

COASTAL FISHERY REPORT CARD 2018



Image: Colette Wabnitz, SPC

Introduction

The *Coastal fishery report card* provides annual regional reporting on the current status of Pacific coastal fisheries in relation to the goals, indicators and strategies adopted by Pacific leaders in both the *Regional roadmap for sustainable Pacific fisheries* and *A new song for coastal fisheries – pathways to change: The Noumea strategy*. The Report Card, initiated in 2015, provides a snapshot to enable fisheries stakeholders and political leaders to monitor progress on implementing regional commitments relating to coastal fisheries.

Context

There are over 30,000 islands scattered across the Pacific Ocean, inhabited by over 10 million people. These islands are divided among 22 Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) characterised by vast areas of ocean much greater than their land area. Coastal fisheries are fundamental to food security and livelihoods across the region, representing significant economic, social and cultural benefits for communities. The region has extensive coral reefs, consisting of 70 coral genera, over 4,000 fish/invertebrate species and 30 mangrove species. These coastal resources are under increasing threat and in many places are being over exploited.

Method used to compile card information

The intentional alignment between the *Regional roadmap* and *A new song for coastal fisheries* has enabled one single monitoring mechanism for both commitments. The indicators utilised in the Report Card were identified in consultation with partners and feedback from the 10th SPC Heads of Fisheries and the 102nd and 106th FFC Officials Meetings.

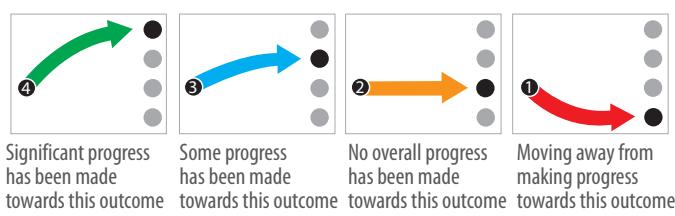
Given the nature of coastal fisheries, reporting on progress itself remains a key challenge in implementing regional commitments. Limitations in data availability, resource constraints, data variability and validation mean there is no assessment on progress for many outcome areas.

The 2018 Report Card includes information from more PICTs than 2017, improving data quality. However, this means that figures are not directly comparable between Report Cards.

Information gaps are noted in the Report Card with a question mark symbol.



For outcomes where progress has been noted the following ranges have been used:



Goal 1 – Empowerment

Informed, empowered coastal communities with clearly defined user-rights



User rights defined in 14 PICTs

User rights and tenure systems in PICTs are most commonly recognised through constitutional arrangements, or national or sub-national legislation such as Island/Village Councils Acts, Provincial Acts or Island State Acts.



Access rights & empowerment

The ability of rights holders to claim / control the use of their rights is unknown at the regional level, as is level of community awareness and community action to manage coastal resources.

Adequate and relevant information to inform management and policy



Ratio of extension officers to fishing households

The role of fisheries extension officers is varied, but commonly includes dissemination of information, development activities and providing advice to communities. Data from eight PICTs showed a total ratio of one extension officer to 754 households participating in fisheries.



Extent to which information informs management & policy

The extent to which coastal fisheries management measures are informed by evidence across the region is unknown at this time, as is the adequacy and accessibility of information being provided to communities.

Recognition of, and strong political commitment and support for, coastal fisheries management at a national and sub-national scale



National resource allocation

The median level of governments' financial commitment to coastal fisheries as a proportion of the total national budget was 0.2% (range 0.01% to 0.4%, n=6 PICTs).

The median proportion of fisheries budgets allocated to coastal fisheries was 27% (range 3% to 100%, n=9). The median proportion of fisheries staff working in coastal fisheries is 43% (range 14% to 100%, n=11).

Data from 8 PICTs showed a total ratio of one coastal fisheries staff member to 364 households participating in fisheries.



Increasing regional commitment

In 2016 Pacific Leaders agreed to expand 'fisheries' to include coastal fisheries. In 2017, the Coastal Fisheries Working Group was established, and the first Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries was held.

Re-focused fisheries agencies that are transparent, accountable, and adequately resourced, supporting coastal fisheries management and sustainable development, underpinned by CEA FM



10 PICTs

reported they annually publish financial statements for their national fisheries budget.



USD 32

is the total coastal fisheries' government budget per household participating in fisheries across 8 PICTs (total sum).



10 PICTs

have a current national coastal fisheries roadmap or strategy in place.



Goal 2 – Resilience

Strong and up-to-date management policy, legislation and planning



5 PICTs

have enacted new coastal fisheries management legislation since 2015.



