



United States Department of State

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196th CM

*Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 31, 2023

Dear Council Members and Staff,

I have a few quick updates for you. First, we have a new staff member on our team, Rachel Ryan. Rachel will be our lead on WCPFC and the overall Pacific team for the Office of Marine Conservation, and she plans to join the meeting virtually to introduce herself. I also plan to join virtually to be available for questions on September 18.

My only update of substance is with respect to the South Pacific Tuna Treaty. We have concluded negotiations on the new Economic Assistance Agreement and the FFA has signed it. Once we counter-sign the process will be concluded. Talks on amendments to Annex II of the Treaty with regard to terms for 2024 and beyond are ongoing.

On Commissioner appointments, Roger Dang's Presidential appointment recommendation for WCPFC is still with the White House for review. He is serving as an alternate while we await action by the WH.

Sincerely,

C. Colin Brinkman
Office of Marine Conservation