



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

Tonga

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.

- Successful farming of sea cucumber (sandfish) in 2021–2022 – increase in the number of farms (this year we have 5 compared to 1 in 2021)
- Increase in the number of *mabe pearl* farms
- Trials for other potential aquaculture commodities (i.e. mud crab, mullet, prawns) to support coastal communities (SMAs)

2. KEY FISHERIES/AQUACULTURE DECISIONS

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

- Upgrade the Ministry of Fisheries mariculture system at the main island Tongatapu and build new hatcheries for the outer islands to accommodate multiple species production and expansion of aquaculture
- Extend farming trials to the outer islands using cage culture system
- Development of the Tonga SMAs scaling-up strategy
- Conduct socio-economic survey for SMAs
- Promote giant squid fisheries
- Promote domestication of the tuna fleets

3. KEY EMERGING PRIORITIES

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

- Farming of sea cucumber
- Farming of *mabe* pearl oyster
- Promotion of the SMAs Program
- Conservation of endangered species
- NDF of CITES species, i.e. giant clams, corals, sea cucumbers
- Stock assessment of key fisheries, i.e. coral cover, sea cucumber, ciguatera sampling and analysis.