



Virtual Meeting 1 of PSM-WG

13 March 2025 10:00am – 1:30pm (Pohnpei time)

Chair's Summary Report

Agenda Item 1. Welcome and Initial Remarks

1. The first Meeting of the Port State Measures Working Group (PSM-WG01) was held virtually on 13 March 2025, from 10:00am to 1:30pm Pohnpei time. The Chair of the Port State Measures Working Group, Meli Raicebe (Fiji), called the meeting to order at 10:00am.
2. The Chair welcomed meeting participants and expressed appreciation to the participants that had registered and attended the virtual meeting. The Chair highlighted that the meeting was the first of engagements that would take place throughout the year during the process of reviewing the Port State Measures CMM.
3. The WG adopted the agenda without amendment (Attachment 1).
4. Participants in PSM-WG01 included representatives from Australia, Canada, France, Japan, Nauru, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei, United States, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, Pew Charitable Trusts and the Secretariat. A list of participants is provided in Attachment 2.
5. The Chair explained that the purpose of the meeting was to obtain initial feedback from CCMs on their expectations concerning the key areas that CCMs believe should be addressed as part of the review of the Port State Measures CMM, to ensure that comments raised during WCPFC21 are taken into account, and that there is sufficient feedback to progress this important work.

Agenda Item 2. Introduction of Members and Initial Remarks in PSM Review

6. The Chair invited participants in the PSM-WG01 to provide any opening remarks.
7. All participants thanked Fiji for its leadership of this important work. The United States noted that Port State Measures were important to the region and urged those CCMs that had not done so to become party to the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). Australia saw the importance of ensuring that the CMM better reflect the PSMA in the area of pre-notification and data fields and were interested in seeing whether CCMs were interested in going further than the PSMA such as in the area of minimum inspection requirements and whether other issues should be addressed including flexibility in some of the requirements. France stressed the importance of the work and the links between port State measures and HSBI, and the advantage of examining the way in which port State measures is addressed in other RFMOs. Japan noted that it had already implemented several port State measures and noted that its interest was in ensuring harmonisation between various measures, including the PSMA and

those measures of other RFMOs, such as in the area of data harmonisation. New Zealand noted that the implementation of port State measures in the WCPFC region tended to be low and wished to see harmonisation between the PSMA and the WCPFC CMM, while ensuring that anything agreed at the regional level did not create duplicative work for port States in the region. Pew suggested that consideration should be given to greater standardisation, mandating minimum standards for port inspections, procedures for denial of port access, and use of GIES and other systems to improve data exchange. Pew also noted that there should also be capacity assistance available to developing States and consideration given to how WCPFC can assist with that.

8. The Chair noted the consensus among participants that the Port State Measures CMM is an important tool to address IUU fishing as a contribution to the protection of resources. However, there are limitations in the current measure, including in such area as standard minimum data fields to ensure they reflect the PSMA, and procedures for denial of port entry where a port State is not able to conduct inspections. Some participants asked whether there is any room to move further than the PSMA, or whether progress should be limiting to what is feasible at the regional level. There is consensus on the importance of capacity assistance for SIDS if the measure is to be developed further and the need to ensure harmonisation among different measures.

Agenda Item 3. Brief on Outcomes of WCPFC21

9. The Secretariat introduced [WCPFC-PSMWG01-2025-WP01](#).

10. Key points raised in the ensuing discussions included the following:

- The WCPFC region is unique and the CMM should not duplicate the work that CCMs are currently doing. It was considered useful to identify the gaps in the measure and where there is room for further harmonization with the PSMA.
- A question was raised concerning the reference to the application of the measure not being limited to foreign vessels, as in the PSMA, for the reason that this could transfer a disproportionate share of the burden of implementation to SIDS. In response it was suggested that this was a reference to the point in the measure that once ports are designated, there is an expectation that inspections would be conducted, whereas a CCM may not be in a position to undertake that level of inspection and may lack the capacity to do so.
- A question was raised concerning data sharing with CNMs as there is currently no rule which allows such data sharing in order to conduct port inspections. The Secretariat noted that it has not given further consideration as to how such data sharing could be operationalized and it was up to this Working Group to determine how CNMs can receive data that may be useful for port inspections consistent with the Data Rules.

11. The Chair summarized the discussion noting that there are some key items that have been identified from the presentation and past meetings at TCC19, TCC20, WCPFC 20 and WCPFC21 which the Working Group will need to consider, including key areas of focus such as the relationship between transshipment and port inspections, and harmonization with the PSMA, but not necessarily duplication. There are also additional areas of focus raised at this meeting that should be factored in to help guide the work in the coming months.

Agenda Item 4. Brief on Tentative Work Plan

12. The Chair presented the Tentative Work Plan, explaining the timelines set out in the Work Plan, and noted that there were no further comments on the Tentative Work Plan.

