

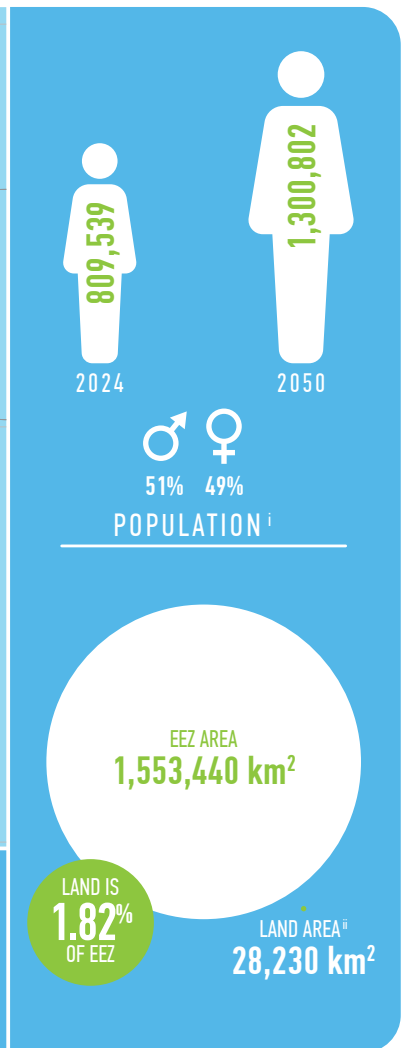


SOLOMON ISLANDS





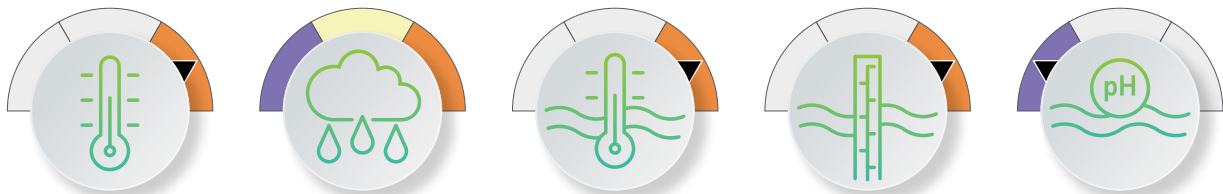
SOLOMON ISLANDS



* Annual average using 2014–2024 data

SUMMARY OF CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTIONS

2050



AIR TEMPERATURE

ANNUAL RAINFALL

SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE

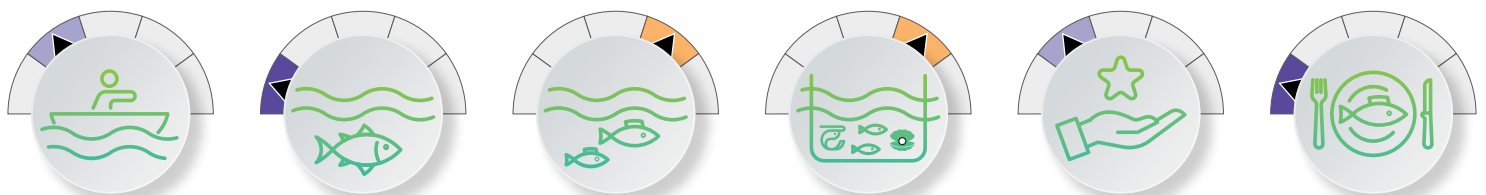
SEA LEVEL

OCEAN pH

CHANGE SCALE



SUMMARY OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONSⁱⁱⁱ



COASTAL FISHERIES

OCEANIC FISHERIES

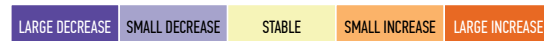
FRESHWATER FISHERIES

AQUACULTURE

LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIES

FOOD SECURITY

CHANGE SCALE



ⁱ Data source: SPC Pacific Data Hub <https://pacificdata.org/population-dashboard>

ⁱⁱ Data source: SPC Statistics for Development Division <https://sdd.spc.int>

ⁱⁱⁱ Relative to the Reference Periods 2010–2020 for coastal fisheries and 1980–2010 for oceanic fisheries.

RECOMMENDED ADAPTATION ACTIONS

These recommended adaptations are based on the key vulnerabilities and implications of climate change for fisheries and aquaculture (further details in Chapter 10) and should be initiated or strengthened. A range of supporting policies are provided in Table 10.1 for decision-makers to select those that are most appropriate to their context and priorities. Central to all future adaptation are the following principles:

1. Improve fisheries data collection to inform management by establishing national data system and dedicate resources to support data collection and management for all fisheries and aquaculture.
2. Incorporate local knowledge in the context of coastal and freshwater ecosystems, food systems and protecting well-being, nutrition security, and cultural heritage. A core part of this is also ensuring equity (including gender equity) and social inclusion.
3. Implement effective governance and resources to support adaptations, with community-based management central to future approaches.



Food and nutrition security

Recommended adaptations

Food and Nutrition 1: Implement sustainable ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management

Food and Nutrition 2: Sustain the production of coastal fish and invertebrates through context-specific management

Food and Nutrition 3: Manage freshwater and estuarine fisheries to harness opportunities

Food and Nutrition 4: Diversify blue food production systems

Food and Nutrition 5: Promote the use of oceanic catches to fill the gap in aquatic resources needed for food and nutrition security

Food and Nutrition 6: Improve post-harvest preservation methods for fish and invertebrates to prepare for sudden shocks

Food and Nutrition 7: Promote education and awareness on the importance of protecting aquatic habitats, species and the foods they supply



Sustainable livelihoods

Recommended adaptations

Livelihoods 1: Diversify aquaculture commodities and develop new farmed climate-resilient species, strains and varieties

Livelihoods 2: Apply innovative technologies and climate-smart tools for pond aquaculture and mariculture

