



# 5<sup>th</sup> SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture

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Original: English

Information paper 10

## Summary of PICT coastal fisheries priority technical needs, issues and challenges

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### *Introduction*

1. The overarching theme of RTMCFA5 is to discuss and address some of the main technical issues affecting coastal fisheries and aquaculture in support of better evidence-based resource management, the equitable access to resources, and to enhance the sustainable development of aquaculture and nearshore livelihoods.
2. The RTMCFA meetings focus on specific priority issues with input from member country government and territory administrations. For all previous RTMCFA meetings the format of the meeting has been to maximise input through group discussions and plenary sessions. This will continue for RTMCFA5, but due to being a hybrid meeting, it will need to focus on a limited number of high priority issues.
3. Prior to each Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture, SPC member Pacific Island countries and territories are sent a brief questionnaire on current national coastal fisheries and aquaculture issues, challenges and priority needs, and actions taken since the previous RTMCFA.
4. For the 5th Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA5), due to the time and format constraints of a hybrid meeting, SPC sent all the member nominated PICT fisheries agency participants a brief questionnaire on their national coastal fisheries and aquaculture issues, challenges and priority needs. SPC has compiled the responses received from members in the table below and will present a summary during RTMCF5.
5. The questions asked were:
  - a. Provide a *very brief* description of your two highest coastal fisheries priority technical needs.
  - b. *Briefly outline 2–3 of your main technical issues or challenges in coastal fisheries over the last year.*
  - c. *Briefly outline 2–3 follow-up actions that your agency has taken related to the [RTMCFA4 Outcomes and Agreed Action Plan](#)<sup>1</sup>*

### *Summary of the results for coastal fisheries*

6. The following summarises the submissions received by SPC member PICTs into common themes across the region for, a) priority technical needs; and b) technical issues or challenges.
7. All the submissions received have been captured in full in the summary table, provided as Information Paper 2. Due to the timing of receiving submissions, they could not be translated before the meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/ezfxn>

### Coastal fisheries priority technical needs

8. The following table summarises the coastal fisheries priority technical needs in descending order of the number of PICTs identifying subject areas and specific fields. The number of SPC PICTs that identified these subject areas as priorities are also shown.

Priority technical needs	No. of PICTs
<b>1. Subject area</b> ➤ Specific fields	[n = 11]
<b>1. Robust data for use in management:</b> ➤ Science for stock assessments – fish and invertebrates – multi-species ➤ Fisheries dependent and independent survey and monitoring ➤ Biological data collection, reference ➤ Data management ➤ Data analysis ➤ Databases ➤ Socioeconomic surveys and data ➤ Harvest within sustainable limits	8
<b>2. Livelihoods and food security:</b> ➤ Engaging the private sector ➤ FADs ➤ Post-harvest (food safety) ➤ Fishing technique training ➤ Sea safety training ➤ Research on nutritional value of some species/commodities ➤ Capacity to explore untapped/underutilised species	8
<b>3. Application and adapting to e-technology:</b> ➤ For fisheries officers' use ➤ For fishers use	7
<b>4. Qualified technical staff:</b> ➤ Wide range of skills – science; practical technical; e-monitoring, communications; facilitation, commodity market research, Non-Detrimental Finding for CITES listed species; etc. ➤ Understanding of traditional/cultural knowledge ➤ Staff turnover (succession planning)	6
<b>5. Legislation, policy, strategies and regulations – review and update:</b> ➤ National level ➤ State / Provincial levels ➤ Fisheries legislation review and update ➤ Coastal fisheries strategies – national and sub-national ➤ Developing and revising strategic plans	5
<b>6. MCS&amp;E and compliance:</b> ➤ Capacity building, training ➤ Awareness, behavioural change ➤ Monitoring IUU ➤ MCS tools and equipment ➤ Spatial mapping for patrolling hotspots ➤ MCS data sharing portal ➤ Vessel Monitoring System for coastal/nearshore fisheries	5

Priority technical needs	No. of PICTs
<b>1. Subject area</b> ➤ Specific fields	[n = 11]
<b>7. Awareness and communications:</b> ➤ To support MCS ➤ Increase compliance ➤ Communities ➤ Enhance fisheries agency capacity	5
<b>8. Management plans:</b> ➤ Evidence-/science-based ➤ Drafting; reviewing ➤ To maximise: food security; economic returns; species protection	4
<b>9. Community-based fisheries management:</b> ➤ Planning ➤ Implementation ➤ MCS ➤ Community facilitation ➤ Simple monitoring tools for community monitoring ➤ MMA, MPA demarcation	3
<b>10. Bêche-de-mer fisheries:</b> ➤ Management ➤ MCS&E ➤ Stock assessments – low cost ➤ Non-detriment findings assistance	2
<b>11. Ecosystems approach to management</b> ➤ Prevent eutrophication ➤ Habitat destruction ➤ Microplastics ➤ Invasive species	1
<b>12. Human rights gender and social inclusion</b> ➤ Gender / inclusiveness in fisheries training (KI)	1

### *Coastal fisheries technical issues and challenges*

9. The following table summarises the identified coastal fisheries technical issues and challenges. The number of SPC PICTs that identified similar issues or challenges are also shown in descending order.

Technical issues and challenges	No. of PICTs
	[n = 11]
<b>1. Lack of data for developing management measures:</b> ➤ For species of interest ➤ Species specific biological data and reference information ➤ On small-scale fisheries ➤ Need for stock assessments ➤ Poor data, analysis and verification of data and data storage ➤ Data and database management support (local vs regional)	6

Technical issues and challenges	No. of PICTs
	[n = 11]
<b>2. Monitoring, Control, Surveillance &amp; Enforcement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Equipment, Tools for MCS&amp;E officers</li> <li>➤ Non-compliance of commercial fishers</li> <li>➤ Understanding the powers of Authorised Officers</li> <li>➤ Lack of database to store MCS related data, information</li> <li>➤ Strengthen coastal fisheries and aquaculture compliance and awareness</li> </ul>	5
<b>3. COVID-19:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Travel (internally and externally)</li> <li>➤ Marketing</li> <li>➤ Staff turn over due to COVID 19 challenges</li> </ul>	3
<b>4. Legislation and policy frameworks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Outdated legislation</li> <li>➤ Lack of policy frameworks and regulations</li> <li>➤ Poor information, awareness on regulations, resource management to communities</li> </ul>	3
<b>5. Livelihoods and food security:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Limited alternative livelihoods apart from fishing</li> <li>➤ Exchanges on FAD experiences, lessons learnt</li> </ul>	3
<b>6. Limited staff capacity, qualifications and experience</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Local expertise in research, resource assessment, monitoring, legal and policy support</li> <li>➤ Limited staff</li> <li>➤ Data analysts</li> <li>➤ Communication and facilitation skills</li> <li>➤ COVID-19 related travel restrictions preventing staff study/training externally</li> </ul>	2
<b>7. Lack of knowledge and data for developing new fisheries:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Cost-benefit analyses</li> <li>➤ Knowledge and data for potential target species</li> </ul>	2
<b>8. CITES requirements;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Especially NDF – science and stock assessments</li> <li>➤ Sea cucumber / bêche-de-mer</li> </ul>	1
<b>9. Management constraints:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Multiple agencies – overlapping</li> </ul>	1
<b>10. Ecosystems approach to management:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Prevent nutrification</li> <li>➤ Habitat destruction</li> <li>➤ Microplastics</li> <li>➤ Invasive species</li> </ul>	1
<b>11. Infrastructure:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Inter-island transport</li> </ul>	1