



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO TCC

WCPFC-TCC19-2023-04

1 September 2023

I. Introduction to Commission's Technical and Compliance Activities

The Secretariat's role in relation to supporting the Commission's monitoring and compliance functions is set out in Article 15 of the Convention. As the Commission comes to the end of its 19th year, it's worth taking a moment to reflect on the progress made to date, consider any areas that require a realignment with Commission priorities, and maximise any opportunity that may be available to redefine the Commission's technical and compliance functions in ways that add value to and support CCM's and stakeholder's interests in meeting the Convention's Objective. The Secretariat's recent upgrades to its online systems reflects a range of possible additional enhancements that can still be realised to further streamline the Commission's compliance-related work.

The Commission's Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) continues to form the basis for the Commission's "report card" on CCMs' performance against obligations. It also usefully serves as a mechanism for identifying where there are remaining gaps in information and importantly, instances where support is required by CCMs for developing or building capacity to participate effectively in the Commission's work. The Commission's iterative approach to operationalising its CMS over the last 12 years is indicative of the need for careful planning and implementation of compliance processes that recognise the unique needs and requirements of the WCPFC membership.

With all CCMs reporting routinely through WCPFCs existing reporting and monitoring tools over many years, the Commission now has significant information in its arsenal. The production of Aggregate Tables based on data in the online Compliance Case File System (CCFS) supplements the availability and presentation of Commission data for CCM's use. There is an opportunity now for the Commission to consider and refine the purpose(s) of its data collection requirements and

how available information can best support its current and future objectives. In this regard, a WCPFC Strategic Plan would potentially offer guidance, to the extent that the Convention is unable to define short and medium-term priorities such that the Commission's work is appropriately focused and resourced, accordingly.

Snapshot of Commission's Current Monitoring Tools

Attachment 1 provides a snapshot of the Commission's current monitoring tools administered by the Secretariat, in cooperation with CCMs. Relevant documents are hyperlinked to their applicable location on the WCPFC website for ease of online navigation.

Secretariat Implementation of TCC Work Plan 2022-2024

The Secretariat notes the TCC Priority Core Business and Project Specific Tasks outlined in the [TCC Work Plan for 2022-2024](#) and associated budgetary resources in Part 2.2 of the Commissions approved budget, which guide the Secretariat's support to CCMs. Detailed updates and progress on these tasks are provided to TCC19 under the relevant agenda items.

Further noting that the Commission accepts TCC's recommendations on work program and budget in the absence of a Strategic Plan, the Secretariat draws from the Convention's provisions relating to the Secretariat's and TCC's functions to further shape and inform its work during the year. Updates currently underway to the Secretariat's Corporate Plan, for presentation to the Commission at its annual meeting in December, are expected to provide additional guidance to ensure the Secretariat is working in the most effective and efficient way in service to CCMs and in service of the Convention's objective.

The Secretariat has begun a process of reviewing its internal structure and organization of resources and terms of reference in consideration of current and anticipated Commission priorities, including a recent focus on climate change impacts and continuation of the development of harvest strategies. As several Secretariat processes that support CCM's data reporting and monitoring obligations have become streamlined and automated and with further work continuing in this regard, the Secretariat takes this opportunity to realign its approach to utilization of Commission resources and potentially redefine how it works in service to CCMs. The internal review is expected to identify gains in efficiency while also opportunities to add value to the Commission's work. Any changes that take place as a result of the Secretariat's internal review will be implemented only where it does not result in significant additional budgetary or personnel requirements.

II. Updates since TCC18

System Upgrades

The Secretariat released two upgraded online systems in early 2023 in response to specific Commission taskings designed with a two-fold objective of completing the necessary upgrade of

ICT application system upgrades which rely on the on-premises Sharepoint platform and to strengthen Secretariat support to the Commission's work. An upgraded online system to support the Commission's [Record of Fishing Vessels \(RFV\)](#) was launched in early April 2023 aimed at streamlining CCM's ability to exercise greater control and management of their CCM data in the RFV and WCPFC VMS MTU activations. The Secretariat provided training sessions to Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, FSM, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, New Zealand, PNG, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, USA, Vanuatu, and El Salvador. To date, feedback from CCMs on the ease of navigation of the upgraded online RFV system has been positive and the Secretariat remains available to provide ongoing support to CCMs in their efforts to ensure completeness and accuracy of their RFV and associated vessel-related data.

The Secretariat carried out additional upgrades to the "[Conservation and Management Measures](#)" section of the WCPFC webpage that took effect in early 2023. Enhancements include consolidation of historic and current CMMs in a way that enables users to more easily view changes that have occurred to CMMs over time. In addition, since the adoption of Audit Points at WCPFC19 for some obligations, these adopted Audit Points are also linked to the relevant obligations on the same webpage to assist CCMs with understanding the requirements for compliance with an obligation.

Feedback from some CCMs on these online system upgrades has shown that not only were the enhancements helpful, but there is also scope for further development that will provide even greater support to CCMs in the fulfilment of their obligations. TCC19 Working Paper 22 provides additional detail on the Secretariat's IT-related system upgrades.

Capacity Building and Attachments

The Secretariat supported CCM [attachments](#) in May and June for fisheries officials from Nauru, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu. The attachments allowed participants to deepen their understanding of the Commission's day-to-day activities and annual processes. The program covered a wide range of topics, with particular emphasis on vessel management processes including the Vessel Monitoring System, Compliance Case File management for tracking action on potential non-compliance, and the annual compliance monitoring report (CMR) process. The Secretariat also provided a demonstration of available tools to assist WCPFC members to identify and address compliance issues throughout the year, reducing reliance on the annual CMR process.

The Secretariat's Assistant Compliance Manager, Record of Fishing Vessels Officer, and ICT Manager travelled to FFA Headquarters in March 2023 to [attend](#) the annual FFA MCS Working Group. While there, the team provided demonstrations of the Secretariat's upgraded online systems as well as worked with FFA member officials on reporting requirements. In August 2023, the Compliance Manager provided a presentation to the PNA Compliance Data Review Internship Program, which overviewed the WCPFC CMS, Annual Reporting, and CCFS.

The Secretariat retained the services of two consultants in 2023 to support the review and analysis of certain data sets, with a view to streamlining the Secretariat's production of required annual reports as well as enhancing CCM's use and understanding of available information. Additional details on the consultants' work are covered in the following section, as well as in TCC19 Working Paper 18.

III. Opportunities

With the Commission's main compliance-related programs well established and annual maintenance recognised as a core function of the Secretariat's work, the Commission has a clear opportunity to explore options to enhance its monitoring activities. Such exploration goes together with the opportunity to leverage new or emerging technologies that may add value to the Commission's work. In particular, the Commission's extensive repository of information collected from a variety of sources over many years provides opportunities for improving understanding around areas relating to, for example, environmental indicators and fishing activities, or verifying impacts of the Commission's management measures.

The two analytical consultancies undertaken in the Secretariat during 2023 and the delivery in early April to [TS-IWG01](#) of the SPC-led analysis related to transshipment activity in the WCPFC Area, yielded important outcomes to inform the Commission on the value of its data sets to enhancing awareness and understanding of the Commission's monitoring tools, including where refinements may be needed. In addition, the provision of a comprehensive set of aggregated tables of data in the 2023 trialling of TCC's review process offers numerous potential opportunities for linking information on fishing activities with scientific data and research on the WCPO fisheries and ecosystems. Where causation is established, such linkages can contribute significantly to the Commission's ability to target conservation and management measures where they are most needed. This work requires further consideration by the Commission and articulation of short-, medium-, and long-term needs that may be supported by more in-depth analysis of members' data.

The Commission continues to develop mechanisms to address the lack of independent verification tools in its compliance work, with a current focus on refining data fields collected by ROP observers, establishing an electronic monitoring (EM) programme and in enhancing monitoring and management of at-sea transshipments. Until such mechanisms are in place, the Commission's review of compliance with certain obligations remains limited. Opportunities to address these limitations are available and within reach, with returns expected to outweigh investment in terms of strengthening the Commission's management framework.

As the Commission continues to strengthen and streamline the framework for monitoring implementation and compliance by CCMs with obligations, there is still opportunity to provide greater linkages between compliance outcomes and management decisions. This approach connects with the aforementioned opportunity to further analyse available information to

promote heightened understanding and awareness of fishing impacts in the WCPFC Convention Area. Present returns to the Commission on its investment into compliance monitoring are limited until stronger verification tools are in place and as long as data analysis remains limited.

IV. Conclusion

The Commission's current monitoring tools administered by the Secretariat, in cooperation with CCMs, underpins the work of TCC in partial fulfilment of the functions as set out in Article 14 of the Convention. The Secretariat will continue to look for ways to optimise its services to members, ensuring that it is delivering on expectations in the most effective and efficient way possible and consistent with its functions as outlined in the Convention. With the Secretariat's Corporate Plan currently undergoing internal review and updating, there are opportunities to realign the Secretariat's work to emerging priorities and future expectations by Commission members and stakeholders. In addition, as Commission members continue to strengthen their implementation of obligations, including reporting of key fisheries data and activities, the Secretariat will be required to adapt and respond to changing needs resulting from the enhanced understanding that greater information provides.

Attachment 1: Snapshot of Commission’s Monitoring Tools

System/Tool	Brief Description/Purpose	Relevant Documents	2023 Updates
<p>Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS)</p>	<p>To ensure that Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) implement and comply with obligations arising under the Convention and conservation and management measures (CMMs) adopted by the Commission.</p> <p>The purpose of the CMS is also to assess flag CCM action in relation to alleged violations by its vessels, not to assess compliance by individual vessels.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CMM 2021-03 2. WCPFC reporting deadlines 3. Compliance Case File System 4. CMM Webpage, including Audit Points, CCM Limits and Risk Based Assessment Framework 5. CMS Audit Points Checklist 6. CMS Intersessional Working Group (IWG) Activities 7. Annual Report Part 1 Template 8. Annual Report Part 2 Online Support 9. Capacity Development Plan 10. Final Compliance Monitoring Reports, adopted by the Commission 	<p>CMM Webpage</p> <p>CMS-IWG - Outstanding Audit Points</p> <p>CMS-IWG - Commencing work on Corrective Actions</p> <p>Static Aggregated Summary Information from the WCPFC online compliance case file system (CCFS) of flag CCM responses to Alleged infringements and other notified reports</p>

System/Tool	Brief Description/Purpose	Relevant Documents	2023 Updates
Pacific Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)	Cost-effectively monitor the activities of fishing vessels authorized by flag States to fish for highly migratory fish species in the Convention Area in areas beyond jurisdiction of the Flag State.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CMM 2014-02 2. Statement Describing Purpose and Principles of WCPFC VMS 3. VMS Reporting Requirements Guidelines 4. VMS Reporting Status Tool 5. VMS Standards, Specifications, and Procedures 6. FFA VMS Requirements 7. MTU/ALC Type-Approval List 8. VMS Standard Operating Procedures 9. Vessel Tracking Agreement Form <p>VMS webpage: https://www.wcpfc.int/vessel-monitoring-system</p>	<p>Prototype of an Analytical Tool to support Secretariat verification and monitoring of VMS Reporting</p> <p>Mailbox facility for CCM VMS Manual position report submissions</p> <p>Vessels Webpage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vessel MTU Management • MTU Audit Inspection Reporting System <p>Single-sign-on to WCPFC VMS systems</p> <p>Streamlined and expanded VMS Annual Report to TCC (TCC19 Required Report 1)</p>
High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI)	Boarding and inspection and related activities conducted pursuant to procedures adopted in the CMM, for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Convention and conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and in force; applicable only on the high seas within the Convention Area.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CMM 2006-08 2. HSBI Summary Statistics 3. Register of Inspection Vessels 4. Authorities of the Inspection Vessel 5. Authorities of the Fishing Vessel <p>HSBI webpage: https://www.wcpfc.int/high-seas-boarding-inspection</p>	<p>Streamlined and enhanced HSBI Annual Report to TCC (TCC19 Required Report 4)</p>

System/Tool	Brief Description/Purpose	Relevant Documents	2023 Updates
Transshipment Regulation Scheme	<p>Management of all transshipment in the Convention Area of all highly migratory fish stocks covered by the Convention.</p> <p>Does not apply to transshipment of highly migratory fish stocks where fish is taken and transhipped wholly in archipelagic waters or territorial seas.</p> <p>Transshipment in a port or in waters under the national jurisdiction of a CCM shall take place in accordance with applicable national law.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CMM 2009-06 2. E-Reporting Standards for High Seas Transshipment Declarations and Notices and Additional Information 3. Transshipment E-Reporting Standards, Specifications, and Procedures 4. High Seas Transshipment Reporting APP (TSER-APP) 5. Transshipment Intersessional Working Group (IWG) 6. Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transshipment Monitoring - 2023 <p>Transshipment Regulation Scheme webpage: https://www.wcpfc.int/transshipment-regulation</p>	<p>Implementation of Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transshipment Monitoring</p> <p>Delivery to TS-IWG01 of analyses related to longline and purse seine transshipment activity in the WCPFC Area</p> <p>Streamlined and enhanced Transshipment Annual Report to TCC (TCC19 Required Report 3)</p> <p>Prototype of Analytical Tools to support Secretariat verification and monitoring of transshipment activities</p>
Port State Minimum (PSM) Standards	<p>To establish processes and procedures for CCMs to request that port inspections be undertaken on fishing vessels suspected of engaging in IUU fishing or fishing related activities in support of IUU fishing.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CMM 2017-02 2. Annual Report to TCC (TCC19 Required Report 7) <p>PSM webpage: https://www.wcpfc.int/wcpfc-port-state-minimum-standards</p>	

System/Tool	Brief Description/Purpose	Relevant Documents	2023 Updates
Data Access Rules and Procedures	Rules and procedures to govern protection, access to, and dissemination of data for various purposes.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2007 Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission 2. 2009 Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of High Seas Non-Public Domain Data and Information Compiled by the Commission for the Purpose of Monitoring, Control or Surveillance (MCS) Activities and the Access to and Dissemination of High Seas VMS Data for Scientific Purpose. 3. Reports on the Administration of Data Rules (TCC19 Required Report 8) <p>Data Access Rule webpage: https://www.wcpfc.int/administration-wcpfc-data-access-rules-and-procedures</p>	

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Regional Observer Programme (ROP)	To collect verified catch data, other scientific data, and additional information related to the fishery from the Convention Area and to monitor the implementation of the Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Commission.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CMM 2018-05 2. CMM 2017-03 (Observer Safety) 3. Guidelines for ROP 4. List of WCPFC Authorised National and Subregional Observer Programmes for the ROP 5. Contact details for National and Subregional Observer Programme Coordinators 6. WCPFC ROP Vessel Safety Check Form 7. WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Standards & ROP Guidelines updated 2023 8. Table of ROP minimum standard data fields 2016 9. Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transshipment Monitoring - 2023 10. Intersessional Working Group on ROP (IWG-ROP) 11. Guideline Form FC1 - Fish Carrier General Description 12. Guideline Form FC2 - Observer At Sea Transshipment Report 13. Guideline Form FC3 - Catch Destination Form 14. Observer Guide to WCPFC CMMs - Booklet 2023 15. Annual Report to TCC (TCC19 Required Report 2) 	Reactivation of IWG-ROP and IWG-ROP Workplan 2023 - 2025

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		<p>ROP webpage: https://www.wcpfc.int/regional-observer-programme</p>	
Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV)	<p>Combined list of all the details that each Member and Cooperating Non-Member has provided to the WCPFC Secretariat of its vessels that are authorized to fish beyond its national jurisdiction within the Convention Area.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CMM 2018-06 2. CMM 2022-05 (Standards, Specifications, and Procedures) 3. CMM 2013-04 (Unique Vessel Identifier) 4. CMM 2004-03 (Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels) 5. CMM 2021-04 (Charter Notification Scheme) 6. RFV Database 	<p>Vessels online system updated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fished and Did Not Fish Reporting System • Charter Notification Reporting System • RFV mobile App <p>Streamlined and enhanced RFV Annual Report to TCC (TCC19 Required Report 5)</p> <p>Prototype of an Analytical Tool to support Secretariat verification and monitoring of Charter Notifications</p>
Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) List	<p>List of vessels which have engaged in fishing activities for species covered by the Convention within the Convention Area in a manner which has undermined the effectiveness of the WCPF Convention and the WCPFC measures in force.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CMM 2019-07 2. WCPFC IUU Vessel List for 2023 and links to access other IUU Lists 	

System/Tool	Brief Description/Purpose	Relevant Documents	2023 Updates
Other Reporting Obligations	Required reporting through CMMs or other Commission decisions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cooperating Non-Member Request Template 2. Special Management Areas <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. CMM 2016-02 Eastern High Seas Special Management Area ii. CMM 2021-01 Attachment 2 Measure for Philippine traditional fresh/ice chilled fishing vessels operating as a group in High Seas Pocket 1 iii. Notifications related to choice of measures in Overlap Area with IATTC 3. Electronic Reporting Standards <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Intersessional Working Group on E-reporting and E-monitoring (ERandEMWG) ii. ER Standards for observer data and logbooks iii. ER Standards for high seas transshipment iv. Annual Report to TCC on performance of E-reporting standards (TCC19 Required Report 10) 	<p>Streamlined and enhanced EHSP Annual Report to TCC (TCC19 Required Report 6)</p> <p>Prototype of an Analytical Tool to support Secretariat verification and monitoring of Eastern High Seas Pocket Special Management Area</p> <p>Prototype of an Analytical Tool Secretariat verification and monitoring of High Seas Pocket Special Management Area</p>