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**Reference Paper for Recommendations from the 20th Regular Session of the
 Technical and Compliance Committee**

WCPFC21-2024-11
28 October 2024

Submitted by the Secretariat

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to support the Commission’s consideration of recommendations from the 20th Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC20) that are not covered elsewhere under other Agenda Items or discussions¹, and that may require decision or action by the Commission at WCPFC21. Additional information is available in the TCC20 Summary Report, which will be finalized and posted to the TCC20 meeting page in late November 2024.

Addressing Online Compliance Case File System (CCFS) Matters

TCC20	2. TCC20 supported the Secretariat’s efforts in seeking to improve the methodology used to sub-sample the CCFS so that it is reflective of the proportion of longline and purse seine observer coverage rates. TCC20 noted the results of the initial sub-sampling and tasked the Secretariat to work with the Scientific Services Provider to refine the methodology. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 12)</i>
	3. TCC20 tasked the TCC Chair and Secretariat to prepare a paper to further develop the sampling methodology for consideration by TCC21 taking into account, the relevant parameters for implementation of a process in 2025. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 13)</i>
	4. TCC20 noted that following tasking from WCPFC20, the Secretariat included the following categories in CCFS as the reasons for closing out cases that are identified as “Investigation not completed”: crew/master changed, vessel or owner/operator no longer exists, date of event exceeds national statute of limitations, vessel flag changed and unable to progress with new flag state. TCC20 recommends to WCPFC21 that a CCM should provide information justifying the closing out of a case which would be verified by the Secretariat. TCC20 recommends that the Commission task

¹ Harvest strategy outcomes are contained in [WCPFC21-2024-10](#) and climate change outcomes are contained in [WCPFC21-2024-15](#).

	the Secretariat with reporting to TCC21 on the closed cases and on the progress in closing cases older than 24 months. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 15)</i>
	5. TCC20 expressed concern over the delay in including cases arising from ROP data in the CCFS and recommends to the Commission that the question of streamlining the inclusion of ROP data in the CCFS be a task for the ROP-IWG. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 16)</i>
	6. TCC20 recommended that the Commission at WCPFC21 task the ROP-IWG to prioritize in 2025 the review of the ROP Minimum Standard data fields, the review of the pre-notification process adopted during WCPFC12, and to develop a standardized process for the use of ROP data in the CCFS. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 50)</i>

The Compliance Monitoring Scheme Process

TCC20	7. TCC20 recommended the continuation of the streamlining approach to support tracking progress by CCMs to resolve their implementation gaps from previous year/s (based on <u>WCPFC-TCC20-2024-11, Annex 2, Part B and Part C.</u>). <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 16)</i>
	8. TCC20 recommended to the Commission that it adopt the list of 52 obligations for review in 2025 set out in Annex 1 .
	9. TCC20 recommends to the Commission that it adopt the following Audit Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>CMM 2023-03 02 QL</u>: The CCM reported in AR Pt2 its level of fishing effort of its fisheries taking North Pacific swordfish in the Convention Area north of 20N and the Secretariat can verify the CCM’s reported information and confirm that the allowable limit has not been exceeded. b. <u>CMM 2023-03 04 RP</u>: The Secretariat confirms that CCM submitted a report of information on all catches and effort by CCM flagged vessels subject to the limits in paragraph 2 using the template at Annex 1 of <u>CMM 2023-03</u>. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 19)</i>
	10. TCC20 tasked the TCC Chair, TCC Vice-Chair and Secretariat in developing the TCC work plan to include items that will require future work over several years in an appropriate sequence for further discussion and consideration at WCPFC21. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 22)</i>
	11. TCC20 tasked the SSP to provide additional information on catches of SW striped marlin and NW Striped marlin, including as a percentage of total catch per vessel, in order to inform discussions on both striped marlin stocks at SC21, TCC21 and WCPFC22 regarding the clarification of the term ‘fishing for’/‘targeting’. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 29)</i>
	12. TCC20 expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for the IT upgrades and the training and guidance provided to CCMs by the Secretariat and TCC20 recommended that such support to CCMs continue. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 71)</i>
	13. TCC20 supported the Guidance set out in Annex 1 of <u>WCPFC-TCC20-2024-27</u> for CCMs on how to respond to obligations in the ARPt 2 and the CMR, and in particular as a living document to be updated as required. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 72)</i>

