



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Second Regular Session

**28 September to 03 October 2006
Brisbane, Australia**

HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTION PROCEDURES

**WCPFC-TCC2-2006/12
20 September 2006**

Paper prepared by the Secretariat¹

Introduction

1. Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) have previously noted the importance of high seas boarding and inspection as a monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) tool to meet the objectives of the Convention and promote the long-term sustainability of fisheries in the western and central Pacific Ocean region. In relation to high seas boarding and inspection, the Second Regular Session of the Commission (Comm2) agreed that as per Article 26(2) of the Convention, Articles 21 and 22 of the Agreement will apply as of 19 June 2006, until the adoption of a specific boarding and inspection scheme, when and if the Commission agrees to such a scheme.

2. However, noting that the practical application of Articles 21 and 22 of the Agreement would require the elaboration of additional measures and procedures, the Commission decided that these boarding and inspection procedures should not be utilized until additional measures and procedures have been discussed intersessionally, and resolved at the Third Regular Session of the Commission (Comm3). Comm2 approved a recommendation from TCC1 to establish an Intersessional Working Group to be convened by Mr William Gibbons-Fly (United States of America), that would meet as part of TCC2.

Outcomes of the deliberations of the Intersessional Working Group

3. Draft boarding and inspection procedures were circulated to all CCMs in advance of TCC1 as Appendix A of WCPFC/TCC1/15. However, there was not time at TCC1 to have a specific discussion on this issue. Instead, at TCC1 the Convener requested that delegations wishing to do so provide comments on the draft procedures by mid-March 2006. In this regard, comments were received from Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and Chinese Taipei.

4. Based on these comments, another revised draft of the procedures was prepared and circulated (along with copies of all comments received), and all delegations were given another opportunity to comment on this revised version. This time, comments were received from

¹ Attachments 1 and 2 were prepared by the Convener of the Intersessional Working Group, Mr William Gibbons-Fly (United States of America).

Australia, the European Commission, the FFA Secretariat, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei and the United States. The latest iteration of the revised draft, which will serve as the basis for discussion at TCC2, is appended at **Attachment 1**. A Convener's Note dated 19 September 2006 and comments on the draft procedures received from delegations are appended at **Attachment 2**.

Conclusion

5. TCC2 is invited to consider the draft boarding and inspection procedures and agree on a draft for consideration by Comm3 in December 2006.