

**The United States' Attachment to Annual Report Part II, Questions 0018-0023
on Special Requirements of Small Island Developing States and Territories**

The United States' response to Annual Report Part II questions 0018-0023, relating to requirements to assist Small Island Developing States and Territories (SIDS, CMM 2013-6 and CMM 2013-07) is generally described in this document, which provides a strategic overview and select examples of U.S. support for the region related to these WCPFC obligations. The United States has provided additional detail in the Further Information box for each question.

The United States provides \$21 million annually to support economic development in SIDS under an Economic Assistance Agreement (EAA) with FFA related to the 1987 Treaty on Fisheries (Treaty). The funds are managed by FFA on behalf of Pacific Island parties to the Treaty to support a range of fisheries development, economic development, and capacity building activities.

In addition to the EAA, each year the United States collaborates with SIDS, all of whom are members of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) on trainings, workshops, exchanges, and joint exercises. However, nearly all of these engagements, intended to address the special requirements of SIDS were cancelled due to health risks and logistical hurdles posed by COVID-19 in 2020. In spite of the pandemic, the United States managed to continue funding specific projects, capacity building, technology transfers, and engaged in several key MCS activities with FFA members as identified in the Annual Report Part II.

Last year also marked an important milestone in a key agreement between the United States and SPC in support of special requirements of SIDS. USAID, on behalf of the United States Government posted a Notice of Funding Opportunity for a five-year Sustainable Coastal Fisheries Management Activity in the Pacific Region. Understanding the importance of coastal fisheries, for food-security and livelihoods, with strong gender and equity considerations, this activity has a goal of improving the quality of life for Pacific Islanders by increasing ecosystem services and resilience at both the ecosystem and community level. Based on listening sessions, this program will primarily focus on coastal fisheries including community-driven fisheries management that ultimately link to broader national level application with clear roles and responsibilities between local level and national government management. Further, this activity will pursue a multi-pronged effort to advance community-based and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management that can result in effective management and long-term sustainability of coastal resources.

Lastly, in the United States, we are using climate vulnerability assessments to inform domestic decision-makers on the relative vulnerability of fish species and fisheries to expected changes in climate and ocean conditions. We are using a similar approach to assess the vulnerability of coral reefs with respect to their many functions, including as habitat supporting reef fisheries. We know other members are also working on these issues, and we welcome information sharing and collaboration in these areas whether through the scientific services provider or on a bilateral basis in the coming years.