



## THIRD REGIONAL FISHERIES MINISTERS MEETING

August 2022

Agenda Item:	4.b
Paper No:	RFMM3.WP02
Title:	2022 Coastal Fisheries Report Card - DRAFT

### Summary:

#### 1. Introduction

Managing and recovering from the impacts COVID-19 pandemic mitigation actions has been the key priority for the region, with significant impacts on coastal economies and small-scale fishers throughout the value chain. The 2022 Coastal Fishery Report Card is the eighth Report Card under the [Future of Fisheries Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries](#). The Report Card provides high-level information on the status of Pacific coastal fisheries in relation to the goals, indicators and strategies approved by the 10th SPC Heads of Fisheries and FFC102.

This paper includes the initial draft of the 2022 Coastal Fishery Report Card as of 04 July. Some figures may change in the final version as additional information is received.

#### 2. Key highlights

Since 2015, significant progress has been made towards the three goals, notably:

- *Improvements in the quality and quantity of data from Members,*
- *Increased capacity and capability in the region in coastal fisheries management policy, legislation, and planning,*
- *Increased political commitment and support for coastal fisheries management, and*
- *Increasing availability of data on resourcing in fisheries agencies to support coastal fisheries management.*

Areas which have seen increased progress but limited data to quantify the progress include:

- *Informed and empowered coastal communities with clearly defined user rights,*
- *Effective collaboration and coordination between stakeholders and key sectors of influence,*
- *Harvests within sustainable limits and coastal developments do not damage fish habitats,*
- *Adequate and relevant information to inform management and policy, and*
- *Diversify the supply of fish.*

Due to data gaps progress is unknown in the areas of:

- *More equitable access to benefits within communities, and*
- *Enhancing food security from sustainable fisheries.*

### 3. Actions to address data gaps

The 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture and the 14<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting endorsed SPC to initiate a review of regional and national indicators for the Coastal Fishery Report Card, in line with the New Song for Coastal Fisheries and other regional Frameworks.

In 2023, SPC will undertake an update of the *Fisheries in the Economies of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories*, which will include a focus on coastal fisheries and aquaculture contribution to GDP in the region. A key focus of this review will include developing indicators which are more readily measured with available data, and in particular the large volume of qualitative evidence developing around progress on Community-Based Fisheries Management.

### 4. Methodology update

Following agreement by the 11th Heads of Fisheries, almost all Members have since nominated a focal point to facilitate data collection for the annual Coastal Fishery Report Card. This has facilitated improved data quality and reporting.

Since the suggestions of member level report cards, SPC has developed an interactive dashboard to enable filtering and display of member level data. It is currently available online – [www.fameresults.org/cfreportcard/](http://www.fameresults.org/cfreportcard/).

Each year SPC circulates a questionnaire to Members asking for information on indicators relating to staff numbers, budget allocation and the status of member policies and legislation. Those Members who have not yet provided this information via their focal points are encouraged to do so prior to the Report Card being finalised for submission to the Pacific Island Forum Leaders. Please contact Terry Opa ([terryo@spc.int](mailto:terryo@spc.int)).

### Recommendations

Ministers are invited to:

- **Note** the progress made towards the *Future of Fisheries Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries* as reported in the draft 2022 Coastal Fishery Report Card,
- **Note** the progress made on member level reporting, including development of the online interactive dashboard for member level Coastal Fishery Report Cards,
- **Note** the limited data in key indicators – including the need for repeat studies to measure change over time for several outcomes, resource allocations in coastal fisheries management, equitable access to benefits within communities,
- **Note** the actions endorsed by the 14<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting to review the regional and national indicators for coastal fisheries report card inline with the *New Song for Coastal Fisheries*, and
- **Endorse** the development of improved indicators for the Coastal Fisheries Report Card, including aggregation of qualitative indicators to better inform progress.

## COASTAL FISHERY REPORT CARD 2022



Photo credit: Colette Wabnitz

### 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 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 either 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.

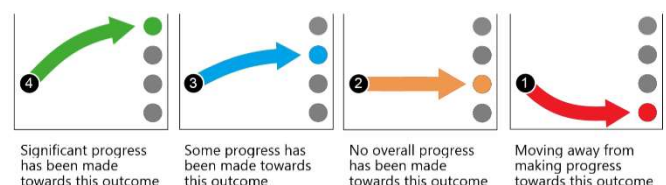
The indicators utilised in the Report Card were identified in consultation with partners and feedback from the 10th SPC Heads of Fisheries and the 102nd FFC Officials Meeting.

Given the nature of coastal fisheries, reporting on progress itself remains a key challenge in implementing and monitoring regional commitments. Limitations in data availability, resource constraints, data variability and validation mean there is a lack of data for most outcome areas.

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 15 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.



### 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 eight PICTs showed an average ratio of one extension officer to 658 households participating in fisheries.



### Extent to which information informs management & policy

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.

## Recognition of, and strong political commitment and 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 **0.2%** in 2017 from 5 PICTs to **0.27%** in 2022 from 17 PICTs (range 0.05% to 2.6%, n=17 PICTs).

The proportion of fisheries budgets allocated to coastal fisheries **increased** from **34%** in 2017 to **36%** in 2022 (range 0.6% to 74%, n=17).

The proportion of fisheries staff working in coastal fisheries is **42%** (range 10% to 91%, n=17).



### Increasing regional commitment

In 2016 Pacific Leaders agreed to expand "fisheries" to include coastal fisheries. In the 2020 Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting, the ministers endorse the proposed mechanism for increasing the engagement of non-state actors in the regional coastal

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



**17** PICTs

annually publish financial statements for their national fisheries budget.



**\$43** USD

is the coastal fisheries' government budget per household participating in fisheries across 13 PICTs (total sum).



**13** PICTs

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



\* **Note:** There is no evidence to conclude that proportion of increase in overall national allocation to coastal fisheries included recurrent budget and staff to support for coastal fisheries management underpinned by CBFM

## Goal 2 – Resilience

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



**14** PICTs

have enacted new coastal fisheries management legislation since 2015.



**13** PICTs

have current coastal fisheries management policies. Ten have policies in need of drafting or revision.

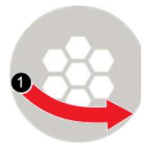


**15** PICTs

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

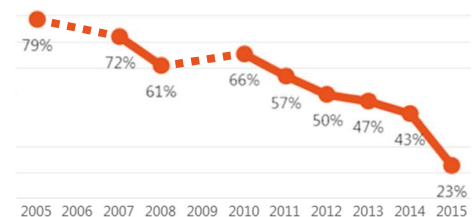


### Effective collaboration and coordination between stakeholders and key sectors of influence

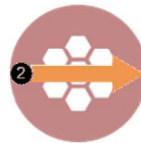


#### Projects implemented in partnership

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



\* Source: [msp.csiro.au](http://msp.csiro.au) Notes: Project start year. Insufficient data for 2006 & 2009



#### Level of effectiveness of partnerships

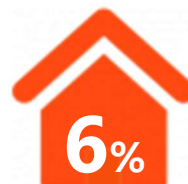
Three PICTs reported increased effectiveness in partnerships, collaboration, and coordination with NGOs, CSOs, Non-state actors and other stakeholders.

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

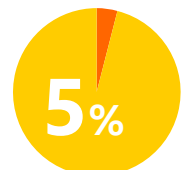
#### BENEFITS



of households participate in fishing  
Median across PICTs, range 6% to 75% (n=14)



of households sell fish  
Median across PICTs, range 3% to 30% (n=14)



of the labour force is in fisheries  
Median across PICTs, range 0% to 23% (n=14)

#### 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



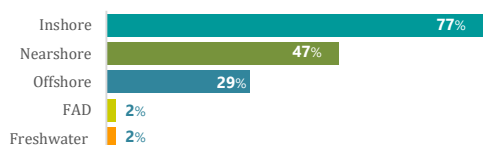
Women's participation in fisheries is underestimated by HIES, which indicates that women are only 6% of the formal fisheries labour force, with one country estimate being that no women are employed in fisheries (range 0% to 12%).

Source: Above data is based on current HIES available for 14 PICTs. The median value across the PICTs is used.

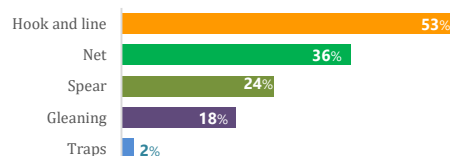


## Goal 3 – Livelihoods & food security

Locations used by fishing households



Fishing methods used by fishing households



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

### Key indicative species



**Giant clams:** Generally considered overfished region-wide

**Sea cucumbers:** While most sea cucumber fisheries now closed due to overfishing, some PICTs have opened their fisheries in this reporting period.



**Finfish indicator species:** Monitoring of five indicator species (*Naso lituratus*, *Naso unicornis*, *Lutjanus gibbus*, *Lethrinus obsoletus* and *Ctenochaetus striatus*) indicate mixed results across seven regional sites, where some locations show overexploitation, others appropriate exploitation, with most species data deficient with sites not assessed.



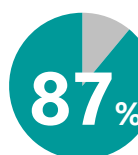
### Reefs and ecosystems

In 2011, 48% of reefs in the Pacific were considered threatened (Source: Chin et al. 2011). Since then, reefs in multiple PICTs have been severely affected by coral bleaching and tropical cyclones.



A case study in Solomon Islands found 5% of coastal villages/ communities practice CEAQM (source: Govan et al. 2015)

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



### Per capita fresh fish consumption

of households consume fish or seafood weekly (median range 53% to 97%).

Source: HIES data from 14 PICTs (2010-2020).

**58kg** of fresh fish is consumed per person per annum (regional population weighted average, range 16kg to 102kg).

Source: HIES data from 14 PICTs (2012-2020).



Enhanced contribution to food security is unclear from available data, including food safety elements (i.e., levels fish poisoning and contaminants).

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 (77% of households), nearshore (47%), and offshore (29%). 2% of households indicated they used FADs (median from 11 PICTs).



**6%** of household consumption expenditure on food is spent on fisheries (median, range 2% to 10%, n=14 PICTs HIES)

### Data notes

For further information on the regional coastal fisheries indicators utilised in this Report Card, including data sources and how figures were calculated, contact [terryo@spc.int](mailto:terryo@spc.int). Data from HIES were available for 14 PICTs (Cook Islands, FSM, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Kiribati, RMI, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna). 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 seven PICTs (Fiji, French Polynesia, PNG, Tonga, RMI, Vanuatu, Wallis & Futuna), with some missing data. The inclusion of data from additional PICTs each year means that figures are not directly comparable with previous Report Cards. It is hoped that in future Report Cards data coverage across PICTs and data quality will continue to improve.

FORUM FISHERIES COMMITTEE EYES ONLY