



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE  
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**COOPERATING NON-MEMBER REQUESTS FOR 2026**

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**WCPFC-TCC21-2025-05  
8 August 2025**

**Submitted by the Secretariat**

**Purpose**

1. This paper presents information on requests for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status for 2026 for consideration by TCC21.

**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 [WCPFC21 Summary Report](#)<sup>1</sup> includes Commission discussions and decisions on applications for CNM status in 2025. Decisions are shown in Appendix 1 of this paper and include a task for TCC21 to progress during discussions on requests for 2026 CNM status.
4. On 15 January 2025, the Executive Director sent letters to all CNM applicants confirming the successful outcome of their CNM application for 2025 after consideration at WCPFC21. The letter also confirmed each CNM applicant's participatory rights, financial contribution for 2025, and notes on any relevant compliance issues from the 2024 Final Compliance Monitoring report. The letters also provided information on the process and timing for applications for CNM status in 2026.<sup>2</sup> Copies of the letters sent by the Secretariat to each CNM applicant is provided on the [WCPFC CNM webpage](#).
5. Other matters relating to CNMs are considered under [Agenda item 7.5.3](#) in relation to data access to support their implementation of [CMM 2017-02 Port State Minimum](#) requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraphs 70-83

<sup>2</sup> An [electronic application form](#) is available on the WCPFC website

## CNM Financial Contributions for 2024 and 2025

6. The status of payments by CNM applicants of their financial contributions for 2024 and 2025 is provided in **Table 1** below.

**Table 1: Status of financial contributions for CNM applicants for 2024 and 2025 as of 26 July 2025**

Cooperating Non-Member	2024 assessed financial contribution	2024 payments	2025 assessed financial contribution	2025 payments	Outstanding
Bahamas	N/A	N/A	41,456	41,456	
Curacao	29,576	29,501	31,933	0	<b>31,933</b>
Ecuador	51,908	51,908	57,864	24,799	<b>33,065</b>
El Salvador	26,649	26,649	29,719	29,701	
Liberia	N/A	N/A	17,762	17,762	
Panama	26,807	26,807	30,593	30,650	
Thailand	23,162	23,162	26,112	26,112	
Vietnam	20,235	20,235	22,686	22,686	

## CNM requests for 2026

7. The Secretariat received eight applications for CNM status in 2026; all are current CNMs (see **Table 2**). All applications were received before the deadline of 26 July 2025.

**Table 2: Date of receipt and format of CNM requests for 2026 as of 26 July 2025**

Applicant	Date request for new/renewal of status for 2026 was received	E-form used?
Bahamas	23 July 2025	Yes
Curacao	20 May 2025	Yes
Ecuador	24 July 2025	Yes
El Salvador	30 July 2025	Yes
Liberia	18 July 2025	Yes
Panama	20 July 2025	Yes
Thailand	3 July 2025	Yes
Vietnam	20 June 2025	Yes

### Information Relating to CNM Applications for 2026

8. The Commission approved applications for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status for 2025 from the following countries: the Bahamas, Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand, and Vietnam. All eight CNMs have reapplied for CNM status in 2026.
9. Applications and other information submitted by CNM applicants for 2026 will be available on the [WCPFC CNM webpage](#).

### Recommendation

10. TCC21 is invited to review the applications for CNM status and make recommendations to the Commission for its consideration at WCPFC22 on CNM status for 2026.

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

*The Chair invited the Secretariat to introduce working paper 05 on Applications for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) Status for 2025. WCPFC Deputy Compliance Manager, Ms. Eidre Sharp, presented WP05 which contained TCC20's recommendations on eight CNM applications received from The Bahamas, Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Deputy Compliance Manager noted that there were two new applications for 2025 from entities that had previously held CNM status.*

#### **Participatory rights of CNMs Recommendations from the SWG**

*In view of the discussion on the applications for CNM status for 2025, the Chair tasked the CNM SWG to meet electronically and finalize recommendations on CNM participatory rights for consideration at WCPFC21.*

*The Commission agreed the following participatory rights for CNMs for 2025:*

- a. **The Bahamas:** The participatory rights of The Bahamas are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transshipment activities in the Convention area.*
- b. **Curacao:** The participatory rights of Curacao are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transshipment activities in the Convention area.*
- c. **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 2023-01 or its replacement measure.*
- d. **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 2023-01 or its replacement measure.*
- e. **Liberia:** The participatory rights of Liberia are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transshipment activities in the Convention area.*
- 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 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*

*The Commission tasked the FAD Management Options IWG and TCC21 to consider clarifying the ambiguity around the existing participatory rights text as to which types of vessels should be allowed to engage in FAD-related activities, and provide recommendations to WCPFC22.*