

Date: 22 October 2005

Dear Members and Cooperating Non-members,

In addition to advising of applications for Cooperating Non-member and Observer Status to the Second Session of the Commission (accompanying attachments) I take this opportunity to draw to your attention several other matters leading up to the December meetings.

Application for Cooperating Non-member

On the 30th August 2005, Angelo Mouzouropoulos, the Director-General of the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize, wrote to the Chairman of the Commission formally requesting Cooperating Non-member status for Belize at the Second Session of the Commission. The Director-General's cover letter and supporting documentation is presented at Annex I. The application was received 90 days in advance of the Second Session of the Commission. The letter was circulated to all Members on 23rd October, 2005.

Paragraph 5 of Annex II of the Final Report of Working Group III adopted at the First Session of the Commission in December 2004 provided "that the Commission shall, in determining whether a non-party is accorded Cooperating non-member status, have regard to:

- (a) The views of the non-member applicant on ratification of or accession to the Convention;
- (b) The status of the stocks and the existing level of fishing effort in the fishery, and
- (c) Its record of compliance with the provisions of the Convention and the conservation and management measures developed by the Commission and other Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs)."

The Commission will not have an opportunity to consider Belize's application in advance of the Second Annual Session.

A question arises as to whether Belize should be invited to observe the Second Annual Session pending the decision of the Commission in respect of the application for Cooperating Non-member status. The Provisional Agenda provides an opportunity for the Commission to consider this request, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, under Provisional Agenda Item 2.2.

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Members could elect to request the secretariat to advise Belize that their application will be considered by the Commission at the Second Session and Belize will be advised of the decision. If the Commission approves Belize's application an invitation would be extended to Belize to participate in the Third Session in 2006 as a Cooperating Non-member.

As a means to progress this it is proposed that, as is provided for in respect of applications for observer status, that unless the majority of Members of the Commission write to the Secretariat objecting to a proposal to invite Belize to observe the Second Session by 21st November 2005, an invitation will be extended to Belize to observe that Session. Providing the majority of Members do not object, Observer Status would be extended to Belize at the Second Session pending the decision of the Commission under Provisional Agenda Item 2.2 – Applications for Cooperating Non-member Status.

Applications for Observer Status

Applications for Observer Status, being circulated 45 days in advance of the Second Session, are appended. Applications were received from i) The Organization for Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (Appendix I), ii) The Marine Stewardship Council (Appendix II), iii) The Sea Turtle Restoration Project (Appendix III), iv) The World Tuna Purse Seine Organization (Appendix IV), and v) the Worldwide Fund for Nature (Appendix V).

December meetings: delegation composition and travel arrangements

Priority attention to advise i) the names of all members of delegations for the Technical and Compliance Committee, ii) delegation composition for the Second Session of the Commission, iii) travel itineraries for all delegation members, and iv) requirements in relation to rental vehicles and cell phones would be appreciated. We are in receipt of the aforementioned information for the following delegations: Australia, Cook Islands, EU, Japan, New Caledonia and USA. For others we have partial information or nothing at all.

In relation to FFA members (except Cook Islands) and participating territories (except New Caledonia) eligible for Commission funding support this information is required as a matter of urgency. This is because the Secretariat is experiencing major challenges securing airline reservations. As a result I urge FFA members and other participating territories that have not provided the information detailed above to respond - preferably by Friday 28th October. Thank you in advance.

Northern Committee

The Chairman has circulated the report of the Informal Consultation for the Northern Committee of the WCPFC which took place in Tokyo in mid-September. One of the outcomes of that meeting was a recommendation that Members and Cooperating Non-members be invited to participate in a planning session for the Northern Committee on Saturday 10th December at Pohnpei. The venue and times for this meeting will be advised in due course.

Chairman's Letter of 25th July 2005

In referring to the Chairman's letter to all Members and Cooperating Non-members of 25th July I take this opportunity to confirm the Commission's banking details:

Bank [Pohnpei]	Account	Account Number
Bank of Guam	General Fund Account	0209-262429
	Working Capital Fund Account	0209-262438
	Voluntary Contribution Trust Fund Account	0209-262447
Bank of Federated States of Micronesia [FHB Routing # 121301015, First Hawaiian Bank, PO Box 1959, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA]	Indonesian Philippine Data Collection Project Trust Fund	604-4188150
	Requirements of Developing States Trust Fund	604-4188158

Since August we have received 2005 assessed contributions from six Members (amounting to US\$249,416), a voluntary contribution from a Cooperating Non-Member (US\$142,000) and a contribution to the Requirements of Developing States Fund (US\$10,000). We are the process of addressing any special administrative issue required by some Members before a remittance can be arranged. For others, 2005 contributions would be appreciated at the earliest convenience.

In the same letter, the Chairman noted the recommendation contained at paragraph 6, Annex I of WCPFC/PrepCon/WP. 46 adopted by WCPFC1 relating to vessel lists and the procedure that would apply from July 1. I can advise that the following Members have responded to that letter with information requested: Cook Islands, Chinese-Taipei, Korea, and New Zealand.

If other Members or Cooperating Non-members have relayed the required information, and it is not recorded here, it would be appreciated if the information could be resent to wcpfc@mail.fm [due to current difficulties being experienced with internet connectivity please try and reduce files >1.5Meg into several small files. Information from Members and Cooperating Non-members that are yet to respond would be appreciated by 11th November. This will provide the secretariat with some time to consolidate the information prior to the December meetings.

Headquarters building

Although the headquarters building may not be completely finished in time for the December meetings work is progressing well. It has been suggested that Members and Cooperating Non-Members might like to consider providing an artifact or gift that could be displayed in the foyer of the building once it is complete. If delegations elect to provide an article a small plaque will be prepared for it and it will be permanently displayed in a prominent location inside the building. If you decide to take up this suggestion please check the quarantine requirements of countries that may be transited e

n-route to Pohnpei as some have restrictions on the entry of material of plant or animal origin.

Scientific Committee Report

The Chairman has requested I draw your attention to the Report of the First Meeting of the Scientific Committee (it should be available on the website shortly). He invites all Members to review the advice and recommendations of the Scientific Committee in relation to conservation and management measures and to be prepared to take decisions at WCPFC2 particularly in respect of capacity and effort concerns relating to bigeye and yellowfin tuna.

We look forward to welcoming you to Pohnpei in December,

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Wright', is positioned above the printed name.

Andrew Wright
Executive Director