



15th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting
22–26 April 2024



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Information paper 1

Progress against the 15th SPC Heads of Fisheries Outcomes

SPC FAME Secretariat

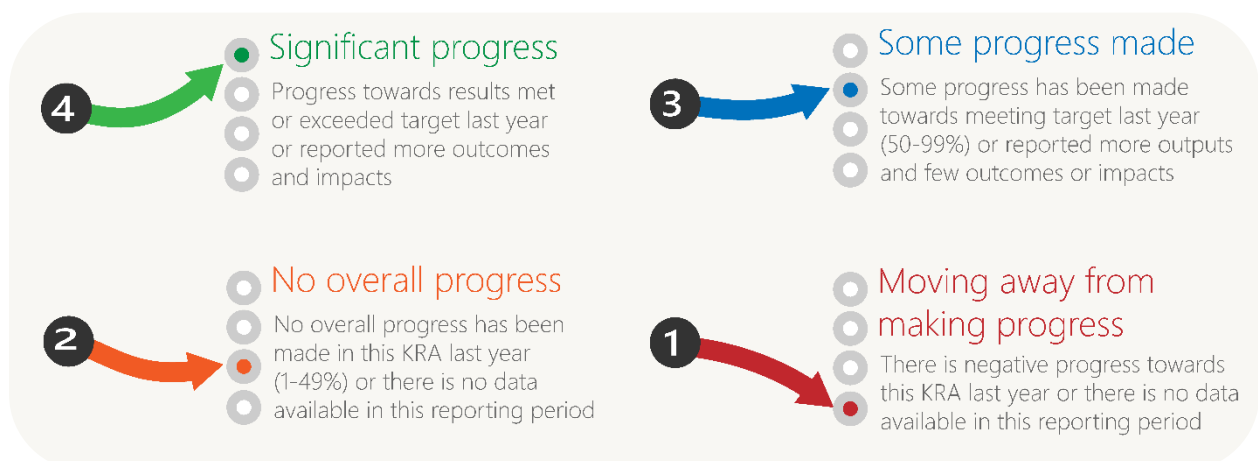
Progress against the 15th SPC Heads of Fisheries Outcomes

Purpose



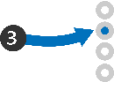
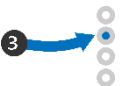
1. This paper provides an update on the progress against the implementation of outcomes from 15th SPC Heads of Fisheries (HOF15). The paper only highlights progress on actions or recommendations tasked to SPC FAME by the 15th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting.



Overview and progress made against HOF15 outcomes.

2. The 15th SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting, held in Noumea, New Caledonia, was a significant gathering focused on strengthening sustainable fisheries management and resilience in the Pacific. With active participation from 22 member countries and territories, the meeting was led by Mr. Joseph Gestin and emphasised capacity building and strategic guidance through SPC's Division of Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Marine Ecosystems (FAME). Discussions centred on implementing best practices, sharing knowledge, and developing sustainable strategies to maintain healthy, productive fisheries resources crucial to the region's ecological and economic stability.
3. Throughout the meeting, participants reviewed accomplishments and outlined future initiatives. SPC FAME noted significant progress on outcomes from previous meetings, emphasising a shift towards outcome-based reporting. Key areas such as coastal fisheries science, regional aquaculture strategy, and integrated work on fish aggregating devices were identified as needing additional resources. The meeting prioritised enhancing gender balance, succession planning, and expanding training programs to engage young professionals in fisheries development.
4. Looking ahead, the meeting emphasised the importance of regular in-person gatherings to foster stronger participation and interaction among members. Participants agreed on the need for SPC to align its efforts with regional and member-specific plans, ensuring effective implementation of strategic objectives. This includes ongoing development in climate change adaptation, with SPC aiming to integrate fisheries and aquaculture concerns into broader regional strategies to enhance the sector's resilience against climate impacts.
5. The table below summarises the ratings on various progress measures relating to the implementation of key HOF14 outcomes by the Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP), the Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme (CFAP) and the Director's Office (DO).

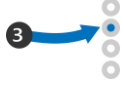


SPC FAME PRIORITIES AND EMERGING WORK AREAS


No.	Outcomes	Progress	Rating
<i>Progress on the implementation of outcomes 9 b and c)</i>			
8.b (i)	Facilitate sharing of experiences, information, and data between members	The 6 th Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture agreed on specific actions to scale up the rollout of e-data tools to enhance data collection and management. This gathering also provided an opportunity for members to share their experiences, discuss the utilisation of these tools, and introduce upcoming capabilities being integrated into the system. Similarly, the central theme the theme for the 16th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting will focus on fisheries and aquaculture data access, utilisation, and opportunities for national and regional integration	
8.b(ii)	Continue to improve gender imbalance across SPC FAME	At the end of March 2024, women make up 50% of the 142 staff members at the SPC FAME division. Additionally, there was an increase in the number of internationally recruited women who joined SPC FAME in 2023	
8.b(iii)	Succession planning for key and senior staff	SPC FAME has established a process to retain key senior staff in part-time roles to provide ongoing technical support, networks, and to mentor incoming senior staff. This approach has been applied in various areas, including Stock Assessment, Data Management (2023), and Coastal Fisheries Science (2023).	
8.b(iv)	Planning on the development of and transition from the oceanic stock assessment software MULTIFAN-CL following retirement of the chief developer	Following internal planning, SPC FAME raised this issue through the WCPFC Scientific Committee process in 2023 (see https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/19362) and a new SC project “Scoping next generation of assessment software”, led by SPC OFP, has been funded by WCPFC20 (Project 123). Work on this planned 3-year scoping project has begun. The project description can be found in https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/21019 (Annex 13, Project 19X8).	
8.b(v)	Expand the Pacific Islands Fisheries Professional programmes to include young professionals, including in the area of	The expansion of the Pacific Island Fisheries Professional Programme (PIFP) in 2023 stands out as a testament to SPC FAME’s commitment to strengthening capacity across its member states. SPC FAME mentored eight Pacific Island fisheries professionals under this initiative, which continues to enhance regional capacity by empowering individuals with essential skills	

