



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

23-29 September 2026

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (Hybrid)

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**Executive Director's Annual Report on Technical and Compliance Matters**

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**WCPFC-TCC22-2026-09**

**24 August 2026**

**Submitted by the Executive Director**

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide updates to TCC22 on technical and compliance matters since the conclusion of TCC21. This report also provides information on cross-cutting technical issues arising from implementation of existing and proposed CMMs, including scientific data provisions. TCC22 is invited to note the report.

**Introduction**

**TCC Mandate**

2. TCC's work is guided by [Article 14 of the WCPF Convention](#), which states:
  1. *The functions of the Technical and Compliance Committee shall be to:*
    - (a) *provide the Commission with information, technical advice and recommendations relating to the implementation of, and compliance with, conservation and management measures;*
    - (b) *monitor and review compliance with conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary; and*
    - (c) *review the implementation of cooperative measures for monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement adopted by the Commission and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary.*
  2. *In carrying out its functions, the Committee shall:*
    - (a) *provide a forum for exchange of information concerning the means by which they are applying the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission on the high seas and complementary measures in waters under national jurisdiction;*
    - (b) *receive reports from each member of the Commission relating to measures taken to monitor, investigate and penalize violations of provisions of this Convention and measures adopted pursuant thereto;*

*(c) in consultation with the Scientific Committee, recommend to the Commission the priorities and objectives of the regional observer programme, when established, and assess the results of that programme;*

*(d) consider and investigate such other matters as may be referred to it by the Commission, including developing and reviewing measures to provide for the verification and validation of fisheries data;*

*(e) make recommendations to the Commission on technical matters such as fishing vessel and gear markings;*

*(f) in consultation with the Scientific Committee, make recommendations to the Commission on the fishing gear and technology which may be used;*

*(g) report to the Commission its findings or conclusions on the extent of compliance with conservation and management measures; and*

*(h) make recommendations to the Commission on matters relating to monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement.*

*3. The Committee may establish, with the approval of the Commission, such subsidiary bodies as may be necessary for the performance of its functions.*

*4. The Committee shall exercise its functions in accordance with such guidelines and directives as the Commission may adopt.*

3. Over the last two decades, TCC's work program has evolved to encompass broader and more complex management needs, including the Commission's harvest strategy framework. The implementation of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme since 2010 has been a key feature of TCC's work, with multiple iterations over the last 16 years that have continued to refine and improve the way that CCMs are implementing and assessing their implementation of obligations.

#### **TCC Workplan for 2026**

4. Against its functions as outlined in the Convention, the TCC further operationalizes its work through taskings arising from [WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures](#) (CMMs), relevant Intersessional Working Group (IWGs) Workplans, and taskings directly from the Commission at its Annual Sessions. These tasks are then set out in [TCC's Workplan](#), which is adopted by the Commission. The TCC Workplan for 2026, which was finalised intersessionally to include the decisions of WCPFC22, sets out the priority tasks for TCC22 and includes Commission and IWG taskings as well as directives contained in CMMs.
5. TCC22's agenda continues to align closely with Article 14, as does the TCC Workplan, and its outcomes are expected to support the Commission's progress at its 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Annual Session in December. **Table 1** sets out TCC22's agenda against its 2026 Workplan, based on TCC's mandate per Article 14 (core business).

**Table 1. TCC22 Agenda Against TCC 2026 Workplan**

| <p><b>Art 14(1)(a):</b> provide the Commission with information, technical advice and recommendations relating to the implementation of, and compliance with, conservation and management measures.</p> <p><b>Core Business:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise on harvest strategy development, including skipjack monitoring and climate change impacts on stocks/ecosystems</li> <li>• Review technical and compliance issues under existing conservation and management measures (CMMs)</li> <li>• Provide technical/compliance input on proposed new CMMs</li> <li>• Review Cooperating Non-Member applications</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                  |
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| 2026 Task                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | TCC22 Agenda                                                                                                     |
| i. <u>South Pacific Albacore CMM</u> : Provide advice on monitoring strategy for South Pacific Albacore and the implementing CMM to be adopted by WCPFC23.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 4.1.1 Provide advice on data collection and monitoring in support of management procedures and implementing CMMs |
| ii. <u>Striped Marlin (SW)</u> : Provide advice on clarification of terms "fishing for"/"targeting" as they relate to management of striped marlin.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 4.4.4 SW Pacific Striped Marlin CMM 2006-04                                                                      |
| iii. <u>FAD Management Options Working Group</u> : Review matters referred to TCC by the FADMO-IWG, including Satellite Buoy Data Transmission Requirements and FAD Logbook Data Fields.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 4.4.2 Review of FAD Management (FADMO IWG Update)                                                                |
| iv. <u>Tropical Tuna CMM</u> : Review implementation of tropical tuna CMM 2023-01, including para 26, 33, 48 and footnotes in Att 1 Table 3.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 4.4.6 Tropical Tuna CMM                                                                                          |
| v. <u>Sharks CMM</u> : Provide advice to inform review of CMM 2022-04.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 7.7 Review of reporting of alternative measures for sharks (CMM 2025-06)                                         |
| vi. <u>Charter Notification Measure</u> : Establish process for the review including scope of analysis required to support preparation in support of the review of the CMM.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 4.4.5 Charter Notification CMM 2024-03                                                                           |
| vii. <u>Sea Turtles</u> : Review and provide advice on revising CMM 2018-04 (Sea Turtles) to ensure that the reporting requirements are clearly defined and to consider expanding the scope of the measure to include mitigation measures for deep-set longline fisheries.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 4.3.3 Sea Turtles CMM 2018-04                                                                                    |

