



THIRD REGULAR SESSION

Apia, Samoa
11-15 December 2006,

APPLICATIONS FOR COOPERATING NON-MEMBER STATUS

WCPFC3-2006/08

10 November 2006

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. Conservation and Management Measure 2005-02 describes the process for applying to the Commission for Cooperating Non-member (CNM) status.

WCPFC2

2. At its second regular session (WCPFC2) at Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia 12-16 December 2006, the Commission decided:

- to extend the CNM status of the United States of America for another year, or until it becomes a Member of the Commission (para. 82 WCPFC2 Summary Report);
- that the Executive Director write to Indonesia, and if requested by Indonesia, circulate its request for an extension of its CNM status out of Session (para. 83); and
- to defer a decision on the CNM status of Belize until WCPFC3. The Executive Director was requested to write to Belize advising them of the Commission's decision and of the issues Belize would need to address to obtain membership (para. 81). A copy of the letter subsequently sent to Belize by the Executive Director is included at Annex 1.

Developments during 2006

3. During 2006, the Secretariat received four applications for CNM status. All applications, together with supporting documentation, were circulated to Members, Cooperating Non-members and Participating Territories 90 days in advance of WCPFC3 (Circular 2006/12, 12th September 2006 in respect of the USA and Indonesia and Circular 2006/13 14th September 2006 in respect of Belize and Senegal).

4. Indonesia and the USA applied for renewal of CNM status. Belize (which included a response to the Executive Director's letter) and Senegal applied for CNM status.

Process

5. The decision to confer membership or CNM status is a policy decision that rests with the Commission. However, as applications for CNM status involve the provision of technical information relating to the applicant's fishing activities in the Convention Area the Technical and Compliance Committee at its second regular session in Brisbane, Australia (TCC2) was invited to consider the development of procedures to support the consideration of future applications for affiliation with the Commission. It was proposed that the procedures could be developed to provide for appraisal of i) a proposal to invite a non-CNM to become a member of the Commission and ii) applications for CNM status. TCC2 did not have an opportunity to consider this matter in detail.

WCPFC3

6. The third regular session of the Commission is invited to consider:
- the application from the United States of America for renewal of its Cooperating Non-member status;
 - the application from Indonesia for renewal of its Cooperating Non-member status;
 - the application from Belize for Cooperating Non-member status;
 - the application from Senegal for Cooperating Non-member status; and
 - the possible development of procedures for considering applications from non-CNM to affiliate with the Commission.

Dispatched on WCPFC letterhead

Date: December 16, 2005

The Director-General,
International Merchant Marine Registry Of Belize
Marina Towers,
Suite 204, Newtown Barracks
Belize City,
Belize

Dear Sir,

Re: The Government of Belize's application for Cooperating Non-member status to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

The second Annual Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) appreciated the effort extended by the Government of Belize in submitting an application for Cooperating Non-member status with the Commission.

After lengthy consideration, and taking into account the useful information submitted by the representative of IMRABE and the Government of Belize to support its application, the Commission decided to defer further consideration of the application until its third Session in December 2006.

In preparing for further consideration of the application the Commission would appreciate additional information relating to the following matters raised during its Second Regular Session:

- Vessels flying the flag of Belize that are apparently on lists of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing vessels established by other fisheries Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs);
- Processes and procedures established by Belize for communicating conservation and management measures adopted by RFMOs to owners and operators of vessels flying the flag of Belize and active in the Convention Area of those RFMOs;
- The provision of data for fisheries operations to the WCPF Commission's science provider, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community–Oceanic Fisheries Program; and
- Mechanisms for Belize to exercise jurisdiction over vessels flying its flag in the WCPFC Convention Area.

I look forward to periodic update on your progress to address the issues discussed during consideration of Belize's application in the coming twelve months.

Yours Sincerely

Andrew Wright
Executive Director