

## 10<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting

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### **MFAT Coastal Fisheries Governance Project (Coastal Fisheries) Summary**

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#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this paper is to:

Brief Heads of Fisheries of a new project within Coastal Fisheries Science and Management Section of Fisheries Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division of SPC

Request HoFs to broadly indicate where this project could assist in strengthening governance within fisheries agencies

#### **Background**

Coastal fisheries provide the main source of protein, (50-90 percent), for coastal communities across the Pacific region and provide the primary or secondary source of income for up to 50 percent of households in the Pacific. However, coastal resources are finite and there is growing evidence that over fishing is occurring, especially for finfish around main urban centres, and many countries have closed their sea cucumber fisheries due to over exploitation. In addition, a major concern for the region is the growing population, which is expected to increase 50 percent by 2030, and the associated added pressure on already heavily fished coastal resources.

In March 2015, SPC hosted a major workshop on the “Future of coastal/inshore fisheries management”, which produced a “New Song for Coastal Fisheries – Pathways to Change”. The New Song highlights eight key outcome areas, all focused on strengthening coastal fisheries management, policies, legislation and availability of information. The New Song was endorsed by the Heads of Fisheries in March 2015, signed off by the Fisheries Ministers in July 2015, and sets the direction for SPC, donors and other partners to deliver on priorities set by Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs).

In addition, “A Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries” has been developed by FFA and SPC with input from Pacific Island countries (PICs). The Roadmap sets out a range of goals, indicators and strategies for both oceanic and coastal fisheries, with the coastal component well aligned to the New Song. The Roadmap was endorsed by the Forum Fisheries Officials (May 2015), the Forum Fisheries Ministers (July 2015) and the Pacific Island Forum Leaders (August 2015).

To assist PICs to respond to and achieve the outcomes in the New Song, and the Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries, the Coastal Fisheries Programme (CFP) of the Division of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) through extensive stakeholder consultations with key partners (e.g. FAO, FFA, MPI), and SPC member countries developed a project to address coastal fisheries governance priorities. The project is funded by New Zealand’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and focuses on strengthening governance structures and processes, specifically legislation, policy and monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement (MCS&E), which are very weak for coastal fisheries and aquaculture. In strengthening governance, the project will contribute to the enhancement of food security and sustainable livelihoods for the future.

## **Project outputs and outcomes**

The projects goal: Food security and livelihoods in Pacific Island countries are improved through skilled staff and communities managing and enforcing robust policies and legislation for sustainable coastal fisheries and aquaculture.

There are six outputs as indicated below in the project’s results framework, with a range of activities and inputs required to achieve each output. The project budget is NZD \$7,287,759. The project started in June 2016 and will end in June 2021 (5 years). Three staff (legal adviser Ariella D’Andrea, P&M specialist Jason Raubani and MCS&E specialist Ian Freeman) have been recruited to implement this project.



***Output 1: New and revised national legislation for coastal fisheries and aquaculture is drafted / progressed.***

The legal adviser, with some input from the P&M and MCS&E specialists and partners, will work with the fisheries departments/agencies in PICs to assess national coastal fisheries and/or aquaculture legislation and/or regulations. This will also include the provision of policy advice to facilitate the necessary reforms to national legislation in collaboration with country counterparts. The review will also include stakeholder consultations to provide input to national legislation and regulations. These activities will lead to the provision of drafting advice and working with the national legal authorities in the drafting of national legislation and/or regulations. Activities will be coordinated with others partners, such as FFA, FAO, MPI etc., to form collaborations and joint missions in some countries and avoid overlap of work.

***Output 2: New and revised subnational legislation for coastal fisheries and aquaculture is drafted / progressed.***

The legal adviser, with some input from the P&M and MCS&E specialists, works with the fisheries departments to assess subnational coastal fisheries and/or aquaculture legislation and/or regulations. The review will also include stakeholder consultations to provide input to subnational legislation and regulations. These activities will lead to the provision of drafting advice and working with the national legal authorities in the drafting of subnational legislation and/or regulations, insuring that the subnational legislation if fully complementary to national legislation.

***Output 3: Policies and management plans are reviewed, updated or developed.***

The P&M specialist with some input from the legal adviser and MCS&E specialist, will work with fisheries agencies to review and/or draft a national coastal fisheries and/or aquaculture policy, while working closely with senior fisheries staff to get high-level buy-in within government to ensure national support for policy and management plans and their implementation. Through stakeholder consultations a process for developing national coastal fisheries and/or aquaculture policies will be established, and this will include working closely with national and subnational staff to turn policies into management plans, implementing legislation and penalties. Once plans and/or policies are completed, they will be printed and distributed. Activities will be coordinated with other partners, such as MPI and FAO, to ensure collaboration and no duplication.

***Output 4: Provide capacity development training and mentoring to national and subnational levels in fisheries policies and management plans***

The legal adviser and P&M and MCS&E specialists will provide attachment training for national or subnational staff to analyse and interpret scientific and other relevant advice and turn this into management advice. The staff will also train, advise and mentor the Pacific Islander Junior Professionals (PIJP – 4 x 12 month positions recruited to SPC from fisheries or conservation departments or NGOs working in the marine environment), and national and subnational staff to support data collection to inform management responses. The PIJPs will also work alongside staff in the field as part of their mentoring, and be attached to MPI in New Zealand for several weeks to further expand the mentoring and training for these officers.

In selecting country and subnational level staff for capacity development attachments and PIJP positions, consideration will also be given to sequencing and readiness of MCS&E work, particularly in having adequate legislation and policy structure in place or near to. On completion of attachment training the PIJPs, recruited from fisheries departments, will return to their country to apply the added skills they have gained to their work.

***Output 5: MCS and enforcement modules with supporting database are developed and training delivered.***

The MCS&E specialist, with some input from the P&M specialist and legal adviser, works with a consultant, FFA and MPI to identify modules to cover coastal fisheries and aquaculture MCS&E (both national and subnational) and develop necessary modules and supporting databases. Modules and training materials will also include gender and human rights, with 4 regional train-the-trainer workshops run through the University of the South Pacific (USP) in partnership with FFA and MPI, using the materials that have been developed. When finalised, the MCS&E specialist will work with staff from FFA and USP to have the course and course materials accredited as a recognised training course. The MCS&E specialist will also work at the national and subnational level with the participants from the train-the-trainer workshops to support them in developing country-specific training and materials for MCS&E, ensuring local gender, culture and human rights issues are considered, building on local knowledge and management practices in the country specific training materials, and assisting with the first training (national or subnational) to ensure the trainer is comfortable with the materials and their delivery. Follow-up activities would also be planned to ensure the trainers skills are used and maintained. Activities will be coordinated with other partners, such as MPI and FFA, to ensure collaboration and no duplication.

***Output 6: Awareness raising materials on fisheries rules, regulations and penalties are developed and disseminated.***

Starting in year two, a part-time communication and information specialist, with some input from the legal adviser and P&M and MCS&E specialists, assists national and subnational fisheries staff to develop a range of awareness raising materials using different communication approaches on the rules, regulations and penalties in their country. Linked to this would be the organising of awareness raising events and community empowerment with better communication, especially at the community level, including disadvantaged and other stakeholder groups. The communication and information specialist will also assist in the production of radio shows, video clips and the printing and distribution of the range of awareness raising materials developed by the activity, and supervise 4 attachment trainees per year to Noumea to develop country-specific awareness raising materials, possibly in local language.

Capacity building will be a key focal area of the project, with all staff involved to provide capacity development, training and mentoring to national and subnational levels in fisheries policies and management and developing and disseminating a range of awareness raising material on fisheries rules, regulations and penalties.

Under each output, gender and human rights issues (including gender and social analysis) will be adequately covered to ensure no bias or barriers exist in any new fisheries legislation, regulations, policy or management plans. The project will also adopt gender responsive measures to support shared benefits within communities.