



13th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting
1–4 June 2021



Original: English/français

Information Paper 13

HoF13 – Day 1 discussion group notes

FAME Secretariat

Day 1 discussion group notes

The notes below provide further detail on what was discussed in each group. The content below was used to formulate the draft outcomes, and will be used to provide further detail to SPC FAME.

Group 1 – [CNMI, AUS, GU, PN and FSM]

Group 2 – [CK, KIR and SB]

Group 3 – [WS, NR and VU]

Group 4 – [MH, NU, PNG and US]

Group 5 – [NZ, TK and FJ]

Group 6 – [TV, PW, AS and TO]

Group 7 – [NC, FP, W&F and France]

General points

Overall support for papers

- AU - appreciates and recognises that the priorities outlined in the paper are comprehensive and good to be able to continue to support it into next year - [CNMI, AUS, GU, PN and FSM]
- Guam - Exciting to know SPC is working on similar projects through Fame. Wants to know how Guam can be fully engaged in participating in some of the priority areas. - [CNMI, AUS, GU, PN and FSM]
- Sound frameworks for MEL helps with the future planning of the strategic plan and workplanning (CK) – [CK, KIR and SB]
- Appreciate the paper, happy with presentation and future directions – [WS, NR and VU]
- Countries are happy with the working paper as presented– [NZ, TK and FJ]
- Global positive feedback – [TV, PW, AS and TO]
- Document intéressant – [NC, FP, W&F and France]
- Les priorités stratégiques conviennent. – [NC, FP, W&F and France]

Equality of support to members

- AU - How does SPC balance resources of SPC vs priorities of country needs, may need to be detailed more [CNMI, AUS, GU, PN and FSM]
- AU - how can SPC respond to country needs that fail to provide the same to SPC: [CNMI, AUS, GU, PN and FSM]
- AU - How can AU proactively get engaged in prioritising activities to meet the needs of the PICTS [CNMI, AUS, GU, PN and FSM]

More information on FAME budgets

- Additional information on FAME budgets 2020-2021 would be appreciated (coastal vs. OFP) – [TV, PW, AS and TO]
- Need a overview of the coastal/oceanic budgets for FAME division (TO) – [TV, PW, AS and TO]

Data collection and access

- Focus on data collection on coastal & oceanic resources to improve fisheries policies (AS) – [TV, PW, AS and TO]
- We support enhanced emphasis on access to our data, and the tools and capacity to use that data (Tokelau) – [CK, KIR and SB]
- VAN - recognize and appreciate the OFP support on databases and capacity building - [CNMI, AUS, GU, PN and FSM]

Importance of web portals and online tools

- Interactive web portals and tools, and the national science capacity and the tools to use data are important (Tokelau). – [CK, KIR and SB]

Coastal fisheries science, data and policy

- Economic benefits (livelihood options) and food security need to be addressed in CF (Solomon Islands) – [CK, KIR and SB]
- Coastal fisheries/Aquaculture management and MCS- USaid program starting (6M USD) - Complementing other partner programs/project (NZ MFAT) – [MH, NU, PNG and US]

Aquaculture

- Aquaculture programs (AS) – [TV, PW, AS and TO]

Flexibility and multidisciplinary solutions

- AU - Work program will be flexible considering COVID - [CNMI, AUS, GU, PN and FSM]
- AU -Opportunity/need to find solutions we haven't actually thought of - think outside the box. AU interested in dialogue which brings other ideas to table. - [CNMI, AUS, GU, PN and FSM]

Other comments

- Explicit reference to illegal fisheries missing (IUU) (AS) – [TV, PW, AS and TO]
- Online training from SPC is very welcome in COVID-19 context– [TV, PW, AS and TO]
- RMI: Improve differentiation between national and regional deliverables– [MH, NU, PNG and US]
- USA/RMI/PNG - Globally, happy with the SPC paper / Ensure alignment with national plans (domestic priorities/policies) – [MH, NU, PNG and US]

Are there any key gaps you can identify in FAME's priorities and long-term emerging work areas? Is there anything that does not align with the regional or national priorities or directions?

- The general consensus was that FAME has its priorities well aligned with PICT's priorities – [NZ, TK and FJ]

Coastal fisheries policy, data, and science

- RMI: prioritise national data: Coastal Fisheries Data way less than Oceanic → need a lot of push– [MH, NU, PNG and US]
- OF= 2025 up to speed with SPC– [MH, NU, PNG and US]; CF= More challenging– [MH, NU, PNG and US]
- SPC needs to strengthen its CFAP data collection and analytical capacity, and its science team (SA + NR + VU) – [WS, NR and VU]
- OFP able to access data (well established), need to strengthen CFAP data collection, including new tools that allow data analysis, interpretation. – [WS, NR and VU]
- Whilst acknowledging the ongoing work on coastal finfish data management, Vanuatu would like to see SPC's further assistance on how scientific and policy assistance could contribute meaningfully towards national development needs that support livelihood of communities who are highly dependent on coastal fisheries. Some of the key areas we need to see more support for include improving quota management system of sea cucumber in waters deeper than 10 meters, other invertebrates, deep bottom snapper and bathymetric surveys to determine TACs of exploitable stocks now that SPC will be having its own vessel. – [WS, NR and VU]
- VAN - Need for specific coastal fisheries legal support in developing/improving legislation - [CNMI, AUS, GU, PN and FSM]
- The policy development side in the coastal fisheries space. In oceanic fisheries FFA fills this space, but in coastal fisheries there is a gap in this area. We need both the science and the broader expertise to support robust fisheries management. This broadens the areas of discipline (legal, social, cultural traditional aspects, economics). (Cook Islands) Governance and management of coastal fisheries is often decentralised and complex, but with meaningful investment in capability can deliver results. (Tokelau) – [CK, KIR and SB]
- More emphasis needed on socioeconomic analysis and governance, including customary and traditional governance of inshore fisheries. (Tokelau) – [CK, KIR and SB]

Aquaculture development and policy

- Key gap : regional database for aquaculture (production, biosecurity...)- [TV, PW, AS and TO]
- Database for aquaculture should be a priority at a regional level (production, policies, species, projects...) (TO) – [TV, PW, AS and TO]
- SPC to explore sustainable aquaculture or lower value species that are very important for food security (milkfish and tilapia). – [WS, NR and VU]
- PNG/USA: Indigenous species domestication - aquaculture exploration for food security and commercial/export commodity/ facilitating biosecurity) – [MH, NU, PNG and US]
- Code of practice for aquaculture (TO) – [TV, PW, AS and TO]

Climate change

- Climate Change adaptations, what is working well, could this be shared with countries. There is a lot of anecdotal information on negative impacts of CC on stocks. Do we have evidence, can SPC/partners provide the science to back this up. (SA + NR + VU). – [WS, NR and VU]
- Climate change is not integrated across the strategy, it seems to be in a little box by itself. It needs to be integrated across the work programme. (Tokelau). Integration of CC needs to include building resilience on lagoon and coastal fisheries ecosystem (see below) including

using aquaculture to manage climate change work and support livelihoods (CK) – [CK, KIR and SB]

Capacity development

- Regional: RMI/USA/PNG - Capacity development - regional investment (research vessel - need business plan/benefits) – [MH, NU, PNG and US]
- RMI: Capacity building = 10y large improvement – [MH, NU, PNG and US]

Integrated and multidisciplinary approaches

- AUS - SPC needs to adopt a more integrated/interdisciplinary approach - [CNMI, AUS, GU, PN and FSM]

Livelihoods development and opportunities for diversification

- Identification and Development of new fishing methods targeting underutilised species (VU) – [WS, NR and VU]
- More progress on Obj 4, WP1- Livelihoods for fishing communities. – [NZ, TK and FJ]
- Food security a serious issue with major unemployment driving increased extraction of resources - need for better IUU management capacity– [NZ, TK and FJ]

Data collection, analysis and access

- FSM - align spc databases to address the priorities in national data analytics and reporting - [CNMI, AUS, GU, PN and FSM]
- Moving into E monitoring and E-reporting in all fisheries and Aquaculture, including MCS. (SA + NR) – [WS, NR and VU]

Other comments

- Conduct bathymetry survey work (VU) – [WS, NR and VU]
- Vanuatu would like to see continuous progress with the Secretariat to develop a Fisheries Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan that provides for adaptive, mitigative and resilient measures during and post natural disasters including that for during the COVID 19 event. – [WS, NR and VU]
- RMI/USA: IUU data analysis for Oceanic & Coastal including Exports/Imports data (origin of imports) – [MH, NU, PNG and US]
- Highlight fisheries observers for PNA, an important ongoing program (TV) – [TV, PW, AS and TO]

What are your own national or organisational priorities in areas relating to FAME's work? Are there any new priorities or emerging areas part of post COVID response? How can SPC best support you in this?

Data awareness, collection, and access

- Importance d'avoir des données économiques et biologiques pour la planification stratégique des pêches et l'analyse de données. – [NC, FP, W&F and France]
- FSM - Interoperability of systems (especially TUFMAN 2/FIMS), ER/EM, community-based fisheries management - [CNMI, AUS, GU, PN and FSM]

Capacity and knowledge support

- Besoin de formations sur l'identification et le traitement des bêtes de mer. – [NC, FP, W&F and France]
- Suivi des stocks poissons, crustacés et holothuries (PF et NC) : besoin d'acquisition de données et de connaissances sur les espèces clefs récifales– [NC, FP, W&F and France]
- GUAM - national priority understand how to access more SPC/FAME services and how to make requests - [CNMI, AUS, GU, PN and FSM]

Coastal fisheries science and data

- (Socio Economic) Valuation of coastal fisheries (AS) – [TV, PW, AS and TO]
- Domestic fisheries development: FAD and deep-water fishing, training on fishing techniques, sea safety. (PW) – [TV, PW, AS and TO]
- Database development, more capacity by training coastal fisheries mainly (PW) – [TV, PW, AS and TO]
- Valuation of coastal fisheries (Socio Economic) – [TV, PW, AS and TO]

Coastal fisheries management

- PNG - Commercialisation of coastal fisheries resources (improve management tools) - MCS capacity dev training/tool – [MH, NU, PNG and US]
- Customary and traditional governance of inshore fisheries (Tokelau) – [CK, KIR and SB]
- Economic benefits (livelihood options) and food security when we are dealing with coastal fisheries and working with communities. These two elements should be packaged as part of projects that are being implemented with SPC, ensuring that they are central focus. (Solomon Islands) – [CK, KIR and SB]

Enhancing new technologies

- Embrace new technology and innovation to help achieve outcomes– [NZ, TK and FJ]
- USA- Development of web portal, visualization → move to virtual world– [MH, NU, PNG and US]
- Outils web et numériques importants pour la saisie et l'accès aux données. Besoin de mieux connaître les outils existants CPS. – [NC, FP, W&F and France]

Livelihoods

- Livelihood for coastal communities (TV) – [TV, PW, AS and TO]
- Capacity building & training: domestic fisheries development & livelihood– [TV, PW, AS and TO]
- Livelihood diversity is a priority – [NZ, TK and FJ]

- Up scaling CBFM, we/SPC needs to look into the appropriate alternative / livelihoods / for our communities who are managing coastal fisheries. Identify suitable alternative livelihood opportunities (SA + NR). – [WS, NR and VU]

Aquaculture

- COVID-19 : Issues for exporting giant clams and importing fingerprints of milkfish: need assistance for farmers (PW) – [TV, PW, AS and TO]
- Aquaculture, data collection for community-based fisheries on SMA and coastal resources assessment & food security (TO) – [TV, PW, AS and TO]
- Support needed for import & export issues for aquaculture due to COVID-19– [TV, PW, AS and TO]
- Renewed focus on aquaculture to provide employment and food security– [NZ, TK and FJ]
- Support to strengthen low, home type aquaculture for milkfish (NR); Investigate potential of using underwater drawn for aquaculture works– [WS, NR and VU]
- Aquaculture has been around in the region for 30 years, SPC needs to identify what commodities are work (appropriate for countries), and what is not working– [WS, NR and VU]
- Expanding hatchery facilities, Samoa needs technical assistance from SPC, hatchery design, construction, management and operations– [WS, NR and VU]
- Samoa needs resources to obtain good health brood stock and the source of these clean brood stock. – [WS, NR and VU]
- Innovative aquaculture uses, including to boost livelihoods and to manage lagoon health issues (e.g., seaweed to manage eutrophication) & support a more integrated approach for partners that work on land, using seaweed farming for livelihood (CK) – [CK, KIR and SB]

GSI

- A renewed focus on youth and equal participation of women (GSI) in the workplace. – [NZ, TK and FJ]

Stock assessment

- Priority and resources need to continue to go into stock assessment of highly migratory species, maintaining viability critical for government revenue (Tokelau) – [CK, KIR and SB]

Other comments

- VAN - more flexible approach to addressing issues, especially between coastal and oceanic and SPC/FFA - [CNMI, AUS, GU, PN and FSM]
- Boundary management with PNG, and building internal markets for Solomon Island traders to minimise cross border transit, prioritising domestic economic opportunities in border areas (Solomon Islands) – [CK, KIR and SB]
- Question: We have a suite of priority work areas to be included that would not fit on the page - is there an opportunity to provide this separately (Cook Islands) - Feed Back to Plenary– [CK, KIR and SB]
- USA supporting fisheries science and aquaculture at national level (would like to coordinate with SPC regionally) – [MH, NU, PNG and US]

- Support for Masa Business Plan (PW) – [TV, PW, AS and TO]