Livelihoods 3: Diversify production of fisheries and aquaculture commodities

Livelihoods 4: Improve technical and business viability of fisheries

Livelihoods 5: Develop sustainable marine and coastal tourism



Economies and government revenue

Recommended adaptations

Economic Revenue 1: Implement climate-informed fisheries management

Economic Revenue 2: Develop policies and strategies that integrate climate change implications into fisheries and aquaculture management

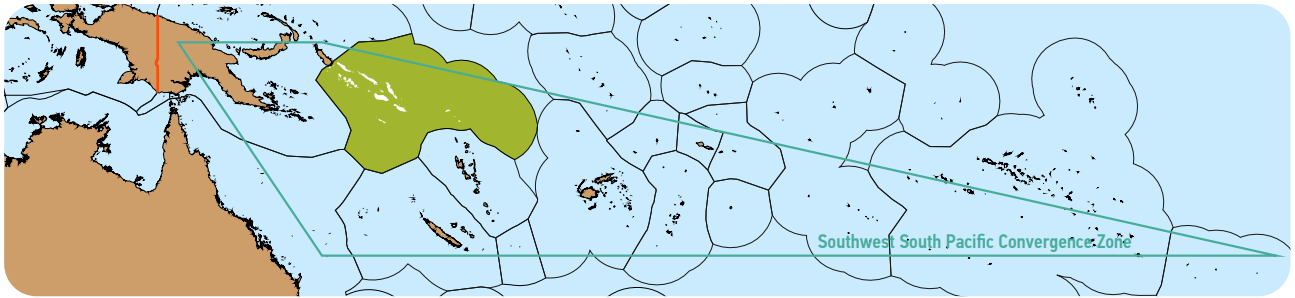
Economic Revenue 3: Implement energy efficiency programs for fisheries and aquaculture

Economic Revenue 4: Promote improved safety at sea

Economic Revenue 5: Maintain the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to government revenue and economies

Economic Revenue 6: Climate-proof infrastructure

Projected changes in atmospheric and oceanic climate



Solomon Islands is in the Southwest Pacific Convergence climate zone and is expected to experience the following climate changes by 2050 under a medium greenhouse gas emissions scenario (SSP2-4.5) and a high emissions scenario (SSP5-8.5)^{iv}, relative to 1995–2014 baseline (further details in Chapter 2).



AIR TEMPERATURE



RAINFALL



SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE



SEA LEVEL



OCEAN pH

2050	MEDIUM EMISSIONS (SSP2-4.5)	+0.7 to +1.1 °C	-2.3 to +5.5 %	+0.6 to +1.1 °C	+0.1 to +0.3 m	-0.1
	HIGH EMISSIONS (SSP5-8.5)	+0.9 to +1.6 °C	-2.8 to +6.4 %	+0.8 to +1.5 °C	+0.2 to +0.4 m	-0.1
	CONFIDENCE ^v	HIGH	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH

Solomon Islands is also expected to experience the following changes to regional climate processes by 2090 under a medium and high greenhouse gas emissions scenario, relative to 1995–2014 baseline.



TROPICAL CYCLONES



EL NIÑO SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO)



MARINE HEATWAVES

2090	MEDIUM EMISSIONS (SSP2-4.5)	Decrease in frequency; Increase in intensity	ENSO will continue as a source of interannual variability; La Niña and El Niño extremes are projected to increase	2–9 times more frequent (global projection)
	HIGH EMISSIONS (SSP5-8.5)			3–15 times more frequent (global projection)
	CONFIDENCE ^v	LOW TO MEDIUM	LOW	N/A



OCEAN CIRCULATION



OCEAN STRATIFICATION



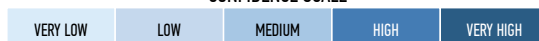
OCEAN OXYGEN CONTENT



NITRATE CONCENTRATION

2090	MEDIUM EMISSIONS (SSP2-4.5)	Intensification and poleward extension of northern and southern hemisphere subtropical gyres		-6.6 %	-0.60 mmol/m ³
	HIGH EMISSIONS (SSP5-8.5)		+0.58 kg/m ³ (between 0 and 200 m); Mixed layer depth shoals by 19.5 m (global)	-11.2 %	-1.00 mmol/m ³
	CONFIDENCE ^v	MEDIUM	VERY HIGH	HIGH	N/A

CONFIDENCE SCALE

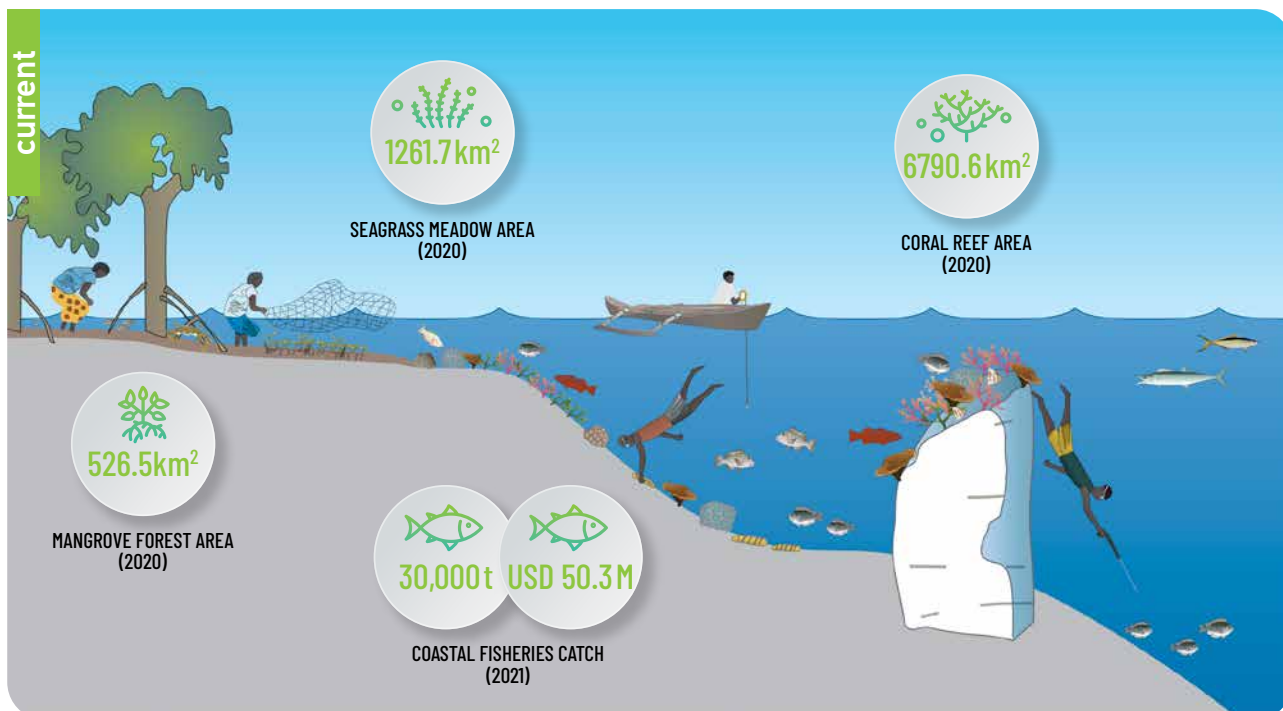


^{iv} The shared socioeconomic pathways (SSP) represent plausible futures of how society's choices might affect greenhouse gas emissions, and how those choices might influence climate change.

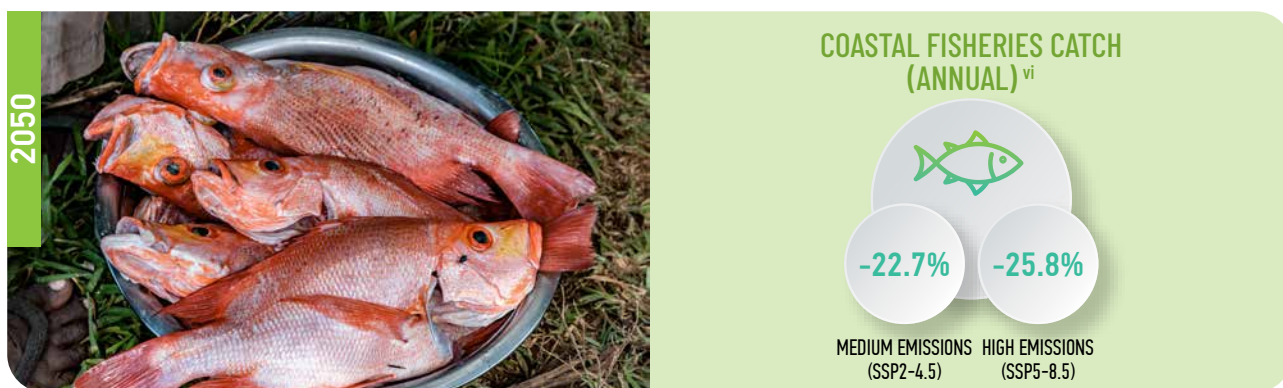
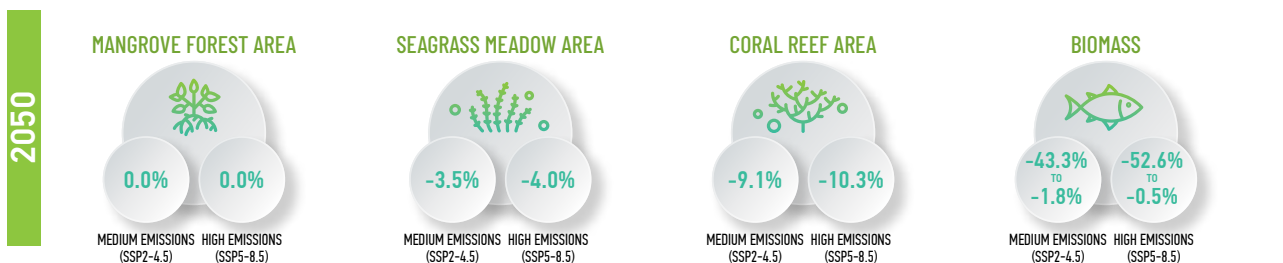
^v Confidence levels reflect uncertainty in attribution of the observed impact to climate change.

Coastal fisheries

Coastal fisheries in Solomon Islands target demersal fish (including emperors, snappers, parrotfish and rabbitfish), invertebrates for export (e.g. trochus and sea cucumbers) gleaned from intertidal habitats (e.g. giant clams), and nearshore pelagic fish (including trevally) using a range of fishing methods. These species are critically important for food, local livelihoods and jobs (further details in Chapter 3).



Coastal fish and invertebrates are expected to be directly impacted by increasing sea surface temperature, ocean acidification (declining pH), and changing rainfall patterns, and indirectly impacted by declines in coastal habitats (coral reefs, seagrass meadows and mangroves) by 2050. This will drive changes in habitat area, fish biomass and coastal fisheries catches.

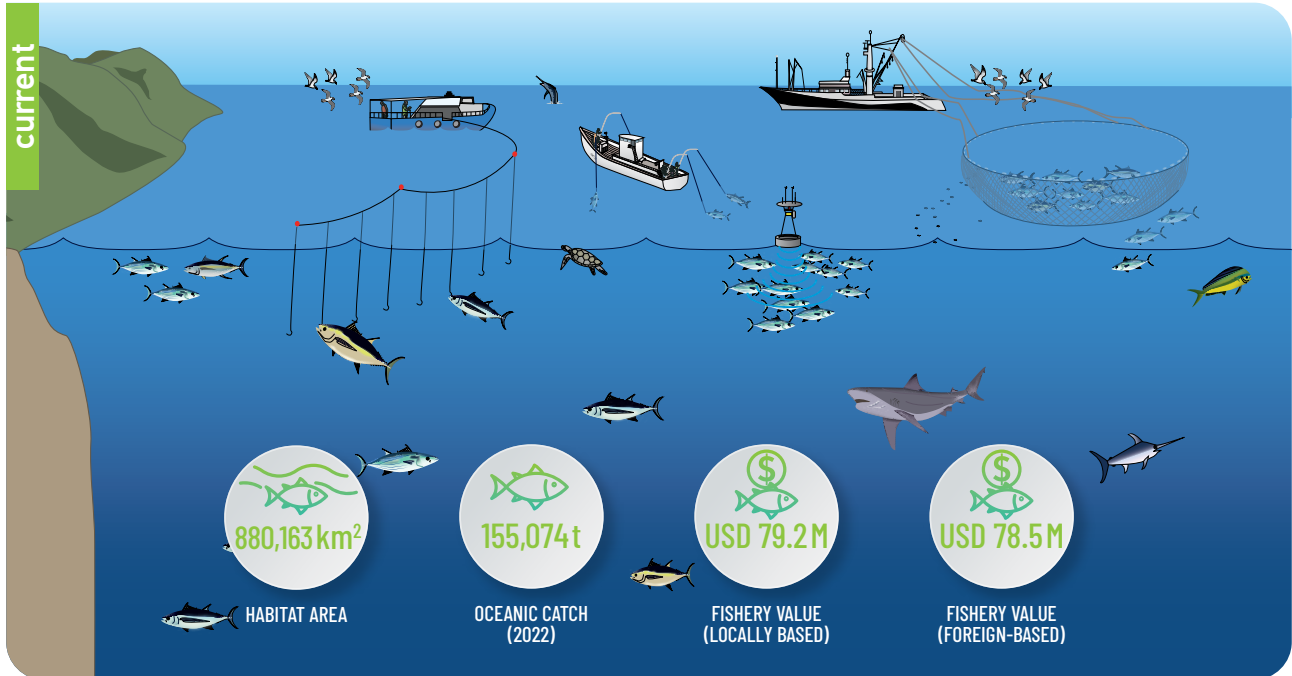


There is evidence that fishing rates may be too high. Better stock assessments are needed.

^{vi} Relative to the Reference Period 2010–2020.

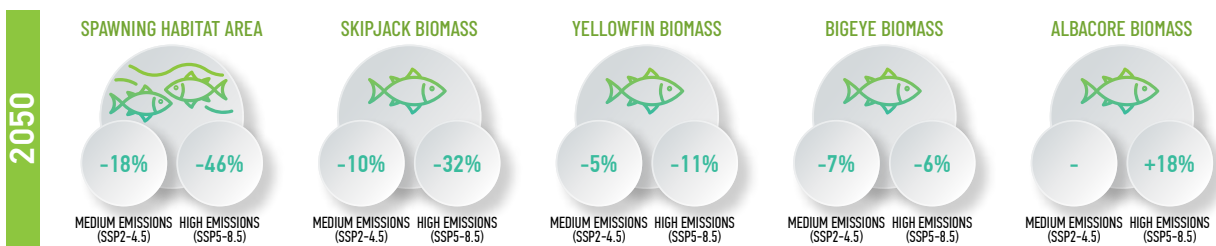
Oceanic fisheries

Offshore fisheries in Solomon Islands target four species of tuna – skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye and albacore. In 2021, there were 45 active tuna vessels registered in Solomon Islands (33 longliners, 8 purse seiners, 4 pole-and-line), which included foreign locally based (chartered) longline vessels. The offshore foreign-based fleet included 112 purse seiners and 22 longliners operating in Solomon Islands’ exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in 2021^{vii}. The tuna fishery is important for government revenue and economic development (further details in Chapter 4).



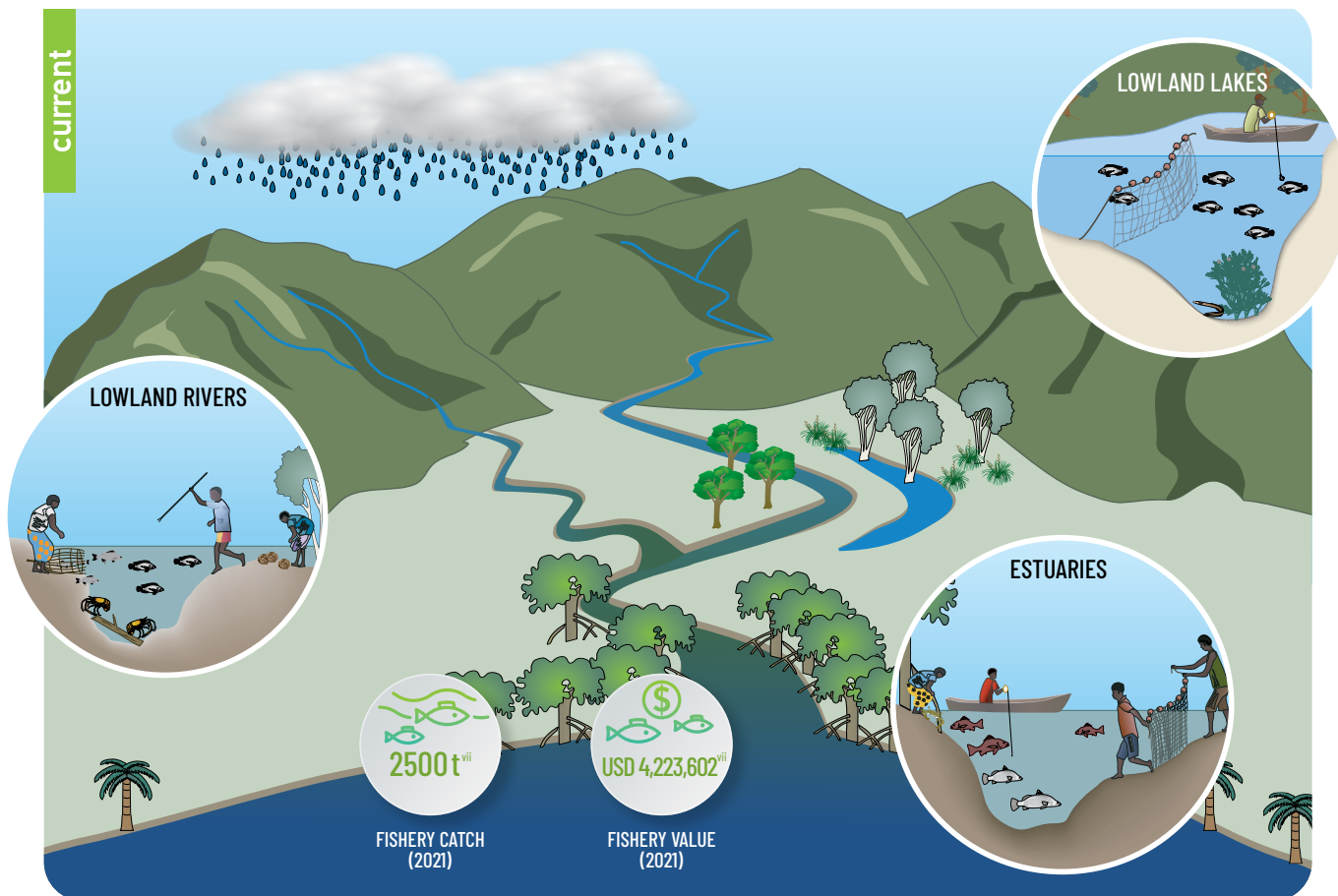
Offshore tuna are expected to be directly impacted by changes in ocean temperature, stratification, and oxygen content, and indirectly impacted by changes in available spawning habitat area by 2050. This is expected to shift the distribution of tuna, with yellowfin, bigeye and albacore moving into high seas areas.

PROJECTED BIOMASS (WITHOUT FISHING) RELATIVE TO 2001–2010 REFERENCE PERIOD

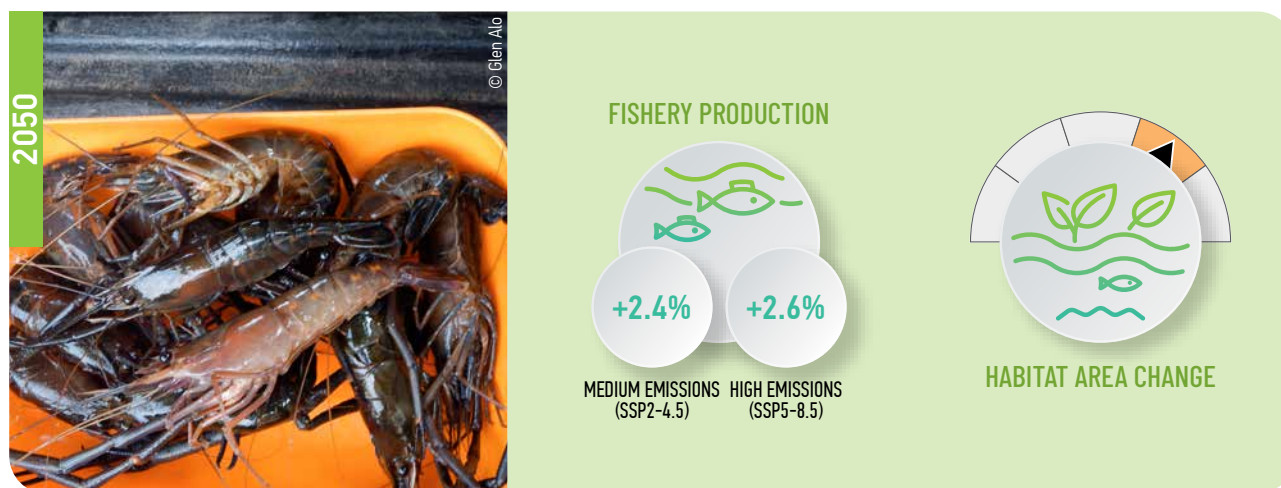


Freshwater and estuarine fisheries

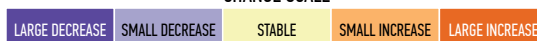
Freshwater and estuarine fisheries in Solomon Islands target freshwater prawns (*Macrobrachium* spp.), freshwater clams and finfish (including flagtails, tropical snappers, tilapia, mullet, gobies and eels). The main habitats are lowland rivers and lakes, and upper estuaries. Freshwater and estuarine fisheries are important for food and local livelihoods, particularly for inland communities (further details in Chapter 5).



Freshwater and estuarine fish are expected to be directly affected by changes in rainfall patterns that drive river flow, and indirectly affected by increased duration of river flows and habitat accessibility by 2050. This is expected to provide opportunities for the expansion of fisheries and increased production.



CHANGE SCALE



^{viii} Fishery catch and value are likely to be underestimates due to unreported catches.

