



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**  
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**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WCPFC HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTION PROCEDURES**

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**WCPFC-TCC4-2008/21 (Rev.2)**  
**2 October 2008**

**Paper prepared by the Secretariat**

**Introduction**

1. The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission (WCPFC4) held at Guam, USA from 2-7 December 2007 endorsed several recommendations from the Third Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC3) relating to procedures for High Seas Boarding and Inspection. WCPFC Circular #2008/03 dated 18 February 2008:

- a) alerted CCMs to these agreed procedures, including the WCPFC flag and pennant, and WCPFC Register of Inspection Vessels;
- b) invited CCMs to contribute details of their inspection vessels for inclusion in the WCPFC Register of Inspection Vessels;
- c) encouraged CCMs to transmit a sample of their respective inspection personnel ID cards to the WCPFC Secretariat for compiling and posting on the WCPFC website;
- d) advised CCMs of their responsibility for translating into the language(s) used in their fisheries the questionnaire depicted in the TCC3 Summary Report, Attachment G, Annex 3 and the need to provide these translated questionnaires to the WCPFC Secretariat for circulation to all CCMs;
- e) advised CCMs that they may continue to use their own reporting formats;
- f) advised CCMs that they will use a new reporting template as Part 2 of the Annual Report, based on a template developed by the WCPFC Secretariat in 2007 and used by some, but not all, CCMs for their Part 2 of the Annual Report covering the period 1 January-31 December 2006; and
- g) encouraged CCMs to submit to the WCPFC Secretariat a copy of their existing training standards for inspection personnel, noting that the TCC will consider the possibility of developing minimum training standards at a later date.

2. WCPFC Circular #2008/03 requested CCMs to make their respective submissions as soon as practicable, and in any case, prior to 2 May 2008. This paper summarises the responses by CCMs to this request and describes the WCPFC Secretariat's actions related to making this information available to all CCMs.

### Responses by CCMs to WCPFC Circular #2008/03

3. Table 1 presents a summary of information received to date from CCMs in response to WCPFC Circular #2008/03 including details of inspection vessel details with photographs, details of Authorities or Inspectors and inspection personnel identification cards.

**Table 1. Summary of information received to date from CCMs in respect of WCPFC Circular #2008/03**

CCM	Inspection vessel details with photographs	Details of Authorities or Inspectors	Samples of ID cards
Canada	√	√	√
Cook Islands	√	√	
FSM	√	√	
France	√	√	√
Korea	√	√	
New Zealand	√	√	√
Papua New Guinea	√	√	
Chinese Taipei	√	√	√
USA	√	√	√

4. Although the provision of fisheries inspector training material is not mandatory, Canada has provided the Secretariat with copies of its Fishery Officer Enforcement Training Program Curriculum and Fishery Officer Career Progression Program.

5. The Standardized Multilanguage Questionnaire has been translated from English into French, a Chinese version provided by China, a Chinese version provided by Chinese Taipei, Japanese, Korean and Spanish.

### WCPFC Secretariat action related to circulation of information provided

6. In order to circulate the information provided by CCMs as widely as possible, the WCPFC Secretariat developed a High Seas Boarding and Inspection page on the WCPFC website (<http://www.wcpfc.int>). This page also contains links to CMM-2006-08 “WCPFC Boarding and Inspection Procedures” and the new reporting template as Part 2 of the Annual Report, based on a template developed by the WCPFC Secretariat in 2007.

7. The High Seas Boarding and Inspection page on the WCPFC website displays a table indicating the circulation date of a particular inspection vessel’s details by the WCPFC Executive Director and its starting date of boarding and inspection pursuant to CMM-2006-08. WCPFC3 agreed that boarding and inspection operations pursuant to the procedures would be authorized to begin 60 days after the circulation to CCMs by the Executive Director of the register of authorized inspection vessels.

