



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

**Circular No.: 2024/76
Date: 22 October 2024
No. pages: 2**

Dear Colleagues,

Fakalofa lahi atu,

With the recent conclusion of TCC20, I know we are all now focused on the upcoming Commission annual meeting in Suva. In the coming weeks, intersessional activities will continue, including the development of EM standards, a review of port State measures to commence in 2025, and the provision of additional information on the Compliance Monitoring Report. I look forward to further discussing these matters at WCPFC21.

The meeting page for WCPFC21 is already set up and the explanation for each agenda item with an initial indication of scheduling is also available. My main priority for WCPFC21 is to capitalise on the extensive work of the Subsidiary Bodies and other intersessional work throughout the year so that their recommendations can be finalised and adopted by the Commission. For a comprehensive overview of the Commission's 2024 activities, I refer you to the Executive Director's Annual Report, which integrates intersessional activities under broad themes.

A focus on the work undertaken throughout 2024 is consistent with the priorities reflected in the Commission's outcomes at WCPFC20. With this approach, I expect strong outcomes at WCPFC21 on crew labour standards, EM minimum standards, climate change, and progress in the harvest strategy work relating to South Pacific albacore and skipjack. I would also like to see good progress on transshipment, seabirds, and efforts to improve data quality and availability, such as through the work of the IWG on the Regional Observer Programme (ROP) and the FAD Management Options IWG. I intend to give sufficient time at WCPFC21 for members to progress measures and identification of 2025 taskings for adoption, including through the use of small working groups so that we can work as efficiently as possible.

Of course, we will also have the usual work of the Commission which will need to be completed, including consideration of recommendations of the Northern Committee, adoption of the FAC report and budget, participatory rights for CNMs, the final CMR, the list of obligations for CMR review in 2025, audit points, and the final IUU vessel list. I expect that the approach to our agenda this year will enable us to move ahead in the most efficient manner possible to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries regarding my expectations for WCPFC21. The Secretariat will provide a more detailed indicative schedule shortly before the meeting starts, and the detailed annotations for each agenda item should provide sufficient information on how we will work throughout the meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Suva in a few weeks. I am available on Skype, WhatsApp, or email (josie.tamate@gmail.com) if you have any queries.

Regards,



Dr Josie M Tamate
WCPFC Chair