	fisheries development and wider national staff	and knowledge. This year, six positions in the PIFP are under recruitment	
8.b(vi)	Enhance the use of online and offline training approaches	In 2023, SPC launched an Online Learning and Management System (SPC Learning), which enables divisions to prepare learning modules, create test questions, and access reports on module completion. The SPC FAME division utilised this platform extensively in 2023 and will continue to do so in 2024. Additionally, SPC FAME delivered 10 online and 62 in-person trainings during the same year.	
8.c	Strive to provide all members access to all support and training opportunities, despite constraints of particular donors	SPC FAME's concerted efforts in capacity building continued in 2023, including enhancing capacity of over 1, 281 people participating in over 130 topics ranging from leadership, data management, gender and social inclusion, alternative fishing methods, FADs, fisheries policy and legislations, MCS, stock assessment, harvest strategies and e-reporting and e-monitoring (read working paper 1 – 2023 results reporting)	

Process and timeline for supporting members review of regional policies – A new song for coastal fisheries and Roadmap for sustainable fisheries

No.	Outcomes	Progress	Rating
<i>Progress on the implementation of outcomes 14.</i>			
14 (a)	HoF discussed the proposed objectives, scope, process and timeline to review the two regional policies.	The 4 th Regional Fisheries Ministers meeting in Majuro in 2023, endorsed the proposed objectives, scope, process and timeline for the review and endorsed the nomination of Review Committee (see RFMM4 Outcome) and tasked the review committee to draft Terms of Reference (TOR). Working paper 5 provides update on the Terms of Reference and next steps.	

Transforming aquaculture in the region through the regional aquaculture strategy

No.	Outcomes	Progress	Rating
<i>Progress on the implementation of outcome 15.</i>			
15 (b, c)	HoF confirmed the revised process for the development of the regional aquaculture strategy, and	The 4 th Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting in Majuro in 2023 (see RFMM4 Outcomes), acknowledged the approach to formulating the Pacific Regional Aquaculture Strategy (PRAS),	

endorsed goals and objectives suggested in the Regional Aquaculture Assessment.

supporting the goals and objectives in the Regional Aquaculture Assessment.

The PRAS requires a consultation process that is inclusive and fully endorsed by members. This process was begun at [RTMCFA6](#) held in November 2023 where the SPC FAME Aquaculture Team outlined a series of options for aquaculture development and sought feedback from members.

Consultation is also scheduled to occur during 2024 through a series of three virtual subregional workshops and one regional workshop. The scale and process of this exercise will be similar to that undertaken for the Scaling up CBFM Framework for action developed during 2021 (read more on [Information Paper 2](#))

Update on the Regional Aquatic Biosecurity Framework

No.	Outcomes	Progress	Rating
<i>Progress on the implementation of outcome 16.</i>			
16 (c)	HoF tasked SPC to work with members to establish the Regional Framework on Aquatic Biosecurity Implementation Committee	<p>The 4th Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting in Majuro in 2023 (see RFMM4 Outcomes), acknowledged the mid-term review of Regional Aquatic Biosecurity Framework and supported the nomination of national aquatic biosecurity networks, including oversight on the Framework on Aquatic Biosecurity Implementation Committee.</p> <p>Aquatic biosecurity will also form part of the PRAS consultation process, therefore the PRAS workshops also provide opportunity for consultation on the mid-term review of the PRFAB. PICT aquatic biosecurity representatives have been invited to attend aquatic biosecurity sessions scheduled within each of the meetings (read more on Information paper 2)</p>	

The Green Climate Fund “Adapting tuna-dependent Pacific Island Communities and economies to climate change”

No.	Outcomes	Progress	Rating
<i>Progress on the implementation of outcome 17.</i>			
17 (b)	HoF tasked SPC to E to apply a climate change perspective particularly for the most vulnerable members across its work programmes and activities	The Pacific Island Climate Change vulnerability assessment is an example of this work and will provide the most up to date information on degrees of vulnerability, across all fisheries, for all Pacific Island Countries and Territories (see also Working Papers 6 and 8).	

The Green Climate Fund “Adapting tuna-dependent Pacific Island Communities and economies to climate change”

No.	Outcomes	Progress	Rating
<i>Progress on the implementation of outcome 18.</i>			
18 (b)	HoF requested that SPC FAME provide a clarification document for discussions at or around the FFC officials meeting that provides further information and examples on the six co-finance categories	SPC staff provided a paper on the co-finance categories to members at the FFC Officials meeting, and attended the meeting to present the information and support discussions.	