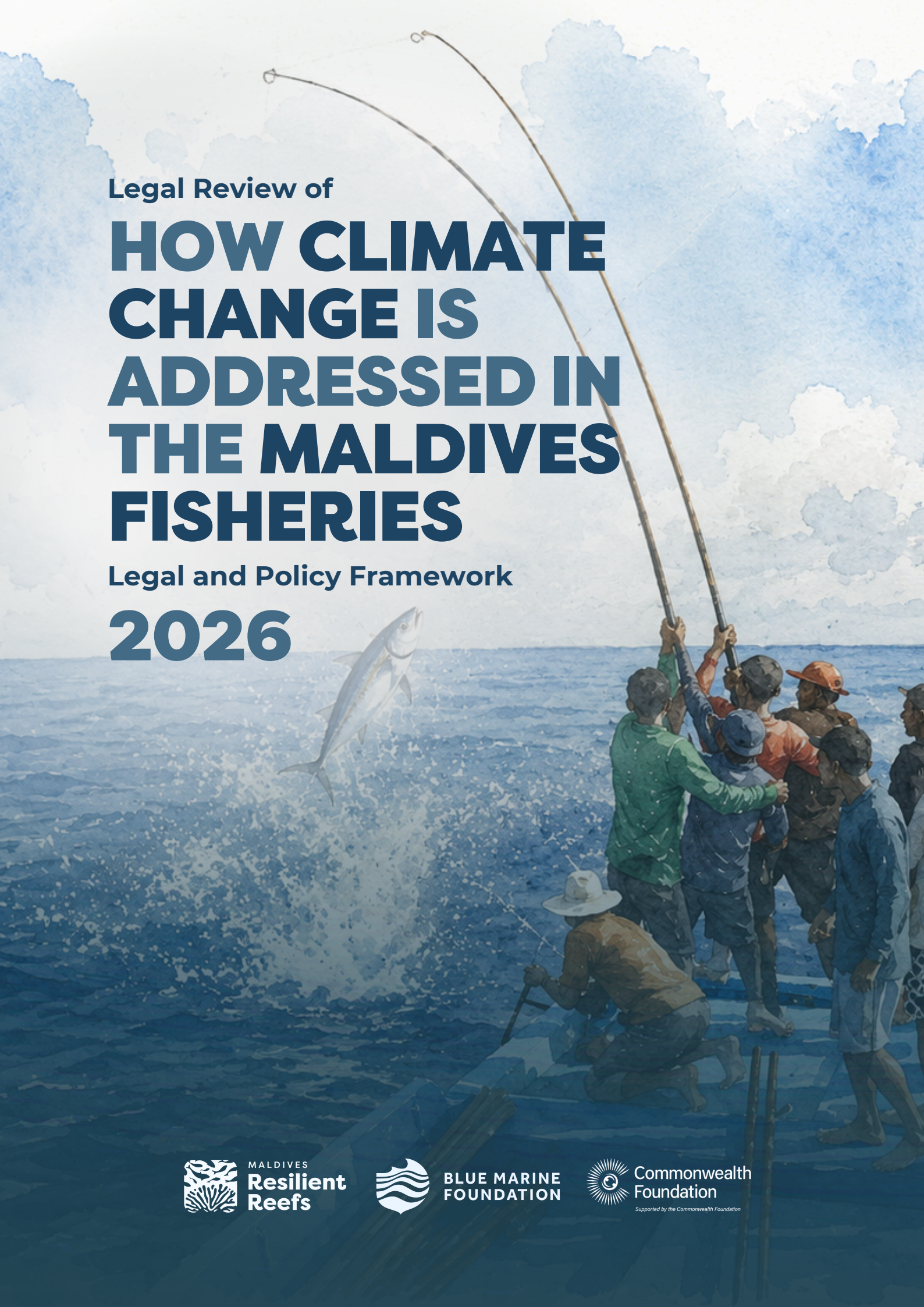


An artistic illustration of a group of fishermen on a wooden boat in the middle of the ocean. They are using long, curved wooden poles to pull a large, silvery fish, possibly a tuna, out of the water. The fish is leaping, creating a large splash. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall style is painterly and evocative of traditional fishing practices.

Legal Review of

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IS ADDRESSED IN THE MALDIVES FISHERIES

Legal and Policy Framework

2026



MALDIVES
**Resilient
Reefs**



**BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION**



**Commonwealth
Foundation**

Supported by the Commonwealth Foundation



Maldives Resilient Reefs is a Maldivian NGO dedicated to nurturing a future where Maldivians benefit from effectively protecting and managing the ocean. MRR focuses on (1) protection of biodiversity hotspots to safeguard our most important and vulnerable marine habitats through stronger policies, targeted protection measures, and science-led management and (2) sustainable marine resource use by supporting responsible fishing, tourism and coastal development practices that sustain livelihoods while protecting marine ecosystems. MRR is affiliated with the UK charity, Blue Marine Foundation, which works with governments, fishermen, communities and other NGOs to restore a healthy ocean forever, for everyone.

SUGGESTED CITATION

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ABBREVIATIONS

CO	Carbon Monoxide
CPUE	Catch Per Unit Effort
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IUU	Illegal, Unreported And Unregulated
MCS	Monitoring, Control And Surveillance
MMRI	Maldives Marine Research Institute
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Plan of Action
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NPOA-IUU	National Plan Of Action To Prevent, Deter And Eliminate Illegal, Unreported And Unregulated Fishing

SST	Sea Surface Temperature
TAE	Total Allowable Export
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This legal review assesses whether Maldives' fisheries laws, regulations and management plans are equipped to manage climate risks to fish stocks, habitats and fishing livelihoods. Pelagic (mainly tuna), reef and livebait fisheries underpin food security and coastal economies, yet depend on coral reefs and open-ocean systems that are highly sensitive to warming, acidification and deoxygenation. With coral-bleaching projected to intensify and projections under a high-emissions pathway (SSP5-8.5) indicating pelagic catches in Maldives' EEZ could decline by more than 90% by 2081–2100, fisheries governance must support both ecological resilience and fisherfolk with limited livelihood alternatives.

The review draws on a desk analysis of the Climate Emergency Act, and 40 fisheries legal and policy instruments spanning primary legislation, strategies, fishery-specific management plans and regulations, aquaculture-related rules, and cross-cutting licensing, IUU and monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) instruments. It assesses the framework across governance and planning, adaptive management, ecosystem resilience, socio-economic resilience and low-carbon transition.

Findings show strong foundations: an explicit climate mandate in the Fisheries Act, science-oriented planning in key fisheries, comprehensive MCS systems, and multiple measures that reduce pressure on ecosystems. However, climate is not consistently operationalised in regulations and plans. Climate-risk analysis, climate projections and indicators, and climate-linked triggers for review and adjustment are not present.

Findings show strong foundations. However, climate is not consistently operationalised in regulations and plans.

Spatial tools are largely static, data systems do not systematically integrate environmental and climate information alongside catch and compliance data, and fisheries-specific, climate-triggered safety nets are largely absent. Low-carbon ambitions are emerging but not yet embedded in fisheries governance.

Recommendations focus on practical upgrades within existing systems: i) require climate-risk sections and alignment with national climate policy in regulations and management plans; ii) mandate use of climate science, scenarios and indicators in decisions and research priorities for tuna and livebait; iii) introduce trigger-and- review clauses and clarify advisory committee's climate responsibilities; iv) strengthen spatial, stock and gear measures for a changing ocean and stocks, including climate-sensitive management areas; v) explicitly protect climate-critical habitats important for fisheries (including coral reefs, seagrass and mangroves) and address cumulative stressors; vi) strengthen social and institutional support for fishing communities, including climate-responsive assistance; and vii) anchor a low- carbon transition through policy signals, incentives and basic reporting.

1. INTRODUCTION

Climate change is already reshaping Maldivian marine ecosystems and the fisheries and coastal livelihoods that depend on them. Pelagic fisheries (mainly tuna), reef fisheries and livebait fisheries form the backbone of the sector, but all three rely on coral reefs and open-ocean systems that are highly sensitive to ocean warming, acidification and deoxygenation¹. National assessments project increasingly frequent and severe coral-bleaching events², while the specific impacts on reef-associated fisheries and livebait availability remain poorly understood. Projections for 2081–2100 under a high-emissions pathway (SSP5-8.5) suggest potential pelagic catches in Maldives' EEZ could decline by more than 90%, threatening the viability of fishing livelihoods³. In a context where many Maldivian fishers have limited options for alternative livelihoods⁴, this combination of ecological vulnerability and social exposure makes it essential that the fisheries legal and policy framework explicitly supports climate-resilient fisheries and fisherfolk.

Maldives' updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commits to reducing emissions by around 26 percent by 2030 and pursuing net-zero emissions by 2030⁵. The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) and emerging National Adaptation Plan (NAP) identify fisheries, coral reef biodiversity and coastal communities as priority sectors for adaptation and resilience-building⁶. For fisheries, the policy implication is clear: strengthen management and ecosystem resilience while also putting social and institutional support around fishing communities that can help deliver monitoring, decision-making, and targeted assistance.

Maldives Resilient Reefs (MRR) is implementing the project “Reflecting Maldivian Fisherfolks’ Experiences of Climate Change in Policies” to better understand how these changes are being experienced on the water and to translate that knowledge into concrete policy and legal reforms.

1 Maldives Resilient Reefs & Blue Marine Foundation (2025). *A literature review on the impact of climate change on Maldivian fisheries*.

2 Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy (2024). *Maldives' First Biennial Transparency Report To The UNFCCC Under The Paris Agreement: Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy*.

3 World Bank. 2024. *The Impact of Climate Change on Fisheries, Coastal Ecosystems and Coastal Communities in Maldives*. Washington, DC: World Bank Group.

4 World Bank. 2024. *Maldives: Country Climate and Development Report*. Washington, DC: World Bank Group.

5 Ministry of Environment (2020). *Update of Nationally Determined Contribution of Maldives* (submitted to UNFCCC)

6 Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Republic of Maldives. 2024. *Advancing the National Adaptation Plan of the Maldives (NAP Maldives)*. Malé: Ministry of Tourism and Environment.

1.2 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE REVIEW

This legal review assesses the extent to which existing Maldivian laws, regulations and fisheries management plans address climate change impacts on fisheries and fisherfolk.

