



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
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Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (Hybrid)

Pew Statement: 22nd Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee

WCPFC-TCC22-2026-OP05

22 September 2026

Pew Charitable Trusts

**Statement to the 22nd Regular Session of the
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Technical and Compliance Committee
September 23-29, 2026
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia**

The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes the opportunity to participate as an observer to the 22nd regular session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC). We encourage Members to hasten the adoption of approaches that would provide greater resilience and stability to the region's fisheries. Specifically, we urge Members to:

Advance improvements to port State measures

Effective port State measures minimize the risk of illegally caught fish entering international markets. Since WCPFC adopted CMM 2017-02, more countries around the globe have joined the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), including several WCPFC Members. However, the WCPFC measure remains voluntary, and several aspects are not aligned with the effective practices of the PSMA. Only a small proportion of Members (10 of 26) and one Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) have designated ports to opt into the measure. **With a review of the measure underway, TCC should recommend WCPFC adopt a revised CMM that aligns with the PSMA and:**

- Requires port designation and advance entry requests;
- Allows for authorization and denial of port entry; and
- Ensures effective national coordination and exchange of information to facilitate risk assessment in port.

Aligning the WCPFC measure with the already operational FFA regional electronic PSM framework or adapting the FAO's Global Information Exchange System to meet WCPFC's regional needs, including the requirements of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), will ensure that IUU caught fish does not reach the market. We also recognize the special requirements of SIDS and urge Members to create an assistance fund so all remaining Members opt into the current measure or implement a revised measure as soon as possible.

Strengthen and permanently renew the Compliance Monitoring Scheme

WCPFC must ensure that it has a robust compliance review system to meet its mandate to sustainably manage its stocks. To be effective in identifying non-compliance and deterring it in the future, the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) must hold members accountable for implementing their obligations, identify capacity needs and solutions, and highlight where measures need to be amended to increase clarity and effectiveness. **With the CMS due to expire in December, TCC should recommend the Commission renew the CMS as a permanent measure.** By agreeing to a CMS without an end date, WCPFC would send a powerful message that compliance is a lasting priority and would avoid the recurring and protracted discussions

over the continuation of the measure. The time saved could be used to cooperatively implement additional improvements to the scheme, which would benefit the Commission, its members, and its fisheries. As part of the renewed measure, **TCC should recommend that observers be able to participate in the review of compliance monitoring reports.** Full observer participation in the CMS process is consistent with the WCPFC Convention and would promote greater public confidence in the monitoring of WCPFC fisheries. Finally, **TCC should update its workplan to prioritize the following activities in 2027:**

- Develop corrective actions to encourage and incentivize CCM's compliance with the Commission's obligations, where non-compliance is identified; and
- Develop guidelines for the participation of observers in the Compliance Review Process.

Strengthen compliance by recommending increased observer coverage and supporting the continued development of an electronic monitoring program

As noted by the Executive Director ([TCC22-2026-09](#)) and Secretariat ([TCC22-2026-06](#)), "Persistently low observer coverage in the longline fishery... has created ongoing challenges in TCC's ability to determine whether certain obligations are achieving their intended objectives" and that "[c]ontinuing without meaningful changes would leave the Compliance Monitoring Scheme locked in its current pattern of uneven verification." The Secretariat stated that "[s]ubstantially increasing independent monitoring coverage in longline fisheries remains essential if the Compliance Monitoring Scheme is to move beyond its current heavy reliance on self-reported information." Further, "[h]igher coverage would improve the reliability of catch and bycatch estimates, strengthen assessments of compliance with shark, seabird, and turtle measures, mitigation of marine pollution, and reduce the uncertainty that currently forces many longline-related obligations into the self-reported category."

Recognizing the compliance-related benefits of increasing independent observer rates and the introduction of a Commission electronic monitoring (EM) program, **TCC should recommend that the Commission:**

- Immediately increase the required independent monitoring requirement for longliners to 20 percent and allow the requirement to be met using a combination of human observers and EM;
- Agree to a phased approach to increase the independent monitoring requirement for longliners to 100 percent within five years;
- Adopt an assurance and audit process for domestic EM programs; and
- Implement the recommendations from the recent FAO Electronic Monitoring Minimum Standards Harmonization Workshop, including clarifying the objectives of the EM program; establishing clear guidelines for data management, security, and interoperability; and requiring annual reporting on domestic EM program implementation, coverage, and compliance.

Improve the monitoring of transshipment

The large number of transshipments within the WCPFC Convention Area and the lack of updated reporting requirements creates opportunities for unreported and undetected transfers

that could be used to launder IUU catch. Further, transfers between vessels that involve crew, bait, and other supplies currently are not reported, which hampers the ability of the Commission to effectively monitor and detect unauthorized transshipment of fish. **TCC should recommend that CMM 2009-06 and the transshipment minimum data fields be amended to require:**

- Reporting on catch quantities on board prior to and post transshipment events to aid verification of catch data and transshipment quantities;
- Submission of information on non-fish transfers involving carrier vessels, such as bunkering, or crew/supply transfer;
- Inclusion of IMO numbers on transshipment observer forms and transshipment declarations; and
- Submission of observer reports on transshipments in the overlap area to both IATTC and WCPFC Secretariats.

Issues in the WCPFC-IATTC overlap area

The issues raised by the Secretariat ([TCC22-2026-05](#)) are concerning. Data gaps and incomplete reporting of fishing activity compromise the effective management of WCPFC stocks. **TCC should recommend that the Commission address these deficiencies, ensuring increased coordination between the RFMOs and closing potential regulatory loopholes in the overlap area.**