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Title:	Progress report against outcomes from HoF11
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Summary/short description/key points:

The 11th Heads of Fisheries Meeting (HoF11) was held at SPC Headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia, from the 11-13 March 2019.

The outcomes constitute the main points arising from the meeting, including:

- Key points of consensus or discussion among delegates that the meeting felt important to document
- Guidance to inform the direction of the FAME work programme
- Areas to draw to the attention of other regional agencies and development partners
- Agreement on issues that require attention by members themselves
- Meeting record to inform the Regional Fisheries Ministers' Meeting, SPC CRGA and the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting.

This working paper summarises the progress that FAME has made against each of the outcomes from HoF11.

Recommendations:

Members and partners are invited to note the progress made against the outcomes from HoF11, and discuss any outstanding items.

Progress report against outcomes from HoF11

1. The 11th Heads of Fisheries Meeting (HoF11) was held at SPC Headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia, from the 11-13 March 2019, chaired by Dr Tu'ikolongahau Halafihi, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Fisheries, Kingdom of Tonga. The meeting was officially opened by Cameron Diver, Deputy Director General, SPC.
2. HoF is a regional meeting of the heads of SPC member country and territory fishery agencies, or their appointed deputies, covering the entire range of interests for which they have responsibility and on which the SPC Division of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) provides advice and assistance. The HoF meeting plays a unique role in providing strategic guidance to FAME's work programmes across the Director's Office, the Coastal Fisheries Programme (CFP) and the Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP), and invites FAME's development partners and donors to participate in the meeting as observers.
3. SPC acknowledges the financial support of the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) for the 11th Heads of Fisheries Meeting.

Outcomes from HoF11	Progress against outcome
FAME results reporting 2017-2018	
Heads of Fisheries:	
1. Noted the results achieved by FAME in 2017 and 2018 as reported against the FAME Business Plan, as well as the results from the FAME Performance Review and the actions taken to respond to review recommendations to ensure FAME's fitness for purpose into the future.	Noted.
2. Thanked FAME for their transparency and commitment to ongoing improvement in responding to the FAME review and annual results reporting.	Noted with appreciation.
3. Called for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Follow-up evaluation of in-country outcomes or impacts relating to FAME's capacity development activities (e.g. application of learning); 	FAME is conducting a review of capacity development activities across the whole division in 2020.

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| b. | Further analysis of training data to better understand reasons behind imbalances by gender and by country/territory; and, | Further analysis of training data was undertaken and will be presented at HoF12. |
| c. | The inclusion of timeliness in responding to country requests to be considered by FAME in analysis of results / success. | Once a tool to managing incoming requests is developed and utilised (see point 4 below) this information will be included as part of results reporting. |

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| 4. | Tasked SPC to explore various mechanisms to better prioritise country requests, including country service agreements, or similar models, and report to HoF12. | FAME has developed a preliminary 'Request Management and Prioritization Tool' that is still undergoing testing. This tool allows FAME staff to complete a form when requests are received from Members. It is saved in MS Excel automatically and we can use Power BI to analyse and visualize the status of requests. A flow-chart and set of criteria is in the early stages of development to assist FAME to prioritise Member requests. These will be presented in the plenary session of HoF12. |
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| 5. | Supported revisions made to the FAME Business Plan as a result of feedback from HoF10 and the FAME Performance Review, and suggested further revisions be made to the FAME management arrangements diagram to further clarify treatment of regional strategies and the inputs of other regional organisations into FAME's work. | Revisions were made to the diagram accordingly. |
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Coastal fisheries and aquaculture

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| 6. | Recognised the importance of coastal fisheries and aquaculture to members, and generally endorsed the key existing CFP priorities, as well as the new directions proposed in WP5. | Noted with appreciation. |
| 7. | Identified the following areas of priority for coastal fisheries in PICTs to help guide CFP work priorities: | |
| a. | Empowering communities; community-based fisheries management. | This is a core focus of the Coastal Fisheries Programme (CFP) Science, Management and Livelihoods Section, supported in part through the following projects or funding: PEUMP Programme KRA 3 component (specially KRA 3.4 and KRA 3.9 implemented by SPC; KRAs 3.5-3.7 implemented by the LMMA Network); aspects of the NZ MFAT Effective Coastal Fisheries |

Management project; the ACIAR/University of Wollongong project; and in part with the Australian Government (DFAT) Programme Funding for Pacific Community Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems. Support was provided for enhancing CBFM in two countries in 2019. Scaling-up of community-based fisheries management was also one of the three topics considered during the RTMCF3 in November 2019.

b. Information, knowledge and data collection, storage, analysis and sharing.

