



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Nineteenth Regular Session**  
20 – 26 September 2023  
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

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**ANNUAL REPORT ON PORT INSPECTIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MINIMUM  
STANDARDS FOR PORT STATE MEASURES**

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**WCPFC-TCC19-2023-RP07**  
**11 September 2023**

**Paper by the Secretariat**

**Purpose**

1. This paper summarises information on port State activities under the *Conservation and Management Measure on Minimum Standards for Port State Measures* ([CMM 2017-02](#)).

**Introduction**

2. The objective of the CMM is to establish processes and procedures to guide CCMs when requesting that port inspections be undertaken on fishing vessels suspected of engaging in or supporting IUU fishing. The processes recognise the importance of exchanging information, managing requests for inspections or inspection-related information and the need to set minimum requirements such as those relating to when port inspections are required.

**Designation of ports and contacts**

3. Each port State CCM is encouraged to designate ports for inspection and identify specific contacts for port state purposes, and to provide these to the Executive Director.
4. Port state related notifications from eight CCMs (Australia, France (French Polynesia, New Caledonia) Thailand, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, Solomon Islands and the USA) are available on the WCPFC website at [Port State Minimum Standards | WCPFC](#). Of these, seven have submitted advice of their designated ports and 5 have submitted contact points.

**Annual Report Part 2 reporting on implementation for activities in 2021 and 2022**

5. In 2022 and 2023, CCMs reported on CMM 2017-02 in their Annual Report Part 2. Reporting related to ensuring port State contacts and advice on applicable measures in designated ports was kept current<sup>1</sup> and implementation of the requirement for inspection reports to be provided where a request to inspect had been received from another CCM<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> CMM 2017-02 paragraphs 19 and 21

<sup>2</sup> CMM 2017-02 paragraphs 13 and 14

6. Responses to RY 2022 indicate an increasing number of CCMs consider these requirements are applicable to them compared to 2021. For those that considered the requirements were not applicable, responses indicate this is because:

- the CCM is not a party to the UN FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA); or
- they are still implementing the PSMA and/or have not yet designated ports; or
- have not yet notified the WCPFC Secretariat of their designated ports and contacts; or
- one CCM that is a party to the PSMA states their designated list of ports is publicised by FAO; or
- they have no ports.

7. Port state measures are increasingly used to supplement members' MCS measures. Inspections of vessels entering CCMs ports with fish caught in the Convention Area, whether to be landed or not, provides members with a greater opportunity to validate and verify reported data and information and to share information to support risk assessments on the need and focus for inspections.

### **Summary of information provided to WCPFC**

#### *Port inspection activity*

8. In March 2023, one port CCM notified WCPFC that port entry had been denied to a vessel on the basis that vessel owners had not been able to supply evidence that the vessel's activity with Fishing Aggregation Devices was authorised. In June 2023, the flag State notified WCPFC their investigation had concluded, and the vessel owner was fined<sup>3</sup>.

#### *Implementing CMM 2017-02*

9. In 2022, the Philippines implemented the CMM by providing notification of its designated ports and applicable measures. Also, that year the Secretariat received an inspection report for a vessel of active status on the WCPFC Record of Fishing and several data requests were approved for data that would assist the port CCM to verify information supplied in port entry applications.

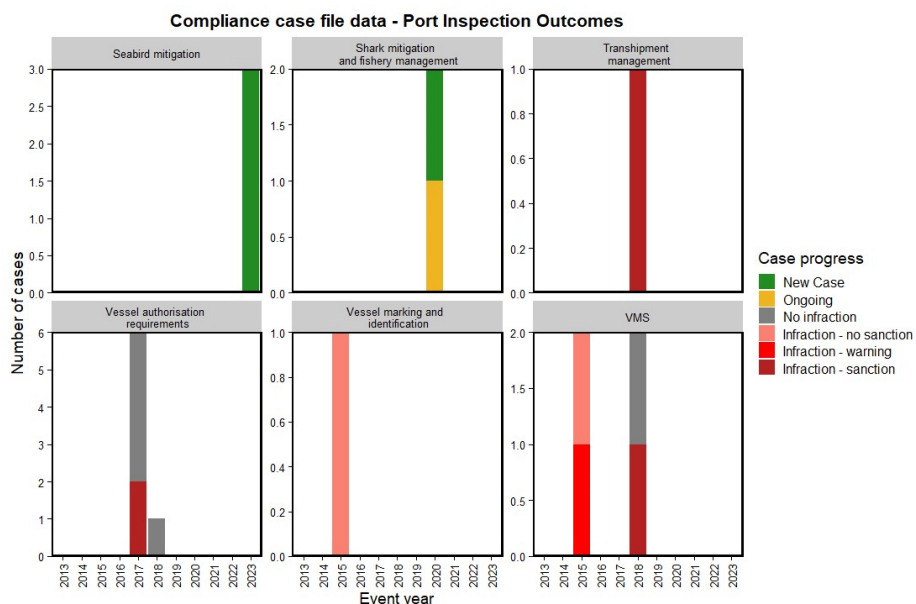
#### *Summary of compliance cases*

10. In 2023, seven case files were created because of port inspection outcomes undertaken by CCMs, of which five remain as 'New Cases' and two have been completed with sanctions applied to the vessel owner. The Secretariat did not receive advice of any requests for a flag CCM investigation for port related alleged infringement during 2021 and 2022. **Figure 3** shows historical port State compliance cases and their outcomes from 2013-2022.

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<sup>3</sup> Circulars 2023/24 and 2023/45

**Figure 3: Summary of the outcomes of flag CCM Article 25(2) investigations of alleged infringements recorded from Port Inspection activities (for 2013 –2022)**



### General points

11. As of June 2023, 21 WCPFC members<sup>4</sup> are parties to the UN FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA). A number of others are implementing the provisions, some with the intent to become a signatory to that Agreement.

12. CMM 2017-02 complements but does not rely on the PSMA or on CCMs being signatories. The CMM adds definition to some of the provisions of the PSMA such as the vessels are to be inspected. CCMs can determine when WCPFC port State requirements will apply to them.

13. The CMM includes provisions to assist developing CCMs (paragraphs 22 to 27) and provides for the development of a mechanism to provide funding support to SIDS (paragraph 25), although this mechanism is not yet developed.

14. Reported changes in the operational activity of fishing vessels in 2020 to 2022 due to COVID-19 precautions mean vessels were staying at sea longer and less frequently entering ports, particularly foreign ports. This impacted the ability of port States to conduct inspections on vessels identified as a priority for inspection with vessels more likely to tranship fish or return to home ports more frequently. WCPFC data has not yet been analysed to report on changing trends in vessel activity. There were also fewer high seas at-sea boarding and inspections in 2020 although this began increasing again in 2022<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> As at 11 Sept 2023: Members: Australia, Canada, European Union, Fiji, France, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Palau, Philippines, Tonga, Japan, USA, Vanuatu. CNMs: Ecuador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand, Viet Nam

<sup>5</sup> refer **WCPFC-TCC18-2022-RP04** and **WCPFC-TCC19-2023-RP04** Annual Report on High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme and **WCPFC-TCC18-2022-RP08** and **WCPFC-TCC19-2023-RP08** Annual Report on the Administration of the WCPFC Data Access Rules and Procedures

15. Vessel inspections in ports provide an opportunity to validate reported catch and fishing activity such as transshipments. They also assist CCMs to monitor vessel compliance with WCPFC requirements.

**Recommendation**

16. TCC19 is invited to note this report.
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