

Pan-Pacific Fisheries Compliance Network

Operational Framework

01 March 2021

1. Scope

The Pan-Pacific Fisheries Compliance Network (hereafter referred to as the “PPFCN”) is an informal, voluntary network comprised of a Core Group of officers responsible for compliance within the RFMO¹ Secretariats² that have overlapping waters or jurisdictions within the Pacific Ocean region. The PPFCN shall also consist of an Extended Group of invited officers responsible for compliance in other RFMOs, invited Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) experts, and any other relevant experts that may support the work and objectives of the PPFCN. From its inception, the PPFCN will be supported by the International MCS (IMCS) Network³.

2. Objective

The PPFCN is established to facilitate informal communication, collaboration, and cooperation between PPFCN Core Group members with the primary objective of sharing information about effective compliance processes associated mainly with, but not limited to, “best practice” processes and existing RFMO conservation and management measures, as well as enabling more effective and efficient means of sharing other relevant data and information between the Core Group RFMOs where appropriate⁴.

3. General Organization

The PPFCN shall consist of:

- a) A Core Group led by a Chairperson;
- b) An Extended Group; and
- c) An IMCS Network Coordinator who supports the work of the PPFCN.

¹ Reference to RFMO also includes organizations with a conservation agreement with some attributes of an RFMO

² The initial RFMOs of the PPFCN consist of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Commission of the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) [and the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)].

³ The IMCS Network has and continues to provide similar support to the Tuna Compliance Network, the model for an informal networking forum upon which the PPFCN was formed.

⁴ Recognizing that the informal PPFCN is not the forum within which relevant information and/or data would be shared between RFMOs and does not replace formal mechanisms such as MOU/MOAs developed, agreed, and implemented in accordance with RFMO constructs and requirements.

3.1 Core Group

The Core Group shall:

- a) Be composed of those officers responsible for compliance from each of the RFMO Secretariats that form the PPFCN;
- b) Participate voluntarily in all discussions and work related to the PPFCN and its goals and objectives; and
- c) Operate by consensus.

3.2 Chairperson

The Chairperson shall be elected from among the members of the Core Group for a period of one year with the possibility of one re-appointment or any other period as agreed by consensus by the Core Group. The Chairperson shall have the following duties:

- a) Convene and Chair meetings of the Core Group or of the Core and Extended Groups combined. Note: To the extent possible, all meetings or workshops of the PPFCN will be coordinated in conjunction with, or in the margins of, other international meetings or workshops involving members of the Core Group and/or virtually so as to minimize costs to RFMOs;
- b) Prepare draft agendas for meetings of the PPFCN with assistance provided by the IMCS Network Coordinator;
- c) Approve a report of the proceedings of each meeting of the PPFCN; and
- d) Ensure, especially in the interval between meetings, that any Work Plan developed by the PPFCN is carried out efficiently and in accordance with PPFCN goals and objectives.

3.3 Extended Group

The Core Group may invite experts to join the Extended Group, including:

- a) Officers responsible for compliance in the Secretariats of other RFMOs;
- b) External MCS experts as agreed upon by the Core Group;
- c) Other experts on a short-term basis (e.g. Compliance Committee Chair or Science, IT/Data Managers and Legal Advisors), who can inform and support the work of the PPFCN based on their experience and expertise; and
- d) Designated representatives from funding organizations that provide direct financial support to the work of the PPFCN.

3.4 IMCS Network Coordinator and associated support to the PPFCN

The PPFCN shall be supported by a Coordinator and staff provided through the IMCS Network. The IMCS Network shall support the PPFCN and the implementation of its Work

Plan taking into account its own organizational budget and capacity limitations. The IMCS Network will investigate and secure funding support for the PPFCN to assist with the functioning of the PPFCN and implementation of any Work Plan as agreed upon by the Core Group.

4. General goals

In giving effect to its objectives, the PPFCN will, inter alia:

- a) Facilitate informal communication and information exchange;
- b) Identify where more formal mechanisms for sharing information and data between the Core Group RFMOs are relevant and/or needed and support the drafting of such arrangements as may be desired by the Core Group members involved;
- c) Build on the principles of RFMO “best practices” where possible;
- d) Identify and coordinate relevant MCS technical assistance and training opportunities;
- e) Foster joint efforts, including sharing the development of common MCS tools and procedures and best practice compliance methodologies;
- f) Enhance opportunities for sharing technology and technology transfer;
- g) Improve awareness of new and existing MCS and compliance policies, measures, processes, and technologies within RFMOs; and
- h) Action any other objectives identified by the Core Group.

5. Activities of the PPRN

Following establishment of the PPFCN, the Core Group shall:

- a) Determine the need and/or desire to develop a Work Plan to guide the work of the PPFCN;
- b) Any Work Plan agreed upon by the Core Group shall be reviewed and revised annually or on an as-needed basis;
- c) Work Plan activities will focus on the implementation of PPFCN objectives and will include PPFCN meetings, advancing cooperation and collaboration between the Core Group RFMOs as well as with other individuals, networks and organizations, and technical assistance activities;
- d) The Core Group will prioritize those activities that will help ensure the long-term functioning of the PPFCN; and
- e) Any Work Plan activities identified may include participation by some or all of the Core Group RFMOs on a voluntary basis.