



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
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Cooperating Non-Member Requests for 2027

WCPFC-TCC22-2026-02

4 August 2026

Submitted by the Secretariat

Purpose

1. This paper presents information on requests for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status for 2027 for consideration by TCC22.

CNM Applications for 2027

2. The Secretariat received six applications for CNM status for 2027 from The Bahamas, Curaçao, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, and Thailand. All six applicants are current CNMs, and all applications were received before the deadline of 25 July 2026. Ecuador and Vietnam, which held CNM status for 2026, did not submit applications for CNM status for 2027.
3. Applications and other information submitted by CNM applicants for 2027 are available on the [WCPFC CNM webpage](#). While this is not relevant to consideration of its application for CNM status, the Secretariat also notes that Panama's application expresses its interest in being considered by the Commission as a WCPFC Regional Observer Programme (ROP) Authorised Regional Observer Provider. Panama's application for ROP provider status will be considered by the Commission at WCPFC23.

Background

4. Historical information on CNMs since 2009 is available on the WCPFC secure website (refer to [Cooperating Non-Members | WCPFC](#)). The current CMM for Cooperating Non-Members is [CMM 2019-01](#), and the list of current CNMs is maintained on the [About | WCPFC](#) page under [WCPFC Members and Observers](#).
5. The [WCPFC22 Summary Report](#)¹ includes Commission consideration on applications and participatory rights for CNM status in 2026. Decisions are shown in **Appendix 1** of this paper.
6. On 4 February 2026, the Executive Director sent letters to all CNM applicants confirming the successful outcome of their CNM application for 2026 after consideration at WCPFC22. The letter also confirmed each CNM applicant's participatory rights, financial contribution for 2026, and notes on any

¹ WCPFC22 Summary Report, paragraphs 153-188.

relevant compliance issues from the 2025 Final Compliance Monitoring Report. The letters also provided information on the process and timing for applications for CNM status in 2027. Copies of the letters sent by the Executive Director to each CNM applicant are available on the [WCPFC CNM webpage](#).

CNM Financial Contributions for 2025 and 2026

7. Table 1 summarises the status of 2026 financial contributions from CNMs for 2025 and 2026. As of 4 August 2026, El Salvador, Panama, and Thailand had paid their 2026 financial contributions. The 2026 financial contributions of The Bahamas, Curaçao, Ecuador, Liberia, and Vietnam remained outstanding.

Table 1: Status of financial contributions for CNMs for 2025 and 2026 as of 4 August 2026

Cooperating Non-Member	2025 assessed financial contribution	2025 payments	2026 assessed financial contribution	2026 payments	Outstanding
Bahamas	41,456	41,456	43,512	0	43,512
Curaçao	31,933	31,933	34,772	0	34,772
Ecuador	57,864	57,864	75,578	0	75,578
El Salvador	29,719	29,719	27,998	27,998	0
Liberia	17,762	17,762	18,892	0	18,892
Panama	30,593	30,593	33,232	33,232	0
Thailand	26,112	26,112	27,439	27,439	0
Vietnam	22,686	22,686	24,396	0	24,396

CNM requests for 2027

8. The Secretariat received six applications for CNM status in 2027; all are current CNMs (see **Table 2**). All applications were received before the deadline of 25 July 2026.

Table 2: Date of receipt and format of CNM requests for 2027 as of 4 August 2026

Applicant	Date request for new/renewal of status for 2026 was received	E-form used?
Bahamas	17 July 2026	Yes
Curaçao	20 June 2026	Yes
El Salvador	9 June 2026	Yes
Liberia	12 June 2026	Yes
Panama	13 July 2026	Yes
Thailand	29 June 2026	Yes

Recommendation

9. TCC22 is invited to review the applications for CNM status and make recommendations to the Commission for its consideration at WCPFC23 on CNM status for 2027.

Agenda Item 6.3 Applications for 2026 CNM status

169. *The Commission approved Cooperating Non-Member status for eight applicants for 2026: The Bahamas, Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand, and Vietnam.*

184. *The Commission agreed to the following participatory rights for CNMs for 2026:*

- a) **The Bahamas:** The participatory rights of The Bahamas are limited to carrier vessels to engage in transshipment activities in the Convention area.*
- b) **Curaçao:** The participatory rights of Curaçao 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 and one Panamanian purse seiner reflagged from Ecuador operating under CMM 2023-01 and subject to all relevant WCPFC obligations. 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.*

185. *In addition to the above participatory rights, The Bahamas, Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand, and Vietnam may register "FAD retrieval vessels" that could only be used to retrieve FADs from the water. These vessels should be subject to the following monitoring and reporting requirements:*

- a) use of electronic reporting systems to document FAD retrieval,*
- b) submission of logs detailing FAD retrieval activities, including vessel identification, date, and FAD fate or disposal, and the location of activities, and*
- c) 100% observer coverage (human or EM) and VMS tracking to ensure compliance.*

WCPFC/IATTC Overlap Area

186. 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.

187. 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.

188. For 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.