

Working Paper 1

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Progress report against outcomes from HoF 10

FAME Secretariat



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11th SPC Heads of fisheries Meeting, 11–15 March 2019, Noumea, New Caledonia
11^e Conférence des Directeurs des pêches de la CPS, 11–15 mars 2019, Nouméa, Nouvelle-Calédonie



Progress report against outcomes from HoF 10

Secretariat

The 10th Heads of Fisheries (HoF) Meeting took place at SPC Headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia, from the 14th–17th March 2017. The meeting was chaired by Luisa Naseri-Sale, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Economic Development, Natural Resources and Environment, Tokelau.

HoF is a regional meeting of the heads of SPC member country and territory fishery agencies, or their appointed deputies, covering the entire range of interests for which they have responsibility and on which the SPC Division of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) provides advice and assistance. As such, the HoF meeting plays a unique role in providing strategic guidance to the Director's Office, the Coastal Fisheries Programme (CFP) and the Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP) of FAME.

The following outcomes constitute the main points of consensus agreement among delegates that the meeting felt necessary to document, either to guide the management of the FAME work programme, to draw to the attention of other regional agencies and development partners, or to signal agreement on issues that require attention by members themselves, and to inform the Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and SPC's Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA).

The meeting was officially opened by Dr Colin Tukuitonga, Director General, SPC. The agenda of the 10th HoF was adopted with no additional provisions.

Outcomes from HoF 10	Progress against outcome over last 2 years
Opening session, FAME review and progress	
1. Noting the challenges and opportunities in considering the FAME review and progress against HOF 9 outcome, Heads of Fisheries stressed the need to elevate the coastal fisheries profile of its various members.	FAME with funding assistance from Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has established the Coastal Fisheries Working Group (CFWG) to bring together stakeholders from the main sectors, including NGOs and civil society to discuss coastal fisheries issues and link these through to Forum Leaders. The CFWG has met three times and the next meeting will be 14 March. An annual Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries has been initiated by FAME, with primarily DFAT support, to address some specific outcomes as agreed by representatives at the Tenth Heads of Fisheries Meeting held in Noumea in March 2017, and to discuss and address some of the main technical issues affecting coastal fisheries in support of better resource management, equitable access to resources and the safety of fishers.

	<p>An additional day has been added to the FFC Ministerial to look at Ocean issues (outside of tuna), which includes coastal fisheries.</p> <p>These ongoing initiatives are contributing to an increased profile of coastal fisheries.</p>
<p>2. Reaffirmed concerns over the recent 'blue boat' poaching epidemic occurring in the Pacific, and inadequate coastal fisheries regulations and monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) in many coastal sectors.</p>	<p>Coast Fisheries Programme staff attended a Vietnamese Blue Boat (VBB) Strategy workshop in Brisbane (May 2017). CFP was tasked with assisting FFA develop a blue boat strategy and developing awareness material for countries impacted by blue boats, these were completed as tasked.</p> <p>VBB identification posters completed in English and local languages and disseminated to Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. A poster highlighting vessel silhouettes was also produced for FSM and this included VBB identification. Article also produced for SPC's Fisheries News publication.</p> <p>The new PEUMP Programme Key Result Area 4 focuses on the reduction of IUU fishing through enhanced MCS of both oceanic and coastal fisheries, improved legislation, access to information, and effective marine area management.</p>
<p>3. Expressed support for the 2017 FAME performance review.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>4. Recognised CFP's assistance with coastal fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), including the new MFAT-funded project on coastal fisheries governance, and CFP's assistance with aquaculture and biosecurity, including the recruitment of a new Aquatic Biosecurity Specialist position and two aquaculture positions funded under MFAT.</p>	<p>These projects are progressing well with coastal fisheries MCS training modules developed with a USP accredited regional workshop in late 2018, with 15 out of 16 students successfully completing the course. More training is scheduled for 2019.</p> <p>In 2017 and 2018, MCS training workshops completed for fisheries officers in Vanuatu, Kiribati (preliminary training) and Kiritimati with 48 staff trained 67% male, and 33% female. All training was enthusiastically received by participants with infringements detected during all the practical market inspections that are completed at the end of the workshops. A substantial amount of green snail shell and meat was detected in Luganville (Santo) that resulted in the offender being issued with a spot fine under Vanuatu fisheries legislation.</p> <p>MCS training course will be conducted in FSM, RMI and Kiribati during 2019. Additional training will be provided in Vanuatu.</p> <p>Fisheries governance structure has also being strengthened with coastal fisheries legislation and regulations, as well as fisheries policies and specific fishery management plans. Aquatic biosecurity plans have been developed for five countries (Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, PNG and Solomon Islands) with ongoing assistance to private sector enterprises, community based farms and public sector in the aquaculture</p>

