



TCN

Tuna
Compliance
Network



IMCS
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Tuna Compliance Network Capstone Document (2017 to 2026)

Strengthening Tuna Fisheries
Compliance Across Regions

June 2026



Contents

1. Executive summary	3
2. TCN history and evolution	4
3. Timeline, key activities and outputs	7
4. Impact and outcomes	12
5. Reflection	14
6. Sustainability and next steps	14



1. Executive summary

The Tuna Compliance Network, or TCN, was established in 2017 to promote communication, cooperation and information sharing between those responsible for compliance in the tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs). The TCN provides an informal forum to share information about fisheries MCS and compliance best practice and deliver joint work.

The TCN was established with support from the FAO’s Common Oceans Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Tuna Project and the IMCS Network with funding from the Global Environment Facility.

Today, the TCN is the primary forum for strengthening cooperation, transparency and learning across tuna fisheries compliance. The TCN has been invaluable in bringing together those that work in the unique, complex and challenging environment that is the RFMOs.

The TCN is facilitated by the IMCS Network and focuses on five core goals:

- Facilitating communication and information exchange.
- Fostering joint efforts, including the development of common tools and procedures and best practice compliance methodologies.
- Consolidating and assessing compliance initiatives and approaches utilised in each RFMO.
- Improving awareness of new and existing measures, procedures and technologies within RFMOs.
- Identifying and coordinating capacity building and training opportunities.

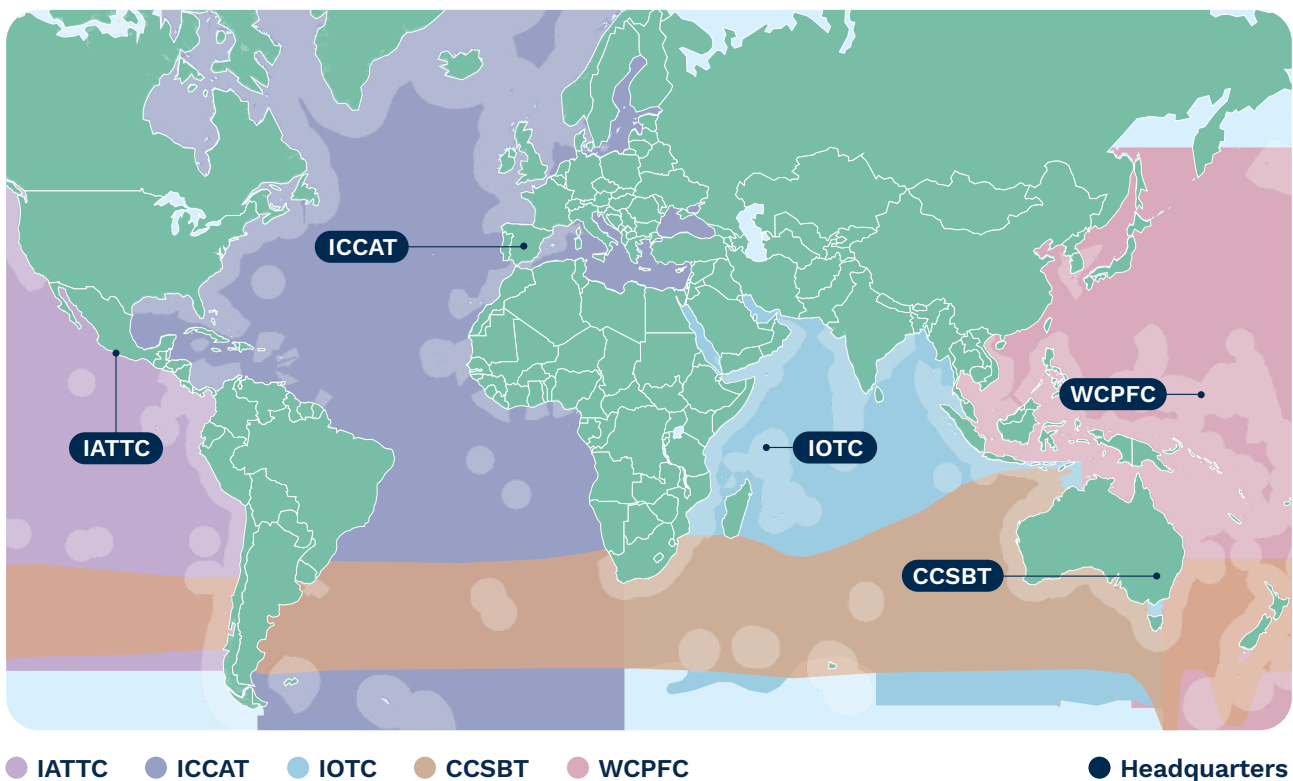
In recent years, the TCN in partnership with the IMCS Network has delivered significant joint work. To facilitate that, the TCN has maintained regular

