

COASTAL FISHERY REPORT CARD 2025



Photo credit: SPC/Zahid Namo

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 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 ocean areas much greater than their land area. Coastal fisheries are fundamental to food security and livelihoods across the region, providing significant economic, social, and cultural benefits to communities. The region has extensive coral reefs, consisting of around 70 coral genera, over 4,000 fish and invertebrate species, and 30 mangrove species. These

coastal resources are under increasing threat and are often fully or over-exploited.

Method used to compile the Report Card

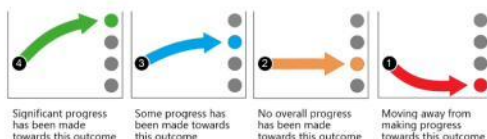
The intentional alignment between the Regional Roadmap and A New Song for Coastal Fisheries Strategy has enabled one single monitoring mechanism for both commitments. The 2017 Report Card was the first time a single reporting mechanism was adopted for coastal fisheries in the region.

The indicators utilised in the Report Card were identified in consultation with partners and feedback from the 10th SPC Heads of Fisheries and the 102nd FFC Officials Meeting. These indicators were revised in 2023 and endorsed by the 4th Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting.

Information gaps are noted in the Report Card with a question mark symbol.



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



User rights defined in 19 PICTs

User rights and tenure systems in PICTs are most recognised through constitutional arrangements, or national or sub-national legislation such as Island/Village Councils Acts, Provincial Acts or Island State Acts.



Access rights & empowerment

The ability of rights holders to claim / control the use of their rights is unknown at the regional level, as is the level of community awareness and community action to manage coastal resources.



Defined user-rights

Not defined

Uncertain

Adequate and relevant information to inform management and policy



Ratio of extension officers to fishing households

The role of fisheries extension officers is varied, but commonly includes dissemination of information, development activities and providing advice to communities. Data from 15 PICTs showed an average ratio of **one extension officer to 281** households participating in fisheries.



Extent to which information informs management & policy

28 coastal fisheries policies and national roadmaps have demonstrated the use of evidence and available information to guide their development and implementation. This reflects a strong regional shift toward evidence-based coastal fisheries management—ensuring that policies are informed, relevant, and grounded in both scientific research and community realities

Recognition of, and strong political commitment and Matoto, CEO support for, coastal fisheries management at a national and sub-national scale



Increasing national resource allocation

The governments' financial commitment to coastal fisheries as a proportion of the total national budget **increased** from **0.27%** in 2022 from 6 PICTs to **0.37%** in 2025 from 19 PICTs (range 0.05% to 2.7%, n=19 PICTs).

The proportion of fisheries budgets allocated to coastal fisheries **increased** from **36%** in 2017 to **46%** in 2025 (range 0.6% to 74%, n=19).

The proportion of fisheries staff working in coastal fisheries is **49%** (range 10% to 91%, n=19).



Increasing regional commitment

Pacific leaders have strengthened commitment to coastal fisheries through increased investment, scaling up CBFM, strategic reviews, and integration into the 2050 Blue Pacific and Blue Food agendas.

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



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



\$613^{USD}

is the coastal fisheries government budget per household participating in fisheries, based on available data from reporting Pacific Island countries and territories in 2025



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



Goal 2 – Resilience

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



16 PICTs

have enacted new coastal fisheries management legislation since 2015 and 9 have legislations in need of drafting.



16 PICTs

have up-to-date and comprehensive coastal fisheries and aquaculture policies. Eight have policies in need of drafting or revision.



17 PICTs

have evidence of some monitoring, control, surveillance & enforcement of coastal fisheries management measures.

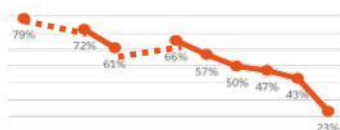


Effective collaboration and coordination between stakeholders and key sectors of influence



Projects implemented in partnership

Marine and coastal projects implemented in partnership (i.e. more than 1 agency) has reduced over time:



* Source: mcp.cifor.org. Notes: Project start year. Insufficient data for 2006 & 2009

Level of effectiveness of partnerships

12 PICTs reported increased effectiveness in partnerships, collaboration, and coordination with NGOs, CSOs, non-state actors and other stakeholders.



