



## TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

### Twentieth Regular Session

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Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (Hybrid)

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## Annual Report on the Administration of the WCPFC Data Access Rules and Procedures

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WCPFC-TCC20-2024-RP08

17 September 2024

### Submitted by the Secretariat

#### Purpose

1. This paper provides an update on WCPFC's non-scientific data holdings and their administration by the Secretariat.

#### Introduction

2. The rules categorising data as public or non-public, and the administration of that data is governed by the [Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission](#) (2007 data RaP).
3. There are additional rules for non-scientific data holdings in the [Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of High Seas Non-Public Domain Data and Information Compiled by the Commission for the Purpose of Monitoring, Control or Surveillance \(MCS\) Activities and the Access to and Dissemination of High Seas VMS Data for Scientific Purposes](#) (2009 MCS data RaP). Non-scientific data holdings are summarized in **Annex 1**<sup>1</sup>.

#### Access to WCPFC data holdings

##### *Accessing public and non-public domain data*

4. Access to public domain data is through the WCPFC webpages and more recently via Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), where possible. However, certain data requests, such as scientific data, need to be actioned on a case-by-case basis where the information is not available from the WCPFC webpages.
5. The Secretariat has an established system for the case-by-case review and decision on requests for access to WCPFC non-public domain data. All approved data request review forms, request related correspondence, and a record of released data are kept in the WCPFC Information Management System (IMS).

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<sup>1</sup> TCC11 requested that the Secretariat summarize data holdings WCPFC for TCC12.

6. The Secretariat recognises the need to improve CCM’s ability to manage their data requests and timely access to data, particularly given the number of requests now being made. Improved access to VMS data through a Trackwell API has been available for several years. In 2023, an API giving access to transshipment data was developed and trialed and is now a potential option for CCMs once some refinements have been made. The Secretariat intends also to consider opportunities to improve the transparency and speed of the processing of data requests.

#### *Who has access to data*

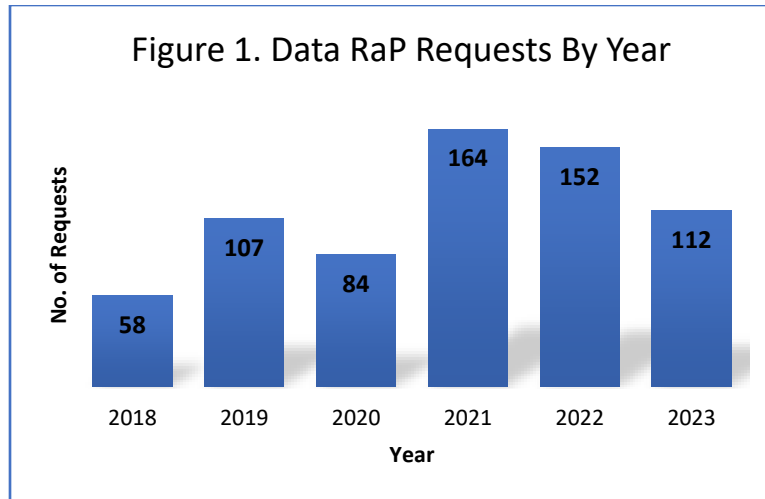
7. The 2007 data RaP categorises those who have access to WCPFC data where it is necessary to perform their duties as:
  - a. WCPFC Secretariat and Service Providers authorised by the Executive Director; and
  - b. Officers of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
8. A register of access to all WCPFC non-public domain data is maintained by the Secretariat.<sup>2</sup> The register records the Secretariat staff positions, Service Providers, and any other individuals that have access to this data (refer to **Annex 2 A**). The Secretariat also maintains records of access to individual Commission systems (refer to **Annex 2 B** for a summary of access during 2023/2024). A list of all CCMs that access the WCPFC VMS system is shown in **Annex 3**.
9. Secretariat staff and those individuals working with the Secretariat for short periods, such as interns, are required to sign a confidentiality agreement. Service providers have a confidentiality agreement as part of their contract with WCPFC.

