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Regional reporting for the New Song for Coastal Fisheries Strategy

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1. Regional commitments to report on Pacific coastal fisheries outcomes

In 2015 and 2016 significant commitments were made for reporting on progress towards achieving regional goals and outcomes for Pacific coastal fisheries.

Future of Fisheries Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries

The [*Future of Fisheries Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries*](#) (*the Regional Roadmap*), was endorsed in 2015 by the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders. The Regional Roadmap sets seven goals and targets for oceanic and coastal fisheries for the next 10 years, along with 11 strategies to address these. The Regional Roadmap identifies that an annual ‘fishery report card’ will be provided to the annual meeting of the Ministerial Forum Fisheries Committee. The report card will measure the relative success of each strategy for oceanic and coastal fisheries for the following ten years, as well as indicators that can be used to measure progress.

The annual fishery report card is split into a ‘Tuna Fishery Report Card’ produced by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and a ‘Coastal Fishery Report Card’ produced by SPC. Report Cards were produced in 2015 and 2016, however, data availability remains an issue, and limited regional consensus on indicators have limited the effectiveness of the ‘Coastal Fishery Report Card’ in particular.

A New Song for Coastal Fisheries – Pathways to Change: The Noumea Strategy

[*A New Song for Coastal Fisheries - Pathways to Change: The Noumea Strategy*](#) (*the New Song*) was developed by participants at a regional workshop on the future of coastal fisheries management held in March 2015. The workshop had over 100 participants from fisheries and environment departments from all 22 SPC member PICTs, community members, four agencies of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific, donors, NGOs and other regional partner institutions.

The strategy was approved by the Ninth SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting held in Noumea (March 2015) and the 93rd Official Forum Fisheries Committee Meeting in Tuvalu (May 2015), and was endorsed by the 11th Ministerial Forum Fisheries Committee Meeting in Tuvalu (July 2015).

The New Song identifies that monitoring progress of the strategy is vital if it is to be effective, and that this monitoring will provide an opportunity for the region to report to Pacific leaders on coastal fisheries, including under the FFA/SPC Future of Pacific Island Fisheries initiative. The implementation of a monitoring and evaluation framework was tasked to SPC.

The development of the New Song strategy preceded the Regional Roadmap. This timing meant that the coastal fisheries strategies included in the Regional Roadmap reflects the key outcome areas that were articulated in the New Song. The intentional alignment of the Regional Roadmap and the New Song, along with their commitments for reporting and monitoring, have enabled a single reporting mechanism for both regional instruments. That is, **the annual Coastal Fishery Report Card will be the same reporting mechanism to measure progress in coastal fisheries for both the New Song and the Regional Roadmap (Table 1).**

Other commitments

During this same period the Pacific leaders also adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 [*Sustainable Development Goals*](#) (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. In 2016, the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC) published the first Results Report Card for the [*Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape*](#).

2. Aligning and streamlining coastal fisheries reporting requirements

The synergistic timing of the Regional Roadmap, New Song strategy, results report for the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape created a unique opportunity for the Pacific region to align the reporting for a range of regional reporting commitments related to coastal fisheries. Progress to date includes:

- Coastal Fishery Report Cards were published in 2015 and 2016, however, limitations in data availability, resource constraints and the lack of regionally agreed upon indicators are identified as areas to address for improved reporting on coastal fisheries.
- Collaboration between SPC and OPOC since 2016 has ensured that Results Report Card for the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape (FPO) will utilise information reported in the annual Coastal Fisheries Report Card to report on the coastal fisheries components of the FPO. This promotes consistency, efficiency and reduced reporting burden.
- International instruments and reporting requirements for the *SDGs*, *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway*, *Aichi targets* and the *FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries*, along with sub-regional instruments *Melanesian Spearhead Group Roadmap for Inshore Fisheries* and *Micronesia Challenge* are being considered in the selection of indicators for the regional Coastal Fisheries Report Card.
- An initial draft set of indicators for coastal fisheries has been identified following consultation with representatives from SPC, OPOC, WorldFish and LMMA (Table 2). The next stage of consultation is to utilise the Tenth SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting for consultation with countries and regional partners. This feedback will be utilised to confirm the set of indicators for measuring progress towards the region's goals for coastal fisheries, with these indicators being used in reporting in the annual Coastal Fishery Report Card.

