

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

Circular No.: 2025/37

Date: 17 June 2025

No. pages: 3

Subject: Update on HSBI WG Process and Upcoming Meetings

Dear All,

I am pleased to provide you with an update on the work of the High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) Working Group (WG).

Firstly, a warm welcome and thank you to the new participants who have recently joined the group.

Draft Voluntary Guides – Request for Comments

The following **draft Voluntary Guides** have been uploaded to the dedicated HSBI page (https://www.wcpfc.int/develop_hsbi-guides). We invite your comments on these documents:

- [DNA testing](#): Includes benefits and recommended procedures for sampling and processing to an evidentiary standard.
- [Weight estimation](#)
- [Standardized Multi-language Questionnaire \(English\)](#)

Virtual Meetings – Schedule and Participation

We acknowledge the difficulties in finding meeting dates that are acceptable to all participants for the Virtual Meetings. In response, we are proposing the following updated meeting schedule:

- **HSBI Virtual Meeting 2** | [link to register](#)

Date: **26 June 2025**, Time: 10:00 – 12:00 (UTC+11).

Draft Agenda: refer to Attachment 1

Purpose: Participants to share updates on progress with the development of the draft guides and to upload them for review.

- **HSBI Virtual Meeting 3** | [link to register](#)

Date: **7 August 2025**

Draft Agenda: *to be announced*

Purpose: Collaborative review of guide content and agreement on process to finalise content for consideration at TCC.

- **HSBI IWG at TCC21**

Date: September 2025 (date to be confirmed in the margins of TCC21)

Purpose: Final review by the HSBI IWG and proposal to recommend the guides to the Commission for consideration at WCPFC22.

This is an open and ongoing process. If you are unable to attend the meetings, please contact us. We will ensure your contributions and feedback are shared with all working group participants.

Process and next steps

Any relevant documents and draft guides will be uploaded to the WCPFC HSBI WG page to ensure visibility by all members. We will notify all participants when new documents are uploaded. For background, please also review: [Intersessional Process to develop voluntary regional guides for the use of tools in conducting high seas boarding and inspections | WCPFC](#).

Please register individually for each meeting using the links provided by the Secretariat.

Contact

For comments or suggestions, please reach out to:

- **Chair:** David Power (david.power@afma.gov.au), Senior Manager, Foreign Compliance Policy, Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)
- **CC:** Emily Lawson (emily.lawson@afma.gov.au), Senior Policy Officer, Foreign Compliance Policy, AFMA
- **CC:** Lara Manarangi-Trott (lara.manarangi-trott@wcpfc.int), Compliance Manager, WCPFC

Thank you for your continued engagement in this important work.

Warm regards,



David Power

Chair of the High Seas Boarding and Inspection Regional Guides Working Group



Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Virtual Meeting 2 of HSBI WG

26 June 2025 10:00 – 12:00 (Pohnpei time)

Provisional Agenda

WCPFC-HSBIWG02-2025-01

16 June 2025

1. Opening of Meeting

2. Introduction and Opening Remarks

3. Discuss Draft HSBI Voluntary HSBI Regional Guides | TOOLS FOR HIGH SEAS
BOARDING AND INSPECTIONS

1. Draft Voluntary guide for DNA testing in HSBI - prepared by Australia
2. Draft Voluntary guide on use of volumetrics method for estimating the fish quantity onboard – prepared by France
3. Review 2009 Standardized Multi-language Questionnaire (English)
4. Others (tbc)

5. Programme of Work and Next Meeting

6. Summary and Close of Meeting