



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Third Regular Session

27 September – 02 October 2007
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

STATUS OF THE REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME INTER-SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP (REVISED)

WCPFC-TCC3-2007/07 (Rev.2)

18 September 2007

Introduction

1. The Third Regular Session of the Commission (WCPFC3) at Apia, Samoa, 11-15 December 2006 adopted Conservation and Management Measure-2006-07 which established an Intersessional Working Group for the Regional Observer Programme (IWG-ROP). It was agreed that IWG-ROP should work inter-sessionally and to the maximum extent possible, conduct its work by electronic means.
2. WCPFC3 also endorsed a recommendation of the Second Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC2) that the Commission task TCC3 with developing a Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) for the establishment of the ROP. A draft CMM for the Regional Observer Programme is appended at **Attachment 1**.
3. WCPFC-IWG-ROP-2007/10 (Draft WCPFC Minimum Data Standards for the Regional Observer Programme) is appended at **Attachment 2**.

Terms of Reference

4. As recommended by the Second Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC2), 28 September – 3 October 2006, at Brisbane, Australia the Terms of Reference for the IWG-ROP are to, *inter alia*:
 - i. comment on the adequacy of near and long term objectives for the design of the ROP;
 - ii. consider the institutional and financial arrangements necessary to support the ROP and its implementation
 - iii. consider science, technical, compliance-related, practical and economic elements of the programme and their feasibility
 - iv. develop a detailed strategic plan, including a practical time table, for the development and phased implementation of the ROP, taking into account the characteristics of each fishery;
 - v. develop procedures for deployment observers under the ROP

- vi. consider a list of tasks for ROP observers for each fishery;
- vii. consider standard and harmonized procedures for observers, including data and reporting formats and debriefing procedures;
- viii. consider ROP observer coverage taking into account other observer programmes and other means of collecting data required by the Commission.
- ix. consider operational procedures and guidelines for security of observer data;
- x. develop, in cooperation with main existing observer programmes in the Convention Area, a draft observer provider certification standard and procedure, to include *inter alia*:
 - a. Recruitment, selection, qualifications and training of individuals;
 - b. Capability to implement the technical and operational protocols for the observer role and tasks, including data management issues, as required by the Commission;
 - c. Day to day management of observers, including all personnel and financial matters, and the co-ordination of all logistical components;
 - d. Capacity to handle efficiently, effectively and safely the deployment and recovery of observers;
 - e. Capacity to arrange for debriefing of observers and primary checking and validation of data collected and reports prepared;
 - f. Safety policies and procedures; and
 - g. Maintenance of good communications links with client States, companies and vessels receiving observers.
- xi. prepare guidelines for the rights, duties and responsibilities of observers;
- xii. develop a procedure for facilitating the development of national observer programmes to achieve Commission certification;
- xiii. consider data management needs for the ROP;
- xiv. prepare standards for safety at sea course for observers;
- xv. consider a code of conduct for observers and procedures for monitoring observer's compliance with the code;
- xvi. provide recommendations to the Commission regarding safety standards to be met for carrying observers.

5. TCC2 also recommended that the IWG-ROP review the first draft of a Programme Document contained in WCPFC-TCC2-2006/11, in light of discussion at TCC2 reported in paragraphs 52 to 69 of the TCC2 report and prepare a revised draft.

Process to date

6. Following the recruitment of the Regional Observer Programme Coordinator on 22 February 2007, in Circular 2007/04, distributed to all Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) on 2 March 2007, the Secretariat invited CCMs to nominate an observer expert for the IWG-ROP and to submit dates for a scheduled to be held in June 2007.

7. In late March 2007 the Secretariat circulated an initial draft set of ROP documents to those observer experts that were nominated in response to the invitation in Circular 2007/04. Without prejudice to subsequent formal comment and input by CCMs' nominated experts were invited to provide comments and suggestions on the initial draft set of documents by 18 May 2007. To the

extent possible the document set reflects comments received from those experts that responded to that invitation.

8. In April 2007 CCMs were advised in WCPFC Circular 2007/09 that, consistent with CCMs' comments, there would not be a physical meeting of the IWG-ROP in mid-June and that IWG-ROP discussions would be conducted electronically.

9. Comments received by 18 May 2007 were incorporated into revised documentation which was circulated to all CCMs together with an invitation for active participation in the IWG ROP process. CCMs were invited to submit further comments and suggestions by 23 July 2007. CCMs were also asked to nominate an IWG-ROP Chair and provide electronic feedback on;

- i. the documentation circulated by the Secretariat, and
- ii. issues detailed in the TOR at paragraph 2 above which may not have been addressed in the current document set.