#### *Numbers and types of non-public domain data requests*

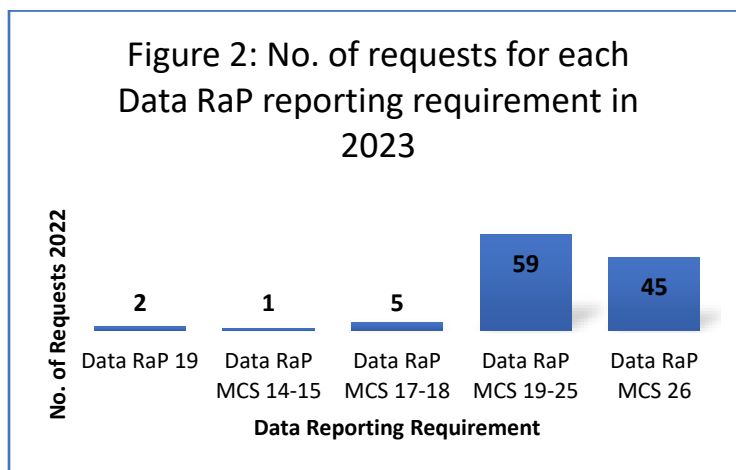
10. **Figure 1** below shows a 26% reduction in the number of approved data requests in 2023 compared to 2022. The low figure for 2020 reflects the effect of COVID-19 on operational MCS activities, particularly port/landing inspections and High Seas Boarding and Inspections. Health and safety protocols saw many ports closed to foreign vessels and high seas inspection were not carried out initially to prevent the risk of crew-to-crew transmission of the COVID-19 virus.
11. To compensate, during 2020 and 2021, CCMs explored new technologies and analytical tools to enhance risk assessments, operational planning, and the monitoring of vessel activity, using a wider range of data sources to support this approach.

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<sup>2</sup> Required by 2007 data RaP paragraph 18



12. **Figure 2** below shows the number of data requests for each reporting requirement in 2023. Of the total of 112 data requests in 2023, 59 were for VMS data (MCS data RaP 19-25) and 45 for transshipment reports (MCS data RaP 26 of 2009).<sup>3</sup> By comparison, in 2022, there were 154 data requests of which 99 were for VMS data (MCS data RaP 19-25) and 46 for transshipment reports (MCS data RaP 26 of 2009). This shows that proportionally, in 2023 a higher percentage of data requests included transshipment data (45% in 2023 compared to 30% in 2022). The more frequent use of transshipment data reflects an increased focus on transshipment activities during MCS operations. It is notable that the volumes of fish and fish products transhipped as a proportion of total catches within the WCPO are high for some species: in 2023, 33% of bigeye, 22% of albacore, 25% of yellowfin and 16% of swordfish. This information underscores the potential consequential risks of unreported or misreported transshipments undermining the Commission’s management measures.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>3</sup> Data RaP MCS 14 – 15: Regional Observer Programme; Data RaP MCS 17 – 18: High Seas Boarding and Inspection Reports; Data RaP MCS 19 – 25: high seas VMS data; Data RaP MCS 26: high seas transshipment notices and declarations

<sup>4</sup> WCPFC-TCC20-2024-RP03 [Annual Report on Transshipment Reporting](#)

13. The Secretariat has also noted an increase in the data requested to support port CCM reviews of port entry applications and inspections. This is driven by the increased number of CCMs applying port State related measures under [CMM 2017-02 Port State Minimum Standards](#) and/or [UN Port State Measures Agreement](#) at their ports within and outside of the WCPFC Convention Area. Some of these requests for MCS data are from CNMs and therefore are declined in accordance with the MCS data RaP, which limits access to MCS data to Members.<sup>5</sup>
14. Detailed information on data requests approved in 2023 is available to CCMs on the [WCPFC website](#).
15. Since 2022, the Secretariat has been assisting members to become more familiar with the rules and processes for requesting WCPFC non-public domain data through online training. The Secretariat is currently developing an online data request interface to streamline the current process of lodging, reviewing, and notifying of decisions on data requests. Short guidance will be prepared in 2025 to support training in the use of the new online tool.

