

MINUTES

First Coastal Fisheries Working Group Small conference room, SPC Noumea (Friday 1 December 2017)

Chair: Lindsay Chapman (SPC) filling in for Moses Amos

Time: The meeting opened at 8 am and ended at 12 noon

Participants: Hugh Govern (LMMA)
Anh-Thu Nguyen (DFAT)
Siola'a Malimali (MAFF – Tonga)
Soane Hamala (Community representative – Tonga)
Leka Pitoi (NFA – PNG)
Toni Ferdinand (NZ MPI representing MFAT)
Ribanataakea Awira (PIFS)
Sangeeta Mangubhai (WCS)
Florence Edwards (MIMRA – Marshall Islands)
Neil Andrew (ANCORS/UoW and WorldFish)
Masubed Tkei (TNC)

Apologies: Moses Amos (SPC)
Steven Victor (TNC)

Section I: Introduction (agenda items 1 to 4)

The meeting commenced on time and SPC was reaffirmed as the chair for the meeting and for the CFWG in future. The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and then asked each representative to introduce themselves to the others. Two apologies had been received and in both cases, alternative representatives had been provided for the meeting. The agenda was then adopted with two additions and is attached as Appendix A:

1. DFAT proposed the addition of a “work plan” on the agenda for discussion.
2. LMMA proposed the establishment of two focused “task forces” under the CFWG for discussion.

Section II: Role and membership of the CFWG (agenda items 5 and 6)

The role and membership of the group was introduced and this was provided in a briefing paper to the meeting (Appendix B). In regard to the role or purpose of the CFWG, it was suggested the current version needed to be expanded to make reference to the Forum Leaders decision that led to the formation of the group. There was also discussion on whether there should be specific reference to ciguatera and management of the Beche-de-Mer (BDM) fishery. This proposal was felt to be too limiting, as there were many coastal fisheries management issues to be addressed, and other project work was addressing BDM management. There was some discussion around the tuna fishery task force, looking at similarities, but it was felt to be different given the tuna taskforce worked on transboundary fisheries, had limited membership, and was looking at maximising economic development, whereas the coastal issues were national and sub-national and focused on sustainable fisheries

management, and included many sectors and players. There would also be input needed to the annual coastal fisheries report card, with indicators yet to be finalised.

It was also felt that the purpose needed to include reference and linkages to both the “New Song for coastal fisheries – pathways to change: The Noumea strategy 2015” and the “Future of Fisheries: a regional roadmap for sustainable coastal fisheries 2015”, as well as other national and sub-regional policies on coastal fisheries, such as the “Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) roadmap for inshore fisheries management and sustainable development 2015–2024”. The CFWG would work toward giving effect to these documents, as they do not provide the “how” on their implementation at the regional scale. The meeting agreed to these changes and additions, with Appendix B providing the original text with the suggested revisions in track changes for the purpose of the CFWG.

In regard to the structure of the CFWG, it was agreed that this would be a “standing group” and did not have to be too inclusive, where additional sectors could attend as appropriate, and this would be determined by the chair. There was much discussion on each of the sectors or groups that make up the membership of the CFWG. Some of the discussion and rationale is captured below and Appendix B contains the much shortened text in track changes following these discussions.

- CROP agencies with three participants. It was agreed to maintain SPC (chair) and PIFS, but drop SPREP as they are not really involved in coastal fisheries management. Therefore the third position could be filled by other relevant agencies on a case-by-case basis.
- Regional civil society with two participants. It was agreed that LMMA would hold one position contingent on their continued performance, and PIANGO would be removed as they are not really involved in coastal fisheries management. There was discussion around representation from non-LMMA countries as well as gender and youth, so the second position should cover this, as well as territories if possible. The PIFS “civil society engagement process” would be activated to try to select a second suitable organisation, although this would exclude some of the territories.
- Regional/international NGOs and research/education organisations with three positions. It was agreed that these positions would be for 2 years, and could include national NGOs, universities and other like organisations. The current 3 organisations (WCS, TNC and ANCORS/WorldFish) would remain for the next 18 months. SPC would call for expressions of interest from this grouping with selection criteria for eligibility. The same organisations can apply, as it would come down to the assessment of applications, and the appointment would be for a 2-year period. The assessment would be made by the CFWG members, possibly via email out of session.
- National fisheries agencies with three positions (one per sub-region). It was agreed that the national representatives will rotate after each meeting alphabetically within their sub-region. Therefore, the current three countries (PNG, RMI and Tonga) would be retained for the next meeting, and then replaced alphabetically by their sub-region after each meeting. Given national fisheries representatives cannot speak on behalf of other countries, they would just bring their national views to the group.
- Donors with two positions. It was agreed the current representatives (DFAT and MFAT) will remain for next 18 months. SPC would call for expressions of interest from the donor community with some selection criteria for eligibility. The same

