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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

TO: Representatives of Governments and Administrations **No.:** 22/37
SPC Fisheries Contacts; Fisheries Organisations; and
Observers

FILE: PRO 7/54/4/2/13 **DATE:** 11 July 2022

SUBJECT: Fifth SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture
11-14 October 2022, Noumea, New Caledonia (Hybrid Meeting)

PURPOSE OF NOTICE

1. This is an invitation to the **Fifth Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCF A5)**. The meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting (in-person for those able to travel and virtually for those unable to travel) at the Pacific Community (SPC) Headquarters in Noumea from the 11-14 October 2022.
2. This notice therefore serves as:
 - A request for SPC member country governments and territory administrations **to nominate two senior technical representatives: one coastal fisheries staff and one aquaculture staff**. Since the meeting will be conducted using a hybrid format, where an option to connect virtually is available, SPC FAME encourages members to also have additional appropriate participants connected online, however, in terms of official communications about the meeting, SPC will be liaising directly with the two nominated representatives.
 - An invitation to other agencies, organisations, companies and individuals with an interest in the technical aspects of coastal fisheries and aquaculture in the Pacific islands' region, to attend the meeting in-person or virtually, and take the opportunity for discussions with Pacific Island fisheries representatives and specialists, and with each other. *Registration will be required, but there is no registration fee.*
 - To advise that a separate invitation and nomination process will be undertaken with respect to civil society and non-state actor participation in the one-day Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD) within the RTMCF A5, as approved and endorsed by the Heads of Fisheries meeting and the Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting.
3. All nominations are to be received by **Monday, 8 August 2022**.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

4. The 5th RTMCF A will 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.

Pacific Community (SPC) Headquarters: Noumea, New Caledonia. Regional Offices: Suva, Fiji;
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia; Port Vila, Vanuatu.

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Siège de la Communauté du Pacifique (CPS) : Nouméa (Nouvelle-Calédonie). Antennes régionales : Suva (Fidji) ;
Pohnpei (États fédérés de Micronésie) ; Port-Vila (Vanuatu).

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5. 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.
6. 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*.
7. RTMCFA5 will include the Second Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue, convened by and focused on civil society and non-state actor participation. A separate invitation and nomination process will be undertaken for participants to this Dialogue.
8. The RTMCFA5 will report to the 15th Heads of Fisheries meeting in early 2023. This will also include the outcomes of the Second Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OVERVIEW

9. The RTMCFA5 will be 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.
10. 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. Due to time zones and the dateline, the meeting will run from Tuesday 11 to Friday 14 October 2022.
11. The following is an overview of the RTMCFA5 and CBF2, with the agenda to be developed and refined over the next 6 weeks with members' input:
 - Day 1 (11 Oct): Morning: Opening; Coastal fisheries technical session 1
Afternoon: Coastal fisheries technical session 2
 - Day 2 (12 Oct): Morning: Recap; Aquaculture technical session 1
Afternoon: Aquaculture technical session 2
 - Day 3 (13 Oct): Morning: Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue session 1
Afternoon: Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue session 2
 - Day 4 (14 Oct): Morning: CBF Dialogue Outcomes report and recommendations to RTMCFA5
Cross-cutting technical session (part 1)
Afternoon: Cross-cutting technical session (part 2)
Review of RTMCFA5 Outcomes' report
Adoption of specific recommendations to HoF15
Adoption of Outcomes (RTMCFA4, including CBF Dialogue)
12. The draft agenda will be posted on the SPC website (<https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings>) in late August 2022.

13. Given the time constraints of a hybrid meeting, there will be no statements by observers. However, observers, other agencies, organisations, companies and individuals are invited to submit brief Information Papers for circulation to all participants and posting on the RTMCFA5 web site.
14. As for previous RTMCFA meetings, members will be requested to prepare a brief dot-point summary of your top coastal fisheries and aquaculture technical issues, challenges and priority needs, that will be compiled into a Working Paper by SPC prior to the RTMCFA. SPC will provide the template in early August.
15. Documents for the meeting will be available on the SPC website at the following address <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings>.

LANGUAGE

16. As an official SPC sectoral meeting, the Fifth RTMCFA will be conducted in both English and French, with simultaneous interpretation, and translation of key papers.

Hybrid meeting arrangements

17. To facilitate the meeting arrangement, we kindly request SPC members and partners to undertake a three-stage process:
 - Submit nominations of one coastal fisheries technical staff and one aquaculture technical staff (including full name, organisation, and email contact) **by 8 August 2022** to SPC FAME meeting at fame_meetings@spc.int,
 - Indicate in your nomination if the nominated staff will be attending in-person or virtually, and
 - Registration of participants before the meeting using the meeting registration link. We kindly ask all participants to register at least a week before the meeting. The Zoom registration link will be shared once the nominations are received.
18. For nominated members whose travel is being arranged by SPC to attend in-person, separate instructions will be provided to ensure **all travel details required to facilitate travel arrangements are submitted before 9 September 2022. No travel will be arranged after that date.**

REPORT

19. The formal report of the meeting will consist of a list of decisions, outcomes and recommendations identified by the Chair, and agreed by consensus, called the “Outputs” of the meeting. The Outputs report will also include the outputs of the Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue. The Outputs report will include a separate section focused on a limited number of specific, high priority meeting outputs that need to be presented to the 15th Heads of Fisheries Meeting in early 2023 for consideration by the Heads of Fisheries.

MEETING CONTACTS

- Official nominations to: Neville Smith, Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (email: fame_meetings@spc.int).
- Administrative issues: Natalie Terrier, Conference Secretary, (email: fame_meetings@spc.int; Tel +687 260183)
- Agenda items, papers, other enquiries, etc.: Dr Andrew Smith, Deputy Director (Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture), Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystem Division (email: andrews@spc.int; cc/- fame_meetings@spc.int).

INSURANCE

20. The Pacific Community does not insure participants while attending meetings or during travel to/from, or attending virtual meetings; and will not be responsible for any expenses arising out of loss, sickness, injury, other disability or loss of life. It is participants' own responsibility to ensure that participants are covered by insurance.



Dr Paula Vivili

Deputy Director-General, Science and Capability

Original text: English