



**COMMISSION  
FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA  
10 – 14 December, 2018

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**SWG CNM Report (Final)**

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**WCPFC15-2018-CNM\_SWG01  
13 December 2018  
1035**

**Submitted by  
CNM SWG Chair**

The informal SWG considering CNM status made the following recommendations and observations:

1. The SWG noted with appreciation the attendance and participation of Ecuador, Liberia, Panama and Nicaragua.
2. The SWG agreed to recommend that the CNMs accepted by the WCPFC plenary (i.e. Ecuador, El Salvador, Liberia, Thailand and Vietnam) have the same participatory rights in 2019 as they had in 2018.
3. Noting Nicaragua was a new CNM applicant, the SWG asked Nicaragua for further information on its compliance in IATTC and ICCAT, and to outline its prospective interests in the WCPFO.
4. Nicaragua submitted documentation, including a letter of good standing from IATTC and evidence that no Nicaraguan flagged vessel was on either the IATTC or ICCAT IUU Vessel List. Nicaragua explained that it was a Member of ICCAT, but had no active fishing vessels in its Convention Area. Nicaragua affirmed its commitment to make a voluntary contribution. On the basis of the information provided, the SWG agreed to recommend that the Commission accept Nicaragua's application.
5. With respect to Nicaragua's participatory rights, the SWG recommends that Nicaragua's participatory rights should be limited to purse seine fishing for one vessel, with no participatory rights for fishing on the high seas for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area. The SWG further agreed to recommend that any introduction of fishing capacity is to be in accordance with paragraph 12 of CMM 2009-11 and CMM 2017-01 or its replacement measure.
6. The SWG noted that Mexico had neither attended the Commission meeting nor responded to the Executive Director's letter, and that this made it challenging to assess Mexico's application. Some members reiterated the importance of accepting a commitment to accept high seas boarding and inspection and a voluntary contribution; while other Members indicated flexibility on these aspects, noting that such commitments can be difficult to make in the absence of a binding treaty-level obligation.
7. There was no consensus to recommend acceptance of Mexico's CNM status.
8. The SWG considered Panama's application, noting the TCC's advice that Panama had submitted its Part 1 and Part 2 Reports on time but that there were reporting gaps that could require clarification, and that some CCMs had also noted that Panama is consistently non-compliant in SPRFMO .
9. Panama explained that it had worked closely with the SPRFMO Secretariat to address its outstanding data and compliance issues.
10. The SWG, with the support of Panama, recommends to WCPFC15 that Panama's application be accepted, and that Panama should:
  - a. Prepare an action plan outlining how it will improve its compliance with WCPFC, including to ensure that relevant data is provided on time and any improvement to its internal procedures necessary to improve its cooperation with WCPFC. This Action Plan should be provided to the Commission by no later than the end of January 2019, and circulated to all CCMs;
  - b. Provide all outstanding data by no later than the end of January 2019 to the Secretariat;
  - c. Enhance its engagement with the Secretariat to ensure it can meet relevant reporting requirements
11. The SWG agreed that Panama's participatory rights should remain as they were in 2018.