



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Sixteenth Regular Session**  
**Electronic Meeting**  
23 – 29 September 2020

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**TRANSHIPMENT INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP (IWG)**  
**STATUS REPORT TO TCC16**

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**WCPFC-TCC16-2020-19**  
**17 September 2020**

**Submitted by Chair of Review of CMM 2009-06 IWG**

**Transshipment Intersessional Working Group (IWG)**  
**Status Report to TCC16**  
**14 September 2020**

**Background**

1. In December 2018, and affirming TCC14's recommendation, the Commission agreed to conduct a review of its transshipment measure, CMM 2009-06, in 2019 (Review). Paragraph 380 of the WCPFC15 Summary Report states:

*The Commission agreed to conduct a review of the existing transshipment measure (CMM 2009-06) in 2019, with the review to commence through an electronic intersessional working group.*

2. The Transshipment IWG met in-person at TCC15 and agreed on the Terms of Reference (TOR) for a review of CMM 2009-06, to include an analysis of transshipment information in support of the review, and received a recommendation to continue its work in 2020. Paragraph 547 of the WCPFC16 Summary Report states:

*The Commission agreed to the TS-IWG to continue its work in 2020. Following significant progress on its draft Scope of Work for the analysis of transshipment information, the TS-IWG will reconvene electronically in 2020. While the IWG was able to reach agreement on a considerable number of elements in the draft, there remain a few outstanding issues for which the IWG will need to consider and agree upon intersessionally. Moving forward, the TS-IWG Co-Chairs will welcome comments only on the outstanding proposed language in the draft Scope of Work by 13 January 2020. The Co-Chairs will circulate the updated Scope of Work following the conclusion of WCPFC16 and provide further instructions to the IWG by email.*

3. In addition to the above recommendation, and with the United States' \$74,000 voluntary contribution to support the analysis, the Secretariat sought in-kind staff support to help prepare its transshipment information for a prospective consultancy.

**Status Report**

4. The co-Chairs received additional feedback on the Scope of Work for the analysis of transshipment information from members and observers, with several of the comments attempting to re-open agreed text from the margins of the Commission meeting. In addition, COVID-19 travel restrictions have precluded further consideration of the in-

kind support to the Secretariat to prepare transshipment information for a prospective consultancy. Finally, as explained in WCPFC Circular 2020/106, one of the co-Chairs, Sam Lanwi Jr., was reassigned to the Republic of the Marshall Islands Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade and is no longer able to serve as co-Chair of the TS-IWG. We wish him and his family good health and the best of luck in his new assignment.

5. Also noted in WCPFC Circular 2020/106, the Republic of the Marshall Islands remains committed to the work of the Transshipment IWG and will continue to engage in the discussions led by Alex Kahl (USA).
6. The TS IWG will reconvene via email after TCC16 with a focus on concluding the Scope of Work for the analysis of transshipment information and continuing with the work of the IWG - with special consideration given to any COVID-19 impacts on the Commission's regulatory and monitoring regime for transshipment activity in the Convention Area. Heading into WCPFC17.

### **Recommendation**

*TCC16 recommends the Commission seek a nomination for a TS IWG co-Chair at WCPFC17 and that it reaffirm its tasking of the TS-IWG to continue and complete its work.*