	area, including risk assessments for the introduction of new species for aquaculture purposes.
5. Acknowledged CFP's ongoing commitment to the Pacific Islander Junior Professional program, and supported OFP's move to recruitment a similar position.	<p>Noted with appreciation.</p> <p>In 2017 and 2018 two Pacific Island Fisheries Professionals (formerly known as 'Junior Professionals') were recruited in CFP and three in OFP. Two new PIFPs have been recently recruited in CFP and one in OFP, with plans to recruit a further two in OFP before the end of the year.</p> <p>In 2018, FAME also undertook an internal evaluation of the PIFP programme to further enhance and improve it.</p>
6. Called for future of Heads of Fisheries meetings to include sessions from other SPC Divisions involved in areas cross-cutting the fisheries sector, such as Climate Change and Geoscience Divisions.	HoF11 includes sessions on 'Gender and Social Inclusion', 'Climate Change and Fisheries', and the 'Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science' (PCCOS), all of which involve cross Divisional engagement.

Coastal Fisheries Programme report

7. Recognising the importance of coastal fisheries to members, supported enhancing the profile of CFP's work.	This is an ongoing process that has been covered under point 1 above, with the formation and meetings of the CFWG, the holding of two RTMCFs, and the expansion of the FFC Ministerial to allow time for coastal fisheries issues. Options for the governance approach for Pacific Coastal Fisheries will also be discussed during this meeting.
8. Recognised and encouraged SPC CFP's ongoing focus on cross-cutting themes such as capacity building, gender, youth, human rights and climate change adaptation.	<p>The CFP has been expanding its linkages with cross-cutting issues, with joint activities in gender analysis in the coastal fisheries and aquaculture sectors, linkages with SPC Social Development Programme (SDP) on gender and Regional Rights Resources Team (RRRT) on a rights-based approaches, and this will be further strengthened through the PEUMP Programme, under EDF 11 funding, where gender and human rights-based approaches (HRBA) are built into all components of the Programme.</p> <p>FAME and partners have also been developing a Pacific handbook for gender equity and social inclusion in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture.</p> <p>Gender in Coastal Fisheries and aquaculture assessments have been completed for five countries (Solomon Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa and Tonga). Gender assessment specific to aquaculture have been completed in Fiji and Samoa. Further member country gender in fisheries assessment expected to be completed in 2019 and 2020.</p>
9. Recognised the immediate need to maintain the food security and	The CFP is currently going through some changes with the PEUMP Programme almost at full strength, and the change in

<p>livelihoods of coastal communities through the development of aquaculture and other sustainable marine-based alternatives.</p>	<p>focus from “development” to a broader “sustainable livelihoods”, as proposed under the New Song, with the recruitment of a “Sustainable Livelihoods Specialist” underway. The CFP is also forming collaborations with other projects implemented through the University of Wollongong, FAO, plus others, where food security is a primary focus.</p>
<p>10. Noted new advances in improving finfish identification in the region, including the development of the <i>Identification guide to the common coastal finfish species of the Pacific Islands region</i> and the corresponding mobile device application ‘PacFishID’.</p>	<p>This is an ongoing process in collaboration with the OFP to refine TAILS to cover coastal fisheries data collection in some areas.</p>
<p>11. Acknowledged CFP’s assistance with post disaster and rehabilitation work in coastal fisheries science and management, aquaculture and nearshore fisheries development.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation.</p> <p>With the support of partner agencies such as ACIAR, FAO, German Development Bank (KFW) and member countries involved, CFP was able to assist with post disaster and rehabilitation work in a few member countries such as Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Lessons learned from these engagement contributed to the development of an SPC post-disaster support policy framework.</p>
<p>12. Called for assistance in reviewing legislation to ensure improved coastal fisheries governance and MCS, particularly at the local and national levels.</p>	<p>This is being addressed through the MFAT-funded coastal fisheries governance project, where coastal fisheries legislation, regulations, MCS&E and management plans are being developed, reviewed or strengthened. This is mainly at the national level, as assisting countries with legislative reform at the sub-national (province, state, island council) level has proven to be difficult so far.</p> <p>Legislation reviews underway for American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. Staff from Kiribati, Nauru and Tonga have worked at SPC on attachment to revise their legislation.</p> <p>Activities to increase awareness on coastal fisheries law include: guest lecture on coastal fisheries legislation held at USP; presentations on legal aspects integrated in SPC/USP Coastal Fisheries MCS Course and in training workshops on Fisheries Policy and Management Plans; training on legislative drafting under preparation.</p>
<p>13. Noted increasing incidents of coral beaching, raised concerns over the broader effects of climate change (and other cross-cutting issues) in the region, and called for ongoing scientific advice and monitoring to</p>	<p>The CFP has been able to strengthen the scientific staff numbers through the PEUMP Programme, so more support in the scientific areas can be provided in 2019 onwards. However, further strengthening is still needed to allow the ongoing surveys on existing climate change monitoring site to be undertaken. The CFP is looking for additional funding to</p>

<p>assist with this, including re-surveying the climate change monitoring sites established in 2011–2012.</p>	<p>address this specific issue with a full-time dedicated staff in this area.</p> <p>Coral Bleaching Information sheet for communities completed and available online.</p>
<p>14. Noted the small number of staff in the Nearshore Fisheries Development Section (NFDS) and called for strengthening the Section’s capacity in fisheries economics, post-harvest methods and fishing technology.</p>	<p>With the dwindling donor funding support for fisheries development, the CFP NFDS is being restructured around sustainable livelihoods under the CFP science and management area, as sustainable livelihoods are a part of good management approaches, which would include fisheries development, post-harvest and other alternative and supplementary livelihood activities. Fisheries economics is a broader field, and now comes under the DD FAME (Coastal Fisheries) and covers aquaculture and management options, as well as broader livelihoods.</p>
<p>15. Called to strengthen the Coastal Fisheries Science and Management Section’s (CFSMS) capacity for science-based management.</p>	<p>This has been partly achieved with the start-up of the PEUMP Programme, with an invertebrate scientist and social scientist added to the CFP science team, and a community-based management officer added to the management team. However, there is a continuing need to increase the staff in this area, and FAME’s CFP is looking at funding options to address this.</p> <p>The science unit in CFSM section comprise of five staff: Senior Coastal Fisheries Scientist, Fisheries Scientist, Invertebrate Fisheries Scientist, Socio Scientist and PIFP Science Officer.</p>
<p>16. Called for linking up of regional initiatives with national initiatives, such as the Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP) project.</p>	<p>The formation and focus of the CFWG is designed to address this, document who is doing what and where, so collaborations can be formed between projects and ensure there is no duplication of effort and these are focused on national priorities and initiatives.</p>
<p>17. Thanked CFP for its ‘safety grab bag’ initiative and called for donor assistance to expand this program, and requested training in use of the equipment.</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation.</p> <p>The RTMCF2 (Nov. 2018) included a session on “Saving lives: safety at sea”:</p> <p>“The meeting took note of the reported success stories about lives saved at sea which are directly attributable to relatively inexpensive regional initiatives in sea safety such as the Safety Grab Bags promoted by SPC that include a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB).</p> <p>The meeting recommended expanded and longer-term sea safety initiatives, with better coordination that spans other marine sectors and agencies (such as island councils) in addition to fisheries authorities. Elements of future regional safety-at-sea work should include creation of a Small-boat Safety Officer position, further procurement and distribution of Safety Grab Bags, provision of small boat safety training</p>

using a Train-the-Trainer approach, knowledge products in a range of languages, development of sea accident data collection systems at the national level to monitor incidents, and transfer of useful technologies and initiatives from other regions such as the Caribbean.

The meeting proposed that sea safety capacity development be an integral part of post-cyclone recovery efforts for coastal fishing communities in impacted areas.”

FAME continues to seek donor support for expanding the “safety grab bag” programme and the necessary training in its use as part of the sea safety and small boat operations training.

18. Requested assistance with the development of policies and management plans for the aquaculture sector and in cage culture trials.

This is being addressed through the MFAT-funded projects on sustainable aquaculture development and coastal fisheries governance.

Developing coastal fisheries policies and management plans training for senior officers from PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji.

Technical assistance to Solomon Islands and Tonga and short term attachment training for four officers from these member countries in completing aquaculture management plans. Cook Islands aquaculture strategies are in development.

Technical assistance was provided to Samoa on cage culture farming which has proved successful and on-going technical support provided to other countries venturing into cage culture.

19. Called for CFP to embrace new developments and technologies to better address member concerns, specifically 1) low-cost FAD development, 2) data collection and e-recording for small-scale fisheries, and 3) coastal MCS.

This was noted. Given the focus of several countries to develop their own low-cost FAD designs, SPC continues to provide technical support, while focusing more on assisting countries to develop sustainable FAD programmes. CFP is looking at data collection using new technology and data, which was the main focus of the first RTMCF (Nov. 2017). Assistance and training with coastal MCS is progressing under the MFAT coastal fisheries governance project.

A pilot study for a solar powered cellular data transmitting VMS for small vessels was conducted in the Tonga aquarium fisheries during 2017-18. Discussions are currently underway for a trial of the units to be conducted in the Tongan deepwater snapper fishery in 2019.

Oceanic Fisheries Programme report

20. Reaffirmed general support for OFP’s work in oceanic fisheries, including in pelagic species stock assessments, data management, and fisheries and

Noted with appreciation.

<p>ecosystem monitoring and analysis, and OFP's role at regional, sub-regional and national levels. Reaffirmed OFP's role as premier scientific advisory body for oceanic fisheries in the region.</p>	
<p>21. Supported the ongoing work of OFP in electronic data collection including Electronic Monitoring (EM) and Electronic Reporting (ER) and called for continued development of relevant tools, especially for mobile technologies, and support for on-site implementation and training in these areas.</p>	<p>OFP has continued to work with members in rolling out ER in the southern longline fishery, with significant progress with implementation of the e-log system <i>OnBoard</i> being made in French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Samoa and Tonga. Future focus will be on continuing e-log rollout, and implementation of unloading, port sampling and observer ER using <i>OnShore</i> and <i>OLLO</i>. OFP has also assisted several members in data collection from small-scale fisheries using the <i>TAILS</i> mobile app. All data collected via these ER systems are immediately available to members through <i>TUFMAN2</i> and the associated <i>DORADO</i> reporting system. OFP's assistance with EM has been mainly in developing data standards and tools for data quality control and assimilation into <i>TUFMAN2</i>.</p>
<p>22. Acknowledged the importance of the work done by observers and called for OFP to work with members to increase the quality and quantity of longline observer coverage to meet 5% agreed coverage.</p>	<p>More than half of members with domestic longline fleets achieved 5% observer coverage in 2016 and 2017, several by substantial margins. OFP has continued to focus on a range of initiatives to improve the quality of observer work and data, including training quality assurance and standards (PIRFO) and continuous improvement of debriefing and observer data curation.</p>
<p>23. Supported OFP's proposed plan to recruit a Pacific Islander Junior Professional.</p>	<p>OFP hosted three Pacific Island Professional Officers (PIPOs) in 2017-2018 (from RMI, Samoa and Vanuatu) and a new PIPO (from Tonga) has recently commenced work. Two more positions affiliated with the PEUMP programme and Tuna MSE projects will be recruited in 2019.</p>
<p>24. Supported the Stock Assessment and Modelling Section's move to undertaking economic analyses and modelling of tuna fisheries.</p>	<p>In 2017 and 2018, OFP in collaboration with FFA initiated eight bioeconomic analyses of domestic tuna longline fisheries. In turn, the national longline bioeconomic tool has been further developed to assist in-country discussions.</p>
<p>25. Acknowledged the transition from national tuna status reports to regularly updated national web pages, and called for further information on the national consequences of oceanographic influences and climate change on tuna fisheries.</p>	<p>National web pages have been updated at least annually since 2016. OFP produced a report "Impact of climate change on tropical tuna species and tuna fisheries in Pacific Island waters and high seas areas" in December 2018.</p>
<p>26. Supported OFP's recent and on-going tagging work and requested that</p>	<p>Tagging, in support of tuna stock assessment, has continued with cruises WP-4 and CP-13 undertaken in 2017 and 2018,</p>

where feasible, tagging studies also be conducted on non-tuna species (e.g. sharks).	respectively. Cruise WP-5 will be undertaken in 2019. OFP has also collaborated on assessing post-release mortality in several shark species through PSAT tagging.
27. Called for ongoing research into the interactions between the industrial and artisanal sectors.	This requires a long-term commitment to collecting comprehensive catch and effort data from artisanal fisheries. OFP has been working with several members in this regard using the <i>TAILS</i> mobile app.
28. Called for increased emphasis on ecosystem science.	An ecosystem modelling activity has been included within KRA 1 of the PEUMP Programme design, and a Senior Fisheries Scientist position to work in this area is under recruitment. Also, OFP has continued to develop the Tissue Bank, which provides a valuable resource for ecosystem analysis by SPC and external researchers (see also items 57-59).

FAME Director's Office, Information and Monitoring & Evaluation Sections

29. Noted and supported the ongoing work and services provided by the Fisheries Information Unit into disseminating information to member countries and territories to make informed management decisions.	Noted with appreciation.
30. Supported the ongoing work of the Director's Office in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, including the internal review of the Fisheries Information Unit and analysis of FAME training data.	Noted with appreciation.

Programme planning

31. Supported the change from the FAME Strategic Plan to the FAME Business Plan.	Noted with thanks.
32. Provided group feedback to inform additional changes to the Business Plan, including the addition of a results framework to define how the quality of FAME work will be assessed; mapping how the FAME objectives support global, regional and sub-regional strategies; analysis to assess the amount of funding and human resources allocated to each objective; increased clarity that capacity development is integrated	<p>FAME MEL team included feedback from HOF into a revised version of the Business Plan, including wording changes to specific result areas, and clarity that capacity development cuts across all FAME work</p> <p>The mapping of indicators and objectives to global, regional and sub-regional strategies is an ongoing process and needs to be coordinated between CROP and UN agencies who are involved in reporting against different regional and global agendas including SDG 14 on Oceans. The FAME MEL team have been engaged with such discussions at the regional level, including supporting other CROP agencies in MEL (FFA and</p>

<p>across all objectives; and wording changes to specific result areas.</p>	<p>OPOC), as well as providing input to international processes such as the development of an MEL Handbook for SDG14.</p>
<p>33. Called for an analysis of how the Business Plan will reflect available national strategies.</p>	<p>The FAME MEL team have begun providing national level MEL advice to support members undertake monitoring and evaluation of their national strategies. This is in the early stages. FAME have also provided inputs into the development of SPC-wide Country Programmes, which is a new organisational approach, to ensure that the FAME Business Plan continues to align with national priorities.</p>
<p>34. Noted that the Business Plan is a 'living document', to be reviewed in 2018, and welcomed a report on FAME's performance against the Business Plan at HOF11.</p>	<p>This item is covered under agenda item 'FAME Results Reporting 2017-2018'</p>
<p>Regional strategies</p>	
<p>35. Noted the briefing provided by SPC about the process to date to develop draft indicators for reporting of progress to achieve the outcomes of the New Song for Coastal Fisheries, and of the need to streamline and harmonise these with other international, regional and national reporting requirements that have fisheries components, such as the Regional Roadmap for Fisheries, and the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape.</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. This work is ongoing, with the FAME MEL team continuing to work with other agencies to harmonise and standardise indicators and reporting processes wherever possible.</p>
<p>36. Were invited to review draft indicators for the New Song, assess data availability and potential data sources, and provide SPC with their views about potential ways to verify the information provided for the Report Card.</p>	<p>HOF10 feedback was utilised to further refine the regional indicators for Coastal Fisheries, with this work being ongoing to ensure the Coastal Fisheries Report Card continues to improve in relation to data quality and validity.</p>
<p>37. Recommended that HoF feedback regarding fisheries indicators and data sources be fed directly into the discussions simultaneously taking place at the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting towards the UN Ocean Conference being held in Suva, Fiji Islands.</p>	<p>FAME MEL team provided feedback and advice into regional processes that have occurred over the last two years.</p>

The New Song: progress to date, future plans, and challenges to implementation

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| 38. Noted progress on the New Song and the 2015 and 2016 Coastal Fisheries Report Cards. | Noted with appreciation. |
| 39. Called for SPC to ensure outcomes from HoF10 are presented to ministers, e.g. through a forum such as FFC and other appropriate fora. | Main outcomes from HoF10 were presented to Ministers with positive feedback received and in 2018, a new process was put into place to allow a day for Fisheries Ministers to look at coastal fisheries and Oceans issues. |
| 40. Endorsed in principle FAME's suggestion of the establishment of a regional coastal fisheries working group to coordinate implementation of the PIF Leaders' decision on coastal fisheries. | At the 47 th Pacific Island Forum held in 2016, Pacific Island Leaders tasked SPC to coordinate with national fisheries agencies, regional agencies and community groups with a view to strengthening support and resourcing for coastal fisheries management. The Coastal Fisheries Working Group (CFWG) held its first meeting in December 2017. The CFWG met twice in 2018, and there are plans to hold two meetings in 2019 and in future years if funding support is attained. |
| 41. Endorsed FAME's proposal that a technical task force be established to draft a Terms of Reference (ToR) for the establishment of a regional coastal fisheries working group, and reaffirmed that this ToR include clear governing mechanisms and membership criteria. | Activity completed and covered in the previous point.

Comprehensive ToR for the CFWG were discussed and reviewed during the first two meetings, which were held in December 2017 and April 2018. The ToR, which are available online at http://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/241 , include clear governance mechanisms and membership criteria, as follows.