donors can apply, as it would come down to the assessment of applications, and the appointment would be for a 2-year period.

- Community fisher representatives (Melanesia, Polynesia & Micronesia) – three participants (rotating each meeting). The participants would be requested from countries in rotation through each sub region out of synch with national fisheries countries to ensure a wider country representation in each meeting. SPC will communicate a call for nominations to appropriate countries **through CSO’s contacts, and if no nomination is received within 2 weeks a follow up communication to government with copy to CFWG** in advance of each meeting with criteria¹ and any necessary details of the meeting. Nominations will be received by the CFWG and due selection be made.

It was also emphasized that representatives on the CFWG should where possible, consult before the meeting to bring as wider view as possible to the discussions, and report to them after to keep all informed of the work of the CFWG. The CFWG acknowledges that members bring different perspective to the Working Group and not all act as mandated representatives of a constituency.

Table 1 below lists the three sub-regions and the countries and territories in alphabetical order starting with the current national representatives. For the next meeting it is proposed the countries highlighted in blue will have national fisheries attend and the countries in yellow will be approached for community representatives, with this rotating for each meeting after this by moving down the list. The countries in green have been excluded at this stage for various reasons.

Table 1: Countries by sub-region and the order of rotation

Melanesia	Micronesia	Polynesia
Papua New Guinea	Marshall Islands	Tonga
Solomon Islands	Nauru	Tuvalu
Vanuatu	Palau	Wallis and Futuna
Fiji	Federated States of Micronesia	American Samoa
New Caledonia	Guam	Cook Islands
	Kiribati	French Polynesia
		Niue
		Samoa
		Tokelau
	Northern Mariana Islands	Pitcairn

¹ For the purposes of the CFWG, ideally national coastal fishers’ representation should strive to:

- (i) Derive from legitimate/representative and acceptable national processes owned and driven by communities
- (ii) Demonstrate realistic processes to legitimately consult and represent all community fishers involved in coastal fisheries management
- (iii) Include processes to ensure the input of women, youth and marginalised groups
- (iv) Not restricted to CBRM communities

Section III: Reporting mechanisms for CFWG (agenda item 7)

There was some general discussion around the options for reporting, including the process used by the tuna taskforce, and the general feeling was to report to, or inform, as many groups as practical to increase the profile of coastal fisheries management and the work of the CFWG. There was also the issue of different membership between PIFS and SPC, so the wider circulation would help to overcome this issue. Concerns were also expressed that there may not be agreement within the CFWG on some issues, and that this needs to be reflected in the group's reporting to the Forum Leaders, and not edited out by another group through the reporting process. Therefore, apart from the formal reporting, other groups would receive the same brief for noting. In regard to the Heads of Fisheries, this would be done every two years, plus there was the Micronesian Chief Executive Summit and Micronesian Presidential Summit, so the outcomes from CFWG meetings and activities should be forwarded to them for information and noting. Other meetings or groups for briefing could include the Melanesian Spearhead Group and Polynesian Leaders.

For the formal reporting, this would be to the Forum Leaders. After discussion, the approach suggested is to provide the outcomes as a brief to the Forum Fisheries Committee (May meeting) and the Forum Fisheries Ministerial (July meeting) for comment and review. The CFWG would then consider the input provided and finalise the brief for submission to the Forum Leaders via PIFS and the Special Sub-Committee on Regionalism (SSCR), and possibly the Foreign Affairs Ministers. This is also summarised in Appendix B in track changes.

Appendix C provides a "clean copy" of the revised terms of reference, purpose, membership and reporting process for the CFWG.

