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**TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS,  
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES AND OBSERVERS**

**Circular No.: 2018/63  
Date: 16 October 2018  
No. pages: 5**

**WCPFC15 Provisional Agenda**

Dear All,

I am pleased to enclose for distribution the Provisional Agenda for the 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

The Provisional Agenda was drawn up in close consultation with the Commission Chair, Ms Rhea Moss-Christian and in adherence to rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure. It is now posted on the WCPFC15 website: <https://www.wcpfc.int/meetings/15th-regular-session-wcpfc>.

The Provisional Agenda follows generally the structure of the agenda for WCPFC14 with dedicated agenda items for the work under the harvest strategy work plan; WCPO tuna and billfish stocks; shark stocks and bycatch mitigation issues; and the compliance monitoring scheme. There is an attempt in the agenda to integrate some elements of the harvest strategy work plan into the discussions on tuna stock conservation and management. As in the past, the reports of subsidiary bodies will be taken as read and only specific recommendations requiring decision of the Commission will be presented. Those recommendations will be conveniently listed and referenced in dedicated reference document. The rest of the Provisional Agenda includes all standing agenda items that rule 2 requires for the Commission to consider annually.

CCMs with new proposals will have the opportunity to introduce them at the start of the meeting unless their proposals relate to matters relevant to other agenda items, in which case they will present them under those agenda items

The Provisional Agenda is submitted for your review and consideration. Any member of the Commission may under rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure requests the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda at least thirty days (by 10 November 2018) before the start of the WCPFC15 on 10 December 2018. Such a request shall be accompanied by a written explanation of the requested supplementary item.

If there is any query on the Provisional Agenda, please direct it to me on [feleti.teo@wcpfc.int](mailto:feleti.teo@wcpfc.int).

Yours sincerely,



Feleti Penitala Teo, OBE  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**COMMISSION  
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION  
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA  
10 – 14 December 2018**

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**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

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**WCPFC15-2018-01  
16 October 2018**

**AGENDA ITEM 1. OPENING OF MEETING**

- 1.1 Adoption of agenda
- 1.2 Statements from Members and Participating Territories
- 1.3 Meeting arrangements
  - 1.3.1 Establishment of small working groups (CNMs, CMR, others)
  - 1.3.2 Hosting arrangements for WCPFC annual sessions hosted by SIDS

**AGENDA ITEM 2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**AGENDA ITEM 3. MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER APPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Status of the Convention
- 3.2 Update on Observer status
- 3.3 Applications for Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status
  - 3.3.1 Participatory rights of CNMs

**AGENDA ITEM 4. NEW PROPOSALS**

**AGENDA ITEM 5. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES**

- 5.1 Implementation of Article 30 of WCPFC Convention and CMM 2013-07 (SIDS special requirements)
- 5.2 Strategic Investment Plan by the FAC Special Requirements Fund Virtual Working Group

**AGENDA ITEM 6. WCPO TUNA AND BILLFISH STOCKS**

Relevant outcomes from meetings of subsidiary bodies, intersessional working groups and other relevant sources will be presented to facilitate discussions under this agenda item. Some elements of the Harvest Strategy Work Plan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06 are integrated into the discussions under this agenda item.

- 6.1 General overview of stock status (bigeye, skipjack, SP albacore, yellowfin, Pacific bluefin, NP albacore and NP swordfish)
- 6.2 South Pacific Albacore
  - 6.2.1 Roadmap for effective conservation and management of SP albacore
  - 6.2.2 Target reference point
  - 6.2.3 Harvest control rules
  - 6.2.4 Management strategy evaluation
  - 6.2.5 Review of CMM 2015-02 (SP albacore)

- 6.3 Bigeye, Skipjack and Yellowfin
  - 6.3.1 Review of CMM 2017-01 (bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin)
    - 6.3.1.1 FAD Management Options-IWG report
  - 6.3.2 Target reference point (bigeye and yellowfin)
  - 6.3.3 Harvest control rules (skipjack)
  - 6.3.4 Management strategy evaluation (skipjack)
- 6.4 Pacific bluefin
  - 6.4.1 Review of CMM 2017-08
- 6.5 North Pacific albacore
  - 6.5.1 Review of CMM-2005-03
- 6.6 North Pacific striped marlin
  - 6.6.1 Designation as a Northern stock and rebuilding plan
- 6.7 Others

**AGENDA ITEM 7: HARVEST STRATEGY**

Discussion will focus on the remaining 2018 elements of the Agreed Work Plan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06, covering South Pacific albacore, skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin not integrated into agenda item 6. The Northern Committee will provide update on harvest strategies relating to Northern stocks.

- 7.1 Management objectives (all stocks/fisheries)
- 7.2 Monitoring Strategy (all stocks/fisheries)
- 7.3 Harvest Strategy for Pacific bluefin, NP albacore and NP Swordfish
- 7.4 Terms of Reference for a Science-Management Dialogue
- 7.5 Review of Work Plan

**AGENDA ITEM 8: WCPO SHARK STOCKS AND BYCATCH MITIGATION**

Relevant outcomes from meetings of subsidiary bodies, intersessional working groups and other relevant sources will be presented to facilitate discussions under this agenda item.

- 8.1 Report of the Shark-IWG, including Proposal for a Comprehensive CMM for Sharks and Rays
- 8.2 Proposal for Best Practice Guidelines for Safe Release of Sharks
- 8.3 North Pacific blue shark – designation as a Northern stock
- 8.4 Review of CMM 2017-06 on Seabirds
- 8.5 Review of CMM 2008-03 on Sea Turtles
- 8.6 Others

**AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF REPORTS FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

The reports of the subsidiary bodies will be taken as read and will not be presented to the Commission. However, recommendations of subsidiary bodies not addressed under other agenda items will be considered under this agenda item. A list of those recommendations will be provided in dedicated reference document.

- 9.1 SC14
- 9.2 NC14
- 9.3 TCC14
- 9.4 ERandEM-IWG3

**AGENDA ITEM 10: COMPLIANCE MONITORING SCHEME**

- 10.1 Consideration and adoption of the Final Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR)
- 10.2 Review of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme
  - 10.2.1 Report from the Independent Panel to review the Compliance Monitoring Scheme
  - 10.2.2 Report of the CMS-IWG, including Proposal for a CMM for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme

10.3 Expiry of CMM 2017-07 at the end of 2018

**AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF THE 2019 IUU VESSEL LIST**

**AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

- 12.1 Report of the Twelfth Finance and Administration Committee
- 12.2 Budget approval for 2019 and Indicative Budgets for 2020 and 2021

**AGENDA ITEM 13: ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

- 13.1 Corporate Plan
- 13.2 Kobe Process
- 13.3 Research projects
  - 13.3.1 ABNJ Project
  - 13.3.2 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project
  - 13.3.3 WCPFC Tissue Bank – application of Nagoya Protocol
  - 13.3.4 WPEA Project
- 13.4 Election of officers
- 13.5 Future meetings

**AGENDA ITEM 14: OTHER MATTERS**

**AGENDA ITEM 15: SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WCPFC15**

**AGENDA ITEM 16: CLOSE OF MEETING**