Aquaculture

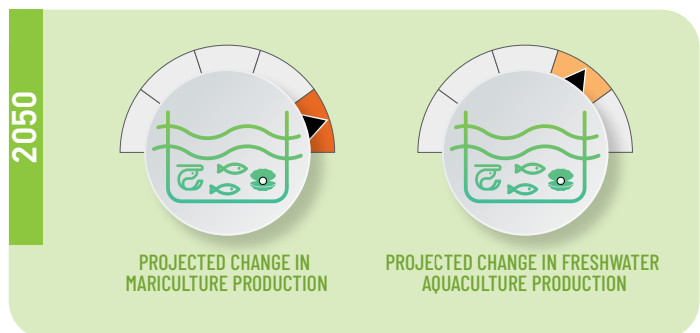
The main commodities farmed in Solomon Islands are tilapia, seaweed, pearl oysters and giant clams, which provide food, local livelihoods and jobs (further details in Chapter 6).



- Tilapia, milkfish
- Tilapia
- Pearl oysters
- Giant clams
- Algae
- Hatchery for tilapia, giant clams and sea cucumbers

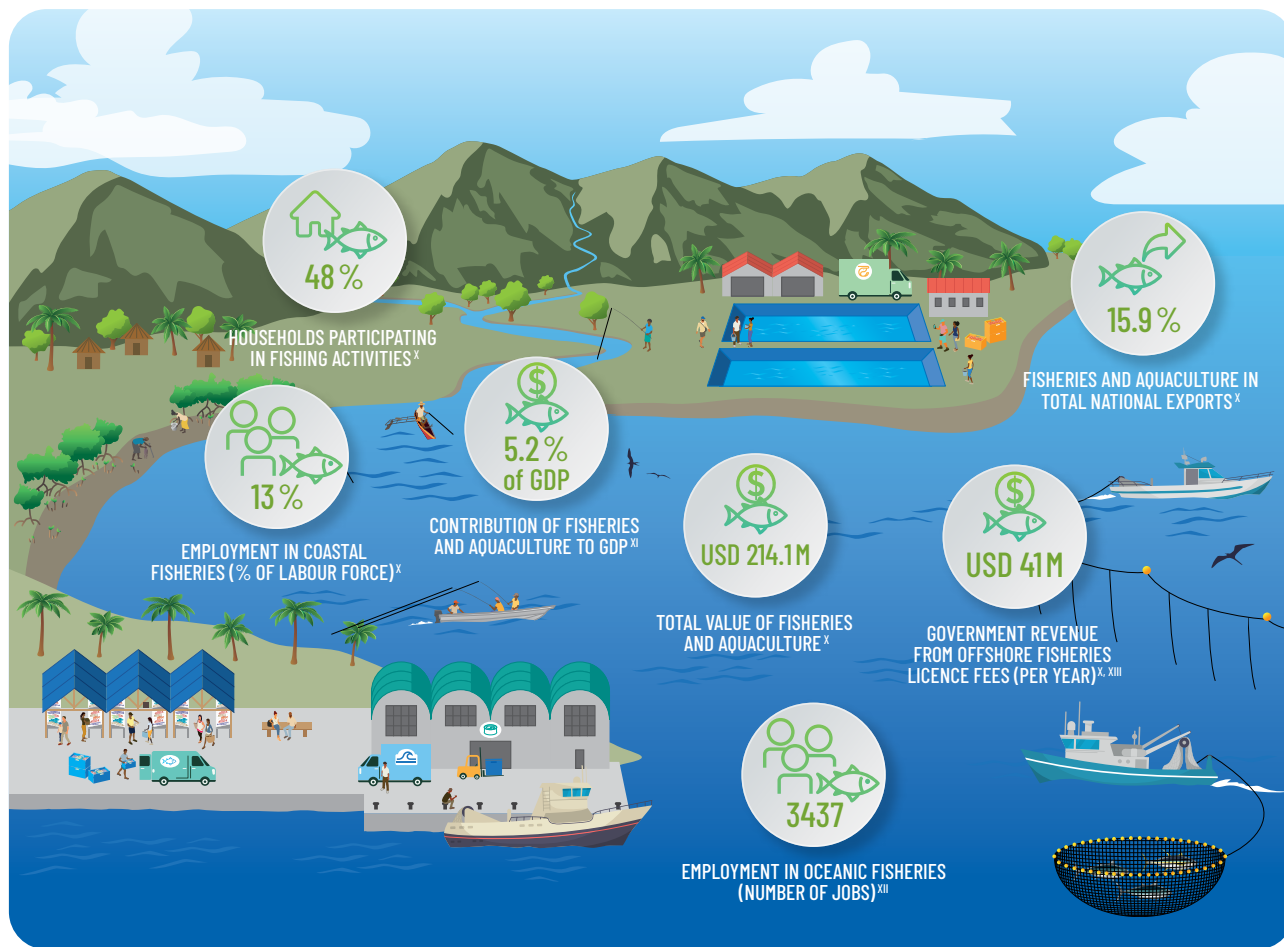
Mariculture is expected to be directly impacted by increasing sea surface temperature, ocean acidification (declining pH), and more intense storms.

Freshwater pond aquaculture is expected to benefit from increases in freshwater habitat but be impacted by increasing temperatures and disease, changing rainfall, storms and sea level rise. This will have implications for aquaculture production by 2050.



Livelihoods and economies

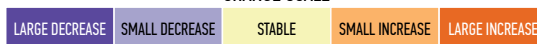
Fisheries and aquaculture are critically important for local culture and trade, and providing household income, livelihoods and jobs, and government revenue in Solomon Islands (further details in Chapter 7).



The projected decrease in coastal fisheries and in-zone catch of tropical species of tuna is expected to affect income, employment and GDP. Freshwater fisheries and aquaculture may be favoured, offering opportunities for employment and income in the future. The projected change in tuna distribution is expected to decrease government revenue between 0 to 5% by 2050.



