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Update to the HSBI multi-language questionnaire

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Submitted by China and Australia

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to present proposed updates to the High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) multi-language questionnaire by China, Australia and participants of the HSBI working group for consideration by WCPFC22.

Background

2. At WCPFC21 (December 2024), the Commission agreed to a 2025 intersessional process to update the multi-language questionnaire and develop voluntary guides for the use of conducting high seas boarding and inspection ([WCPFC21 Outcomes and Summary report Attachment 25](#)). The HSBI working group met three times prior to TCC21.
3. TCC21 noted the update from the HSBI WG Chair on the progress to develop revised Standardized Multilanguage Questionnaire ([TCC21-2025-24F rev3](#)). TCC21 encouraged CCMs to continue to work with the Australia to finalise draft revisions to the HSBI Standardized Multilanguage Questionnaire for consideration and adoption at WCPFC22.
4. Following TCC21 Australia and China reviewed the multi-language questionnaire and consider proposed updates. The key changes include:
 - i. updates to the structure of the questionnaire to clarify questions that can be asked during the initial radio contact, prior to boarding and during the boarding;
 - ii. simplified language to assist with radio communication by considering the efficiency of the communication;
 - iii. additional questions to raise awareness of the rights and obligations during the HSBI, corresponding to the HSBI procedures prescribed in the CMM 2006-08;
 - iv. questions to strengthen safety considerations; and
 - v. the inclusion of questions related to provisions in the HSBI measure, with reference to serious violations at Attachment 1.

5. The proposed updates to the multi-language questionnaire were circulated to HSBI WG participants on Wednesday 29 October by the HSBIWG Chair. Additional comments were received from some participants and were included in the draft uploaded to the Commission website on 1 November which is available here:

[HSBI Standardized Multi-Language Questionnaire](#) | WCPFC22-2025-13f

6. We recognise that other CCMs may still need to consider these updates and the HSBI WG chair will seek to hold session of the HSBIWG in the margins of WCPFC22 to finalise proposed changes to the questionnaire and the HSBI guides. CCMs are encouraged to send any final comments and suggested edits to HSBI WG Chair and WCPFC secretariat ahead of WCPFC22.
7. A CMM2013-06 assessment was conducted by the HSBI WG Chair and is included at **Attachment A**.

Attachment A

Application of CMM 2013-06

The following information is provided to assist the Commission to determine the nature and extent of the impact of the draft voluntary guides for High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI Guides) and the amendments to the Multi Language Questionnaire on SIDS and territories in the Convention Area as per the requirements of CMM 2013-06.

a. Who is required to implement the proposal?

The proposed HSBI guides and questionnaire are voluntary in nature and will be available to all CCMs to use as they determine necessary. The HSBI working group Chair together with the WCPFC secretariat will ensure the final documents are available on the WCPFC website where all CCMs can access them.

b. Which CCMs would this proposal impact and in what way(s) and what proportion?

This proposal will have an impact on all CCMs conducting high seas boarding and inspections (HSBI) and CCMs whose vessels are subject to HSBI activities. The HSBI guides are intended to outline minimum standards for conducting inspection activities and strengthen consistency in how inspections are conducted by all CCMs.

The updates to the questionnaire will reduce the burden on all parties involved through helping improving communication during HSBI activities.

c. Are there linkages with other proposals or instruments in other regional fisheries management organizations or international organizations that reduce the burden of implementation?

Yes, the HSBI guides and questionnaire will be publicly available and can be considered by other RFMOs as needed.

d. Does the proposal affect development opportunities for SIDS?

No.

e. Does the proposal affect SIDS domestic access to resources and development aspirations?

No.

f. What resources, including financial and human capacity, are needed by SIDS to implement the proposal?

The HSBI guides and questionnaire are voluntary tools that are intended to support the HSBI process. They are a resource that will assist SIDS conducting HSBI activities to effectively meet the requirements of the HSBI measure 2006-08. There are no additional financial human resources requirements needed to use the voluntary HSBI guides and questionnaire.

g. What mitigation measures are included in the proposal?

There are no specific SIDs measures included in the proposed HSBI guides and questionnaire as these documents are intended to assist SIDs and any CCM that conduct HSBI activities.

h. What assistance mechanisms and associated timeframe, including training and financial support, are included in the proposal to avoid a disproportionate burden on SIDS?

Subject to CCM adopting the proposed voluntary guides, Australia in collaboration with the FFA and other interested parties, can deliver training and further guidance to SIDs on the updated HSBI guides and associated processes. These guides and the questionnaire will provide an enduring benefit to SIDs through improving the guidance, consistency and communication during HSBI activities.