



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

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Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

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**ANNUAL REPORT ON WCPFC HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTION (HSBI)  
SCHEME**

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WCPFC-TCC13-2017-RP04\_rev<sup>1</sup>

29 November 2017

**Paper prepared by the Secretariat**

**Purpose**

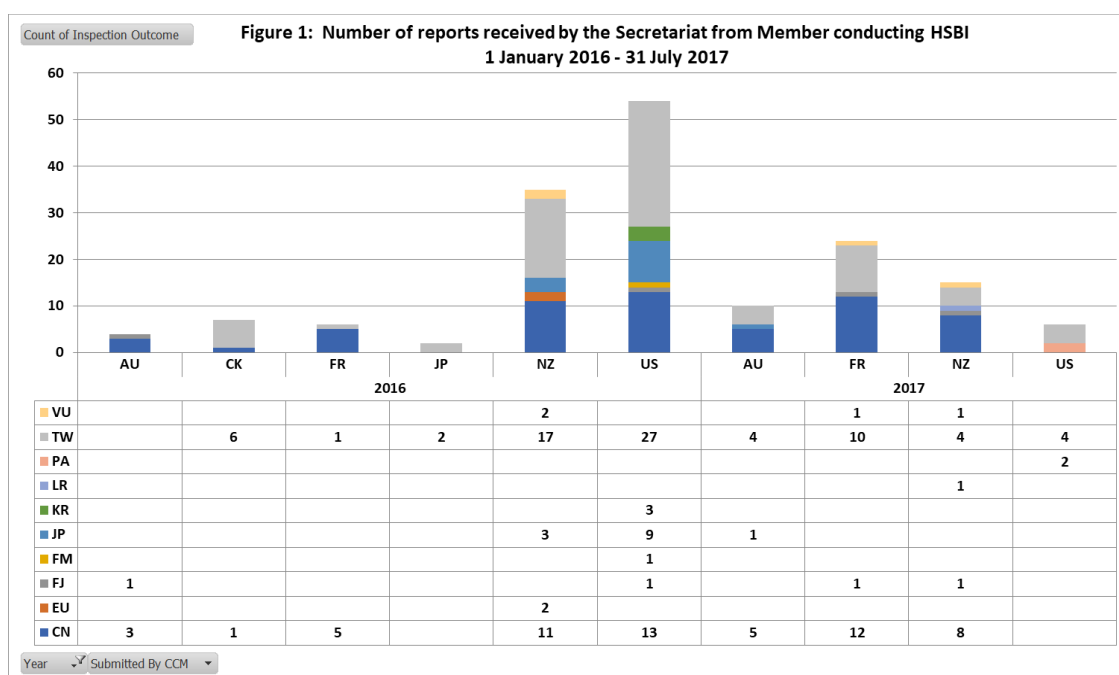
1. This paper presents for the consideration and information of TCC13 a summary of High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) activities for the period of 1 January 2016 to 31 July 2017. An update is also presented in this paper on delivery of a task to the Secretariat for use by authorized MCS CCM users.
2. The agreed procedures for WCPFC HSBI activities are contained in Conservation and Management Measure 2006-08 entitled *Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Boarding and Inspection Procedure* (CMM 2006-08), and these procedures enable boarding and inspections of fishing vessels to be undertaken on the high seas in the Convention Area.

**HSBI activities for the period 1 January 2016 – 30 June 2017**

3. Article 26 of the Convention and CMM 2006-08 paragraph 3 state that the purpose of the HSBI scheme is to establish procedures for boarding and inspection activities on the high seas which ensure compliance with provisions of the Convention and Conservation and Management Measures.
4. In 2016, six members' (Australia (AU), Cook Islands (CK), France (FR), Japan (JP), New Zealand (NZ), and the United States of America (USA)) submitted 108 HSBI reports in accordance with CMM 2006-08 paragraph 30. In 1 January – 31 July 2017, four members (AU, FR, NZ and US) submitted 55 HSBI reports in accordance with paragraph 30 of CMM 2006-08. Figure 1 provides a summary of the number of boarding and inspections conducted under CMM 2006-08 for the period 1 January 2016 - 31 July 2017. A total number of 146 vessels were boarded during the period (and 17 vessels were boarded more than once during this period).

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<sup>1</sup> This revision was issued post-TCC13 to replace the original issued on 8 September. This version includes some corrections: specifically to delete footnote 2 and amend Annex 2A.



