to 14 inches	A & B	No	Day & Night	5, 4, 32, 27, 38,		Average
F000_	Hatih	Medium	D	Light grey, black spot 3 inches above tail	6 to 10 inches	A & B	No	Day & Night	3, 9		Average
F000_	Habau	Fat	H	Black	3 to 4 feet	C	No	Day & Night	3, 27, 32		Few
F000_	Tahumaheu	Fat	H	Black	Same as Habau but up to 6 feet	C	No	Day & Night	3, 27, 32		Few
F000_	Yasur	Fat	H	Black	Same as Habau but up to 8 feet	C	No	Day & Night	3, 27, 32		Few
F000_	Wororum	Medium	E	Black	1 to 2 feet	A	No	Day & Night	3, 4		Average
F000_	Ich raro	Medium	F	Black gray, stomach yellow	1 to 3 feet	A & B	Yes	Day & Night	3, 5		Few

F000_	Hafiro	Medium	E	Black	12 to 20 inches	A	Yes	Day & Night	3, 4		Few
F000_	Matechea	Thin	F	Pink	7 to 14 inches	A & B	Yes	Day & Night	5		Few
F000_	Hugh	Medium	C	Red	1-1/2 to 3 inches	B	Yes	Night	6, 13	24, 30	Few
F000_	Horach	Thin	I	Yellow with 4 black stripes	1 to 4 inches	B	Yes	Day	7, 8, 13		Plenty
F000_	Sonobei	Thin	A	Grey	2 to 5 inches	B	Yes	Day	7, 9, 13, 38		Few
F000_	Richoh	Thin	A	Black	1 to 3 inches	B	Yes	Day	7	1, 15	Plenty
F0054	Haubarab [Haubarrap; Hauborap]	Medium	C	Grey	7 to 12 inches	A & B	Yes	Day & Night	7		Few
F000_	Paip	Thin	J	Yellow with 1 black stripe	3 to 6 inches	B	Yes	Day & Night	7		Few
F000_	Huhuf-haihatah [Hufu-hatahe?]	Fat	C	Red with 4 white horizontal stripes	about 8 inches	B	Yes	Day & Night	7		Few
F000_	Rimehiyong	Medium	F	Blue with yellow tail	6 to 10 inches	A	No	Day & Night	9	32	Plenty
F000_	Tiribub	Fat	F	Yellow tail, light brown body	6 to 10 inches	A	No	Day & Night	9		Plenty
F000_	Petchamai (Bub)	Medium	G	Black with white tail	3 to 5 inches	A	Yes	Day	5, 16, 17, 29		Plenty
F000_	Bucho (Bub)	Medium	G	Light brown	3 to 5 inches	A & B	Yes	Day			Average
F000_	Bupari (Bub)	Medium	G	Black	5 to 8 inches	A	Yes	Day	21		Average
F000_	Buwor (Bub)	Medium	G	Black back, white belly	6 to 10 inches	A	Yes	Day	21		Few
F000_	Buhachechi (Bub)	Medium	G	Dark blue	3 to 5 inches	A	Yes	Day	21		Plenty
F000_	Butohu (Bub)	Medium	G	Black	5 to 8 inches	A	Yes	Day			Few
F000_	Mahiphip (Bub)	Medium	G	Grey	to 12 inches	C	No	Day			Few
F000_	Faramwe	Thin	F	Black with 2 sharp knives on tail	9 to 14 inches	A	No	Day	16, 17		Average
F000_	Masough	Medium	B	Yellow	6 to 12 inches	C	No	Day	29		Few
F000_	Faumur	Medium	E	Black	1 to 2 feet	C	No	Day	29		Few

F000_	Tareyar	Medium	C	Light brown	3 to 6 inches	B	Yes	Day	31		Few
F000_	Her sonobie Her sonobie is rounder than Her umurou.	Medium	E	Grey	3 to 10 inches	A & B	No	Day			Plenty
F000_	Her Umurou Her sonobie is rounder than Her umurou.	Medium	F	Grey	3 to 10 inches	A & B	No	Day	6, 37, 38		Plenty
F0023	Yaugh er siabo (Yauh)	Medium	K	White	3 to 12 inches	A & B	No	Day	8, 37		Few
F0021	Yaugh er poucham (Yauh)	Medium	K	White with black fins	3 to 12 inches	A & B	No	Day	8, 37		Few
F0027	Mangah			Flying fish	12 inches				14	15, 18, 2?, 32	Plenty
F0029	Hon Hon is not a baby of Mangah			Flying fish	6 inches				14	11, 16, 17	Few
F0034	Mahi				1-1/2 to 3 feet				23	15, 19,	Plenty
F0034a	Hofireiha			Baby Mahi	12 to 18 inches				23	1, 3, 4	Plenty
F0035	Mahi toh			Very thin Mahi	1-1/2 to 3 feet				23		Few
F000_	Hamah	Fat	H	Blue back, white belly, 2 yellow stripes from head to tail	1 to 2 feet	C	No	Day	22, 29		Plenty
F000_	Fofo Fofo is a big Hamah.	Fat	H	Blue back, white belly, 2 yellow stripes from head to tail	2 to 2-1/2 feet	C	No	Day	22, 29		Plenty
F000_	Fofo ri matau This is a big Fofo.	Fat	H	Blue back, white belly, 2 yellow stripes from head to tail	2-1/2 to 4 feet	C	No	Night	22, 29		Plenty
F000_	Tarachab	Thin	D	Yellow	1 to 2 feet Tarachab,				29		Few

					Uwatapatap, Tapaugh are different sizes of the same fish.						
F000_	Uwatapatap	Thin	D	Yellow	3 to 4 feet Tarachab, Uwatapatap, Tapaugh are different sizes of the same fish.				29		Few
F000_	Tapaugh	Thin	D	Yellow	4 to 6 feet Tarachab, Uwatapatap, Tapaugh are different sizes of the same fish.				29		Few
F000_	Mangah. Although it has the same name, it is very different from flying fish. Mangah, Chuheribout, Uremarau are the same fish.	Fat	H	Grey	2 to 2-1/2 feet	A		Day	18		Few
F000_	Chuheribout Mangah, Chuheribout, Uremarau are the same fish.	Fat	H	Grey	2-1/2 to 4 feet	A		Day	18, 32		Few
F000_	Uremarau Mangah, Chuheribout, Uremarau are the same fish.	Fat	H	Grey	4 to 6 feet	A		Day	32		Few
F000_	Raughamar	Thin	I	Black	3 to 4 inches	B	Yes	Day	31		Average
F000_	Wahabir	Medium	E	Gray with red tail	1 to 2 feet	A			32		Average
F000_	Tahu	Tuna			7 inches to 3 feet				24, 27, 32	1. 3. 4. 15. 16. 17.18. 19, 21, 22, 32	Plenty
F000_	Tahu warf pur	Tuna			3 to 5 feet						Plenty
F000_	Tangih	Tuna			5 to 8 feet						Plenty
F0016	Hangap	Fat	H	Blue back, white belly, black stripe from head to tail	7 inches to five feet	C		Day & Night	24		Plenty

F000_	Tahuhah Tahuhah and Maharacho are the same fish.	Fat	L	Black	8 to 12 feet	C	No	Day	24		Few
F000_	Maharacho Tahuhah and Maharacho are the same fish.	Fat	L	Black	5 to 8 feet	C	No	Day	24		Few
F000_	Ribauh	Medium	C	Light green	3 to 8 inches	A	Yes	Day	15		Average
F000_	Yar	Fat	L	Dark blue on top and silver belly	3 to 6 feet	C	No	Day	27		Few
F000_	Charau a rahung	Medium	C	Blue with 1 red stripe	7 to 12 inches	A	Yes	Day	35		Average
F000_	Charau wari piemahat	Medium	C	Green with 3 red stripes	4 to 8 inches	A	Yes	Day			Plenty
F000_	Charauwari hameremere	Medium	C	Dark red with 4 red stripes	4 to 18 inches	A	Yes	Day			Plenty
F000_	Kum	Thin	E	Gold	12 inches to 2 fee	A	Yes	Day	37		Few
F000_	Ruhoruh	Medium	G	Red, black, gray	10 to 20 inches	A	Yes	Day	30, 37		Average
F000_	Farah	Medium	C	Red with white belly	1 to 6 feet	A & C	No	Day	18, 19		Few
F000_	Farhonor	Medium	C	Red with white belly	6 to 8 feet	C	No	Day	20		Very few
F000_	Hasu	Whale									
F0001	Pohowo	Small shark			12 inches						Plenty
F0003	Matar	Shark		Grey	5 to 12 feet						Plenty
F000_	Fif Fif, Yohong, and Yebur yohong are different sizes of the same fish.	Thin	B	Black	6 to 12 inches	A	No	Day	18, 19		Average
F000_	Yohong Fif, Yohong, and Yebur yohong are different sizes of the same fish.	Thin	B	Black	12 to 24 inches	A	No	Day			Average
F000_	Yebur yohong Fif, Yohong, and Yebur yohong are	Thin	B	Black	24 to 36 inches	A	No	Day	31		Plenty

	different sizes of the same fish.											
F000_	Taiyau	Medium	D	Red	6 to 8 feet	C	No	Day	20			Few
F000_	Fotorimar	Medium	A	Grey	16 inches	C	No	Day	20			Few
F000_	Iheirou	Medium	E	Light pink	12 to 18 inches	C	No	Day	20			Few
F000_	Meheihou	Medium	C	Red with belly a little lighter	12 to 24 inches	C	No	Day	20			Few
F000_	Mamuchih	Fat	H	Black back, white stomach	5 to 12 inches	C	No	Day	22			Average
F000_	Tireriyou	Thin	E	Silver	6 to 12 inches	A & C	No	Day		24		Few
F000_	Teter	Thin	D	Charcoal back, black belly	12 to 14 inches	A & C	No	Day	26			Average
F000_	Riperiecho	Thin	I	Green with black stripes	3 to 4 inches	A	No	Day				Average
F000_	Rihosobir	Medium	C	Dark brown. This fish never comes out of his hole.	1 to 2 inches	B	Yes	Day		35		Few
F000_	Tir	Medium	C	Silver	1 inch	A	Yes	Day	40. This fish comes in big schools. Many fish and sharks feed on the schoo.	24		Average
F000_	Iheri faruhei	Medium	D	White, pink head and back	12 to 30 inches	A	Yes	Day & Night	2			Few
F000_	Masowah	Fat	L	Dark blue back, silver belly	2 to 4 inches	C	No	Day			Masowah, Pate, Ngito, Tirihan are all fed on by tuna.	Average
F000_	Pate	Medium	B	White	3 to 6 inches	C	No	Day			Masowah, Pate, Ngito, Tirihan are all fed on by	Average

										tuna.	
F000_	Ngito	Squid								Masowah, Pate, Ngito, Tirihan are all fed on by tuna.	
F0015	Tirihan	Fat	C	Dark green back, silver belly	one inch	C	No	Day & Night		Masowah, Pate, Ngito, Tirihan are all fed on by tuna.	Plenty

Notes

This chart does not include all the fish of Tobi; it merely includes those mentioned in the report.

The information was given by Felix Andrew, Nurse Aide, Tobi.

Shape—The letter refers to one of the 12 archetypes which Felix Andrew and the author established. The shape of the fish is the section of the chart most prone to error.

Color—The color of the fish is given as seen by Felix. It should be kept in mind that he is not familiar with words for all the color variations possible to describe in English. Thus for red, one should read pink through light brown, et cetera.

Length—This is probably the most accurate section.

Habitat—A refers to the edge of the reef. B refers to the top or portion uncovered at low tide. C refers to the deep ocean.

Caught in and Bait in—These refer to the fishing methods described in this report.

Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Night Fishing Method 1: Hapeh Hapeh

Nemesio, Esobio, and Matias all described this type.

Hook: #5c, Fotomahech



Line: Nemesio—small cotton. Esobio and Matias—medium cotton.

Leader: Nemesio—none. Matias—wire or cotton. Esobio—only fiber.

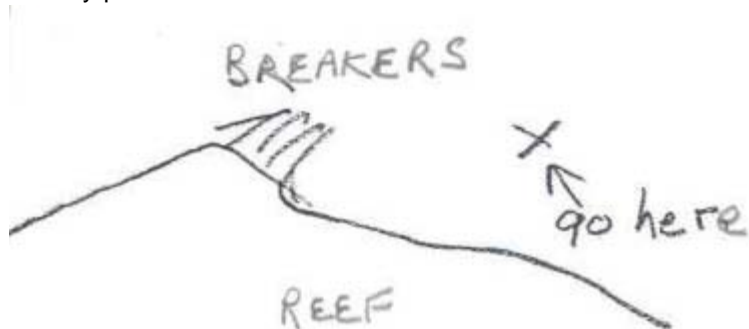
Bait: Umen (hermit crab) or Richoh tuna, needle fish, or flying fish.



Bait hook as shown:

Matias and Esobio say that you should let the point show.

Go any place on the island.



Nemesio says April and May are the best months, Matias says March and June are also good, and Esobio says January through June are good months and if the weather is bad in the spring, September will be a good time to go.

Go outside the reef, on a moonlit night. You should be able to see the reef under the canoe.

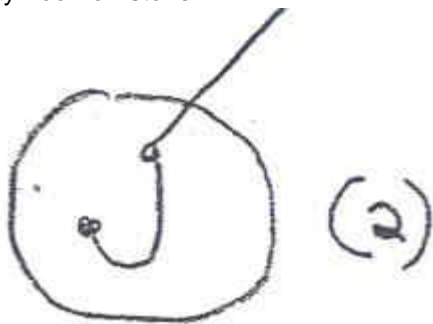
Nemesio fishes at a depth of 3-20 fathoms. Matias starts at 6 fathoms, and Esobio at 8 fathoms.

Catch: Mor, Hari, Man waru hoch. Esobio says you can catch any reef fish.

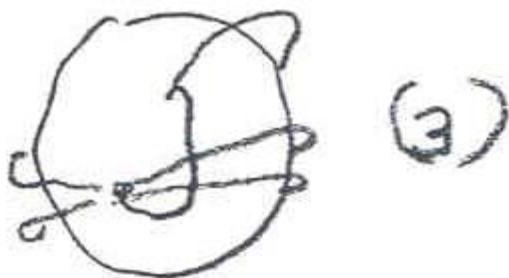
You need about a hundred round stones about one inch across.

1. Bait hook as shown.

2. Lay hook on stone.



3. Take line two or three times around stone and bait.



4. Then loop back over finger and once around the opposite way.



5. Turn loop under one strand of the line across the stone.



(This method is called Hamatara.)

Slowly drop line over side until the stone touches the reef.

Esobio says to pull the line up three feet.
Shake the line and the stone will fall off and the line will slowly rise.

Matias says to move to another place after 15 minutes if you haven't gotten a bite.

Esobio says to try three times, then move if no bite.

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Night Fishing Method 2: Haheh Nemesio, Esobio, and Matias.

Hook: Nemesio—#5c, Fotomahech

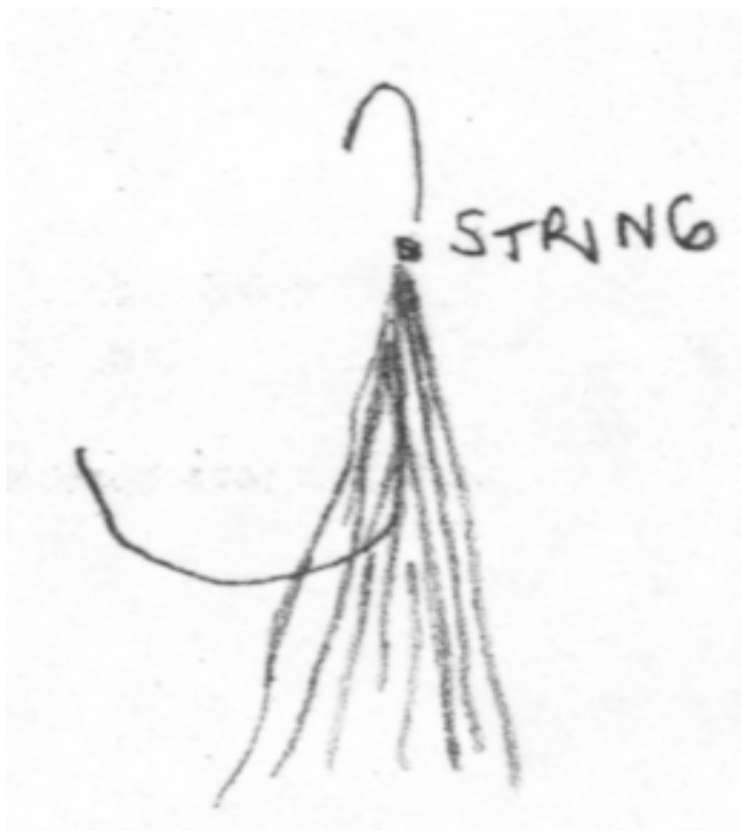


Matias—Harisehe
Esobio—Fotomahech or Yawariyet

Line: Same as Hapeh hapeh (Night Fishing Method #1)
Esobio—smaller.

Leader: None.
Esobio—in former times they used very thin fiber 3 fathoms long. Today they use wire 1 foot long.

Bait: 3 feathers from chicken, duck, or bird called Habang.
Esobio—Habang only, 1 feather if moon, 1-1/2 if no moon. You call this rig Parihaher.



Go to same place as Hapeh hapeh (Night Fishing Method #1).
At night with no moon. Matias and Esobio say its ok to go with a moon.
Any tide. Matias—low tide going out. Esobio—any low tide.

Catch: Mor, Ritetifach, Chep, Mahabu, Yetoh, Hapichohoi

Nemesio—use 5 fathoms of line.

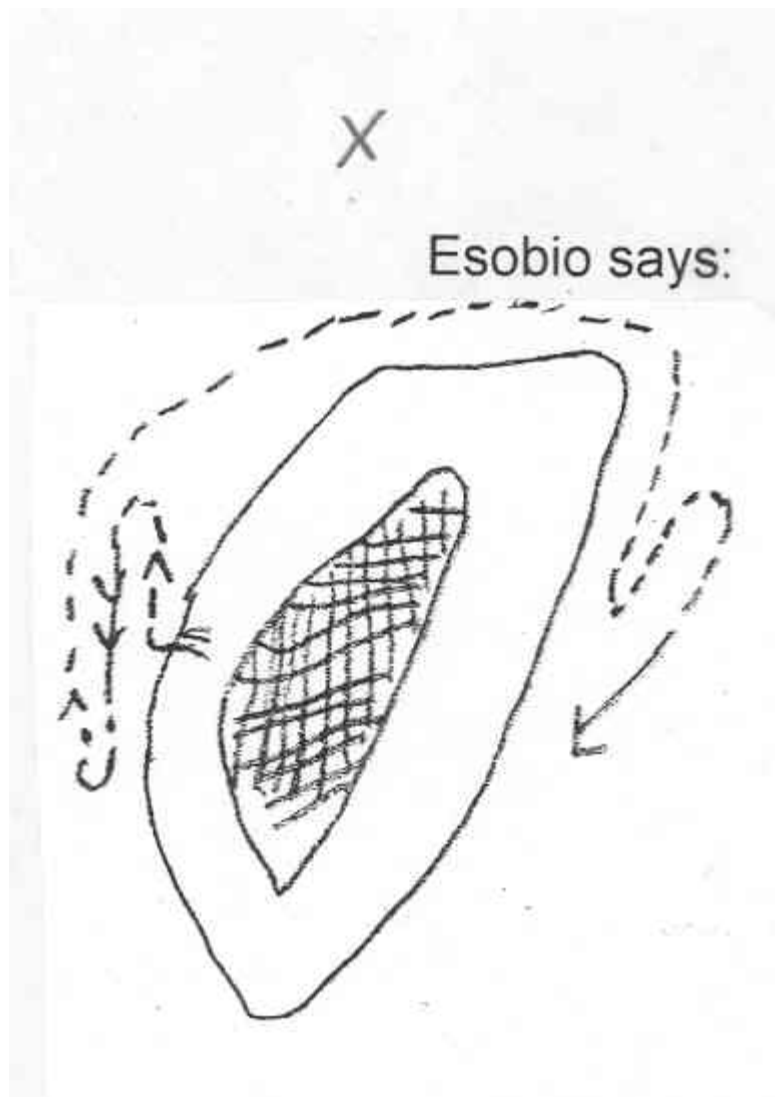
Matias—6 fathoms except in the North where you should use 12.

Esobio—for West use 6 fathoms; East use 10-12 fathoms; North use 20 fathoms; South 10-12 fathoms.

Drop line over stern.

Paddle very slowly with the left hand either with or against the current.

Hold the line in your right hand, pull the line in and out with your finger.



Esobio says you can go a little farther out, use a bigger hook and catch:
big Mor, Mos, Martamuch, Yatam, Bauch.

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Night Fishing Method 3: Haburoh

Nemesio, Matias, Esobio

Hook: # 2a.

Matias—# 1c

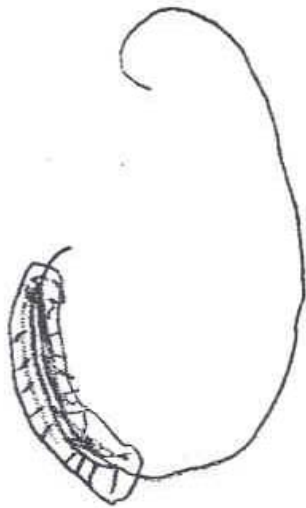


Line: Tuna line cotton. Esobio—use a line a little smaller

Sinker: None

Bait: Tuna, Flying Fish, Needle Fish

Bait hook as shown letting point show.



Go to a place without current.

Go about 10 fathoms past the reef.

Use about 30 fathoms of line.

Go on a moon-less, cloud-less night, on any tide, after 8:00 p.m.

Matias—after 9:00 p.m.

