

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

Circular No.: 2026/46

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Subject: Call for Expressions of Interest for the Independent Review Panel on the Commission's Implementation of Article 30 of the WCPF Convention

Dear All,

At its 22nd Regular Session (WCPFC22), the Commission agreed to undertake an independent review of the Commission's implementation of Article 30 of the WCPF Convention and its recognition of the special requirements of developing States in Commission processes.

The Secretariat is pleased to announce a call for expressions of interest from suitably qualified independent experts to serve on the Review Panel. The Review Panel will assess how the Commission implements Article 30, including through current and past WCPFC instruments, activities and processes, with a particular focus on the special requirements of developing States, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories.

The Review Panel will comprise three independent experts, one of whom will be assigned the role of Chair. Panel members should have a detailed understanding of, and direct experience working on, developing State interests and measures to avoid or mitigate disproportionate burdens of fisheries conservation action, WCPFC processes and conservation and management measures, and international cooperation and development aid.

At least one panel member should have significant knowledge and experience working on developing States, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories requirements, and an understanding of the unique operational dynamics and governance structures within the Territories.

Interested experts do not need to be nominated by a Commission Member, Cooperating Non-Member or Participating Territory. Candidates should self-nominate by submitting an expression of interest and a current resume to the WCPFC Secretariat.

The WCPFC Executive Director will establish the Review Panel in consultation with CCMs, taking into account candidates' availability, the balance of experience relevant to the review, and any other relevant criteria. The review is expected to commence in mid-2026, with the possibility for travel by some or all members of the Review Panel to the 22nd Regular Meeting of the Technical

and Compliance Committee (TCC22) and/or the 23rd Regular Session of the Commission (WCPFC23) to consult with CCMs.

The final report is to be submitted to the Secretariat by 30 June 2027. The report will be submitted to SC23 and TCC23 for comments or recommendations before being considered by the Commission at WCPFC24.

Expressions of interest and resumes should be submitted to the WCPFC Finance and Administration Manager, Aaron Nighswander (Aaron.Nighswander@wcpfc.int) no later than **19 June 2026**. Any queries regarding this opportunity may be directed to Mr. Nighswander.

Yours Sincerely,



Rhea Moss-Christian
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ARTICLE 30 IMPLEMENTATION

Objective: Review of the Commission’s recognition of the special requirements of developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories enshrined in Article 30 of the WCPF Convention and related WCPFC instruments, activities and processes.

Scope of Review: The Review shall be conducted by a Panel and assess how the Commission implements Article 30 of the WCPF Convention. It shall review all current and past activities, instruments and processes that the WCPFC and CCMs, have developed and implemented to recognise the special requirements of developing States, with a particular focus on the special requirements of developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories. The panel shall also engage with relevant regional or subregional organisations for the purpose of reviewing activities delivered by these organisations, relating to the implementation of Article 30, such as FFA and SPC.

Deliverables: The Panel shall prepare a report that responds to the prescribed outputs, including providing targeted recommendations for the enhancement of the Commission’s implementation of Article 30 requirements. In conducting the Review, the Panel shall consult with, at least, the WCPFC Secretariat, CCMs (both developing and developed CCMs), WCPFC observers (past and present) and regional organisations or partners that support developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories CCMs in the WCPFC.

The panel is expected to travel to TCC22 and/or WCPFC23, if necessary, to gather information and consult with CCMs.

Outputs:

- a) A chronological history of the Commission’s implementation of Article 30, taking into account WCPFC22-2023-WP03, WCPFC-2025-WP32 and WCPFC22-2025-IP01, including:
 - i. how it has been operationalised through CMMs, Commission decisions, tools, processes and activities;
 - ii. what the Commission and CCMs have done to date to support the special requirements of developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories.
- b) Analysis of how Article 30, CMM 2013-06 and CMM 2013-07 is reflected in the Commission’s work (aligned to its mandate and the Convention);
- c) Analysis of the specific ways the Commission has institutionally and operationally ensured that conservation management measures do not result in transferring,

- directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories;
- d) analysis of methodologies for the evaluation of disproportional burden of conservation action onto developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories;
 - e) Analysis of CCMs understanding of, and contributions to, Article 30;
 - f) Analysis of the effectiveness of WCPFC mechanisms that provides the articulation of developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories needs;
 - g) Analysis of the effectiveness of WCPFC and CCMs mechanisms and activities in addressing developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories. needs under Article 30;
 - h) Identification of gaps, weaknesses and strengths to the Commission's implementation of Article 30; and
 - i) Recommendations for how the Commission can enhance its implementation of Article 30 requirements and associated CMMs; and
 - j) Provide any additional observations or recommendations relevant to Article 30.

Composition of Review Panel

The Review Panel shall comprise 3 independent experts, one of whom will be assigned the role of Chair. Panel representatives shall have a detailed understanding of, and direct experience working on:

- a) developing State interests and the implementation of measures to avoid or mitigate disproportionate burden of fisheries conservation action onto developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories.
- b) WCPFC processes and conservation and management measures.
- c) International cooperation and development aid

At least one panel representative shall have significant knowledge and experience working on developing states, in particular Small Island Developing States and Territories requirements and an understanding of the unique operational dynamics and governance structures within the territories.

The Review Panel shall be established by the WCPFC Executive Director, in consultation with CCMs, based on a call for expression of interest and taking into account the availability of any candidates, a balance of experiences which would be relevant to the review and any other relevant criteria.

This review will have a budget of USD 120,000.

Timeframe: The review will commence in 2026 with the final report to be submitted to the Secretariat by 30 June 2027.

The Panel will submit this report to SC23 and TCC23 for any comments or recommendations, before being considered by WCPFC24.