The specific objectives are to:

- map how climate change is currently recognised and addressed across the fisheries legal and policy framework;
- identify legal and policy gaps that limit climate-resilient fisheries management; and
- provide initial recommendations for strengthening the framework so that it can better support climate-resilient stocks, ecosystems and livelihoods.

1.3 SCOPE AND FOCUS

The review covers national laws, regulations, policies, strategies and fisheries management plans that are relevant to fisheries management in the Maldives. It considers both fishery-specific instruments (such as management plans and regulations for tuna, reef and invertebrate fisheries) and cross-cutting measures (such as general fisheries regulations, licensing rules and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) instruments).

The focus of the review is on how these legal instruments recognise and respond to climate-related risks to fisheries and fisherfolk.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 DOCUMENT REVIEWED

The review is based on a desk-based analysis of 40 Maldivian fisheries legal and policy instruments and the Climate Emergency Act identified in collaboration with MRR and relevant national stakeholders, supplemented by existing reports and studies where available.

The review covered the core fisheries legislation and all major implementing instruments currently in force, including:

- Primary legislation
- National and strategic instruments
- Fishery-specific management plans
- Fishery-specific regulations
- Aquaculture and related regulations
- Cross-cutting fisheries regulations

A detailed list is provided in Annex 1.

2.2 ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

Each instrument was examined in how well they addressed climate change using a framework that considered:

1. Governance & planning

Policy integration of climate change: the extent to which climate change is formally embedded within national laws, strategies, and official documents, ensuring a unified government approach.

Use of science and information: if the policy process is mandated to utilize the latest climate science, data and projections to inform decisions.

Institutional and legal adaptive capacity: built-in flexibility and mechanisms within the policy that allow for formal review and automatic adjustment of management actions as climate conditions and scientific understanding evolve.

2. Adaptive fisheries management

Spatial management: managing the activity of fishing in certain areas (e.g., closing a fishing ground when a marine heatwave occurs).

Stock and gear management: how fisheries policy regulates fishing activities to build resilience against climate change (accounting for climate-induced changes in stock productivity and distribution).

Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS): robustness of enforcement and data collection systems, focusing on their ability to gather not just compliance data, but also climate-relevant information (e.g., oceanographic data) that informs adaptive management.

3. Ecosystem resilience

Habitat protection: protection of ecosystems themselves like coral reefs and mangroves, which serve as natural buffers and nurseries crucial for fish stocks.

Stressors reduction: extent to which the policy addresses and minimizes other, non-climate stressors like pollution, physical damage from coastal development.

4. Socio-economic resilience

Livelihood diversification and value addition: policies that actively support and fund alternative or supplementary incomes and jobs outside of traditional fishing, providing a buffer against climate-induced catch fluctuations.

Financial and social safety nets: presence of formal government support mechanisms, such as insurance schemes, subsidies, or social security, that can provide financial stability to fishers during climate-related crises.

Capacity building and awareness: the availability and effectiveness of government-led education, training, and knowledge-sharing programs that empower fishers and managers with the skills needed to understand and adapt to climate change.

5. Low-carbon transition of the fisheries sector

Infrastructure and technology adaptation: extent to which fishing operations and processing adapt to changing environmental and climate conditions.

2.3 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

To complement the desk review, the analysis drew on four targeted consultations held between November and December 2025 with:

- Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources
- Ministry of Tourism and Environment (protected areas department⁷)
- Climate Envoy's Office
- Fisheries researcher and expert

These discussions were used to test and refine the desk-based findings, to understand how climate change is already affecting fisheries and associated institutions, and to identify practical constraints and priorities that are not visible in written instruments.

⁷A meeting request was also sent to the Climate Department, but no response had been received by the time this report was finalised

3. ANALYSIS OF HOW CURRENT FRAMEWORKS ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON FISHERIES

The analysis walks through the fisheries legal and policy framework with a climate lens, using the framework as a guide. It shows where the system already supports resilience, and where important gaps remain. Review of each policy document is provided in Annex 2.

3.1 GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

3.1.1 Policy integration

Climate change adaptation and mitigation is explicitly recognised in the Fisheries Act as a responsibility of the Fisheries Ministry, and all authorised activities must take national climate policy into account. This creates a legal bridge between the fisheries sector and national climate strategies.

Management plans and regulations must conform to the Act, so in principle they sit under this climate mandate.

A small number of fishery management plans already refer to climate change or environmental change in their narrative sections. For example, the reef fishery and aquarium fishery management plans acknowledge the vulnerability of coral reefs and associated fisheries to climate and other environmental pressures, and the grouper management plan notes the importance of ensuring healthy reef ecosystems and spawning sites in the face of climate change.

Gaps

- Most implementing regulations and many management plans do not restate or operationalise this climate mandate.
- There is no explicit requirement that management plans or regulations:
 - contain a climate risk section;
 - demonstrate alignment with national climate policy; or
 - report on how climate has been considered in decision-making.

As a result, the climate mandate in the Act is not consistently visible in lower-level instruments.

3.1.2 USE OF CLIMATE SCIENCE AND DATA

The Fisheries Act, General Fisheries Regulation and management plans all emphasise the use of scientific information, stock assessments and monitoring.

- The tuna and reef management plans, in particular, are highly scienceoriented and recognise the importance of robust data.
- Some plans already identify gaps and needs related to environmental and climate data (for example, the tuna management plan addresses the need for data and research that would identify ecological changes, such as shifting tuna distributions, and inherently calls for the kind of monitoring that requires oceanographic or geographical data).

The Climate Emergency Act emphasises coordinated national action and public accessibility of climate information, which supports moving from narrative references to climate change toward clearer requirements to use climate-relevant data and indicators in sector decision-making.

Gaps

- There is no systematic requirement that management plans or regulations use:
 - climate projections;
 - climate-related stock and habitat vulnerability assessments; or
 - specific climate or oceanographic indicators (e.g. sea surface temperature (SST), acidification, hypoxia, bleaching alerts) in decision making.
- Climate information tends to be mentioned in narrative sections of a few plans, but not translated into concrete obligations or decision rules.

3.1.3 INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL ADAPTIVE CAPACITY

The Act and regulations allow the Ministry to amend management measures and review plans as circumstances change, providing legal flexibility. Advisory committees are mandated for key fisheries, with multi-stakeholder representation, including the ministry with the climate mandate. The management plans are on fixed review cycles (e.g. every 3–5 years).

Gaps

- There are no explicit climate-linked triggers for review or adjustment (for example, “if indicator X crosses threshold Y, measures must be reviewed within Z months”).
- Committee terms of reference do not assign clear responsibility for bringing climate science and risk into management discussions.

3.2 ADAPTIVE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

3.2.1 Spatial management

The framework establishes:

- island reef areas and usage rules;
- scope for closed areas and no-take zones;
- specific protections for spawning aggregations and sensitive habitats in some fisheries (e.g. groupers, sea cucumbers);
- defined deep-offshore fishing grounds and seasons for the gulper shark fishery, while keeping shark fishing prohibited inside atolls and in most coastal areas.

These tools can be used to create climate refugia and protect vulnerable habitats.

Gaps

- Most existing spatial measures are static and designed around specific objectives (for example, long-term grouper spawning aggregation closures), and there are few examples of spatial tools that can be adjusted in response to climate-driven changes.
- Climate vulnerability is not used as a criterion for prioritising areas for stricter spatial management or protection.
- There is no explicit concept of “climate-critical habitats” or “refugia” in fisheries law.

3.2.2 Stock and gear management

Across all fisheries, the Act and General Fisheries Regulation prohibit high-impact industrial gears (purse seines, gillnets, trawl nets) in Maldivian waters, and set generic requirements to avoid damaging reefs when using nets.

Every fishery has at least one of the following:

- strong restrictions on damaging gears,
- minimum size limits (billfish, grouper, sea cucumber, lobster),
- effort controls such as licence caps (diamondback squid), seasons (gulper shark),
- export/Total Allowable Export (TAE) limits (aquarium, sea cucumber and grouper),

These measures contribute to building resilient stocks and reducing pressure on ecosystems.

Gaps

- Harvest strategies and reference points do not explicitly incorporate climate uncertainty and changing productivity.
- There is no deliberate approach to spread risk across species and gears in anticipation of climate-driven distribution and productivity shifts.

3.2.3 Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)

The Maldives fisheries policy includes a comprehensive MCS architecture:

- National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (NPOA-IUU) and IUU regulations by foreign vessels;
- Licensing requirements for foreign tuna buyers, fishing-related activities and projects;
- Administrative penalties regulation;
- Extensive use of Keyolhu, Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), observers and documentation for tuna and billfish fisheries;
- Strict licensing and mandatory catch and export reporting for gulper shark fishery.

The NPOA-IUU also includes capacity-building measures for MCS staff, industry and the judiciary.

Gaps

- There are no standard requirements to collect or integrate:
 - environmental data alongside catch data (e.g. SST, depth, location of extreme events);
 - habitat condition data (e.g. coral status) directly into fisheries databases.
- MCS instruments do not currently require climate-relevant analysis or reporting.

3.3 ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE

3.3.1 Habitat protection

The Fisheries Act embeds ecosystem protection objectives and special management for certain habitats (mangrove, swamps and marshes, seabird islands and sandbanks). The General Fisheries Regulation includes protection for corals, turtles, sharks and key reef fish (such as parrotfish and humphead wrasse), and prohibits damaging gear and practices on reefs. Several management plans recognise the importance of healthy reef ecosystems for fisheries productivity:

- Reef fishery: mentions protection of keystone species such as parrotfish and hump head wrasse
- Grouper fishery: sets minimum size limits and designates protected spawning aggregation sites and ecologically significant areas for groupers
- Tuna fishery: includes measures to reduce turtle and shark bycatch in the longline fishery
- The gulper shark fishery: maintain the general shark protection regime by confining a small, licensed gulper shark fishery to defined deep-offshore areas and seasons, prohibiting shark fishing inside atolls and in MPAs, and banning the retention of protected species as bycatch
- The aquarium fishery: manages keystone species like cleaner wrasse and surgeonfish and sets TAE limits based on vulnerability/resilience.

Gaps

- Seagrass ecosystems are a nursery habitat for many ecologically and commercially important fish species. This is currently not recognised in the Fisheries Act or regulations.
- Climate change impacts on habitats (e.g. coral bleaching, seagrass loss, mangrove die-off) are rarely reflected in operational measures.
- There is no explicit framework for identifying and managing climate-resilient or highly vulnerable areas that affect fisheries differently.

3.3.2 Stressors reduction

Many instruments include reducing non-climate stressors:

- minimizing the impacts of "other human activities and environmental factors"
- prohibition of destructive fishing methods;
- IUU control;
- prohibit disposing of sea cucumber waste water into lagoons or near reef edges due to its toxicity
- regulation of aquaculture imports and biosecurity;
- rules on waste disposal from vessels
- control of processing standards (including carbon monoxide (CO)/filtered-smoke use).

These collectively lower baseline pressure on ecosystems, which is positive for climate resilience.

Gaps

- Fisheries instruments do not explicitly address cumulative impacts from non-fisheries sectors (coastal development, dredging, pollution), even where these directly undermine fisheries resilience in spaces important for fisheries.
- There is little explicit recognition in fisheries law that reducing other stressors is part of a climate adaptation strategy.

3.4 SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

3.4.1 Livelihood diversification and value addition

The Fisheries Act, aquaculture regulation, fisheries project and island-leasing regulations all create pathways for:

- developing aquaculture;
- investing in value-adding processing and export;
- using uninhabited islands for fisheries and related activities.

These can be important levers for diversifying incomes and moving beyond sole reliance on wild capture.

Gaps

- The diversification options are not framed as climate adaptation measures and are not guided by vulnerability assessments (e.g. which fishing communities are most at risk).
- There is no explicit prioritisation of projects that increase climate resilience (for example, low-carbon aquaculture, climate-resilient livelihoods linked to marine tourism).

3.4.2 Financial and social safety nets

The Fisheries Act includes provisions for social protection and pension schemes for fishers, and the floor price regulation stabilises incomes for key export species.

The fishermen's registry creates a clear database of who is in the sector, which is an ideal platform for targeting support in times of crisis.

Gaps

- No existing financial and social measures designed as:
 - climate-triggered safety nets; or
 - disaster response mechanisms for fisheries.
- There are no explicit provisions for:
 - climate risk insurance;
 - temporary relief on loans/subsidies following marine heatwaves, storms or climate shocks;
 - rapid support to rebuild fishing-related assets after disasters.

3.4.3 Capacity building and awareness

The NPOA-IUU include training and awareness-raising elements (focused primarily on IUU and compliance).

The management plan structures allow, in principle, for outreach and capacity building.

Gaps

- There is no systematic, legally anchored programme of climate-related capacity building for:
 - fishers;
 - processors and exporters;
 - local councils;
 - advisory committee members.

3.5 LOW-CARBON TRANSITION OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR

3.5.1 Infrastructure and technology adaptation

The Climate Emergency Act creates a basis for requiring fisheries agencies and larger fisheries operators to track and report energy use/emissions, and for designing incentives/criteria (licensing, projects, island leasing) that favour lower-emissions vessels, ports and processing.

There are plans to decarbonise fishing operations⁸, including:

- adoption of renewable energy in harvesting and processing;
- investment in energy-efficient vessels; and
- an industry goal to reach at least 35% of power generation from renewables within five years.

This supports national mitigation goals and can reduce fuel costs and exposure to fuel price shocks for fishers and processors.

Gaps

- These ambitions are not yet reflected in fisheries laws or regulations:
 - no explicit low-carbon or energy-efficiency objectives in the Fisheries Act, General Regulation or specific fishery regulations;
 - no licence, subsidy or project-approval criteria that favour low-carbon vessels and facilities;
 - no requirements to track or report emissions or renewable-energy uptake in the sector.

⁸ Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources (2024). *Contribution from the Maldives to the seventeenth round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, serving as a further preparatory meeting for the resumed Review Conference on the Agreement.*

4. SUMMARY OF KEY GAPS

Taken together, the analysis points to a gap between Maldives' high-level climate ambitions and the way fisheries are currently governed. The bullets below summarise the main weaknesses that limit how well the existing framework can manage climate risks to stocks, ecosystems and fisherfolk:

- The Fisheries Act recognises climate change, but most regulations and plans do not operationalise this mandate.
- Climate science and projections are not systematically used in fisheries decisions.
- Adaptive tools exist (licensing, plans, committees), but there are no climate-linked triggers or clear responsibilities.
- Some ecosystem protections present, but not framed or prioritised as “climate-critical habitats and species”.
- Direct support mechanisms or insurance schemes for fishers against climate-related losses are not present.
- Ambitions to decarbonise fishing and processing are emerging in policy, but not anchored in fisheries law.

4.1 FISHERY-SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS

- **Pelagic:** main legal strengths are one-by-one fishing gears, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) alignment, and MCS. Gaps include lack of explicit climate triggers and absence of climate metrics (SST, oxygen, depth) in tuna management and harvest strategies, and research on species distributions and catch patterns for early warning of climate-driven shifts.
- **Reef fish:** use of size limits and protected spawning aggregations for grouper management, and species bans (e.g. parrotfish, napoleon wrasse, most shark species), but climate impacts on reef condition and habitat loss are not built into reef-fishery decisions.
- **Livebait:** heavily dependent on coral reefs; regulations protect some reef habitats but there is no dedicated climate-risk framing or specific measures for baitfish under bleaching/acidification scenarios, and no specific management plan.
- **Invertebrates (lobster, sea cucumber, diamondback squid):** precautionary tools exist (size limits, gear bans, area closures), yet acidification and habitat changes are not explicitly considered.

4.2 KNOWLEDGE AND DATA GAPS RELEVANT TO THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Local ecological and socio-economic impacts of climate change on Maldivian fisheries remain poorly understood, especially for livebait and reef fisheries.
- Climate science in the Indian Ocean is limited; there is an urgent need for research on tuna distribution shifts and identification of potential refugia.
- While there is a national Coral Bleaching Response Plan and an inter-agency task force, monitoring is not yet linked to clear triggers for fisheries management action.

These gaps do not change the current legal obligations, but they strongly influence how far existing laws and plans can be used to manage climate risks in practice. Several recommendations in section 5 (on use of science, MCS and adaptive triggers) are proposed specifically to respond to these gaps.

4.3 INSTITUTIONAL LINK BETWEEN FISHERIES AND CLIMATE AUTHORITIES

The Fisheries Act ties the fisheries sector into the national climate framework by requiring the fisheries ministry to ensure that all activities authorised or permitted under the Act take into account national climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, strategies, laws and measures. It also requires the fisheries ministry to consult the environment/climate ministry when regulating sensitive habitats such as mangrove swamps and marshes, seabird nesting islands and sandbanks, and allows it to establish memoranda of understanding and joint working groups with other ministries and agencies.

The fisheries management plans mandate a multi-stakeholder advisory committee for each major fishery, bringing together fishers, processors, MMRI and relevant ministries and civil society to review data and recommend management changes. These committees provide a natural forum for integrating climate information into fisheries decisions and could play a central role in climate-responsive management if they are fully operationalised and resourced.

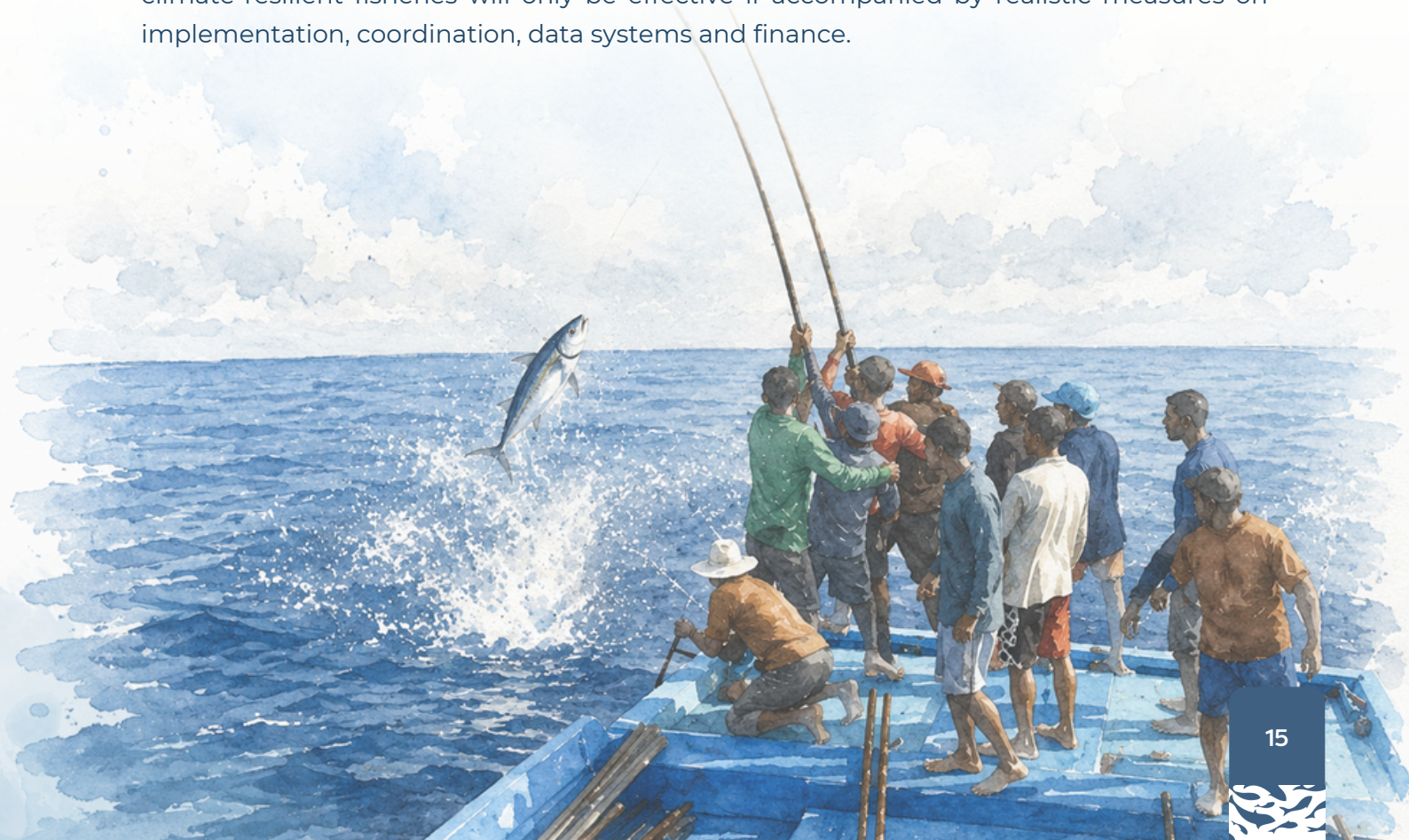
4.3 STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES ON CLIMATE RISKS AND PRIORITIES

The consultations broadly reinforced the picture emerging from the legal review that while there are strong foundations on paper, implementation is uneven and explicit use of climate information in day-to-day fisheries decisions is limited. Key messages included:

- Climate impacts already felt in tuna and bait fisheries: Ministry officials and experts highlighted the sharp decline in tuna catch in 2024 linked to El Niño and Indian Ocean Dipole conditions, and expressed concern that warming, acidification and coral bleaching will increasingly affect bait availability and reef fisheries.
- Weak implementation of existing management plans and committees: Advisory committees mandated in the plans are not active, enforcement of measures (including for reef fisheries) is limited, and management plans are not always used as live tools to guide responses to climate variability and shocks.
- Other tuna RFMOs are already moving towards integrating climate variables into stock assessments and management procedures, and saw value in Maldives drawing on this experience in both national management and IOTC discussions
- Data gaps, under-used data and constrained sharing: Stakeholders pointed to gaps in oceanographic and ecological data, limited analysis of existing fisheries and VMS data, and data-sharing constraints that hinder external research on climate impacts and vulnerability, even though aggregated data could safely support such work.

- Overlaps and coordination problems between mandates: Fisheries and environment authorities share responsibility for habitats and spatial management, but mandates and processes are not always aligned, for example on protected areas, bait fishing grounds and coastal development, leading to delays and missed opportunities to address climate risks.
- Stakeholders reported ongoing discussions between the fisheries ministry and the meteorological service on integrating relevant climate data into Keyolhu and using it for early warning and potential fishing zone guidance, but these efforts are not yet reflected in any formal legal or policy requirement.
- Diversification and low-carbon opportunities recognised but not yet embedded: Diversifying gears and target species, developing mariculture and improving value addition were widely seen as necessary adaptation pathways, alongside more energy-efficient vessels and ice plants and renewable-powered infrastructure. These are, however, driven by projects and investment rather than by explicit legal or policy requirements.
- Ongoing training and pilot efforts on mariculture and on alternative target species (such as diamondback squid) as capacity building related to diversification for climate adaptation.
- Chronic resource and finance constraints: Limited human and financial resources were repeatedly cited as a barrier to implementing existing rules, improving monitoring and compliance, and developing climate-responsive social protection or insurance mechanisms for fishers.

These perspectives underline that strengthening the legal and policy framework for climate-resilient fisheries will only be effective if accompanied by realistic measures on implementation, coordination, data systems and finance.



5. RECOMMENDATIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

Building on this analysis, the recommendations below focus on concrete legal and policy changes that could close these gaps. They are designed to work with existing institutions and instruments, rather than creating a new system.

5.1 GOVERNANCE & PLANNING

5.1.1 Policy integration of climate change

- Amend the General Fisheries Regulation to restate the Fisheries Act's climate mandate to include:
 - short *climate risk* section;
 - how they align with national climate policies (Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the Climate Emergency Act, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and national disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies).
- New or revised fishery management plans or regulations to include
 - an explicit climate-risk analysis; and
 - how climate was considered in the design of measures.

5.1.2 Use of science and information

- Require formal consideration of climate scenarios (e.g. projected catch loss, distribution shifts) in national harvest strategy decisions.
- Insert a clause in management plans and the General Fisheries Regulation requiring management decisions to:
 - take into account the best available climate, oceanographic and ecological information;
 - reference any national climate–fisheries assessments prepared by Maldives Marine Research Institute and the climate/environment agencies;
 - be able to monitor species distribution for early warning signs of change.
- Add a clause in fisheries regulations or a ministerial policy that designates “climate impacts on tuna and livebait” as a national research priority; which:
 - commits the ministry to support work on distribution shifts and potential tuna refugia in the Indian Ocean.
 - justify budget lines / external finance for:
 - tracking tuna and livebait in relation to SST, oxygen and productivity;
 - collaborating with IOTC and regional science teams on climate–tuna models.

- Create a mechanism to systematically collect, manage, and validate data for the annual fisheries climate reporting mandated under the Climate Emergency Act, in line with sector-specific reporting obligations and national climate reporting requirements, including:
 - emissions activity data (to support sector carbon-budget reporting + national GHG inventory),
 - climate impacts and losses on fisheries, and
 - measures taken under the National Climate Action Plan (actions implemented, progress, and gaps).

Recommended by stakeholders:

- Develop a simple fisheries–climate data-sharing protocol between the fisheries ministry, MMRI and the climate / environment ministry that:
 - allows use of aggregated or anonymised fisheries and VMS data for external climate-impact and vulnerability research; and
 - addresses data sensitivity and security concerns that currently limit collaboration.
- Prioritise, in national research and funding agendas, the applied climate–fisheries work highlighted by fisheries managers and experts (e.g. tuna migration under El Niño / Indian Ocean Dipole, links between coral bleaching, baitfish and reef fisheries, and integrated reef–oceanographic monitoring).

5.1.3 Institutional and legal adaptive capacity

- Add standard “review and trigger” clauses to key regulations and management plans, requiring:
 - earlier review (than stated 3–5 years) if specified indicators (e.g., Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE), size structure, habitat condition, or defined climate/extreme events) pass agreed thresholds.
- Revise terms of reference of fishery advisory committees to:
 - explicitly include climate change review in their mandate; and
 - assign the environment/climate agency and Maldives Marine Research Institute (MMRI) responsibility to present climate-relevant information during reviews.

5.2 ADAPTIVE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

5.2.1 Spatial management

- Use existing powers in the Fisheries Act and General Fisheries Regulation to create a category of “climate-sensitive fisheries management areas”, and:
 - define criteria (e.g. climate refugia reefs, key baitfish areas, spawning sites, nursery habitats); and
 - allow for temporary or permanent area-based measures (closures, gear limits) tied to climate and ecosystem condition.

Recommended by stakeholders:

- While long-term static closures will remain appropriate for some objectives (e.g. grouper spawning sites), there is a need to expand the types of closures in use so that more flexible tools are available for climate-related management.
- Require that mapped bait fishing grounds and other critical habitats for tuna, bait and reef species are explicitly considered in coastal development and reclamation approvals, with early input from the fisheries ministry before projects are locked in.
- Support development of a marine spatial planning (MSP) framework that brings together fisheries, protected areas and climate scenarios, and ensure that fishery regulations and management plans are aligned with MSP zoning.

5.2.2 Stock and gear management

- Amend fishery management plans and associated regulations to:
 - add at least one climate-buffer objective (such as higher target biomass if climate vulnerable, protection of spawners, protection of nursery grounds) per fishery (e.g., minimum landing sizes for key reef species)
 - formally allow harvest strategies and reference points to be adjusted where there is evidence of climate-driven changes in productivity or distribution, and require the relevant advisory committees to consider climate indicators (such as ENSO / Indian Ocean Dipole conditions, SST anomalies and medium- to long-term projections) when reviewing harvest rules for climate-sensitive fisheries.

Recommended by stakeholders:

- Systematically review climate-related practice in other tuna RFMOs (e.g. integration of climate variables into stock assessments and management procedures in WCPFC) and use this as a reference for strengthening both national tuna management plans and Maldives' positions in IOTC negotiations.

5.2.3 Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)

- Update data and reporting provisions in the licensing, fishing-related activities, buyer and IUU regulations so that:
 - logbooks and electronic reporting must capture a minimal set of climate-relevant data); and
 - Keyolhu is recognised in regulation as the repository for this data.

5.3 ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE

5.3.1 Habitat protection and restoration

- Amend the General Fisheries Regulation and relevant management plans to:
 - explicitly recognise coral reefs, seagrass and mangroves as “climate-critical habitats” for fisheries; and
 - require that spatial measures (no-take areas, gear bans, seasonal closures) give priority to locations that are important both for fisheries and for climate resilience (e.g. nursery areas, refugia reefs).

5.3.2 Stressors reduction

- Insert cross-references in fisheries regulations (General Fisheries, projects, island leasing) to coastal-development and pollution controls, requiring:
 - consultation with the fisheries ministry where coastal projects may affect key fishing habitats; and
 - consideration of cumulative impacts on already climate-stressed ecosystems when issuing approvals or licences.

5.4 SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

5.4.1 Livelihood diversification and value addition

- Add a climate-resilient diversification objective to national fisheries policy.
- Add mandate to research on climate-resilient livelihood options for fishers, including assessing and piloting viable diversification options for fishers most exposed to climate change.
- Amend aquaculture, fisheries-project and island-leasing regulations to introduce scoring/priority criteria that:
 - require proponents to describe how their project contributes to adaptation or diversification for fishing communities.

Recommended by stakeholders:

- Establish a targeted diversification workstream to:
 - assess and pilot alternative existing species flagged by stakeholders (e.g. diamondback squid, dolphinfish, rainbow runner)
 - focus pilots on fishers and communities already experiencing climate-related catch declines.
- Promote value addition for existing fisheries (for example, higher-value processing for billfish and other bycatch species) as part of climate adaptation strategies, recognising stakeholder concerns that better prices will be essential to buffer income shocks.

5.4.2 Financial and social safety nets

- Include a fisheries-specific social protection policy:
 - linking the fishermen's registry to access to national social protection schemes; and
 - defining how support can be triggered by climate-related events (e.g. severe catch failure, infrastructure damage), even if the detailed schemes are implemented through finance/welfare laws.

Recommended by stakeholders:

- Explore using existing national revenue streams and climate finance mechanisms (such as green-tax-linked funds and climate funds under the Climate Emergency Act) to co-finance fisheries monitoring, compliance and climate-responsive support, and reflect these linkages explicitly in fisheries and climate policy documents.

5.4.3 Capacity building and awareness

- Include, in fishery management plan requirements:
 - to provide or coordinate regular training and awareness programmes on climate change and adaptive practices for fishers, processors and local councils; and
 - for the inclusion of women and youth from fisheries value chains in these programmes.