Catch: Mos. Rahung, Hausi, Tangitenginam, Hafiro, big Hari, Warorum, Mam [Esobio & Nemesio—no Mam], Ich raro, Habau, Bauch [Matias & Esobio—no Bauch], Yeb

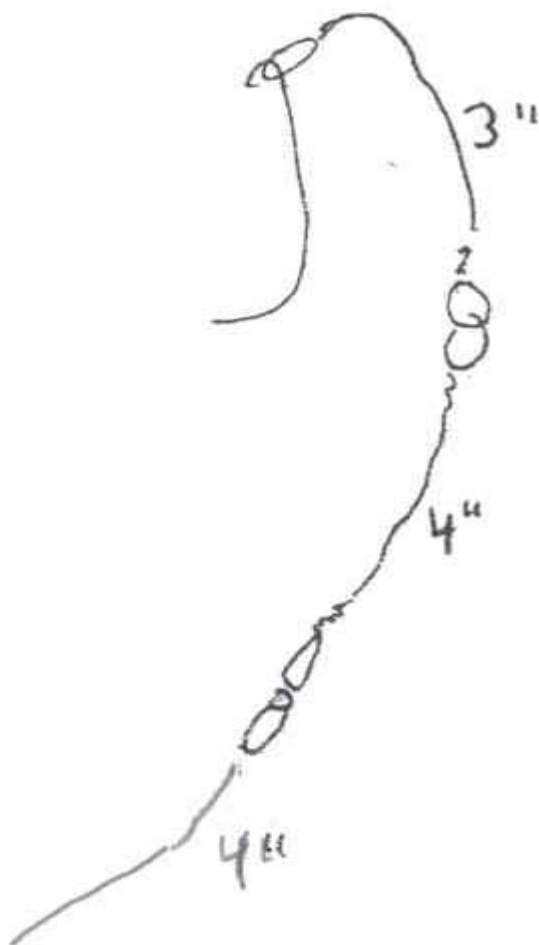
Do not let hook touch bottom.

This fishing is like Hapeh hapeh (Night Fishing Method # 1).

Matias says to move your line up and down. Esobio and Nemesio say to keep it still.

Before you throw in your line, drop over extra bait, watch for fish, then throw in your hook.

Esobio tells of another Haburoh in which you use a hook # 5c and nylon leader as shown. You use a stone as in Hapeh hapeh but you go with no moon.



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Night Fishing Method 4: Fasuwoh Ri Bong Nemesio, Esobio, Matias.

Hook: #7a. Matias and Esobio—use
Matias's Hook 4

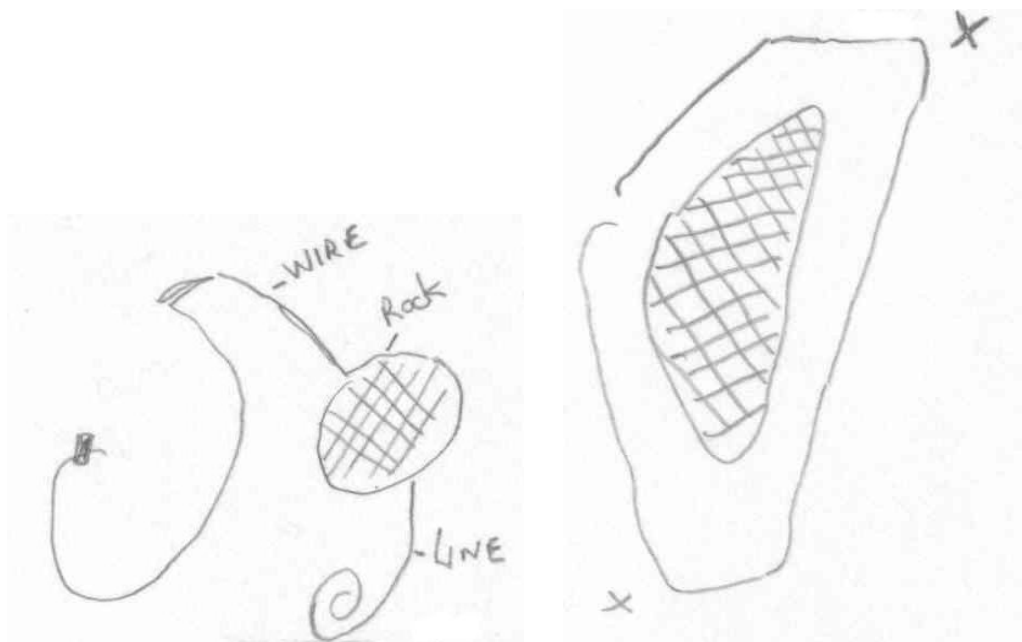


Line: Medium coconut fiber. Matias and Esobio—thin
cotton.

Sinker: 5-pound rock.

Leader: Leader: Wire about 1 foot long.

Bait: Tuna or Her



According to Nemesio the two spots marked X are the two best places to go, but Matias and Esobio say that any place is good.

Go about 20 fathoms past reef.

Matias—60 fathoms. Esobio—100 fathoms.

Use 90-110 fathoms of line. Esobio says 60-80 fathoms of line.

Best time is March to July.

Go at 6:00 p.m. on a moonlit night. Matias—go at 8:00 p.m.

Catch: Saha, Hari, Mos, Tatahbur, Hausi, Warorum, Haugus [Matias—no Haugus], Hafiroi.

Let the sinker touch the bottom. Esobio—pull up 2 feet.

Let the fish take the bait and eat it. His stomach usually comes out when you pull up.

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Night Fishing Method 5: Bauru Bong

Nemesio and Matias.

Hook: Nemesio—#5c

Matias—#7a without feather

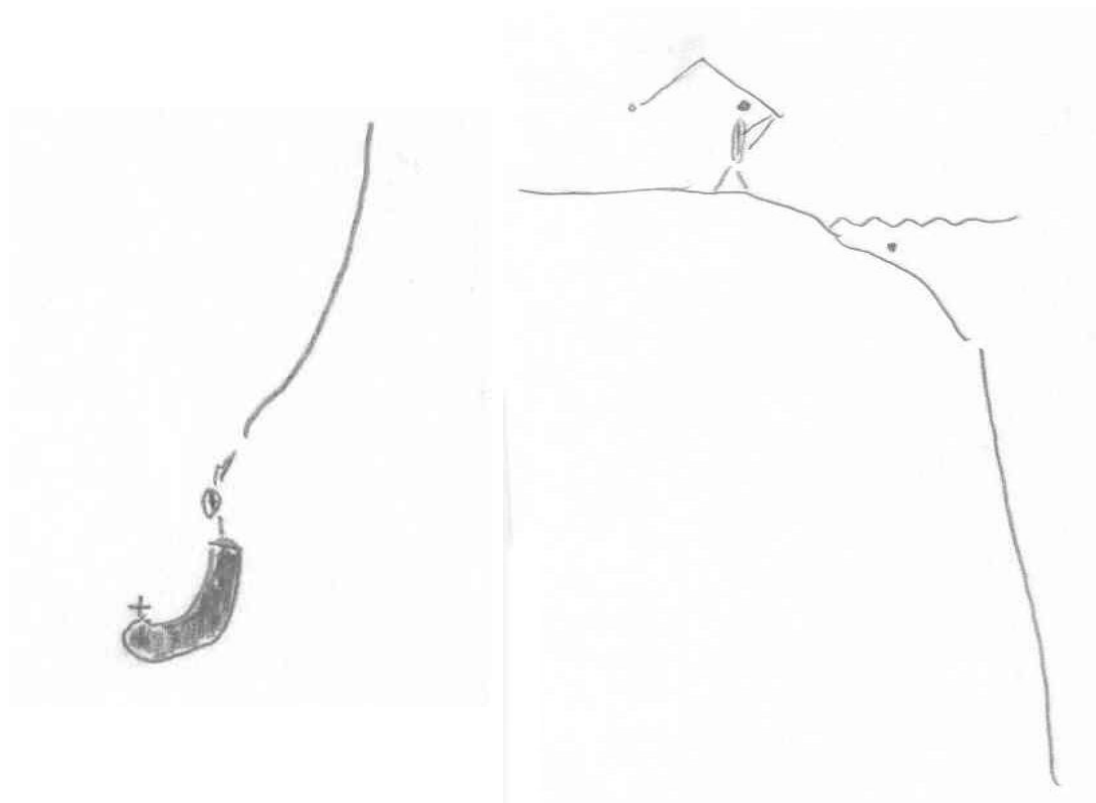


Line: Nemesio—11 feet very thin nylon, doubled. Matias—medium cotton.

Leader: Nemesio—none. Matias—fiber

Sinker: None.

Bait: Any fish or Umen (hermit crab). Matias—Umen only.



11 foot bamboo pole. Line is tied on 4 feet from tip of pole. Tied on every 5 inches with string. From 14 inches to the top, wrap the string around the pole 2 or 3 times every 4 inches.

Go any place on island. Matias—West side is best.

Go onto reef. Low tide going out. Stand in knee deep water. Hold pole with both hands—the left hand on the butt and the right about 6 inches above. Cast over the reef into the water.

The best months are March and April from 8:00 - 12:00 p.m. on a moonlit night. Matias—doesn't have to be moon.

Catch: Matecha, Mos, Hari, Ich raro, Mor, Hausi, Ritetifach, Ret

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Night Fishing Method 6: Chur Nemesio, Esobio, and Matias.

Hook: Use a hook smaller than #5c.
Matias—#7a with no feather.

Esobio—#6b



Line: Little smaller than Bauru bong (Night Fishing Method #5)

Leader: Use thin wire leader about 1 foot long. Matias—none.

Bait: Umenor (fish)



Bait hook as shown.

Go at very low tide to within 6 feet of the water.

Use the same pole as Bauru bong (Night Fishing Method #5). Esobio—shorter, about 10 feet.

Go at the same time as Bauru bong (Night Fishing Method #5).

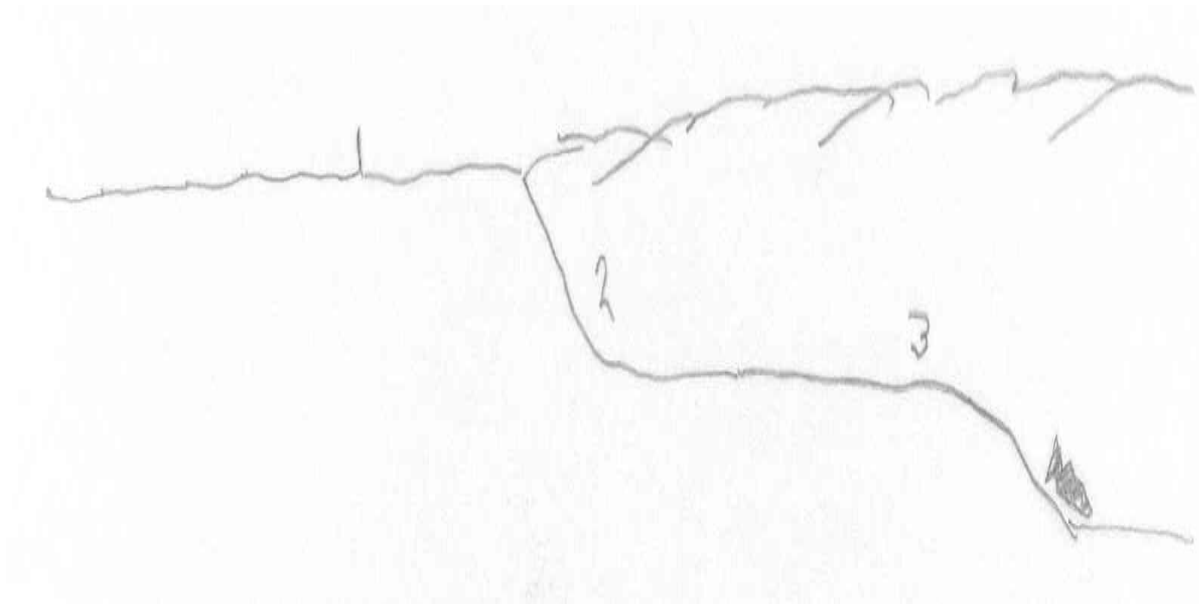
Go to a smooth part of the reef.

Any quarter of the moon.

Catch: Mor [Matias—no Mor], Ritetifach, Hari, Her, Hugh

Stand 6 feet from the edge of the reef, cast into shallow water holding pole the same way as Bauru bong (Night Fishing Method #5).

The difference between Chur (Night Fishing Method #6) and Bauru bong (Night Fishing Method #5)—



For Chur, stand at Point 1 and cast to Point 2. For Bauru bong, stand at Point 2 and cast to Point 3.

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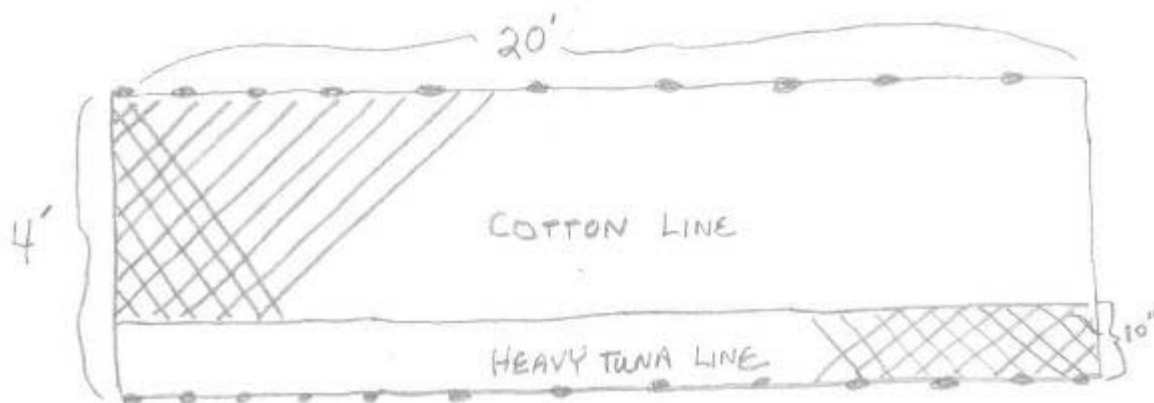
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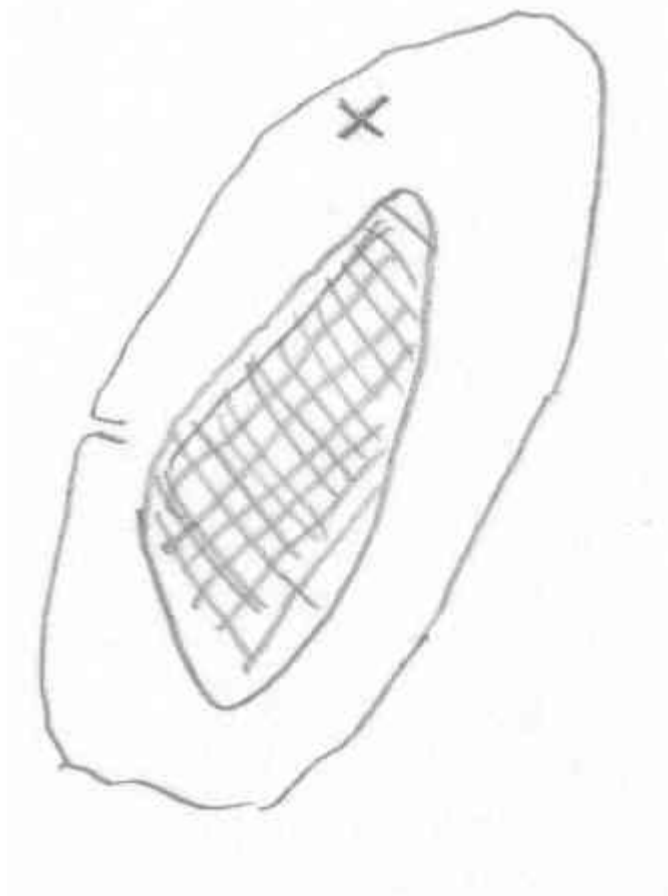
Night Fishing Method 7: Tahowes

Nemesio and Matias.

Net: #3a, Pahas

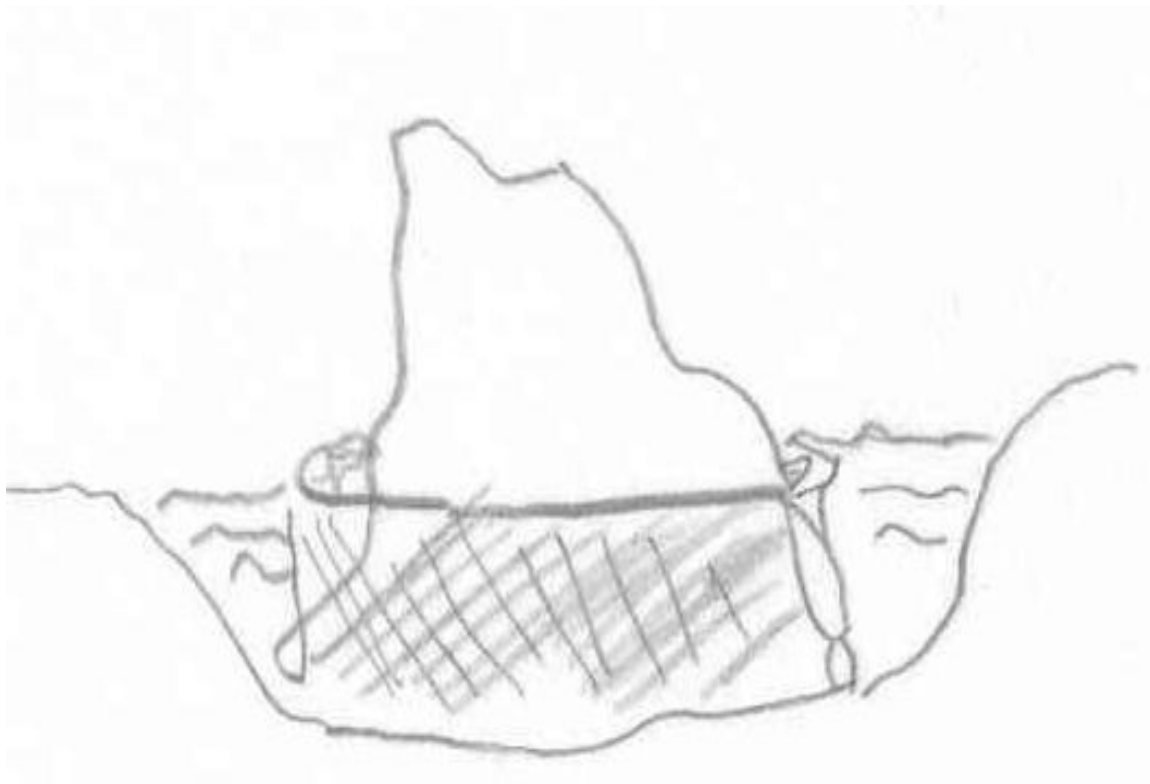


Go out on reef at very low tide in March, April, and May on a moonlit night. Matias—no moon.



Catch: Horach, Richoh, Hari, Houbarab, Ritetifach, Paip, Sonobei, Hufu-Hatahe

Go to a pool with a big rock in it. Surround the rock with the net. Remove the net.



Sometimes you can catch a lot of fish and the next night none. Nobody knows why.

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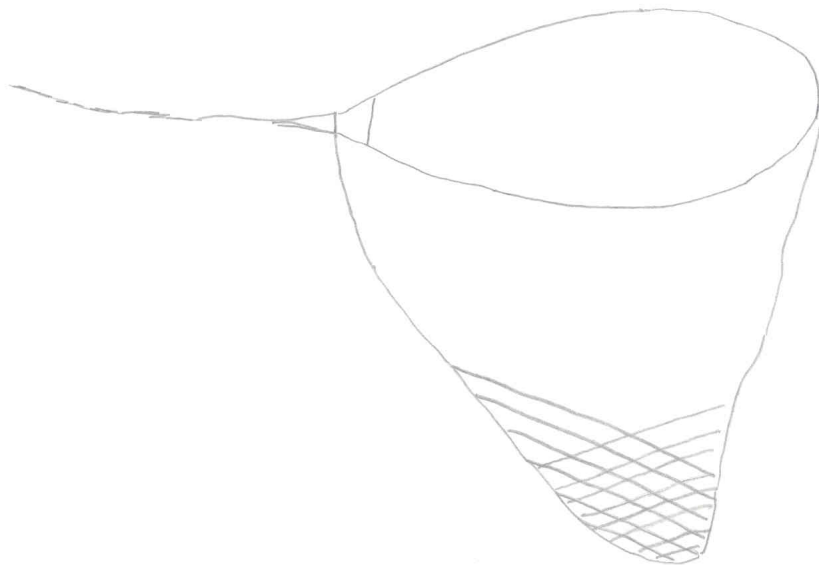
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Night Fishing Method 8: Turumat Nemesio

Net: Cheu turumat (4a)



Lantern or torch
Machete

Go any place on island.
Any place on reef.
A moonless night—all night.
Any month.

With about 6 inches of water on the reef either coming in or out.

Catch: Horach, Yauh, Hari, Ritetifach

Turn over rocks and either catch the fish with the net or kill them with the machete.

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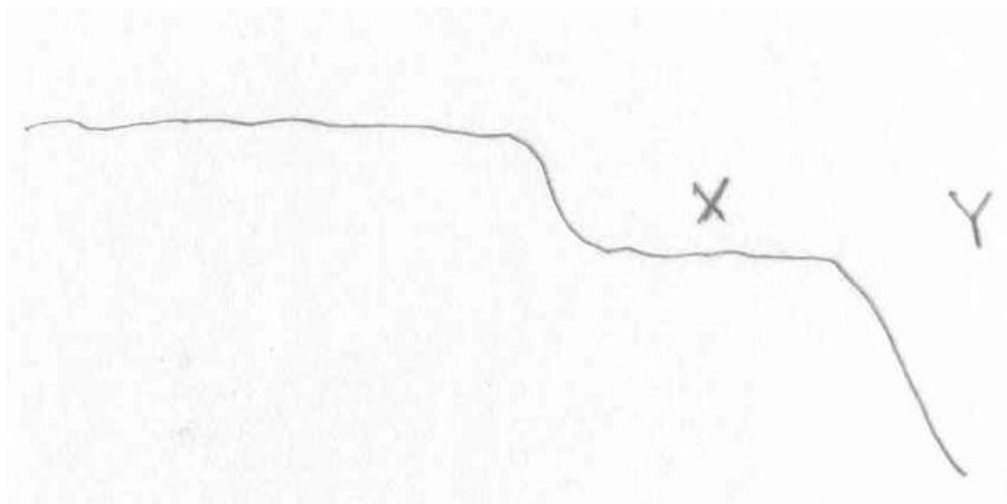
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Night Fishing Method 9: Uhorimatau Nemesio and Matias.

