



IF SEA TEMPERATURE KEEPS RISING, FOOD SECURITY IN THE PACIFIC GETS HIT HARD

The ocean is the fridge, the market, and the paycheck for millions.



1 LESS FISH ON THE TABLE



Reef fish decline

Warmer water → coral bleaching → reef fish lose food + shelter. Reef fish are a daily protein source for coastal villages.



Tuna shift

Key commercial species like skipjack and tuna move east with warmer water. Some Pacific Island nations could see tuna catches drop 20–50% by 2050, while others farther east see more. That means less local access and less export income.



Smaller fish

Heat stress makes fish grow slower and stay smaller, so the total amount of seafood available drops.

2 HIGHER PRICES + LESS RELIABLE SUPPLY



With fewer fish locally and more competition for what's left:



Imported food becomes more expensive.

Pacific islands already import a lot of rice, flour, tinned meat.



Fish markets become unpredictable.

One bad heatwave can wipe out a season's catch.

3 CONTAMINATED SEAFOOD RISKS



Ciguatera poisoning increases:

Warmer reefs grow more toxic algae. Eating infected reef fish causes nausea, nerve problems.

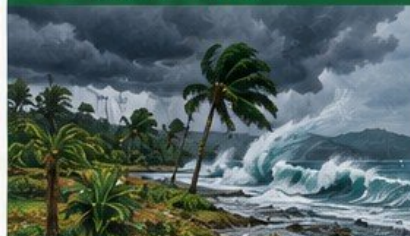


Mercury + toxins biomagnify faster in warmer water. That's a health risk, especially for kids and pregnant people.



Healthier oceans mean safer food for our families.

4 FARMING + LAND FOOD ALSO SUFFER



Saltwater intrusion ruins taro pits and coastal gardens.



More cyclones destroy crops and farmlands.



So people rely even more on fish right when fish are declining. That's a double hit on food security.

5 ECONOMIC KNOCK-ON



Fishing and tourism = jobs + government revenue for many Pacific countries.



Less fish = less money to buy imported food, fuel, and school fees.



Communities that lose both reef fish and tuna income are the most vulnerable.

THE BOTTOM LINE



SEA TEMPERATURE INCREASE



LESS FISH



HIGHER PRICES + LESS RELIABLE FOOD



MORE HEALTH RISKS + MORE DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS



FOOD SECURITY AT RISK

For Pacific communities where 50–90% of animal protein comes from the sea, this is a direct threat to food security.



WHAT HELPS BUFFER IT



1 MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Protect habitats and give fish stocks a place to recover.



2 DIVERSIFYING FOOD

Climate-smart agriculture and aquaculture build resilient, local food systems.



3 BETTER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT + REGIONAL COOPERATION

Science-based management and cooperation on tuna help ensure fair access and healthy oceans.



4 CUTTING EMISSIONS

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to slow ocean warming and protect our future.