Table 1: Alignment between New Song outcomes and Regional Roadmap goals and strategies

Note that the Regional Roadmap Strategies, while outlining processes to achieve Goals, are worded in such a way that their content can be clearly mapped to New Song outcome descriptions.

New Song Outcomes	Regional Roadmap - Coastal fisheries goals and strategies
Overarching Outcome 1. Improved wellbeing of coastal communities	
Overarching Outcome 2. Productive and healthy ecosystems and fish stocks	<p>Goal 2. Resilience Within 10 years, all FICs will be implementing strategies to manage the various threats to coastal ecosystems. Only by conserving fisheries habitats, controlling pollution and addressing damage from outside the fishing sector can we develop resilience to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.</p>
Outcome 1. Informed, empowered coastal communities with clearly defined user rights	<p>Goal 1. Empowerment Within 10 years, all FICs will have put in place policies and legislation that provide for the involvement of coastal communities in the management of their fisheries resources. Supported by national controls on export commodities, communities will drive local management regimes with clear user rights.</p>
Outcome 2. Adequate and relevant information to inform management and policy	<p>Strategy 1. Provide relevant information to inform management and policy</p>
Outcome 3. Recognition of, and strong political commitment and support for, coastal fisheries management at a national and sub-national scale	
Outcome 4. Re-focused fisheries agencies that are transparent, accountable, and adequately resourced, supporting coastal fisheries management and sustainable development, underpinned by CEAFM	<p>Strategy 2. Re-focus fisheries agencies to support coastal fisheries management</p>
Outcome 5. Strong and up-to-date management policy, legislation and planning	<p>Strategy 4. Develop and enforce strong and up-to-date legislation, policy and plans</p>
Outcome 6. Effective collaboration and coordination between stakeholders and key sectors of influence	<p>Strategy 3. Ensure effective collaboration and coordination of stakeholders</p>
Outcome 7. More equitable access to benefits and decision making within communities, including women, youth and marginalised groups	<p>Strategy 5. Ensure equitable access to benefits and involvement in decision making</p>
Outcome 8. Diverse livelihoods reducing pressure on fisheries resources, enhancing community incomes, and contributing to improved fisheries management	<p>Goal 3. Livelihoods Within 10 years, all FICs will have adopted policies to develop alternative livelihoods for coastal communities that are impacted by declining fisheries resources. In most cases, overfishing occurs because coastal communities have no alternative. Aquaculture, water-based tourism and small-scale fishing for tuna provide options, but many solutions will lie outside the fisheries sector.</p>

Table 2: Proposed draft indicators for discussion

Note that all content included in this table is an initial draft only. Further input and verification will be sought at the 10th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting and from regional partners

