

The 2016 version of the Benefish study

In 2002 and 2008, the Asian Development Bank undertook studies to quantify benefits from the fisheries sectors of Pacific Island countries. Reports were issued from those studies and the information in them has been frequently cited. These reports are known in the Pacific Islands region as the “Benefish” reports.

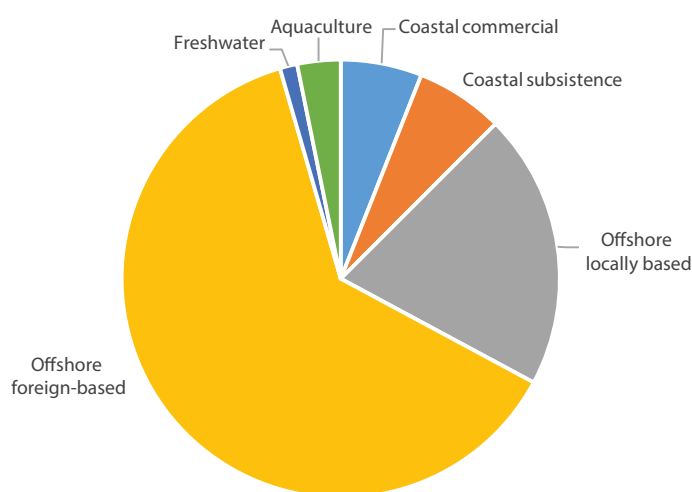
In early 2014, discussions between the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade resulted in an agreement to sponsor an update of the earlier publications. A consultant was recruited, and fieldwork to collect information began in early August 2014 and was completed in early November. Country-specific information was assembled, analysed, and written up in from mid-November to late January, and the main text of the report was produced in February 2016.

Information on the benefits from fisheries is provided in the new Benefish report for each of the 22 Pacific Island countries and territories. The country sections contain the most recent and available data in the following areas:

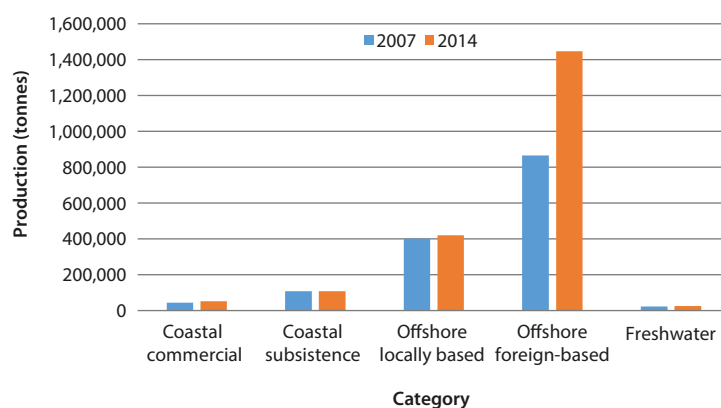
- Recent annual fishery harvests: values and volumes covering the six fishery production categories: 1) coastal commercial fishing, 2) coastal subsistence fishing, 3) locally based offshore fishing, 4) foreign-based offshore fishing, 5) freshwater fishing, and 6) aquaculture.
- Fishing contribution to gross domestic product: fishing’s current contribution, how the contribution was calculated, and re-calculation based on annual harvest levels obtained during the study.
- Fishery exports: amounts, types, and the ratio to all exports.
- Government revenue from the fisheries sector: access fees and other revenue.
- Fisheries employment
- Fisheries contribution to nutrition

In addition, the new Benefish book has a discussion of important topics to each country and territory (e.g. the regional significance of access and exports of fishery products), some important features of the benefits from fisheries that have emerged from this study, and recommendations on improving the measurement of fisheries benefits and assuring the continuity of those benefits. Background information on estimating gross domestic product is provided, along with guidelines on estimating the fishing contribution to the gross domestic product of each country or territory.

The new book¹ is currently being edited and translated at SPC, and is currently scheduled for release in July. Presently, much of the information in the book is provisional although some of the more generalised results of the new Benefish study are given in the two graphs below.



Relative value of fisheries production across all countries and territories.



Fishery production by category for the years 2007 and 2014 and across all countries and territories

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¹ <http://www.spc.int/fame/en/component/content/article/237-benefish-study-2016>