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Title:	Coastal Fisheries Report Card update
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Summary:

Managing and recovering from the impacts from COVID-19 pandemic has been the key priority for the region, with significant impacts on coastal economies and small-scale fishers throughout the value chain. The 2021 Coastal Fishery Report Card is the seventh Report Card under the Future of Fisheries Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries. The Report Card reports against a regionally agreed upon set of indicators approved by the 10th SPC Heads of Fisheries and FFC102.

The initial draft of the Report Card was presented to the *2nd Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting in July*.

Since 2015, some progress has been made in the following outcome areas:

- Coastal fisheries management policy, legislation, and planning
- Political commitment and support for, coastal fisheries management
- Resourcing in fisheries agencies to support coastal fisheries management

Areas which have seen no clear progress, may be due to lack of proper data, include:

- Informed and empowered coastal communities with clearly defined user rights
- Effective collaboration and coordination between stakeholders and key sectors of influence
- Harvest within sustainable limits and coastal developments do not damage fish habitats.

RTMCF delegates are invited to:

1. **Note** progress made towards the *Future of Fisheries Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries* as reported in the Coastal Fisheries Report Card.
2. **Note** the progress made, including development of the online interactive dashboard for national level report cards.
3. **Note** the lack of consistent data on some indicators and **discuss** options for reviewing current indicators.
4. **Note** and discuss data gaps – including the need for repeat studies to measure change over time for several outcomes.

2021 Coastal Fisheries Report Card

Introduction

1. The 2021 Coastal Fisheries Report Card is the seventh Report Card under the Future of Fisheries Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries. SPC FAME is responsible for producing the Coastal Fisheries Report Card (CFRC), and jointly producing the Tuna Fisheries Report Card with FFA where SPC provides information for Goal 1 – Sustainability. The report cards can be [accessed online](#)¹.
2. The report card reports against a regionally agreed upon set of indicators, approved in 2017 by the SPC Heads of Fisheries and FFC102, with these indicators taking on increased relevance in the COVID-19 context.

Key highlights

3. Since 2015, some progress has been made in the following outcome areas:
 - Coastal fisheries management policy, legislation, and planning
 - Political commitment and support for, coastal fisheries management
 - Resourcing in fisheries agencies to support coastal fisheries management
4. Areas which have seen no clear progress, may be due to lack of proper data, include:
 - Informed and empowered coastal communities with clearly defined user rights
 - Effective collaboration and coordination between stakeholders and key sectors of influence
 - Harvest within sustainable limits and coastal developments do not damage fish habitats.
5. Due to data gaps, progress is unknown in the implementation of fisheries management plans, decisions on more equitable access to benefits and decision making within communities, enhancing food security from sustainable fisheries and diversity the supply of fish.

Enhancements to the methodology

6. Following agreement by Heads of Fisheries almost all members have nominated a focal point person within Fisheries departments.
7. Following the suggestion of national level report cards by several members, SPC have developed interactive dashboard to display PICT level data. This is currently available online: www.fameresults.org/cfreportcard
8. The SDG icons are now included in the report card to indicate relevant Sustainable development Goal indicators.

¹ Report Cards - <https://fame1.spc.int/en/publications/roadmap-a-report-cards>

Usefulness of the report card

9. The coastal fisheries report card has been useful in several ways:
 - It raises awareness of coastal fisheries at the highest regional level.
 - It provides a means to report against agreed regional policies and strategies.
 - It provides a year-by-year record against certain key indicators.

10. In 2019, SPC commissioned detailed interviews during in-country visits in several PICTs to on the issue of regional and national level reporting on coastal fisheries. A range of issues were raised in these interviews, including:
 - Data quality, access, and quality – issues were raised about authority to access/ownership of data, data quality, capacity in data storage, database design and maintenance and different sources and integrity of data available, etc.
 - Role of regional CFRC – considered useful at regional level but less so at the national level; time-consuming to provide data for the regional CFRC.
 - National-level reporting – a national level report card was considered to be more useful than the regional CFRC for national level management purposes.

11. The country interviews reinforced the message from HoF11 about members interest in generating national level report card as companion to the regional CFRC. As a result, SPC has been considering how this may work, and the potential for SPC role. Options put forward by countries were:
 - prepared nationally with some technical guidance and support from SPC
 - prepared through an ‘independent evaluation of coastal fisheries’
 - SPC support for publication (design, printing, etc)
 - Country provides information to SPC - SPC provides template and prepares the card

12. As noted at HOF11 of national report cards would be the responsibility of the country. In terms implementing this, the RTMCF3 action points 1 & 2 took onboard proposal from SPC that:
 - Regional CFRC: SPC proposes to continue preparing the annual regional CFRC and seek information annually from members on a core set of indicators.
 - Focal points: As per the HOF11 decision, members continue to identify in-country focal points to facilitate data collection for the annual Coastal Fisheries Report Card, with the nominated focal points having the authority to share CFRC data with SPC.
 - Templates for national-level report cards: SPC strongly supports the concept of having a core set of indicators, and common procedures (e.g., for preparing/interpreting data) as appropriate. SPC proposes to work with national focal points to further develop the current annual questionnaire into the form of a base template for national report cards. This would have the dual purpose of providing key data, in a common form, for the regional CFRC, as well as the base for a national report card prepared annually. National agencies could add information to the base format to meet country specific needs and goals.
 - Technical support for national CFRC: Members highlights any specific areas of additional support that may be required from SPC to prepare national-level CFRC. This would operate as a usual request for technical assistance from SPC and provision of this will be contingent on resources available depending on demand and the nature of the request.

SPC 11th and 12th Heads of Fisheries decisions

13. The 12th Heads of Fisheries meeting was conducted online due to COVID-19 travel restrictions with reduced agenda to focus on key emerging issues. The progress report on action items 1 & 2 from the RTMCF3 were not presented to the members.
14. The 11th Heads of Fisheries, in relation to the Coastal Fisheries Report Card, the meeting:
 - Agreed that in-country focal points should be established to facilitate data collection for the annual Coastal Fisheries Report Card. Countries are requested 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 to send. HOF11 participants will also be copied in 2019 to follow through with their relevant Ministries.
 - 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.
 - Suggested SPC audit what systems are in place at the national level relating to Report Card data, including approval processes within countries to provide data from countries

2020/2021 CFRC improvements and national level report card template

15. Since HoF11 decisions and RTMCF3 action items 1 & 2, the progress toward implementing decisions began in 2019 and 2020. Some are summarised below:
 - National Focal Point – all the members have nominated a focal point.
 - Draft national Coastal Fisheries Report Card template - an interactive online version of template was developed in 2020 for the e-HoF12 and presented to the Regional Fisheries Ministerial Meeting. Statement of outcome from the First Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting stated – The ministers supported the development of an interactive dashboard to explore national level data and facilitate national level reporting, and link to SDG indicators. Ministers identified data gaps and urged the need for further research to measure change over time for several outcomes.
 - In-country visits – due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, in-country visits to PICTs were not possible to collate information. However, with excellent response from country focal points in completing the questionnaire, greater data coverage was noted in 2021 CFRC.
 - 13 PICTs have reported on the Household income and expenditure (HIES) data with the additional three PICTs compared to 2020.
16. As in previous years, the CFRC is refreshed every year with new data and where there is no new data, data from previous reporting is used. For example – most information from HIES will not change except few additions in each year when data become available. It is a continual update of recent data rather than a snapshot of each year.
17. The national level report card template has been developed and presented to the Regional Fisheries Ministerial Meeting (RFFM) in July 2021. A prototype of online interactive template has been developed that shows country level report cards based on information available in 2020 and 2021.

Feedback from 2nd Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting

18. The 2021 Coastal Fisheries Report Card was presented to the 2nd Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (virtual) in July 2021. The Ministers recognised in the statement of outcomes from the RFMMM2 on the report card that:
- Ministers welcomed the progress made towards the goals embedded in the Future of Fisheries Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries as reported in the Coastal Fishery Report Card. Ministers acknowledged the data gaps and the need to see trends over time for several outcome indicators that indicate progress since the implementation of the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries and the *New Song for coastal fisheries - pathways to change: Noumea Strategy*.

Recommendations for noting:

RTMCFA delegates are invited to:

1. **Note** progress made towards the Future of Fisheries Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries as reported in the Coastal Fisheries Report Card.
2. **Note** the progress made, including development of the online interactive dashboard for national level report cards.
3. **Note** the lack of consistent data on some indicators and discuss options for reviewing current indicators.
4. **Note** and discuss data gaps – including the need for repeat studies to measure change over time for several outcomes.