5.5 LOW-CARBON TRANSITION OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR

5.5.1 Infrastructure and technology adaptation

- Adopt a concise “low-carbon fisheries” policy statement or regulation under the Fisheries Act that:
 - acknowledges national ambitions for decarbonising fishing and processing;
 - sets qualitative objectives for energy efficiency and increased use of renewable energy in vessels, ports and processing plants; and
 - signals alignment with national mitigation commitments.
- Modify licensing, fisheries-project and island-leasing regulations to:
 - include energy efficiency and renewable-energy use as positive criteria in licence and project evaluations;
 - allow the Fisheries Ministry to give preferential consideration or reduced fees/charges (where consistent with other laws) to low-carbon vessels and facilities.
- Add a reporting requirement (for larger licensed processors and state-owned enterprises, via regulation or licence conditions) to provide basic information on:
 - energy sources used; and
 - progress towards national or sectoral renewable-energy targets.

Recommended by stakeholders:

- In collaboration with the climate and energy authorities, develop technical guidelines and incentives for energy-efficient and renewable-powered ice production and cold-chain infrastructure, reflecting both fishers’ concerns about ice availability and the climate envoy’s concerns about the energy footprint of conventional ice plants.

6. CONCLUSION

This review shows that Maldives already has a strong, modern fisheries governance system, with an explicit climate mandate in the Fisheries Act and robust tools for sustainable management and MCS. However, climate change is still treated more as context than as a formal driver of fisheries decisions in most regulations and management plans.

The recommendations focus on using existing legal and institutional frameworks (not creating new institutions) to integrate climate risk, ecosystem resilience, socio-economic protection and low-carbon considerations into day-to-day fisheries management and governance.



ANNEX 1

List of documents reviewed

Code	Document	Type of Document	Owner	Document Date
N-CC1	Climate Emergency Act (Act No. 9/2021)	Act	MoTE	2021
N-F1	The Maldives National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter And Eliminate Illegal Unreported And Unregulated Fishing (NPOA-IUU)	Policy	MoFOR	2019
N-F2	Fisheries Act of the Maldives (14/2019)	Act	MoFOR	2019
N-F3	Fisheries Act of the Maldives (10/2022) Amendment	Act	MoFOR	2022
N-F4	Maldives Billfish Fishery Management Plan	Management Plan	MoFOR	2020
N-F5	Maldives Diamondback Squid Fishery Management Plan	Management Plan	MoFOR	2020
N-F6	Maldives Sea Cucumber Fishery Management Plan	Management Plan	MoFOR	2020
N-F7	Maldives Grouper Fishery Management Plan	Management Plan	MoFOR	2020
N-F8	Maldives Reef Fishery Management Plan	Management Plan	MoFOR	2020
N-F9	Maldives Lobster Fishery Management Plan	Management Plan	MoFOR	2020
N-F10	Maldives Marine Aquarium Fishery Management Plan	Management Plan	MoFOR	2020
N-F11	Maldives Tuna Fishery Management Plan	Management Plan	MoFOR	2021
N-F12	Gulper Shark Fishery Management Plan	Management Plan	MoFOR	2025

N-F13	Billfish Fishery Regulation (2021/R-62)	Regulation	MoFOR	2021
N-F14	Grouper Fishery Management Regulation (2022/R-2)	Regulation	MoFOR	2022
N-F15	Tuna Fishery Regulation (2022/R-139)	Regulation	MoFOR	2022
N-F16	Tuna Fishery Regulation (2022/R-220) - 1st Amendment	Regulation	MoFOR	2022
N-F17	Tuna Fishery Regulation (2024/R-97) - 2nd Amendment	Regulation	MoFOR	2024
N-F18	Tuna Fishery Regulation (2025/R-17) - 3rd Amendment	Regulation	MoFOR	2025
N-F19	Sea Cucumber Fishery Regulation (2025/R-3)	Regulation	MoFOR	2025
N-F20	Reef Fishery Regulation (2025/R-4)	Regulation	MoFOR	2025
N-F21	Gulper Shark Fishery Management Regulation (2025/R-111)	Regulation	MoFOR	2025
N-F22	Aquaculture Regulation (2020/R-94)	Regulation	MoFOR	2020
N-F23	Aquaculture Regulation (2023/R-141) - 1st Amendment	Regulation	MoFOR	2023
N-F24	Aquaculture Regulation (2025/R-35) - 2nd Amendment	Regulation	MoFOR	2025
N-F25	General Fisheries Regulation (2020/R-75)	Regulation	MoFOR	2020
N-F26	General Fisheries Regulation (2023/R-123) - 1st Amendment	Regulation	MoFOR	2023
N-F27	General Fisheries Regulation (2025/R-15) - 2nd Amendment	Regulation	MoFOR	2025
N-F28	General Fisheries Regulation (2025/R-111) - 3rd Amendment	Regulation	MoFOR	2025
N-F29	Regulation on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (2020/R-4)	Regulation	MoFOR	2020

N-F30	Regulation on Administration of Penalties for Fisheries Related Offenses (2020/R-74)	Regulation	MoFOR	2020
N-F31	Regulation on Issuing Permits for the Establishment of the Fisheries Projects (2020/R-91)	Regulation	MoFOR	2020
N-F32	Regulation on the General Process of Issuing Licenses and Permits for Fishing, Fishing related Activities and Aquaculture Activities (2020/R-92)	Regulation	MoFOR	2020
N-F33	Regulation on the Establishment of Floor Prices for Fish Purchase (2020/R-93)	Regulation	MoFOR	2020
N-F34	The Regulation on the Conduction of Marine Scientific Research in the Maldives (2020/R-100)	Regulation	MoFOR	2020
N-F35	Licensing Regulation for Foreign Fishing Vessels for Purchase of Tuna (2022/R-122)	Regulation	MoFOR	2022
N-F36	Regulation on IUU Fisheries of Foreign Fishing Vessels (2022/R-123)	Regulation	MoFOR	2022
N-F37	Regulation on Use of Carbonmonoxide or Filtered Smoke in Fisheries Products and Export of Such Products (2023/R-73)	Regulation	MoFOR	2023
N-F38	Regulation Relating to the Licensing of Fishing-Related Activities (2023/R-82)	Regulation	MoFOR	2023
N-F39	Regulation on Leasing and Renting Uninhabited Islands and for the Purpose of Fisheries and Agriculture (2023/R-142)	Regulation	MoFOR	2023
N-F40	Regulation on Fishermen's Registry (2024/R-121)	Regulation	MoFOR	2024

ANNEX 2

Review by Legal Document

	Governance and Planning			Adaptive Management			Ecosystem Resilience		Socio-Economic Resilience			
Code	Policy Integration	Use of Science	Adaptive Capacity	Spatial Management	Stock and Gear Management	Monitoring, Control, Surveillance	Habitat Protection	Stressors Reduction	Livelihood Diversification	Financial & Social Safety Nets	Capacity Building	Notes
N-CC1 Climate Emergency Act	Declares climate change a national priority and sets the goal of making Maldives a climate-resilient, climate-neutral country All sectors are meant to align with national climate policy, but the Act does not create fisheries-specific duties Objectives: reduce climate change impacts, support adaptation, meet the carbon-neutral target, protect and sustain the environment, and mobilize/organize finance. carbon-neutral target, protect and sustain the environment, and mobilize/organize finance	Creates a national climate governance set-up (Special Envoy for Climate Change, Climate Change Directorate) with roles that include gathering and using climate information for planning. Calls for climate-related assessments, data systems and reporting as part of implementing national climate policy: sets a requirement to consider/use information (doesn't specify standards or latest climate projections.	Requires preparation and periodic updating of a national Climate Action Plan and related strategies Enables sector-based carbon budgeting (budgets can be set by sector and by year)	Requires identifying priority actions for adaptation across sectors	n/a	Includes national monitoring and reporting of emissions and climate actions	Recognises the need to protect Maldives' natural systems from climate impacts and to use climate-compatible planning and projects (including nature-based approaches) as part of adaptation and mitigation. Action Plan adaptation priorities include biodiversity and key habitats, alongside coastal protection and infrastructure	Targets greenhouse-gas emissions and broad climate drivers, and supports climate-compatible development	Mention the need to safeguard people and the economy from climate impacts and to support resilient development pathways	Provides for climate-related funds and financial mechanisms (e.g. climate finance, carbon-related instruments) Does not create fishery-specific social protection, insurance or relief tools (though the climate funds could potentially co-finance them)	Requires public information, participation and coordination across government and society on climate issues	

	Commits Maldives to become a carbon neutral country by 2030, and frames national action around that goal											
N-F1 NPOA-IUU	n/a	Working with IOTC on science-based approach to IUU prevention	To be reviewed and revised every 4 years	Enforcing the existing Maldivian EEZ boundary and regulating access for foreign fleets	Focus on preventing destructive IUU gear use. selective pole-and-line and handline methods IOTC bycatch mitigation measures for the longline fleet	Mandates VMS, e-observer systems, national inspection plans, and a comprehensive Fisheries Information System (FIS)	IOTC bycatch mitigation measures for the longline fleet	n/a	n/a	n/a	Includes strong actions for capacity building related to enforcement. This includes training MCS personnel, raising industry awareness of obligations, and training the judiciary on IUU issues	
N-F2 Fisheries Act	"Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation" is stated as a responsibility of the Ministry. It requires that all authorized or permitted activities under this Act "take into consideration" the nation's climate policies, strategies, and laws. This formally links fisheries to national climate goals.	Mandates that management measures "are based on the best scientific evidence available". The Ministry is tasked with collecting and sharing accurate data from national and international research programmes.	Requires the application of the "precautionary approach" and the ability to amend management plans based on circumstances by the Minister. It calls for regular review of management plans.	The Ministry can define "prohibited areas for aquaculture activities" and "special fisheries resources and their ecosystems, as well as establishing the types of vessels and activities that are prohibited within such areas" (22 (b)3) and "prohibiting certain types of fishing, or permitting fishing during a particular season". <i>There is no explicit mention of dynamic spatial management that changes with shifting climate indicators</i>	Prohibits inherently damaging gear like purse seines, gillnets, and trawl nets. It promotes the use of "environmentally friendly fishing gear and techniques" and mandates that management plans determine catch limits and acceptable gear types.	Includes robust MCS system, mandating cooperation with Coast Guard, Police, and Customs (article 56-57). It provides for extensive powers of inspection, arrest, and confiscation and it specifically enables satellite and electronic monitoring of vessels and the use of observers.	Core objective of the Act: provide a framework for the "protection and management of the fisheries resources of the Maldives and their ecosystems". It mandates consultation with the environment ministry to manage resources in mangrove swamps and marshes and protect seabird nesting islands, sandbanks and such other areas. It also mandates an action plan for	Addresses stressors from fishing activities effectively by promoting low-impact gear and deterring IUU fishing. It also calls for minimizing the impacts of "other human activities and environmental factors".	Focuses heavily on expanding the existing fisheries industry, including vessel construction, processing facilities, and new types of fisheries. Encourages the aquaculture industry as an additional sector <i>Does not include the diversification of livelihoods away from marine-based activities.</i>	Mandates the formulation of a scheme to provide "social protection and pension for fishers". It aims to assist fishers in seeking good income and profit and sets rules for the minimum sale price of fish. These are important buffers, but a comprehensive financial safety net specifically for climate-induced shocks not present	The establishment of a fisheries institute or college to provide "modern fisheries education and training". It also aims to "acclimatise youth to fishing and encourage them to enter the fisheries industry". focus on education is strong. <i>Does not include skills needed to understand and adapt to climate change</i>	