10. From the comments received from CCMs on the documentation circulated it is apparent that CCMs have different viewpoints about the structure and implementation of the ROP. The Secretariat proposed in Circular 2007/18 that, if progress is to be made on the design of the ROP during the Third Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC3) that a physical meeting of the IWG-ROP be convened immediately prior to TCC3.

Documents available to the IWG-ROP

11. To facilitate the work of the IWG-ROP by electronic means the following documents were made available to observer experts nominated by their countries to participate in the IWG-ROP on 13 June 2007:

- i. Draft Strategic Plan for the Development and Phased Implementation of the ROP
- ii. Revised Programme Document
- iii. Fisheries to be monitored by the Regional Observer Programme (Appendix A)
- iv. Standards required for accreditation of Observer Providers(Appendix B)
- v. Standardised procedures for ROP observer deployment (Appendix C)
- vi. Procedures for debriefing ROP observers (Appendix D)
- vii. Observer training, Trainer and ROP Observer Certification Standards (Appendix E)
- viii. Provisional List of Observer Tasks (Appendix F)
- ix. Rights and Responsibilities of Observers (Appendix G)
- x. Duties, rights and Responsibilities of master and Crew (Appendix H)
- xi. Code of Conduct for observers (Appendix I)
- xii. Vessel Safety Check Form (Appendix J)
- xiii. Format standards for Data Collection and Reporting (Appendix K)

12. WCPFC3 also noted the proposal from the members of the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency, "Conservation and Management Measure for the Regional Observer Programme WCPFC3-2006-DP05" which it agreed was to be forwarded to the IWG-ROP for consideration in the development of the ROP. This document was also included in the document set distributed to the IWG-ROP participants

IWG-ROP Chairmanship

13. The announcement regarding the IWG-ROP Chair in italics below was sent to CCMs on 13 July 2007. There were several opinions put forward in the submissions received, varying from no Chair being required at this stage to suggestions that the US should supply a Chair for the group. CCMs are invited to further consider this matter further and provide guidance to the Secretariat..

- *As a subsidiary body of the Commission the IWG-ROP will benefit from the guidance of a Chair. Unless other suggestions for coordination of the work of the IWG-ROP are forthcoming, members of the Commission are invited to nominate an individual who may take responsibility for working with the Secretariat to facilitate the work of the IWG-ROP through the remainder of this year. It would be appreciated if the Secretariat could receive nominations for Chair of the IWG-ROP by 23rd July so the person appointed may assist with preparations for IWG-ROP discussions at the 2007 meetings of the Scientific Committee and the Technical and Compliance Committee.*

Proposed Schedule of Work

14. The proposed schedule of work for the IWG-ROP, on which comments and suggestions are invited from CCMs and IWG-ROP members, is:

- **6 August:** A revised set of documents prepared and re-circulated to all CCMs, based on the suggestions received was intended to be dispatched by this date. However, as it is not possible to amalgamate the widely varying comments on the ROP this was not done. Instead the current documents as sent out on 13 June 2007 plus all the comments received were supplied to the observer expert group of the IWG-ROP on 30 July 2007
- **13 August:** Interested CCMs and available IWG-ROP members will convene in the margins of SC3 to discuss the status of the documents, and the many comments and suggestions with a view to proposing a strategy for consideration of science-related ROP issues during SC3.
- **13-24 August:**
 - Statistics Specialist Working Group considers:
 - Objectives and priorities for data to be collected by observers for fisheries other than purse-seine and longline
 - Ecosystem and Bycatch Working Group
 - Update on the status of the design of the Regional Observer Programme.
 - SC3
 - WCPFC Data Standards for Regional Observer Programme
- **3 September:** Set of documentation and comments, based on the Science outcomes of SC3, circulated to the IWG-ROP and CCMs.
- **24-25 September:** Proposed physical meeting of the IWG –ROP to provide TCC3 with a revised set of documentation, consistent with the requirements of CMM-2006-07, relating to the ROP.
- **27 September – 2 October:** TCC3 considers the work of the IWG-ROP and status of the documentation to support implementation of the ROP, including a draft Conservation and Management Measure.

- **24 October:** A revised version of the Programme Document, Strategic Plan for the Phased Implementation of the ROP and other documents, addressing comments from the SC3 and TCC3, prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to the Commission at least 40 days in advance of its 4th meeting.
- **3-7 December:** WCPFC4

Conclusion

15. CCMs are invited to:

- i. note the status of the IWG-ROP, particularly the outcomes of the IWG-ROP meeting on 24-25 September 2007;
- ii. provide advice and recommendations to the Commission on outstanding issues that require further work, including a proposed schedule for the IWG-ROP to complete its work in relation to the design of a programme for phased implementation of the ROP;
- iii. consider the draft CMM on the Regional Observer Programme appended at **Attachment 1**; and
- iv. consider the draft WCPFC Minimum Data Standards for the ROP appended at **Attachment 2**.

**DRAFT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR THE REGIONAL
OBSERVER PROGRAMME**

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

Recalling Article 28(1) of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPF Convention) which requires the Commission to develop a regional observer programme to, among other things, collect verified catch data, and to monitor the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission;

Further recalling Article 28(7) of the WCPF Convention which requires the Commission to develop procedures and guidelines for the operation of the regional observer programme;

Adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention the following Conservation and Management Measure for the establishment of the WCPFC Regional Observer Programme (Commission ROP).

Establishment of the Commission ROP

1. There is hereby established the Commission ROP which shall be coordinated by the Secretariat of the Commission.
2. The Secretariat of the Commission shall provide an annual report to the Commission with regard to the Commission ROP and on other matters relevant to the efficient operation of the programme.

Objectives of the Commission ROP

3. The objectives of the Commission ROP shall be to collect verified catch data, other scientific data and additional information related to the fishery from the Convention Area and to monitor the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission.

Scope of the Commission ROP

4. The Commission ROP shall apply to the following categories of fishing vessels authorized to fish in the Convention Area in accordance with the Commission's Conservation and Management Measures 2004-01:
 - i. vessels fishing exclusively on the high seas in the Convention Area; and
 - ii. vessels fishing on the high seas and in waters under the jurisdiction of one or more coastal States and vessels fishing in the waters under the national jurisdiction of two or more coastal states.

Functions of Observers

5. The functions of observers operating under the Commission ROP shall include collecting catch data and other scientific data, monitoring the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and any additional information related to the fishery that may be approved by the Commission. When a vessel is operating on the same fishing trip both in waters under the national jurisdiction of its flag State and in the adjacent high seas, an

observer placed under the Commission ROP shall not undertake any of these functions without the consent of the flag State.

Obligations of Members of the Commission

6. Each member of the Commission shall ensure that fishing vessels fishing in the Convention Area, except for vessels that operate exclusively within waters under the national jurisdiction of the flag State, are prepared to accept an observer from the Commission ROP if required by the Commission.

Guiding Principles for Operation of the Commission ROP

7. The Commission ROP shall operate in accordance with the following principles:
- i. The Commission ROP shall consist of independent and impartial observers¹ authorized by the Secretariat of the Commission;
 - ii. Vessels that operate principally in coastal waters², but occasionally venture on to the high seas, may carry observers of their own nationality providing those observers have been authorized by the Secretariat;
 - iii. The Commission ROP shall be organized in a flexible manner which takes into account the nature of the fishery from the Convention Area and any other relevant factors the Commission may consider appropriate;
 - iv. To ensure cost effectiveness and to avoid duplication, the Commission's ROP shall be coordinated, to the maximum extent possible, with other regional, subregional and national observer programmes; and to this extent, the Commission may enter into contracts or appropriate arrangements for the provision of the regional observer programme and in relation to cost sharing and recovery, training of observers, authorization and deployment of observers;
 - v. The Commission ROP shall provide a sufficient level of coverage as approved by the Commission to ensure that the Commission receives appropriate data and information on catch levels and any additional information related to the fisheries within the Convention Area, taking into account the characteristics of the fisheries;
 - vi. Observers shall not unduly interfere with the lawful operations of the vessel and in carrying out their duties shall give due consideration to the operational requirements of the vessel and to the extent practicable minimize disruption to the operation of vessels fishing in the Convention Area; Observers shall comply with the Guidelines in **Annex A.** - "Guidelines on the Rights and Responsibilities of Observers";
 - vii. The Commission ROP shall be operated to ensure that observers shall not be unduly obstructed in the discharge of their duties. To this extent, members of the Commission shall ensure that vessel operators comply with the Guidelines in **Annex B.** - "Guidelines on the Rights and Responsibilities of Vessel operators, Captains and Crew";

¹ "independent and impartial" Refer to WCPFC –TCC2 2006 Summary report para. 54 (iv) "the need to ensure that observers are independent and impartial, in accordance with Article 28, noting that this requirement did not exclude national observers from operating on vessels of their flag State;"

² Refer to WCPFC –TCC2 2006 Summary report para. 54 (ii) "the need to integrate existing national and regional observer programmes into the Commission programme and to allow CCMs to continue to deploy national observers on vessels that principally operate in coastal waters and that occasionally extend their fishing operations on to the high seas;"

viii. The Commission ROP shall ensure the security and confidentiality of non-aggregated data and other information which the Commission deems to be of a confidential nature; the release of data and other information collected by the Commission ROP shall be in accordance with guidelines set out in the Commission Rules of Procedure for Access to, and Dissemination of, Data Compiled by the Commission.

