

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

**Circular No.: 2024/04**

**Date: 31 January 2024**

**No. pages: 06**

**Informal Intersessional Meetings on the Review of WCPFC's Seabird Measure Led by New Zealand**

Dear All,

I write to draw your attention to informal intersessional work in 2024 on the review of WCPFC's seabird measure contained in CMM 2018-03. CCMs and Observers will recall that at SC19 and WCPFC20, New Zealand offered to lead informal intersessional meetings with interested CCMs to review the latest scientific evidence on seabird bycatch mitigation and gather views on the review of CMM 2018-03. As such, New Zealand has prepared the attached information to guide the informal review process, along with two separate calendar invites to two virtual meetings scheduled for **Tuesday 20 February 2024** and **Tuesday 7 May 2024**, respectively.

Questions and requests for additional information should be directed to the following New Zealand officials: Johannes Fisher [jfischer@doc.govt.nz](mailto:jfischer@doc.govt.nz), Mandy Leathers [mleathers@doc.govt.nz](mailto:mleathers@doc.govt.nz), and Hilary Ayrton [Hilary.Ayrton@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Hilary.Ayrton@mpi.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely,



Rhea Moss-Christian  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## **Aotearoa New Zealand-led process for the review of WCPFC CMM 2018-03**

You are invited to participate in the review of WCPFC CMM 2018-03, led by Aotearoa New Zealand.

WCPFC19 agreed that the *conservation and management measure to mitigate the impact of fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on seabirds* (CMM 2018-03) will be reviewed over 2023 and 2024. WCPFC SC20 agreed that the purpose of the review is: “to ensure that effective mitigation methods are required and applied across the Convention Area where there is bycatch risk to vulnerable seabirds from longline fishing”. See <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/19793> for further details.

The informal review process will include:

1. The collation of relevant papers on seabird distribution, risk, and bycatch mitigation methods. Please follow this [link](#) to request access to the folders.
2. An informal online 4.5-hour meeting on **20 February 2024** chaired by NZ. Please open and accept the attached calendar invitation or follow this [link](#) to join. Proposed topics include:
  - An introductory presentation from NZ on impacts of longline bycatch on seabirds.
  - An overview presentation from NZ on different mitigation methods.
  - Discussions on mitigation methods that have been proven to be inefficient (e.g., blue-dyed bait and line shooters).
  - Discussions on detailed specifications of tori lines and branch line weighting and their efficacy in different fleets and fisheries.
  - A presentation from MSC on certifications and how the CMM 2018-03 and any revisions thereof may relate to these.
  - Opportunities for CCMs to present their work.
3. A second informal online 6.5-hour meeting on **7 May 2024**; chaired by NZ. Please open the attached calendar invite or follow this [link](#) to join. Proposed topics include:
  - An overview presentation from NZ to reiterate main points from the first meeting.
  - A presentation from the US on their shallow-set experiments in the Northern Hemisphere (pending confirmation).
  - A presentation from NZ on seabird tracking, and the associated distribution and overlap analyses.
  - Discussions on the different combinations of options in the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere.
  - Discussions on the spatial extent of the CMM requirements in relation to fishing effort and seabird distribution.
  - Discussion on current and potential MCS tools and requirements to be included in the CMM.
  - Opportunities for CCMs to present their own work.
  - Suggestions for further work to be submitted to SC20 and TCC20.
4. Aotearoa New Zealand will collate the feedback and expert input and draft a revised CMM 2018-03 for submission to SC20, TCC20, and for approval at WCPFC21.

If you would like to participate in the review, please contact: Johannes Fisher [jfischer@doc.govt.nz](mailto:jfischer@doc.govt.nz); Mandy Leathers [mleathers@doc.govt.nz](mailto:mleathers@doc.govt.nz); Hilary Ayrton [Hilary.Ayrton@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Hilary.Ayrton@mpi.govt.nz).

