

Tuna

A Key Economic Resource in the Pacific Islands

A Report Prepared for the
Asian Development Bank and the
Forum Fisheries Agency

Robert Gillett, Mike McCoy, Len Rodwell, and Josie Tamate

© Asian Development Bank
All rights reserved

First published in March 2001

This publication was prepared by consultants for the Asian Development Bank. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in it do not necessarily represent the views of ADB or those of its member governments. The Asian Development Bank does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in the publication and accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any consequences of their use.

ISBN 971-561-335-7

Publication Stock No. 121000

Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789, 8980, Manila Philippines
Website: www.adb.org

Pacific Studies Series

The series is published by the Asian Development Bank to provide the governments of its Pacific developing member countries with analyses of economic and other issues. The studies are also expected to shed light on the problems facing governments and the people in the Pacific Islands, and to suggest development strategies that combine both political and economic feasibility.

- Human Resource Development: Small Pacific Island Countries (March 1995)
- Cook Islands: Economic Performance, Issues, and Strategies (July 1995)
- Strategy for the Pacific - Policies and Programs for Sustainable Growth (March 1996)
- Sociocultural Issues and Economic Development in the Pacific Islands (April 1996)
- Tonga: Economic Performance and Selected Development Issues (June 1996)
- Fiji: Agriculture Sector Review - A Strategy for Growth and Diversification (July 1996)
- Federated States of Micronesia: 1996 Economic Report (March 1997)
- The Pacific's Tuna: The Challenge of Investing in Growth (April 1997)
- Vanuatu: Economic Performance, Policy and Reform Issues (May 1997)
- Republic of the Marshall Islands: 1996 Economic Report (June 1997)
- Sociocultural Issues and Economic Development in the Pacific Islands - Vol. II (November 1997)
- A Different Kind of Voyage: Development and Dependence in the Pacific Islands (February 1998)
- Tuvalu: 1997 Economic Report (February 1998)
- Kiribati: 1997 Economic Report (March 1998)
- Improving Growth Prospects in the Pacific (March 1998)
- Solomon Islands: 1997 Economic Report (August 1998)
- Reforms in the Pacific: An Assessment of the Asian Development Bank's Assistance for Reform Programs in the Pacific (August 1999)
- Pursuing Economic Reform in the Pacific (October 1999)
- Republic of the Fiji Islands: 1999 Economic Report (March 2000)
- Samoa 2000: Building on Recent Reforms (November 2000)

Orders can be placed from the Public Information Center, Office of External Relations, Asian Development Bank, P.O. Box 789, 0980 Manila, Philippines.

Contents

Tables and Figures	v
Foreword	vii
Abbreviations	viii
Executive Summary	ix
Background of the Report	1
Global Significance of Tuna	5
The Tuna Fishery in the Pacific Islands	7
Regional Tuna Catch	7
Tuna Landings in FFA Island Member Countries	8
The Role of Tuna Fisheries in the National Economies	11
General	11
Access Fees	12
Employment	15
Other Economic Benefits from Locally Based Tuna Industries	22
Transshipment	27
Other Benefits to the Economies	29
Summary of Benefits to Pacific Islands Economies from Industrial-Scale Tuna Fishing	34
Small-Scale Tuna Fishing	35
Nutrition	39
Culture	43
The Importance of Tuna in the Future	47
Foundation for Future Economic Development	47
Future Food Security	50

Conclusions	53
Appendixes: Case Studies	55
A : The Importance of Tuna to the Federated States of Micronesia	55
B : The Importance of Tuna to Samoa	66
C : The Importance of Tuna to Papua New Guinea	74
References	85
About the Authors	97

Tables

Table 1	Estimated Tuna Catch of FFA Member Countries in the Pacific Islands, by Nationality of Fishing Vessel, 1999 (metric tons)	9
Table 2	Annual Volume and Value of Catch of Pacific Island Fisheries	12
Table 3	Tuna Fishing Vessels in the FFA Regional Register, as of August 2000	13
Table 4	Access Fees Paid to Pacific Islands FFA Member Countries, 1999 (US\$)	14
Table 5	Direct Employment in Tuna Fishing and Processing in FFA Member Countries, 2000	17
Table 6	Relative Economic Importance of Direct Employment in Tuna Fishing and Tuna Processing in the Pacific Islands	20
Table 7	Locally Based Tuna Vessels in the Pacific Islands, as of Mid-2000	26
Table 8	Proportion of Tuna and Tuna-like Fish in Small-Scale Fishing in the Pacific Islands	35
Table 9	Artisanal Catch of Tuna in the Pacific Islands	36
Table 10	Per Capita Fish Consumption, Early 1990s (kg/year)	42

Figures

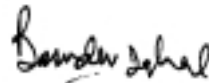
Figure 1	SPC Statistical Area	3
Figure 2	Average Yearly Tuna Catch in the Major Tuna Fishing Areas, Later 1990s	5
Figure 3	Annual Tuna Catch in the Pacific Islands Area, 1970 to 1999	7
Figure 4	Tuna, Tuna Fishing, and Tuna Fishing Gear on Pacific Islands Stamps	46
Figure 5	Human Development Index for the Pacific Islands Countries, 1999	49
Figure 6	Tuna Catch of the Pacific Islands Countries, 1999	50

Foreword

In this report, appropriately titled *Tuna, A Key Economic Resource of the Pacific*, the authors highlight the importance of tuna in the economy of Pacific Islands countries. Considering the limited exploitable resources of these island countries, it may be argued that for people of the Pacific, tuna is not only *a* key resource but often *the* key resource.

To the world, tuna represents a multibillion-dollar-a-year industry. To the Pacific Islands countries that contribute a third of the world's supply each year, it provides essential direct and indirect employment (5 percent to 8 percent of national employment), subsistence, and a valuable source of income for governments in the form of access fees and other benefits. In addition, through commercial sport fishing, tuna represents an important link to the countries' important tourism industry.

The future food security and economic development of the Pacific region will undoubtedly be linked to the responsible and sustainable management of its tuna resources. This report provides us with valuable insights into how such resource management can be achieved.



Basudev Dahal

Director

Office of Pacific Operations

Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
DVA	domestic value added
DWFN	distant water fishing nation
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
FFC	Forum Fisheries Committee
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
MHLC	Multilateral High-Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Central and Western Pacific
MMA	Micronesian Maritime Authority
MSY	maximum sustainable yield
NFA	National Fisheries Authority
NGO	nongovernment organization
PAFCO	Pacific Fishing Company
PCS	Palau Conservation Society
PNG	Papua New Guinea
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SPARTECA	South Pacific Regional Area Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community (formerly South Pacific Commission)
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
STL	Solomon Taiyo Limited
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
US	United States
WCPO	west-central Pacific Ocean
WTO	World Trade Organization