Guidelines on the Rights and Responsibilities of Observers:

In accordance with Annex 111 Article 3, and article 28 of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific. The following guidelines for the Rights and Responsibilities of Observers shall apply to observers placed on a vessel under the Commission ROP.

1. The rights of observers shall include:

- a) Access to all areas and facilities of the vessel necessary to conduct observer duties, including the bridge, pilothouse, deck, areas used to process, weigh, and store fish, gear, equipment, fish catch, and crew, as agreed by the Commission.
- b) Access to the vessel's records including its logs and documentation for the purpose of records inspection and copying, access to navigational equipment, charts and radios, and reasonable access to other information relating to fishing.
- c) Access to and use of communications equipment and personnel, upon request, for entry, transmission, and receipt of work related data or information.
- d) Access to additional equipment, if present, to facilitate the work of the observer while on board the vessel, such as high powered binoculars, electronic means of communication, etc.
- e) Access to the working deck during net or line retrieval and to specimens (alive or dead) in order to collect samples.
- f) Notice by the vessel captain of at least fifteen (15) minutes before hauling or setting procedures, unless the observer specifically requests not to be notified.
- g) Access to food, accommodations, medical facilities, and sanitary facilities of a reasonable standard equivalent to those normally available to an officer on board the vessel.
- h) The provision of adequate space on the bridge, pilot house or other designated area for clerical work and adequate space on the deck for observer duties.
- i) Freedom to carry out their duties without interference, intimidation, or obstruction.

3. The responsibilities of observers shall include:

- a) being capable of performing the duties set out by the Commission
- b) acceptance and compliance with agreed confidentiality rules and procedures with respect to the fishing operations of the vessels and of the vessel owners
- c) Maintenance of independence and impartiality at all times while on board the fishing vessel.
- d) Compliance with the ROP protocols for observers carrying out ROP duties on board a vessel.
- e) Compliance with the laws and regulations of the CCM that exercises jurisdiction over the vessel.
- f) Respecting the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour that apply to all vessel personnel.
- g) Performance of duties in a manner that minimizes interference with fishing operations.

- h) Familiarity with the emergency procedures aboard the vessel, including the locations of life rafts, fire extinguishers, and first aid kits.
- i) Communicating regularly with the vessel captain on relevant observer issues.
- j) Observance of ethnic traditions of the crew and customs of the flag State of the vessel
- k) Adherence to the ROP Code of Conduct for observers.
- l) Explain to the vessel captain, observer duties relevant to appropriate measures adopted by the Commission.
- m) writing reports to the Commission or national programme in accordance with procedures adopted by the Commission.

Guidelines on the Rights and Responsibilities of Vessel Operators, Captain and Crew.

In accordance with Annex 111 Article 3, and article 28 of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific. The following Guidelines on the Rights and Responsibilities of Vessel Operators, Captain and Crew shall apply when an observer is placed under the Commission ROP.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF VESSEL OPERATORS AND CAPTAINS

1. The rights of vessel operators and captains shall include:

- a) Expectation that a reasonable period of prior notice of the placement of an ROP observer shall be given.
- b) Expectation that the observer will comply with the general rules of behavior, hierarchy, and laws and regulations of the member of the Commission that exercises jurisdiction over the vessel.
- c) Timely receipt from the observer provider of the relevant and current measures adopted by the Commission.
- d) Timely notification from the observer provider on completion of the observer's trip of any comments regarding the vessel operations. The captain shall have the opportunity to review and comment on the observer's report, and shall have the right to include additional information deemed relevant or a personal statement.
- e) Ability to conduct lawful fishing operations with minimum interference due to the observer's presence and performance of necessary duties.
- f) Ability to assign, at his or her discretion, a vessel crew member to accompany the observer when the observer is carrying out duties in hazardous areas.

2. The responsibilities of vessel operators and captains shall include:

- a) Accepting on board the vessel any person identified as an observer under the ROP when required by the Commission
- b) Informing the crew of the timing of the ROP observer boarding as well as their rights and responsibilities when an ROP observer boards the vessel.
- c) Assisting the ROP observer to safely embark and disembark the vessel at an agreed place and time.
- d) Giving notice to the ROP observer at least fifteen (15) minutes before the start of a set or haul on board, unless the observer specifically requests not to be notified.
- e) Assist the ROP observer in the performance of their duties in a safe manner.
- f) Allowing ROP observer access to the vessel's records including vessel logs and documentation for the purpose of records inspection and copying,
- g) Allowing access to navigational equipment, charts and radios, and reasonable access to other information relating to fishing.

