



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

Aquaculture and aquatic biosecurity

Reviewing legal frameworks

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Feeding into
the regional
policy process
for
sustainable
aquaculture

Aquatic biosecurity is...

- *A system of standardised protocols to deal with **biological risks** in aquatic environments, such as **exotic pathogens** and **invasive species**.*



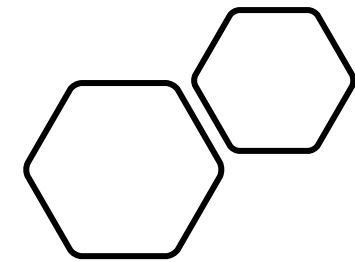
Regional framework
on aquatic biosecurity



Developed by the Aquaculture Section of the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (FAME) of the Pacific Community.



- Insularity and biosecurity
- Importance of marine ecosystem protection when developing aquaculture
- Some countries explored WOH (OIE) membership (half of PICTs are party)
- Develop a biosecure aquaculture sector without unnecessary barriers to trade
- Baseline reference tool for the Pacific Regional Framework on Aquatic Biosecurity 2020 and the upcoming Pacific Regional Aquaculture Strategy



Why a
legislative
review

Methodology

- Legislative review commissioned by FAME to assess the national legal framework for aquatic biosecurity in Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) against international standards, for example those of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)
 - Legislation on biosecurity, animal health, aquaculture, fisheries, environment, maritime...
- 14 PICTs: Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

Scope & Findings

1. Competent authorities for aquatic biosecurity
2. Aquaculture management: licensing and monitoring
3. Aquatic animal health, including reporting obligations, monitoring and surveillance, zoning and contingency planning
4. Import and export standards for live aquatic organisms and their products, including quarantine, health certification, risk analysis and domestic transfers
5. Pest and disease introduction pathways, including discharge water, ballast water, invasive species and species introductions

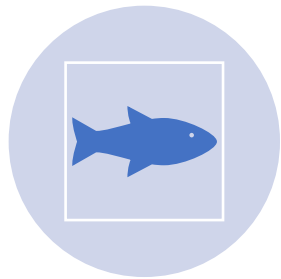




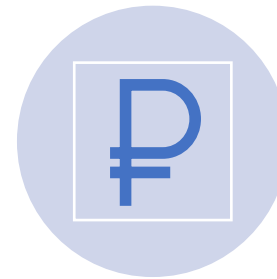
1. Competent authorities

- Most PICTs have basic legislation on biosecurity identifying competent authorities
- Separate authorities are generally competent for biosecurity and fisheries
- Issues may arise when it comes to aquatic species because of the lack of capacity
- Interagency collaboration and coordination protocols (e.g. through MOUs and delegation of authority) may be needed, particularly for enforcement
- Importantly, joint regulations must be adopted for aquatics and staff should be trained

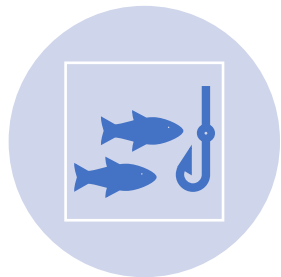
2. Aquaculture management



Most PICTs reviewed regulate aquaculture through a licensing system, typically for commercial activities



Licence conditions usually include reporting requirements, but provisions could be strengthened; incentives may be in place



In some PICTs, although a licence is not required, aquaculture activities are subject to administrative requirements related to the establishment or operation of a farm (e.g. foreshore and marine tenure, EIA, sanitary standards)



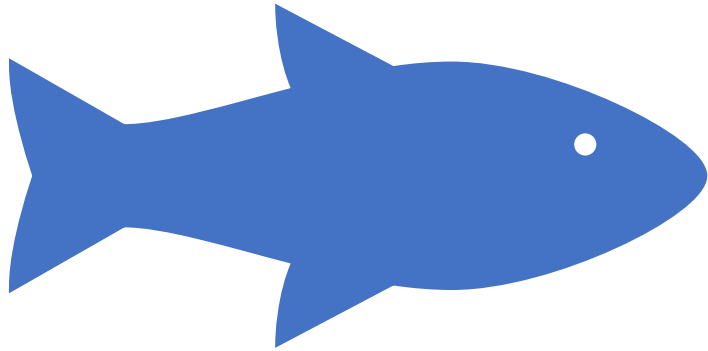
Some PICTs legislation promotes local community participation in small-scale aquaculture activities and low-impact farms

