



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

11–14 October 2022



Original: English

Information paper 1

## Fifth Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture – Purpose and format

## Purpose and format of RTMCFA5

### *Purpose*

1. This information paper outlines the purposes of the Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA) and provides some background and context to the format and meeting outcomes.

### *Introduction*

2. The Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries (RTMCF)<sup>1</sup> was re-established in 2017 by the Tenth Heads of Fisheries meeting, with the purpose of bringing together coastal fisheries and aquaculture scientists and technical experts in the Pacific to discuss important technical and scientific gaps, needs, challenges and opportunities. There have been four previous meetings: [RTMCF1 \(2017\)](#)<sup>2</sup>; [RTMCF2 \(2018\)](#)<sup>3</sup>; [RTMCF3 \(2019\)](#)<sup>4</sup>; and [RTMCFA4 \(2021\)](#)<sup>5</sup>.
3. For the Fourth and Fifth Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA4 and RTMCFA5<sup>6</sup>) the title has been adjusted to explicitly acknowledge that these meetings also include the aquaculture sector.
4. These meetings have been primarily funded by the Australian Government (DFAT), with additional support provided by New Zealand (MFAT), and earlier meetings included supplementary support from FAO and the PEUMP programme (EU/Sida).
5. In 2019, RTMCF3 was the first phase of the newly established strategic direction setting framework, information flow and decision-making process for Pacific coastal fisheries and aquaculture, with a pathway for technical outcomes and recommendations of significant regional importance to flow from the **RTMCFA** to the **Heads of Fisheries (HoF)** to the **Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM)** and, where appropriate, on to the **Forum Leaders**. This information flow does not affect the governance of SPC's strategic direction by the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA) and Conference. Two recent examples of this were the approval by HoF and the endorsement by the RFMM of the, [Regional Framework on Aquatic Biosecurity](#) (2020: HoF12 and RFMM1) and the [Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling up Community-based Fisheries Management: 2021–2025](#) (2021: HoF13 and RFMM2).

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<sup>1</sup> The original Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries was the precursor to the Heads of Fisheries meeting, with 25 RTMF meetings between 1952 and 1994. 14 Heads of Fisheries (HoF) meetings have been held between 1999 and 2022. <https://fame1.spc.int/en/publications/meeting-documents>

<sup>2</sup> RTMCF1: <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/240> or <https://fame1.spc.int/fr/meetings/240> (French)

<sup>3</sup> RTMCF2: <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/241> or <https://fame1.spc.int/fr/meetings/241>

<sup>4</sup> RTMCF3: <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/248> or <https://fame1.spc.int/fr/meetings/248>

<sup>5</sup> RTMCFA4: <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/253> or <https://fame1.spc.int/fr/meetings/253>

<sup>6</sup> RTMCFA5: <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/261> or <https://fame1.spc.int/fr/meetings/261>

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

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. The RTMCFA is also informed and guided by several Pacific regional strategies and frameworks, including: [\*A New Song for Coastal Fisheries – Pathways to Change: The Noumea Strategy\*](#); the [\*Future of Fisheries: Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries\*](#); the [\*Regional Framework on Aquatic Biosecurity\*](#); and the [\*Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling up Community-Based Fisheries Management\*](#). It also assists with providing the much-needed information for reporting to Leaders through the annual [\*Coastal Fisheries Report Card\*](#).

## Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue

9. RTMCFA5 will be the second meeting to include the one-day Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD), convened by and focused on Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and other Non-State Actors (NSAs) engagement.
10. The CBF Dialogue will be held as a hybrid meeting on 13 October 2022. The CBF Dialogue is being led by an independent Convenor, with input and guidance by the interim CBFD-Advisory Group, with the representatives of the CSO and other NSA communities invited to fully engage in plenary and breakout group discussions. In the CBF Dialogue the SPC member fisheries and aquaculture agency participants and observers are invited to observe the CBF Dialogue plenary sessions and engage in the CBF Dialogue breakout session.
11. The purpose of the CBF Dialogue is to provide the CSO, NSA and CBF practitioner communities with an opportunity to provide information, advice and key needs, through the RTMCFA, to Heads of Fisheries to assist with informing Leaders on priority issues and needs associated with the sustainable use of coastal fisheries resources. It also presents an opportunity to share experiences and lessons from community-based initiatives to strengthen efforts to maintain productive and healthy ecosystems and their associated fisheries resources that are critical to the wellbeing of coastal communities. The discussion supported by this dialogue will focus on issues of common regional significance to community-driven coastal fisheries generally. SPC provides the secretariat support to the CBF Dialogue, the CBFD Convenor and the CBFD Advisory Group.
12. As this will be the second CBF Dialogue, it will primarily focus on engaging the voices of the CSO and other NSA representatives on identifying and discussing priority community-based fisheries issues of concern, but will allow further discussion from the first CBFD on the appropriate administrative foundation for future CBF Dialogues. CBFD participants are invited to continue to advise and make recommendations for future CBF Dialogue arrangements.

## Reporting

13. The RTMCFA5 will report to the 15<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries (HoF15) meeting in late March 2023. This will include the outcomes of the Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue.
14. The formal report of the meeting will consist of a summary of decisions, outcomes and recommendations identified by the Chair, and agreed by consensus, called the “Outputs and Actions” of the meeting. The Outputs and Actions report will also include the outputs of the Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue. The Outputs and Actions report will include a limited number of specific, high priority meeting outputs that need to be presented to HoF15 for the consideration and decision by the Heads of Fisheries.

## Provisional agenda overview

15. The RTMCFA5 is a hybrid meeting, with in-person participation where possible, with an option to participate virtually for members, observers and partners who are unable to travel. The format and agenda have been modified to meet the hybrid meeting format. For virtual participation, the meeting will use the Zoom platform.
16. Due to time zones and the dateline, the meeting runs from Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022. To accommodate the hybrid format, the RTMCFA5 and CBF2 will consist of two 2-hour sessions per day, with a break between sessions: 09:30-11:30 and 13:00-15:00 (UTC+11). Where appropriate, some sessions will involve breakout groups in addition to the plenary sessions.
17. The following is an overview of the provisional agenda, with the latest full Provisional Agenda available on the [RTMCFA5 meeting website](#)<sup>7</sup>:

### Day 1 (Tue 11 Oct) – RTMCFA5:

- Opening; purpose and format of the meeting; meeting procedures
- Technical session 1 – Coastal fisheries: *“Changing behaviour in coastal fisheries and aquaculture through MCS”*
- Technical session 2 – Coastal fisheries: *“What science is needed for CITES ‘non-detriment findings’ (NDF)?”*

### Day 2 (Wed 12 Oct) – RTMCFA5:

- Technical session 3 – Aquaculture: *“Developing the Regional Aquaculture Strategy – from Assessment to Strategy”*
- Technical session 4 – Aquaculture: *“National Aquatic Biosecurity Plans – Using the Regional Aquatic Biosecurity Framework as a roadmap”*

### Day 3 (Thu 13 Oct) – CBF Dialogue:

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<sup>7</sup> RTMCFA5 website – English: <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/261> or French: <https://fame1.spc.int/fr/meetings/261>

- Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue – Session 1: *“Community-Based Fisheries: Engaging the Voices of Non-State Actors”*
- Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue – Session 2: *“Hearing the Voices: Community-Based Fisheries Priority Issues for NSAs/CSOs”*

Day 4 (Fri 14 Oct) RTMCF5 and CBF2:

- Technical session 5 – Cross-cutting: *“Coastal fisheries & aquaculture: What tools? When to use them? How to get training & support?”*
  - CBF2 report to RTMCF5
  - Review and adoption of meeting Outcomes and Actions report: RTMCF5 with CBF2
  - Meeting close
18. Given the restrictions of a virtual meeting, there will be no statements by observers. However, observers, other agencies, organisations, companies and individuals were invited to submit brief Information papers for circulation to all participants. These have been posted on the RTMCF5 website (English: <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/261> or French: <https://fame1.spc.int/fr/meetings/261>).