engagement activities through annual in-person workshops, regular virtual meetings, and joint technical sessions. The regular engagements have ensured that the TCN, as a professional network, has maintained progress in achieving its goals, further enhancing crucial relationships between RFMO counterparts. The TCN has provided learning opportunities through workshops, peer exchanges and the development of practical implementation materials. It has strengthened relationships across regions and supported deeper collaboration with other related networks and organisations. Importantly, the TCN has examined differences and similarities in compliance assessment frameworks and reporting systems, supporting ongoing improvements in compliance processes to promote consistency and efficiency.

The TCN has accelerated practical innovation within fisheries compliance. It has informed the development of IMCS Network tools such as the Combined Regional Authorised Vessels Tool (CRAVT) and the IUU Vessel List Hub. Both tools significantly improve the accessibility and interoperability of vessel information across platforms. The TCN has also delivered analytical products on seabird mitigation regulations, transshipment reporting and RFMO compliance processes. These valuable outputs have assisted secretariats and members to streamline reporting, strengthen verification and modernise compliance approaches, demonstrating the efficacy and relevance of the TCN. Through a combination of practical sessions and products, the TCN has created a trusted community of practice where compliance professionals exchange information, share learnings and work together on common challenges.

2. TCN history and evolution

The five tuna RFMOs cover an area over 325 million km², representing 91 percent of the world’s oceans. A total of one hundred and seven countries, fishing entities and Regional Economic Integration Organisations cooperate within the framework of the tuna RFMOs and are involved in the conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species that have an annual value of almost USD10 billion at landing. The TCN brings together over 100 years’ of experience in RFMO monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) and compliance and thus provides valuable insights into the operation and effectiveness of the tuna RFMO compliance processes.



In 2017, those responsible for compliance in the five tuna RFMOs, together with FAO and the IMCS Network, established the TCN. The TCN’s purpose is to facilitate communication and cooperation between its members to enhance fisheries MCS and compliance. It achieves this purpose by sharing best practice on MCS measures and compliance processes and delivering joint work. The TCN’s membership has been structured around a core group of those responsible for compliance from these organisations, supplemented by an extended group including non-tuna RFMOs and data and compliance professionals.

“Trust breaks barriers and trust comes with knowing! That was the reason for putting forward the idea of a forum to gather compliance officers of the tuna RFMOs. Gone are the days of navigating the simplest of issues through overly and unnecessary diplomatic corridors, when clarity is but a breath away.”

Gerard Domingue: Inaugural TCN Chair 2017-18, IOTC Compliance Manager (2008 - Present)

FAO’s Common Oceans Program funded the establishment of the TCN, facilitating the IMCS Network¹ to host and manage the TCN and paving the way for the development of the TCN Operational Framework.

The tuna RFMOs include:

1. **CCSBT:** Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
2. **IATTC:** Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
3. **ICCAT:** International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
4. **IOTC:** Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
5. **WCPFC:** Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission



Through the TCN workshops - Vigo 2017, Honiara 2018, Bangkok 2019, Tokyo 2023, Seychelles 2024 and Tokyo 2025 - the TCN has addressed systemic challenges within RFMOs’ compliance regimes. The rotational hosting of in-person meetings by the tuna RFMO and non-tuna RFMO secretariats reflects their ongoing commitment to, and support for, the TCN’s work. This includes targeted work to address fragmented and burdensome reporting systems, harmonisation of compliance processes across RFMOs, and insufficient automation of compliance assessments. Through ongoing collaboration, the TCN’s areas of focus have continued to evolve. The TCN first focused on holistic compliance issues faced by tuna RFMOs, then shifted towards a focus on best-practice approaches to streamline reporting, online data entry, automated validation, and harmonising compliance assessment categories. By 2019, the TCN’s focus shifted to developing clearer procedures for assessing compliance across RFMOs, transparency and advancing data management systems and processes.

“The 2018 meeting of the TCN in the Solomon Islands had a broader scope as it brought together not only officers responsible for compliance, but also information management specialists from each tuna RFMO. This created a valuable opportunity for the RFMOs to strengthen collaboration across their compliance functions as well as their information systems. Discussions focused on streamlining information management processes to better support the effective monitoring of compliance with RFMO obligations.

At the 2019 TCN meeting in Bangkok, participation was again broadened, this time to include Compliance Committee Chairs who contributed their distinct perspectives. The 2019 workshop facilitated an informative knowledge exchange on the varying Compliance Committee structures and compliance assessment processes employed across each tuna RFMO.”

Susie Iball: TCN Chair 2018-19, CCSBT Compliance Manager (2012 - 2024)

The COVID-19 years (2020–2022) marked a period of consolidation for the TCN, with a pivot towards virtual collaboration and outputs. In 2023, upon request by the TCN, the IMCS Network prepared a desktop comparative review of RFMO compliance assessment processes (Compliance Assessment in the Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations - A Comparative Review). The Comparative Review highlighted both convergence and divergence in compliance assessment processes and frameworks across tuna RFMOs. It concluded that while all tuna RFMOs have developed compliance review mechanisms, their design varied significantly in ‘scope, processes, data use and categorisation of obligations’. The Comparative Review provided a suite of recommendations for tuna RFMOs’ compliance processes that centred on three identified pain points: 1) number and complexity of reporting obligations; 2) annual reporting templates; and 3) use and management of data and information. The Comparative Review recommended better harmonisation of assessment structures, greater transparency in compliance processes, and stronger follow-up actions to improve deterrence.

“Effective compliance is at the core of any RFMO mandate, however there are many challenges in streamlining and reviewing Members’ compliance information. Collaboration through the TCN has provided valuable opportunities to share experiences and ideas with fellow compliance officers across sister tuna RFMOs who understand both the challenges and objectives of this work. Through our near-annual workshops and review initiatives, we have identified several practical tools to strengthen support for tuna RFMO Secretariats and their Members.”

Dr Lara Manarangi-Trott: TCN Chair 2019–23, WCPFC Compliance Manager (2012 – 2025)

In June 2023, the fourth in-person TCN workshop was held in Tokyo, reinvigorating in-person engagement and focusing on capacity building, alignment of compliance assessment categories, and links to the Pan-Pacific Fisheries Compliance Network (PPFCN)². Supporting the TCN broader cooperation with non-tuna RFMOs, the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) hosted this meeting. In 2024, upon request by the TCN, the IMCS Network prepared an Addendum to the Comparative Review. The addendum included an overview of updates to tuna RFMOs’ compliance assessment processes post-COVID, including each RFMO’s implementation of recommendations from the Comparative Review. In June 2024, IOTC hosted the fifth TCN workshop in the Seychelles. This meeting reaffirmed the mandate and critical importance of the TCN and continued refining collective thinking on vessel-related compliance, in particular informing and advancing development of tools such as the IUU Vessel List Hub and CRAVT.

In 2025, NPFC hosted a joint meeting in Tokyo between the TCN and the PPFCN expanding cross-regional collaboration.

The meeting focused on three key areas to strengthen compliance cooperation and support across the region:

- Improving RFMO secretariats’ provision of capacity development and provision of technical assistance and capacity development to their members;
- Building the CRAVT as a smarter way to identify and compare vessels across RFMOs;
- Developing the IUU Vessel List Hub, repository where secretariats can securely manage their IUU vessel list data and information and streamline the sharing of IUU vessel list public information across different RFMO secretariats.³

The TCN now stands as the only forum that facilitates communication, cooperation and information exchange between those responsible for compliance across tuna RFMOs, supporting the routine sharing of methodologies, tools, and experiences. The TCN provides RFMO secretariats with a unique opportunity to explore approaches and efficiencies to achieving their common or related mandates, facilitating the implementation of best-practice and innovative approaches to RFMO compliance.

Since its inception, the TCN has evolved to become a unique, valuable, and successful professional network. It has tackled systemic inefficiencies in compliance reporting and processes, produced comparative analyses to guide reform, and continues to advance targeted and meaningful harmonisation and collaboration in support of effective ocean governance and compliance.

3. Timeline, key activities and outputs

Over the past eight years, the TCN has developed enduring connections that have transformed shared compliance challenges into coordinated action and practical tools. The following summary outlines the TCN’s major activities and deliverables under four thematic pillars: RFMO engagement and alignment, capacity building and learning, knowledge products, compliance tools and approaches.

2017

Formative year of the TCN, with a focus on institutional and governance frameworks.

RFMO engagement and alignment

- Inception Workshop (Vigo & Madrid, Spain) establishes the TCN, an informal network of compliance professionals across tuna RFMOs.
- Gerard Domingue (IOTC) appointed as Inaugural Chair.
- Hosted by IMCS Network and ICCAT Secretariat.
- Development of TCN Operational Framework. The Framework formalised and established the TCN’s organisational purpose, documenting a shared understanding and working framework.

2018

Focus on best-practice approaches to streamlining reporting, online data entry and automated validation. This shift is supported through the integration of RFMO data managers into the TCN.

RFMO engagement and alignment

- TCN Workshop (Honiara, Solomon Islands) focusing on compliance information management systems and reporting.
- Inclusion of data managers in the TCN to facilitate the development of digital and operational tools to assist RFMO’s compliance processes.
- Susie Iball (CCSBT) appointed as Chair.
- Hosted by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Secretariat.

2019

The TCN’s focus shifts to compliance assessment processes, transparency, sanctions, and developing clearer procedures for assessing compliance across RFMOs.

RFMO engagement and alignment

- TCN Workshop (Bangkok, Thailand) focusing on compliance assessment procedures, transparency, sanctions, and harmonisation.
- Hosted by IMCS Network.
- Lara Manarangi-Trott (WCPFC) appointed as Chair.

2020

TCN consolidation due to COVID with a focus on the development of remote analytical products.

2021

RFMO engagement and alignment

- During the COVID-19 pandemic period the TCN met virtually.
- Lara Manarangi-Trott continues as Chair.
- Comparative Review commenced in 2021 providing a comparative review of tuna RFMOs’ compliance assessment processes.

2022

Ongoing virtual collaboration and refinement of compliance analytical products

RFMO engagement and alignment

- Two TCN virtual meetings were held, continuing compliance collaboration and providing direction/input on the Comparative Review.
- Common Oceans Tuna Project II (2022–2027) launches and continues supporting the TCN through the IMCS Network.
- Comparative Review completed mid-2022 and released following member review and feedback (2023).
- Lara Manarangi-Trott continues as Chair due to the disruption imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

2023

Focus on developing compliance tools and approaches to support capacity building for RFMO member countries.

RFMO engagement and alignment

- In-person TCN Workshop in Tokyo after multiple years of virtual meetings.
- Chair transitions to Jenny Cheatle (ICCAT).
- Hosted by NPFC Secretariat.
- Joint RFMO dialogues and briefings (2023 to 2025): Briefings to RFMO subsidiary bodies and other committees, such as the Common Oceans Tuna Project II Steering Committee, promoting cross-RFMO consistency in reporting templates, IUU listing and transshipment oversight. This activity continued in subsequent years.

Capacity building and learning

- Participants commit to prepare an addendum to the Comparative Review outlining post-COVID updates and enhancements to tuna RFMO compliance processes.
- Comparative Review published: Two-year analytical review comparing compliance assessment procedures across the five tuna RFMOs. Findings published in the Comparative Review entitled Compliance Assessment in the Tuna RFMOs – A Comparative Review (March 2023). The review explored the complexity of compliance assessment processes, the environment within which they develop and operate, and ways to guide strategic improvements to these processes. The review’s recommendations identified convergence opportunities on data use, obligation categorisation and opportunities for follow-up actions.

2024

Continued evolution of compliance tools, with significant progress on development of the Combined Regional Authorised Vessels Tool (CRAVT)

RFMO engagement and alignment

- TCN Workshop in Seychelles.
- Chair transitions from Jenny Cheatle (ICCAT) to Ricardo Belmontes (IATTC).
- Hosted by the IOTC Secretariat.

