



Sixth SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture

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Update on the Pacific regional aquaculture strategy and mid-term review of the Regional framework on aquatic biosecurity.

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Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to update members on,
 - the next steps in the development of a new Pacific regional aquaculture strategy, and
 - the mid-term review of the [Regional framework on aquatic biosecurity](#).

The updates presented here cover arrangements for a series of sub-regional and regional workshops designed to facilitate effective consultation for both the strategy and framework.

Pacific regional aquaculture strategy (PRAS)

2. The development of a sustainable aquaculture sector has potential to contribute to employment, food security, livelihoods, environmental protection, and economic growth across the Pacific region. The Pacific has experienced slower than expected development of the sector caused by a range of challenges and it was for this reason that a Regional aquaculture assessment ([IP12](#) of HoF14) was commissioned by SPC FAME to inform and advise on a way forward.
3. The Regional aquaculture assessment identified that a regional strategy would strengthen the capacity of Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) and the private sector to harmonise aquaculture development and investment plans across the region, enhancing the ability to cooperate regionally and facilitate access to export markets. The next step in promoting aquaculture development is actioning the HoF13 Outcomes Document Decision 13(c) and develop the new PRAS.
4. A process and scope for the PRAS was set out in [WP6](#) of HoF15 and was endorsed by SPC members in Paragraph 15 of the HoF15 [Outcomes](#) document. The PRAS is intended to be a plan for Pacific aquaculture in its entirety, thus the scope, issues, and actions will be wider than SPC FAME's specific mandate of providing members with technical and policy advice in aquaculture.
5. The PRAS requires a consultation process that is inclusive and fully endorsed by members. Consultation will therefore involve a series of three virtual sub-regional workshops and a regional workshop coordinated by an external consultant. The scale and process of this exercise will be similar to that undertaken for the Scaling up CBFM Framework for action developed during 2021.

Mid-term review of the Regional framework on aquatic biosecurity (RFAP)

6. Aquatic biosecurity is a key component to long term sustainability of aquaculture and wild fisheries through assisting in maintaining production, facilitating safe trade, and helping to protect the rich diversity of the aquatic environment found throughout the Pacific region.
7. To achieve sustainable development, it is essential that farmed aquatic species remain free of disease so that the region can build on its pathogen-free status and marketability. The RFAP includes a regional workplan that focusses on (i) aquatic animal health management and (ii) the safe translocation of aquatic species, with the specific objective of enhancing regional aquaculture production in a sustainable manner.
8. As outlined in [WP5](#) of HoF15, a mid-term review of RFAB is required. Aquatic biosecurity will form a key component of the PRAS consultation process, so the workshops also provide opportunity for RFAB consultation. Therefore, time will be allocated to discuss the mid-term review of the RFAB. PICT aquatic biosecurity representatives will be invited to attend aquatic biosecurity sessions scheduled within the PRAS meetings.

Workshop structure and arrangements

9. Three sub-regional workshops will be convened to consolidate results of past and present consultation. The first of these workshops is scheduled to occur from the 4th to the 8th of March 2024. The other two sub-regional workshops will be scheduled in the weeks after this date, taking into account competing SPC and member meeting obligations.
10. A virtual format will be used for each of the meetings to ensure broad accessibility and inclusiveness. The results of the three sub-regional workshops will be consolidated into a draft Pacific regional aquaculture strategy and distributed to all PICTs for comment. A summary of meeting results will also be presented at the HoF16 meeting for discussion and comment.
11. A fourth regional meeting of key representatives from the sub-regional workshops will then be convened and the draft PRAS discussed. Dates for this regional meeting have not been finalised but invited representatives will be contacted in early 2024 at which time meeting arrangements will be confirmed.
12. The time allocated for biosecurity discussion is expected to be 1 day of the 5 allocated for each workshop. The PRAS includes biosecurity components, so these discussions will also feed into the PRAS as well as the RFAB.
13. Once agreed, a final draft of the PRAS, together with a supporting draft SPC PRAS Policy Brief and the draft RFAB review, will be circulated out-of-session to Heads of Fisheries for endorsement.
14. A Heads of Fisheries endorsed version will then be presented at the Regional Fisheries Ministers meeting.