Around 500 documents have been added in 2019 to the FAME Digital Library (reports, conference papers, manuals, bulletins, posters and presentations). In addition, document libraries have been established in six countries which was a new work area for CFP in 2019, to facilitate local access of digitized documents not produced by SPC.

Broad-scale surveys have been conducted in several countries by national staff using SPC methodology (following initial re-training). Data transferred to SPC, and support and advice provided by SPC scientists for the analysis of the datasets and report writing.

c. Evidence-based management.

Evidence-based management is done through fisheries policies, plans and management measures supported by the 'Improving fisheries food security and sustainable livelihoods' project, five policies/plans for three countries were endorsed, with several management plans and policies in progress. Consultation is an integral part of developing fisheries plans and policies. The challenge continues to be readily available data for coastal fisheries and aquaculture to support evidence-based management.

d. Regionally important cross-cutting issues.

On-going commitments in strengthening aquaculture and coastal fisheries governance across the Pacific Islands region. In support of that the REEFLEX Pacific Law and Policy Database on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture is now active on the FAME website. It comprises three different tools to assist with understanding the legal frameworks for coastal fisheries and aquaculture in all SPC member PICTs and Timor Leste: Find laws and policies; Compare regulations; and Understand regulations.

CFP has continued to ensure gender and human rights-based approaches are being considered and incorporated. For example the recognition of gender aspects in aquaculture and aquatic biosecurity training programs; selection of enterprises that received assistance through the CFP programme were also based on the viability of the enterprises in addressing gender in their operations (see also the Gender and social inclusion section below).

Support and advice on climate change, the potential impacts, mitigation and adaptation strategies for coastal fisheries and aquaculture. Briefings to various regional meetings and fora, including HoF11 and the Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting.

The development of the 'Regional Framework on Aquatic Biosecurity' (see 14. below) and ongoing technical support was provided to members in strengthening national capacity in managing aquatic biosecurity risks.

e. Economic analyses.

Ongoing capacity building provided on cost-benefit analysis in aquaculture, as well as on commodity specific marketing assessment, was provided for a second time in 2019 to three countries.

Business literacy training was provided to aquaculture enterprises, farm clusters and associations and this will continue in 2020.

Assistance in technical and financial risk assessments in aquaculture was provided to five Micronesian countries to assist in their planning processes in order to minimise the risks associated with growing and sustaining aquaculture production.

Conducted value-chain analyses for specific fisheries (see 28. below).

FAME CFP is currently in the process of recruiting a new Coastal Fisheries Economist. The position closed in mid-February, with interviews scheduled in late-February/early-March. Until this position is filled, CFP's capacity to support economic analyses is limited.

f. Marine-based livelihood initiatives

The Sustainable Livelihoods unit in the CFP Science, Management and Livelihoods section, has been understrength in 2019. A new Sustainable Livelihoods Adviser position is in the process of being advertised, and the Sustainable Livelihoods unit is being restructured to better meet members' needs around livelihood initiatives, fisheries development, post-harvest handling and value-adding.

This unit is still constrained by available resources, however, through collaboration with other organisations and institutions, support in diversifying marine based livelihoods in the form of fishing trails in mini-long line for pelagic species, fishing with lights for small pelagic species (e.g. scads) and squid fishing trails were undertaken in three countries. On-board handling of catch was demonstrated in all fishing trails. FAME continued its support in advising on FAD material procurement, rigging and deployment techniques, and safety at sea.