Casting #1, Uh
net:

Go on a moonless night.
Any place on the island.
Very low tide.
Very calm sea.
May, April, March.



Cast net at X in day and Y at night.

Catch: Mor, Hari, Ritetifach, Tiribub, Rimehiyong [Matias—No Rimehiyong!], Yetoh, Sonobei, Hatih

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Night Fishing Method 10: Mungo Pes Matias and Esobio

Hook: Small Fahum (#1d)



Line: Small cotton

Sinker: None

Pole: 12 foot bamboo. Esobio—only 6 feet

Bait: either feather like Haheh (#2) or Umen (hermit crab)

Go south of the channel between the two cement pillars—about 20 feet past reef.
Esobio—same as Hapeh hapeh (#1). Best time of year is in April with no moon on either tide.

Catch: Mor only.

Take a palm frond torch.
Anchor the canoe and light torch.
When you hear the fish jumping, cast.
Pull in line by quick easy jerks.

Custom says that you cannot talk or sing when doing Mungo pes.

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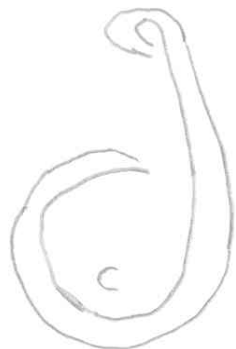
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Night Fishing Method 11: Hamahiyach

Matias and Esobio

Hook: Matias #1c

Esobio #2a



Line: Tuna line 10 fathoms. Esobio—6-7 fathoms.

Sinker: No sinker.

Leader: Cotton. Esobio—fiber.

Bait: Flying fish.



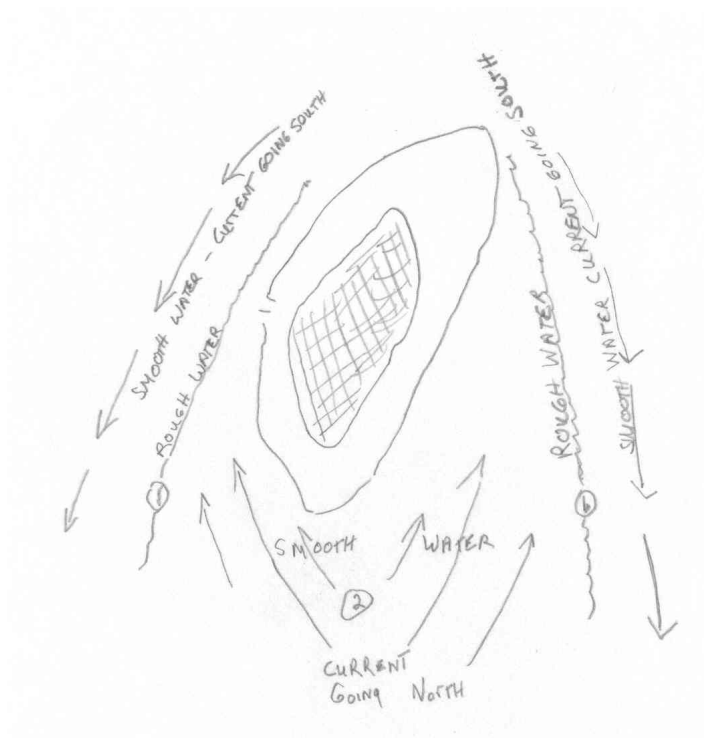
Go at night from 9:00 - 12:00 p.m. [Esobio—from 2:00 - 4:00 a.m.] when the currents are as shown.

Matias says to go on the rough water about ½ mile out (marked as (1)).

Esobio says to go in the smooth water of the Northern current.

Matias says any time of year.

Esobio says in Spring.



Catch: Yetam, Yeb [Esobio—no Yeb!], Tengitenginam [Esobio—no Tengitenginam!]

First you throw in some extra bait.
When you see the fish coming put in your hook.
If you miss one fish you won't get any at all.
The people would make magic to keep away sharks.

No one has done Hamahiyach since Japanese times.

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Night Fishing Method 12: Hasaucha Matias and Esobio

No sinkers.

Same hooks and lines as
Hamahiyach (Night Fishing
Method #11).

Same leaders.
Bait: any fish.



Catch: Any kind of reef fish, even sharks.

Go all around the island in about 10 feet of water on a Spring night with no moon and at high tide.
Drop your hook over the stern and paddle as in Haheh (Night Fishing Method #2).

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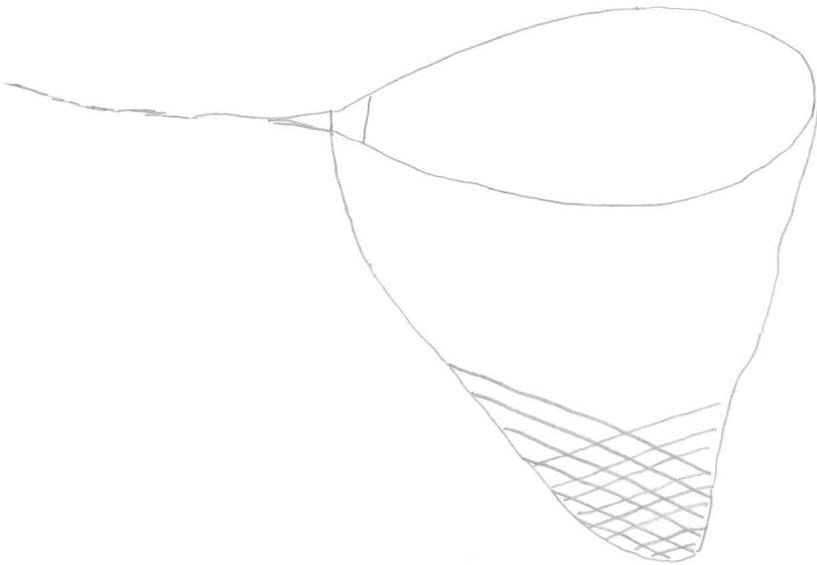
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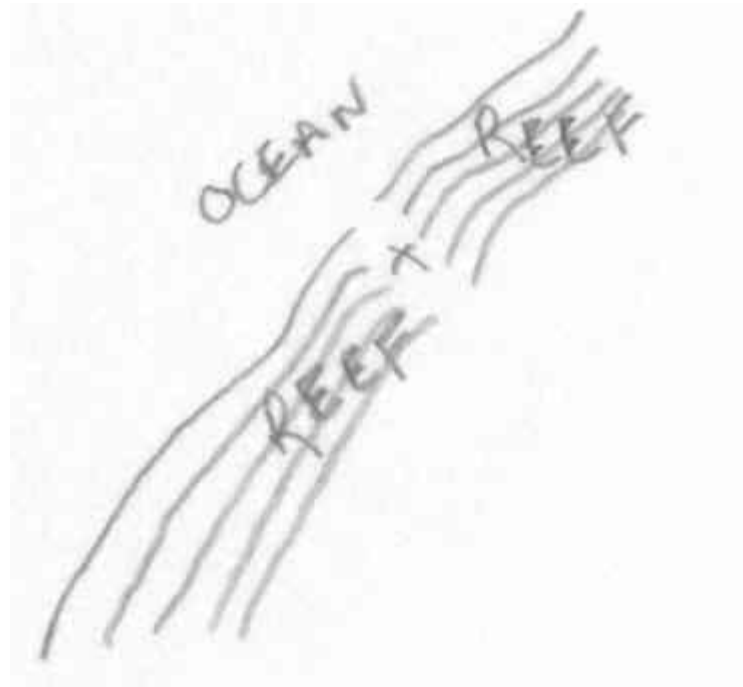
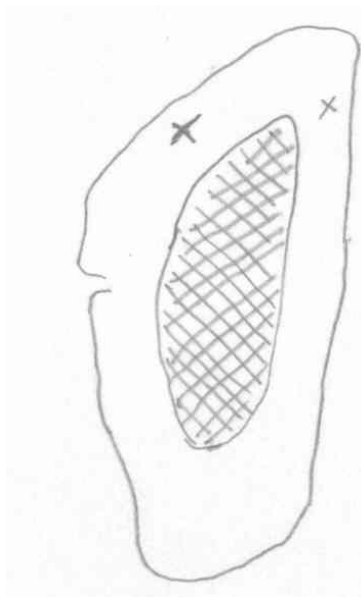
Night Fishing Method 13: Yasoyes

Matias

Net #5a, Cheu turumat



Go to the Northeast or Northwest point of reef at low tide going out in the early part of the evening, not later than 9:00 or 10:00 p.m., either with or without a moon



Place your net in one of the small channels where the water is running off.
Take a 6 foot stick and beat the water above your net.

Catch: Hugh, Sonobei, Horach, Ritetifach, Hari

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Night Fishing Method 14: Tur Esobio

This is flying fish fishing.
Use Net #4b, Cheu mangah
Palm frond torch.

Go in the Spring, all around the island.
If there is a moon, wait until it is 45 ° from the Western horizon.
If there is no moon, go at 8:00 p.m.

Catch: Mangah, Hon, Mahi

You need at least four men in the canoe—

In the bow stands Haichoho with the net
Next stands Haihasatur with the torch
Next sits Haichomwich who paddles
Next sits Haimaturi fatur who paddles and bails
In the stern sits Haimihimihi who steers

If two canoes go out, the first one out should be the one that raises its lamp first. If not there will be a fight.

It is against tradition to raise the torch when you are headed into the wind.

The whole crew should be naked.

Haihasatur, or torch man, can only eat a small fish-less meal at noon before they go. After that he cannot swallow anything, nor can he smoke or play with women. About 4:00 p.m. he takes a bath after which he cannot get dirty. The crew observes the same restraints after 7:00 p.m.

Haihasatur, or torch man, cannot sing or talk once the canoe is launched.

If either Haihasatur or Haichoho have to spit, they should let it dribble down their paddles.

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Day Fishing Method 15: Man Waru Hoch

Matias and Esobio also call this fishing Hariyenuhuno

Nemesio, Esobio, Matias

Hook:



Leader:

Matias and Esobio—fiber or wire

Line:

thin cotton; Matias and Esobio—medium cotton

Sinker:

a stone used in the same way as Hapeh hapeh
(Night Fishing Method #1)

Bait:

Richoh, Umen (hermit crab), needle fish, flying
fish, tuna.

Bait hook as shown.



Go any place on the island.

Go past the reef to a depth of 10-30 fathoms—Nemesio; 20-30 fathoms—Matias; 10-20 fathoms—Esobio.

Go on any tide from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., any month.

Catch: Nemesio—only Man waru hoch. Matias—Man waru hoch, Harie yuhuno,

Bwere, Fasifoo, Ribauh, Hari.

Esobio agrees with Matias and says if you only go out to a depth of 6-8 fathoms, you can catch Harie chor.

Stone must touch bottom.

Pull in on first bite.

Stay in same place.

Make line go up and down—Matias.

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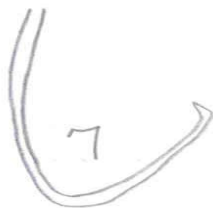
Day Fishing Method 16: Petchamai

Matias and Esobio call this fishing Bub

Nemesio, Esobio, Matias

Hook: Haufong (#7)

Nemesio and Matias—#7b



Esobio—#7a



Leader:

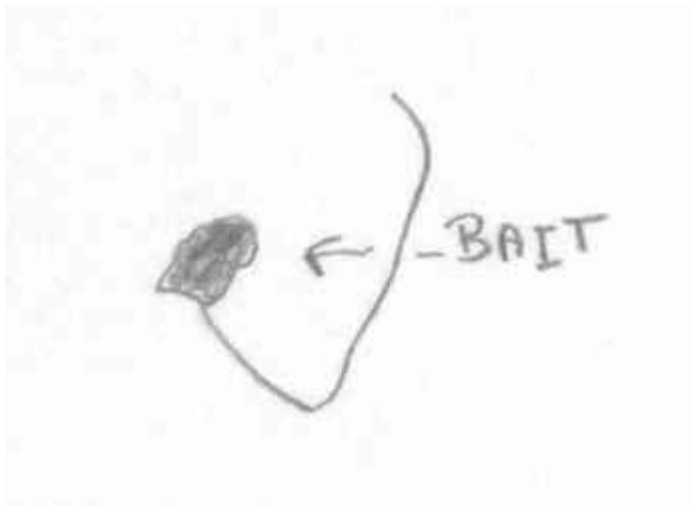
Rami fiber, Nemesio—none

Sinker: Stone tied on the same way as in Hapeh hapeh (Night Fishing Method #1).

Line: Thin cotton line about 10 feet long

Bait: Flying fish or tuna

Bait hook as shown.



Esobio—also tie on a little extra bait that will fall off with the stone.

Go anywhere around the island 2 or 3 fathoms past the reef, on any tide, in the spring from 6:00 a.m. until noon.

Catch: Petchamai. Matias and Esobio say that if you use a bigger hook, you can catch Faramwe.

Drop line to within 3 feet of reef—you should be able to set your hook.
Use only a little bait. Petchamai has a very small mouth.
He is also very smart; if you miss him once you will never catch him.

You don't feel him biting the hook—just a very faint pull.
You must concentrate very hard.

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Day Fishing Method 17: Faramwe

Nemesio, Esobio, Matias

Everything is the same as Petchamai (#Day Fishing Method 16) except you go farther out, to a depth of about 35 fathoms.

Matias—you let down to within 5 feet of the bottom; Nemesio and Esobio—3 feet.

Catch: Faramwe. Esobio—Harie tahung, Bub

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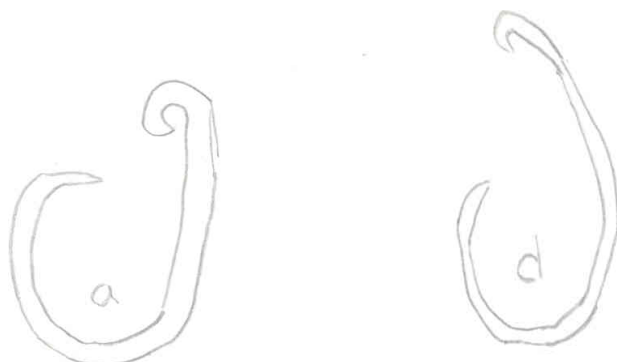
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Day Fishing Method 18: Firong Nemesio and Matias

Hook: 2a

Matias—#1d



Leader:

18 inch heavy wire

Line: Tuna line over 300 feet

Sinker: Rock about 5 pounds

Bait: Tuna or flying fish. Use extra bait.



Nemesio says to bait hook as shown.

Matias says to let the point show.



Nemesio says to go to X. Matias says to go to Y.

About 30 feet past reef. Matias—about 60 feet. Spring time, any tide from 6–10:00 a.m. and 3– 6 p.m.

Catch: Yahong, Farah, Mangah [Matias—no Mangah], Chuheribout [Nemesio—no Chuheribout], Mos [Nemesio—no Mos]

Tie on stone as in Hapeh hapeh (#1) with extra bait. When hook is within 20 feet of reef shake off stone.

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Day Fishing Method 19: Bwere

Nemesio, Matias, Esobio

Hook: Esobio #6a

Nemesio #7a (shown) or #7b

Matias #2



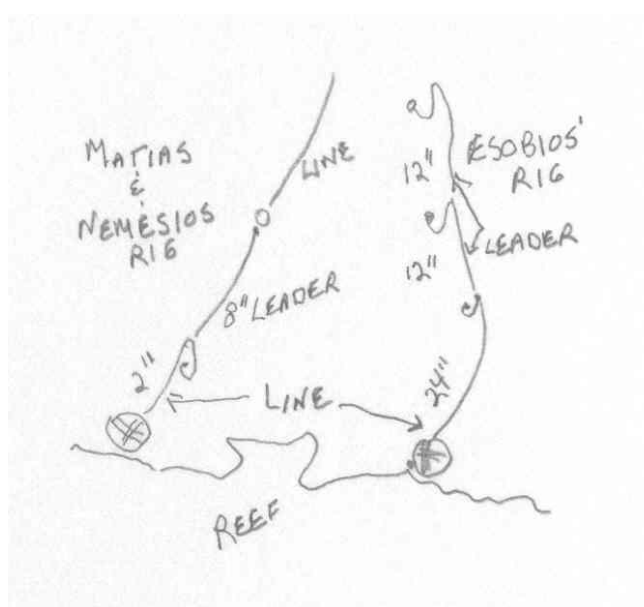
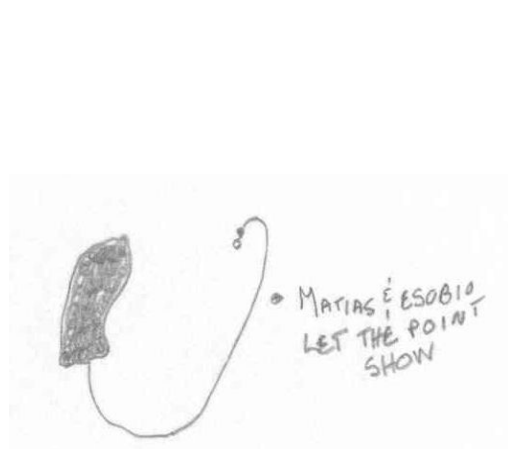
Leader:

8 inches wire; Matias—fiber

Line: Nemesio and Esobio--coconut fiber; Matias—medium cotton

Sinker: 5 pound rock

Bait: Tuna, flying fish, or Mor



Tie on stone so it will not come off. Let stone touch the reef.

Any place around the reef.

50-100 feet out from reef; Matias—about 60 feet; Esobio—30-40 feet.

Up to 60 fathoms line. Matias—10-35 fathoms; Esobio—20-40 fathoms.

Go early in the morning in April and May on any tide.

Catch: Farah [Matias and Esobio—no Farah!], Saha [Nemesio—no Saha], Bwere, Housih [Nemesio—no Housih], Yohong [Matias and Esobio—no Yohong!], Farepe [Nemesio—no Farepe], Mahahapo [Nemesio—no Mahahapo]

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Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Day Fishing Method 20: Fasuwoh Ri Bwere

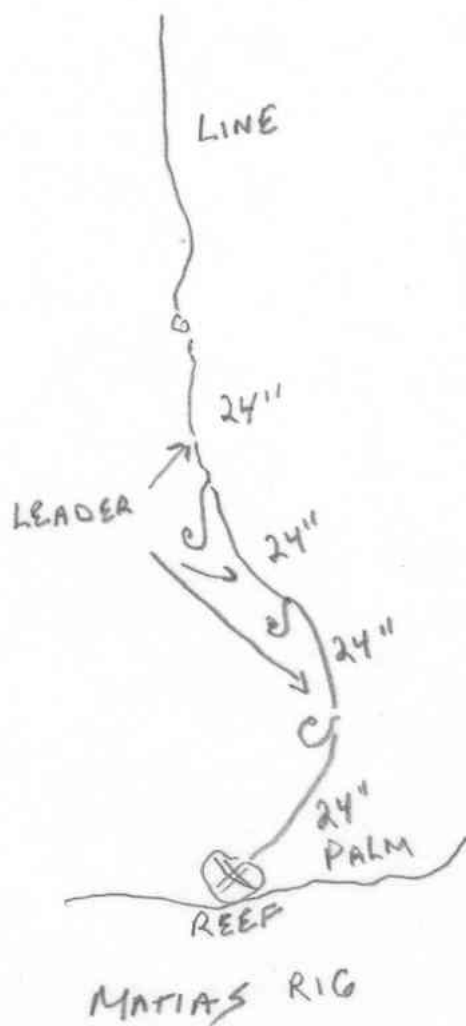
Nemesio, Esobio, Matias

Nemesio and Esobio do this the same way they do Bwere (#19) except with bigger hooks and a deeper depth (about 500 feet) farther out (about ½ mile).

Catch: Fotorimar, Meheihou, Taiyaho, Haugus

However, Matias uses 2 or 3 medium sized Fahum #1b or c, 12 inch fiber leaders, and a 20-pound stone tied on with 24 inches of palm leaf. He does not use extra bait. He goes from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

He catches: Taiyaho, Haugus, Fotorimar, Housih, Iherough, Farhonor, Mos, Maabunur



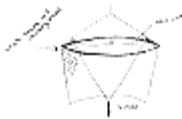
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Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Day Fishing Method 21: Fen

Nemesio, Esobio, Matias

Net: #2a



Line: Coconut about 60 fathoms; Esobio—40-50 fathoms

Bait: Tuna, flying fish

Hook: Do not use a hook.

Any place around the island.

Any time during the day, month, or tide.

Drop net until it touches reef then pull up about 6 feet.

This is a very difficult method. Most men don't master it until they are old.

Sometimes you get 50 fish in the net and they break it.

You usually catch about 10 fish.

Catch: Bwere [Matias—no Bwere!], Bupare, Buwar, Buhachechi

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Updated: January 18, 2017

Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Day Fishing Method 22: Foho

Nemesio

Hook: Hauro tapi. Nemesio has none.

Leader: None

Line: Medium cotton. Use 8-30 fathom line.

Sinker: 2-pound stone

Bait: Tuna—use extra

Go in March, April, and May from 6:00 to 11:00 a.m. on any tide.

Catch: Foho, Mamuchih.

(Mamuchih always travels with Foho. You catch him with a very small Haufong.)

Bait hook as shown:



Hook for Mamuchih actual size:

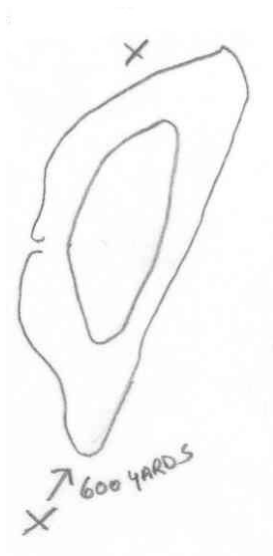


You can never use Foho for bait; nor can you boil it—you have to bake it. If you break this law no one will ever catch Foho on Tobi again.

