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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW REPORT
OF THE WCPFC MCS AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAMMES

WCPFC-TCC18-2022-04
18 September 2022

Paper prepared by the Secretariat

Purpose

1. This paper presents for the information of TCC18 the Executive Director's Overview Report of the WCPFC Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and Compliance Programmes for 2022.
2. The Report provides a consolidated overview of the key issues and challenges confronting each of the compliance tools and programmes that constitute the Commission's integrated MCS and Compliance programme. The details of each of the compliance tools and programmes are the subject of other working papers. The structure of the Report reflects the priorities and their order of significance considering any priority issues forwarded from the Commission and the TCC Workplan 2022 – 2024. (TCC18 provisional agenda number and referenced working papers are provided in brackets and in *italics* for ease of reference).¹
3. This is the third TCC Report provided in alignment with the Secretariats Corporate Plan 2020 – 2023. In its third year, the Corporate Plan was acknowledged by the Commission at WCPFC16 (2019) as a living document to guide the work of the Secretariat. The focus of this report is to document the Secretariats delivery during 2021/22 of Corporate Plan *Objectives 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2*.²
4. This paper was prepared against the backdrop of the third year of the COVID-19 global pandemic and some changes in the situation within the region with regard to COVID-19. As is documented in this report, much of the work of the Secretariat through 2021/22 was progressed electronically, but later in 2022 there were some opportunities for activities and meetings to be in-person. Travel border restrictions in Federated States of Micronesia continued until July and this necessitated the Commission's decision not to have a physical meeting for the 18th Regular Session of the TCC. In early June 2022, the Commission held a special session to consider the changing situation with regard to COVID-19 in the region and agreed to lift all the suspensions of each of the Intersessional Decisions relating to COVID-19 by 1 January 2023. It is also

¹ TCC18 Provisional Agenda as at 17 August 2022 and TCC18 Provisional List of Topics for TCC18 online discussion forum as at 24 August 2022. Copy of TCC Workplan 2022 - 2024 is posted as TCC18-2022-IP05

² Objective 2.1: Effectively administer the WCPFC's MCS and Compliance Programmes and activities; Objective 3.1 Collect and disseminate relevant data and information to facilitate the work of the WCPFC and its CCMs in accordance with applicable rules; and Objective 3.2 Acquire and maintain reliable, cost-effective and secure IT systems and infrastructure to ensure the integrity of and access to WCPFC data and information.

encouraging that at the time of writing, planning and preparations are also underway for an in-person meeting of the 19th Regular Session of the Commission to be held later this year.

5. The Report also recognizes that the Commission has directed TCC focus this year on work to enhance the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS), and that the outcomes of these discussions will be of import to a significant part of the Secretariat's routine MCS and Compliance programme workplan for 2023/24. Given that the scope of Secretariat CMS-related tasks is currently difficult to predict, the Secretariat has delayed the preparation and delivery of the Secretariat's related paper presenting the outcomes of the year's preliminary internal planning to forecast the future work commitments of the Secretariat's MCS and Compliance Programme in 2023/24. This will ensure that the Secretariat's internal planning for 2023/24 does duly take into consideration the TCC18 outcomes and views of Members on priority work, particularly on CMS-related matters.

TCC Priority tasks with respect to the monitoring and review of compliance (Convention Article 14(1)(b))

[Agenda 5]

6. The CMS continues to be at the core of the work of the TCC's and the Secretariats annual work programme. Guided by the Commission directives and considering the priority project tasks set out in the TCC Workplan 2022-2024, the work of TCC in response to Article 14(1)(b) task, particularly those related to the reforms of the CMS are expected to be an important focus during this TCC18 meeting. The summary in the succeeding paragraphs focusses on the prioritized matters for discussion at TCC18.

Policy support to CMS-IWG activities

[Agenda 5.1 TCC18-2022-IP01, IP06, 10A & 10B, 11, 12, 13]

7. At the WCPFC18 the Commission specifically tasked TCC18 to consider, inter alia, the following matters within the scope of the CMS-IWG:

- i. to dedicate appropriate time to the completion of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) Future Work components, and to focus on completing the development of audit points, a risk-based assessment framework and the development of guidelines for observer participation in the CMS and provide recommendations to WCPFC19 to support WCPFC19's adoption of these work areas.
- ii. to also continue to consider the following CMS Future Work components:
 - a. the process for reviewing the aggregated information referred to in paragraph 26(ii);
 - b. the other components of the CMS Future Work;
 - c. further improvements to the compliance case file system; and
 - d. appropriate compliance assessment decision making processes.