Review of alternative measures to shark finning prohibition (CMM 2022-04)

TCC20	<p>14. TCC20 noted with concern, the difficulty that has been identified by some CCMs during HSBI inspections and aerial surveillance and, in some cases, port inspections, in verifying compliance with the alternative measures in paragraph 9 of the Shark Measure (CMM 2022-04) and noted the different views expressed by CCMs on the effectiveness and the enforceability of alternative measures, including those outlined in DP03 and DP06. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 43)</i></p>
	<p>15. TCC20 agreed paragraph 9 on alternative measures needed improvement and encouraged CCMs to work together to bring a proposal to WCPFC21 in this regard. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 44)</i></p>
	<p>16. TCC20 noted that many CCMs expressed concerns that the provisions in paragraphs 8 and 9 of CMM 2022-04 will expire at the end of the year and recommends that the Commission at WCPFC21 adopt an approach that ensures the effectiveness of these provisions of CMM 2022-04. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 45)</i></p>
	<p>17. TCC20 recommended that WCPFC21 notes that, due to the lack of sufficient information, it has not been able to fully assess the effectiveness of alternative measures in paragraph 9 and reiterated the direction from the Commission at WCPFC20 and encouraged those CCMs that utilise alternative measures to submit detailed information to WCPFC21 in accordance with paragraph 11 on the implementation of alternative measures and how compliance has been monitored, to support the Commission’s review of CMM 2022-04. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 46)</i></p>

Recommendations related to WCPFC’s Monitoring Programmes

TCC20	<p>18. TCC20 agreed in principle that many of the ROP Minimum Standard data fields were redundant, particularly those related to vessel details, and are better collected through existing processes, such as vessel registration or the RFV. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 48)</i></p>
	<p>19. TCC20 reiterated the importance of agreeing to interim EM standards at WCPFC21, so that EM can be used by certain CCMs to meet obligations under CMM 2023-01. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 53)</i></p>
	<p>20. TCC20 noted the advice from the Chair of the ERandEM IWG regarding the importance of encouraging potential EM providers in the WCPFC region to prioritise development of common standards for EM records and ancillary logs to allow interoperability across EM software platforms. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 54)</i></p>
	<p>21. TCC20 endorsed the high-level proposed work plan for the ER&EM-IWG for consideration by WCPFC21. (Annex 2). <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 55)</i></p>
	<p>22. TCC20 recognised the strong support from CCMs to review the port state measures CMM and welcomed the initiative of Fiji to lead intersessional work prior to WCPFC21 on Port State Measures and to report to WCPFC21 on progress made and the further work required. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 60)</i></p>
	<p>23. TCC20 recommended to the Commission that a review of CMM 2017-02 (Port State Minimum Standards) be undertaken in 2025. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 61)</i></p>

	24. TCC20 requested Fiji as Lead of intersessional work on Port State Measures to include the linkage between CMM 2017-02 (Port State Measures) and the MCS Data Rules in work on the review of the Port State Measures CMM, including with respect to the potential for CNM access to MCS data. (ref: <i>TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 63</i>)
	25. TCC20 requested Australia along with interested CCMs to bring a paper to WCPFC21 on an intersessional process to develop voluntary regional guidelines and best practices for the use of tools in conducting high seas boarding and inspections including, but not limited to, DNA testing, weight estimation, assessment of bycatch mitigation methods, collection and dissemination of photo and video evidence, and to update the Standardized Multi-language Questionnaire and report to TCC 21 for discussion and possible adoption at WCPFC22. (ref: <i>TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 67</i>)
	26. TCC20 recommended that the Commission renew CMM 2021-04 Charter Notification Scheme, recognising that paragraph 8 of CMM 2021-04 sets an expiry date of 28 February 2025. (ref: <i>TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 68</i>)

Addressing Scientific Data Gaps

TCC20	27. TCC20 recommended to the Commission at WCPFC21 that it include Table ST-01 set out in WCPFC-TCC20-2024-24 in the “Scientific Data to be Provided by the Commission (SciData)” as voluntary reporting items, taking into account the broad implementation concerns of several CCMs with respect to the collection of these data. (ref: <i>TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 64</i>)
	28. TCC20 supported the request from SC20 to the SSP to prepare a paper for SC21 on possible sea turtle data reporting requirements for vessels to record during fishing operations, for longline and purse seine vessels, to be incorporated in the annual reporting of Scientific Data to be provided to the Commission (SciData).

