

# 12<sup>TH</sup> HEADS OF FISHERIES MEETING

## PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

### Snapshot:

- The majority of the survey respondents highly rated the meeting content, organisation and participation as a whole (81% on average rated various aspects good or excellent), and agreed that the meeting content matched the purpose of the meeting (58% agreed, 27% strongly agreed).
- The meeting organisation received the highest rating (65% excellent, 35% good), while the time allocated for sessions received the lowest rating (54% good or above, and 46% average or below).
- 77% of the respondents agreed that they gained new knowledge at the HOF12 meeting.



## Introduction

The 12<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries Meeting (HoF11) was held online utilising the 'Zoom' platform, over daily 2.5-hour sessions from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020. The HoF12 was attended by 115 participants from 20 member countries and territories, as well as donor partners, development partners, NGOs and civil society organisations. In addition, SPC staff participated in various sessions throughout the three days.

Delegates were asked to rate the meeting in terms of the organisation, participation and content. All aspects received very positive ratings, with an average of 81% ratings of either good or excellent. The participants rated the virtual meeting organisation very highly (65% excellent, 35% good) and the majority considered that the content was good or excellent (38% and 42% respectively). The time allocated for the sessions was the lowest rated, with 42% rating this as average and 4% as poor. However, 54% still rated it as good or excellent.

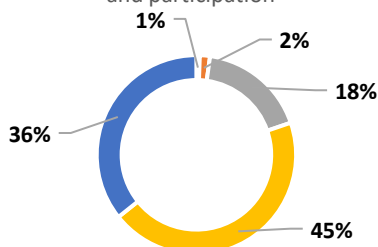
"Excellent setting and arrangement. Well done to the organising committee and the personnel behind the scenes in making this work and worth participating via Zoom."

"I found all the sessions and topics covered most useful. My first time to participate in a HoF meeting and I greatly appreciated the points discussed and the perspective from all the Head of Fisheries around the region as well as the responses from the SPC team."

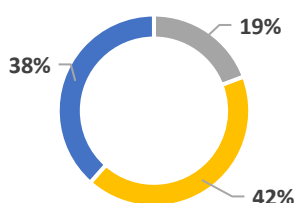


## Meeting content & participation

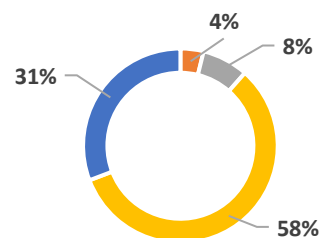
Overall rating of meeting content, organisation and participation



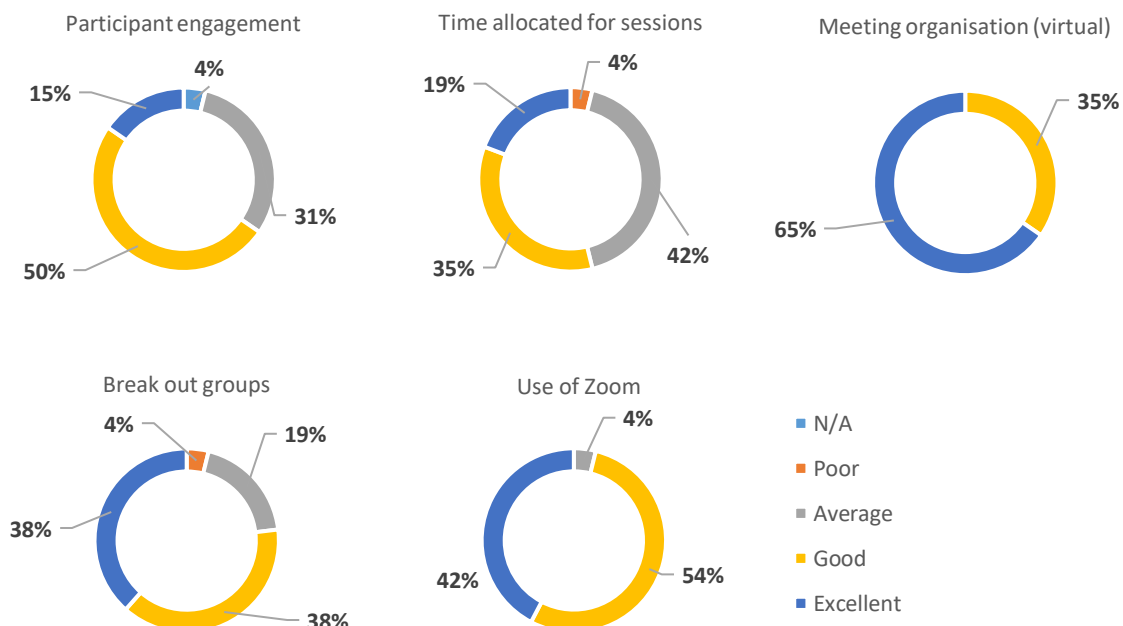
Meeting content



Opportunity for feedback



■ N/A ■ Poor ■ Average ■ Good ■ Excellent



**Most useful:** Many of the participants mentioned that the use of the virtual format was a useful experience in terms of learning how these kind of meetings can be done effectively. Some participants mentioned that having the smaller breakout groups in the virtual format allowed everyone to participate in a meaningful discussion. Participants also found the open discussions in plenary were very useful for understanding the views from Heads of Fisheries across the region.

