

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

**Circular No.: 2019/05
Date: 8 February 2019
No. pages: 6**

**Update on WCPFC15 Outcome in Respect of Panama's Application for CNM
Status for 2019**

Dear All,

You will recall that the WCPFC15 decision in granting CNM status to Panama was conditional on Panama submitting certain information by the end of January 2019. Paragraph 8 of the WCPFC15 Provisional Outcomes document states that:

“WCPFC also approved the application for CNM status for 2019 from Panama, subject to Panama:

- a. Preparing an action plan outlining how it will improve its compliance with WCPFC, including to ensure that relevant data is provided on time and any improvement to its internal procedures necessary to improve its cooperation with WCPFC. This Action Plan should be provided to the Commission by no later than the end of January 2019, and circulated to all CCMs;
- b. Providing all outstanding data by no later than the end of January 2019 to the Secretariat; and
- c. Enhancing its engagement with the Secretariat to ensure it can meet relevant reporting requirements.”

In respect of the above decision, I can confirm that on 6th February 2019, the Secretariat received a communication from Panama that was noted to be in reference to the said decision. As required a copy of the letter dated 1st February 2019 from Panama and the enclosed action plan is circulated for members' consideration and information.

Any queries concerning this circular may be directed to the Compliance Manager; Dr Lara Manarangi-Trott at lara.manarangi-trott@wcpfc.int.

Yours sincerely,



**Feleti Penitala Teo, OBE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE INSPECCIÓN, VIGILANCIA Y CONTROL
Panamá, February 1, 2019

DGIVC/DD/0393/2019

To the Honorable Sir
Feleti P Teo, OBE
Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Dear Mr. Feleti:

As we recall, the Commission approved the application for CNM Status for 2019 from Panama subject to preparing an action plan outlining how it will improve its compliance with WCPFC, including to ensure that relevant data is provided on time and any improvement to its internal procedures necessary to improve its cooperation with WCPFC. This action plan should be provide to the commission no later than the end of January 2019, and circulated to all CCMs.

As part of this commitment, attached you will find the Panama Action Plan to improve the our compliance with the WCPFC.

I remain truly yours, to reaffirm the nonstop commitment of the Republic of Panama to comply with the measures of conservation and management through the registration of the WCPFC and will ensure to apply on time this year all the necessary reports of the convention area.

Furthermore I respectfully request to the secretariat that this communication be circulated to all the members of the WCPFC for their respective information and considerations.

Best regards,


RAÚL DELGADO
Director General



Republic of Panama
Authority of the Aquatic Resources of Panama

Action Plan regarding Technical and Compliance Issues in WCPFC
(Establishment of a Compliance and Monitoring Scheme).

Summary

This Action Plan sets out the policy context and key actions to increase the level of compliance in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission by the Republic of Panama. The scope of the Action Plan is intentionally focused on the reports that Panama has to provide in the context of rules of procedures of the WCPFC and relevant information provided by the Panama fleet . It does not include mechanisms to drive change beyond the Authority's capacity.

Panama has made a major management control of its fishing vessels since 1997, which establishes the obligation to obtain a fishing license for fishing vessels on the high seas or EEZ of other States, with a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) as mandatory for all fishing vessels and support fishing vessels.

Background

The Republic of Panama is cooperating non Contracting Party of WCPFC, the number of vessels operating in this convention area are 118 Fish Carrier Vessels and 12 Bunker Vessels (total of 130) as support vessels. All of our vessels are licensed to operate in the WCPFC in compliance to the commission's recommendations and requirements with responsibilities to exercise effective control of the vessels, taking measures to ensure that vessels, comply with the provisions of the Convention

In this moment we recognizing the need to request technical assistance and capacity building to Panama as Developing State.

Socio-economic factors

The benefits obtained to flag in Panama are in the country and generates many jobs also with the flag registry, crews of the ships as well as the company profits that are in the country.

Disposal of Catch

No catch vessel are registered in WCPFC for 2019, all vessels operates in the convention area as fish carrier vessel.

Future Prospect of the Fishery

We are in the position to keep our participatory rights in the future with support fishing vessels and purse seine with no participatory rights in high seas. All fishing capacity will be in accordance with CMM 2009-11 and CMM 2017-01 or its replacement measure.

Action Plan of Compliance and Corrective Actions

Compliance Status	Corrective Action
Non-Compliant	<p>Identification of the non-compliance, make a proposal of corrective action for the future and proceed to provide the information in a prior no longer that two month.</p> <p>Meeting between the secretariat and Panama Delegation on March, 2019 - to know all procedures and instructive to provide the reports and compliance issues.</p>
Priority non-compliant	<p>Identification of the omissions and failure of compliance. Request technical assistance or capacity building to the Commission to take steps to respond and rectifications. Provide the information in a period no longer that six-month.</p> <p>Meeting between the secretariat and Panama Delegation on March, 2019 - to know all procedures and instructive to provide the reports and compliance issues.</p>
Not assessed	Immediately provide the information.

Distribution of the Job in the Authority Regarding Compliance and Monitoring Scheme

- Update and Registration of Vessels. Record of Vessels: The information will be provided by the General Directorate of Fishing Management.
- Previous Notification and Transshipment Report: The information will be provided by the General Directorate of Inspection, Monitoring and Control through the Control Department.
- VMS: The information will be provided by the Unit of Fishing Monitoring Center in the Control Department
- Data Standards: Information will be provided by Transshipment Section of Control Department
- Compliance and Monitoring Scheme: Will be provided by the Directorate of Inspection, Monitoring and Control through the Control Department, Monitoring Department and Head Office

Corrective Actions to avoid future cases of noncompliance:

A meeting between Panama and the Secretariat of the Commission is scheduled for the month of March with the purpose of reviewing all compliance elements, formats, data to be reported and receiving knowledge of how the information should be provided and the deadlines to be reported

A meeting between Panama and the personnel of the Fisheries Monitoring Center is scheduled for March with the purpose of making a review of the data reports, the lack of information.