Additional Secretariat Tasks

TCC20	29. TCC20 tasked the Secretariat to include in future Annual Reports an overview of the engagement on compliance and monitoring undertaken with other RFMOs. (ref: <i>TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 4</i>)
	30. TCC20 recommended that the Commission task the Secretariat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. to publish on the website information about the list of Implementation Obligations which TCC has confirmed that all applicable CCMs have met the Audit Point, and the applicable reporting year (based on WCPFC-TCC20-2024-11, Annex 2, Part A and future final CMRs), b. to include an enhancement into the Annual Reporting system which supports tracking of relevant CCMs implementation gaps, c. to further consider ways to streamline and clarify annual reporting requirements for CCMs, and d. to provide updates on these tasks to TCC21. <p style="text-align: right;">(ref: <i>TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 18</i>)</p>
	31. TCC20 recommended to the Commission that it task the Secretariat to provide on an annual basis prior to TCC, an analysis of the obligations that have been assessed over time including their compliance rating. (ref: <i>TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 21</i>)
	32. TCC20 tasked the Secretariat to progress data exchange arrangements with RFMOs (IATTC, IOTC, CCSBT, SPRFMO and NPFC) over 2025, noting the need for reciprocity in

	data exchange, and provide an update on progress to TCC21 and WCPFC22. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 62)</i>
	33. TCC20 supported the Secretariat’s planned work related to the WCPFC Information and Network Security Governance Framework. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 75)</i>

Recommendations related to Election of Officers and Next Meeting

TCC20	34. TCC20 recommended to the Commission that it consider the appointments of TCC Chair and TCC Vice-Chair at WCPFC21. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 76)</i>
	35. TCC20 recommended to the Commission that it appoint Mr Lucas Tarapik (Papua New Guinea) as ROP-IWG Chair. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 77)</i>
	36. TCC20 recommended to the Commission that TCC21 be held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, from Wednesday 24 th September to Tuesday 30 th September 2025. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 78)</i>
	37. TCC20 recommended that the Commission at WCPFC21 schedules an in-person meeting of the ROP-IWG to be held adjacent with TCC21 in 2025. <i>(ref: TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 51)</i>

Provisional List of Obligations to be assessed by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in 2025

Fifty-two (52) obligations are proposed. The inclusion of some of the listed obligations (**), would be subject to updated or new Audit Points adoption at WCPFC21. If the total list of obligations with Audit Points is less than fifty obligations, then additional report (RP) or reporting deadline (DL) obligations could be added.

23 Quantitative Limit Obligations

- [CMM 2006-04 01](#) **QL** *Limit number of fishing vessels fishing for MLS south of 15S to 2000 – 2004 levels.*
- [CMM 2009-03 01](#) **QL** *Limit number of vessels fishing for SWO south of 20S to the number in any one year between 2000-2005.*
- [CMM 2009-03 02](#) **QL** *Limit the catch of SWO by its vessels in area south of 20S to the amount in any one year during 2000-2006.*
- [CMM 2009-06 29](#) **QL** *Limit on purse seine vessels transshipment outside of port to vessels that have received an exemption from the Commission. Where applicable, flag CCM authorisation should be vessel-specific and address any specific conditions identified by the Commission.*
- [CMM 2009-06 34](#) **QL** *Ban on high seas transshipment, unless a CCM has determined impracticability in accordance with para 37 guidelines, and has advised the Commission of such.*
- [CMM 2010-01 05](#) **QL** *NP striped marlin catch limits applicable to CCMs with vessels fishing in the Convention Area north of the equator: commencing 2011.*
- ******[CMM 2012-03 02](#) **QL** *CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort of each fishery fishing for fresh fish beyond the national jurisdiction in area N 20N. ***
- [CMM 2015-02 01](#) **QL** *Limit on number of vessels actively fishing for SP ALB south of 20S above 2005 or 2000-2004 levels.*
- [CMM 2016-02 02](#) **QL** *Vessels in EHSP may report sightings of any other fishing vessel to Secretariat*
- [CMM 2019-03 02](#) **QL** *CCMs take measures to ensure level of fishing effort by vessels fishing for NP ALB is not increased*
- [CMM 2023-01 24](#) **QL** *Purse seine EEZ limits (for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna) and advice from other coastal CCMs of EEZ limits to be applied.*
- [CMM 2023-01 25](#) **QL** *High seas purse seine effort limits applying 20N to 20S.*
- ******[CMM 2023-01 38](#) **QL** *Bigeye longline annual catch limits for 2024-2026, with adjustment to be made for any overage and certain CCMs may also increase the catch limit by committing to proportionate increase in observer coverage level above the minimum 5% ROP coverage level. ***
- [CMM 2023-01 41](#) **QL** *Bigeye longline catch limits by flag for certain other members which caught less than 2000t in 2004.*

