



**COMMISSION  
SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea  
5 – 11 December 2019

---

**RULES OF PROCEDURE RELATING TO THE NORTHERN COMMITTEE**

---

**WCPFC16-2019-DP11  
5 November 2019**

**SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

# **RULES OF PROCEDURE RELATING TO THE NORTHERN COMMITTEE**

## **Proposal by the United States of America to the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

### **Explanatory note:**

The Northern Committee has twice failed to obtain a quorum at its long-planned and properly noticed regular annual sessions. To enable those engaged in the Northern Committee to take timely decisions and to help ensure that the Northern Committee can fulfill its functions in a cost-effective manner, the United States proposes that the Commission reduce the proportion of Northern Committee members that must be present to open meetings and permit debate.

### **Proposal:**

WCPFC16 agrees to add a new paragraph 6 to Annex I of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, to read as follows:

*6. Notwithstanding Rule 14, the Chairman of the Northern Committee may declare a meeting of the Committee open and permit the debate to proceed when a majority of the members of the Committee are present.*