Section IV: Outcomes of the Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries (RTMCF) – (agenda item 8)

In introducing this agenda item, it was felt that the outcomes or action items from the RTMCF would be better used to inform the proposed CFWG work plan once this had commenced. The agenda item was then deferred, and could be included in the discussion on the proposed work plan (agenda item 13).

Section V: Coastal fisheries report card (agenda item 9)

The chair asked what the group's input should be to the annual coastal fisheries report card. It was highlighted that there were large data gaps and challenges, plus there was still work to do to agree on indicators. There was some discussion around whether the report card should be expanded with some recommendations for Forum Leaders' endorsement, or whether this was a separate process. Given the specific focus on the report card to look at where we are at and progress over time, it would be best to retain the current format.

There was support for having something for the Forum Leaders to endorse, so it was agreed that the CFWG report would provide some commentary on the report card with recommendation when appropriate, while leaving the report card in its current form.

Additional agenda items (13 and 14)

Two agenda items had been added to the agenda, to discuss a possible work plan for the CFWG and the establishment of an initial two “task forces”, one on law and policy and the other on management. In regard to the membership of a taskforce, it could comprise both CFWG members and non-CFWG members, and all reporting from a taskforce would be to the CFWG.

The discussion moved straight into items that could form a work plan for the next 6 months (Table 2) and 6-12 months (Table 3), with this focused also as an implementation plan for the “New Song”.

Table 2: Planned activities under the CFWG for the period December 2017 to May 2018

Planned activities to May 2018	Timing	Focal point(s)
Drafting of a regional implementation or activity plan for the New Song, that is more than just good ideas. This would set the landscape of what the New Song can do on a regional scale.	Draft developed in April 2018 prior to next CFWG meeting for finalisation.	Neil Andrew with SPC and input from CFWG members
Input to the 2018 coastal fisheries report card with supporting CFWG report on activities including a commentary on the report card with recommendations	April 2018 so this can feed into the FFC in May	SPC with input from CFWG members
Drafting and agreement on the terms of reference for a “task force” on coastal fisheries law and policy.	First draft of ToRs in December 2017. ToRs finalised in February 2018	Hugh Govan and SPC with others.
Establishment of the coastal fisheries law and policy “task force” with agreed ToRs, and one or two specific tasks to undertake.	March 2018 with report on activities to next CFWG meeting.	SPC and members of the “task force”.
Review of the action plan from the RTMCF meeting to see what can be taken forward under the CFWG banner.	February 2018	SPC
Commence the mapping of who is doing what and where in regards to community-based fisheries management	Jan/Feb 2018 and ongoing	SPC position funded by DFAT

Table 3: Planned activities for the period June to November 2018

Proposed activities June to Nov 2018	Timing	Focal point(s)
Drafting and agreement on the terms of reference for a “task force” on coastal fisheries management, with the “task force” established	June 2018	Hugh Govan and SPC with others
Taking the coastal fisheries report card and CFWG report forward to FFC Ministerial and then to Forum Leaders	July 2018 for Ministerial Sept 2018 for Leaders.	SPC as chair of the CFWG with input from the group.
First draft report of the mapping of community-based activities compiled for input from CFWG members and others	June 2018	SPC with input from all concerned.

Progress report on implementing the RTMCF action plan and any activities under the CFWG	June/July 2018	SPC and partners
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During the discussion on possible work plan activities, several other issues including aquaculture and Beche-de-Mer (BDM) were raised. In regard to aquaculture, it was agreed that this should be covered under the CFWG, however, this should be limited to small-scale and community-based aquaculture, but not large-scale commercial activities. It was also agreed that aquaculture activities need to be evidence-based to clearly show how they contribute to addressing coastal fisheries management issues.

The Forum Leaders specifically mentioned BDM and ciguatera in their September 2016 Communique, so any report to the Leaders should mention these if possible. Given there are specific BDM project work underway, a statement of progress under these projects can be included so the Leaders are aware of progress being made in the BDM fishery through these other activities. Political interference in the BDM fisheries was also highlighted as hindering efforts to manage the resource. For ciguatera, there were no major activities underway, so it will be difficult to give an update. There was also scope to provide updates to Leaders on other areas of interest, such as gender, to raise the profile of the work.