| viii. <u>Seabirds</u> : Review mitigation measures and provide recommendations as appropriate.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 7.8 Review mitigation measures for seabirds (CMM 2025-05)                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ix. <u>Pacific Bluefin</u> : Review and provide advice on Annual Reports of Implementation of MCS Measures for Pacific Bluefin reported by CCMs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 7.9 Review MCS measures and catch documentation scheme for Pacific Bluefin Tuna                |
| x. <u>Climate Change</u> : Consider the outcomes and technical information from the CMM vulnerability assessment, and continue to discuss appropriate ways to incorporate climate change into the work of the TCC.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 4.2 Climate change: Information gaps and analytical needs                                      |
| xi. <u>VMS</u> : Consider the report and possible recommendations on US led review of issues relating to VMS non-reporting on the high seas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 7.1 Review VMS implementation                                                                  |
| xii. <u>Crew Labour Standards</u> : Preliminary assessment of implementation needs and process to deliver (as required) for CCMs and the Secretariat Review and review and adopt draft audit points prepared by NZ.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 4.4.3 Crew Labour Standards CMM 2024-04 (entry into force in 2028)                             |
| <p><b>Article 14(1)(b):</b> monitor and review compliance with conservation and management measures.</p> <p><b>Core Business:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor overall compliance with CMMs and Convention obligations, including IUU vessel nominations/listings and CMM 2013-06 implementation</li> <li>• Track SIDS/territories' capacity needs and obligations for input into the Strategic Investment Plan</li> <li>• Review CCFS case data for potential anomalies, flag state actions, and cases open over 24 months, to identify implementation gaps</li> <li>• Implement the compliance monitoring process: propose next year's obligations list (risk-based), review historical compliance ratings, and advise on use of independent data for verification.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                |
| 2026 Task                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | TCC22 Agenda                                                                                   |
| xiii. <u>Use of ROP data in the Compliance Monitoring Scheme</u> : Review the aggregated tables to be prepared using the year-specific percent sampling methodology                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 5.7 Availability and use of ROP data                                                           |
| xiv. <u>Review and assess Commission's implementation of CMM 2013-06</u> : CCM use of adopted template; Assess how the Commission addressed and avoided disproportionate burden.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 6. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES<br>6.1 CCM Requests for capacity assistance needs |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 6.2 Review reporting template for CMM 2013-06 and CMM 2013-07<br>6.3 Assess Commission compliance with CMM 2013-06 para 2 and 4 |
| xv. <u>Observer participation in the CMS</u> : Working paper to TCC22 to review NPD status of data used in the CMS.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 5.9 Observer participation in the CMS                                                                                           |
| xvi. <u>CMS CMM Review</u> : Review CMM; Develop SSPs for CCFS.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 5.3 Review of expiring Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) CMM 2023-04                                                           |
| xvii. <u>Transshipment</u> : Secretariat publish and maintain a list of vessels engaged in high seas transshipments by year on the WCPFC website.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 5.6 High seas transshipment activities                                                                                          |
| xviii. <u>Marine Pollution</u> : Provide advice on revisions of CMM 2017-04 for consideration by WCPFC23.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 4.3.1 Marine Pollution CMM 2017-04                                                                                              |
| xix. <u>Shark CMM 2024-05</u> : Secretariat to compile separately, information for - CCMs implementing alternative measures; - CCMs who are implementing a “fins naturally attached” policy TCC to consider at HODs, if compilation can be released and discussed in open session at TCC.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 7.7 Review of reporting of alternative measures for sharks (CMM 2025-06)                                                        |
| xx. <u>Audit Points</u> : Undertake further work on the remaining Audit Points.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 5.4 Review of draft Audit Points                                                                                                |
| <p><b>Article 14(1)(c)</b>: review the implementation of cooperative measures for monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement adopted by the Commission and make such recommendations to the Commission as may be necessary.</p> <p><b><u>Core Business:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review implementation of MCS (monitoring, control, surveillance, enforcement) measures and recommend improvements.</li> <li>• Review Secretariat annual reports covering key technical/compliance issues (HSBI, ROP, VMS, RFV, data rules, transshipment, port State measures) and the Secretariat's workload forecast.</li> <li>• Review scientific data provision.</li> <li>• Support SIDS capacity building: observer programs, MCS information systems, bycatch reporting, transshipment/MTU inspection processes, and port State measure minimum standards.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                 |

