

Report on Mission to 21st Large Marine Ecosystem Consultative Meeting

Cartagena, 18-20 September 2019

David Vousden – UNDP GEF Consultant to FFA OFMP II

Mission Purpose:

To represent the interests of the UNDP GEF OFMP II Project at the LME 21 Consultative Meeting
Specifically, to present to the meeting on:

1. History of the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project and the planned 'Mainstreaming climate change and ecosystem-based approaches into the sustainable management of the Living Marine Resources of the WCPFC' Project
2. The role and achievements of OFMP II in delivering on the SDG 14 Targets and Indicators

DAY ONE: Dr. Vousden provided one of the two keynote opening presentations on Day 1. This was entitled The LME Partnerships: Challenges and Opportunities. The keynote address discussed various forms of Partnership as used both by the LMEs and in other ocean governance related bodies. It presented the lessons and practices arising from these partnerships that the LMEs could usefully capture and employ.

Following the mid-morning break, Dr. Vousden presented the OFMP II History and Background as well as the plans for SAP Implementation through the new project about to be submitted to GEF for inclusion in the Work Programme in October.

In the afternoon, Dr. Vousden attended the various clinics on how existing LME Partnerships work and what challenges they face and offered his experience as a Project Developer, Project Manager and Project Evaluator.

DAY TWO: Dr. Vousden represented the OFMP II project on the Panel Session Tracking LME's Progress in Sap Implementation and Achieving the SDG 14 Targets. He provided a detailed elaboration of the progress made by OFMP II in advancing the SDG 14 targets in the region which demonstrated significant positive achievements as a result of the presence and delivery from the OFMP II project and its partners.

After the morning break, Dr. Vousden contributed considerably to the discussion on re-thinking the TDA-SAP approach. The discussion focused on revisiting the TDA/SAP approach and giving more attention to sustainable "blue economy" opportunities (instead of only focusing on environmental problems) to identify win/win opportunities and facilitate engagement with Private Sector. It was noted that the LME community should be telling the business community that the LME projects and partnerships are trying to preserve the resource base that is allowing them (the private sector) to develop their businesses.

DAY THREE: Dr. Vousden presented the work of GESAMP (the Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection). Dr. Vousden had just been elected Chair of GESAMP for 4 years the previous week at its 50th Anniversary in the UNGA in New York. He explained how useful GESAMP could be in advising the LMEs as well as the Regional Seas programmes and the Regional Fisheries Management Bodies. He noted GESAMP's newly expanded role to review its scientific work and provide advice on adaptive management requirements and policy guidelines.

Further to the above, Dr. Vousden has discussions on the side-line of the various events with both UNDP and GEF regarding the OFMP II and the proposed 'Mainstreaming climate change and ecosystem-based approaches into the sustainable management of the Living Marine Resources of the WCPFC' Project. This helped to explain the objectives and end-of-project landscape to both the Implementing Agency and GEF. There is now strong support from both to place this project into the Work Programme in October. The only possible constraint now is the need to obtain endorsements from the GEF Focal Points of all 14 eligible countries, or as many as possible, in time for the submission date of 11th October 2019.

David Vousden, Grahamstown. 27th September 2019

- 1997: South Pacific International Waters Strategic Action Programme formulation (Ridge-to-reef and oceanic combined) – but no underpinning TDA
- 2000-2005: Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (Development of the Convention and support for Scientific Assessment and Monitoring)
- 2005-2011: PIOFMP 1 – Ratification of the Convention and establishment of the Commission
- 2014-2018: PIOFMP 2 - Implementation of the work and activities of the Commission and its related instruments

The OFM projects have confirmed that the main and significant transboundary issues for the LME and the WCPFC area are the oceanic fisheries issues, particularly in the context of climate change

In this context, the PIOFMP II project identified the need to develop and adopt a specific TDA focusing on Oceanic Fisheries Management with migratory tuna stocks as the primary transboundary concern

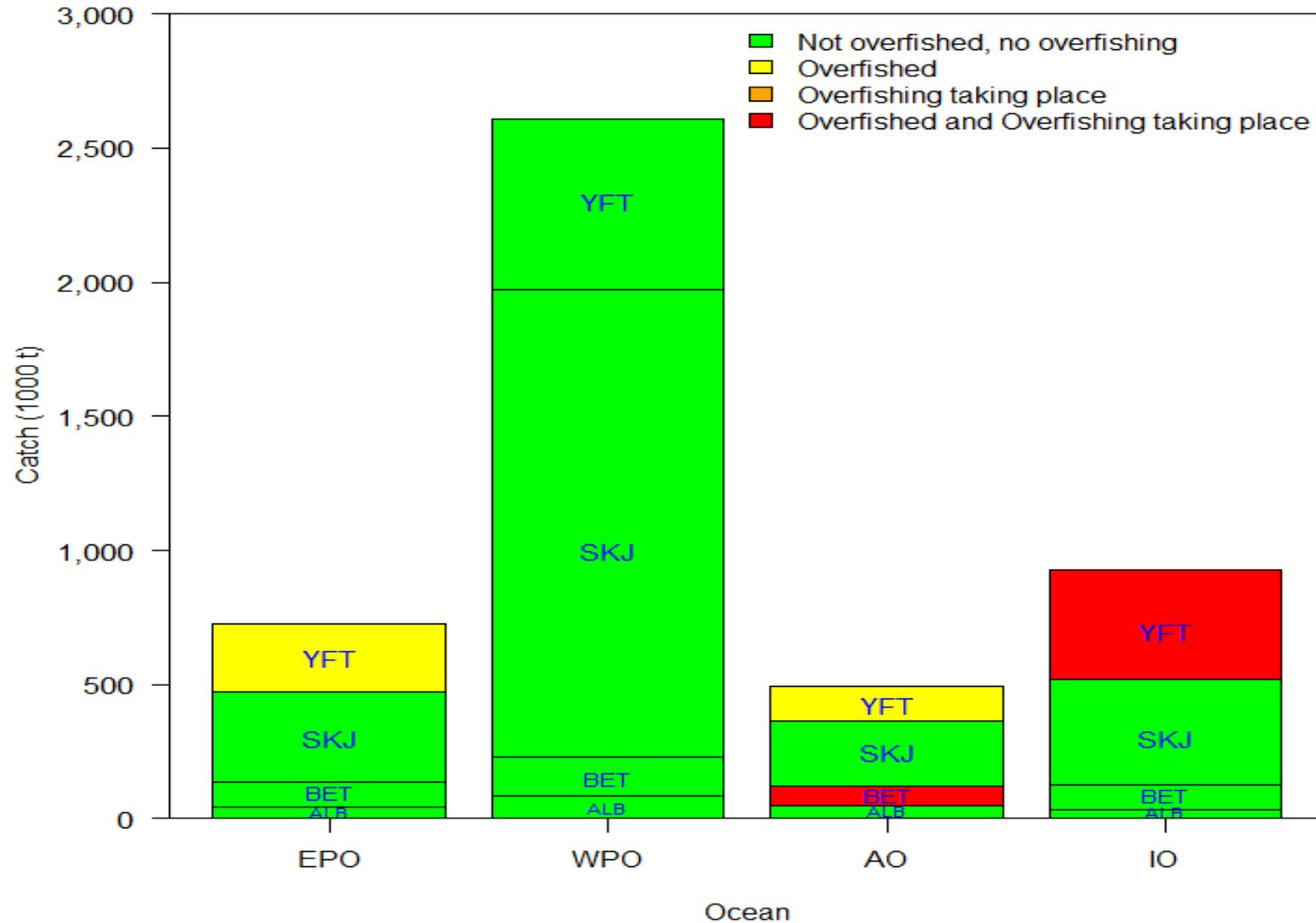
Background

- TDA drafted in 2017 – 18 and presented to the PSC and Forum Fisheries Committee in May 2018
- SAP drafted in 2018 and presented to PSC in November 2018
- SAP endorsed by FFC Officials and Ministers in May and June 2019
- PIF drafted in 2019 and now being endorsed by the GEF Focal Points

Project Information

- Implementing Agency – UNDP
- Executing Agency – FFA (Pacific Islands Fisheries Forum Agency)
- Expected Submission Date September 2019 (into Work Programme)
- Duration – 60 Months
- GEF Focal Area – International Waters
- Core Indicator - Area of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding MPAs) = Approx 3.6 Million Ha

Catch and stock status by Ocean

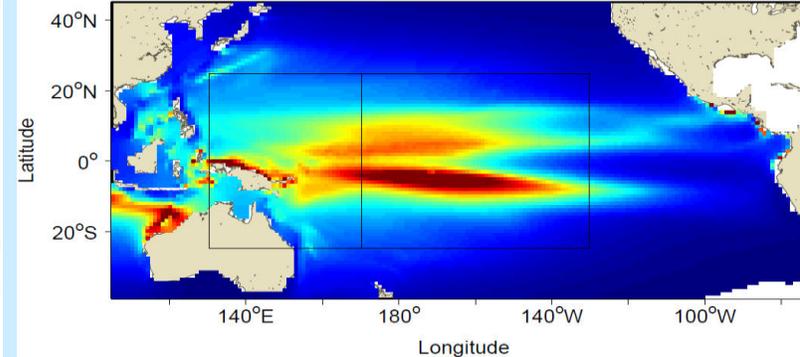
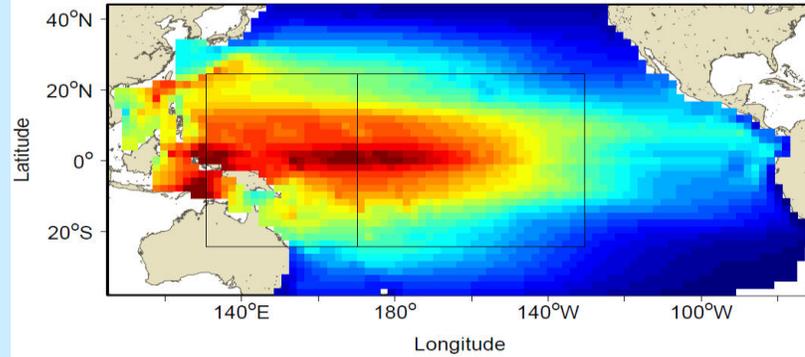


Predictive modelling of changes in fisheries distribution

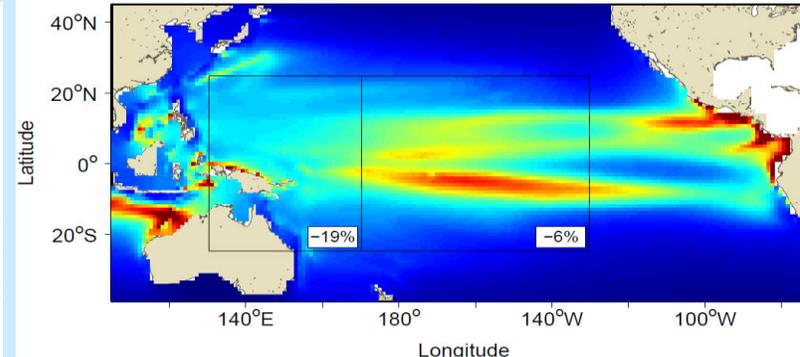
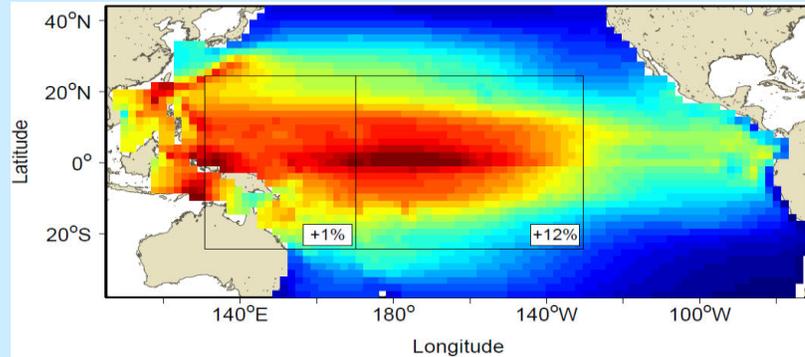
Skipjack

