

7TH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

La Havana, Cuba, 7 to 12 October 2019

SC7-Doc15

Identification of Capacity Building Needs

Secretariat

1. Background

The [Report](#) of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation Performance Review Panel (1st December 2018) noted in Section 4 on Compliance and Enforcement (paragraph 197) that:

“over half the responses to the questionnaire indicated lack of capacity as at least one of the reasons why Members and CNCs have not fulfilled all their flag state obligations. Despite this, there does not seem to be any mechanism whereby capacity building needs or requests are captured in one place”.

The Panel believed (paragraph 199) that:

“there would be benefits to the Commission of consolidating all of the capacity building needs and requests in one place where they can be tracked. This will help ensure that such needs and requests are not lost and will assist those who might be in a position to meet those needs in connecting with those in need. Furthermore, such consolidation would help the Commission evaluate and prioritise these needs and requests”.

Several respondents (paragraph 247) to the Panel had noted:

“a lack of capacity to fully implement the SPRFMO MCS measures fully, but none provided any specific examples of areas that were proving difficult to implement”.

In January 2019 the 7th Commission Meeting addressed Performance Review Recommendation Item 202 (h), that the Commission:

“consolidate, and make publicly available, a list of capacity building needs”.

The Commission response to this recommendation ([Table of Performance Review recommendations to COMM](#)) was to request Members and CNCs to advise the Secretariat of their capacity building needs. In this regard, New Zealand agreed to lead intersessional work¹ on this issue in 2019 and in support of this work, the Secretariat was tasked with:

“compiling these needs into a single document”.

¹ WG-ICBN Working Group on the Identification of Capacity Building Needs



2. Initiatives to identify Capacity Building needs

On the 8th August 2019 (G67-2019) the Secretariat circulated an updated Template for the Implementation Report of the SPRFMO Conservation and Management Measures containing a list of 287 obligations. Following a recommendation from CTC6, members of the WG-ICBN were asked to identify within the 287 obligations those related to capacity building that could be used as audit points.

The Secretariat has further reviewed all Final Compliance Reports since 2016 compiling a list of 193 incidents of non-compliance where lack of capacity is a possible reason for the non-compliance. In addition, the annual reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies were reviewed to identify references to potential capacity building issues. Members of the WG-ICBN were asked to provide comments on this approach, and to categorise and identify which of the non-compliance assessments might be capacity building related.

On the 9th August 2019 the Chairperson of the Commission, Mr Osvaldo Urrutia, encouraged Members (letter G70-2019) and CNCPs to communicate their own identified Capacity Building needs to the Secretariat.

The information received from these various initiatives is included in an Annex to this paper.

3. Input requested from the Scientific Committee

In its response to the Performance review recommendations (number 202h) the Commission has instructed the 2019 Scientific Committee to provide advice to the Commission on:

- *“how capacity building needs relevant to the work of the Scientific Committee might be better managed”.*

4. Next steps

A consolidated list of Capacity Building needs will be discussed as a meeting document at COMM8 in February 2020.

The Timeline for Actions related with the WG-ICBN suggests that a draft list of Capacity Building needs could be an output of COMM8, and a final list of Capacity Building Needs will be presented by New Zealand at COMM9.



Annex 1

Information about Capacity Building needs provided for consideration by the Scientific Committee

Compiled by the Secretariat

Capacity Building needs reported to the Secretariat by 6 September 2019

No Capacity Building needs were reported to the Secretariat

Capacity Building needs identified by members of the Working Group by 6 September 2019

No Capacity Building needs reported to the Secretariat