| 2026 Task                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | TCC22 Agenda                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| xxi. <u>High Seas Boarding and Inspections</u> : Refine existing HSBI Voluntary Guides. Develop a new Voluntary Guide for inspection procedure for the Labour Standards CMM 2024-04. Update the HSBI Bycatch Mitigation Measuring Guide, as needed to align with the newly adopted seabird CMM 2025-05.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 7.5 Development of HSBI Voluntary Guides (HSBI WG Update)                       |
| xxii. <u>Port States Minimum Standards CMM 2017-02</u> : Continue the review.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 4.3.2 Port States Measures CMM 2017-02                                          |
| xxiii. <u>Data Exchange</u> : Plan and progress the technical and database work needed to establish the preparation, transfer and receipt of data.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 7.6 Update on data exchange with other RFMOs                                    |
| xxiv. <u>Electronic Monitoring</u> : Provide advice on any necessary changes to the interim EM Standards based on the work of the ER and EM IWG and any other relevant information. Priority also given to the audit and assurance framework review of data fields not covered by the ROP minimum data fields. Elaborate a draft CMM for the development of a WCPFC Electronic Monitoring Program in 2026, as appropriate                                                                                                                               | 7.3 Development of WCPFC EM programme (ER/EM IWG update)                        |
| xxv. <u>Transshipment verification</u> : Secretariat to continue its ongoing work to resolve challenges in fully verifying high seas transshipment data.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 5.6 High seas transshipment activities                                          |
| xxvi. <u>ROP-IWG</u> : Work plan: - CCFS process flow - Clarify scope and define data fields for monitoring for scientific and compliance purposes to support improved inputs to CCFS - ROP non-catch transfer reporting - Consider emerging technologies (with ERandEM IWG) - Review of Interim Transshipment Observer Monitoring Minimum Data Fields. Assess and identify potential enhancements to improve the accuracy and consistency of shark species ID and reporting. Possible additional reporting requirements for Sea Turtles (CMM 2018-04). | 7.4 ROP Improvements (ROP IWG Update)                                           |
| xxvii. <u>Catch Documentation Scheme</u> : Coordinate with NC to support their development of a proposal for a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) measure or resolution.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 7.9 Review MCS measures and catch documentation scheme for Pacific Bluefin Tuna |

### Taskings from TCC21

6. TCC22 will also consider taskings from TCC21 that are not included in the 2026 workplan, shown in **Table 2**.

**Table 2. TCC21 taskings to TCC22, not included in TCC Workplan**

| <b>TCC21 Task (TCC21 Summary Report para no.)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>TCC22 Agenda</b>                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">112</a> . TCC21 recognised the utility of the “Investigation not completed” status in the CCFS and the categories: crew/master changed, vessel or owner/operator no longer exists, date of event exceeds national statute of limitations, vessel flag changed and unable to progress with new flag state. TCC21 tasked the Secretariat to continue the review of the “Investigation not completed” status and to report to TCC22 on the progress in closing cases older than 24 months. | 5.2 Review of old CCFS cases                                  |
| <a href="#">114</a> . TCC21 tasked the Secretariat and SSP to provide information to TCC22 on the existing flow of data between the SSP, Secretariat and CCMs used to create new CCFS cases arising out of observer sourced data and to update the CCFS pages for those cases with new information.                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 5.2 Review of old CCFS cases                                  |
| <a href="#">174</a> . TCC21 recommended that WCPFC22 task the WCPFC Secretariat to develop a template, that includes associated reporting guidelines, to strengthen and streamline CCM reporting on paragraph 1 of CMM 2013-06, as proposed by the WCPFC Secretariat in TCC20-2024-WP30, while ensuring that there is no duplication with other reporting requirements (e.g. obligations under CMM-2013-07). <sup>1</sup>                                                                           | 6.2 Review reporting template for CMM 2013-06 and CMM 2013-07 |
| <a href="#">285</a> . TCC21 welcomed the presentation on Harvest Strategy development and requested the SSP to continue monitoring the trends between effort and catch in the purse seine fishery, including effort creep, and to report these trends to TCC22 in 2026.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 4.1 Harvest strategies                                        |

### Implications for TCC22’s work arising from the Compliance Monitoring Scheme

7. TCC21’s review of the draft Compliance Monitoring Report (dCMR) gave rise to several issues that will require TCC22’s awareness in its review of the 2025 dCMR. Some of the matters raised in the [2025 final CMR](#) (fCMR) and reflected in the fCMR Executive Summary require Commission attention, many of which were not able to be considered at WCPFC22 and have the potential to arise again during TCC22’s review of the 2025 dCMR. These include:

<sup>1</sup> This tasking from TCC21 is included in the TCC Workplan, and included in Table 2 for completeness.

- a. the need for CCMs with ongoing capacity needs to update their CDPs and to provide an overview of progress and expected completion date;
- b. the ongoing challenges for assessing compliance with obligations tied to expressions such as “actively fishing for” or “fishing for” a particular stock<sup>2</sup>;
- c. the need to improve some audit points (transfer of purse seine effort, provision of information on ROP placement);
- d. and the need to clarify the Pacific bluefin tuna measure to better assess compliance with quantitative limits.