							protecting seabird nesting islands and sandbanks. Determining types of protected fish and measures for their protection, and for the purpose of protecting or planning and managing types of fish related to fisheries, banning the export, import or sale of such types of fish, with the exception of living resources protected under another legislation					
N-F3 Fisheries Act Amendment	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
N-F4 Billfish Fishery MP	Guided by the following principles: 1.4.1 Precautionary Approach 1.4.2 Ecosystem-based management 1.4.4 Sustainable Development	Objective include: Prioritise evidence-based policymaking through the collection of biological and socioeconomic data on billfish fishery and associated resources Strategies and actions under Objective 2 include:	Built on the guiding principles of the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based management. It establishes an advisory committee and includes provisions for regular review every 5 years,	Provides for potential spatial management (area closures / no-take zones) as a precautionary option, but it does not currently implement specific spatial management of billfish fishing	Participation in IOTC stock assessments - In the event where catch limits or reductions are required by the IOTC, implement such measures at a national level - then establish mechanisms	Objective include: Implement a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) mechanism and strengthen data collection and data reporting mechanisms for the billfish fishery and trade	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Objective include: Increase education and awareness on billfish and associated resources amongst stakeholders and the general public.	



	Included in objectives: Ensure that the harvesting, processing and trading of billfish is carried out through the application of principles of sustainability, ecosystem-based management and the Precautionary Approach <i>Does not explicitly mention or directly address climate change impacts, vulnerabilities, or specific adaptation measures</i>	- nationwide size sampling and surveys to estimate sizes of landed billfish; - collecting geographical information on fishing grounds to understand spatio-temporal exploitation patterns; - socio-economic surveys of the fishery. - estimations can be determined through the fishery data collection mechanism that was established before 2010 Mandates the creation of an advisory committee to: - review "technical and other reports pertaining to the billfish fishery"; - advise on management measures in response to these reports; and - advise on implementation, monitoring and review of the plan Billfish caught by tuna and reef vessels get recorded via their existing logbooks. Export data compiled by the Maldives Customs Service provide some understanding of the catch trend, although not by species	which allows for adaptive measures in response to new information or changing conditions.		to allow fair and equitable access to the resources Implement and enforce the minimum size limits on billfish species, as required by the IOTC Implement and enforce the restriction on the use of fishing methods or gears prohibited in the Act No.2019/14 (Fisheries Act) IOTC has implemented a number of Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) to ensure that billfish stocks in the Indian Ocean are fished and managed sustainably. Establishment of a minimum size limit on billfish species. This measure will be locally implemented									
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		Billfish fishers are not required to report their catch data and not all landings are exported, hence it is difficult to accurately gauge the quantity of billfish caught in the Maldivian waters. True extent of billfish fishery in the Maldives is not yet fully understood as there is no mechanism to enumerate billfish landings in the country Management action includes: actively participating in the scientific and management processes of IOTC, SWIOFC and other relevant regional and international bodies The plan does not move beyond generic "best available science" language to mandate the use of climate data, projections or modelling in decision-making and no mention in the provided text of a formal climate change vulnerability assessment for billfish stocks										
N-F5 Diamondback Squid Fishery MP	Guided by the following principles: 1.4.1 Precautionary Approach	Collection of biological and socio-economic data uses research conducted in 2015 and 2017 to inform	Advisory committee will be established to advise the Ministry on management of DBS stocks, fishery and	Identifies the general habitat of the squid (deep water, 600m to 800m) - no spatial management	Cap fishing effort by limiting number of fishing licenses	Mandates a licensing system to track participation	n/a	n/a	Diversify the commercial DBS fishery sector	n/a	Promote awareness and understanding of the diamondback squid	



	1.4.2 Ecosystem-based management 1.4.4 Sustainable Development Does not explicitly mention or directly address climate change impacts, vulnerabilities, or specific adaptation measures	the plan and plans for continued sampling	fishery and trade, and give recommendations to the Ministry on research and sustainable development of this fishery.		Outlines the use of specific jigging gear Implement and enforce the restriction on the use of fishing methods or gears prohibited in the Act manage interactions with non-targeted species as per the Fisheries Act	Requires fishers to submit data via logbooks to ensure fishing is regulated					fishery and management interventions	
N-F6 Sea Cucumber Fishery MP	Guided by the following principles: 1.4.1 Precautionary Approach 1.4.2 Ecosystem-based management 1.4.4 Sustainable Development Does not explicitly mention or directly address climate change impacts, vulnerabilities, or specific adaptation measures	Prioritise evidence-based policymaking through the collection of biological, ecological, and socio-economic data on the sea cucumber fishery and associated resources Recognises MMRI's efforts to produce research on our sea cucumber resources and provide technical support for evidence-based policy making	Plan to be reviewed every 4 years - in consultation with committee and engagement with sea cucumber fishing communities, licence holders, processors, exporters, civil society and other stakeholders	Taking into consideration the habitats identified as crucial for feeding, shelter, spawning and recruitment, establish no-take zones for sea cucumbers to allow stocks to recover from fishing pressures Dynamic closures that would adapt to climate-induced shifts in species distribution or oceanographic conditions not present	Prohibits the highly impactful SCUBA gear for collection promotes minimum harvest/export size limits	Mandates documentation scheme requiring logbooks and purchase reports Mandates training for Customs officials in species identification and includes actions to establish inspection mechanisms at landing sites and airports	Aims to protect critical habitats for feeding and shelter by establishing no-take zones	Prohibit disposing of sea cucumber waste water into lagoons or near reef edges due to its toxicity	Sea cucumber aquaculture as a means of alternative livelihood, offering incentives, start-up support, and the establishment of grow-out farms for fishers	n/a	Increasing education and awareness amongst stakeholders and the general public, including school children, on the important role of sea cucumbers in the ecosystem	
N-F7 Grouper Fishery MP	Guided by the following principles: 1.4.1 Precautionary Approach	Prioritizes evidence-based policymaking through the collection of biological, ecological, and socio-economic data	Outlines actions with timeframes (immediate, short, medium, long-term) Not dynamic in relation to changing climate	Establishes and extends five protected grouper spawning aggregation sites for 10 years Not dynamic in relation to changing climate	States groupers are species that play critical roles in ensuring the health and resilience of ecosystems, and warns of	Mandates licensing, logbooks, purchase reports, and catch certification schemes	Includes objective is to "safeguard ecosystems" Aims to protect spawning aggregation sites and	Conflicts between the tourism sector and the reef associated fisheries sectors is noted Also notes fishers views about	Proposes and aims to facilitate grouper aquaculture (hatcheries and grow-out farms) to provide alternative livelihoods for fishers	n/a	Includes disseminating information on best practices in grouper fishery, including methods on safe release of groupers that	



	1.4.2 Ecosystem-based management 1.4.4 Sustainable Development Mentions climate change: "In the face of unprecedented climate change and its adverse effects, from ocean warming to coral bleaching to regime shifts compounded by large scale environmental change (IPCC 2019; Rogers et al. 2020), it has become imperative that measures are taken to reduce overexploitation and ensure the health of both grouper populations and their ecosystems."	Utilizes research from the MMRI and other partners to inform management decisions, such as legal sizes			cascading effects if extirpated Establishes minimum legal harvest and export sizes to protect juveniles and ensure reproductive capacity Includes gear restrictions Prohibits SCUBA gear and spearfishing at aggregation sites		and "ecologically significant areas for groupers" through coordination with the environment ministry and local councils	unsustainable development projects and natural disasters as prime reasons for habitat loss, resulting in decreased number of viable fishing grounds. Does not focus on broader stressors like general marine pollution or coastal development impacts	(diversification from reliance solely on wild capture)		do not fit within the stipulated size limits	
N-F8 Reef Fishery MP	Guided by the following principles: 1.4.1 Precautionary Approach 1.4.2 Ecosystem-based management 1.4.4 Sustainable Development Mentions climate change as a threat to the fishery: "impacts of the ongoing changes in the global climate, such as coral bleaching	Prioritizes evidence-based policymaking through data collection on biology and socio-economics calls for studies on population dynamics and spatio-temporal exploitation patterns Aims to gather geographical information on fishing grounds in order to study the spatio-temporal exploitation patterns in reef fishery	Built on the guiding principles of the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based management. It establishes an advisory committee and includes provisions for regular review every 3 years, which allows for adaptive measures in response to new information or changing	Includes designating and managing MPAs and ecologically significant areas for reef fish species with stakeholder agencies	Promotes "environmentally friendly gears" Apply harvest and/or export bans on specific reef fish species, deemed to be overexploited or subjected to overfishing Precautionary measures: - Establishing harvest and export size limits for reef	Revocation and conditions of the licenses will be set forth in the relevant regulations Emphasizes strengthening existing licensing mechanisms for commercial vessels, processors, and third-party traders Outlines a comprehensive data collection	Prohibiting the capture, processing or export of a specific species of reef fish Protection of keystone species (e.g. parrotfish, humphead wrasse)	Precautionary measures: Impose other restrictions on activities that may affect reef fish stocks.	Maximizing benefits and market opportunities for existing reef fishery products	Facilitate fishers' participation in existing benefit schemes that are targeted for fishers	Capacity building, including awareness programs for fishers, children, and the general public on the importance of reef fish	