The CFWG ultimately reports to Pacific Island Forum Leaders, via Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). Membership is defined under the categories: 3 CROP agencies, 2 regional civil society representatives of community fisheries, gender and youth (LMMA), 3 community fisher representatives (1 per subregion rotating at each meeting), 3 regional/international NGOs/Academia (on a 2 year term), 3 national fisheries agencies (1 per subregion rotating after each meeting) and 2 donors. |
| 42. Requested the ToR for the establishment of a regional coastal fisheries working group be presented to FFC officials, and, if approved, to be taken to the FFC Ministerial Meeting for consideration and that the outcome of this process be reported back to the Marine Sector Working Group and SPC members for consideration. | In 2017, the ToR of the CFWG were endorsed by FFC Officials, reported back to the Marine Sector Working Group (MSWG), and presented to SPC members at the First Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries (RTMCF1). |
| 43. Provided group feedback on potential national and sub-national responses | All feedback was taken on-board and forwarded to both the CFWG and MSWG for further discussion and taking forward. |

to strengthen implementation of the New Song, and better enable communities to sustainably manage their coastal fisheries. Identified a number of activities and changes that could be implemented at community, sub-national and national levels, which have been summarised and forwarded to the Marine Sector Working Group's technical taskforce to inform their ToR.

44. Encouraged SPC to seek funding to support further work on these community engagement activities, and to establish mechanisms to support skill sharing among communities and participation in coastal fisheries management.

This is mainly covered through the new EU-funded PEUMP Programme where a significant portion of the coastal component is focused on community-based activities and raising awareness for coastal fisheries management. Short-term funding was also provided by DFAT to enable work to commence in this area advance of PEUMP.

45. As a strategy to engage the attention of Forum leaders, encouraged SPC to work with the FFA to share bi-annually as host of the annual officials fisheries meeting so that HoF recommendations can be more directly transmitted to the fisheries ministerial fora.

Good and positive progress with Ministers with a separate day at the annual FFA Ministerial meeting specifically for Oceans issues, including coastal fisheries. The actual format and process will considered at the 2019 FFC Ministerial in July.

46. Endorsed in principle the proposal from Tuvalu that a regional coastal fisheries technical meeting be convened on an annual basis.

FAME CFP fully supports this and is continuing to seek funding support to allow the RTMCF to be held annually.

Secured funding from DFAT, FAO and EU to host RTMCF 1 and 2 in 2017 and 2018.

Still need to secure funding for RTMCF 3 in 2019.

Vanuatu proposal for coastal fisheries science to be moved from Coastal Fisheries Science and Management Section

47. Agreed for the FAME review to explore Vanuatu's proposal regarding the reorganisation of the CFP in particular the separation of coastal fisheries science from the current Coastal Fisheries Science and Management Section and placed under a centralised FAME science program and that a report of that review be presented at FFC Ministerial Meeting in July and

This issue was considered by the FAME Performance Review, which recommended: "That FAME's current structure be maintained and that in order to strengthen coastal fisheries science, management, data collection and sustainable development; a strategic planning process for CFP should be implemented ..." (see Review report posted under Informal Documents).

shared with SPC members for consideration.

Pacific Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics

48. Noted and supported the progress made by SPC's Statistics for Development Division in the development of Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics (P-SPAFS), and the increased recognition of the importance of collection of fisheries-related statistics.

Noted with appreciation.

49. Endorsed the vision, mission and objectives of P-SPAFs and endorsed in principle the current P-SPAFs draft.

Noted with appreciation.

Harmonisation collection of small-scale domestic fisheries data

50. Noted the progress made by SPC's FAME Division in small-scale domestic fisheries data collection, including e-recording tools, and data management.

Noted with appreciation.

51. Supported in general the move by FAME to attempt to proceed with regional harmonisation of its artisanal tuna and coastal creel survey programs, including the maintenance of minimum data standards, but called on SPC to undertake a greater examination of the positives and negatives involved in the initial stages of the harmonisation process.

Some progress made in this regard with sourcing the current coastal fisheries data being collected nationally, so this can be taken into account when developing the minimum data set that would be standardised for the region. The focus is on a minimum data set, where countries can collect additional data to meet specific needs they have. In regards to a common platform (TAILS) for tuna and small-scale data, this is being explored as to how best to do this using e-reporting technology. This is still a work in progress.

The Coastal Fisheries Programme creel survey form has been simplified and merged with the Oceanic Fisheries Programme Tuna Artisanal form into a new combined form. TAILS and TUFMAN will be modified to implement the combined form and tests will be undertaken in May.

52. Suggested pilot studies/trials of the harmonised approach could be conducted in a small number of PICTs as part of the initial stages of the harmonisation process before the two FAME programs are formally harmonised.

FAME agrees with this approach and will undertake pilot trials once the common platform is developed.

CFP is currently testing a simplified market survey form and sampling design to collect size and weight data for targeted fish and invertebrate species for sale on markets. A web version has been implemented and will be complemented by a tablet application (currently in development).