Compliance tools and approaches

- The CRAVT undergoes intensive development, including data integration and initial demonstrations within TCN and related IMCS Network forums. This testing and piloting phase laid the foundation for operational roll out in 2025.
- In 2024, two TCN members joined a VMS Working Group established by the PPFCN. RFMO engagement and alignment. The VMS Working group was convened to bring together RFMO secretariats and technical staff of IATTC, WCPFC, SPRFMO, NPFC and CCAMLR to exchange practical experiences on vessel VMS data access, management and analysis.

- The VMS Working Group focused on common operational challenges, particularly retrieving and verifying VMS data from the CLS THEMIS platform, identifying reporting gaps and strengthening compliance monitoring processes. Through regular discussions, members shared technical approaches, lessons learned and emerging tools for cross checking and analysing VMS data to better support monitoring, verification and compliance assessment. The group also served as a forum for collaboration between RFMOs facing similar challenges and for identifying opportunities to improve systems, data retrieval processes and analytical capacity.

Capacity building and learning

- Comparative Review Addendum: An addendum to the previous year’s Comparative Review was prepared and released in June 2024. The addendum provided high level updates to compliance assessment processes and steps taken by tuna RFMOs that addressed the initial report’s recommendations centred on three identified pain points:
 1. number and complexity of reporting obligations;
 2. annual reporting templates; and
 3. use and management of data and information.

2025

Continued delivery of practical compliance tools through the development of the IUU Vessel List Hub and launch of the CRAVT.

Release of targeted comparative analysis products to assist cross-RFMO information sharing and potential enhancements to compliance processes.

RFMO engagement and alignment

- The TCN workshop, as well as a joint TCN-PPFCN meeting, held in Tokyo, Japan.
- Hosted by NPFC.
- TCN Chaired by Ricardo Belmontes (IATTC) and, PPFCN Chaired by Lara Manarangi-Trott (WCPFC).
- Six major in-person workshops have now been conducted (2017 - 2025) plus virtual meetings covering a range of critical compliance topics including transshipment monitoring, port State measures, and bycatch compliance. The TCN has utilised targeted additional participation from non-tuna RFMOs based on identified shared priority work areas.

Compliance tools and approaches

- **IUU Vessel List Hub launched:** The IMCS Network’s IUU Vessel List Hub is a secure, centralised system that enables all RFMO secretariats to manage, store and share IUU-listed vessel data in a consistent, transparent and interoperable way. It provides a unified solution to long-standing challenges in compiling, maintaining and comparing IUU vessel lists.

The Hub:

1. Ingests structured data directly from RFMO databases, ensuring information is validated, current and standardised;
 2. Allows secretariats without dedicated databases to create, edit and manage draft, proposed and final lists through a shared, secure interface;
 3. Generates automated notifications when vessel details change or vessels are added or deleted, improving coordination between secretariats; and
 4. Enables comparative analysis of IUU vessel lists, identifying overlaps, inconsistencies and opportunities for joint action.
- **CRAVT launched:** The CRAVT is the first cross-RFMO vessel data interface designed and implemented by a practitioner network. The CRAVT has been strategically designed and developed to enable direct API access for integration by interested, non-commercial entities. It automatically ingests authorised vessel and licensing data from RFMOs and regional fishery bodies (RFBs) into a single, searchable platform. CRAVT allows users to:
 1. Search for specific vessels or browse groups of vessels including by flag, vessel type or RFMO or RFB;
 2. Identify vessels authorised to fish in multiple RFMOs and RFBs;
 3. Compare RFMO or RFB records for a specific vessel and identify differences between these records; and
 4. Search vessel company, owners and operator.
 - **Capacity self-assessment tool (CSAT) issued:** Collaborated with Pew Charitable Trusts to assist its development of an RFMO capacity self-assessment tool. This tool is designed to help governments from RFMO member countries assess their capacity to meet RFMO obligations. Piloted in Tokyo in 2025 at the TCN meeting.

