



Statement of Outcomes from the Second Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM2)

1. Ministers representing Australia, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu held a virtual meeting on 5 August 2021 as the second annual Pacific Islands Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM2).
2. Cook Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, French Polynesia, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga and Tuvalu were represented at senior officials level.
3. Ministers welcomed the participation of partner and observer organisations including CROP partners the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) as well as the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) Office and the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

Ministerial Chair

4. Ministers thanked FSM for its commitment to stay on as Chair of RFMM during 2020 and welcomed Fiji's Minister for Fisheries, Honourable Semi Koroilavesau, as Chair of RFMM2.

Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture

Outcomes of the 13th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting

5. Ministers acknowledged the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the social and economic wellbeing of the Pacific people and emphasised the importance of coastal fisheries for food security and economic development as the region rebuilds from the impact of COVID-19.
6. Ministers stressed the importance of robust fisheries management to ensure the sustainability of the coastal fisheries and ecosystems. Ministers also highlighted the importance of maintaining and enhancing SPC stock assessment science services for coastal and oceanic fisheries and further integrating the results of climate change research into stock assessment advice.
7. Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the 13th SPC Heads of Fisheries (HoF) meeting and supported the focus and actions that strengthen the member's social and economic efforts as they recover from the impact of Covid-19.

FORUM FISHERIES COMMITTEE EYES ONLY

8. Ministers emphasised the importance of further improving the understanding of climate change across the fisheries and aquaculture sector and endorsed SPC FAME programme of work on climate change. Ministers acknowledged SPC FAME's involvement in the preparation of the final project documentation for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Adapting *tuna-dependent Pacific Island communities and economies to climate change* and called for regional support and cooperation to ensure the realization of the GCF project.
9. Ministers recognised the importance of aquaculture in the food security and income generation for the Pacific people and welcomed the proposal by SPC FAME to review and determine future needs and priorities that will strengthen the aquaculture sector in the region through the development of a new aquaculture regional strategy.

Coastal Fisheries Report Card

10. Ministers welcomed the progress made towards the goals embedded in the Future of Fisheries Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries as reported in the Coastal Fishery Report Card. Ministers acknowledged the data gaps and the need to see trends over time for several outcome indicators that indicate progress since the implementation of the *Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries* and the *New Song for coastal fisheries - pathways to change: Noumea Strategy*.

Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling Up Community Based Fisheries Management

11. Ministers stressed the importance of sustainable coastal fisheries management for the Pacific Islands region and the need to scale-up community-based fisheries management (CBFM) using approaches appropriate to each member's context.
12. Ministers endorsed the Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling-up Community-based Fisheries Management: 2021-2025 that acknowledges members' sovereignty over coastal fisheries and Pacific diversity, and noted the proposed development of the related CBFM scaling up policy brief.
13. In endorsing the Regional Framework, Ministers emphasised the importance of coastal fisheries resources to their people and communities, essential during the pandemic, and key to a sustainable recovery from the pandemic.

Opportunities for Climate Change Action in the Fisheries Sector

14. Ministers welcomed and endorsed the actions for scaling up climate change action in the fisheries sector and tasked CROP and other relevant agencies to facilitate training on climate change finance including project development.

FORUM FISHERIES COMMITTEE EYES ONLY

15. Ministers tasked fisheries officials to work with national climate change focal points to have greater access to climate financing and to increase advocacy on fisheries as a key issue to be considered in the climate change and oceans Pacific priority area.
16. Ministers requested CROP and other partners to catalogue adaptation and mitigation actions that the fisheries sector can engage on and requested CROP to prepare documentation on climate change impacts on the fisheries sector, including visualization, for presentation at COP26 including in the Pacific Pavilion, and other relevant international fora.
17. Ministers strongly supported continued collective efforts to secure maritime boundaries. Ministers tasked CROP agencies to incorporate formalised maritime boundaries within their information systems and databases.

2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

18. Ministers considered an update on the progress undertaken by the Pacific Islands Forum Members to develop the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. In considering the next steps to develop the strategy, Ministers emphasized the importance of Fisheries Ministries, as well as related regional agencies, being closely consulted in the continued development of the strategy.

5 August 2021