(WCPFC18 Summary Report paragraph 352)

8. Consequently, TCC18 under *Agenda 5.1* will consider the work that has been developed and is being progressed through the CMS-IWG.

9. At the WCPFC18 the Commission noted that the CMS-IWG workplan would be modified intersessionally to take into account the approach to the Commission's Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2022 and 2023. Throughout 2022, the Secretariat has worked closely on CMS Future Work activities with the TCC Chair and TCC Vice-Chair as well as the leads to develop the Risk-

based Assessment Framework and CMS Audit Points. Paper [TCC18-2022-IP06](#) presents the updated workplan for the CMS-IWG as of 31 May 2022.

10. In accordance with the CMS-IWG workplan, several papers have been prepared by the CMS-IWG leads for consideration by TCC18. The Lead of the CMS Audit Points has prepared a supplementary draft ([TCC18-2022-10A](#)) to accompany the initial draft paper circulated on 31 May 2022 to the CMS-IWG ([TCC18-2022-10B](#)). The Lead of the CMS RBAF has prepared an updated paper to that circulated on 31 May 2022, as *A risk-based framework for the WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Scheme (with supporting MS Excel file)* ([TCC18-2022-11](#)). Paper [TCC18-2022-12](#) (with supporting MS Excel file) is a paper prepared, by the TCC Vice-Chair with support from the Secretariat, in response to TCC17 recommendation exploring data in the CMR and its relation to the WCPFC's data protection and access rules and procedures. Paper [TCC18-2022-13](#) prepared by the TCC Chair, provides an update and some points for further discussion to progress the future work related to processes around the aggregated tables drawn from the online Compliance Case File System (CCFS).

11. Guided by the Commission's directives, the [TCC18 Indicative Schedule](#) sets aside dedicated time on Day 2, Day 3, and Day 5 of TCC18, for focused TCC18 discussions on the priority CMS Future Work papers.

Preparation of the draft Compliance Monitoring Report (draft CMR) and aggregated report providing a summary of flag CCM responses to alleged infringements in the online Compliance Case file system (CCFS)

[Agenda 5.2]

12. The Commission's decision that the Commission's CMS would continue in force (as CMM 2021-03) for two years with certain amendments, which include that TCC's review of the draft CMR prepared in 2022 will be deferred until TCC19 in 2023 has been noted.

13. In late July and prior to TCC18, an update of the paper summarizing the flag CCM responses to alleged infringements notified in the CCFS was issued by the Secretariat in response to the requirement of paragraph 26(ii) and 28 of CMM 2021-03.

14. The draft Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR) was prepared and issued by the Secretariat by the due date on 28 July 2022. It covers 59 obligations (63 rows per CCM) for thirty-eight CCMs and one collective group of Members for individual CCM review. The full draft CMR was delivered two days after the due date of 15 days prior to start of TCC18 (**6 Sept**) due to other competing commitments.

15. The initial draft CMRs from the Secretariat highlighted approximately 312 potential issues. The full draft CMR, which incorporated replies from twenty-four (24) CCMs highlights 196 potential issues for review by TCC. This is an increase from last year's final draft CMR which included 39 potential issues.

16. In most cases the increased number of potential issues compared to last year, is because of the changes adopted by the Commission to the list of obligations for review through the CMS (refer to Attachment S to WCPFC18 Summary Report) which included obligations not reviewed previously or not reviewed for some years. Several of the obligations that had not been reviewed previously, required evaluations of statements of implementation and reviews of reporting that related to multiple paragraphs within a CMM, and reporting gaps were common.

17. The draft CMRs also reviewed a significant amount of information from multiple legitimate sources that can usefully inform the TCC's review of the technical and compliance matters under existing CMMs during the 2021 calendar year. There are also other meeting papers that provide information and perspectives that may support reviews of technical and compliance matters arising under existing CMMs and in respect of the Commission MCS programmes.

Despite the assistance of the earlier 13 June deadline for Annual Report Part 2 and information from SPCs data management team, this year's CMR required many additional hours work by the Secretariat.

