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SFS/DM/SWIOFC/19/3 E

## **SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION**

### **Tenth Session**

**Maldives, 1 to 3 October 2019**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE WPCCTF ON THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINES ON MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDITIONS (MTC) FOR FOREIGN FISHERIES ACCESS IN THE SWIOFC REGION**

The Ninth Session of the Working Party on Collaboration and Cooperation in Tuna Fisheries (WPCCTF) was held 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at Paradise Island Resort, Republic of the Maldives.

The document SWIOFC/WPCCTF/19/3 summarizing the feedback received from Member States regarding the implementation of the Guidelines on Minimum Terms and Conditions (MTC) for Foreign Fisheries Access in the SWIOFC Region was presented. In order to gather information on the current status of implementation of the MTC Guidelines, the SWIOFC Secretariat had sent to Member Countries two templates to be filled and returned one month before the WPCCTF meeting. Out of a total of 40 provisions in the Guidelines, 10 were classified as requiring joint implementation by Members while the remaining 30 do not need implementation at the regional level but should be applied at the national level.

The rate of returned questionnaires was rather low as before the meeting the Secretariat received feedback only from five Member Countries. The Working Party requested the Commission to recommend that Members which did not provide feedback should do so within two weeks.

The Working Party acknowledged the relevance of the 10 provisions that require joint implementation at the regional level and discussed the way forward for their implementation. The Working Party requested the Commission to recommend that the work of the MTC Task Force would continue to hold discussion among the experts in this group to identify the actions needed to move on the process and report back to next WPCCTF.