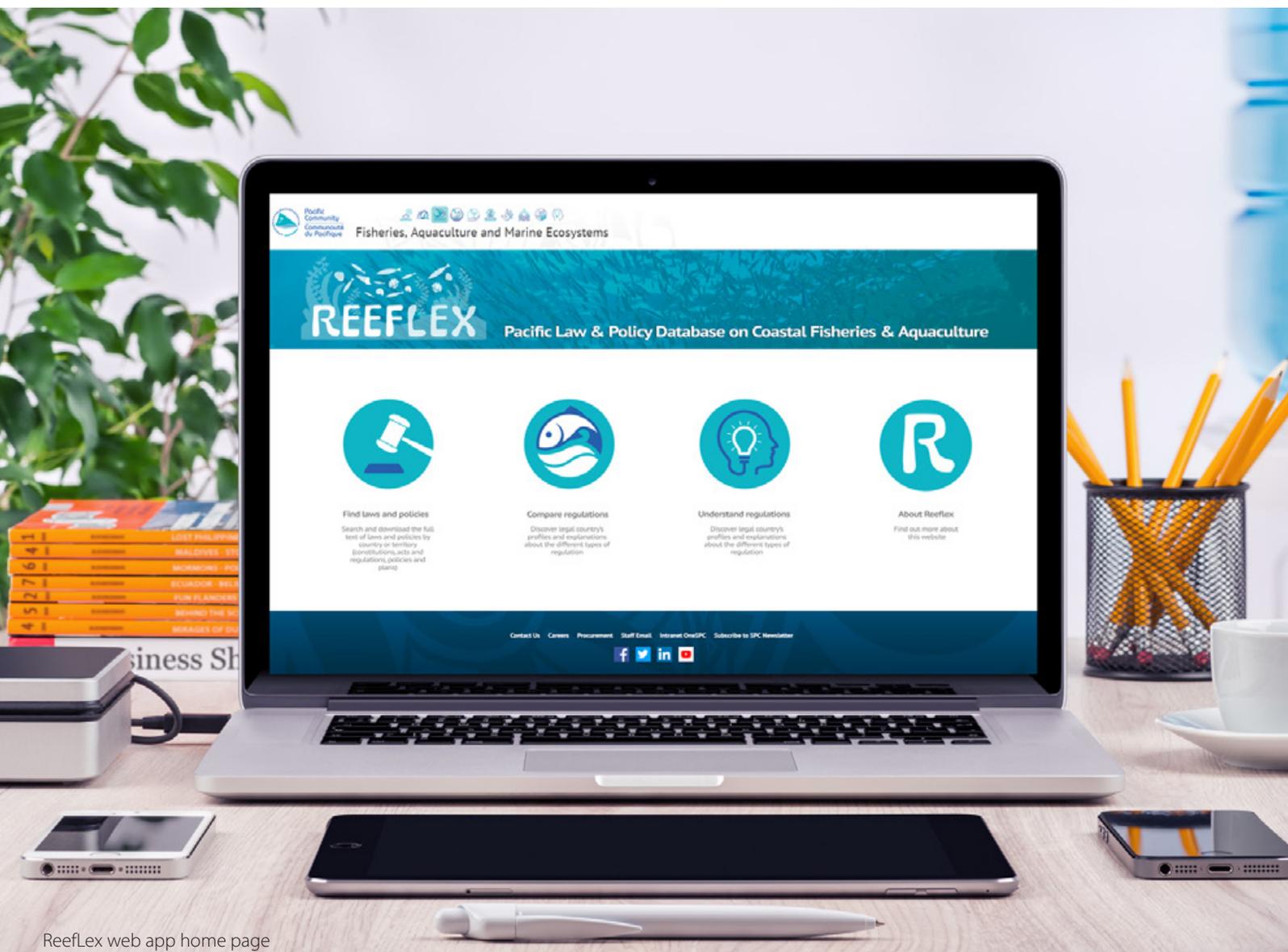


ReefLex: An app on coastal fisheries and aquaculture legislation

A test version of the ReefLex (Pacific Law and Policy Database on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture) web app¹ went live early 2019 as part of the Pacific Community (SPC)-implemented Coastal Fisheries Governance Project funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



ReefLex web app home page

This app is designed to allow users access to and compare laws and policies on coastal fisheries and aquaculture management in 23 Pacific Island countries and territories (22 SPC member countries and Timor Leste). It targets decision-makers, fisheries managers, specialists and researchers as well as civil society. Graphic redesign work is currently underway to improve its usability and better guide visitors.

ReefLex is more than a simple compendium of documents. To facilitate understanding of the legal framework of coastal fisheries and aquaculture in each country or territory, the database offers three tools: a document search tool, a regulations analysis tool and an overview tool currently under development.

