



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

NPFC-2026-Provisional 2026 CR Supp Doc.1

## Letter Submitted by Vanuatu

### Abstract

The attached letter from Vanuatu, received 11 April 2026, describes the conclusion of their investigation and associated administrative penalties imposed for a vessel marking breach.

**GOVERNMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF VANUATU**



**FISHERIES  
DEPARTMENT  
SERVICE DES PECHES**

Private Mail Bag 9045  
Sac Postale Privé No. 9045  
Port Vila,  
VANUATU

**GOUVERNEMENT DE LA  
REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU**



**Reference:** VFD/NPFC/OV2/2026/001

**Date:** Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2026

**To: The Executive Secretary  
North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)  
Secretariat Building, 2-14-12 Nishi-Kanda  
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0065, Japan**

**Subject: Conclusion of Flag State Investigation – M/V OCEAN VENTURE II  
(IMO: 9515864– Administrative Penalty Imposed for Vessel Marking Breach**

**Dear Executive Secretary,**

The Government of the Republic of Vanuatu, in its capacity as the Flag State for the fishing vessel **M/V OCEAN VENTURE II**, acknowledges receipt of the report submitted by Japan concerning alleged non-compliance with vessel marking requirements under the *NPFC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)*. We write to formally advise the Commission that the Vanuatu Fisheries Department, in coordination with the Vanuatu International Shipping Registry (VISR), has completed its investigation into this matter and has taken appropriate administrative action in accordance with Vanuatu's domestic legal framework and international obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the NPFC Convention.

On 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026, the International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan, transmitted a compliance report indicating that M/V OCEAN VENTURE II was observed operating in the NPFC Convention Area with vessel markings that did not conform to the specifications prescribed under **NPFC CMM 2023-01 on Vessel Identification and Marking**.

The reported breach concerned:

- Inadequate visibility or dimensions of registration letters/numbers on the vessel hull; and/or
- Non-compliance with font, colour, or placement requirements as stipulated in the applicable CMM.

Upon receipt of the report, the Vanuatu Fisheries Department initiated a formal Flag State investigation under the authority of:

- *Fisheries Act No. 10 of 2014*, Section 147(2)(u) – prescription of position-fixing and identification instruments;
- *Maritime Act [CAP 131]* and VISR Quality Management System (QMS);
- Vanuatu's obligations as a Contracting Party to the NPFC.

The investigation included:

- Review of vessel registration documentation and marking certification records;
- Analysis of photographic evidence and inspection reports provided by Japanese authorities;
- Submission request to vessel Owners/Operators for explanation and supporting documentation;
- Technical assessment by VISR surveyors on marking compliance standards.

The investigation confirmed that M/V OCEAN VENTURE II was operating with vessel markings that did not fully comply with NPFC CMM requirements at the time of the reported observation.

Accordingly, the Vanuatu Flag State Authority has imposed the following administrative measures:

Action	Detail
<b>Administrative Warning</b>	Formal written warning was served to the Company on February 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2026, noting that based on the investigation report that was conducted by the flag state, immediate rectification of marking deficiencies and confirmation of compliance by the Vessel Owners soon after the inspection was conducted on the 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2025.
<b>Compliance Condition</b>	Vessel's authorization to operate in the NPFC Convention Area is conditional upon submission of photographic evidence verifying corrected markings
<b>Monitoring</b>	Enhanced scrutiny of the vessel's compliance record for a period of 12 months

Vanuatu reaffirms its commitment to:

- Upholding the conservation and management measures adopted by the NPFC Commission;
- Exercising effective Flag State control over all vessels flying its flag;
- Ensuring timely investigation and enforcement action in response to compliance reports from Member States and the Secretariat;
- Promoting transparency through prompt notification of administrative outcomes to the Commission.

We trust that this response demonstrates Vanuatu's good faith and due diligence as a responsible Contracting Party.

Should the Commission or the Compliance Committee require additional information, Vanuatu is prepared to provide:

- Copy of the administrative warning notice issued to the vessel's representatives;
- Summary investigation report (redacted as appropriate for confidentiality);

- Photographic evidence of corrected vessel markings (Which we have already provided to the NPFC Secretariat);
- Any other documentation reasonably requested to support NPFC compliance review processes.

For any queries regarding this matter, please contact:

**Tony TALEO**

Deputy Director Offshore

Fisheries Division, Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs

Email: [ttaleo@vanuatu.gov.vu](mailto:ttaleo@vanuatu.gov.vu) | Phone: +678 7748506

We appreciate the continued cooperation of the NPFC Secretariat and the Government of Japan in supporting effective Flag State implementation and regional fisheries governance.

Yours sincerely,



---

**F/William NAVITI**

**Director of Fisheries**

**Flag State Authority – Republic of Vanuatu**

**Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Maritime Affairs**

CC. **So FUKAZAWA**

International Affairs Division

Fisheries Agency of Japan, Government of Japan