- Annex 2 shows the geographical distribution of where these high seas boarding and inspection activities were undertaken.
- The HSBI activities undertaken by WCPFC members provide a mechanism to assist flag CCMs with checking the implementation by their vessels of a number of CMMs that are in force. Table 1 provides a summary of the CMMs identified in the HSBI reports for the period 1 January 2016 – 31 July 2017 that resulted in a request for flag State investigation pursuant to Article 25 of the Convention.

**Table 1: Summary of the list of CMMs that inspecting/boarding State requested flag State investigation during the period 1 January 2016 – 30 June 2017**

CMM	2016	1 Jan – 31 July 2017
2004-03 Vessel and Gear Marking	27	5
2006-08 High Seas Boarding and Inspection	14	3
2008-03 Turtle	6	3
2009-06 Transshipment	5	1
2009-09 Vessels without nationality	1	7
2010-02 Eastern High Seas Pocket SMA	1	-
2010-07 Sharks	2	2
2012-07/2015-03 Seabirds	4	3
2013-05 Daily Catch and effort reporting	10	8
2013-10 Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorization to Fish	7	2
2014-02 Commission VMS	13	9
2014-05 Sharks	3	-

## Compliance Case File System

7. In 2016, the Secretariat has incorporated all HSBI events noting alleged infringements of CMMs or the Convention, including those in Table 1 above, in the online WCPFC Compliance Case File system. For HSBI activities, in practice, the online Compliance Case File System will track the various correspondences received by the Secretariat pursuant to CMM 2006-08 and where related to the notified alleged infringements. Individual case files are viewable and editable by the relevant Inspecting Member and the relevant flag CCM. As is noted in Secretariat paper *WCPFC-TCC13-2017-11C*, HSBI reports are a source of information for alleged infringements that are presently notified by the Secretariat for investigation by flag CCMs in the WCPFC online compliance case file system.

## Update to the Register of authorized inspection vessels (HSBI register)

8. During the reporting period (1 Jan 2016 – 31 July 2017), one member (Australia) notified the Commission, through the Executive Director, of one additional inspection vessel to be added to the HSBI register. The number of members participating in the HSBI scheme remained unchanged at thirteen (13) since TCC11. Those that have also provided notifications in accordance with paragraph 6 of CMM 2006-08, regarding the application of the WCPFC HSBI to Fishing Entities also remain the same. A list of these Members and the number of vessels included on the Register of Authorized Inspection Vessels is shown in Table 2. In addition, since August 2015, the Register is now publicly available on the website at <http://www.wcpfc.int/register-inspection-vessels>

**Table 2: Summary of the Members that have notified the Commission of their intention to participate in conducting boarding and inspection activities under the WCPFC HSBI Scheme**

	Year (in which notification was received)	WCPFC received notifications in accordance with paragraph 6 of CMM 2006-08?	Number of Vessels on the Register of Authorized Inspection Vessels (as @ 31 July 2017)
Australia	2010	YES	45
Canada	2009		5
Cook Islands	2008	YES	1
Federated States of Micronesia	2010		3
France <sup>2</sup>	2007	YES	8
Japan	2009	YES	3
Kiribati	2014		1
Republic of Korea	2008		2
New Zealand	2008	YES	12
Papua New Guinea	2008		4
Chinese Taipei	2008	N/A	14
Tuvalu	2010		1
USA	2008	YES	99
			<b>198</b>

<sup>2</sup> Separate notifications were provided by France for French Authorities that are based in French Polynesia and New Caledonia

## **CCMs reporting on implementation of CMM 2006-08 through Annual Report Part 2**

9. The 2017 Annual Report Part 2 template covering 2016 activities included questions on implementation of paragraph 7, 30, 32, 33 and 36, 40 and 41 of CMM 2006-08. CCMs were asked to report on implementation of the aforementioned paragraphs. CCMs had the choice of answering “Yes” meaning the obligation has been implemented; “No” meaning the obligation has not been implemented; or “N/A” meaning CCM determined that the obligation is not applicable. CCMs also had the opportunity to provide further information on each obligation and/or attach any supporting documentations. The responses provided by CCMs in Annual Report Part 2, assist the Secretariat with checking the completeness of the reporting of HSBI activities. Annex 1 provides a summary of CCMs responses to CMM 2006-08 in Annual Report Part 2 covering activities for 2016.

## **Update on tasking from WCPFC12**

10. TCC may recall that WCPFC12 tasked the Secretariat to develop an online technical solution to make available to authorized CCM MCS personnel, through secure login, a list of vessels that have been previously inspected under the HSBI scheme specifically, the VID, Vessel Name, IRCS, date of boarding and Name of inspecting member (WCPFC 12 Summary Record para 495). The Secretariat was pleased to advise CCMs on 13 Apr 2017 through Circular No.: 2017/28 of delivery of the tool on the secure pages of the WCPFC website. Such a list may be accessed by authorized CCM users on secure section of the website at <https://www.wcpfc.int/ccm/hsbi-report>
11. Feedback to the Secretariat on the tool has been positive, with some CCMs indicating that it assists as an additional source of information in planning their MCS activities and other CCMs indicated that it was a helpful tool to check on the status of past HSBI activities for meeting Annual Report Part 2 reporting. Through use, some CCMs have expressed to the Secretariat that it would be helpful if an export feature for this list could be included, so as to enable the list being exported to a csv or Excel file. The Secretariat confirms this is technically feasible, and would welcome TCC’s direction on this matter.

## **Secretariat Observations and Administrative issues**

12. In the operation of the WCPFC HSBI Scheme during the period 1 January 2016 – 31 July 2017, the Secretariat makes the following observations:
  - a. The number of HSBI activities increased and was at its highest in 2016.
  - b. Most of the HSBI activities occur around just outside the borders of coastal States EEZ and in high seas pockets.
  - c. The HSBI activities undertaken by WCPFC members has provided a mechanism to assist flag CCMs with checking the implementation by their vessels of a number of CMMs that are in force.

13. CCMs are reminded to inform the Secretariat of their contact details for authorities of fishing vessels or update this directly into the CCMs official contact details through the secure page of the website at <https://www.wcpfc.int/official-circulars>
14. To assist with internal record keeping at the WCPFC Secretariat, copies of HSBI reports from Inspecting Members and any replies from the authorities of the fishing vessel, which are required in accordance with CMM 2006-08 to be submitted to the Commission, should be sent to the email: [HighSeasBoardingInspection@wcpfc.int](mailto:HighSeasBoardingInspection@wcpfc.int)

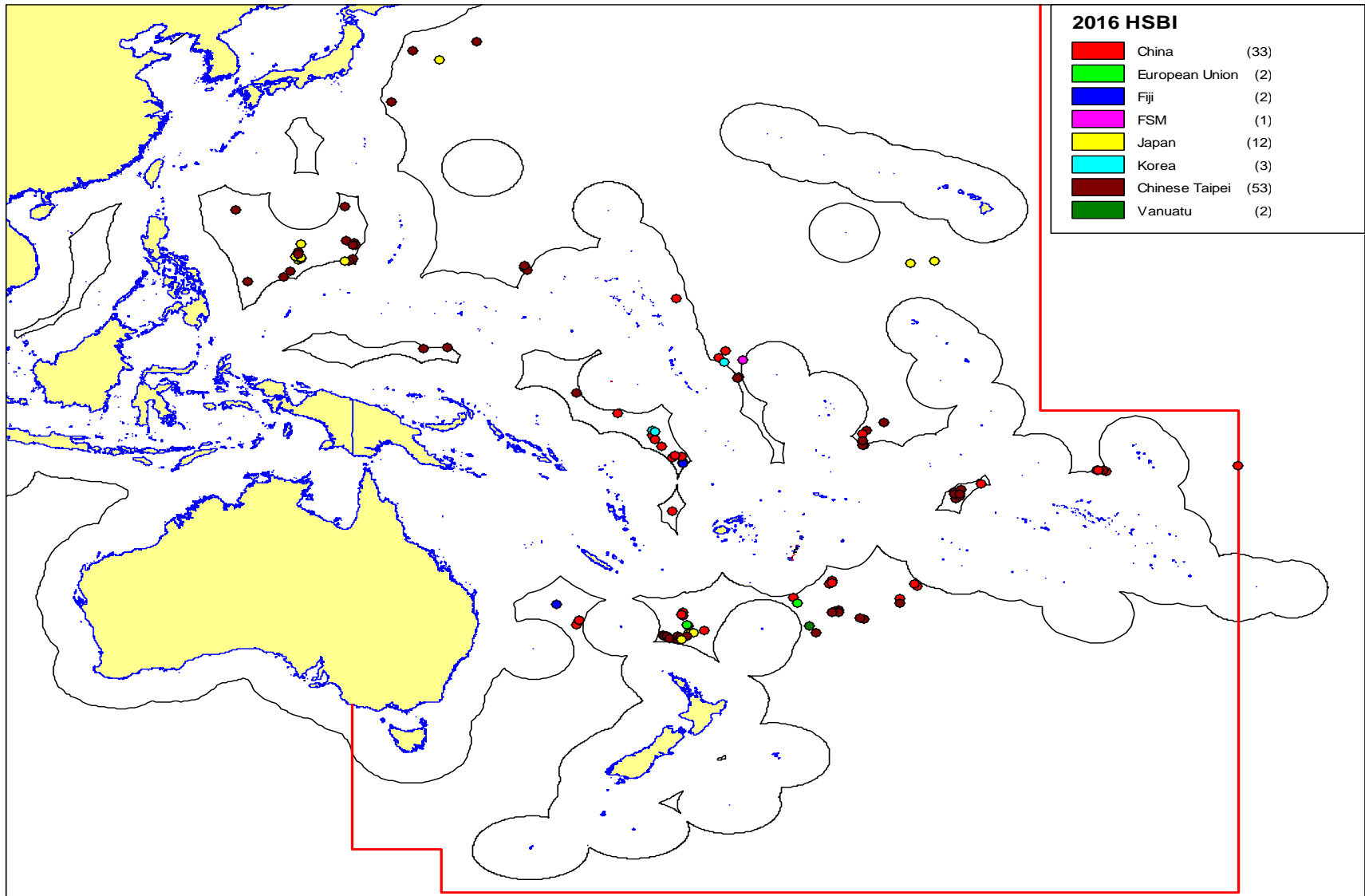
### **Recommendation**

15. TCC13 is invited to:
  - i. Consider tasking the Secretariat to make the list of vessels previously inspected under the HSBI scheme, published online at <https://www.wcpfc.int/ccm/hsbi-report> exportable; and
  - ii. Note and discuss the recent activities undertaken under the HSBI scheme

**Annex 1: Summary of CCMs responses to CMM 2006-08 in 2017 AR Part 2 covering 2016 activities**

<b>CMM paragraph and brief description</b>	<b>N/A Summary of further information provided</b>	<b>YES Summary of further information provided</b>	<b>NO or blank</b>
<b>CMM 2006-08 07</b> <i>Fishing vessels to accept HSBI boardings by duly authorised inspectors, and as applicable Members to ensure compliance of its authorised inspectors with the HSBI procedures</i>	13 No flag vessel, no flag vessel on the RFV, no flag vessels fishing beyond areas of national jurisdiction or in the high seas, no flag vessel subject to HSBI in 2015	23 Implemented through national legislation, regulation; license terms and conditions	1 blank (outstanding Annual Report Part 2)
<b>CMM 2006-08 30</b> <i>Provide Full Report on HSBI</i>	24 Have not yet authorized inspection vessels to carry out HSBI; did not conduct HSBI in 2014	12 Members (6 – AU, CK, FR, JP, NZ, US) who conducted HSBI in 2016 further elaborate that full reports have been sent to flag States of fishing vessels and the WCPFC Secretariat  The other 6 members that answered Yes (PA, PG, PH, SB, TV, TW) – 3 have no inspection vessel on the HSBI register; the other 3 although have vessels in the HSBI register, they did not conduct any HSBI in 2016	1 blank (outstanding Annual Report Part 2)
<b>CMM 2006-08 32</b> <i>Notification of serious violation(s) detected by inspection vessels during HSBI</i>	24 No HSBI undertaken; No serious violation detected	12 CCMs answer YES (no notification of serious violations/nothing to report, no vessel registered/authorized to conduct HSBI, serious violations reported to the flag State)	1 blank (outstanding Annual Report Part 2)
<b>CMM 2006-08 33 and 36</b> <i>Response by authorities of the fishing vessel to a serious violation notification</i>	27 No serious violation detected; no HSBI; no flag vessel; no flag vessel boarded in 2015	9 No serious violation notification; if a notification of serious violation is received, CCM respond immediately and internal investigation carried out	1 blank (outstanding Annual Report Part 2)
<b>CMM 2006-08 40</b> <i>Annual reporting by members on the HSBI carried out by its authorized inspection vessels.</i>	25 Did not conduct any HSBI	11 CCMs answer YES but only 6 conducted HSBI in 2016	1 blank (outstanding Annual Report Part 2)
<b>CMM 2006-08 41</b> <i>Annual reporting by members on their actions in response to HSBI of their fishing vessels that resulted in observation of alleged violations.</i>	26 No HSBI conducted; no flag vessel fishing on the high seas; no flag vessels boarded	10 CCMs answer YES and provided further information	1 blank (outstanding Annual Report Part 2)

Annex 2: A) Geographic distribution of HSBI conducted: January – December 2016



Annex 2: B) Geographic distribution of HSBI conducted: January – 31 July 2017

