

Original: English

Paper reference	Working paper 8
Title:	Reports from the Fifth Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture and from the Second Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue
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Summary/short description/key points:

1. The **Fifth Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA5)**, including the **Second Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD2)**, was held from 11-14 October 2022. The meeting and the dialogue were hosted using a hybrid format, with participants joining either in-person or online.
2. The purpose of the RTMCFA5 was to bring together coastal fisheries and aquaculture scientists and technical experts in the Pacific to discuss important technical and scientific gaps, needs, challenges and opportunities.
3. The purpose of the Cbfd2 was to give the civil society organisations (CSOs) and other non-state actors (NSAs) community an opportunity to share experiences and lessons-learned on community-based fisheries initiatives, and to provide information and advice on key needs and issues, through the RTMCFA to the Heads of Fisheries, to assist with informing Ministers and Pacific Leaders on priority issues associated with the sustainable use of coastal fisheries resources.
4. The full outcomes of the RTMCFA5 and Cbfd2 are provided in Background Papers [2a] and [2b], respectively. The participants of both meetings were asked to identify, discuss and agree on clear priority issues to be transmitted to the HoF15 for consideration. This Working Paper presents those key recommendations from the RTMCFA5 and the Cbfd2.

Recommendations:

Members are invited to:

1. Note the Outcomes and Actions Report from the RTMCFA5 (provided as Background Paper [2a]).
2. Consider and make determinations on the specific requests from the RTMCFA5 to HoF15.
3. Note the Outcomes Report from the Cbfd2 (provided as Background Paper [2b]).
4. Consider and make determinations on the specific requests from the Cbfd2 to HoF15.

## Reports from the Fifth Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA5) and from the Second Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD2)

### *Introduction*

1. The **Fifth Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA5)** was held as a hybrid meeting with participation both in-person and online using a virtual platform, from 11-14 October 2022, and was chaired by Mr. Monte Depaune, Coastal Fisheries Manager, Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority.
2. The RTMCFA5 brought together coastal fisheries and aquaculture scientists, officers and technical experts in the Pacific to discuss important technical and scientific gaps, needs, challenges and opportunities. 13 SPC member countries and territories participated in-person, with 7 countries and territories participating remotely via the Zoom platform. Over 130 participants (47 in-person and at least 76 online) attended from members, observers, civil society organisations (CSOs), non-government organisations (NGOs) and other non-state actors (NSAs).
3. The hybrid format of the meeting required a more focused discussion on a limited number of high priority technical issues with more in-depth discussions in breakout group sessions.
4. The **Second Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD2)** was held in association with the RTMCFA5 on 13 October 2022. The CBFD2 was chaired by an independent Convenor, Mr Afelee Pita from Tuvalu. At least 24 (11 in-person and at least 13 online) representatives of CSO and other NSA groups actively engaged in plenary and breakout group discussions. SPC members and partners participated as observers.
5. The CBFD is convened by and focused on CSOs and other NSAs, with SPC FAME as the secretariat. The purpose of the CBFD is to give the CSO and other NSA community an opportunity to provide information and advice on key needs and issues, through the RTMCFA to the Heads of Fisheries, to assist with informing Ministers and Pacific Leaders on priority issues associated with the sustainable use of coastal fisheries resources.
6. The CBFD also provides an opportunity to share experiences and lessons from community-based initiatives to strengthen efforts to maintain productive and healthy ecosystems and their associated fisheries resources that are critical to the wellbeing of coastal communities.

### *Report to HoF15 on the Outcomes and Actions from the RTMCFA5*

7. The overarching theme of RTMCFA5 focused on the main technical issues affecting coastal fisheries and aquaculture in support of better evidence-based resource management, equitable access to resources and enhanced sustainable development of aquaculture and coastal fisheries.
8. The meeting included plenary and breakout group technical sessions on:
  - a. Changing behaviour in coastal fisheries and aquaculture through MCS.

- b. What science is needed for trade in CITES listed sea cucumber species.
  - c. Developing the Regional Aquaculture Strategy – from Assessment to Strategy.
  - d. Implementation of the Regional framework on aquatic biosecurity and National Aquatic Biosecurity Plans.
  - e. Coastal fisheries and aquaculture: What tools? When to use them? How to get training and support?
9. The **RTMCFA5 Outcomes and Actions Report** (see Background Paper 2a), along with all the working and information papers and the presentations, are available on the SPC RTMCFA5 website (English: <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/261> and French: <https://fame1.spc.int/fr/meetings/261>).
10. The **RTMCFA5 Outcomes and Actions Report** includes the agreed priority issues and needs to be actioned by SPC members, provides guidance to SPC FAME’s Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme (CFAP), and identifies the key recommendations to be taken to the 15<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries (HoF15) meeting in 2023.

*Summary of the RTMCFA5 key recommendations for the 15<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries*

11. The RTMCFA5 meeting agreed that the following recommendations should be transmitted to the 15<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries for consideration, and for both members and SPC to act on:

RTMCFA5 Recommendation	HoF15 Action
<b><i>Changing behaviour in coastal fisheries and aquaculture through MCS</i></b>	
<p><b>Recommendation 14 (a).</b> The meeting requests HoF15 to support the development and promotion of a culture of compliance using tools adapted to the local context, and consider the adoption of an administrative penalty system of infringement notices, demerit points or spot fines (or other alternatives such as community services or in-kind payments) that are specific to members’ needs.</p>	<p><i>To consider and support.</i></p> <p><i>To encourage member PICTs to action at the national level, where appropriate.</i></p>

