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Title:	Reports from the Fourth Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture and from the First Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue
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Summary/short description/key points:

The **Fourth Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA4)** was held online using a virtual platform, from 12–15 October 2021. This was the first meeting to include the **Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD1)**, convened by and focused on civil society organisations (CSO) and other non-state actors (NSA).

The purpose of the RTMCFA4 was to bring together coastal fisheries and aquaculture scientists and technical experts in the Pacific to discuss important technical and scientific gaps, needs, challenges and opportunities.

The purpose of the CBFD is to give the CSO/NSA community an opportunity to provide information and advice on key needs and issues, through the RTMCFA to the Heads of Fisheries, to assist with informing Ministers and Pacific Leaders on priority issues associated with the sustainable use of coastal fisheries resources.

The full outcomes of the RTMCFA4 and CBFD1 are provided in Background Papers 2 and 3, respectively. The participants of both meetings were asked to identify, discuss and agree on clear priority issues to be transmitted to the HoF14 for consideration. This Working Paper presents those key recommendations from the RTMCFA4 and the CBFD1.

Recommendations:

Members are invited to:

1. Note the Outcomes and Actions Report from the RTMCFA4 (provided as Background Paper 2).
2. Consider and make determinations on the specific requests from the RTMCFA4 to HoF14.
3. Note the Outcomes Report from the CBFD1 (provided as Background Paper 3).
4. Consider and make determinations on the specific requests from the CBFD1 to HoF14.

Introduction

1. The **Fourth Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA4)** was held online using a virtual platform, from 12–15 October 2021, and was chaired by Glen Joseph, Director, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority.
2. The RTMCFA4 brings together coastal fisheries and aquaculture scientists and technical experts in the Pacific to discuss important technical and scientific gaps, needs, challenges and opportunities. 21 SPC member countries and territories participated, with over 132 participants from members, observers, civil society organisations (CSOs), non-government organisations (NGOs) and other non-state actors (NSAs).
3. RTMCFA4 was the first meeting to include the **Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD)**, convened by and focused on civil society organisations (CSO) and other non-state actors (NSA), with SPC FAME as the secretariat. The purpose of the CBFD is to give the CSO and other NSA community an opportunity to provide information and advice on key needs and issues, through the RTMCFA to the Heads of Fisheries, to assist with informing Ministers and Pacific Leaders on priority issues associated with the sustainable use of coastal fisheries resources.
4. The CBFD also provides an opportunity to share experiences and lessons from community-based initiatives to strengthen efforts to maintain productive and healthy ecosystems and their associated fisheries resources that are critical to the wellbeing of coastal communities.
5. The CBFD1 was held as a virtual meeting on 13 October 2021, and was facilitated by an independent convenor, Kesaia Tabunakawai from Fiji, with at least 38 representatives of the CSO and other NSA groups engaged in plenary and breakout group discussions. There were over 100 participants in the CBFD1 session, including representatives of government agencies and other observers.

Report to HoF14 on the outcomes and actions from the RTMCFA4

6. The overarching theme of RTMCFA4 was to discuss and address some of the main technical issues affecting coastal fisheries and aquaculture in support of better science-based resource management and the equitable access to resources, by capturing lessons learned from the ‘response phase’ of the COVID-19 pandemic and identifying approaches and priorities as the region transitions to the ‘recovery phase’ in 2022 and beyond.
7. The meeting included technical sessions on:
 - Supporting the integration of e-data systems into coastal fisheries across the PICTs.
 - Enhancing capacity for effective coastal fisheries management.
 - Risk planning for Pacific aquaculture.
 - Aquaculture needs, priorities and future directions in the Pacific islands’ region.
 - Scientific and technical support in a COVID-19 context.

8. The **RTMCFA4 Outcomes and Actions Report** (see [Background Paper 2](#)), along with all the Working and Information Papers and the presentations, are available on the SPC RTMCFA4 website (<https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/253>). The *SPC Fisheries Newsletter summary* article of the RTMCFA4 is provided as [Background Paper 4](#).
9. The **RTMCFA4 Outcomes and Actions Report** includes the agreed priority issues and needs to be actioned by SPC members, provides guidance to SPC FAME's Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme (CFAP), and identified the key recommendations to be taken to the 14th Heads of Fisheries (HoF14) meeting in 2022.

Summary of the RTMCFA4 key recommendations for the 14th SPC Heads of Fisheries

10. The RTMCFA4 meeting agreed that the following recommendations should be transmitted to the 14th Heads of Fisheries for consideration, and for both members and SPC to act on:

RTMCFA4 Recommendation	HoF14 Action
<i>Supporting the integration of e-data systems into coastal fisheries across PICTs</i>	
<p>Recommendation 17(a). The meeting requests HoF14 to support SPC's role both as a provider of sustained training and capacity building on e-data collection systems, including innovative technologies, and as an e-data repository with storage capabilities for past and present national coastal fisheries data, in reference to HoF10 Outcomes.</p>	<p><i>To consider and support SPC's role.</i></p>
<i>Enhancing capacity for effective coastal fisheries management</i>	
<p>Recommendation 21(a). The meeting requests HoF14 support the recognition of national institutions to offer regionally developed certified training as national priorities for action.</p>	<p><i>To support</i></p>
<p>Recommendation 21(b). The meeting requests HoF14 to encourage PICTs to use the data sharing portal for MCS&E, hosted by SPC, that provides guidelines and examples on compliance data and intelligence information to be shared at the regional level.</p>	<p><i>To encourage PICTs</i></p> <p><i>Note from FAME: The MCS&E data sharing portal is being trialled by one PICT, and will be rolled out to other interested PICTs later in 2022</i></p>

RTMCFA4 Recommendation	HoF14 Action
<i>Aquaculture needs, priorities and future directions in the Pacific Islands Region</i>	
<p>Recommendation 30(a). The meeting requests HoF14 to endorse the regional aquaculture assessment by SPC, noting it will provide the elements for broader support to members as they develop the Pacific Regional Aquaculture Strategy, as well as regional networks and hubs, best practices and codes of conduct for members' aquaculture priorities.</p>	<p><i>To endorse</i></p> <p><i>Note: This is the substantive HoF14 Agenda item for Wednesday 15 June</i></p>
<i>2021 Coastal Fisheries Report Card update</i>	
<p>Recommendation 36(a). The meeting requests HoF14 to initiate the review of regional and national indicators for the Coastal Fisheries Report Cards, in line with the New Song for Coastal Fisheries and other regional frameworks.</p>	<p><i>To consider and initiate</i></p>
<i>Future RTMCFA formats and name</i>	
<p>Recommendation 39(a). The meeting requests HoF14 to consider the proposed adjustments to the format and name of the RTMCFA.</p>	<p><i>To consider and advise</i></p> <p><i>No final decision required as yet</i></p> <p><i>An initial list of suggested alternative names for the RTMCFA are provided in Annex 1 of Background Paper 2. Other suggestions are welcome.</i></p>

Report to HoF14 on the Outcomes from the 1st Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue

11. This First Cbfd focused on laying the foundation for future Dialogues through consideration of the Cbfd Provisional Terms of Reference, and discussion of CSO/NSA contributions to the implementation of the [Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling-up CBFM](#).
12. The **CBFD1 Outcomes Report** (see [Background Paper 3](#)), along with all the Working, Information and Background Papers, and the presentations, are available on the SPC

RTMCFA4 website (<https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/253>). The SPC Fisheries Newsletter summary article of the Cbfd1 is provided as [Background Paper 5](#).

13. The **CBFD1 Outcomes Report** summarises the outcomes and points of consensus among CBFD participants, highlights priority issues and needs to be actioned by CSOs and other NSAs, SPC members, provides guidance to SPC FAME’s CFAP, and identifies key recommendations to be taken to the 14th Heads of Fisheries Meeting in 2022.
14. As this was the first CBFD, it focused on establishing an appropriate administrative foundation for future CBFD meetings. Through plenary and breakout group discussions, participants reviewed and generally agreed on the future CBFD session arrangements relating to the:
 - Terms of Reference for the CBFD session within the RTMCFA agenda; inclusive of
 - Convening arrangements for the CBFD session; and
 - Processes for the selection of participants to future CBFD sessions.
15. It was acknowledged by the Convenor that not all participants were in full agreement with all the arrangements. Recognising this was the start of a process, it is anticipated that it will take several CBF Dialogues to ensure that effective and broadly accepted processes are in place, with it being refined after each meeting as the CBFD experience increases. The CBFD agreed to use the modified Provisional Terms of Reference (included in the CBFD Outcomes Report) to organise and run the next CBFD in 2022.

Summary of the CBFD1 key recommendations for the 14th SPC Heads of Fisheries

16. The CBFD1 reported into the RTMCFA4 meeting and agreed that the following recommendations should be transmitted to the 14th Heads of Fisheries for consideration, and for CSO/NSA, members and SPC to act on:

CBFD1 Recommendations via RTMCFA4	HoF14 Action
<i>Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue</i>	
<p>Recommendation 47(a). The meeting requests HoF14 to adopt the ToR for the CBFD.</p>	<p><i>Adopt the ToR reviewed and agreed to by the CBFD1</i></p> <p><i>The agreed [Provisional] Terms of Reference for the Community-Based Dialogue are provided in full in Appendix 1 or the CBFD Outcomes Report (see Background Paper 3)</i></p>

CBFD1 Recommendations via RTMCFA4	HoF14 Action
<p>Recommendation 47 (b). The meeting requests HoF14 to recommend that SPC FAME continue to provide the necessary logistical and administrative support for implementation of the ToR.</p>	<p><i>Request FAME to continue to provide logistical and administrative support to the CBFD</i></p>
<p>Recommendation 47(c). The meeting requests HoF14 to encourage CSOs/NSAs to fully engage in the implementation of the ToR and forthcoming CBFD sessions.</p>	<p><i>To encourage CSOs/NSAs to fully engage in the CBFD</i></p>