



Third Port State Minimum Standards working Group (PSMWG03)

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Online

PSMA RFMO Comparison Table

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PEW Charitable Trust

A comparison of port State measures among selected RFMOs

Since the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) was adopted in 2009 and then entered into force in 2016, regional fisheries management organizations have adopted conservation and management measures with varying levels of alignment with the PSMA.

This paper compares the measures of WCPFC with a cohort of RFMOs chosen because they also manage tunas (CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT, and IOTC) or because of a geographical overlap in area (SPRFMO).

The table on the next page uses the same methodology as prior analyses by the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation¹ and The Nature Conservancy.² It has been updated by Pew after ICCAT and IOTC amended their port inspection CMMs in 2025 and SPRFMO amended their PSM CMM in 2026.

The table is organized by the key obligations in the PSMA and provides a rating on whether an RFMO's measure is completely aligned with the PSMA; achieves the same objective as the PSMA; is partially aligned with the PSMA; or PSMA provisions are not present in the RFMO measure.

Overall, WCPFC's measure (CMM 2017-02) is less aligned with the PSMA than the measures of other RFMOs examined here. Many aspects of WCPFC's measure are voluntary and triggered if a Member designates a port. WCPFC also lacks:

- provisions on notification prior to entry;
- the specific information required to be provided by vessels seeking entry;
- national coordination and exchange of information in real time;
- and a process for port States to authorize or deny vessels seeking entry, among other gaps.

Amendments to WCPFC's measure would assist Members in meeting the region's interest in deterring and eliminating IUU fishing and reduce complications for Members who have ratified the PSMA, participate in another RFMO, and/or are part of a regional framework on port State measures.

¹ H. Koehler. 2022. [Port State Measures in Tuna RFMOs](#): Benchmarking RFMO Port State Measures Against the 2009 FAO PSMA and Identifying Gaps. ISSF Technical Report 2022-07. International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, Washington, D.C., USA.

² A. Fabra. 2024. Review of port State measures in RFMOs and their alignment with the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures. The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, VA, USA.

PSMA articles and provisions

	CCSBT	IATTC	ICCAT	IOTC	SPRFMO	WCPFC
Article 3.1.a Exemptions artisanal vessels						
Article 3.1.b Exemptions container vessels						
Article 3.2 Exemptions chartered vessels						
Article 6 General cooperation, information sharing						
Article 7.1 Port designation						
Article 7.2 Inspection capacity at port						
Article 8.1 Minimum information requirements prior to entry into port						
Article 8.2 Information provided sufficiently in advance						
Article 9.1 Authorization/denial of port entry to suspect IUU vessels						
Article 9.1 Communication of authorization/denial of port entry						
Article 9.2 Vessel's presentation of authorization of entry						
Article 9.3 Communication of denial of port entry						
Article 9.4 Obligation to deny port entry to IUU vessels						
Article 9.5 Entry of suspect IUU vessels for inspection and other appropriate action						
Article 9.6 Denial of port services to any suspect IUU vessel						
Article 10 Exception for force majeure						
Article 11.1 Grounds to deny port use to vessels that happen to be in port						
Article 11.2 Exemptions for the safety or health of the crew, etc. or scrapping of the vessel						

Key:

Completely aligns with the PSMA	Achieves same objectives as PSMA	Partially aligns with the PSMA	PSMA provisions not present

PSMA articles and provisions

	CCSBT	IATTC	ICCAT	IOTC	SPRFMO	WCPFC
Article 11.3 Notification of denial or port use						
Article 11.4 Withdrawal of denial or port use						
Article 11.5 Communication of withdrawal of denial of port use						
Article 12.2 Minimum levels of inspection of foreign-flagged fishing vessels						
Article 12.3 Priorities for inspection						
Article 13.1 Minimum standards for port inspection functions						
Article 13.2 Inspection functions						
Article 14 Minimum standards of information in inspection reports						
Article 15 Transmittal of results of port inspection						
Article 16.1 Electronic exchange of information						
Article 16.2 Information sharing mechanism						
Article 16.3 Designated contact point						
Article 17 Guidelines for inspectors' training						
Article 18 Port State actions following an inspection						
Article 19.1 Information on recourse						
Article 19.2 Information on outcome of recourse						
Article 20.1 Duty of flag State to cooperate with inspections						
Article 20.2 Request to port State to inspect own vessels						

Key:

Completely aligns with the PSMA	Achieves same objectives as PSMA	Partially aligns with the PSMA	PSMA provisions not present

PSMA articles and provisions

	CCSBT	IATTC	ICCAT	IOTC	SPRFMO	WCPFC
Article 20.3 Flag State to encourage own vessels to use ports of States that Implement port State measures						
Article 20.4 Flag State to investigate and take enforcement action regarding own vessels suspect of IUU fishing						
Article 20.5 Flag State to report on actions taken in respect of own vessels determined to be engaging in IUU fishing						
Article 20.6 Flag State to apply to own vessels measures as effective as those applicable to foreign-flagged fishing vessels						
Article 21 Assistance to developing States						

Key:

Completely aligns with the PSMA	Achieves same objectives as PSMA	Partially aligns with the PSMA	PSMA provisions not present