

15TH SPC HEADS OF FISHERIES MEETING

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

Snapshot:

- The participants rated good to excellent in most categories, with meeting organisation and participant engagement receiving the highest ratings.
- Most participants strongly agreed or agreed that the purpose of each session was clear, the meeting content matched the meeting purpose, the sessions were relevant to their work, and they gained new knowledge from the meeting.
- All sessions received positive scores from the participants, with most falling into very relevant categories.
- The highest-scoring sessions were related to FAME priorities and emerging work areas, transforming aquaculture in the region through the regional aquaculture strategy, and the SPC-FAME tools updates. The lowest-scoring sessions were related to the process and timeline for supporting members' review of regional frameworks and the global climate fund. The total number of responses varied for each session, with some receiving few or no responses. The weighted average scores were generally high, with most falling between 4.4 and 4.8 out of 5.



Introduction

The 15th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting was held in Noumea, New Caledonia, from 20th to 24th March 2023. There were 47 responses, 24 of which were member countries and rest were from observers and other partners.

Participants were asked to rate the organisation of the meeting, the Content for each session, break out groups, logistics support as well as the opportunity to provide feedback and overall engagement. Overall, these aspects were rated generally high, with most falling between 4.4 and 4.8 out of 5.

Suggestion – agenda:

“More focused agenda + more side events so that technical issues can be discussed by technical staff who can then report back to the HoF (director/CEO)”.

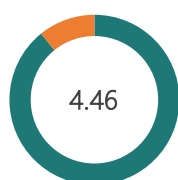
Suggestion – member updates:

“Delivering all slideshows before HOF, or just before their presentation, and if possible, translated slideshows Do not accept presentations from participants without their slideshows”.

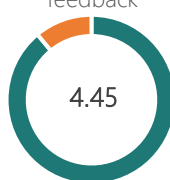


Meeting content & participation

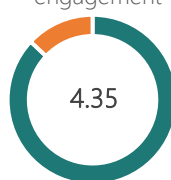
Meeting Context



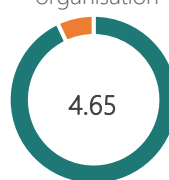
Opportunity for feedback



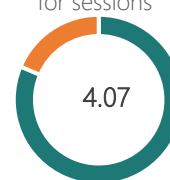
Participant engagement



Meeting organisation



Time allocated for sessions



Most useful: Overall, participants found the SPC FAME tools update to be very useful, as it provided them with information about the various regional frameworks/projects currently in place for coastal fisheries, as well as the new developments around the region. Participants also appreciated the opportunity to meet with SPC staff in the margins of HOF, where they could discuss specific questions and issues in a one-to-one or country-to-SPC FAME setting. The networking opportunities provided by the meeting were also highly valued, as participants could connect with other participants, learn more about the work of SPC FAME and the priorities of members, and engage with SPC on assistance

required. Overall, the meeting was seen as informative, engaging, and well-organised, with great SPC staff assistance, amazing translation service, and printed document and note files provided. Discussions on climate change impact on fisheries, the GCF, and new tools were also very beneficial, and participants appreciated the clear discussions, break out groups, and the excellent chair.

“The agenda for the 5-day meeting was packed so there was a lot to learn so I found that helpful. The Chair was so awesome and made the meeting very enjoyable. Great job SPC FAME and supporting teams.”

“The side interactions on one-to-one or country-to-SPC and opportunity to discuss specific questions and issues. These complement the plenary discussion. Well done SPC-FAME staff at all levels”.

Least useful: Some participants found certain aspects to be not useful. One common concern was the limited focus on the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which was presented only for 14 PICTs without any chance for others to get in. Some participants also felt that too much time was spent on the "future of HOF" agenda item, which could have been discussed offline, allowing more time for other topical sessions. The chairs used in the meeting were also criticised for being uncomfortable and hurting participants' backs.

Additionally, some participants felt that certain technical presentations were too complex for the HoF setting and could have been better done through side meetings. Other areas of criticism included breakout groups, project management for some key projects, and the duplication of some presentations already included in posted papers. However, it is important to note that many participants did not find any aspect of the meeting to be not useful and appreciated the SPC Flagship updates, regional frameworks on aquatic biosecurity, and new tools and dashboards. Some participants also found breakout groups to be unhelpful in the HoF setting.

