



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

VIEWS ON THE WCPFC COVID-19 INTERSESSIONAL DECISIONS RELATED TO
PURSE SEINE OBSERVER COVERAGE AND AT-SEA TRANSHIPMENT
OBSERVERS

WCPFC-SS4-2022-DP02
2 June 2022

Paper by FFA Member CCMs



FFA

27 May 2022

Jung-Re Riley Kim
Chair
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
PO Box 2356, Kolonia
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Dear Ms Kim,

FFA Members' views on the WCPFC COVID-19 intersessional decisions relating to purse seine observer coverage and at-sea transshipment observers

I write on behalf of the 17 Members of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency. This is without prejudice to long-standing positions of FFA Members individually or collectively.

At the 122nd session of the Forum Fisheries Committee, FFA Members carefully considered the intersessional decisions in response to COVID-19 relating to at-sea transshipment observers and purse seine observer coverage.

In advance of the special Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission session on 9 June 2022, I am pleased to advise that FFA Members positions are:

- NOT to extend the suspension of the requirement for at-sea transshipment observers, so that it lapses on 15 June 2022;
- and
- to extend the suspension of the requirement for purse seine observer coverage until 31 December 2022 but on 1 January 2023, this suspension must be lifted and the obligation comes into effect.

FFA Members see redeploying observers back to sea safely as a priority given the importance of the data they collect to the work of the Commission. Therefore, notwithstanding (ii) above, this will not prevent the placement of observers on fishing vessels and we encourage CCMs that are able to, to start deploying observers back on their vessels and to work with observer providers to operationalise the [FFA COVID-19 Operating Protocols for the Fishing Sector in the Pacific](#). The use of the FFA COVID-19 Operating Protocols is absolutely essential in order to enable observers to be safely placed on fishing vessels again. We also encourage CCMs to prepare to meet the 100% purse seine observer coverage requirement starting 1 January 2023.

FFA Members sincerely thank you for your continuing leadership and look forward to engaging with you and other CCMs, in the discussion of these issues, at the upcoming special session.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Agnes Yeeting
FFC Officials Chair

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Kiribati

cc: Mr. Feleti Penitala Teo, WCPFC Executive Director