

Coastal Fisheries Working Group

Membership, roles and responsibilities of the CFWG¹

Coastal Fisheries Working Group (CFWG) Purpose

The Pacific Island Forum Leaders' tasked SPC to "coordinate with National Fisheries Agencies, CROP agencies and regional and national community groups, to strengthen support and resourcing for coastal fisheries management". The leaders noted "links to communities, food security, health issues and in particular non-communicable diseases. Leaders also noted the need to ensure eco-system integrity to address issues such as ciguatera outbreaks and to sustainably manage Beche-de-Mer".

The SPC's guidance on the way forward is contained in the 'New Song for coastal fisheries – pathways to change: The Noumea strategy' 2015 and the 'Future of Fisheries: A Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries 2015' (FoF) which was endorsed by Pacific Island Forum Leaders in 2015. Other national and subregional policy on coastal fisheries is also of relevance including the "MSG roadmap for inshore fisheries management and sustainable development 2015-2024",

The Coastal Fisheries Working Group (CFWG) has been formed to bring together a small standalone stakeholder group of representatives of communities, national and regional Agencies and Institutions to look at the current and potential coastal fisheries initiatives so as to ensure an adequate level of support, resources and services are directed towards assisting national fisheries agencies and local communities implement management of their coastal fisheries resources.

Structure of the CFWG

The proposed structure is:

- **Chaired by:** SPC
- **Answers to:** PI Forum Leaders via PIFS
- **Reports to:** Ultimately to PI Forum Leaders²:
 - An extended report and draft leaders' brief will be submitted to Forum Fisheries Committee and Ministers. Comments will be considered in preparing the final brief for submission to PI Leaders via the PIFS/SSCR.
 - Biannual progress reports will be submitted to Heads of Fisheries.
 - Other regional and sub regional meetings will be provided with brief reports including but not limited to: Micronesian Chief Executive Summit, Micronesian Presidential Summit, Melanesian Spearhead Group and Polynesian Leaders Group.
 - These arrangements will be reviewed within a year
- **Exercises equal rights/rules of engagement for members:** equal rights / non-discriminating against CSOs or communities. It is acknowledged that agencies will individually be accountable to their own governance but inclusiveness and consensus are operating principles.
- **Based on the New Song guiding principles:** The New Song for Coastal Fisheries pathways to change policy and strategy should be used for guidance in decision-making and in particular the goals of empowered communities, resilience and coastal livelihoods.
- **Exercises special attention to the representation of coastal communities, gender and youth:** The importance of adequate representation of coastal fishing and rights holding communities has been highlighted for particular attention.

¹ Developed after MSWG18, HoF10, FFC102, FFC103 and MWSG19 and reviewed at CFWG1 and 2.

² If there is a divergence of opinion on key issues this may be reported as such to leaders

CFWG Terms of Reference

- Bring together regional initiatives and stakeholders with a shared vision of coastal fisheries management aimed at building a strong coordinated approach and implementation at the national and sub-national levels;
- Discuss and advocate the role and importance of coastal fisheries in regards to the long-term sustainability of island societies, and the basis for their food security and livelihoods;
- Provide regional guidance and support to SPC to continue to build momentum and implementation of the New Song;
- Review the New Song Indicators;
- Peer-review the annual Coastal Fisheries Report Card;
- Support and develop national coastal fishing community representative processes;
- Develop, improve, and identify priorities, strengths, weaknesses and gaps in implementation plans and guide relevant regional partners in efforts to develop joint funding proposals;
- Addressing a notable challenge in current planning and proposal development in terms of national and in particular community involvement, and;
- Discuss the Tuvalu proposal for reviving a Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries – focusing on science, management, and capacity building aspects.

Proposed CFWG Membership

Mindful of the need to maintain a manageable size the membership proposed to be limited as far as possible to representatives directly working towards community and coastal fisheries management under the following categories:

- CROP Agencies (SPC, PIFS, other relevant agencies on a case by case basis) - 3 Participants
- Regional civil society representatives of community fishers, gender and youth – 2 Participants. Subject to performance, one position will be held, subject to ongoing review, by the LMMA Network and the second position will be identified through the PIFS civil society engagement process bearing in mind the representation of non-LMMA countries, gender and youth.
- Community fisher representatives (Melanesia, Polynesia & Micronesia) – three participants (rotating at each meeting). The participants would be requested from countries in rotation through each sub-region, out of synch with the countries of national fisheries representatives to ensure a wider country representation in each meeting. SPC will communicate a call for nominations to appropriate countries in advance of each meeting indicating the selection criteria³ for community representatives and any necessary details of the meeting. This will be through CFWG CSO's contacts in the first instance and if no nomination is received within 2 weeks, a follow-up communication shall be sent to government with copy to CFWG. Nominations will be received by the CFWG and due selection will be made.
- Regional/international NGOs and Research/Education organisations - 3 Participants for a term of 2 years (rotating, including national or regional NGOs, universities and others)
- National Fisheries Agencies (3 sub-regions) – 3 Participants (rotating alphabetically through sub region after each meeting)
- Donors – 2 Participants (to be reviewed every two years through expressions of interest)

The chair may invite expressions of interest for the rotating positions for the regional NGO positions

Participation is encouraged from the wider SPC group of countries (i.e. not just the PIF members).

Note: It is proposed as a rule of participation that all participants must make special and demonstrable efforts to canvas their constituencies prior to meetings and inform them of the results of discussions.

³ For the purposes of the CFWG, ideally national coastal fishers' representation should strive to:

- (i) Derive from legitimate/representative and acceptable national processes owned and driven by communities
- (ii) Demonstrate realistic processes to legitimately consult and represent all community fishers involved in coastal fisheries management
- (iii) Include processes to ensure the input of women, youth and marginalised groups
- (iv) Is not restricted to communities practicing CBRM