



15th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting
20–24 March 2023



Original: English

Information paper 1

Progress against the Outcomes of the 14th SPC Heads of Fisheries and the 3rd Regional Fisheries Ministers Meetings

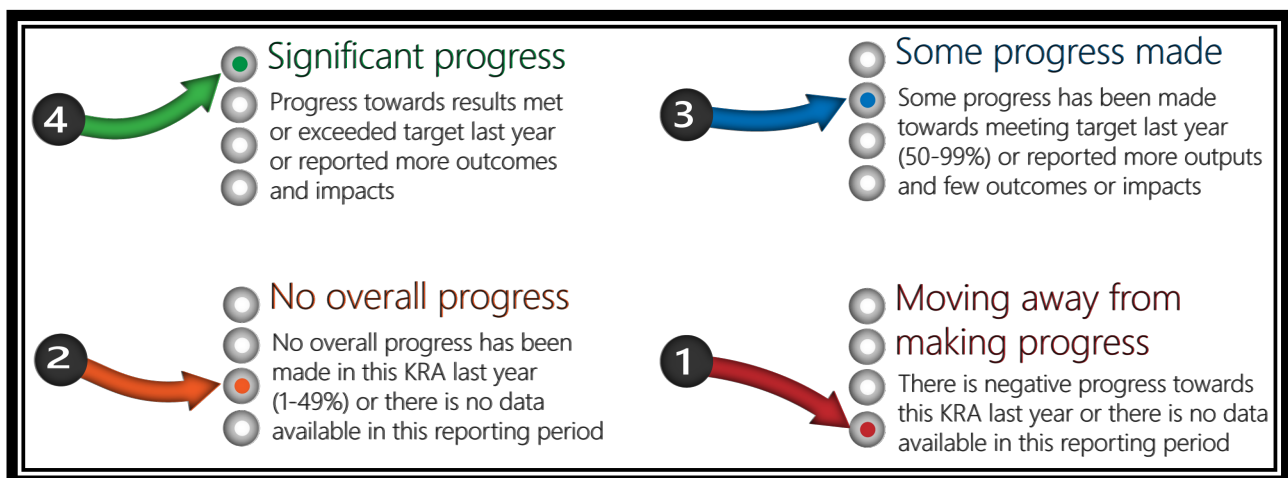
Sonia Schutz-Russell, Terry Opa

Purpose

1. This paper provides an update on the progress against the implementation of outcomes from 14th SPC Heads of Fisheries (HOF14) and the 3rd Regional Fisheries Ministers Meetings (RFMM3).
2. The paper is divided into two parts, the first part focusing on the progress against the HOF14 outcomes and the second part provides update on the progress against RFMM3 outcomes that concerns SPC.

Overview and progress made against HOF14 outcomes

3. A total of 198 delegates registered and participated in HOF14, which was held from 14 to 17 June 2022, in Noumea, New Caledonia, using a hybrid format. In-person participation was from 12 member countries and territories, including Australia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Wallis and Futuna. Others participated virtually, including American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Kiribati, Palau, Marshall Islands, Niue, Tokelau, Tuvalu, United States of America, and Vanuatu. HOF14 was chaired by Vanuatu, with Mr Sompert Gereva, Acting Director for the Vanuatu Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity steering the meeting remotely.
4. HOF14 reviewed and deliberated on six working papers and fourteen information papers. Review and endorsement were sought from members for the *FAME Business Plan 2022- 2027*, *FAME priority work area for 2022*, *Regional priorities in aquaculture* and *FAME work programme on climate change*.
5. The table below summarised the rating on the various progress relating to the implementation of the key HOF14 outcomes as implemented by the Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP) and the Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme (CFAP):



FAME draft Business Plan 2022–2027 **Progress** **Rating**

The draft FAME Business Plan 2022–2027 was presented to members for endorsement and implementation. The plan was presented using the Te wa metaphor to symbolise FAME journey with its members and partners, a voyage of learning and partnership with an overall goal that the fisheries and aquaculture resources of the Pacific region are resilient, and managed sustainably for economic growth, food security, and cultural and environmental conservation.

Progress on the implementation of outcomes 9 b), c)

9.b	Highlighted areas for enhancement and recognised it as a living document	The areas highlighted has been updated to reflect the comments.	
9.c	Endorsed the draft Business Plan 2022 –2027 for FAME to commence implementation	The SPC FAME Business Plan 2022-2027 is currently being implemented and socialising within the FAME and the broader SPC. Tracking and reporting processes against the business plan is also underway.	

FAME PRIORITIES AND EMERGING WORK AREAS FOR 2022

FAME was requested to take notes of the priorities during the meeting. In particular the following thematic areas in item 10. b):

Progress on the implementation of outcomes 10 b) i-ix

i.	Continue to support and expand regional collaboration and partnerships and increasing collection of and pooling of coastal fisheries data to improve application to data-limited fisheries and coastal ecosystem management;	<p>SPC FAME continues to enhance its data collection apps (TAILS, Ikasavea, TUFMAN2) to improve collection of and pooling of coastal fisheries data and support its members to adopt the tools and apply in their fishery data collection.</p> <p>Refer to Information Paper 8</p>	
ii.	Design and testing of effective anchored and drifting bio-degradable fish aggregating devices (FADs), and support for drifting FAD management options;	SPC FAME maintains an anchored- FAD web portal to improves members access to up-to-date anchored FAD design, development, deployment, monitoring and management information, tools and training materials. The WCPFC project to test Non-	

<p>iii. Review of community-based fisheries policies and impacts on locally-led sustainable management;</p>	<p>entangling and bio-degradable FADS in the western and central Pacific purse seine tuna fishery is being rolled out this year.</p> <p>Refer to HOF14 Information Paper 5</p>	
	<p>SPC FAME provides ongoing support for national CBFM programmes through the guidance of the Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling-up Community-based Fisheries Management.</p> <p>Current national support is through the development of national CBFM scaling-up strategy for Vanuatu, Tonga, Tuvalu and Nauru.</p>	
<p>iv. Enhancement of existing tablet-based data collection through the addition of financial and/or business planning tools for artisanal fishers;</p>	<p>SPC FAME continues to enhance fisheries catch data through the use of TAILS and Ikasavea, collaborating with OFP to automate the processing of catch photos, including the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning tools to analyse photos of fishery species.</p>	
<p>v. Assistance for assessing, analysing and developing locally led sustainable management of healthy of coral reefs and coral reef fisheries;</p>	<p>SPC FAME assist members to assess and manage finfish and invertebrate resources and associated habitats to inform management through resource assessments, data analysis, interpretation, training, mentoring and advice.</p>	
<p>vi. Climate change as a driver of impacts to ecosystems, fisheries and aquaculture;</p>	<p>SPC FAME models the impact of environmental variation, including climate change, on tuna and the pelagic ecosystems using SEAPODYM model.</p>	

vii.	Fish handling and value-adding for increased in revenue from community-based fisheries	SPC FAME ongoing work support to members under its coastal fisheries management and livelihoods unit.	
viii.	Post-pandemic prioritisation of in country support through staff and the use of local consultants, noting the need to factor in staff and travel constraints when updating the FAME priority work areas; and	SPC FAME continues to work closely with its regional offices to provide members support, including engaging local consultants where appropriate on key priority work areas.	
ix.	notwithstanding the above, continue development of tools and approaches to deliver support remotely.	SPC FAME continues to develop tools and approaches to deliver support remotely through online interactive dashboard, access to national/regional information and where appropriate deliver online technical support through workshops/meetings.	

REGIONAL PRIORITIES IN AQUACULTURE

Following the endorsement from the 13th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting (HoF13), a consultative Regional Aquaculture Assessment was conducted on the needs and priorities of PICTs to address numerous challenges that continue to deny the Pacific region the long-term benefits that can be derived from the development of sustainable aquaculture. These challenges are limiting the extent the aquaculture sector can contribute to employment, food security, livelihoods, environmental protection, fisheries and ecosystem enhancement, and economic growth.

