

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

**Circular No.: 2020/04
Date: 12 February 2020
No. pages: 02**

Commencing the Work of the Vessel Monitoring System Small Working Group

Dear All,

You will recall that at the WCPFC16 meeting in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea in December 2019, the Commission agreed to form a small working group on the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS-SWG). The decision text is as follow:

The Commission agreed to establish the VMS-Small Working Group (SWG) to address the VMS data gap and improve the number of vessels reporting to the Commission VMS for consideration by TCC16 (TCC Summary Report, paragraph 211). The Commission agreed that the SWG would be co-chaired by the USA and Australia.

The co-Chairs of the VMS-SWG, namely Mr Viv Fernandes (Australia) and Mr Terry Boone (USA) have requested that work of the group commences at earliest opportunity. As further requested, I enclose a self-explanatory letter from the co-Chairs outlining their plan of action to initiate and progress the work of the small working group. I urge you to respond directly to the co-Chairs and appreciate if the Secretariat is kept in the loop by copying any correspondence on the work of the small working group to the WCPFC Compliance Manager, Dr Lara Manarangi-Trott at lara.manarangi-trott@wcpfc.int.

Yours sincerely,



**Feleti Penitala Teo, OBE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

12 February 2020

Dear All,

We write to you in our capacity as co-chairs of the WCPFC VMS Working Group established by WCPFC16. Our mandate from the Commission (para 74 WCPFC16 provisional outcomes document) is to develop recommendations for TCC16's consideration to address VMS data gaps and improve the number of vessels reporting to the Commission VMS. To that end, we solicit your assistance to identify participants who may be available to work with us, primarily by email and phone, between now and TCC16. Specifically, **we request you please email us** the name, duty title, email address, and phone number of any desired participants **no later than 21 February**.

In the meantime, pending any guidance to the contrary, your co-chairs will develop a draft concept paper, to include provisional VMS WG areas of focus, work plan and time line to circulate to all WG participants before the end of February.

If you have any questions or comments before then, please feel free to contact us directly. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this important matter, and we look forward to seeing you all in Pohnpei in September.

Sincerely,

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