Yellowfin

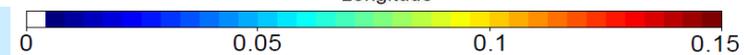
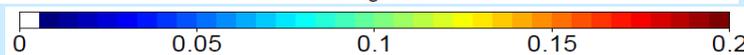
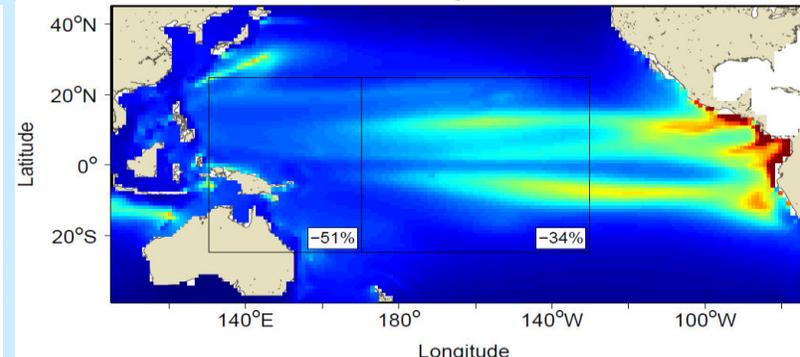
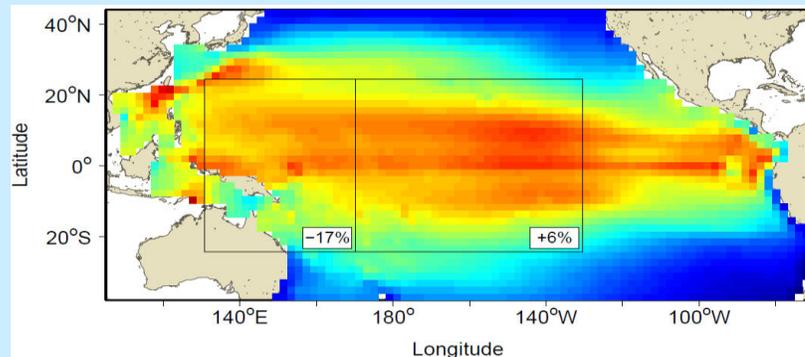
2005



2050



2100



The recent TDA identified the top three priority areas that were required to be addressed through a Strategic Action Programme as:

1. Remaining weaknesses in management and compliance, both 'in-zone' and on the high seas
2. Impacts from climate change and associated concerns due to excessive carbon emissions and lack of adopted global mitigation procedures
3. Inadequate application of an ecosystem-based management approach

In order to address these, the SAP has been structured to focus on the following with climate change as a cross-cutting issue:

- Improvements and Strengthening of Management Strategies and Mechanisms for Sustainability of living marine resources through an ecosystem-based management approach
- Strengthening and expanding the scientific knowledge base to support improved understanding and management of the ecosystem and its living marine resources in the WCPFC area to support food and economic security
- Capacity Building and Training for Improved Management of the Ecosystem and its Living Marine Resources in the WCPFC Area
- Pursuit and realisation of the relevant targets and indicators for the UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 which support 1-3 above

Component 1: Implementation of a proactive and adaptive ecosystem-based management approach to regional fisheries

Outcome 1.1

Adaptive and sustainable ecosystem-based management of fisheries and associated natural resources with an emphasis on response to climate change impacts and focusing on the benefit to the PICs

Outcome 1.2

Improved capacity and expertise for overall fisheries management at both the national and regional level as well as to expand opportunities for PICs engagement in fisheries markets

Component 2: Innovative technology development and implementation to support the adaptive ecosystem-based management approach to regional fisheries

