

# Fiji Country STATEMENT

# 1. NEW DEVELOPMENTS

*Outline up to three new developments in the last twelve months relating to fisheries and/or aquaculture in your country/territory which are relevant to HoF.*

- Food Security budget Increase to facilitate high demand for subsistence Aquaculture Farmers.
- Increase in production of hatchery inputs (seeds) from both public and private hatcheries
- Pandemic response – establishment of fishing protocols for coastal and offshore fisheries
- COVID pivots – strengthened existing and proposed new pathways for economic recovery, food security and resource sustainability (budgeting & planning process; aggressive donor support partnerships)
- Progressed national consultations on proposed 30% MMA for Fiji's EEZ
- Secured financial support to assist with disaster rehabilitation and recovery and COVID19 impacts
- Strengthened Data Collection to understand sustainable resource use in light of increasing demands and population growth.

## 2. KEY FISHERIES/AQUACULTURE DECISIONS

*What are the key fisheries and/or aquaculture decisions (1-2) which will have to be made in your country/territory over the next couple of years?*

- Capacity building & research on culture of high valued species;
- Genetic improvement & replacement of broodstock (tilapia and freshwater prawns)
- Establishing need for Public Private partnership (PPP) to maximize aquaculture growth
- Enhancing Aquaculture Private Sector Development
- Improve hatchery and grow-out techniques for high and low value species for greater survival and grow-out yield

### 3. KEY EMERGING PRIORITY ISSUES

*What does your country/territory consider to be the top emerging priority issue for fisheries or aquaculture in the Pacific Islands region?*

- Legislative: Enact the Aquaculture Bill; strategic review of the Fisheries Act
- Finalize draft Policies and draft Management Plans
- COVID pivots – livelihood opportunities/options; food security; economic recovery; resource sustainability
- Explore innovative emerging technology – IUU reduction; production of high valued species;
- Scale-up CBFM to include stock assessment and NDF of high value species, creation of alternative and supplementary livelihood options as well as MPA development
- Emphasis on reducing coastal IUU.