



# Seventh SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture

19–22 November 2024



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Information paper 2

## Progress update on RTMCFA6 outcomes and actions

SPC FAME

## Progress update on RTMCFA6 outcomes and actions

### *Purpose*

1. The purpose of this Information paper is to briefly outline progress made on implementing the outcomes and actions from the 6th Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA6), 13-17 November 2023, at SPC Headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia. The RTMCFA6 Outcomes and Actions Report is provided as [Background paper 1](#).

### *Background*

2. The RTMCFA6 was an in-person meeting and brought together coastal fisheries officers, scientists, technical experts and partners in the Pacific to share experiences and to discuss priority coastal fisheries and aquaculture technical needs, challenges and opportunities.
3. The meeting brought together over 96 participants (60 male, 36 female) from 23 SPC member countries and territories, as well as observers, CSOs, non-government organisations (NGOs) and other NSAs, with more than 35 registered online to stream the plenary proceedings.
4. The overarching theme of RTMCFA6 was to discuss and address some of the main technical issues affecting coastal fisheries and aquaculture in support of better evidence-based resource management, equitable access to resources and sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture and nearshore livelihoods.
5. The meeting focused on a range of areas, including assessing aquaculture feasibility, reviewing coastal fisheries, aquaculture and biosecurity legislation, identifying the challenges to aquaculture development, supporting the delivery of data for management through innovative technologies, developing coastal fisheries livelihoods, and understanding economics and socioeconomics in coastal fisheries and aquaculture.
6. RTMCFA6 was the third meeting to include the Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD), run over two days, where representatives from fishing communities, civil society organisations (CSOs) and other non-state actors (NSAs) provided input and shared their experiences on key issues and challenges, offering solutions on inclusivity, communication, and collaboration in community-driven coastal fisheries management.
7. The RTMCFA6 Outcomes and Actions Report outlined the points of consensus among delegates, that the meeting felt necessary to document in order to highlight priority issues and needs to be actioned by SPC members. It provided guidance to SPC FAME's Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme (CFAP). RTMCFA6 also identified key recommendations that were taken to the 16th Heads of Fisheries (HoF16) Meeting for consideration.
8. Both the RTMCFA6 Outcomes and Actions Report and the CBFD3 Outcomes and Actions Report were presented to the HoF16 Meeting in March 2023.
9. Prior to RTMCFA7, the nominated participants from the Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) were sent a presentation template for them to briefly identify their national coastal fisheries and aquaculture priorities, issues and challenges over the previous year (see Information paper 3). They were also requested to briefly outline any follow-up actions that their agency had taken over the last year related to the RTMCFA6 Outcomes and Actions Report. These are noted, where appropriate, in the following table.

## Progress since RTMCFA6 – Outcomes & Actions

| <i>RTMCFA6 Outcome or Action</i>  | <i>Progress since RTMCFA6</i>  |
|---|--|
| <b><i>Aquaculture: Assessing aquaculture feasibility: technical, economic and social factors</i></b>  |  |
| 18. The meeting <i>agreed</i> on the following actions to strengthen the capacity and capability of PICTs in conducting integrated feasibility studies in the context of sustainable aquaculture development: | <p>We recognise the considerable contributions to Pacific aquaculture of Dr Timothy Pickering, SPC FAME Principal Aquaculture Adviser, who sadly passed away in July 2024 after a valiant 10-month fight with illness.</p> <p>Development of a regional aquaculture database (see WP7).</p> <p>Vacant Aquaculture Officer position filled July 2024.</p>   |
| 18.a The meeting <i>encourages</i> member PICTs to identify, with the support of SPC FAME, their priority species that could be assessed in a feasibility study.  | <p><i>For members to action</i></p> <p><b>Cook Islands:</b> Milkfish – Report for production potential completed for Penrhyn Island.</p> <p>Bonefish Feasibility completed for Penrhyn island.</p> <p><b>Kiribati:</b> Marine survey/ stock assessment of sea cucumber.</p> <p>Pacific Regional Aquaculture Strategy development process, sub-regional and regional workshops, included consideration of priority species (see WP6).</p> <p>Aquaculture potential of Pacific short-fin eel (see IP 8).</p> <p>Initiated a pilot Bivalve Mollusc Quality Assurance Project; and continued working towards initiating a pearl meat and oyster Quality Assurance Programme project with key partners.</p> |
| 18.b The meeting <i>requests</i> SPC FAME to help train staff from member PICTs to conduct feasibility studies, taking into consideration lessons learned from past successes and failures.                   | <p>On-going technical advice for diversification into 1) mangrove oyster aquaculture in hatchery, grow-out production, food safety and marketing (Regional scope) and 2) pearl-meat oyster aquaculture in hatchery, grow-out production, food safety and marketing in Fiji.</p> <p>Fiji BAF engaged in the process to re-introduce freshwater prawn <i>Macrobrachium</i> brood stock from Malaysia.</p> <p>Support by SPC FAME re obtain approval from WorldFish to Fiji MoF for new Tilapia GIFT brood stock to be acquired.</p>  |
| 18.c The meeting <i>requests</i> that SPC FAME support PICTs in developing economic models at the national level for decision making.   | <p>Economic comparison of mangrove oyster longline grow-out system and traditional homemade baskets system (see IP7).</p> <p>Collaboration with Uni Technology Sydney and Fiji MoFF undertaking socioeconomic mapping of benefits for nature-based solutions.</p>  |

