

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Meeting Information

Timing:

The First Preparatory Conference of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation is scheduled to take place from Monday 19 July until Friday 23 July 2010.

Venue:

The Meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Auckland. The Crowne Plaza Hotel is conveniently located in the heart of Auckland's business district, above the Atrium on Elliott shopping complex, and just a few minutes walk to the Sky City Casino complex, Queen Street's "golden mile" and Auckland's picturesque waterfront.

A special accommodation rate has been negotiated with the conference venue. For alternative accommodation options please see the link under the "Accommodation" section below.

Registration:

Please register for attendance of PREPCON I by filling out a registration form on the website and electronically submitting it.

Language:

All meetings will be conducted in the English language.

Accommodation:

To find out about general accommodation options available in Auckland, please visit the Auckland Tourism website at www.aucklandnz.com and click on the "Auckland accommodation" link. There are several quality hotels situated close to the conference venue.

Travel Arrangements:

Travel arrangements to and from the meeting are the responsibility of participants.

New Zealand Visa Requirements:

Participants from countries who have a visa free arrangement with NZ do not need to apply for a visa before they travel. A list of visa free countries (front page left hand side), as well as more detailed information about New Zealand visa requirements is available on the immigration website www.immigration.govt.nz. Participants will need to have an outward ticket and evidence of sufficient available funds for their maintenance while in NZ.

Participants from countries who DO NOT have a visa free arrangement will need to apply for a visitor's visa. Please see the Immigration website (www.immigration.govt.nz) for an application form, details of where to send your application, and the application fee. Please click on "where to lodge your application" on the left hand side of the front page.

Applications for visas can take several weeks to process, so please ensure that you make arrangements to obtain a visa well in advance. Please also ensure that the application form is completed in full and that you include a letter from your employer or sponsoring organisation in your home country.

Note that participants who plan to transit to New Zealand via other countries such as Australia, should check to determine whether they need to arrange transit visas for these countries.

A current passport is also required by anyone entering New Zealand. Your passport must be valid for at least three months beyond the date you intend to leave New Zealand.

New Zealand Customs and MAF Biosecurity Information

Travellers are welcome in New Zealand, however, it is important that our community and economy remain protected. To achieve this it is important that:

- (a) Certain goods that may pose a public risk are controlled, and may only be brought into the country with the correct New Zealand-issued permit; and
- (b) New Zealand remains free of pests and diseases that may affect our agricultural, horticultural or aquacultural industries.

The New Zealand Customs Service and MAF Biosecurity New Zealand operate at New Zealand airports and ports.

Before you arrive in New Zealand, you will receive a New Zealand Passenger Arrival Card. You **must** tick "Yes" in the:

- (a) Customs section , if you have:
 - medicines,
 - controlled firearms,
 - offensive weapons
 - other controlled or prohibited goods:
- (b) MAF Biosecurity New Zealand section if you are bringing into New Zealand :
 - food of any kind,
 - animals or animal products,
 - plants or plant products,
 - other risk goods such as soil, seeds, outdoor sports equipment or equipment used with animals.

New Zealand law requires you to declare all risk goods you are carrying. If you fail to declare risk goods on your Passenger Arrival Card you could face an instant fine or be prosecuted.

For more information on arriving in New Zealand, including on duty free allowances, visit:

<http://www.customs.govt.nz> and
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/enter>

Information about Auckland

Auckland is New Zealand's largest urban area with a population of just over one million people. It is the centre of commerce and industry and is perhaps the most vibrant, bustling and multicultural city in New Zealand. Auckland is the biggest Polynesian city in the world, and this cultural influence is reflected in many different aspects of city life.

The city's landscape is dominated by volcanic hills, the twin harbours (Waitemata and Manukau), bays, beaches and islands. Its nickname "the city of sails" is very apt. Auckland has more boats per capita than anywhere else in the world.

Climate and Clothing:

Auckland experiences cool, wet winters and warm, rather dry summers. It will be mid-winter when you arrive and you can expect average daytime temperatures of around 10 - 14 degrees Celsius, and 4 - 10 degrees Celsius at night.

Transport:

Taxis

A half hour drive from the airport will deliver you to the city centre and the meeting venue. The average taxi fare for this distance is between NZ\$60 – NZ\$80. Recommended taxi companies include Auckland Co-op Taxis (phone 09 300 3000) and Corporate Cabs (phone 09 377 0773).

Shuttles

Taxi and shuttle ranks are located outside the arrivals area at the International terminal. The average fare for a shuttle from the airport to the city centre is between NZ\$30 – NZ\$40. Recommended shuttle companies include Super Shuttle (phone 0800 748 885 – this is a free calling number) and Quality Shuttles (phone 09 257 0000). Please note that shuttles usually stop several times between the airport and the city to deliver passengers to their destinations.

Buses

A regular 15 minute Airbus Express service (bright blue bus) is available from the airport for all travellers to Auckland's CBD. Tickets are purchased from the driver and cost around \$12.

Shopping:

Most shops in Auckland are open from 9.00am – 5.30pm seven days a week, with many offering late night shopping on Thursday or Friday. Queen Street and Broadway, Newmarket are Auckland's main shopping streets, and are lined with department stores, clothing boutiques, souvenir shops, banks, arcades and restaurants.

Restaurants:

Because of the diverse culture in Auckland, the selection of restaurants is limitless. There are a number of destinations in Auckland City that are well known for their great dining atmosphere (Sky City Tower, Mission Bay, Devonport , and Ponsonby) and a great place to try some world renowned seafood is the Auckland Viaduct – with many restaurants boasting spectacular views of the Auckland harbour.

Smoking in all hospitality venues including bars, restaurants and cafes is prohibited in Auckland and throughout New Zealand.

Visitor Information:

For all you need to know about visiting Auckland, log on to Auckland's official tourism website at <http://www.aucklandnz.com> and the website of the Auckland City Council at <http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz>.

If you're planning to spend some time in New Zealand before or after the conference, check out the Tourism New Zealand website at www.tourism.net.nz for all your accommodation, transport, and sightseeing options.

When in Auckland, visit the Auckland i-SITE Visitor Information Centre, Sky City, corner Victoria and Federal Streets, phone (09) 363 7181, for all your sightseeing requirements.

General Information***Currency:***

The New Zealand dollar is the official currency. Other currencies are generally not accepted.

Credit Cards:

Major credit cards such as American Express, Diners Club, Mastercard and Visa can be used in Auckland and surrounding towns. If your credit card is encoded with a PIN number, you may be able to withdraw cash from automatic teller machines (ATMs).

Banking:

Banks are open from 9.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday (some banks are also open on Saturday). ATM banking facilities and foreign exchange traders are widely available in Auckland, and throughout the rest of the country.

Telephones:

Check with your telephone company before leaving home regarding international mobile roaming facilities in New Zealand. Prepaid cards for use with public telephones can be purchased from newsagents and convenience stores.

Laptops:

You will need an RJ45-type plug to connect your laptop to a computer socket in New Zealand, and an adaptor with a flat two or three pin power plug to connect to the power supply. There will be facilities at the meeting venue for computer use and access to the Internet.

Electricity:

New Zealand operates a Multiple Earthed Neutral (MEN) system. The voltage is 400 volts three phase, or 230 volts single phase at 50 hertz. The standard domestic connectors and sockets are New Zealand standard type 198, 10 amp, flat three pin common only to New Zealand and Australia.

Driving:

New Zealand motorists drive on the left hand side of the road.

To drive in New Zealand, you must have a current overseas driver licence or international driving permit. You can only drive the types of vehicle covered by your overseas driver licence or international driving permit. You must have your driver licence or international driving permit with you at all times when you are driving. If your overseas licence or permit is not in English, it is suggested that you carry a translation from an official source.

Note that speaking or texting on handheld mobile phones while driving is an offence, and therefore can attract a fine.

Population:

New Zealand has a population of just over 4 million. The population mix consists of 80.9% European, 12.5% Maori, 7.9% Pacific Island, 6.8% Asian and 0.9% other.

Size and Location:

New Zealand is 1,600 kilometres in length and is made up of two major islands – the North Island which is 115,000 square kilometres, and the South Island which is 151,000 square kilometres.