**Cross-cutting technical issues arising from implementation of existing and proposed CMMs, including scientific data provisions**

8. The Commission’s consistent and growing use of IWGs relating to TCC’s mandate reflects the ongoing nature and connectivity of TCC’s work to the Commission’s ability to deliver on the Convention Objective<sup>3</sup>. In 2026, the Commission is engaging in five distinct IWGs that are addressing a range of issues relating to data needs and monitoring requirements:
  - a. Regional Observer Program (ROP) – *led by Lucas Tarapik (PNG)*
  - b. Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring (ER/EM) – *led by Lesley Hawn (USA)*
  - c. Port State Measures (PSM) – *led by Mele Raicebi (Fiji)*
  - d. High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) – *led by David Powers (Australia)*
  - e. FAD Management Options (FAD-MO) – *led by Jamel James (FSM)*
9. These IWGs are operating alongside informal intersessional reviews of two CMMs (Marine Pollution, led by Felicia Cull (Canada) and Sea Turtles, led by Yonat Swimmer and Emily Crigler (USA)), and additional intersessional work relating to harvest strategies for bigeye tuna and south Pacific albacore. Updated information on the Commission’s intersessional activities is available on the [Workshops and Meetings of Intersessional Working Groups](#) webpage on the WCPFC website.
10. TCC22’s 2026 Workplan captures the cross-cutting technical issues that arise from CMMs, including scientific data provisions. The range of technical work outlined in the Workplan’s specific tasks reflects an organization that is continuing to evolve and learn from data that is updated and reviewed annually by the TCC. This is further complemented by the work of the Scientific Committee, where information on the status of stocks and environmental conditions is also reviewed and updated annually.
11. The annual Required Reports to TCC arising from relevant CMMs and other decisions provide detailed overviews of WCPFC’s data collection and monitoring programs. Reporting also includes how CCMs are using that information (Administration of Data Rules) to supplement national and partnered efforts

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<sup>2</sup> See also WCPFC-TCC22-2026-06, “[Available Data for Verifying Compliance in the Compliance Monitoring Scheme](#).”

<sup>3</sup> The objective of the Convention is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement.



to monitor WCPFC fisheries activities. **Table 3** contains a list of the Required Reports, hyperlinked to the TCC22 Meeting site for ease of reference. It is intended that the Required Reports be used as reference material across the TCC22 Agenda, noting the integrated nature of the information contained in each individual report to TCC22's work. As such, not all of the Required Reports have been attached to specific TCC22 agenda items on the meeting page.

**Table 3. Required Reports to TCC22 (WCPFC-TCC22-2026-RPxx)**

|     |                                                                                                                                        |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | <a href="#">Annual Report on the Commission VMS</a>   <b>RP01</b>                                                                      |
| 2.  | <a href="#">Annual Report on the Regional Observer Programme</a>   <b>RP02</b>                                                         |
| 3.  | <a href="#">Annual Report on Transshipment Reporting</a>   <b>RP03</b>                                                                 |
| 4.  | <a href="#">Annual Report on High Seas Boarding and Inspections (HSBI) Scheme</a>   <b>RP04</b>                                        |
| 5.  | <a href="#">Annual Report for the Record of Fishing Vessels and Charter Notifications</a>   <b>RP05</b>                                |
| 6.  | <a href="#">Annual Report on the Eastern High Seas Pocket Special Management Area (EHSP-SMA)</a>   <b>RP06</b>                         |
| 7.  | <a href="#">Supplement to EHSP-SMA Providing Information Related to Fishing Activity in Other High Seas Pockets</a>   <b>RP06_supp</b> |
| 8.  | <a href="#">Annual Report on Port Inspections and Implementation Standards for Port State Measures</a>   <b>RP07</b>                   |
| 9.  | <a href="#">Annual Report on the Administration of the WCPFC Data Access Rules and Procedures</a>   <b>RP08</b>                        |
| 10. | <a href="#">Annual Report on the Performance of E-Reporting and E-Monitoring Standards</a>   <b>RP09</b>                               |
| 11. | <a href="#">Analysis of Trends in Fisheries Operating in the WCPFC IATTC Overlap Area</a>   <b>RP10</b>                                |

### **Independent Verification**

12. Implementation of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme over 16 years has highlighted the gaps in available data to verify compliance with several key obligations of the Commission. Persistently low observer coverage in the longline fishery (5%) and ambiguous requirements in some CMMs ("actively fishing for" or "fishing for") has created ongoing challenges in TCC's ability to determine whether certain obligations are achieving their intended objectives. [WCPFC-TCC22-2026-06](#) draws out the issues in more detail for TCC22's consideration and action.

### **Harvest Strategy Development**

13. As the Commission advances its implementation of a harvest strategy framework for its six tuna stocks and two swordfish stocks (SP and NP SWO), robust data collection and monitoring will play an important role in the success of that framework. TCC has a role in the Monitoring Strategy for adopted Management Procedures (MP), as in the current case of skipjack tuna and south Pacific albacore tuna, with additional MPs under development for bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna. TCC also has a role in monitoring the Northern Committee's CMM for Pacific bluefin tuna.
14. The Commission's IWGs on the ROP, ER/EM, HSBI, and PSM are all carrying out work that will refine and improve the way the Commission collects data and monitors fishing activities. These programs (ROP, ER, EM, HSBI, and PSM) all have a direct impact on the ability of WCPFC's harvest strategy framework to deliver on expected sustainability outcomes. Scientific data collection underpins the

critical biological understanding required by the Commission for sound decision making, making TCC's role in monitoring and enforcing data collection obligations by flag and coastal CCMS<sup>4</sup> essential.

### Ecosystem Considerations

15. The Convention sets out an ecosystem-based approach to WCPFC's work in the following preambular paragraph and two sub-paragraphs of Article 5 relating to "Principles and measures for conservation and management":

**PP5:** *Conscious* of the need to avoid adverse impacts on the marine environment, preserve biodiversity, maintain the integrity of marine ecosystems and minimize the risk of long-term or irreversible effects of fishing operations.

