

Information Paper 3

Original: English

## Outcomes from the eighth Heads of Fisheries meeting with progress against each outcome





## OUTCOMES FROM THE EIGHTH HEADS OF FISHERIES MEETING WITH PROGRESS AGAINST EACH OUTCOME

Outcome from HoF8	Progress against outcome over last 2 years
<b>Coastal fisheries</b>	
<p>1. Recognised data limitations in coastal fisheries, and noted CFP's progress in the development of standardised data collection processes, survey manuals and data storage systems. Called for the development of standardised data collection forms and practices to be a focus of future funding proposals.</p>	<p>Standardising data for coastal fisheries has been a focus over the last two years with: An invertebrate assessment manual published with methods to collect in water survey data; regularly updating RFID where/when needed; the drafting of a creel and market survey manual (expected to be published 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2015); developing databases for storing data; the training of over 150 persons in survey and data analysis methods (Tuvalu, PNG, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, FSM, Palau, Tonga, Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Niue, French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna, Nauru); and FAD monitoring and catch data forms developed.</p>
<p>2. Recognised that food security issues were becoming more critical to PICTs, including as a result of research identifying the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and population growth. The issue requires effective policy coordination and broad-scale assistance from governments, donor agencies and technical institutions, noting that the gap will continue to increase without effective management.</p>	<p>Several approaches have been taken to promote food security including: The monitoring of impacts of fishing and climate change on resources and habitat essential for food security; encouraging climate change adaptation measures (Tuvalu, PNG, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, FSM, Palau, Tonga, Samoa); policy briefs produced to raise awareness of climate change impacts to food security; several in-country projects implementing FADs and fisheries diversification; freshwater aquaculture particularly commodities such as tilapia and freshwater prawns are heavily promoted as an easy to culture species to address food security issues, with recent developments including improved capacities, production strategies and economies of scale in Fiji, PNG, Samoa and Vanuatu.</p>
<p>3. Encouraged the deployment of FADs as a means for addressing food security issues and to provide alternate sources of protein, particularly in ciguatera-prone areas, and supported CFP's continued assistance with FAD deployment and capacity development.</p>	<p>The use of FADs has been promoted with capacity building in FAD rigging and deployment in FSM (Yap), American Samoa, Kiribati, Palau, Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, Tuvalu and Timor Leste; and training of local fishers in FAD fishing and sea safety skills in Tuvalu, FSM (Yap), American Samoa, Palau, Kiribati.</p>
<p>4. Recognised the lack of management and enforcement in coastal fisheries and identified the need to strengthen these areas, including capacity building.</p>	<p>In collaboration with member countries the CFP has assisted with various species specific management plans/regulations (PNG, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, FSM, Palau, Tonga, Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, French Polynesia); and coastal fisheries plans (Samoa, drafts prepared for Kiribati).</p>
<p>5. Expressed concern over the increase in the number of ciguatera cases and recognised the need for more focus on awareness, general information dissemination, and more resources to address this issue. Suggested that a certification program could be established to identify fish caught in ciguatera-free areas.</p>	<p>Workshop on fish and shellfish poisoning (including ciguatera) conducted November 2014, with nine member countries attended and providing input. Certification to identify ciguatoxic fish (or non-toxic fish) is not a practical idea.</p>

