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

Circular No.: 2013/36

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No. pages: 3

URGENT: CDS Intercessional Working Group meeting

Dear all

At WCPFC9 the Secretariat was tasked with organizing the first CDS Intercessional Working Group meeting in line with the agreed TOR adopted at WCPFC9.

368. WCPFC9 adopted the terms of reference for the IWG-CDS contained in WCPFC9-2012/DP-14 (Attachment S to WCPFC9 Summary Report)

369. FFA members proposed the first meeting of the IWG-CDS be held in Nouméa, New Caledonia in the first half of 2013 with Alois Kinol of PNG as Chair.

370. The EU stated that it would need to consult with its member States before agreeing to the proposal.

371. The Chair noted that the date, location and Chair for the first meeting of the IWG-CDS would be agreed intercessionally and asked the Secretariat to assist with finalising this decision.

372. The Secretariat noted that additional funds would be required to support a physical meeting of the IWG-CDS.

The timeframe proposed for this meeting in Attachment S is as follows:

Timeframe

The working group shall commence in 2013.

The working group shall report progress to the TCC with a view to presenting a Provisional CDS proposal to WCPFC 10 or 11 (depending on development progress) that would be considered for adoption on a trial basis in the period 2014 – 2015. The trial may focus on certain species.

Pending the trial introduction, WCPFC would then consider incremental adoption of the scheme on a wider basis, by including additional species.

In terms of the above;

- 1 Alois Kinol has agreed to Chair the meetings and help coordinate the intercessional working group meetings;
- 2 We sought some initial advice from PNG, the EU and others on the process for this meeting noting EU's point that they would need to consult with members states any proposal on this issue and;
- 3 The WCPFC9 meeting set aside \$140,000 for the meeting.

The EU and Chinese Taipei in some earlier correspondence with respect to the CDS working group expressed a preference that the working group conducts its work electronically whenever possible. The preference from PNG was for a formal working group meeting for the first meeting to better understand members who have a potential interest and to agree a process to move forward and this is consistent with the FFA member's intervention during WCPFC9 and recorded above.

Noting that the timeframe is for the working group to report progress to TCC, I have also checked proposed meeting dates that I am aware of regionally and it looks as though there are only a few potential windows to have this workshop. There was no proposed length suggested for this meeting but it would appear to need 2-3 days for an initial discussion on issues.

Location

At this stage the only suggested location for this meeting is Noumea, New Caledonia at SPC Headquarters to take advantage of SPC attendance. However, the SPC meeting room is not available on the proposed date of 22nd of July. I have contacted Fijian officials who have confirmed that they are happy for the WCPFC to host the meeting in Nadi, Fiji on that date if members were to agree.

Proposed dates:

Noting the proposal for the working group in the first instance to report to TCC there appears to be 2-3 dates potentially available.

- 1 The first available date would appear to be in the week of the 22nd of July. The complications with this date for the Secretariat are that we will be finalising the CMR process at that time, however we can work around this issue.
- 2 The next workable dates appear to be in September after Northern Committee (2-5 Sept) and before TCC (26/9 to 2/10). These dates might work however, I am also mindful that FFA normally meets for a week prior to TCC so that would effectively limit the availability in September to finding days in the week of the 9th in Noumea or in the week of the 16th in Pohnpei prior to the FFA and TCC meetings. This is not a preferred date for some members as it is at the end of 2 weeks of intensive meetings.
- 3 Then dates are available in October and November post TCC, however these dates would present complications with the proposal to have the working group report to TCC.

I have checked with SPC and their conference room is available during the week the 9th of September and again in October and November.

Suggested approach

It is suggested if members are comfortable that we hold this working group meeting in Nadi, Fiji on the 22nd through till the 24th of July 2013. If this is not suitable I would suggest we then find a suitable date in October 2013 for a meeting in Noumea.

Could you please confirm urgently that the 22nd of July is suitable for you and provide initial advice on the likely number of people who will be attending the meeting so that arrangements can be made. If anybody has any strong objections to the meeting being held on 22 – 24th July in Nadi, Fiji could you please advise by close of business **Wednesday 5th June 2013**.

Thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn Hurry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Professor Glenn Hurry
Executive Director