



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Koror, Palau  
16 – 24 August 2023

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**MEETING NOTICE AND INFORMATION**

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**WCPFC-SC19-2023/01**

The Nineteenth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC-SC19) will be held in Koror, Palau, from 16 (Wednesday) to 24 (Thursday) August 2023. Heads of Delegations and Convenors Meetings will be held on Tuesday, 15 August 2023. Dr Tuikolongahau Halafihi (Tonga) will chair SC19. The meeting venue is the Ngarachamayong Cultural Center, Koror, Palau.

This meeting notice is posted in advance to allow for early reservation by participants for accommodations and other logistical arrangements. Additional meeting documents to be posted on the SC19 website in due course include:

- Provisional agenda (WCPFC-SC19-2023/02);
- Provisional annotated agenda (WCPFC-SC19-2023/03); and
- Indicative schedule (WCPFC-SC19-2023/04).

**SC19 meeting structure**

As decided at SC8, SC has four theme sessions during the plenary (Data and Statistics, Ecosystem and Bycatch, Management Issues, and Stock Assessment). During SC19, steering committee meetings will be held for the Japan Trust Fund, the Pacific Tuna Tagging Project, and the WCPFC Pacific Marine Specimen Bank. Informal small group meetings may be held in the margins of the plenary session.

SC19 will be a hybrid meeting, with participation to take place in-person and virtually through Zoom. CCMs are only permitted to make their interventions virtually if the CCM HOD or alternative is not able to attend the meeting physically. Please contact the Secretariat's IT team ([ITSupport@wcpfc.int](mailto:ITSupport@wcpfc.int)) for any technical assistance regarding virtual participation.

SC19 meeting will be supplemented by the SC19 website and the SC19 Online Discussion Forum (ODF). The ODF will be used to facilitate discussions on the 2022 SC projects and any other items as requested by SC19 meeting document authors. The ODF will be accessible only to approved SC19 registered participants. The opening and duration of the ODF will be advised in due course. The results of the ODF will be provided to SC19 as a *Summary of Online Discussion Forum* and considered as needed under the relevant agenda items.

**Registration**

Online meeting registration is available at the SC19 meeting site and all participants are requested to register

through this link.: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/meetings/sc19>.

### **Heads of Delegation Meeting and Convenor's Meeting**

Two SC19 preparatory meetings will be held at Ngarachamayong Cultural Center on **Tuesday, 15 August 2023**:

- 1) The **Convenor's Meeting** with the SC Chair and the SPC-OFP representatives will be held at 14:00 to finalize their theme session arrangements and meeting procedure; and
- 2) The **Heads of Delegation Meeting** will be convened by the SC Chair at 16:00. All Theme Convenors are expected to attend.

### **Guidelines for submitting meeting papers**

The procedure for submission of papers for SC19, as determined at SC2, is as follows:

- 1) Annual Report – Part 1

Following WCPFC19, an updated template for Annual Report Part 1 is available at <https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/sc-01/annual-report-commission-part-1-information-fisheries-research-and-statistics-revised>. Completed reports shall be submitted to the WCPFC Secretariat (BOTH [sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int](mailto:sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int) and [contact.ar@wcpfc.int](mailto:contact.ar@wcpfc.int)) by **17 July 2023**.

- 2) Meeting documents

Titles and preliminary abstracts of meeting documents **MUST be submitted as early as possible, but no later than 12 July 2023** (five weeks in advance of the start of SC19). Authors who intend to present a Working Paper or submit an Information Paper (refer to Item 3 below) must contact the relevant Convenor(s) as soon as possible after this SC19 Meeting Notice is posted. Authors and convenors should discuss the suitability of the paper, and under which specific agenda item it falls. Please refer to the Provisional Annotated Agenda, when available.