Capacity building and learning

- Comparative papers and analyses: Analytical papers comparing requirements for a variety of topic areas, including seabird mitigation and FAD management, across RFMOs, provide reference sheets for compliance managers, officers and trainers. Two comprehensive comparative assessments were completed in 2025, covering:

1. **RFMO transshipment obligations and data management practices; and**
2. **RFMO seabird by-catch mitigation measures and data management practices.**

Both are living documents designed to help RFMO secretariats and members strengthen transshipment monitoring, control and reporting, and improve seabird by-catch mitigation and data practice.

- **IMCS Network RFMO Capacity Development and Technical Working Group established:** In consultation with TCN and PPFCN, the IMCS Network launched a dedicated programme to review and improve how RFMO secretariats deliver technical assistance and capacity development to support member compliance. As part of the initiative, the IMCS Network established a Capacity Development and Technical Working Group with all TCN and PPFCN members and all other RFMO secretariats.
 - The initiative responds to the need for greater visibility, coordination and shared learning across regional efforts. As part of this, the Capacity Development and Technical Working Group established to:

- Share information on ongoing capacity development activities;
- Exchange lessons on effective and less effective approaches;
- Identify emerging member needs and priorities; and
- Collaborate to maximise impact and reduce duplication.
- Two virtual sessions were held in 2025 with participation from all TCN and PPFCN members and from SIOFA, SEAFO, GFCM and NEAFC secretariats. Work is underway to:
 - Establish a shared online Hub for tracking and exchanging information on capacity development and technical assistance activities;
 - Provide training in priority needs for online learning resources and e-training materials;
 - Draft guidelines on effective, transparent and results-based approaches to secretariat-led capacity development; and
 - Establish a similar programme of work to examine corrective actions.
- The IMCS Network produced a comparative analysis of RFMO-led assistance programmes and developed new implementation tools - including IOTC-style implementation sheets now used by NPFC (vessel registration) and CCSBT (Catch Documentation Scheme).
- Continuation of the VMS Working Group with WCPFC, NPFC, CCAMLR and SPRFMO.
- Ongoing exchanges between secretariats to facilitate greater global collaboration, sharing and learning. Peer exchange undertaken in a range of areas including e-reporting and digital compliance tools.
- Coordinated assistance through the IMCS Network and the development and distribution materials to support technical implementation and awareness. For example, IUU Vessel List Hub information sheets, and the development of information templates for greater education and knowledge dissemination for members on obligations and measures.

4. Impact and outcomes

In close to a decade, the TCN has matured into a valuable forum for compliance cooperation across the tuna RFMOs and beyond. It has served to accelerate and modernise compliance practices, develop a culture of trust and transparency, while building enduring capabilities underpinning global RFMO initiatives.

Fostering collaboration, communication, community, and knowledge exchange

The TCN's greatest impact and outcome is the creation of a sustained forum where those responsible for compliance can share challenges and opportunities and collaborate candidly and coordinate action without formal negotiation. In particular, the TCN has provided a professional and collegiate forum for those engaged in RFMO compliance to connect and build relationships. These relationships are crucial for effective transboundary fisheries compliance work due to its unique needs and challenges.

The most recent joint TCN-PPFCN workshop in June 2025 demonstrated this maturity with discussions addressing a range of complex compliance topics such as data exchange, electronic monitoring, and biodiversity-related compliance. The TCN continues to facilitate a more coherent

global compliance community spanning 91% of the world's oceans - Atlantic, Indian, Pacific, and Southern Ocean fisheries.

“Established in 2017 by five Compliance Managers each with over five years’ experience in the role, the TCN was built on a strong base of practical knowledge and shared understanding. Today, as many of those original members have taken up new roles, the TCN continues to support the transition of new Compliance Managers, preserving institutional knowledge while fostering collaboration across RFMOs.”

Dr Lara Manarang-Trott, TCN Chair (2019–2023) and WCPFC Compliance Manager (2012–2025)

Building capacity

Progressive TCN workshops, virtual meetings and technical sessions have equipped those responsible for compliance with a shared technical vocabulary and deeper understanding of regional and shared RFMO challenges and opportunities. From data-management training to peer review of catch-documentation schemes, these exchanges have strengthened both individual expertise and institutional procedures. Workstreams have developed in recent years to tangible knowledge products and practical capacity development tools.

