

ARTISANAL TUNA MONITORING WORKSHOP

Workshop Recommendations

- The workshop commended the increasing number of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) who are actively monitoring their artisanal tuna fishery, but noted the extra burden this placed on PICTs Fisheries Administrations, as funding was not always available for this new area of fisheries monitoring.
- The workshop called on project donors and regional fishery management organisations; especially the WCPFC who encourage PICTs to voluntarily provide data on their artisanal tuna fishery in the interest of having information from the range of the tuna stocks, to financially support these new monitoring regimes, specifically through their SIDs–SRF and the Japan Trust Fund. On-going funding and resource allocation is required to collect data to further inform science and economics. **(WCPFC, SPC, FFA, project donors).**
- The contribution of the small-scale fishers to national food security, local employment and GDP was recognised by the workshop participants. The workshop also acknowledged the support that fishers receive through fishery development projects and suggested that these should be linked with the provision of data, which is beneficial to fishers in the long-term. **(SPC/FFA and project donors)**
- There is a continuing need to raise awareness on the social and economic benefits that are derived from the artisanal tuna fisheries, especially in securing food and livelihood for Pacific Islanders, and acknowledge the potential adverse impacts of industrial fishing, climate change and population growth. **(SPC, FFA, PICTs Fisheries Administrations)**
- In many countries the lack of national legislation requiring small-scale fishers to submit data can be the first impediment to collecting information. The provision of a legislative framework, something that countries can refer to, or include when reviewing their national legislation with regards to data requirements from small-scale fishers would be helpful. **(FFA, SPC)**
- Fisheries Administrations are highly recommended to implement a system to register all small-scale fishing vessels, with consideration for a separate licensing component. The unique identification of small-scale fishing vessels is necessary for monitoring purposes; it is also an important element in sea-safety; and can help establish a base-line of fishing effort. **(PICTs Fishery Administrations)**
- A data collection protocol for capturing information on the destination of the fish after landing would help enhance the current monitoring framework. **(SPC)**

- The SPC/FFA Tuna Fishery Data Collection Committee should consider the suggestions for form changes noted in the workshop for inclusion in the finalised version that will be circulated for use in March, 2014. **(SPC/ FFA)**
- Acknowledge that the data collection is dependent on the cooperation of all stake-holders, including fishers and fishing associations; and recommend that national administrations develop strategies to improve the on-going engagement of stake-holders. **(PICTs Fishery Administrations, SPC, FFA)**
- Recommends national fisheries administrations implement national artisanal tuna data collection programmes, and consider adopting the SPC/FFA recommended framework and the associated TUF_ART database, or a similar programme. Accepting that capacity building in implementation and training will be required. **(PICTs Fishery Administrations)**
- The workshop made several recommendations for enhancing the TUF_ART databases system, identifying the high, medium and low-priority work. These TUF-ART recommendations are included with the workshop outputs¹. **(SPC)**



¹ The workshop presentations and other outputs can be found at <http://www.spc.int/oceanfish/en/meetingsworkshops/artisanal-tuna-monitoring-workshop>