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Information paper 2

Update of the Pacific Regional Aquaculture Strategy and midterm review of the Pacific Regional Framework on Aquatic Biosecurity

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Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to update members on progress of,
 - the development of a Pacific Regional Aquaculture Strategy, and
 - the mid-term review of the [Pacific Regional Framework on Aquatic Biosecurity](#).

The updates presented here cover arrangements for a series of sub-regional and regional workshops designed to facilitate effective consultation for both the strategy and framework.

Pacific Regional Aquaculture Strategy (PRAS)

2. The development of a sustainable aquaculture sector can contribute to employment, food security, livelihoods, environmental protection, and economic growth across the Pacific region. The Pacific has experienced slower than expected development in aquaculture and it was for this reason that SPC FAME commissioned a Regional Aquaculture Assessment ([IP12 of HoF14](#)) to inform and advise on a way forward.
3. The Regional Aquaculture Assessment concluded that a regional strategy could strengthen the capacity of Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) to harmonise aquaculture development and investment plans across the region by enhancing the ability to cooperate regionally and facilitate access to markets. The next step in promoting aquaculture development is actioning the [HoF13 Outcomes Document Decision 13\(c\)](#) and develop the PRAS. A process and scope for the development of the PRAS was set out in [WP6](#) of HoF15 and endorsed by SPC members in Paragraph 15 of the [HoF15 Outcomes document](#).
4. The PRAS is intended to be a plan for Pacific aquaculture in its entirety, thus the scope, issues, and actions will be wider than SPC FAME's specific mandate of providing members with technical and policy advice in aquaculture.
5. The PRAS requires a consultation process that is inclusive and fully endorsed by members. This process was begun at [RTMCFA6](#) held in November 2023 where the SPC Aquaculture Team outlined a series of options for aquaculture development and sought feedback from members.
6. Consultation is also scheduled to occur during 2024 through a series of three virtual sub-regional workshops and one regional workshop. The scale and process of this exercise will be similar to that undertaken for the Scaling up CBFM Framework for action developed during 2021.

Mid-term review of the Pacific Regional framework on aquatic biosecurity (PRFAB)

7. Aquatic biosecurity is a key requirement for long-term sustainability of aquaculture and wild fisheries because it facilitates maintenance of production, safe trade, and helps to protect the rich diversity of the aquatic environment found throughout the Pacific region.
8. The PRFAB includes a regional workplan that focuses primarily on (i) aquatic animal health management and (ii) the safe translocation of aquatic species, with the specific objective of

promoting regional aquaculture production in a sustainable manner. As outlined in [WP5 of HoF15](#), a mid-term review of RFAB is now required.

9. Aquatic biosecurity will also form part of the PRAS consultation process, therefore the PRAS workshops also provide opportunity for consultation on the mid-term review of the PRFAB. PICT aquatic biosecurity representatives have been invited to attend aquatic biosecurity sessions scheduled within each of the meetings.

Workshop structure and arrangements

10. Three sub-regional workshops and one regional workshop have been planned to consolidate results of past and present consultation. The scheduled dates of each workshop are listed within the table below.

Event	Scheduled dates
PRAS virtual sub-regional workshop POLYNESIA	9-12 April 2024 (completed)
PRAS virtual sub-regional workshop MICRONESIA	13-17 May, 2024
PRAS virtual sub-regional workshop MELANESIA	24-28 June, 2024
PRAS virtual regional workshop	5-7 August, 2024

11. A virtual format will be used for each of the meetings to ensure accessibility and inclusiveness. The results of the three sub-regional workshops will be consolidated into a draft PRAS and distributed to all PICTs for comment.
12. A fourth regional meeting of key representatives from the sub-regional workshops will then be convened and the draft PRAS discussed.
13. Once agreed, a final draft of the PRAS, together with a supporting draft SPC PRAS Policy Brief and the draft RFAB review, will be circulated out-of-session to Heads of Fisheries for endorsement.
14. A Heads of Fisheries endorsed version will then be presented at the Regional Fisheries Ministers meeting.