“For IATTC, participation in the TCN and the PPFCN is of great importance. It helps to attend the mandate set forth in the Antigua Convention to cooperate with subregional, regional, and global fisheries organizations or arrangements, with the purpose of promoting compliance with the Convention’s objective. The TCN does this through fostering cooperative actions to reduce IUU fishing worldwide and promote responsible fishery.

The exchange of knowledge and experience achieved through TCN and PPFCN activities is essential for improving the performance review processes of the tuna fleet operating under the IATTC framework, as well as enhancing the quality of materials presented to the Compliance Committee.”

Ricardo Belmontes: TCN Chair 2025-25, IATTC Policy and Compliance Officer (2008 - current)

Improving practices and policies

Shared knowledge and joint analyses have led to greater convergence across tuna RFMOs in compliance assessment, reporting formats, and IUU vessel listing procedures. The 2023 Comparative Review has identified opportunities for improvements in the RFMOs’ compliance assessments processes. The TCN has facilitated the development of practical compliance tools that respond to the needs, realities and limitations faced by those responsible for compliance in tuna RFMOs. Development of practical compliance tools such as the IUU Vessel List Hub (2025) and the CRAVT (2024) make vessel information easier to access and compare.

“The TCN is an excellent initiative which has helped not only the compliance staff of the various RFMOs to share ideas and reach a better understanding of the global compliance-related issues, but also serves as a vehicle for this understanding to filter down to the Commission level, gradually leading to a more receptive approach by the tuna RFMOs to cooperating towards seeking common solutions to common problems.”

Jenny Cheatle: TCN Chair 2023-24, ICCAT Head of Compliance Department (2015 - 2024)

Uptake of outputs

The TCN's progressive areas of focus and collaboration, particularly those reflected in the 2023 Comparative Review, continue to be a focus for RFMOs' compliance programs. In particular, the TCN offers a useful platform for sharing of RFMO best-practices, facilitating cross-RFMO information sharing, and providing exposure to new tools and technologies. The TCN's comparative assessments and template materials are a commonly cited and useful resource across RFMO compliance committee agendas, informing ongoing global improvements to RFMO compliance processes.

The IMCS Network's practical tools, the CRAVT and IUU Vessel List Hub, have had widespread uptake. The CRAVT has meaningfully and systematically integrated existing RFMO compliance data into a simple platform, providing users with an effective tool for reviewing and comparing RFMO vessel information. This tool is already being used by national and regional compliance personnel, and simplifies access to critical vessel authorisation information to support compliance activities. The IUU Vessel List Hub is being used by RFMO secretariats facilitating necessary and practical data exchange between secretariats to support prompt and accurate RFMO IUU Vessel List population and management.

5. Reflection

What works well and why

- TCN's fluid, informal structure focuses on maximising open collaboration, communication, and cooperation through a clear objective and operational framework.
- Targeted focus on shared compliance challenges and opportunities results in valuable, practical, and transferable outputs.
- Continued operational management and support from the IMCS Network provides neutral facilitation that ensures continuity across projects, topics, workstreams, and funding streams.

Lessons for future compliance initiatives

- Small, trusted networks can deliver large and valuable impacts through consistent and collaborative engagement.
- Success of digital tools and technology development depends on appropriate support, training, and facilitation.
- Focused topics for regional compliance cooperation helps target assistance and workstream through a common lens.

6. Sustainability and next steps

As the TCN continues to evolve, it is building towards a more connected, capable, and forward-looking global compliance community. The TCN is consolidating existing achievements while shifting its focus from establishment, governance and broad cross-cutting issues into the development and implementation of targeted technical tools and compliance products and resources.

With ongoing support and participation, the TCN will deepen work on shared priorities that have proven most valuable to its members.

The TCN's shared priorities include:

1. Continued enhancement of the IUU Vessel List Hub functionality and its public-facing functions;
2. Ongoing integration of additional RFMO datasets into the CRAVT;
3. Alignment and strengthening of secretariat-led technical assistance and capacity development initiatives;
4. Examination of corrective actions;
5. Advancing alignment of e-monitoring and electronic catch-documentation.

TCN members have highlighted their strong desire to maintain the community of practice developed over recent years. In particular, members are focussing on the development of practical compliance tools to enhance the efficacy, usability and accessibility of compliance systems across the globe.

