

Original: English

First SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries: Agreed Action Plan

1. The first SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries took place at SPC Headquarters in Noumea on 28th November to 1st December 2017. The following constitutes the agreed action plan from the meeting for both SPC and country members.
2. In this context, coastal fisheries and aquaculture data includes biological and environmental, economic and socio-economic, monitoring control surveillance and enforcement (MCS&E), and fisheries management data and information.
3. **The meeting recognises** that to successfully progress data sharing, repository and standards, active cooperation and engagement with SPC is required by PICTs and partners. **The meeting commits** to provide SPC with on-going support for the process and active engagement.
4. **The meeting recognises** the huge opportunities that technology offers in data collection, analysis and dissemination. It is important that we first identify the questions that we wish to answer and then identify the appropriate data collection methodology and supporting technology and systems, while remaining clear to keep data collection as simple and efficient as possible.

Data Standardisation Committee

5. **Countries agree** to the establishment of a Data Standardisation Committee (DSC) for coastal fisheries and aquaculture. The DSC should set regionally agreed minimum data standards for data collection and for each of the identified priority areas and meet at least annually.
6. **SPC is tasked to:**
 - a) Draft ToR based on the discussions in this meeting.
 - b) Based on the information gathered during the RTMCF undertake internal meetings to progress the strategic and technical approach, the first of which should be held by the end of 2017.
7. We as **country members commit** to, by end February 2018:
 - a) Confirm the data focal point in each country.
 - b) Providing SPC with all forms used for coastal fisheries and aquaculture data collection.
 - c) Identifying key priority areas for data standards and communicate these to SPC.
8. **The meeting suggests** that countries investigate the options for setting up national data committees including all authorities involved in coastal fisheries and aquaculture data collection.

9. **The meeting requests NGO and other partners** also share their own forms used for data collection with SPC by end February 2018.

Policy/legal development

10. **SPC to explore** the basic principles for working towards a regional framework for agreements and data sharing associated with coastal fisheries and aquaculture.
11. **Countries commit** to providing SPC, where national laws allow, their examples of MoUs for data sharing by end February 2018. **SPC will** identify commonalities and appropriate structures for bilateral or multilateral data sharing agreements.
12. **SPC to work** with individual countries on a bilateral basis to develop appropriate data collection, analysis, sharing, dissemination and usage arrangements.
13. **SPC to develop** robust internal policies related to research and ethics and storing and protecting data.
14. **SPC to ensure** appropriate infrastructure is in place to safe guard country data held by SPC.

Data repository development

15. **The meeting supports** the development of the SPC Data Repository for archiving and searching data sets. We recognise that coastal fisheries and aquaculture data is a complex area and as such **recommend** a staged strategic process of development.
16. The discovery of the data sets **is recognised** as the initial priority. **SPC will lead** a stocktake exercise to identify all data related to coastal fisheries and aquaculture.
17. By January 2018, **SPC will provide** countries and other participants with a form to complete with the relevant information on the data sets required for discovery process.
18. As a first step towards creating an operational repository, by the end of June 2018 **we as country members** task ourselves with:
 - a) Undertaking a stocktake of our data collection systems, including metadata.
 - b) Work with other relevant ministries to identify what data they hold relevant to coastal fisheries and/or aquaculture.
 - c) Request from NGOs, research organisations and others within the countries that they also provide a stocktake of data held.

19. **Countries hereby request** NGO and research organisations to participate in this stocktake exercise.
20. **The meeting task SPC** to identify if and how the fisheries data repository and the Pacific Community Data Archive can be jointly established.

Data storage

21. Data stored by SPC, in repository and as a backup, should be held primarily in a secure cloud system.
22. **SPC should determine and present back** to the Heads of Fisheries the cost implications of this.
23. **SPC must ensure** all data stored is protected from inappropriate use.

National collections

24. **We as countries commit** to:
 - a) Working with our National Statistic Offices (NSOs) during the planning phase of a statistical collection to ensure that relevant information is collected and to ensure that the correct classifications are applied (i.e., fishing methods, vessels, fish classes).
 - b) Proactively approach our NSO colleagues to discuss the collection of these data.
25. **SPC should develop** appropriate agreements with county NSOs to ensure at least one FAME staff member has full access to nationally collected raw data, similar to those in place with Statistics for Development Division (SDD).
26. **SPC to work with countries** to identify where powerful standard questions need to be added to national collections.

Dissemination

27. Funding dependent, **SPC is tasked** with developing mobile applications for dissemination of information and aggregate data or published sources. **Countries commit** to regularly updating the data upon which this information depends. SPC should not give out raw coastal fisheries and aquaculture data without country authorisation or other specified clearance procedure.

28. **SPC to explore with countries** alternative options to printing for dissemination of information such as social media, radio and TV, and other applications.
29. **SPC and countries work with donors** to secure funding for the development of fisheries and aquaculture related school curriculum materials.

Training

30. **We as countries request SPC to provide** training for capacity building to cover data analysis, cleaning, collection and database management. We recognise this will be funding dependent.
31. **We as countries commit** to completing an audit of our training needs related to data and providing the results to SPC to assist in supporting future funding applications.

Funding and staffing

32. **The meeting recognises** that all requests require significant funding and support in both the short term and long term. With additional funding SPC will be able to effectively complete many tasks on this action plan.
33. **The meeting gratefully acknowledges and thank** Tuvalu for the funding offer for module development work.
34. **The meeting recognises** that regular meetings, such as a yearly RTMCF, are beneficial but costly.
35. **We, SPC member countries, request** our donor partners provide SPC and countries with sufficient funding to successfully implement this action plan. **We task SPC** to prepare a budget to progress the work. **We will support SPC and task ourselves** to proactively identify additional funding sources for this work.
36. **We, SPC member countries recognise** that additional staff will be required to deliver on this action plan and note its complexity, understanding that the development of Tufman2 and Tails required 3 full time positions over two years.
37. **We, the participants to the meeting, agree** that, without prejudice to the selection of topics of the next RTMCF meeting, there should be an opportunity for countries and community representatives to present and discuss their experiences and provide an update on progress on this action plan. **SPC and member countries should seek funding** for this meeting.