

Guest Speaker

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PACIFIC FISHERIES AND THE ROLE OF FAME

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### **Abstract:**

There are 30,000 islands scattered across the Pacific Ocean. These islands, which are divided into 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), make up the island membership of the Pacific Community, and are a diverse group in terms of economic and social conditions. What they have in common is that all are islands surrounded by large areas of the tropical Pacific Ocean and have jurisdiction over areas of this ocean covering a total Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) area of almost 30 million square kilometers compared to their total land area, which is estimated to be 0.5 million square kilometers and are inhabited by over 9 million people. Almost all people in PICTs live on the coasts where entire communities are involved in fishing. As a component of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's fisheries services to the Pacific Island countries and territories, the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (FAME) is able to provide important and critical technical assistance through its Coastal Fisheries Programme (CFP). The activities of CFP include provision of support to Pacific Island Countries and territories in management of coastal fisheries, sustainable development of near-shore resources, and all aspects of aquaculture. Data collection and scientific information dissemination of coastal fisheries resources are also important services delivered under the FAME CFP. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community also provides fisheries services to the PICTs through the FAME Division Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP), which provides the region with scientific support and high quality scientific advice for the management of fisheries for tuna and associated species, with a strong focus on stock assessment and modeling.

**Keywords:** Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTS), Pacific Ocean, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, fisheries, libraries.