13. The Working Group adopted the Tentative Work Plan (Attachment 3).

Agenda Item 5. Open Discussions on Work Plan

14. The following were raised as areas of key focus for the review of the measure.

15. In addition to what was discussed at previous WCPFC meetings and included in the Work Plan, principle or key areas of focus for amendments to the measure could include:

- Harmonization and standardization of data requirements with those of the PSMA.
- Review of requirements in existing CMMs that relate to port State measures in order to maximize the linkages and ensure the CMMs are integrated.
- Consideration of the scope of existing provisions of the measure relating to capacity building for SIDS and whether these were sufficient.
- Identification of gaps in the current CMM and where additional detail would be useful, such as on port arrivals and denial of port access, and what inspections could cover.
- Review of data sharing arrangements with a view to strengthening data exchange requirements within the WCPFC Data Rules and considering how those data sharing arrangements will be applied.
- Identification of implementation challenges and the applicability of the measure.

16. The Secretariat addressed the potential for its involvement in progressing the Work Plan through the following:

- The Working Group could identify areas of review or analysis that could assist in progressing the Work Plan which the Secretariat could undertake between April 2025 and TCC21.
- The Secretariat can provide information both through the webpage and through circulation to the participants' list. CCMs were encouraged to nominate contact people for the Working Group. Information could also be released to the wider WCPFC membership through circulars.
- Electronic exchanges between the participants are considered to be an important mechanism to progress work intersessionally.

17. Japan noted that in its view the PSMA should be the basis of the measure because the PSMA is a balanced agreement and divergence from the PSMA is very difficult for some CCMs. The CMM is voluntary because some CCMs do not allow foreign fishing vessels to enter their ports and some do not have the capacity to undertake port State measures in their ports.

18. France proposed two additional areas of focus that it would like to see addressed in the review. First, it would be useful to define a minimum requirement for port inspection, so that each CCM is aware that there are some controls or inspections conducted in port within certain limits,

while not deterring vessels from entering ports and not encouraging transshipment at sea. Second, it is important to strengthen the communication between the port CCM, Secretariat and flag CCM on inspection reports and the action that can be taken in the event of evidence of an infringement. The CMM now is focused on communication once a port request is sent to another port State to conduct an inspection, if this is not possible during the previous port visit for various reasons, not on wider communication.

19. The Chair requested comments from colleagues that conduct HSBI and how they address current boarding and inspections that take place in port. New Zealand referred to the earlier comments of Australia regarding widening the scope of port inspection to include not just inspection of the fish and the catch, but other aspects such as gear and mitigation measures. Australia confirmed that it will give further consideration to these points and may respond via email.

Agenda Item 6. Summary and Close of Meeting

20. The Chair expressed appreciation to all participants and confirmed that additional updates would be provided electronically. The Chair also confirmed that CCMs and observers may still submit nominations for inclusion on the distribution list for the intersessional process, and contributions, particularly written submissions, from all interested CCMs and observers would continue to be welcomed throughout the intersessional period.
21. The Chair explained that the Chair's summary and feedback from the meeting will be circulated to participants by the end of March. The final summary will be included on the webpage for Port State Measures Working Group.
22. The Chair closed the meeting at 11.45 am Pohnpei time.



Virtual Meeting 1 of PSM-WG

13 March 2025 10:00 – 13:30 (Pohnpei time)

Adopted Agenda

ONLINE MEETING ON THE REVIEW OF CMM 2017- 02 PORT STATES MEASURE		
AGENDA 1	WELCOME AND INITIAL REMARKS	FIJI
AGENDA 2	INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND INITIAL REMARKS IN PSM REVIEW	MEMBERS
AGENDA 3	BRIEF ON OUTCOMES OF WCPFC21	WCPFC SECRETARIAT
AGENDA 4	BRIEF ON TENTATIVE WORK PLAN	FIJI
AGENDA 5	OPEN DISCUSSIONS ON WORK PLAN	MEMBERS
AGENDA 6	SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION OF MEETING	FIJI

FIRST MEETING OF THE PORT STATE MEASURES WORKING GROUP

ONLINE
13 March 2025

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Excerpt from Circular 2025/06

**Schedule for the review of WCPFC CMM 2017-02 for 2025
Conservation and Management Measure on Port State Minimum Standards**

Timeline	Detailed Activity
14th week of March	First online meeting: Opportunity for CCMs to provide further comments on the current CMM and feedback on the draft work plan.
Last week of March	Circulation of summary of discussion and the identification of key areas of the review.
Early April - late June	Development of initial draft amendment text on CMM 2017-02
23 - 30 September	In-person meeting to discuss development as outcomes of WCPFC21.
October	Proposed online meeting to discuss post TCC development and progress of work plan and status of work.
December	Summary of progress to be presented to WCPFC22 and an opportunity for face-to-face meeting to progress the review and update the Work Plan as required.