	due to warming oceans, poses a direct threat to the reproduction of reef fish species"	nationwide size sampling and survey programme to assess population dynamics of reef fishery resources in the Maldives Licensing mechanism that supports the collection and management of fisheries data Does not mention a formal climate change vulnerability assessment for the reef fish stocks or the fishery sector	conditions Advisory committees with fishers, exporters, NGOs, multiple ministries and enforcement agencies to review science, recommend measures, and track implementation		fish species - Implementing a species catch / export quota; Does not include specific, targeted adaptation or mitigation actions related to projected climate impacts such as sea-level rise, ocean acidification, or changing fish distributions	system using logbooks, purchase reports, and the FIS "Keyolhu" Aims for an effective enforcement system involving VMS and various government agencies						
N-F9 Lobster Fishery MP	Guided by the following principles: 1.4.1 Precautionary Approach 1.4.2 Ecosystem-based management 1.4.4 Sustainable Development Does not explicitly mention or directly address climate change impacts, vulnerabilities, or specific adaptation measures	Prioritizes evidence-based policymaking through data collection Acknowledges and uses research efforts by MMRI Involves scientific authorities in its review processes	Precautionary Approach allows for additional measures to be taken if needed (e.g., area closures, quotas) mandates a review every 6 years	Includes a mechanism to "declare the closure of a specific area within Maldives and prohibiting the extraction of lobsters from the no-take zone"	Prohibits inherently damaging gear like SCUBA in the lobster fishery Implements a minimum harvest size limit Promotes the use of "environmentally friendly gears and techniques"	Documentation scheme requiring logbooks and purchase reports Actions to establish inspection mechanisms at landing sites and airports	An objective is to safeguard ecosystems and prevent irreparable damage to them Acknowledges lobster nursery habitats in rocks, coral rubble, and seagrass Allows for "no-take zones"	n/a	n/a	n/a	Increasing education and awareness amongst stakeholders and the general public, including school children, on the important role lobsters play in the ecosystem	



N-F10 Marine Aquarium Fishery MP	Guided by the following principles: 1.4.1 Precautionary Approach 1.4.2 Ecosystem-based management 1.4.4 Sustainable Development Acknowledges the "impacts of climate change" as a vulnerability	Prioritizes evidence-based policymaking through the collection of biological, ecological, and socio-economic data Uses research from the MMRI and other partners to inform management decisions, such as Total Allowable Export (TAE) limits based on vulnerability, resilience, and abundance	Includes strategies with timeframes and is reviewed every 6 years	Actions to "Coordinate with stakeholder agencies in designating and managing MPAs and ecologically significant areas for marine aquarium fish species"	Prohibits damaging gear like moxy nets TAE limits considering species vulnerability and ecological significance The importance of managing keystone species like cleaner wrasse and surgeonfish to maintain ecosystem function	MCS: including licensing, logbooks, purchase records, a catch certification scheme, and spot checks at facilities/ports	Actions to "Coordinate with stakeholder agencies in designating and managing MPAs and ecologically significant areas for marine aquarium fish species"	Manages fishing stressors through gear regulation and bycatch reduction Acknowledges vulnerability to "the impacts of climate change and natural disturbances"	Focuses on developing the commercial operations of the aquarium fishery and increasing trade competitiveness	n/a	Includes capacity building, including awareness programs for fishers, traders, processors, and the general public	
N-F11 Tuna Fishery MP	The plan is guided by principles of the Precautionary Approach, Ecosystem-Based Management, and Sustainable Development. It mandates alignment with regional and international measures. However, the document does not explicitly link to overarching national climate adaptation or mitigation plans	Prioritizes evidence-based policymaking using data collected by MMRI. Actions include nationwide biological studies, size sampling, and research on tuna species and associated resources. It aims to use this data for spatio-temporal exploitation patterns. Does not mandate the collection and analysis of climate-related data (sea surface temperature (SST), ocean pH (acidity levels), and oxygen minimum zone depths) alongside traditional fisheries data Lack of specific, in-depth climate science focused on the Indian Ocean region. This limits	Guiding principles emphasize preventing "irreparable damage" despite scientific uncertainty. The plan includes strategies and actions with specific timeframes (immediate, short-term, medium-term). However, it lacks explicit "trigger points" that automatically enact management changes based on climate indicators. Lacks explicit mechanisms for automatic, science-based adjustment to climate-driven	Primarily focuses on managing existing, traditional fishing zones and implementing IOTC measures: "Fishing in contravention of the established rules in any of the areas protected under the Fishery Management Plans made pursuant to the Fisheries Act. Pursuant to the General Fisheries Regulation (2020/R-75), with exception of pole-and-line fishing, fishing within 3 nautical miles around FADs. Conducting longline fishing within 100 (one hundred) miles from the archipelagic baseline of the	It addresses gear type impact well: one-by-one tuna fishing with minimal environmental and ecological impacts. This inherently sustainable gear is promoted in global arenas. Gear has minimal ecosystem impact, which inherently builds ecosystem resilience to climate stressors. Actions include formulating a FAD management plan and minimizing interactions	Mandates 100% VMS coverage for licensed vessels, aims to establish an e-observer program for 5% of the fleet through electronic monitoring, and improves data collection via logbooks and electronic mechanisms. This robust data is crucial for adaptive management, even if not explicitly linked to climate metrics within the plan	Specific national policies for the proactive protection of marine areas as climate refuges are not included within this MP Includes measures to be implemented to reduce by-catch and mortality of turtles and sharks in the longline fishery	Does not explicitly address non-fisheries stressors like general pollution or coastal development impacts on the marine environment	Includes diversification of value-added tuna products No diversification of fisheries included in this MP	Includes financial schemes to support fishers: a loan scheme for on-board refrigeration (RSW) and the "Fahi Hakatha" scheme to reduce fuel expenses. It aims to ensure equitable wealth distribution, providing a form of economic buffer. No financial safety nets for climate crises	Includes multiple actions for training programs on fish handling, quality inspection, and career guidance for youth. It also mandates training for managing risks during SCUBA diving for bait.	Maldives actively advocates for the inclusion of climate change impacts within the scientific research and management decision-making processes of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), recognizing that tuna are a shared, migratory resource. The Maldives co-sponsored



		the ability to predict future tuna movements accurately and inform specific, dynamic management decisions.	changes	of the Maldives; and in the Indian Ocean high seas south of 25 degrees South latitude in the IOTC area of competence. Within one nautical mile of a data buoy." It does not introduce or mention dynamic spatial management or a framework for flexible closures that would adapt to climate-induced shifts in fish distribution or ocean conditions.	with non-targeted species. "7.7 Measures to reduce the impacts of tuna fishing on the marine ecosystem and other marine resources: Vessels shall employ measures to prevent abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded shing gear (ALDFG) and report all incidents of ALDFG to the Ministry; No vessel shall discard of non-biodegradable waste such as plastic at sea; Reduce discard and waste of fisheries resources; All waste generated in fish processing facilities shall be managed responsibly" Catch-limits are decided through IOTC							the successful adoption of management procedures for skipjack tuna and swordfish, which are science-based, pre-agreed harvest control rules. These procedures are designed to provide a sustainable framework that can better adapt to stock changes, including those influenced by climate. Proposal for IOTC Resolution 25/01: Maldives and the Republic of Korea co- led a successful proposal at the 28th Session of the IOTC that resulted in the adoption of a specific resolution on climate change.
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N-F12 Gulper Shark Fishery MP	No explicit reference to climate change, ocean warming, acidification, sea-level rise, or related terms in the text Guided by the following principles: 1.4.1 Precautionary Approach 1.4.2 Ecosystem-based management 1.4.4 Sustainable Development Does not explicitly mention or directly address climate change impacts, vulnerabilities, or specific adaptation measures	Prioritizes evidence-based policymaking and best scientific evidence available Mandates data collection on types of sharks caught in shark fisheries, the quantity of each species caught, and the effort expended to catch them. This is done to identify changes in shark populations, estimate population sizes, and ensure that shark fishing is conducted at a sustainable level that does not negatively impact the population, socio-economic factors, and includes review by the Advisory Committee Field surveys to determine fishing grounds for gulper sharks No requirement to use climate projections or deep-ocean climate data	Set to be reviewed every 5 years, with immediate revisions possible if necessary (including powers to adjust season, catch/export limits, and close the fishery)	Aims to reduce the catch of common reef-dwelling sharks and other species that play a vital role in reef productivity in this fishery, and to minimize potential harm to these species, all shark fishing activities will be prohibited in lagoons and within the atolls. Such activities will only be permitted in areas outside the atolls Plan focuses on managing existing fishing grounds in deep water (200m-800m) and enforcing general EEZ boundaries	Catch and export limits to be determined through review of research A specific period, not exceeding seven (7) months each year, will be designated for shark fishing	Mandating the Installation and Maintenance of VLDs including licensing, logbooks, purchase reports, a catch certification scheme, and spot checks at facilities/ports through fisheries rangers Limits landing to 4 landing sites	Maintains general shark protections (except gulper shark) Managing interactions with non-targeted species and applying CITES regulations Prohibited to keep or store any non-shark species (bycatch) on board the vessel, tranship them to another vessel at sea, bring them to a landing facility or ashore for selling	n/a	n/a	n/a	Awareness programs for stakeholders, the general public, and training for customs officials and inspectors	
N-F13 Billfish Fishery Regulation	n/a	Mandates an Advisory Committee to advise the Ministry requirement for a scientific report on biology and socio-economic data	Guiding principles mandate the "precautionary approach" Set for review every 5 years for the committee term	n/a	Mandates size limits: sets a minimum size limit of 60cm prohibits several highly impactful types of fishing gear (purse seines, gillnets, trawl nets) as per the main Fisheries Act	MCS system including mandatory Vessel Locating Devices (VLD/VMS), a catch certification scheme via the Fisheries Information System ("Keyolhu"), and full cooperation expected during inspections	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Capacity building, including awareness programs for stakeholders and the general public, and training for customs officials and inspectors	