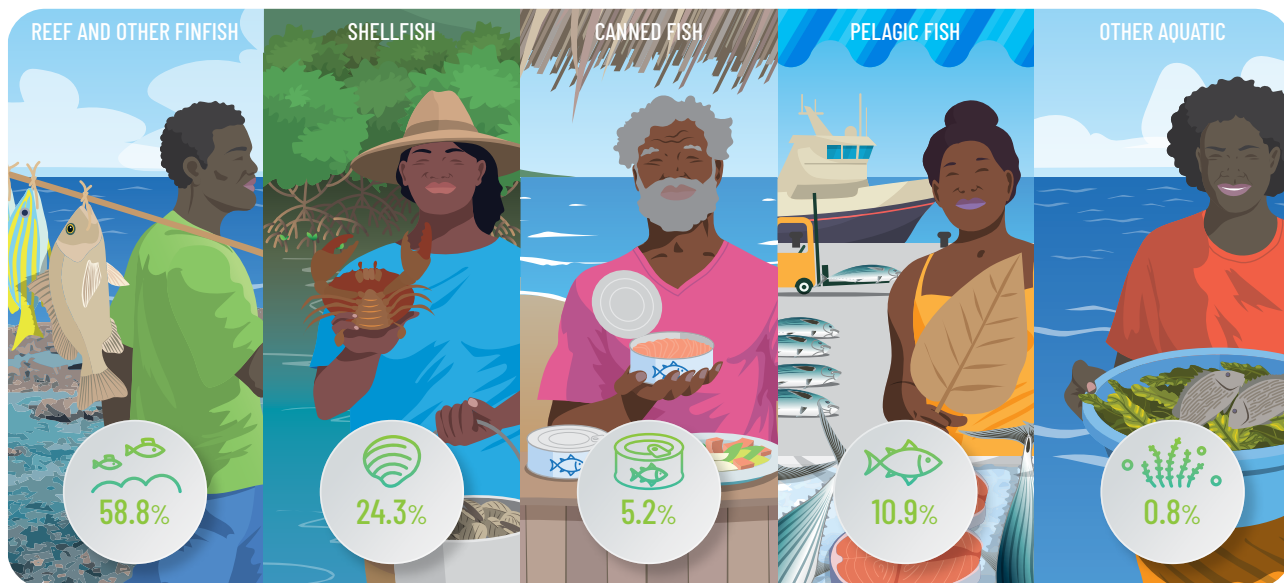
CHANGE SCALE



^x Data source: Gillett R., Fong M. (2023) Fisheries in the economies of Pacific Island countries and territories (Benefish Study 4). Pacific Community (SPC), Noumea, New Caledonia.
^{xi} National GDP in 2020.
^{xii} Primarily in tuna-related employment, including harvest, processing, observers, government and ancillary services. Data source: FFA (2022) Tuna Fishery Report Card 2022. Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, Honiara, Solomon Islands.
^{xiii} Average value 2017-2021

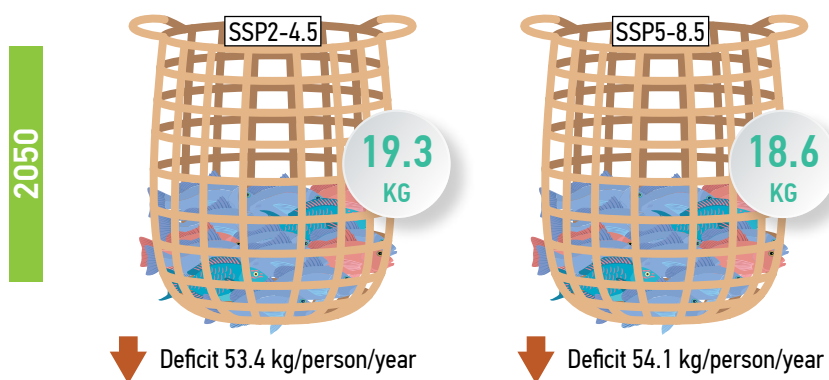
Aquatic food security

Aquatic (blue) foods provide a critically important source of nutrition in Solomon Islands, and current consumption is 82 kg/person/year, including locally and imported reef and other finfish, shellfish, canned fish and pelagic fish (further details in Chapter 8)^{xiv}.

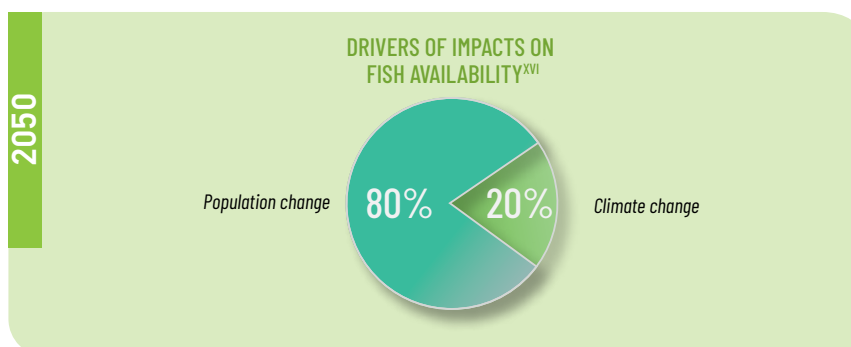


Solomon Islands is projected to experience a deficit in fish supply by 2050 based on current fisheries catch rates and average consumption. This will be driven by population growth and exacerbated by climate change impacts on coastal, estuarine and freshwater fisheries. There is expected to be a decline in available whole fish by 2050^{xv} and the likely possibility of insufficient access to aquatic foods, resulting in **high vulnerability**.

HOW MUCH FISH WILL BE AVAILABLE PER PERSON IN 2050?



To meet the future needs of a growing population and address declining catches for local consumption under climate change, sustainable coastal and estuarine fisheries management is essential. A greater contribution from pelagic fish, canned fish and aquaculture, and other protein sources (e.g. agriculture), will also be required to support food security and good nutrition. Any adaptations should consider environmental and social safeguards and avoid maladaptation.