**All full papers MUST be submitted by 29 July 2023** (18 days in advance of the start of SC19). Please submit titles, abstracts, and full papers to:

- i) SC Chair (Tuikolongahau Halafihi; [supi64t@gmail.com](mailto:supi64t@gmail.com)),
- ii) relevant Theme Convenors below, and
- iii) the Secretariat (SungKwon Soh; [sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int](mailto:sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int))

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Chair      | Tuikolongahau Halafihi (2): <a href="mailto:supi64t@gmail.com">supi64t@gmail.com</a>   |
| Vice Chair | Emily Crigler (1): <a href="mailto:emily.crigler@noaa.gov">emily.crigler@noaa.gov</a>  |
| ST Theme   | Valerie Post (6): <a href="mailto:valerie.post@noaa.gov">valerie.post@noaa.gov</a>   |
| SA Theme   | Hidetada Kiyofuji (2): <a href="mailto:hkiyofuj@affrc.go.jp">hkiyofuj@affrc.go.jp</a><br><i>One co-convenor: TBD</i>   |
| MI Theme   | Robert Campbell (14): <a href="mailto:robert.campbell@csiro.au">robert.campbell@csiro.au</a><br>Laura Tremblay-Boyer: <a href="mailto:laura.t.boyer@gmail.com">laura.t.boyer@gmail.com</a> |
| EB Theme   | Yonat Swimmer (6): <a href="mailto:yonat.swimmer@noaa.gov">yonat.swimmer@noaa.gov</a><br><i>One co-convenor: TBD</i>   |

All papers received will be posted on the SC19 website by **2 August 2023** (two weeks in advance

of the start of SC19). All participants will be responsible for downloading and printing their papers, where desired. Limited printing and photocopying services will be available at the meeting venue.

### 3) Working Papers and Information Papers

The SC Chair and Theme Convenors will be responsible for accepting or rejecting a paper, and if accepted, directing the Secretariat to post the paper as either a Working Paper or an Information Paper.

**Working Papers (WP):** Papers considered by Theme Convenors and the Chair as a working paper for presentation to the SC should be directly relevant to a specific agenda item and will support substantive discussion. Relevant Convenors will attach a cover page, assign a unique number, and send it to the Secretariat (e.g., WCPFC-SC19-2023/ST-WP-XX).

**Information Papers (IP):** Papers considered by Theme Convenors and the Chair as an information paper should be of general interest – i.e., a supplementary paper circulated for information only and not for presentation –but may be referred to in discussion. Relevant Convenors will attach a cover page, assign a unique number, and send it to the Secretariat (e.g., WCPFC-SC19-2023/SA-IP-XX).

### Funding for Developing Countries and Participating Territories

The Commission will fund the participation (a daily allowance and most direct economical airfare) of one representative from each developing country and participating territory that is a member of the Commission. Formal nominations for participants to receive this support should be submitted to the Secretariat ([Aaron.Nighswander@wcpfc.int](mailto:Aaron.Nighswander@wcpfc.int)) by **15 July 2023** under the signature of their WCPFC Official Contact for eligible developing countries and participating territories.

The latest travel arrangement for funded nominees to be finalized is two weeks prior to commencing travel.

### Visa to visit Palau

Most participants visiting Palau do not require an entry permit for stays up to 30 days; however, all visitors must have an onward ticket and a passport valid for at least 120 days. International Certificate of Vaccination for Yellow Fever is required if arriving from an infected area.

For further information on visa requirements please refer to:

<https://visaguide.world/oceania/palau-visa/>

For countries with risk of yellow fever transmission you may refer to this site:

[https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/countries-with-risk-of-yellow-fever-transmission-and-countries-requiring-yellow-fever-vaccination-\(november-2022\)](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/countries-with-risk-of-yellow-fever-transmission-and-countries-requiring-yellow-fever-vaccination-(november-2022))

### Currency in Palau

The currency used in Palau is the U.S. dollar. Bank of Guam provides currency exchange services for the Australian Dollar, Philippine Peso, Japanese Yen, Hong Kong Dollar, Taiwanese Dollar and Korean Won. While Bank of Hawaii provides currency exchange services for the Australian Dollar, Chinese Yuan, Japanese Yen, Hong Kong Dollar, Korean Won and Central Pacific Franc. Banking hours are Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 4 pm.



## COVID Protocols

All participants are encouraged to wear masks, socially distance, and follow the hosts requirements for social gatherings at SC19.