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| 8. Recognised that requests to CFP from Members should be national priorities in support of national strategies or plans. | Noted. This has been included as one of the criteria to assist FAME to prioritise member requests (see 4. above). |
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| 9. Recognised the need for more standardised survey designs and related data as well as ongoing support around developing survey tools, data collection, storage and analysis, but noted the limitations for ongoing CFP support for isolated in-country databases. | Creel surveys were conducted in several atolls in Kiribati using a combination of TAILS (with a few additional questions) and digital photography of catch (to minimize disruption of landing operations). In addition, a new database (Ikasavea application and web module) has been developed for market surveys and a similar system is currently in development for the invertebrate fisheries to increase data collection of coastal resources. These systems are designed to work off-line with synchronization at a later time with the central server. |
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| 10. Urged CFP to continue its efforts to strengthen and improve coastal fisheries and aquaculture science. | <p>CFP provides two positions each year solely for Pacific Island Fisheries Professionals to undertake a 12-month attachment to coastal fisheries for intensive learning and improvement of applied fisheries skills.</p> <p>Significant resources have been mobilised by CFP to undertake a renewal of fisheries data collection programmes by in-country coastal fisheries departments. Presentations have been made at regional meetings such as RTMCF to detail the changes and adjustments being undertaken.</p> <p>A simplified set of data collection protocols and use of e-data systems are starting to be demonstrated in a number of countries with an extended trial-and-assess period to be undertaken in at least two countries during 2020. Results will be presented at RTMCF4 in 2020.</p> <p>A pilot aquaponics system has been set up at the SPC Office in Narere, Fiji, to test the viability of aquaponics and their potential application to member countries that may be interested in this area.</p> <p>On-farm feed research trials will continue to test performance of commercially available feed using the Naduruloulou Freshwater Aquaculture Research Station in Fiji.</p> <p>Continued work in assisting countries in improving technical expertise on hatchery seed production and on broodstock management through investigating better performing strains of species for aquaculture.</p> <p>Capacity building on disease diagnosis has been ongoing with a number of countries participating and this would continue with focus on priority commodities such as seaweed, shrimps, pearls and tilapia.</p> |
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<p>11. Urged CFP to explore opportunities for strengthening its capacity in the area of marine-based livelihoods including post-harvest and value-adding.</p>	<p>CFP continues to improve collaboration with partners (regional agencies and institutions) and in sourcing additional resources to strengthen its marine-based livelihoods capacity.</p> <p>As noted under 7.f. above, the Sustainable Livelihoods unit was understrength in 2019. This unit is still constrained by available resources.</p> <p>This will be the focus of a session during HoF12.</p>
<p>12. Supported the commitment made by SPC to re-evaluate the provision of FAD-related support within the context of the broader sustainable livelihoods services to Members.</p>	<p>SPC support is expected to increase through collaboration with the FAO-Japan funded project 'Improving livelihoods through sustainable nearshore fisheries in the Pacific'. CFP continues to identify funding and partners to strengthen its capacity in sustainable livelihoods services.</p>
<p>13. Recommended CFP provide increased support for developing national-level FAD programmes and provide 'train-the-trainers' capacity building based on appropriate 'FAD best-practice' knowledge and experience.</p>	<p>FAD Programme support is on-going, although constrained by limited resources. 'A manual on anchored fish aggregating devices (FADs): An update on FAD gear technology, designs and deployment methods for the Pacific Islands region' was published in March 2020. Increased funding support is expected through collaboration with the FAO-Japan funded project (see 12. above).</p>
<p>14. Noted the need for a regional strategy for aquatic biosecurity, and tasked SPC to develop a draft strategy inter-sessionally, in consultation with members, and present the outcomes to HoF12.</p>	<p>FAME Aquaculture section has developed a 'Regional Framework on Aquatic Biosecurity'. The Regional Framework will be presented to HoF12 for endorsement. FAME has also developed a Policy Brief: 'The importance of aquatic biosecurity for the Pacific Islands region'.</p> <p>All PICTs have attended the first "aquatic paravet" training focused on aquatic health management and aquatic biosecurity (August 2019).</p>
<p>Oceanic fisheries</p>	
<p>15. Generally endorsed the key existing OFP priorities, as well as the new directions proposed in WP5. Additionally, HoF11 expressed its appreciation for the quality of OFP's work in Pacific tuna fisheries science.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation.</p>
<p>16. Welcomed the progress made by OFP in implementing TUFMAN2, DORADO Reporting and associated e-reporting platforms. HoF11 requested that the OFP develop a web-based reporting system that provides national fisheries agencies with more</p>	<p>Following the request from members to obtain a new CES-like tool, a web based query system prototype (CES2) has been implemented, for longline logsheet data only at this stage.</p> <p>This new system allows, after secure login, the selection of a number of parameters for filtering data (vessel flag, EEZ, period of time, year/quarter/month, species) and to aggregate</p>