^{xiv} Data estimated for whole fish from: Sharp M.K., Andrew N.L. (2024) Aquatic food consumption in the Pacific region. Food Systems Brief No. 22. Pacific Community, Noumea, New Caledonia. Note that reef and other finfish include freshwater and estuarine fish.

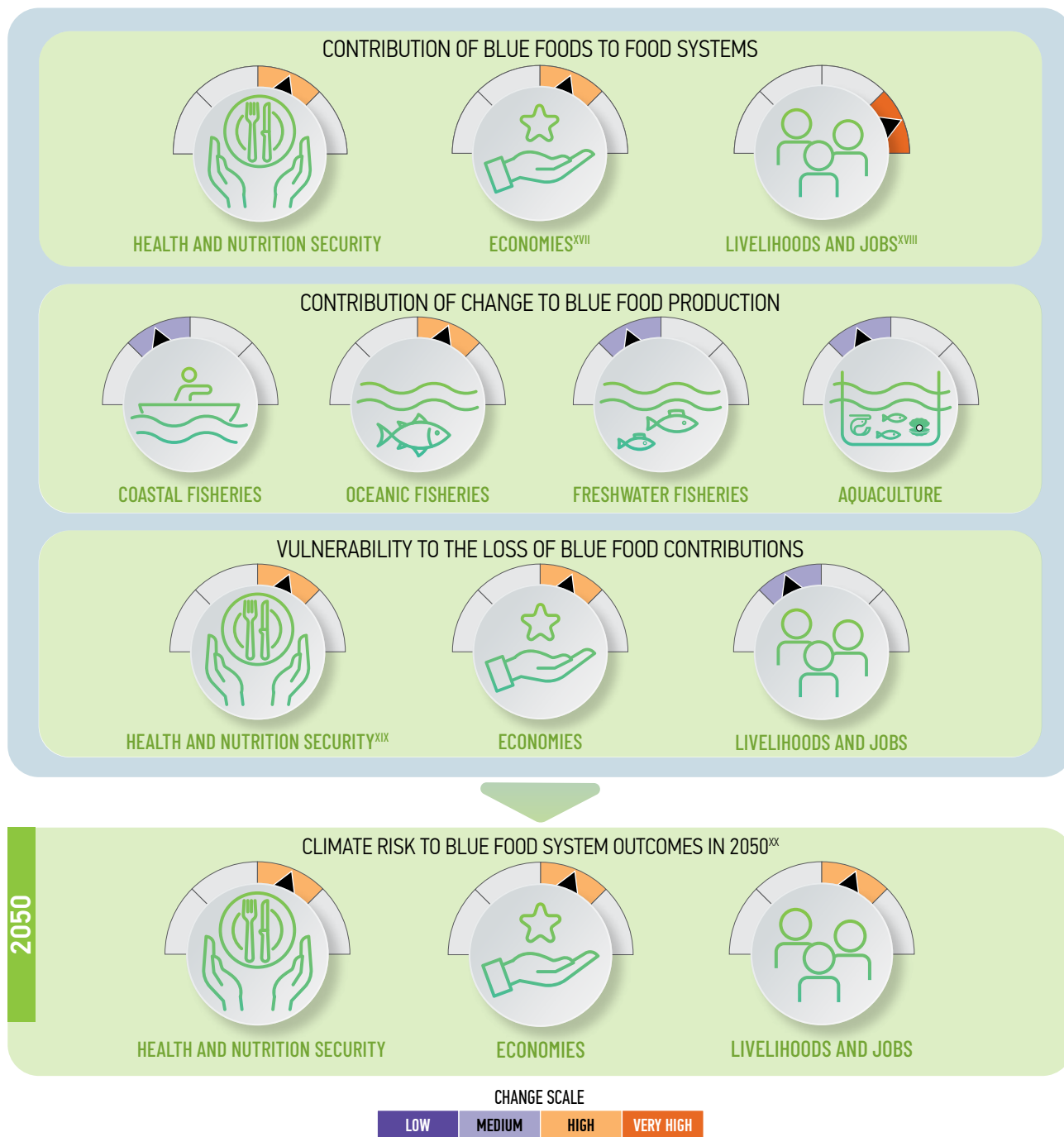
^{xv} Based on projected coastal, estuarine and freshwater fisheries catches by 2050 from Chapters 3 and 5.

^{xvi} Based on current aquatic food consumption levels. Note that agriculture can also provide additional protein sources to supplement a decline in aquatic foods, however any adaptations should consider environmental and social safeguards and avoid maladaptation.

Blue food production systems

In the Pacific Islands region, blue foods contribute significantly to nutrition security and health, economies, livelihoods and jobs. By comparing contributions, climate impacts, and vulnerabilities across these outcomes, priority climate actions can be identified for sustaining their role in sustainable development under climate change (further details in Chapter 9).

In Solomon Islands, blue foods make high contributions to nutrition security and health, economies, and livelihoods and jobs. Compared to other Pacific islands, projected climate impacts to blue food production by 2050 are medium to high. Socioeconomic conditions make Solomon Islands' sustainable development highly vulnerable to climate-induced losses.



Altogether, the contributions of blue foods to sustainable development in Solomon Islands face high levels of climate risk, due to high dependence and vulnerability. Priority climate actions can focus on adapting blue food production systems, as well as diversifying sources of nutrition, livelihoods, and income.

^{xvii} Including variables such as total fisheries production value and foreign access fees.

^{xviii} Including variables such as total number of jobs across supply chains, share of households for which fishing is the main source of income and gender equity considerations.

^{xix} Including nutrition-related health outcomes such as nutrient deficiencies and noncommunicable diseases.

^{xx} Risk is shown for a high-emissions scenario (SSP5-8.5). Rapid emissions reduction would reduce climate risk.