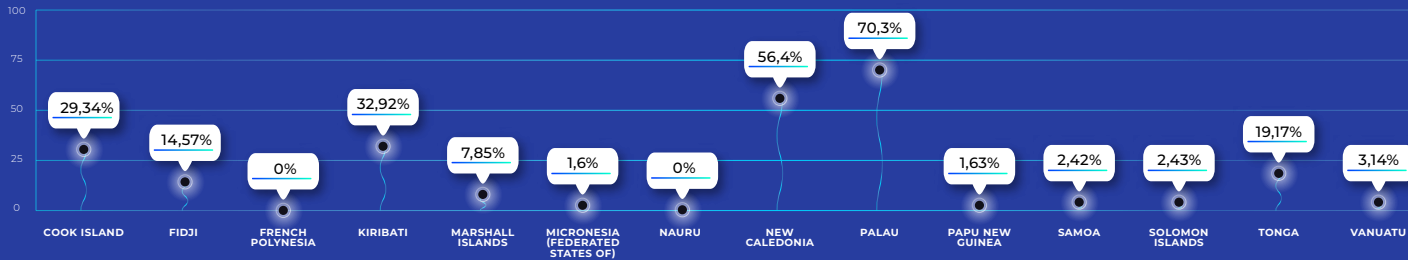


FROM REEF TO TABLE: SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES IN THE BLUE PACIFIC

From reef to table, this infographic shows how the Blue Pacific links protected nurseries, EEZ-wide ecosystem management, and secure small-scale fishing rights to build resilient, fair fisheries.

Protected area coverage for marine (Key Biodiversity Area)



Palau and New Caledonia safeguard most of their nurseries, while places like Kiribati, Cook Islands, and Tonga protect a meaningful slice. Many others, however, leave only thin ribbons—or none at all—exposing spawning grounds to coastal pressure and warming seas. Why it matters: when nurseries are protected, fish populations replenish, catches become more reliable, and communities can plan beyond the next season. But protection alone isn't enough; it must nest inside whole-EEZ, ecosystem-based management, and the benefits need to reach those who depend on the sea first

Degree of application of a framework which recognises and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries

COOK ISLAND



FIDJI



KIRIBATI



MARSHALL ISLANDS



NAURU



PALAU



SAMOA



SOLOMON ISLANDS



TONGA



VANUATU



Protection and ecosystem-based management only deliver "reef-to-table" benefits when rights are secure—so fishers can plan, invest, and steward their reefs for the long run.



Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches

Is the whole EEZ managed as an ecosystem? Two leaders stand out—New Caledonia (100%) and Palau (80%)—signalling integrated rules that link habitats, gear, bycatch, and climate risks across their waters. Elsewhere the picture is muted or unpublished, leaving large stretches without confirmed ecosystem-scale plans.

Ecosystem-based management connects protected nurseries to the wider seascape, turning isolated refuges into a network of habitats that can actually sustain fisheries and communities over time.

The charts show a clear sequence: protect the nurseries (KBAs), manage whole EEZs as ecosystems, and secure rights for small-scale fishers. Where one link is weak—patchy habitat protection, unpublished/partial EBA, or lagging access rights—the pathway from healthy reefs to reliable meals breaks down. The recipe is simple: expand and connect protected nurseries, scale ecosystem-based management across waters, formalize community access—and close data gaps so progress is visible and accountable across the Blue Pacific.