

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

TO: Representatives of Governments and Administrations

SPC Fisheries Contacts; Fisheries Organisations; and
Observers

FILE: CONF 2/9/41/1

DATE: 23/09/2022

SUBJECT: Fifteenth SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting and related project meetings: 20-24 March 2023, Noumea, New Caledonia

Greetings from the Pacific Community. I trust that you, your staff and all of your families are keeping safe and well.

PURPOSE OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT

1. This is an invitation to the **Pacific Community's Fifteenth Heads of Fisheries Meeting (HOF15)**, to be held in Noumea at the SPC Headquarters from **20-24 March 2023**.
2. This notice is:
 - A request for SPC member country governments and territory administrations to nominate two official senior fisheries representatives to the HoF15 meeting;
 - An invitation to other agencies, organisations, companies and individuals with an interest in the fisheries and aquaculture in the Pacific Islands region to attend the meeting in-person and take the opportunity for discussions with Pacific island fisheries representatives and specialists, and with each other; and
 - An invitation to members to propose topics for inclusion in the agenda where possible (please submit these on or before **20th January 2023**).
3. Financial support is available for the attendance of two representatives from SPC island member government and administration (the Head of Fisheries or their delegate and one other representative).
4. All nominations for SPC funded participants:
 - Need to be received by **Friday 16 December 2022** so that flight bookings can be made; and
 - Need to provide a copy of their passport photo page at the time of nomination.No change to SPC-funded nominations will be possible within one month (20 February 2023) of the meeting dates.
5. All participant nominations are to be received by **16 December 2022**.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

6. The SPC HoF meeting provides oversight of all SPC's work in the field of fisheries and aquaculture, as well as an opportunity to discuss relevant topics of regional interest. It covers SPC's Oceanic and Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Programmes, and Directors Office which collectively form the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystem Division (FAME).

7. The SPC 12th Heads of Fisheries meeting (HoF12) recommended that the HoF meeting focus on guiding FAME's strategic direction and priorities and consider strategic regional policy and governance issues to be transmitted to Regional Fisheries Ministers' Meeting and, where appropriate, from there to the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' meetings.
8. An important topic for HOF15 will be the impact of climate change and mitigation measures, and recovery efforts as PICTs recover from COVID-19 pandemic on the management of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture resources, particularly in relation to food and nutritional security, livelihoods and environmental conservation.
9. The significant socio-economic value and economic potential of aquaculture, as identified by the Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting in Kiribati in August 2022, will be a key topic of discussion in this meeting, including scaling up aquaculture production in the region through the development of the regional aquaculture strategy, while addressing issues of aquatic biosecurity.
10. HoF15 will also be discussing actions recommended from the 5th Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA5) (held 11 – 14 October 2022), including the outcome report of the 2nd Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD).
11. The Heads of Fisheries meeting is intended to cover the entire range of work of members fisheries administrations. It may discuss issues outside the current range of the SPC work-programme. This "big-picture" view of fisheries is essential for longer-term planning and is also of considerable assistance to other agencies, institutions, regional non-governmental organisations (NGOs) / civil society organisations (CSOs) and donors interested in national as well as regional issues.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OVERVIEW

12. In addition to the items above, the following are provisionally included in the four-day agenda:
 - Report on the implementation of the SPC FAME Business Plan 2022-2027; and,
 - Discussion of topical issues on oceanic, coastal fisheries and aquaculture to be finalised by 20th January 2023, possibly including:
 - Food systems
 - Reporting on Fisheries in the Economies of the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories
 - Review of regional frameworks – A regional roadmap for sustainable Pacific fisheries and A new song for coastal fisheries – pathway to change: The Noumea strategy
 - Update on the review of Coastal Fisheries Report Card Indicators.
13. The draft agenda will be posted on the SPC website: (<https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings>) by 01 March 2023.
14. If any organisation or individual wishes to raise a fisheries issue of wide significance, then it should be proposed to SPC by **16 December 2022** for consideration. Other information should be provided as a written statement or short video recording to be posted online.
15. Members are strongly encouraged to provide in advance a brief member statement of 1-2 pages highlighting information on fisheries and aquaculture in their country or territory, issues that they are facing in the fisheries sector, and any experience or advice that they wish to share with colleagues from the region. A template will be circulated on or before **20 January 2023** to guide members.
16. Observers who wish to share information or a statement with members and colleagues in the meeting are requested to provide written statements by **01 March 2023** to allow time to be uploaded and read in advance of the meeting.

17. Documents prepared for the meeting will be available on the SPC website at the following address <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings> by 01 March 2023.

LANGUAGE

18. As an official SPC sectoral meeting, the HOF15 will be conducted in both English and French, with simultaneous interpretation, and translation of key papers.

JOINING ONLINE VIA ZOOM

19. To facilitate the meeting arrangement, we kindly request SPC members and partners to undertake a two-stage process:
- Submit nominations (including full name, organisation, and email contact to SPC FAME meeting secretariat by **16 December 2022** to SPC FAME meeting at fame_meetings@spc.int; and
 - Registration of participants before the meeting using the meeting registration link. We kindly ask all participants to register at least a week before the meeting. We will share the Zoom registration link will be shared once the nominations are received.

REPORT

20. The formal report of the meeting will consist of a list of decisions and recommendations identified by the Chair, and agreed by consensus, usually called the “Outcomes” of the meeting. This will be published on the meeting webpage (<http://www.spc.int/fame/meetings>) once HoF15 concludes.

INSURANCE

21. The Pacific Community does not insure participants while attending meetings or during travel to/from, or attending virtual meetings; and will not be responsible for any expenses arising out of loss, sickness, injury, other disability or loss of life. It is participants’ own responsibility to ensure that participants are covered by insurance.

MEETING CONTACTS

22. Official nominations to: Neville Smith, Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (nevilles@spc.int; cc/- email: fame_meetings@spc.int). For administrative issues: Natalie Terrier, Conference Secretary, (email: nataliet@spc.int; cc/- email fame_meetings@spc.int; tel +687 260183). For agenda items, papers, other enquiries, etc.: Sonia Schutz-Russell, Programme Planning Officer, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (soniar@spc.int; cc/- fame_meetings@spc.int).



Dr Stuart Minchin
Director-General