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PACIFIC ISLANDS
OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



FACTSHEET

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Offshore Fisheries

ENSURING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF PACIFIC TUNA

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)

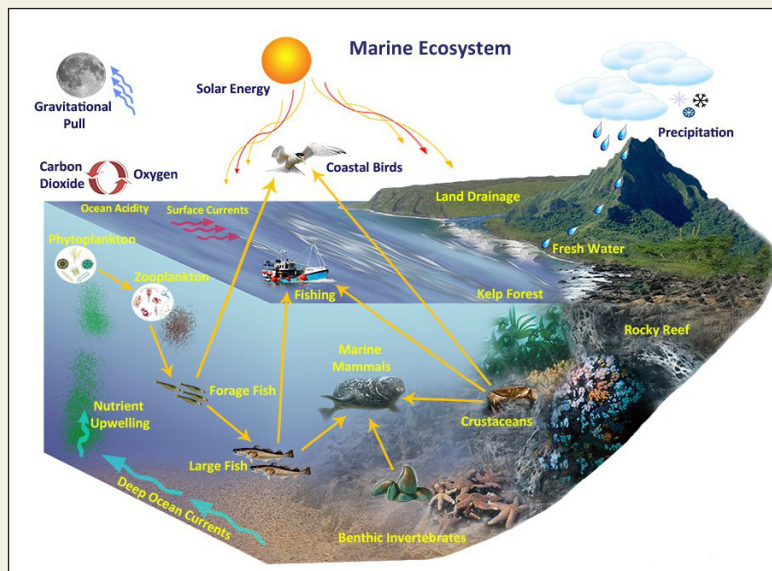
To effectively manage a fishery, it is crucial to understand not only the fishery itself, but also its natural and human environment. Managing a fish stock independently of the **ecosystem** that it is a part of disregards the important point that fish stocks affect and are affected by this same ecosystem.

EAFM:

PROTECTING AND
CONSERVING
ECOSYSTEMS WHILE
PROVIDING FOOD,
INCOME AND
LIVELIHOODS FROM
FISHERIES IN A
SUSTAINABLE MANNER.

Fishing can affect other components of the ecosystem by:

- Catching unwanted **species**;
- Causing physical damage to **habitat**;
- Disrupting food chains;
- Causing changes in **biodiversity**.



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EAFM Objectives and Process

In addition to fishing, **target species** are affected by non-fishing issues such as climate change, coastal development, pollution and the loss of habitats by reclamation. Hence, the need for a broader approach that attempts to manage fish stocks as components of marine ecosystems. The response to this is an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM). It was a strategy established in early 2003 by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Committee on Fisheries and is now gradually being adopted by Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) members in managing their offshore fisheries.

The ultimate objective of EAFM is to ensure that ecosystems are healthy, fish stocks are sustainable and that the well-being of the communities and stakeholders depending on them is safeguarded. This covers five components;

- i. Target species;
- ii. Non target species;
- iii. The ecosystem;
- iv. Community outcomes;
- v. Fishery administration.

The EAFM process involves four overall stages:

- i. Developing a clear description of what is to be managed and/or assessed;
- ii. Identifying all the issues that need to be assessed across all five components;
- iii. Determining, using risk analysis, which of these issues needs to be managed directly;
- iv. Establishing the levels of measures that are acceptable, the management arrangements that will be used to achieve these levels, and the review processes needed to assess measures for those issues requiring management.

Knowing Your Terms

Biodiversity: was coined as a contraction of “biological diversity” and is often defined as the variety of all forms of life, from genes to species, through to the broader scale of ecosystems.

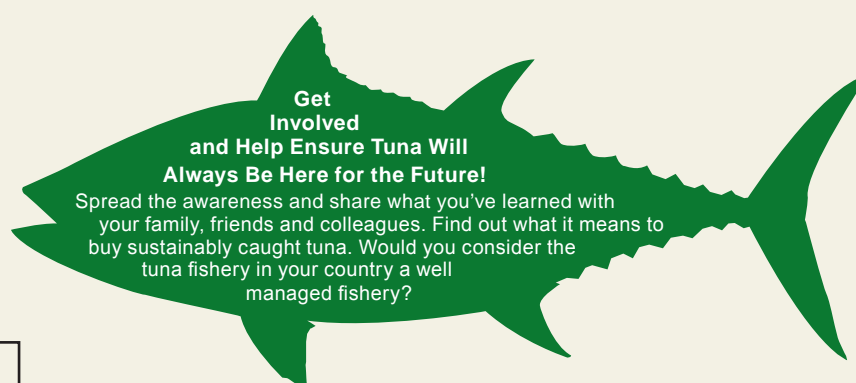
Ecosystem: a community of plants, animals (including humans) and smaller organisms that live, feed, reproduce and interact in the same area or environment.

Habitat: A natural home or environment of an animal, plant or other organisms.

Species: A group of living organisms consisting of similar individuals capable of exchanging genes or interbreeding.

Target Species: species or assemblage of species, which are primarily sought in a fishery.

Source: Secretariat of the Pacific Community, SPC & Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, FFA (2011)



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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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