- [CMM 2023-01 43](#) **QL** *Limit by flag on number of purse seine vessels >24m with freezing capacity between 20N and 20S.*
- [CMM 2023-01 44](#) **QL** *CCM reported whether it replaced any of its flagged large scale purse seine vessels in the previous year and has advised the Commission that the replacement vessel did not result in an increase in carrying capacity or an increase in catch or effort levels.*
- [CMM 2023-01 45](#) **QL** *Limit by flag on number of longline vessels with freezing capacity targeting bigeye above the current level (applying domestic quotas are exempt).*
- [CMM 2023-01 46](#) **QL** *Limit by flag on number of ice-chilled longline vessels targeting bigeye and landing exclusively fresh fish above the current level or above the number of current licenses under established limited entry programmes (applying domestic quotas are exempt).*
- ******[CMM 2023-01 48](#) **QL** *Limit on total catch of certain other commercial tuna fisheries (that take >2000Mt of BET, YFT and SKJ).* ******
- [CMM 2023-02 02](#) **QL** *Total effort by vessels for Pacific Bluefin limited to 2002 - 2004 levels in Area north of 20N.*
- [CMM 2023-02 03](#) **QL** *Pacific bluefin tuna catch limits for Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei applying from 2022.*
- [CMM 2023-02 04](#) **QL** *Pacific Bluefin 30kg or larger catch limits, by flag for certain other members.*
- ******[CMM 2023-03 02](#) **QL** *CCMs take measures to ensure fishing effort by fisheries taking more than 200mt of NP SWO N20N per year is limited to 2008 – 2010.* ******

6 Obligations recommended for annual review

- [CMM 2014-02 9a](#) **IM** *Fishing vessels comply with the Commission standards for WCPFC VMS including being fitted with ALC/MTU that meet Commission requirements;*
- [SciData 01](#) **RP** *Estimates of Annual Catches*
- [SciData 02](#) **RP** *Number of vessels active*
- [SciData 03](#) **RP** *Operational Level Catch and Effort Data*
- [SciData 05](#) **RP** *Size composition data*
- [CMM 2018-05 Annex C 06](#) **RP** *CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each fishery under the jurisdiction of the Commission*
- [CMM 2018-06 09](#) **RP** *Submission by Member to ED a list of all vessels on national record in previous year, noting FISHED or DID NOT FISH for each vessel*

18 Additional Implementation Obligations where TCC is yet to review Implementation using agreed Audit Points

Note that other IM obligations have been reviewed or are otherwise covered by the trial streamlining approach for IM obligations.

Operational requirements for fishing vessels

- [CMM 2006-08 07](#) **IM** *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.*
- [CMM 2014-02 9a](#) **VMS SSPs 5.4 - 5.5** **IM** *VMS Manual Reporting procedures.*
- [CMM 2018-06 04](#) **IM** *Vessels authorization requirement.*
- [CMM 2023-01 32](#) **IM** *Purse seine vessels are not to operate under manual reporting during FAD closure period.*

