



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

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**Letter from Chair on WCPFC17 Priorities**

Dear All,

I circulate for your information and consideration a self-explanatory letter of 1 December 2020 from the WCPFC Chair setting out some priorities for the upcoming WCPFC17 meeting.

Yours sincerely,

**Feleti Penitala Teo, OBE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

December 1, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to start by expressing my sincere appreciation to all CCMs for your contribution to our intersessional works that have kept the Commission fulfilling its core functions even in the face of COVID-19. This has been such a challenging year to all of us, and I am very grateful for your spirit of cooperation, dedication and patience.

As the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the WCPFC is a week away, I would like to layout some key priorities for your consideration. Please note that the order in which each priority appears is randomly arranged, and does not indicate the hierarchy of importance. I also consider that issues that are not included in these priorities are equally important. It will not be an easy task to move these priorities in full force given the considerable logistical challenges and time constraints, but I am convinced that we can make the best out of what we have, as we always have done so far.

### **Successor of the Tropical Tuna Measure**

CMM2018-01 on Tropical Tuna is scheduled to expire in February in 2021, and it dictates that by 2020 the Commission shall agree on (i) purse seine hard effort or catch limits on the high seas and (ii) longline hard limits for bigeye tuna, and a framework for the allocation of those limits amongst all Members and Participating Territories taking into special requirements of small island developing states. Unexpected circumstances that have unfolded over the last twelve months prevented us from engaging in extensive intersessional negotiations required to fulfill these collective obligations under this CMM.

As it is extremely difficult to predict what the next year would look like, I expect that we can come up with an innovative approach we can all agree to keep our core measure in place, and I hope we can all agree that going without a Tropical Tuna Measure is not an option. I note and appreciate different positions of CCMs on how to progress our work, and look forward to working closely with all of you to find a way forward.

### **Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS)**

I recall the successful adoption of the revised CMS Measure at WCPFC 16, which was the fruit of the hard work and dedication of a number of CCMs. I also note the important discussions TCC16 had regarding various elements of the CMS. In this regard, I would like to highlight with appreciation TCC16's consideration on a list of obligations, including the proposal by the USA, and CCMs' commitment to progressing this work intersessionally, which will be considered at WCPFC 17. I recognize the FFA's proposal regarding a list of obligations to be considered under agenda 10.2, and count on CCMs' active engagement to make meaningful progress.

## **Special Requirements of Small Island Developing States**

The consideration of special requirements of Small Island Developing States (SIDSs) is deeply embedded in our Convention, and has served as one of the guiding principles in the work of the Commission over the years. This importance should remain in the limelight despite all the challenges and difficulties that we face. WCPFC 17 will remain committed to addressing this issue in our deliberations and decisions on various matters.

## **Harvest Strategy**

As the adoption of a Harvest Strategy is one of major goals of the Commission, it is important that WCPFC 17 continue to keep the momentum going. In this regard, I note that SC16 expressed its strong preference for moving forward with a Science-Management Dialogue, and look forward to working with CCMs to see if we can make progress. I also expect that we will be reviewing and update Indicative Work Plan for Harvest Strategy.

## **COVID-19 Related Decisions**

The three interim intersessional decisions adopted to address pandemic-induced challenges are set to expire in mid-February 2021. Considering that the COVID-19 situation may continue into 2021, I expect that CCMs can come up with an approach that takes onboard diverse aspects that need to be addressed so that the Commission can continue to meet the objectives of the Convention while ensuring the safety of all involved, including ROP observers and crew.

## **Intersessional Working Groups**

I appreciate the efforts and dedication of IWG chairs and all CCMs that have been contributing to the works on ER/EM, SP Albacore Roadmap, Transshipment Review, VMS Data Gap Review, FAD Management Options and CMS Future Work Tasks. Although the reports of the IWGs will be taken as read due to time constraints, I expect that CCMs can have the opportunity to share thoughts to keep the ball rolling for these important works.

Colleagues, I look forward to seeing you in a week's time and to working with you to make progress on our important work. My communication channel is always open, so please reach me at [riley1126@korea.kr](mailto:riley1126@korea.kr) and [rileykim1126@gmail.com](mailto:rileykim1126@gmail.com) whenever you have anything you would like to discuss with me.

Best Regards,



Jung-re Riley Kim  
Chair

cc: Feleti.PenitalaTeo, OBE, WCPFC Executive Director  
Josie Tamate, WCPFC Vice Chair