



FFA

FORUM FISHERIES COMMITTEE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTIETH MEETING

Virtual
29 October 2021

Agenda Item:	5
Paper Number:	<i>FFC120-WP.03</i>
Title:	Strategic mapping

Summary:

The purpose of this paper is to inform FFC about on-going enhancement of the FFA Strategic Mapping tool.

Recommendation:

The Committee is invited to **provide their views** as well as **support** the ongoing development and enhancement of the Strategic Mapping tool.

Introduction

The Strategic Mapping tool has now been in operation since November 2018, and has been subsequently endorsed by FFC as a useful planning and strategic tool. In particular, it currently focuses on information that is relevant to preparation for WCPFC meetings and discussions, in a readily accessible and user-friendly format. It has also been used to help inform the preparation for bilateral meetings of FFA Members with non-FFA Commission Members. It has always been intended to be a living document to be amended as priority needs are met or changed, and as new information comes to hand that will enhance the mapping.

As currently formatted, the mapping is divided into two parts:

- (a) Part 1 sets out the FFA priorities for forthcoming WCPFC meetings mapped against positions of DWFNs;
- (b) Part 2 sets out the priorities of non-FFA Commission Members, including their proposals, and also a summary of their main tuna fisheries interests and fleet performance.

On-going development and enhancement

It was envisaged that the mapping would continue to be refined. The Secretariat is accordingly working on ongoing development and enhancement of the Strategic Mapping tool, with the following objectives:

- (1) Applying a more regular and systematic process to the review and updating of the Strategic Map, so that it becomes more of a “real time” and “living” document. There has been a tendency for the document to be updated when needed for upcoming meetings such as WCPFC, and making it more of a “living” document would enhance its usefulness for Members to consult it during the course of the year rather than just for a specific meeting;
- (2) Broadening out and enhancing its content, so that it includes information relevant to other meetings in which FFA Members participate and could benefit from FFA briefing assistance, as well as information regarding partner countries and their positions which would be useful for bilateral and other negotiations.

More detail on these objectives is as follows:

(1) Regular review and updating - more of a “living” document:

This will primarily depend upon the enhancement of systems within the Secretariat, so as to ensure the regular review and updating of the Strategic mapping document. It is envisaged that this will be a function of the new Engagement Advisor as the responsible officer. It will include the provision of relevant information from other FFA staff to the responsible officer, and the collection of information from outside sources, particularly public sources directly by the responsible officer. It would also be useful if relevant information could be provided to the responsible officer by FFA Members.

(2) Broadening out and enhancing the content of the document:

The information relevant to other meetings in which FFA Members participate and could benefit from FFA briefing assistance, could include for example, BBNJ, UNFCCC COP, and Fisheries/Law of the Sea related meetings in the FAO and the United Nations.

It would also include relevant information regarding partner countries and their positions which would be useful for bilateral and other negotiations. This additional relevant information could be collected in various ways, including:

- interactions (both fisheries related, and non-fisheries e.g. post Forum dialogue) with Partner countries,
- relevant information collected by FFA staff in the course of their normal duties,
- relevant information collected by Member countries, including fisheries staff and their agencies overseas such as diplomatic missions in New York.
- In the latter regard, it is to be noted that when the mapping was developed, it was considered critical to **actively engage other relevant sectors**, such as Foreign Affairs, in the fisheries conversation so they can bring a wider lens to this work. This ensures that fisheries priorities are not considered in isolation and rather in a more coordinated and cohesive whole-of-government and whole-of-region approach. This will allow Members to continue to raise the fisheries profile and to leverage the best outcome for our fisheries priorities.

The foregoing would enable a more integrated approach, because at present useful information is not being systematically collected or utilised (e.g. partner statements in multilateral bodies which could be utilised by Members in access or other negotiations). Our negotiating partners take a more integrated approach, however, which adds to their negotiating leverage.

It is envisaged that this would be accommodated by an enhancement to the FFA IT system so that it would be able to provide views and positions **by issue**, or **by country**. There would also be the ability to save attachments (such as country statements etc. to the system). To this end, work is underway in the Secretariat to develop a Country Profile template for use within the system.

It should be noted that this approach would not change the existing Strategic Mapping format as used with regard to WCPFC for example. It is recognised that the existing format is user friendly and accessible due to its conciseness and in providing a “snapshot” in time of partner country positions, and this should be retained.