



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

23-29 September 2026

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (Hybrid)

Supporting CCMs with Technical and Compliance Matters

WCPFC-TCC22-2026-07

11 August 2026

Submitted by the Secretariat

Purpose

1. This paper updates TCC22 on the Secretariat's outreach efforts and support activities for CCMs during 2025 and in the first two quarters of 2026.
2. The paper covers developments since TCC21, including Secretariat outreach, the Attachment Programme, Helpdesk resources, proactive reporting support, and related initiatives to strengthen CCM capacity to meet technical and compliance obligations. It also outlines ongoing implementation work and future priorities and invites guidance from CCMs on areas where further support would be most beneficial.

Background

3. Since 2023, the Secretariat has progressively expanded its support to CCMs through enhancements to online reporting systems, practical guidance materials, outreach activities and targeted training. This work has supported CCMs in meeting their technical and compliance obligations and improved the Secretariat's ability to provide timely assistance throughout the annual reporting cycle.
4. In 2023, the Secretariat was tasked with updating and maintaining Annual Reporting Guidance to provide CCMs with greater clarity on reporting requirements for future TCC consideration ([WCPFC-TCC19-2023-19, Annex 2](#)). In 2024, TCC20 completed the Guidance for CCMs on responding to obligations in Annual Report Part 2 (AR Pt2) and the Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR), noting that it should remain a living document and be updated as required.
5. During 2024 and 2025, the Secretariat implemented a phased restructuring of its Compliance and MCS Operations functions to strengthen support to CCMs, improve the use of Commission data, further refinement of analytical tools, and enhance proactive engagement on technical and compliance matters. The Commission also approved continued investment in IT enhancements to improve online monitoring and reporting systems, while annual voluntary funding from Canada since 2023 has supported the development of learning resources, reporting dashboards and other initiatives to assist CCMs in meeting their reporting obligations.

6. Building on these developments, in 2025 the Secretariat introduced more proactive processes to assist CCMs in identifying and resolving reporting issues throughout the year. These included earlier verification of annual reporting information using multiple Commission datasets, quarterly reconciliation reporting, direct engagement with CCMs to resolve reporting discrepancies before TCC, and the progressive development and refinement of analytical tools and reporting dashboards. These initiatives complemented the Secretariat's existing outreach, Attachment Programme, and Helpdesk resources and supported a shift towards greater year-round engagement with CCMs to improve reporting quality and address issues earlier in the compliance cycle.

WCPFC Attachments Programme

7. The Secretariat's Attachment Programme continues to grow as an important component of its support to CCMs in meeting their technical and compliance obligations. The 2026 programme was the largest delivered by the Secretariat to date, hosting eight fisheries officials from four¹ CCMs—the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu—over a two-week period from 13 to 24 April 2026.
8. The programme was scheduled in April to maximise Secretariat staff availability and provide practical support before the commencement of the annual reporting cycle, allowing participants to apply the knowledge gained during the preparation of AR Pt2 and other annual reporting obligations. The programme was delivered through a whole-of-Secretariat approach, drawing on expertise from the Compliance, Science, Information Technology and Administration teams. It was developed in response to capacity-building requests from participating CCMs and tailored to address country-specific priorities identified before the programme commenced.
9. Training combined introductory sessions on the Commission and Secretariat with practical instruction on WCPFC systems and reporting processes. Topics included the Commission's legal framework and compliance processes, the Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV), Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) including AR Pt2, Compliance Case File System (CCFS), High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI), transshipment requirements including reporting, Port State Measures, scientific reporting, harvest strategies, and data requests rules. Dedicated country sessions and independent work periods enabled participants to work directly with Secretariat staff on CCM-specific operational priorities and reporting.
10. Participant feedback confirmed the value of the Attachment Programme in strengthening understanding of Commission processes and reporting requirements and online systems. Participants particularly valued the practical, hands-on format, including the opportunity to work directly with Secretariat staff on their priorities for capacity assistance during the dedicated country sessions and independent work periods. Feedback also indicated interest in continued engagement with the Secretariat through future Attachment Programmes and complementary online support activities.

¹ In response to Indonesia's request for assistance, the Secretariat worked to facilitate its participation. The Pew Charitable Trusts offered funding support, and Indonesia was prepared to participate; however, internal travel restrictions in place at the time ultimately prevented it from joining the programme.

11. Strong interest in the programme exceeded the funding available through the Commission's dedicated budget line (which covers travel and DSA for participants), requiring alternative funding arrangements to be explored for some participants. The high level of interest also resulted in a further late request that could not be accommodated. The Secretariat has since received expressions of interest from additional CCMs wishing to participate in future Attachment Programmes. CCMs interested in participating in future programmes, which are typically planned for March or April, are encouraged to contact the Secretariat as early as possible.

Secretariat outreach

12. Since TCC21, the Secretariat has maintained a flexible programme of training and practical support to assist CCMs in meeting their compliance and reporting responsibilities. Assistance has been provided through scheduled familiarisation and orientation sessions, ad hoc online discussions, and regular email correspondence with CCM officials on technical and compliance matters.
13. Familiarisation and orientation sessions delivered since TCC21 included:
- a) **RFV Familiarisation:** Tuvalu, China and the European Union;
 - b) **CCFS Familiarisation:** Canada, the European Union and New Zealand;
 - c) **Overview of the WCPFC Website:** the European Union;
 - d) **Annual Reporting Process under the CMS, including AR Pt2 and the CMR:** the European Union and the Federated States of Micronesia;
 - e) **VMS/VRST Familiarisation:** Tuvalu, Papua New Guinea and China;
 - f) **Transshipment E-Reporting system (TSER) Familiarisation:** China;
 - g) **Inspections:** Canada, Australia and the United States; and
 - h) **Charter Notification Requirements:** FFA members attending the MCS Working Group.
14. Several CCMs engaged with the Secretariat on multiple occasions during 2025 and 2026, including during system roll-outs and in preparation for annual reporting. This repeat engagement allowed issues to be addressed as they arose with assistance tailored to the processes, systems, reporting obligations and operational responsibilities of individual CCMs.

Helpdesk online tools

15. Since TCC21, the Secretariat continued the review and expansion of existing Helpdesk materials to ensure that guidance remained accurate, current and aligned with changes to WCPFC systems and reporting requirements. This work is coordinated by the CCM Support Officer, with contributions from relevant Compliance and MCS Operations team members to ensure corresponding updates to internal staff guidance.
16. Updated and newly developed guides included:
- a) **Record of Fishing Vessels:** accessing the RFV; accessing the RFV Training system; upgraded charter notification functionality, user roles and access permissions; finding vessel details; and API access to RFV data;

- b) **High Seas Boarding and Inspections:** an overview of the new Inspections system;
 - c) **Compliance Monitoring Report:** features of the CMR system released in 2025 including reviewing and completing responses to draft CMR potential issues;
 - d) **Guidance for CCMs on responding to AR Pt2 and CMR obligations:** responding to implementation obligations and understanding obligation categories and their relationship with Audit Points; and
 - e) **Vessel Monitoring System:** accessing and using Trackwell; MTU activation, deactivation and updates; use of the Vessel Reporting Status Tool (VRST) including updating vessel reporting status; and process for vessels that lose FFA Good Standing.
17. These step-by-step resources are intended to support the day-to-day use of WCPFC systems, provide CCMs with accessible reference material, and complement direct outreach and training. In 2024/25, voluntary funding from Canada supported a consultancy review of the Secretariat's existing training tools and Helpdesk content. The review recommended improvements to formats, delivery modes, internal content management, planning and version control. The Secretariat has applied elements of these recommendations through a more structured review process, strengthened internal coordination, and updates to Helpdesk and staff guidance.
18. To support sustainability and minimise ongoing subscription costs, the Secretariat will be progressively bringing further updates of training resources, including training videos, in-house using existing Secretariat tools. Additional resources will continue to be developed during the remainder of 2026 and into 2027 to reflect routine system improvements and changes arising from implementation of Commission decisions. The Secretariat welcomes feedback from CCMs to ensure that guidance and support materials remain relevant and user-focused.

Processes to support CCMs in resolving reporting gaps and update on development of dashboards

19. In 2025, the Compliance and MCS team introduced a more proactive approach to identifying and resolving reporting gaps throughout the year. This work was intended to provide CCMs with earlier opportunities to review and address reporting issues such as possible discrepancies and submitting missing information before preparing the draft Compliance Monitoring Report and consideration by TCC.
20. During 2025 and 2026, the Secretariat continued quarterly reconciliation of transshipment reporting with relevant flag CCMs and has begun the transition to monthly reporting on VMS transmission gaps and other vessel-related data gaps. As part of preparations for the 2026 draft CMR preparation process, the Secretariat also:
- a) cross-checked multiple Commission datasets to support verification of vessel "Fished" and "Did Not Fish" reporting;
 - b) provided flag CCMs with information on identified VMS transmission gaps and opportunities to explain or address those gaps;
 - c) worked with CCMs to reconcile gaps and inconsistencies in transshipment reporting.

