



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

**CNM REQUESTS FOR 2024**

WCPFC-TCC19-2023-07\_rev1<sup>1</sup>  
 25 September 2023

**Paper by the Secretariat**

**Purpose**

1. This paper presents information on requests received for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status for 2024 for consideration by TCC19.

**Background**

2. Historical information on CNMs since 2009 is available on the WCPFC website (refer to [Cooperating Non-Members | WCPFC](#)), The current CMM is [CMM 2019-01 Cooperating Non-Members](#), and the list of current CNMs is maintained on the [About | WCPFC](#) page.

**CNM requests for 2024**

3. The Secretariat has received eight applications for CNM status in 2024; all are current CNMs (see **Table 1**) (refer to [2023 Cooperating Non-Member Applications | WCPFC](#)).

**Table 1: Date of receipt and format of CNM requests for 2024 as at 08 August 2023**

Applicant	Date request for new/renewal of status was received*	NOTES ON FORMAT OF REQUEST	
		E-form submitted and able to be directly imported	Correct template used?
Curacao	22 July 2023	Yes	Yes
Ecuador	13 July 2023	Yes	Yes
El Salvador	21 July 2023	Yes	Yes
Liberia	20 July 2023	Yes	Yes
Nicaragua	28 July 2023	Yes	Yes
Panama	20 June 2023	Yes	Yes
Thailand	26 June 2023	Yes	Yes
Viet Nam	19 July 2023	Yes	Yes

\*Completed template due to be received by the Secretariat by 22 July 2023

<sup>1</sup> Table 2 updated to include recent financial contributions made by some CNMs for 2023.

## CNM Financial Contributions for 2023

**Table 2: Financial contributions from CNM for 2022 and 2023 as at 25 September 2023**

<b>COOPERATING NON-MEMBER</b>	<b>2022 assessed financial contribution</b>	<b>2022 payments<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2023 assessed financial contribution</b>	<b>2023 payments</b>
<b>Curacao</b>	20,170	20,170	27,715	0
<b>Ecuador</b>	46,090	46,050	48,362	48,317
<b>El Salvador</b>	20,904	20,904	23,477	23,477
<b>Liberia</b>	13,526	13,526	14,731	0
<b>Nicaragua</b>	14,564	14,529	15,775	0
<b>Panama</b>	23,297	23,297	24,403	24,403
<b>Thailand</b>	19,868	19,868	21,440	21,440
<b>Viet Nam</b>	16,238	16,238	18,050	18,050

### Information Relating to CNM Applications

4. The WCPFC19 Summary Report includes Commission decisions on applications for CNM status in 2023 (see **Attachment 1**) ([19th Regular Session of the Commission | WCPFC Meetings](#)).

5. On 24 February 2023, the Executive Director sent letters to all 2023 CNM applicants confirming the successful outcome of their CNM application for 2023 after consideration at WCPFC19. The letter also confirmed their financial commitment for 2023 and provided information on the process and timing for 2024 applications for CNM status.<sup>3</sup> These letters, along with information submitted by applicants for 2024 are available at [2023 Cooperating Non-Member Applications | WCPFC](#).

6. The Secretariat prepared a draft Compliance Monitoring Report covering 2021 and 2022 activities for the eight CNMs (Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand and Viet Nam).

### Recommendation

7. TCC19 is invited to consider and make recommendations to WCPFC20 on the eight applications for CNM status for 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Please note any small variation between the assessed contribution and payment relates to transfer fees.

<sup>3</sup> An electronic application form is available on the WCPFC website ([Cooperating Non-Member request template - last updated in 2020 | WCPFC](#)).

## WCPFC19 Decisions on CNM Applications for 2023

**Note: Paragraph numbers reflect those in the WCPFC19 Summary Report**

### 3 Applications for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status

46. The Commission approved the applications for CNM status for 2023 from Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand and Vietnam.
47. WCPFC19 noted the significant concerns expressed by TCC18 regarding recent serious incidents involving Panama's flagged vessels in the NPFC Convention area. The Commission noted that Panama provided further information to the Commission requested by TCC18, including evidence of Panama's submission of relevant information to NPFC to include the flagged vessel on the NPFC IUU vessel list.
48. WCPFC19 reiterated TCC18's reminder to encourage Panama to make efforts to make improvements to the management of its vessels. WCPFC tasks TCC19 to consider the outcome of NPFC IUU listing process and further efforts on Panama's improvements to manage and monitor its vessels when considering Panama's CNM application in 2023. The Commission noted the NPFC IUU listing process was ongoing and as such, recommends the approval of the renewal of Panama's CNM status for 2023.

#### 3.3.1 Participatory rights of CNMs

50. WCPFC19 considered the request for participatory rights of CNM for 2023. The SWG considered an application from Nicaragua to increase its purse seine capacity from one vessel to two vessels. The Commission noted that the request has implications for capacity limits under paragraph 42 of CMM 2021-01 and recommended that any further capacity increase is considered when the relevant CMM is reviewed.
51. WCPFC19 approved the following participatory rights for 2023:
  - i. **Curaçao:** The participatory rights of Curacao are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transshipment activities in the Convention area.
  - ii. **Ecuador:** The participatory rights of Ecuador for fishing in the WCPO are limited to purse seine fishing, with no participatory rights for fishing on the high seas for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area. Any introduction of purse seine fishing capacity is to be in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2019-01 and CMM 2021-01 or its replacement measure.
  - iii. **El Salvador:** The participatory rights of El Salvador for fishing in the WCPO are limited to purse seine fishing only. The total level of effort by purse seine vessels of El Salvador on the high seas shall not exceed 29 days in the Convention Area. Any introduction of purse seine fishing capacity is to be in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2019-01 and CMM 2021-01 or its replacement measure.

- iv. **Liberia:** The participatory rights of Liberia are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transshipment activities in the Convention area.
- v. **Nicaragua:** The participatory rights of Nicaragua are limited to purse seine fishing for one vessel, with no participatory rights for fishing on the high seas for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area. Any introduction of fishing capacity is to be in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2019-01 and CMM 2021-01 or its replacement measure.
- vi. **Panama:** The participatory rights of Panama in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels. Panama's participatory rights also apply to vessels that supply food, water and spare parts to carrier vessels that engage in transshipment activities, provided that these vessels do not engage in activities supporting fishing vessels, including providing and/or servicing FADs.
- vii. **Thailand:** The participatory rights of Thailand in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only.
- viii. **Vietnam:** The participatory rights of Vietnam in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only.

#### **WCPFC/IATTC Overlap Area**

- 52. In accordance with the decision of WCPFC9 regarding the management of the overlap area of 4°S and 50°S between 130°W and 150°W, vessels flagged to Ecuador, El Salvador and Nicaragua and Panama will be governed by the IATTC when fishing in the overlap area.
- 53. In accordance with the Data Exchange MOU agreed by both Commissions, fishing vessels flying the flag of a member of either the IATTC or WCPFC shall cooperate with the RFMO to which they are not a member by voluntarily providing operational catch and effort data for its fishing activities for highly migratory species in the overlap area.
- 54. For the purpose of investigation of possible IUU fishing activities and consistent with international and domestic laws, vessels flying the flag of a CNM that is a Contracting Party to the IATTC will cooperate with those coastal State members of the WCPFC whose EEZs occur in the overlap area by voluntarily providing VMS reports (date, time and position) to those coastal States when operating in the overlap area.