**Subject:** WCPFC CMM 2018-03 review informal intersessional meeting I  
**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting; WGN - G.03 Toroa (Seats 8, Full AV)  
**Start:** Tue 2/20/2024 11:00 AM  
**End:** Tue 2/20/2024 4:30 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative  
**Recurrence:** (none)  
**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded  
**Organizer:** Johannes Fischer

Kia ora koutou | Dear all,

Thank you all for your engagement thus far.

As you know Aotearoa New Zealand is coordinating the review of WCPFC CMM 2018-03 (the seabird CMM). The proposed process of the review includes two informal intersessional online meetings to review scientific evidence and gather views on for the CMM review (see: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/19793>).

This is the calendar invite for the first meeting. The Microsoft Teams link can be found at the bottom of this invite.

We know that we initially said that we would hold this meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February, but after several CCMs indicated that this date would suit better, we have shifted the meeting accordingly. Hopefully, this still works for most.

The proposed topics for this meeting include:

- An introductory presentation from NZ on the impacts of longline bycatch on seabirds.
- An overview presentation from NZ on different mitigation methods (incl. their efficacy, impact on target species catch, costs, and practicability).
- Discussions on mitigation methods that have been proven to be inefficient (e.g., blue-dyed bait and line shooters).
- Discussions on detailed specifications of tori lines and branch line weighting and their efficacy in different fleets and fisheries.

- A presentation from MSC on certifications and how the CMM 2018-03 and any revisions thereof may relate to these.
- Opportunities for CCMs to present their work.

We will circulate a further details, such as an agenda and terms of references, shortly. We will also distribute key publications and papers on mitigation methods for review and consideration soon. Similarly, we invite contributions from all participating CCMs to be included for consideration as well.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me, Mandy Leathers ([mleathers@doc.govt.nz](mailto:mleathers@doc.govt.nz)), Heather Ward ([Heather.Ward@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Heather.Ward@mpi.govt.nz)), or Hilary Ayrton ([Hilary.Ayrton@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Hilary.Ayrton@mpi.govt.nz)). Thank you very much and looking forward to a meaningful review.

Kia pai tō rā,  
Johannes Fischer (he/him)  
Marine Science Advisor | Takutaimoana Kaitohu Putaiao  
National Office | Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | 18-32 Manners Street | Wellington 6011  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai  
Phone: +64 27 263 2958  
[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

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**Subject:** WCPFC CMM 2018-03 review informal intersessional meeting II  
**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting; WGN - G.03 Toroa (Seats 8, Full AV)

**Start:** Tue 5/7/2024 11:00 AM  
**End:** Tue 5/7/2024 5:30 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded

**Organizer:** Johannes Fischer

Kia ora koutou | Dear all,

Thank you all for your engagement thus far.

As you know Aotearoa New Zealand is coordinating the review of WCPFC CMM 2018-03 (the seabird CMM). The proposed process of the review includes two informal intersessional online meetings to review scientific evidence and gather views on for the CMM review (see: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/19793>).

This is the calendar invite for the second meeting. The Microsoft Teams link can be found at the bottom of this invite.

The proposed topics for this meeting include:

- An overview presentation from NZ to reiterate main points from the first meeting.
- A presentation from the US on their shallow-set experiments in the Northern Hemisphere (pending confirmation).
- A presentation from NZ on seabird tracking, and the associated distribution and overlap analyses.
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- Suggestions for further work to be submitted to SC20 and TCC20.

We will circulate a further details, such as an agenda and terms of references, shortly. We will also distribute key publications and papers on mitigation methods for review and consideration soon. Similarly, we invite contributions from all participating CCMs to be included for consideration as well.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me, Mandy Leathers ([mleathers@doc.govt.nz](mailto:mleathers@doc.govt.nz)), Heather Ward ([Heather.Ward@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Heather.Ward@mpi.govt.nz)), or Hilary Ayrton ([Hilary.Ayrton@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Hilary.Ayrton@mpi.govt.nz)). Thank you very much and looking forward to a meaningful review.

Kia pai tō rā,  
Johannes Fischer (he/him)  
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