



**COMMISSION
SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
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8 – 15 December 2020

TRANSHIPMENT IWG REPORT TO WCPFC17

**WCPFC17-2020-TS_IWG
14 December 2020**

Submitted by Transshipment IWG Chair

Transshipment Intersessional Working Group (IWG)
Report to WCPFC17
12 December 2020

Background

1. In December 2018, and affirming TCC14's recommendation, the Commission agreed to conduct a review of its transshipment measure, CMM 2009-06, in 2019 (Review). Paragraph 380 of the WCPFC15 Summary Report states:

The Commission agreed to conduct a review of the existing transshipment measure (CMM 2009-06) in 2019, with the review to commence through an electronic intersessional working group.

2. The Transshipment IWG met in-person at TCC15 and agreed on the Terms of Reference (TOR) for a review of CMM 2009-06, to include an analysis of transshipment information in support of the review (Analysis), and received a recommendation to continue its work in 2020. Paragraph 547 of the WCPFC16 Summary Report states:

The Commission agreed to the TS-IWG to continue its work in 2020. Following significant progress on its draft Scope of Work for the analysis of transshipment information, the TS-IWG will reconvene electronically in 2020. While the IWG was able to reach agreement on a considerable number of elements in the draft, there remain a few outstanding issues for which the IWG will need to consider and agree upon intersessionally. Moving forward, the TS-IWG Co-Chairs will welcome comments only on the outstanding proposed language in the draft Scope of Work by 13 January 2020. The Co-Chairs will circulate the updated Scope of Work following the conclusion of WCPFC16 and provide further instructions to the IWG by email.

3. In addition to the above recommendation, and with the United States' \$74,000 voluntary contribution to support the Analysis, the Secretariat sought in-kind staff support to help prepare its transshipment information for a prospective consultancy.

Status Report

4. The co-Chairs received additional feedback on the Scope of Work (SOW) for the Analysis from members and observers, with several of the comments attempting to re-open agreed text from the margins of the Commission meeting. In addition, COVID-19 travel restrictions have precluded further consideration of the in-kind support to the

Secretariat to prepare transshipment information for a prospective consultancy. Finally, as explained in WCPFC Circular 2020/106, one of the co-Chairs, Sam Lanwi Jr., was reassigned to the Republic of the Marshall Islands Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade and is no longer able to serve as co-Chair of the TS-IWG. We wish him and his family good health and the best of luck in his new assignment.

5. At TCC16, CCMs and observers expressed support for continuation of the working group and nomination of a new co-Chair at WCPFC17 (end of this report). Another key point of TCC16 on discussion on transshipment was concern about effectively monitoring high seas transshipment in light of the intersessional COVID-19 decisions suspending transshipment observer requirements. Several members noted that SC Project 93 results concluded that monitoring needs to be prioritized during activities wherein independent data collection and verification are low, such as during high seas transshipment. Further, members noted that strengthening EM and ER during transshipment could help address such gaps.
6. The TS IWG reconvened via email after TCC16, providing red-line edits on the SOW to the IWG Chair. Extensive and substantive redlines were provided, requiring consultation among the Chair, the Secretariat, the Scientific Services Provider, as well as individual CCMs. These consultations continue through WCPFC17 and are expected to conclude before the end of 2020, with a new co-Chair strengthening the resolve the IWG's members to reach agreement. Given the extensive review and consultation to date, agreement would be sought by the first week of January 2021, with the IWG providing an agreed SOW to the Secretariat in the first week of 2021, to begin the Analysis.
7. The Analysis, consists of three phases, and the Secretariat will prepare data during Phase 1, in the first quarter of 2021. Concurrent to Phase 1, in the first quarter of 2021, the Secretariat will select a consultant to undertake Phase 3 based on the SOW. Upon completing Phase 1, the WCPFC Secretariat and WCPFC Scientific Services Provider are expected to jointly undertake Phase 2 of the SOW, Data Compilation and Analysis. The transition from Phase 2 to Phase 3 will occur in the second quarter of 2021 and additional funding will be required for the consultant to complete Phase 3. The Consultant will be expected to deliver a draft report by 15 July 2021 for comment by the IWG, with a final report due by August 15, 2021. The IWG will require at least one intersessional meeting on the margins of TCC17 to jointly review the report and potentially develop recommendations for revising the CMM at WCPFC18.
8. While the Analysis is being conducted, the IWG will meet virtually and via email to identify and discuss possible recommendations and revisions to the CMM, with priority given to addressing potential gaps in transshipment data or monitoring during the

pandemic, and generally strengthening the role of electronic monitoring and electronic reporting during transshipment events in the WCPFC Area.

TCC16 Recommendations for WCPFC17

- TCC16 acknowledged the current difficulty in deploying observers and recommended that the IWG Transshipment give this priority consideration.
- TCC16 recommended that the Commission seek a nomination for an IWG Transshipment Co-Chair at WCPFC17 and that it reaffirm its tasking of the IWG Transshipment to continue and complete its work.