

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

TO: Representatives of Governments and Administrations **No.:** 21/26
SPC Fisheries Contacts; Fisheries Organisations; and
Observers

FILE: PRO 7/55/4/1 **DATE:** 26 July 2021

SUBJECT: **Fourth SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture
12-15 October 2021, Noumea, New Caledonia (Virtual Meeting)**

PURPOSE OF NOTICE

1. Further to Circular 21/07 dated 26 March 2021, the Pacific Community's Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (FAME) wishes to advise that the postponed **Fourth Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA4)** has been rescheduled for **12-15 October 2021**. Due to travel restrictions presented by COVID-19, this meeting will be held virtually, and at SPC's Conference Centre in Noumea, for New Caledonia based participants. The RTMCFA4 will be chaired by the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
2. This notice therefore serves as:
 - A request for SPC member country governments and territory administrations to nominate four senior technical representatives: two coastal fisheries staff and two aquaculture staff. Since the meeting will be conducted virtually, SPC FAME encourages members to have more than four participants online, however, in terms of official communications about the meeting, SPC will be liaising directly with the four nominated representatives.
 - An invitation to other agencies, organisations, companies and individuals with an interest in coastal fisheries and aquaculture in the Pacific islands' region, to attend the virtual meeting and take the opportunity for discussions with Pacific island fisheries representatives and specialists, and with each other. *Registration will be required, but there is no registration fee.*
 - To advise that a separate invitation and nomination process will be undertaken with respect to non-state actor participation in the one-day Community Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD) session within the RTMCFA4, as approved and endorsed by the 12th Heads of Fisheries meeting and the 1st Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting.
3. All nominations are to be received by **Monday, 16 August 2021**.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

4. The 4th RTMCFA meeting has been arranged to carry forward the work and momentum generated from the first three meetings, and aims to address some specific outcomes as agreed by representatives at the 12th Heads of Fisheries Meeting (May 2020) and by the 1st Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (August 2020). It also links to the direction set out in *A New Song for Coastal Fisheries – Pathways to Change: The Noumea strategy*, the *Future of Fisheries: Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries*, as well as assisting with providing the much-needed information for reporting to Leaders through the annual *Coastal Fisheries Report Card*.

5. The overarching theme of RTMCFA4 is to discuss and address some of the main technical issues affecting coastal fisheries and aquaculture in support of better science-based resource management and the equitable access to resources, by capturing lessons learned from the ‘response phase’ of the COVID-19 pandemic, and identifying approaches and priorities as the region transitions to the ‘recovery phase’ in 2021-22 and beyond.
6. The RTMCFA meetings are intended to focus on specific priority issues with input from member country government and territory administrations. For the first three RTMCF meetings the format of the meeting has been to maximise input through group discussions and plenary sessions. This will continue for RTMCFA4, but due to being a virtual meeting it will be focused on a limited number of high priority issues.
7. RTMCFA4 will be the first meeting to include the Community Based Fisheries Dialogue session convened by and focused on non-state actor participation, as approved and endorsed by the 12th Heads of Fisheries meeting and the 1st Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting.
8. The RTMCFA4 will report to the 14th Heads of Fisheries meeting in early 2022. This will include the outcomes of the Community Based Fisheries Dialogue session.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OVERVIEW

9. As RTMCFA4 will be a virtual meeting, the format and agenda have been modified to meet the constraints of this format, and at the request of the 13th Heads of Fisheries, reduced to four days. The meeting will use the Zoom platform and will consist of two 2-hour sessions per day, with a break between sessions. Where appropriate, some sessions will involve breakout groups in addition to the plenary sessions. Due to time zones and the dateline, the meeting will run from Tuesday 12 to Friday 15 October 2021.
10. The following is an overview of the provisional agenda, to be refined over the next two months:
 - Day 1 (12 Oct): Opening; Coastal fisheries priorities & needs summary [see 12. below];
Coastal fisheries technical session 1: [topic TBC]
Coastal fisheries technical session 2 on “Integrating e-data systems into coastal fisheries across the PICTs”
 - Day 2 (13 Oct): Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Opening;
CBF Dialogue session 1: Terms of Reference; Convening; Participation
CBF Dialogue session 2: Implementing the *Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling-up CBFM*
 - Day 3 (14 Oct): Aquaculture priorities & needs summary;
Aquaculture technical session 1: Review of preliminary draft Regional Aquaculture Strategy
Aquaculture technical session 2: [Risk planning for Pacific aquaculture – TBC]
 - Day 4 (15 Oct): CBF Dialogue summary report on findings and recommendations to RTMCFA;
Review of RTMCFA; External Information Papers; General discussion;
Technical session: “Scientific and technical support in a COVID-19 context – lessons”;
Review of meeting Outcomes’ report; Adoption of specific recommendations to HoF14; Adoption of Outcomes (RTMCFA4, including CBF Dialogue)
11. The draft agenda will be posted on the SPC website (<https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/253>) in early August 2021.

12. Given the restrictions of a virtual meeting, there will be no statements by observers. However, observers, other agencies, organisations, companies and individuals are invited to submit brief Information Papers for circulation to all participants.
13. Members will be requested to prepare a brief dot-point summary of your top coastal fisheries and aquaculture technical priorities, and issues or challenges, that will be compiled into a Working Paper by SPC prior to the RTMCFA. SPC will provide a template in mid-August.
14. Any relevant documents for the meeting will be available on the SPC website at the following address <http://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/253>.

LANGUAGE

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

REPORT

16. The formal report of the meeting will consist of a list of decisions, outcomes and recommendations identified by the Chair, and agreed by consensus, called the "Outputs" of the meeting. The Outputs report will also include the outputs of the Community Based Fisheries Dialogue session. The Outputs report will include a separate section focused on a limited number of specific, high priority meeting outputs that need to be presented to the 14th Heads of Fisheries Meeting (early 2022) for consideration and decision by the Heads of Fisheries.

MEETING CONTACTS

- Official nominations to: Neville Smith, Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (email: fame_meetings@spc.int).
- Administrative issues: Sonia Schutz-Russell, Programme Planning officer (email: fame_meetings@spc.int; tel: +687 260263)
- Agenda items, papers, other enquiries, etc.: Dr Andrew Smith, Deputy Director (Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture), Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystem Division (email: andrews@spc.int; cc/- fame_meetings@spc.int).

INSURANCE

17. The Pacific Community does not insure participants while attending meetings or during travel to/from, or attending virtual meetings; and will not be responsible for any expenses arising out of loss, sickness, injury, other disability or loss of life. It is participants' own responsibility to ensure that participants are covered by insurance.



Dr Stuart Minchin
Director-General