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

**Circular No.: 2017/33  
Date: 11 May 2017  
No. pages: 2**

**Regarding Draft Guidelines to Govern the Participation of Observers in CMS  
Working Group Sessions**

Dear All,

The Secretariat received the enclosed letter in reference to Circular 2017/24 on draft guidelines to govern the participation of observers in CMS working group sessions.

A copy of this letter has been provided to the United States who is presently leading the development of the proposal. As requested, the letter is circulated for your information.

Yours sincerely,



**Feleti Penitala Teo, OBE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**From:** glen joseph [<mailto:gjoseph101@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 9, 2017 3:54 PM  
**To:** Feleti Teo <[Feleti.Teo@wcpfc.int](mailto:Feleti.Teo@wcpfc.int)>  
**Subject:** CN. 2017/24

Dear Feleti,

Thank you for your Circular No: 2017/24 dated 3 April 2017, in which you conveyed the Draft guidelines to govern the participation of observers in CMS working group sessions developed by the United States. At the outset, the Republic of the Marshall Islands sincerely thanks the United States for taking the lead and providing this draft.

We note the WCPFC13 decision to develop and adopt intersessionally such guidelines in time for use at TCC13. For the Republic of the Marshall Islands, this is not the ideal way for our small administration to contribute to Commission decision-making as we struggle to implement decisions already taken by the Commission.

In addition, the audit of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme will take place this year, and amongst other tasks will analyse the elements of the TCC and Commission review procedures and “the transparency of the CMR consideration”. In particular, the audit will look at how they can be improved. We believe that this audit provides the opportunity for an independent review of our processes, including any recommendations on its transparency.

Therefore, notwithstanding the WCPFC13 decision, we respectfully request all WCPFC Members to await the report of that audit to WCPFC14, so we can have independent advice on this subject.

This will also help to inform our wider discussions on the participation of observers at all closed meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

We would appreciate if this could be circulated to all WCPFC CCMs.

Sincerely,

Glen Joseph  
Republic of the Marshall Islands