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

BENEFITS



28%

of households participate in fishing
Median across PICTs, range 6% to 75%
(n=15)



8%

of households sell fish
Median across PICTs,
range 3% to 30% (n=15)

SHARING



Access to benefits and decision-making relating to household fishing and selling fish among women, young people and marginalised groups is unknown from HIES data



Women's participation in fisheries

37% of senior managers in fisheries agencies are women, which means that women have significant opportunities to make or influence important decisions
(n=70/190)

The recent study on the [Fisheries in the Economies of PICTs](#) found that in the formal sector, such as tuna processing, women are significantly employed, often making up majority of the work force. For example, two-third of the SolTuna workforce are women)

Women play a crucial role in subsistence fishing and gleaning activities, which are often underestimated in official statistics. For instance, 89% of fishers or gleaners were women in Palau.

Source: Above data is based on current HIES available for 15 PICTs. The median value across the PICTs is used.

Goal 3 – Livelihoods & food security

Value of fisheries and aquaculture production by year and category

Year	Coastal Commercial	Coastal Subsistence	Offshore Locally Based	Offshore Foreign based	Freshwater	Aquaculture
2007	USD217,678,210	USD263,234,098	USD784,100,037	USD1,427,507,426	USD30,367,595	USD192,955,114
2014	USD243,660,527	USD264,082,674	USD827,116,428	USD2,546,101,758	USD52,117,509	USD129,926,187
2021	USD169,506,744	USD280,086,601	USD870,956,721	USD1,210,569,797	USD45,136,465	USD85,272,242

Diversify the supply of fish, primarily through FADs and sustainable aquaculture



Fishing methods used by households

53% of the households use hook and line, 34% use net, 31% use spear and 26% use gleaning. (Source: HIES from 15 PICTs).



Location fished by fishing households

62% of households fish inshore, 50% nearshore, 33% offshore and 7% of households indicated of using FADs (Source: HIES from 15 PICTs).

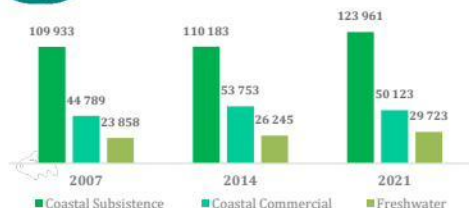


Aquaculture production in the region

7.6 tonnes of aquaculture were produced in the region in 2021, worth US\$5.3 million. (Source: Gillett and Fong, 2021).



Volume of fishery production (t)



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



In 15 PICTs, **9%** of households rely on fisheries as their main source of income. This includes 6% of rural households compared to 5% in urban areas, highlighting the importance of fisheries not only for food security but also as a key livelihood, particularly in rural communities. Source: HIES from 15 PICTs

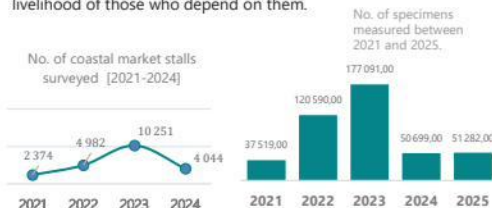


56% of households consume canned fish, followed by reef and pelagic fish.

Source: HIES from 15 PICTs

Monitor catches to keep harvests within sustainable limits

34,713 Coastal market stalls were surveyed between 2021 and 2025 using SPC's Ikasavea app. Creel and market surveys are valuable tools for monitoring and managing coastal fisheries sustainably, ensuring long-term health of fish stocks and livelihood of those who depend on them.



Data notes

For further information on the regional coastal fisheries indicators used in this Report Card, including data sources and calculation methods, please contact terryo@spc.int.

Data from Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) were available for 15 Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs): American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna. Unless otherwise stated, figures presented reflect the median across these PICTs.

In addition, staff and budget data were received from 19 PICTs through national fisheries offices, with some updates pending in the coming weeks. It is important to note that as more countries contribute data each year, figures may not be directly comparable to previous editions of the Report Card.