



11TH REGIONAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS WORKSHOP

Honiara, Solomon Islands

20 March 2026

FFA



SUMMARY RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

OPENING OF WORKSHOP

1. Representatives from Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand (virtual), Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), The Pacific Community (SPC), Sharks Pacific, IM-Subcommittee representative and The Secretariat met for the 11th Regional Information Management System (RIMS11) workshop. This was a hybrid workshop hosted in Honiara, Solomon Islands on the 20th of March, 2026.
2. The list of participants, observers and consultants is appended as **Attachment A**.
3. The 11th Information Management System (RIMS) Workshop was opened by the Director Fisheries Operation, who welcomed participants and stakeholders both in-person and online, emphasizing the critical role of robust regional information systems in managing Pacific fisheries amidst growing pressures from illegal fishing and climate change. The workshop's theme, "**Strengthening Pacific Fisheries Regional Information Systems**," reflects the need for reliable real-time fisheries data, with discussions planned to cover developments such as the FFA accounts Identity Access

Management System, the new FFA meeting portal and the proposed Secretariat's data warehouse.

4. Participants were encouraged to engage openly in discussions to share experiences, contribute insights to collectively chart the path forward to a resilient, inter-operable and inclusive information architecture to advance the Pacific's shared vision for the sustainable future of fisheries.

SETTING THE SCENE: OUTLINE OF AGENDA

5. The Secretariat through Manager IT thanked the Director Fisheries Operation and set the scene by re-emphasizing that the RIMS workshop serves as a vital forum, where stakeholders, including FFA Members, SPC, WCPFC and the Secretariat come together to share progress, address challenges and align our information management efforts across the region. The agenda for the day was then introduced.
6. The agreed Agenda for the workshop is appended as **Attachment B**.

FFA ACCOUNTS (Identity Access Management) SYSTEM OVERVIEW

7. The Secretariat provided an overview of the new FFA Accounts system. Key features highlighted included the consolidation of multiple FFA accounts into a single secure login, the implementation of multi-factor authentication, and streamlined user management.
8. The Secretariat emphasized that the system is designed to improve both the efficiency and security for Members who access various FFA platforms. Furthermore, it supports adherence to the Secretariat's Information Security Management System (ISMS) Policy.
9. Participants were encouraged to test the system and provide feedback, with plans to phase out legacy login methods by the second half of the year.
10. In response to WCPFC's query on the FFA Accounts System user account management, the Secretariat confirmed that under the current ISMS Policy, the Fisheries Operations Director grants approval, meaning the Secretariat manages all Member user accounts centrally. The IT Team is advocating for an ISMS Policy update to allow organizations to manage their own accounts. The IT Manager noted this will involve enabling the currently disabled 'Party Admin' feature.
11. An issue regarding RIMF access and login procedures was raised by a member. The Secretariat agreed to follow up on this matter offline.
12. PNG inquired whether the system would adopt a decentralized administrative structure, similar to the WCPFC model where each Member country appoints its own administrator, following the comprehensive presentation. The Secretariat responded by clarifying that, once the ISMS policy is updated, the system will be enhanced to enable Organizations or Member countries to appoint dedicated administrators who will have the authority to manage their respective user accounts.
13. To meet the Secretariat's internal audit requirements, the Director of Fisheries Operations elaborated on the dual-authorization process required for accessing the FFA Accounts System. Specifically, this process mandates two approvals: the respective Head of Fisheries must approve the Annex A & B forms, and the Director of Fisheries Operations must provide a mandatory

counter-signature. This dual-approval mechanism ensures that all system access complies with current security and audit standards during the interim policy period.

14. The FFA Accounts System's governance structure does not extend to FFA Meeting papers. Access to the meeting portal is managed by nominated 'country party admins,' who are responsible for authorizing and managing the user accounts for their respective parties. All new users wishing to access meeting papers must first register.
15. Samoa requested clarification on the process for authorising Fisheries personnel to access FFA Meeting papers. Samoa's Fisheries division understands that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) is the designated 'Party Administrator' but has not yet received the notification required to approve these access requests.
16. The Secretariat explained that Samoa Fisheries and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) are currently set up as distinct organizations in the FFA Accounts System. Therefore, the IT Team is consulting with MFAT to establish the correct authority for verifying and approving user access for both organizations. This step is necessary to ensure the efficient distribution of meeting documentation.
17. Samoa further inquired whether the format for fishing licenses captured in the Regional Information Management Framework (RIMF) could be customized to meet specific national requirements, noting the critical integration of this data with TUFMAN2.
18. The Secretariat clarified that while a standardized license format was established by the Data Collection Committee(DCC) several years ago, these standards are currently under review to better accommodate the evolving needs of Member countries. Moving forward, the Secretariat outlined key deliverables including capacity building and data integration.

