

16 March 2017

Ivan Flores Morales

General Administrator

Authority of Aquatics Resources of Panama

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Application for Co-operating Non Member (CNM) status within the WCPFC

Dear Mr Flores,

I am pleased to inform you that the Commission, at its 13th Regular Session in December 2016 in Nadi, Fiji, agreed to approve the application for renewal of CNM status in 2017 for Panama.

2. The Commission granted CNM status to non-members under the following terms:

- a. In accordance with the WCPF Convention and its conservation and management measures and resolutions, the following participatory rights apply to Cooperating Non- Members (CNMs) for fisheries in the high seas within the WCPFC Convention Area.
- b. In addition, unless otherwise specified below, CNMs may fish in waters under their national jurisdiction or other CCMs' national jurisdiction, in accordance with appropriate bilateral arrangements.
- c. CNMs shall ensure vessels flying their flags comply with all provisions of the WCPF Convention and the WCPFC conservation and management measures. In addition, CNM vessels will be placed on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (WCPFC RFV).
- d. CCMs shall ensure that CNM fishing activities that are conducted in waters under their national jurisdiction in accordance with bilateral arrangements are consistent with all relevant conservation and management measures and provisions of the WCPF Convention.
- e. Renewal of CNM status by the Commission will take into account -compliance with the national laws and regulations of any licensing CCM, and all conservation and management measures and provisions of the WCPF Convention. CCMs shall identify any violations by vessels flagged to a CNM and report on any investigations of such violations to the TCC.

WCPFC/IATTC Overlap Area

3. In respect of the WCPFC / IATTC overlap Area, the Commission agreed that:

- a. In accordance with the decision of WCPFC9 regarding the management of the overlap area of 4°S and between 130°W and 150°W, vessels flagged to Ecuador, El Salvador and Mexico will be governed by the IATTC when fishing in the overlap area.
- b. In accordance with the Data Exchange MOU agreed by both Commissions, fishing vessels flying the flag of a member of either the IATTC or WCPFC shall cooperate with the RFMO to which they are not a member by voluntarily providing operational catch and effort data for its fishing activities for highly migratory species in the overlap area.
- c. For the purpose of investigation of possible IUU fishing activities and consistent with international and domestic laws, vessels flying the flag of a CNM that is a Contracting Party to the IATTC will cooperate with those coastal State members of the WCPFC whose EEZs occur in the overlap area by voluntarily providing VMS reports (date, time and position) to those coastal States when operating in the overlap area.

Participatory rights of each CNM in 2017: Panama

4. As agreed by WCPFC13, the participatory rights of Panama in the WCPO are limited to the provision of carrier and bunker vessels. Panama's participatory rights also apply to vessels that supply food, water and spare parts to carrier vessels that engage in transshipment activities, provided that these vessels do not engage in activities supporting fishing vessels, including providing and/or servicing FADs. The SWG also noted that this does not result in any additional participatory rights in 2017 to the participatory rights granted to Panama in 2016.

Compliance Monitoring Scheme outcome in 2016: Panama

5. A copy of the full Compliance Monitoring Report as adopted by the Commission pursuant to CMM 2015-07 *Compliance Monitoring Scheme* is attached to the WCPFC13 Summary Report (Attachment U).

Financial contribution

6. The WCPFC thanks Panama for its financial contribution for 2016. Under CMM 2009-11 paragraphs 2 (g), there is a commitment for CNM's to make a financial commitment to the WCPFC. The Commission has assessed the financial commitment expected from all CNMs at 50% of the contribution that a CNM would have to make if it was a member. In the case of Panama for 2017 this is assessed to be 50% of US\$45,319 or US\$22,659.

7. The contribution should be forwarded to the Commission account whose details follow:

Account name : Western and Central Pacific Commission
Account number : 209-292927
Bank Details : Bank of Guam
Branch : Kolonia, Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia
SWIFT Code: GMBKGUGU
ABA : 1214-05115

Applications to renew CNM status for 2018

8. I also take this opportunity to remind all CNMs that in accordance with CMM 2009-11, CNMs must reapply annually for CNM status and their application should address all criteria in paragraph 2 of CMM 2009-11.

9. WCPFC13 agreed, as originally recommended by TCC12, to include a column in the CNM application template where CNM applicants could indicate their interest in becoming a member of the Commission. A copy of the updated electronic form that incorporates the necessary amendment for WCPFC CNM requests can be accessed from wcpfc website: <https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/commission-07b/cooperating-non-member-request-template>. A cover letter under official letter head can also be sent as a second attachment. The 2017 application should be submitted before Saturday **July 29th 2017** (60 days before TCC13).

10. The Commission looks forward to working closely with you and your representatives in 2017. Please feel free to contact the Secretariat if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Feleti P Teo, **OBE**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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