



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

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**Letter from WCPFC Chair on WCPFC18 Priorities**

Dear All,

I circulate for your information and consideration a self-explanatory letter of 24 November 2021 from the WCPFC Chair setting out some priorities and her plans for the upcoming WCPFC18 meeting.

Yours sincerely,



**Feleti Penitala Teo, OBE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

November 24, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to start by expressing my sincere appreciation to all CCMs for your contribution to our intersessional efforts that have kept the Commission fulfilling its core functions even in the face of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It is quite frustrating that this global challenge is still affecting us in a number of ways, and I am very grateful for your spirit of cooperation, dedication and patience.

As the 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the WCPFC is a week away, I would like to share with you some key priorities and my plans for running the meeting for your consideration. Please note that the order in which each priority appears is randomly arranged, and does not indicate the hierarchy of importance. I also consider that issues that are not included in these priorities are equally important.

Through consultations with CCMs, I also recognize different priorities CCMs consider urgent and pressing, and I will make sure that these issues will also have their fair share of discussions even if they are not indicated in the list of priorities outlined in this letter. It will not be an easy task to move these priorities in full force given the considerable logistical challenges and time constraints, but I am convinced that we can make the best out of what we have, as we always have done so far.

## **A. Priorities**

### **A New Tropical Tuna Measure**

It may go without saying that a new tropical tuna measure is one of the top priorities of everyone involved. We had two rounds of workshops to make progress, and I believe we could narrow some gaps thanks to the spirit of compromise and cooperation of CCMs. The outcome is the chair's consultative draft with input from some CCMs. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those CCMs who provided written comments, around which detailed discussions will take place.

The consultative draft in the current form as posted on the website on November 1, and the CCMs' written comments, will be initially presented under Agenda 4 (Proposals) for clarifying questions and some short general comments only, and then revisited for substantive discussions under 7.2.2. I anticipate the draft will go through some rounds of sidebar and plenary discussions, which I will coordinate until we reach agreement on the final text.

## **Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS)**

I recall the successful adoption of the revised CMS Measure at WCPFC 16, which was the fruit of the hard work and dedication of a number of CCMs. With the expiry of the CMS, the Commission will be considering how compliance review will be undertaken. Compliance monitoring is at the heart of the Commission's MCS tools, and I hope we will not leave WCPFC 18 without a compliance review mechanism.

## **Special Requirements of Small Island Developing States**

The consideration of special requirements of Small Island Developing States (SIDSs) is deeply embedded in our Convention, and has served as one of the guiding principles in the work of the Commission over the years. WCPFC 18 will remain committed to addressing this issue in our deliberations and decisions on various matters.

## **Harvest Strategy**

At the goal post of the conservation and management of the WCPFC stocks is a Harvest Strategy, and I strongly believe it is important that CCMs keep their eyes on it. In this regard, I note general agreement amongst CCMs on the need for moving forward with a Science-Management Dialogue, and look forward to working with CCMs to see if we can make progress, especially on the pending question about "when" such a Dialogue can take place. I also expect that we will be reviewing and updating the Work Plan for Harvest Strategy, and thank Australia for continuing to take the lead in this very important process.

## **COVID-19 Related Decisions**

The three interim intersessional decisions adopted to address pandemic-induced challenges are set to expire in December 15 2021 shortly after WPCFC 18. Considering that the COVID-19 situation may continue into 2022, I expect that CCMs can come up with an approach that takes onboard diverse aspects that need to be addressed so that the Commission can continue to meet the objectives of the Convention while ensuring the safety of all involved, including ROP observers and crew.

## **Intersessional Working Groups**

I appreciate the efforts and dedication of IWG chairs and all CCMs that have been contributing to the works on ER/EM, SP Albacore Roadmap, Transshipment Review, FAD Management Options, CMS-

IWG, and crew labor standards. I expect that CCMs can have the opportunity to share thoughts to keep the ball rolling for these important works.

## **B. Plans for running the meeting**

### **(i) opening**

The meeting will have an opening prayer as with our past practice and the Executive Director and I will make brief opening statements. CCMs who wish to make opening statements are invited to provide their written statements prior to the meeting, which will also be considered read unless there is a strong preference for a verbal presentation. If there is a CCM who would like to make a verbal opening statement, please let me and the Secretariat know in advance.

### **(ii) working papers and information papers**

Except for proposals, delegation papers and SC/ISC presentations, I suggest that all papers will be considered read for the sake of time and efficiency. However, if the leads of Intersessional Working Groups request an opportunity to present important points, we will certainly accommodate those requests, of which an advance notice will be much appreciated.

### **(iii) proposals for new or revised CMMs**

List of proposals and delegation papers to be presented under agenda 4 has been provided as an attachment to the Heads of Delegation meeting agenda posted on the website.

Under Agenda 4, only clarifying questions and very short general comments will be sought, and if it gets into any substantive debates, I will put a pause and park them for detailed discussions under the relevant agenda item for each proposal and delegation paper.

### **(iv) possible extension of sessions and sideline discussions**

I would like to seek your kind understanding in advance that we may need to extend some sessions to get our important work done. As the Chair I will do my utmost to manage discussions in an effective manner, and try to minimize the need for an extension. Also, off days on December 3 and December 5 can also be used for informal on-the-margin discussions. I also intend to keep the Online Discussion Forum open until the closing of WCPFC 18 so that CCMs can lodge ideas and views for informal considerations not only for this annual meeting but also to feed into intersessional work.

If any other important issues occur between now and the Heads of Delegation meeting, I will keep you posted at the HOD meeting.

Colleagues, I look forward to seeing you in a week's time and to working with you to make progress on our important work. My communication channel is always open, so please reach me at [riley1126@korea.kr](mailto:riley1126@korea.kr) and [rileykim1126@gmail.com](mailto:rileykim1126@gmail.com) whenever you have anything you would like to discuss with me.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JR Kim', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jung-re Riley Kim  
Chair

cc: Feleti.P.Teo, OBE, WCPFC Executive Director  
Josie Tamate, WCPFC Vice Chair