The workshop:

1. **Noted**, the overview of the new FFA Accounts (IAM) System.
2. **Encouraged** members to test the system and provide feedback for improvement.

AERIAL SURVEILLANCE SUPPORT TO MEMBERS

19. The FFA Secretariat provided an update on the RIMF Aerial Surveillance Module with focus on the progress in improving the management of the Regional Aerial Surveillance Program.
20. Several new features have been introduced to enhance functionality, timeliness in diplomatic clearance generation, greater visibility for members on support provided, improved data accuracy and integrity, and streamline operational processes for efficiency within the Aerial Surveillance Module. These features include the: Air Crew Records feature, Aircraft Records feature, Diplomatic Clearance Requests feature, Automated Diplomatic Clearance Process, Dashboard Analytics, Additional Analytical features.
21. Samoa acknowledged the support provided for air surveillance with their requests and thanked the Secretariat for the successful operation of the Ika Moana in 2025.

22. Fiji also commended the Secretariat for the significant system enhancements made since rollout and for addressing their aerial surveillance requests. They further requested that the system track daily coverage percentages; this would allow for immediate effectiveness assessments rather than waiting for a post-mission review. Additionally, they recommended that the final mission reports be shared with all relevant stakeholders.
23. The Secretariat responded that this is something in the pipeline and that the coverage percentage per day for the Designated Search Area is available via the Post Mission Report already in the system.. The Secretariat also confirmed that they will be working on a graphical mission report as requested.
24. Tonga aligned with Fiji's sentiments, expressing appreciation for the aerial surveillance support. They noted that 'percentage of area coverage' is a key indicator within their strategic framework and requested guidance on how to calculate the percentage using the data collected in the system.
25. The Secretariat responded that the RIMF system already records an estimated surveillance "footprint" per mission in the Post-Mission Report. These figures are captured by the aircrew and can be extracted for management use.
26. Niue commended the Secretariat on the continued success of the aerial surveillance program. Following technical challenges that hindered last year's deployment, Niue expressed a strong interest in securing a dedicated surveillance slot this year to ensure successful mission completion.
27. Tuvalu thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and suggested enhancing the dashboard to include total aerial surveillance sightings within a Designated Search Area (DSA), separate from boarding and inspection data, to allow for better historical trend analysis in specific operational zones.
28. The Secretariat responded that if the report is something useful for the members, then this will be supported. The technical team will look into having this report available.
29. FSM acknowledged the outstanding work by the Secretariat team and raised concerns regarding missing persons within their EEZ. Clarification was sought on prioritising requests of this nature when submitting requests for aerial surveillance and further enquired on how long will it take to have the aircraft conduct the search upon submission of request.
30. The Secretariat confirmed that short-term requests for the aircraft are possible if it is within or near the geographical vicinity. For instance, if the aircraft is operating in the Marshall Islands, MH Ministry of foreign affairs would be asked to release it for search and rescue operations in FSM waters. The response time mainly depends on how quickly the requesting country grants operational clearance and the approval by Marshalls to release the aircraft.
31. MH further inquired about the crewing or availability of the aircraft, specifically if it is always accessible upon request. The Secretariat clarified that the intention is for the aircraft to be continually available unless it is undergoing maintenance. The discussion highlighted the process for requesting the aircraft using the RASS system, which includes a calendar indicating availability slots. On instances where both aircraft are already allocated, assistance can be sought from QUAD partners for additional support although not guaranteed. All requests are raised in RIMF. On the matter of search and rescue (SAR), the Secretariat clarified that this function falls under the auspices of the National Coordinating Agency, which is responsible for determining when a search should be terminated. Tokelau thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and acknowledged the assistance received and looked forward to cooperating with the Secretariat for another successful year ahead.
32. Solomon Islands expressed gratitude to the Secretariat for its commendable efforts and inquired whether member countries furnish feedback upon the conclusion of deployments. Such feedback would offer the Secretariat valuable insight into the national-level progress achieved across all deployments.

