



**Development of Sustainable Tuna Fisheries in Pacific ACP Countries
– Phase II (DevFish2)
Project Steering Committee – Second Annual Meeting
Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga
Saturday 12th May, 2012 – 1.00pm**

MEETING RECORD

Opening of the Meeting

The FFA Deputy Director General opened the meeting welcoming participants and noting that DevFish2 is jointly implemented by FFA and SPC with project staff based in each organisation. Fiji was then asked to deliver an opening prayer.

Nomination of Chair

Moses Amos of Vanuatu was nominated and appointed as Chair of the meeting.

Apologies

The meeting noted that the EU were unable to be represented at the meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda appended at Attachment A, endorsing the suggestion by the Project Team Leader that the work plan progress and the plans for the upcoming work plan be considered concurrently.

Review of Report of Previous Meeting

The meeting noted the report of the previous meeting.

Overview of DevFish2

The Team Leader gave a brief overview of the project highlighting the project objective and purpose and each activity area under the two project components. The meeting noted the overview.

Overview of Work Program to Date and work program development – Component 1

The meeting agreed that the Team Leader should provide an overview of progress in each activity area to date and plans for further implementation in relation to each activity area. This would be followed by open discussion on each activity area.

1.1 Assist with Fishery Development Strategies

Following an outline from the Team Leader, the Cook Islands noted that work undertaken to date has been very effective because of its flexibility and ability to meet the needs of the Cook Islands CSLA. Cook Islands noted its requests to draft a Fisheries Development Plan, strengthen the National Fisheries Association and establish a monitoring office in American Samoa.

Marshall Islands also noted the flexibility inherent in the work programme and the work being undertaken to establish a Competent Authority. Marshall Islands noted that the EU is sending a Mission to look at the capacity of Marshall Islands to implement the EU IUU Regulation and it will require assistance from the Secretariat for the lead up preparation and in responding to the Mission. Suggest for the reporting template to include cost of activities undertaken.

New Zealand referred to work on catch documentation and noted that despite providing funding support for this the EU is blocking work on this issue at the Commission.

PITIA requested that Competent Authority training include industry participants. The Team Leader advised that DevFish is looking to develop regional standards and that the first training course involves staff from existing Competent Authorities and countries in the process of establishing Competent Authorities. Training will also cover industry in future.

The Cook Islands noted that DevFish has the flexibility to fund national projects outside of CSLAs.

1.2 Transparency in Systems and Procedures (industry associations – capacity building in access negotiations)

PITIA thanked DevFish for the support provided to date.

Tonga emphasised the need to provide support to associations aside from those linked to PITIA.

Marshall Islands noted the need to promote wider private sector involvement in the work of FFA and WCPFC. The Deputy Director General noted that the PITIA Constitution provides for participation across the region and noted the importance of having national associations involved in national fisheries decision making processes.

Cook Islands stated that the status of PITIA should be elevated in terms of its relationship with FFA and then PITIA noted the need to continue to strengthen national associations.

1.3 Provide Technical Assistance to Competent Authorities – (coordinated with SFP and ACP fish 2)

Marshall Islands expressed its appreciation for the work undertaken to date. It noted that legal amendments to provide for the establishment of a Competent Authority have been completed, but that laboratory facilities will be an issue. The Competent Authority establishes national standards for seafood handling and emphasised the need for a manuals and standard operating procedures to guide the work of Competent Authorities.

The Federated States of Micronesia noted the option of utilising sub-regional laboratory facilities and the need to develop SOPs for the Competent Authority and to develop compliance procedures and SOPs for the private sector.

PITIA noted the importance of independent external audits to ensure compliance with standards. PITIA also noted that the EU does not accept rapid tests for histamine and that

USP cannot do all the required tests. PITIA emphasised the need for the Competent Authority team to remain separate from other food safety roles.

Vanuatu expressed appreciation for the assistance provided in developing its Competent Authority and noted that it is finalising arrangements for the establishment of the Authority. Expressed interest for attachment with established CA within region.

Cook Islands supported the sub-regional approach to laboratory facilities and noted that Cook Islands has participants in the training course currently being conducted in New Zealand.

PITIA advised that compliance issues will be discussed at a workshop planned for September 2012.

Kiribati advised that it is developing a Competent Authority given that processing facilities are being established in country and it needs further assistance in this area. It supports the concept of attaching personnel to existing Competent Authorities for training. Kiribati also advised it needs assistance with respect to the IUU Regulation noting that compliance with this regulation is important for Kiribati flag vessels.

PITIA noted work done on HACCP plans for the Solomon Island pole and line fleet and noted that compliance with EU Regulations is expensive and additional to the EU's national standards and needed to be par .

Marshall Islands noted the opportunity to make use of the experience of existing compliant Pacific Island Countries.

Tuvalu expressed interest to register priorities.

Tonga noted that it has laboratory equipment supplied by the EU, but it needs advice on the utilisation of this equipment. Tonga also advised that a Food Bill has been drafted for consideration by the Parliament.

Solomon Islands noted that its Competent Authority is located within the Ministry of Health and that training is needed for the staff.

1.4 Provide training to industry for expansion of exports (vessels and fish handling)

The meeting noted the links to Activity 1.3 under this activity and noted that Activity 1.4 would be equally implemented between FFA and SPC.

1.5 Provide Technical Assistance and Training for Fishing Companies

Marshall Islands queried what was involved in work on the Maritime Code. The Team leader advised that the Code does not distinguish between fishing vessels and cargo vessels and that the focus is to ensure it is workable for fishing vessels. Marshall Islands noted the crewing initiative being implemented by PNA and the need to develop crewing standards and the Team leader noted the crewing study conducted by FFA and the impact of national manning requirements on crewing opportunities. The New Zealand funded purse seine crew training delivered in Kiribati and the possibility of rolling this out in other countries was also noted.

PITIA also noted the need for engineers to be trained on the operation of freezers and other aspects of fisheries technology.

Meeting noted that SPC would be taking the lead in implementation of Activity 1.5

1.6 Conduct Pilot Projects Introducing New Technologies

PITIA highlighted the problem of whale predation and noted the report on options to mitigate this will be distributed once it is finalised. Noted energy audit is required for processors and vessels.

RMI noted the need for trialling the use of e-forms and considered that this should be covered under DevFish2. The Team Leader noted that this is covered under Component 2 and that the focus is on observer data and logsheets is work in progress.

1.7 Support Artisanal Tuna Fishing Operations

Marshall Islands noted it faced challenges in implementing the bagan project, including identifying the lead agency for the project.

Vanuatu sought clarification on the reference to not increasing total catches as a result of DevFish2 activities. The Team Leader advised that this was the wording in the Contributions Agreement and the objective is to increase domestic catches while reducing distant water catches to ensure sustainability.

Kiribati emphasised the importance of this component and the need for further work such as the promotion of FADs and safety to increase artisanal catches.

Overview of Work Program to Date – Component 2

The Director of Fisheries Operations provided a review of the work program for Component 2 IUU Fishing Deterrence.

2.1 Contribute to the Implementation of the Regional MSC Strategy

Nauru stated that priority should be given to the development of SOPs and that this could be done on a sub-regional basis.

The Federated States of Micronesia expressed appreciation for the convening of the Information Management System workshop. It also expressed interest in the development of e-forms for Port State data.

Cook Islands stated that Information Management Systems should be holistic and expanded across all areas of work, not just the IUU component of DevFish2.

Tonga emphasised the need for assistance in MCS and supported the development of country specific SOPs. Tonga also noted the need for more in-country observer training identifying the PNG training and sought support to participate.

2.2 Identify and Remedy Technical, Legal and Capacity Shortfalls

Cook Islands advised that operational equipment supplied under the project has been useful and should be supplied to other countries.

Marshall Island queried whether there is a national component to the GEOEYE SEASTAR. The Director of Fisheries Operations noted that due to funding constraints the trial involved only two countries, but others could be added in future.

2.3 Integrated Assessment of Enforcement and Fisheries Databases

Marshall Islands noted PNA work being done in this area including FAD tracking, the PNA Fisheries Management Information System and e-forms and emphasised the need to collaborate with PNA. The Director Fisheries Operations noted that an Information Management System Symposium will be held in Cook Islands and this will provide an opportunity to consult with Papua New Guinea, who are providing support to PNA.

Cook Islands agreed on the need to look at what is being done in the region, particularly Papua New Guinea.

Papua New Guinea confirmed its participation at the IMS Symposium in CI. Noted that its trial will possibly identify gaps which DevFish2 can fill. Database will require national capacity enhancement for staff training and quality control.

The Federated States of Micronesia noted the focus on TUFMAN and noted that other options should also be considered.

2.4 Integrated Enforcement Action

The meeting noted the importance of regional MCS operations coordinated through the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre.

Communications Strategy

The Team Leader advised that work on the communications strategy for FFA has yet to be tendered.

Nauru noted that this is an EU priority and that the project is viewed by countries as being well implemented and effective. However, accessing information especially on FFA/SPC webpages regarding the project could be improved.

Overview of Planned Year 3 Work Program

The Team Leader presented the overview of the planned year 3 work program noting that the FFC week would provide further opportunity for Country level discussions on project activity development. The meeting noted the overview.

Year 3 Budgets & Financial Report to Date

The Team Leader presented the year 3 budget and financial report to date.

RMI recommended that as FFA and SPC have separate budgets, the consolidated report also includes separate columns highlighting the two agencies specific cost for the activities implemented at future meetings..

The meeting approved the year 3 budget.

General Discussion

Nauru commended the reporting format and the way in which the work plan was presented noting it is easily understood and clearly sets out what has been achieved to date and what is in the pipeline.

Cooks Islands noted the project work plan format is good in terms of general and broad scope of key focus areas.

PITIA thanked the project for its successful implementation to date.

The Team Leader noted that the draft meeting record will be presented to FFC81 for review along with the project summary paper.

Cook Islands congratulated the DevFish2 project team for the scope of work that is being successfully implemented.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.30pm.

Attachment 1



Development of Sustainable Tuna Fisheries in Pacific ACP Countries – Phase II (DevFish2) Project Steering Committee – Second Annual Meeting Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga Saturday 12th May, 2012 – 1.00pm Draft Agenda

Objectives of the Meeting:

To advise and inform the P-ACP members and Timor Leste of the following:

- Overview and expected results of the EU funded DevFish2 Project;
- Work programme progress for year 2 (July 1st 2011– June 30th 2012);
- Proposed work programme for Year 3 (July 1st 2012– June 30th 2013);
- Budget and provisional financial report to end of March 2012.

Expected Outcomes:

It is expected that beneficiary countries will:

- be made aware of the expected results of DevFish2 project;
- be informed of progress of second year work programme;
- be informed of the proposed third year work programme;
- be informed of the budget for the year 3 work program program and provisional financial report;
- provide inputs into the future direction of the project;
- renew their commitment in supporting the implementation of the DevFish2 Project.

Draft Agenda

13.00 -1500	1. Introduction	Project Director
	Introductory Remarks & Objective of meeting;	
	Nomination of Chair	
	Adoption of Proposed Agenda;	
	Review of report of previous meeting	
	Overview of DevFish2 Project	Project Team Leader
	Overview of work program to date – component 1	Project Team Leader
	Overview of work program to date – component 2	Director Operations
15.00 – 15.30	Afternoon Tea	
15.30 – 17.00	Overview of planned year 3 work program	Project Team Leader
	Year 3 budgets & financial report to date	
	General discussion and feedback	All
17.00	Meeting Closure	

Attachment 2.**List of Participants**

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	Joshua Mitchell	Director, Offshore, Marine Resource	j.mitchell@mmr.gov.ck
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Fiji			
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Palau			
	Apologies		
PNG			
	Ludwig Kumoru	Executive Manager, Fisheries Management,PNG NFA	lkumoru@fisheries.gov.pg
Samoa			No presence
Solomon Is			
	Adrian Wickham		
Tonga			
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SPC			
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Meeting Documents List;

- Progress of AWP2 activities table
- Financial Position as at March 2012
- Progress and projected activities table
- Budget AWP3 (July 2012-June 2013)