18. Noting that TCCs review of the draft CMR prepared for 2022 will be deferred until TCC19 (2023), the Secretariat expects that under *Agenda 5.2* TCC will give consideration and provide advice to the Commission about the processes and timelines for how any additional information that CCMs may provide in response to the *full draft CMR potential issues – 2021 list* and how additional updates from the Secretariat will be handled between now and TCC19 (2023).

19. For the past two years, the Secretariat has presented as papers the outcomes of each year's preliminary internal planning to forecast the future work commitments of the Secretariat's MCS and Compliance Programme aligned to the Corporate Plan 2020 – 2023 and to the TCC workplan. These papers have clearly confirmed that the Secretariat's work in support of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) are a significant part of the Secretariat's routine MCS and Compliance programme work and this work ordinarily spans across much of the calendar year. Looking ahead to 2023 and onward, the impact of WCPFC19 outcomes on the scheduling and scope of Secretariat CMS-related tasks in 2023/24 are currently challenging for the Secretariat to forecast.

Updates on improving the Online Compliance Case File System (CCFS)

*[Agenda 5.3a, 5.5a & 7.3 TCC18-2022-15]
[TCC18 online discussion forum topic C]*

20. The CCFS was established in April 2016, initially with the requirement to provide the Secretariat with a mechanism for the structured and centralized recording of correspondence with CCMs related to individual alleged infringements of Conservation and Management Measures. As such, the CCFS was originally a tool to support the Secretariat's delivery of tasks under the WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS).

21. Since December 2018, the Commission has specified within the Conservation and Management Measure for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (initially CMM 2018-07, more recently CMM 2021-03) the purpose of the CCFS. Within the measure there is direction provided to the Secretariat that the CCFS be maintained "*as a secure, searchable system to store, manage and make available information to assist CCMs with tracking alleged violations by their flagged vessels.*" The measure also confirmed which CCMs should have access to a case, that notifications should be sent when new cases are created and gave guidance about what the aggregated summary tables generated from the CCFS should contain and what information flag CCMs are to provide in response to each case related to their vessels. The four guiding principles for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme of effectiveness, efficiency, fairness and cooperation towards compliance should also be considered relevant and as guidance to the CCFS.

22. As was noted to TCC17, it was necessary for the Commission directed improvements to the CCFS to be delivered through the development of an upgraded CCFS. The Secretariat reported to WCPFC18 in December 2021, that the necessary work was underway to deliver a new CCFS system that meets the requirements of the current CCFS in early 2022. At WCPFC18, the Commission also approved \$30,000 in additional budget for 2022 to support CCFS improvements.

23. The updated CCFS was made available on 23 March 2022. The basis for the new CCFS has been formed by minimum requirements of the CCFS, discussions at TCC17 and taskings through WCPFC18's approval of the TCC Workplan 2022 - 2024 which includes trialing a messaging tool to track observer report requests. The aim of the new CCFS remained to enhance and improve the ease of use of the system. Paper TCC18-2022-15 *Update on improving the online compliance case file system and processes for feedback* is a paper prepared by the Secretariat. Attachment A to the paper is an update which was previously circulated with the announcement

circular for the launch of the CCFS, setting out the Secretariats response to the Commission taskings from WCPFC17 to improve the CCFS.

24. Since the launch the Secretariat has provided CCM users with online training for the upgraded CCFS on request. The Secretariat will continue to explore opportunities to provide CCM users with online training. The Secretariat has received some feedback and continues to welcome further CCMs feedback on the CCFS. Noting that the updated online Compliance Case File System (CCFS) was released for CCMs use in March 2022, the paper sets out some proposed approaches to support additional member feedback on the system and requested enhancements. The paper is provided for CCMs comments through the *TCC18 online discussion forum topic C*, and CCMs views are sought on “*whether an appropriate level of ease-of-use has now been achieved with the CCFS?*” In respect of any areas for potential improvements to the CCFS that CCMs might identify for the future, the Secretariat will need to consider feasibility and estimated costs of the suggestions before confirming a possible schedule for implementation.

25. The paper [TCC18-2022-15](#) is to be taken as read and it is expected to serve as a reference paper for *Agenda 5.3a* related to enhancements of the IMS to support the Compliance Monitoring Scheme and MCS activities of members and *Agenda 7.3* related to the trial CCFS messaging tool to track observer report requests and responses.

