

LETTER FROM THE PWG CHAIR ON WAY FORWARD - ROUND 3

1 December 2020

Dear PWG members,

Thank you for the further contributions. As we are now in Round 3, please find a summary of the deliberations as well as further thoughts on how we can proceed with our work in 2021.

Regarding the Chair's proposal to amend Rec.18-12 (PWG-408) and following the submission of the EU (PWG-420) in response to the request for clarifications received from the US (PWG-413), I hope that agreement on this can be reached prior to the end of Round 3 (**8 December 2020**).

Concerning the Review and Establishment of the IUU vessel list, following the concerns and objections made by EU (PWG-417), Japan (PWG-415) and US (PWG- 416), the vessel *Mario 11* remains on the draft IUU list. Notwithstanding the information communicated by Senegal (PWG-418), in the absence of the relevant documents requested by the US, the vessel will remain as flagged to Senegal. The interim documents provided by Senegal have been published as Appendix 1 to PWG-418. I suggest that this issue be addressed intersessionally in 2021 including whether the provisions of para 8 of Rec. 18-08 would permit the amendment of listing details intersessionally. Other relevant information received from CPCs has been referred to and annexed in PWG-405C. Any final statements regarding this point must be submitted before the **8 December 2020** after which the draft IUU list (PWG-405C) will be sent to plenary for adoption by the Commission.

The US communicated its objection by way of Circular #7726/20 to cross-listing IUU vessels from the RFMOs not referred to in paragraph 11 of Rec. 18-08. The 30 vessels cross-listed through the 2020 IOTC IUU List were subsequently removed by way of in PWG-405B. The US also requested clarifying the scope and intent of the cross-listing provisions of Rec. 18-08 through future discussions of the IMM/PWG.

Comments and other points raised by PWG members not contained in Statements will be referred to and annexed in my report to plenary.

Thank you to those members who communicated their views and support of the organisational proposal for our 2021 intersessional work. In light of those views and upon some further consideration, I propose we launch the IMM consultation period in March 2021 (date to be confirmed possibly after the PA2 intersessional) ending with a virtual/physical meeting on 14-17 June 2021. The details and procedures for the consultation period will be communicated in early 2021. In order to advance our work, I would encourage CPCs to circulate discussions papers and proposals during the consultation period. Items which do not mature into proposals may not be considered for discussion in the June meeting. If the meeting is confirmed as physical, other points/an alternative approach can be considered nearer the time. In the meantime, I attach the tentative items to be discussed throughout 2021.

Finally, I also envisage a virtual meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group in the first half of 2021 (before June 2021), the dates and proposed agenda for which will follow in due course.

I hope you find this approach workable and the most efficient way of moving forward despite the obvious challenges and uncertainties.

(signature)

Neil Ansell
PWG Chair