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**ANNUAL REPORT ON PORT INSPECTIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION STANDARDS FOR PORT STATE MEASURES**

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**WCPFC-TCC21-2025-RP07  
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**Submitted by the Secretariat**

## Purpose

1. This paper summarises information on port CCM activities under the Conservation and Management Measure on Minimum Standards for Port State Measures ([CMM 2017-02](#)).

## Introduction

2. The objective of CMM 2017-02 is to establish processes and procedures to guide CCMs who request that port inspections be undertaken in their ports on fishing vessels suspected of engaging in or supporting IUU fishing. The processes recognise the importance of:
  - exchanging information;
  - managing requests for inspections or inspection-related information; and
  - the need to set minimum requirements such as those relating to when port inspections are required.
3. CMM 2017-02 was intended to complement but not rely on the UN FAO Port State Measures Agreement ([PSMA](#)) or on CCMs being signatories. The CMM adds definition to some of the provisions of the PSMA such as the vessels to be inspected. CCMs can determine when WCPFC port minimum standard requirements will apply to them.
4. CMM 2017-02 was adopted one year after the PSMA took effect and was to be reviewed in 2019.

## Designation of ports and contacts

5. CMM 2017-02 encourages port State CCMs to designate ports for inspection, to identify specific contacts for port related purposes, and to provide these to the Executive Director.
6. As of July 2025, port related notifications from ten CCMs (Australia, France (French Polynesia, New Caledonia), Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tuvalu and the USA) are available on the WCPFC website at [WCPFC Port State Minimum Standards](#).

## General points on the operation of CMM 2017-02 and its review

7. CMM 2017-02 includes provisions<sup>1</sup> to assist developing CCMs and provides for the development of a mechanism to provide funding support to SIDS. Until recently, there has been limited implementation of port State measures by CCMs and the CMM has not been reviewed since it became effective in February 2018, despite the CMM provision that it shall be reviewed by the Commission within two years of taking effect.
8. In 2024, based on the recommendations of TCC20, the Commission took the following decision at WCPFC21:

### Decision

- a. *The Commission agreed that a review of CMM 2017-02 (Port State Measures) be undertaken in 2025.*
- b. *The Commission agreed that a Working Group be established under the leadership of Fiji on Port State Measures to work intersessionally with CCMs to undertake the review of CMM 2017-02 (Port State Measures) and prepare a workplan for 2025-2026.*

### Task

*The Commission tasks the lead on Port State Measures to include the linkage between CMM 2017-02 and MCS data rules in the work to review CMM 2017-02, including with respect to the potential for CMMs to access MCS data (WCPFC21 Summary Report, paragraphs 571 – 573).*

9. Discussions at the first meeting of the Port State Measures Intersessional Working Group (PSM-IWG) identified additional matters to be considered in the review:
  - a. Harmonisation with the PSM and other RFMOs within the Pacific regional context, to avoid duplication and inconsistency.
  - b. Standardisation of data fields and strengthening of information exchange.

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<sup>1</sup>paragraphs 22 to 27

- c. Minimum inspection standards and clearer procedures for port entry and access.
  - d. Linkages with related CMMs that may also relate to port measures such as for transshipment and High Seas Boarding and Inspection procedures.
  - e. Capacity building and flexibility for SIDS including funding mechanisms.
  - f. Addressing implementation challenges and improving communication/reporting between port CCMs, flag CCMs and the Secretariat.
10. This work is expected to be progressed at a further meeting of the PSM-IWG during TCC21.

### Annual Reporting

11. In 2022 to 2024, CCMs reported on CMM 2017-02 in their Annual Report Part 2 (AR Pt2). This was related to reporting on port CCM responsibilities for inspections, action taken in response to suspected IUU fishing activities, maintaining port contact details and requirements, and encouraging the use of SIDS CCM ports. Most of these requirements are applicable only to those CCMs who have designated ports and port contacts under CMM 2017-02.
12. Responses in AR Pt2 indicate that an increasing number of CCMs consider the requirements of CMM 2017-02 to be applicable. Responses from those that consider the CMM requirements were not applicable indicate that this is because:
- a. the CCM is not a party to the PSMA; or
  - b. they are still implementing the PSMA and/or they have not yet designated ports; or
  - c. have not yet notified the WCPFC Secretariat of their designated ports and contacts; or
  - d. they have no ports.
13. Port measures supplement CCM's MCS measures. Inspections of vessels entering CCMs' ports with fish caught in the Convention Area, whether to be landed or not, provides members with a greater opportunity to validate and verify reported data and information, which can then be shared with other CCMs to strengthen efforts to combat IUU fishing activities. This information sharing supports CCMs to allocate and target inspection resources based on informed risk assessments.
14. In 2025, CCMs reported on how they encouraged the use of SIDS CMM ports. There were seven CCMs that this obligation was applicable to; and all indicated actions in support of this obligation. Examples provided included a CCM actively promoting the use of SIDS ports by their flagged fishing vessels while others limited activities at sea e.g. transshipments, to require port visits. Some SIDS indicated that they provide facilities for all SIDS use and encourage their own vessels to use SIDS ports when needed.
15. There are no obligations for CMM 2017-02 included in the 2025 Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR) for Reporting Year 2024.

