

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

TO: Representatives of Governments and Administrations **No. 23/38**

COPY: SPC Fisheries Contacts; Fisheries Organisations; and Observers

FILE: PRO 7/55/4/1 **DATE:** 28/04/2023

SUBJECT: **Sixth SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture, 13-17 November 2023 [Noumea, New Caledonia]**

Warm greetings from your Pacific Community (SPC).

PURPOSE OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT

1. This is an invitation to the **Pacific Community's Sixth Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA6)**, to be held in Noumea at the SPC Headquarters from **13-17 November 2023**.
2. RTMCFA6 will include the **Third Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD3)**, convened by and focused on civil society and non-state actor participation. A separate invitation and nomination process will be undertaken for participants to the Dialogue.
3. This notice is:
 - A request for SPC Member Country Governments and Territory Administrations to **nominate two senior technical representatives: one coastal fisheries staff and one aquaculture staff**;
 - An invitation to other agencies, organisations, companies and individuals with an interest in the technical aspects of coastal fisheries and aquaculture in the Pacific Islands region to attend the meeting in-person and take the opportunity for discussions with Pacific island fisheries representatives and specialists, and with each other;
 - An invitation to members to propose a topic for inclusion in the agenda and where possible provide submission on or before **31 August 2023** ; and
 - To advise that a separate invitation and nomination process will be undertaken with respect to civil society and non-state actor participation in the two-day Third Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue within RTMCFA6, as approved and endorsed by the Heads of Fisheries meeting and the Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting.
4. Financial support is available for the attendance of two technical representatives from SPC island member governments and administrations (one coastal fisheries staff and one aquaculture staff).
5. All participant nominations are to be received by **31 August 2023**.

6. All nominations for SPC funded participants:

- need to be **received by 31 August 2023** so that flight bookings can be made by **30 September 2023**;
- need to provide a copy of their passport photo page at the time of nomination; and
- no change will be possible to SPC-funded nominations or any travel arrangements within one month (**13 October 2023**) of the meeting dates.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

7. The 6th SPC RTMCFA will discuss and address some of the main technical issues affecting coastal fisheries and aquaculture in support of better evidence-based resource management, the equitable access to resources, and to enhance the sustainable development of aquaculture and nearshore livelihoods.
8. The RTMCFA meetings focus on specific priority issues with input from member country government and territory administrations. For RTMCFA6 there will be a return to members presenting in plenary their priority issues and needs, and progress against previous RTMCFA agreed actions.
9. The RTMCFA is also informed and guided by several Pacific regional strategies and frameworks, including: *A New Song for Coastal Fisheries – Pathways to Change: The Noumea strategy*; the *Future of Fisheries: Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries*; the *Regional Framework on Aquatic Biosecurity*; and the *Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling up Community-Based Fisheries Management*. It also assists with providing the much-needed information for reporting to Ministers and Leaders through the annual *Coastal Fisheries Report Card*.
10. The RTMCFA6 will report to the 16th Heads of Fisheries meeting in April 2024. This will also include the outcomes of the Third Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OVERVIEW

11. The RTMCFA6 will be held as an in-person meeting, with an option for online participants to listen-in through Zoom to the plenary sessions, but there will be no interaction with online participants.
12. The following is an overview of the RTMCFA6 and CBF3, with the agenda to be developed and refined over the next [4] months with members' input:

Day 1 (13 Nov): Opening session

Progress update on the RTMCFA5 outcomes and actions
 Member presentations (coastal fisheries and aquaculture)
 Accessing information and knowledge on the SPC FAME website.

Day 2 (14 Nov): Parallel sessions:

Aquaculture technical session
 Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (Day 1)

Day 3 (15 Nov): Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (Day 2)

Day 4 (16 Nov): Coastal fisheries technical session

Day 5 (17 Nov): Report on CBF Dialogue Outcomes and recommendations to RTMCFA6
Cross-cutting technical session
Review of the draft RTMCF6 Outcomes and Actions Report
Adoption of specific recommendations to HoF16
Adoption of RTMCFA6 Outcomes and Actions Report (including 3rd CBF Dialogue Outcomes Report)

13. The draft agenda will be posted on the SPC website: (<https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings>) by **23 October 2023**.
14. As for previous RTMCFA meetings, members will be requested to prepare a summary presentation of your top coastal fisheries and aquaculture technical issues, challenges and priority needs. SPC will provide the template in **September**.
15. If any organisation or observers wishes to raise a fisheries or aquaculture issue of regional significance, then it should be proposed to SPC by **31 August 2023** for consideration. Other information should be provided as a written statement or short video recording to be posted online.
16. Documents prepared for the meeting will be available on the SPC website at the following address <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings> by **23 October 2023**.

LANGUAGE

17. As an official SPC sectoral meetings, the RTMCFA6 and the CBF3 will be conducted in both English and French, with simultaneous interpretation, and translation of key papers.

MEETING REGISTRATION AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

18. To facilitate the meeting arrangements, we kindly request SPC members and partners to undertake a two-stage process:
 - Submit nominations (including full name, position title, organisation, and email contact to SPC FAME meeting secretariat by **31 August 2023** at fame_meetings@spc.int; and
 - Registration of participants listening-in to the meeting online using the Zoom meeting registration link. We kindly ask all participants to register at least a week before the meeting. We will share the Zoom registration link once the nominations are received.
19. For nominated members whose travel is being arranged by SPC to attend in-person, separate instructions will be provided to ensure **all travel details required to facilitate travel arrangements are submitted before 30 September 2023. No travel will be arranged after that date.**

REPORT

20. The formal report of the meeting will consist of a list of decisions, outcomes and recommendations identified by the Chair, and agreed by consensus, called the "Outputs and Actions" of the meeting. The Outputs and Actions report will also include the outputs of the Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue. The Outputs and Actions report will include a separate section with a limited number of specific, high priority meeting outputs that need to be presented to the 16th Heads of Fisheries Meeting in April 2024 for consideration by the Heads of Fisheries.

INSURANCE

21. It is an entry requirement of New Caledonia to provide proof of travel insurance, usually requested during check-in.
22. 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 the participants' own responsibility to ensure that participants are covered by insurance.

MEETING CONTACTS

23. Official contacts for the meeting:
 - Nominations to: Neville Smith, Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (email: nevilles@spc.int; cc/- fame_meetings@spc.int).
 - Agenda items, papers, other enquiries, etc.: Dr Andrew Smith, Deputy Director (Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture), Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystem Division (email: andrews@spc.int; cc/- fame_meetings@spc.int).
 - Conference and administrative issues: Sonia Schutz-Russell, Programme Planning Officer, (email: soniasr@spc.int; cc/- fame_meetings@spc.int);

**Paula Vivili**

Deputy Director-General – Science and Capability

Original text: English