

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

**Circular No.: 2012/45**

**Date: 6 July 2012**

**No. pages: 3**

**Commission update**

**1 Confirming dates for TCC:**

The report of the annual meeting of the WCPFC8 records that TCC will be between the 27<sup>th</sup> of September and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October.

We have received some enquiries relating to the actual dates for the TCC meeting for this year. In the past the meeting has started with HoDs on the Wednesday afternoon and then the meeting proper has been on Thursday, Friday, Saturday (Sunday has been free) then Monday and Tuesday. If we were to follow this past process for this year, the HoDs would be on the afternoon of Wednesday 26 September then the meeting would be from Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> of September and end on the afternoon of Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October. This provides us with 5 meeting days as outlined above.

Therefore unless anyone indicates otherwise we will amend the TCC dates to have a 5 day TCC meeting commencing on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September which aligns with flight availability to Pohnpei and with an end date of the meeting to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October.

**2 WCPFC8 Meeting Record**

Thanks to everyone who lodged comments on the Annual Record I have one paragraph to clear and we will work to have it out to you by the end of next week.

**3 Staff changes**

Following Layleen Oliver's sad passing we have moved Lucille Martinez into the Administrative Officer position at the Commission and are currently advertising for an Executive Assistant. We will then have a full contingent of staff.

**4 Global Environment Fund (GEF) Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)**

As many of you will be aware this round of GEF funding has a Tuna program and we have been working with IATTC and FAO over the last 18 months to see if we are able to get some project funding from the Tuna Program to do some pacific wide work on improving the conservation, management of sharks and the mitigation of bycatch. We also have a small proposal under the MCS component to enhance the integration of high seas data and information sources within the Secretariat. There will be a presentation by the GEF at the FAO meeting in Rome next week.

One of the challenges for us will be finding a matching ratio of 5 to 1 for each dollar invested under the GEF Program. Before you panic however, this is not new funding it is in-kind matched dollars that are identified in our current budget. I will update you more on this post the Rome meeting next week.

#### 5 Scientific Committee meeting

This is coming together although the cost of rooms is proving to be a bit high but look around as there are other hotels other than the Lotte. SungKwon has advised that this is peak holiday time in Busan so make sure you book both flights and accommodation at the earliest opportunity. Can Commission funded participants from developing countries and participating territories submit the travel for their nominated participant. One day prior to the deadline, only six countries and participating territories have submitted their nomination. Not submitting nominations in time adds an extra cost to the Commission. Can you all please make sure that you also have all papers in by the due dates.

#### 6 Follow-up items from the Annual Meeting

We now have an identified list of all follow-up items and you will see correspondence on these issue start to flow in the coming week.

#### 7 Interns and CMR

We alerted you that we would need interns to help us with the CMR process in order to get the reports back to you in time for the TCC meeting. It may not be as bad as last year as we know what we have to produce, however it is a significant block of work. At this point we have with us Kara Miller from the US and Pam Maru from the Cook Islands and we have a potential intern from Tonga in Ana Taholo. However, if any member has a person who likes hard work and would benefit from a short placement here at the Commission from now through to mid to late August they would be most welcome.

Annual Report Part 1 and Part 2, which are one of the key data sources for CMR, have started to be received. Thanks to the CCMs who have got their reports in by the agreed deadlines; currently we have eleven Part 2 reports, and five Part 1 reports received.

#### 8 Overlap area

I went to IATTC last week to help in the discussion on the overlap area. However, due to the complexity of the meeting the item did not make it onto the agenda for discussion. I am not sure if it can be discussed by IATTC and the AIDCP meeting in October but if not I will write to the IATTC Secretariat a letter highlighting that this will become a difficult issue for our annual meeting if we do not get some guidance from their members on the potential options.

#### 9 Special Requirements Fund (SRF)

The Principles, Guidelines and Operational Procedures for the Commission's Special Requirements Fund adopted at WCPFC3 require:

“By the 30th June each year, the Executive Director will write to members, cooperating non-members or other sources of potential support for the Special Requirements Fund seeking voluntary contributions to the Fund for the subsequent financial year.”

To date, USD44,976 has been spent on projects from the SRF. Accordingly I invite Members and Cooperating Non-members to contribute to the Commission's SRF.

I will update you on the GEF, the TCC and other follow up issues next week.



Professor Glenn Hurry  
Executive Director  
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission