



SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMISSION
to discuss the COVID-19 Decisions Relating to Purse Seine Observer Coverage and At-Sea
Transshipment Observers

Electronic Meeting
9 June 2022 from 10.00am to 2.00pm Pohnpei time

MEMORANDUM SHARING COMMENTS AND VIEWS ON THE WORKING PAPER
WCPFC-SS4-2022-02

WCPFC-SS4-2022-DP01
2 June 2022

Paper by the United States of America



June 1, 2022

Ms. Jung-re Riley Kim, Chair
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
PO Box 2356
Kolonia, Pohnpei State, 96941
Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Chair:

Thank you and the Secretariat for preparing the detailed working paper ([WCPFC-SS4-2022-02](#)) to inform our discussions at the upcoming special session. We appreciate the opportunity to meet with other CCMs for the special session of the Commission to consider the COVID-19 Decisions relating to purse seine observer coverage and at-sea transshipment observers (SS4).

The United States supports the need to resume at-sea transshipment and purse seine observer coverage to provide data collection and ensure monitoring of the fisheries; however, we remain concerned about the health and safety of the observers and crew of the vessels given ongoing uncertainty pertaining to the pandemic. As such, the United States would like to propose, under Agenda Item 3, a discussion on certain enabling conditions that may prevent full implementation of the options outlined in the Chair's working paper by a given date, including, but not limited to:

- **Entry and Exit requirements/limitations**
 - open for foreign travelers
 - quarantine times and costs (provisions, quarantine costs, and repatriation (if needed))
 - testing timeframes, type (i.e. PCR vs rapid), availability, and costs
 - flight availability (ex. airline occupancy currently prioritized for residents and citizens)
- **Protocols for COVID related border closures**
 - For observers stuck in port
 - For observers unable to be repatriated
- **Vaccination Status and proof requirements**
 - Observers
 - Vessel Crew
 - Port and Cannery Workers
- **Health precautions and protocols**
 - Vessels engaged in transshipment at sea
 - Vessels not engaged in transshipment at sea
 - All vessels during port calls
- **Sickness, Medical Evacuations, and Access to Emergency Care**
 - Protocols on board vessel
 - Insurance Coverage
 - Protocols for observers in port or in transit to a vessel
 - Medical Evacuation Emergency Care Requirements
 - Repatriation Requirements (timing, costs, coordination)

The United States also encourages input from other CCM's that may have additional criteria they would like considered.

As the health and safety of the crew and observers is a complicated issue, the United States feels it is first necessary to discuss these enabling conditions before identifying firm dates for the reinstatement of observer coverage because such conditions may limit CCM's ability to comply with the requirements.

We look forward to participating in SS4 and appreciate everyone's consideration of these views.

Sincerely,



Kelly Kryc, Ph.D.
Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries

cc: Dave Hogan, U.S. Department of State
Archie Soliai, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources
Anthony Benavente, CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources
Chelsa Muna-Brecht, Guam Department of Agriculture