- h) Permitting access to additional equipment, if present, to facilitate the work of the ROP observer while on board the vessel, such as high powered binoculars, electronic means of communication, etc.
- i) Permit the ROP observer to remove and store samples from the catch.
- j) The provision to the ROP observer, while on board the vessel, at no expense to the observer or the ROP observer's provider or government, with food, accommodation, adequate sanitary amenities, and medical facilities of a reasonable standard equivalent to those normally available to an officer on board the vessel.
- k) The provision to the ROP observer, while on board the vessel, insurance coverage for the duration of the observer's time on board the vessel.
- l) Facilitating access by the ROP observer to all areas and facilities of the vessel necessary to conduct ROP observer duties, including the bridge, communications equipment and personnel, pilothouse, deck, and areas used to process, weigh, and store fish, gear, and equipment.
- m) Ensuring the ROP observer is not obstructed, intimidated, interfered with, influenced, bribed or is attempted to be bribed in the performance of their duties.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF VESSEL CREW

3. The rights of vessel crew shall include:

- a) Expectation that the ROP observer will comply with the general rules of behaviour, hierarchy, and laws and regulations of the CCM that exercises jurisdiction over the vessel.
- b) Expectation that a reasonable period of prior notice of the placement of an ROP observer shall be given by the Captain.
- c) Reasonable expectation of privacy in crew personal areas.
- d) Ability to carry out duties associated with normal fishing operations with minimal interference by the ROP observer in performance of their duties.

4. The responsibilities of the vessel crew shall include:

- a) Not obstructing, intimidating, influencing, or interfering with the ROP observer or impeding or delaying observer duties.
- b) Compliance with regulations and procedures established under the Convention and other guidelines, regulations, or conditions established by the CCM that exercises jurisdiction over the vessel.
- c) Allowing access by the observer to all areas and facilities of the vessel necessary to conduct observer duties, including the bridge, pilothouse, deck, and areas used to process, weigh, and store fish, gear, and equipment.
- d) Assisting the ROP observer to carry their duties safely
- e) Permit the ROP observer to remove and store samples from the catch.
- f) Compliance with directions given by the vessel captain with respect to the ROP observers duties.



**Intersessional Working Group
Regional Observer Programme
24-25 September 2007**

**WCPFC MINIMUM DATA STANDARDS FOR REGIONAL OBSERVER
PROGRAMME (DRAFT)**

WCPFC- IWG-ROP-2007/10

Introduction

1. Harmonised data standards for data collection and reporting have been in place in all the independent WCPFC Pacific Island countries and the French Territories since 1995. These standards are flexible and are reviewed every two years. The following data fields in accordance with Article 28 (3) are considered the basic fields required to be collected by Regional Observer Programme (ROP) observers. Wherever practical all coding in the ROP formats have been standardised using global standards such as the FAO species identifiers. Where no practical code system is in place, codes have been developed.

2. Data standards and formats involve the current needs of scientists, compliance, mitigation measures and any other current priorities. Much of the data collected by observers can be used by both scientists and fisheries managers; therefore the data fields presented in this paper have been added to the fields already agreed upon by the Scientific Committee (SC). There are a number of data fields put aside for further discussion by the SC and whilst the collection of these data fields is to be further assessed by the SC, their value to fisheries managers and officers monitoring compliance with the Commission Conservation and Management Measures is important. So some data fields still to be discussed for scientific value have been re- included as minimum standard data formats for ROP observers.

3. The Commission ROP will monitor the observer data collection standards and ensure that observer providers maintain these minimum standards in their data collection formats when deploying observers for the ROP. National observer programmes that use different observer collection formats to the ROP will not be affected by the ROP requirements on standardised data collection, providing the data that are collected by their programme is able to satisfy the requirements for minimum ROP data standards.

Vessel Sightings & Observer Trip Monitoring Report

4. Two additional data field formats not considered by the Scientific Committee and which were forwarded to the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) by the SC for its consideration are the “Vessel Sightings” and the “Observer Trip Monitoring Summary”. A number of observer programme in the Pacific region have been examined and the data collection fields contained in table 7 and 8 are the basic information taken from currently used formats.

Minimum Standards for ROP Data

5. ROP Minimum Data Standards required to be collected by ROP observers, when performing duties on a vessel chosen to take a ROP observer for Commission coverage purposes are include below. Minimum standards for data fields to be considered by the IWG-ROP and the Third Regular Session of the TCC (TCC3) are highlighted in large bold type. Other standards already accepted by the SC are also listed.

