

Training in how to net the naughty people involved in coastal fisheries



Monitoring, control and surveillance mission in Aitutaki Lagoon, Cook Islands. Image: Aymeric Desurmont, SPC

In August, the online component of the inaugural Cohort 1 course for a Certificate IV in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance – Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture – began. This recently developed course will be accredited by the University of the South Pacific (USP) in late 2018, and delivered through USP’s Pacific Technical and Further Education (TAFE) Programme. Trainers and assessors from the Pacific Community (SPC) will be responsible for administering the course’s competency assessments.

The course complements the Certificate IV in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance conducted by USP¹ and targets fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) officers and administrators who have already completed that course. The initial two cohorts of the course will be funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade project ‘Improving fisheries food security and sustainable livelihoods for Pacific Island communities’.

This initial cohort will be offered competency assessments – through time-bound, online components, and culminating in eight days of face-to-face training – during November 2018. The online component is being conducted via the USP MOODLE (Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment), and covers 18 units of learning, including tutorials, quizzes and assignments for knowledge-based components. The purpose of the face-to-face meetings in November is to determine the skills competence of students through practical assessments based on the units of learning. Students have three chances to demonstrate their knowledge and skills, with success in all performance criteria leading to certification.

Students will receive financial support to attend the face-to-face training and competency assessments at Pacific TAFE in Suva, Fiji. However, SPC will only sponsor students who have *fully completed all online components of all four courses* to attend the face-to-face competency assessments.

This training programme targets current coastal and aquaculture MCS officers who have demonstrated strong

engagement in their work and successfully completed the Certificate IV in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance as a pre-requisite. The objective of the Cohort 1 training is to deliver a course that provides the technical and practical skills and knowledge expected of competent MCS officers when dealing in coastal fisheries and aquaculture. The programme will cover three new courses focusing on coastal fisheries and aquaculture in addition to a Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency course that was developed for Enforcement Processes.

During the online learning phase of this course, students will be encouraged to share ideas and experiences with each other in order to learn about coastal fisheries and aquaculture situations in other countries or in other regions of their own country. This peer networking will hopefully facilitate future ongoing information sharing and communication among students.

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¹ An old Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency Foundation course that focused on offshore fisheries.