

IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS

ON SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN TIMOR-LESTE

Based on the **second round** of observations from Blue Ventures staff speaking to key informants in six communities in Timor-Leste in **July and August 2020**. Go to the first round of observations [here](#).



Marine tourism and associated conservation access fees **still low**

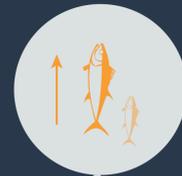


State of Emergency lifted on 27th June 2020

Note: **State of Emergency (SoE) re-enforced** on 6th August 2020



International borders remain closed so fishers cannot fish in Indonesian waters
- Local transport services resume and local consumers begin returning to markets



- In general, prices of fish return to normal. In some areas, fishers are overfishing to pay back debts incurred during the State of Emergency (SoE)
- Some communities continue to witness reduced fishing activity as people shift to agriculture (for the rice harvest season)



Community-based fisheries monitoring groups resume their activities



General physical distancing restrictions continue to be enforced, but not as strictly as during the State of Emergency



Fishing activity mostly back to normal
- Bad weather in some areas continues to disrupt fishing activity
- Middlemen have not yet started returning to communities