## Airport Transfers

Please contact your hotels for transportation arrangements from Palau Airport to your respective hotels. See Table 1 for car rental information.

**Table 1.** Car Rentals

| Company  | Sedans  | SUV     | Van                  | Additional Information  |
|--|---------|---------|----------------------|---|
| Budget Car Rentals<br>Phone: 4886233<br>Email: <a href="mailto:budgetpalau@palaunet.com">budgetpalau@palaunet.com</a>                                | \$52.95 | \$57.95 | 7-Seater:<br>\$75.00 | Insurance is optional for<br>CDW: Collision Damage<br>Waiver --\$18.95/day and<br>ZDC: Zero Deductable<br>Coverage---\$7.95/day |
| IA Rent A Car<br>Phone: 4881113<br>Email: <a href="mailto:iabc@palaunet.com">iabc@palaunet.com</a>   | \$32.50 | \$52.00 | 7-Seater:<br>\$58.00 | Insurance is optional at<br>\$17.00/Day for all<br>vehicles   |
| IR Car Rental<br>Phone: 4885600<br>Email: <a href="mailto:irudimch_n_co@palaunet.com">irudimch_n_co@palaunet.com</a>                                 | \$39.00 | \$89.00 | 7-Seater:<br>\$75.00 | No Insurance  |
| National/Alamo & Ent. Car Rental<br>Phone: 4886286<br>Email:<br><a href="mailto:reservations@ehiglobalpalau.com">reservations@ehiglobalpalau.com</a> | \$45.00 | \$65.00 | 7-Seater:<br>\$90.00 | Insurance is optional at<br>\$15.00/Day for all<br>vehicles   |

|                                   |         |  |                      |              |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--|----------------------|--------------|
| PIDC Car Rental<br>Phone: 4888350 | \$35.00 |  | 7-Seater:<br>\$65.00 | No Insurance |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--|----------------------|--------------|

## Accommodation

Available accommodation is listed in **Table 2** below. Those participants needing accommodation should book directly with the hotel of their choice as soon as possible.

**Table 2.** Accommodation in Koror

| Hotel   | Room Rates<br>(in USD)  | Amenities  | Distance to the Meeting<br>Venue |       |       | No. of<br>Rooms |
|---|---|--|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-----------------|
|   |   |  | Distance                         | Walk  | Drive |                 |
| Palasia Hotel Palau<br>Phone: 4888888<br>Website: <a href="http://www.palasiahotelpalau.com">www.palasiahotelpalau.com</a>    | \$140/Townview<br>\$160/Bayview<br>(Single/<br>Double/<br>Triple) | Free Wifi,<br>Fridge,Cable<br>TV, Gym,<br>Pool,<br>Restaurant on<br>Site             | 1.5km                            | 19min | 3 min | 165             |
| Palau Hotel<br>Phone: 4885678<br>Website: <a href="http://www.palauhotel.net">www.palauhotel.net</a>                          | Single: \$130   | Free Wifi,<br>Smoke Free<br>Property   | 1.1km                            | 14min | 2 min | 54              |
|   | Double: \$140   |  |                                  |       |       |                 |
|   | Triple: \$150   |  |                                  |       |       |                 |
| Palau Central Hotel<br>Phone: 4884500<br>Email: <a href="mailto:info@palaucentralhotel.com">info@palaucentralhotel.com</a>    | Single:<br>\$215.38   | Free Wifi,<br>Fridge,Cable<br>TV,<br>Restaurant on<br>Site                           | 1.5km                            | 19min | 3 min | 55              |
|   | Double:<br>\$215.38   |  |                                  |       |       |                 |
|   | Triple: \$308   |  |                                  |       |       |                 |
| West Plaza Hotel_Deseke<br>Phone: 4882521<br>Website: <a href="http://www.deseke.wphpalau.com">www.deseke.wphpalau.com</a>    | Single: \$108   | Wifi Access<br>(Prepaid<br>Card), Mini<br>Bar, Cable<br>TV, Grocery<br>Store on Site | 0.55km                           | 6min  | 1 min | 30              |
|   | Double: \$108   |  |                                  |       |       |                 |
|   | Triple:<br>\$135.50   |  |                                  |       |       |                 |
| West Plaza Hotel_Malakal<br>Phone: 4885291<br>Website: <a href="http://www.malakal.wphpalau.com">www.malakal.wphpalau.com</a> | Single: \$108   | Wifi Access<br>(Prepaid<br>Card), Mini<br>Bar, Cable<br>TV,<br>Restaurant on<br>Site | 1.9km                            | 24min | 3 min | 34              |
|   | Double: \$108   |  |                                  |       |       |                 |
|   | Triple:<br>\$135.50   |  |                                  |       |       |                 |
| DW Motel Palau<br>Phone: 4882641<br>Email: <a href="mailto:info@davidwilliamsmotel.com">info@davidwilliamsmotel.com</a>       | Single: \$90  | Wifi Access<br>(Prepaid<br>Card), Mini<br>Bar, Cable<br>TV,<br>Restaurant on<br>Site | 250m                             | 2min  | Walk  | 20              |
|   | Double: \$90  |  |                                  |       |       |                 |
|   | Triple: \$135   |  |                                  |       |       |                 |
| Sea Passion Hotel<br>Phone: 4880066<br>Website: <a href="http://www.seapassion.com">www.seapassion.com</a>                    | Single: \$120   | Free Wifi<br>only in<br>Lobby,<br>Fridge,Cable,                                      | 1.4km                            | 16min | 2 min | 75              |
|   | Double: \$140   |  |                                  |       |       |                 |