Section VI: Other matters (agenda items 10, 11 and 12)

To finish the meeting, the group discussed the frequency of meeting, and it was agreed the CFWG should meet twice per year, with April 2018 suggested for the next meeting and the end of the third quarter for the following meeting. Wherever possible the CFWG meetings should be “tagged” onto other meeting to reduce the travel costs for participants, as most representatives would be self-funded. The national fisheries representatives stated that they did not have a budget for such meetings, and urged that funding be provided for their attendance, so options would be explored for this. It was also suggested that some people could be “Skyped” into the meeting as an alternative.

The chair then stated he would try to get the draft minutes of the meeting with a rough work plan circulated within a week so that all could provide their comments. The chair also thanked everyone for their contribution to this first meeting of the CFWG and the progress made, even though it was mainly administrative and procedural. The members of the group looked forward to discussing more substantive topics and issues at the next meeting. The meeting then closed at 12 noon.

First Meeting of the Coastal Fisheries working Group (CFWG)

SPC, Noumea, New Caledonia, 01st December 2017

The purpose of the CFWG is to bring together a small stakeholder group of representatives of communities, national and regional Agencies and Institutions to look at the current and potential coastal fisheries initiatives ensuring that adequate level of support, resources and services are directed towards assisting national fisheries agencies and local communities manage their coastal fisheries resources

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

1. Opening of Meeting
2. Election of Chair
3. Apologies
4. Adoption of Agenda

SECTION II: ROLE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE CFWG

5. Discuss and finalise mandate of the CFWG
6. Finalize structure, membership and procedures for each membership grouping

SECTION III: REPORTING MECHANISMS FOR CFWG

7. Discuss decision making procedures and reporting mechanisms for CFWG on key and important coastal fisheries issues to HOF Meetings, FFC Officials and Ministers Meetings, and PIF Leaders Meetings

SECTION IV: OUTCOMES OF RTMCF

8. Key outcomes of RTMCF requiring input and support from Fisheries Ministers and PIF Leaders

SECTION V: COASTAL FISHERIES REPORT CARD

9. Discuss process for CFWG to provide input into future Coastal Fisheries Report Cards

SECTION VI: OTHER MATTERS

10. Next Meeting
11. Record of Proceedings
12. Close of Meeting

Items added to the agenda

13. Discuss the addition of a “work plan” for future activities.
14. Discuss the establishment of two focused “task forces” under the CFWG.

Revised copy in track changes to show actual changes

Revised specification of the membership, roles and responsibilities of the proposed CFWG²

Coastal Fisheries Working Group (CFWG) Purpose

The Pacific Island Forum Leaders' tasked SPC to "coordinate with National Fisheries Agencies, CROP agencies and regional and national community groups, to strengthen support and resourcing for coastal fisheries management". The leaders noted "links to communities, food security, health issues and in particular non-communicable diseases. Leaders also noted the need to ensure eco-system integrity to address issues such as ciguatera outbreaks and to sustainably manage Beche-de-Mer".

The SPC's guidance on the way forward is contained in the 'New Song for coastal fisheries – pathways to change: The Noumea strategy' 2015 and the 'Future of Fisheries: A Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries 2015' (FoF) which was endorsed by Pacific Island Forum Leaders in 2015. Other national and subregional policy on coastal fisheries is also of relevance including the "MSG roadmap for inshore fisheries management and sustainable development 2015-2024",

The Coastal Fisheries Working Group (CFWG) has been formed to bring together a small standalone stakeholder group of representatives of communities, national and regional Agencies and Institutions to look at the current and potential coastal fisheries initiatives so as to ensure an adequate level of support, resources and services are directed towards assisting national fisheries agencies and local communities implement management of their coastal fisheries resources.

Structure of the CFWG

The proposed structure is:

- **Chaired by:** SPC
- **Answers to:** PI Forum Leaders via PIFS
- **Reports to:** Ultimately to PI Forum Leaders³:
 - An extended report and draft leaders' brief will be submitted to Forum Fisheries Committee and Ministers. Comments will be considered in preparing the final brief for submission to PI Leaders via the PIFS/SSCR.
 - Biannual progress reports will be submitted to Heads of Fisheries.
 - Other regional and sub-regional meetings will be provided with brief reports including but not limited to: Micronesian Chief Executive Summit, Micronesian Presidential Summit, Melanesian Spearhead Group and Polynesian Leaders Group.
 - These arrangements will be reviewed within a year
- **Exercises equal rights/rules of engagement for members:** equal rights / non-discriminating against CSOs or communities. It is acknowledged that agencies will individually be accountable to their own governance but inclusiveness and consensus are operating principles.
- **Based on the New Song guiding principles:** The New Song for Coastal Fisheries pathways to change policy and strategy should be used for guidance in decision-making and in particular the goals of empowered communities, resilience and coastal livelihoods.
- **Exercises special attention to the representation of coastal communities, gender and youth:** The importance of adequate representation of coastal fishing and rights holding communities has been highlighted for particular attention.

