

**TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS,  
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES AND OBSERVERS**

**Circular No.: 2025/54**

**Date: 29 August 2025**

**No. pages: 2**

**Subject: Re-commencing ERandEM IWG intersessional work**

Dear ERandEM IWG Participants,

Thank you for your continued dedication to the important work of the Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring Intersessional Working Group (ERandEM-IWG). The United States is honored to assume the role of interim lead for the Commission's Electronic Monitoring (EM) initiative. In my capacity as Chair, I am committed to working collaboratively with all IWG members to build on the progress achieved to date and to support the continued advancement of our shared objectives.

Let me take the opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the previous IWG Chair, Dr. Shelton Harley, for his exemplary leadership and significant contributions in guiding the work of the IWG—particularly his efforts in facilitating the adoption of the Commission's Interim EM Standards at WCPFC21 in Fiji. I also extend my appreciation to Mr. Dan Gilmete for his thoughtful efforts in helping to chart a clear and constructive path forward for the continued development of EM within the WCPFC framework.

As we look ahead, I will be attending TCC21 and participating in the ROP-IWG, where I intend to establish a close working relationship with Mr. Lucas Tarapik, Chair of the ROP-IWG, in recognition of the strong interlinkages between our respective areas of work. I will also engage with Mr. Karl Staisch, the WCPFC's Regional Observer Programme (ROP) consultant, to gain a deeper understanding of the ROP audit process — an essential element in designing consistent and effective assurance and audit mechanisms for the WCPFC EM Programme.

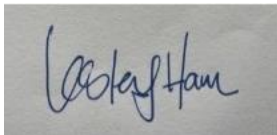
In planning for the remainder of 2025, I will be guided by the adopted work plan, with particular reference to the outcomes of the Electronic Monitoring Minimum Standards Harmonization Workshop, and will seek additional input from members during TCC21. Currently, I do not intend to convene an ERandEM IWG meeting in the margins of TCC21 allowing time to become fully acquainted with the IWG's work and to engage with members individually. However, should the need arise during consultations with members, I will seek the indulgence of Mr Mat Kertesz, the TCC Chair, to allow and schedule an informal session.

I expect to outline a clear path forward following TCC21 and intend to convene an intersessional meeting on Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. This meeting will be held online between 10am –1pm Pohnpei time (UTC+11). An agenda for this meeting, outlining key tasks and priorities for 2025, will be circulated shortly after TCC21.

I also wish to take this opportunity to update the IWG contact list. Earlier this year, Commission Members were asked to confirm their continued interest in participating in the ERandEM-IWG. If you have not yet done so, I kindly ask that you confirm your participation by emailing both me at [Lesley.Hawn@noaa.gov](mailto:Lesley.Hawn@noaa.gov) and the Deputy Compliance Manager, Ms. Eidre Sharp, at [Eidre.Sharp@wcpfc.int](mailto:Eidre.Sharp@wcpfc.int).

I look forward to engaging with many of you at TCC21 and to continuing our collective efforts to strengthen the Commission's EM framework.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lesley Hawn", on a light-colored rectangular background.

Lesley Hawn  
**Interim ERandEM-IWG CHAIR**