

“DemEcoFish” Socio-Economic Indicators

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The identification of socio-economic indicators (parameters and/or proxies) to determine or assess status of the marine resource is the main objective of the DemEcoFish Project¹. This objective requires an interdisciplinary approach that links ecological, fish (invertebrate) and socio-economic data collection and analysis. Emphasis of this presentation is given to the project's socio-economic component. A total of 6 village communities and their respective fishing grounds each in Tonga and Fiji are selected as survey areas. An overview is provided on the project's major hypotheses as well as on parameters selected to significantly determine socio-economic indicators to be identified.

It is hypothesised that the status of (the) marine resource(s) can be expressed as a result of fishing pressure. Thus fishing pressure constitutes the first major component to be researched, analysed and input to the project's final objective. The break-down of “extraction” into measurable parameters as well as its regional characteristics are depicted. It is further hypothesised that fishing pressure is closely associated or related to dependency on marine resources. An overview will be provided on the selected and main factors that determine best this second major research component. Lastly, it is hypothesised that the analysis and/or modelling of relationships to be found between fishing pressure and dependency on marine resources will result in the identification of socio-economic indicators (parameters and/or proxies).

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