

# Oceania's Economic Crossroads: Climate, Fisheries, and Global Shifts in 2024

Oceania Economics · Answer Key · 8 Questions

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**1. Which phenomenon, exacerbated by global warming, is projected to increase in frequency and intensity, significantly altering fish distribution and potentially reducing catchability of yellowfin tuna in the Western Pacific, impacting local economies?**

- A) La Niña events
- B) El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) events**
- C) Monsoon cycles
- D) Indian Ocean Dipole events

**2. According to recent World Bank reports on Pacific economies, what is a key global headwind creating stronger economic pressures for island nations in 2026?**

- A) Decreasing global tourism demand
- B) Increased foreign direct investment
- C) Higher fuel and shipping costs**
- D) Reduced international trade tariffs

**3. Recent studies on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) indicate that, contrary to some criticisms, they can provide significant economic benefits. Which of the following is a documented benefit to local fisheries adjacent to MPAs?**

- A) Displacement of all fishing activities, leading to net economic loss
- B) Increased fish stocks and catch volumes due to larval 'spillover'**
- C) Reduced marine biodiversity requiring further conservation funding
- D) Complete cessation of local tourism due to restricted access

**4. The World Bank's June 2025 Pacific Economic Update highlights a significant opportunity to boost economic growth in the region. What is this primary opportunity?**

- A) Expanding fossil fuel extraction
- B) Boosting women's participation in the labor market**
- C) Increasing reliance on foreign aid for infrastructure
- D) Promoting traditional resource-intensive industries

**5. Ocean acidification, a consequence of increased CO2 absorption by the ocean, poses a threat to marine life. What is a direct economic impact of this phenomenon on foundational marine organisms like corals and certain plankton?**

- A) Enhanced formation of shells and skeletons, leading to larger fish stocks
- B) Reduced ability to form shells and skeletons, potentially leading to ecosystem collapse**
- C) Increased carbonate availability, benefiting all marine species equally
- D) Stimulated coral growth, boosting tourism revenue significantly

**6. Research indicates that climate change is causing tuna populations in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean to shift their distribution. What is a direct economic consequence of this shift for Pacific Island nations?**

- A) Increased national revenues from higher tuna catch rates
- B) Jeopardized national revenues due to tuna populations moving into international waters**
- C) Greater reliance on domestic fisheries, reducing export income
- D) Development of new, sustainable aquaculture methods for tuna

**7. According to IMF analyses, Pacific island countries are highly susceptible to natural disasters. What is the estimated average annual damage and loss caused by natural disasters in these countries as a percentage of GDP?**

- A) Less than 0.5%
- B) Approximately 2%**
- C) Between 5% and 7%
- D) Over 10%

**8. Recent scientific assessments highlight that sea surface temperatures in the South-West Pacific have been rising at a rate approximately how many times faster than the global average since 1980?**

- A) The same as the global average
- B) Twice as fast
- C) Three times faster**
- D) Five times faster