#### CCMs Annual reporting on their implementation of MCS data RaP for 2023

16. Annual Report Part 2 for RY2023 included a review of CCMs implementation of MCS Data RaP paragraph 44. CCM responses in 2021, 2022, and 2023 were similar with 18 applicable Members indicating they have implemented the obligations and the remainder indicating this obligation is not applicable as they do not request data.

#### Secretariat comment

17. The WCPFC webpages available through the CCM Portal gives details of each CCMs Official Contacts, which is maintained by the CCM Party Administrator. These Contacts are used by the Secretariat to confirm the authority of those requesting access to non-public domain data. It is important that CCMs keep their information up to date to reduce potential delays in processing their requests.

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<sup>5</sup> WCPFC-TCC20-2024-23\_rev1 [Review of Data Access and Data Exchange Arrangements](#)

## Annex 1: Summary of WCPFC non-scientific data holdings

Data Holdings	Relevant CCMs that required the data
WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) data and associated fished and did not fish reports	CMM 2018-06 (or its earlier versions)
List of Chartered Vessels	CMM 2021-04 (or its earlier versions)
WCPFC IUU vessel list and associated correspondence	CMM 2019-07 (or its earlier versions)
Cooperating Non-Members requests and associated correspondence	CMM 2019-01 (or its earlier versions)
Non-public domain data requests and associated correspondence and documentation	2007 Data RaP and 2009 MCS Data RaP
<p>VMS related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WCPFC VMS</li> <li>○ Vessel MTU Register</li> <li>○ VMS Manual Reporting</li> <li>○ MTU Audit Inspections list</li> <li>○ List of approved ALCs</li> <li>○ “Flick the switch” notifications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CMM 2014-02</li> <li>○ VMS SSPs</li> <li>○ VMS SSPs</li> <li>○ VMS SSPs</li> <li>○ VMS SSPs</li> <li>○ CMM 2014-02 6c</li> </ul>
<p>HSBI related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Register of Authorised Inspection Vessels</li> <li>○ HSBI event reporting</li> <li>○ Authorities of fishing vessels</li> <li>○ Authorities of inspection vessels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CMM 2006-08</li> <li>○ CMM 2006-08</li> <li>○ CMM 2006-08</li> <li>○ CMM 2006-08</li> </ul>
<p>Compliance Case File System related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Article 25(2) compliance cases (2013 onwards)</li> <li>○ Alleged infringements based on ROP observer reporting data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● FAD Set alleged infringements (2015 to current)</li> <li>● Observer Obstruction alleged infringements (2015 to current)</li> <li>● Shark-catch alleged infringements (2015 to current)</li> <li>● Marine Pollution (2019 to current)</li> <li>● ROP Pre-notification issues (2016 to current)</li> <li>● Cetacean and Whale Shark interactions (2016 to current)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Convention Article 25 and Article 23 (5)</li> <li>18. CMM 2023-01 (or its earlier version)</li> <li>○ CMM 2018-05 15 (g) (CMM 2007-01 or its earlier version) and WCPFC12 para 569 Att U</li> <li>19. CMM 2022-04 (2010-07, 2011-04, 2013-08, 2014-05 and CMM 2019-04 or its earlier version)</li> <li>○ CMM 2017-04</li> <li>○ WCPFC12 para 569 Att U</li> <li>○ CMM 2011-03 and CMM 2022-04 (CMM 2019-04, 2012-04)</li> </ul>