“I think some of the sessions could have been done through side meetings. I think there were presentations that were also too technical for HoF”.

“I agree with comments that the discussion on the future of HoF could have been undertaken offline and that time used for a more topical session.”



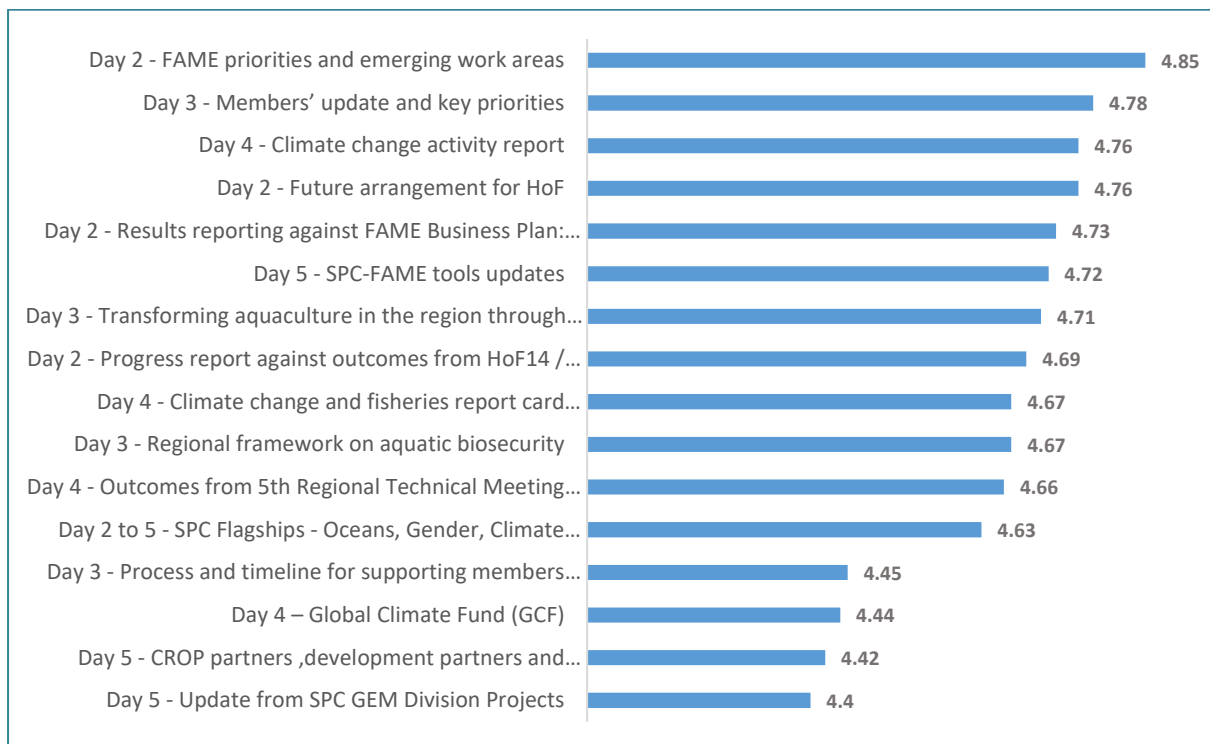
Overall Ratings

Overall, the meeting content and opportunity for feedback were rated as average, while participant engagement, meeting organization, and breakout group sessions were rated as good. Time allocated for sessions received a lower rating of 4.07, indicating that some participants may have felt that there was not enough time for some sessions.

In terms of the meeting agenda, the participants strongly agreed that the purpose of each session was clear and that they gained new knowledge from the meeting. They also agreed that the meeting content matched the meeting purpose, the sessions were relevant to their work, and the sessions were well organized. However, they only agreed that sufficient time was allocated for the sessions to a lesser extent.

The meeting sessions received high ratings overall, with most of them being rated as relevant or very relevant. The highest-rated session was "FAME priorities and emerging work areas" on Day 2 with a rating of 4.85, and the overall weighted average rating for all sessions was 4.63, indicating that the participants found the sessions to be generally relevant and valuable.

Overall, the participants had a positive experience at the meeting and found it informative and well-organised. However, there were some concerns about the time allocated for sessions. The meeting sessions were generally well-received, with most being rated as relevant or very relevant.



Suggestions for improvement

Forty-seven participants responded to the survey and 42 answered this section while five skipped. Some of the suggestions were:

- ▶ **More time for sessions (2 comments):** More time should be given on informal consultations between SPC technical staff and members. Breakout group sessions needed extra time.
- ▶ **Breakout Group sessions (2 comments):** Needed more time for deliberation and coming up with constructive pathway forward.
- ▶ **Meeting papers published earlier (2 comments):** Please have the meeting papers published earlier, especially if it's a contentious issue.
- ▶ **Other suggestions:** Run relevant sessions as side meetings so more people can contribute particularly on sensitive/difficult issues.

“Delivering all slideshows before HOF, or just before their presentation, and if possible, translated slideshows Do not accept presentations from participants without their slideshows”.



Suggestions on how SPC organise travel arrangements and administrative challenges.

Participants were asked on travel arrangements and general administrative challenges they faced:

- ▶ Consider laying over travellers from Fiji, if transiting through Auckland and Australia, overnight in their 2nd destinations before Noumea.
- ▶ suggest creating an option to download all available papers in one click (e.g., WCPFC meetings have a zip file with all papers)
- ▶ Acquiring Visa online (as we do not have credit cards to make payments)

Annex: Result tables

Q1. Please rate following aspects of the training	Very poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent	Total	Weighted Average
Meeting content	0	0	1	23	22	47	4.46
Opportunity for feedback	0	0	0	24	20	47	4.45
Participant engagement	0	0	3	24	19	47	4.35
Time allocated for sessions	0	1	8	24	13	47	4.07
Meeting organisation	0	0	2	12	32	47	4.65
Breakout groups sessions	0	0	5	21	17	47	4.28

Q2. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Total	Weighted Average
The purpose of each session was clear	0	0	0	23	23	47	4.5
The meeting content matched the meeting purpose	0	0	1	25	20	47	4.41
The sessions of the meeting were relevant to my work	0	0	1	22	23	47	4.48
The sessions were well organised	0	0	2	17	27	47	4.54
Sufficient time was allocated for the sessions	0	1	10	22	13	47	4.02
I gained new knowledge from HoF15	0	0	0	20	26	47	4.57
I had the opportunity to provide feedback when I wanted to	0	0	7	19	19	47	4.27

Q3. Rate relevance of the meeting sessions	Very irrelevant	Irrelevant	Neutral	Relevant	Very relevant	Total	Weighted Average
Day 2 - Progress report against outcomes from HoF14 / RFMM3 outcomes	0	0	1	12	32	47	4.69
Day 2 - Results reporting against FAME Business Plan: 2022-2023	0	0	1	10	34	47	4.73
Day 2 - Future arrangement for HoF	0	0	0	11	34	47	4.76
Day 2 - FAME priorities and emerging work areas	0	0	2	3	41	47	4.85
Day 3 - Members' update and key priorities	0	0	2	6	37	47	4.78
Day 3 - Process and timeline for supporting members review of regional frameworks	0	3	3	9	29	47	4.45
Day 3 - Transforming aquaculture in the region through the regional aquaculture strategy	0	0	3	7	35	47	4.71
Day 3 - Regional framework on aquatic biosecurity	0	0	3	9	33	47	4.67
Day 4 - Climate change activity report	0	0	1	9	36	47	4.76
Day 4 – Global Climate Fund (GCF)	0	1	5	12	27	47	4.44
Day 4 - Climate change and fisheries report card dashboard	0	0	1	13	32	47	4.67
Day 4 - Outcomes from 5th RTMCF / 2nd CBF	0	0	2	11	31	47	4.66
Day 5 - Update from SPC GEM Division Projects	0	0	4	19	22	47	4.4
Day 5 - CROP partners, development partners and observer updates	0	0	4	18	23	47	4.42
Day 5 - SPC-FAME tools updates	0	1	1	8	36	47	4.72

For further information on this feedback, contact Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning team, FAME, terryo@spc.int