**Art 5(d):** assess the impacts of fishing, other human activities and environmental factors on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks;

**Art 5(i):** collect and share, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities on, inter alia, vessel position, catch of target and non-target species and fishing effort, as well as information from national and international research programmes;

16. TCC's work on data collection, verification, and monitoring of fishing impacts on non-target and associated or dependent species (NTADS) contributes directly to implementation of the Convention's provisions, as further operationalized through the relevant CMMs. Similarly, the Commission's commitment to strengthening its measure to mitigate marine pollution caused by fishing activities fulfils Convention obligations to monitor fishing impacts on the marine environment.
17. Following WCPFC22's adoption of [CMM 2025-04](#) on high seas FAD closure and catch retention, the Secretariat [compiled catch discard information](#)<sup>5</sup> reported for 2024 and 2025. The compilation supports consideration by SC22 and TCC22 of how discard reporting, together with logbook and observer information, can improve understanding of fishing impacts and the completeness and quality of reported data.
18. In 2019, the Commission adopted [Resolution 2019-01](#) on Climate Change as it relates to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. At its 19<sup>th</sup> Regular Annual Session in 2022 (WCPFC19<sup>6</sup>), the Commission adopted SC18's recommendation to make "Ecosystem and Climate Indicators" a standing agenda item of the Ecosystem and Bycatch Mitigation Theme session and also agreed to make climate change a standing agenda item for its annual meeting and those of its subsidiary bodies (NC and TCC). These actions are a clear recognition by the Commission of the importance of understanding how climate change can impact the ecosystem that supports WCPFC-managed fisheries.

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<sup>4</sup> Including ensuring that where vessels are operating under a charter arrangement, required reporting is fulfilled by the relevant party.

<sup>5</sup> Submitted to SC22 as WCPFC-SC22-2026-ST-WP06 and updated for TCC22.

<sup>6</sup> See para 343 of [WCPFC19 Summary Report](#).

19. TCC's role in the Commission's [Climate Change Workplan 2024-2027](#) is to consider the outcomes and technical information from the CMM vulnerability assessment, and continue to discuss appropriate ways to incorporate climate change into the work of the TCC; to annually review climate change information to provide the Commission with information, technical advice, and recommendations relating to the implementation of, and compliance with, conservation and management measures, and; to also provide recommendations to the Commission identifying information gaps, necessary analyses, and any additional tasks to ensure the Commission's conservation and management measures contribute to the long-term sustainability of the stocks in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention. This discussion will occur under Agenda Item [4.2 Climate change: Information gaps and analytical needs](#) at TCC22.

### Overview of Compliance Trends

20. Across the 2026 TCC Required Reports covering primarily 2025 activity,<sup>7</sup> the Commission's MCS framework shows continued refinement after the COVID-era disruption, with gains in automation, electronic reporting uptake, and data sharing among CCMs. But persistent gaps remain in longline observer coverage, high-seas transshipment verification, and complete MTU/VMS audit trails.
21. The RFV steadied at 3,143 vessels in 2025 after a long-term decline from its peak in 2009 of 8,314, with vessel numbers dominated by longliners and activity concentrated among a smaller number of operators. Commission VMS coverage stood at approximately 58% of active (authorized) vessels, supported by strong MTU performance and daily gap alerts, although unaudited MTUs and incomplete data for the overlap area between WCPFC and IATTC continue to constrain full situational awareness across the WCPFC Convention Area.
22. The ROP recorded post-COVID recovery with high purse-seine coverage and improving data quality, while longline coverage and lags in timely data submissions impact the interpretation of trends. Transfers of ROP data on potential infringements from the SSP were halted in 2025 pending Commission decisions on revised processes; however, further guidance is needed from TCC.
23. High-seas transshipment declined to 888 events (around 60% of the 2019 peak level), the majority of which involved longline vessels, with electronic reporting via TSER now exceeding 70% of declarations, but with verification by observers still weak. Activity in the Eastern High Seas Pocket-Special Management Area (EHSP-SMA) continued to fall and catch in other high-seas pockets was minimal compared to overall catch, despite having monitoring value.
24. High-seas boarding and inspection recovered to near pre-COVID levels (134 inspections in 2025), predominantly of longliners, with declining infringement rates and improved case management through a new online system. E-reporting expanded especially in purse-seine and SIDS longline fleets, development of interim EM standards advanced, and non-public domain data requests by CCMs remained elevated, reflecting growing value and operational use of key data sets.
25. Collectively, these trends point to a more automated and integrated monitoring and data collection framework, with continuing risks centered on inadequate monitoring of high seas longline operations.

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<sup>7</sup> Some reports included Q1 2026 data.

These outcomes reinforce the importance of ongoing IWG work on data fields, standards and measures, capacity support for SIDS, reciprocal RFMO data sharing, and clearer Commission guidance on incomplete and unverified data streams, while the Secretariat's automation of gap reporting and dashboards has already improved the timeliness and quality of information available to TCC and the Commission.