² Developed after MSWG18, HoF10, FFC102, FFC103 and MWSG19

³ If there is a divergence of opinion on key issues this may be reported as such to leaders

CFWG Terms of Reference

- Bring together regional initiatives and stakeholders with a shared vision of coastal fisheries management aimed at building a strong coordinated approach and implementation at the national and sub-national levels;
- Discuss and advocate the role and importance of coastal fisheries in regards to the long-term sustainability of island societies, and the basis for their food security and livelihoods;
- Provide regional guidance and support to SPC to continue to build momentum and implementation of the New Song;
- Review the New Song Indicators;
- Peer-review the annual Coastal Fisheries Report Card;
- Support and develop national coastal fishing community representative processes;
- Develop, improve, and identify priorities, strengths, weaknesses and gaps in implementation plans and guide relevant regional partners in efforts to develop joint funding proposals;
- Addressing a notable challenge in current planning and proposal development in terms of national and in particular community involvement, and;
- Discuss the Tuvalu proposal for reviving a Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries – focusing on science, management, and capacity building aspects.

Proposed CFWG Membership

Mindful of the need to maintain a manageable size the membership proposed to be limited as far as possible to representatives directly working towards community and coastal fisheries management under the following categories:

- CROP Agencies (SPC, PIFS, other relevant agencies on a case by case basis) - 3 Participants
- Regional civil society representatives of community fishers, gender and youth – 2 Participants. Subject to performance one position will be held, subject to ongoing review, by the LMMA Network and the second position will be identified through the PIFS civil society engagement process bearing in mind the representation of non-LMMA countries, gender and youth.
- Community fisher representatives (Melanesia, Polynesia Micronesia) – 3 Participants (rotating each meeting). The participants would be requested from countries in rotation through each subregion out of synch with national fisheries countries to ensure a wider country representation in each meeting. SPC will communicate a call for nominations to appropriate countries with copy to CFWG in advance of each meeting with criteria⁴ and any necessary details of the meeting. Nominations will be received by the CFWG and due selection be made.
- Regional/international NGOs and Research/Education organisations - 3 Participants for a term of 2 years (rotating, including national or regional NGOs, universities and others)
- National Fisheries Agencies (3 sub-regions) – 3 Participants (rotating alphabetically through subregion after each meeting)
- Donors – 2 Participants (to be reviewed every two years through expressions of interest)

The chair may invite expressions of interest for the rotating positions for the regional NGO positions

Participation is encouraged from the wider SPC group of countries (i.e. not just the PIF members)

Note: It is proposed as a rule of participation that all participants must make special and demonstrable efforts to canvas their constituencies prior to meetings and inform them of the results of discussions.

⁴ For the purposes of the CFWG, ideally national coastal fishers' representation should strive to:

- (i) Derive from legitimate/representative and acceptable national processes owned and driven by communities
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Clean copy

Revised specification of the membership, roles and responsibilities of the proposed CFWG⁵**Coastal Fisheries Working Group (CFWG) Purpose**

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The Coastal Fisheries Working Group (CFWG) has been formed to bring together a small standalone stakeholder group of representatives of communities, national and regional Agencies and Institutions to look at the current and potential coastal fisheries initiatives so as to ensure an adequate level of support, resources and services are directed towards assisting national fisheries agencies and local communities implement management of their coastal fisheries resources.

NOTE: do we need to detail here: Best practice guides, ToC of the New Song, Identify priorities under the implementation of the new Song, indicators... SUGGEST not]

Structure of the CFWG

The proposed structure is:

- **Chaired by:** SPC
- **Answers to:** PI Forum Leaders via PIFS
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