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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

TO : Representatives of Governments and Administrations ; **No. :** 16/26
SPC Fisheries Contacts; Fisheries Organisations and
Observers

FILE : CONF 2/9/36/1 **DATE :** 8 November 2016

SUBJECT : **Tenth SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting and related project meetings: 14-17 March 2017, Noumea, New Caledonia**

PURPOSE OF NOTICE

1. This is an invitation to the Pacific Community's tenth Heads of Fisheries Meeting (HoF10 – 14 to 16 March), which includes several inception meetings (17 March) for the MFAT-funded *Effective Coastal Fisheries Management* project; the *Sustainable Pacific Aquaculture Development* project; the *Implementing the Tokelau Arrangement* project; and country discussion in regard to the joint multi-agency fisheries concept note under EDF 11 ACP funding and the OCT marine component of EDF 11, to be held in Noumea at the SPC Conference Centre from 14 to 17 March 2017.
2. This notice is:
 - A request for SPC member country governments and territory administrations to nominate one official senior fisheries representative to the HoF10 meeting;
 - An invitation to other agencies, organisations, companies, and individuals with an interest in fisheries in the Pacific Islands region, to attend the meeting and take the opportunity for discussion with Pacific Island fisheries representatives and specialists, and with each other. There is no registration fee, and given sufficient notice, SPC can help in negotiating special rates at local hotels.
3. All nominations for SPC funded participants:
 - Need to be received by **Friday 16 December 2016** so that flight bookings can be made; and
 - Need to provide a copy of their passport photo page at the time of nomination.
 - No change to SPC-funded nominations will be accepted within one month of the meeting dates.
4. Financial support is available for the attendance of one representative from each SPC island member government or administration (the Head of Fisheries or their delegate), plus the travel costs of the Chair of the meeting.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

5. The SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting provides technical oversight of all SPC work in the field of fisheries and aquaculture, as well as an opportunity to discuss in detail topics of special interest. It covers both of SPC's Fisheries Programmes: Oceanic and Coastal.

SPC Headquarters: Noumea, New Caledonia. Regional offices: Suva, Fiji and Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
Country office: Honiara, Solomon Islands. For contact details – Website: www.spc.int Email: spc@spc.int

Siège de la CPS : Noumea (Nouvelle-Calédonie). Antennes régionales : Suva (Fiji) et Pohnpei (États fédérés de Micronésie)
Bureau de pays : Honiara (Îles Salomon). Site Web : www.spc.int Courriel : spc@spc.int

6. The Heads of Fisheries meeting is intended to cover the entire range of work of national and territorial fisheries administrations. It may discuss issues outside the current range of the SPC work-programme, and this "big-picture" view of fisheries is essential for longer-term planning and is also of considerable assistance to other agencies, regional NGOs and donors interested in national as well as regional issues.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

7. The following items will be included in the agenda:
 - Half-day session for discussing the new FAME Business plan with feedback from members on future direction of FAME against country needs, and the implementing of the "New Song" for coastal fisheries;
 - Addressing reporting needs and requirements on coastal fisheries to Fisheries Ministers under the Regional Roadmap, and to Forum Leaders on their 2016 declaration on strengthening coastal fisheries management
 - Half day session on data needs covering both oceanic and coastal fisheries, the rescue of coastal fisheries data and using SPC as a repository for this data, and future data needs and directions;
 - Reports on activities and discussion of work plans for each Programme;
 - Discussion of a number of topical issues including economics in both coastal and oceanic fisheries, management of sea cucumber resources and value chain for marketing, and recent FAD work and improvements in design; and
 - The last day will cover several inception meetings for the MFAT-funded Effective Coastal Fisheries Management project; the Sustainable Pacific Aquaculture Development project; the Implementing the Tokelau Arrangement project; and country discussion in regard to the joint multi-agency fisheries concept note under EDF 11 ACP funding and the OCT marine component of EDF 11.

Proposals from members for the inclusion of other topics are welcome, and should be submitted on or before 20th January 2017. The draft agenda will be posted on the SPC website early in the New Year.

8. There will be a brief period allocated for statements by "other organisations". If any organisation or individual wishes to raise a fisheries issue of wide significance then it should be proposed to the Chair at the start of the meeting during the discussion of the agenda, and agreed by the meeting for inclusion. Other information should be provided as poster presentations (space will be made available for those who request it), or at an informal lunchtime session or an evening session.
9. Members are strongly encouraged to provide for the meeting a brief country statement of 3-5 pages or so highlighting information on fisheries in their country or territory, issues that they are facing in the fisheries sector, and any experience or advice that they wish to share with colleagues from the region.
10. The Programme Strategic plans and other organisational documents, some reports and working papers of recent meetings will be available on the SPC website at the address <http://www.spc.int/fame/> and working papers for this meeting will be available via this address in January 2017.

LANGUAGE

11. As an official SPC sectoral meeting, the tenth Heads of Fisheries Meeting will be conducted in both English and French, with simultaneous interpretation, and translation of key papers.

REPORT

12. The formal report of the meeting will consist of a list of decisions and recommendations identified by the Chair, and agreed by consensus, usually called the “Outputs” of the meeting.

TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS

13. An economy class return ticket by the most economical route will be provided to all SPC-funded representatives. If participants choose to travel by a route other than the one proposed, all additional costs will be at their own expense. Travel orders cannot be issued until the official nominations have been received.
14. A per-diem will be provided to SPC-funded official representatives. Hotel accommodation can be booked at the SPC Community rate, but the payment of all costs will be the responsibility of each participant. Participants requiring SPC Community assistance to book accommodation at the SPC rate should contact the Conference Secretary and a hotel accommodation form will be sent out for completion.
15. The SPC will organise airport transportation from Tontouta International Airport to Noumea (55 km). This service is complimentary for all SPC funded participants and non-funded participants who request it. Please ensure that SPC Community is provided with a copy of your travel itinerary in advance of your arrival.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

16. SPC is pleased to advise that visas are **no longer** required for entry into New Caledonia for stays of up to three months for nationals of all SPC member countries.
17. Transit visas are the responsibility of delegates. However, SPC may be able to assist, through a letter of introduction, if required.
18. To facilitate administrative arrangements we will also require passport details of each delegate. We would be very grateful if each delegate can send to the HoF Conference Secretary Hélène Lecomte, by e-mail (helenel@spc.int) or fax (+687 26.38.18), a copy of the photo page of your passport as well as your itineraries with a copy to Seya Brighton (SeyaB@spc.int).

MEETING CONTACTS

- Official nominations to: Moses Amos, Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (email: MosesA@spc.int; cc/- HeleneL@spc.int) and (SeyaB@spc.int), fax +687 263818)
- Administrative issues, visa documentation, hotel bookings etc: Helene Lecomte, Secretary (Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division) (email: HeleneL@spc.int; tel +687 260953, fax +687 263818) with a copy to Seya Brighton (SeyaB@spc.int).
- Agenda items, papers, other enquiries etc: Moses Amos, Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystem Division (email: MosesA@SPC.int)

INSURANCE

19. The Pacific Community does not insure participants while attending meetings or during travel to and from New Caledonia, 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 their travel is covered by insurance.

Cameron Diver
Deputy Director General

Original text: English