

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

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Dates for the 2016 ERandEM Intersessional Working Group Meeting

Dear All,

Please find enclosed a letter of 23rd March, 2016 from the ERandEM Intersessional Working Group Chair, Ms Kerry Smith, proposing to hold the Working Group meeting from 1 to 2 August 2016 in Bali, Indonesia immediately prior to SC12.

The Secretariat will provide further information on meeting arrangements for the Bali meetings once confirmed with the host government. However, should you have any queries on this matter you may liaise directly with the Working Group Chair Kerry Smith at kerry.smith@afma.gov.au and the Secretariat Assistant Compliance Manager, Ms 'Ana Taholo at ana.taholo@wcpfc.int.

Yours sincerely,



**Feleti P Teo, OBE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

23 March 2016

Dear All,

I hope this letter finds you all well and enjoying a productive and prosperous 2016.

I write to inform you of the dates for the ERandEM Intersessional Working Group meeting for 2016. You may recall that WCPFC12 recommended that the ERandEM Working Group be held before the Scientific Committee meeting in Bali in August. After discussion with the FFA Secretariat and the WCPFC Secretariat, I would like to propose the dates of 1-2 August 2016. The Secretariat will send out further details as arrangements are settled; however I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some of the action items from the previous working group meeting and next steps.

In July 2015, the ERandEM Working Group met for the first time in Fiji. The group considered draft electronic reporting technical standards and specifications for five key areas

- Eastern High Seas Pocket Special Management Area reporting (CMM 2010-02)
- High Seas Pocket One Special Management Area reporting (CMM2014-01)
- Manual position reporting in the event of an ALC/MTU failure
- Operational level catch and effort data
- Observer data.

A number of CCMs agreed to work with the WCPFC Secretariat and SPC in relation to testing these draft data standards. This work will require CCMs to prepare data in the necessary formats and submit it to SPC and the WCPFC Secretariat. SPC and the WCPFC Secretariat will then work with the CCMs to refine and modify the standards as required. Testing of the standards by users is necessary to ensure that the standards are robust and are suitable for the end user. Electronic reporting is increasingly being used to facilitate effective and efficient data exchange – to this end, CCMs should work to ensure that the standards are suitable for purpose.

The testing of operational level catch and effort data and observer data are seen as key priorities and I would encourage those countries that have committed to work with SPC to contact Peter Williams (peterW@spc.int). Formal testing of the data standards with respect to EHSP-SMA, HSP1-SMA and MTU failures will be deferred until after our meeting in August and will be able to draw on the experiences from testing in relation to the two larger data sets.

I propose that, at the meeting in Bali, we consider the outcomes from the testing and note any refinements that may need to be made. There is also the opportunity to consider what we would like to see included as part of regional standards for electronic monitoring. I would be grateful if you could let me know if you had any thoughts as to how we may wish to proceed with this particular body of work.

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that your efforts are much appreciated. I look forward to working with you all and wish you all the best in your endeavours throughout 2016.

Kind regards,

Kerry Smith
ERandEM Intersessional Working Group Chair