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| <p>53. Suggested SPC convene a preliminary strategy meeting to develop the Terms of Reference for a formal body to ensure regional data standardisation and maintenance of minimum data standards that encompasses all small-scale domestic fisheries.</p> | <p>Possible ToR for a formal body on coastal fisheries data standardisation were discussed at the First Regional Technical Meeting for Coastal Fisheries (RTMCF1) in November 2017. SPC members were all in favour of the proposed approach and tasked SPC with preparing draft ToR.</p> <p>In November 2018, a group of coastal fisheries scientists held an informal e-conference led by SPC on “new” approaches to data poor fisheries. It was agreed to table a proposal at HOF11 to seek funding for the organisation of a face-to-face expert consultation to be held in 2019.</p> |
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Data holdings and repository

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| <p>54. Expressed concern that historic data that is no longer available to them and the importance of this data for future management of coastal fisheries.</p> | <p>Noted the concerns and this is being addressed in the next point below.</p> |
| <p>55. Authorised SPC to look for this historic data on their behalf and with their support, supported the use of CFP as a repository for all forms of coastal fisheries and aquaculture data as a backup to national systems, and supported CFP to seek funding to undertake this activity a full and thorough manner to recover as much historic data as possible and convert this into a useable format for PICTs in the future.</p> | <p>Under the coastal component of the PEUMP Programme, locating and accessing historic data sets is part of the role of the Coastal Fisheries Information Technology Officer position. As data is located and converted into a useable format, the countries concerned will be notified so they have access to the data.</p> <p>Following recommendations of the RTMCF 1, a data repository has been developed beginning of 2018 to assist in inventorying and storing information on coastal fisheries and aquaculture surveys, methodology and associated datasets.</p> <p>The repository has been subsequently populated with metadata on surveys conducted jointly by SPC coastal fisheries staff and national counterparts as well as other surveys for which we found or received information. Users from fisheries administrations, NGOs and other partners can access and contribute to the inventory of surveys and datasets for their organization</p> <p>Inventory and archival of historical datasets will continue as part of the PEUMP project</p> |
| <p>56. Suggested the historical data be expanded to include all fisheries information, noting there may be some issues around copyright on some documents.</p> | <p>CFP has built a knowledge base that contains a mix of more than 20,000 scanned reports, scientific papers and other non SPC documents. A large part of the corpus cannot be shared on the web due to copyright issues. Further study is needed to determine what can be legally shared and with which mechanism.</p> |
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This will be included as part of the location of historical data sets, with copyright on documents being taken into consideration where this applies.

Marine Specimen Bank

57. Expressed strong support for the proposal of SPC to host an expanded regional marine specimen bank including coastal and oceanic specimens. SPC has progressed this concept with support from New Zealand. A range of design issues have been considered and enhancements made to the existing specimen bank. In 2019 projects to design a new facility will be completed.

58. Recommended that such a facility be used to address urgent science information needs around the life history of coastal and nearshore species and the region's ecosystems. Noted, and the ongoing work has kept a focus on a facility addressing coastal and oceanic species, and the systems and technology to undertake life history studies.

59. Welcomed the opportunity to have access to state-of-the-art facilities to explore biological and ecological questions relevant to the management of coastal and oceanic resources, especially in the context of developing scientific capacity for members to explore such questions in the region. Member needs for the central facility and needs for enhanced training for national facilities have been identified during the design process to date. How to implement member scientific capacity development continues to be a key consideration in the 2019 design projects.

Fisheries economics: coastal and oceanic

60. Noted the recent activities that have been carried out in fisheries economics. Noted with appreciation.

61. Reaffirmed interest and commitment to economic analysis for fisheries management and policy decisions acknowledging that these decisions have management, livelihood and food security implications. Noted and appreciate the support of members in this area.

62. Reaffirmed that fisheries economics is a priority area of work and tasked FAME, in collaboration with other regional agencies as appropriate, to seek additional funding to expand future work in across priority activities. FAME has included additional resources for economic activities in several funding proposals, however, these have not been successful. FAME will continue to look at project funding options to strengthen resourcing of economics in the fisheries sector, including aquaculture.

63. Through group work, identified and prioritised upcoming national and Limited resources in FAME's economic area have restricted the implementation of priorities identified during HOF10 breakout

regional needs in economic and analytical work in both coastal and oceanic fisheries, and prioritised upcoming capacity development needs in economic analysis within PICT fisheries administrations and identify the preferred options for addressing those needs.

groups. With the replacement economist in the final stages of recruitment, addressing some of these priorities areas will take place in 2019.

Sea cucumber fisheries

64. Noted the Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP) and endorsed the work being undertaken on sea cucumber fisheries by CFP's Coastal Fisheries Science and Management Section towards PROP Component 2: Sustainable Management of Coastal Fisheries.

Noted with appreciation.