When Nemesio was in Angaur after the war together with Pius, Patricio, Matias, and Esobio, the Navy asked them to provide fish. In doing this, they taught the people of Angaur how to fish for Foho.

Any man who figures he has enough bait can start. He will go about 600 feet past the reef and observe the currents. If currents are towards the reef, he will go 300 yards farther out. He then tosses out a lot of bait and goes back to shore. He repeats this early every morning for about one week until he sees the fish coming. Then he starts to fish. The first fish he catches he throws back. He will keep the rest. The next day everybody comes to fish for the Foho in that place. The Foho that was thrown back the day before will lead the rest of the school to the bait but he won't take any more himself.

This is a very fast method. In two hours you can get 100 fish.



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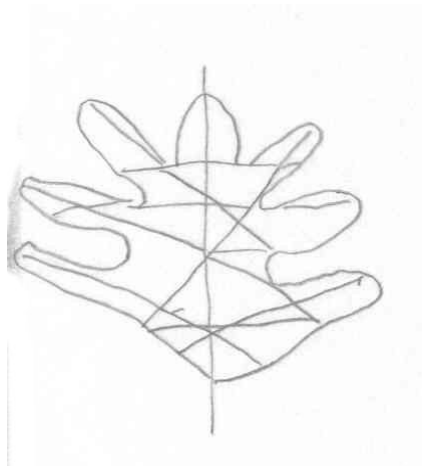
Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Day Fishing Method 23: Hachaiho (March 19)

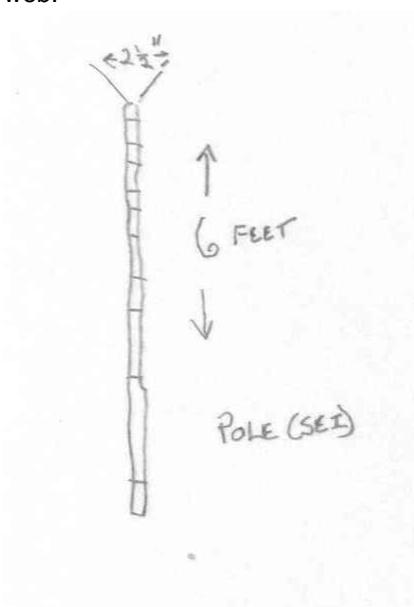
Nemesio, Esobio, Matias

Hook: None
Leader: None
Line: Thin coconut
Sinker: None
Bait: spider web (Ritobuhaha)

Breadfruit leaf kite (Chau)
reinforced by center from leaves on
palm frond.



Bamboo pole (sei) for gathering
web.



Six feet bamboo with two hardwood prongs which must be 2-1/2 inches apart and an extra piece of bamboo which can be tied on to give added length to gather web.

Go to jungle. Find Ritobuhaha in any tree. Poke stick into web and turn it around and around till you have all the web between the prongs. It usually takes 20 webs to make the required piece which should be a piece 3 inches long and 3 times as thick as a pencil.

Nemesio—you poke a hole in the middle of it to tie on your line.
Esobio and Matias—put a hole in each end and use a thin coconut fiber as shown.



Go any place on island. Up to one mile out from the reef. Go on any tide. Any month. Any time of

day.

The ratio of Line A-B to Line B-C is 5:3. Do not use more than 170:100.

You catch Mahi.

You cannot touch web with your hands unless you make sure there is no oil on them.

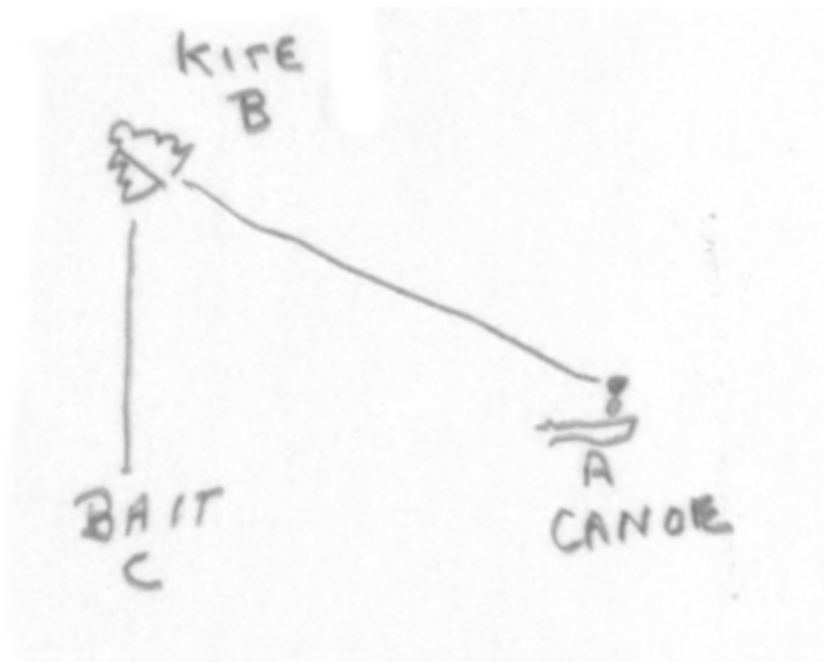
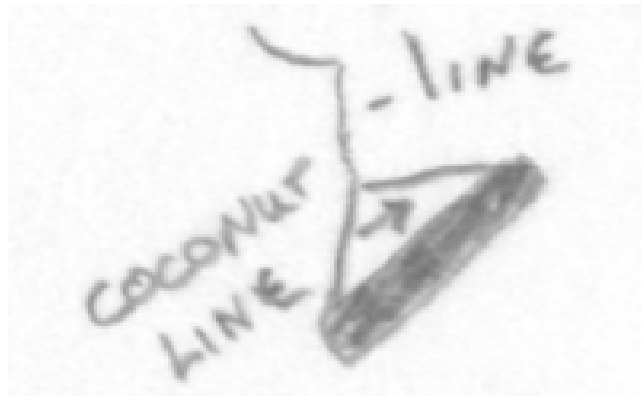
The best conditions are a sunny day with wind of approximately 15 knots.

Make a loop on the main support. Attach your line to the canoe as shown.

Nemesio



Esobio & Matias



Then your bait line should be tied onto the end of the support at the top of the canoe. Now hold kite against wind—if it moves side to side or back to front, adjust your loop until it does not move.

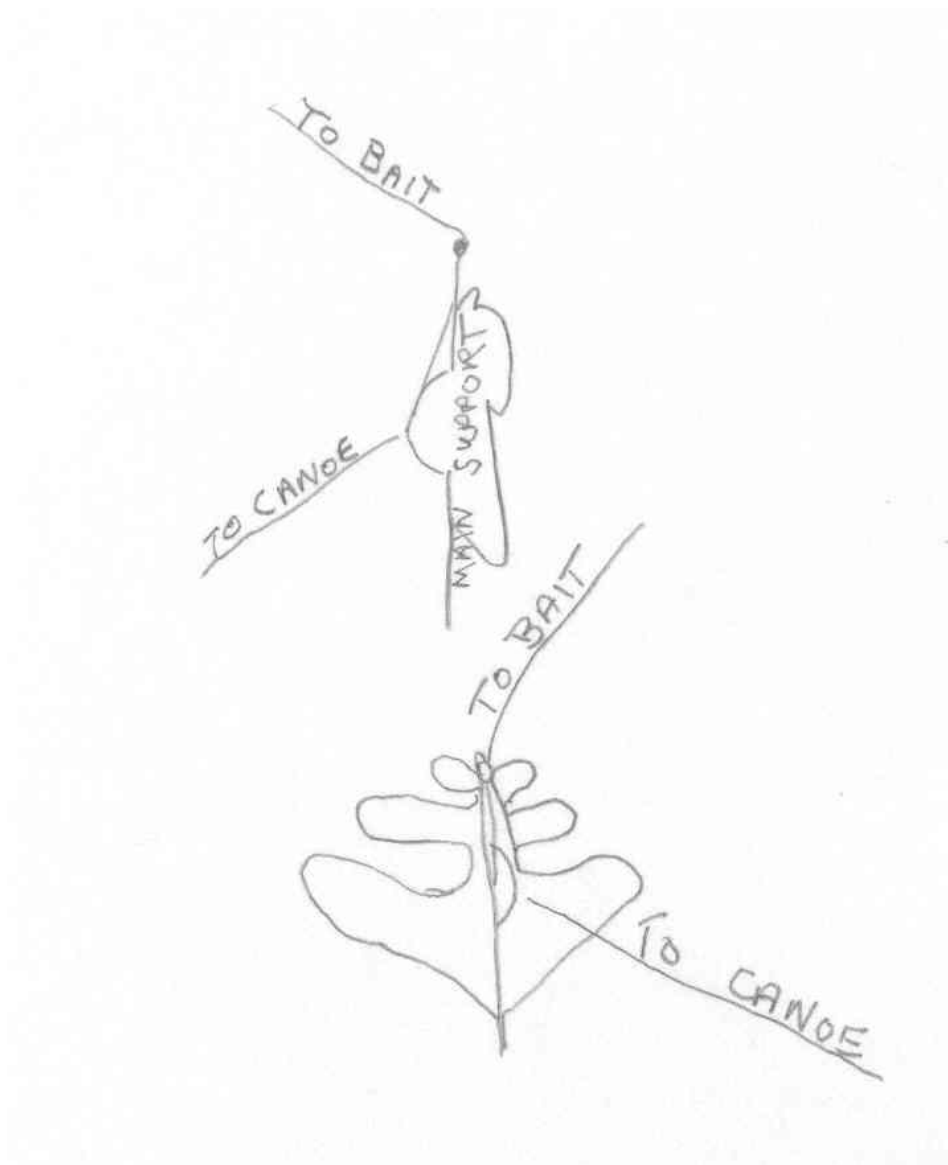
To release kite hold against wind and release. Do not throw, wait till your kite is up, then paddle as shown.

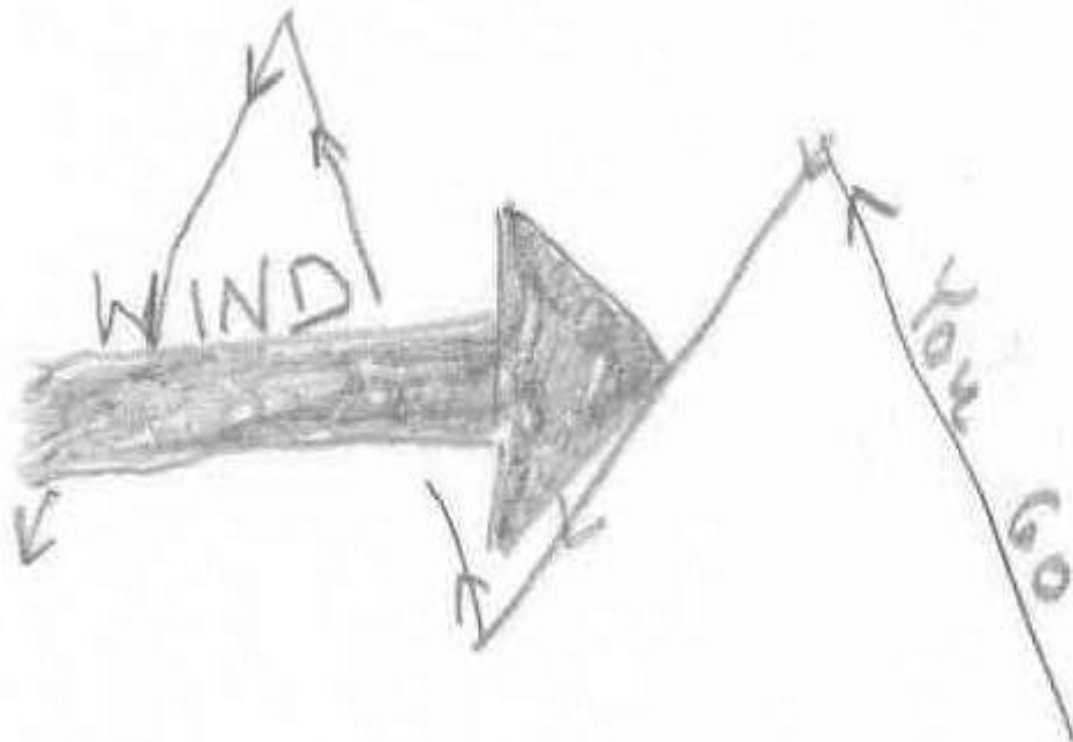
Hold kite line in teeth.

When fish takes bait, pull in kite. Grab bait line and release kite. Then pull in fish. Fish bites bait and can't let go. You can reuse bait.

No other fish will ever take this bait.

In Sonsorol there is no Ritobuhaha so they can't fish this way.





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Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Day Fishing Method 24: Hamar Nemesio, Esobio, Matias

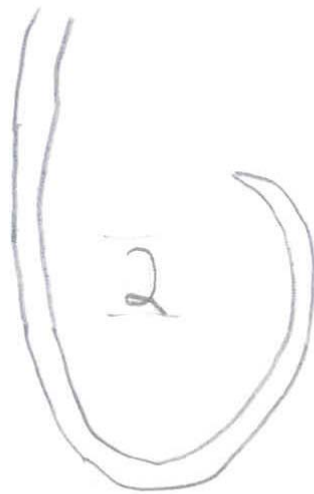
Hook: #3



Matias—#4



Esobio—#2



Leader: Thick wire about 6 inches long

Line: Tuna line or bigger

Bait: Hugh, Chep, Hahaf, Tir

Bait hook as shown.



Go any place around the island from 3 to 6 miles past the reef by 5:00 a.m. on an April or May morning.

Use 20-30 fathoms of line; Esobio—up to 90 fathoms; Matias—30-70 fathoms.

Stay in one place. Esobio and Matias—drift.

Catch: Tangih, Hangap, Tuna, Tahaha

They used to make magic as they crossed the reef to protect themselves from whales, sharks, and bad seas. You still cannot eat, drink, smoke, or touch a woman before you get your bait. You get your bait the night before you go. After gathering your bait you can eat, etc. But the next morning from the time you get up until you come back you cannot eat, etc. Matias says you can't sing or talk while fishing but Nemesio and Esobio say you can. When you are getting your canoe out be sure that no woman walks in front of it.

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Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Day Fishing Method 25: Fatun Bauch Nemesio

Hook: #5a, Parifatur



Leader: Thin wire

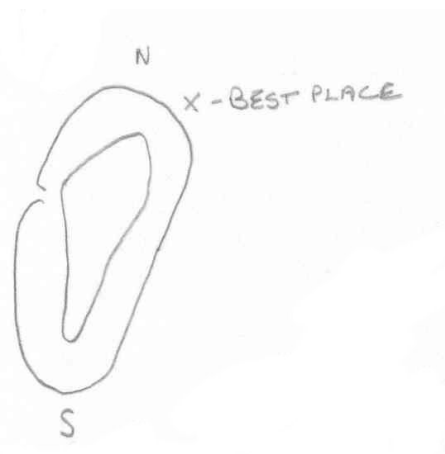
Line: Medium cotton

Sinker: None

Go any time of year from 5:00 to 7:00 a.m., cloudy or rainy day.

Use 20-30 fathoms of line.

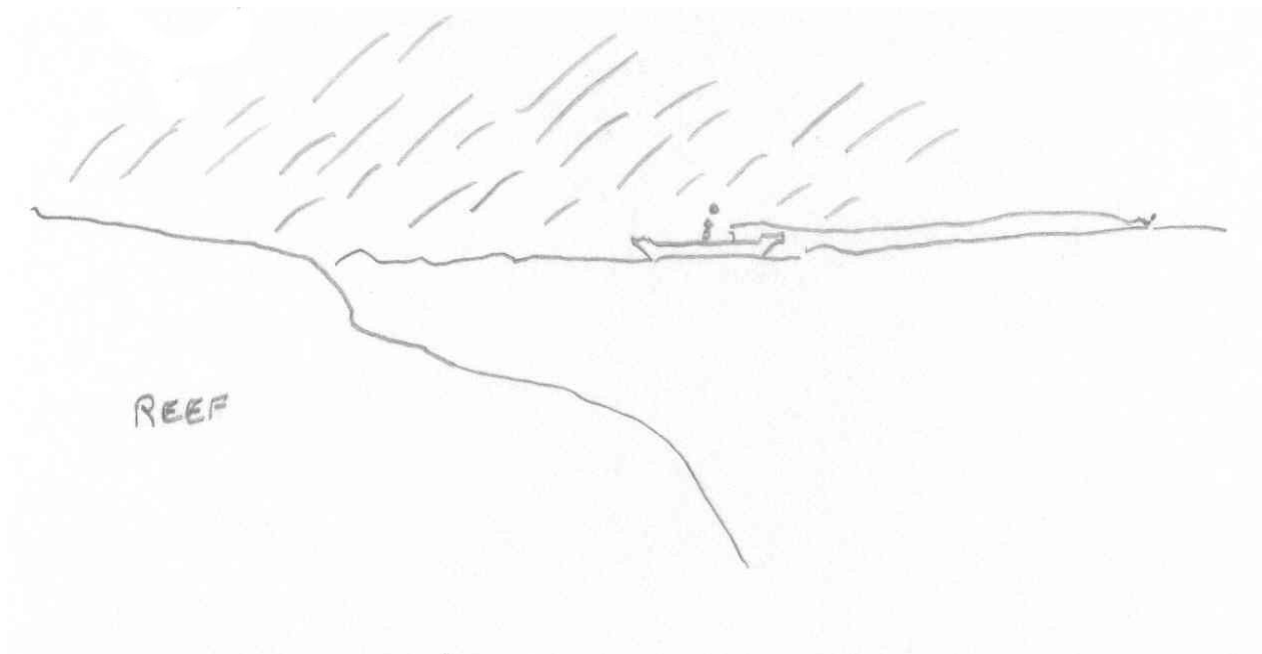
Any tide.



X is the best place but any place is ok.

Catch: Bauch

Best time: rain, dead calm, weak current.



Troll line. Tie it onto loin cloth.
Paddle with or against current.

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Updated: January 18, 2017

Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Day Fishing Method 26: Fatun Ma Habu Matias and Esobio

Hook: Fotomahech—Matias has none.
Leader: Fiber
Line: Same as for Hapeh hapeh (Night Fishing Method #1)

Use the same rig as Nemesio in Method 25 (Fatun bauch).

3 feathers—white, black, and white and red,

Go all around the island.

Spring. Clear day about 6:00 a.m.

About 6 fathoms from reef; Esobio—4 fathoms.

Catch: Mahabu, Baugh, Rahung,

Teter, Harie chor [Matias—no]

Trail the line as you slowly paddle in any direction along the reef.

Esobio says to take a piece of red coral and shape it like a fish, then tie it on your hook with 3 white feathers.



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Updated: January 18, 2017

Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Day Fishing Method 27: Fatun Mungah Esobio

Hook: #1a



Tuna line 15 or 20 fathoms and 6 feet wire leader.

Bait is a whole flying fish hooked from gill to stomach, with the point of the hook showing.

Go about 10 fathoms past the reef, at about 4:30 a.m. on a calm spring day, on either tide.
Drop hook and slowly paddle along the reef with one hand.

Catch: Tangitenginam, Tahu, Baugh, Habau, Yar

If you just drift you call it Hasu. You catch the same fish.

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Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Day Fishing Method 28: Riperiecho Matias and Esobio

Hook: tiny Fahum #1 or tiny Haufong #7



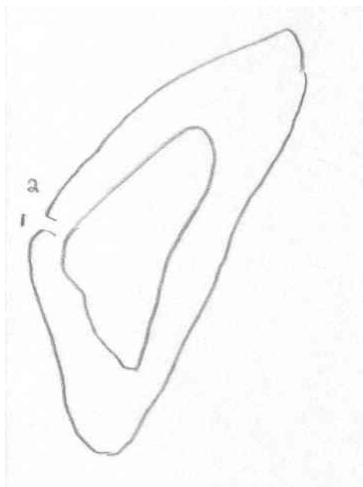
Leader: Fiber

Line: Use 6-10 fathoms of line; Esobio—4-6 fathoms.

Sinker: Small stone sinker

Bait: Very soft young coconut meat

Go at any time in a bright spring day on any tide.



Matias says to go to #2; Esobio says to go to #1.

You use extra bait, shake it off with the stone. Stay in one place.

Catch: Riperiecho and other small reef fish.

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Updated: January 19, 2017

Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Day Fishing Method 30: Harie Chor Matias only

Hook:



Leader:

Fiber

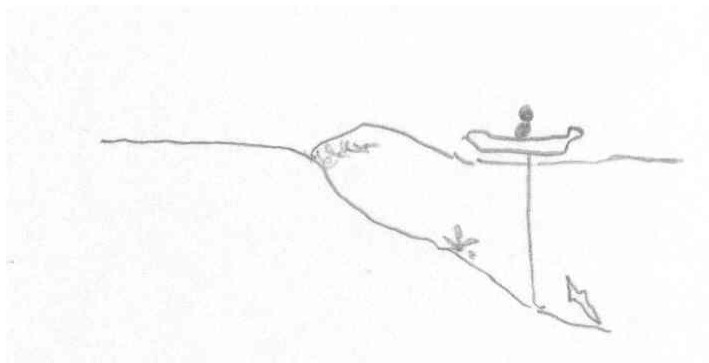
Line: Use 20-30 fathoms of medium cotton

Sinker: Small stones

Bait: Hugh—use the whole fish

Catch: Harie chor, Ruhorough

Go all the way around the island at a depth of 6-30 fathoms. Tie the stone on the same way as in Hapeh hapeh (#1). Tie on extra bait. When the stone touches the reef, give the line a shake to get rid of the stone.



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Day Fishing Method 31: Tareyar

Esobio only

Hook: Very small Haufong (#7)

Leader: Very thin cotton

Sinker: Stone

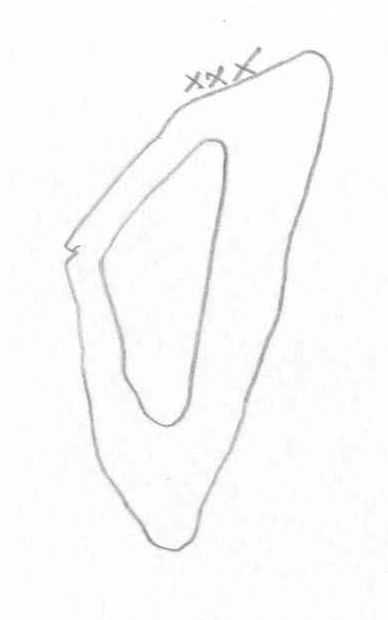
Bait: Umen (hermit crab)

On a high tide use 1-1/2 fathom line; on low tide use 1 fathom line.

Go at 8:00 or 9:00 a.m.

Your sinker should touch the reef.

Catch: Tareyar, Raughaman



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Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Day Fishing Method 32: Pahisehe

Esobio only

Hook: Ramatiho (#2)



Tuna line, 20 or 30 fathoms with a 5 fathom wire leader, but no sinker.
Use a big piece of tuna, flying fish, or Mor about 4 inches by 2 inches.

Go 10 fathoms past the point where the reef is still visible under the canoe.
Go at 6:00 a.m. on any tide in the Spring.
Stay in one place. Keep line still and don't let stone touch bottom.

Catch: Uremarau, big Harie, Hausih, Chuheribout, Wahabir, Mos, Yebur yohong,
Mam, Habou



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Day Fishing Method 33: Hairir Esobio only.

Hook: Fahum (#1a)

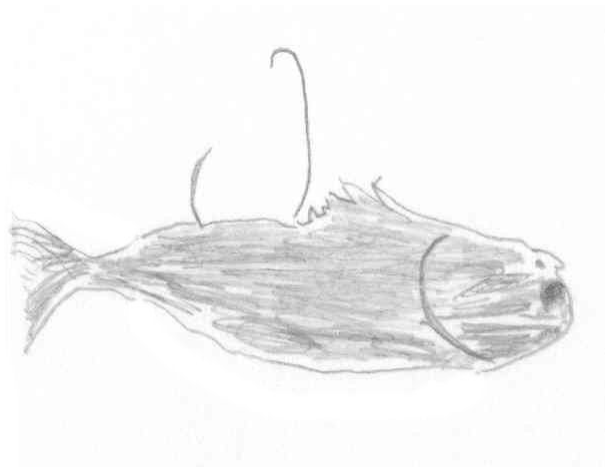


A big line like they use on the Japanese fishing boats, 100 fathoms long.
6 feet of thick wire sinker.
No sinker.

Bait: Live Rimehiyong

Bait hook as shown.

Catch: all 3 sizes of tuna.



Any time and place you see a big fish, drop in your hook.
Don't eat before you go or it will take a long time.

Stay in one place.

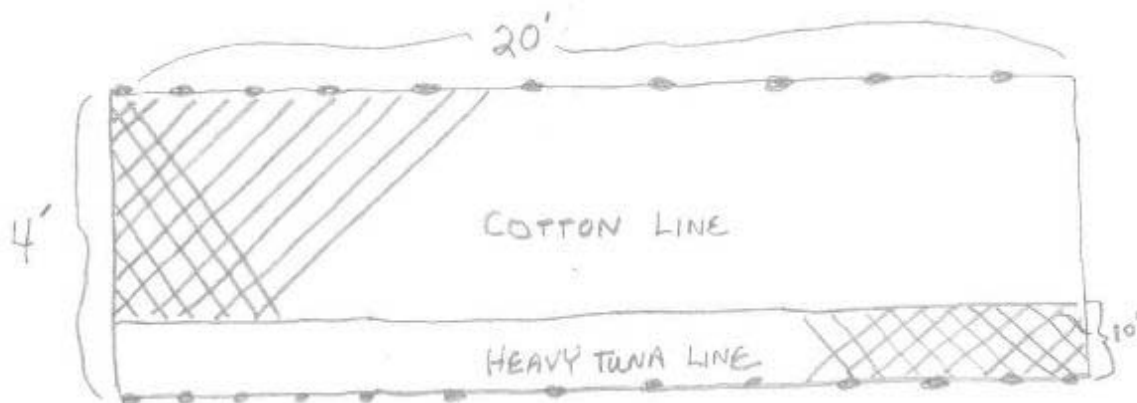
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Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Day Fishing Method 34: Tab

Esobio

Net: Pahas (#3a)



Large basket called Machiyeru.

At the northwestern side of the island the people have built about 50 Hahuchurtab.



Hahuchurtab are rock piles up to 40 feet across and 4 feet high built in the big holes in this part of the reef. Hahuchurtab are left alone for two years after they are built. Then the people surround them with nets and remove the rocks. After this they repeat it once every year.

The best time to do it is in the Spring, when you have a very low tide at noon. There should be about 3 feet of water around the rock pile.

It is very bad to watch someone else doing this.

You catch any kind of reef fish.

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Day Fishing Method 35: Biyeu

Esobio

Build a trap. Takes two or three men 3 or 4 days.

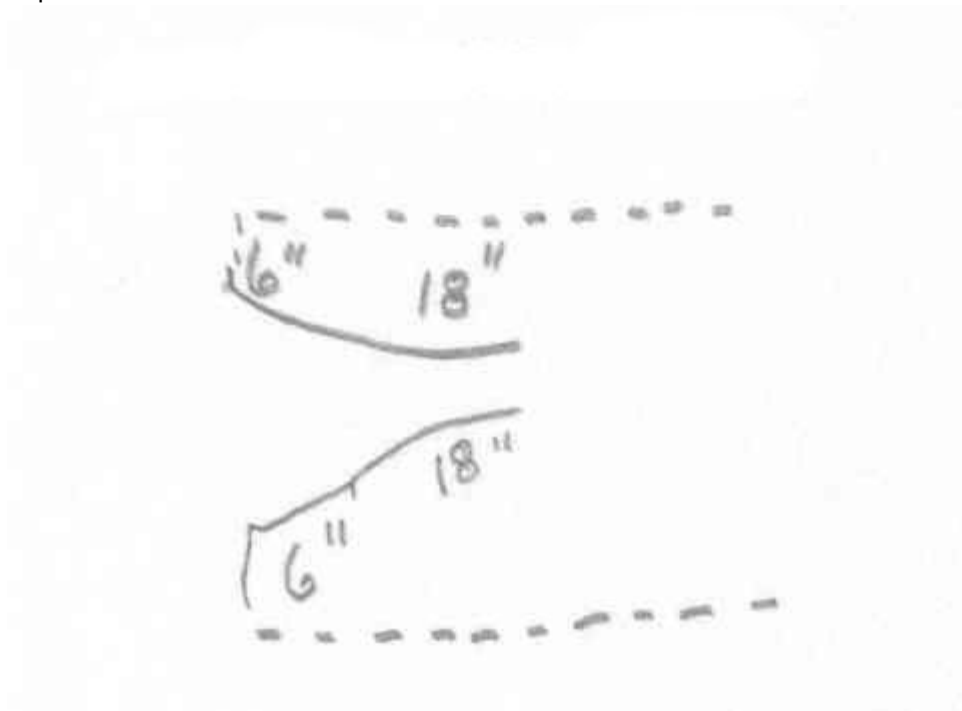
The roof is 2 feet high and 2 feet across. Shaped as shown.

Side view roof—

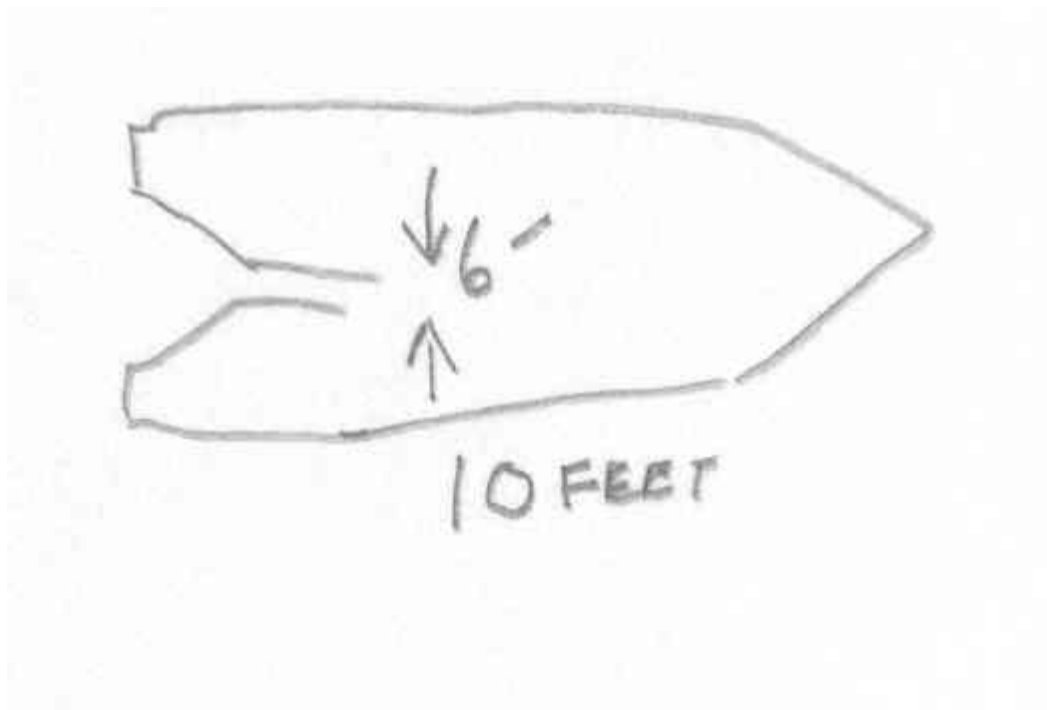


The door is V shaped. Build the door on one end. 6 inches of each wing are made of sticks. The rest—18 inches—are made of coconut roots. Door is 2 feet high and 2 feet across. The trap is 10 feet long, 6 feet wide, 5 feet high.

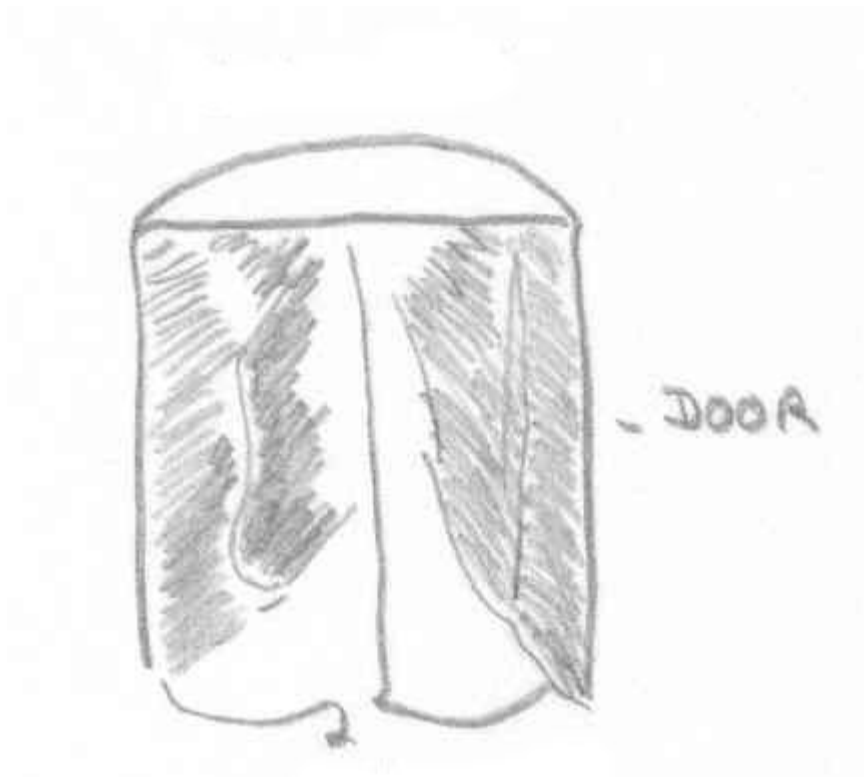
Top view door—



Floor plan—

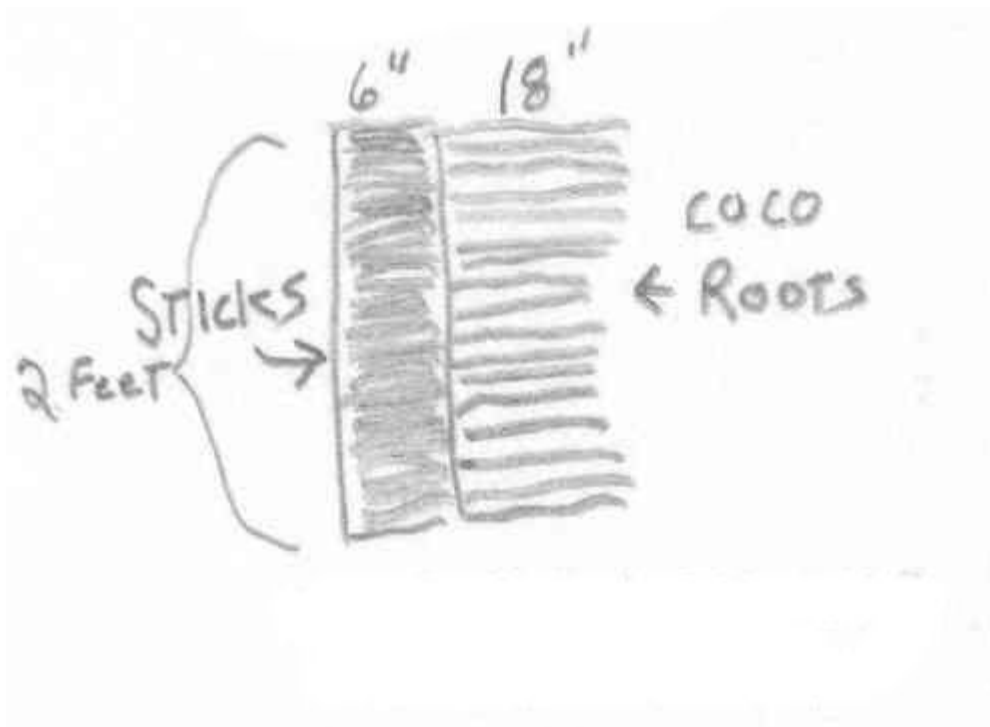


End view—



It takes approximately 200 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch sticks of Fariyap—apple—to build this trap, plus 80 2-1/2 inch pieces of coconut root. You take the roots from 2 or 3 mature trees without killing them.

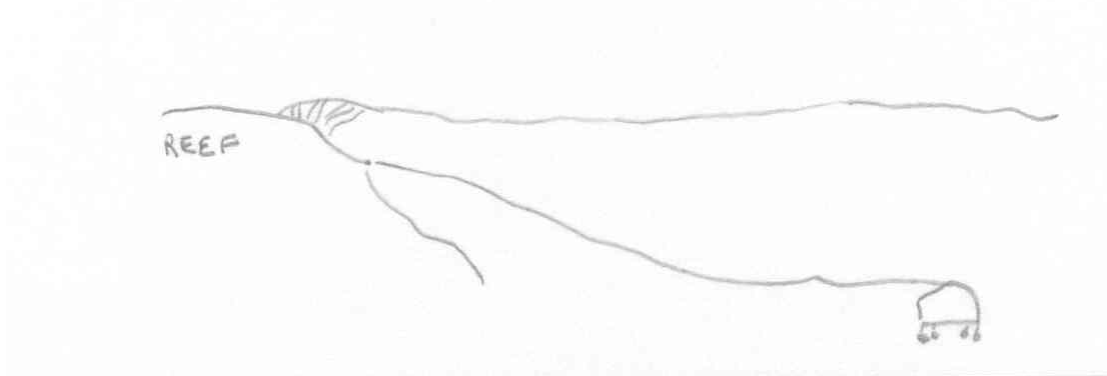
Side view of one wing door—



Tie the trap together with fiber. Do not use nails. Lash a 20 pound rock on each corner so it hangs down one foot.

Dive down on the edge of the reef at low tide and tie a 60 fathom 1 inch coconut fiber line.

Take the Biyeu out past the reef and tie the rope onto its top in the middle. Take the Biyeu out until the rope is tight then ease it over the side of the canoe.



Leave it for 3 days.

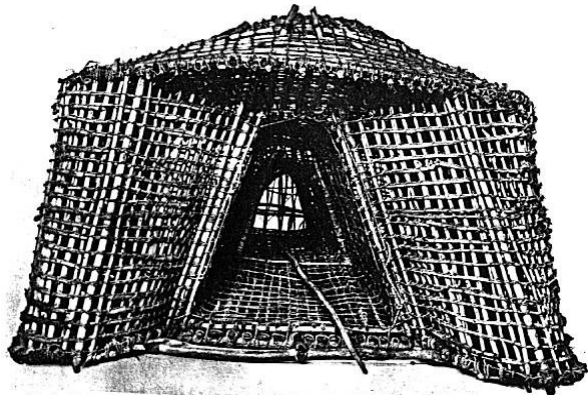
Catch any kind of reef fish, up to 500 of them.

Esobio never made a Biyeu. He saw them being made before Japanese times. They used to have a magic to make the fish come.

On the day you take out the trap you should not eat or drink, or touch your wife. After you bring the trap in, you must remain in your canoe house, you can't go fishing or leave the immediate neighborhood for one month.

Fish traps on Tobi Island as recorded by members of the Thilenius Expedition, 1908-1910:

Large fish trap (Eilers, 1936 plate 2):



Southwest beach with large canoe, canoe house, and fish traps. (Photograph by A. Kramer, Eilers, 1936 plate 6):



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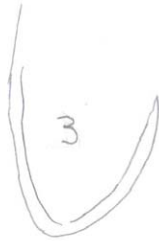
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Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Day Fishing Method 36: Hatuf Charau Esobio

Hook: Yawariyet (#3). He has none.



Pole: Use an 18-foot bamboo pole.

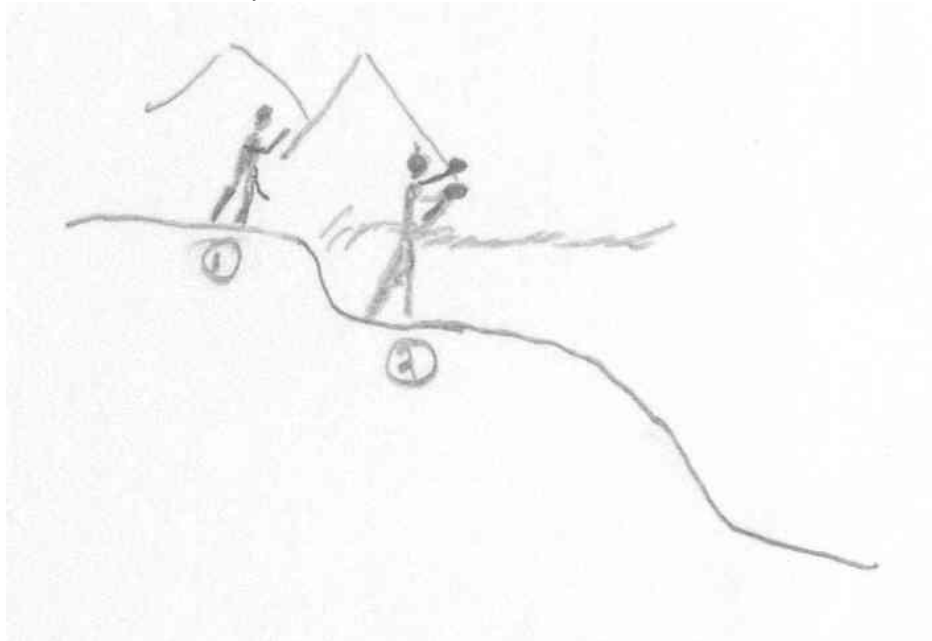
Leader: Fiber

Line: Thin cotton, 18 inches longer than pole

Bait: Umen (hermit crab) or Rihosobu

Go any place around the island. Low tide. Cloudy day. Stand on edge.

Catch: Charau only.



If you use a little bigger equipment and stand a little farther out, you call it Hatuf Rahung and you catch Rahung. Stand at Point 1 for Hatuf Charau and at Point 2 for Hatuf Rahung.

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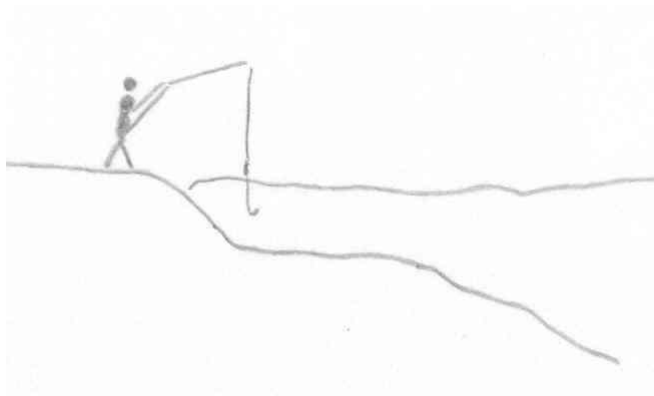
Updated: January 19, 2017

Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Day Fishing Method 37: Hamaneningat Esobio

Pole: Use 10 foot bamboo pole.
Hook: Use a very small Fotomahech. He has none.
Leader: No leader or sinker.
Line: Thin cotton line.
Bait: Umen (hermit crab)

All around the island, spring, sunny day, low tide.



