



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique

# Cook Islands

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.*

- Development of new Ministry of Marine Resources Strategic Plan 2022-27
- Work to upgrade Aitutaki Marine Research Center in Aitutaki to support aquaculture sector and ecosystem restoration/resilience
- Coastal fisheries workshop to develop coastal fisheries research plan – targeting investment and building local knowledge base

## 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?*

- New bill for Marine Resources Act
- National policy approach for coastal fisheries management measures – previously adhoc island requested

### 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?*

- Enhancing national fisheries policy and science capability
- Aquaculture support – technical and infrastructure for commercial, ecosystem restoration and resilience, and food security
- Policy/regulation development to provide statutory support to some traditional fisheries management practices i.e. ra'ui.