¹ <http://purl.org/spc/fame/cfp/reeflex>



Search tool: accessing laws and policies by country or territory

About 1000 documents have been arranged by country and type (e.g. constitutions, laws, regulations, policies and management plans) from many different areas such as fisheries, aquaculture, navigation and the environment. These documents have been selected from more than 30 online sources of information (government sites and international legal databases) or are digitised versions of documents SPC has collected during fieldwork (particularly in terms of legislation by local bodies).

Once the user has selected the country, the tool displays a list of both key and related documents (e.g. fisheries legislation and the regulations implemented to apply that legislation) along with any amendments or modifications. The tool provides an overview of each document in the form of a datasheet containing, in particular, a link to the PACLII file (i.e. the University of the South Pacific's legal database) and a summary from FAOLEX (i.e. the legal database of the Food and Agriculture Organization¹ of the United Nations). The user can also download the document directly if it is available in PDF format.



Analysis tool: comparing management measures between several countries or territories

This comparative tool allows users to quickly access provisions in a country or territory's legislation without having to consult the legal documents themselves. It began with the information contained in an SPC publication (2005) entitled *Size limits and other coastal fisheries regulations used in the Pacific Islands region*². That information was then verified in detail and supplemented via a thorough analysis of coastal fisheries-related legislation and regulations.

Users will be able to compare extracts of regulations from each country, categorised by species or group of species (e.g. bivalves, crustaceans, sea cucumbers, gastropods, fish) as well as by type of management measure (e.g. fishing bans, protected areas, fishing seasons, minimum catch sizes, fishing or aquaculture licenses, trade regulations on fisheries and aquaculture products). Each provision is displayed along with references to relevant legislation and any possible penalties in the event of non-compliance.



Overview tool: understanding the legal framework of each country or territory

This overview tool, currently being developed, contains country factsheets that provide the legal, political and institutional profiles for each country, along with communication materials developed by SPC (e.g. posters, leaflets). This part of the database is designed to provide background information that is vital for analysing and understanding regulations and to facilitate access to available awareness-raising materials.

ReefLex is constantly being improved and updated to make it easier for the general public to use the database. Interested fisheries departments can request direct access to ReefLex to put new legislation that has been approved in their countries online themselves. In that way, users will have access to the most recent documents and up-to-date information.

For more information:

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¹ https://www.spc.int/DigitalLibrary/Doc/FAME/Manuals/Anon_05_Size_limits.pdf

A series of posters to help understand regulations

Why are there areas where we can't go fishing? Why do we have size limits for certain fish or invertebrate species? Why do we ban certain types of fishing? Some of the questions raised in this series of simple educational posters available on SPC's website² and which will also be available from the ReefLex app along with other fisheries-regulation information tools.

Why are there areas where we can't go fishing?

To protect habitats and let adult fish produce enough young to replace the numbers caught

What are no-take areas?
Areas where all fishing or harvesting of marine life is banned, ideally on a permanent basis.

No-take areas have benefits!
They protect and restore marine habitats, coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves.
They enhance fisheries in nearby areas. They provide places for fish to grow, breed and spread to other areas.

No-take area

The effectiveness of a marine reserve depends on several things including the size and location of the reserve and the species that are being managed.

Movement of fish from no-take area to fishing grounds

No-take areas provide a refuge from fishing pressure where fish are undisturbed by fishing

From wanem yumi blokem samfala fasin blong fising?

Samfala fasin blong fising hemi save distroem mo kilim plante fis mekem se yumi mas blokem blong mekem se ples blong ol fis i stap gut oltaem mo tu bae yumi stap karem benefit long hem yet

Ol explosiv/danamaet
Iho stap kilim fis noma we yumi wantem kasim be hemi kilim ol smol pikinini blong fis tu mo save samting long solwora we yumi no plan blong kasim mo tu ol korel we ol fis i stap long hem.

Ol lif, rop mo skin blong tri we i posen
Iho stap kilim fis noma we yumi wantem kasim be hemi kilim ol smol pikinini blong fis tu mo save samting long solwora we yumi no plan blong kasim mo tu ol korel we ol fis i stap long hem.

Daeva long naet
Hemi save spoilem mo kilim plante long pipeta fis we ol sip long ol korel mo ples we solwora hemi no dip long hem.

Antawota briting aparatas
Long lulup ples, ol man we ol stap kasim antawota briting aparatas ol kasim mo kasim plante mekem se blong solwora mo si bukamba long ol rif long ol dip ples long solwora. Save se yumi blokem antawota briting aparatas bae hemi save protektem plante long fis mo animal long dip ples.

Minimum size limit

Don't fish!
Let it grow!

OK!

For some species, protecting the smaller fish from fishing allows them to get large enough to spawn

Catching the right size means more fish for tomorrow

To keep our fisheries sustainable, respect rules and regulations
Fisheries agencies develop management regulations to ensure that the marine life you are dependent on continues to sustain your communities. Community action through co-management arrangements with fisheries agencies can assist in ensuring that your marine environments remain productive for you and your community.

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² http://www.spc.int/coastfish/index.php?option=com_content&Itemid=30&id=502