



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

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CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR COOPERATING NON-MEMBER STATUS

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Paper prepared by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. During 2006, the Secretariat received applications from the USA, Indonesia and Belize for Cooperating Non-member (CNM) status. The applications by the USA and Indonesia were to renew their status as CNMs.
2. An application was also received from Senegal for membership of the Commission. The Secretariat also received a letter dated 6 December 2006 from Panama seeking CNM status.
3. These applications were circulated to Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) 90 days in advance of the third regular session of the Commission (WCPFC3) held at Apia, Samoa from 11-15 December 2006.
4. WCPFC3:
 - a. renewed the CNM status of the USA and Indonesia;
 - b. noted that Belize met the legal requirements in respect of the types of data to support its application for CNM status but could not approve Belize's application until concerns regarding the technical content of this data were addressed;
 - c. rejected Senegal's application on the grounds that it did not meet the legal requirements in respect of all data relating to the operation of its fishing vessels to support its application for CNM status, the Commission rejected Senegal's application for CNM status; and
 - d. noted that the Executive Director had written to Panama advising of the procedure for submitting an application for CNM status.

Possible role for TCC in determining CNM status?

5. In reaching these decisions, a considerable amount of meeting time was spent by WCPFC3 in debating the adequacy of the types of data submitted by Belize and Senegal to support their respective applications for CNM and member status.
6. The Commission has previously developed guidelines and procedures for assessing applications for CNM status. While the decision to confer or renew CNM status is a policy

decision for the Commission, there are several technical matters that require consideration. Article 2 of the Conservation and Management Measure on Cooperating Non-Members (Conservation and Management Measure-2004-02) outlines information requirements that CNM applicants must meet when submitting their applications for CNM status. Furthermore, Article 4 of Conservation and Management Measure-2004-02 states that the Commission shall accord CNM status on an annual basis and may renew the conferral of status subject to a review of the CNM's compliance with the Convention's objectives and requirements. Article 5 of Conservation and Management Measure-2004-02 requires the Commission, when determining whether CNM status should be renewed, to have regard to:

- a. the views of the CNM applicant on ratification or of accession to the Convention;
- b. the status of the stocks and the existing level of fishing effort in the fishery;
- c. its record of compliance with the provisions of the Convention, and the conservation and management measures developed by the Commission and other regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs).

7. TCC2 considered the nature and extent of its role in reviewing applications for CNM status or membership without coming to a conclusion. TCC3 is invited to consider its possible role in providing technical guidance to the Commission to assist it in its deliberations on future applications for CNM status and membership.

Conclusion

8. TCC3 is invited to consider its possible role in providing technical guidance regarding CNM and membership applications for possible consideration by the Commission.