Policy Support to improvements to ROP data fields

[*Agenda 5.5a, TCC18-2022-17*]

26. Paper [TCC18-2022-17](#) *Supporting paper for TCC18 consideration of potential improvements to the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields for impacts of fishing on whale sharks and cetaceans* is a CCFS-related paper prepared by the Secretariat. The purpose is to provide information to assist TCC18 to consider, in accordance with the TCC workplan 2022-2024, potential improvements to the ROP minimum standard data fields related to whale sharks and cetacean interactions, that will allow for more useful consideration in the CCFS and future CMS review process. The paper suggests that the IWG-ROP could be usefully tasked with facilitating discussions to support TCCs work on the ROP-data field related TCC workplan 2022-2024 activities.

Advice on CMMs that need revision or improvement

[*Agenda 5.4a, TCC18-2022-16*]

27. At the WCPFC18 the Commission specifically tasked TCC18 to provide advice to the Commission in support of its consideration of an Indonesian proposal for a baseline period or limit for the Indonesia Large Fish Handline Fishery (*WCPFC18 Summary Report, paragraph 144*). A Scientific Committee paper that was recently tabled by Indonesia with support from SPC-OFI has been tabled to support discussions at TCC18 ([TCC18-2022-16](#)).

TCC Priority tasks with respect to provision of information, technical advice and recommendations (Convention Article 14(1)(a))

[*Agenda 6, 7.1, 7.6(b), 7.6 (c), 7.6 (d), 7.6(e) and 7.7*]

28. The work of the TCC18 in response to Article 14(1)(a) task is guided by both directives from the Commission and priority project tasks set out in the TCC Workplan 2022-2024. Noting this, the summary in the succeeding paragraphs focusses on the prioritized matters for discussion at TCC18.

Review available information on the implementation of Intersessional Decisions taken in response to COVID-19 in 2021/22 [Commission task to TCC18]

[Agenda 6 - TCC18-2022-RP02, RP03, IP02]

29. At the Special Session of the Commission (SS4) in June 2022, the Commission agreed to lift the suspension of the requirements in paragraph 13 of CMM 2009-06 related to observers on carrier vessels involved in transshipment from 15 June 2022. The paper TCC18-2022-RP03 Annual Report on Transshipment Reporting includes summary information related to observer deployment since 15 June 2022, and confirms that best efforts have been made by CCMs to embark observers on carrier vessels during the transitional period from 15 June – 31 December 2022. Since June 2022, during the transitional period, some placements have recommenced on transshipment vessels and some purse seine vessels. The Commission specifically tasked TCC18 to review this information (SS4 Summary Report, paragraph 37) and provide advice and recommendations to WCPFC19.

30. At SS4 the Commission also agreed that the suspension of the requirements for observer coverage on purse seine vessels set out in paragraph 32 and 33 of CMM 2021-01 and CMM 2018-05 must be lifted on 1 January 2023, and the obligation comes into effect. The papers TCC18-2022-RP02 Annual Report on the Regional Observer Programme and TCC18-2022-IP02 Status of Observer Data Management reports that some observer placements were made in 2021 on both purse seine and longline vessels.

31. The paper TCC18-2022-RP02 considers the impacts on the several observer programmes arising from the reduced flight schedules, border travel restrictions and health concerns for observers and crew from the COVID-19 pandemic. The ROP is comprised of 25 observer programmes of Members and sub-regional agencies, and during 2020 – 2022 most programmes had their operations curtailed and were not able to operate in a manner that enabled them to place and retrieve observers on most fishing vessels. Several Pacific Islands national programmes and subregional observer programmes have lost experienced observers who have sought alternative employment during the extended period of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional training will also be required to bolster the observer programme numbers and refresher training is encouraged for returning observers and debriefers, as CCMs prepare for the resumption of 100% coverage on purse seine vessels requirement from 1 January 2023.

32. The Commission at WCPFC18 had encouraged CCMs to provide additional information on their implementation of the Intersessional decisions taken in response to COVID-19, including of additional MCS measures implemented, through Annual Report Part 2 reporting or via Circular. Information reported by CCMs in Annual Report Part 2 about the implementation of COVID-19 Intersessional decisions during RY2021, is available to authorized CCM users as a secure document TCC18-2022-ARPt2 Compilation of Annual Report Part 2 submissions RY2021.

Review information about scientific data provision [TCC task]

[Agenda 7.1 TCC18-2022-18, IP02, IP03, IP04]

[TCC18 online discussion forum topic D]

33. Four papers have been tabled to support TCC's consideration of the annual TCC workplan task that TCC reviews information about scientific data provision. TCC18-2022-18 is a reference paper listing the SC18 outcomes relevant to TCCs review of information about scientific data provision.

34. Two papers TCC18-2022-IP03 Scientific data available to the WCPFC and the accompanying paper TCC18-2022-IP04 Tables of coverage levels for operational data fields submitted to the WCPFC provide information about the completeness of scientific data provision by CCMs. The information in these papers is a summary of the advice that SPC routinely provides

to the Secretariat on the completeness of scientific data provision by CCMs, for consideration in preparation of the draft Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR).

35. The fourth paper [TCC18-2022-IP02](#) overviews the amount of observer data that has been entered, and it also includes additional tables and figures that were helpfully prepared by SPC which indicate the spatial coverage of purse seine and longline ROP observer coverage over recent years. The Annex 1 and 2 of the paper contain figures and tables provide information about the spatial distribution of observer coverage compared to the annually reported levels of fishing effort in purse seine and longline fisheries. The information provides an indication of how representative ROP observer data is within purse seine and longline fisheries, and the extent to which WCPFC has access to ROP observer data for monitoring the implementation of measures, including in the CCFS. The figures and tables also illustrate the impact that COVID-19 conditions in the region had on observer coverage levels from in 2020 and 2021. SPC-OFP reported to SC18 that the catch estimates of bigeye, and to a lesser extent yellowfin, were most sensitive to reduced observer coverage (refer to [TCC18-2022-IP07 A compendium of fisheries indicators for target tuna stocks in the WCPFC Convention Area \(SC18-2022-SA-IP01\)](#)).

*Provision of technical advice to support current reviews of non-MCS CMMs [TCC task]
[Agenda 7.6a, c, d & e TCC18-2022-DP01 (Australia)]*

36. Four non-MCS measure CMMs are listed under *Agenda 7.6* for TCC to provide technical advice.

37. Three non-MCS CMMs are being reviewed through Commission established IWGs or are work led by individual Members:

- CMM 2009-03 Southwest Pacific swordfish [*Agenda 7.6 (c) & TCC18 online discussion forum topic G, TCC18-2022-DP01 rev1*]
- CMM 2010-01 North Pacific striped marlin [*Agenda 7.6 (d)*]
- CMM 2015-02 South Pacific albacore [*Agenda 7.6 (a)*]

It is expected that the ensuing discussions at TCC would be guided by the relevant CCM leads.

38. In respect of the fourth, CMM 2021-04 Charter Notification Scheme [*Agenda 7.6(e)*], the expiry issue for the previous Charter Notification CMM (2019-08) highlighted in the TCC Workplan 2022 – 2024 was addressed by the Commission at WCPFC18 in December 2022. There does not appear to be any other matters that were highlighted either through the TCC workplan 2022 – 2024 or TCC taskings for TCC advice at TCC18.

*Development and implementation of Commission measures for crew safety [TCC task]
[Agenda 7.7 TCC18-2022-22]
[TCC18 online discussion forum topic H]*

39. Indonesia and New Zealand are leading intersessional work to support this TCC task. Paper [TCC18-2022-22 rev1](#) provides an update on progress from the co-chairs and submits a revised draft CMM proposal seeking technical advice from TCC.

*Review of Cooperating Non-Member applications
[Agenda 4 – TCC18-2022-07]
[TCC18 online discussion forum Topic B]*

40. Eight (8) requests have been received in 2022 for renewal of Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status for 2022, all are current CNMs. The supporting paper [TCC18-2022-07](#) provides the dates of receipt of each request, the status of financial contributions and includes as attachments copies of letters and communications related to the requests. TCC18 is expected to establish a CNM Small Working Group who will assist TCC18 with the review of these requests with the view to advise the WCPFC19 on those applications.

TCC Priority tasks with respects to implementation of cooperative MCS & E (Convention Article 14(1)(c))

41. As indicated as TCC Priority Core Business tasks, the TCC will receive and review the Annual Reports of the Secretariat “...which should address relevant technical and compliance issues which may include, HSBI, ROP, VMS, RFV, Data Rules, Transshipment, Port State Measures...”. Several of this year’s routine Annual Reports for the various MCS tools demonstrate some initial results from the multi-year program of support to enhance the Secretariat’s analytical capacity. At TCC18, the Annual Reports of the various MCS tools will be taken as read.