| <i>RTMCF A6 Outcome or Action</i>   | <i>Progress since RTMCF A6</i>   |
|---|--|
|   | Regional training on social and economic methods (Sep 2024).   |
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| <b><i>Aquaculture: Review of aquaculture and biosecurity legislation: findings and recommendations</i></b>  |  |
| 21. The meeting <i>agreed</i> on the following actions to improve national legal frameworks on aquatic biosecurity on both institutional and regulatory levels:   | Inception Workshop for Pacific Networked Diagnostics and Support (PaNDaS)  |
| 21.a The meeting <i>notes</i> the progress made in reviewing the current status of legal frameworks for aquatic biosecurity in the region, including the findings and recommendations provided in Working Paper 2 and Information Paper 7, and a draft policy brief on aquatic biosecurity legislation.   | <p><b>American Samoa:</b> Launch Marine Biosecurity component of the Territorial Biosecurity Framework (Transportation of Live Animals such as Giant Clams) and (Invasive Species). Successfully received 657 <i>Tridacna derasa</i> species from Samoa to re-stock Fagaalu Village Marine Protected Area.</p> <p><b>Kiribati:</b> Regional Biosecurity Virtual Workshops / Meeting.</p> <p>The mid-term evaluation of the Regional Framework on Aquatic Biosecurity undertaken in conjunction with the development of a Pacific Regional Aquaculture Strategy.</p> <p>Review of a comparative study on aquatic biosecurity legislation in 14 PICTs and preparation of draft summaries by country.</p>   |
| 21.b The meeting <i>requests</i> SPC FAME to provide legal and technical assistance with the preparation of specific regulations and adequate procedures in the following areas: listing and identification of aquatic diseases, aquatic disease surveillance, quarantine and import risk analysis for aquatic species. Other priority areas in need of regulation include aquatic disease zoning, domestic transfers of aquatic species and introductions of pests from ships (ballast waters and biofouling). | <p>Legal and technical assistance in general:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vanuatu legal gap analysis on coastal fisheries and aquaculture – draft submitted to VFD for discussion.</li> <li>Tuvalu legal gap analysis on coastal fisheries and aquaculture – draft prepared in consultation with TFD.</li> <li>Solomon Islands 7 Aquaculture Management Development Plans.</li> <li>Solomon Islands Seaweed Plan.</li> <li>Solomon Islands Tilapia Plan.</li> <li>SPC FAME Legislative Drafting Online Course cohort 2 CBA March 2024; cohort 3 launched July 2024.</li> <li>Completion of a comparative study on gender and human rights in coastal fisheries and aquaculture legislation in FSM, RMI and Palau.</li> <li>Support to World Organisation for Animal Health Proficiency of Veterinary Standards assessment for Tonga aquaculture and fisheries.</li> </ul> |
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| <b><i>Aquaculture: Increased effectiveness of mariculture hatchery systems</i></b>  |  |

| <i>RTMCA6 Outcome or Action</i>  | <i>Progress since RTMCA6</i>  |
|--|---|
| <p>24. The meeting <i>agreed</i> on the following actions to increase effectiveness of mariculture hatchery systems in the Pacific:</p>  | <p>Vacant Mariculture Specialist position filled July 2024.</p>   |
| <p>24.a The meeting <i>requests</i> SPC FAME to work with members and private sector organisations to address bottlenecks, risks or problems identified in the meeting which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Training of staff in mariculture hatchery methods and operations.</li> <li>ii. Economic analysis of small-scale mariculture hatcheries.</li> <li>iii. Advice for maintaining biosecurity, so the disease-free status of Pacific mariculture industries can be promoted.</li> <li>iv. Analysis of the high cost of freight for both the import of feed and import of seedstock.</li> <li>v. Advice concerning imported feed component substitution, as locally produced feed still requires imported ingredients.</li> <li>vi. Analysis of the cost of production for existing, compared to previously trialled domestic mariculture production.</li> <li>vii. Advice for species that require low capital investment.</li> <li>viii. Communication with overseas markets to understand their preferences for different types of mariculture products and volumes.</li> <li>ix. Strategies to improve access to laboratories to identify pathogens efficiently and promptly, as suitable laboratories are rare in the region.</li> <li>x. Assisting with management strategies for wild harvested mariculture species.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Guam:</b> In the PRAS subregional workshop, Guam representatives expressed the need to address the challenges of continued dependency on imported, mariculture seed stocks and feed and the potential for introduced aquaculture pathogens through inadequate biosecurity measures. Representative sought assistance from SPC for training of Guam personnel in hatchery methods and operations, onsite feed production using mostly locally available ingredients and low-tech equipment, and regional aquaculture biosecurity measures.</p> <p><b>Nouvelle-Calédonie:</b> recruitment of an aquaculture technician, doubling of North Province's aquaculture support staff. Signature of the province-state development contract for the modernization of the CCDTAM.</p> <p><b>Solomon Islands:</b> Construction of important infrastructure completed/ongoing, specialised equipment paid/shipment in process, feed and fish permit in process, PEQ facility certification in process, workshop held on digitalizing data for inshore fisheries.</p> <p>Initiatives committed for Enhancement of seaweed production of the existing commercial sites</p> <p>Sea Cucumber seed production is in its completion phase under the Japan OFCF support. Development of SOP's drafts and in process.</p> <p><b>Tonga:</b> Spawning program ongoing for 3 commodities: winged pearl oysters, giant clam and sea cucumber.</p> <p>Renovation of the Sopa Mariculture (hatchery) through the Tongafish Pathway Project, commenced beginning of 2024 and ongoing.</p> <p>Aquaculture Section working together with consultant (under the Tongafish Pathway Project) in to develop database for Aquaculture – in progress.</p> <p><b>Wallis et Futuna:</b> Adoption of a 2024-2028 start-up strategy, focusing in the short term on restoration invertebrates (giant clams, trochus) and income-generating invertebrates (sea cucumbers, rock oysters) leveraging a multi-species hatchery, and expanding in the medium term to include algae farming and shrimp farming.</p> |
| <p>24.b The meeting <i>requests</i> SPC FAME to support members in enhancing their capacity and capability of mariculture operation to:</p>  | <p>Integration of AI for analysis of photos associated with aquaculture production cycles (sea cucumbers, clams, oysters).</p>  |

| <i>RTMCF A6 Outcome or Action</i>  | <i>Progress since RTMCF A6</i>   |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. examine the viability of producing native species, such as some aquarium fish.</li> <li>ii. examine sea cucumber production as an iconic Pacific taxon that could be developed by the region.</li> <li>iii. communicate the development of mariculture hatchery methodologies to produce high value species for the region.</li> </ul> | <p>Aquaculture potential of Pacific short-fin eel (see IP 8).</p>  |
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| <b><i>Aquaculture: Addressing challenges to aquaculture development</i></b>  |  |
| <p>26. To address these challenges faced by governments and the aquaculture private sector, the meeting <i>agreed</i> on following actions:</p>  | <p><b>Fiji:</b> Biosecurity Framework – collaboration has assisted in prevention measures for disease and pathogen introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry has been working closely with the line agencies to better protect and promote disease free aquaculture.</li> <li>• Biosecurity Authority of Fiji in undertaking import risk assessment and inspection of all imported and export aquatic commodity.</li> <li>• South Pacific Secretariat in providing training and technical support.</li> </ul> <p><b>Polynésie Française:</b> Development by SPC of a digital tool that can help with the traceability of aquaculture products: Ikasavea. Establishment of a partnership with the aquaculture high school for the production and agroprocessing of macroalgae and <i>Chanos chanos</i>.</p> |
| <p>26.a The meeting <i>encourages</i> members to consider these challenges in developing or updating their aquaculture development plans.</p>  | <p><i>For members to action</i></p> <p><b>Cook Islands:</b> Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy update is in progress.</p> <p><b>Fiji:</b> Aquaculture Development plan – launch and implementation of aquaculture development plan in linkage to regional aquaculture development. ADP launched on 31/10/2024.</p> <p><b>Kiribati:</b> Kiribati Mariculture Sector Assessment funded by FAO.</p> <p><b>Tonga:</b> Review Aquaculture Management and Development Plan – completed.</p>  |
| <p>26.b The meeting <i>encourages</i> members to ensure laws and regulations enable aquaculture development, while ensuring environmental conservation (e.g. unfed and restorative aquaculture).</p>   | <p><i>For members to action</i></p> <p><b>Kiribati:</b> Endorsement of Aquaculture Regulation 2024. Endorsement of Sea Cucumber Regulation 2024.</p> <p><b>Nouvelle-Calédonie:</b> In 2024, the new development code for the North Province came into force (March 2024). The book, which supports the economic development of aquaculture, introduces new aquaculture species deemed to be priorities in the North</p>  |

| <i>RTMCF A6 Outcome or Action</i>   | <i>Progress since RTMCF A6</i>  |
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|   | Province, for which project developers will benefit from increased financial support (up to 80% investment assistance).   |
| 26.c The meeting <i>requests</i> SPC FAME to work with members and private sector organisations to undertake community surveys to determine areas that are suitable for aquaculture development to guide the establishment of appropriate aquaculture system.                             | <b>Kiribati:</b> On-going community pond survey in the outer islands in close collaboration with China Aid.   |
| 26.d The meeting <i>emphasises</i> that a regional mariculture hatchery would be of use to improve supply chain issues for both seedstock and engineering components, that currently are difficult to source in the region.   | No specific action.   |
| 26.e The meeting <i>emphasises</i> that a variety of species and commodities remain of interest to members, and the consolidation of species for regional production remains a nascent idea, but sea cucumbers may be one group that the region may associate with its regional identity. | No specific action.   |
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| <b>Coastal fisheries: How technology is supporting the delivery of better data for informed management of coastal fisheries</b>   |   |
| 29. The meeting <i>agreed</i> on the following actions to further enhance the development and scale-up the rollout of the tools:  |   |
| 29.a The meeting <i>requests</i> SPC FAME to continue with the support to members in coastal fisheries data collection, analysis and interpretation.  | <p><b>Nouvelle-Calédonie:</b> North Province – New fishing logbooks have been deployed with the support of the fisheries observatory to improve the accuracy of fishing data on a number of key species (sea cucumber, snapper, humphead parrot). The effectiveness of these logbooks will be measured in early 2025, when fishing authorizations are renewed.</p> <p><b>Polynésie Française:</b> Launch of a pilot data collection project in 5 islands to assess the state of stocks (training of samplers with TNC and use of the Fishkit tool)</p> <p>Carrying out a study to assess the consumption of lagoon products and the acquisition channels.</p> <p><b>Wallis et Futuna:</b> Adoption of a 2024-2028 policy that formalizes the Fisheries Observatory, the local fisheries committee of Wallis, and supports the Customary Marine Protected Area project.</p> <p>Provided capacity development in stock assessment and data analysis of data poor coastal fisheries for SPC members using Ikasavea (Jul 2024).</p> |

