

## Tuvalu

This one-pager is part of a broader project<sup>1</sup> examining how gender considerations are reflected in fisheries governance. A systematic content analysis of fisheries governance documents from 20 countries assessed how gender is addressed across policy language, institutional arrangements, objectives, and strategies. Project findings are intended to strengthen recognition of women's contributions across the sector and support equitable access to marine resources, share of benefits, and participation in decision-making.

Each one-pager summarizes key findings for a focal country, analysing fisheries governance documents as a collective policy bundle to identify system-level patterns. The analysis draws on documents collected up to July 2025, and the findings inform both this one-pager and the governance section of the corresponding country fact sheet.<sup>2</sup>

Taken individually or collectively across the 20 countries, these one-pagers aim to inform decision-makers, civil society actors, funders, and researchers by providing insights on gender considerations in fisheries governance.

Area of Analysis	Country Findings
<b>Total number of documents analysed</b>	16
<b>Number of documents with women/gender terms only</b>	3
<b>Number of documents with she/her pronouns only</b>	2
<b>Number of documents with both terms and pronouns</b>	0
<i>Qualitative assessments are based only on documents with women/gender terms (3), she/her pronouns (2), or both (0).</i>	
<b>Structural integration</b> <i>Low / Medium / High</i>	<b>Medium:</b> Gender considerations inform departmental planning documents and engagement priorities within fisheries governance.
<b>Objective of gender integration</b> <i>Ecological / Economic / Social</i>	<b>Social (primary):</b> Gender inclusion is framed in relation to participation in fisheries governance, including sector safety initiatives and recognition of women's underrepresentation within the Fisheries Department <b>Economic and Ecological (secondary):</b> Work plans support women's participation in income-generating and post-harvest activities and situate their involvement within marine resource management processes.
<b>Approach to gender integration</b> <i>Reach / Benefit / Empower / Transform</i>	<b>Reach:</b> Women are included through consultations and trainings in sector activities, with engagement concentrated at the level of participation.

# Methodology Snapshot

## Qualitative Assessment Framework

Qualitative assessments reflect how gender considerations are articulated within the reviewed documents. They are derived from content analysis of texts referencing women, gender, or feminine pronouns. The categories below outline the criteria guiding this framework.

Structural integration (extent of institutional embedding)

- *Low* – Gender considerations appear in governance texts without shaping policy goals or structures.
- *Medium* – Gender considerations inform policy goals or institutional commitments without binding mandates.
- *High* – Gender considerations are embedded in binding mandates, quantified targets, or formal representation.

Objective of gender integration (intended aim)

- *Ecological* – Linked to sustainability or natural resources management effectiveness.
- *Economic* – Linked to livelihoods, income generation, or value chains.
- *Social* – Linked to equity, participation, or women's rights.

Approach to gender integration (mode of operationalization)

- *Reach* – Women are recognized, referenced, or included in consultation or governance processes.
- *Benefit* – Targeted resources improve women's access or material outcomes.
- *Empower* – Women hold decision-making representation or influence within governance processes.
- *Transform* – Institutional or structural reforms address underlying norms, power imbalances, or inequalities.

## Governance Document Selection Criteria and Content Search

Document selection criteria were established to identify fisheries-specific governance instruments addressing:

- fisheries management and regulations;
- fisheries production systems and value chains, including pre-harvest, harvest, processing, and trade activities;
- broader development and economic strategies explicitly linked to fisheries-sector activities.

Key gender-related terms – including “gender,” “women,” “girls,” “mothers,” “she,” and “her” – were systematically searched across the selected documents and analysed in context. For full methodology, see the accompanying metadata<sup>3</sup> document.

## Selected Fisheries Governance Documents for Analysis

Documents and key attributes are compiled in a project database<sup>4</sup>, with hyperlinks to original text where available.

*Corporate Plan of the Tuvalu Fisheries Department 2020-2022.*

*Fishing Crew Regulation 2020.*

*Tuvalu Fisheries Department Annual Work Plan 2021.*

*Marine Resources (Amendment) Act No. 21 of 2017.*

*Corporate Plan 2017/2019 of the Fisheries Department.*

*Marine Resources (Amendment) Act 2012.*

*Conservation and Management Measures (PNA Third Implementation Arrangement) Regulations 2009 (LN 17 of 2009).*

*Marine Resources Act (48.20).*

*Fisheries (Vessel Monitoring System) Regulations (Cap. 48.20.3).*

*Fisheries (Amendment) Act (Act No. 7 of 1991).*

*Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1990 (No. 5 of 1990).*

*Fisheries (Trochus) Regulations 1990 (L.N. 2/90).*

*Fisheries (Foreign Fishing Vessel) Regulations 1982 (Cap. 45).*

*National Fishing Corporation of Tuvalu Act (Cap. 48.32).*

*Laws of Tuvalu Revised Edition, Chapter 45, Fisheries Ordinance.*

*Proclamation of Fishery Limits (L.N. 16/78).*

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The opinions, findings, and conclusions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the organisations listed above.



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<sup>1</sup> Project website – <https://oceanrisk.earth/fact-sheets/>

<sup>2</sup> Country fact sheet – <https://oceanrisk.earth/fact-sheets/#tuvalu>

<sup>3</sup> Metadata document – <https://oceanrisk.earth/fact-sheets/#supplementary-material-for-country-fact-sheets>

<sup>4</sup> Zenodo database – Cutting, A., Wabnitz, C.C.C., Woodhead, A.J., & Norström, A. (2025). Database of Fisheries Governance Documents for Gender Equity Analysis [Data set]. Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15098509>