### WCPFC Secretariat advice regarding High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures

8. WCPFC Circular #2008/09 dated 20 March 2008 provided CCMs with additional advice regarding certain legal and administrative requirements requiring implementation by both them and the WCPFC Secretariat before lawful boarding and inspection can take place in accordance

with the WCPFC Convention and the WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures. This advice included reference to paragraph 13 of these procedures that stipulate that any Contracting Party that intends to carry out boarding and inspection activities pursuant to the procedures shall so notify the Commission, through the Executive Director, and shall provide the following information:

- a. with respect to each inspection vessel it assigns to boarding and inspection activities under these procedures:
  - ii. notification that the inspection vessel is clearly marked and identifiable as being on government service;
  - iii. notification that the crew has received and completed training in carrying out boarding and inspection activities at sea in accordance with any standards and procedures as may be adopted by the Commission.
- b. with respect to inspectors it assigns pursuant to these procedures:
  - ii. notification that such authorities' inspectors are fully familiar with the fishing activities to be inspected, and the provisions of the Convention and conservation and management measures in force; and
  - iii. notification that such authorities' inspectors have received and completed training in carrying out boarding and inspection activities at sea in accordance with any standards and procedures as may be adopted by the Commission.

9. CCMs were also advised that there are additional procedural requirements to be satisfied in paragraphs 14-24 of the WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures to be complied with before lawful high seas boarding and inspection can be undertaken, and encouraged CCMs to fully inform themselves in relation to these procedural requirements. The Secretariat has received responses from Cook Islands, New Zealand and the U.S. in response to WCPFC Circular #2008/09.

10. To promote effective high seas boarding and inspection, there is a need for all CCMs that have authorized their fishing vessels to fish in the WCPFC Convention Area beyond areas of national jurisdiction, to provide to the WCPFC Secretariat for circulation the name and contact of their respective "Authorities". This will ensure that should their vessels be boarded, there is a listed "Authority" for the boarding CCM to contact. Belize has provided the Secretariat with this information that is posted on the WCPFC website.

#### **Application of the WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures between a Contracting Party and a Fishing Entity**

11. Paragraph 6 of CMM-2006-08 states, "Unless otherwise decided by the Commission, these procedures shall also apply in their entirety as between a Contracting Party and a Fishing Entity, subject to a notification to that effect to the Commission from the Contracting Party concerned." At the time of preparation of this paper, one Contracting Party had notified the WCPFC Secretariat that it has arranged for the application of these procedures between itself and Chinese Taipei.

#### **Notifications of boardings in the WCPFC Convention Area under the WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures**

12. On 21 August 2008 the WCPFC Secretariat was advised by the U.S. Coast Guard that it had successfully undertaken a boarding and inspection of a CCM-flag vessel in the high seas in the WCPFC Convention Area pursuant to CMM-2006-08. On 4 September 2008 the WCPFC

Secretariat was advised by the U.S. Coast Guard that had successfully undertaken a second boarding and inspection of a CCM-flag vessel in the high seas in the WCPFC Convention Area.

### **Boarding and Inspection Flag and Pennant**

13. To assist CCMs implement the High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures, the WCPFC Secretariat has arranged for the production of 150 each of the WCPFC flag and pennant, as depicted in the TCC3 Summary Report, Attachment G, Annex 2. Funding for this initiative was generously provided by the U.S. Government.

### **Recommendations**

14. The Technical and Compliance Committee is invited to note, and provide advice and recommendations to the Commission in relation to the following matters:

- a. those CCMs that have formally advised of the satisfactory completion of formalities to allow them to actively participate in the Commission's High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures;
- b. soliciting additional language versions of the questionnaire;
- c. commenting on the High Seas Boarding and Inspection facility on the WCPFC website;
- d. the requirements of paragraphs 13(a) and (b) of CMM-2006-08, and additional procedural requirements to be satisfied in paragraphs 14-24 of CMM-2006-08, and the need for CCMs to provide this information to the Commission, through the Executive Director;
- e. the single existing reciprocal notification in respect of Chinese Taipei; and
- f. the voluntary contribution from the U.S. that provided for the production of flags and pennants pursuant to the WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures.