



**TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES AND OBSERVERS**

**Circular No.: 2021/99
Date: 12 November 2021
No. pages: 03**

WCPFC18 Meeting Schedule

Dear All,

As we approach the annual WCPFC18 meeting to commence on 1 December 2021, I wish to settle the logistical but sensitive matter of the meeting schedule well in advance of the meeting itself. This matter has been the subject of numerous exchanges, more recently at the second workshop on a new tropical tuna measure and at the TCC17 meeting. I also recently tasked the Executive Director to reach out informally to solicit further views on this matter, and the responses were consistent with the views that were formally expressed in the above forums. So, I have arrived at the conclusion that no additional progress can be made through further discussion. As your Chair, I have to make a final call, bring this matter to a closure and determine a meeting schedule for WCPFC18 mindful, of course, of the viewpoints expressed by Members.

I have therefore decided on the meeting schedule for WCPFC18 in Attachment 1 to this circular.

The meeting schedule entails the follow features (with Pohnpei time):

- a) The FAC15 and Heads of Delegation meeting will be both held on Monday 29 November 2021 at times indicated on the schedule;
- b) Day 1 of WCPFC18 will be on Wednesday 1 December 2021 with a starting time at 1 pm for 4 hours;
- c) Day 2 of WCPFC18 will be on Thursday 2 December 2021 with a starting time at 1 pm for 4 hours;
- d) Friday 3 December 2021 is a rest day;
- e) Day 3 of WCPFC18 will be on Saturday 4 December 2021 with a starting time at 9am for 4 hours;
- f) Sunday 5 December 2021 is a rest day;
- g) Day 4 of WCPFC18 is on Monday 6 December 2021 with a starting time at 9am for 4 hours;

- h) Day 5 and final day of WCPFC18 is on Tuesday with a starting time at 9 am for 4 hours. The Commission may have an extended session on Day 5 if necessary to get all the business done by the end of this day; and
- i) The rest days are included to allow delegations adversely affected by the meeting time to recover. It may also provide an opportunity for delegations and the Chair to consult informally on the new tropical tuna measure or for discussions of any working groups the Commission may establish.

I know there is no ideal meeting schedule under the current operational circumstances that would satisfy all delegations, so I would plead with all delegations to the WCPFC18 meeting to demonstrate some flexibility and understanding. I, like all of you, would hope that the new year will return us to some normalcy that would allow us to meet face to face, and we do not have to deal with this issue in the future. I wish to also advise that I do not intend to discuss this issue at the Heads of Delegation meeting nor at the WCPFC18 meeting itself. I would greatly appreciate your cooperation in this regard.

As in the past, I will advise all CCMs of my expectations and approaches to the issues to be considered at WCPFC18 in advance of the meeting. I also intend to reach out to CCMs for informal consultations on the Chair's Consultative Draft on Tropical Tuna from next week via a virtual meeting or email correspondence from next week.

I wish everybody well and safe, and I look forward to seeing you at the WCPFC18 meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Jung-re Riley Kim
WCPFC CHAIR

Meeting Schedule for WCPFC18

Date (Pohnpei time)	Meeting	Meeting time (Pohnpei time)	Comments
29.11.2021 (Monday)	FAC15 HOD	9:00 – 11:00 11:30 – 13:30	
30.11.2020 (Tuesday)	Rest Day		
01.12.2021 (Wednesday)	WCPFC18	13:00 – 17:00	Day 1 (Start)
02.12.2020 (Thursday)	WCPFC18	13.00 – 17.00	Day 2
03.12.2020 (Friday)	Rest Day		
04.12.2020 (Saturday)	WCPFC18	9.00 – 13.00	Day 3
05.12.2020 (Sunday)	Rest Day		
06.12.2020 (Monday)	WCPFC18	9:00 – 13:00	Day 4
07.12.2020 (Tuesday)	WCPFC18	9:00 – 13:00	Day 5 (End)