### Linkage to CCM implementation of the UN FAO Port State Measures Agreement

16. As at August 2025, 24 CCMs<sup>2</sup> are parties to the [PSMA](#). Others are implementing port-related regimes, some with the intent to become a signatory to the PSMA.
17. FAO has developed the [Global Information Exchange System](#) (GIES) to support and encourage countries to become parties to, and fully implement, the PSMA. GIES is a mechanism to facilitate the sharing of information among port and flag States to maximise the effectiveness of a range of international instruments including the PSMA, in preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing. RFMOs such as WCPFC are seen as playing an important role in ensuring cohesive regional port State measures across their region and memberships.
18. As some CCMs are already using GIES to lodge and share port-related documentation, the FAO has sought access to the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) through an Application Programming Interface (API).

<sup>2</sup>As at 18 August 2025: Members: Australia, Canada, China, European Union, Fiji, France, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Tonga, Tuvalu, USA, Vanuatu. CNMs: the Bahamas, Ecuador, Liberia, Panama, Thailand, Viet Nam.

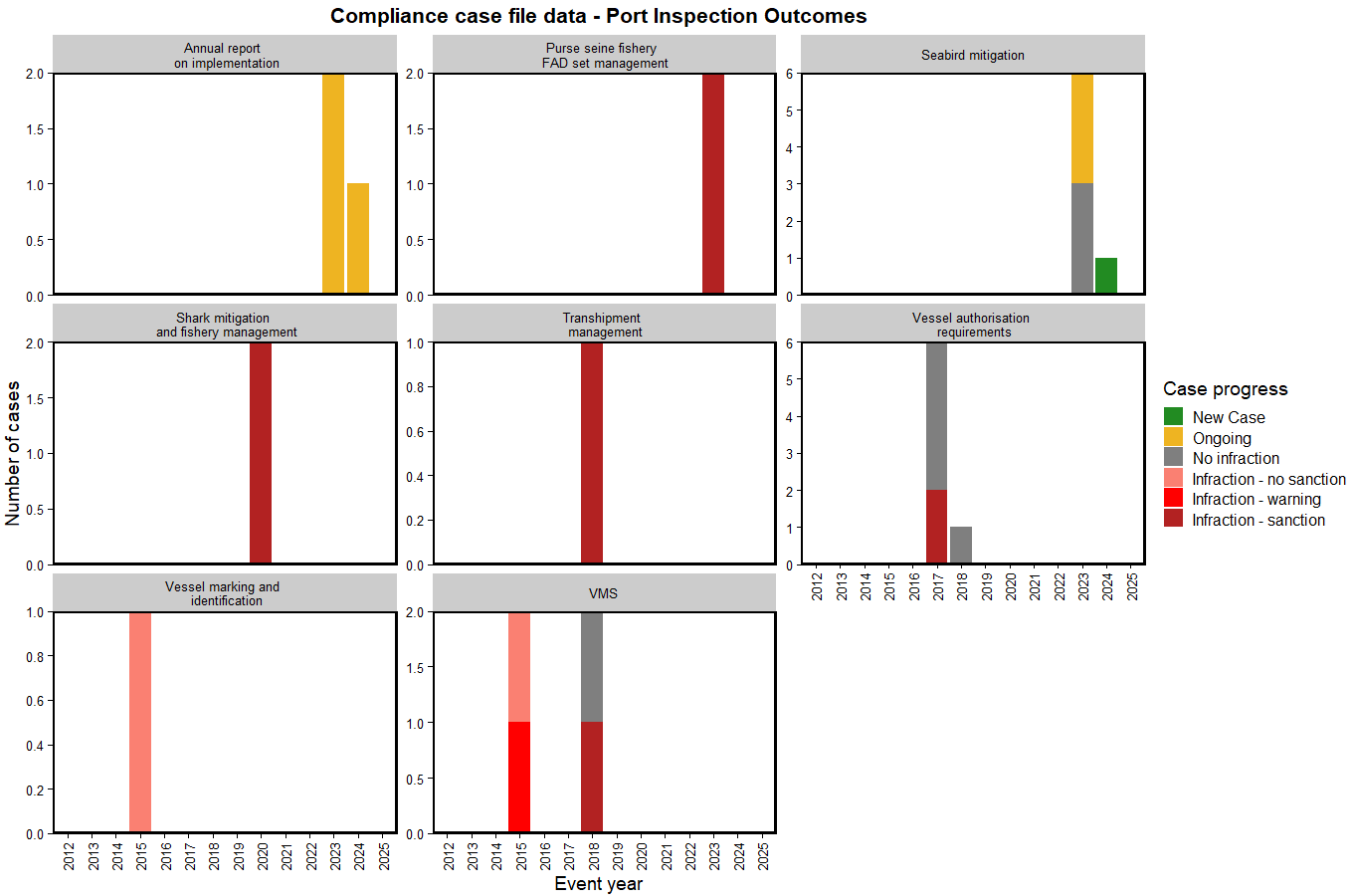
The Secretariat is awaiting further information from FAO on their review to compare WCPFC and FAO GIES data and data standards.

19. During 2024, GIES began providing notifications to WCPFC of port documentation lodged by countries who nominated WCPFC as recipient of port inspection information. Access to the documentation has now been enabled allowing integration into existing Commission processes, mainly to support Article 25(2) case creation where potential violations of WCPFC CMMs are reported. There have been no reports from GIES during 2025.

#### Summary of compliance cases

20. Some Article 25(2) cases have been from port CCM inspection reports.
21. Figure 1 shows port CCM compliance cases and their outcomes from 2013-2025.

Figures



**Figure 1: Summary of the outcomes of flag CCM Article 25(2) investigations of alleged infringements recorded from Port Inspection activities (for 2013-2025).**