

REPORT OF MEETING

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**SPC/WPRFMC/FAO Workshop  
on Fisheries Legislation and Community-based Fisheries Management**

(Honolulu, Hawaii, United States of America, 4–8 April 2005)

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**SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC)  
NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA**



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on Fisheries Legislation and Community-based Fisheries Management**

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2005**

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## Executive Summary

This regional workshop on fisheries legislation and community-based fisheries management was organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council (WPRFMC). The workshop was funded by SPC, WPRFMC, the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Commonwealth Secretariat, Australia, New Zealand and France, and hosted by WPRFMC in Honolulu from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2005.

The workshop was conducted primarily in response to the needs of Pacific island countries; these needs were detailed in the SPC document "*Strategic plan for fisheries management and sustainable coastal fisheries in Pacific islands*," which was endorsed at the SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting held in Noumea in August, 2003. The workshop was also able to serve the purpose of meeting the objective of the FAO Project TCP/RAS/2907 to convene a workshop at a regional level.

The workshop was well attended with 64 presenters and participants. Country representatives were mostly senior fisheries officers and over 25% of the participants were women.

The workshop was conducted on a participatory basis to cover key areas in fisheries management, community involvement, and the implementation and enforcement of fisheries regulations. Related topics included marine protected areas, ecosystem based fisheries management, community by-laws, and alternative sources of seafood. Participant exercises in analysing fisheries data, advising on community fisheries regulations, and developing fisheries legislation played an important role in the workshop.

A formal (questionnaire) assessment of the workshop by participants suggested that the workshop topics were well chosen. All subjects received an approval rating close to 90%. The most useful subjects (by a small margin) involved fisheries regulations and fisheries management plans. The least useful subject was on the structure of fisheries agencies (but even this scored over 85% approval). From the written comments of participants, the need for more training in fisheries management (including the preparation of management plans) and the need for the involvement of legal advisers in all workshops were the ones most commonly expressed.

Participants were most emphatic that the group activities and role-playing provided a significant learning experience in managing community fisheries and implementing fisheries regulations. Experienced presenters at the workshop claimed that the level of participation in group activities and discussions was high and most rewarding.

Most participants believed that the two field trips (to an early morning fish auction at pier 38 and to a traditional aquaculture site) were of great value, and provided a relief from the demanding workshop sessions. Participants also expressed appreciation for the roles of SPC, WPRFMC, FAO and ComSec in sponsoring the workshop; they believed that the cooperation of these organizations should result in further targeted workshops. Participants gave high praise to the workshop organizer, Ueta Fa'asili, and the WPRFMC hosts, Kitty Simons and Charles Ka'ai'ai.

The following four formal recommendations were made by country representatives at the workshop.

- 1) Under the agenda item 4 (the analysis of catch and effort data) participants **recommended that the training on the use of the SPC socio-economic manual be conducted at the earliest opportunity.** Training in the use of the manual was discussed at the Nadi workshop on "Fisheries Management and Statistics".

- 2) Under agenda item 7 (Fisheries management plans) country participants **recommended that training to enable countries to develop their own fisheries management plans should be conducted as soon as possible.** Goal 1c of the regional plan refers to short courses on the preparation of fisheries management plans.
- 3) The management of “live food fish” fisheries was discussed as a major problem in some countries. The destructive nature of fishing on spawning aggregations was a concern to many. **It was recommended that a regional approach be taken in resolving the problems faced by countries in the management of their live food fish industries.**
- 4) Due to the differences in cultures, customs and traditions in countries of Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia, **it was recommended that workshops should be subregional in order to resolve difficulties encountered in the development of community-based fisheries management.**

In addition to the formal recommendations given above, the interest and concerns of participants suggest that there is a need to hold a “fisheries and the marine environment” workshop for two senior representatives from each country; one from an environmental agency and one from a fisheries agency. This is needed to address the lack of cooperation between such agencies and to allow fisheries managers to address ecosystems-based fisheries management and the development of marine protected areas. Such a workshop was one of the activities recommended in the SPC strategic plan.