Outcome from HoF8	Progress against outcome over last 2 years
<b>Coastal fisheries (cont.)</b>	
<p>6. Recognised the work of CFP to assist with fisheries-diversification projects, such as the development of fisheries for diamond-back squid, small pelagics, or bluenose, and noted that while such activities may not be viable at an export level they may be suitable for domestic markets.</p>	<p>The Nearshore Fisheries Development Section has continued with fisheries diversification projects in Cook Islands and Fiji (diamond-back squids), Palau (flying-fish) and Papua New Guinea (small pelagics using <i>bagan</i> technology), with some promising results.</p>
<p>7. Acknowledged the multi-faceted work areas of CFP and suggested that members be judicious with country requests.</p>	<p>Country requests continue to come in covering a variety of technical assistance and advice, and the CFP has been able to respond in a reasonable time frame given the limited number of staff.</p>
<p>8. Supported work undertaken by CFP in development of sport fisheries and of new products including fish handling DVDs for sport fisheries, training in tuna handling for sashimi grade product in Tarawa.</p>	<p>Sport fishing development has been supported in New Caledonia (promotional materials), Cook Islands and Niue (tourist surveys), Palau (feasibility study) and PNG (training of guides); 2 DVDs on sport fish handling produced; and tuna handling and seafood safety workshops for small-scale fishers held in Kiribati.</p>
<p>9. Called for continued assistance from SPC with developing guidelines for regulation of the aquarium trade.</p>	<p>Assisted countries in developing management frameworks for Aquarium trade (PNG, FSM, RMI, Palau, French Polynesia, Cook Islands).</p>
<p>10. Noted appreciation for the rollout of new coastal fisheries databases and acknowledged that satellite servers in outer provinces would be useful to link with a master server at the head fisheries office.</p>	<p>The CFP continues to support the rollout of coastal fisheries databases, and this is ongoing, although these need to remain standardised. CFP also promotes countries to store their coastal data with SPC as a back-up for data security.</p>
<p>11. Requested that consideration should be given to placing one SPC fisheries person in the FSM SPC regional office if funding for such a position becomes available.</p>	<p>Options have been explored for this and a funding proposal is being drafted for US funding for a community-based fisheries staff person to be based in the North Pacific Office.</p>
<p>12. Indicated a need for more focus on coastal resources given the importance of these areas for national food security and livelihoods.</p>	<p>The CFP is continually raising the profile of coastal fisheries importance at regional forums, as well as policy briefs being published, also highlighting the importance of coastal fisheries. However, the number of staff in the CFP will reduce in 2015 as several projects come to an end and no replacement funding identified.</p>
<p>13. Reaffirmed the need to find funding for a biosecurity officer in the aquaculture program at SPC.</p>	<p>No specific funding has been secured yet for a biosecurity officer under the aquaculture programme. However services continued to be provided to member countries in this area through the Mariculture Officer position, which has now been upgraded to include biosecurity, and this position is now under recruitment.</p>
<p>14. Supported CFPs plans to have an aquaponics consultation in the near future.</p>	<p>A regional workshop on aquaponics for the Pacific region was conducted in Cook Islands in September 2013, with participants from Fiji, American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, CNMI, Palau and FSM. In addition, aquaponics demonstration facilities have been established or supported in Cook Islands and Marshall Islands.</p>

Outcome from HoF8	Progress against outcome over last 2 years
<b>Coastal fisheries (cont.)</b>	
<p><b>15.</b> Expressed support for private-public partnerships, particularly in the aquaculture sector. Suggested that SPC could provide a key facilitating role in the development of these partnerships in this sector.</p>	<p>This is being addressed under the EU-funded IACT Project, and implemented through the Aquaculture Section staff in Fiji, with project including: FSM (MERIP on sponge marketing and branding), Fiji (Crab Co. Ltd on upgrading processing facility for crab to meet export market), Fiji (assisting medium-scale tilapia farmers to meet commercial scale), Kiribati (on support giant clam culture to meet production target), Palau (assisting farmer groups in improving production and husbandry practices), PNG (on seaweed by assisting Bouganville Seaweed Co. to meet export demand), and PNG (on tilapia by assisting tilapia farm cluster groups to improve constraints affecting production).</p>
<p><b>16.</b> Acknowledged the need for assistance with developing fishing associations in some PICTs and called for increased economic training.</p>	<p>Fishing associations strengthened regionally through PITIA and nationally with SPC/FFA assistance (PNG, Palau, Tonga); economic training provided in American Samoa, Tuvalu, PNG and Cook Islands as well as regionally (NMIT and SPC/VMC FO course).</p>
<p><b>17.</b> Reaffirmed interest in work on fish waste processing facilities, particularly in terms of its economic viability.</p>	<p>Fish waste processor (fish fertiliser) supported in New Caledonia, technical assistance in Marshall Islands, and advice given to prospective businesses in French Polynesia, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.</p>
<b>Oceanic fisheries</b>	
<p><b>18.</b> Reaffirmed general support for pelagic stock assessment work from SPC-OFP, OFPs supporting role at regional, sub-regional, and national levels, and the SEAPODYM model as a forecasting tool. Acknowledged appreciation for adding economic information to projection analyses, with encouragement for more economic indicators.</p>	<p>Bioeconomic modelling work continued, and is the subject of a special topic within the SciCOFish session at this meeting.</p>
<p><b>19.</b> Noted appreciation for country-level support from OFP, specifically work that aided in country-level negotiations, FAD closure management decisions, IMS, data entry and TUFMAN and TUF-ART database developments, and the training of observers. Affirmed the desire to continue country-level reports, specifically those aimed to assist with country-level management decisions.</p>	<p>Secured support for national-level support in data management and analysis of management options and implications through the NZAP-funded “Tuna Science and Information” project.</p>
<p><b>20.</b> Noted that the effects of fishing in territorial waters may be an area of future work for PICTs.</p>	<p>Awaiting specific requests from countries.</p>
<p><b>21.</b> Agreed that more work to further last year’s stalled draft CMM for south Pacific albacore which stalled in WCPFC is needed. Suggested continued cooperation with SCTB and other interested parties to work towards sustainable catch limits for SP albacore.</p>	<p>The development of a harvest strategy for albacore is being advanced by FFA via the “Tokelau Arrangement”. SPC continues to support the process through evaluation of target reference points and harvest control rules for South Pacific albacore.</p>

Outcome from HoF8	Progress against outcome over last 2 years
<b>Oceanic fisheries (cont.)</b>	
<b>22.</b> Noted the desire of some members for assistance with measuring an appropriate level of in-country fishing effort in terms of achieving desired economic benefits.	Assistance has been provided to Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands and French Polynesia in this regard over the past two years.
<b>23.</b> Called for country-level catch reporting estimates to be developed in addition to the usual estimates by fleet for the tuna data workshop.	Catch estimates by EEZ are routinely produced by countries for their WCPFC Part 1 annual reports.
<b>24.</b> Reaffirmed the interest of members to continue reference point and harvest control rule work on tuna to remain on track with the direction of the WCPFC.	This work has continued with funding support from WCPFC, Australia, World Bank. Limit reference points have been agreed for the main tuna stocks.
<b>25.</b> Recognised the critical importance of the observer program to oceanic fisheries and the critical need to secure ongoing funding for this program, potentially through a user-pays cost-recovery program or as core SPC/FFA funding. Electronic data collection seen as a key improvement moving forward.	Good progress has been made on e-reporting and e-monitoring through an ISSF-funded project. E-reported purse-seine logsheet data are now being routinely received and uploaded to regional and national databases. SPC has secured longer term programme funding to allow a core observer support unit to be retained at SPC.
<b>26.</b> Recognised and thanked New Zealand for new funding support.	N/A
<b>27.</b> Noted the importance of the OFP's role in capacity building, particularly for smaller fisheries administrations.	Capacity building remains a key cross-cutting objective of the OFP.
<b>28.</b> Expressed interest in examining interactions of key species between artisanal and growing sports fisheries and the commercial sector.	A Policy Brief on this topic — <a href="http://www.spc.int/images/publications/en/policy_brief/Policy-Brief-22-Balancing-the-needs-industrial-versus-artisanal-tuna-fisheries.pdf">http://www.spc.int/images/publications/en/policy_brief/Policy-Brief-22-Balancing-the-needs-industrial-versus-artisanal-tuna-fisheries.pdf</a> — and several national-level reports have been produced.
<b>Director's Office and Information Unit</b>	
<b>29.</b> Supported the proposal to have a series of rolling strategic plans that are reviewed every two years.	Review of current strategic plan undertaken in February 2015, with changes presented to HoF9 for discussion and acceptance.
<b>30.</b> Supported the rollout of work from the outcomes of the vulnerability assessment (Bell et al. 2011) on climate change, including four in-country workshops to be completed by June 2013, and noted that long-term indicators will be required to assess the success of climate change-related work activities.	In-country workshops completed as scheduled and second surveys completed at climate change monitoring sites in PNG, Tuvalu, Kiribati, FSM and Marshalls. Too soon to identify long-term indicators to measure success of adaptation activities.
<b>31.</b> Raised concerns regarding the imbalance in resourcing (both staffing and funding) between OFP and CFP, expressed interest in increasing staffing and funding to CFP.	The current situation remains unchanged and funding is tight. Other funding sources are being explored to strengthen the CPF and its activities.

Outcome from HoF8	Progress against outcome over last 2 years
<b>Export facilitation</b>	
<p><b>32.</b> Recommended more concrete measures be put in place for assessing FAME Director's Office activities and suggested review into activities and capacity of government fisheries offices in the region.</p>	<p>Monitoring and evaluation position for FAME under the Director's Office has been advertised to strengthen M&amp;E of all FAME projects and activities. Consultancy underway to look at capacity and budgets of national fisheries offices in the region.</p>
<p><b>33.</b> Identified the general need for more discussion to identify cost-recovery programs.</p>	<p>Some options being explored, but still a work in progress, with little scope in coastal fisheries.</p>
<p><b>34.</b> Noted certification process involved with exporting into European market. Informed the meeting that it may be better to adopt a regional approach for export to EU and all could benefit from pooled resources.</p>	<p>Some progress made with FFA on the establishment of regional Competent Authority, with FFA now taking the lead on this; national Competent Authorities assisted in PNG, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Cook Islands.</p>
<b>Aquaculture biosecurity</b>	
<p><b>35.</b> Acknowledged with appreciation the concept paper developed by SPC and FAO regarding development of a regional aquatic biosecurity framework for PICTs.</p>	<p>Draft SPC regional aquatic biosecurity framework developed.</p>
<p><b>36.</b> Requested SPCs assistance with increasing the knowledge of current pathogens and pest species in countries through the development of country-specific pathogen lists and building capacity in risk analysis through training workshops.</p>	<p>Workshops and national trainings and assessments under taken and include: subregional OIE training workshop for Micronesian countries; assessment of pearl diseases in Fiji (Savusavu); assistance on review of the biosecurity bill in Niue, FSM, and Vanuatu; development of import risk analysis on seaweed for FSM, Fiji, PNG and Kiribati and barramundi for Fiji; and a workshops on aquatic animal health to shrimp industry in New Caledonia. A pathogen list was done for PNG; however, his is dependent on country request and need.</p>
<p><b>37.</b> Reaffirmed the need to find funding for a biosecurity officer in the aquaculture program at SPC. Suggested that alignment of project with OIE provides some scope for accessing funds through OIE World fund, however these would likely be for program funding rather than funding of staff.</p>	<p>Funding secured under DFAT to fund new Mariculture and Biosecurity Specialist position starting in 2015 (replacing old Mariculture position), but no funding secured under OIE so far for activities.</p>
<p><b>38.</b> Recommended a capacity and policy audit to be undertaken to assess current 'state of play' with regards to aquatic biosecurity.</p>	<p>This activity has not been undertaken yet owing to limited funding available to undertake a region wide assessment. Likely for this to be implemented now under the new DFAT funded Mariculture and Biosecurity Specialist position starting in 2015.</p>

Outcome from HoF8	Progress against outcome over last 2 years
<b>Deepwater snapper</b>	
<p><b>39.</b> Acknowledged with appreciation and supported work planned and progress made in each of the four key priority areas of the deepwater snapper project (improving fisheries data collection, improving biological knowledge of key species, moving towards improved fisheries assessment and management and increased capacity building).</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>40.</b> Expressed interest in expanding project to PICTs not currently involved (in particular PNG who offered support for research activities).</p>	<p>With the support of the PNG NFA, the project was expanded to include PNG waters in 2013. A biological sampling programme in Kavieng commenced in October 2013 and concluded in May 2014. Processing and analysis of biological samples is underway.</p>
<p><b>41.</b> Requested consultations between relevant SPC project scientists and national stakeholders to ensure results and management outcomes are clearly understood.</p>	<p>Consultations between SPC scientists and stakeholders were held during country visits in Tonga, Vanuatu and PNG.</p>
<p><b>42.</b> Acknowledged with appreciation funding support from AusAID and supported the need for continued funding for this key work area.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<b>Management of sea cucumber fisheries</b>	
<p><b>43.</b> Noted complexities in management and evaluating harvest of sea cucumber resources, including “boom-bust” cyclical nature of fisheries, and the large increases in price of high-value species in last 5–10 years. Noted that allowing all species to be harvested opens the door to “opportunistic exploitation”.</p>	<p>Agree with the comments expressed.</p>
<p><b>44.</b> Suggested the use of species-specific TACs and that the most effective arena for evaluating harvest would be at the market gate (point of entry into the market). Suggested a comprehensive list of licensing criteria, similar to that currently in use in some PICTs (e.g. PNG), as a way forward at the regional level.</p>	<p>Concept is being considered internally to see if this is workable.</p>
<p><b>45.</b> Thanked SPC for training assistance in assessing sea cucumber resources, including field surveys, species identification classes, standardisation of survey methods and development of survey manual, involvement of line officers and NGOs in field trainings, exchange trainings, attachments for data analysis and reporting. Requested continued assistance in these areas.</p>	<p>On-going activity, regularly provide technical support to countries and interested NGOs, although will be more difficult from March 2015 when specific funding for this finishes.</p>



