



15th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting
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Climate Change Initiatives

SPC FAME CC Oversight Committee

Membership

The primary membership of Oversight Committee for SPC-FAME Climate Change Initiatives are the members of the Pacific Community (SPC). The Committee may invite participants from a broad range of stakeholders including, but not limited to: Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Office of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNAO); the secretariats of the WCPFC and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), wider WCPFC members, fishing and seafood industry members, Environmental Non-Government Organisations (ENGOS), other Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) secretariats, and other expertise-based groups or individuals.

The Committee will be chaired by an SPC member on a rotational basis. SPC-FAME will provide secretarial and other executive services for the committee.

Context

Climate change represents a significant threat to the long-term sustainability of fisheries in the Pacific, including tuna. The predicted climate-driven changes in the relative biomass of tuna within the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of small island developing states (SIDS) and in high-seas areas, pose significant challenges to the effective long-term management of tuna fisheries, and to the vital contributions of tuna to national economies. Coastal fisheries are expected to decline in productivity over the coming decades creating critical shortfalls in the region's food security requirements; increased access to tuna for domestic consumption will be needed to fill the gap in fish supply.

A growing recognition of the climate threat to fisheries in the Pacific led to the adoption of a resolution on climate change at the 2019 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC; Resolution 2019-01) and the prioritisation of the need for urgent action to adapt fisheries to climate impacts by the region's Fisheries Ministers. This motion resolved, among other things, to support further science on the relationship between climate and fisheries, as well as to the development of conservation and management measures to build resilience on the potential impacts of climate change on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent on or associated with the target stocks as well as the impact dependent industries and livelihoods.

Pacific Island countries, regional agencies, and civil society groups are now co-developing a series of inter-related initiatives to support climate-resilient Pacific tuna fisheries. Ultimately, the creation of a climate-smart jurisdiction in the Pacific through a set of well-coordinated initiatives will support the long-term management of fisheries in the region. The need to establish an efficient and effective member-driven consultation and communication process to support alignment and coordination of the various workstreams related to climate change resilience in Pacific tuna fisheries has been identified as an important step to achieving this outcome.

Purpose

The Committee objective is to support alignment, collaboration, and coordination between active workstreams focused on driving climate resilience in Pacific fisheries. As such, a key objective is to identify and capitalize on synergies between initiatives that advance and leverage the latest climate science in order to develop and implement effective climate adaptive management policies.

Scope of work

The Committee will meet annually (or as required) remotely or in-person to provide relevant updates about the various workstreams being led by the members in order to identify and capitalize on synergies. Where synergies exist the Committee members will work together to facilitate efficiencies in consultation and communications. Committee members will act as focal points for communication and consultation within their agency/organisation. Responsibilities include:

- providing advice to SPC-FAME on national and regional climate change priorities as they relate to fisheries;
- providing advice to SPC-FAME on project implementation and SPC-FAME work plans;
- facilitating agency/organisational consultations that may be needed for particular projects;
- keeping national and organisational counterparts informed on activities and initiatives;
- facilitating appropriate national/organisation representation in regional consultations;
- coordinate activities that identify regional priorities; and
- review ToR's as required.