

COASTAL FISHERY REPORT CARD 2017



Photo: Francisco Blaha

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

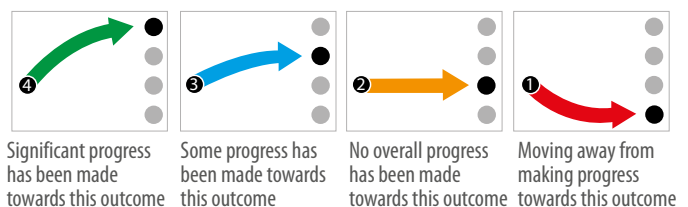
There are over 30,000 islands scattered across the Pacific Ocean, inhabited by over 10 million people. These islands are divided among 22 Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) characterised by vast areas of ocean much greater than their land area. Coastal fisheries are fundamental to food 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 the New Song has enabled one single monitoring mechanism for both commitments. The 2017 Report Card is the first time a single reporting mechanism has been adopted for coastal fisheries in the region.

The indicators utilised in the Report Card were identified in consultation with representatives from SPC, OPOC, WorldFish and the LMMA Network, with feedback from the 10th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting and the 102nd FFC Officials Meeting. Data sources for each indicator are noted in the accompanying *2017 Coastal Fishery Background Report*.

Given the nature of coastal fisheries, reporting on progress itself remains a key challenge in implementing regional commitments. Limitations in data availability, resources constraints, data variability and validation mean there is a lack of available data for most outcome areas. Information gaps are noted in the Report Card. 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



■ Defined user-rights
■ Not defined
■ Uncertain

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.

Ability to access rights and levels of empowerment

The ability of rights holders to claim/control the use of their rights is unknown at the regional level. Level of community awareness and community action to manage coastal fisheries resources is also a key information gap at the present time.



Given data gaps it is difficult to make an overall assessment of progress towards this outcome

Adequate and relevant information to inform management and policy

Ratio of extension officers to fishing households

The role of fisheries extension officers varies, but commonly includes dissemination of information, development activities and providing advice to communities. Data from five PICTs showed a ratio of one extension officer to 1167 households participating in fisheries.

Adequacy and extent to which information informs management and policy is unknown

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.



Given data gaps it is difficult to make an overall assessment of progress towards this outcome

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%–0.4%, n = 5). The median proportion of fisheries budgets allocated to coastal fisheries was 32% (range 3%–80%, n = 8). The median proportion of fisheries staff working in coastal fisheries is 47% (range 31%–95%, n = 8). Data from five PICTs showed a ratio of one coastal fisheries staff member to 483 households participating in fisheries.

Increasing regional commitment

In 2015 regional commitments were made on coastal fisheries management, including the New Song, the Regional Roadmap and SDG14. In 2016 Pacific Leaders agreed to expand 'fisheries' to include coastal fisheries.



Available data indicates that some progress has been made towards this outcome

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



7 PICTs

Seven PICTs annually publish financial statements for their national fisheries budget.



USD 24

Governments' budget dedicated to coastal fisheries is equivalent to USD 24 per household participating in fisheries (median, n = 5 PICTs).



11 PICTs

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



Available data indicates that there has been no overall significant progress towards this outcome

Goal 2 – Resilience

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



15 PICTs

have gaps in their coastal fisheries management legislation or have legislation requiring updating.



9 PICTs

have current coastal fisheries management policies.



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



Given data gaps it is difficult to make an overall assessment of progress towards this outcome

Effective collaboration and coordination between stakeholders and key sectors of influence

Integrated projects across the region

The number of coastal fisheries management-related projects that integrate more than one government ministry is unknown at this time. The number of coastal fisheries management projects including multiple non-government stakeholders is also unknown. A methodology will be developed with partners to assist in measuring these indicators.

Level of effectiveness of partnerships

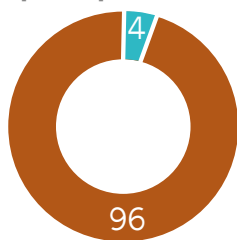
The level of effectiveness of partnerships, collaboration and coordination is unknown. A partnership assessment tool will be developed to assist with addressing this indicator.



Given data gaps it is difficult to make an overall assessment of progress towards this outcome

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

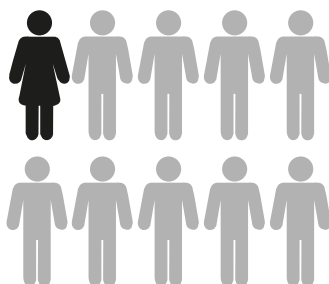
Fisheries labour force participation – 4%



■ Fisheries ■ Others sectors

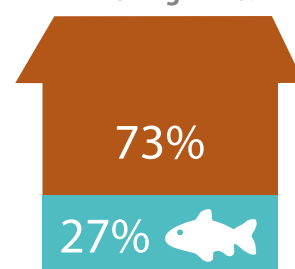
Data from 7 PICTs showed the median household income from capture fisheries is 2% (range <0,5%–6%).

Fisheries labour force gender split



The labour force employed in the formal fisheries sector is predominantly male, with men comprising a median of 92% of the fisheries labour force (range 83%–96%).

Households participating in fishing – 27%



27% of households participate in fishing. This is the median, with wide variation across countries (range 12%–80%). More rural than urban households participate in fishing.

Data source: The above data is based on current HIES data available for 7 PICTs (2012–15), using the median value across PICTs.



It is difficult to make an overall assessment of progress towards this outcome. As future HIES data becomes available the above information will act as a baseline to measure change.

Goal 3 – Livelihoods & food security

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

Giant clams: Generally considered overfished region-wide.

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

Finfish indicator species: Regional monitoring of five indicator species – *Ctenochaetus striatus*, *Lethrinus obsoletus*, *Lutjanus gibbus*, *Naso lituratus* and *N. unicornis* – indicate mixed results across the seven regional sites, where some locations show overexploitation and others appropriate exploitation. Data is lacking for most species, and two or more sites have not been assessed.

Reefs and ecosystems

In 2011, 48% of reefs in the Pacific were considered threatened – PICT average 57%; range 16%–100% (Source: Chin et al. 2011). Since then, reefs in multiple PICTs have been severely affected by coral bleaching and tropical cyclones. Information on the total proportion of PICT coastal areas under management is not currently available. As at last calculation, 8.2% of coastal villages/communities practiced CEA FM – regional total, n = 11,422 (Source: Govan et al. 2015).



Given data gaps it is difficult to make an overall assessment of progress towards this outcome

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

Per capita fresh fish consumption

Using HIES data from 15 PICTs mainly between 2001 and 2006, the regional population weighted average consumption of fresh fish was 37 kg per person per annum (range 20 kg–110 kg). Updated data to be available in the 2018 Report Card.

According to current HIES data from 7 PICTs (2012–2015), **94%** of households consume fish or seafood weekly (median, range 76%–100%).

Food quality/safety

Reported incidences of fish poisoning is not currently available at a regional level.



Given data gaps it is difficult to make an overall assessment of progress towards this outcome

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%). Fifteen per cent of households indicated they used FADs (median values from four PICTs).



8%

of households sell fish – median, range 4%–30%, n = 7 PICTs (Source: HIES).

8%

of household consumption expenditure is on fisheries – median, range 3%–8%, n = 7 PICTs (Source: HIES).



Given data gaps it is difficult to make an overall assessment of progress towards this outcome

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 seven PICTs (Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tokelau). Figures presented are the median across these PICTs unless otherwise stated.

Data from national fisheries offices on staff numbers and budget information were received from twelve PICTs (Cook Islands, French Polynesia, FSM, Nauru, New Caledonia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna), with some missing data.

It is expected that in future report cards data coverage across PICTs and data quality will continue to improve.