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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW REPORT
OF THE WCPFC MCS AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAMMES

WCPFC-TCC15-2019-05
18 September 2019

Paper prepared by the Secretariat

Purpose

1. This paper presents the Executive Director's Overview Report of the WCPFC Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and Compliance Programmes. The Report purports to provide a consolidated overview and synopsis of the key issues and challenges confronting each of the compliance tool and programme that constitute the Commission's integrated MCS and Compliance programme. The details of each of the compliance tools and programmes are the subject of other working papers. The structure of the Report reflects the priorities and their order of significance as contained in the TCC Workplan 2019 – 2021¹ (TCC15 agenda number and referenced working papers are provided in brackets and in italics for ease of reference).²

Priority Issues forwarded from the Commission

2. The work of the TCC is also guided by the directives from the Commission and at the WCPFC15 the Commission tasked TCC15 to consider, inter alia, the following matters:
- i. the development of a process for assessing CCM actions in accordance with para 7(ii)(b) to replace para 27 of CMM 2018-07 [*Agenda 5.3(a)*];
 - ii. review of Commission reporting requirements and provide advice to the Commission on removing duplicative reporting while ensuring the Commission's data needs are met [*Agenda 5.3(b) – TCC15-2019-10A*];
 - iii. the development of audit points to clarify the Commission's obligations assessed under the CMS, as well as the development of a checklist to be used by the proponents of any proposal to include a list of potential audit points for the consideration of the Commission [*Agenda 5.3(c)*];

¹ The TCC Workplan 2019 -2021 can be found TCC15-2019-IP13

² TCC15 Agenda as at 6 June 2019 and TCC15 Provisional List of Documents as at 18 September 2019

- iv. the development of a risk-based assessment framework to inform compliance assessments and ensure obligations are meeting the objectives of the Commission [Agenda 5.3(d)];
- v. explore investment in technology solutions to facilitate improvements to the compliance case file system [Agenda 5.3(e)];
- vi. the development of the guidelines for participation of observers in closed meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies which consider the Compliance Monitoring Report [Agenda 5.3(f)];
- vii. consider options to mitigate the impacts of an unscheduled disruption to Secretariat services on the CMS [Agenda 5.4(a)];
- viii. support efforts by CCMs and the Secretariat to continue technical work intersessionally to optimize TCC's efficiency evaluating CCM's VMS compliance [Agenda 8.1(b) – TCC15-2019-RP01];
- ix. develop improved mechanisms for the flow of observer information from ROP providers to CCMs needing such information for their investigations, including through considering the outcome from TCC Working Group on flow of observer reports and observer conduct [Agenda 8.2(b)];
- x. further development of protocols, observer data forms including electronic forms and the database, as needed, to better monitor transshipments at sea, particularly in the high seas [Agenda 8.3(a)];
- xi. review the transshipment measure (CMM 2009-06), through an IWG [Agenda 8.3(b) – TCC15-2019-13];
- xii. consider the outcomes of the review of the Commission's data needs and collection programmes (SC Project 93) [Agenda 9.2 – TCC15-2019-14];
- xiii. develop information and advice to promote compliance with the south Pacific Albacore CMM (2015-02 and successor measures) and improve its effectiveness, including providing technical and compliance advice for the development and implementation of the south Pacific albacore roadmap [Agenda 11.2(c)]; and
- xiv. consider outputs of the shark IWG, and provide advice related to the development/implementation of a consolidated Sharks measure. [Agenda 11.3(c) – TCC15-2019-15]

Suggested Action:

3. TCC15 will be asked, at the appropriate point of the agenda, to consider the above priority issues with the view to advise WCPFC16.

The WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Scheme.

[Agenda 5 - TCC15-2019-08A, 08B, IP01_rev1, IP04, IP07, IP08, IP09, IP10, IP11, IP12]

4. The draft Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR) to be prepared and issued by the Secretariat in late July each year, is one of the key inputs to the Compliance Monitoring Scheme. Thirty-six (36) CCMs and one collective group of Members received draft CMRs from the Secretariat on 2 August 2019 and in the said reports approximately 277 potential issues were highlighted. The full draft CMR, which incorporated replies from twenty-five (25) CCMs, and highlights 159 potential issues, was made available to CCMs on 10 September 2019. Approximately 3,083 cases related to alleged infringements (excluding pre-notification issues that are not observer obstruction issues) are presently notified in the online WCPFC Compliance Case file system for 2015 – 2019, and each individual case has information about the alleged infringement and the status of the investigation undertaken by the flag CCM and any findings. At the time of writing flag CCMs have advised the Secretariat that they consider investigation completed for approximately 1674 cases. A paper that overviews the Secretariat support to the Compliance Monitoring Scheme, including the associated online annual reporting and online compliance case file systems is provided in TCC15-2019-08A.

