



## WCPFC MEDIA ACCESS POLICY

Ref: Para 26 WCPFC Summary Record  
Rules 15, 30 and 36 of the WCPFC Rules of Procedure

### **PURPOSE:**

Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure notes that the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall be open unless the Commission or subsidiary bodies decide that exceptional circumstances require a closed session.

The Commission wishes to provide clear guidelines for media access and participation to the annual Commission and Subsidiary meetings. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission encourages access by approved observers in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, Rule 36. The Commission also further wishes to enhance and extend this same access and transparency as far as possible for accredited media to record highlights of the meeting and report on such to the general public. The following have therefore been developed as guidelines to enable WCPFC to provide information on its activities to the public.

**SCOPE:** This policy shall apply equally to accredited media for the annual Commission and Subsidiary meetings.

**Note:** Government media who are part of delegations are expected to be under the rules of the head of delegation and expected to conduct themselves in a similar manner as noted below.

### **DETAILED ACCESS RULES:**

1. The guidelines for media participation have been structured to cover two different media scenarios.
  - a) Mainstream media that are interested in covering the event as a current news item for local or international interest; and
  - b) media participation for a documentary, story or some other requirement whereby they wish to access the meeting during the sessions.

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## **General Conditions applicable to all media participation**

2. Approval of all media access or participation will rest with the Chair of the meeting in consultation with the Executive Director (ED), and where appropriate, the Commission members/CCMs.
3. All requests for media participation to WCPFC meetings or for interviews with the WCPFC or Secretariat shall be directed to the Executive Director of the WCPFC Secretariat and include media accreditation documents (press card and letter of authorization from the media company) and purpose of the participation.
4. Subject to the approval of the ED accredited and approved media will be provided media identification that shall be worn at all times while on the meeting facilities, inside and outside the meeting room.
5. Interviews of member States, cooperating member States or Participating Territories or other participants at the meeting shall be:
  - a) after sessions or during breaks;
  - b) outside the conference meeting facilities.
6. The Commission Chair, Executive Director and where necessary, Legal Advisor shall be the only spokespersons for the WCPFC and the Secretariat. No other Secretariat Staff shall be permitted to participate in any media events or interviews unless authorized by the Executive Director.

### **A) Guidelines for general mainstream media access for news recording or interviews:**

7. Subject to the approval of the ED all approved media are permitted inside the meeting room for the **opening session** subject to the following rules:
  - a) media must wear their Secretariat-issued media identification card at all times;
  - b) any disruptive behavior during the opening session shall result in the ED requesting the company to immediately leave the meeting venue and the withdrawal of credentials;
  - c) cameras may only be used on the periphery of the meeting and cannot be disruptive to the opening ceremonies;
  - d) interviewing of delegates in the meeting room is not permitted;
  - e) timely departure from the meeting room after the opening session.
8. Media participation during the **closing ceremonies**, if any, is subject to the approval of the Chair, and will be conducted in accordance with the above rules.
9. The Chair may decide to conduct a press conference after the meeting which would be open to all media in attendance.

**B) Guidelines for media submitting special requests to film documentaries or special interest programs. :**

10. Requests for media participation for access for the filming of special interest programs or documentaries during the meeting proceedings shall be provided to the Executive Director of the WCPFC Secretariat at least 50 days in advance of the meeting to permit circulation and feedback from CCMs. This is consistent with access requests for observers under the Rules of Procedure Rule 36.

9. The request for such access shall include media credentials, official Press card and letter of authorization from the media company with the intent of the access or description of the project. The Executive Director shall circulate the request to CCMs. The Chair or Executive Director shall notify the media entity at least ten days prior to the commencement of the meeting of the decision.

10. Approved media participation and access for these special cases shall be subject to the following conditions to prevent any disruption to the meeting:

- a) the approval provides clearance as agreed by all Members and is considered as **‘one time<sup>1</sup>’ access for that visit;**
- b) media must wear their Secretariat issued media identification card at all times while on the meeting premises inside and outside the meeting rooms;
- c) any disruptive behavior during meeting discussions or external to the meeting shall result in the ED requesting the company to immediately leave the meeting venue and the withdrawal of credentials. .
- d) the use of cameras is permitted inside the conference room for the official opening and only at set times during the meeting as discussed and agreed by the Chair in advance of the meeting;
- e) camera close up shots are not permitted during meeting discussions;
- f) interviewing delegates during the formal Commission discussions or in the meeting room is not permitted;
- g) the use of any disruptive personal communications devices by media during discussions by the Commission is not allowed; and
- h) if the ED requests media to leave the meeting room this is to be done immediately.

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<sup>1</sup> “One time” means the clearance given is only effective for that particular meeting. Should there be another meeting for the same agenda item, the same should also be cleared and agreed by all Members prior to the meeting.