65. Acknowledged and supported recent undertakings on sea cucumber governance and value chain analysis in Papua New Guinea by the University of Technology Sydney and partners; recognised the applicability of the results to other PICTs; and noted the importance of carefully considering how to best translate the fast cash inflow brought about by sea cucumber fisheries into long-term development opportunities for coastal communities.

Noted with appreciation. With the PROP programme now in its last year, it will be important to take the findings of the work forward to countries with sea cucumber fisheries that are not covered under the current PROP project, in support of sound management of these resources to support coastal communities.

66. Expressed appreciation for the recent analyses of Pacific Island sea cucumber export data undertaken by WorldFish, SPC and the Australian Institute of Marine Science, and noted with interest the correlation between PICT fishery size and land area.

Noted with appreciation.

67. Noted the lack of biological and economic data in most PICTs to inform the management of sea cucumber fisheries, and called for SPC's ongoing assistance with sea cucumber assessment and management, including in-water assessments, development of

The CFP now has a full-time invertebrate scientist of staff under the PEUMP Programme, so ongoing assistance to Pacific ACP countries can be provided in sea cucumber assessments, leading to management arrangements and also MCS activities under the coastal fisheries governance project.

management plans, MCS and economic analysis.	
68. Underscored the need for proactive regional initiatives and collaboration in addressing these issues, particularly in light of the boom-bust nature of the fishery, recent increases in the prevalence of 'blue boat' sightings and interceptions across the region, domestic illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and export activities, and high socio-economic costs associated with diving accidents.	The CFP recognises the areas of concern highlighted by members, and through existing projects (the EU-funded PEUMP Programme and the MFAT-funded coastal fisheries governance project), will be able to assist in most of these areas of concern, as needed in 2019.
69. Recognised importance of MCS in coastal fisheries, and in particular sea cucumber fisheries, and the need to raise this in upcoming MCS meetings.	The CFP shares the same views as members in regards to coastal fisheries MCS, and new training courses that are accredited towards a certificate, have been developed and capacity development in this area will be provided in 2019 and 2020. The PROP BDM project implemented by SPC will develop resource material in 2019 that will assist BDM MSC.
70. Highlighted the need to better understand the ecosystem role of sea cucumbers in mitigating against urban sources of pollution, for example sewage associated with coastal development.	The CFP agrees with members on this and will look at ways to better understand the role of sea cucumbers in the environment, but this will take time and dedicated resources to achieve.
Presentations from other organisations	
Korea Maritime Institute	
71. Acknowledged with appreciation the Korean Marine Institute's contribution in the promotion of regional cooperation on fisheries issues across the South Pacific notably through the Annual KOSOPFF forum, and noted the potential for future collaborations on issues spanning aquaculture, management and policy.	N/A
Forum Fisheries Agency	
72. Recognised the positive contribution of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) on fisheries management in the region and expressed gratitude for	N/A

the ongoing collaborations with SPC's OFP, notably in the provision of technical support in the undertaking of economic analyses that support the management of tuna and tuna-like species.

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

73. Acknowledged the key role played by the WCPFC in facilitating the management of tuna and tuna-like species in the region, and noted SPC OFP's role as data management and scientific services provider to the Commission. N/A

Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations

74. Noted the technical and financial support provided by the FAO in past and ongoing projects with SPC members, and, underscoring the synergy between the New Song and the FAO's CPF initiatives that aims to increase the availability of local healthy food sources and enhance the resilience of small-scale and subsistence fishers, look forward to continued integration of efforts with the goal of ensuring food security and alleviating poverty across the region. N/A

International Maritime Institute of New Zealand

75. Expressed gratitude for capacity building opportunities provided by the International Maritime Institute of New Zealand through their delivery of training activities in Nelson, New Zealand. Acknowledged the appreciation of the International Maritime Institute of New Zealand to SPC, and in particular the Fisheries Information Unit. N/A

WWF

76. Noted the data deficiencies of sharks and rays in the Pacific, and noted the N/A

initiative taken by WWF in the development of management plans, Shark Assessment Reports and National Plans of Action (NPOA) for sharks and rays, and welcomed the offer to trial the rapid assessment toolkits.

Conservation International

77. Noted the initiative to consider the development of a proposal for submission to the Green Climate Fund by Conservation International and SPC on building the resilience of the 'Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries' and 'New Song' to climate change. Noting the need for close consultation with the appropriate national stakeholders including national designated authorities on the focal areas of the proposed project, which include: strengthening national FAD programs, defining the stock structure of the four main tuna species in the region, enhancing ecosystem modelling tools (e.g. SEAPODYM), determining the effects of ocean acidification on tuna larvae, developing climate smart fleets, continuing tuna tagging programs for stock assessments, and monitoring of catches and transshipments.
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