

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Second Meeting of the Coastal Fisheries Working Group (CFWG)**  
**Admin Conference Room, SPC Noumea**  
**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018(8:30 am to 3:40pm Noumea time)**

Chair: Moses Amos (SPC)

Participants:

Fisheries Agency Representatives:

- Emma Kabua-Tibon (Republic of the Marshall Islands)
- Latu Aisea (Tonga)
- Jeff Kinch (Kavieng National Fisheries College, NFA PNG)

Community Representatives:

- Rindah Melsen (Nusatuva community, Solomon Islands)
- Maxwell Dowedia (Yaren community, Nauru)

Partners:

- Neil Andrew (ANCORS/UoW)
- Hugh Govan (LMMA)
- Tim Adams (FFA)
- Jessica Sanders (FAO)

Donors:

- Joanna Anderson (MFAT)
- Anh-Thu Nguyen (DFAT)
- Ingrid Swinnen (EU)

FAME staff:

- Lindsay Chapman
- Ian Bertram
- Connie Donato – Hunt
- Ariella D’Andrea
- Aaranteiti Kiareti

Apologies:

- Sangeeta Mangubhai (WCS)
- Steven Victor (TNC)
- Leka Pitoi (NFA)

**Section 1: Introduction**

1. Opening of the Meeting

- The meeting commenced on time and as agreed during the last meeting, the Pacific Community (SPC) was reaffirmed as the chair. The chair welcomed everyone, with special greetings to fisheries/community representatives from the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Tonga, Solomon Islands and Nauru.

## 2. Apologies and Adoption of Agenda

- Attendance by the Tuvalu community representative had to be cancelled due to flight difficulties – the only available option entailed 13 days of travel.
- The participants agreed to make the presentation of Community priorities/issues a standing agenda item for future meetings and to move it up in the agenda order from Section 6 to Section 2. It was further agreed to add an agenda item under Section 5 to discuss how the CFWG can engage member countries in practice. The agenda was then adopted (Appendix A).

## 3. Adoption of Minutes from First Meeting

- The Minutes of the First CFWG Meeting held in Noumea on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 were also adopted, including the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the CFWG minor amendment to the ToR (See paragraph 5 below).

## **Section 2: Planned activities under the CFWG**

### 4. Implementing the ToR for the CFWG

- The ToR of the CFWG were reviewed. It was noted that logistical preparations and arrangement would have to be made sooner rather than later, with earlier warning of proposed CFWG meeting dates.
- Membership of the CFWG rotates at every meeting (twice a year), with national fisheries officials and community representatives from different countries to participate in accordance with the list established in the Minutes of the First CFWG Meeting (Table 1 of 2017 Minutes). Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and donors to participate on a two-year basis.

### 5. Revised community representative selection procedure and criteria

- The participants agreed that, for future CFWG meetings, SPC will call for community representatives through Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to avoid potential bias from Government Agencies. If there is no response within two weeks, the invitations will be resent via national Fisheries/Environment Agencies, with copy to CFWG members.
- The ToR for the CFWG were revised to reflect the discussion and agreement on the selection process for community representation (Appendix B). The ToR will be reviewed in one year or as necessary.

### 6. Regional implementation/activity plan for CFWG/New Song

- A draft activity plan was developed by ANCORS for review out of session by the CFWG
- The CFWG agreed to keep activities at regional level to guide implementation of the New Song and to achieve effective collaboration with other agencies/donors.
- It was agreed to consider producing a document merging the New Song, the Future of Fisheries Roadmap and the Report Card into a one page document to brief new CFWG members at each meeting, i.e. community and fisheries representatives.
- It was also agreed to add an activity related to the identification of funding support for the Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries (RTMCF).
- The revised activity plan is attached for validation by the CFWG (Appendix C) and progress and/or updates would be reported at the next meeting.

- The participants agreed to keep past community representatives on the CFWG mailing list into the future and/or use SPC address book to send regular updates on the New Song/CFWG. The papers and other CFWG outcomes should be posted on the SPC website.
- A proposal was made to consider presenting the Report Card and Activity Plan at the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) meeting in September 2018 for endorsement and advocating coastal fisheries to have support at that level, but no agreement was reached.