3. *Aquatic animal health*

- Aquatic animal (and plant) health legislation in place
- **Adequate regulations needed for:**
 - a. listing of aquatic diseases
 - b. national reporting of aquatic diseases
 - c. aquatic disease surveillance
 - d. aquatic disease zoning
- **Gaps in main legislation:**
 - a. international reporting of aquatic diseases
 - b. on-farm aquatic biosecurity and contingency planning
 - c. compensation mechanisms

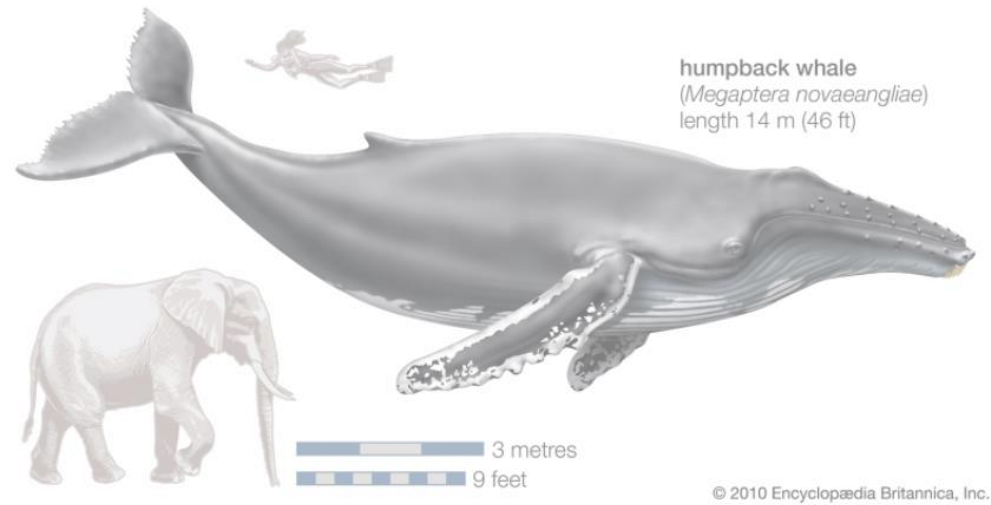
4. *Fish movement*

- Import, export and translocation standards for live aquatic organisms and their products
- Adequate regulations needed for:
 - quarantine of aquatic species
 - import/export health certification
 - import risk analysis
 - domestic transfers of aquatic species



In relation to aquaculture:

- ✓ Import and export (spat, live fish and fish products) of farmed fish and fish intended for aquaculture
- ✓ Domestic transfer to and from aquaculture facilities of live fish
- ✓ Coordination for aquatic health certification and quarantine



5. Pest management

- Pest and disease introduction pathways
- Adequate regulations needed for:
 - ballast water management

- Gaps in main legislation, *in relation to aquaculture operations*:
 - d. discharge water from aquaculture
 - e. control of vectors and invasive aquatic species
 - f. introductions of marine organisms

Breakout groups

QUESTION 1 – Discuss the common strengths below

- 1.1 What biosecurity issues need specific regulations for aquatic species in your country or territory?
- 1.2 Based on these national priorities, select up to 3 priorities for the region, and discuss the causes and impacts of each biosecurity issue selected.

QUESTION 2 – Discuss the common opportunities below - OPTIONAL

QUESTION 3 – Discuss FAME support

- 3.1 How can FAME better support PICTs' fisheries agencies in strengthening their national legal framework for aquatic biosecurity?
- 3.2 Select all that applies at national or regional level.

QUESTIONS?



Thank you!

Ariella D'Andrea, Legal Adviser
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