



FFA

**FORUM FISHERIES COMMITTEE
ONE HUNDREDTH AND TWENTY SECOND MEETING**

24 - 27 May 2022

Final Outcomes

SECTION I: INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

2. *Election of Chair*

The Committee:

- i. **acknowledged** the great leadership of Mr Pene Baleinabuli of Fiji in chairing the FFC over the past year; and
- ii. **agreed** to Kiribati assuming the role of Chair in accordance with the FFC Rules of Procedure, and welcomed Dr Agnes Yeeting as the incoming Chair.

3. *Adoption of Agenda*

The Committee **adopted** the agenda.

SECTION II: LEADERS AND MINISTERS DIRECTIVES

4. *Reporting against Leaders and Ministers Directives*

The Committee **noted** the overview of the status of work against the 2021 FFC Ministerial directives, noting that many of these will be discussed in detail over the course of the meeting.

SECTION III: STRATEGIC ISSUES

5. *Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic*

The Committee:

- i. noted the continued gains and innovations that will outlive the pandemic and which ensure a more resilient and thriving FFA;
- ii. acknowledged the support provided by the Sec during the pandemic including MCS support provided while noting the need to progress redeployment of observers as soon as it is safe to do so; and

- iii. acknowledged the difficulties in progressing more complex issues virtually and welcomed efforts in convening face to face meetings, when possible, and suggested the exploration of hybrid meetings while endeavouring to ensure that no member is disadvantaged;
- iv. recognised the importance of capacity building efforts of national staff, including through use of secondments and attachments with safety protocols in place; and
- v. thanked all FFA partners (including DFAT, Japan, World Bank) who have supported Members in enhancing their MCS capabilities.

6. *Sequencing of FFA Priorities*

The Committee **agreed** that:

- i. The Secretariat will continue to refine the list of priority work areas with the aim of further reducing the time and level of resources required of Members and the Secretariat to ensure a sustainable workplan;
- ii. the Secretariat will streamline the way meetings are conducted including through the use of alternative means of delivery and additional platforms and tasked the Secretariat to develop protocols for the conduct of hybrid meetings; and
- iii. the Secretariat will convene a meeting with Members early in the calendar year to consider priorities for the year ahead and inform development of the associated work programme and schedule of meetings.

7. *Implementation of the FFA Strategic Plan*

The Committee **noted** the progress of FFA Strategic Plan Implementation and refinement of the FFA Business Plan since the last meeting.

FFA 5 Year Business Plan

The Committee **approved** the revised Business Plan 2021- 2025.

Country Partnership Agreements

The Committee **noted** the updates on the Partnership Agreement Review process, and **supported** the continued progress on trialling of the draft template and the development of the Partnership Agreement IT system.

8. 2022/2023 Annual Work Plan and Budget

The Committee

- i. **noted** the AWPB for the FY 22-23 and the indicative budgets for FY23-24 and FY24-25;
- ii. **approved** the Annual Work Programme and Budget of \$29,080,200 for the Agency for FY22-23; and
- iii. **approved** the Supplementary Budget of **\$ 3,378,400**.

9. Strategic Mapping (held in CLOSED SESSION)

The Committee **noted** the work to enhance the Strategic Mapping tool, and **supported** the development of the Strategic Mapping IT system housed within RIME.

SECTION IV: OFFSHORE FISHERIES ARE ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABLE

10. Impacts of Climate Change

The Committee

- i. **noted** the work to support transitioning to adaptive fisheries management regimes;
- ii. **noted** the need to further progress agreement on effective zone based management limits as a basis for adaptive management;
- iii. **recognised** the ongoing work with regard to social and economic aspects related to the impacts of climate change;
- iv. **acknowledged** CROP collaboration at the UN COP26 and encouraged further engagement in advancing the inclusion of fisheries in the climate change ocean nexus; and
- v. **agreed** that a dedicated workshop will be held with Members to further review FFA's role in relation to climate change and to consider a draft FFA Climate Change Strategy.