Data Holdings	Relevant CCMs that required the data
<p>Compliance Monitoring Report online system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Annual Report Part 2 (2012 onwards)</li> <li>○ Compliance Monitoring Report (2012 onwards)</li> <li>○ Annual reporting against CCM limits in CMMs (2000 onwards)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Various CMMs</li> <li>○ Various CMMs reviewed in the CMR</li> <li>○ Various CMMs reviewed in the CMR</li> </ul>
<p>ROP related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ROP coverage reporting and associated updates</li> <li>○ ROP observer programmes and contact points</li> <li>○ List of WCPFC/IATTC cross endorsed observers</li> <li>○ List of ROP observers</li> <li>○ ROP Audit reports</li> <li>○ ROP databases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CMM 2007-01 08 / CMM 2018-05 08</li> <li>○ CMM 2007-01 / CMM 2018-05</li> <li>○ CMM 2007-01/ CMM 2018-05</li> <li>○ CMM 2007-01 / CMM 2018-05</li> <li>○ CMM 2007-01 / CMM 2018-05</li> <li>○ CMM 2007-01 / CMM 2018-05</li> </ul>
<p>Other databases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ High Seas purse seine catch discard reporting</li> <li>○ High seas transshipment event reporting</li> <li>○ SMA Zone Entry/Exit – EHSP-SMA</li> <li>○ SMA Zone Entry/Exit – HSP-1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CMM 2009-02 12</li> <li>○ CMM 2009-06 35 a (iii) and 35 a (iv)</li> <li>○ CMM 2010-02 (2011-2016)</li> <li>○ CMM 2018-01 Attachment 2 (or its earlier version)</li> </ul>
<p>Contact details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Authorized MCS Entities and Personnel</li> <li>○ Authorised VMS Trackwell, VRST, CCFS, RFV and VMS personnel</li> <li>○ Official contacts including Party Administrators</li> <li>○ Circular Recipients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2009 MCS Data RaP</li> </ul>
<p>VMS and IMS Security Audits (2012 onwards)</p>	

**Annex 2 A: Register of Secretariat and Service Provider Access to WCPFC non-public domain data in 2023 and 2024 (as 31 August 2024)**

Data or System	Position	Service Provider/Additional Access
<b>DATA</b>		
Full access to all data	Executive Director	
Full access to all data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ICT Manager</li> <li>○ IT Officer</li> </ul> <p>For administration and maintenance of all systems and data</p>	<p>Contractors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Taz-E for enhancements and support to IMS</li> <li>○ Western Pacific Technology Inc. for service support as required for duties</li> </ul> <p>20. Eighty Options for service support to the website and subsites</p> <p>21. BPM for audit purposes</p>
Commission VMS data (includes Eastern High Seas Pocket – Special Management Area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ VMS Manager</li> <li>○ VMS Operations Officers</li> <li>○ Compliance Manager</li> <li>○ Deputy Compliance Manager</li> <li>○ Compliance Officer</li> <li>○ RFV Officer</li> <li>○ ROP Coordinator/Consultant</li> </ul>	<p>Service Providers:</p> <p>22. Trackwell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SPC-OFP science and data management staff for cross-verification of ROP and logsheets and to one year old data for science purposes</li> </ul>
Eastern High Seas Special Management Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ VMS Manager</li> <li>○ VMS Operations Officers</li> <li>○ Compliance Manager</li> <li>23. Deputy Compliance Manager</li> </ul>	
WCPFC ROP data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ROP Coordinator/Consultant</li> <li>○ Compliance Manager</li> <li>○ Deputy Compliance Manager</li> <li>○ Compliance Officer</li> <li>○ SPC-OFP ROP data staff</li> <li>○ WCPFC ROP data staff</li> </ul>	<p>Service Provider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SPC-OFP science and data management staff</li> </ul>

**Annex 2 A: Register of Secretariat and Service Provider Access to WCPFC non-public domain data in 2023 and 2024 (as 31 August 2024)**