Progress on the implementation of outcome item 13 c), f)

c)	Agreed to provide feedback to FAME within 2 weeks of the end of HoF14 on identified key issues, objectives, constraints, or omissions, and provide any further points on the contents of the draft Regional Aquaculture Assessment to inform the development of the Pacific Regional Aquaculture Strategy,	Guidance provided by HOF14 delegates and Feedbacks received from members after the meeting, have been incorporated to inform the process to develop of the Pacific Regional Aquaculture Strategy	
f)	Requested SPC to prepare a revised proposal on the process, stakeholder consultations, and timeline to develop a new Pacific Regional Aquaculture Strategy outlined in Working Paper 6, taking into account feedback received during HOF14. The revised process should be disseminated to members of HOF14 [by 15 July 2022] for an intersessional decision.	The revised proposal on the process has been incorporated, taking into account the comments from members provided after HOF14. The draft process was transmitted to the 3rd Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting for endorsement.	

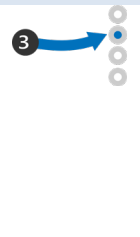

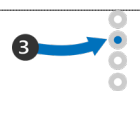
Outcomes from RFMM3:

Ministers commended the progress on developing the process and timeline for a Pacific Regional Aquaculture Strategy with a focus of ensuring that some of this potential is realised. Ministers highlighted the need for the strategy to consider aquatic biosecurity, increasing resilience by decreasing dependence on imported goods and materials used in the sector, learning from other regions with successful aquaculture, and the role of the private sector in accelerating progress.

FAME's work programme on climate impact on Pacific fisheries and Ocean ecosystems

A summary of progress on FAME's climate work programme, including the update on the proposal to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and "Adapting tuna-dependent Pacific Island communities and economies to climate change"; the New Zealand Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade "Climate Change and Tuna Fisheries"; the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade "Assessment of climate change vulnerability of Pacific Ocean resources – 10-year update"; and two new Global Environment Facility projects were presented and deliberated by members.

Progress on the implementation of outcomes 14 f), g), 15 d), f)

14.f)	Requested SPC to develop a Terms of Reference for both the Technical and Advisory Group and GCF Oversight Committee, and	Terms of reference for both the Technical Advisory Group and GCF Oversight Committee will be agreed to in Climate Change oversight Committee meeting during HoF15	
14.g)	<i>Agreed</i> to allocate at least one senior staff member within each national fisheries agency to be the focal point for liaison with SPC, Conservation International (CI) and other project partners regarding all activities associated with development and delivery of climate change programme detailed at HoF14	Focal points from members have been appointed after HOF14.	
15.d)	Agreed to assist consultants to identify practical national and regional financing mechanisms, and supporting policies, to	SPC is currently assisting the consultant on this work, the	

sustain increased access to tuna for domestic food security and operate the Advanced Warning System following completion of the GCF regional tuna programme,

results will be presented at HOF15.

Refer to [Working Paper 7](#)

- 15.g) *Agreed to appoint national representatives for the GCF Oversight Committee within 2 months for development of the GCF Funding Proposal, and to identify both the roles and responsibilities of the Committee and its members and the preferred modality for Committee meetings.*

National representatives for GCF Oversight Committee have been identified and first meeting schedule as side meeting during HoF15.



Report from the Fourth Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture and from the first Community-based Fisheries Dialogue

RTMCFA4, including the first Cbfd was held online from 12-15 October 2021. The key recommendations from both meeting were transmitted to HOF14 for endorsement.

Progress on the implementation of RTCMFA5 outcomes 17. A) 21. A), and 30. A)

17. c) 17 a) *The meeting requests the 14th Heads of Fisheries meeting (HoF14) to support SPC's role both as a provider of sustained training and capacity building on e-data collection systems, including innovative technologies, and as an e-data repository with storage capabilities for past and present national coastal fisheries data, in reference to HOF10 outcomes1*

This work is currently underway with enhancement undertaken with FAME data entry and reporting tools for coastal fisheries-related data through Coastal Fisheries Application (CFA) and TUFMAN2 in tandem with mobile applications Ikasavea and in line with the FAME data policy.

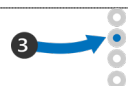
Refer to [HOF15 Information Paper 8](#) for more details.