Outcome 2.1

Improved on-board monitoring of catch, bycatch and movement of catch (trans-shipping and landing), MCS and data analysis to significantly reduce IUU fishing

Outcome 2.2

Greater monitoring and control of FADs to optimise returns from target stocks and reduce bycatch and other ecological impacts

Component 3: A regional strategy for improved community subsistence and resilience to climate change and its effects on the ecology and fisheries of the region

Outcome 3.1

Strengthened data capture, modelling and assessment feeding into management responses to climate-induced impacts on fisheries

Outcome 3.2

New strategies in place to respond to socioeconomic changes and food security issues related to climate change (i.e. improving community subsistence and small-scale commercial fisheries)

Component 4: Knowledge Management

Outcome 4.1: Knowledge Management, Communication and Awareness implemented and outreaching to WCPFC stakeholders as well as the global community

So, good luck to the South Pacific SIDS in addressing the climate change concerns while keeping the fishery sustainable!

Policy

National Level: Wide range of policy reforms adopted including zone-based management, IUU mitigation, domestic development, bi-catch management, legal frameworks, responses to WCPFC CMM's (Conservation and Management Measures), as well as policies promoting regional cooperation in all WCPFC processes.

The widespread adoption of the Vessel Day Scheme to manage more than 60% of the purse seine fishery has been a key reform by members of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement.

Regional Level: FFA member-wide consolidated cooperation in regard to the development and adoption of Conservation and Management Measures, zone-based management, adoption of observer programs, adoption of VMS, cooperative MCS systems and region wide MCS operations, establishment and utilisation of the regional Fisheries surveillance centre (Honiara)

Regulatory

National Level: Fisheries acts and associated regulations across all members, legislation and regulations relating to seafood safety and reporting processes

Regional Level: FFA member-wide influence in the adoption of Commission Management Measures at the WCPFC

Institutional

National Level: Restructuring of oceanic fisheries administrations to better achieve management goals across FFA member countries.

Regional Level: No new major institutional reforms. Organisational strengthening within FFA with inputs into wider workplan

SDG 14.1 Reduce marine pollution especially nutrients and plastics

National regulations relating to MARPOL compliance, use of fisheries observers in relation to MARPOL compliance reporting

SDG 14.2 sustainably managing marine ecosystems

Supporting CMMs at WCPFC focused on sustainable fisheries, adoption and promotion of the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS), clear linking of fisheries management science and stock assessment to management processes (Majuro plots)

SDG 14.3 minimize and address impacts of ocean acidification?

Inclusion of climate change impacts on oceanic fisheries in OFMP projects and the dissemination of findings and promotion of mitigation

SDG 14.4 end IUU and overfishing

Support for regional MCS working group meetings to examine the status of national and regional MCS and compliance with MCS related CMMs. Adoption of 100% observer coverage, adopting of national port state measures strategies and IUU through Partners to the Nauru Agreement (VDS)

SDG 14.5 conserve at least 10% of marine areas

Supporting analysis of the economics of oceanic fisheries reserves and no-take areas

SDG 14.6 prohibit destructive fisheries subsidies

FFA participation in WTO fisheries trade processes and technical support for FFA countries who are WTO members

SDG 14.7 increase marine economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs

Support for the VDS which has continued to add value to the returns to Pacific Island SIDS with an increase in returns from fisheries from US\$ 120 million in 2010 to over US\$ 500 million in 2019.

SDG 14.a increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity

The current project supports three full time fisheries science related positions - climate change analysis, data management and national scientist and two part time analytical roles

SDG 14.b provide access to small scale fishers to marine resources & markets

Indirect support to small scale fishers via the promotion of sustainable resource management. Further support under next SAP Implementation process for small-scale access to pelagic stocks for food security purposes

SDG 14.c implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS

Provision of support to FFA members in the development of UNCLOS inclusive legal frameworks. Involvement in negotiations on archipelagic jurisdiction in perpetuity to avoid loss of EEZs