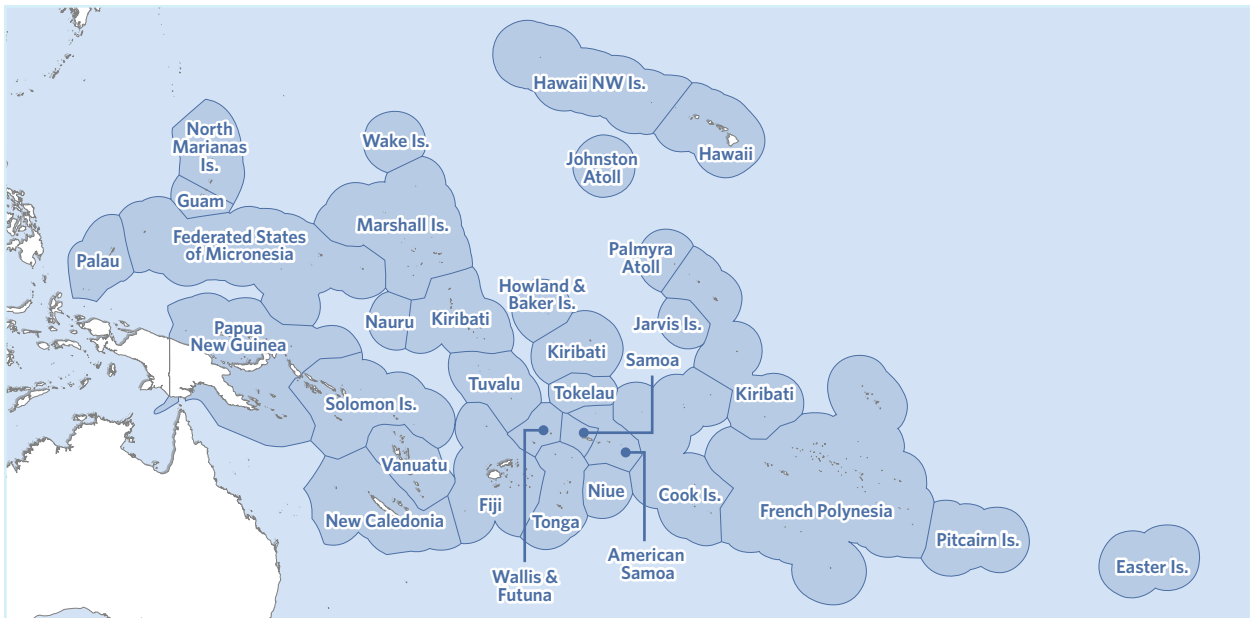


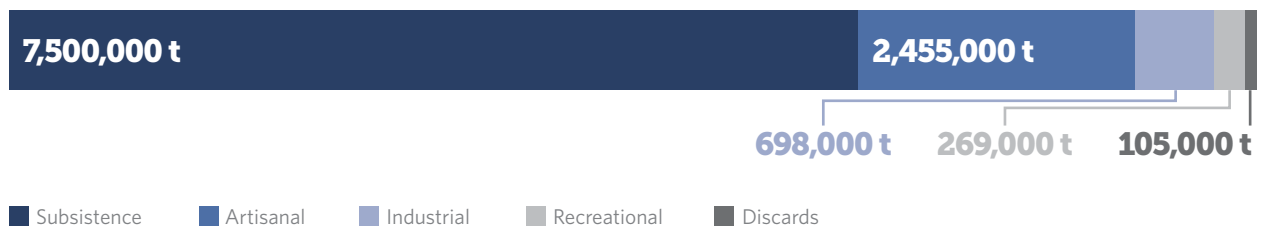
Pacific Islands Catch Reconstruction

Overview

Small-scale fishing is critical to communities in the Pacific islands, but it is often not fully recorded in official statistics. "Catch reconstruction" is an approach that supplements official data with information from a broad range of sources. A reconstruction of the fisheries catch for 25 Pacific island countries, states, and territories (Zeller et al. 2014) finds that more than half the catch since 1950 went unreported. And it suggests that the key marine resources Pacific island communities depend on have declined by 20 percent since 2000.



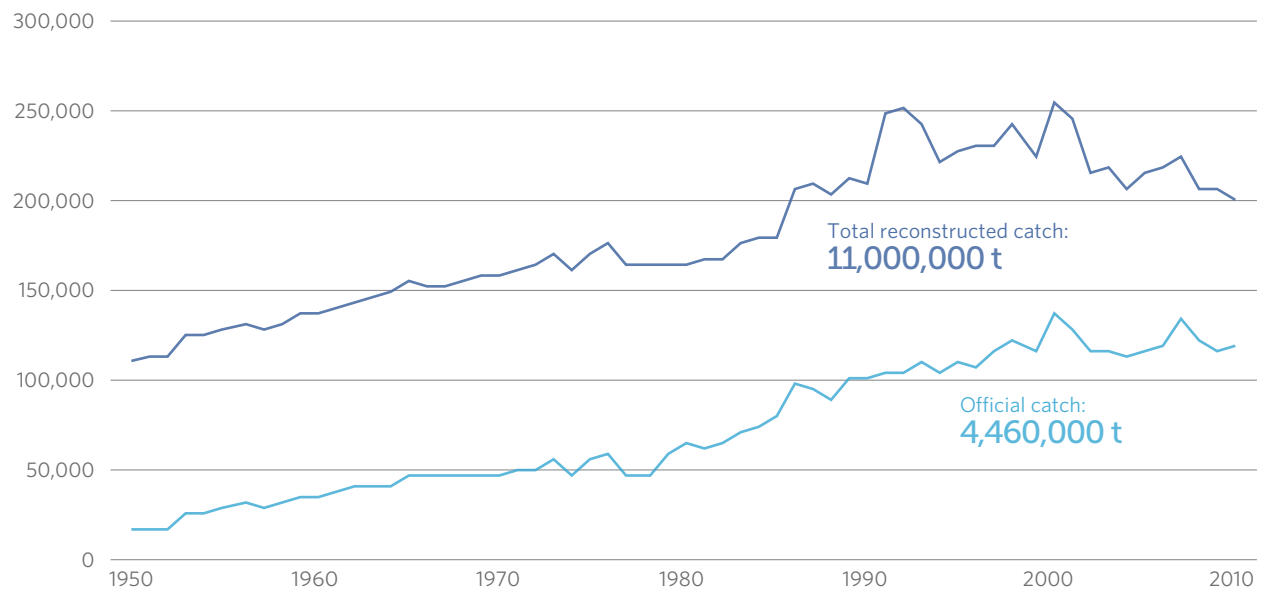
Reconstructed Catch by Category, 1950-2010



Notes: Units are metric tons. Subsistence is used here to denote small-scale, noncommercial fishing for household consumption. Artisanal denotes small-scale fishing for local markets or export.

Source: The *Sea Around Us* project
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Reconstructed Fisheries Catch in the Pacific Islands in Metric Tons (t), 1950–2010



Source: The Sea Around Us project
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Three fishermen fish off the coast of Majuro in the Marshall Islands.

Data Sources for Reconstructed Catch by Category, in Thousands of Metric Tons, 1950-2010

Type of fishing	Catch	Data sources
Subsistence	7,500	Researchers relied on local archives and published literature, in particular a set of studies led by researcher Robert Gillett on the contribution of fisheries to food security and Pacific island economies. Missing data were generally filled in based on human population data and on the assumption that per-capita fishing rates declined from 1950 to 2010.
Artisanal	2,455	Similar to methods for subsistence. Missing data were filled in by drawing a straight line across the data gaps. This line was adjusted to fit the assumption that artisanal fishing increased over time with the increase in the cash-market economy.
Industrial	698	Food and Agriculture Organization data on annual catches were largely deemed accurate. The reconstruction only accounted for domestic catches. It did not address the large catch by foreign tuna vessels, or catch taken under joint venture and charter arrangements.
Recreational	269	Same as methods for artisanal fishing.
Discards	105	Researchers only estimated major discards for industrial vessels, relying on local archives and studies when available, plus a 2005 global Food and Agriculture Organization report on discards.

Notes: Units are thousands of metric tons. Subsistence is used here to denote small-scale, noncommercial fishing for household consumption. Artisanal denotes small-scale fishing for local markets or export.

Source: *The Sea Around Us* project
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Reference

Zeller, D., S. Harper, K. Zyllich, and D. Pauly. "Synthesis of Underreported Small-Scale Fisheries Catch in Pacific Island Waters." *Coral Reefs* (2014), doi:10.1007/s00338-014-1219-1.



SEA AROUND US PROJECT
Fishes, Ecosystems & Biodiversity

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