Members noted the need for a critical technical assistance to ensure e-data collection systems and that systems be compatible with existing systems

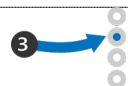
- 21 (a) *The meeting requests HoF14 support the recognition of national institutions to offer regionally developed certified training as national priorities for action.*

Certified MCS Professional Certificate course materials being finalised, prior to consultations with potential national level training institutions



21. (b) *The meeting requests HoF14 to encourage PICTs to use the data sharing portal for MCS&E, hosted by SPC, that provides guidelines and examples on compliance data and intelligence information to be shared at the regional level.*

MCS&E portal under development. FAME Data Governance Policy will apply to any data sharing.



Members requested that this be at the discretion of the national fisheries authorities

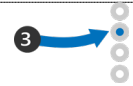
and that relevant data sharing policies be applied.

36 (a) *The meeting requests HoF14 to initiate the review of regional and national indicators for the Coastal Fisheries Report Cards, in line with the New Song for Coastal Fisheries and other regional frameworks.*

SPC was requested to act upon the final recommendation from HOF14 Regional Priorities in Aquaculture session as the way forward.

The regional consultation on coastal fisheries report card indicators will commence on April 11 – 12 April.

Meeting notice for the Regional consultation on coastal fisheries report card indicators have been disseminated to members.



39 (a) *The meeting requests HoF14 to consider the proposed adjustments to the format and name of the RTMCFA.*

HOF14 noted the request to consider new names for the RTMCFA and undertook to advise SPC within two weeks after HOF14

Consensus has not been reached with regards to the change in name for RTMCFA. RTMCFA5 did not consider new names.



Progress on the implementation of CBF2

17. d) The meeting request HOF14 to adopt the ToR for the CBF2

The CBF2 ToR has been adopted for implementation by HOF14.

The adopted ToR guides the implementation of the 2nd CBF2

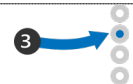


The meeting requested HOF14 to recommend that SPC FAME continue to provide the necessary logistical and administrative support for the implementation of the ToR

SPC FAME provided the necessary logistical and administrative support for the implementation of CBF2.

SPC FAME will continue to provide logistical and administrative support for future CBF2

The role of CBF2 advisor will manage and facilitate the organisation, secretariat support, promotion and running of annual CBF2.


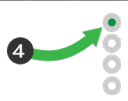


Specific outcomes for the Third Regional Fisheries Ministers' Meeting

A concise brief was developed for key HOF14 outcomes in consultation with members and presented to Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RMM) officials and considered by the Ministers. The two main work programmes discussed and endorsed were: (1); and (2)

Progress on the implementation of HOF15 outcomes to RFMM3

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|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | SPC's ongoing work on climate impacts on Pacific fisheries and ocean ecosystems | Ministers endorsed SPC work programmes on climate change impact on Pacific fisheries and ocean ecosystems. SPC continues to work with its partners to provide technical and scientific information to enhance regional and members' capacity in understanding potential climate change impacts on coastal and oceanic fisheries.


SPC recently received NZ\$25 million from MFAT, to adapt Pacific fisheries to climate change impacts, including development of advance warning system to forecast tuna migration. |  |
| 2 | The regional Aquaculture Assessment and development of a Pacific Regional Aquaculture Strategy | Ministers commended the progress on developing the process and timeline for a Pacific Regional Aquaculture Strategy with focus of ensuring that of this potential is realised. The process to develop the Pacific regional aquaculture strategy will be deliberated at HOF15, including funding support. |  |

Overview and progress made against the outcomes of the 3rd Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM)

6. The 3rd Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting was held in Tarawa on 25 August 2022. The meeting was Chaired by Kiribati.
7. SPC provided three working papers and presented on the agenda items under *Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture*. SPC also to the papers under agenda item *The Ocean Climate Nexus – Learning from COP26 to engage effectively at COP27 and the need for national and regional Climate Action*. The three main SPC papers presented were:
 - Outcomes of the 14th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting
 - 2022 Coastal Fisheries Report Card
 - Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling up Community Based Fisheries Management

Outcomes of the 14th SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting	Rating
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Progress on the implementation of outcome 9.

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| <p>9 Ministers commended the progress on developing the process and timeline for a Pacific Regional Aquaculture Strategy with a focus of ensuring that some of this potential is realised. Ministers highlighted the need for the strategy to consider aquatic biosecurity, increasing resilience by decreasing dependence on imported goods and materials used in the sector, learning from other regions with successful aquaculture, and the role of the private sector in accelerating progress.</p> | <p>The revised process including the tentative goal and objectives for the Regional Aquaculture Assessment (IP12 of HoF14) will be transmitted to HOF15 for confirmation and this inform the consultations with members and stakeholders towards the development of the Pacific Regional Aquaculture Strategy. The current aquatic biosecurity framework will be reviewed in June 2022. The outcomes of the review will inform the development of the Aquaculture strategy.</p> <p>Refer to Working Paper 5 and Working paper 6</p> |  |
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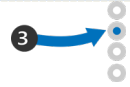
2022 Coastal Fisheries Report Card

Progress on the implementation of outcome 15

15 Ministers endorsed the development of improved indicators for the Coastal Fisheries Report Card, including aggregation of qualitative indicators to better inform progress at the national and regional levels

The regional consultation on coastal fisheries report card indicators will commence on April 11 – 12 April.

Update on the progress will be reported at RFMM4



Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling Up Community Based Fisheries Management

Progress on the implementation of outcome 18

Ministers agreed and tasked SPC to provide an annual update on the implementation of the Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling up Community-based Fisheries Management: 2021 – 2025 through the Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting.

SPC on an annual basis will provide update on the implementation of the [Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling-up Community-Based Fisheries Management 2021-2025](#) to RFMM. Since the RFMM3, the following activities have been implemented:

- **Echoes of Oceania** – a online CBFM platform
- **Tailor-made information and awareness** materials for communities
- **Developing and implementing national** information strategy
- **Supporting national CBFM** scaling-up strategy



- **Survey to assess the status of CBFM** in PICTS
- Community-based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD), a fora focused and led by CSOs and NSAs to share experiences and lessons from CBF initiatives.

The Ocean Climate Nexus – Learning from COP26 to engage effectively at COP27 and the need for national and regional climate action

Progress on the implementation of outcome 21, 22, 23, 24

<p>21 Ministers requested the Pacific Community and FFA to coordinate with CROP and other partners to develop a catalogue on climate change actions and climate finance opportunities that the fisheries sector can engage on.</p>	<p>Work commenced to progress on the outcomes 21, 22 and 23, including FFA recently recruited Climate</p>	
<p>22 Ministers requested CROP agencies to work with partners to develop a strategy to investigate different approaches to address loss and damage to fisheries caused by climate change</p>	<p>Change Adviser, and SPC’s ongoing work program endorse at HoF14 and also will be discussed at HoF15.</p>	
<p>23 Ministers requested the Pacific Community and FFA to coordinate with one CROP Team to prepare documentation on climate change impacts on fisheries sector, including visualization, for presentation at COP27, and other relevant international fora.</p>		
<p>24 Ministers noted the update on the initiative by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), SPC and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) to develop a regional strategy to address the displacement of population as a result of climate change impacts.</p>		

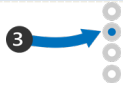
Recent developments in global and regional arrangements to address marine litter and pollution


Progress on the implementation of outcome 27

<p>27 FFA and SPC to be tasked with reviewing and updating the 2018 observer data analysis, in consultation with SPREP and PNA office. This report should be transmitted to Officials to review before any recommendations are presented to Ministers</p>	<p>SPC will work with FFA/SPREP/PNA on this review. Outcome of the review will be transmitted to Official for review.</p>	
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2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the Review of the Regional Architecture

Progress on the implementation of outcome 29, 31

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| 29 Ministers supported the development of the implementation plan and review of the regional architecture and tasked the FFA secretariat and SPC to continue to work closely with the Forum secretariat to develop the implementation plan for the 2050 Strategy. | SPC continues to work closely with CROP partners to develop the implementation plan for the 2050 strategy |  |
| 31 Ministers tasked the fisheries officials, to be supported by the FFA and SPC, to review existing fisheries policies including the Fisheries Roadmap and the New Song for Coastal Fisheries noting that these policies are approaching the end of their timeframes, to ensure close alignment with the implementation of the 2050 strategy | SPC and FFA will support members fisheries official on the review of the fisheries policies – Fisheries roadmap and New Song for Coastal Fisheries.

Refer to HOF15 Working Paper 4 |  |