Additional measures for tropical tunas

- [CMM 2009-02 03-07](#) **IM** *FAD Closure Rules - high seas.*
- [CMM 2009-02 08-13](#) **IM** *Rules for Purse seine catch retention, including reporting - high seas.*
- ******[CMM 2023-01 13](#) **IM** *Purse seine 1 1/2 month FAD closure (1 July - 15 August).* ******
- ******[CMM 2023-01 14](#) **IM** *Annual advice on choice and implementation of one additional month high seas purse seine FAD closure (April, May, Nov or Dec).* ******
- [CMM 2023-01 16](#) **IM** *Required FAD design and construction specification requirements to reduce the risk of entanglement of sharks, sea turtles or other species (effective 1 Jan 2024).*
- [CMM 2023-01 21](#) **IM** *Each purse seine vessel is limited to no more than 350 FADs with activated instrumented buoys.*
- [CMM 2023-01 26](#) **IM** *CCMs not to transfer fishing effort in days fished in the purse seine fishery to areas N20N and S20S.*
- [CMM 2023-01 30](#) **IM** *Purse seine catch retention requirements (20N - 20S).*
- [CMM 2023-01 Att 2 04](#) **IM** *Philippines to ensure its flagged vessels report sightings of any fishing vessel to the Commission Secretariat (vessel type, date, time, position, markings, heading and speed).*
- [CMM 2023-01 Att 2 08](#) **IM** *Philippines to monitor landings by vessels operating in HSP1-SMA and collect reliable catch data by species.*

Observer activity related requirement

- [CMM 2009-06 13](#) **IM** *CCM shall ensure that vessels they are responsible for carry observers from the WCPFC ROP to observe transshipments at sea.*
- [CMM 2023-01 33](#) **IM** *Requirement for purse seine vessels to carry a ROP observer.*
- [CMM 2023-01 34](#) **IM** *100% purse seine coverage: specific rules for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under its national jurisdiction.*

Mitigating impacts of fishing on species of special interest

- [CMM 2022-04 16](#) **IM** Requirements to minimize bycatch of sharks in longline fisheries between 20N and 20S (effective 1 Jan 2024).

5 Daily catch and effort reporting obligations

- ****CMM 2022-06 01 IM/RP** Requirement to ensure the master of each vessel completes an accurate electronic log of every day that it spends at sea on the high seas of the Convention Area as specified (effective for most vessels as of 1 Jan 2024). **
- ****CMM 2022-06 02 IM/RP** Requirement that information recorded by the master of each vessel each day with fishing operations shall, at a minimum include the information as specified. **
- ****CMM 2022-06 03 IM/RP** Requirement that the master of each vessel fishing in the Convention Area provides an required information to its national authority within 15 days of the end of a trip or transshipment event. **
- ****CMM 2022-06 04 RP** Requirement to provide operational catch and effort data recorded by the master of each vessel each day with fishing operations to the Commission, and where possible in accordance with the agreed SSPs. **
- ****CMM 2022-06 05 IM/RP** Requirement that the master of each vessel fishing in the Convention Area provides an accurate and unaltered original or copy of the required information pertaining to the current trip on board the vessel at all times during the course of a trip. **

Additional report (RP) and report deadline (DL) obligations could be considered

- It is suggested these reflect topics that would be useful for a closer focus by TCC in 2025

** Inclusion will be subject to updated or new Audit Points adoption at WCPFC21 **

Annex 2
Proposed forward workplan for ER and EM IWG

Task	Working approach	Timing	Date to WCPFC
Proposed interim EM data requirements	EREMIWG intersessional	Oct-Nov 2024	WCPFC21 (Nov-24)
WCPFC paper containing recommendations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum EM Technical standards • Minimum EM data requirements • EM program reporting requirements • Forward IWG workplan 	EREMIWG intersessional and Chair	Oct-Nov 2024	WCPFC21 (Nov-24)
Review templates for Part 1 EM program reporting and other parts of the EM standards where standardized reporting would be of value to members.	EREMIWG with SC and TCC review	Feb-Jun 2025	
Provide advice on changes to the interim EM standards that would improve harmonization across RFMOs (based on outcomes of the ABNJ Tuna II “ <i>Electronic Monitoring Tuna RFMO Minimum Standards Harmonization Workshop</i> ” to be held in Dec-2024)	EREMIWG with SC and TCC review	Feb-Jun 2025	
Review EM data requirements based on relevant CMM requirements not already covered in the ROP minimum data fields	EREMIWG and ROPIWG with SC and TCC review		
Develop a proposed assurance / audit process based on ROP model	EREMIWG / WCPFC-Secretariat with SC and TCC review		
Initiate work on EM for LL transshipment both the LL and carrier vessel to allow adoption of EM standards for LL transshipment	EREMIWG and Transshipment IWG with SC and TCC review		