

Secrétariat général de la Communauté du Pacifique

Deuxième Conférence des directeurs des pêches de la CPS

(Nouméa, Nouvelle-Calédonie, 23-27 juillet 2001)

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Outputs of the Meeting

Marine Resources Division
Secretariat of the Pacific Community
Noumea, New Caledonia



OUTPUTS OF THE MEETING - DRAFT 3

During the course of the 1st SPC Heads of Fisheries (HOF) Meeting (Noumea, New Caledonia, 7-13th August 1999) the following recommendations or statements were agreed by Pacific Community island member representatives to be included into the record of discussion, for the guidance of the Secretariat of the Marine Resources Division and/or the benefit of other SPC or international processes:-

1. After discussing at some length the prospects and problems of the expansion of commercial Eucheuma farming, the Meeting agreed that a regional study to analyse the economics of seaweed farming in the Pacific region should be commissioned. The study should focus on the analysis of economic returns from seaweed farming compared to other cash-earning activities common in Pacific communities, and include an analysis of different marketing options for farmed seaweed.
2. The meeting pointed out the continued high importance of establishing national and territorial responses to the requirements by many importing countries for certification systems covering marine product export trades, and urged the Marine Resources Division to develop appropriate linkages with certificatory authorities and sources of potential assistance to members in developing their own certificatory systems and standards, in particular to seek further opportunities to train island national inspectors to certify fish and fishery products according to HACCP and other appropriate principles. The meeting welcomed the intention expressed by the representative of the USA to convey the aspirations of the meeting to the appropriate authorities within the USA, and encouraged major fish importing countries to include appropriate officials in their delegations to the next HOF.
3. Recalling the considerable discussion of regional aquaculture needs and priorities that had taken place at the 1998 SPC fisheries meeting or "Mini-RTMF", and emphasising the even more urgent need for the aquaculture investments being made by members to be supported by effective networking at the regional level, the Meeting strongly re-endorsed "Regional Aquaculture Strategy" put forward in 1998 to guide regional institutions in coordinating the efficient provision of future aquacultural advice and assistance to Pacific Community island member countries and territories, and further re-endorsed the 1998 agreement that:

"SPC be urged not to slacken its continued efforts to obtain the resources necessary to implement an Aquaculture Programme in January 2000 in order to complement the aquaculture capabilities of national aquaculture projects, USP, and ICLARM CAC and relevant specialisations of other projects, with efficient outreach, extension, member consultation and clearing-house activities;"

To further lend weight to this identification of a major gap in regional support to members, the Meeting requested the Director to convey this recommendation in his report to the SPC Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations, for broader attention.

4. The meeting, noting that the work programme of the Reef Fisheries Assessment and Management Section would have greater capacity, through the availability of donor funding, for scientific assessment, urged the Section to keep seeking the means to maintain its capacity for providing practical management advice on a wide range of reef fisheries, and encouraged the Division to be proactive and motivational in the development of reef fishery management capacity in member countries and territories.

5. SPC member countries and territories, pointing out the need to build effective local capacity to cope with the management of the expanding live reef fish trade, and to strengthen the information base for management, directed the Secretariat to continue to seek the means for implementing its part in the Regional Live Reef Fishery Strategy endorsed by the 1998 SPC fisheries meeting, and supported the proposal for a regional Live Reef Fish Initiative being prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with the International Marinelife Alliance (IMA), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the World Resources Institute (WRI).
6. The meeting agreed that the SPC Marine Resources Division assist FFA, and collaborate with the Forum Secretariat, to compile marketing data on fresh, frozen and value-added tuna products, as well as non-tuna products, including contacts within these markets to assist member countries and territories in marketing of marine products. It was noted that additional funding would need to be identified for a significant level of assistance to be provided by SPC.
7. Whilst being fully in support of practical approaches to the problem of safety at sea, the meeting recalled Output 6 of the 1998 “Mini-RTMF”, and pointed out the continued problems being faced in the reconciliation of international maritime standards and local realities. The meeting re-emphasised the need for adequate consultation with fisheries authorities during the process of drawing up maritime legislation. The meeting suggested that coordination at the regional level might be improved by the Maritime Programme physically joining the Marine Resources Division.
8. The meeting discussed at length the possible future involvement of the Oceanic Fisheries Programme in the provision of scientific information and advice to the proposed Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific and the implications of such activity for member countries. Although details of such an arrangement remain to be resolved, it was agreed that OFP involvement in the provision of such activity would enhance the value of scientific support for member countries and should be supported, provided:-
 - that the delivery of existing or additional services to member countries would not be compromised;
 - that additional scientific advisory work for the Commission be undertaken only if additional resources are made available for such work; and
 - that periodic review of OFP work be undertaken to ensure that the needs and interests of member countries are being fully accommodated
9. The meeting directed that the Marine Resources Division seek resources to provide practical assistance to member fisheries and quarantine authorities to set up, or build capacity in, aquatic quarantine capabilities and regulation of marine species introductions. This capacity should also be built into any future SPC Aquaculture Section or Programme.
10. The meeting noted the growing problem of marine debris, and its detrimental effect on navigational safety, nearshore environments and marine organisms, and encouraged SPC to continue to work with SPREP with a view towards addressing this intersectoral problem in the Pacific Community region.
11. Whilst discussing future directions for the Capture Section for consideration during the SPC internal review of the Section, the meeting particularly highlighted the need for new experiments to be conducted on FAD buoy designs and mooring configurations to reduce the cost and increase the life of these units as this was still an important, although costly, development area in many Pacific Island countries and territories. The meeting recognised that the SPC currently advised and assisted with the deployment of locally-funded FADs, and that dedicated funding would need to be located to undertake any experimental work in member countries.

12. The meeting drew attention to the need to either continue or initiate gamefish catch and effort data collection in member countries, and for the Marine Resources Division to assist in compiling, archiving and analysing this information. The meeting suggested that this data be available to scientists and managers under similar conditions of confidentiality to the existing SPC commercial fisheries database.
13. Recalling Recommendation 14 of the previous full meeting of SPC fisheries Heads (RTMF 26 of 1996), the Heads of Fisheries Meeting agreed to convene again in 2000, funding permitting, and asked the Director to circulate an update in the new year on progress with meeting arrangements.
14. The meeting, wishing to retain the opportunity for reflective discussion of issues arising from written member country and territory presentations, and for measured consideration of the Marine Resources Division work-programme, agreed that the next HOF meeting agenda include a more limited range of special themes.
15. The meeting agreed that Sectional reports to the next HOF be based on outputs rather than activities, and that the reporting format clearly identify which outputs are the result of collaboration and cost-sharing between sections.

(Note: the issues highlighted here are in no particular order and do not constitute a full prioritisation of the work programme of the SPC Marine Resources Division but are presented separately in this way because they are issues which required particular consensus agreement in plenary, or the attention of authorities or partners outside the scope of the meeting. A context within which to judge the prioritisation of issues is provided by the Record of Discussion of the meeting, which also provides additional guidance to the SPC Marine Resources Division work-programme)