Table 1 General vessel and trip information for all vessel types

VESSEL IDENTIFICATION	
Name of vessel	Approved SC3
Vessel flag	Approved SC3
Flag State Registration Number	Approved SC3
International Radio Call Sign	Approved SC3
Vessel Owner/Company	Information will be useful if there are any problems with the observer or the vessel.
TRIP INFORMATION	
Date and time of departure from port	Approved SC3
Port of departure	Approved SC3
Date and time of return to port	Approved SC3
Port of return	Approved SC3
OBSERVER INFORMATION	
Observer name	Approved SC3
Passport nationality of observer	Information will be useful if there are breaches of the Observer Code of Conduct
Observer provider country or organisation	Information will be useful if there are breaches of the Observer Code of Conduct
Observer's ROP certification number	Approved SC3
Date, time and location of embarkation	Approved SC3
Date, time and location of disembarkation	Approved SC3
CREW INFORMATION	
Name of captain	Approved SC3
Passport nationality of captain	Information will be useful if

	there are breaches of the Code of Conduct or responsibilities of Captain, Vessel Operator or Crew.
Name of fishing master	Approved SC3
Passport nationality of fishing master	Information will be useful if there are breaches of the Code of Conduct or responsibilities of Captain, Vessel Operator or Crew.
Other crew	Approved SC3
Passport nationality of crew	Information will be useful if there are breaches of the Code of Conduct or responsibilities of Captain, Vessel Operator or Crew.
Total number of Crew	Information will be useful if there are breaches of the Code of Conduct or responsibilities of Captain, Vessel Operator or Crew.
VESSEL ATTRIBUTES	
Vessel cruising speed	Approved SC3
Vessel fish hold capacity	Information will be useful to verify against Vessel Register and to assist in determining total catch on the vessel.
VESSEL ELECTRONICS	
Radars	Approved SC3
Depth sounder	Approved SC3
Global positioning system (GPS)	Approved SC3
Track plotter	Approved SC3
Weather facsimile	Approved SC3
Sea surface temperature (SST) gauge	Approved SC3
Sonar	Approved SC3
Radio/ Satellite buoys	Approved SC3
Doppler current meter	Approved SC3
Expendable bathythermograph (XBT)	Approved SC3
Satellite communications services (Phone/Fax/Email numbers)	Information will be useful if there are breaches of the

	Observer Code of Conduct and or responsibilities of Observer, Captain, Vessel Operator or Crew.
[Fishery information services]	Approved SC3
Vessel monitoring system	Approved SC3

Table 2 Longline information and data

VESSEL ATTRIBUTES	
Refrigeration Method	Approved SC3
GENERAL GEAR ATTRIBUTES	
Mainline material	Approved SC3
Mainline length	Approved SC3
Mainline diameter	Approved SC3
Branch line material(s)	Approved SC3
SPECIAL GEAR ATTRIBUTES	
[Wire trace]	Information will be useful in monitoring CMM-2006-05 [for sharks].
[Mainline hauler]	Still to be determined by SC
[Branch line hauler]	Still to be determined by SC
[Line shooter]	Information will be useful in monitoring Mitigation measure guidelines as stated in CMM-2006-02 [Table 1, Column B and Attachment 1 para.1 - (Refer para.10)]
[Line shooter speed]	Information will be useful in monitoring mitigation measure guidelines as stated in CMM-2006-02 [Table 1, Column B and Attachment 1 para. 1 - (Refer para. 10)]
[Automatic bait thrower]	Still to be determined by SC
[Automatic branch line attacher]	Still to be determined by SC
[Hook type]	Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution-2005-04 [monitoring of hook types refer para. 8]
[Hook size]	Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution-2005-04 [monitoring of hook types refer para 8]
[Tori pole]	Information will be useful in monitoring Mitigation measure guidelines as stated in CMM-2006-02 [Table 1 and Attachment 1

	para 1 -(Refer para 10)]
[Bird curtain]	Information will be useful in monitoring Mitigation measure guidelines as stated in CMM-2006-02 [Table 1 and Attachment 1 para 2 - (Refer para 10)]
[Weighted branch lines]	Mitigation measure guidelines stated in CMM-2006-02 [Table 1 and Attachment 1 para 4 Attachment 2 para 1 – (Refer para. 10)]
[Blue dyed bait]	Information will be useful in monitoring mitigation measure guidelines as stated in CMM-2006-02 [Table 1 and Attachment 2 para. 2- (Refer para. 10)]
[Underwater setting shoot]	Information will be useful in monitoring Mitigation measure guidelines as stated in CMM-2006-02 [Table 1, Column B- (Refer para 10)]
[Disposal method for offal management]	Information will be useful in monitoring Mitigation measure as determined by CMM-2006-02 [Table 1, Column B Attachment 2 para. 3 (Refer para 10)]
SET AND HAUL INFORMATION	
Date and time of start of set	Approved SC3
Latitude and longitude of start of set	Approved SC3
Date and Time of end of set	Approved SC3
Latitude and longitude of end of set	Approved SC3
[Total number of baskets or floats]	Still to be determined by SC
[Number of hooks per basket or number of hooks between floats]	Still to be determined by SC
Total number of hooks used in a set	Approved SC3
[Length of float-line]	Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution-2005-04 [on sea turtles para 2, 3 and para.8]
[Distance between branch-lines]	Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution-2005-04 [on sea turtles, para. 2, 3 and para. 8]
[Length of branch-lines]	Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution-2005-04 [on sea turtles, para. 2, 3 and para. 8]
[Time-depth recorders (TDRs)]	Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution-2005-04 [on sea turtles, para 2, 3

