



MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

TO : Representatives of Governments and Administrations; **No. :** 19/31
SPC Fisheries Contacts; Fisheries Organisations; and
Observers

FILE : CONF 2/9/36/1 **DATE :** 23 August 2019

SUBJECT : **Third SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries: 5-8 November 2019, Noumea, New Caledonia**

PURPOSE OF NOTICE

1. This is an invitation to the Pacific Community's Third Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries (RTMCF3: 5 to 8 November), to be held at SPC's Conference Centre in Noumea, New Caledonia. In addition, there will be several side meetings on Monday 4 November for the members involved in these side meetings.
2. This notice is:
 - A request for SPC member country governments and territory administrations to nominate two senior technical representatives, one coastal fisheries and one aquaculture.
 - An invitation to other agencies, organisations, companies, and individuals with an interest in coastal fisheries and aquaculture in the Pacific Islands region, to attend the meeting and take the opportunity for discussion with Pacific Island fisheries representatives and specialists, and with each other. There is no registration fee, and given sufficient notice, SPC can help in negotiating special rates at local hotels.
3. All nominations for SPC funded participants:
 - Need to be received by **Monday 23 September 2019 COB** so that flight bookings can be made; and
 - Need to be submitted with a copy of their passport photo page.
 - No change to SPC-funded nominations will be accepted within one month of the meeting dates.
4. Financial support is available for the attendance of two representatives from each SPC island member government or administration as described above in paragraph two. SPC will also fund several resource people, and they will be contacted separately to this announcement.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

5. The Third RTMCF meeting has been arranged to carry forward the work and momentum generated from the first two meetings, and aims to address some specific outcomes as agreed by representatives at the Eleventh Heads of Fisheries Meeting held in Noumea in March 2019. It also links back to the direction set

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out in *A New Song for Coastal Fisheries – Pathways to Change: The Noumea strategy, the Future of Fisheries: Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries*, as well as assisting with providing the much needed information for reporting to Leaders under the annual Coastal Fisheries Report Card.

6. The overarching theme is to discuss and address some of the main technical issues affecting coastal fisheries and aquaculture in support of better science-based resource management, equitable access to resources and the safety of fishers. The Forum Leaders have tasked the SPC to coordinate with National Fisheries Agencies, CROP agencies and regional and national community groups, to strengthen support and resourcing for coastal fisheries management. Better data on coastal fisheries management will also allow countries to report against indicators under the Sustainable Development Goal 14 on Oceans.
7. The RTMCF meeting is intended to focus on specific issues, as outlined below, with input from member country government and territory administrations. The make-up of the meeting is also to maximise country input through group discussions and plenary sessions. SPC views this as essential for longer-term planning and will also be of considerable assistance to other agencies, regional NGOs and donors interested in national as well as regional coastal fisheries and aquaculture issues and sustainable management.
8. The 11th Heads of Fisheries (HoF11) meeting recommended that the HoF Meeting be held annually (for a two year trial) to, in part, consider strategic regional fisheries policy and governance issues, and emerging issues of concern. HoF11 also agreed that coastal fisheries and aquaculture technical issues be dealt with by the RTMCF, with outcomes forwarded to the HoF Meeting for consideration.
9. HoF11 agreed that the flow of information and advice on coastal fisheries and aquaculture issues at the regional level, and any key decisions required, be from the RTMCF, to the HoF Meeting, to the Regional Fisheries Ministers' Meeting, and when required, to the Forum Leaders.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

10. The following thematic areas will form the agenda, with a mix of presentations, group discussions and reporting back at plenary:
 - Session for setting the scene and objectives of the meeting. Countries are also requested to present on what is happening at home, with a *very* short 5-minute presentation covering *technical topics* for coastal fisheries and aquaculture: a) national priorities; b) current activities; and c) the main issues or challenges faced.
 - Session on looking at progress made against the Action Plans from the first two RTMCFs; and new or emerging issues in the region.
 - Session on exploring technical issues of interest; new and innovative initiatives and technologies for coastal fisheries and aquaculture.
 - Three half-day sessions on key topics under the themes: 1) Science; 2) Aquaculture; and 3) Community-based fisheries.
 - Session on follow-up discussions and agreed actions on new/emerging issues in the region. Discussion of meeting outputs, recommendations to go to HoF, and specific follow-up actions required.
 - The last day (Friday 8 November) will be a one-day workshop on *Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Monitoring, Control, Surveillance and Enforcement*.