33. The Secretariat responded that receiving feedback on the nature of the support provided or received would be highly beneficial to this process, and would greatly appreciate it if Solomon Islands could initiate this from their end for future deployments.
34. PNG also appreciated the major upgrade to the system and questioned if the aerial surveillance assets can be tracked near real time during missions or if there are any future plans for this work as this will complement synchronising aerial assets and surface plans in future. The Secretariat responded that tracking of assets is currently done using a standalone system but future plans is to integrate this feature into RIMF.
35. Marshall Islands raised the question of whether there are plans to extend the aerial surveillance range to cover areas north of Majuro, noting that monitoring this region remains a significant challenge. The Secretariat acknowledged the current aircraft limitations but noted that future capabilities would depend on the next platform. Members will be advised accordingly once the Australian Department of Defence, the program's funding partner, releases the outcome of the current tender process.
36. Vanuatu raised 2 questions. First they inquired whether an application for clearance can be submitted to two organisations, for example, to the Foreign Affairs and National Security Council. They then sought clarification on how surveillance hours are captured on the dashboard. Does the calculations start when the aircraft takes off , or when it enters an EEZ or when an air rider is onboard.
37. The Secretariat responded that clearance requests can be directed to whichever organisation the country advises although it is normally the Foreign affairs. Surveillance hours are calculated when the aircraft turns on the surveillance equipment in the Designated Search Area (DSA) until when the gear is turned off after completing the requested search or search is stopped due to fuel limitation.
38. Cook Islands inquired whether the post-mission summary reports provide a comparative analysis between known VMS data and the actual sightings reported by the aircraft during the flight. The Secretariat advised that this is a work in progress and will be rolled out in the next feature release.
39. Solomon Islands further inquired about options for aerial surveillance assistance in the event that the air assets are under maintenance. The Secretariat responded that the RFSC has the ability to reach out to QUAD partners in the event that aerial surveillance assets are not available however availability is not guaranteed.
40. Tokelau sought clarification on the continued availability of onboard air rider opportunities. The Secretariat reaffirmed its support for national participation in surveillance flights and confirmed that these opportunities remain open to all members on an ongoing basis. For Tokelau, due to the absence of airfields, air riders must embark and disembark in Apia, Samoa, and arrangements will be made accordingly.

The workshop:

1. **Noted** the ongoing RIMF work and the support provided to members with the Regional Air Surveillance module.

SPC IMS UPDATE:

41. Mr Boniot Pohl from SPC presented several topics related to geospatial data harmonization and integration. The discussion began with an overview of GIS tools and web mapping libraries, followed by plans to continue work on harmonizing geospatial data with the Commission, FFA Secretariat, and SPC. The team also explored linking related data across different systems, using

entity links to connect data types like log sheets and unloading records. A new concept for sharing metadata between systems was introduced, allowing users to access related data from other organizations while maintaining security and privacy. The presentation also highlighted updates on e-reporting applications, including a new trip summary page for observer longline data and efforts to harmonize UTC date formats across systems.

42. Updates from SPC concluded with a presentation on upcoming improvements to Tuftman2, including enhanced data quality checks, a new standard data format for scientific data, and better collaboration tools using GitHub. Discussion further included updates to web servers, databases, and authentication systems, as well as the addition of new datasets and fields for operational data. The presentation concluded by addressing plans for data dissemination, access to raw datasets, and improvements to systems observability and monitoring.

The workshop:

1. **Noted** the ongoing work by SPC on their IMS products and future plans.

NEW FFA MEETING PORTAL UPDATE

43. The Secretariat presented on the new FFA meeting portal explaining how to register for meetings through the IAM system and emphasized the importance of selecting the correct country party delegation. A brief demonstration on how to access the system
44. Tokelau sought clarification regarding system access, noting that while they could successfully log into the RIMF system, they continued to encounter difficulties accessing the FFA IAM portal. The Secretariat responded urging participants to liaise with the Secretariat during the session to finalize their account setups and ensure full system functionality.
45. Australia commended the enhancements made to the meeting portals and recommended standardized naming conventions, clearer meeting titles, and expanded acronyms for consistency. They also requested a bulk ZIP download option for meeting documents. The Secretariat advised that the ZIP feature is being developed and that a broader site cleanup is underway to address inconsistencies from the migration from the legacy platform.
- 46.

The workshop:

1. **Noted** the update to the new FFA Meeting portal and the process to accessing meeting papers.

PROPOSED FFA DATA WAREHOUSE OVERVIEW

47. Tim Jones from WCPFC, provided an overview of the concept and benefits of data warehouses, including their ability to consolidate data from multiple systems, support analytical tools, and enable better decision-making. The discussion included questions about data discrepancy detection, access to the data warehouse, and potential analytical outputs, with Tim explaining

that WCPFC's data warehouse currently processes VMS and transshipment data among other sources, and provides APIs for external access through a system called Redash.