| <i>RTMCF A6 Outcome or Action</i>   | <i>Progress since RTMCF A6</i>   |
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|   | <p>Continued development and enhancement of the Ikasavea app, related databases and training materials.</p> <p>Incorporation of TAILS into Ikasavea (see IP12).</p> <p>Learning Exchange on Coastal Fisheries Monitoring and Ikasavea [Nadi, Fiji] Sep 2024</p> <p>Ikasavea/market/landings training: Fiji (July 2024); Cook Islands (Nov 2024); Marshall Islands (Nov 2024); PNG (Nov 2024)</p> <p>FSM (Kosrae) trochus survey training.</p>                                      |
| <p>29.b The meeting <i>requests</i> SPC FAME to scale-up and deliver support in using the e-data tools to enhance collection and management of coastal fisheries data.</p>  | <p><b>Solomon Islands:</b> With the support of SPC, MFMR currently in the stage of developing an Inshore Database.</p> <p>Continued development and enhancement of the Ikasavea app, related databases and training materials.</p> <p>Incorporation of TAILS into Ikasavea (see IP12).</p> <p>Provided capacity development for scientific authorities or equivalent, in conducting CITES non-detriment findings using the SPC's online non-detriment finding tool (Jun 2024).</p> |
| <p>29.c The meeting <i>requests</i> SPC FAME to consider facilitating knowledge sharing among countries using fisheries management tools, such as Ikasavea. This exchange should focus on challenges, successes, complementarity and compatibility of different tools, and best practices to enhance collective learning.</p> | <p><b>Cook Islands:</b> Ikasavea training workshop happening this week, 12 MMR staff involved.</p> <p><b>Fiji:</b> Adoption of Ikasavea application.</p> <p><b>Solomon Islands:</b> With the support of SPC there have been series of trainings conducted on Ikasavea, data analysis and NDC in last year and this year.</p>   |
| <p>29.d The meeting <i>recognises</i> the need to continually improve monitoring and data availability to assess and manage coastal fisheries in the region.</p>  | <p><b>Kiribati:</b> Trial and installation of Pelagic tracking system on fishing boats to monitor fishing trips</p>  |
| <p>29.e The meeting <i>requests</i> further support from SPC FAME in the areas of data analysis and interpretation using data collected through Ikasavea, and further information on analytical tools as mentioned during the session.</p>  | <p>Continued development and enhancement of the Ikasavea app, related databases and training materials.</p> <p>Incorporation of TAILS into Ikasavea (see IP12).</p> <p>Ongoing training on data collection, analysis and interpretation as requested by PICTs.</p> <p>QGIS Training for Kiribati (Mar 2024).</p>   |
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| <p><b>Coastal fisheries: Management – Reviewing and updating legislation and policy</b></p>   |  |
| <p>32. The meeting <i>agreed</i> on the following actions:</p>  | <p><b>Nouvelle-Calédonie:</b> work in progress to develop a fisheries control doctrine to enhance the performance of fisheries enforcement missions by provincial agents/ implementation of regulatory changes validated</p>   |



| RTMCA6 Outcome or Action  | Progress since RTMCA6   |
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|   | collegially by the fisheries regulation monitoring committee.   |
| <p>32.a The meeting <i>requests</i> SPC FAME to continue supporting members in reviewing and updating coastal fisheries policy and legislation, through provision of advice and drafting support, but also through regional and specific in-country trainings, short-term attachments to SPC and shared internships between SPC and PICTs fisheries agencies.</p> | <p><b>American Samoa:</b> Initiated the update of the Fishery Regulations.</p> <p><b>Fiji:</b> Launching of National Fisheries Policy on 09/10/2024.</p> <p><b>Kiribati:</b> Development and endorsement of the new sea cucumber regulations.</p> <p>Development of species management plans in close collaboration with MPI and SPC.</p> <p><b>Polynésie Française:</b> Service for the development of the coastal and lagoon fishing master plan - in progress. Target : end of 2025.</p> <p>SPC FAME (see IP6): Three comprehensive legislative gap analyses were prepared for three PICTs and eight draft pieces of legislation dealing with coastal fisheries and aquaculture were initiated, reviewed or progressed across eight PICTs. Support was also provided for the development of legislation to regulate coastal fisheries activities at the subnational level in one PICT.</p> <p>Regional trainings on legal drafting for coastal fisheries have been delivered consistently, in collaboration with the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco (UC Law SF), with the Legislative Drafting Online Course: Coastal Fisheries running annually since 2022. Cohort 2 of this virtual course opened to fisheries and legal officers across the Pacific in August 2023, culminating in a face-to-face competency-based assessment (CBA) workshop in late February 2024. At the CBA workshop, certificates of completion of the course were awarded to 17 participants (12 female, 5 male) from 10 PICTs. Cohort 3 started in August 2024 and is currently ongoing, with 23 participants (18 female, 5 male) from six PICTs.</p> <p>New international training opportunities are under consideration, particularly for CBA workshop alumni who may be eligible for the International Legislative Drafting Institute, offered in partnership with Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana.</p> <p>Four short-term attachments from two PICTs were facilitated, including two officials attached to the New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) working on coastal fisheries policy and planning, and two legal attachments with SPC in Suva working the training programme for the delivery of a national legal training workshop.</p> |

