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Heads of Maritime Transport (HOM) and Pacific One-Maritime Framework (POMF) First Steering Committee Kick Off Meeting Brief Minutes

Held virtually via Teams, 10 April 2024

Agenda 1: Welcome (SPC)

- The meeting was opened by Deputy Director of SPC's Ocean and Maritime (OMP), Jens Kruger who welcomed all member country and territory representatives, Pacific Island Country and Territories (PICTs) Heads of Maritime (HoM), partners, and SPC staff.
- Informed that the purpose of the meeting was to inform delegates concerning the meeting next week and how they can prepare for the meeting.
- Reiterated that SPC is the Pacific region's premier science and technical organisation and the different sectors it works including fisheries, health, education and maritime and energy amongst others. SPC has also convened ministerial and officials level meetings in maritime transport sector.
- Recalled that the 5th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministerial Meeting (PRETMM) was held in Port Vila, Vanuatu in 2023 and the 6th PRETMM will be hosted by Papua New Guinea in 2026. The Efate Outcomes from the 5th PRETMM provides the basis for the upcoming HoM meeting.
- Highlighted that work in the maritime transport sector requires long term strategy, vision and meaningful implementation by fostering a community of practice and partnership. Thus, the continuous engagement of the government delegates is central to this community and the convening of the upcoming meeting.

Apart from SPC, the following member countries and territories and partners, were present at the virtual meeting;

1. Fiji
2. Marshall Islands
3. Palau
4. Papua New Guinea
5. Nauru
6. Niue
7. Solomon Islands
8. Tonga
9. Tuvalu
10. Vanuatu
11. Australia Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)
12. Delegation of the European Union to the Pacific
13. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
14. Maritime New Zealand (MNZ)
15. Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF)
16. Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
17. Southwest Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC)



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18. United States Coast Guard (USCG)

Agenda 2: SPC Heads of Maritime (HoM) Meeting

- Informed the meeting that next week would be the annual HoM meeting, dates being 22 – 26 April and that it will be conducted in two parts. Also proposed to consistently convene the meeting in April on an annual basis.
- The purpose of the upcoming meeting and other forthcoming engagements is to start to build a community of practice in the maritime sector including the procedures and process for engagement during the meetings.
- Informed there will be a website set up for participants to access meeting papers: (<https://gem.spc.int/meetings/spc-heads-of-maritime-meeting-and-first-steering-committee-meeting-for-the-pacific-one>).
- The HoM Meeting will be an opportunity to discuss work in the field of maritime transport and does not need to be limited to the work that SPC does in the sector. Discussions are open to other issues outside of the SPC mandate to encourage regional cooperation and engagement.
- The focus for the HoM Meeting will be reporting progress against the Efate Outcomes from the 5th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers' Meeting (PRETMM) and the Pacific One-Maritime Framework (POMF). The Efate Outcomes has provided guidance to develop the POMF with objectives, plans, activities and incorporate monitoring and evaluating the POMF. The upcoming meeting will flesh out the POMF.

Future arrangements and chairing of the HoM

- The meeting discussed rotating the chairmanship through the SPC chairmanship. Nominations for the chair were opened, and candidates are expected to work with the committee next week leading into the meeting. The role of the Chair was emphasized for enabling the smooth running of the meeting, managing the agenda, facilitating discussions, and identifying agreed points for the meeting report.
- The meeting modalities were discussed whereby Members will sit at the main table alongside partners for the in-person meeting. Virtual participation is not currently envisioned, but it may change depending on partner participation.
- A report/outcomes statement will be prepared, supported by a drafting committee.
- The drafting committee will meet daily to incorporate reflections and recommendations, which will be cleared by the meeting and posted on the website.
- The report will drive the Work Programme (WP) and communicate member priorities to partners. It will also inform the 6th PRETMM and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and its implementation plan.
- Vanuatu, as the outgoing PRETMM chair, nominated PNG as the incoming Chair, which was supported by Solomon Islands. Additionally, Niue nominated Fiji to be Co-Chair or Deputy Chair, with support from Tonga. Both PNG and Fiji expressed gratitude for the nominations and indicated that they would hold internal discussions before confirming acceptance of the chair/deputy chair roles.



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Agenda 3: General Discussions for inclusion of topics in the Heads of Maritime Agenda

The following topics were presented as discussion areas in the Agenda:

- A community-based approach to safety for at sea
- Strengthening the Pacific memorandum of understanding on flag state implementation
- Safety of navigation of Low carbon maritime development
- Pacific Ports 2030-2050: a vision of resilient, green and clean ports in the Pacific
- Maritime capacity development
- Gender equality in maritime
- Marine pollution
- Collaboration and coordination

The meeting further agreed to have the following built into the agenda for the meeting:

- Pacific Islands Maritime Associations (PacMA)
- Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA)
- PIC submissions to the IMO 74th Technical Cooperation Committee (TCC74) meeting that will take place in June 2024
- The scope of the POMF and the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee that will develop the Framework.
- Suggested broader conversation around marine pollution.
- IMO Pacific Regional Presence Office (RPO)

A reporting template for the HoM meeting would be provided on the meeting website for Members and partners.

Agenda 4: Pacific One Maritime Framework (POMF) - Timeline and Governance

- SPC presented on the thematic areas POMF could cover and a means to progress its development.
- Highlighted that the POMF was developed in response to the outcomes of the 5th PRETMM and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.
- Outlined a potential governance structure for the POMF.
- Proposed a timeline for the development and finalisation of the POMF including work to be carried out by consultants alongside SPC.
- The meeting was informed of the consultants that have been contracted to carry out the work and PRIF was thanked for providing the funding assistance towards this.
- The meeting committed to ensuring that resources for the work filtered from the regional into national efforts and looked to collaboration from other CROP agencies, members and partners in the sector noting also the various preexisting frameworks that also contribute to work in the maritime sector.



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Agenda 5: Regional Pacific One Maritime Framework - Needs, priorities, challenges and emerging issues, in the maritime sector in the Blue Pacific

The below thematic areas were shared by SPC to be included in the discussion for the POMF in the upcoming meeting:

- Finances
- Infrastructure
- Technology
- Capacity Building
- Safe, resilient, green, clean, digital, gender-just maritime transport for the Blue Pacific

Agenda 6: Maritime Database - SPC assistance to Member States: Information Only

- SPC informed the meeting of the proposal for a maritime database and that a questionnaire would be shared to Members for the feedback on this needs assessment.

Agenda 7: Logistics and Preparations Meetings - Update on logistics

- Venue – Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi
- Air Tickets – finalised by next week.
- Per Diem – in the form of cash to be given to SPC funded participants upon their arrival into Tanoa International Hotel where they will be accommodated for the duration of the meeting.
- Participants Listing - 43 registered participants, 12 countries and territories, 4 organisation partners.

Agenda 8: AOB

- SPC again informed all participants that it would upload documents on to the meeting website for participants and noted the suggestions on the agenda by participants to be added to the working agenda.
- SPC reminded the meeting that if other partners wish to provide updates and/or if any other inclusions/suggestions to the agenda, that these would be facilitated.
- The above was advised to be sent to the email address provided:
maritime_transport@spc.int.

Finally, SPC Deputy Director Jens Kruger closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their participation.

ENDS//