11. Priorities for WCPFC (held in CLOSED SESSION)

The Committee

- i. **agreed** to nominate Mr Glen Joseph, RMI, as the next WCPFC Chair;
- ii. **agreed** NOT to extend the suspension of the requirement for at-sea transshipment observers, so that it lapses on 15 June 2022;

- iii. **agreed** to extend the suspension of the requirement for purse seine observer coverage until 31 December 2022 but on 1 January 2023, this suspension must be lifted and the obligation comes into effect;
- iv. **endorsed** that a letter be conveyed through the FFC Chair to the WCPFC Chair with respect to FFC decision on the WCPFC intersessional decision;
- v. **agreed** to prioritise the following key issues for attention by FFA Members to secure progress and outcomes at WCPFC19:
 - CMS work, in particular, on audit points and risk-based assessment framework (RBAF)
 - Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring
 - Transshipment
 - Progress FFA positions on the management of SPA in the work of the WCPFC SPA IWG
 - Harvest strategy issues including management procedures for (SKJ & SPA)
 - SW Pacific swordfish CMM;
- vi. **agreed** to the following issues to continue to be progressed, including through FFA regional work, with a view to securing outcomes through WCPFC in 2023:
 - a. Harvest Strategies
 - b. Tropical tuna measure (High seas limits & allocation frameworks)
 - c. Labour standards
 - d. Progress work on Crew and Observer Safety.

SECTION V: OFFSHORE FISHERIES RIGHTS ARE WELL DEFINED

12. *Regional Longline Strategy Action Plan (held in CLOSED SESSION)*

The Committee discussed the Action Plan to support implementation of the Regional Longline Strategy and agreed the following:

- i. On establishment of zone based limits, tasked the Secretariat to engage with members to seek further guidance for progressing zone based limits for the southern longline fishery targeting South Pacific albacore, noting that the Longline VDS is already in place and being implemented for the longline fishery by PNA members plus Tokelau, and some members also have limits in place such as quota management systems.
- ii. Priority to be given to the development and implementation of strengthened monitoring tools, and associated information systems, to support management of longline fisheries at national and regional level;
- iii. Push for 100% implementation of ER by end of 2022 and drive the WCPFC work on EM Standards;
- iv. Continue work on addressing issues of human rights abuses and poor labour conditions for crew on fishing vessels;
- v. Continued Secretariat support for subregional and national LL fisheries related assistance and advice.

13. Management of South Pacific Albacore (held in CLOSED SESSION)

The Committee agreed the following actions to support Members' objectives relating to South Pacific Albacore:

- i. Secretariat to reach out bilaterally to Members in the first instance, to better understand the key issues for members with respect to progressing agreement of binding zone based limits for SPA;
- ii. Tasked the Secretariat to develop strategies and options for members consideration with respect to advancing the collective interests of members in relation to longline fisheries;
- iii. Secretariat to prepare a report on the status of monitoring and reporting of the SPA Longline fisheries to address gaps and inform the development of a comprehensive monitoring strategy to support management of the SPA and southern longline fishery. When developing the monitoring strategy, the Secretariat must take into account fleet performance and behaviour, in the context of multi-jurisdictional and multi-species fisheries, ensuring that strategies respond to management objectives, including economic.
- iv. Continue efforts to support SPA Harvest Strategy development including work on reviewing the ITRP for advice to members in preparation for the WCPFC SPA IWG work.
- v. Continue to work collectively on an FFA proposal for a revised WCPFC CMM for South Pacific albacore.

SECTION VI: OFFSHORE FISHERIES RIGHTS ARE SECURED AND PROTECTED

14. Outcomes of the 25th Meeting of the MCSWG

The Committee

- i. **noted** the MCSWG25 Summary Recording of Proceedings;
- ii. **noted** the recommendations from MCSWG25 on the following issues:
 - Impacts of COVID-19 on MCS tools;
 - IUU Quantification Study;
 - Update on the 3rd Year Implementation of RMCSS
 - Observer Insurance Compensation Scheme update;
 - PSM and CDS;
 - Update on the work on Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring;
 - Review of the HMTCS;
 - RIMS Workshop Outcome and Review of the IMS Policy;
 - FFA ISMS Policy Review update;
 - Persons of Interest;
 - Update on Collaboration with Emerging Technology partners;
 - RFSC Regional Surveillance Operations;
 - FFA Aerial Surveillance Program (ASP and Air Tasking Officers (ATO) Workshop Outcome;
 - Maritime Boundaries update;
 - Update on FFA Vessel Register and VMS; and

- Data sharing;
recognising that specific recommendations requiring FFC decision are addressed under separate agenda items.

