

**FFC124 DECISIONS – FINAL**

1. Representatives from Australia, Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu met in Honiara Solomon Islands, on 28th of October 2022 for the 124th Special Meeting of the Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC124). Also present were observers from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), and Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office (PNAO), FFA staff provided support to the Meeting.

SECTION II: OFFSHORE FISHERIES ARE ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE**Outcomes of the Management Options Consultations**

The Committee approved:

- i. FFA Letter to the WCPFC 19 Chair (Attachment 1) and attachments
 - a. Attachment A: FFA Members Draft CMM - Proposed Management Procedure for SKJ in the WCPO
 - b. Attachment B: Proposed Amendment to CMM 2013-05
 - c. Attachment C: Proposed Amendment to CMM 2014-06 on Harvest Strategies
 - d. Attachment D: FFA Proposal for a strengthened CMM for South West Pacific Swordfish
- ii. Information paper on the FFA Final Draft EM SSPs (Attachment 2)

SECTION III: CORPORATE SECRETARIAT MANAGEMENT**Outcomes of the 23rd Audit and Risk Committee Meeting**

The Committee

- i. **noted** the ARC23 decisions in regard to the implementation of the FFA Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and Business Plan update; Organisation Performance Report 2021-2022; Review of programme fees phase 2; terms of reference for the independent review of the FFA partnership with the EU; risk management report; ARC workplan for 2023; and the human resources report; and
- ii. ***US Treaty Audited Financial Report 2021***
 - i. **adopted** the Treaty's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.
- iii. ***Appointment of External Auditors***
 - i. **endorsed** the appointment of Ernst & Young (Fiji) as FFA's external auditors for the next two financial years to audit the following FFA financial statements:

- a. Financial Years 2022/23 and 2023/24 for the FFA's Core Funds; and
- b. Years 2023 and 2024 of the Multilateral Treaty on Fisheries between certain Governments of Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America (the US Tuna Treaty).

2021-2022 Revised Annual Work Programme and Budget

The Committee

- i. **reviewed** the Revised AWPB of **USD29,960,000** for the Agency for the 2022-23 Financial Year;
- ii. **reviewed** the Supplementary Budget of **USD1,195,200**;
- iii. **approved** the Revised AWPB and Supplementary Budget; and
- iv. **expressed** their appreciation to all partners for funding to Members through the Secretariat.

Consideration of Review Terms of Reference (ToRs)

USTT Administration Review

The Committee **thanked** the FFC appointed Steering Committee overseeing these reviews (Cooks Islands, RMI, Tokelau, Tuvalu) for its work and **approved** the Terms of Reference for the Review of the USTT Administration.

Observer Programme Review

The Committee **thanked** the FFC Sub Committee for its work and **approved** the Terms of Reference for the Observer Programme Review.

Independent Review of the FFA Partnership with the EU

The Committee **approved** the revised Terms of Reference to enable the Secretariat to finalize and commence the review.

SECTION IV: OFFSHORE FISHERIES RIGHTS ARE SECURED AND PROTECTED

Draft Declaration of Partnership on Regional Cooperation in Fisheries, Law Enforcement and Border and Maritime Security

The Committee:

- i. **noted** the progress on formalising cooperation between the FFA, OCO, PIDC and PICP including on the plans for cooperation and data sharing arrangements;
- ii. **reviewed** the latest draft Declaration of Partnership and **noted** the need for national consultations to be undertaken; and
- iii. **requested** the Secretariat provide detailed information to be used for these national consultations including in relation to how information sharing would be operationalised under the Declaration.

Other Matters

PIPSM, CDEC and SPLP Project Steering Committee ToRs

The Committee **considered** and **approved**:

- the ToR for the Project Implementation Steering Committee (PISC) for the Pacific Island Port State Measures (PIPSM) and Catch Documentation and Enhancing Compliance (CDEC) projects; and
- the ToR for the PISC for the South Pacific Longline Project (SPLP).

Fisheries Development Update - Food Security Policy Report & World Bank PROPER Project

The Committee **noted** the update on the Food Security Policy Report and the World Bank PROPER Project.

USTT Workplan 2023

The Committee noted the updated Workplan for the US Treaty renegotiation including the plans for signing of the MOU covering arrangements for 2023 in the margins of WCPFC19.

Other Matters

Process of Recruitment for the DDG

The Committee noted the update from the Director General on the recruitment process for the next DDG. The Committee sincerely thanked Matt Hooper, Deputy Director General for his services to FFA over the past four and a half years.

Next Meeting

Members noted that their next Special FFC Meeting will be held pre-WCPFC, tentatively commencing from 21 November 2022, while the next annual session of the FFC will be held in May 2023 to be hosted and chaired by the Marshall Islands with dates to be advised.