

Synopsis of the 4th SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture
(Oct. 12-15, 2021)

1. The RTMCFA4 brought together coastal fisheries and aquaculture scientists and technical experts in the Pacific to discuss important technical and scientific gaps, needs, challenges and opportunities in the region.
2. The USA delegate announced two new major USAID activities for coastal fisheries over the next 5 years: the USD 15M 'Our Fish Our Future' to be implemented by the University of Rhode Island (with WWF, LMMA Network and USP) targeting Micronesia and Melanesia; and the USD 6M 'Pacific Coastal Fisheries Management and Compliance' being implemented by SPC FAME across all 12 USAID eligible countries to improve coastal MCS capacities and enabling environment for compliance.
3. SPC provided update on work undertaken by FAME on risks to PICT's aquaculture production, presenting an overview of the kinds of risks there are in aquaculture and highlighted the importance of risk planning management for aquaculture. Members discussed and shared information on the types of aquaculture risks they face within their countries and territories and any gaps in their capacity to manage risks. Risks and management strategies were identified for the following commodities as example: seaweed, tilapia, marine fish, and giant clams. SPC has indicated that they can help develop a territorial aquaculture plan for American Samoa using the process of risk assessment and management for identified commodities.
4. The draft of the Coastal Fisheries Report Card was presented. The meeting noted progress made towards the Future of Fisheries Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries as reported in the Coastal Fisheries Report Card, including the development of the online interactive dashboard for national level report cards.
5. The Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue provided an opportunity to share experiences and lessons from community-based initiatives to strengthen efforts to maintain productive and healthy ecosystems and their associated fisheries resources that are critical to the wellbeing of coastal communities.