



**Regional Observer Programme  
Third Inter-sessional Working Group  
Guam  
17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009**

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**PLANNED USE OF A CADRE OF OBSERVERS**

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**WCPFC/ROP-IWG3/2009-09  
2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009**

**Introduction**

1. The potential for using a cadre of experienced observers to obtain additional information for special situations and to assist with audits was first presented in WCPFC-TCC2-2006/11. Though there was limited discussion on this issue at TCC2 it was further discussed at WCPFC4 that adopted CMM 2007-01 containing a provision for the use of specialized observers (CMM 2007-01, para.12 (ix)).
2. The IWG-ROP2 meeting at Nadi, Fiji recommended that the Secretariat further elaborate on the potential use of a cadre of experienced observers and provide the results of this work to the next IWG-ROP meeting or the Commission. WCPFC5 at Busan, Korea approved an amount of US\$30,000 to be used in 2009 to assist with the development and use of experienced observers for special situations.

**Cadre of Observers**

3. A cadre of experienced observers drawn from existing ROP-authorized national and sub-regional observer programmes may be employed by the Secretariat to address issues of special interest including, *inter alia*:
  - conducting independent observer trips, as part of a review or audit of national and sub-regional observer programmes to ensure that the Commission's minimum standards are being maintained;
  - IUU fishing;
  - transshipment at sea;
  - monitoring the implementation of decisions of the Commission including;
    - high seas closures;
    - prohibitions of fishing on FADs and monitoring the implementation of FAD Management Plans;
    - by-catch and by-catch mitigation issues involving all species, but in particular, sharks, seabirds, marine mammals and sea turtles.

**Guidelines**

4. The following guidelines and procedures will apply to the ROP Cadre of Observers

- i. All certified ROP observers employed by an ROP-authorized national and/or sub-regional observer programmes are eligible to qualify as an observer for the “Cadre of Observers”.
- ii. The Secretariat will communicate the requirements for the use of the observers to all authorized observer providers; the observer provider may nominate experienced, available, observers and relay information concerning their qualifications and experience to the Secretariat.
- iii. The Secretariat will maintain a list of experienced observers available for special ROP work.
- iv. All observers nominated to be part of the Commission Cadre of Observers will continue to be employed by their respective national and sub-regional observer programmes and, subject to their availability, may be called on from time to time to carry out specialized work for the Commission.
- v. Nominated and approved observers, who are available for work in special situations will be contacted directly by the Secretariat and will communicate with the Secretariat on the duties and roles to be carried out.
- vi. The provider of the observer will be kept informed on matters relating to the use of the observer and will assist where possible with travel and other administrative arrangements.
- vii. Nominated observers called for duty as part of the Commission Cadre of Observers will be contracted and paid in accordance to the pay scales and allowances arranged by the Secretariat. The pay scales and allowances of the national authorities of the observer’s home country will be used as a guide for the calculation of these entitlements.
- viii. All travel arrangements will be paid for by the Secretariat as per the guidelines, procedures and regulations of the Commission.
- ix. Data, images and other information collected by the observer whilst on a special situation ROP trips remains confidential and it will be the responsibility of the observer to maintain that data and information in a secure manner. Data handling protocols and procedures as described in the Commission’s *Rules and Procedures for the Protection of, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission* will be applicable.
- x. Additional training that may be required for special situations will be funded by the Commission Secretariat from the allocation approved by the Commission for this purpose or from voluntary contributions.
- xi. Debriefing of observers for special situations will be the responsibility of the Secretariat. The Secretariat may make arrangements with locally-based briefers and de-briefers at ports of embarkation and disembarkation to undertake these tasks on behalf of the Secretariat. The procedures and processes for this to occur, including in relation to compliance with the Commission’s *Rules and Procedures for the Protection of, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission*, will be negotiated by the Secretariat and observer provider.
- xii. The selection of the observer from the list of nominated observers for specialized situations will be done by the Secretariat taking into account, experience of observer, cost of travel for deployment, and availability of observers.

### Funding 2009

5. WCPFC5 allocated US\$30,000 for the Secretariat's use in 2009 to develop and utilize a Commission Cadre of Observers. The table below summarises the proposed expenditure of these funds.

#	Item	Cost	Comment
1	Development of guidelines, workbooks, forms, procedures and list of eligible observers.	\$2,000	Funds will be required to produce formats and manuals for the specialized work, and the establishment of a database of available observers.
2	Specialised training for selected observers.	\$7,000	Depending on requirements, there will need to be extra training and briefings for the selected observers.
3	Deployment of observers for the auditing of national and sub-regional programmes.	\$21,000	Costs of deployment and travel for approximately three (3) observer trips.
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	