

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

TO : Representatives of Governments and Administrations ; **No. :** 14/14
SPC Fisheries Contacts; Fisheries Organisations and
Observers

FILE : CONF 2/9/34 **DATE :** 27 October 2014

SUBJECT : **Ninth SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting and related project meetings: 6 - 12 March 2015, Noumea, New Caledonia**

PURPOSE OF NOTICE

1. This is an invitation to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's ninth Heads of Fisheries Meeting (HoF9), which includes a half-day session for the outcomes from a Regional workshop on the "Future of coastal/inshore fisheries management" to be discussed (workshop conducted the week before HoF9), and Meetings for the EU Funded 'SciCOFish' Project and country discussion in regard to the joint multi-agency fisheries concept note under EDF 11 funding to be lead by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, to be held in Noumea at the SPC Conference Centre from 6 to 12 March 2015.
2. This notice is:
 - A request for SPC member country governments and territory administrations to nominate one official senior fisheries representative to the HoF9 meeting;
 - An invitation to other agencies, organisations, companies, and individuals with an interest in fisheries 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. The last day of the meeting will be devoted to meetings for the EU funded SciCOFish Project and discussions on a fisheries concept note for EDF 11 funding, with the participation of fisheries representatives of the Pacific ACP and FFA member countries respectively. Other representatives are welcome as observers.
4. All nominations for SPC funded participants:
 - Need to be received by **Friday 05 December 2014** so that flight bookings can be made; and
 - Need to provide a copy of their passport photo page at the time of nomination.
 - No change to SPC-funded nominations will be accepted within one month of the meeting dates.
5. Financial support is available for the attendance of one representative from each SPC island member government or administration (the Head of Fisheries or their delegate), plus the travel costs of the Chair of the meeting.

SPC Headquarters: Noumea, New Caledonia. Regional offices: Suva, Fiji and Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
Country office: Honiara, Solomon Islands. For contact details – Website: www.spc.int Email: spc@spc.int

Siège de la CPS : Noumea (Nouvelle-Calédonie). Antennes régionales : Suva (Fiji) et Pohnpei (États fédérés de Micronésie)
Bureau de pays : Honiara (Îles Salomon). Site Web : www.spc.int Courriel : spc@spc.int

PURPOSE OF MEETING

6. The SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting provides technical oversight of all SPC work in the field of fisheries and aquaculture, as well as an opportunity to discuss in detail topics of special interest. It covers both of SPC's Fisheries Programmes: Oceanic and Coastal.
7. The Heads of Fisheries meeting is intended to cover the entire range of work of national and territorial fisheries administrations. It may discuss issues outside the current range of the SPC work-programme, and this "big-picture" view of fisheries is essential for longer-term planning and is also of considerable assistance to other agencies, regional NGOs and donors interested in national as well as regional issues.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

8. The following items will be included in the agenda:
 - Half-day session for the outcomes from a Regional workshop on the "Future of coastal/inshore fisheries management" to be discussed (workshop conducted the week before HoF9)
 - Regional overview report on the status of the region's oceanic fishery;
 - Reports on activities and discussion of work plans for each Programme;
 - A special session on SPC's integrated approach to programme development;
 - Discussions on the "Apia Policy" (2008–2013) and where to from here;
 - Discussion of a number of topical issues including deep-water snapper, the need for standardised data collection for coastal fisheries and aquaculture, a long-term strategy for observer training and support to the region and national information management systems and e-reporting, current status and future plans;
 - The final Steering Committee meeting of the EU funded SciCOFish Project; and
 - A stakeholder consultation on a joint multi-agency (FFA, SPC, SPREP, USP) fisheries concept note under EDF 11 funding organised in conjunction with FFA as the lead agency.

Proposals from members for the inclusion of other topics are welcome, and should be submitted on or before 5th January 2015. The draft agenda will be posted on the SPC website early in the new year.

9. There will be a brief period allocated for statements by "other organisations". If any organisation or individual wishes to raise a fisheries issue of wide significance then it should be proposed to the Chair at the start of the meeting during the discussion of the agenda, and agreed by the meeting for inclusion. Other information should be provided as poster presentations (space will be made available for those who request it), or at an informal lunchtime session or an evening session.
10. Members are strongly encouraged to provide for the meeting a brief country statement of 5 pages or so highlighting information on fisheries in their country or territory, issues that they are facing in the fisheries sector, and any experience or advice that they wish to share with colleagues from the region.
11. The Programme Strategic plans and other organisational documents, some reports and working papers of recent meetings will be available on the SPC website at the address <http://www.spc.int/fame/> and working papers for this meeting will be available via this address in January 2015.

LANGUAGE

12. As an official SPC sectoral meeting, the ninth Heads of Fisheries Meeting will be conducted in both English and French, with simultaneous interpretation, and translation of key papers.

REPORT

13. The formal report of the meeting will consist of a list of decisions and recommendations identified by the Chair, and agreed by consensus, usually called the “Outputs” of the meeting.

TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS

14. 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. Travel orders cannot be issued until the official nominations have been received.
15. A per-diem will be provided to SPC-funded official representatives. Hotel accommodation can be booked at the SPC Secretariat rate, but the payment of all costs will be the responsibility of each participant. Participants requiring SPC Secretariat assistance to book accommodation at the SPC rate should contact the Conference Secretary and a hotel accommodation form will be sent out for completion.
16. 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. Please ensure that SPC Secretariat is provided with a copy of your travel itinerary in advance of your arrival.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

17. French missions are located in Fiji (Suva), and Vanuatu (Port Vila) and, as such, delegates holding passports from these countries are required to obtain a visa *before* departure. Delegates should note that this process takes at least two weeks and therefore should be started as soon as itineraries are confirmed, and well before the departure date.
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 except Fiji, and Vanuatu.
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 also require passport details of each delegate. We would be very grateful if each delegate can send to the HoF Conference Secretary H el ene Lecomte, by e-mail (helenel@spc.int) or fax (+687 26.38.18), a copy of the photo page of your passport as well as your itineraries.

MEETING CONTACTS

- Official nominations to: Moses Amos, Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (email: MosesA@spc.int; cc/- HeleneL@spc.int), fax +687 263818)
- Administrative issues, visa documentation, hotel bookings etc: Helene Lecomte, Secretary (Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division) (email: HeleneL@spc.int; tel +687 26 09 53, fax +687 263818).
- Agenda items, papers, other enquiries etc: Moses Amos, Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystem Division (email: MosesA@SPC.int)

INSURANCE

21. The Secretariat of 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.



Fabian McKinnon
Deputy Director General, Programmes

27.8.2014

Original text: English