| <i>RTMCF7A Outcome or Action</i>  | <i>Progress since RTMCF7A</i>  |
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| 32.b The meeting <i>notes</i> the launch of the SPC <i>Legal guide to enabling coastal fisheries co-management in the Pacific</i> and the availability of law and policy resources on the SPC REEFLEX database.   | SPC REEFLEX continually updated.<br><br><i>Legal guide to enabling and strengthening coastal fisheries co-management in the Pacific</i> . Noumea, New Caledonia: Pacific Community. 212 p.<br><a href="https://www.spc.int/digitallibrary/get/s5b7j">https://www.spc.int/digitallibrary/get/s5b7j</a>  |
| 32.c The meeting <i>recommends</i> that SPC FAME develop a toolbox for training on coastal fisheries law and policy for PICTs fisheries agencies, covering all relevant topics and bringing together fisheries and legal experts.   | (See IP6) SPC FAME has committed to developing a comprehensive training toolbox on coastal fisheries laws and policy for PICTs fisheries agencies. To initiate this integrated approach, a legal and policy component has been incorporated into various training workshops to strengthen collaboration and expand opportunities for staff in PICTs' fisheries agencies. Legal and policy sessions were delivered during a regional training workshop on the scaling up of community-based fisheries management (CBFM), with 20 participants (9 female, 11 male) from 10 PICTs, and during USP Certificate IV in Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Compliance, focusing on monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement (MCSE), with 24 participants (12 female, 12 male) from 8 PICTs. |
| 32.d The meeting <i>requests</i> SPC FAME to consider offering policy and legal trainings in English and French to allow more effective participation by all SPC members.   | The SPC FAME CFAP Legal team has initiated and delivered a range of trainings that are outlined in Information paper 6.  |
| 32.e The meeting <i>requests</i> SPC to explore the opportunity of a dedicated workshop on the development and review of fisheries management plans.  | (See IP6) Three in-country workshops were delivered on policy and legislation for coastal fisheries and aquaculture management: two in-country workshops on fisheries management planning were held, covering a total of 21 participants with balanced gender representation (9 female, 12 male); one national legal training workshop was delivered, in collaboration with UC Law SF, with 25 participants (15 female, 10 male) from 2 PICTs.   |
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| <b><i>Coastal fisheries: Livelihoods – diversification and food security</i></b>  |  |
| 36. The meeting <i>agreed</i> on the following actions:   |  |
| 36.a The meeting <i>requests</i> SPC FAME to continue supporting members with specific focus on all aspects of anchored fish aggregating devices (FADs), nearshore fishing techniques for tuna and associated species, including alternative underutilised resources (such as flying fish and squid), and for postharvest and value adding training in underutilised resources and for tuna and associated species. | Fisheries development training, including aFADs: Tonga (Sep-Oct 2024); Samoa (Nov 2024).<br><br>Diamondback and Loligo squid trials – Wallis and Futuna (Dec 2023).  |
| 36.b The meeting <i>requests</i> SPC FAME to develop methodologies for countries and territories to develop their FAD programmes and management   | On-going support provided to PICTs on anchored FADs request.   |

