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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

(Virtual)

TO: Representatives of Governments and Administrations **No.:** 22/09
SPC Fisheries Contacts; Fisheries Organisations and Observers

FILE: CONF 2/9/40 **DATE :** 24 March 2022

SUBJECT: **Fourteenth SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting, 14 – 17 June 2022, Noumea, New Caledonia**

PURPOSE OF NOTICE

1. This is an invitation to the **Fourteenth Pacific Community's Heads of Fisheries Meeting (HoF14)**. The meeting will be held virtually, and at the SPC Conference Centre in Noumea, for New Caledonia based participants. The meeting will be held from **14 - 17 June 2022**.
2. Noting that some members may be able to travel to Noumea for the meeting this year, and the dynamic nature of our operating environment, the option for a hybrid format meeting where some members attend in person is still open.
3. This notice serves as:
 - A request for SPC member country governments and territory administrations to nominate two official senior fisheries representatives to the HoF14 meeting
 - Any member who considers travel may be practical and desirable for their representatives in June to contact SPC before **19 April** to identify possible arrangement
 - An invitation to other agencies, organisations, institutions, and individuals with an interest in fisheries and aquaculture in the Pacific Islands region to attend the virtual meeting and take the opportunity for discussion with Pacific Island fisheries representatives and specialists, and with each other (there is no registration fee required), and
 - An invitation to members to propose discussion topics for inclusion in the agenda where possible. Submissions should be made on or before **29 April 2022**.
4. All nominations are to be received by **06 May 2022**.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

5. The SPC HoF meeting provides oversight of all SPC's work in the fields of fisheries and aquaculture, as well as an opportunity to discuss relevant topics of regional interest. It covers both of SPC's Oceanic and Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Programmes, which form the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystem Division (FAME).

Pacific Community (SPC) Headquarters: Noumea, New Caledonia. Regional Offices: Suva, Fiji;
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Pohnpei (États fédérés de Micronésie) ; Port-Vila (Vanuatu).
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6. The 12th Heads of Fisheries meeting (HoF12) in 2020 recommended that the HoF meeting focus on guiding FAME's strategic direction and work-plan priorities, and consider strategic regional policy and governance issues to be transmitted to Regional Fisheries Ministers' Meeting and, where appropriate, from there to the PIF Leaders' meetings.
7. An important topic for HoF14 will be to further discuss responses to the impact of COVID-19 on the sustainable management of fisheries resources, particularly in relation to food and nutritional security, and livelihoods.
8. HoF14 will also be discussing recommendations from the 4th Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA4) (held 12 – 15 October 2021), including the outcome report of the First Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD).
9. 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. This "big-picture" view of fisheries is essential for longer-term planning and is also of considerable assistance to other agencies, institutions, regional non-governmental organisations (NGOs) / civil society organisations (CSOs) and donors interested in national as well as regional issues.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

10. HoF14 will take place over four morning sessions - from **14 - 17 June 2022**. The following items are provisionally included in the four-day agenda:
 - Feedback on FAME's strategic direction and priorities, including reporting on the progress against FAME Business Plan,
 - Discussion on SPC FAME's current and future work developments (and review of the new FAME Business Plan 2022-2027),
 - Discussion on regional fisheries and aquaculture governance and policy matters, and emerging issues of concern, including those identified at the Fourth Regional Technical Meetings on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA4); and
 - Potential topics identified through discussions with members including recovering from the impacts of COVID-19, scaling-up of community-based fisheries, climate change, tuna stock harvest strategy development, implementing close-kin mark recapture techniques, and aquaculture.
11. **Proposals from members for the inclusion of other discussion topics are welcome and should be submitted on or before 29 April 2022.** The draft agenda will be posted on the SPC website: **06 May 2022.**
12. If any organisation or individual wishes to raise a fisheries issue of wide significance, then it should be proposed to SPC by 29 April 2022 for consideration. Other information should be provided as a written statement or short video recording to be posted online.
13. Members are strongly encouraged to provide in advance a brief member statement of 1-2 pages highlighting information on fisheries and aquaculture 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. A template will be circulated on or before **29 April 2022** to guide members.
14. Observers who wish to share information or a statement with members and colleagues in the meeting are requested to provide written statements by **20 May 2022** to allow time to be uploaded and read in advance of the meeting.

15. Working Papers and presentations for this meeting will be available via this address <http://www.spc.int/fame/meetings> on 31 May 2022. Selected reports and background Information Papers will also be available on the SPC FAME website.

LANGUAGE

16. As an official SPC sectoral meeting, the HoF14 meeting will be conducted in both English and French, with simultaneous interpretation, and translation of key papers.

VIRTUAL MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

17. To facilitate the virtual meeting, we kindly request SPC members and partners to undertake a two-stage process:
- Submit nomination (including full name, organisation, and email contact to SPC FAME meeting at fame_meetings@spc.int, and
 - Registration of participants before the meeting using the registration link. We kindly ask all participants to register at least a week before the meeting. We will share the Zoom registration link once the nominations are received.

REPORT

18. 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 “Outcomes” of the meeting. This will be published on the meeting webpage (<http://www.spc.int/fame/meetings>) once HoF14 concludes.

MEETING CONTACTS

19. Official nominations to: Neville Smith, Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (email: nevilles@spc.int; cc/- fame_meetings@spc.int, fax +687 263818)
- Administrative issues: Natalie Terrier, Conference Secretary, (email: fame_meetings@spc.int; tel +687 260183)
 - Agenda items, papers, other enquiries, etc.: Sonia Schutz-Russell, Programme Planning Officer, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystem Division (email: soniasr@spc.int; cc/- fame_meetings@spc.int)

INSURANCE

20. 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 the participants’ own responsibility to ensure that their travel is covered by insurance.



Cameron Diver
Deputy Director-General, Operations and Integration