“Bringing together the compliance officers from the five tuna RFMOs has been instrumental in facilitating the exchange of experiences, strengthening collaboration, and supporting the work of compliance officers. This contributes to improving the effectiveness of compliance review committees across all five RFMOs.

Continuing this work is highly desirable given the growing international challenges related to ensuring sustainable fisheries and combating IUU fishing on a global scale.”

Ricardo Belmontes: TCN Chair 2025-25, IATTC Policy and Compliance Officer (2008 - current)

TCN members recognise that long term sustainability depends on continuous and wide engagement and participation. The TCN and PPFCN are currently exploring closer alignment by potentially evolving into a larger cross-RFMO platform. This could be actioned through expanded joint technical working groups and analyses to strengthen thematic coverage. The development of the IMCS Network website's dedicated 'Network Portal' is a practical step towards an ongoing online forum for a more dynamic and continuous exchange and collaborative community.

Beyond these institutional alignments, the TCN is considering new pathways to broaden participation and public visibility. This includes launching a youth-oriented RFMO working group to engage early-career compliance managers, officers, and analysts, or providing mentorship opportunities to assist in developing long-term engagement within the compliance community.

“CCSBT, being a species-based RFMO, has significant areas of overlap with other tuna RFMOs. The TCN has really supported more timely and effective communication between member RFMOs, and this has been important for CCSBT to ensure we retain compatibility with the other tuna RFMOs in our compliance measures. We have also recently seen the development of tools and resources, such as CRAVT, IUU Vessel Hub and Seabird Measure resource, that have been contributed to, or directed by, the work of the TCN. These resources provide benefits, not only to TCN members, but also to the wider fisheries compliance community. We see these as tangible demonstrations of the value of the TCN and are very keen to see further augmentation of these sorts of tools and resources as we move forward with the TCN.”

Damian Johnson TCN Chair 2026-27, CCSBT Compliance Manager (2024 - Present)

The TCN continues to identify opportunities to enhance professional collaboration among the broader fisheries community. This includes supporting Wavemakers⁴, a new global initiative to support connection and professional growth within the fisheries MCS, compliance and enforcement community.

Looking ahead, TCN's enduring strength lies in its simplicity. The TCN is a trusted network of peers who exchange ideas freely, develop and deploy solutions collaboratively, and translate shared learning into tangible compliance improvements. As the challenges facing global tuna fisheries evolve, the TCN is well positioned to remain a key driver for compliance innovation and coordination across RFMOs. The next chapter will depend on how members and existing partners can continue to foster the existing spirit of collaboration while opening the door to new initiatives, new collaborations, new generations, and new ways of working toward transparent, accountable, and sustainable global tuna fisheries.

Sustained funding will be critical to ensure continuity and ongoing development of the solid foundation established. With continued support from the FAO's Common Oceans Program and interest from additional partners, the TCN is well-positioned to further embed its role as a practical, forward-looking platform that strengthens the effectiveness and accountability of global fisheries compliance.

References

1) <https://imcsnet.org/>

2) The PPFCN is an informal forum to share information about MCS processes and compliance best practice. The PPFCN was established in 2020 to promote communication and cooperation between the RFMOs that have overlapping waters in the Pacific Ocean region. The PPFCN comprises the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Living Marine Resources (CCAMLR), CCSBT, IATTC, NPFC, North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), and WCPFC.

3) <https://imcsnet.org/news/how-quiet-cooperation-can-rewire-fisheries-compliance-approaches>

4) <https://imcsnet.org/news/why-wavemakers>



The Tuna Compliance Network or TCN was established in 2017 to promote communication and cooperation between the tuna RFMOs and to provide an informal forum to share information about MCS processes and compliance best practice.

The TCN brings together those responsible for compliance in the secretariats of the five tuna RFMOs. It includes:

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Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

IATTC

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

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International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

IOTC

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

WCPFC

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

The TCN was established with support from the Common Oceans Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Tuna Project that is funded by the Global Environment Facility.

This informal network, also supported by the IMCS Network, allow technical experts from across the globe to align efforts, share data, and build trust — which in turn benefits compliance work across the IMCS Network's membership.



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