| <i>RTMCA6 Outcome or Action</i>   | <i>Progress since RTMCA6</i>  |
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| plans and provide support in the development of FAD management plans.   | Contributed to the preparation of the Green Climate Fund Regional Tuna Project (see IP5).   |
| 36.c The meeting <i>recognises</i> the significance of diversifying livelihoods to ensure food security and economic stability, <i>noting</i> the limited capacity of SPC FAME to provide fisheries development, livelihoods, social and economic support.  | <p><b>Nouvelle-Calédonie:</b> Adding value to and diversifying seafood products. Diversification of fishing techniques.</p> <p>Supporting fishermen in bringing their boats up to standard.</p> <p>In 2024, the new development code for the North Province came into force (March 2024). The book on the economic development of the fishing sector includes new provisions that strengthen financial support for projects to promote seafood products from professional fishing.</p> <p><b>Tonga:</b> Squid fish training to by SPC to both community and fisheries officers.</p> |
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| <b><i>Coastal fisheries: Livelihoods – Anchored FADs and nearshore small-scale fisheries</i></b>  |   |
| 39. The meeting <i>agreed</i> on the following actions:   |   |
| 39.a The meeting <i>notes</i> the importance of anchored FAD initiatives as a strategy in the development of nearshore small-scale fisheries in the region and the accompanied challenges that are needed to be addressed such as inadequate data collection, lack of management plans, limited maintenance, absence of adequate documentation on FAD longevity, depredation, competition between sectors, environmental impacts, catches, performance, and overall usefulness. | <b>Guam:</b> DAWR Fisheries section has deployed 2 new FAD systems to test the feasibility of a smaller easier to deploy FAD System. The cost of deploying FADS on Guam has nearly tripled in the last five years so exploring alternatives to reduce cost or maximise funding. The second component of this is seeking to purchase a dedicated Vessel specifically designed for deploying FADs.  |
| 39.b The meeting <i>requests</i> SPC FAME to further investigate biodegradable materials for FAD construction, noting that some components of anchored FADs cannot currently be made from biodegradable materials.  | SPC FAME CFAP and OFP are collaborating on biodegradable FADs, initially focused on drifting FADs (OFP).  |
| 39.c The meeting <i>acknowledges</i> the continued support of regional organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and donor partners that has led to significant programmes and substantial funding being allocated to support FAD development in the region.  | No actions.   |
| 39.d The meeting <i>requests</i> SPC FAME to investigate and consider organising a regional technical workshop on FADs every 18 months or every 2 years to share lessons and experiences amongst PICTs and ensure that best practice prevails.  | Resources being sought to action this, see the preparation of the Green Climate Fund Regional Tuna Project (see IP5).   |
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| <b><i>Cross-cutting: Coastal fisheries and aquaculture climate change vulnerability</i></b>   |   |

| <i>RTMCFA6 Outcome or Action</i>  | <i>Progress since RTMCFA6</i>   |
|---|---|
| 42. The meeting <i>encourages</i> members to include climate change consideration in coastal fisheries management plans and to look into climate change impacts specific to species or groups of species supporting a fishery.  | <i>For members to action</i>  |
| <b><i>Cross-cutting: Value of understanding economics and socioeconomics in coastal fisheries and aquaculture</i></b>   |   |
| 44. The meeting <i>agreed</i> on the following actions to enhance understanding of social aspects and economics in coastal fisheries and aquaculture management:  |   |
| 44.a The meeting <i>recognises</i> the importance of social and economic data to inform and guide decisions in coastal fisheries and aquaculture.   | <b>Polynésie Française:</b> Training of a fisheries agent and an aquaculture agent on the conduct of socio-economic studies (SPC, September 2024); 3 fishing agents use of R for processing existing data, (TNC, 2024), 1 agent for NDF sea cucumbers (SPC, 2024), 3 Ikasavea agents (SPC, 2024). |
| 44.b The meeting <i>recognises</i> the creation of the Socioeconomic Community of Practice in the Pacific region.   | Introductory training held on social and economic methods, development, and strengthening of the SECoP (Socioeconomic Community of Practice) (Sep 2024)(see WP9 and IP10).  |
| 44.c The meeting <i>requests</i> SPC FAME to support member PICTs on cost-benefit analysis and to facilitate the collection of data, especially through application-based tools.  | Participated in a meeting on the economic prospects of the blue shrimp sector in New Caledonia (Apr 2024)   |
| 44.d The meeting <i>requests</i> SPC FAME to provide trainings on business management and on economic and social data analyses and interpretation.  | Socioeconomic workshop in Kiribati.<br><br>Socioeconomic survey training for Samoa and American Samoa (Mar-Apr 2024).   |
| <b><i>3<sup>rd</sup> Community-based Fisheries Dialogue report to RTMCFA6</i></b>   |   |
| 48.a The Cbfd3 country and territory participants are requested to send SPC the full contact details of the national focal point (organisation / network).  | Completed.  |
| 49. Cbfd3 recommendations to SPC Heads of Fisheries:  | The Cbfd3 Convenor presented a report on the outcomes and actions from Cbfd3 to HoF16. All Cbfd3 recommendations were transmitted to HoF16 (see Recommendations to HoF16 below).  |
| 49.a The Cbfd3 <i>acknowledges</i> the efforts by national fisheries agencies to increase support and resourcing to community-based fisheries and <i>requests</i> HoF16 to provide an update on progress since this request was endorsed at HoF15 and RFMM4 and on plans for sustained support. |   |

| <i>RTMCA6 Outcome or Action</i>  | <i>Progress since RTMCA6</i> |
|--|------------------------------|
| 49.b The CBF3 <i>requests</i> HoF16 to enable and implement meaningful participation of fishers in developing and reviewing national regulations and rules. This should take into consideration the fishers' need to fish for income and food.   |                              |
| 49.c The CBF3 <i>requests</i> HoF16 to enable recognition of community level governance systems in national legal frameworks where appropriate.  |                              |
| 49.d The CBF3 <i>acknowledges</i> progress by member country governments on establishing dialogue with CSO and NSA groups. CBF3 requests HoF16 to encourage national agencies to develop and/or foster strong, mutually beneficial partnerships with civil society groups and networks, towards strengthening CBFM nationally. |                              |

## Recommendations to the 16<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries meeting from RTMCFA6

| <i>Recommendations to HoF16</i>  | <i>16<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries Report</i>  |
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| <b><i>Outcomes from 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Community-based Fisheries Dialogue</i></b>   |   |
| <p>51. The meeting provided SPC with an opportunity to update its members on a range of priority activities implemented in support of management of sustainable coastal fisheries and aquaculture in PICTs. Members were invited to discuss how to improve SPC's assistance in these broad areas and <i>agreed</i> to make the following recommendations to the 16<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries for SPC members to consider and action:</p>   | <p>16<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries:</p> <p>20.a <i>Noted</i> with appreciation the Outcomes and Actions Report from the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA6), provided as Background Paper 2a and outlined in Working Paper 8.</p> <p>20.f <i>Recommended</i> that SPC FAME partner with relevant existing activities underway within the region and related regional analyses in the delivery of HoF16's decisions on the RTMCFA6 recommendations detailed above, where appropriate, and again <i>urged</i> SPC FAME to talk with donors and partners to enable the delivery of this work.</p> <p>20.h <i>Noted</i> that the next RTMCFA meeting (November 2024) is scheduled to be held via video conference, due to budget limitations, however the 4<sup>th</sup> Cbfd meeting will be held in person (November 2024).</p> |
| <b><i>Aquaculture: Review of aquaculture and biosecurity legislation: findings and recommendations</i></b>   |   |
| <p>22(a) The meeting <i>requests</i> HoF16 to encourage member PICTs to clarify roles and responsibilities of competent authorities and government services and to improve decision-making processes, including through memoranda of understanding and delegation of authority, based on actual institutional capacity for management and surveillance of aquatic species.</p> <p>22(b) The meeting <i>requests</i> HoF16 to discuss and action the development of a legal study on ballast waters and biofouling to prevent and mitigate negative impacts on marine ecosystems and aquaculture, involving collaboration between SPC FAME and the Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Divisions and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.</p> | <p>16<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries:</p> <p>20.a <i>Noted</i> with appreciation the Outcomes and Actions Report from the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA6), provided as Background Paper 2a and outlined in Working Paper 8.</p> <p>20.c <i>Considered and endorsed</i> RTMCFA6 recommendations to HoF16 <b>22(a), 22(b)</b>...</p>  |
| <b><i>Aquaculture: Addressing challenges to aquaculture development</i></b>  |   |
| <p>27(a) The meeting <i>requests</i> HOF16 to discuss and endorse the development of a preliminary</p>   | <p>16<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries:</p>  |

| <i>Recommendations to HoF16</i>   | <i>16<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries Report</i>  |
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| <p>feasibility study to design and develop a budget for a regional mariculture hatchery, principally to provide training for their managers and technicians to support the development of mariculture production in their own facilities.</p> <p>27(b) The meeting <i>requests</i> HOF16 to consider undertaking a study for the development of model small-scale hatcheries adapted to the context of PICTs.</p>   | <p>20.a <i>Noted</i> with appreciation the Outcomes and Actions Report from the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCF6), provided as Background Paper 2a and outlined in Working Paper 8.</p> <p>20.d <i>Endorsed</i> RTMCF6 recommendation <b>27(a)</b> for a feasibility study for a regional mariculture hatchery, as detailed in the RTMCF6 Outcomes and Actions report, and <i>recommended</i> that SPC FAME consider the utility of partnering with existing national hatcheries within that study.</p> <p>20.c <i>Considered and endorsed</i> RTMCF6 recommendations to HoF16 ...<b>27(b)</b>...</p> |
| <p><b><i>Coastal Fisheries: How technology is supporting the delivery of better data for informed management of coastal fisheries</i></b></p>   |   |
| <p>30(a) The meeting <i>requests</i> HOF16 to <i>task</i> SPC FAME to develop and implement annual Coastal Fisheries Stock Assessment Workshops (CSAW) and Coastal Fisheries Data Workshops (CFDW) to address capacity and capability gaps in data collection, analysis, utilisation and reporting in the region.</p> <p>30(b) The meeting <i>requests</i> HOF16 to <i>task</i> SPC FAME to convene a peer-to-peer exchange that aims to facilitate knowledge sharing, share experiences and lessons among PICTs in data collection, analysis, and utilisation.</p>   | <p>16<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries:</p> <p>20.a <i>Noted</i> with appreciation the Outcomes and Actions Report from the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCF6), provided as Background Paper 2a and outlined in Working Paper 8.</p> <p>20.c <i>Considered and endorsed</i> RTMCF6 recommendations to HoF16 ... <b>30(a), 30(b)</b>...</p>  |
| <p><b><i>Coastal Fisheries: Management – Reviewing and updating legislation and policy</i></b></p>  |   |
| <p>33(a) The meeting <i>requests</i> HoF16 to encourage members to identify dedicated staff within their fisheries agencies to manage each formal request for SPC FAME assistance on coastal fisheries policy or legislation. These appointed representatives will serve as the primary focal point of contact with SPC FAME on coastal fisheries policy or legislation and will benefit from tailored training and mentorship opportunities, including short-term attachment for hands-on experience.</p> <p>33(b) The meeting <i>requests</i> HoF16 to encourage members to recruit an in-house lawyer for each PICT fisheries agency who would work jointly with technical staff to promote the timely development and adoption of policy and legislation for coastal fisheries and aquaculture management.</p> <p>33(c) The meeting <i>requests</i> HoF16 to promote the inclusion of law and policy modules in fisheries</p> | <p>16<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries:</p> <p>20.a <i>Noted</i> with appreciation the Outcomes and Actions Report from the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCF6), provided as Background Paper 2a and outlined in Working Paper 8.</p> <p>20.c <i>Considered and endorsed</i> RTMCF6 recommendations to HoF16 ...<b>33(a), 33(b), 33(c)</b>...</p>  |