Supplementary Paper - Maritime Security and Maritime Domain Awareness

The Committee:

- (i) **supported** the Secretariat exploring the formalisation of cooperation between the FFA, OCO, PIDC and PICP; and
- (ii) **tasked** the Secretariat to provide a report for the consideration of Special FFC124 with further details on the plans for cooperation and data sharing arrangements consistent with the ISMS Policy.

15. Enhancing Tools and Partnerships to Combat IUU Fishing

The Committee

- i. **noted** the update on current collaboration with emerging technology Partners;
- ii. **welcomed** the development of the Emerging Technology Engagement Policy;
- iii. **tasked** the Secretariat to adopt a holistic and strategic approach in assessing any emerging technology and partnerships, ensuring that FFA members needs are met through considered policy analysis, that a clear value proposition is articulated, and that there is complementarity with existing FFA MCS frameworks and tools; and
- iv. **noted** the utility of emerging technologies and need for the continuing focus on tools to address misreporting as the highest IUU risk.

16. Electronic Monitoring Standards, Specifications and Procedures

The Committee

- i. **noted** the work that has been done relating to EM, in particular the development of draft SSPs and the series of EM related workshops;
- ii. **endorsed** the Final draft EM SSPs as interim guidelines, noting these will continue to be reviewed and revised as Members build their experience with EM; and
- iii. **tasked** the Secretariat to include the outstanding issues as part of the EM workplan and to be progressed and reported back to future FFC.

17. Information Governance

A. Information Governance and Intellectual Property Policy

The Committee acknowledged the Secretariat for the work done and **approved** the revised draft of the Information Governance and Intellectual Property policy.

B. Implementation of ISMS Policy

The Committee **noted** the update on the progress of implementation of the ISMS Policy.

18. Observer Safety and Livelihoods

The Committee:

- (i) **noted** the update on the observer livelihood and safety-related work;
- (ii) **endorsed** the use of the Regional Observer Cost Recovery (ROCR) unused funds to support the initial establishment of the Observer Compensation Scheme;
- (iii) **directed** the Secretariat to keep FFC informed on the implementation of the remaining components of the operations of the Observer Compensation Scheme.

SECTION V: OFFSHORE FISHERIES RIGHTS ARE WELL DEFINED

19. US Tuna Treaty Re-Negotiations (*held in CLOSED SESSION*)

The Committee

- i. **noted** the progress in the renegotiation of the US Treaty post 2022; and
- ii. **recognised** that a Special FFC Officials and FFCMin will be held from 1 - 3 June for Ministers to consider the US proposal and provide further direction to progress the current renegotiation.

20. Persons of Interest

The Committee:

- i. **Noted** the draft POI Strategy, the ongoing work to progress the *Draft Practical Guideline and Procedures on POI*, and work undertaken to advance the POI Initiative; and
- ii. **Tasked** the Secretariat to convene a workshop in 2023 to consider further the implications of the use of personal information for POI purposes and related issues such as privacy and beneficial ownership.

21. *Harmonised Terms and Conditions for Access by Fishing Vessels*

The Committee:

- i. **Noted** the work undertaken with regards to the relevance, objectives, nature, scope of application, and the status of implementation of the HMTCs;
- ii. **Tasked** the Secretariat to continue the review of the HMTCs with a view to: (a) updating HMTCs; (b) categorising HMTCs in terms of the level where implementation is required, i.e., by the Secretariat or by Members; and (c) focussing on HMTCs that are suitable for implementation as licence conditions; and
- iii. **Endorsed** the proposed amendments to the HMTCs relating to observer insurance.

22. *International Engagement*

The Committee:

- i. **Noted** the outcomes and ongoing issues in other international fora;
- ii. **Committed** to effectively engage in the BBNJ processes to address the legal, policy and institutional implications on the fisheries sector of the proposed BBNJ IA;
- iii. **Tasked** the FFA Secretariat to provide the necessary technical and policy support to members to ensure that FFA interests are taken into account by the FAO Committee on Fisheries in the development of international policy on fisheries governance; and
- iv. **Requested** the Secretariat to proactively support Members in preparation for upcoming international meetings, including in particular by highlighting the potential impacts on fisheries.