5. The Secretariat's strategy to managing the work requirements of producing on schedule the draft CMR, has included careful work planning; continued efforts to incrementally build and enhance the WCPFC Information Management System (IMS) hosted databases for centralizing records of CMM reporting; and the development of integrated MCS analytical tools at the Secretariat. The Commission has provided budgetary resources that have been used to develop and enhance the WCPFC IMS hosted databases for CMM reporting at the Secretariat, to develop the WCPFC online reporting systems and more recently the online WCPFC Compliance Case File System. The services provided by these improvements to the IMS and the online compliance casefile system have been fully utilized by CCMs and has helped CCMs submit their annual reports on schedule. These efforts have assisted the Secretariat with meeting the deadline for issuing the draft CMR.

6. Feedback is welcomed from CCMs on suggested enhancements that could continue to assist CCMs in their use and management of cases in the online WCPFC Compliance Case File system and noting that TCC workplan 2019-2021 tasks TCC15 to "explore investment in technology solutions to facilitate improvements to the compliance case file system". The Compliance Case File system has increased the Compliance Monitoring Scheme workload for the Secretariat and CCMs, but this potentially provides an additional source of information that is relevant to TCCs priority tasks with respect to the monitoring and review of compliance and implementation of cooperative MCS and enforcement.

7. Since 2012, the Commission has maintained an annual budget of \$100,000 for IMS developments and a modest provision of \$18,000 for online publishing through the website. In 2019, an additional budgetary allocation was provided for CMS Future Work with a note that \$20,000 is for development of CMS systems and \$80,000 is for implementation of new CMS requirements. The Secretariat acknowledges the ongoing support from IMS contractor Taz-E and website contractor Eighty Options to assist the Secretariat with the development and ongoing support provided to the Commissions integrated MCS/Compliance Information Management System and associated online IT tools to date.

8. The Secretariat also acknowledges the contribution of SPC-OFP colleagues as a source of information for the draft CMRs. SPC-OFP continues to provide advice on the completeness of scientific data provision by CCMs, ROP data submission and available information on purse-seine and longline observer coverage, bycatch fishery interaction estimates summarized in the ROP Annual Report and catch and effort table summaries for tropical tuna CMMs (CMM 2018-01) and south Pacific albacore (CMM 2015-02). Since 2016, SPC-OFP colleagues have also continued to

provide considerable assistance to the Secretariat so that ROP-data can continue to be used as a source in the online Compliance Case File system. These contributions by SPC-OFP to the Compliance Monitoring Scheme and TCC priority work is funded in part through the Scientific Services (SPC) and ROP Data Management budget line items in the Commission budget.

9. The draft CMRs also reviewed a significant amount of information from multiple legitimate sources that can usefully inform the TCC's review of the technical and compliance matters under existing CMMs during the 2018 calendar year. There are also other meeting papers that provide information and perspectives that may support reviews of technical and compliance matters arising under existing CMMs and in respect of the Commission MCS programmes.

Suggested Action:

10. TCC15 is expected to spend a considerable time of its meeting to review the draft CMR with the view to recommend a provisional CMR to WCPFC16.

The IUU Vessel List

[Agenda 3 – TCC15-2019-06; TCC15-2019-06A]

11. The WCPFC IUU Vessel List for 2019 includes three (3) vessels that are maintained from the previous year's list and there are no updates on these vessels. No vessels are included on the draft IUU vessel list as there were no submissions from CCMs for inclusion of any vessel. TCC15 will review the vessels currently on the IUU vessel list

12. TCC15-2019-06A compiles information on the IUU vessel cross-listing procedures of other tuna RFMOs. The paper is for noting.