<p>flexibility to select from a range of data fields and data aggregation levels from different types of tuna fishery data, taking into account user-based requirements (similar to the philosophy used in the legacy CES software).</p>	<p>them if needed. Aggregation can also be done by main species groups.</p> <p>The system allows the calculation of catch (in number or weight) and effort (number of vessels, trips, sets or hooks), as well as a couple of CPUEs (catch/100 hooks, number fish/day, number fish/100 hooks).</p> <p>After computation, the result of the query can be exported to CSV format.</p> <p>Plans are to integrate other gear types, as well as other data types (Annual Catch Estimates, public 5 x 5 data, etc.).</p>
<p>17. Also welcomed the important progress made in the roll-out of the logsheet e-reporting platform <i>OnBoard</i> in the southern longline fishery, and indicated that the development and roll-out of associated e-reporting software for port sampling (<i>OnShore</i>) and observers (<i>OLLO</i>) is a key priority.</p>	<p>The <i>OnBoard</i> app is now used in six southern longline countries with commitment for 100% coverage in the coming year announced by at least two countries. The <i>OnShore</i> port sampling and biological sampling app is now used in five member countries with coverage expected to grow in the coming year; this app also supports the collection of deep-water snapper size data. The development of the <i>OLLO</i> (longline observer e-reporting app) has been completed and trials will be conducted; the <i>OLLO</i> app will be made available to countries on a per-request basis</p>
<p>18. Recognised the evolution of OFP's role in the Pacific Islands Regional Fisheries Observer (PIRFO) programme, from direct delivery of observer training to an increased focus on trainer development, training standards, certification and quality assurance. HoF11 requested that SPC work with national training institutions to enable those institutions to play a stronger role in observer training delivery. HoF11 also requested that SPC provide training for French-speaking observer trainers, as well as French translations of PIRFO teaching documents.</p>	<p>The established PIRFO Observer qualification received accreditation from the Pacific Board for Educational Quality as Certificate 3 in Observer Operations, accredited on Level 3 of the Pacific Qualifications Framework. It will subsequently be registered on the Pacific Register of Qualifications and Standards (PROQS). This enables national fisheries agencies to conduct PIRFO Observer training through partnerships with their national education institutions and allow EQAP approved national maritime colleges and schools to run PIRFO observer training courses. It raises recognition of the PIRFO Observer qualification's among mainstream education institutions. Similarly, other PIRFO qualifications (Debriefing and Debriefing Assessor) are also now being assessed for recognition by SPC's Education and Quality Assurance Programme (EQAP) in 2020.</p> <p>All 24 PIRFO Trainer & Assessors and trainee Trainers completed a regionally recognized training qualification (Australian Certificate IV in Training and Assessment) in 2019. The broader training qualification improves the recognition and employability of PIRFO trainers through marine schools that participate in PIRFO training as described above.</p> <p>A PIRFO Trainers Workshop was held in November 2019 to standardise the assessments used in all PIRFO Observer training workshops (subregional and national trainings). Similarly, a PIRFO Debriefing workshop was held to ensure debriefing standards were maintained.</p>

National PIRFO Trainer and Assessors participated in 2 subregional PIRFO observer training workshops coordinated by SPC. SPC also facilitated the exchange of PIRFO trainers among nationally run training workshops. A subregional Debriefing Assessor workshop was held in November 2019 to facilitate national capacity to assess and certify PIRFO Debriefers.

The sixth annual meeting of the PIRFO Certification Management Committee was held in February 2020, involving representatives of national and subregional programmes to facilitate regional solutions to PIRFO training issues.

PIRFO Observer Training in French will be conducted in French Polynesia in February 2020 and is agreed to be conducted for New Caledonia later in 2020.

19. Endorsed the further development of Pacific Marine Specimen Bank (PMSB), building on the WCPFC Tuna Tissue Bank as currently implemented by SPC. This development should expand the coverage of species to important coastal, nearshore pelagic and deep bottom species that are important for food security and livelihoods in PICTs, to begin to address important knowledge gaps in the biology of these species, and to provide a reference against which to monitor future environmental change. The PMSB should also provide research opportunities for Pacific Island scientists pursuing postgraduate studies.

Sample collection for the PMSB continued in 2019, with samples taken from wahoo, mahi, striped marlin and rainbow runner. Collection continues to focus on those from at-sea and in-port observers and a renewed focus will be placed on increasing sample collection in 2020.

The CFP has an annual sampling programme collecting demographic and genetic samples from key coastal fish species across PICT's. In 2019 CFP started additional sampling of tissues for inclusion in the PMSB. This is a first step in what will be an integration of coastal and oceanic fisheries sample collections at SPC to form a central repository of key biological information on targeted fisheries species.

The PMSB is open to access by scientific researchers, and hence is available to Pacific Island scientists. FAME remains ready to support Pacific Island scientists pursuing postgraduate studies.

20. Endorsed research aimed at better understanding the stock structure of tuna in the Pacific, noting the important implications that this could have on stock assessments, management strategies and the allocation of fishing rights/opportunities.

Two key peer-reviewed papers arising from the stock structure workshop, and two peer-reviewed papers on genetic studies of yellowfin and South Pacific albacore, have now been published. Efforts to obtain funding are ongoing, while recruitment of a geneticist on staff to help deliver this work is currently underway. Expanding collection of further quality samples under the PMSB is planned.

