



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
Sixteenth Regular Session
Electronic Meeting
23 – 29 September 2020

POSITION STATEMENT TO TCC16

WCPFC-TCC16-2020-OP03
17 September 2020

Submitted by PEW

The Pew Charitable Trusts
Statement to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
16th Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee
September 23-29, 2020, online

The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes the opportunity to participate as an observer in the 16th Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC16) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). We appreciate the work of the Secretariat, chair, and members to convene a virtual meeting due to the extraordinary situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We urge all members to consider how to hasten the introduction of new approaches to provide greater resilience and stability to the region's fisheries, such as electronic monitoring and harvest strategies. In relation to the limited agenda before TCC16, we urge members to:

- **Recommend that elements of a [well-designed](#) Electronic Monitoring (EM) Program be included in the EM conservation and management measure under development by the EMandER working group.** These should include a stakeholder engagement process, clear program objectives and coverage levels, standards for data collection and review, and periodic EM program assessments;
- **Recommend steps the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) working group, which the Commission re-established in 2019, should take to complete in 2021 the ‘future work’ specified in the CMS.** This includes developing the risk-based assessment framework, corrective actions to encourage compliance, and providing for the participation of observers in the review of members' compliance monitoring reports;
- **Recommend continuing the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Small Working Group in 2021 to improve the number of vessels reporting on VMS,** noting the Secretariat's annual report on VMS shows the number of dark vessels (306 vessels in 2019 fished in areas beyond national jurisdiction and did not report to the Commission VMS) remains about the same as prior years; and
- **Recommend the Transshipment Intersessional Working Group finalize the “Scope Of Work For The Transshipment Information Analysis.”** Improving management of transshipment is an urgent concern. A Pew analysis presented to TCC in 2019 ([TCC15-2019-OP05](#)) found management of transshipment is compromised by a lack of reporting information, non-compliance with reporting requirements, and non-standardized reporting responses.

Lastly, we urge TCC16 members to consider how to make progress on other priorities, such as developing the funding mechanism to assist Small Island Developing States to implement CMM 2017-02 on port State minimum standards and prioritize a review of the measure for next year's TCC meeting.