Review of Cooperating Non-Member applications

[Agenda 4 – TCC15-2019-07]

13. Eight (8) requests have been received for renewal of Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status in 2019, seven (7) were from current CNMs and one (1) is a new CNM request. The supporting paper TCC15-2019-07 provides the dates of receipt of each request, the status of financial contributions and includes as attachments copies of letters and communications related to the requests. TCC15 will review these requests and advise the WCPFC16 as it deems appropriate.

Monitor obligations relating to Small Island Developing States and territories

[Agenda 5 and 7 – TCC15-2019-RP01-08, 08A, 08B, RP10]

14. Working paper TCC15-2019-08B summarizes Capacity Assistance needs identified by CCMs, based on this year's Annual Report Part 2 and the draft CMRs. There is one additional request from a developing CCM for consideration of Capacity Assistance Needed score in this year's draft CMR. The paper provides a report on development of the dedicated webpage to support Article 30 implementation and in accordance with WCPFC15 outcomes.

15. There was a 2019 budgetary allocation of \$130,000 for Regional Capacity Building Workshops, with a note that in 2019 FFA and SPC would advise on the use of these funds in 2019. The Commission also administers special funds that are to be used for capacity assistance including: the Special Requirements Fund; Japan Trust Fund and Chinese Taipei Trust Fund. The WPEA project provides dedicated assistance to Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam in data collection as well as other areas.

16. The Secretariat continued to assist CCMs with the compilation of their Annual Part 1 and 2 Reports at the margins of regional gatherings like the FFA MCS Working Group meeting and the SPC Tuna Data Workshop, as well as in the margins of WCPFC meetings. In addition, throughout the year the Secretariat was able to work with and assist many CCMs electronically with their Annual Reports Part 2, draft CMR reporting and WCPFC online Compliance Case file system-related work. An in-country visit was undertaken on request for Annual Report Part 2 and draft CMR reporting assistance.

17. Throughout 2018 and 2019 the Secretariat supported observer and de-briefer trainings, and assistance was given on request to help CCM programmes with observer training and VMS training. The Secretariat continued to provide advice to national and sub- regional agencies in relation to Commission MCS programme matters, Commission minimum standards and related issues.

Suggested Action:

18. TCC15 will be invited, at the appropriate point in the agenda, to consider the capacity assistance needs of CCMs.

The WCPFC Integrated MCS Programme

[Agenda 5.4(a) and 14.3]

[Agenda 8 – TCC15-2019-RP01-07, IP01_rev1 and IP07]

[Agenda 9.3 – TCC15-2019-RP10]

[Agenda 14.2) – TCC15-2019-RP08]

19. As required, TCC15 will be considering various annual reports required by the CMM and rules that regulate the operations of the various MCS tools. Those annual reports will be presented separately in greater detail and the subject of other working papers, however, for the purpose of this overview report the subsequent paragraphs will provide a snapshot overview of those various reports.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) is presented in TCC15-2019-RP01.

20. As at 7 June 2019, there were 3796 vessels that were considered activated to report to the Commission VMS. In 2018/19 the Commission continued its association with the FFA and the Pacific VMS for Commission VMS services. The Pacific VMS ensures the FFA VMS and Commission VMS operate as two separate and distinct entities to protect the integrity of the Commission VMS data. The 2019 budget for Commission VMS services was \$465,572.

21. In 2019, the Secretariat received two requests for new MTUs to be included on the approved MTU list. Effective 11 September 2019, the **SKYMATE m1600** unit had been included on the List of WCPFC Approved MTUs. At the time of preparing this paper the request related to the **SRTVMS-100S** unit was still being considered by the Secretariat as per the VMS SSPs. As at 11 August 2019, there were delays in the process of establishing the necessary gateways between the WCPFC VMS and the Service Provider for **RomTrax Wifi, BB5, iTrac101B (iTrac II)** and **Skywave IDP-690** MTU units. TrackWell has advised the Secretariat that they have encountered difficulties in establishing the gateways due lack of response from the Manufacturer/MTU providers.

22. A VMS reporting status solution is presently live and available to all authorized users of CCMs at this link: <https://www.wcpfc.int/ccm/wcpfc-vms-report> During 2018 and continuing through 2019, as a preliminary response to the WCPFC14 task for the Secretariat to provide in a web-based exportable matrix additional functionality in its "Commission VMS reporting status tool" has been delivered. MS Excel files have been manually generated by the VMS Manager and his staff, and updates have been periodically posted as monthly reports that are provided through each CCMs portals to provide CCMs with each of their vessel's daily VMS-reporting status (how many position reports are transmitted by each vessel on each date) and determine and display a generic vessel status ("in port" or "at sea", for example) – this covers the periods 1 January 2017 to date. At the time of preparing this paper, the Secretariat had continuing work with our IT contractors to develop an IT tool that is intended to better support the generation of reports for CCMs in response to the WCPFC14 tasking. This work is still in progress.

23. Noting that at WCPFC15 the Commission approved some additional MTU/ALCs to be included on the Approved List and an amendment to the VMS SSPs the Secretariat has prepared an updated version of the VMS Standard Operating Procedures for consideration by TCC15 (TCC15-2019-12).

Regional Observer Programme (ROP) is presented in TCC15-2019-RP02.

24. The ROP is comprised of 25 observer programmes of Members and sub-regional agencies. In 2018/19 most ROP observers for the 100% observer coverage on purse seiners were sourced from the Pacific Island Observer Programmes. Pacific Island observer programmes continued to supply most observers to meet 100% high seas transshipment on carriers and some of the 5% ROP longline coverage rate requirement. There is often an attrition rate in observer programmes, so training is required for most observer programmes on an ongoing basis. The Secretariat continues to support observer and debriefing training, and assistance was provided on request using an approved budget of \$10,000 in 2019. Non-Pacific Island countries of the Commission also have available observers that are being used in ROP trips to collect data as required by the Commission. The Secretariat continues to receive requests for additional IATTC/WCPFC cross endorsement training, and IATTC has confirmed their willingness to continue to support these trainings. The approved budget of \$10,000 in 2019 was supplemented by voluntary contributions from the USA and Nauru.

25. A report on the ROP observer safety CMM (CMM 2017-03) and the Secretariats support to observer programmes implementation of the ROP safety minimum requirements is included in TCC15-2019-RP02. CMM 2017-03 Para 14 states that "The Technical and Compliance Committee and the Commission will review this Conservation and Management Measure no later than 2019, and periodically thereafter. Notwithstanding this provision CCMs may submit a proposal to amend this CMM at any time."

26. The second phase of audits of ROP programmes were completed in 2019 (Australia and New Caledonia). The third phase of audits has commenced in 2019, with the programmes that were last audited in 2014 (Solomon Islands, FFA and Vanuatu). The annual budget for the Audits was \$15,000 in 2019. A report of the ROP data management is provided in TCC15-2019-IP04, the budgetary allocation in 2019 was \$923,904.

27. A report from the TCC Working Group on flow of observer reports and observer conduct will be presented to TCC15.

Transshipment Reporting is presented in TCC15-2019-RP03.

28. In 2018 there were a record 1409 high seas transshipment events reported to the WCPFC Secretariat in accordance with CMM 2009-06 (compare to 1092 in 2017); 29 receiving vessels and 514 offloading vessels from 7 CCMs were involved in these reported transshipments. Advance notifications and post-transshipment declaration reporting by CCMs of high seas transshipment events continues to improve and is complete in 2018 for some CCMs. From 1 Jan – 30 June 2019, 735 high seas transshipment events were reported involving 22 receiving vessels and 374 offloading

vessels from 7 CCMs. In 2018, the Secretariat continued to provide early advice to flag CCMs of high seas transshipment declaration and notification gaps. In 2019 the Secretariat has extended the preliminary analysis of WCPFC VMS data using the WCPFC Transshipment Analysis Tool so that it covers 1 January 2017 – 30 June 2019, the outcome is presented in TCC15-2019-RP03.

29. A separate working paper WCPFC-TCC15-2019-13 also by the Secretariat on transshipment provides an initial analysis of the transshipment data held by the Secretariat in anticipation of the requirement of the terms of reference of the intersessional working group established at WCPFC15 to review CMM 2009-06.

High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme (HSBI) is presented in TCC15-2019-RP04.

30. In 2018 there were four (4) members that conducted 123 high seas boarding and inspection activities in the Convention Area. From 1 Jan – 8 August 2019, three (3) members had conducted seventy-five (75) high seas boarding and inspection activities in the Convention Area. A total number of 182 vessels were boarded from 1 Jan 2018 – 8 August 2019 (and twelve (12) vessels were boarded more than once during this period). From a total of 198 high seas boarding and inspection activities, 129 boarding's led to requests for flag CCM investigations pursuant to Convention Article 25(2) are recorded in the online compliance case file system during 2018/19 period.

31. The Register of authorized inspection vessels and the Authorities of fishing vessel are publicly available on the website at <http://www.wcpfc.int/register-inspection-vessels> and <https://www.wcpfc.int/authority-fishing-vessel> respectively. The list of vessels previously inspected under the HSBI has been published to the secure side on the website and viewable to authorized users at <https://www.wcpfc.int/ccm/hsbi-report> and is exportable in MS Excel and CSV format.

Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) is presented in TCC15-2019-RP05.

32. As at 31 July August 2019, twenty-nine (29) CCMs (including five (5) CNMs) had submitted 3903 records of their respective fishing vessels to the Executive Director. The RFV is continuously publicly available via the WCPFC web site as required by paragraph 9 of CMM 2014-03. Summary tables and graphs of information contained in the RFV continue to be available on the website at <https://www.wcpfc.int/vessels/charts>. These summary statistics, presented as graphs and tables, are automatically updated, as the RFV changes and is reflective of what is in the RFV at that point in time. A full version of RFV including all historical information is periodically updated and also available from <https://www.wcpfc.int/vessels>

Eastern High Seas Pocket Special Management Area (EHSP-SMA) is presented in TCC15-2019-RP06.

33. From 7 February 2017, CMM 2016-02 and updated management arrangements for the EHSP came into effect. The Secretariat's 'live list' of all fishing vessels present in the EHSP continues to be available through the secure pages on the WCPFC website as required by the measure.

Port Inspections and Implementation of Port State Minimum Standards for Port State Measures is presented in TCC15-2019-RP07.

34. In February 2020, the Conservation and Management Measure on Minimum Standards for Port State Measures (CMM 2017-02) will have been in force for two years. CMM 2017-02 specifies that a review will be undertaken within two years of its entry into force. To date five CCMs have submitted advice of designated ports as per CMM 2017-02, and there have been no requests for port inspection under CMM 2017-02. Four (4) requests for flag CCM investigations pursuant to Convention Article 25(2) are recorded in the online compliance case file system during the 2018/19 period.

Administration of the WCPFC data access rules and procedures is presented in TCC15-2019-RP08.

35. In 2018/19 the Secretariat has maintained its system of controls over approvals for access to WCPFC data and information. In 2018/19, the Secretariat received and processed seventy-nine (79) requests from Members and others for specific WCPFC data, some of which related to multiple types of WCPFC non-public domain data.

The independent review of the Secretariat's VMS data, and the integrity of the IMS and RFV, will be conducted by Deloitte & Touche LLP Guam in latter part of 2019.

36. This is an annual requirement as per the VMS SSPs, and the budgetary allocation in 2019 was \$8400. Due to staffing issues at the Secretariat this year's audit has been deferred until the latter part of the year.

Performance of the E-reporting standards and their application is presented in TCC15-2019-RP10.

37. This is an annual requirement as per the E-reporting SSPs. To date the Commission has adopted three sets of E-reporting standards:

- i. In December 2016 *E-reporting standards for operational catch and effort data* (WCPFC13 Summary Report paragraph 584 and Attachment T);
- ii. In December 2017 *E-reporting standards for observer data* (WCPFC14 Summary Report paragraph 401 and Attachment T); and
- iii. In December 2018 *Standards for E-reporting of high seas transshipment declarations and transshipment notices* (WCPFC15 Summary Report Attachment S).

38. Irrespective of the effective date, it should be noted that the various E-reporting standards are voluntary until such time the Commission decides to make them mandatory (*refer* E-reporting SSPs paragraph 3). In 2018/19 uptake of electronic reporting tools in WCPFC is continuing and some key developments are outlined in TCC15-2019-RP10.

