SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

TARGETS	INDICATORS
14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution	14.1.1 Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density
14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans	14.2.1 Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches
14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels	14.3.1 Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations
14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics	14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels
14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information	14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas
14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation	14.6.1 Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing

14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism	14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries, and all countries
14.A Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries	14.A.1 Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology
14.B Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets	14.B.1 Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries
14.C Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want	14.C.1 Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources

Section 1.1- Inclusive Socio-economic Development

Food and Nutrition Security

Food and nutrition security will be improved by ensuring increased local production, raising farm efficiency and productivity, and developing more effective distribution systems. Agriculture and fisheries programmes will be enhanced, and local produce made available to all Fijians. New technology, mechanisation and better production practices will be adopted. Market linkages will be improved. Large-scale production will be encouraged and supported to achieve greater economies of scale. Organic farming will be promoted, and production of traditional crops and niche agricultural and fisheries products will be pursued. Production will be made more climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable. To adapt to climate change, increased funding will be directed towards agriculture research into crop varieties that can be more resilient to expected changes in weather

patterns. In addition, extension training will evolve to ensure that farming practices adapt to changes due to climate change.

National Development Targets relevant to SDG 14

Environment Targets	**2015**	**2021**
Establish MPAs targeting 30% of Fiji's marine areas (%)	1.8	30

Marine Protected Areas (MPA)

The term Marine Protected Areas include marine reserves, fully protected marine areas, no-take zones, marine sanctuaries, ocean sanctuaries, marine parks, locally managed marine areas, to name a few. Many of these have quite different levels of protection, and the range of activities allowed or prohibited within their boundaries varies considerably too.

Source: https://wwf.panda.org/our_work/oceans/solutions/protection/protected_areas/

Journal Article: https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0170638#:~:text=Marine%20protected%20areas%20(red)%20and,Namada)%20along%20Fiji's%20Coral%20Coast. 'Small Marine Protected Areas in Fiji Provide Refuge for Reef Fish Assemblages, Feeding Groups, and Corals' – Provides high academic level of understanding of the benefit and details of MPAs.

FNDP SECTION SUMMARY

3.2.13 FISHERIES

"Sustainably managed fisheries resources"

- A key resource-based sector. The sector consists of commercial offshore fishing, inshore fisheries, bêche-de-mer, aquarium fish, reef fish, seaweed, black pearls, aquaculture, and other aquatic based products.
- The private sector leads the way in this industry with the government providing oversight. However, the government has also supported the industry in the diversification of export markets, trade facilitation, product research and development, conducive fiscal and tax environment, and infrastructure.
- Focus is now turning to sector-development challenges such as falling fish stocks, slow growth in aquaculture, finding ways to add value to fisheries resources, and the negative effects of climate change. The National Fisheries Policy will guide the management of these problems.
- The Offshore Fisheries Decree 2014 and the Offshore Fisheries Management Regulations 2014 will continue to guide the development and sustainable management of the tuna fishery as well as the overall offshore fisheries sector.
- The Government is devising a distribution model to provide financial assistance to domestic fishing companies through the Tuna Stabilisation Fund and certification for sustainable harvesting practices will continue.
- Marine Protected Areas (MPA) will be established to protect inshore fisheries while the issue of permits and licences for traditional fishing rights of Qoliqoli (Customary Fishing Rights Area) is currently under review.

- The government will continue to support the revitalisation and conservation of mangroves and corals.
- A reliable data-gathering framework will be established to track the level of catch and fish stock on a regular basis.
- Increases in demand for fisheries product means private sector investments will be supported in aquaculture projects through tax incentives, provision of juvenile fry and post-larva stocks, and research and extension services. The government will continue investment in the development of a multispecies hatchery.

Further Information

National Fisheries Policy

The National Fisheries Policy covers all 3 identified fisheries sectors: Offshore fisheries, inshore fisheries, and the aquaculture sector. The consultation team explained that the National Fisheries Policy is an overarching document that explains how Fiji will manage its fisheries, while more specific details will appear in implementation plans that would be made in accordance with the National Fisheries Policy.

Mission: "Use participative approaches to provide transparent and accountable fisheries management and development services, as a trusted provider, to achieve a healthy ecosystem, economic growth, food security and sustainable livelihoods."

Source:
http://www.sas.com.fj/ocean-law-bulletins/fijis-first-national-fisheries-policy-an-update#:~:text=The%20National%20Fisheries%20Policy%20will,fisheries%2C%20and%20the%20aquaculture%20sector.&text=Vision%3A%20%E2%80%9CSustainable%2C%20well%2D,Fijian%20communities%20and%20future%20generations.%E2%80%9D

Further Reading:
http://www.fisheries.gov.fj/images/Fisheries_Legislations/Offshore_Fisheries_Management_Regulations_2014.pdf - Offshore Fisheries Decree 2014

SDG 14 in Figures

Table 5: Annual catches by Fiji's flagged longliners (tonnes)

Species	2011	2012	2013	2014
Albacore	7 793	7 958	6 202	6 703
Bigeye	681	1 019	685	1 586
Yellowfin	2 248	2 081	1 328	3 594
Other tuna-like species	1 422	1 388	1 293	1 702
Total	12 144	12 446	9 508	13 585

The annual marine catch of Fiji was estimated at 40 000 tonnes in 2015

34 percent of fish caught was tunas and other large pelagic species

Inland water catches are estimated at about 2 600 tonnes in 2013.