#### 7. Update/progress on the 2018 Coastal Fisheries report card

- The Coastal Fisheries Report Card allows countries to report on implementation of two strategic documents, the New Song and the Future of Fisheries Road-map. It is an attempt to streamline reporting in the region, including in areas of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 that are in common with the regional strategies, and to identify data gaps.
- In 2016/2017, a process was started to agree on indicators to report on. The current set of indicators were reported to the 10<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting (HoF10), refined and endorsed at the Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) level. Some countries have shown interest in developing a country-level coastal fisheries report card, but this would require developing specific indicators for each country, identifying a reliable data source and crosschecking responses.
- It was agreed that countries should be asked to provide data for their report card during future HoF meetings to collect robust data.
- It was requested that country specific progress be made available in the future in order to stimulate improvements at the national level. It was noted this would be dependent on the quality and availability of data to ensure that any comparisons were based on sound evidence.
- It was pointed out that, ideally, the reporting on coastal fisheries budgets should not be considered as an indicator towards the New Song unless the proportion dedicated to management was clearly separated from that dedicated to development (i.e. that increase pressure on resources).
- Reporting on progress for Beche-de-mer (BdM) could be nested under indicator 1 of Goal 3 and under indicator 4 of Goal 1. This will be explored further mindful not to proliferate report cards but to make indicators more targeted and useful.
- Donors proposed identifying key issues in the collection of data for the report card for presentation to and action by Ministers.

#### 8. Coastal Fisheries Law & Policy 'Task Force' ToR and progress report

- At the last CFWG meeting it was agreed to establish a 'Law and Policy Task Force' to provide support and advice on legal and policy issues. The ToR were prepared in December 2017 and submitted to the CFWG for comments. An updated version was circulated in March 2018. The participants endorsed the ToR of the Task Force with one agreed change concerning linkages with customary practices (Appendix D).
- The Task Force is composed of three members so far and is seeking additional volunteers to support with agreed assignments.
- Currently, the Task Force is working on the following assignments:

- Consolidating the lists of relevant laws, regulations, policies and plans at national and subnational levels;
- Creating a matrix to collect information on the areas of competence of national and subnational authorities on fisheries resources;
- Designing a questionnaire to identify constraints upon the effective operation of law and policy and to identify effective way to empower communities; and
- Identifying key indicators of the New Song.
- The Task Force was requested to provide recommendations on issues to be raised at the next PIFS leaders meeting. There is a standing agenda item on coastal fisheries and the CFWG will provide updates to PIFS leaders on what the group is doing.

## 9. Community Priorities and/or Issues in Coastal Fisheries Management

### a. Community representatives

#### Nauru

- The community representative from Yaren District, Nauru, shared his experience the changes affecting reefs and fisheries resources in Nauru. Crayfish are difficult to catch while adult octopuses have disappeared as people catch very small sizes.
- Another issue is the severe littering of coastal waters and beaches as well as sand mining/dredging for building material, which has caused further coastal erosion. Communities perform beach clean-ups and help protect the coast as well as the resources but there is need for support from the government.
- In Nauru, around 80% of the men/boys are free divers, which puts heavy pressure on the fish populations allowing no time for fish to breed and reproduce. Because Tuna prices have risen from AUD 2/kg to around AUD 8/kg, local people have, turned to reef fishing. It is a common practice to use SCUBA equipment for fishing in Nauru, but a recommendation was put to government to or even ban such activity.
- The status of the management plans prepared in Nauru several years ago is unclear.

#### Solomon Islands

- The community representative from the rural area of Nusatuva in the Western Province – a member of the local Community Fisheries Management Committee – stated that her community relies on fish sale for income generation and that protection for the resource is vital.
- WWF and the Ministry of Marine Resources (MFMR) assisted the Nusatuva Community in developing their Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management Plan, including by organising consultation and training workshops with donations from David & Lucile Packard Foundation, Mike Otter and Coral Trial.
- The Plan is linked with the Fisheries Management Act; it defines rules that are monitored and reviewed yearly to preserve mangrove habitats and protected areas.
- The Nusatuva Community has received training from Jeremy Prince on collecting fish information for size at maturity studies.
- Nusatuva has established protected areas and seasonal closures of six months; fishing is prohibited and breaches are subject to fines of SBD \$100.
- Coral reefs have been damaged by an invasive species (Crown of Thorns) and particularly by the 2013 flood. Since last year, community members have noticed

recovery signs. Management and protection of some reef areas have shown increase in fish abundance with 10 protected fish species.