9 PICTs

have current coastal fisheries management policies. Nine have policies in need of drafting or revision.



Evidence of monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement of coastal fisheries management measures is a data gap at the regional level.



Effective collaboration and coordination between stakeholders and key sectors of influence



Projects implemented in partnership

Marine and coastal projects implemented in partnership (i.e. more than 1 agency) has reduced over time:



* Source: msp.csiro.au Notes: Project start year. Insufficient data for 2006 & 2009

Level of effectiveness of partnerships

The level of effectiveness of partnerships, collaboration and coordination is unknown.

More equitable access to benefits and decision-making within communities, including women, youth and marginalised groups

BENEFITS



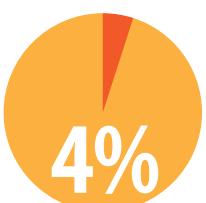
32%

of households participate in fishing
Median across PICTs, range 12% to 80%



9%

of households sell fish
Median across PICTs, range 3% to 30%



4%

of the labour force is in fisheries
Median across PICTs, range 1% to 21%

SHARING



Access to benefits and decision-making relating to household fishing and selling fish among women, young people and marginalised groups is unknown from HIES data



Women's participation in fisheries is underestimated by HIES, which indicates that women are only 8% of the formal fisheries labour force, with one country estimate being that no women are employed in fisheries (range 0% to 17%).

Goal 3 – Livelihoods & food security

Value added to GDP from coastal catch

Total \$304,997,308

Melanesia \$167,845,755

Polynesia \$81,646,533

Micronesia \$55,505,021

Coastal catch (estimated commercial and subsistence) added over USD 300 million to GDP in 2014 (Gillett 2016). This suggests that the value to the region of coastal catches is comparable to local offshore catch which added USD 323m and income from foreign license fees which were valued at USD 325m in 2014.

Keep harvests within sustainable limits and ensure coastal developments do not damage fish habitats



Key indicator species

Giant clams: Generally considered overfished region-wide

Sea cucumbers: Most sea cucumber fisheries now closed due to overfishing

Finfish indicator species: Monitoring of five indicator species (*Naso lituratus*, *Naso unicornis*, *Lutjanus gibbus*, *Lethrinus obsoletus* and *Ctenochaetus striatus*) indicate mixed results across seven regional sites, where some locations show overexploitation, others appropriate exploitation, with most species data deficient with sites not assessed.



Reefs and ecosystems



In 2011, 48% of reefs in the Pacific were considered threatened (Source: Chin et al. 2011). Since then, reefs in multiple PICTs have been severely affected by coral bleaching and tropical cyclones.



At last calculation, 8% of coastal villages/communities practiced CEAFM (Source: Govan et al. 2015).

Enhanced food security from sustainable fisheries, including the supply of tuna for domestic consumption



Per capita fresh fish consumption

of households consume fish or seafood weekly (median, range 59% to 100%).

Source: HIES data from 10 PICTs (2012–2016)

37kg of fresh fish is consumed per person per annum (regional population weighted average, range 20 kg to 110 kg).
Source: Older HIES data 15 PICTs (mainly 2001–06)



Enhanced contribution to food security is unclear from available data, including foodsafety elements (i.e. levels fish poisoning and contaminants)

Diversify the supply of fish, primarily through nearshore fish aggregating devices (FADs) and sustainable aquaculture



Using HIES data, the locations used by fishing households were: inshore (66% of households), nearshore (65%), and offshore (40%). 15% of households indicated they used FADs (median values from four PICTs).



7% of household consumption expenditure is spent on fisheries (median, range 2% to 8%, n=10 PICTs, source: HIES)

Data notes

Further information on the regional coastal fisheries indicators utilised in this Report Card, including data sources and how figures were calculated, can be found in the Background Report.

Data from HIES were available for 10 PICTs (Cook Islands, FSM, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau and Tuvalu). Figures presented are the median across PICTs unless otherwise stated. Data from National Fisheries Offices on staff numbers and budget information were received from 8 PICTs in 2018 (Cook Islands, FSM, Kiribati, Pitcairn, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga and Tuvalu). For 6 PICTs 2017 figures were used in the absence of 2018 figures (French Polynesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Samoa, Vanuatu and Wallis & Futuna). The inclusion of data from additional PICTs in 2018 means that figures are not directly comparable with previous Report Cards. It is hoped that in future Report Cards data coverage across PICTs and data quality will continue to improve.