Source:

http://www.fao.org/fishery/facp/FJI/en#:~:text=The%20annual%20marine%20catch%20of,food%20markets%20and%20for%20export.

SDG 2019 REVIEW

SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development

Through the 2014 Green Growth Framework has explicitly set the target of achieving 30% Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by 2021, which exceeds the international commitment under Aichi Target 11 in the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Research and monitoring are key to the sustainability and preservation of marine ecosystems and resources. Research focusing on microplastics in marine species has been conducted in Fiji mainly through the University of the South Pacific.

According to the 2018 Protected Planet Report, there has been an increase from 10,952 km2 of marine protected area in 2014 to 11,956 km2 in 2019. In addition to formally established MPAs, Fiji has community managed areas within the iQoliqoli areas, more formally known as traditional fisheries-management areas

Fiji's Locally Managed Marine Area Network

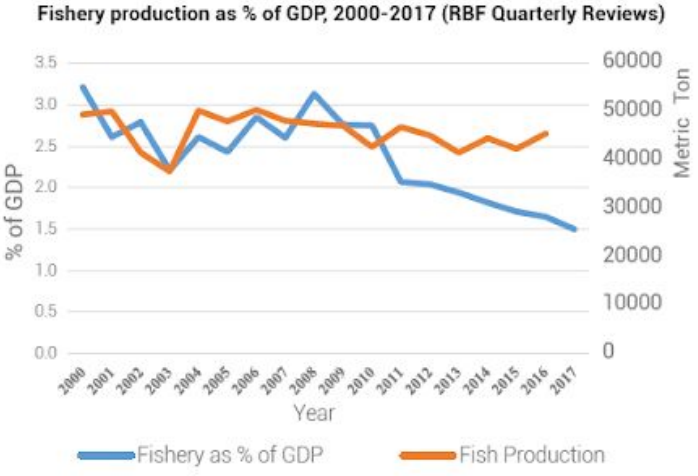
- Fiji's plans call for an effectively managed and governed network of LMMAs in all Fijian communities covering 100% of Fiji's customary marine areas by 2025.
- Private sector investors such as local tourism operators, working directly with local communities, have also engaged in protecting and conserving the marine resources by establishing MPAs through Marine Conservation Agreements

Marine Biodiversity

- Several marine species are now endangered. According to a 2015 biodiversity report from Fiji Parliament, 8 out of 12 marine mammal species, 3 out of 10 marine reptile species, 49 out of 1,198 marine fish species, and 2 out of 161 freshwater fish species are endangered
- Coral reefs are also under stress from increased sediment and other land-based sources of pollution and natural disasters such as cyclones, as well as elevated sea temperatures

Fisheries Management

- The Fisheries Act recognises the iTaukei customary fishing rights in traditional fishing grounds (qoliqoli), and allows the traditional owners to advise the District Commissioner and Fisheries Division as to which commercial fishermen shall be allowed to fish in their areas and to impose restrictions on commercial fishermen
- Over 500 fishing licenses have been issued for the year 2018 and this continues to grow in various parts of Fiji.
- The Pacific tuna industry alone has a net value of over US$400 million. In 2017, the fisheries industry accounted for 1.5% of the total GDP,



which declined from 3.2% in 2000. Fishery's share in Fiji's export has been declining as well.

- Of the 39 finfish groups that were assessed in Fiji, 10 are being or have been over exploited (Gillett et al., 2018)
- Scientists from the Ministry of Fisheries, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) assessed 16,404 fish from 180 species in another case study. Of the 29 most caught and sold species, more than half had stocks that were less than what was needed to avoid long-term stock declines
- With support from the WWF and the New Zealand AID, tuna stocks are being managed under the scheme "Developing Sustainable and Responsible Tuna Longline Fisheries in Fiji," which employs over 3,800 of the fisheries' workforce.
- The major pieces of legislation are:
    - Fisheries Act 1942,
    - Ports Authority of Fiji Act 1975,
    - The Marine Spaces Act 1978,
    - Marine Act 1986,
    - Sea Ports Management Act 2005,
    - Maritime Safety Authority Decree 2009,
    - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2024,
    - Offshore Fisheries Management Decree 2012,
    - International Seabed Mineral Management Decree 2013,
    - Tuna Management Plan (2010).

Addressing data and monitoring

- The Pacific Community (SPC) has installed equipment to supply real-time wave buoy data, supported mooring installed 15 temperature sensors and 3 pressure sensors, and provided coastal baseline data for the Coral Coast (60 km of coastline)

Ocean Governance

- Fiji is set to develop an Ocean Policy that integrates the principles of the UN Law of the Sea, including MPA's, other effective area-based management measures and coastal conservation.
- Fiji's ocean is part of the wider western and central Pacific Ocean, and further collaboration with the countries within the region is required to tackle the challenges of IUU fishing and overfishing on the high seas.