#### b. Fisheries Representatives

##### Tonga

- Coastal fisheries in Tonga is, in practice, an open access fishery, with people owning land while Government owns the water. Because of weak regulations and enforcement, coastal fisheries had shown decline in the last 20 years. In 2002, the regulation on Special Management Area (SMAs), adopted under the Fisheries Management Act, granted a community rights to manage a coastal area.
- The Government of Tonga strives to establish SMAs for all coastal communities, where possible with donor assistance. The first community SMA was established in 2006. There are currently 29 SMAs registered with approximately over 100 communities in total. To establish an SMA, the community develops its SMA plan with facilitation from the Ministry of Fisheries (MoF). After approval from the Minister, the plan is sent to Cabinet to be gazetted. The communities are empowered to manage their fishing areas; some have reported seeing fish species that had not been seen in over a decade in their SMAs.
- Another challenge comes from the existing SMA communities with issues of monitoring and the need for compliance assets (e.g. boats, materials, etc.)
- MoF also proposed alternative livelihood options such as installation of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), agricultural activities and other options to try to relieve pressure off coastal areas.
- Under the SMA regulations, communities are given enforcement powers within their SMA. The no-take zone and the fishing permitted zone are watched over by community members.

##### RMI

- Under the Micronesia Challenge to effectively conserve 30% of marine resources and 20% of terrestrial resources, RMI plans to meet the targets on atoll-by-atoll basis:
  - RMI has developed the Reimaanlok National Conservation Area Plan which has allowed expansion of the number of atolls in the program as well as providing other livelihoods for the community (e.g. FADs and giant clam farming). The process is community driven with assistance from Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) for the development of management plans to establishing protected areas and ensuring monitoring and enforcement.
  - RMI recently passed the Protected Area Network Act.
- RMI's other priority is the implementation plan to the National Ocean Symposium covering areas of Climate Change, Sustainable Fisheries, Marine Pollution, Coral Reefs and Marine Protected Areas.

### **Section 3: Outcomes of RTMCF**

#### 10. Key outcomes of RTMCF Progress report

- The First RTMCF was held late last year in response to Tuvalu's request, made at HoF10 in 2017. The focus of this meeting was the collection and use of data and information, given the lack of coastal fisheries data had been raised at HoF meetings

and in coastal fisheries publication on Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICT's).

- The RTMCF agreed to work on defining a minimum data set for standardization purposes and to have SPC as data repository for country data. It would be an online system allowing countries to include their datasets, not limiting other country-specific data. Permission to use data is to be given by countries.
- It was agreed to have a second RTMCF this year possibly before the HoF meeting to allow for reporting.
- SPC will look at how the next meeting will be organized and send a tentative agenda for the CFWG to provide comments.
- The CFWG agreed that in future meetings, both technical participants and communities/fisheries officers should have an equal say in the agenda.
- Donors agreed to look for funding of the next meeting but suggested to review the format of the meeting to be more conducive.

#### **Section 4: CBFM Activities across the Region**

##### **11. Discuss scope of work, Mapping & Inventory of CBFM Activities & Projects in the Region**

- The SPC Coastal Fisheries Management Officer has been recently recruited, and several suggestions were made to guide the Community-Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) work:
  - Investigate if there is a current database and if changes/updates are needed.
  - Consider the difficulty of capturing sporadic or self-funded CBFM activities through donor-oriented questionnaires;
  - Narrow the focus of the CBFM mapping and inventory, collaborate with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to check their protected area portal and look at Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI);
  - Focus on integrating projects and use donors/project leaders to help collect data.
  - The Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) Network offered to provide the Excel files containing baseline information on LMMA/MPA/SMA/CBFM sites collected in 2009, could be supplemented with information on projects, initiatives, policies and plans at various scales.

#### **Section 5: Other matters**

##### **12. Next Meeting**

- The CFWG settled for the next meeting to be held around the next RTMCF or at the margins of the HoF meeting in March 2019.
- Funding for the RTMCF 2 is yet to be secured.

#### **Section 6: Additional agenda items**

##### **13. Value loss of sea cucumber fisheries**

- A paper was presented estimating that the value of the sea cucumber fishery could at least double if measures were taken to improve governance and reduce corruption. Addressing bad governance and improving the implementation of key regulations could provide major dividends for coastal communities.

- The CFWG endorsed the paper (Appendix E) and agreed to raise to higher levels since it coincides with several indicators on the Report Card.
- In addition to political interference in BDM fisheries management, another issue to be raised is the need for resourcing for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and effective awareness.
- The issues raised in the paper would form the basis for the submission to Pacific Island (PI) Leaders at their next meeting in Nauru as part of the standing agenda item on Coastal Fisheries (under which the CFWG was formed).

#### 14. MCS in Coastal Fisheries

- An MCS course in Coastal Fisheries is being developed by SPC as an add-on to the FFA MCS foundation course. The initiative was endorsed by the CFWG. An outline will be shared with the CFWG for comment and the course will be presented at the next meeting.

#### 15. Active participation with leaders

- The meeting encouraged increased donor coordination on coastal fisheries issues and this could be in the fringes of future CFWG meetings.
- It was agreed to investigate whether it would be fruitful to include coastal fisheries in the Biketawa Plus Declaration on regional security. The donors will send the draft text to the CFWG to understand the exact scope and focus of the declaration.

## Appendix A

### Coastal Fisheries Working Group Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018, Noumea, New Caledonia

#### VENUE

SPC Noumea Admin Conference Room. Top floor Building 2

Meeting will progress and will take recess for morning tea (1000hrs – 1015hrs) and lunch (1200hrs – 1300hrs). Meeting will aim to end at around 3:00pm having afternoon tea then disperse.

Start: 8:30am Finish: 3:00pm

#### AGENDA

<b>SECTION 1: Introduction</b>	
1. Opening of Meeting 2. Apologies and Adoption of Agenda 3. Adoption of minutes from first meeting	Moses Amos
<b>SECTION 2: Planned activities under the CFWG</b>	
4. Implementing the ToR for the CFWG	All
5. Revise community representative selection procedure & criteria	Lindsay Chapman
6. Regional implementation/activity plan for CFWG	Neil Andrew
7. Update/progress on the 2018 Coastal Fisheries report card	Connie Donato – Hunt
8. Coastal Fisheries Law and Policy 'Task Force' ToR and progress report	Hugh Govan and Ariella D'Andrea
9. Community priorities and/or issues with Coastal Fisheries Management	Community priorities and/or issues with Coastal Fisheries Management
<b>SECTION 3: Outcomes of RTMCF</b>	
10. Key outcomes of RTMCF Progress report	Lindsay Chapman
<b>SECTION 4: CBFM Activities across the Region</b>	
11. Discuss scope of work, Mapping of CBFM Activities, Avoid duplication and Inventory of CBFM/CBRM projects in the region.	Lindsay Chapman, Aaranteiti Kiareti
<b>SECTION 5: Other matters</b>	
12. Next Meeting	CFWG
<b>SECTION 6: Items added to Agenda</b>	
Discussion on: 13. Value loss of sea cucumber fisheries 14. MCS in Coastal Fisheries 15. Seeking the endorsement of the CFWG to engage and highlight the subject at regional ministerial meetings and other gatherings for Political support for increasing the sustainable returns from sea cucumber fisheries	CFWG
Meeting ends	

## Appendix B

# Coastal Fisheries Working Group

### Revised specification of the membership, roles and responsibilities of the CFWG<sup>1</sup>

#### **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 Leaders<sup>2</sup>:
  - 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 subregional 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.

<sup>1</sup> Developed after MSWG18, HoF10,FFC102, FFC103 and MWSG19 and reviewed at CFWG1 and 2.

<sup>2</sup> If there is a divergence of opinion on key issues this may be reported as such to leaders

- **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.

### **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) – three participants (rotating at each meeting). The participants would be requested from countries in rotation through each sub-region, out of synch with the countries of national fisheries representatives to ensure a wider country representation in each meeting. SPC will communicate a call for nominations to appropriate countries in advance of each meeting indicating the selection criteria<sup>3</sup> for community representatives and any necessary details of the meeting. This will be through CFWG CSO's contacts in the first instance and if no nomination is received within 2 weeks, a follow-up communication shall be sent to government with copy to CFWG. Nominations will be received by the CFWG and due selection will 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 sub region after each meeting)
- Donors – 2 Participants (to be reviewed every two years through expressions of interest)

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<sup>3</sup> 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) Is not restricted to communities practicing CBRM

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.

## Appendix C

 Pacific Community Communauté du Pacifique	<b>PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC)</b>
<b>SECOND MEETING OF COASTAL FISHERIES WORKING GROUP</b> <b>Noumea, April 18th, 2018</b>	

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>Regional implementation/activity plan for the CFWG/New Song</b>
<b>Paper Title:</b>	<b>Discussion Paper on regional implementation/activity plan for the CFWG/New Song</b>
<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Neil Andrew</b>

### Issue

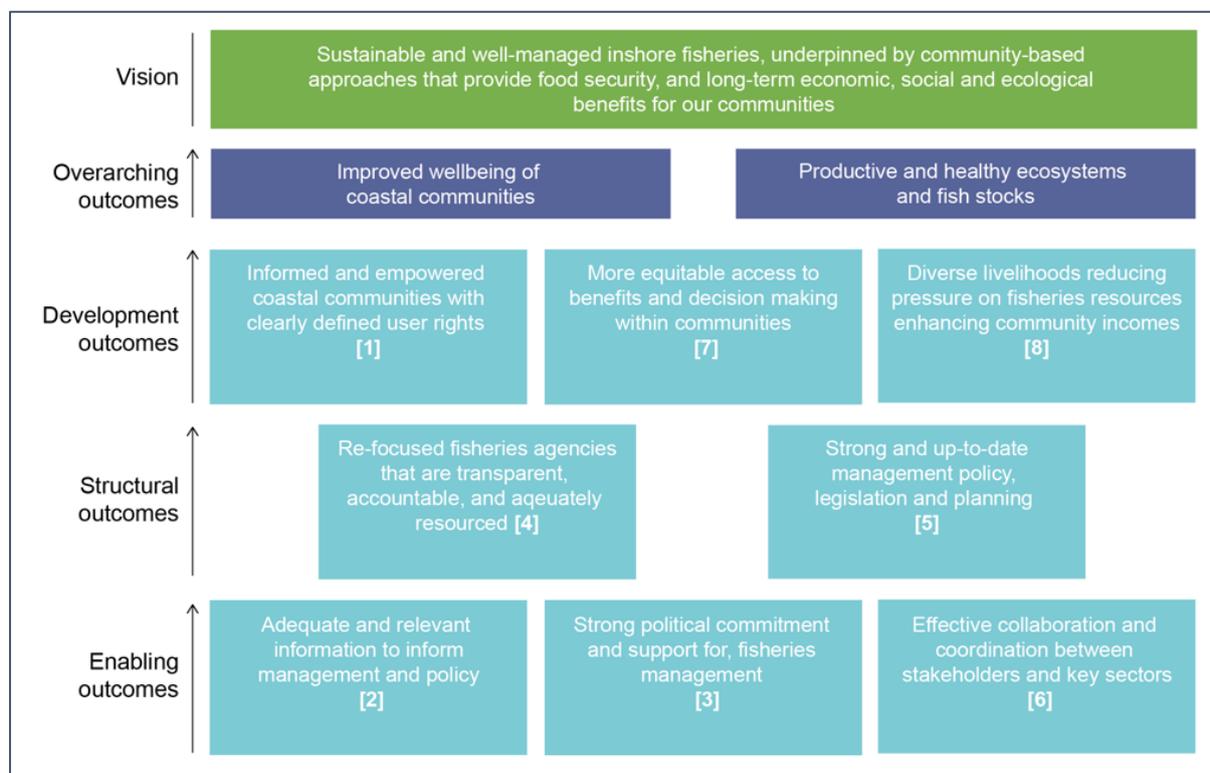
The New Song articulates a new vision for coastal fisheries that seeks to reverse declines and secure the supply of coastal fish into an uncertain and changing future. The primary vehicle to achieve the New Song's vision are community-based approaches to the fisheries management challenge.

The elegance of the New Song is in its vision and clear statement of the outcomes needed to realize that vision. The New Song present a regional response to the demand by regional leaders for change, but is largely reliant on national activities to make those changes. Nevertheless, by their nature coastal fisheries reside within national jurisdictions and the capacities and willingness of governments and communities to improve their condition. The challenge for the region is to leverage the momentum and profile given by the New Song into change at national and subnational scales.

There are hundreds, possibly thousands of coastal fisheries and community-based rural development initiatives and projects in region. Some are managed by governments and many are implemented by non-State actors largely outside government influence. To achieve the New Song vision these many initiatives need to aligned with national priorities and in support of the regional ambitions of the New Song. Activities, outcomes and impacts at the national scale are central to the New Song. National impact pathways need to formalized into national strategies and implementation plans. National pathways for change need to be supported by a regional impact pathways with a set of activities, outcomes and impacts that support and progress at national scales – to ensure that progress is more than just the sum of national outcomes.

Framed in the language of Theory of Change, the New Song articulates the 'top half' of a New Song ToC. It presents a vision, impacts, outcomes and indicators of progress at a regional scale (Figure). SPC has subsequently developed a results framework to guide the

M&E needed to measure progress and evaluate initiatives. Missing are national impact pathways and implementation plans, and the set of activities required at the regional scale to support them.



The CFWG is designed to add value to this challenge by promoting and advocating for coastal fisheries, and coordinating national, subnational and regional implementation. The CFWG ToR are explicit about some activities to be undertaken by the CFWG; others will come from the group itself and its members. Although primary guidance is provided by the New Song and the MSG roadmap, the preamble to the CFWG ToR notes regional leaders' reference to BdM fisheries, and nutritional security and public health, notably NCDs. These issues are not emphasized in the New Song.

### Activities

Below we summarise a set of activities for the first 12 months of the CFWG. We have taken a relatively narrow view of the range of activities to be considered. Only those activities where the CFWG has a role in implementing, resourcing or initiating are included.

The activities are organized by New Song outcomes but their contribution is not restricted to that outcome. The absence of CFWG activities on an Outcome in 2018 does not signal a lack of importance or the absence of activities in the region.

Activity	Lead	Completion
<b>Outcome 1: Informed and empowered communities</b>		
Refine process for engaging with community and national agency representation on CFWG	SPC	Q3 2018
<b>Outcome 2: Adequate and relevant information to inform management and policy</b>		
CFWG meeting notes to be placed on public website	SPC	Q2 2018
<b>Outcome 3: Strong national and sub-national political support for coastal fisheries</b>		
Support creation of national forums to integrate activities under New Song	SPC and various	Q1 2019
Prepare BdM report card or policy brief for submission to FFC	SPC and H Govan	Q2 2018
<b>Outcome 4: Refocused fisheries agencies supporting coastal fisheries and CEAFM</b>		
Support review and re-organization of national fisheries departments	SPC and UoW	Q4 2018
Provide guidance to national agencies for implementation of CEAFM	SPC and various	Q2 2019
<b>Outcome 5: Strong and up-to-date policy and legislation</b>		
Establishment of coastal fisheries law and policy task force with agreed ToRs (also contributes to Outcome 1 etc)	SPC/ H Govan	Q2 2018
Complete inventory of national and subnational laws, regulations and ordinances	Task force	Q4 2018
Review New Song indicators for legal and policy dimensions, including user rights	Task force	Q2 2019
Identification of effective operation of law and policy in the Pacific context	Task force	Q2 2019
<b>Outcome 6: Effective collaboration and coordination among stakeholders</b>		
Initiate bilateral project mapping to promote integration of CEAFM projects (where possible build on existing dbases)	SPC and various	Q4 2018
Support countries to revise national inventories of CEAFM sites	SPC and various	Q2 2019
<b>Outcome 7: More equitable access to benefits within communities</b>		
Complete Pacific gender toolkit and publish on SPC website	SPC and various	Q2 2019
Hold Pacific gender practitioners training and exchange workshop	SPC and various	Q4 2018
<b>Outcome 8: Diverse livelihoods reducing pressure on fisheries resources</b>		
None in 2018		
<b>Cross-cutting themes</b>		
Complete and agree on planned activities for 2018 to Q2 2019	Neil and All	Q3 2018

Implementation of NS results framework	SPC	Q4 2018 and annually
Review New Song Indicators;	SPC	Q4 2018 and annually
Peer-review the annual Coastal Fisheries Report Card for submission to FFC	SPC	Q4 2018 and annually
Creation of a shared calendar for important events/trips relevant to the CFWG	SPC	Q3 2018
Seek funding for RTMCF meeting in Q4 2018	SPC and donors	Q3 2018

## Appendix D

### Task force on coastal fisheries law and policy

#### *Terms of Reference*

**Aim:** To provide advice to the Coastal Fisheries Working Group (CFWG) coordinated by the Pacific Community (SPC) to improve the legal and policy frameworks for Pacific coastal fisheries management, including aquaculture.

**Background:** At the 47<sup>th</sup> Pacific Island Forum held in September 2016, Pacific Island Leaders tasked the SPC to coordinate with national fisheries agencies, regional agencies from the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), and regional and national community groups to strengthen support and resourcing for coastal fisheries management. In response to this request, the CFWG held its first meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 and agreed on the need to establish a coastal fisheries law and policy “task force” to support its work. These terms of reference were endorsed at the Second CFWG meeting on 18 April 2018.

In order to support sustainable coastal fisheries in the Pacific, regional policy documents highlight the need for PICTs’ coastal fisheries law and policy to be strong and up-to-date. Achieving this goal has particular challenges in the Pacific context because of the important role played by customary rights and local tenure arrangements over inshore waters. PICT policies increasingly recognise this context and emphasize the need for a solid legal framework to support community rights and to ensure that these can be used to assist with coastal fisheries management, food security and sustainable development goals.

Because of this unique context characterised by distinctive marine tenure systems, model legislation or policy examples from other regions may not deliver optimal outcomes in the Pacific. There is abundant and diverse practical experience already on the ground attempting to support coastal fisheries management, and it is crucial to engage with these practitioners to develop and tailor legal and policy support at the local, sub-national and national levels, in accordance with the needs and priorities expressed by PICTs.

The specific policy areas that this task force would address include, but are not limited, to Outcome 1c and Outcome 5 of the Noumea Strategy, Objective 1.1 of the MSG Roadmap and Goal 1 and Strategy 4 of the Future of Fisheries Roadmap. This also relates to substantial parts of the FAO SSF Guidelines including sections 5 and 10.

**Composition:** A small mix of legal and policy advisors, fisheries managers and field workers endorsed by the CFWG, including suitable national and international candidates.

Members should be currently working in the Pacific or have significant experience in providing advice for law or policy formulation in coastal fisheries/resource management in the region.

They should be motivated to produce deliverables and commit time to work via email and Skype on delivering the assignments.

**Reporting and term:** The Task Force will report progress to the CFWG twice a year, ideally at each CFWG meeting, until tasks are completed or seek an alternative structure should the need be identified.

To the extent that activities do not currently have funding, the Task Force will work with the CFWG to identify priorities and feasible tasks, which may include the need to start from topics or countries for which funding or projects are currently implemented.

**Assignments:** Initial tasks will include:

1. Identify constraints upon the effective operation of law and policy in the Pacific context and consider appropriate responses to those constraints, in particular:
  - a) Consider the impact of differing PICT contexts upon the suitability of various legal and policy options including, for example, the optimum management unit (e.g. villages, districts, LLGs, Provinces, Island Councils);
  - b) Consider the manner in which governance mechanisms translate into real world practice (i.e. how to make policy become action; how to increase the chances of compliance with a legal provision and facilitate enforcement, including by reducing gaps and loopholes);
2. Identify key indicators for the Noumea Strategy outcomes relating to coastal fisheries law and policy development;
3. Assist in mapping out the different levels of government involved in fisheries and aquaculture management in each PICT down to the community level, and in identifying their jurisdiction with regard to fisheries resources;
4. Assist in compiling an inventory and repository of relevant coastal fisheries and aquaculture legislation, policies and bye-laws;
5. Identify ways in which law and policy can provide recognition and support for community “empowerment” in coastal fisheries management in the Pacific, in particular:
  - a) Consider the types of rights that may be required for successful community management in the Pacific and linkages to local, customary and traditional management-related practices, where relevant;
  - b) Identify and assess samples of relevant legal and policy provisions that may function as a model for other PICTs in the region;
6. Advise the CFWG on legal and policy issues relating to coastal fisheries and aquaculture as required (e.g. in time for reporting to leaders or ministers) and perform other priority actions relating to law and/or policy identified by the CFWG.

## Appendix E

 Pacific Community Communauté du Pacifique	<b>PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC)</b>
<b>SECOND MEETING OF COASTAL FISHERIES WORKING GROUP</b> <b>Noumea, April 18th, 2018</b>	

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>Value lost and to be gained for Sea Cucumber Fisheries</b>
<b>Paper Title:</b>	<b>Political support for increasing the sustainable returns for communities and national governments from sea cucumber fisheries</b>
<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Hugh Govan, Consultant, SPC PROP, Bêche de Mer</b>

### Issue

Pacific Island leaders and regional policies have clearly recognized the importance of coastal fisheries for food security, livelihoods and income. The most valuable coastal fishery in a number of PICTs is sea cucumbers, in several cases second in value only to the offshore fishery for tuna.

Results from the SPC PROP project on sea cucumber fisheries has confirmed previous findings that the high value of processed sea cucumber (bêche de mer) in the Asian markets has led to severe overexploitation which in combination with insufficient enforcement of regulations is leading to spiraling decline in landings and value generated by the fishery.

Work commissioned under PROP and previous SPC projects has produced alarming evidence that the inadequate management of sea cucumber fisheries is resulting in substantial losses to communities and national revenue:

- Modeling of sea cucumber fisheries by Carleton et al. (2013) found that more conservative management and more rigorous enforcement of regulations would likely increase the average annual value to countries of bêche de mer exports by 80-105%.
- Comparison of historical landings and application of conservative export values suggest that at least double the current average annual revenue should be achievable from fisheries if recovery is allowed and sustained (MSG FTAC Brief 4.2).
- Analysis of the recorded size composition of landings of 4 species of sea cucumber estimates that if minimum legal size limits were enforced landing and revenue from all these species would increase, in some cases up to 97% more weight and up to 144% more revenue.

The above findings strongly suggest that enforcement of simple management rules could generate at least double the revenue but improvements in processing and interventions to ensure fairer pricing could result in triple the revenue. To put this into context, for Melanesian countries alone the current estimated export value of USD 14 million per year could exceed USD 40 million. By comparison, the value of aquaculture in these countries is considerably lower, around USD 4 million (Gillett 2016).

Achieving substantially improved management is on the face of it relatively simple, involving greater control and oversight of traders and exporters to ensure rigid adherence to minimum size limits at least and other regulations and license conditions as appropriate.

However, implementation and enforcement of management plans are consistently undermined by political and/or trader interference or influence - manifest by examples including:

- Declaring open season of the sea cucumber fishery before stocks are adequately recovered
- Declaring open season dates before regulations and/or management systems are in place and operational
- Interfering with due enforcement of regulations or penalties
- Exemptions or other mechanisms that suspend technical or best practice precautionary regulations
- Undue or inappropriate influence in licencing procedures
- Lack of emphasis or support to implement regulations or criteria under the management plan (exporter criteria, export levies, minimum sizes).
- Setting inappropriately low minimum buyer prices or export values

### Proposal

It is important that the CFWG recognize the important dividends that resolving this issue will yield to communities and national revenue. The wider political and governance elements at stake are beyond the capacity of fisheries agencies to address and require wider and higher level interventions.

The MSG's Fisheries Technical Advisory Committee proposed a high level political approach to addressing the issue under their work program which was subsequently approved at the SOM. The approach involves engaging at all possible regional ministerial and other gatherings with the object of urging leaders, ministers, politicians and decision-makers to:

- Recognize the substantial losses to community and government revenue incurred through poor management of sea cucumber fisheries
- Reduce political interference and opportunities for corruption that undermine sustainable management aimed at sustaining maximum long term benefits from sea cucumber fisheries
- Ensure resourcing for adequate enforcement of minimum size limits and other appropriate regulations making use of cost recovery mechanisms where needed

The support of CFWG is requested to highlight this as an important regional management issue to be raised through appropriate channels at regional meetings including PIFL, FFEM, FFC Official, FFC Ministerial, MSWG, HoF, CROP heads. The CFWG is further requested to consider including this for reporting as an important issue under Goal 1 of the coastal fisheries report card which is to be presented to HOF, FFC officials and FFCMIN meetings.

### Information sources

- Carleton C., Hambrey J., Govan H. and Medley P. 2013. Effective management of sea cucumber fisheries and the bêche-de-mer trade in Melanesia: Bringing the industry under rational control. A report prepared by Nautilus Consultants on behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. Noumea, New Caledonia, Secretariat of the Pacific Community. 55 p. + annexes + appendices[<http://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/3e9e2>]
- Govan, H. 2017. Sea cucumber fisheries and management in Melanesia: Review and policy briefs. For the MSG Fisheries Technical Advisory Committee <http://www.msgsec.info/index.php/publicationsdocuments-a-downloads/study-reports>
- Govan, H. and R. Masu. 2018. "Melanesian Spearhead Group of countries tackles sea cucumber fisheries management" News item, SPC Fisheries Newsletter. #154 <http://www.spc.int/coastfish/en/publications/bulletins/fisheries-newsletter.html>

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Lee, S., Govan, H., Wolff, M., Purcell, S. Submitted. Economic and other benefits of enforcing size limits in Melanesian sea cucumber fisheries. SPC Fisheries Newsletter.

MSG FTAC agreed outcomes on coastal fisheries and plan of action on sea cucumber fishery management and bêche de mer trade. Outcomes of 6th MSG FTAC Meeting, Port Vila, 13-17 November 2017