



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

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Letter from WCPFC Chair on WCPFC19 Priorities

Dear All,

I circulate for your information and consideration a self-explanatory letter of 16 November 2022 from the WCPFC Chair setting out some priorities and her plans for the running of the upcoming WCPFC19 meeting.

Looking forward to meeting up with delegates in Da Nang, Vietnam shortly.

Yours sincerely,

**Feleti Penitala Teo, OBE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



November 16, 2022

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. We are finally having a face-to-face meeting, and I'm so excited to engage with all of you even more closely.

As the 19th Regular Session of the WCPFC is a couple of weeks away, I would like to share with you what I see as 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.

Through consultations with CCMs, I also recognize different priorities CCMs consider urgent and pressing. Those priorities are equally as important as those listed below, 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. I am convinced that we can make the best out of our first in-person meeting in three years and demonstrate our strength and capabilities as the custodian of the tuna and tuna-like species in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

A. Priorities

Management Procedures for Skipjack and South Pacific Albacore

CCMs have had a series of meetings this year, including SC18 and Science-Management Dialogue on management procedures for skipjack tuna and South Pacific albacore. WCPFC 19 will have discussions based on the information derived from previous meetings with the view to the adoption of a management procedure for skipjack tuna. The progress on the South Pacific albacore harvest strategy is a little bit slower than skipjack tuna, but I hope that WCPFC 19 will have fruitful discussions to facilitate decisions on a management procedure for SP albacore.

Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS)

CMS-IWG Workplan includes a number of important issues, including the development of audit points; risk-based assessment framework, observer participation guidelines, corrective actions and the review of aggregate tables. I note that significant progress has been made on many of these items, and I congratulate the Leads on their successful leadership. WCPFC 19 will review and discuss these CMS-related matters with the view to the adoption of as many audit points as possible and the endorsement of the RBAF.

WCPFC 19 will also consider how the Compliance Monitoring Report will be addressed in 2023, and I hope CCMs can agree on arrangements through which this important task can resume in 2023 without any serious gap.

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 19 will remain committed to addressing this issue in our deliberations and decisions on various matters.

Harvest Strategy

The Harvest Strategy approach remains as one of top priorities of WCPFC, and WCPFC 19 will have a number of presentations addressing different aspects of Harvest Strategy of various stocks under the purview of the Commission. WCPFC 19 will also review the indicative Work Plan, which has gone through multiple revisions over the last few years. I hope that the Commission can effectively implement the timeline of the work, while noting some meaningful progress already on some of the stocks.

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, 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.

Next Steps for a New/Revised Tropical Tuna Measure

The Commission has important decisions to make in 2023 to revise CMM2021-01. WCPFC 19 will serve as an opportunity to discuss next steps leading to the adoption of a new or revised tropical tuna measure at WCPFC 20.

B. Plans for running the meeting

(i) Heads of Delegation meeting (16:00, November 27)

The HOD meeting (CCM Head +1, FFA Secretariat and PNAO) will take place in the plenary room. The provisional agenda and supplementary information are now available on the website. If CCMs wish to add items to the agenda, please inform the Secretariat in advance. The Chairs (conveners and leads) of the subsidiary bodies and IWGs may also attend the meeting.

(ii) Meeting format

As indicated in the Meeting Information, WCPFC 19 will be in a hybrid format. Interventions done virtually from CCMs will only be permitted if an HOD or an alternate representative is not able to attend the meeting physically.

(iii) opening

The meeting will have an opening prayer as with our past practice. The host government (Vietnam), 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. I assume that, WCPFC 19 being the first in-person meeting in three years, there may be a number of CCM delegations wishing to make verbal opening statements. I would like to kindly request that delegations please keep such a statement within 3 minutes given the limited time during the meeting.

(iv) 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 Group request an opportunity to present important points, we will certainly accommodate those requests, of which an advance notice will be much appreciated.

(v) proposals for new or revised CMMs

The 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 on November 15.

Under Agenda 4, only clarifying questions and very short general comments will be sought, and if it gets into any substantive debates, I will park the conversation for more detailed discussions under the relevant agenda item for each proposal and delegation paper. The proponents wishing to make an on-screen presentation are encouraged to provide the copy to the Secretariat in advance. Also, as we will be able to have some sideline discussions, I strongly encourage the proponents of the proposals to engage with other CCMs to make progress in the margins.

(vi) possible extension of sessions and sideline discussions

I would like to seek your kind understanding in advance that we may need to have earlier starts and evening 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, the off day on November 30 can also be used for informal in-the-margin discussions. I intend to keep the Online Discussion Forum (forum.wcpfc.int/c/wcpfc19/26) open until the closing of WCPFC 19 so that CCMs can lodge ideas and views for informal discussions to not only for this annual meeting but also to feed intersessional work.

(vii) appointment of new Executive Director

Given the long list of agenda items, I find Tuesday, November 29, to be the most suitable timing to undertake the process to appoint the new Executive Director. I intend to adjourn the meeting on Tuesday at 15:30, give CCMs an hour break, and call a closed session at 16:30 of the HODs of the Contracting Parties plus the HODs of Members and Participating Territories who wish to observe the process. The detailed process will be circulated amongst the registered HODs soon. Following the past precedence, I will be sending a general question to the candidates five days in advance of WCPFC 19. For maximum transparency and fairness, I will share a list of other questions at the Heads of Delegation meeting at the HOD meeting on November 27.

Colleagues, I look forward to seeing you in person in a couple of weeks' 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 and rileykim1126@gmail.com whenever you have anything you would like to discuss with me.

Best Regards,



Jung-re Riley Kim
Chair

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