

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

**Circular No.: 2015/57
Date: 3 September 2015
No. pages: 2**

**RE: Letter from TCC Chair advising of arrangements for the review of the draft
Compliance Monitoring Reports**

Dear All,

Further to Circular 2015-43 please find attached a letter from the TCC Chair confirming the arrangements for the review by TCC11 of the draft Compliance Monitoring Scheme after her consultations with CCMs.

A copy of this circular will also be conveyed to accredited observers that are expected to attend TCC11.

Yours sincerely,



**Feleti P Teo, OBE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

3 September 2015

Earlier this summer, we sent out a Circular (Circular 2015-43) seeking views from CCMs on whether we would conduct the Compliance Monitoring Scheme evaluations in open or closed session. I asked if any CCMs know now that they will object to undertaking the Compliance Monitoring Scheme process in open session that they inform me and the Compliance Manager of that fact, along with the grounds of their objection. I also note that this would not, in any way, prejudice any CCMs' right to raise, waive or modify their objections at TCC11.

I noted that it was my intention to undertake the assessment under the Compliance Monitoring Scheme in open session unless I received objections from CCMs regarding access to their non-public domain data or any other valid objections under the WCPFC rules of procedure or relevant data rules that could be resolved prior to TCC11. In direct response to the Circular, I heard from four CCMs. All four CCMs expressed some concern with conducting the work in open session, and for at least two CCMs, it seems unlikely that their concerns will be resolved prior to TCC11. One CCM responded to the issue of transparency more broadly and supported access by observers to working groups.

My goal in seeking these views in advance of TCC11 was to be able to provide observers with some advance notice if it appeared likely that we would conduct our work in closed session again this year. Although not their desired outcome, it will allow them to plan their travel accordingly.

Therefore, based on the responses received, I am asking the Secretariat to notify accredited observers that there is a decent possibility that we will conduct the CMS process in a closed working group session as in years past. However, I also note that we will revisit this issue at the HOD meeting and in the plenary session in order to ensure that all CCMs have an opportunity to have their views heard and a final decision on the process will be made at that time.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in a few weeks for what I hope will be a collaborative and productive meeting. If you have any questions or concerns in advance of TCC11, please do not hesitate to contact me at alexa.cole@noaa.gov.

Alexa Cole
TCC Chair