The specific technical topics to be covered under the three themes (Science; Aquaculture; Community-based fisheries) will be determined through consultations with SPC members through a survey to be circulated shortly. The draft agenda will be posted on the SPC website in October.

11. Given the specific focus of the meeting, there will be no statements by “other organisations”.

12. Members are requested to prepare a *very* short 5-minute presentation as outlined in the first dot-point in paragraph 10 above, for presentation on the morning of day one of the meeting. A template will be provided on the website indicated below in advance of the meeting.
13. Any relevant documents for the meeting will be available on the SPC website at the address <http://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/248>.

LANGUAGE

14. As an official SPC sectoral meeting, the Third RTMCF (Tuesday to Friday 5 - 8 November) will be conducted in both English and French, with simultaneous interpretation, and translation of key papers.

REPORT

15. The formal report of the meeting will consist of a list of decisions, outcomes and recommendations identified by the Chair, and agreed by consensus, usually called the “Outputs” of the meeting. Within the “Outputs” there will now be a specific section focused on high priority meeting outputs that need to be presented at the 12th Heads of Fisheries Meeting (March 2020) for consideration and decision by the HoF. If required, these decisions could also be transmitted to the newly formed Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting for consideration.

TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS

16. An economy class return ticket by the most economical route will be provided to all SPC-funded representatives. If participants choose to travel by a route other than the one proposed, all additional costs will be at their own expense. Any change after e-tickets have been issued will have to be organised by the participant directly with the travel agent at their own expense. Travel orders cannot be issued until the official nominations have been received.

A per-diem will be provided to SPC-funded official representatives. Hotel accommodation can be booked at the SPC rate, but the payment of all costs will be the responsibility of each participant. Participants requiring SPC assistance to book accommodation at the SPC rate should contact the Conference Secretary. Hotel accommodation during transit stops will need to be booked and paid for by the participant and SPC will reimburse the full per diem on the provision of a hotel receipt, or part per diem with no hotel receipt, at the SPC per diem rate for that location.

17. The SPC will organise airport transportation from Tontouta International Airport to Noumea (55 km). This service is complimentary for all SPC funded participants and non-funded participants who request it. For non-funded participants, please ensure that SPC is provided with a copy of your travel itinerary in advance of your arrival.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

18. SPC is pleased to advise that visas are **no longer** required for entry into New Caledonia for stays of up to three months for nationals of all SPC member countries.
19. Transit visas are the responsibility of delegates. However, SPC may be able to assist, through a letter of introduction, if required.

20. To facilitate administrative arrangements we will require passport details of each SPC-funded delegate. We would be very grateful if each delegate can send to the RTMCF Conference Secretary, Seya Brighton, by e-mail (SeyaB@spc.int), a copy of the photo page of your passport.

MEETING CONTACTS

- Official nominations to: Neville Smith, Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (email: NevilleS@spc.int; cc/- SeyaB@spc.int).
- Administrative issues, visa documentation, hotel bookings, etc.: Seya Brighton, Conference Secretary (email: SeyaB@spc.int; tel +687 260953)
- Agenda items, papers, other enquiries, etc.: Dr Andrew Smith, Deputy Director (Coastal Fisheries), Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystem Division (email: AndrewS@spc.int).

INSURANCE

21. The Pacific Community does not insure participants while attending meetings or during travel to and from New Caledonia, and will not be responsible for any expenses arising out of loss, sickness, injury, other disability or loss of life. It is participants' own responsibility to ensure that their travel is covered by insurance.



Cameron Diver
Deputy Director-General

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