

26 January 2026

IOTC CIRCULAR 2026-06

WPICMM09 MEETING – COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Colleagues,

Best wishes to all for 2026! I would like to refer to the forthcoming online meeting of the [Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures \(WPICMM\)](#) foreseen from the 11-13 February 2026.

Firstly, thank you to those CPCs who submitted responses to Letter # IOTC2025-307 on capacity building initiatives and IOTCs IT reporting applications.

Given our quite extensive agenda I would like to provide some thoughts on how I intend conducting and prioritising our work so we are able to be efficient and make clear recommendations to the Compliance Committee.

The meeting will focus on 3 main groups of agenda items. The first is the Workplan (Agenda item 4) covering what the WPICMM has achieved and what requires further work and recommendations. The Review of Investigations and Actions under PSM Resolution 25/11 (Agenda sub-item 4.2) is new to the WPICMM and I would like to draw the attention of CPCs to the document prepared by the Secretariat as IOTC-2026-WPICMM09-04. While contributions on all cases are welcome, I would like to prioritise cases where a response has not been received by the Flag State.

I would also like to dedicate significant time to another new item, the CPC 2025 Compliance Action Plans (Agenda sub-item 4.5) and the reporting on compliance issues under category N/C2. Again, I would like to refer to the reference document prepared by the Secretariat IOTC-2026-WPICMM09-07. While only presenting a quantitative compliance pre-assessment of the plans, I think it is important we devote time to ensure this new process is clear and well understood. I intend to prioritise discussions on those CPCs which did not submit a plan, or which submitted a plan that was considered partially compliant. There will also be adequate time for an exchange of views on the content of plans considered compliant by the Secretariat in their pre-assessment.

The second part of the meeting (Agenda item 5) concerns the Compliance Process and e-Maris application in particular the 2026 Compliance Report workflow, forthcoming campaign requirements and Assessment Criteria for the 2027 Report. While I do not intend to commit significant time for these items, it is important we have a clear and common view on our assessment tools, methodologies and criteria, and an opportunity to make improvements where needed.

The final part of the meeting (Agenda item 6) refers to Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) where we will continue to strive to streamline the IOTC's CMM framework as well as provide a forum for improvements or interpretations of active CMMs and/or proposals for new CMMs. This will be an important part of the meeting, and I intend to devote an appropriate amount of time, of course dependant on the contribution of participating CPCs. Regarding outdated CMMs and CMMs (Agenda item 6.2) that could be merged, I would like to encourage CPCs to make any suggestions and proposals. Whilst being a little outdated, this reference document could perhaps represent a useful source of inspiration in this regard ([IOTC-2025-WPICMM08-15](#); [IOTC-2026-WPICMM09-15](#)).

Finally, I encourage CPCs to provide comments on the Provisional Agenda ([IOTC-2026-WPICMM09-01a](#)) at the beginning of the meeting.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

Distribution

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This message has been transmitted by email only

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Neil Ansell', with a large loop at the start.

Neil Ansell

WPICMM Chair