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Cooperating Non-Member Requests for 2025

WCPFC-TCC20-2024-07_rev1¹

20 September 2024

Submitted by the Secretariat

Purpose

1. This paper presents information on requests for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status for 2025 for consideration by TCC20.

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 under [WCPFC Members and Observers](#).
3. The [WCPFC20 Summary Report Rev01](#)² includes Commission discussions and decisions on applications for CNM status in 2024. Decisions are shown in Appendix 1 of this paper and include a task for TCC20 to progress during discussions on requests for 2025 CNM status.
4. On 29 February 2024, the Executive Director sent letters to all 2024 CNM applicants confirming the successful outcome of their CNM application for 2024 after consideration at WCPFC20. The letter also confirmed each CNM applicant's financial contribution for 2024 and provided information on the process and timing for applications for CNM status in 2025.³
5. Other matters relating to CNMs are considered under [Agenda item 9.6](#) in relation to data access to support their implementation of [CMM 2017-02 Port State Minimum](#) requirements.

¹ This paper updates Table 1 in the 4 September 2024 paper 1 to reflect a second payment by Ecuador that, once confirmed as received, would complete their 2024 financial contribution.

² Paragraphs 62-76

³ An [electronic application form](#) is available on the WCPFC website

CNM Financial Contributions for 2023 and 2024

Table 1: Financial contributions from CNM for 2023 and 2024 as of 4 September 2024

Co-operating Non-Member	2023 assessed financial contribution	2023 payments ⁴	2024 assessed financial contribution	2024 payments
Curacao	27,715	27,670	29,576	29,501
Ecuador	48,362	48,317	51,908	22,246*
El Salvador	23,477	23,477	26,649	26,649
Nicaragua	15,775	15,790	17,287	17,262
Panama	24,403	24,403	26,807	26,807
Thailand	21,440	21,440	23,162	23,162
Viet Nam	18,050	18,050	20,235	20,235

* Ecuador – part payment of \$22,246 received and second transfer of \$29,811.72 wired 18 Sept 2024.

CNM requests for 2025

5. The Secretariat has received eight applications for CNM status in 2025; all are current or have previously been CNMs (see **Table 2**). Only Nicaragua has not reapplied for CNM status in 2025 at the time of writing.

Table 2: Date of receipt and format of CNM requests for 2025 as of 2 September 2024

Applicant	Date request for new/renewal of status for 2025 was received	E form used?
Bahamas	22 June 2024 (new)	Yes
Curacao	26 July 2024	Yes
Ecuador	27 July 2024	Yes
El Salvador	28 June 2024	Yes
Liberia	09 July 2024 (new)	Yes
Panama	10 July 2024	Yes
Thailand	03 July 2024	Yes
Viet Nam	02 July 2024	Yes

⁴ Please note any small variation between the assessed contribution and payment relates to transfer fees.

Information Relating to CNM Applications for 2025

6. The Commission approved the applications for CNM status for 2024 from Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand, and Vietnam. In the case of Liberia, the Commission approved the application on the condition their outstanding 2023 financial contribution was received by the Commission by 31 December 2023. The payment was received on 20 February 2024. Accordingly, Liberia was not granted CNM status in 2024 but has applied for CNM status for 2025 (see Table 2).
7. In 2021, the Bahamas received CNM status but withdrew later that year stating that, *“owing to administrative difficulties associated with maintaining effective participation in the Commission activities it has been decided not to apply for CNM status renewal for year 2022.”*⁵ The Bahamas has reapplied for CNM status in 2025 (see Table 2).
8. Applications and other information submitted by CNM applicants for 2025 will be available on the [WCPFC CNM webpage](#).

Recommendation

10. TCC20 is invited to review the applications for CNM status and make recommendations to the Commission for its consideration at WCPFC21 on CNM status for 2025.

⁵ [WCPFC18-2021-07 rev2](#)

AGENDA 4.3 - APPLICATIONS FOR COOPERATING NON-MEMBER (CNM) STATUS

8. The Commission approved the applications for CNM status for 2024 from Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Thailand, and Vietnam. In the cases of Liberia and Nicaragua, the Commission approved the applications on the condition that any outstanding payments of the financial contribution for 2023 being paid and received into the Commission account by 31 December 2023.

Participatory rights of CNMs Recommendations from the SWG

9. The Commission considered the request for participatory rights of 8 CNMs for 2024. The CNM SWG considered changing certain CNMs' participatory rights but was not able to reach an agreement due to limited time.
10. WCPFC20 approved the following participatory rights for 2024:

- a. **Curacao:** The participatory rights of Curacao are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transshipment activities in the Convention area.
- b. **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.
- c. **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.
- d. **Liberia:** The participatory rights of Liberia are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transshipment activities in the Convention area.
- e. **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.
- f. **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
- g. **Thailand:** The participatory rights of Thailand in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only.

- h. **Vietnam:** The participatory rights of Vietnam in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels only.

WCPFC/IATTC Overlap Area

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.

11. The CNM SWG recommends that the Commission tasks TCC20 to provide recommendations regarding the type of vessels that should be allowed to deploy and service FADs in the WCPFC Convention Area.