26. TCC22 will again review annual reporting on the full range of data collection and monitoring programs. Another year has provided more information for analysis to assist CCMs in understanding trends in fishing behaviors and monitoring activities across the WCPFC Convention Area. For the first time in more than a decade, an [annual report](#) is available on fishing activities in the Overlap Area between the WCPFC and IATTC, which provides data on reporting activities by vessels flagged to members of WCPFC and IATTC, including transshipment activities. TCC22 will also review the [annual report](#) on the Secretariat's administration of the WCPFC Data Rules,<sup>8</sup> which governs how CCMs can access various types of data collected through WCPFC programs.
27. The Secretariat published the Required Reports in early July 2026 (1, 2, and 3 July 2026) by request of TCC21. To meet the earlier submission deadline, the time period covered by the data in some reports is shorter than in previous years. Where relevant, this is indicated in each report.
28. To support TCC22's consideration of the 11 Required Reports, the Secretariat has developed dashboard summaries for each report that provides a quick reference of key statistics and information. Online viewing of the related dashboard for each Required Report will be available shortly on the [TCC22 Meeting site](#) in the Required Reports meeting folder. Dashboards are best viewed online, but can also be printed, if desirable. Information contained in the "Overview" that formed part of the Executive Director Annual Reports to TCC21 and TCC20 is available on the WCPFC website under the [Monitoring and Evaluation](#) tab.

#### Updates on Secretariat-managed Tools and Processes to Support CCMs

29. Updated information on Secretariat activities in support of CCMs is contained in [WCPFC-TCC22-2026-07](#) for discussion under Agenda Item [8.2 Secretariat report on IMS enhancements and CCM engagement](#).
30. Since TCC21, the Secretariat has continued to expand its support to CCMs, shifting toward more proactive, year-round engagement with CCMs rather than relying solely on the annual reporting cycle. On training and outreach, the [2026 Attachment Program](#) was the largest to date, where the Secretariat hosted eight officials from four CCMs (Fiji, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu) for two weeks of hands-on training across RFV, VMS, CMS/AR Pt2, CCFS, and other systems, with demand now exceeding available Commission funding. This was complemented by a flexible program of

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<sup>8</sup> [Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission](#) and [Rules and Procedures for Protection Access to and Dissemination of High Seas Non-Public Domain Data and Information Compiled by the Commission for the Purpose of MCS Activities and Access to and Dissemination of High Seas VMS Data for Scientific Purposes](#)

familiarization sessions with Secretariat staff, ad hoc consultations, and ongoing email support tailored to individual CCMs' needs. This effort continued alongside ongoing expansion of [Helpdesk](#) guidance materials,<sup>9</sup> with plans underway to produce further training resources, including videos, to maintain CCM support.

31. On tools and workflow, the Secretariat introduced more proactive reconciliation and verification processes in 2025, including quarterly transshipment reporting checks, an emerging shift to monthly VMS transmission-gap reporting, and earlier cross-checking of FISHED/DID NOT FISH data so that discrepancies can be resolved with CCMs before the draft CMR is prepared. These efforts continued in 2026 and were underpinned by a broader push to standardize and automate internal Secretariat workflows, supported by a dedicated MCS Analytical Support short-term consultancy, which improved consistency and efficiency in the Secretariat's routine verification work.
32. This operational work by the Secretariat fed into a substantial package of enhancements to WCPFC databases delivered through early 2026, covering improvements to FISHED/DID NOT FISH processing, RFV displays, CMR exports, and transshipment and inspection tools. Looking ahead, Canada-funded work is underway to scope more integrated, CCM-facing dashboards that would consolidate reporting-gap information across systems, and a VMS/VRST alignment project will further automate data sharing between the FFA and WCPFC and improve visibility of reporting gaps.

### TCC's Implementation of Article 30

33. TCC implements Article 30 of the Convention as part of its core business under Article 14(1)(c) in the TCC Workplan. As a standing agenda item for TCC, the discussion on the [special requirements of developing States](#) has provided the opportunity for SIDS and participating territories to highlight the importance of Article 30 to supporting their participation in the Commission and implementation of obligations. Likewise, this agenda item provides an opportunity for non-SIDS to share information about their efforts to support developing States' needs and to enhance their understanding of what the special requirements are and how to address them.

#### **Assess Commission Compliance with CMM 2013-06**

34. At TCC22, CCMs will consider information compiled by the Secretariat under Agenda Item [6.3 Assess Commission compliance with CMM 2013-06 para 2 and 4](#), and decide on its sufficiency to conduct an assessment of the Commission's compliance with key paragraphs of CMM 2013-06 relating to Article 30.2(c) and *"the need to ensure that such measures do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States Parties, and territories and possessions."*

#### **Manage Reporting on Needs for Capacity Assistance**

35. TCC22's compliance assessment of paragraphs 2 and 4 of CMM 2013-06 will be complemented by its review of reporting by CCMs against a new [reporting template](#) in 2026 for CMM 2013-06 paragraph 1

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<sup>9</sup> With generous financial support from Canada for a consultancy to provide options for appropriate training mediums and approaches.

and CMM 2013-07. Information compiled in [WCPFC-TCC22-2026-10](#) on “Capacity Assistance Needs and CMM 2013-06 paragraph 1 and CMM 2013-07 reporting” will be considered under Agenda Item [6.2 Review reporting template for CMM 2013-06 and CMM 2013-07](#) and includes Capacity Assistance Needs and Capacity Development Plans arising from the Compliance Monitoring Scheme.