48. The Secretariat then presented a proposed data warehouse system for the FFA Secretariat, similar to WCPFC's system. The project involves six parallel workstreams, including evaluating existing systems, reviewing data management practices, and conducting stakeholder engagement. The focus is on ensuring the system is developed according to stakeholder discussions, with plans to consult with WCPFC, SPC, and other vendors involved in similar projects. The goal is to improve fisheries data management and provide a beneficial system for both the Secretariat and membership.
49. Tuvalu raised a compliance query regarding the data warehouse's ability to detect data discrepancies—such as conflicting registered vessel details between two different datasets—prior to merging into a data warehouse. WCPFC responded that the system can use defined criteria to generate alerts whenever differences are identified between various data sources.
50. A Secretariat staff firstly requested WCPFC to give examples of the type of output the current Commission's data warehouse produces. She further sought clarification whether there is intention on loading data sources for routine analysis considering the compliance aspect, particularly the monitoring limit, in light of current discussions, such as on the SPA.
51. The Commission responded that a classic example of an output generated by the Commission's data warehouse is the analytical report on vessel proximity. This report identifies potential transshipments by integrating VMS data from Trackwell with transshipment data sourced from the transshipment e-reporting system (TSER).
52. WCPFC updated that they are collaborating closely with SPC to advance data exchange and real-time data sharing through the use of APIs and data warehouse approaches. Further, the WCPFC Secretariat's compliance team is adopting a more proactive approach to follow up on potential data gaps or issues, such as monthly VMS reporting discrepancies, to ensure data flows are as accurate and reliable as possible.
53. Another staff queried the process on how to get access to data housed in the data warehouse. WCPFC responded that internal employees sign a confidentiality agreement and are given login access to access all data sitting in the data warehouse. For external users like the FFA Secretariat, an API is provided allowing them secure access to subsets of data per use case.

The workshop:

1. **Noted** the concept and benefits of a data warehouse, the proposed FFA data warehouse and future plans.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

54. The Information Management Subcommittee (IMSC) meeting focused on its role and recent activities. Hitoshi, IMSC member, presented an overview of the subcommittee's purpose, membership, and key responsibilities, including strategic planning, system development, and capacity building.
55. The IMSC meets twice a year and provides advisory support to FFA members on information management.
56. Recent recommendations included focusing on regional integration of systems, improving data access and ownership, and exploring AI implementation for electronic monitoring.

57. The presentation ended with discussions on data sharing metrics, maritime boundaries, and system improvements, with participants encouraged to engage further with the IMSC for assistance with IM-related issues.

The workshop:

1. **Note** the role of the IMSC and recent engagement with the Secretariat and proposed recommendations.
2. **Encouraged** members to engage further with the IMSC for assistance with IM-related activities.

MEMBERS DISCUSSION SESSION (IM Challenges and Opportunities)

58. The Secretariat opened the floor for discussion with stakeholders.
59. SPC thanked WCPFC on the data warehouse and sought clarification regarding the importance of keeping track of changes done to the data warehouse, keeping in mind data quality assurance.
60. WCPFC responded acknowledging the issue as 'Time variant data' in a data warehouse context. They explained that the database design incorporates a technique to track time variant data changes and maintain time versions, which is built into the process. Additionally, the archive can also store time variant versions. WCPFC confirmed their willingness to discuss the appropriate versioning approach with SPC after the session.
61. Samoa posed questions to SPC regarding data progress and reporting requirements. Specifically, they asked about the feasibility of developing a query to extract estimated species weights, as this data point is not collected during port sampling. Additionally, Samoa inquired whether SPC plans to develop a database for transshipment monitoring, given its current unavailability on TUFMAN.
62. SPC responded indicating they might have a solution for estimating species weight and will liaise directly with Samoa. While Samoa will formally send a request for development of an online transshipment database, discussions on needs analysis can begin now to find a solution, as currently Samoa do have vessels coming into port for transshipment despite not having registered vessels with the Commission.
63. Samoa raised a question with the FFA Secretariat regarding the electronic Port State Measures (e-PSM) system, specifically inquiring whether agents or companies are able to edit and update the initially provided date of arrival after submitting a port entry notification. They further inquired whether the pre-assessment check function allows for editing or deleting data that has been entered before an actual inspection takes place.
64. The FFA Secretariat advised that agents can edit a vessel's arrival date, provided the risk assessment has not yet been submitted. However, if the risk assessment is complete and a port entry notification with approval has been issued, the arrival date cannot be edited, and a new form must be created. The Secretariat therefore strongly recommends establishing clear communication between the agents and the fish master before finalizing the risk assessment.
65. The Secretariat recommended user training for fisheries officers on conducting pre-assessment inspections, emphasizing that the final inspection assessments must occur onboard a vessel upon its arrival in port. Furthermore, the Secretariat informed members about the in-port monitoring application within the e-PSM system. This app can be utilized to record in-port activities such as unloadings, landings, and transshipments, aiding in the collection of species-specific weight data.
66. The FFA Secretariat sought clarification on a way forward aligning the two different sets of EEZ boundaries provided by the SPC FAME & SPC Geoscience division. SPC responded that this is something that will be discussed in the MCSWG meeting. Together with the GEM team, SPC will

assess the different usage of the boundaries and agree it is time to settle on a single, standardised version.

67. FSM raised a pertinent inquiry regarding the new mapping needs outlined by SPC in their presentation and specifically sought clarification on how they could contribute to this process, or if there was an immediate need for them to furnish specific data, such as precise maritime boundary coordinates, to expedite the mapping exercise. In response SPC explained that a 'clean version' of the maritime boundaries needs to be done to ensure a unified version is available for display on the map. A key challenge, however, remains in determining the optimal source file to use: whether to utilise data from Marine regions or SPC Gems. The necessary technology to display the maps is available. These maps will be displayed to all countries. Members were encouraged to provide specific designated areas for monitoring to be incorporated into the system if they wish to.
68. Fiji also sought clarification from SPC using TUFMAN2 data, whether alerts can be provided for misreporting or underreporting of catch from logsheets and landing summary. SPC responded that TUFMAN2 currently does not provide for such alerts. However, this information can be displayed on the TUFMAN2 homepage to assist with compliance work in-country and will reach out to Fiji to get a better understanding of the type of report they would like to see on their homepage.
69. SPC then sought clarification on the data sharing matrix, including its incorporation into the future data warehouse. The FFA Secretariat responded that this topic would be discussed in the closed session of the MCSWG and offered to provide specific documentation and discuss areas of interest with SPC outside of the session.

SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop adopted the record of proceedings out of session.

CLOSE OF THE WORKSHOP

The Secretariat extends its gratitude to all participants for their valuable contributions and active engagement for various agenda items during the RIMS11 workshop. The Secretariat highlighted the strengthened partnership with its stakeholders and looks forward to continued interaction and collaboration to advance IMS initiatives both regionally and nationally. The workshop was closed by Launoa Gataua from Niue.

PARTICIPANTS TO RIMS11 WORKSHOP - Attachment A

20th March 2026

FFA Conference Centre, Honiara

Solomon Islands

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA - Attachment B



11TH REGIONAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RIMS) WORKSHOP HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS, 20TH MARCH 2026

THEME: STRENGTHENING THE PACIFIC FISHERIES REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

ITEM	AGENDA	TIME (Local SBT)	PRESENTERS
1	Opening of Workshop	0830-0845	DFO Allan Rahari
2	Setting the Scene: Introduction & Chair Adopting Agenda	0845-0900	Sakaio Manoa
3	FFA Accounts (Identity Access Management) System Overview: Introduce the FFA Accounts System and how it integrates with existing FFA systems including RIMF.	0900-0930	Filimoni Lutunaika
4	Aerial Surveillance Support to Members Present the enhanced Aerial Surveillance module including the member focused dashboard.	0930-1000	Steve Masika
<i>MORNING TEA [Group Photoshoot] 1000 - 1030</i>			
5	SPC IM Systems	1030-1130	Benoit Pohl
6	New FFA Meeting Portal update: A demo of the FFA meeting portal with emphasis on the registration process and Party Admin role.	1130 – 1200	Sakaio Manoa
<i>Lunch 1200 - 1300</i>			
7	FFA IMS Implementation Work Plan Portal Background and overview of IM strategy IMS Workplan Portal	1300-1330	Sakaio Manoa
8	Proposed FFA Data Warehouse Overview Introduce the WCPFC data warehouse including the proposed FFA Data warehouse system.	1330-1430	Tim Jones / Sakaio Manoa
9	Information Management Sub-Committee Update	1430-1500	IMSC Chair
<i>AFTERNOON TEA 1500 - 1530</i>			
10	Member Discussion Session: Discuss IM challenges and opportunities with regional partners including Member IM register list and FFA, WCPFC & SPC systems specifics	1530- 1630	Members, FFA, SPC, & WCPFC
11	Summary & Closing of the Workshop	1630- 1700	
<i>End of Day</i>			