**Least useful:** Most participants commented there was nothing least useful about the meeting. Some commented on the lack of time to discuss issues in breakout sessions, as well as connectivity issues. Two specific comments focused on Day 2 of the meeting which they felt did not engage participants as well as it could have. The virtual format was also felt to be a limitation in terms of the lack of side-meetings and opportunities for informal discussions. The use of polling in Zoom was not considered to be useful as the procedures for its implementation in this meeting were unclear.

**Sessions:** All of the session received ratings of over 60% good or excellent. The sessions on FAME Results Reporting 2019 and FAME Priorities and Direction in 2020 and beyond received the highest ratings, with 81% good or excellent. The sessions on COVID-19 impacts and priorities and scaling-up Community-Based Fisheries Management in a COVID-19 context received the lowest ratings, with 4% rating these sessions as poor. Comments associated with these ratings suggest that it was felt that the discussions were limited either by time or format.

“The meeting reinforced my thinking regarding the challenges we face in the COVID environment. It was gratifying to see that others were thinking along similar lines.”  
 “Resource papers sent in advance; short and focused.”

“Breakout groups worked very smoothly. I had no idea they could be done online like that.”  
 “Having smaller break out groups was good to allow everyone to participate in discussion.”

“Not having the ability to face to face side discussions is somewhat limiting, but reality of the current circumstances.”  
 “More time could be provided for group discussions as 30 mins was not enough for some countries especially with internet issues.”

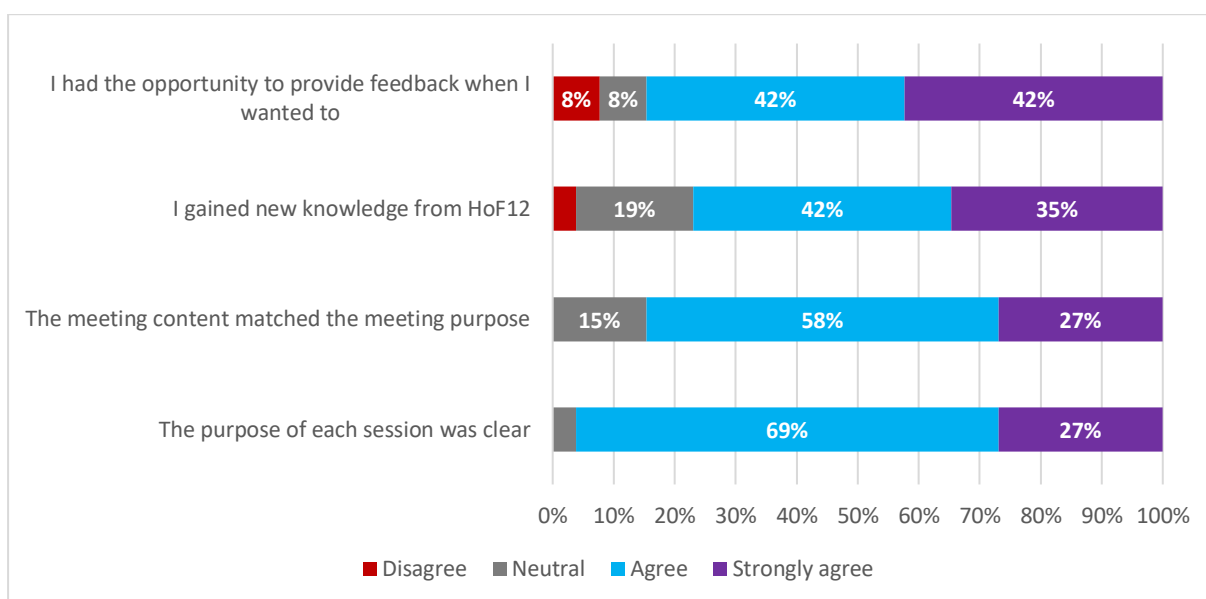


Figure 1: Delegate feedback on meeting content and participation



## Meeting Sessions

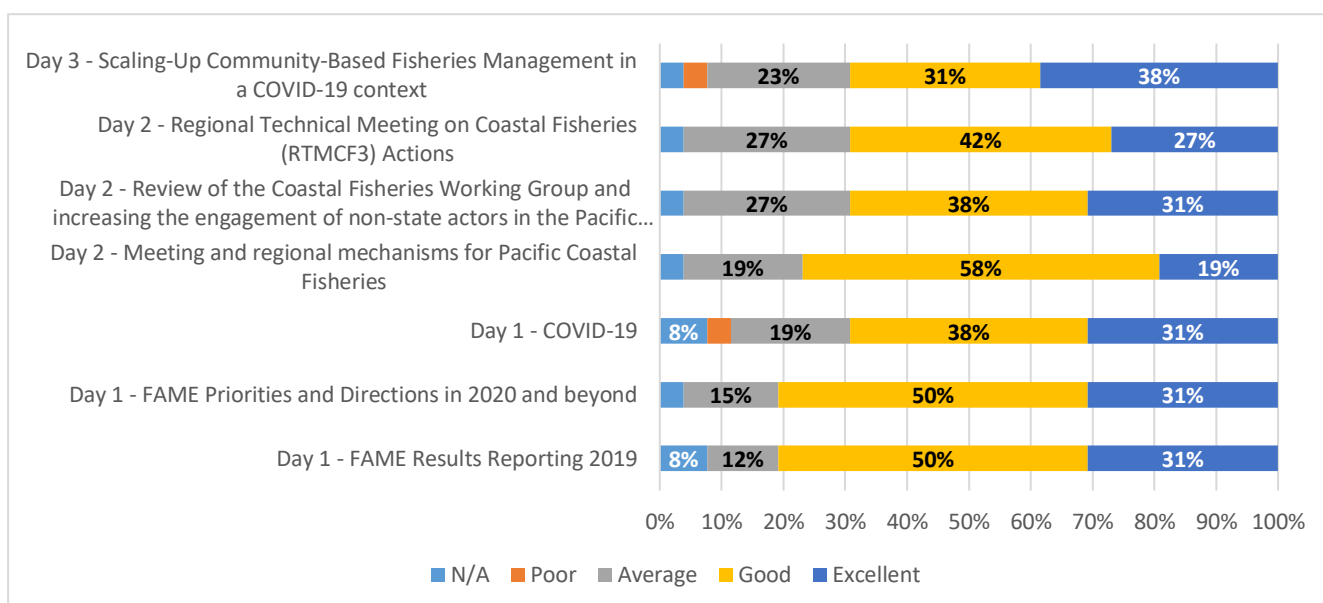


Figure 2: Delegate feedback on individual sessions



## Suggestions for improvement

Many of the participants suggested having more time for the breakout sessions, and that the virtual meeting could be a consideration for HoF to meet in alternate years.

Other suggestions for improvements for future HOF meetings included:

- Time limitations should not impede the progress of an important discussion.
- More clarity on what HoF wants to bring to the Regional Fisheries Ministers' Meeting (RFMM).
- Clear guidance on how each meeting reports outcomes to the next (e.g. Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries (RTMCF) to HoF to RFMM).
- Improving processes for consensus and decision making in the virtual format.

- Support in-country for virtual meeting participation, including sourcing of equipment and use of SPC offices in-country where possible.
- Providing breakout session questions in advance to enable better preparation for discussions.
- Cameras which focus on the speakers in the SPC conference room would be helpful.
- Breakout group facilitation needs to be efficient and well-prepared to maximise the use of time.

## Annex: Result tables

### Question 1: Please rate the following aspects of HoF12

	N/A	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Meeting content	0%	0%	19%	42%	38%
Opportunity for feedback	0%	4%	8%	58%	31%
Participant engagement	4%	0%	31%	50%	15%
Time allocated for sessions	0%	4%	42%	35%	19%
Meeting organisation (virtual)	0%	0%	0%	35%	65%
Break out groups	0%	4%	19%	38%	38%
Use of Zoom	0%	0%	4%	54%	42%

### Question 2: To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
The purpose of each session was clear	0%	4%	69%	27%
The meeting content matched the meeting purpose	0%	15%	58%	27%
I gained new knowledge from HoF12	4%	19%	42%	35%
I had the opportunity to provide feedback when I wanted to	8%	8%	42%	42%

### Question 3: Please rate the following sessions at HoF12:

	N/A	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Day 1 - FAME Results Reporting 2019	8%	0%	12%	50%	31%
Day 1 - FAME Priorities and Directions in 2020 and beyond	4%	0%	15%	50%	31%
Day 1 - COVID-19	8%	4%	19%	38%	31%
Day 2 - Meeting and regional mechanisms for Pacific Coastal Fisheries	4%	0%	19%	58%	19%
Day 2 - Review of the Coastal Fisheries Working Group and increasing the engagement of non-state actors in the Pacific Islands regional coastal fisheries mechanisms	4%	0%	27%	38%	31%
Day 2 - Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries (RTMCF3) Actions	4%	0%	27%	42%	27%
Day 3 - Scaling-Up Community-Based Fisheries Management in a COVID-19 context	4%	4%	23%	31%	38%

The HOF12 meeting was supported by the Australian Government.

For further information on this feedback, contact Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning team, FAME, [connied@spc.int](mailto:connied@spc.int) or [terryo@spc.int](mailto:terryo@spc.int)

For meeting papers and presentations visit <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/250>