	and para.8]
[Number of light-sticks]	Information will be useful for monitoring CMM-2006-03 [on Swordfish]
Target species	Approved SC3
Bait species	Approved SC3
Date and time of start of haul	Approved SC3
Date and time of end of haul	Approved SC3
[Total amount of baskets, floats monitored by observer in a single set]	Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution-2005-04 [on sea turtles, para. 2, 3 and para. 8]
INFORMATION ON CATCH FOR EACH SET	
[Hook number between floats]	Still to be determined by SC
Species code	Approved SC3
Length of fish	Approved SC3
Length measurement code	Approved SC3
Gender	Approved SC3
Condition when caught	Approved SC3
Fate	Approved SC3
Condition when discarded	Approved SC3
Tag recovery information	Approved SC3

Table 3 Pole-and-line information and data

VESSEL ATTRIBUTES	
Vessel fish hold capacity	Information will be useful for verification CMM-2004-01 [para. 5(q)]
GEAR ATTRIBUTES	
Automatic poling devices	Approved SC3
INFORMATION ON DAILY ACTIVITIES	
Date and time of start of daily activities	Approved SC3
Time of activity	Approved SC3
Latitude and longitude of activity	Approved SC3
Type of activity	Approved SC3
Numbers of school sighted per day	Approved SC3
BAITFISHING INFORMATION	

Bait species caught	Approved SC3
[Number of buckets of bait caught]	Still to be determined by SC
SCHOOL INFORMATION	
Method of detection of school	Approved SC3
Type of school association	Approved SC3
INFORMATION ON CATCH PER SCHOOL FISHED	
Number of crew poling	Approved SC3
Time of start of spraying, chumming and poling	Approved SC3
Time of end of spraying, chumming and poling	Approved SC3
Retained catch, by species	Approved SC3
Discards, by species	Approved SC3
Tag recovery information	Approved SC3
Species code	Approved SC3
Length measurement code	Approved SC3
Length	Approved SC3

Table 4 Purse seine information and data

VESSEL AND RELATED ATTRIBUTES	
No of onboard support vessels	Information will be useful for possible FAD CMM, determining fishing power and monitoring of vessel activities.
Helicopter Make/Model,/Colour/ Call Sign/Registration	Information will be useful for possible FAD CMM, determining fishing power and monitoring of vessel activities.
GEAR ATTRIBUTES	
Maximum depth of net	Approved SC3
Maximum length of net	Approved SC3
Net mesh size	Approved SC3
Brailer capacity sizes	Approved SC3
INFORMATION ON DAILY ACTIVITIES	
Date and time of start of daily activities	Approved SC3
Time of activity	Approved SC3

Latitude and longitude of activity	Approved SC3
Numbers of school sighted per day	Approved SC3
SCHOOL INFORMATION	
Method of detection of school	Approved SC3
Type of school association	Approved SC3
SET INFORMATION	
Observer's record of date and time of start of set	Approved SC3
Observers record of date and time of end of set	Approved SC3
Vessel's record of date and time of start of set	Approved SC3
Retained catch, by species	Approved SC3
Discards, by species	Approved SC3
Tag recovery information	Approved SC3
INFORMATION ON CATCH FOR EACH SET	
Species code	Approved SC3
Length measurement code	Approved SC3
Length	Approved SC3

Table 5 Troll or other fishing information and data]

VESSEL ATTRIBUTES	
As per General attributes	
GEAR ATTRIBUTES	
As per General gear attributes	
INFORMATION ON DAILY ACTIVITIES	
To be developed	
INFORMATION ON CATCH FOR EACH OPERATION	
To be developed	

Table 6 Species of special interest

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Type of interaction	Approved SC3
Date and time of interaction	Approved SC3
Latitude and longitude of interaction	Approved SC3
Species code of marine reptile, marine mammal or	Approved SC3

seabird	
LANDED ON DECK	
Length	Approved SC3
Length measurement code	Approved SC3
Gender	Approved SC3
Condition when landed on deck	Approved SC3
Condition when released	Approved SC3
Tag recovery information	Approved SC3
Tag release information	Approved SC3
INTERACTION WITH VESSEL OR GEAR ONLY	
Vessel's activity during interaction	Approved SC3
Condition observed at start of interaction	Approved SC3
Condition observed at end of interaction	Approved SC3
Description of interaction	Approved SC3
Number of animals sighted	Approved SC3

Vessel and Aircraft sightings

6. The vessel sightings format is a standard format used by many observer programmes that help to identify IUU vessels, vessels not registered to fish in areas that they are sighted; Vessel sightings have also assisted in verifying VMS positioning of vessels. Whilst the priority for gathering information by observers on vessel sightings is low compared to their other ROP duties, there are many times when a vessel is searching or transiting when an observer can be gainfully used to record other vessels sighted. It should be noted that national and sub regional observer have occasionally been asked by vessel masters to report on the vessel/s that the vessel master has sighted and believes is operating outside the laws and rules that are applied to his own vessel. The information gathered by the observer will assist in identifying IUU and rogue vessels and also assist in identifying companies or countries that are flaunting the WCPFC Convention.

7. Vessel sighting observation was recognised as a useful tool at PrepCon IV, WG.III (WCPFC/PrepCon/26): *“the purpose of the observer programme in its initial stages should be to focus on validation of catch, but that other useful information such as vessel sightings could also be reported under the programme;”*

8. The data fields listed below as minimum standards to be collected by ROP observers have been compiled from harmonised standard formats in use throughout many observer programmes throughout the WCPFC Pacific region.

Table 7 Vessels and Aircraft Sightings

VESSELS & AIRCRAFT SIGHTINGS	
UTC Date & Time of sighting	
Observers Vessel position	

Sighted Vessel or Aircraft Name
Sighted Vessel or Aircraft Call sign
International abbreviation codes for Flag of Vessel
Type of Vessel <u>Vessel Type codes</u> 1 Single purse seine 2 Longline 3 Pole and Line 4 Mother-ship 5 Troll 6 Net boat 7 Bunker 8 Search, Anchor, or Light boat 9 Fish Carrier 10 Trawler 21 Light aircraft 22 Helicopter 31 Other- please specify
Compass bearing to sighted vessel
Estimated distance to sighted vessel
Activity of sighted vessel <u>Action codes of sighted vessel</u> FI Fishing PF Possibly fishing NF Not fishing SR Set Sharing (Vessel receiving fish) SG Set Sharing (Vessel giving fish) TR Transshipping fish (Vessel receiving fish) TG Transshipping fish (Vessel giving fish) BR Bunkering (Vessel receiving fuel) BG Bunkering (Vessel giving fuel) DF Dumping of fish OR Other (Vessels receiving please specify item/s) OG Other (Vessel Giving please specify item/s)
Comments-

Observer Trip Monitoring Summary

9. The Observer Trip Monitoring Summary is currently used by sub regional and national observer programmes in the WCPFC Convention Area. Its purpose is to assist in the reviewing of the observer data and to be able to understand very quickly some of the problems that an observer claim were encountered when observing on a vessel. Whilst additional and probably

more detailed information can be found in the observer reports; the trip summary helps to highlight potential problem areas quickly so they can be examined as soon as practical. The early identification of problems can also assist the vessel masters to resolve or report on some of the alleged concerns reported by the observer before their vessel leaves port.

Table 8 Observer Trip Monitoring Summary

VESSEL TRIP MONITORING
Observer name & nationality
Observer Trip number
Observer Provider
Name of Vessel
Vessel Call sign
Vessel Gear Type
In <u>the opinion of the observer</u> , taking into account what they have observed on the vessel, did the vessel do the following: (indicate YES or NO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • record vessel positions accurately on vessel logsheet for sets, hauling and catch;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • record accurately retained Target Species in the vessel logs;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • record accurately Target species discards;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • record accurately retained Bycatch species;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • record accurately Bycatch discards;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • record species as a different species e.g. (BET as YFT);
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interact with species of special interest;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high grade or cull the catch;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comply with Commission Conservation and Management measures;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fish only in areas where it is permitted to fish;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report vessel position to countries where required when crossing to or from an EEZ into or out of the high Seas;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transfer fish from, or to, another vessel at sea;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • request that an event not be reported;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hinder the observer in the carrying out of their duties;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supply reasonable accommodation, food and facilities to the observer onboard the vessel;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use a fishing method other than the method the vessel was designed.
Comments.