RTMCFA5 Recommendation	HoF15 Action
<p><b>Recommendation 14 (b).</b> The meeting requests HoF15 to encourage the introduction of the Incident Book (in hardcopy or electronic form) as a tool to assist members’ authorised officers in delivering enforcement activities in the field.</p>	<p><i>To consider and support.</i></p> <p><i>Direct SPC FAME to assist members, on request.</i></p>
<p><b><i>What science is needed for trade in CITES listed sea cucumber species</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Recommendation 17 (a).</b> The meeting requests HoF15 to support the establishment by PICTs of long-term stock assessment programmes sufficient for NDF purposes, for example developing appropriate assessment protocols to meet minimum data requirements.</p>	<p><i>To consider and support.</i></p> <p><i>To encourage PICTs to action, where relevant.</i></p>
<p><b>Recommendation 17 (b).</b> The meeting requests HoF15 to encourage PICTs to: (i) focus compliance efforts and enforcement of management measures on buyers and exporters, (ii) improve collaborative arrangements between scientific and management authorities (e.g., via a memorandum of understanding), and (iii) regulate the number of buyers and exporters.</p>	<p><i>To consider and support.</i></p> <p><i>To encourage PICTs to action, where relevant.</i></p>
<p><b>Recommendation 17 (c).</b> The meeting requests HoF15 to support SPC FAME with assisting members to develop management measures and regulations that are aligned with CITES requirements.</p>	<p><i>To consider and support.</i></p>
<p><b><i>Implementation of the Regional framework on aquatic biosecurity and National Aquatic Biosecurity Plans</i></b></p>	

RTMCFA5 Recommendation	HoF15 Action
<p><b>Recommendation 27 (a).</b> The meeting requests HoF15 to support the mid-term review of the Regional Aquatic Biosecurity Framework in order to broaden its scope beyond just aquatic animals and to include the findings of the SPC aquatic biosecurity legislation review.</p>	<p><i>To consider and endorse.</i></p>
<p><b>Recommendation 27 (b).</b> The meeting requests HoF15 to encourage members to review their own aquatic biosecurity plans, in line with the Regional Aquatic Biosecurity Framework review process, with an emphasis on developing interagency collaboration and response agreements, where appropriate.</p>	<p><i>To consider and support.</i> <i>To encourage PICTs to action, where relevant.</i></p>
<p><b>Recommendation 27 (c).</b> The meeting requests HoF15 to support the investigation of the availability of diagnostic laboratories and the determination of requirements for developing a network that can service the Pacific islands region.</p>	<p><i>To consider and endorse.</i> <i>Direct SPC FAME to action.</i></p>

### *Report to HoF15 on the Outcomes from the Cbfd2*

12. The Cbfd2 focused on engaging and hearing the voices of CSOs and other NSAs through identification of important community-based fisheries issues that are common across the region or sub-regions and discussed ways to address or enhance them.
13. The meeting included plenary and breakout group sessions on:
  - a. Community-Based Fisheries: Engaging the Voices of Non-State Actors.
    - The purpose of the Cbfd2 and an overview of the focus of the Cbfd2.
    - Establishment of the interim Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Advisory Group (Cbfd2-AG).
    - Identification and prioritisation of CBF issues of importance or interest that are common across the region or sub-regions.

- Hopes and expectations for the CBF2 process.
- b. Hearing the Voices: Community-Based Fisheries Priorities.
- What are the needs of CSO/NSA representation for transparent national processes for selecting participants for CBF2 and other national level dialogues on coastal fisheries?
  - What are the needs to accurately inform and build capacity of CSO/NSA on CBFM?
  - How can traditional/local knowledge be better integrated with modern/conventional science for effective CBFM?
14. The **CBF2 Outcomes Report** (see Background Paper 2b), along with all the Working and Background Papers, and the presentations, are available on the SPC RTMCFA5 website (English: <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/261> and French: <https://fame1.spc.int/fr/meetings/261>).
15. The **CBF2 Outcomes Report** outlines the outcomes and action points of consensus among CBF2 participants, highlighting priority issues and needs to be actioned by CSOs and other NSAs, SPC members, provide guidance to SPC’s Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme (CFAP), and identifies key recommendations to be taken to the 15<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting in 2023.

*Summary of the CBF2 key recommendations for the 15th SPC Heads of Fisheries*

16. The CBF2 reported into the RTMCFA5 meeting and agreed that the following recommendations should be transmitted to the 15<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries for consideration, and for CSO/NSA, members and SPC to act on:

CBF2 Recommendations via RTMCFA5 Outcomes and Actions Report	HoF15 Action
<b><i>Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue</i></b>	
<b>Recommendation 35 (a).</b> The CBF2 requests HoF15 to encourage SPC members to initiate national community-based fisheries dialogues to improve communication with CSOs/NSAs and better address their needs and concerns related to coastal fisheries management.	<i>To consider and support. To encourage PICTs to support and action.</i>

CBFD2 Recommendations via RTMCFA5 Outcomes and Actions Report	HoF15 Action
<p><b>Recommendation 35 (b).</b> The CBFD2 requests HoF15 to recognise the emerging issue of deep seabed mining and its potential consequences for coastal fisheries, and requests members to facilitate more independent research on deep sea ecosystems before consideration is given to commercial deep seabed mining.</p>	<p><i>To consider and endorse.</i></p>
<p><b>Recommendation 35 (c).</b> The CBFD2 requests HoF15 to encourage SPC members to increase operational budgets for CBFM within national and sub-national government agencies, and to develop appropriate financial mechanisms to directly support communities to more effectively manage their coastal resources.</p>	<p><i>To consider and support.</i>  <i>To encourage PICTs to support and action.</i></p>