



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

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Update on Preparations for TCC19, including Proposed Schedule

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to provide an update on preparations for the 19th Meeting of the WCPFC Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC19), including advising on the proposed schedule for the meeting.

I expect I speak for everyone when I say that it has been a busy year, and as we continue to deal with the wake of a turbulent few years, our work has grown more complex. This has certainly been the case for the work ahead of us at TCC19 – the critical reform work for the WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Scheme that we have collectively undertaken in the last few years has created additional complexity for CCMs in preparing your Annual Reports, for the Secretariat in preparing the draft Compliance Monitoring Report, and for us as TCC. In addition, in line with the decision of WCPFC18, we will undertake a review for two reporting years (2021 and 2022), and we will again undertake a review of the aggregate tables. While this is a heavy load, and will consume a lot of TCC's time this year, I do believe that this work will pay dividends for all of us in ultimately resulting in a compliance monitoring scheme that is more efficient, fair and allows TCC to better target its efforts in identifying areas of the Commission's management framework that need to be strengthened, improved or balanced.

I am very pleased that TCC19 will be able to meet in person this year and return to Pohnpei after a long break. With the significant work ahead of us, the ability to meet in person is critical – not just to make best use of our time in plenary and in margins discussions, but also to continue to strengthen and renew our relationships. I am sure that all delegates will also enjoy the opportunities to enjoy the beautiful locations, history, culture and wonderful people of our host country, the Federated States of Micronesia.

TCC19 Schedule

The proposed [TCC19 Schedule](#) is available on the TCC19 meeting page and is attached to this circular.

Plenary will commence on day one (Wednesday 20 Sept) until the afternoon tea break. After the break, we will commence the CMR review process. As per standard practice, the decision on whether the CMR review is undertaken in open or closed session will be discussed at the Heads of Delegations meeting and confirmed in plenary.

As noted above, I expect that the CMR review process will take a significant amount of time, so I have provisionally scheduled the CMR review to run up to and including the morning session on day four (Saturday 23 Sept). I am hopeful that we can make the best use of the time available to us and complete the CMR review on time or earlier.

I will provide more information on the CMR review (including the Chair's paper on the CMR process) in the coming days, however in short:

- the CMR review will be undertaken for the 2021 and 2022 reporting years simultaneously (by obligation as per previous practice).
- Following this, we will review the aggregate tables following a similar format to that undertaken at TCC17 (review of anomalies identified by CCMs; review of outstanding cases from the Online Compliance Case File System).

Following the conclusion of the CMR review process, we will resume plenary, starting with the remainder of Agenda 5 on the CMS. I am hopeful that the CMR review process will inform constructive discussions on the policy issues to be raised under agenda 5.

The Co-chairs of the Transshipment IWG have requested time for this group to meet in the margins of TCC with a view to making progress on the Commission's critical work on strengthening transshipment management – I intend to provide time for this group to meet during an extended break on Saturday afternoon.

As per usual practice, Sunday will set aside as a rest day for delegations, while I and the Secretariat team prepare the draft compliance report and Executive Summary.

We will commence in plenary on the morning of day five (Monday 25 Sept) until the morning tea break, after which we will reconvene the CMR review to clear the provisional CMR, after which plenary will resume and run through to the conclusion of the meeting.

I expect several small working groups will be required, including to review the Cooperating Non-Member requests, continue work on the Audit Points and undertake work on Corrective Actions. Formation and scheduling of SWGs will be discussed at the HODs meeting.

Virtual Participation

As advised in the TCC19 meeting notice (Circular 2023-51), virtual participation in TCC19 will be facilitated using Zoom, however CCMs will only be permitted to make interventions virtually if the CCM HOD of alternative is not able to attend in person. Zoom links will be provided to participants who are registered for virtual attendance. Please contact the Secretariat's IT Team (ITSupport@wcpfc.int) for any technical assistance regarding virtual participation.

Heads of Delegations Meeting

The Heads of Delegations meeting will be convened the afternoon prior to TCC19, to be held from 4:30pm Tuesday 19 September Pohnpei time in the PNG Room at the WCPFC Secretariat. An [agenda](#) for this meeting is available on the meeting page and is attached to this circular. For the CCM delegations not attending the TCC19 meeting in person, virtual participation in the HODs meeting will be facilitated by Zoom.

TCC19 Online Discussion Forum

The TCC19 Online Discussion Forum is live and currently includes two papers. I would encourage CCMs to join the ODF and use the platform to ask questions or provide comments to inform discussion on these items. Further updates will be provided if/when additional ODF topics are created.

Meeting Document Management

TCC19 delegates attending, either physically or virtually, wanting to submit a document for posting to the meeting is to complete a cover page for each document submission ([TCC19 Document Template](#)). The cover page and document should be emailed to tcc19@wcpfc.int.

Other issues

As CCMs will recall, WCPFC19 agreed that the review of the aggregated tables, and specifically the identification of anomalies for TCC discussion was to remain a member-led process, i.e. the onus is on CCMs to review the aggregate tables and identify issues that they wish to discuss. The aggregate tables papers (TCC19-2023-dCMR02 and dCMR03) are available and may be accessed through the CCM pages on the main part of the WCPFC website at this link (<https://www.wcpfc.int/cmr-2022>). I strongly encourage you to review these papers and advise me of any issues you would like to raise for TCC discussion this year (by email to mat.kertesz@aff.gov.au, CC lara.manarangi-trott@wcpfc.int and eidre.sharp@wcpfc.int).

I look forward to seeing you all, in Pohnpei or online, next week and to a productive TCC19 meeting.

Kind regards,



Mat Kertesz
TCC Chair