

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

TWENTY-FIFTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 14–18 March 1994)

**REVIEW OF REGIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN THE MARINE
SECTOR – STATUS REPORT**
(Paper prepared by the Secretariat)

1. The principle of a review of regional institutional arrangements in the marine sector was approved in 1993 by both the South Pacific Forum and the South Pacific Conference. The aim of the review is to examine the roles of those regional organisations whose mandate involves marine resource development and management, and recommend on how these roles might ultimately be modified to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness. The review is being implemented by the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the South Pacific Commission (SPC) and will principally target six of the eight agencies that are members of the South Pacific Organisations Coordinating Committee (SPOCC) - FFA, SPC, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the South Pacific Applied Geosciences Commission (SOPAC), the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the Forum Secretariat (FS). The relationships of these SPOCC agencies with other non-regional organisations, such as the International Centre for Living Aquatic Resource Management (ICLARM), the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC), the French Institute of Scientific Research for Development in Cooperation (ORSTOM), etc, will also be examined.
2. The methodology that has been agreed for the review is to deploy a team of four consultants to travel within the region and hold discussions with representatives of national and territorial governments in regard to regional institutional arrangements in marine affairs. The consultants will be expected to interview representatives of the official and technical contact points of each regional agency and to compile a report containing their findings and recommendations which can be tabled for consideration by the governing bodies of each of the regional agencies concerned.
3. Selection of the consultants will be made by FFA following inputs from the other agencies concerned. FFA will also be responsible for liaising with donor agencies on behalf of SPOCC in order to raise the funds needed to finance the consultancy. With the approval of the New Zealand Government, SPC is contributing the equivalent of NZ\$20,000 to the cost of the exercise.

4. A questionnaire is being prepared that will be used by the consultants to provide an objective, standardised framework for information gathering. (The original aim of circulating the questionnaire prior to the consultancy proper was abandoned after it became clear that there would be problems in getting representative responses from countries because each agency has different technical contact points in each country). The draft questionnaire has been reviewed by all SPOCC agencies and final comments are presently being integrated into it by the Forum Fisheries Agency. Mention of the questionnaire is made in the consultant's terms of reference, which were agreed at the February 1994 meeting of SPOCC, and which are attached as Annex 1.

5. The timing of the consultancy was originally planned for the period March–May 1994. This would have allowed the consultants to attend the present RTMF, complete the study, and report to the Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) and the SPC Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA) in May. However, delays in finalising the questionnaire, in raising the necessary funds, and in selecting the consultants have resulted in a slipping of this proposed timetable. Although the review will take place in 1994, it now seems unlikely that this can be done before the May FFC and CRGA.

Draft Terms of Reference

Review of South Pacific Regional Institutional Arrangements in respect of Marine Resources

1. Review and report on the work of the Forum Secretariat, South Pacific Applied Geosciences Commission, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Forum Fisheries Agency, University of the South Pacific and the South Pacific Commission in assisting countries in the South Pacific to better understand, develop and manage the marine resources of the region, including those on the high seas. For each organisation, the review should compare and contrast:
 - history and raison d'être
 - corporate plans and strategic statements
 - work programme formulation and delivery
 - administrative and operational infrastructure
 - membership (i.e. political support), including possible future developments within and from outside the region and external relations with other States, territories and agencies
 - the financial base, current and projected for 5 years
 - a matrix of common interests
 2. Using the attached questionnaire as a guide, assess the extent to which existing institutional arrangements meet the needs of member countries and territories with respect to the development, management and conservation of marine resources. Report on both the perceived needs and the extent to which they are met by one or more of the institutions participating in the review.
 3. Review the complementarity of the activities and roles of the organisations listed, taking into account the work of other agencies also active in the region and assess the impact of regional and international developments on each organisation and their external relationships.
 4. Review the benefits and costs associated with the work of each organisation. Assess the extent to which additional efficiencies, economies of scale and synergy could result from re-structuring some or all of the activities of the organisations and any other relevant bodies working in marine resources affairs, relative to existing arrangements.
 5. Consider and comment on possible regional institutional arrangements in the area of marine resources. Include an analysis of potential costs and benefits for each possibility.
 6. Prepare a report containing options for and recommendations on, future institutional arrangements in respect of marine resources for presentation to member countries and territories and the governing bodies of all the organisations considered during the review.
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