### Connections to the Northern Committee and Scientific Committee

36. The [22<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of the Northern Committee](#) (NC22) met in Nagasaki, Japan in July 2026 and again considered its members’ reporting against [CMM 2024-02](#) on the Monitoring, Controlling and Surveillance of Pacific Bluefin Tuna. The CMM assigns a role for the TCC in paragraph 4 and TCC22 will review NC members’ reporting and make recommendations to the Commission under Agenda Item [7.9 Review MCS measures and catch documentation scheme for Pacific Bluefin Tuna](#).
37. The [22<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of the Scientific Committee](#) met in Apia, Samoa in August 2026 and referred several items to TCC22 for consideration. The list of issues is contained in **Table 4**.

**Table 4. SC22 Referrals to TCC22**

| SC22 Issue                                                | Request of TCC22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | TCC Agenda Item                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| i. Minimum data reporting requirements / SciData revision | Review and that WCPFC23 revise the “Scientific Data to be Provided by the Commission (SciData)” (as detailed in Attachment 1 of the ISG-02 Summary Report) to provide greater alignment with the standardized data templates. SSP to identify additional fields for revision for TCC22’s consideration. | 7.3 Development of WCPFC EM programme (ER/EM IWG update)                                                                                                                                                    |
| ii. SPA Monitoring Strategy.                              | Review MP monitoring strategy report prior to submission to WCPFC23, in particular EPO catch assumption.                                                                                                                                                                                                | 4.1.1 Provide advice on data collection and monitoring in support of management procedures and implementing CMMs<br><br>4.1.2 Review outcomes of SC22 regarding management procedures development processes |
| iii. Skipjack monitoring report                           | Review MP monitoring strategy report prior to submission to WCPFC23, in particular CPUE-related indices.                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| iv. SciData                                               | Operationalize any changes to the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields or electronic reporting standards data streams.                                                                                                                                                                                      | 7.3 Development of WCPFC EM programme (ER/EM IWG update)<br><br>7.4 ROP Improvements (ROP IWG Update)                                                                                                       |
| v. Marine Pollution                                       | Consider expanded monitoring of ALDFG beyond 13 CCMs currently monitoring; Consider including                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 4.3.1 Marine Pollution CMM 2017-04                                                                                                                                                                          |

|                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                      | underwater noise and greenhouse gas emissions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                 |
| vi. ALDFG scientific value & independent monitoring  | Advised that the scientific value of additional ALDFG reporting will remain limited while observer coverage in longline fisheries remains low, and supported increasing independent monitoring, whether human or electronic, of longline fishing operations.                                                                                                                                                          | 7.3 Development of WCPFC EM programme (ER/EM IWG update)<br><br>7.4 ROP Improvements (ROP IWG Update)                                                           |
| vii. Tropical Tuna                                   | Noting that TCC21 requested the SSP to continue monitoring the trends between effort and catch in the purse seine fishery, including effort creep, and to report those trends to TCC22, SC22 agreed to forward IP01 and IP05 to TCC.                                                                                                                                                                                  | 4.4.6 Tropical Tuna CMM                                                                                                                                         |
| viii. Unloading data                                 | SSP to incorporate SC22 feedback and submit a revised paper on unloading data to TCC22.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 4.1.1 Provide advice on data collection and monitoring in support of management procedures and implementing CMMs<br><br>5.8 Verification of Quantitative Limits |
| ix. Longline monitoring coverage (bycatch estimates) | Consider options to expand monitoring coverage on longline vessels through human and electronic approaches in the WCPO to improve reporting and enable better estimates of bycatch levels and other metrics. Noted that $\geq 10\%$ coverage of effort would allow reasonably good estimates for frequently caught species; higher levels needed for less frequently caught species (esp. sea turtles and cetaceans). | 7.3 Development of WCPFC EM programme (ER/EM IWG update)<br><br>7.4 ROP Improvements (ROP IWG Update)                                                           |

### Relevant International Activities

38. Various international oceans governance activities have relevance to TCC's work. In addition, the Commission has established relationships with several organizations whose work is directly related to TCC's work. Updates on WCPFC's engagement with other organizations since TCC21 follows.

#### **Data exchange efforts with CCSBT and IATTC**

39. The Secretariat has continued discussions with other RFMOs on reciprocal exchanges of high seas transshipment information. Work with CCSBT has identified a practical basis for exchanging relevant reports, with implementation able to commence once the arrangements are agreed by both



Commissions. TCC22 will review information on the Secretariat's efforts with relevant RFMOs in [WCPFC-TCC22-2026-15](#), "Data Exchange Arrangements with other RFMOs", for consideration under Agenda Item [7.6 Update on data exchange with other RFMOs](#).

40. TCC22 will also review ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation with IATTC, particularly with respect to [activities in the Overlap Area](#). The establishment of the [Joint Working Group on the Management of South Pacific Albacore Tuna between WCPFC and IATTC](#), as well as continued joint work undertaken through the Northern Committee on the management of Pacific Bluefin tuna and North Pacific albacore tuna calls for deeper cooperation between the two organizations. This partnership is underscored by Article 22.4 of the [WCPFC Convention](#).