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## A. Background to the workshop

The workshop was conducted primarily in response to the request from regional fisheries agencies for assistance and training in fisheries management, particularly in relation to fisheries regulations and community-based fisheries management. These needs are recorded in the *“Strategic plan for fisheries management and sustainable coastal fisheries in Pacific island,”* which was produced by the Secretariat of the South Pacific (SPC) following a regional workshop and in-country visits. The plan was endorsed at the Heads of Fisheries meeting held in Noumea in August, 2003.

The workshop relates to needs listed under goals 3 and 4 of the strategic plan; namely *“to assist countries to review, update and/or develop practical and enforceable fisheries regulations”* and *“to assist countries to involve fishers and other stakeholders in fisheries management and to assist with the development of property-use rights.”*

The workshop also served the purpose of meeting the objective of the FAO Project TCP/RAS/2907 to convene a workshop at a regional level.

The workshop was funded by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council (WPRFMC), the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Commonwealth Secretariat (ComSec). The workshop was organized by SPC and hosted by WPRFMC in Honolulu from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2005.



## B. Opening addresses

### **Summary of address by Masanami Izumi, Fishery Officer, FAO/SAPA (given on behalf of Dr Vili Fuavao, FAO Sub-Regional Representative for the Pacific.)**

Mr. Izumi delivered a statement on behalf of the FAO Sub-Regional Representative for the Pacific. In mentioning the past joint regional workshops on fisheries management and this workshop organized by four organizations, he expressed the importance of regional cooperation and collaboration. He highlighted the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with emphasis on developing and strengthening institutional and legal frameworks at national level. He briefed the meeting on the on-going FAO sub-regional project on coastal fisheries legislation for the Micronesian countries under the technical cooperation programme. FAO will continue to support the countries by providing its technical assistance.

### **Summary of address by Semisi Fakahau, Commonwealth Secretariat.**

Mr Semisi Fakahau thanked WPRMC, SPC and FAO for their work in bringing the meeting together. He said that it was a good example of donor programmes working together on a project. He said that he was happy to support the implementation of the strategic plan that the Commonwealth Secretariat had helped develop. The tsunami in Asia reminded us all of the vulnerability of coastal resources and the coastal populations that depend on them. He said that the participants at this meeting are removed from communities and the hope is that whatever we deliberate on and discuss are points that will be practical and relevant to the people living in the communities.

### **Address by Ms Kitty Simonds, Executive Director, WPRFMC**

My brothers and sisters, *aloha kakahiaka* and welcome to this gathering of Pacific Islanders representing the countries and territories of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific countries of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the territories and commonwealth of the United States.

We are pleased to co-host this workshop on fisheries legislation and community-based fisheries management with the SPC and FAO here in Honolulu. As islanders we share histories, cultural values and traditions and our dependence on the sea. We now have another general opportunity to sit together and exchange information about our respective fisheries issues and to resolve problems that persist and hinder management of our resources. Some of the questions we have to answer here are

- How do we keep good staff?
- How do we collect and analyze information with inadequate funding?
- How do we develop management regimes with regulations that are practical and enforceable?
- What are the useful and necessary legal instruments to assist us in these daunting tasks?

All of us here operate under different management regimes, different political structures, but the tools are the same, the commitment to preserve the communities' rights and access to the fisheries are the same, and the commitment to conserve the resource and protect the environment is the same.

In the US Pacific, sustainable fisheries is our mandate under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Council process for managing fisheries is an open, transparent process that involves the public and stakeholder in the development of management recommendations. We have many committees that work on developing our fishery management rules and regulations.

One of the biggest challenges facing all of us is the ecosystem approach to fisheries management. We are moving toward archipelagic ecosystem plans for Hawaii, the Marianas and Samoa. You will hear more about our plans during the week.

We hope that this workshop will be just one of the many future collaborations and cooperative efforts to continue to bind the Pacific community into the family that it truly is.

*Imua I ka lanakila* (Move forward to triumph, prevail).