Catch: Harie chimerifas, Harie chor, Ritetifach, Harie yuno

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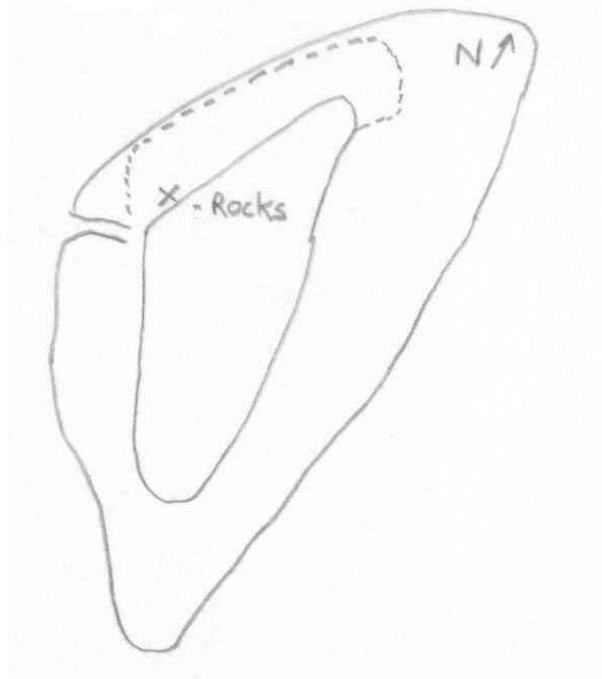
Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Day Fishing Method 38: Pahutuhor Yefangi

Esobio

For this fishing you need about 200 people, thus it has not been done on Tobi since pre-Japanese times.

When the water is neck deep on the reef the people should line up as shown—



The people in the north walk toward the south beating the water with sticks. The other people stay in their place until the northerners arrive. Then everyone closes in on a pile of rocks which has been built by the old men in the shape of a Biyeu (see Method 35).

Keep a circle around the rocks until low tide, then the old men catch the fish with their hands. Used to get over 1000 fish.

Catch: Yauh, Chep, Kum, Ruhoruho, Nimi, Rahung, Hausih, Her

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Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Day Fishing Method 39: Pahupu Esobio

Similar to Hamaneningat (Method #37)

Use about 30 people.

Go at knee deep water.

Go to the northern or southern end of the reef.



Catch: Her, Horach, Hausih, Sonobei

You can use a Pahas net (#3a) or casting net (#1) if you wish.

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Day Fishing Method 40: Tir Esobio

Go in a big canoe (uatur).
About 5 people.

First comes He Cheu Ru Hou holding Net #4c.
Second comes Hecheubu holding Net #4d.
Then 3 paddlers.

Catch: Tir

You see a school from the shore and gather a crew and go. No one can wear any clothes and if your wife is pregnant you cannot go.
The man in the bow puts in his net (cheurahou), then the second man dips his net (cheubu) under the cheurohou.

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Day Fishing Method 41: Tuna Fishing

Patricio (May 20)

Need a good wind.

No whales.

Black birds.

White birds or Man of War.

Tuna like to eat: Flying fish, Pati, Ngita, Masowah, Tirihan

Before the Japanese came, the only way to catch tuna was by Hamar (Method #24) or Fatun munga (Method #27). A man from an island the Japanese call Ongasawara taught the men how to sail for tuna and how to make the hooks.

Early morning and late afternoon are the best.

Tuna like to swim against the current, so you should try to sail against it.

You will catch tuna in the smooth water.

Troll 20 or 30 fathoms—20 if no wind, 30 if good wind.

Use a 4-5 foot wire leader.

There are two kinds of lures all made from Hook #6, Hapi Sehe, each kind has 3 sizes, small, medium, and large. The hook shown (#6b) is a medium.



The two kinds are: (1) those with more black than white feathers and (2) those with more white than black feathers. Use about 20 chicken feathers for one bait.

If you see flying fish, try a big lure with less black than white; if you see squid, drop medium or small, more black than white. If you see Tirihan, drop small, more black than white; if you see Pati, drop medium or small, less black than white.

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The Hooks of Tobi

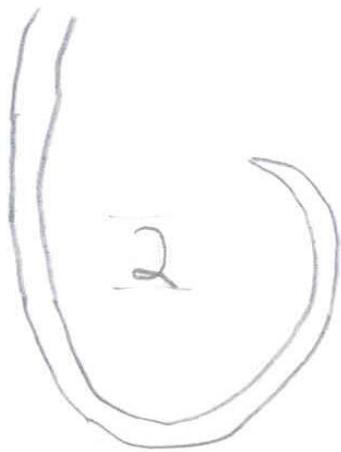
In addition to Japanese and American hooks, the following seven major styles are made and used today. Each style has many variations. The following drawings are schematic. The word "Fong" refers to the barb.

Here are tracings of actual hooks. Only a few hooks have specific names. The rest are known simply by their style.

1. Fahum (round)



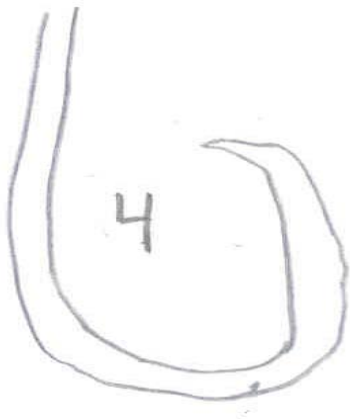
2. Ramatiho (bottom smaller than top, point round)



3. Yawariyet (bottom smaller than top, straight point)



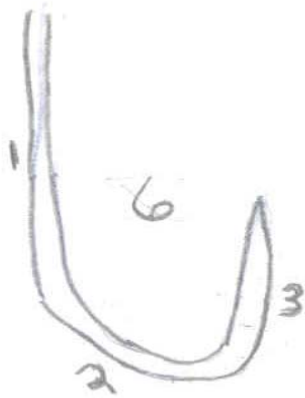
4. Ramaribout (top smaller than bottom with Fong)



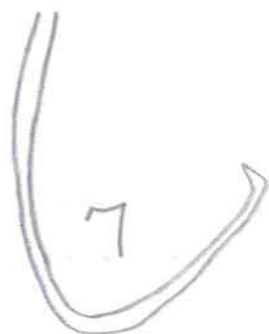
5. Fotomahech (top smaller than bottom, no Fong)



6. Hapi Sehe (made with three straight lines)



7. Haufong (top bigger than bottom with Fong)



1. Fahum

Nemesio's Hooks—none

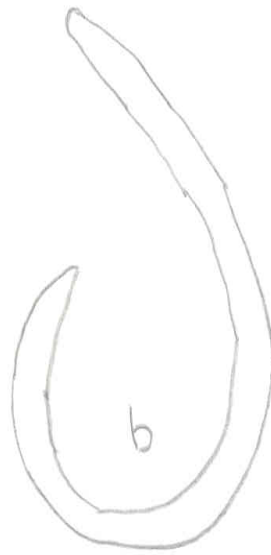
Esobio's Hooks—



Matias's Hooks—

a. Haur Hairir

b. Haur Pehiseha



c. Ramasuh

d.

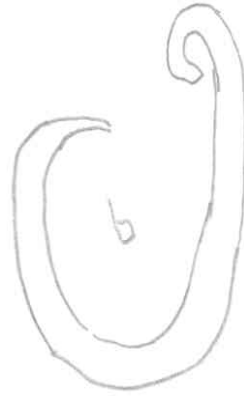


2. Ramatiho

Nemesio's Hooks—

a. Hau Ri Firong

b. Haur Fasuwh



Esobio's Hooks—
Suheriyong



Matias's Hooks—



3. Yawariyet

Nemesio's Hooks—
Haur Hamar



Esobio's Hooks—none

Matias's Hooks—none

4. Ramaribout

Nemesio's Hooks—
Yau Yohar Hauboch



Esobio's Hooks—none

Matias's Hooks—
Hauru Fasuwo



5. Fotomahech

Nemesio's Hooks—
Parifatur chicken feathers brown and black



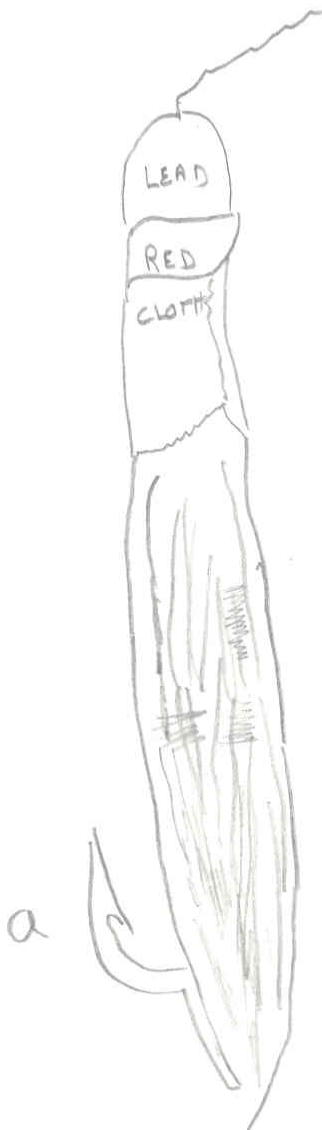


Esobio's Hooks—none
Matias's Hooks—none

6. Hapi Sehi

Nemesio's Hooks—none
Esobio's Hooks—

Tuna Hook



Hauru Bwere



Hauru Bwere



Matias's Hooks—none

7. Haufong

Nemesio's Hooks—



Esobio's Hooks—



Hauru Bub



Matias's Hooks—



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Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

The Nets of Tobi

1. Ugh (casting net)

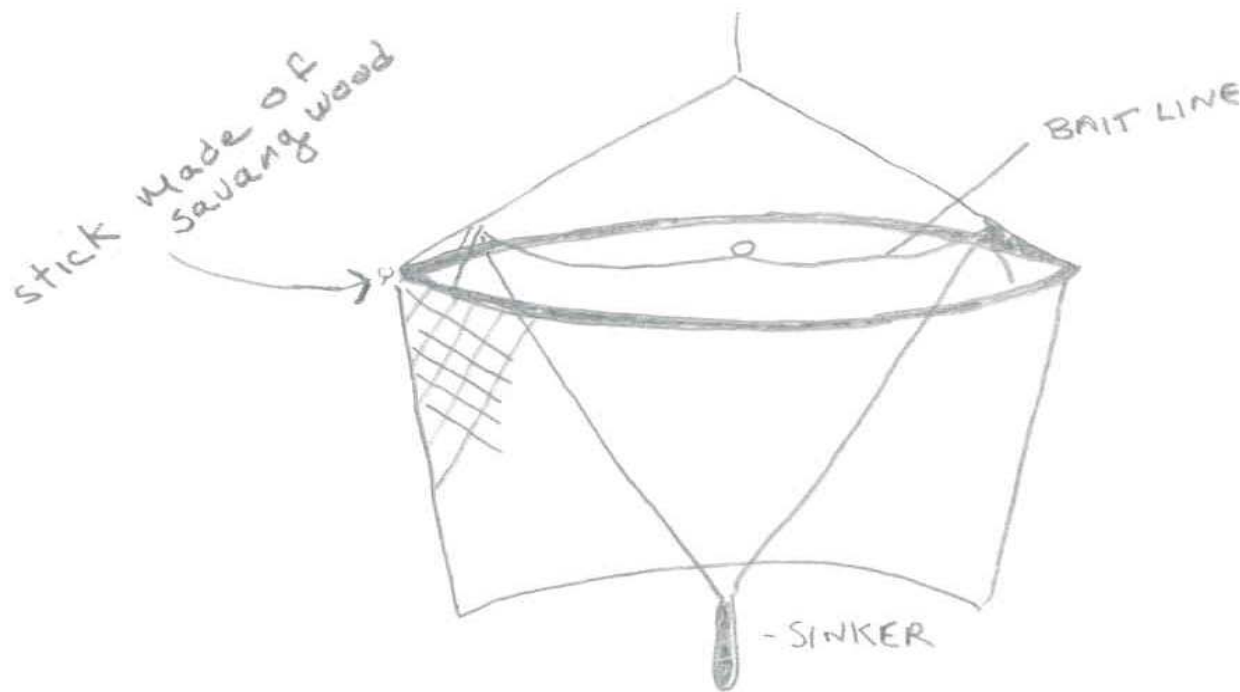
Esobio has one. The mesh is 1 inch, height is 12 feet; diameter of bottom is 24 feet, and 3 inch lead sinkers are placed every 3 inches around the bottom. Made from cotton line.

2. Fen

There are two types of Fen—

a. Fen er Bub, used for Fen (see Day Fishing Method 21) made from thin rami fiber.

b. Fen er Mahiphip, used for Taturamar (see Day Fishing Method 29), made from thick coconut fiber line.



The top is open, the bottom closed.

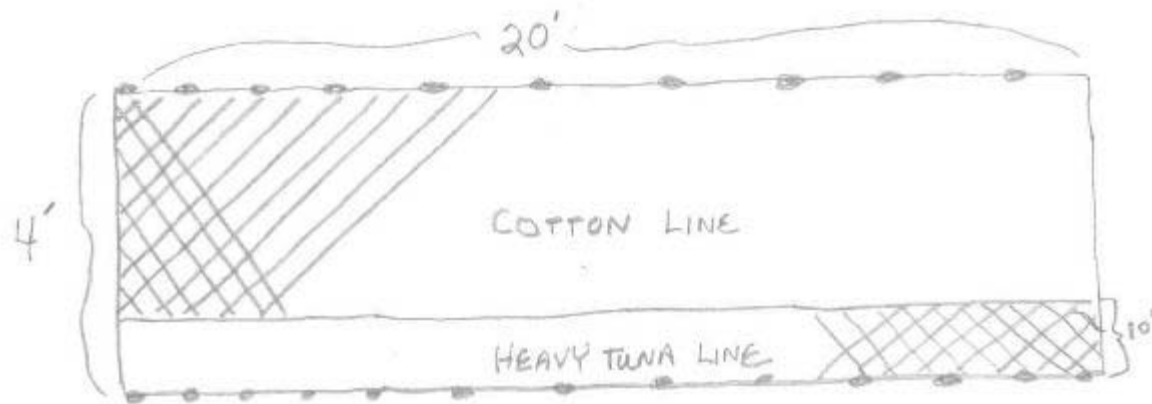
Esobio—diameter at top 15 inches; depth 1 foot; mesh 2-1/4 inches.

Matias—2 inch mesh; 12 inch diameter; 12 inch depth; 8 holes down; 9 holes across; 18 inch line for sinker.

3. Pahas

There are two kinds of pahas, pahas and uwarai. There are no uwarai now.

a. Pahas. Esobio and Nemesio both have a pahas.



Nemesio—mesh 1-1/4 inch; length 20 feet; height 4 feet. Handmade wooden floats on top, every 3 holes. 1-1/2 inch lead sinkers 1/2 inch apart attached to bottom tuna line.

Esobio—mesh 1-1/4 inch; length 30 feet; width 18 inches; wooden pegs every 2 inches, sinkers every 1 inch.

b. Uwarai

Mesh 1-1/2-2 inches; length 30 to 100 feet; width 5-6 feet.

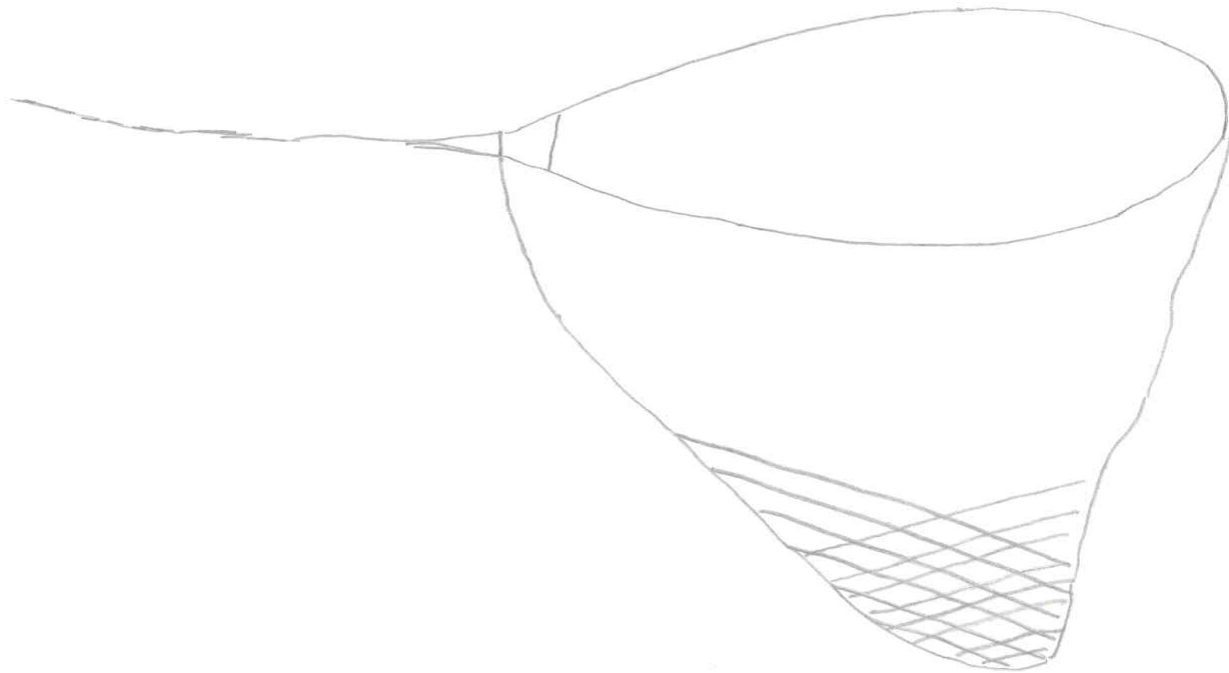
4. Cheu

There are four kinds of Cheu. Esobio has one of each and Matias has a Cheu Turumat.

a. Cheu Turumat

Matias—depth 24 inches; top diameter 16 inches; mesh 1 inch.

Esobio—top 25 inches from handle to other side; 21 inches across; 16 inches deep; mesh 1-1/2 inch.



Cheu Turumat can either be round like Matias's or oblong like Esobio's.

Short handle.

Used in Turumat (Night Fishing Method 8).

b. Cheu Mangah

Top must be oblong.

From handle across top 32 inches made from cotton or coconut fiber line.

Depth 48 inches

Mesh 1 inch

Has a long handle.

Used for catching flying fish (see Day Fishing Method 41).

c. Cheu ru Hou

Top must be oblong. Made only from coconut fiber line.

Top 32 inches

Depth 48 inches

Mesh 1 inch

Has a long handle.

Used for catching Tir (see Day Fishing Method 40).

d. Cheu Tir

Top must be oblong.

Made from either coconut fiber or cotton line.

Top 32 inches

Depth 48 inches

Mesh ¼ inch

Has a long handle.

Used for catching Tir (see Day Fishing Method 40).

The Story of Ugh

Patricio says that Palauans got their casting nets or Ugh from the Saipanese who learned how to make them from the Spanish, because they tie their nets with a granny knot.

When he was in Angaur after the war, he saw a U.S. Navy man fixing a net with the same knot he had learned as a boy—the square knot.

Note: a translation problem probably occurred here. It is unlikely Patricio meant granny knot, which could not hold. It is too late now to figure out what he was talking about. PWB 2005.

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Manwarhichi and the Whale—A True Story

Patricio Mohorihotimoh

Note: In olden times people were punished by being set adrift in a canoe with no paddle. They were given fish and taro and coconuts and towed out about five miles past the reef and abandoned.

One time this happened to a young boy named Manwarhichi. The men who towed him out did not want him to survive so they broke up his canoe. As he was about to drown, he grabbed his outrigger and started to swim towards the island. Soon a bird flew up and landed on his head. Since he knew a lot of magic from his father, he caught the bird and made it call a shark. The shark came but his skin was too rough for the boy to ride on so he sent it away and made the bird call a whale. When the whale came, the boy climbed on it, still carrying the bird and they set off toward the island.

It was late afternoon when they finally approached the reef and saw a man in a canoe headed out toward them. This man watched what he thought was a big canoe suddenly disappear leaving a boy holding a bird in the water.

Manwarhichi called the man over, and as they were paddling toward the island, he asked “What was that thing you were riding on?”

“That was my canoe, my friend whose name is whale.”

As soon as they got to the beach the man ran to tell Manwarhichi’s father that his son had survived his punishment. The father made a flower ring for his son’s head and went to his canoe house to wait for him.

When the boy came, his father put the flowers on his head, took the bird from him and they killed it and ate it.

Manwarhichi’s Catholic name is Felipe and he is now living in Eang in Koror. He is about 80 years old.

Note: He died many years ago. PWB 2005.

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How a Boy Learned to Fish on Tobi

Santos Horisan Manifaramau

How a Boy Learned to Fish in Olden Times

Each boy would learn from his father. Before the boy started the father would explain the different methods and the importance of going slowly and learning well so people would not speak badly of him. Also the father would explain that there were certain types of fishing—Tur (Night Fishing Method 14), Petchami (Day Fishing Method 16), Hairir (Day Fishing Method 33), Hasu ((Day Fishing Method 27), Hachaiho (Day Fishing Method 23)—which if a boy did not learn from his father, he could never try. These methods were only for certain families [not clans]. This holds true even today; if your father did not know how to fish Hachaiho and people see you doing it, they will embarrass you.

When the boy is about 7 years old, his father takes him fishing for the first time. They go to the reef at low tide, and find a hole about knee deep and 6 feet across. Usually all the boys will be at that hole or one near it. The fishing is done with a 3-foot pole, very thin line, and tiny Hapi Sehe (#6) or Fahum (#1) hook. This fishing is called Baur Ni Cheh and the boy will catch Richoh if he uses Umen (hermit crab) for bait. All the other boys will be doing this and will tease the new boy if he doesn't catch many fish. After two or three months of this, he can go to Baur Hari, which is the same except that Hari are a little bigger than Richoh. He does these two types for two years, then he can start in a canoe doing simple fishing near the reef with his father nearby. At this time, Man Waru Hoch (Day Fishing Method 15), Hamaneningat (Day Fishing Method 37), and similar types are learned. This phase lasts from his 9th year to his 15th year, then he can start easy night fishing like Hapeh Hapeh (Night Fishing Method 1), Haheh (Night Fishing Method 2), Firong (Day Fishing Method 18). When he is about 20 he can try the casting net and Tur (Night Fishing Method 14), and from 25-30 he starts on the difficult types of fishing like Fen (Day Fishing Method 21).

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Updated: January 19, 2017

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Turtles

Felix Andrew

There are two kinds of turtles—those that you find near logs drifting far out at sea, and those big ones that come to the beach to lay eggs.