39. A positive report of progress on the WCPFC e-reporting system development by the Secretariat is presented in TCC15-2019-RP10. Currently the WCPFC E-reporting system can receive E-reported data as per the WCPFC high seas transshipment declaration and notices E-reporting standards. An application that WCPFC has developed to support CCMs implementation of the E-reporting Standards for high seas transshipment declarations and transshipment notices is now operational. It runs on Windows computers, and Android and iPad tablets. The Secretariat has been using the Windows version since November 2018 to enter the high seas transshipment notifications and declarations that CCMs email to WCPFC. As tasked by WCPFC15, the Secretariat will commence some work involving CEFACT/FLUX in the last quarter of 2019, and this is expected to provide the Secretariat with further information and to better understand the extent of additional work necessary to implement as part of the E-reporting Standards for high seas transshipment declarations and transshipment notices.

Online solutions for CCMs and other stakeholders and future IMS priorities

40. In 2019, the Secretariat confirms the delivery of the following online technical solutions including:

- i. a list of significant dates, which includes key reporting deadlines, is now accessible and exportable through the calendar on the website from this link <https://www.wcpfc.int>;
- ii. a list of non-public domain data requests received and actioned and a corresponding bar chart are published at <https://www.wcpfc.int/administration-wcpfc-data-access-rules-and-procedures> and is exportable in CSV format;
- iii. published summary statistics based on High Seas Boarding and Inspection activities and the Register of Authorised Inspection Vessels are publicly available and published at <https://www.wcpfc.int/hsbi-summary-statistics> and <https://www.wcpfc.int/register-inspection-vessels> respectively. A map enhancement was recently added to the display of the list of vessels that have been previously inspected under the HSBI scheme published to the secure side on the website and viewable to authorized users at <https://www.wcpfc.int/ccm/hsbi-report>. These summaries are updated based on current WCPFC HSBI database records;
- iv. a specific IT system to support E-reporting. Currently the WCPFC E-reporting system can receive E-reported data as per the WCPFC high seas transshipment declaration and notices E-reporting standards. An application that WCPFC has developed to support CCMs implementation of the E-reporting Standards for high seas transshipment declarations and transshipment notices is now operational. The windows version of the application and user manual can be accessed from the WCPFC website at <https://www.wcpfc.int/e-reporting/tser>; and
- v. a new section on the website that is dedicated to Implementation of Article 30 of the Convention <https://www.wcpfc.int/implementation-article-30-convention> and includes information on the Strategic Investment Plan, funding options, eligibility and application processes for capacity assistance needs, CMR Capacity Development Plan template, reports from CCMs on implementation of CMM 2013-07 and past CMM 2013-06 assessments.

41. The Secretariat maintains that there are five priority work areas for future IMS development within the Secretariat over 2020-2021 and they include:

- a) implementing the approved decisions from the Commissions consideration of the suggested approaches to streamline the Commission's reporting requirements with the objective to make annual reporting more manageable and less burdensome;
- b) continuing to support ways to improve the collection of accurate and timely data, including through electronic reporting (ER) and electronic monitoring (EM);
- c) continuing to expand the analytical capability and business intelligence of the WCPFC IMS, including enhancing GIS/mapping IT tools for displaying and integrating various WCPFC data;
- d) improving the access and capability of the Secretariat to review ROP observer data, and ensure that the Secretariat's internal MCS operating procedures and IMS systems adequately cater for record-keeping, handling of evidence and notices to CCMs of possible violations; and
- e) review procedures and continue to develop and enhance IT tools, including through the website, so that the Secretariat is better equipped to provide timely access to MCS-

relevant information in support of member MCS activities and to share MCS data with CCMs, in accordance with the WCPFC data rules and procedure.

42. The Secretariat observes that the annual budget allocation of \$100,000 for IMS development and maintenance, \$30,000 for E-monitoring and E-reporting Activities and the annual amount for online publishing through the website, including of Annual Report Part 2 (\$18,000), together with in-kind contributions (financial and resourcing) from some Members, has been sufficient to support the Secretariats work to date.

Secretariat Resourcing

43. Twelve of thirteen MCS/Compliance staff positions (4 professional level and 8 locally recruited staff) are in place. The staffing levels for the Secretariat in the MCS/Compliance area has not changed since 2012. However over recent years, the Secretariat MCS/Compliance work of the Secretariat has been supplemented through consultancy, secondment and from in-kind assistance. These include legal support services (Dr Penny Ridings) and E-reporting project support services (Mr Kim Duckworth). The future staffing levels of the Secretariat should be considered alongside the future priorities of the Commission in the MCS/Compliance area, and the associated expertise and staffing levels that would be best suited in the Secretariat to adequately support the Commissions priorities and ongoing work. The TCC Workplan 2019-2021 tasked TCC15 with considering options to mitigate the impacts of an unscheduled disruption to Secretariat services on the CMS (Agenda 5.4(b)).

44. A list of the travel commitments, including training assistance of the MCS/Compliance staff from October 2018 – September 2019 are listed in *Attachment 1*.

Suggested Action:

45. TCC15 will be invited, at the appropriate point in the agenda, to consider the Annual Reports of the various compliance tools that constitute the WCPFC Integrated MCS Programme.

Review the ongoing work of the Intersessional Working Groups (IWG)

[Agenda 5.3(c), 8.2(b), 8.3(b), 10.1]

46. Four (4) Intersessional Working Groups are identified in the TCC Workplan 2019 -2021 for TCC to review and contribute to their ongoing work and they include:

- i. ROP IWG: Review ROP;
- ii. FAD IWG: Review and develop FAD measures;
- iii. CDS IWG: Develop and implement a Catch Documentation Scheme for WCPFC species; and
- iv. ERandEM IWG: Continue the development of standards, specifications and procedures for e-technologies.

47. The Commission has agreed to not reconvene the ROP-IWG at this point in time. For the ERandEM IWG the Commission at WCPFC15 supported the continuation of intersessional work, led by the Chair Kerry Smith (Australia) to further develop a draft conservation and management measure on E-monitoring for consideration by the Commission in 2020. In 2019, the Commission did not intend to hold any meetings for FAD-IWG, CDS-IWG and ERandEM IWG in 2019.

48. In 2019, three (3) Intersessional Working Groups were tasked by the Commission to progress, primarily through virtual means, priority work during 2019. Additionally, during the intersessional period, the Federated States of Micronesia offered to lead intersessional collaboration during 2019 on the development of audit points to clarify the Commission's obligations assessed under the CMS. Each IWG will be providing progress reports to TCC15. The IWGs include:

- i. CMS Audit Points IWG: Intersessional Activity Report
- ii. TCC working group on flow of observer reports and observer conduct: Report to TCC
- iii. Report from the IWG to review CMM 2009-06: Intersessional Activity Report
- iv. South Pacific Albacore Roadmap virtual IWG: Intersessional Activity Report

Suggested Action:

49. TCC15 will, at the appropriate point in the agenda, receive progress report from the various IWG and discuss the way forward for the work of those IWG.

Conclusion

50. The TCC Workplan 2019-2021 provides the framework to guide the work and agenda for the TCC meetings for the duration of the workplan and also forecast the requisite intersessional work for the Secretariat and CCMs in support of the Commission's Technical and Compliance programme.

51. The Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) is expected to continue to be at the core of the Commission's Technical and Compliance programme. It provides the platform for the TCC to undertake its key task of assessing the level of compliance of CCMs of their obligations under the WCPFC Convention and CMMs. But it is a platform that rests on top of a network of MCS tools and other data collection programmes that furnish the relevant data and information to inform TCC's assessment.

52. During this year some of the planned CMS Future Work tasks under CMM 2018-07 on the CMS have been progressed and remain on track to contribute to the continued enhancement of the CMS. The Secretariat stands ready to support the CMS Future Work tasks towards enhancing the operation of the CMS. As the CMM is only operational for 2019, these future tasks are essential to Commission's efforts to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the CMS.

53. Continued improvements to the Secretariat Information Management System (IMS) remain essential to the servicing of the Commission's Technical and Compliance programme. Most of the Secretariat's work in support of TCC is necessarily supported from the integrated-MCS IMS-hosted databases and associated reporting tools. TCC and the Commission are strongly urged to continue to adequately resource this area of work of the Secretariat.

54. The work on electronic reporting and electronic monitoring holds huge potential for enhanced data collection, coverage and quality in the future. The Secretariat has efficiently utilized its limited budget in this area and with the financial assistance provided by New Zealand in 2018 it has made positive progress on the E-reporting high seas transshipment project (TCC15-2019-RP10). More importantly, the project was designed to provide the Secretariat with a base infrastructure that could easily be modified to collect other types of data. With smart investment in this area, the Commission can expedite the development of the necessary framework to operationalize e-reporting and e-monitoring at the Commission level.

55. The MCS Programme of the WCPFC remains an integrated programme that need to be viewed in its totality.

Recommendation

56. TCC15 is invited to note the report.

Attachment 1 - Travel by WCPFC MCS/Compliance staff in late 2018/2019:

A list of the travel by the senior Compliance/MCS staff from late 2018 and during 2019 are provided below. The travel has included assistance and involvement in sub-regional activities directly related to the WCPFC work areas. Most travel is funded from the *staff travel* line items in Part 1 of the budget and dedicated activity line items in Part 2.3 of the Technical and Compliance Programme.

Australia, Canberra

- ROP Audit of Australia Observer Programme (June 2019) – Regional Observer Coordinator
- Pacific Fusion Centre Reference Group Inaugural meeting (July 2019) – Assistant Compliance Manager

China, Beijing

- Visit to demonstrate the WCPFC E-reporting Application (July 2019) – Compliance Manager and E-reporting consultant

Federated States of Micronesia, Pohnpei

- T3 Challenge Symposium (April 2019) – Compliance Manager
- FFC Officials Meetings (May 2019) – Compliance Manager
- FFC Ministerial and Associated FFC Officials Meeting (June 2019) – Compliance Manager, Assistant Compliance Manager
- SC15 Meeting (August 2019) – Compliance Manager, Assistant Compliance Manager, Regional Observer Programme Coordinator

Fiji, Nadi

- Meetings on WTO Negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies (July 2019) – Compliance Manager

Kiribati, Tarawa

- National CMR assistance (May 2019) – Assistant Compliance Manager
- Offshore Fisheries Summit (May 2019) – Assistant Compliance Manager

Republic of Marshall Islands, Majuro

- Meeting on TCC15 preparations with TCC Chair (May 2019) – Compliance Manager

Nauru

- PNA Observer Coordinators Workshop (February 2019) – Regional Observer Coordinator
- IATTC/WCPFC Cross Endorsement Training (August 2019) – Regional Observer Programme Coordinator

New Caledonia, Noumea

- SPC Tuna Data Workshop (April 2019) – Assistant Compliance Manager
- FFA/SPC/PNAO/WCPFC Secretariat meeting on SC Project 93 and duplicative reporting (April 2019) – Compliance Manager and Assistant Compliance Manager
- ROP Audit for New Caledonia (July 2019) – Regional Observer Programme Coordinator

Palau, Koror

- UNODC sub-regional workshop on fisheries crime (August 2019) – Compliance Manager

Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby

- Regional Observer Coordinators Workshop (February 2019) – Regional Observer Coordinator

Philippines, Navotas

- ROP Observer training (May 2019) – Regional Observer Programme Coordinator

Solomon Islands, Honiara

- FFA MCS Working Group (March 2019) – Assistant Compliance Manager
- ROP Audit for FFA and Solomon Islands (June 2019) – Regional Observer Programme Coordinator

Chinese Taipei, Kaohsiung

- Visit to demonstrate the WCPFC E-reporting Application (July 2019) – Compliance Manager and E-reporting consultant

Thailand, Bangkok

- Third Seafood and Fisheries Emerging Technologies Conference (SAFET) (February 2019) - Compliance Manager
- Sixth Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (February 2019) - Compliance Manager
- Joint Tuna RFMO Compliance Officers Meeting (February 2019) – Compliance Manager

Vanuatu, Port Vila

- ROP Audit for Vanuatu (July 2019) – Regional Observer Programme Coordinator

United States of America, Hawaii

- WCPFC15 and associated meetings (December 2018) – Compliance Manager, Assistant Compliance Manager, Regional Observer Programme Coordinator and VMS Manager
- Multilateral Pacific Islands Fisheries Law Enforcement Symposium (April 2019) – Assistant Compliance Manager

Portland, Oregon

- NC/IATTC Pacific Bluefin CDS Technical Meeting (August 2019) – Compliance Manager
