



**COMMISSION
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Da Nang City, Vietnam
28 November to 3 December 2022

**STRENGTHENING AND REVISING WCPFC CMM 2009-06 ON
TRANSSHIPMENT IN 2023**

**WCPFC19-2022-DP02
28 October 2022**

Proposal by the United States of America



19th MEETING OF THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

Da Nang, Vietnam
27 November to 03 December 2022

Strengthening and Revising WCPFC CMM 2009-06 on Transshipment in 2023

Delegation Paper
by the
United States of America

Background

The United States remains concerned about the risks that transshipment represents in relation to supporting illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing operations and other criminal activities. To address this concern, the U.S. supports strengthening the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure on the Regulation of Transshipment (CMM 2009-06) to help address such concerns.

At WCPFC15 the Commission agreed to conduct a review of CMM 2009-06, forming the TS-IWG to take on this task. Members developed and agreed, in the [Scope of Work](#), that the TS-IWG would seek to improve the regulation and monitoring of transshipment activities by “recommending amendments or other actions, if any, related to CMM 2009-06.”

In September 2022, the [35th session](#) of the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) Committee on Fisheries (COFI) adopted Voluntary Guidelines on Transshipment. These guidelines were developed over the course of several years’ through expert, technical, and member consultations. These [COFI Voluntary Guidelines on Transshipment](#) seek to decrease the risk of IUU caught fish entering the global seafood supply chain, and will in turn strengthen sustainable and socially responsible fisheries.

Most WCPFC members, including the United States, worked to develop the FAO Guidelines on Transshipment with the objective that the Voluntary Guidelines would “assist States, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), and other intergovernmental organizations, with respect to their development of new transshipment regulations or the review of existing regulations, with a view to integrating these within the broader regulatory framework for fisheries management.”

Recommendation

Recognizing WCPFC members' commitment to strengthening CMM 2009-06, as tasked by WCPFC15 and reaffirmed at each subsequent Commission meeting, and leveraging the effort by the Commission's members through the COFI process to establish international norms in transshipment, the United States would like to propose the recommendations below for consideration by members. The United States welcomes member feedback prior to WCPFC19, and will work with interested members to update the draft recommendations for WCPFC19 consideration.

WCPFC19 requests the TS-IWG:

- a. review the transshipment information analysis in Q1 2023 and undertake a review of CMM 2009-06 before TCC19,**
- b. consider the FAO Guidelines on Transshipment, ensuring any proposed revisions to CMM 2009-06 align with or are more stringent than the FAO Guidelines on Transshipment, taking into account the unique circumstances of small island developing states and territories,**
- c. meet in-person prior to TCC19 to prepare a draft of proposed revisions to CMM 2009-06, and**
- d. present its proposed revisions to CMM 2009-06 for consideration by WCPFC20.**