SECTION VI ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFIT OPTIMISED

23. *Labour Standards on Fishing Vessels*

The Committee:

- i. **encouraged** all FFA members to take action to implement the crewing MTC;
- ii. **supported** the work on development of a binding CMM on labour standards in WCPFC;
- iii. **requested** the Secretariat convene a workshop for FFA Members ahead of the WCPFC June meeting; and
- iv. **thanked** New Zealand for funding the Labour Standards Project.

24. Advancing Gender Equity and Social Inclusion

The Committee:

- i. **noted** the updates on work undertaken in FY2021/22 in advancing Gender Equity and Social Inclusion;
- ii. **tasked** the Secretariat to ensure that the scope is broad enough to cover marginalised groups; and
- iii. **noted** the interconnectedness between human rights and gender equity and social inclusion principles.

SECTION VIII: CORPORATE SECRETARIAT MANAGEMENT

25. Outcomes of the 22nd Audit & Risk Committee Meeting (held in CLOSED SESSION)

The Committee:

- i. **adopted** the audited financial report as at 30 June 2021;
- ii. **approved** the proposed fees to be applied from FY23/24
 - a. membership contribution - no change;
 - b. FFA Vessel Levy - \$200 fee per vessel to be removed;
 - c. Administration fees - Trust fund/Donor at 12%;
 - d. Administration Fees - VMS - 20% of funds utilised;
 - e. Administration Fees - UST - 24% of funds utilised;
 - f. Administration Fee - Housing - 10% of rental payable; and
 - g. IT and Utility Fee - USD600 per staff per month
- iii. **approved** an independent review of Member Country Contributions; and
- iv. **noted** the ARC22 Record of Proceedings (Attachment B).

26. Review of the FFA Partnership with the European Union (held in CLOSED SESSION)

The Committee:

- i. **thanked** the Secretariat for the initial review;
- ii. **tasked** the Secretariat to commission a more detailed and independent review that takes an in-depth strategic analysis of the EU relationship, that takes into account the history of EU engagement with FFA, CROP, broader regional and geopolitical issues, along with consideration of strategies to align the EU with FFA fisheries management needs. The review should provide guidance on principles, criteria, and other relevant considerations when FFA determines development (donor) partnerships;
- iii. **tasked** the Secretariat with developing a TOR for the independent review to be shared with members for their input before it's finalised;

- iv. **agreed** that the findings of the independent review, as well as the draft resourcing strategy and funding guidelines currently under development, be discussed at a dedicated workshop with members.

27. Outcomes of the 15th JPF Joint Committee

The Committee:

- i. **noted** the outcomes of the 15th JPF Joint committee meeting;
- ii. **approved** the final annual report in FY2020/21;
- iii. **acknowledged** the interim annual report in FY2021/22;
- iv. **approved** the proposed carry forwarded budget from FY2020/21 to FY2021/22 and projects for the next fiscal year (FY2022/23);
- v. **noted** the members to the next Joint committee to be held in February 2023 being FFC Chair (Kiribati), and members New Zealand, Niue and Palau; and
- vi. **expressed** appreciation to the OFCF and Japan for usual support extended by the JPF programme.

28. World Bank PROPER Project

The Committee:

- i. **noted** the PROPER's preparation phase and the list of activities currently proposed for implementation under the new project; and
- ii. **noted** the need for alignment with national PROPER projects and their priorities and needs, including on capacity building.

29. Mid Term Review and Management Response

The Committee:

- i. **noted** the outcome of the mid-term review for the MFAT funded PIPSM, CDEC and SPLP Activities;
- ii. **noted** the key findings from the MTR of the three activities, including that the activities were relevant, fit for purpose and cost-effective; but that progress has been limited; and
- iii. **tasked** the Secretariat to hold a workshop to seek Members' views on the recommended next steps provided in the report to improve delivery of the Activities.

SECTION IX: MINISTERIAL MEETING

30. *Proposed FFCMIN19 and RFMM3 Arrangements and Agendas*

The Committee:

- i. **agreed to** the proposal for a virtual meeting of FFCMIN19 and RFMM3 from 5 to 7 July 2022; and
- ii. **endorsed** the draft agendas for FFCMIN19 and the Regional Fisheries Ministerial (RFMM3) meetings (Attachment A and B).

SECTION X: OTHER MATTERS

31. *The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and Review of the Regional Architecture*

The Committee **noted** the update on the process of development and the next steps in regard to the draft 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.