

Original: English

Paper reference	Working paper 5
Title:	Review of the Regional Roadmap and New Song Update
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Summary/short description/key points:

Pacific Fisheries Ministers have tasked their fisheries officials, supported by FFA and SPC, to review existing regional fisheries policies including the Regional Roadmap and the New Song for Coastal Fisheries to ensure close alignment with implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

During 2023:

- SPC and FFA used regional convenings to develop a process for the review with members
- Regional fisheries ministers endorsed the proposed approach and the nominations of six members (Cook Islands, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Palau and Tokelau) to be part of a review committee to oversee the work
- Ministers tasked the review committee to commence work to draft a Terms of Reference
- SPC and FFA prepared a draft of a Terms of Reference, and
- The Review Committee provided detailed comments on the Terms of Reference.

This paper highlights progress to date, challenges in progressing this work, and provides an opportunity for members to input on the draft Terms of Reference before they are finalised in consultation with the Review Committee.

Recommendations:

Members are invited to:

- i. note progress on the review, and
- ii. provide input on the draft terms of reference.

Background

1. In 2002, Pacific Fisheries Ministers tasked their fisheries officials, supported by FFA and SPC, to review existing regional fisheries policies including the [Regional Roadmap](#) and the [New Song for Coastal Fisheries](#) to ensure close alignment with implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.
2. The 15th SPC Heads of Fisheries and the Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) 126 discussed the review scope, objectives, process, and timeline for the review of the regional fisheries policies: Regional Roadmap on Sustainable Pacific Fisheries and the New Song for Coastal Fisheries: Noumea Strategy (HoF15 Working paper 4).
3. Members noted that the review should assess effectiveness of the two policies implemented so far and explore how to update and adapt them to support sustainable fisheries, enhance livelihoods, promote sustainable economic growth, address food security, build resilience, and respond to external pressures.

Purpose of this paper

4. The purpose of this paper is to update Heads of Fisheries on progress to date, identify challenges in progressing this work, and provide an opportunity for members to input on the draft Terms of Reference before they are finalised in consultation with the Review Committee.

Update on Review progress

5. The 4th Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting in Majuro, Marshall Islands, held in July 2023 endorsed the proposed process, elements and timeline for the review, and the establishment of a Review Committee. The Ministers endorsed nominations from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Palau and Tokelau to be part of the Review Committee.
6. The review will cover all aspects of the Regional Roadmap and the New Song, including:
 - the goals and objectives of the policies;
 - the strategies and actions outlined in the policies;
 - the progress made in implementing the policies;
 - the challenges and constraints to implementation;
 - the relevance of the regional fisheries policies to the region's needs and priorities
 - the effectiveness of the policies in achieving their goals; and
 - the alignment of the policies with the 2050 Strategy and its Implementation Plan.
7. Following on from the 4th RFMM, SPC and FFA prepared a draft of a Terms of Reference and distributed this to the members of the Review Committee for comment.
8. Members of the Review Committee provided detailed comments on the Terms of Reference. The comments provided sit with SPC and FFA to work with members and the Review Committee to finalise.

Challenges in progressing the Review

9. One of the aims of the Review is to align the regional fisheries policies with the 2050 Strategy and its implementation.
10. During 2023 a process was undertaken to develop a 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan, which was reported to Leaders in late 2023. SPC and FFA participated in this process to support alignment of the Review terms of reference to the 2050 Strategy work.
11. During 2023 a process was also undertaken to develop a Pacific Regional Economic Development framework. SPC and FFA participated in this process to support alignment of the Review terms of reference to this 2050 Strategy related work.
12. The heavy schedule of associated meetings and the complexity of aligning differing processes has caused some delays in the development of the Review Terms of Reference. This means that one element of the revisions by SPC and FFA with the Review Committee will be to update the timeline for the Review.
13. The other key challenge faced has been the allocation of resources to this activity.

Next steps for the review

14. There are four key next steps for this review:
 - The opportunity for members to input on the draft Terms of Reference at HoF16 before they are finalised in consultation with the Review Committee
 - Allocation of resources to the activity, in particular a Project Manager
 - Finalisation of the Terms of Reference with the Review Committee, and
 - Procurement of the Consultant(s).
15. Based on the feedback from Heads of Fisheries, SPC and FFA will progress these actions.