



**Parties to the Nauru Agreement**  
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11 April 2020

Ms Jung-Re Riley Kim  
CHAIR  
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission  
PO Box 2356, Kolonia  
Pohnpei  
Federated States of Micronesia

**Subject: Decision Regarding Commission Chair's Proposal in Response to COVID-19**

Dear Ms Kim,

Thank you for the advice in Circular WCPFC 2020-24 regarding the proposal on observer coverage in response to COVID-19.

PNA Members thank you and the WCPFC Secretariat Staff for the prompt action taken on this important issue. Parties also thank other Commission Members for their flexibility and promptness in addressing the issue of purse seine Observer Coverage covered by the decision in Circular WCPFC 2020-24.

The letter to you from the FFC Chair of 7 April 2020 advised that FFA Members could be putting in place more stringent measures during the period that the temporary suspension on carriage of observers applies.

Please be advised that PNA Members have agreed to apply the following additional conditions relating to carriage of observers by purse seine vessels during the temporary suspension as follows:

*When vessels are not carrying observers, they shall comply with the following additional conditions:*

- a) *If the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) fails, the vessel may continue to operate for up to 72 hours without VMS reporting, provided that the vessel:
  - (i) reports hourly position data manually;
  - (ii) maintains AIS reporting; and
  - (iii) maintains daily data electronically logsheet reporting.*
- b) *Any additional management measures that may be advised from time to time.*

*PNA Members attach the highest priority to ensuring the repatriation of observers, as required by the relevant observer programme. Repatriation is to be expedited by the vessel operator and the flag State, in close consultation with the relevant observer programme,*

*including returning the observer to their home port, in consultation with the observer provider.*

*The observer's costs will continue to be met by the vessel operator until the observer has been repatriated as agreed. Foreign vessels that fail to repatriate an observer, as required, shall not be allowed to operate in PNA waters.*

Thank you once again for your support and action on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Sisor', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Kathy Sisor  
Chair  
Parties to the Nauru Agreement

CC: Feleti Teo, WCPFC Executive Director