|  |                  |   |        |       |       |    |
|--|------------------|---|--------|-------|-------|----|
|  | Triple: \$420.50 | Free Breakfast                                  |        |       |       |    |
| Cove Resort Palau<br>Phone: 4884333<br>Website: <a href="http://www.coveresortpalau.com">www.coveresortpalau.com</a>                       | Single: \$210    | Free Wifi, Mini Bar, Cable, Free Breakfast      | 1.7km  | 21min | 3 min | 74 |
|  | Double: \$210    |   |        |       |       |    |
|  | Triple:          |   |        |       |       |    |
| Garden Palace Downtown<br>Phone: 4888870<br>Email: <a href="mailto:gardenpalace@gmail.com">gardenpalace@gmail.com</a>                      | Single: \$160    | Wifi Access (Prepaid Card), Mini Bar, Cable TV  | 1.2km  | 15min | 3 min |    |
|  | Double: \$160    |   |        |       |       |    |
|  | Triple: \$200    |   |        |       |       |    |
| Palau Carolines Resort<br>Phone: 4883754<br>Website: <a href="http://www.carolinesresort.com">www.carolinesresort.com</a>                  | Single: \$168    | Free Wifi, Fridge, Cable TV, Restaurant on Site | 3.5km  | 43min | 5 min | 8  |
|  | Double: \$260.15 |   |        |       |       |    |
|  | Triple: \$289.19 |   |        |       |       |    |
| Palau Plantation Resort<br>Phone: 4883631<br>Email: <a href="mailto:reservations@palauplantation.com">reservations@palauplantation.com</a> | Single: \$108    | Free Wifi, Mini Bar, Cable                      | 1.7km  | 19min | 5 min | 20 |
|  | Double: \$125    |   |        |       |       |    |
|  | Triple: \$243    |   |        |       |       |    |
| Palau Royal Resort<br>Phone: 4882000<br>Email: <a href="mailto:info@palau-royal-resort.com">info@palau-royal-resort.com</a>                | Single: \$250    | Free Wifi, Fridge, Cable TV, Restaurant on Site | 1.7km  | 23min | 4 min |    |
|  | Double: \$340    |   |        |       |       |    |
|  | Triple: \$456    |   |        |       |       |    |
| Yuhi Motel<br>Phone: 4888966<br>Email: <a href="mailto:reservations@yuhimotel.com">reservations@yuhimotel.com</a>                          | Single: \$99     | Free Wifi, small kitchenette, Fridge            | 0.65km | 8min  | 1 min | 10 |
|  | Double: \$99     |   |        |       |       |    |
|  | Triple: \$125    |   |        |       |       |    |