| <i>Recommendations to HoF16</i>   | <i>16<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries Report</i>   |
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| management courses and programmes offered by universities and training centres in the region.   |  |
|   |  |
| <b><i>Coastal Fisheries: Livelihoods – diversification and food security</i></b>  |  |
| <p>37(a) The meeting <i>requests</i> HoF16 to encourage SPC FAME to explore funding opportunities to support capacity enhancement in nearshore fisheries development and livelihoods diversification, especially for post-harvest and value-adding support.</p> <p>37(b) The meeting <i>requests</i> HoF16 to prioritise the collection of essential data to facilitate comprehensive feasibility and cost-benefit analysis (CBA) for livelihood diversification initiatives.</p> | <p>16<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries:</p> <p>20.a <i>Noted</i> with appreciation the Outcomes and Actions Report from the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCF A6), provided as Background Paper 2a and outlined in Working Paper 8.</p> <p>20.c <i>Considered</i> and <i>endorsed</i> RTMCF A6 recommendations to HoF16 ...<b>37(a), 37(b)</b>...</p>   |
|   |  |
| <b><i>Coastal Fisheries: Livelihoods – Anchored FADs and nearshore small-scale fisheries</i></b>  |  |
| <p>40(a) The meeting <i>requests</i> HoF16 to consider establishing and securing consistent national funding sources to complement external support to ensure the long-term sustainability of national FAD programmes and their benefits to fishers and coastal communities.</p>  | <p>16<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries:</p> <p>20.a <i>Noted</i> with appreciation the Outcomes and Actions Report from the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCF A6), provided as Background Paper 2a and outlined in Working Paper 8.</p> <p>20.e <i>Endorsed</i> RTMCF A6 recommendation <b>40(a)</b>, however recognised the current funding limitations for fisheries development and fish aggregating device (FAD) related work, and as such <i>directed</i> SPC FAME to seek funding support from donors and partners to enable the delivery of this work.</p> |
|   |  |
| <b><i>Cross-cutting: Value of understanding economics and socioeconomics in coastal fisheries and aquaculture</i></b>   |  |
| <p>45(a) The meeting <i>requests</i> HoF16 to encourage members to institutionalise socioeconomics in national fisheries and aquaculture plans and strategies and to include fisheries-related socio-economic data in their national census and household income and expenditure surveys.</p>   | <p>16<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries:</p> <p>20.a <i>Noted</i> with appreciation the Outcomes and Actions Report from the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCF A6), provided as Background Paper 2a and outlined in Working Paper 8.</p> <p>20.c <i>Considered</i> and <i>endorsed</i> RTMCF A6 recommendations to HoF16 ...<b>45(a)</b> in the context of the ongoing prioritisation exercise for member requests to SPC FAME.</p>  |
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| <i>Recommendations to HoF16</i>  | <i>16<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries Report</i>   |
|--|--|
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Community-based Fisheries Dialogue report to RTMCFR6</b>   |  |
| <p>49(a) The Cbfd3 <i>acknowledges</i> the efforts by national fisheries agencies to increase support and resourcing to community-based fisheries and <i>requests</i> HoF16 to provide an update on progress since this request was endorsed at HoF15 and RFMM4 and on plans for sustained support.</p> <p>49(b) The Cbfd3 <i>requests</i> HoF16 to enable and implement meaningful participation of fishers in developing and reviewing national regulations and rules. This should take into consideration the fishers’ need to fish for income and food.</p> <p>49(c) The Cbfd3 <i>requests</i> HoF16 to enable recognition of community level governance systems in national legal frameworks where appropriate.</p> <p>49(d) The Cbfd3 <i>acknowledges</i> progress by member country governments on establishing dialogue with CSO and NSA groups. Cbfd3 <i>requests</i> HoF16 to encourage national agencies to develop and/or foster strong, mutually beneficial partnerships with civil society groups and networks, towards strengthening CBFM nationally.</p> | <p>16<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries:</p> <p>20.b <i>Noted</i> with appreciation the Outcomes and Actions Report from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (Cbfd3), provided as Background Paper 2b and outlined in Working Paper 8.</p> <p>20.g <i>Considered</i> and <i>endorsed</i> Cbfd3 recommendations to HoF16 <b>49(a), 49(b), 49(c) and 49(d)</b>, and <i>encouraged</i> the Cbfd3 Convenor and Cbfd Advisory Group to review these recommendations for clarity with regard to process.</p> |