42. The work of the TCC18 in response to Article 14(1)(c) task is guided by both the directives from the Commission and priority project tasks set out in the TCC Workplan 2022-2024. Noting this, the summary in the succeeding paragraphs focusses on the prioritized matters for discussion at TCC18.

Enhance how CCM’s and Secretariat’s VMS practices integrate to facilitate ongoing monitoring and compliance with CMM 2014-02 (VMS)

[Agenda 7.2 TCC18-2022-RP01]

43. As of 31 July 2022, there were 2,335 vessels that were considered activated to report to the Commission VMS. In 2021/22 the Commission continued its association with the FFA and the Pacific VMS for Commission VMS services. The Pacific VMS ensures the FFA VMS, and Commission VMS operate as two separate and distinct entities to protect the integrity of the Commission VMS data. The 2022 budget allocated for Commission VMS services was \$504,846 (\$300,000 for the FFA Service Level Agreement and \$204,846 for Airtime services).

44. Since TCC17 (September 2021) one new MTU, the Satlink ELB 2020, was added through the intersessional process in the VMS SSPs to the List of WCPFC Approved MTUs/ALCs. Two MTUs are currently undergoing testing and review (see page 8 of [TCC18-2022-RP01](#)).

45. Paper [TCC18-2022-RP01](#) presents the *Annual Report on the Commission VMS*. In accordance with the WCPFC18 task, it also presents further information on the status of implementing the VMS SWG recommendations endorsed at TCC17 and adopted at WCPFC18 (*WCPFC18 Summary Report paragraph 289*). At the WCPFC18 the Commission specifically tasked TCC18 to consider, inter alia, the following matters:

- i. to further consider future work to enable direct/simultaneous VMS reporting by vessels/ALCs reporting to the WCPFC VMS, with a view to addressing the continuing disparity between CCM-held and Secretariat-held VMS data. (*WCPFC18 Summary Report para 280 & TCC Workplan 2022-2024 Priority project specific task m*))
- ii. to receive a progress report from the Secretariat on their continued work to address data gaps from VMS failure and to facilitate automatic integration of VMS manual reports into the Commission VMS. (*WCPFC18 Summary Report para 282*)

- iii. to consider potential incentives for non-binding measures, including ‘VMS best practices’ that CCMs may adopt to minimize data gaps from VMS failures. (*WCPFC18 Summary Report para 283*)
- iv. tasked the Secretariat to provide a report to TCC18 with suggested options and, if practical, an estimated timeline and costs to facilitate electronic (online) submission and processing of new and updated VTAFs. Any process shall track progress transparently with the relevant flag CCM that provides the VTAF. (*WCPFC18 Summary Report para 287*)

46. In respect of point (ii) above, the Secretariat has completed the setup of procedures for the automatic integration of VMS manual reports based on the common North Atlantic Format (NAF) into the Commission VMS. The process is that CCMs would submit VMS manual report to the Commission VMS via email. Correctly formatted data submissions would then automatically be integrated into the Commission VMS. In the coming months the Secretariat will be working with individual CCMs to begin submitting manual reports in NAF to WCPFC VMS.

47. In respect of point (ii) above, the Secretariat confirms that work is underway to complete the necessary work to migrate the Secretariat's internal MTU Management process from SharePoint to the Drupal Platform. This work is expected to include a mechanism that will facilitate electronic (online) submission and processing of new and updated VTAFs and MTU Audit records. It is expected that feature will be available in early 2023, and further updates will be provided to CCMs intersessionally.

48. Additional information presented in the Annual Report TCC18-2022-RP01 may also assist TCC in responding to the *Agenda 7.2(a)* VMS-related TCC Workplan 2022 -2024 task under and in considering advice and recommendations to the WCPFC19 in response to the above directives from the Commission (*Agenda 7.2*).

Review and provide advice on the trial CCFS messaging tool

*[Agenda 7.3 TCC18-2022-15]
[TCC18 online discussion forum topic C]*

49. Paper TCC18-2022-15 *Update on improving the online compliance case file system and processes for feedback* prepared by the Secretariat. The new CCFS system launched on 22 March 2022, includes a trial CCFS messaging tool to track observer report requests and responses, and there is a guide in WCPFC helpdesk to explain the approach and how to use it: CCFS messaging tool. In respect of any areas for potential improvements to the CCFS that CCMs might identify for the future, the Secretariat will need to consider feasibility and estimated costs of the suggestions before confirming a possible schedule for implementation.

Update on RFV Upgrade (IT-related systems consolidation)

*[Agenda 7.4 TCC18-2022-21 and RP05]
[TCC18 online discussion forum topic K]*

50. Of the 3,338 vessels on the RFV for 2022, 61% are longliners, 14% purse seiners and 12% fish carriers. The number of active vessels on the RFV continues to decline. Most CCMs submitted fish/did not fish reports on or before 1 July 2022 with 13 CCMs submitting reports before June which greatly assists the Secretariat's ability to review and work with flag CCMs to resolve any inconsistencies with WCPFC VMS data. The paper TCC18-2022-RP05 overviews the RFV.

51. As was noted to TCC17, the IT platform the Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) runs on requires updating. In 2022, work has commenced to migrate the RFV system from Sharepoint to the Drupal platform. The system upgrade requires some minor updates to the RFV SSPs to reflect

some changes such as new file formats, a new web address and update of CMM references. Paper TCC18-2022-21 presents the recommended edits to CCM 2014-03. It is expected that the RFV system update will be available in early 2023, and further updates will be provided to CCMs intersessionally.

Development and implementation of Commission measures for Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring [TCC task]

[Agenda 7.5 TCC18-2022-19 and RP10]

52. The Chair of the ERandEM WG has provided to TCC18 the Chairs report from the July meeting of the ERandEMWG TCC18-2022-19.

Review Transshipment measure (CMM 2009-06) [TCC task]

*[Agenda 7.6(a) TCC18-2022-20 and RP03]
[TCC18 online discussion forum topic F]*

53. The Co-Chairs of the Transshipment IWG have provided a discussion paper for TCC18 TCC18-2022-20. The paper is also provided for CCMs comments through the *TCC18 online discussion forum topic F*.

The IUU Vessel List

[Agenda 3 – TCC18-2022-06]

54. The WCPFC IUU Vessel List for 2022 includes three (3) vessels that are maintained from the previous year's list and there were no intersessional updates for these vessels. TCC18 will review the vessels currently on the IUU vessel list. No vessels were included on the draft IUU vessel list for consideration by TCC18.

55. The Secretariat has continued under the umbrella of the Tuna Compliance Network and Pan Pacific Fisheries Compliance Network, informal collaboration with Officers responsible for compliance in Secretariats of RFMO and RFBs, to collaborate and share information about changes to each RFMOs respective IUU vessel lists. The initiative is intended to support relevant RFMOs with IUU Vessel List cross-listing procedures which require consideration of other RFMOs IUU vessel lists and changes therein, and due diligence checks of IUU vessel lists. In 2022, using in-kind support from the International MCS Network, the collaboration was extended to include a study that explores IT tool solutions that could improve the ability of RFMOs to receive near real-time information regarding updates, additions, and removals of vessels from IUU Vessel Lists of other RFMOs. The report from the study was recently completed and the recommendations and findings of the study, as well as options for financing, are under consideration by each RFMO Secretariat.

Additional TCC priority core business tasks

Monitor obligations relating to, and supporting building of capacity of, SIDS and territories

[Agenda 8 – TCC18-2022-RP01-08, RP10, 08]

56. Working paper TCC18-2022-08 summarizes Capacity Assistance needs identified by CCMs, based on this year's Annual Report Part 2 and the draft CMRs. There are two additional requests from a developing CCM for consideration of Capacity Assistance Needed score in this year's draft CMR.

57. There was a 2022 budgetary allocation of \$130,000 for Regional Capacity Building Workshops, with a note that FFA/SPC are to advise on the use of the funds. The Commission also administers special funds that are to be used for capacity assistance including: the Special Requirements Fund; Japan Trust Fund and Chinese Taipei Trust Fund. The WPEA project provides dedicated assistance to Philippines, Indonesia, and Vietnam in data collection as well as other related areas. For further information on available at this WCPFC webpage: [Implementation of Article 30 of the Convention](#).

58. Throughout 2021/22 the Secretariat has continued to assist individual CCMs, on request, with WCPFC reporting requirements, including Annual Report Part 1 and Part 2, online Compliance Case File System guidance, and use of the WCPFC High Seas Transshipment E-Reporting (TSER) system and VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST). Such assistance from the Secretariat seems to be helpful in circumstances where a CCM national administrations has changes in staff who are involved in supporting WCPFC matters or where a better understanding of how to use the WCPFC online systems can assist in more efficient processes for CCMs. This will continue into the next year as CCMs continue to familiarize themselves with the online systems and the changes being made to the improve its usefulness and ease of use based on CCM feedback.

59. The 'WCPFC Helpdesk' available since late 2020 also provides brief reference information for members on how to access and complete reports and to access and make updates to some WCPFC datasets. ([Helpdesk : WCPFC \(freshdesk.com\)](#)) These are very short guides with new topics progressively being added as resources permit.

60. The Secretariat continued to support observer and de-briefer trainings, and assistance was given on request to help CCM programmes with observer training and VMS training. The Secretariat continued to provide advice to national and sub-regional agencies in relation to Commission MCS programme matters, RFV and charter notification updates, transshipment reporting queries, Commission minimum standards and related issues and WCPFC data request procedures.

Conclusion

61. The report documents the progress of the MCS and Compliance Programme in 2022. It bares testament to the continued successful work by the Secretariat to support the said programme, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

62. The past year's efforts by the Secretariat to map out the resource implications of future work commitments for the Secretariat's MCS and Compliance Programme, which were supported by support from TCC17, did ensure that in 2022 the Commission allocated additional resources, including supplementary support, to the work of the Secretariat's MCS and Compliance Programme.

63. Notably, several of the routine annual reports prepared for TCC18 of the various MCS tools positively demonstrate the initial results from the multi-year program to enhance the Secretariat's analytical capacity. In 2022, the Secretariat also successfully delivered an updated CCFS system for CCMs and has commenced work to complete the necessary migration of the RFV systems, Charter Notifications, VTAF management and MTU audits from Sharepoint to the Drupal platform.

64. The TCC Workplan 2022-2024 continues to provide the framework to guide the work and agenda for the TCC18 meeting. It also guides the Secretariat in its preparations in support of the TCC18 meeting, and the various related working groups.

65. The CMS is intended to provide the platform for the TCC to undertake its key task of assessing the compliance performance of CCMs of their obligations under the WCPFC Convention

and CMMs. The CMS is also supported by an integrated network of MCS tools and data collection programmes that furnish the relevant data and information to the development and consideration of the CMR by the TCC. In 2022, the Commission has directed TCC to focus efforts this year on reforms to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the CMS, and TCC18 meeting agenda and CMS-IWG led preparations are in response to this.

66. For the Secretariat, the CMS continues to be at the core of the work of the Secretariat's MCS and Compliance Programme. This year's CMR required many additional hours work by the Secretariat. In 2023, to effectively support the CMS process, the Secretariat is forecasting an increasing demand on its capacity from the delivery to TCC19 of draft CMRs covering activities across two consecutive years. The scale of the increase in demand on the Secretariat's capacity will be determined by the TCC18 recommendations particularly related to CMS reforms and the eventual WCPFC19 decisions. Additional short-term resources from early 2023 for the Secretariat may be required.

67. With the expected reforms to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the CMS nearing completion, the Secretariat continues to forecast that continued enhancements to the Information Management Technology System of the Secretariat will be necessary, and it is noted that there continues to be ongoing work towards that objective. The CMS reforms are forecast to also require sustained commitments in supporting enhanced analytical capacity for the Secretariat for at least the next couple of years.

68. The MCS and Compliance Programme of WCPFC in 2022 was able to deliver its core functions despite some continuing challenges from and transitions following the global COVID-19 pandemic. This year's TCC preparations also confirm the findings of the previous year's anticipated forecast planning exercises, that priority project work is being routinely delivered by the Secretariat's MCS and Compliance Programme, and this is possibly in excess of its current capacity, and that this has also been exacerbated by COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, there were challenges for the Secretariat to routinely meet all service requirements of the MCS and Compliance Programme because it had limited capacity to absorb normal staff circumstances of illness or bereavement.

69. Throughout the TCC18 meeting, the Secretariat will continue to keep under consideration the future work commitments for MCS and Compliance programme. A paper will be prepared for WCPFC19/FAC presenting the outcomes of the year's preliminary internal planning to forecast the future work commitments of the Secretariat's MCS and Compliance Programme to acquire the appropriate level of resources to support implementation of the TCC workplan 2022 – 2024 and to support Commission directives. The Secretariat continues to be open to consideration of any forms of resources support including short term consultancies, secondment, or in-kind support. The Secretariat looks forward to discussing those resource implications.

70. TCC18 is invited to note the report.
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