#### **FAO Port State Measures technical working groups**

41. The Secretariat participated in the FAO's [Sixth Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Information Exchange](#) and the [Ninth Meeting of the Global Record Working Group](#) which were convened in the Republic of Korea from 8–12 June 2026. Discussions among participants, including representatives of RFMOs, highlighted opportunities for greater interoperability between GIES, the Global Record, RFMO systems, FFA e-PSM and national systems. For WCPFC, these developments can inform the review of CMM 2017-02, help reduce duplicate reporting, and improve timely access to relevant port inspection and denial information, while ensuring appropriate reporting pathways for CCMs that are not Parties to the PSMA, consistent with the Commission's data rules and access arrangements.

#### **Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)**

42. [The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction](#) (BBNJ Agreement) was adopted on 19 June 2023 and is the third implementing agreement to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Following the 60<sup>th</sup> ratification on 19 September 2025, the BBNJ Agreement entered into force 120 days later on 17 January 2026, and its first Conference of the Parties will convene in January 2027.
43. TCC21 requested that the Executive Director's Annual Report to TCC22 include information on the Secretariat's engagement with the BBNJ Agreement. BBNJ's Third Preparatory Commission (PrepCom3) convened in late March/early April 2026 at United Nations Headquarters in New York to continue its discussions on arrangements for implementation of the Agreement. The WCPFC Secretariat continued its engagement in the PrepCom process through coordination of a [joint statement](#) of the five tuna RFMO Secretariats: ICCAT, IOTC, WCPFC, IATTC, and CCSBT. The statement included proposed amendments to draft text by the BBNJ PrepCom co-Chairs relating to cooperation with international fisheries bodies and emphasized that:
- tuna RFMOs share the objective of conserving and sustainably using marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction
  - tuna RFMOs have long-standing mandates, binding conservation and management measures, scientific processes, compliance mechanisms and extensive fisheries data systems.



- cooperation arrangements should give priority to organizations with established regulatory mandates in areas beyond national jurisdiction, including RFMOs. This would help avoid duplication, reduce conflicts between processes, and promote practical coordination.
  - information exchange or data-sharing should respect applicable confidentiality and data protection requirements
44. The tuna RFMOs also highlighted the need for the future BBNJ Scientific and Technical Body to consult RFMO scientific bodies and give due weight to their data, information, and advice.

### **Deep-Sea Mining**

45. The [Workshop on the Development of a Regional Environmental Management Plan \(REMP\) for the Area of the Northwest Pacific Ocean](#) was convened in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 18 to 21 May 2026 by the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in collaboration with the Republic of Korea and KIOST. The workshop brought together 30 invited experts to advance development of a regional environmental management framework for deep-sea mineral activities in the Northwest Pacific. The workshop focused on the design of Areas of Particular Environmental Interest (APEIs), region-specific objectives, non-spatial management measures, environmental monitoring, ecological connectivity, climate change, cumulative impacts, and future research priorities. Participants emphasized the need for adaptive and science-based management, stronger collaboration among international and regional organizations, and improved data sharing to support protection of vulnerable deep-sea ecosystems while informing future reviews of the REMP.
46. The WCPFC Secretariat was invited to contribute a presentation on the Commission's conservation and management measures and the overlap between the WCPFC Convention Area and the proposed REMP region. Discussions highlighted the importance of cooperation with WCPFC and other regional fisheries bodies on data exchange, monitoring, migratory species conservation, and ecosystem-based management.

### **Financial Report on TCC Budget**

47. The Commission's 2025 budget allocated just under US\$2 million to the Technical and Compliance Program to support implementation of the Commission's monitoring and compliance framework. Approximately 80% of that expenditure supported core data and monitoring infrastructure, including ROP data management, VMS operations and airtime, and the WCPFC Information Management System, including monthly reporting and CCM dashboards. Additional funds went to supporting enhanced analytical tools and reporting, improved automated reporting, audits, and training and regional capacity building.
48. The expenditure delivered value through stronger and more efficient compliance oversight. During 2025, the program supported the annual Compliance Monitoring Scheme cycle, including review of potential compliance issues and progress on implementation gaps identified in earlier years. Investment in online systems, dashboards, development of systems to support repeatable reporting, and automated data reconciliation improved the timeliness, consistency, and independence of

compliance evaluations. Training and capacity-building activities also supported CCMs in using Commission systems and meeting reporting obligations. By maintaining the core ROP, VMS, and information systems within budget, the program provided a recurring return through reduced manual processing, improved identification of compliance risks, and a stronger evidence base for TCC and Commission decisions.

## Conclusions

49. TCC22 takes place at a critical time in the continued refinement of WCPFC's conservation and management framework. The advancement of harvest strategies for WCPFC tuna and billfish stocks makes robust data collection and monitoring essential to their success. TCC's role in monitoring the performance of CCMs against their obligations contributes directly to WCPFC's ability to deliver on its objective. Two decades of development and refinement of WCPFC's monitoring, control, and surveillance framework have yielded strong results for the management of the world's largest tuna fishery. But there is further work to be done to ensure that the strong performance by CCMs in implementing their obligations is underpinned by robust evidence that is backed by equally robust data.
50. WCPFC's longstanding experience and success in sustainably managing valuable tuna stocks across the western and central Pacific Ocean is an important contribution to international oceans governance. TCC's work continues to be a key component of that success and the work at TCC22 stands to strengthen the role that technical bodies play in regional fisheries management.

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