New Song Outcomes [Finalised]	Proposed draft indicators [Draft for discussion]	Potential data source [Draft in for discussion]	Relevance to other policies / instruments* [Draft for discussion]
Overarching Outcome 1. Improved wellbeing of coastal communities	A.1 Measures of wellbeing A.2 Food security - % protein intake OR per capita seafood consumption	A.1 Unknown – perhaps 2012 Pacific Living Conditions Survey A.2 Unknown – perhaps HIES, J Bell study	FPO SDG Targets 2.1 and 3.4
Overarching Outcome 2. Productive and healthy ecosystems and fish stocks	B.1 Stock status of key indicative coastal fisheries species B.2 Percentage of Pacific EEZs under multiple use management or protection B.3 Percentage of coastal and marine areas conserved	B.1 Unknown B.2 OPOC (FPO report), SPREP	SSF Guidelines 5b Aichi Biodiversity Targets 4 & 11 SDG Indicators 14.2.1 & 14.5.1, 14.4.1 SAMOA Pathway 58.e & 58.o FPO Micronesia Challenge
Outcome 1. Informed, empowered coastal communities with clearly defined user rights	1.1 Number of PICTs where user rights for coastal communities are formally recognized 1.2 Ability of rights-holders to claim / control the use of their rights 1.3 Percentage of surveyed communities that are aware of the status of their resources (level of awareness) 1.4 Percentage of communities that have taken actions to manage declining resources (acting on awareness)	1.1 SPC & all partners 1.2 All partners	SSF Guidelines 5a FPO AICHI Target 1 SDG Indicator 14.b.1
Outcome 2. Adequate and relevant information to inform management and policy	2.1 Number and % of coastal fisheries management measures informed by evidence 2.2 Number of coastal communities receiving information relevant to coastal fisheries management (i.e. coverage) 2.3 Percentage of available information materials that are in appropriate / accessible language and formats (i.e. relevance) 2.4 Accessibility of information available to inform community-based management (Qualitative)	2.1 SPC & all partners 2.2 All partners 2.3 All partners 2.4 All partners	FPO SAMOA Pathway 58.a MSG Roadmap Objective 2 Aichi Biodiversity Target 19
Outcome 3. Recognition of, and strong political commitment and support for, coastal fisheries management at a national and sub-national scale	3.1 National recurring budgets allocated to coastal fisheries (% of total budget) 3.2 Number of staff allocated to coastal fisheries, both national and sub-national (ratio to population living in coastal areas)	3.1 National fisheries offices 3.2 National fisheries offices	FPO Indicator 7

<p>Outcome 4. Re-focused fisheries agencies that are transparent, accountable, and adequately resourced, supporting coastal fisheries management and sustainable development, underpinned by CEA FM</p>	<p>4.1 Number of PICTs with published financial audits or annual reports for their national fisheries offices 4.2 National recurring budgets allocated to coastal fisheries (% of total budget)</p>	<p>4.1 National fisheries offices 4.2 National fisheries offices</p>	<p>FPO MSG Roadmap Objective 1.3 Aichi Biodiversity Target 2</p>
<p>Outcome 5. Strong and up-to-date management policy, legislation and planning</p>	<p>5.1 Number of PICTs with current coastal fisheries policies 5.2 Number of PICTs with current coastal fisheries legislation 5.3 Evidence of coastal fisheries MCS&E (Qualitative)</p>	<p>5.1 SPC 5.2 SPC 5.3 All partners</p>	<p>FPO SAMOA Pathway 58.a & 58.g SDG Target 14.4 MSG Roadmap Objective 3.1 SSF Guidelines 10 Aichi Biodiversity Target 17</p>
<p>Outcome 6. Effective collaboration and coordination between stakeholders and key sectors of influence</p>	<p>6.1 Number of coastal fisheries related projects or activities integrating more than one government ministry 6.2 Number of coastal fisheries related projects or activities including multiple non-government stakeholders 6.3 Level of partnership effectiveness (Qualitative)</p>	<p>6.1 OPOC 6.2 OPOC 6.3 All partners</p>	<p>FPO Indicators 12 & 14 MSG Roadmap Objective 1.4</p>
<p>Outcome 7. More equitable access to benefits and decision making within communities, including women, youth and marginalised groups</p>	<p>7.1 Fishing income or consumption (\$) by age 7.2 Fishing income or consumption (\$) by gender 7.3 Number and % of women in senior fisheries positions</p>	<p>7.1 Census data 7.2 Census data 7.3 National fisheries offices</p>	<p>FPO SSF Guidelines 8</p>
<p>Outcome 8. Diverse livelihoods reducing pressure on fisheries resources, enhancing community incomes, and contributing to improved fisheries management</p>	<p>8.1 Amount (\$) and % of total household income derived from coastal fisheries & aquaculture by PICT 8.2 Percentage changes in total household income by sector by PICT</p>	<p>8.1 Census – module F 8.2 HIES</p>	<p>SDG Target 14.7 SAMOA Pathway 58.b & 58.h SSF Guidelines 6 & 7 MSG Roadmap Objective 3.2</p>

* FPO=Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape; MSG Roadmap=Melanesian Spearhead Group roadmap for inshore fisheries management and sustainable development; SAMOA Pathway=Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway; SDG=Sustainable Development Goals; SSF Guidelines=Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries.