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Title:	Introduction to the Policy on the governance of fisheries, aquaculture and marine ecosystems (FAME) data [draft]
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Summary/short description/key points:

This paper responds to a recommendation from the 12th Heads of Fisheries meeting (HoF-12) to

Develop an overarching data governance policy covering data ownership, data sharing, integration and dissemination.

This paper introduces the draft policy on the governance of fisheries, aquaculture and marine ecosystems (FAME) data developed by SPC in response to this recommendation. The draft policy is available in the [HoF-13 Background Paper 3](#).

The draft policy documents and enhances the current procedures with respect to the secure handling of members data.

Recommendations:

Members are invited to:

- review the draft policy ([HoF-13 Background Paper 3](#)),
- make suggestions where necessary,
- provide approval in principle for SPC FAME to start using the 'draft' policy, and
- work towards endorsing the policy at HoF-14.

Introduction

1. Member countries of the SPC have long understood the value of fisheries data both at the national and regional level and (through regional meetings over the past four decades) they have directed the SPC through its Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (FAME), to undertake a range of work including, the design of standardised data collection systems, development of database systems to manage and report on these data, and compilation/curation of marine ecosystems, fisheries, and aquaculture and marine ecosystems related data at the regional level for monitoring, scientific advice and management purposes.
2. A major component of FAME's ongoing work involves support and capacity development around the collection and management of marine ecosystems, fisheries and aquaculture data for their member countries.
3. SPC has also generated and/or have curated various "knowledge products"¹ which have added value to the raw data.
4. While there are many references² in regional meeting reports of member countries directing SPC to provide technical assistance for data collection and management, and compile/curate data at the regional level, there has been no overarching policy on fisheries data governance. Acknowledging the importance of fisheries data to member countries, FAME was directed by HOF-12³ to:

Develop an overarching data governance policy covering data ownership, data sharing, integration and dissemination.

5. SPC FAME has developed a draft policy (see [HoF-13 Background Paper 3](#)) which responds to this directive and now seeks feedback from members, noting that this policy will continue to be maintained and updated to account for additional guidance from members and new circumstances as they arise in the future.

¹ Journal reports, Technical Reports, Conference papers, internal reports, Issue-specific national reports (ISNRs), fisheries newsletters and articles are examples of "Knowledge products"

² For example, Recommendation #5 in the meeting report from the Twelfth Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries (RTMF-12, 1980) directed SPC to "... develop a regional fisheries statistics programme to obtain and analyse catch, effort and other data ... on highly migratory species."

SPC member countries were fundamental in recommending that SPC assume the role of science service provider and data manager when the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) was established in 2004.

³ Twelfth SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting. (HoF-12) 12–14 May 2020, Virtual meeting.
<https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/250>