Data or System	Position	Service Provider/Additional Access
<b>Data</b>		
MCS related Information Management System: discard reports, transshipment reports, HSBI reports, CMM reporting and correspondence, WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, Access to Compliance Monitoring Report drafts, provisional reports and correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ VMS Manager</li> <li>○ VMS Operations Officers</li> <li>○ Compliance Manager</li> <li>○ Deputy Compliance Manager</li> <li>○ Legal Adviser</li> <li>○ Compliance Officer</li> <li>○ ROP Coordinator/Consultant</li> <li>○ RFV Officer</li> <li>○ ROP Data Entry staff</li> <li>○ Science Manager</li> <li>○ Assistant Science Manager</li> </ul>	<p>Service Provider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SPC-OFP science and data management staff for transshipment data related to the Transshipment Intersessional Working Group study</li> </ul> <p>Contractor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Taz-E as IMS developer and for technical support</li> </ul>
Catch and effort data through TUFMAN2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Science Manager</li> <li>○ Assistant Science Manager</li> <li>○ Compliance Manager</li> <li>○ Deputy Compliance Manager</li> <li>○ VMS Manager</li> <li>○ ROP Coordinator/Consultant</li> </ul>	<p>Service Provider:</p> <p>24. SPC-OFP science and data management staff</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WCPFC scientific data</li> <li>○ RFV and Charter Information</li> <li>○ Access to preliminary and draft Compliance Monitoring Report information</li> <li>○ Access to maintain the data and science pages on the WCPFC website.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WCPFC staff by special arrangement</li> </ul>	<p>Service Provider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SPC-OFP science and data management staff</li> </ul>
Access for specific projects for the period of contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WCPFC staff by special arrangement</li> </ul>	<p>Service Provider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SPC-OFP science and data management staff for transshipment data related to the Transshipment Intersessional Working Group study</li> </ul>



**Annex 2 A: Register of Secretariat and Service Provider Access to WCPFC non-public domain data in 2023 and 2024 (as 31 August 2024)**

Data or System	Position	Service Provider/Additional Access
		<p>Consultants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kim Duckworth for TSER related support</li> <li>○ Eighty Options for Web development</li> <li>○ Taz-E for data modelling expertise and systems analysis</li> <li>○ Saggitus – Dr Steve Brouwer for data analysis and to support annual report presentation</li> <li>○ DJ Consulting – Mr Douglas Jackson for data analysis and reporting tools</li> <li>○ Dragonfly Data Science</li> </ul> <p>Interns and Hosted Official Visitors - 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr Joe Enlet</li> <li>○ Ms Elise Stull</li> </ul> <p>25. Ms Maia Perraudeau</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Judy Dwyer, NPFC Compliance Manager</li> </ul>

**Annex 2 B: Record of Access to Individual Commission Systems**

System		
<p>Secure CCM section of the WCPFC website giving access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ sensitive documents, meeting or compliance information such as the Register of MCS entities and personnel, CNM applications and analyses, draft and provisional IUU lists,</li> <li>○ CCMs Annual Report Part 2 and draft and provisional Compliance Monitoring Reports and supporting files for VMS reporting gaps and transshipment reporting reconciliations,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WCPFC staff</li> <li>○ Office bearers of the WCPFC and Subsidiary Bodies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Service Provider: SPC-OFI staff working on behalf of the Commission</li> <li>○ Consultants for matters related to their tasking with WCPFC</li> <li>○ CCMs in accord with data rules</li> <li>○ Representatives of WCPFC-registered inter-governmental sub-regional agencies</li> </ul>

**Annex 2 A: Register of Secretariat and Service Provider Access to WCPFC non-public domain data in 2023 and 2024 (as 31 August 2024)**

Data or System	Position	Service Provider/Additional Access
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ High Seas Pocket Monitorings</li> </ul>		
<p>WCPFC Meeting Server giving access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Secured meeting information</li> <li>○ An interactive Online Discussion Forum for document review and comment in support of meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WCPFC staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Individual access for each meeting facilitated through the WCPFC meeting registration process</li> </ul>
<p>Record of Fishing Vessels and MTU Register</p> <p>Upgraded system released 3 April 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WCPFC MCS staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CCMs in accord with data rules</li> <li>○ FFA as an authorised MCS entity on behalf of some of its members</li> </ul>
<p>WCPFC VMS Trackwell System</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WCPFC MCS staff</li> <li>26. WCPFC ROP data staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CCMs in accord with data rules</li> <li>○ Access includes relevant areas of the individual CCMs EEZ if the CCM has ‘flicked the switch’, as well as any other areas previously agreed.</li> </ul>
<p>VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WCPFC MCS staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CCMs in accord with data rules</li> </ul>
<p>Eastern High Seas Pocket Special Management Area WCPFC VMS data and historical manual entry and exit reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WCPFC MCS staff</li> <li>27. WCPFC ROP data staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CCMs in accord with data rules</li> </ul>
<p>E-Transshipment system (TSER)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Compliance Manager</li> <li>28. Deputy Compliance Manager</li> <li>○ RFV Officer</li> <li>○ Compliance Officer</li> <li>29. WCPFC ROP data staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CCMs in accord with data rules</li> </ul>
<p>Transshipment E-Reporting Tool</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Compliance Manager</li> <li>30. Deputy Compliance Manager</li> <li>○ RFV Officer</li> <li>○ Compliance Officer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CCMs in accord with data rules</li> </ul>
<p>Compliance Case File System</p> <p>Upgraded system released 23 March 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WCPFC Compliance Manager</li> <li>31. Deputy Compliance Manager</li> <li>○ Compliance Officer</li> </ul>	<p>32. CCMs in accord with data rules</p> <p>Service Provider:</p> <p>33. Defend for audit purposes</p>

