



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

Vanuatu Country Statement

1. NEW DEVELOPMENTS – Coastal Fisheries & Aquaculture



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.

• Coastal Fisheries

1. Reef fish stock assessment protocol developed and implemented to regulate size limits of coastal reef fish.

Vanuatu has never developed a national reef fish stock assessment protocol. The pathways CBFM fish mat monitoring tool has prompted the development of stock assessment methodologies for use by the Department. SPC's Ikasavea was instrumental in utilizing the department's fish mat monitoring protocol and the SPC fish board protocol to be able to collect the relevant data. LBSPR and other health parameters were calculated. From these results, the first ever stock assessment report on two fish families from two management areas was written.

2. Ghost Gear monitoring complimenting the FAD program

Trialling out of ghost gear monitoring on anchored FADs using three different tracking buoys. One of the tracking buoys has the potential to be merged with a small vessel tracking system that is being trialled out as well to improve coastal MCS.

3. Data collection

Coastal fisheries data collection program increased coverage to 100% provincial level, and moving to 100% coverage in the area council levels in the coming year. Successful trial rollout of fish market (solar freezer) data collection as well as a successful trial rollout of the CBFM Fish mat monitoring tool which has led to the first ever production of an annual fisheries catch production report. Additionally, we have started a trial on a small vessel tracking system to monitor fishing activities which has proven to be successful which has led to the purchase of the first hundred units to be installed on small vessels.

4. Scaling up CBFM/CBCRM in Vanuatu

- **Aquaculture**

1. Support of private hatcheries to breed sandfish (*Holothuria scabra*) for the purpose of reseedling and restocking

2. Domestic feed production to support Aquaculture farmers

Research on creating new feed mixes using locally sourced ingredients.

3. Establishment of provincial hatcheries – Decentralize services

Establishment of mini-hatcheries and holding facilities in outer islands that can assist in fingerling production.

4. Support communities affected by natural disasters through “Food Basket” initiative – Aquaculture & Fish storage facility

5. Integrated farming of aquaculture, small livestock, vegetables and arboretum/fruit trees

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?

- Review of current Regulation – separate offshore and coastal
- Implementation of coastal reef fish regulation on size limits
- Implementation of fish cold chain system and fish transfer through Public Private Partnership arrangement (Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Markets)
- Improved boat building designs – Bigger boat initiative
- Implement a National FAD strategy
- Implement a National Aquaculture management and development strategy

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?

- Explore and establish a program for the farming of mud crab and rabbitfish.
- Integration of the different data collection databases to better fit the needs of PICs; for instance, merging Tails and Ikasavea to assist in stock assessments.
- Increased assistance in research of new fisheries and establish more stock assessment protocols for coastal fisheries
- Strengthen MCS monitoring of small vessels and their fishing activities through the use of tracking devices and integrating that with their fish catch logs.