

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

TO : Representatives of Governments and Administrations ; **No. :** 18/27
SPC Fisheries Contacts; Fisheries Organisations and
Observers

FILE : CONF 2/9/36/1 **DATE :** 7 December 2018

SUBJECT : **Eleventh SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting and related project meetings: 11-15 March 2019, Noumea, New Caledonia**

PURPOSE OF NOTICE

1. This is an invitation to The Pacific Community's Eleventh Heads of Fisheries Meeting (HoF11), to be held in Noumea at the SPC Conference Centre from 11 to 15 March 2019. Other meetings will be held on this occasion, including the fourth meeting of the Coastal Fisheries Working Group (CFWG) and the steering committee meetings for two New Zealand-funded projects¹ and for the *Pacific European Union Marine Partnership* (PEUMP) project.
2. This notice is:
 - A request for SPC member country governments and territory administrations to nominate one official senior fisheries representative to the HoF11 meeting;
 - An invitation to other agencies, organisations, institutions and individuals with an interest in fisheries in the Pacific Islands region to attend the meeting and take the opportunity for discussion with Pacific Island fisheries representatives and specialists, and with each other. There is no registration fee, and given sufficient notice, SPC can help in negotiating special rates at local hotels; and,
 - An invitation to members to propose discussion topics for inclusion in the agenda where possible (please submit these on or before 18th January 2019).
3. Financial support is available for the attendance of one representative from SPC island member government or administration (the Head of Fisheries or their delegate), that are up-to-date with SPC membership contribution, plus the travel costs of the Chair of the meeting.
4. All nominations for SPC funded participants:
 - Need to be received by **Friday 18 January 2019** 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 accepted within one month (11th February 2019) of the meeting dates.

¹ Effective Coastal Fisheries Management, Sustainable Pacific Aquaculture development, Management Strategy Evaluation, and Pacific Fisheries Leadership Program

SPC Headquarters: Noumea, New Caledonia. Regional offices: Suva, Fiji and Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
Country office: Honiara, Solomon Islands. For contact details – Website: www.spc.int Email: spc@spc.int

Siège de la CPS : Noumea (Nouvelle-Calédonie). Antennes régionales : Suva (Fiji) et Pohnpei (États fédérés de Micronésie)
Bureau de pays : Honiara (Îles Salomon). Site Web : www.spc.int Courriel : spc@spc.int

PURPOSE OF MEETING

5. The SPC HoF meeting provides oversight of all SPC work in the field of fisheries and aquaculture, as well as an opportunity to discuss topics of special interest. It covers both of SPC's Oceanic and Coastal Fisheries Programmes, which form the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystem Division (FAME).
6. The Heads of Fisheries meeting is intended to cover the entire range of work of national and territorial 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

7. The following items will be included in the three-day HoF11 agenda:
 - Discussing the FAME Business Plan with feedback from members on future direction of FAME against country needs, and the implementation of the “New song for coastal fisheries”;
 - Discuss the new coastal fisheries governance framework that addresses the reporting needs and requirements on coastal fisheries linking to the various fisheries ministers meetings up to the leaders’ 2016 declaration on strengthening coastal fisheries management;
 - Reports on activities and discussion of work plans for each FAME Division Programme, including the action plans adopted at the first and second Regional Technical Meetings on Coastal Fisheries (RTMCF) and the proposal to hold annual Heads of Fisheries and RTMCF meetings; and,
 - Possible discussion of topical issues in oceanic and coastal fisheries to be finalised in by 18th January 2019 include:
 - The Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Sciences (PCCOS)
 - Developments in science for tuna fisheries management
 - Advances in data collection and reporting across fisheries
 - Science supporting an ecosystems based approach to tuna fisheries management
 - Coastal fisheries Community Based Resource Management
 - Aquaculture development
 - Data poor coastal fisheries
 - Management of sea cucumber resources and value chain for marketing
 - Gender and social inclusion in small-scale fisheries, and
 - Improving reporting for regional and international commitments.
8. The remaining two days will cover several project steering committee meetings for the SPC-led New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) projects and for the European Union PEUMP project, as well as the fourth meeting of the CFWG.
9. **Discussion topic proposals from members for the inclusion of other topics are welcome, and should be submitted on or before 18th January 2019.** The draft agenda will be posted on the SPC website early in February 2019.
10. There will be a brief period allocated for statements by “other organisations”. If any organisation or individual wishes to raise a fisheries issue of wide significance then it should be proposed to the Chair at the start of the meeting during the discussion of the agenda, and agreed by the meeting for inclusion. Other information should be provided as poster presentations (space will be made available for those who request it), or at an informal lunchtime session or an evening session.
11. Members are strongly encouraged to provide for the meeting a brief country statement of 3-5 pages highlighting information on fisheries 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 01st February to guide members.

12. Some reports and working/information papers of recent meetings will be available on the SPC website at the address <http://www.spc.int/fame/> and working papers for this meeting will be available at <http://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings> in February 2019.

LANGUAGE

13. As an official SPC sectoral meeting, the HoF11 meeting will be conducted in both English and French, with simultaneous interpretation, and translation of key papers.

REPORT

14. 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 “Outputs” of the meeting. This will be published on the meeting webpage (<http://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings>) once the HoF11 concludes.

TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS

15. An economy class return ticket by the most economical route will be provided to all SPC-funded representatives. If participants choose to travel by a route other than the one proposed, all additional costs will be at their own expense. Travel orders cannot be issued until the official nominations have been received.
16. A per diem will be provided to SPC-funded official representatives as follow:
- Hotel accommodation in Noumea will be booked and paid for by the SPC.
 - Participants will receive 45% of per diem (XPF 9,000 per day) to cover food and incidentals during their time in Noumea.
 - Hotel accommodation during transit stops will need to be booked and paid for by the participant and SPC will reimburse the full per diem on the provision of a hotel receipt, or part per diem with no hotel receipt, at the SPC per-diem rate for that location.
17. SPC will organise airport transportation from Tontouta International Airport to Noumea (55 km) and from Noumea back to Tontouta. This service is complimentary for all SPC-funded participants and non-funded participants who request it. Please ensure that the SPC HoF Conference Organiser is provided with a copy of your travel itinerary in advance of your arrival.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

18. SPC is pleased to advise that visas are **no longer** required for entry into New Caledonia for stays of up to three months for nationals of all SPC member countries.
19. Transit visas are the responsibility of delegates. However, SPC may be able to assist, through a letter of introduction, if required.
20. To facilitate administrative arrangements we will also require passport details of each delegate. We would be very grateful if each delegate could send to the HoF Conference Organiser Ms Seya Brighton, by e-mail (SeyaB@spc.int) or fax (+687 26.38.18), a copy of the photo page of your passport as well as your itineraries with a copy to Genevieve Delahaie (GenevieveD@spc.int).

MEETING CONTACTS

- Official nominations to: Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (email: SeyaB@spc.int) and (GenevieveD@spc.int) , fax +687 263818)

- Agenda items, papers, other enquiries, etc.: Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystem Division (email: SeyaB@spc.int)
- Administrative issues, visa documentation, hotel bookings, etc.: Ms Seya Brighton, (email: SeyaB@spc.int; tel +687 260953, fax +687 263818) with a copy to Genevieve Delahaie (GenevieveD@spc.int).

INSURANCE

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Diver', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cameron Diver
Deputy Director-General

Original text: English