N-F14 Grouper Fishery Regulation	n/a	Mandates an Advisory Committee to advise the Ministry	Guiding principles mandate the "precautionary approach" Set for review every 4 years for the committee term	Five protected grouper spawning aggregation sites for 10 years	Sets minimum size limits for various grouper species Prohibits several highly impactful types of fishing gear (purse seines, gillnets, trawl nets) as per the main Fisheries Act	MCS system including mandatory Vessel Locating Devices (VLD/VMS), a catch certification scheme via the Fisheries Information System ("Keyolhu"), and designated Fisheries Rangers at landing ports	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Capacity building, including awareness programs for stakeholders and the general public, and training for customs officials and inspectors	
N-F15 Tuna Fishery Regulation	n/a	Advisory Committee to review reports on new data - does not include climate change reviews as their mandate	Committee and a management plan approval/review process, and allows the committee to provide recommendations to the minister based on reports and data from the fishery	n/a	n/a	Requiring license holders to submit log-books and use of VMS for location data Requires fishing vessels to support data collection through observers or EMS if Ministry requires	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
N-F16 Tuna Fishery Regulation - 1st Amendment	n/a						n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
N-F17 Tuna Fishery Regulation - 2nd Amendment	n/a					Outlines actions for circumstances where VLD is not working and Ministry is unable to view their GPS location	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
N-F18 Tuna Fishery Regulation - 3rd Amendment	n/a						Includes rules to release by-catch	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	



N-F19 Sea Cucumber Fishery Regulation	n/a	Mandates an Advisory Committee to advise the Ministry	ministry can adjust licence conditions and management arrangements via regulations 4 year review cycle			Licences for fishing, processing and export, backed by the generic licensing regulation Catch certificate requirement and associated procedures Strong documentation, packaging and labelling rules; and a requirement for a packing list for each shipment, checked by a fisheries or port official Exporters must maintain records; certain information must be reported to the ministry		Prohibit disposing of sea cucumber waste water into lagoons or near reef edges 300m from shoreline			n/a	
N-F20 Reef Fishery Regulation	n/a	Mandates an Advisory Committee to advise the Ministry	Committee responsibilities: periodic meetings, review of reports, and the ability to propose changes in management Mechanisms to adjust management through committee advice and licensing changes			Fisheries Information System ("Keyolhu") and electronic records for catch/export (catch certificates) licence holders to submit logbooks / fish reports and other information to the Ministry					n/a	
N-F21 Gulper Shark Fishery Regulation	n/a	Mandates an Advisory Committee to advise the Ministry - relies heavily on Committee and technical reports to inform management	mandates the precautionary approach set for regular review every five years	specific permanent zones restricted, such as areas within atolls, existing MPAs, a 3 nautical mile radius around FADs, and 1	prohibits several highly impactful types of fishing gear (purse seines, gillnets, trawl nets) as per	MCS system including mandatory Vessel Locating Devices (VLD/VMS), a catch certification	Prohibits retaining any protected species as bycatch				capacity building, including awareness programs for stakeholders and the general public,	



		decisions	committee can call special sessions for urgent matters	nautical mile around data buoys	the main Fisheries Act	scheme via the Fisheries Information System ("Keyolhu"), designated Fisheries Rangers at landing ports, and full cooperation expected from all licensees during inspections					and training for customs officials and inspectors	
N-F22 Aquaculture Regulation	Objective is the "sustainable development of aquaculture" while maintaining natural resources for present and future generations	Use of technical and scientific information: applications must provide detailed information on species, technology, facility, health status, etc., and the ministry can inspect, test, and require reports. Science-based, focusing on disease prevention and quarantine standards	The ministry has broad powers to grant, condition, suspend, or revoke licences, and to impose conditions on operations, including reporting, inspections, and compliance with additional standards	Includes site approval and licensing framework The ministry decides where farms can operate and under what conditions.	Controls what species can be cultured, how broodstock and seed are sourced (including imports), and imposes rules for disease prevention and control Allows for "experimental aquaculture" of non-native species under strict control	Sets out: -Licensing and registration requirements. -Obligations for record-keeping (e.g. production, stock movements, maybe mortalities). -Inspections by the ministry. -Reporting duties, especially around disease, imports/exports, and health status. - Sanctions/penalties for non-compliance.	n/a	n/a	Enables aquaculture as a new or supplementary livelihood, especially for coastal and fishing communities	n/a	n/a	
N-F23 Aquaculture Regulation - 1st Amendment	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Environmental screening (mandatory EIAs in some cases) Controls on non-native species and disease - lists and sets procedure for	Stricter conditions for getting an aquaculture licence	n/a	Restrictions on harmful chemicals and antibiotics	n/a	n/a	n/a	



					species that can be imported for farming, and only in tightly defined circumstances							
N-F24 Aquaculture Regulation - 2nd Amendment	n/a	n/a	n/a	Strengthens governance and procedures around site allocation and investment	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
N-F25 General Fisheries Regulation	n/a	Use of scientific information for management Refers to data collection through logbooks and research to inform sustainable management, including the use of FADs Mandates that the Ministry use information collected by Fisheries Observers for sharing with regional organizations (IOTC) and for informing management plans based on trustworthy and accurate information	n/a	Sets rules for when fishing in certain areas (island lagoons, resorts) Prohibits fishing activities other than pole-and-line within a 3-mile radius of FADs placed by the Ministry and restricts certain activities near buoys	Prohibition of damaging gear like purse seines, gillnets, and trawl nets (as per the Fisheries Act) Prohibits damaging reefs when using nets Bans obviously destructive practices (use of explosives, poisons and certain gear configurations that would damage reefs or lagoon bottoms)	MCS system including the appointment and responsibilities of Fisheries Observers and Rangers Observers are tasked with collecting comprehensive data on gear use, sales, bycatch, and fishing areas, which is shared with regional bodies	Addresses the stress of unregulated fishing and associated bycatch pressures Includes list of species not allowed to be fished with nets Includes a list of species protected under national law (including cetaceans, berried lobsters, lobsters smaller than 7.6cm, Giant clam, sharks, rays, corals, parrotfishes, Napoleon wrasse, sea turtles and their eggs, black coral, whale shark, triton conch)	Includes rule to refrain from doing anything that may cause harm to the environment Includes rules on waste disposal from vessels	The regulation focuses on managing and maximizing the existing fisheries industry. It does not propose strategies for diversifying livelihoods away from the capture fisheries sector	Provides for social protection and pension schemes for fishers under the main Fisheries Act	Capacity building, including awareness programs for stakeholders, training for customs officials and inspectors, and promoting education about best practices	
N-F26 General Fisheries Regulation - 1st Amendment	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	more restrictions including: Banned or restricted methods (e.g. certain gears,	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	



					destructive practices). -Banned locations / situations (e.g. in areas protected by other laws or regulations). -Links to the Fisheries Act Article 27 (protected species and areas)							
N-F27 General Fisheries Regulation - 2nd Amendment	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Clarifies how councils, the Ministry and local fishers connect The amendment leans more on council decisions + Ministry licensing acting together: Councils decide whether to allow local non-residents. The Ministry still controls formal licences and overall fisheries management.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
N-F28 General Fisheries Regulation - 3rd Amendment	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Changes the species list in Schedule 2 (protected / special-status species) - All species of Sharks except Gulper Sharks	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	



N-F29 Regulation on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Stronger control of IUU and improved MCS Requires coordinated inspections and documentation, and the option to deny services based on IUU evidence. Establishes information-sharing between Fisheries, Customs, Coast Guard, and foreign authorities / RFMOs. Uses external IUU lists to guide decisions	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
N-F30 Regulation on Administration of Penalties for Fisheries Related Offenses	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Creates a clear enforcement pathway from detecting an offence to a penalty. Sets up a specialised committee and process to review evidence and decide on penalties.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
N-F31 Regulation on Issuing Permits for the Establishment of the Fisheries Projects	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	



N-F32 Regulation on the General Process of Issuing Licenses and Permits for Fishing, Fishing related Activities and Aquaculture Activities	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Bars licensing if the vessel or operator appears on IUU lists or other illegal/unreported lists	n/a	EIA requirement If a project falls into a category that needs an EIA under Maldivian environmental law, the applicant must submit: an EIA report the formal EIA decision before a license can be granted.	n/a	n/a	n/a	
N-F33 Regulation on the Establishment of Floor Prices for Fish Purchase	n/a	Requires the Ministry to use economic and cost data	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
N-F34 The Regulation on the Conduction of Marine Scientific Research in the Maldives	n/a	Ministry must maintain a registry of authorised research and associated information, so research outputs can in principle feed into national knowledge systems - about research permitting rather than "use in decision-making"	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
N-F35 Licensing Regulation for Foreign Fishing Vessels for Purchase of Tuna	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	MCS for this piece of the supply chain Detailed documentation and bank/insurance guarantees are required, which creates a traceable, accountable system around tuna flows	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	



N-F36 Regulation on IUU Fisheries of Foreign Fishing Vessels	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Defines reporting obligations for foreign vessels and agents Use of VMS and other tracking to identify suspect IUU activity Sets procedures for information sharing between agencies (e.g. fisheries, coast guard, customs) and for forwarding cases to authorities	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
N-F37 Regulation on Use of Carbonmonoxide or Filtered Smoke in Fisheries Products and Export of Such Products	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
N-F38 Regulation Relating to the Licensing of Fishing-Related Activities	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Requiring VMS / tracking on carrier or collector vessels. Requiring reporting of landing/transshipment locations. Mandating licenses for transshipment, collectors, reefers, and ice plants. Allowing deployment of fisheries observers and	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	



						rangers on licensed operations						
N-F39 Regulation on Leasing and Renting Uninhabited Islands and for the Purpose of Fisheries and Agriculture	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Compliance with environmental law and restricting certain damaging activities, it reduces stressors (pollution, unplanned dredging, etc.)	n/a	n/a	n/a	
N-F40 Regulation on Fishermen's Registry	n/a	Will result in getting a socio-economic dataset	By tying licences and services to the registry and requiring updates, the Ministry can track who is active, where, and in what roles. That is useful for adaptive planning (e.g. if climate change pushes people out of fishing or into new areas)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Having a list of fishers gives government a basis to target diversification programmes later	n/a	n/a	





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