21. The implementation of analytical reporting and workflow tools, supported by the Fisheries MCS Analytical Support Consultant during 2025, resulted in fully documented and standardised workflows for Vessel Management Officers and Reporting Analysts. Ultimately, these tools have delivered greater efficiencies through automated cross data set analysis as well as consistency across routine verification and reconciliation processes, and will enable their successful integration into the Secretariat's online systems.
22. In the second half of 2025 and early 2026, the Secretariat commissioned a further package of information-system improvements under the List of Continual Improvements (LOCI) project. The work included enhancements to the processing of Fished and Did Not Fish reports, automation of reporting-dashboard updates, improvements to RFV reporting displays, additional CMR export and reporting functions, and upgrades to AR Pt2, CCFS, Inspections, and transshipment reporting tools.
23. Fished and Did Not Fish enhancements were designed to incorporate the Secretariat's analytical pre-assessment directly into the online processing workflow. The proposed functionality allows anticipated vessel status to be recorded in bulk and automatically compares the Secretariat's pre-assessment with the status submitted by the CCM. Matching records can be marked as processed, while discrepancies are referred to the CCM for review.
24. Related improvements were designed to automatically update the Monitoring and Evaluation reporting dashboard when a CCM finalises its Fished and Did Not Fish submission, retain the original submission date where subsequent review is required, and display messages advising CCM users when records require further attention. The RFV dashboard was also scoped to distinguish records marked "Not Applicable" or "CCM Review" from records that remain pending.
25. The development package also included improvements intended to assist CCMs and the Secretariat in identifying and addressing other reporting issues. These included:
 - a) enhanced coastal-CCM access to relevant transshipment information based on the reported location of catch through TSER;
 - b) improved identification of expiring or invalid FFA VMS activations, to reduce the risk of VMS reporting gaps;
 - c) more accurate identification of vessels for which an IMO number is and is not required;
 - d) improvements to RFV photo-compliance information and charter data entry; and
 - e) additional AR Pt2 and CMR reporting and export functions.
26. In late 2025 and early 2026, funding from Canada supported the scoping, design, and analysis of more integrated CCM dashboards. This work created opportunities to bring together information from existing WCPFC reporting systems and prototype analytical tools. The intended approach is to provide CCMs with more accessible information on matters such as VMS gaps, vessel authorisations, transshipment reporting, and data-quality inconsistencies, while supporting the future publication of monthly or quarterly reporting-gap information through a more integrated CCM-focused interface. While the initial focus is on reporting issues, the dashboard framework has been designed to support

the progressive addition of other modules over time, providing CCMs with a more comprehensive overview of their activities and reporting across Commission systems.

27. These developments build on the Commission's investment in the WCPFC data warehouse, online reporting systems and analytical tools. They are intended to progressively embed the Secretariat's reconciliation and verification processes into routine workflows, improve the information available to CCMs, reduce the manual effort required to identify and communicate reporting gaps, and enable the routine resolution of reporting issues, reducing reliance on annual reporting processes.
28. Further enhancements through the LOCI process for 2026 will support additional feedback and suggestions from CCMs across Commission systems including the RFV, AR Pt2, and CMR. Several VMS/VRST related requests from CCMs are also being enabled through a project scheduled for initial completion in August 2026. The project will further align the FFA and WCPFC VMS/VRST, automate data sharing by CCMs and FFA that currently relies on emails and cannot be incorporated into databases, improve visibility of transmission issues, and enhance the upload facility for manual reports and transmission gaps. These changes will be presented at TCC22, where demonstrations will also be available.

Recommendations

29. TCC22 is invited to:
 - a) Provide feedback on the Secretariat's updated guidance and Helpdesk resources, including the standing *Guidance for CCMs on how to respond to obligations in the AR Pt2 and CMR*, to ensure materials are clear, relevant, and aligned with CCM needs.
 - b) Comment on the 2026 the Attachment Programme and encourage CCMs interested in participating in the 2027 Attachment Programme to submit expressions of interest to the Secretariat as early as possible.
 - c) Provide feedback on the Secretariat's proactive reporting reconciliation, verification, and dashboard initiatives.
 - d) Acknowledge, with appreciation, the voluntary funding contribution from Canada towards the development of enhanced monitoring and evaluation tools.
 - e) Encourage continued collaboration between CCMs and the Secretariat in shaping outreach, training tools, and online support materials, including suggestions for future Helpdesk updates, additional resource development, and guidance on appropriate contact points.