**From:** Alex Kahl

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 4:32 AM  
**Subject:** TS-IWG Update for the week of 30 August 2021

Dear TS-IWG Members,

We hope this email finds you well amid the rising tide of meetings. Your TS-IWG co-Chairs share everyone's online meeting fatigue and would like to encourage members to engage via email dialogue - as was envisaged for this group when it was tasked by WCPFC15, "with the review to commence through an electronic intersessional working group" (pre-COVID, before Zoom meetings were the Commission norm).

To that end, rather than request more online meetings, we will send out regular TS-IWG update emails in the coming weeks and months, heading into WCPFC18, to facilitate the work of the TS-IWG and communication among its members.

As we await an update from the Secretariat and SPC on the U.S.-funded data analysis that will provide the quantitative pillar of our review of CMM 2009-06, paragraph 11 of the [TS-IWG Terms of Reference](https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/torfinal/terms-reference-review-cmm-2009-06-transhipment-final-version-circulated-iwg-9) provides for the TS-IWG "to identify other recommended actions for the Commission to improve the management, monitoring and regulation of transshipment".

The coming months and year present a unique opportunity for the TS-IWG to evaluate the effects of the COVID Intersessional Decisions to allow authorized purse seine transshipment at sea and to waive the transshipment observer coverage requirement. The Secretariat posted a very informative[paper on this issue to the TCC17 ODF](https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/13059) and we would encourage all members to review the paper and provide comments on it through the ODF. Further, **we would welcome input from members on lessons learned or recommended actions stemming from the COVID Intersessional Decisions related to transshipment, to help inform our review of the CMM.**

The TCC17 ODF also contains a U.S. proposal related to [ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields for Transhipment at Sea](https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/13294). We encourage all members to review this document and provide comments in the ODF. Your co-Chairs have also received a paper from an observer to the Commission (and a member of the TS-IWG), the Pew Foundation, with similar recommendations to the United Statesʻ proposal and would like to share the document with TS-IWG members (attached). Both documents were recently posted and received, and upon review in the coming days, your co-Chairs will share initial thoughts on how these link to the work of the TS-IWG, in next weekʻs email. Similarly, we would welcome any thoughts from the TS-IWG members on a rolling basis and will share the substance of any member input with the TS-IWG.

Finally, we seek membersʻ recommendations for areas of focus for a 2022-2024 TS-IWG Workplan**by September 15, 2021.**Based on the broad range of issues related to transshipment on the agenda at TCC17 and expected commencement of the data analysis, we expect the coming months and hopefully the next year to be very active for the TS-IWG. Once we receive member input for the workplan, we would like to present a draft Workplan via TCC17 and will continue working with TS-IWG members to finalize the plan in time for WCPFC18.

As we continue our discussions via email in the coming weeks, we welcome email dialogue from TS-IWG members on any of the above, or other transshipment related issues. We will anonymize and summarize all correspondence (unless a member requests to be identified for the summary) and circulate frequent updates to the TS-IWG heading into WCPFC18.

We apologize for the lengthy email, but look forward to robust and substantive discussion on transshipment and our collective review of CMM 2009-06.

Sincerely,

Felix and Alex