Each of these two types has two subdivisions—one smooth-backed and one rough-backed. The big ones that come on shore are not the parents of the smaller ones near the logs because those small ones have eggs inside when caught.

The small ones are about two feet across the shell and are called Hehewar and Fariyorung. The former has the smooth back and Fariyorung has a rough back.

The big ones are called Hachap and War. Hachap has the shell you can work—the Palauans call it Ngasech and it is a little smaller than War which is called Uel by the Palauans.

Only War lays its eggs on Tobi although Marcello and Nemesio did catch one Hachap in 1962. Although some people claim that only one kind is found in any one year in any one place, Felix says that they also caught two or three War in 1962.

He doesn't remember about 1963 or 1964 but in 1965 and 1966 they didn't catch any. 1967 was an average year (six or seven) and this year is poor so far with only one turtle by May 23.

Felix says the reason we have so few now is because in Japanese times the people ate all the turtle eggs they found, and now we have only a few big turtles who were born on Tobi. Most turtles these days go to Merir or Helen's Reef. Before Japanese times and since 1966, there has been island law against eating turtle eggs. This year the turtle killed had already laid her eggs on the beach. Isauro, the municipal clerk, who caught the turtle, found her eggs and built a screen fence around them and covered it with thatch. He plans on keeping the baby turtles in the fence for one week after they hatch so they will have a better chance to survive. Nobody ever tried to do this before.*

There are three ways to hunt turtle:

a. Cuperiwar. Go out early and paddle around the island. When you see one flash your paddle in the air and five men will come out in a big canoe and catch the turtle.

b. Totohwar. You see the turtle from the shore and paddle out and catch it. Takes five men in a canoe.

- In both A and B, nobody whose wife or girlfriend is pregnant can take part.
- If anyone points at the turtles, they will disappear; they will be ashamed because someone saw them when they were copulating.

c. Beni Ri Wor. At night you walk around the beach, on any tide except a very low tide, either with or without a moon. When you find a turtle, let her lay her eggs then turn her over and come back the next morning to catch it.

* On May 29 Isauro found seven baby turtles in his pen, 62 had already escaped, and there were four bad eggs. He put the seven in a bucket and fed them fish until June 2 when he released them.

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Distribution of Fish and Turtles in Olden Times

There were some fish which belonged to the chief. They were Mam, Yar, Tahumahu.

If the chief was out fishing when you caught one of these three, he would paddle over and ask:

“What fish did you just catch?”

“Mam,” you would answer (or yar or tahumahu).

“Do you have a small fish in your canoe?” he would ask.

“Yes I have a Mos.”

“OK, give me the Mos and take the Mam to your house and eat it.”

However, if the chief was bad you would have to take the big fish to his house for his family to eat. In addition if you caught Yohong, the chief gets one.

The island used to have a group of men called Toutob. These men were magicians who, in addition to the magic they had learned from their fathers, had invented their own magic. If they did not receive turtle meat or their special fish they could destroy the island or drive insane or even kill the people.

The fish they claimed were Mahiphip Bub, Tir, Fofu, Mangah.

If you caught less than 20 of any of these fish you could keep them all, but if you caught more than 20, you had to take five of them to the prayer house where they would be divided up by the magicians.

There is a fishing method called Kuh which consists of netting fish, at night, at low tide on the reef in the North. There are so many ghosts there that only Santos dares do it.

Turtle meat was eaten only by the chief and the Toutob. The turtle was given to the chief and he divided it up between the Toutob and kept the rest for himself. The chief got the blood and the young eggs.

Hachap was never eaten. The shell was divided between the chief—who got one side and the neckpiece—and the catcher who got the rest. Hooks, bracelets for women, and the chief's necklace were made from Hachap shell. Nowadays anyone can eat any fish or turtle, but it is considered polite to give the biggest and best fish to the women, just as they give men the best and biggest taro.

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The Canoes of Tobi

Patricio Mohorihotimoh, April 28

When the first people came to Tobi they came in a Wolei style canoe. The Pauh was straight—

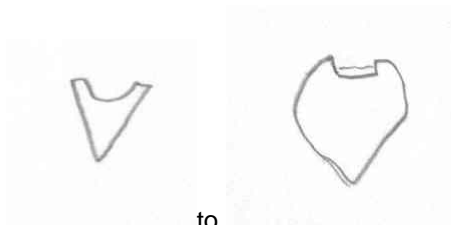


no Metesie—



and no Hau. This canoe was 40 feet long with one pandanus sail.

In the time of the sixth chief a man named Fetereheng, after many experiments, changed the sides from



to

adding the Metesie.

Fetereheng's canoe was faster and it could sail much closer to the wind without capzising. He also changed the Pauh from

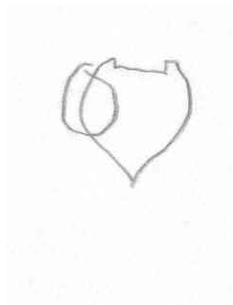


to

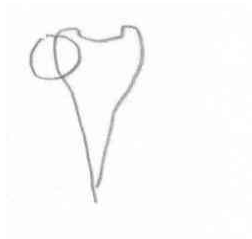


He had two sons—Feter, the eldest, and Tehenuroi. They both learned how to build the new style canoe from their father and when Fetereheng died, they both became canoe builders.

Feter built canoes his father's way but Tehenuroi shortened the Metesie from



to



This made a faster canoe that could not go on rough seas. Both designs are still in use today.

Patricio eliminated the Houm



when he started adding copper stripping on the bottom to protect the canoe from the reef. The Houm was merely decorative.

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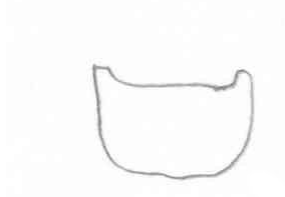
Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Types of Canoes

The following are the only four types of canoes ever known on Tobi.

1. Waribir. From 6 to 8 fathoms long and one fathom high. These canoes were for racing, funerals, and for going out to meet ships to trade for metal and tobacco. The canoes had sails and could carry up to 30 people. Patricio saw 10 of them when he was a small boy but there are none on the island now because they were used to carry their dead owners beyond the reef.

2. Uatur. From 4 to 5 fathoms long. Used for catching flying fish, turtle, and Tir (see Day Fishing Method 40) (a small fish that is found in large schools on the surface and netted in the daytime). Because of its odd shape, the Uatur is a very slow sailer and will not sink when full of Tir or people hunting turtles.



3. Waruhuh. This is the sailing canoe. It is now used for tuna. Before they learned this method from the Japanese it was used to go to logs drifting far out to fish. From 3 fathoms to 4 fathoms long.

4. Haramah. 2-1/4 fathoms long. Used for most types of fishing. A one-man canoe.

Note on fathoms: The Tobi word Ngaf refers to the distance between the tips of the fingers when the arms are outstretched. For canoes 1, 2, and 3, the Ngaf is that of the builder, but the Haramah is measured by the prospective owner.

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How the Tobi Canoe Got to Sonsorol

Patricio Mohorihotimoh

Before the Germans came a Tobi man named Faraparah drifted from Tobi to Mapia Island in a Tobi canoe. He taught all the people of Mapia how to make Metesie.

During German times, a man named Manurah whose mother was Sonsorolese and father was Papuan went to Sonsorol on a German ship. He taught the Sonsorol people how to build the Tobi canoe.

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Canoe Building

Patricio Mohorihotimoh

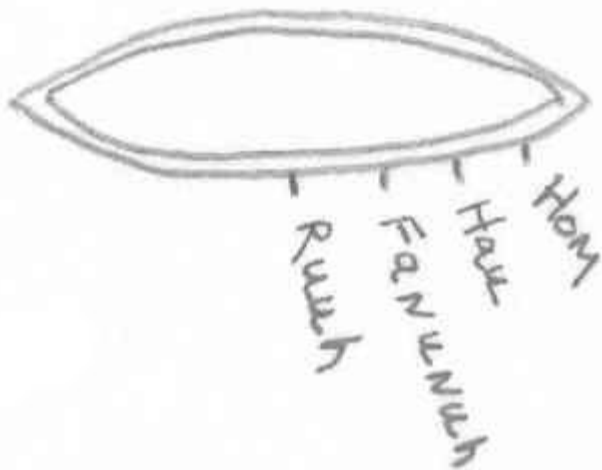
May 1

In olden times—before the time of Patricio's grandfather—there was no metal on this Island and the adze's blades were made from the shell of the giant clam. The shell was cut into pieces—some with straight and some with curved cutting edges. The straight ones were called Riepeh and the curved Woor. Woor were of two types: Those that would swivel and those that would not. All these tools were taken away by a German named Kuskus on a German field trip.

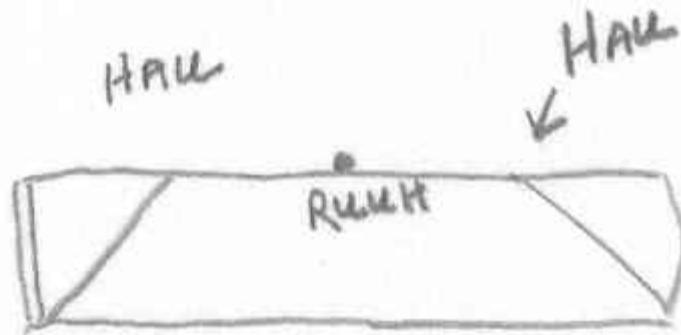
The same wood has always been used for canoes—driftwood, bread fruit and apple or Fariyap. Breadfruit is the lightest and easiest to work with but apple lasts the longest. After the log was brought to the Senap or master canoe builder, it was wrapped in palm leaves and set afire. After the outside was charred it could be worked. This was repeated until the canoe was completely dug out. Then rocks were used to scrape and rub it smooth. Using this method it took four to six months to build a Haramah and about two years for a Waribir. The Senap was assisted by a number one and a number two helper and a crew of about 20. When a man wanted a canoe he would first give the Senap six mature coconuts—if he had no coconuts he would give mats, fishing line or hooks. Then the owner would cut down the tree and the Senap and his crew would carry it to the Senap's house. When the Senap started on the top the man would bring him six old and six young coconuts plus two each for every member of the crew and his wife would bring five bowls of taro. The Senap would keep one bowl and divide the other four among his crew. The Senap would then pray and everybody would start to eat. This feast was repeated every time the canoe was turned over to be worked on the other side. For a Haramah this was three times, for a Uatur and Waruhuh four times and for a Waribir six times.

Only the Senap and his number one assistant could work on the middle of the canoe. Only the number one and two helpers would eventually become Senap. A man would give the Senap line, hooks and mats to become an assistant so he could learn the trade. Anyone, from any clan could become a Senap either by this method or by learning from his father if he is a Senap. Patricio was Number Two man for Hobowu or Sam as he was called by an English Captain. When he was a boy there were 10 Senap; now he is the only one. Marino, the husband of Margarita, will be the new Senap if he comes back to the island.

In the time of the eighth chief the Senap started using iron adzes and were able to adapt the building methods now in use. It is no longer necessary to burn the log. The first step now is to find the Ruuh. You do this by dividing the usable length of the canoe in half. Then you draw the top of the canoe. One-half of the Ruuh is Hau. One-half of the distance from Ruuh to Hau is Fanunuh and one half Hau to end is Hom.



If the canoe is 24 inches wide at Ruuh, it should be 23" at Fanunuh, 22 inches at Hau, and 21 inches at Hom. After drawing the top you should measure the height of the side; one half of this is the Ruuh. On the Hetam or outrigger side draw a line one inch below the Ruuh. On the other side make the line in the due center or Ruuh. This line is the bottom of the Metesie and is called Tahuhfa. Start to cut out the top then turn over the log. Find the Ruuh and Hau of the bottom. Draw a line like this:



The Senap will make the Hih and Metesie by eye but the bulge of the Metesie should be one-half inch wider than the top. Cut the bottom until it is about half finished then work on the top again.

To build the outrigger first find the Ruuh of your wood then Fanunuh, Hau, and Hom. If the outrigger is to be 12" wide at the Ruuh, it should be 11" at Fanunuh, 10" at Hau, 9" at Hom and then to a point. The sides are rounded like this:

Cross section end view—



The bottom curves up from Hau.

The outrigger should be the same length as from Fanunuh to Hau on the canoe. The Hiyo or main supports of the outrigger should be the length of Ruuh to half-way between Hau and Hom on the canoe.

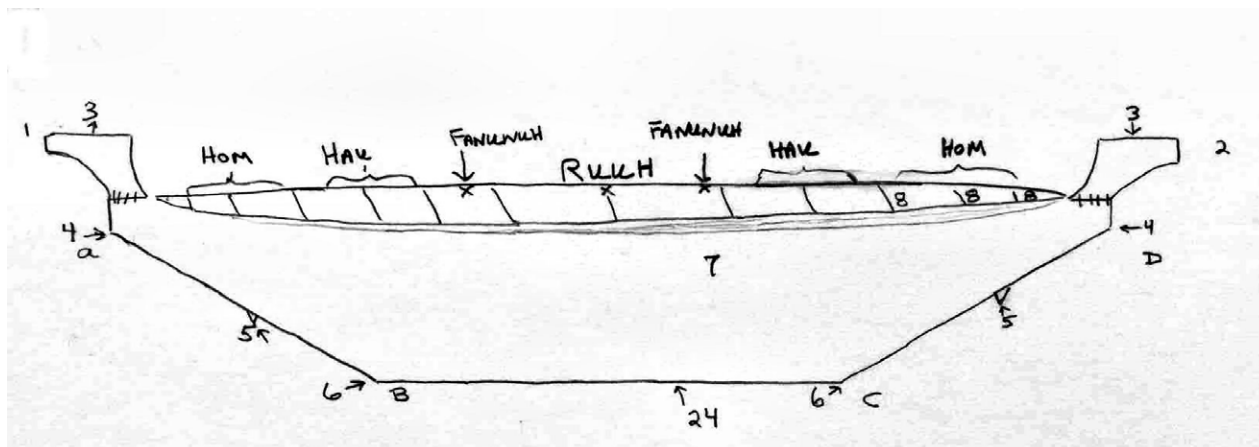
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Side View of Any Tobi Canoe



1. Mowar (bow)
2. Muihir (stern)
3. Pauh
4. Chou
5. Houm
6. Hau (also refers to Lines A-B and C-D)
7. Hinbochariyas
8. Tour (thwart)
24. Hapir

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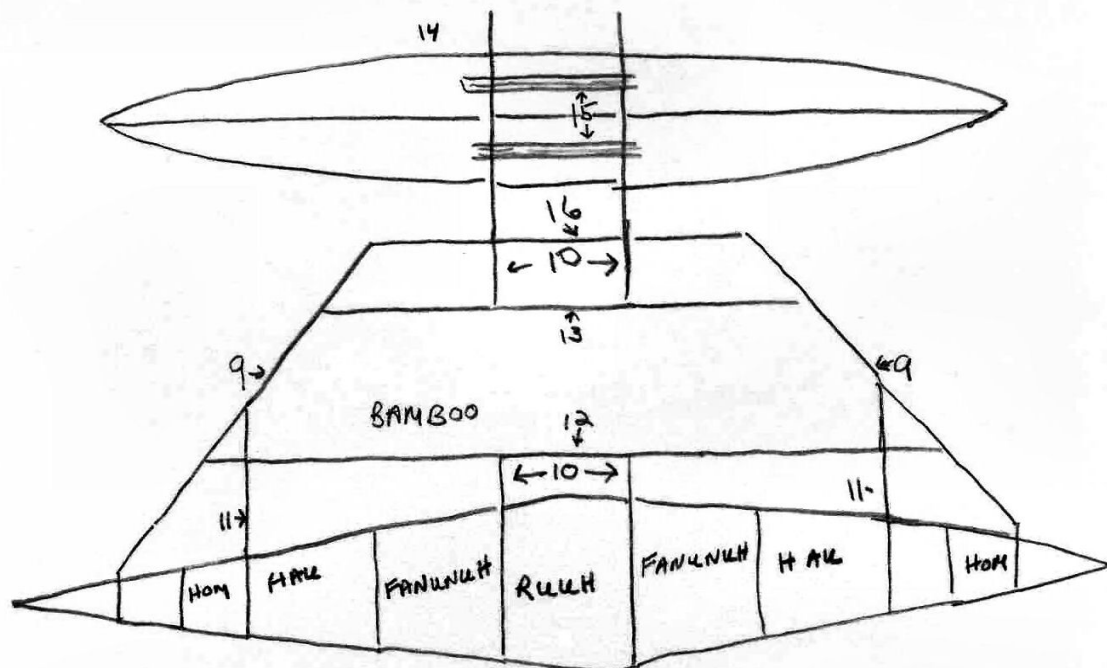
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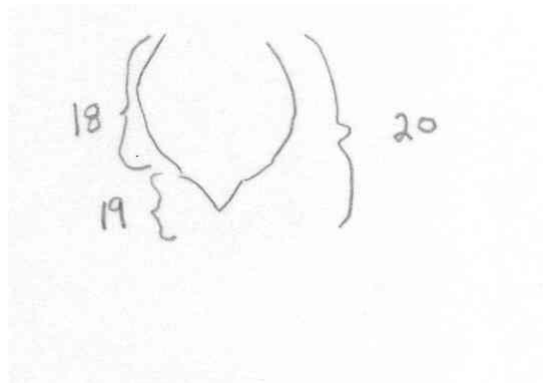
Tobi Sailing Canoe and Outrigger

Top View



When you face the bow the left or outrigger side is called Hetam and the right side is called Hehatah.

Canoe: front view



- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 9. Metehefeng | 13. Hahuhauryopacha | |
| 10. Hiyo | 14. Tam | 18. Metesie |
| 11. Hafaryaurhiyo | 15. Wariyeng | 19. Hih |
| 12. Yopacha | 16. Yapiti | 20. Panangi |

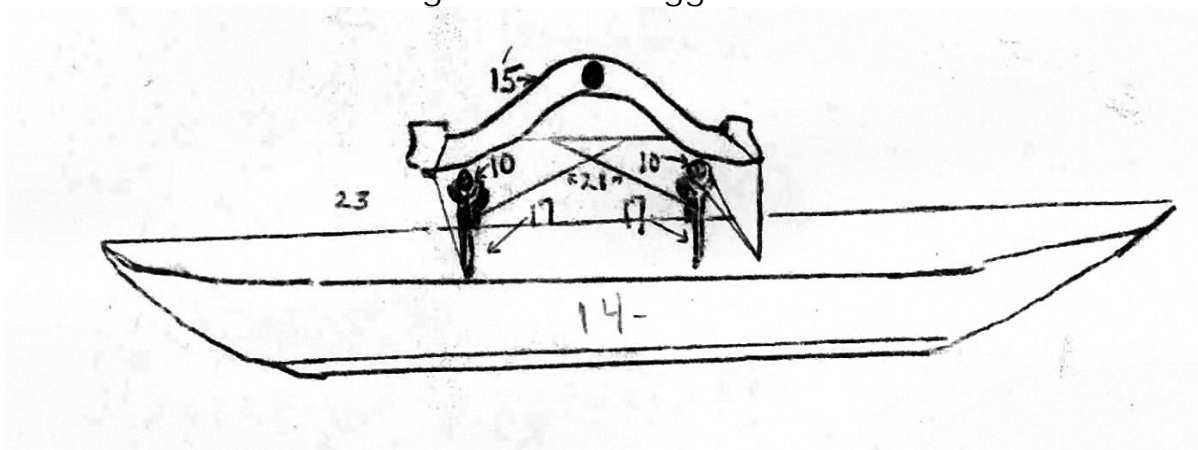
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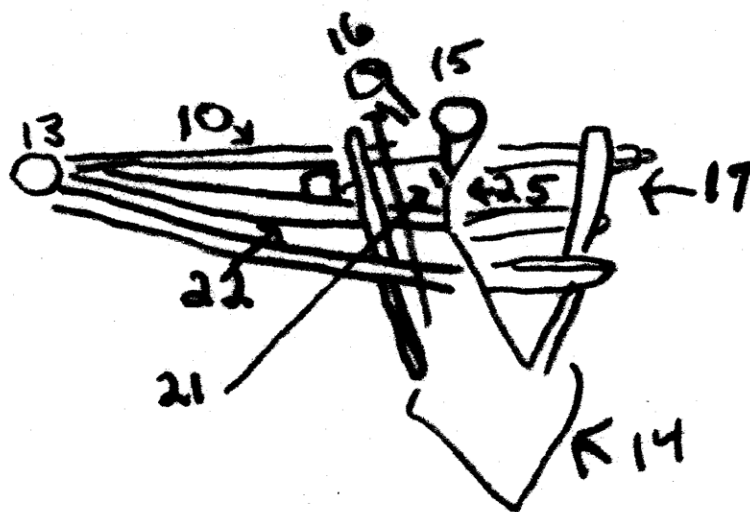
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Side View of Tobi Sailing Canoe Outrigger



Front View



- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 10. Hiyo | 15. Wariyeng | 21. Worobei |
| 13. Hahuhauryopacha | 16. Yapiti | 22. Chee |
| 14. Tam | 17. Hirifeten | 23. Yepit |

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Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Canoe Parts






Definitions and Pronunciations by Isauro Andrew






















Photographs by Peter W. Black





















Koror, July-August 2004



Additional pronunciations and spellings provided by Justin Andrew

Falls Church, August 2005

Bautam	Pole; a brace for the outrigger.		
Bir	A tuna catching technique, using large voyaging canoes, Waribir.		
Chee	A brace that goes toward the hull, underneath the outrigger.		
Chou	Shape of bow.		
Fanunuh	One-half of distance from Ruuh to Hau. Note: Justin spells this Fahanuh.		
Fariyap	Apple tree.		
Hafaryaurhiyo	Long thwart. Note: Justin spells this hafayaurhiyo.		
Hahuhauryopacha	Outrigger strut or brace—the second yopacha.		
Haramah	Paddling canoe.		
Hau	One-half of the Ruuh.		
Haus	Mast.		

			
Hehatah	Side opposite outrigger.		
Hetam	The outrigger side. Note: Heitam is a variant of this word—it means and sounds the same.		
Hih	Middle part of canoe.		
Hinbochariyas	Gunwale.		
Hirifeten	Strut holding up outrigger boom.		
Hiyo	Main supports of outrigger.		
Hom	One-half distance Hau to end.		
Metehefeng	Brace to keep outrigger from swaying.		
Metesie	Curved side.		
Mowar	Bow.		
Muihir	Stern.		
Panangi	Side of the canoe.		
Pauh	End piece.		

			
Riepeh	Adze blade with straight cutting edge.		
Ruuh	The center.		
Safang	Apple tree used for canoe.		
Senap	Master canoe builder.		
Tahuhfa	System of moistening coconut frond while building canoe.		
Tam	Outrigger.		
Too	Is this Tour which means Thwart?		
Waribir	Canoe.		
Wariyeng	Used to hold up mast on sailing canoes.		
Waruhuh	Sailing canoe.		
Woor	Adze blade with curved cutting edge.		
Worobei	Brace.		
Yapiti	A brace of rope that locks the two protruding parts of the outrigger down to the outrigger.		

Yopacha	Outrigger strut or brace.		
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Updated: January 19, 2017

Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Fatur: Paddles

There were three kinds of paddles on Tobi. The dimensions were identical for all three. The total length was one Ngaf of the owner.

The handle was one-half the total length. The width of the blade was one Seiyang or the distance from the tip of the thumb to the tip of the middle finger when the hand is pressed down flat.

It takes about two days to carve a paddle. The canoe owner makes his own.

The three old types were made from Mo and Fariyap (apple) trees.

The three old types are:

A. Fatur Sahou



Curved edge so that it makes a noise against the water.

B. Fatur Sonobie



C. Fatur Umarau



At the present time, there are only a few Type C (Fatur Umarau) and no Type A (Fatur Sahou) or Type B (Fatur Sonobie) in use on the island. Most people have changed over to Fatur Papua—a design which, as the name suggests, is taken from paddles which have drifted in. The measurements are the same but they are made from driftwood. The people started to change in Japanese times.

There are two kinds of Fatur Papua.



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Updated: January 19, 2017

Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Currents

Patricio Mohorihotimoh

Hachetiho has big waves, logs floating in it, whirlpools.

Arms can be from 20 feet to 120 feet wide. The arms are usually smaller and rougher near Seriyout. The arms are rough and either side of them smooth.

The whole system moves around the island from day to day. There is no way to predict it.

If Seriyout is far from island, you get rough, confused currents.

The Hachetiho is usually far from island. You can't see the island from it.

Once Patricio and some other guys were fishing Taturamar (Day Fishing Method 29). Fishing under a log outside the arm, they forgot to watch where they were going and the arm got too rough to cross. So they went up to Hachetiho and crossed there and drifted back to the island.

If you are lost, go back inside arm and let yourself drift toward island.

If Seriyout is in the northwest, the currents are swift and it is dangerous to go fishing.

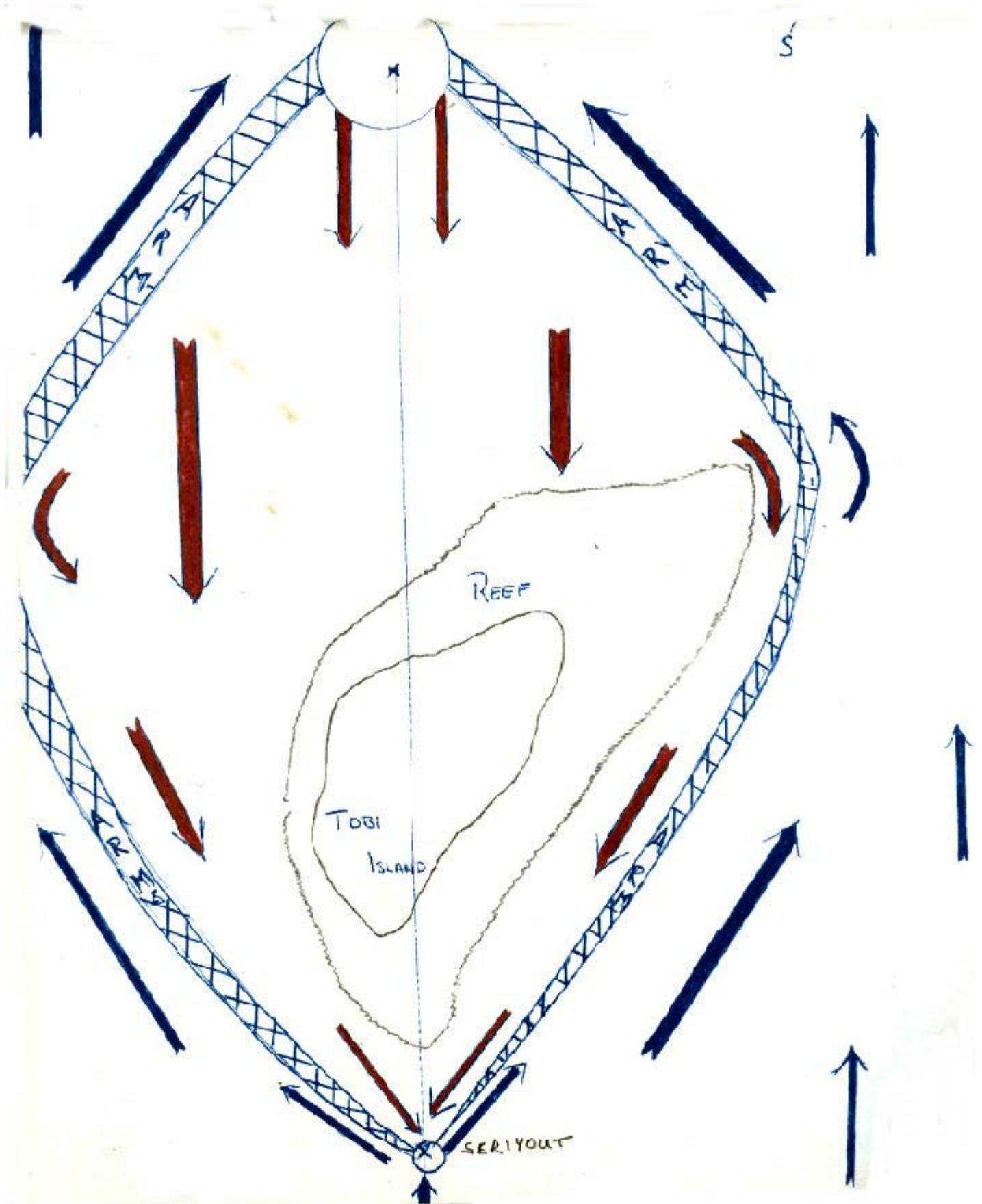
In the Fall, a system of big waves comes over the Northern reef and down along the sides of the island on top of the reef. It starts in October and finishes in February. It is these waves that smashed the Japanese pier. They last about two weeks and there are usually three of them a year. They have nothing to do with the currents.

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Updated: January 18, 2017

Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black, 1968 Map of Currents



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Fishing Lore of Tobi. Peter W. Black 1968, 2017

Manimeiyough—The Last Navigator of Tobi

The Travels of Manimeiyough

Patricio Mohorihotimoh

The name Manimeiyough simply means Man of the South (Yough) and refers to the fact that his village was in the southern part of the island. His clan was Hapeimohar, the same clan as Ramoparuhe, the founder of this island. He was a very good fisherman, maruseti; a very good canoe builder, senap; and an expert navigator, paruhe. He was the last navigator of Tobi. He was born before the time of Fetereheng so his canoe was the old style with straight sides. In his journeys he carried a crew of about 30 men. He had the duty of providing giant clam shells for the island. He would bring them to the prayer house where the chief would divide them up. After he had gathered all the shells in Tobi's reef, he decided to explore for a better place to harvest them. After several fruitless journeys he discovered Helen Reef which he named Hochari Hie (hoch=reef; hie=giant clam). At that time there was no island there; just a reef. He gathered a canoe load of shells and sailed back to Tobi. He was the first man to go to Helen Reef.

On about his tenth trip to Helen Reef Manimeiyough decided to explore further, so instead of going to Tobi from Helen Reef he sailed south. He sailed for many days until he found Papua. He did not land but turned back towards Helen Reef. On his way north he visited Halmahera, Celebes, Morotai, Ternate, Malaya, and Mapia or Seniefes. He was the first Tobi man to visit any of those places. The people believe that he did go to Mapia because he said that on that island the people spoke a language that sounded like the Tobi language and this turned out to be true. He made another trip to Papua via Helen Reef but still did not land. The third time he went he took his father with him.

When Manimeiyough finally drew near the island of Papua the natives came out in double outrigger canoes with fixed sails. With this equipment they could only sail with the wind. The father was steering the Tobi canoe and as the Papuans started to chase them he sailed the canoe before the wind. The Papuans tried to trap the Tobi canoe and they had it almost surrounded when the lead Papuan canoe cut across in front of Manimeiyough's canoe and reached out with a long hook to grapple. The hook caught Manimeiyough's father around the arm and as he struggled to free himself he dropped the steering oar and the Tobi canoe came around into the wind just as he unhooked his arm. The Tobi canoe sailed through the surprised Papuans and escaped. The father was not hurt and they sailed directly back to Tobi.

When he first sighted the island, Manimeiyough started to call out the names of the different villages on the island. As the island was still too far away to identify, his father was afraid that it might be a small island near Papua. He got more and more nervous and finally as his son called off the name of his village, Meterimauryeng, he said "You are married to your mother." This was a terrible thing to say and Manimeiyough decided to go to Sonsorol and never to return to Tobi. So instead of stopping at Tobi, he sailed north to Sonsorol where he stayed for several years.

One day on Sonsorol he saw a man building a canoe. The man was trying to determine the shape and was using a snap line made from coconut frond which he kept dipping in water. The water only lasted about a minute before it dried and the man had to redampen it. Manimeiyough showed him how to use the ashes from burnt coconut frond instead of water. This system is called tahuhufa. Later he saw the same man still building his canoe, retying his adze head every time he wanted to change the angle it cut. Manimeiyough showed him how to make an adze with a movable head. This adze is called tererifing. Tobi Island invented both tahuhufa and tererifing and Sonsorol did not have them until Manimeiyough brought them.

He and his crew and his father left Sonsorol heading north and were never seen again in the Southwest Islands. However in Japanese times some Okinawan laborers working in the phosphate mines on Tobi told the people that a man called Man Me You came to Okinawa in a canoe and taught them how to make the hook called Hapi Sehe (Hook #6) and how to fish for tuna using

poles. This system is called Bir on Tobi and gives Waribir its name (War=canoe). The people used to go in the big canoe. One man would hold two poles, one in each hand, one over each side of the canoe. When he caught a tuna, he would flip it back to the man behind him who would take off the fish and rebait the hook.

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Glossary

In 2005 the Glossary was expanded to include many of the Tobian words used in The Fishing Lore of Tobi. In some cases, spellings have been revised to reflect new information.

The words originally in the Glossary are marked with an asterisk.

Word	Meaning	Note
Baau*	Fishing pole	
Bauch	Fish	
Baur Hari	Fishing for young boys	
Baur Ni Cheh	Fishing for young boys	
Bauru Bong	Night Fishing Method 5	
Bautam	Canoe part	
Beni Ri Wor	Turtle hunt method	
Bir	Fish for tuna from canoe using poles	
Biyeu	Day Fishing Method 35	
Bub	Fish; also name used by Matias & Esobio for Day Fishing Method 16 (Petchamai)	
Buhachechi	Fish	
Bupare	Fish	
Buwar	Fish	
Bwere	Fish; also Day Fishing Method 19	
Charau	Fish	
Chau	Breadfruit leaf kite used in Day Fishing Method 23	
Chee	Canoe part	
Chep	Fish	
Cheu	Net	
Cheu Bu	Net	
Cheu Mangah	Net	
Cheu Ru Hou	Net	
Cheu Tir	Net	

Cheu Turumat	Net	
Chimerifas	Stone head	
Chingi Bat*	Very low tide	
Chingi Chingi*	Low Tide	
Chou	Canoe part	
Chuheribout	Fish	
Chur	Night Fishing Method 6	
Cuperiwar	Turtle hunt method	
Fahum	Hook	
Faiyoras*	Magic	
Fanunuh	Canoe: one-half of distance Ruuh to Hau	
Faram	Fish	Also Farah
Faramwe	Fish; also Day Fishing Method 17	
Faraparah	Name	
Farhonor	Fish	
Fariyap	Apple	
Fariyörung	Turtle	
Fasuwoh	Bottom fishing	
Fasuwoh Ri Bong	Night Fishing Method 4	
Fasuwoh Ri Bwere	Day Fishing Method 20	
Fatun Bauch	Day Fishing Method 25	
Fatun Mahabu	Day Fishing Method 26	
Fatun Mungah	Day Fishing Method 27	If only drifting called Hasu
Fatur*	Canoe paddle	
Faumur	Fish	
Faurepie	Fish	Also Farepie
Fen	Day Fishing Method 21	
Fen er bub	Net	
Fen er mahiphip	Net	

Firong	Day Fishing Method 18	
Feter	Name: Fetereheng's son	
Fetereheng*	Name: the man who developed the Tobi style canoe	
Fifoas*	A method of tying on a stone sinker, used in Hapeh Hapeh	
Fita Ri Bong*	Night fishing	
Fofo	Fish; also Day Fishing Method 22	
Fosufosu	Fish	Also Fasifoo
Fotorimar	Fish	
Fotomahech	Hook	
Haau*	Fishing Hook	
Habang	Bird	
Habau	Fish	
Haburoh	Night Fishing Method 3	
Haburok	Night fishing	
Hachaiho	Day Fishing Method 23	
Hachap	Turtle	
Hachetiho	Name	
Hachou	Sinker	
Hafaramau	Clan	
Hafaryaurhiyo	Canoe part	
Hahuhauryopacha	Canoe part	
Hafiro	Fish	
Hahaf	Bait in Day Fishing Method 24	
Haheh	Night Fishing Method 2; also—jiggle the line	
Hahuchurtab	Rock pile	
Haichoho	Name—in Tur, stands with net	
Haichomwich	Name—in Tur, sits and paddles	
Haihasatur	Name—in Tur, stands with torch	

Haimaturi Fatur	Name—in Tur, sits and paddles and bails	
Haimihimihi	Name—in Tur, sits and steers—	
Hairir	Day Fishing Method 33	
Hamahiyach	Night Fishing Method 11	
Hamaneningat	Day Fishing Method 37	
Hamar	Day Fishing Method 24	
Hamatara*	To shake off stone tied with Fifoas—used in Night Fishing Method 1 (Hapeh Hapeh)	
Hangap	Fish	
Hapeh Hapeh	Night Fishing Method 1	
Hapeimohor	Clan	
Hapichochoi	Fish	
Hari	Fish	
Harie Chimerifas	Fish	
Harie Chor	Fish; also Day Fishing Method 30	
Harie Yuhuno	Fish	
Harimah	Canoe	
Hapi Sehe	Hook	
Harisehe	Hook	
Hariyenuhuno	Name used by Matias & Esobio for Day Fishing Method 15 (Man Waru Hoch)	
Hasaucha	Night Fishing Method 12	
Hasu*	Day Fishing Method 27 (Fatun Mungah) if only drifting	
Hatih	Fish	
Hatuf Charau	Day Fishing Method 36	If method slightly different called Hatuf Rahung
Hatuf Rahung	A slightly different Day Fishing Method 36 (Hatuf	

	Charau)	
Hau	Hook; also canoe: one-half of the Ruuh	
Haubarrap	Fish	Also Houbarab
Haufong	Hook	
Haugus	Fish	
Haur	Canoe part	
Hauro Tapi	Hook	
Haus	Canoe part	
Hausi	Fish	
Hausih	Fish	Also Housih
Hawereye	Clan	
Hecheubu	Name—in Tir, holds net	
Hecheuruou	Name—in Tir, holds net (man with net)	
Hehatah	Canoe: facing bow, the right side	
Hehewar	Turtle	
Her	Fish	
Hetam	Canoe: facing bow, the left or outrigger side	
Hie	Giant clam	
Hih	Canoe part	
Hiheyar	Bird—white tern	Also Hiyahe/Hiyehie
Hiho	Canoe: main supports of outrigger	
Hinbochariyas	Canoe part	
Hirifeten	Canoe part	
Hoch*	Flat part of reef	
Hochari Hie	Helen Reef	
Hom	Canoe part: one-half distance Hau to end	
Hon	Fish	
Horach	Fish	
Hufu-Hatahe	Fish	
Hugh	Fish	
Ich	Fish	
Ichenap*	Big fish	
Ich Heri Hoch*	Reef fish	
Ich Heri Matau*	Deep sea fish	
Ich heri ni matau	Ocean fishing	

Ich Patchi*	Small fish	
Ich Raro	Fish	
Ich ya neinsi pai	The fish is biting	
Iherough	Fish	
Kum	Fish	
Kuh	Fishing method: netting fish at night	
Maabunur	Fish	
Mabuwat	God	
Machiyeru	Basket	
Mahabu	Fish	
Mahahapo	Fish	
Mahi	Fish	
Mahipihp Bub	Fish	
Mai Ru Hur Hog*	Beyond the reef	Also Mai rugur hoch
Mam	Fish	
Mamuchih	Fish	
Mangah	Fish—flying fish	
Mangah	Fish—not a flying fish	
Manimeiyough	Name: the last navigator	
Manwarhichi	Name	
Man Waru Hoch	Fish; also Day Fishing Method 15	Name used by Matias & Esobio for this is Hariyenuhuno
Martaifur	God of Pula Ana	
Martamuch	Fish	
Maruseti*	Expert fisherman	
Masough	Fish	
Masowah	Fish	
Matariyo*	Fiber leader	
Matau	Ocean	
Matecha	Fish	
Metehfeng	Canoe part	
Meheihou	Fish	
Meterimauryeng	Tobi village	
Metesie*	The curved side of a Tobi canoe	
Moh	Tree	
Mor	Fish	
Mos	Fish	

Mowar	Bow	
MouMou*	Customary law	
Muihir	Stern	
Mungo Pes	Night Fishing Method 10	
Ngaf*	Fathom	
Ngeingei	Nibble	
Ngita	Fish	
Nibu*	Regular high tide	
Nibuhu	High tide	
Nichingiching	Low tide	
Nimi	Fish	
Nunda*	Wave	
Pa*	Bait	Also Paa
Pahas	Net	
Pahisehe	Day Fishing Method 32	
Pahupu	Day Fishing Method 39	
Pahutuhor Yefangi	Day Fishing Method 38	
Paip	Fish	
Panangi	Canoe part	
Parifatur	Hook	
Parihaer	Bait rig	
Paruh*	Navigator	Also Paruhe
Pati	Fish	
Pauh	Canoe part	
Petchamai	Fish; also Day Fishing Method 16	Name used by Matias and Esobio for this is Bub
Rahung	Fish	
Raitet*	Day fishing	
Ramatiho	Hook	
Ramibout	Hook	
Ramohparuhe*	The first queen of Tobi	
Raughaman	Fish	
Ret	Fish	

Ribauh	Fish	
Richoh	Fish	
Riepeh	Canoe part	
Rihosobu	Fish	
Rimehiyong	Fish	
Riperiecho	Fish; also Day Fishing Method 28	
Ritetifach	Fish	
Ritobuhaha	Bait: spider web	
Roraparap	Wave	
Roubah	Name: from Wolei— clan mother of Hawereye	Also Rabeh
Ruha*	Calm sea	
Ruhorough	Fish	Also Ruhoruhoh
Ruuh	Canoe part: the center	
Saha	Fish	
Sairoh	To fish	
Sei	Pole	
Senap*	Expert Canoe Builder	
Seriyout	Area of rough water where two currents come together	
Siyeri Matau*	Ocean	
Souhopit	Name: Ramoparuhe's brother	
Sohu Rep*	Very high tide	
Sonobei	Fish	
Tab	Day Fishing Method 34	
Tahabech	Name: Ramohparuhe's father	
Taha*	Wire leader	
Tahaha	Fish	
Tahowes	Night Fishing Method 7	
Tahuhfa	System of moistening coconut frond while building canoe	
Tahumahu	Fish	
Tahuu *	Tuna	
Taiyaho	Fish	

Tam*	Outrigger	
Tamaur Matau *	Rough sea	
Tangih	Fish	
Tangitenginam	Fish	
Tarachab	Fish	
Tareyar	Fish; also Day Fishing Method 31	
Tatahbur	Fish	
Taturamar	Day Fishing Method 29	
Tehenuroi	Name: Fetereheng's son	
Tere*	Adze	
Tererifing*	Adze with a movable head	
Teter	Fish	
Tir	Fish; also Day Fishing Method 40	
Tiribub	Fish	
Tirihan	Fish	
Tirumat	Fish	
Totohwar	Turtle hunt method	
Toutub*	Master magician	Also Toutob
Tur	Night Fishing Method 14	
Turumat	Night Fishing Method 8	
Uatur	Canoe	
Uh	Net	
Uh*	Sail (N.)	
Uhorimatau	Night Fishing Method 9	
Umen	Hermit crab	
Urahab *	Feathers used in making lures	
Uremarau	Fish	
Uwarai	Net	
Wa*	Canoe	
Wahabir	Fish	
War	Turtle	
Waribir	Canoe	

Wariyeng	Canoe part	
Warobei	Canoe part	
Warorum	Fish	
Waruhuh	Canoe	
Woar*	Turtle	
Woor	Adze blade with curved cutting edge	
Yah*	Current	Also yahuh
Yahong	Fish	
Yango	Name: Ramohparuhe's first child	
Yapiti	Canoe part	
Yar	Fish	
Yarung*	The outside edge of the reef	
Yasoyes	Night Fishing Method 13	
Yatam	Fish	
Yau*	Line	
Yauh	Fish	
Yawariyet	Hook	
Yeb	Fish	
Yebur Yohong	Fish	
Yetoh	Fish	
Yohong	Fish	
Yongoihari	Name: Ramohparuhe's husband	
Yopacha	Canoe part	

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