21. Requested that OFP continue to support PICTs in their use of video-based e-monitoring for longline fisheries. This support should include the provision of scientific advice and technical support for the development of EM policy and

The SPC/FFA/PNAO Data Collection Committee (DCC) held the Longline Electronic Monitoring (EM) Planning Workshop at FFA headquarters in October 2019 and successfully agreed on a draft Regional Longline E-Monitoring Policy. Another DCC meeting, held in February 2020, produced draft Regional Longline E-Monitoring minimum data field standards to provide member countries with guidance when trialling and

<p>implementation, including data standards, sub-sampling for data review and uploading of data into data systems to support national management.</p>	<p>implementing E-Monitoring in their longline fisheries. E-Monitoring data continue to be loaded into databases for use by member countries. Further analyses on options for coverage of E-Monitoring data review will be conducted in the coming months.</p>
<p>22. Noted the progress made by OFP, in collaboration with the PNA, in the analysis of data on drifting fish aggregation devices (dFADs), and requested that future work on these data include an evaluation of the impacts of increased dFAD use and dFAD density on the availability of tuna in nearshore areas.</p>	<p>This work is ongoing, with results presented to SC15 in 2019, and further results will be reported to SC16. Further work on the acoustic data collected through FADs will be undertaken through EU and WCPFC funding in 2020/2021. OFP has also been collaborating with individual members to assist in the public collection of data on beached FADs at the national level.</p>
<p>23. Noted with concern the emerging issue of environmental contamination in fisheries resources (micro/nano-plastics, methyl mercury, cadmium, polychlorinated biphenyls, and others) and encouraged SPC to work with competent agencies in better understanding the effects of such contaminants on the marine environment, fish populations and human health. HoF11 noted this work would be supported by the expanded PMSB.</p>	<p>Funding is being sought (French Pacific Funds) to support a trial project to assess the level of contamination of tuna by persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and by plastics and plastic additives. SPC is also contributing to the development of a research project on plastic contamination in both coastal and oceanic marine organisms of interest for food security. Further funding is being sought in this area, but that process is at an early stage.</p>
<p>24. Requested that work on understanding the effects of environmental variation, including climate change, on the distribution and abundance of tuna stocks in the Pacific continue, be further developed to cover other species of importance, particularly those important for food security, and be made available to members to inform management decision making.</p>	<p>Funding is being sought to support this area, including that from Green Climate Fund through Conservation International, which will be discussed later in HoF12. The modelling process will be assisted by the presence of Patrick Lehodey (from Collecte Localisation Satellites - CLS) at SPC during late 2020/2021 on sabbatical. Further plans in this area will also be presented during HoF12.</p>
<p>Capacity building</p>	
<p>25. Recognised the important role that FAME plays in capacity development in PICT fisheries agencies. HoF11 requested that FAME continue to provide capacity development opportunities to PICT fisheries</p>	<p>OFP continues to focus on capacity development with ongoing support for observer training, for example. Further areas of focus for 2020 include the Regional Tuna Data Workshop, national workshops on harvest strategies and the Stock Assessment Workshops (Introductory and Advanced), the latter under GEF funding. OFP continues to pursue Pacific</p>

personnel through specific training workshops, short-term attachments, the Pacific Islands Fisheries Professional programme and in-country training events. HoF11 also requested an increased focus on ‘train-the-trainers’, with the aim to facilitate ‘south-south’ exchanges that link Members.

Island Fishery Professional positions, with three positions currently filled.

CFP has continued to have a number of short-term attachments undertaking hands-on training on data analysis, legal drafting, GIS training, and data management. In 2019 CFP had two 12-month Pacific Island Fisheries Professionals (PIFP) – science; management planning. In 2020 we have two new PIFP. The aquaculture team supported two ‘south-south’ exchanges: late 2019 Solomon Islands aquaculture officer visited Timor Leste to see Nile tilapia hatchery production models and farmer support; and in early 2020 aquaculture officers from Fiji, Tonga and Kiribati were hosted by Vanuatu to share sandfish sea ranching knowledge and experiences.

Gender and social inclusion

26. Welcomed the launch of the first edition of the *Pacific handbook for gender equity and social inclusion in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture* and its role in further enhancing the visibility of women in this sector. HOF11 recognised the efforts of all contributors, and acknowledged FAME’s continued work in this area including the upcoming second edition with additional modules.

Noted with appreciation.

27. Recognised that the Handbook could be useful for internal policies and human resources, as well as designing fisheries management and aquaculture activities, and noted that building awareness is an important first step and that incremental use over time is more likely than fast and sudden change.

Noted.

28. Suggested entry points for training, such as discussion on the ways in which gender equity and social inclusion are relevant for coastal fisheries management and aquaculture (or not) and understanding that gender equity does not mean focusing on women but is about improving outcomes for everyone.

Noted. A value-chain analysis was conducted for the women oyster collectors/farmers of the Rewa River Delta in Fiji, which highlighted how value-chain analyses can provide an entry point that can assist in not only promoting and identifying suitable supplementary livelihoods and skills development opportunities, but also promote gender equity and social inclusion.