Outcome from HoF8	Progress against outcome over last 2 years
<b>Management of sea cucumber fisheries (cont.)</b>	
<p><b>46.</b> Recommended conservative management of high-value sea cucumber species; be it through species-specific catch quotas, species-specific bans, or exclusion of high-value species from lists of allowable species.</p>	<p>Incorporated in the various management advice provided and management plans produced.</p>
<p><b>47.</b> Noted the interesting study of IRD and the Vanuatu Fisheries Department, and the development of new FAO species catalogue on sea cucumbers.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>48.</b> Requested continued SPC assistance in the standardisation of methodologies to collect appropriate data. Recommended development of key reference densities, taking a regional and island-type perspective, based on all available data sources, and requested continued assistance in developing management plans and regulations to ensure compliance.</p>	<p>Published invertebrate manual, which includes rule of thumb reference densities and standardised survey methodologies.</p>
<p><b>49.</b> Called for greater transparency and enhanced understanding of market trends for sea cucumbers, including market prices at point of sale.</p>	<p>Assisting MGS with harmonising terms and conditions for sea cucumber fisheries.</p>
<b>Presentations by Other Organisations</b>	
<p><b>50.</b> Expressed appreciation for JICA working with community-based coastal resource management (CBCRM), including activities on FAD deployment, milkfish aquaculture, and CBCRM programs in Vanuatu and Palau. Acknowledged collaborative technical support from SPC on FAD deployment projects. Noted the request from some PICTs for assistance with their observer program and with crew training in an attempt to increase local economic benefits (could be conducted in association with the Fisheries and Maritime Institute). Suggested that a formal network or forum be established for practitioners involved in community-based work programs to share experiences and increase regional collaboration.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>51.</b> Under the joint FFA and SPC DEVFISH project, FFA informed the meeting of the development of a draft curriculum for new regional qualification in MCS of which is aimed at oceanic but intended to also include coastal components. The draft curriculum will be passed to the MCS working group for comment later this year.</p>	<p>SPC had some initial discussions with FFA, so an ongoing process.</p>

Outcome from HoF8	Progress against outcome over last 2 years
<b>Presentations by Other Organisations (cont.)</b>	
<p><b>52.</b> Supported the continued commitment to the Pacific Islands fisheries officer course at the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology for regional fisheries training in collaboration with SPC, and their expanded range of facilities and training opportunities. There was particular appreciation for new content such as small business training in collaboration with SPC and with MCS. Informed the meeting of likely new components based on HoF8 discussions, including database management and market and creel surveys, and noted that changes in the curriculum were a result of the 2003 review. Supported the continued funding assistance received from NZAid to continue the NMIT regional fisheries training course.</p>	<p>Course is still supported and funded.</p>
<p><b>53.</b> FAO explained developments, programs and activities under ABNJ (Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction), including tuna projects, deep sea projects, the ocean partnership project funded by the World Bank, and the strengthening of global capacity to effectively manage ABNJ. Acknowledged collaborative support from SPC as well as other regional organisations. Noted the joint SPC/FAO meeting on biosecurity in 2012. Acknowledged the importance of deep sea fisheries to some members and the potential for joint projects between FAOs deep sea program and SPC.</p>	<p>SPC will continue to liaise and collaborate with FAO on different projects.</p>
<b>National Tuna Web Pages</b>	
<p><b>54.</b> Acknowledged appreciation for the development of the national tuna web pages and for advancements with the SEAPODYM model.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>55.</b> Expressed interest in giving priority to translating certain report pages into French for use by the French territories.</p>	<p>French versions of the graphics have been produced and exist in “mirror” country webpages.</p>
<p><b>56.</b> Called for national coastal fishery web pages, similar to those presented for tuna, and requested that donor funding be extended to the coastal component.</p>	<p>Coastal fisheries country pages were created, but need funding for further development.</p>
<p><b>57.</b> Requested training workshops on the use and interpretation of ecosystem models (SEAPODYM).</p>	<p>SPC staff visited several member countries to provide SEAPODYM training and this will continue over the next two years. A SEAPODYM session will also be included in the 2015 Stock Assessment Workshop to be held at SPC headquarters in June–July.</p>