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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

TO : Representatives of Governments and Administrations ; **No. :** 17/19
SPC Fisheries Contacts; Fisheries Organisations and
Observers

FILE : CONF 2/9/36/1 **DATE :** 8 September 2017

SUBJECT : **First SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries: 28 November to 1 December 2017, Noumea, New Caledonia**

PURPOSE OF NOTICE

1. This is an invitation to the Pacific Community's first Regional Technical meeting on Coastal Fisheries (RTMCF1: 28 November to 1 December), to be held at SPC's Conference Centre in Noumea, New Caledonia. In addition, there will be a side meeting on Friday 1 December as the first meeting of the Coastal Fisheries Working Group (CFWG) for the members of this group.
2. This notice is:
 - A request for SPC member country governments and territory administrations to nominate two participants, one being a senior coastal fisheries representative and the other a senior staff person responsible for coastal fisheries data, as the theme of the meeting will centre around coastal fisheries data in its various forms (scientific, economic, catch, aquaculture etc.)
 - An invitation to other agencies, organisations, companies, and individuals with an interest in coastal fisheries data in the Pacific Islands region, to attend the meeting and take the opportunity for discussion with Pacific Island fisheries representatives and specialists, and with each other. There is no registration fee, and given sufficient notice, SPC can help in negotiating special rates at local hotels.
3. All nominations for SPC funded participants:
 - Need to be received by **Friday 13 October 2017** so that flight bookings can be made; and
 - Need to provide a copy of their passport photo page at the time of nomination.
 - No change to SPC-funded nominations will be accepted within one month of the meeting dates.
4. Financial support is available for the attendance of two representatives from each SPC island member government or administration as described above in paragraph two. SPC will also fund several resource people, and they will be contacted separately to this announcement.

SPC Headquarters: Noumea, New Caledonia. Regional offices: Suva, Fiji, and Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.
Country office: Honiara, Solomon Islands.

For contact details – Website: www.spc.int Email: spc@spc.int

Siège de la CPS : Nouméa (Nouvelle-Calédonie), Antennes régionales : Suva (Fidji) et Pohnpei (États fédérés de Micronésie)
Bureau de pays : Honiara, (Iles Salomon).
Site Web : www.spc.int Courriel : spc@spc.int

PURPOSE OF MEETING

5. The first RTMCF meeting has been arranged to address some specific outcomes as agreed by representatives at the Tenth Heads of Fisheries Meeting held in Noumea in March 2017. It also links back to the New Song and the direction set out in this documents, as well as assisting with providing the much needed information for reporting to Leaders under the annual Coastal Fisheries Report Card. Again, the overarching theme is to address the data shortages in coastal fisheries in support of better resource management. The Forum Leaders have also tasked the SPC to coordinate with National Fisheries Agencies, CROP agencies and regional and national community groups, to strengthen support and resourcing for coastal fisheries management. Better data will also allow countries to report against the indicators under Sustainable Development Goal 14 on Oceans.
6. The RTMCF meeting is intended to focus on specific issues, in this case coastal fisheries data, with input from member country government and territory administrations. The make-up of the meeting is also to maximise country input through group discussions and plenary sessions. SPC views this as essential for longer-term planning and is also of considerable assistance to other agencies, regional NGOs and donors interested in national as well as regional coastal fisheries issues.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

7. The following items will be included in the agenda:
 - Half-day session for setting the scene and objective of the meeting. Countries are also requested to present on what is happening at home, with a short 5 minute presentation covering:
 - data currently being collected (scientific, aquaculture, economic, catch etc);
 - the methods used for collection;
 - challenges being faced; and
 - any new or innovative approaches being trialled.
 - Half-day session looking at new approaches to data collection. This will include group discussions and reporting back at a plenary session.
 - Half-day session on advances in data holdings and repositories. This will also include group discussions and reporting back at a plenary session.
 - Half-day session exploring innovations and alternatives for data analysis and interpretation, with group discussions and reporting back to plenary.
 - Half-day session on developing a framework for data governance, including the possibility of standardised approaches. This will also include group discussions and reporting back at a plenary session.
 - Half-day session exploring new trends in the dissemination and exchange of information, including data. This will also include group discussions and reporting back at a plenary session.
 - On the last day there will be a field trip for those participants who wish to participate, and after lunch, the outcomes of the meeting will be cleared. It is anticipated the meeting will close around 3:30 pm.

Proposals from members for the inclusion of other related topics are welcome, and should be submitted on or before 16th October 2017. The draft agenda will be posted on the SPC website in October.

8. Given the specific focus on the meeting, there will be no time available for statements by “other organisations”.
9. Members are requested to prepare a short 5 minute presentation as outlined in the first dot-point in paragraph 7 above, for presentation on the morning of day one of the meeting.

10. Any relevant documents for the meeting will be available on the SPC website at the address <http://www.spc.int/fame/>.

LANGUAGE

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

REPORT

12. The formal report of the meeting will consist of a list of decisions, outcomes and recommendations identified by the Chair, and agreed by consensus, usually called the “Outputs” of the meeting.

TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS

13. An economy class return ticket by the most economical route will be provided to all SPC-funded representatives. If participants choose to travel by a route other than the one proposed, all additional costs will be at their own expense. Travel orders cannot be issued until the official nominations have been received.
14. A per-diem will be provided to SPC-funded official representatives. Hotel accommodation can be booked at the SPC Community rate, but the payment of all costs will be the responsibility of each participant. Participants requiring SPC Community assistance to book accommodation at the SPC rate should contact the Conference Secretary and a hotel accommodation form will be sent out for completion.
15. The SPC will organise airport transportation from Tontouta International Airport to Noumea (55 km). This service is complimentary for all SPC funded participants and non-funded participants who request it. Please ensure that SPC Community is provided with a copy of your travel itinerary in advance of your arrival.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

16. SPC is pleased to advise that visas are **no longer** required for entry into New Caledonia for stays of up to three months for nationals of all SPC member countries.
17. Transit visas are the responsibility of delegates. However, SPC may be able to assist, through a letter of introduction, if required.
18. To facilitate administrative arrangements we will also require passport details of each delegate. We would be very grateful if each delegate can send to the RTMCF Conference Secretary Hélène Lecomte, by e-mail (heleneL@spc.int) or fax (+687 26.38.18), a copy of the photo page of your passport as well as your itineraries with a copy to Seya Brighton (SeyaB@spc.int).

MEETING CONTACTS

- Official nominations to: Moses Amos, Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (email: MosesA@spc.int; cc/- HeleneL@spc.int) and (SeyaB@spc.int), fax +687 263818)

- Administrative issues, visa documentation, hotel bookings etc: Helene Lecomte, Secretary (Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division) (email: HeleneL@spc.int; tel +687 260953, fax +687 263818) with a copy to Seya Brighton (SeyaB@spc.int).
- Agenda items, papers, other enquiries etc: Moses Amos, Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystem Division (email: MosesA@SPC.int)

INSURANCE

19. The Pacific Community does not insure participants while attending meetings or during travel to and from New Caledonia, 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 their travel is covered by insurance.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Diver', is positioned above the typed name and title.

Cameron Diver
Deputy Director General

Original text: English