**Annex 2 A: Register of Secretariat and Service Provider Access to WCPFC non-public domain data in 2023 and 2024 (as 31 August 2024)**

Data or System	Position	Service Provider/Additional Access
Compliance Monitoring Report and Annual Report Part 2	○ WCPFC MCS staff	○ CCMs in accord with data rules
Secure Secretariat section of the WCPFC website giving access to analytical tools supporting cross database analysis for monitoring and reporting issues to CCMS and the Commission	○ WCPFC MCS staff	○ Consultants for matters related to their tasking with WCPFC

**Annex 3: List of CCMs with at least one client login for the WCPFC VMS system (current and previous)<sup>6</sup>.  
Flag CCMs can also view their flag vessels in EEZs covered by WCPFC VMS**

CCM	To view flagged vessels in high seas WCPFC area	100nm high seas buffer around EEZ <sup>#</sup>	EHSP SMA **	Date inclusion of EEZ took effect
Australia	Y	Y		15 March 2013
Canada	Y			
China	Y			
Cook Islands	Y	Y#	Y	14 May 2010 #
European Union	Y			
Federated States of Micronesia	Y	Y#		4 April 2013 #
Fiji	Y			
France – French Polynesia	Y	Y	Y	16 June 2013
Indonesia	Y			
Japan	Y	Y		
Kiribati	Y	Y#	Y	
Republic of Korea	Y			
Republic of Marshall Islands	Y	Y#		
Nauru	Y	Y#		19 July 2015 #
France – New Caledonia	Y	Y		13 June 2013
New Zealand (incl. Tokelau)	Y	Y#		23 Feb 2010 #(NZ) 22 Aug 2012 #(TK)
Niue	Y	Y#		1 Jan 2013 #
Palau	Y	Y#		1 Sept 2013 #
Papua New Guinea	Y	Y#		2 October 2021#

<sup>6</sup> Note only the 100nm high seas buffer is a Data Rules and Procedures data request. Access to other data is provided in accordance with other CMMs and WCPFC decisions.

CCM	To view flagged vessels in high seas WCPFC area	100nm high seas buffer around EEZ <sup>#</sup>	EHSP SMA <sup>**</sup>	Date inclusion of EEZ took effect
Philippines	Y	Y		
Samoa	Y			6 Oct 2013 #
Solomon Islands	Y	Y		8 April 2016 #
Chinese Taipei	Y			
Tonga	Y	Y#		13 Mar 2015 #
Tuvalu	Y	Y#		8 Sept 2013 #
United States of America	Y	Y		9 Mar 2013
Vanuatu	Y	Y		28 Nov 2020
France – Wallis and Futuna	Y	Y		16 June 2013
Ecuador	Y			
Liberia	Y			
Panama	Y			
El Salvador	Y			
Thailand	Y			

# denotes FFA access as a nominated MCS entity

\*\* All CCMs have access to the 'live list' of vessels in the EHSP which is displayed on the secure webpages (refer to WCPFC-TCC20-2024-RP06 [Annual Report on the Eastern High Seas Pocket Special Management Area](#))