29. Requested that in revising the Handbook it is important to make sure all PICTs be included to the extent possible, and suggested training materials could include facilitated discussions on different perspectives on gender – e.g. differences between urban and rural areas.	Noted. Country representatives from national fisheries agencies from Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Federate States of Micronesia and Cook Islands have been requested to attend the writing workshop being held in Suva, Fiji on the 9-10 March 2020, to review the four new additional modules on gender and social inclusion. These four new modules are: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Community Engagement2. Livelihoods (fisheries, aquaculture)3. Coastal Fisheries Management4. Oceanic Fisheries
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30. Considered that it is vital for any work in this area to be culturally appropriate and acknowledge existing cultural structures.	Noted. SPC prides itself on working in a culturally appropriate manner whilst acknowledging existing cultural structures.
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Climate change and fisheries

31. Welcomed the announcement of SPC's accreditation by the Board of the Global Climate Fund (GCF) at their meeting on 26-28 February 2019, whereby SPC is accredited to engage with the GCF and to submit climate change adaptation and mitigation projects of small size and up to Environmental and Social risk level B (medium), on behalf of its member countries.	Noted with appreciation.
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32. Requested SPC FAME to keep Members informed as SPC supports its Member countries in preparing and submitting fisheries-related climate projects to the GCF.	Noted. SPC Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Programme (CCES), with support from FAME, has assisted the Tonga Ministry of Fisheries prepare a Concept Note for submission to GCF on "Towards climate change resilient coastal fisheries and aquaculture in Tonga." GCF will be discussed further at HoF12.
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33. Recognised the progress on the development of the official Concept Note to GCF for the regional tuna adaptation project with Conservation International as the Accredited Entity, SPC and FFA as Executing Entities, and FAO as an implementing partner (as discussed at HoF10).	The latest Concept Note for the regional tuna project, which has been adjusted following discussions with the GCF, will be presented to HoF12 and was circulated to relevant members by Conservation International on the 18 th February 2020.
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a. Noted that the proposed regional tuna adaptation project could provide some mechanisms	This remains a focus of the Concept Note.
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for small-scale and industrial tuna fisheries to adapt to climate change, in line with recommendations made in the comprehensive vulnerability assessment conducted by SPC.

- b. Noted the eight countries involved directly in the proposal will continue to champion the project and request that their national designated authorities include the project in their respective GCF country programmes for the benefit of the region.

The project proposal has now been expanded to incorporate: Cook Islands; Federated States of Micronesia; Fiji; Kiribati; Marshall Islands; Nauru; Niue; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Tonga; Tuvalu; and Vanuatu.

Sea cucumber fisheries

<p>34. Encourage consultations on the option of Pacific Island countries forming a united position on the proposed CITES listing of sea cucumbers species such as blackteat (<i>Holothuria whitmaei</i>) and whiteteat (<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>).</p>	<p>FAME attended the Oceania CITES preparatory meeting hosted by SPREP to provide assistance for fisheries representatives from PICT's to articulate their country position. The purpose of this meeting was to assist Oceania CITES members communicate and prepare their respective positions on the listing of two commercially important teat-fish species in the 18th CITES CoP meeting (May-June 2019).</p>
<p>35. Explore the potential for providing regional support for PICTs to meet the non-detriment findings (NDF) requirements of CITES to minimise administrative burden on PICTs.</p>	<p>FAME developed a Concept Note and is currently seeking donor funding for enhancing the capacity of Pacific Islands Fisheries Agencies to develop NDF and meet trade regulation for sea cucumber species listed in Appendix II of CITES. As of HoF12 no new resources to support PICTs to meet NDF are available. FAME is also liaising with SPREP on this matter.</p>
<p>36. Recommend that a regional approach to MCS be developed that draws upon common governance practices to optimise the utilisation of fisheries resources, such as sharing a blacklist of buyers and exporters, methods of IUU, and surveillance strategies.</p>	<p>FAME would need more information about those members who would participate before a regional approach could be considered. FAME has only had one informal request for assistance to develop a national bêche-de-mer MCS strategy, as countries seem to want to manage this fishery individually.</p>
<p>37. Support the promotion of regional intelligence-sharing about sea cucumber value, pricing and markets across PICTs. This information can be publicised and shared annually via the SPC BDM Information Bulletin.</p>	<p>SPC continually promotes the sharing of data and information, within the constraints of data confidentiality requirements. A compendium of available data on Bêche-de-mer prices (retail sale price, prices paid by importers, and prices paid locally and nationally) was published in the SPC Fisheries Newsletter #158 and on the FAME webpage. FAME will endeavour to regularly update this information.</p>

38. Recommend that NDFs and sea cucumber catch quotas be established under resource management plans.	FAME will continue to identify new resources for enhancing the capacity of national Fisheries Agencies to develop non-detriment findings and to determine catch quotas for sea cucumber species listed in Appendix II of CITES.
39. Urges National Authorities (Fisheries and Environment) to establish management measures consistent with CITES obligations.	Meetings are still required with all interested countries. Planning is underway for a regional workshop in late 2020 on the assessment and status of sea cucumbers across the Pacific, including CITES obligations.
Harmonised collection of fisheries data	
40. Adopted the report of the 11th Tuna Fishery Data Collection Committee (DCC11).	Noted.
41. In relation to the Coastal Fisheries Report card:	
a. Agreed that in-country focal points should be established to facilitate data collection for the annual Coastal Fisheries Report Card. Countries are requested are to clarify who these focal points are and inform SPC. Focal points would include the person who endorses the data going out and the person who will compile data to send. HoF11 participants will also be copied in 2019 to follow through with their relevant Ministries.	15 PICTs nominated focal points, with FAME also contributing additional resources in compiling the 2019 report card to enable in-country follow up with three members. FAME will continue to work with members in 2020 to improve the flow of information into the report card.
b. Suggested national level report cards would serve national level needs, with these having indicators that align to country specific needs and goals, rather than reporting everything. These national report cards would be the responsibility of the country and forwarded to input to the regional report card.	This was further discussed at RTMCF3, with the decision made to develop national template for consistent data across PICTs, and members invited to request support from FAME should they need it as they develop national level report cards.
c. Suggested SPC audit what systems are in place at the national level relating to Report Card data, including approval	FAME plans to begin this process in collaboration with the Pathways project. FAME has also been in discussion with the Pacific Data Hub and the SPC Statistics for Development Division to collaborate on how new technologies and platforms

processes within countries to provide data from countries. can assist to further streamline and improve fisheries reporting in the region.

42. In relation to re-booting approaches to data poor fisheries:

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| <p>a. Agreed that data collection is an area that needs to be reviewed with a view to simplifying processes. While countries will still have specific requirements, there are nevertheless generalities in core data to be collected that will favour regional agreement and cooperation.</p> | <p>The data management team has been developing the e-data systems to support more efficient and simplified data collection procedures and methodologies (see also 9. above). Significant work has been done in at least one country during 2019, with at three other countries now engaged with CFP to use the e-data systems to collect fisheries data in 2020.</p> |
| <p>b. Recommended investigation of e-data possibilities and capabilities as a natural complement to simplifying data collection and reporting. Application of innovative approaches like e-data should be looked at more generally as a way to boost capacity.</p> | <p>Because of the prior penetration of the TAILS application through the OFP programme there has already been a general acceptance and enthusiasm to adopt e-data collection systems to improve coastal fisheries data collection across the region. CFP has begun working with individual countries to provide e-data systems for fisheries data collection. It is anticipated that significant data collection will occur across multiple countries in 2020 that will provide a working template for other countries and territories to follow.</p> |
| <p>c. Recommended a review of national-level survey mechanisms such as the Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) to see how they can be better utilised to get national-level data on fisheries.</p> | <p>A pilot project looking at this issue was completed in Kiribati in 2019 to coincide with the national HIES survey that was undertaken there. Creel survey information will be compared with HIES fisheries information to make a more informed assessment of how the HIES survey can be better utilised for capturing national level fisheries information.</p> |

Heads of Fisheries Meeting – Purpose, priorities and direction

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| <p>43. Agreed that the Heads of Fisheries Meeting is the only regional forum for discussion and priority-setting for coastal fisheries and aquaculture; for the joint consideration of oceanic and coastal fisheries; and where all SPC Members participate.</p> | <p>Noted.</p> |
| <p>44. Recommended that the HoF Meeting continue to focus on guiding FAME's strategic direction and work-plan priorities, to be reflected in SPC</p> | <p>HoF12 has been structured and organised to meet this recommendation. There will be a post-meeting evaluation survey at the end of HoF12 that will help FAME assess how</p> |

<p>FAME Business Plan updates, and consider strategic regional policy and governance issues to be transmitted to the newly established Regional Fisheries Ministers' meeting and, where appropriate, to the PIF Leaders' meetings.</p>	<p>well the meeting meets the recommendation, and identify changes needed for future HoF meetings.</p>
<p>45. Agreed that coastal fisheries and aquaculture technical issues be dealt with by the Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries (RTMCF), with its outcomes forwarded to the HoF Meeting for consideration.</p>	<p>The 3rd RTMCF meeting was held in November 2019 and the Outcomes and Agreed Action Plan will be presented to HoF12. The purpose of RTMCF3 was to discuss and address some of the main technical issues affecting coastal fisheries and aquaculture in support of better science-based resource management and equitable access to resources. The agenda and themes for RTMCF3 were developed in consultation with SPC members and partners, with the specific priority topics having been selected through an online survey of SPC members, they were: 1) Science: New technologies, e-data processes and systems; 2) Aquaculture: Implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Aquatic Biosecurity; and 3) Community-based fisheries: Scaling-up community-based fisheries management. A 1-day workshop on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Monitoring, Control, Surveillance and Enforcement was held after the RTMCF.</p> <p>The Outcomes and Agreed Action Plan document was structured to facilitate the new strategic direction setting framework, information flow and decision-making process for Pacific coastal fisheries and aquaculture.</p>
<p>46. Agreed [on] an appropriate indicative schematic of information flow and advice for the consideration of coastal fisheries issues at the regional level.</p>	<p>Noted. This new, but still evolving, strategic direction setting framework, information flow and decision-making process for Pacific coastal fisheries and aquaculture was initiated at the RTMCF3, with the outcomes and actions being presented to HoF12. The outcomes of HoF will be presented to the Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting for their consideration in mid-2020.</p>
<p>47. Reached a consensus that:</p> <p>a. The HoF Meeting be convened annually at SPC Headquarters, on a two-year trial basis. The HoF agreed that this recommendation should be examined by CRGA, taking into account the additional financial commitment and human resources required by the Secretariat to manage an annual HoF meeting.</p>	<p>Noted. The Australian Government provided additional funding in mid-2019 to enable FAME to hold and support RTMCF and HoF meetings in 2019 and 2020.</p>

<p>b. The HoF Meeting duration can be tailored to the meeting agenda, but should be no more than three days. The meeting agenda should focus on decision points, and would normally include consideration of FAME results and future priorities, regional coastal fisheries governance and policy matters, and emerging issues of concern.</p>	<p>HoF12 meeting is a 3-day meeting and the agenda has been structured to meet the indicated criteria.</p>
<p>c. March is the most appropriate month to hold the HoF Meeting to facilitate outcomes being transmitted, where appropriate, to the newly established Regional Fisheries Ministers' meeting for consideration.</p>	<p>HoF12 has been scheduled accordingly.</p>
<p>48. Requested that SPC raise the issues of reporting lines and member government and other representation on the Coastal Fisheries Working Group (CFWG) at the next CFWG meeting.</p>	<p>The 4th CFWG meeting (March 2019) agreed to a review of the CFWG Terms of Reference, including membership.</p> <p>In June 2019, a Special Regional Fisheries Ministerial Meeting 'Statement of Outcomes' noted:</p> <p>"9. Ministers noted the work of the Coastal Fisheries Working Group but expressed concern regarding its lack of accountability to member Governments. Ministers noted the proposed review of the CFWG Terms of Reference in 2020, and recommended to SPC that the CFWG be disbanded and that other options be considered for giving effect to the Leaders' decision in 2016 in relation to coastal fisheries (para 10, 47th Leaders Communique). Ministers called for the SPC Heads of Fisheries to be the primary vehicle for formulating advice on coastal fisheries management to the RFMM."</p> <p>SPC sought bids and contracted MRAG Asia Pacific, with Andrew Wright as the lead consultant supported by Duncan Souter, to <i>Review of the Coastal Fisheries Working Group and options and recommendations for increasing the engagement of non-state actors in Pacific Islands regional coastal fisheries governance</i>. The draft options and recommendations resulting from regional consultations for a new mechanism and/or entity to replace the CFWG to give effect to the Pacific Island Forum Leaders' decision in relation to coastal fisheries, will be discussed at HoF12.</p>
<p>49. Agreed that SPC FAME will utilise the guidance provided by the HoF breakout groups on the terms of reference for the proposed 'Regional</p>	<p>The feedback from the HoF11 breakout groups was used by SPC FAME as input to the Special Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting.</p>

Fisheries Ministers' meeting (Annex 1), and feed that into the recommendations being developed by the Officials, FFA, SPC and PIFS, for Ministers to consider at their 2019 meeting.

Ministers representing Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, met in Pohnpei, FSM, on 20 June 2019 as a Special Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (SRFMM). Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu were represented at senior official level. French Polynesia and New Caledonia were unable to attend.

Ministers approved the Terms of Reference for the Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting for forwarding to Leaders. The meeting also included briefings on: Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (SPC); Climate Change – Regional Collaboration (FFA, SPC, SPREP, OPOC/PIFS); and Emerging and Critical Environmental Issues (SPREP).

The Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM) will be held every year immediately following the FFC Ministerial.

The Statement of Outcomes from the Special Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting can be found here:

<https://www.ffa.int/node/2296>
