

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

**TO:** Representatives of Civil Society Organisations,  
Non-State Actors and Community-Based Fisheries Practitioners

**No.:** 21/31

**COPY:** SPC Fisheries Contacts; Fisheries Organisations; and  
Observers

**FILE:** PRO 7/55/4/1

**DATE:** 23 August 2021

**SUBJECT:** **Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Session (13 October 2021) within the Fourth SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (Virtual Meeting; 12-15 October 2021)**

### PURPOSE OF NOTICE

1. This is an invitation for you, or your designated representative, as a Civil Society Organisation (CSO), Non-State Actor (NSA), or Community-Based Fisheries (CBF) practitioner, to participate in the upcoming Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue session, to be held within the Fourth Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA4).
2. The CBF Dialogue session will be held as a virtual meeting on 13 October 2021. As this will be the first CBF Dialogue session, it is being led by an independent convenor (Ms Kesaia Tabunakawai), with the representatives of the CSO, NSA and CBF practitioner communities invited to fully engage in the CBF Dialogue plenary and breakout group discussions.
3. The Fourth Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture is being held 12-15 October 2021. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, this meeting will be held virtually using Zoom, and at SPC's Conference Centre in Noumea for New Caledonia based participants. The RTMCFA4 will be chaired by the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
4. Participants in the Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue session are invited to engage fully in RTMCFA4 breakout sessions and observe the plenary sessions.
5. Acceptance of this invitation must be received by **Monday 6 September 2021**.

### PURPOSES OF RTMCFA AND THE COMMUNITY-BASED FISHERIES DIALOGUE SESSION

#### *Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture*

6. The overarching theme of RTMCFA4 is to discuss and address some of the main technical issues affecting coastal fisheries and aquaculture in support of better evidence-based resource management and the equitable access to resources, by capturing lessons learned during the 'response phase' of the COVID-19 pandemic, and identifying approaches and priorities as the region eventually transitions to the 'recovery phase' in 2021-22 and beyond.

7. The RTMCFA meetings are led by the technical staff of SPC member country and territory fisheries agencies and are intended to focus on specific priority issues based on input from SPC members. For the first three RTMCFA meetings the format of the meeting has been to maximise input through group discussions and plenary sessions. This will continue for RTMCFA4, but due to being a virtual meeting it will be focused on a limited number of high priority issues considered in a series of 2-hour sessions, with two sessions per day, over four days.
8. RTMCFA4 will be the first meeting to include the one-day Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue session convened by, and focused on, CSO, NSA and CBF practitioner participation. In the CBF Dialogue sessions the SPC member fisheries and aquaculture agency participants are invited to engage fully in any CBF Dialogue breakout sessions and observe the CBF Dialogue plenary sessions.
9. The CBF Dialogue outcomes will be reported back to the RTMCFA4 plenary on 15 October and be included in the record of the RTMCFA4 Outcomes.
10. The RTMCFA4 will report to the 14<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting in early 2022. This will include the outcomes of the Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue session.

### **Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue**

11. The purpose of the CBF Dialogue is to provide the CSO, NSA and CBF practitioner communities with an opportunity to provide information, advice and key needs, through the RTMCFA, to Heads of Fisheries to assist with informing Leaders on priority issues and needs associated with the sustainable use of coastal fisheries resources. It is also to provide 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.
12. Discussion supported by this dialogue will focus on issues of common regional significance to community-driven coastal fisheries generally.
13. As this will be the first CBF Dialogue session, in large part, it will focus on establishing an appropriate administrative foundation for future CBF Dialogue sessions. Participants are invited to advise and recommend future CBF Dialogue session arrangements relating to:
  - Terms of Reference for the CBF Dialogue session within the RTMCFA agenda;
  - Convening arrangements for the CBF Dialogue session; and
  - The processes for the selection of participants in future CBF Dialogue sessions.An Information Paper outlining the proposed draft arrangements will be posted on the SPC RTMCFA4 web site (see below) by 1 September and circulated to CBF Dialogue participants for comment on registration.
14. *Background to the CBF Dialogue session:* Regional Fisheries Ministers, at their Special Meeting in 2019, requested the Pacific Community (SPC) to commission a review to, in part, provide options and recommendations for a new mechanism for increasing the engagement of civil society and non-state actors to give effect to the Pacific Island Forum Leaders' decision in relation to coastal fisheries (paragraph 10, 47th Leaders Communique, 2016).
15. SPC Member Heads of Fisheries, past participants of the Coastal Fisheries Working Group, civil society representatives, SPC staff, and other stakeholders were consulted during the independent review. The final proposed mechanism (referred to as the "CBF session") was reviewed, approved and endorsed by the 12<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting (HoF12; May 2020) and endorsed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM1; August 2020).

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

16. The draft RTMCFA4 Agenda, including the CBF Dialogue session, will be posted on the SPC meeting website (<https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/253>) by early September 2021.
17. Documents for the meeting will be available on the SPC website at the following address <http://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/253>.
18. On receipt of your acceptance to participate in the CBF Dialogue session you will be sent further details for logging into the Zoom meeting.

**LANGUAGE**

19. As an official SPC sectoral meeting, the Fourth RTMCFA and the CBF Dialogue will be conducted in both English and French, with simultaneous interpretation, and translation of key papers.

**REPORT**

20. The formal report of the RTMCFA4 will consist of a list of decisions, outcomes and recommendations identified by the Chair, and agreed by consensus, called the "Outcomes" of the meeting. The Outcomes report will also include the outcomes of the Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue session. The Outcomes report will include a separate section focused on a limited number of specific, high priority meeting outcomes that need to be presented to the 14<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries Meeting (early 2022) for consideration and decision by the Heads of Fisheries.

**MEETING CONTACTS**

- Official invitation acceptances to: Neville Smith, Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (email: [fame\\_meetings@spc.int](mailto:fame_meetings@spc.int)).
- Administrative issues: Sonia Schutz-Russell, Programme Planning officer (email: [fame\\_meetings@spc.int](mailto:fame_meetings@spc.int); tel: +687 260263)
- Agenda items, papers, other enquiries: Dr Andrew Smith, Deputy Director (Coastal Fisheries), Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystem Division (email: [andrews@spc.int](mailto:andrews@spc.int); cc/- [fame\\_meetings@spc.int](mailto:fame_meetings@spc.int)).

**INSURANCE**

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



**Dr Stuart Minchin**  
Director-General