

TS-IWG Update 14 October 2021

From: Alex Kahl

Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 5:05 PM

Subject: TS-IWG Update: 14 October 2021

Dear TS-IWG,

We trust everyone is fully recovered from a successful TCC17 and that preparations are underway for WCPFC18. In response to our last update, we have received responses from a number of members and are happy to report their feedback was quite consistent.

Our primary objective in soliciting input was to ensure the TS-IWG had an opportunity to weigh in on the direction of the group in the wake of the COVID intersessional decisions related to transshipment. However, feedback from TS-IWG members clearly indicates that there is no need to explicitly add COVID-specific priorities or topics to the work of the group. Each of the TS-IWG members who responded, expressed support for the TS-IWG to maintain focus on its objectives as described in the working group's Terms of Reference as well adhering to the Scope of Work for the transshipment information analysis, including the timeline therein.

The timeline established in the Scope of Work for the Information Analysis is:

- \* September 2021 - the expected commencement date for Phase 1 of the Analysis
- \* Q1 2022 - the consultant selection for Phase 3 will be completed by the Secretariat and shall be based on this Scope of Work
- \* TBD - the WCPFC Secretariat and WCPFC Scientific Services Provider are expected to jointly provide a report for Phase 2 Data Compilation and Analysis, that will be made available to the IWG at the same time as it is provided to the Consultant for Phase 3.
- \* 15 July 2022 - the Consultant is expected to deliver a draft report for comment by the IWG.
- \* 15 August 2022 - final report due to TS-IWG. One outstanding issue is the funding of Phase 3. Phases 1 and 2 are being supported by the

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United States' 2019 voluntary contribution, but Phase 3 remains unfunded. Your co-Chairs will seek the advice on estimated costs from the Secretariat and seek input from TS-IWG members regarding potential sources of funding for Phase 3.

Although the TS-IWG's Information Analysis is more than 8 months from being completed, we would encourage TS-IWG members to review the Secretariat's transshipment report to TCC17 (WCPFC-TCC17-2021-RP03). In addition, we would also like to flag paragraph 54 from the "Annual Report of Executive Director - overview of MCS and Compliance Programmes" (WCPFC-TCC17-2021-05). This paragraph highlights a study led by the Secretariat to identify and assess the high-level options and their potential costs and IT infrastructure for a WCPFC Secretariat role in receiving and managing transshipment related Electronic Monitoring (EM) camera footage and data from an on-board camera system or data logger system. As noted by the Executive Director, your co-chairs have worked closely with the Secretariat throughout the study, and we look forward to seeing the final report when it is made available to the Commission.

Finally, as a heads up, we intend to circulate another update to the group early next week, regarding transshipment-related TCC17 outcomes and potential work by the TS-IWG between now and the Commission meeting in December.

Sincerely,

Felix and Alex