



**Second Intersessional Working Group
Regional Observer Programme**
7-10 July 2008
Nadi, Fiji

SUMMARY REPORT

1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The Chair of the Inter-sessional Working Group for the Regional Observer Programme (IWG-ROP), Dr Charles Karnella (USA), welcomed participants to the group's second meeting (IWG-ROP2).

2. Participants included representatives from Australia, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America and Vanuatu. Birdlife International, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Oceanic Fisheries Programme (SPC-OFP) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) participated as observers. The WCPFC Secretariat also attended. A list of meeting participants is appended at Attachment A.

2. Appointment of Rapporteurs

3. The Secretariat, assisted by Australia and the U.S., provided rapporteuring services.

3. Adoption of Agenda

4. The agenda adopted by the IWG-ROP2 to guide discussions is appended at Attachment B.

4. Review [IWG-ROP1/TCC3/WCPFC4/CMM-2007-01]

5. The Chair reviewed activities that had been undertaken during 2007 to support the work of the IWG-ROP, including the group's first meeting held at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (IWG-ROP1), the Third Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC3), and the Fourth Regular Session of the Commission (WCPFC4).

5. Reporting on implementation during 2008 of CMM-2007-01

6. The Chair reminded participants that Annex C of CMM-2007-01 contains the timing of implementation of the ROP, including an agreement by CCMs to begin providing observer data from existing observer programmes to the Secretariat no later than 31 December 2008.

6. Integration

6(a) Profile of existing programs/Table and Questionnaire

7. The Executive Director advised that the Secretariat had received one response from CCMs, (Belize) to the “Table to assist in reporting vessel monitoring undertaken under the ROP” in Appendix D of the IWG-ROP1 Summary Record. This table was developed at IWG-ROP1 and refined by the Secretariat to facilitate CCMs providing this information. At IWG-ROP1 CCMs agreed to use this table to provide to the Secretariat profiles of their existing observer programmes.

8. The Chair encouraged all CCMs to complete and submit this table to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

9. The Executive Director further advised that the Secretariat had received 18 responses from CCMs to a voluntary questionnaire circulated in May 2008, designed to assist in determining the available observer resources among CCMs and to assist in the ROP’s development. A revised summary of these responses is appended at Attachment C.

10. New Zealand stated it viewed it important to integrate existing observer programmes with their respective standards as set out in the “Hybrid Approach”. It commented that one of TCC4’s primary tasks should be to develop a list of minimum standards, rather than the Secretariat preparing standardized formats.

11. Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Korea, Cook Islands, New Zealand and Federated States of Micronesia provided information about their respective national observer programmes. Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Cook Islands, and a number of other CCMs supported the use of the “Hybrid Approach” as a basis for their programmes’ integration into the ROP.

12. Papua New Guinea is now developing its programme to support the “Hybrid Approach”, it currently has 100 observers and will have 200 observers at the end of 2008 to be available to cover national vessels as well as other CCMs’ vessels.

13. New Zealand suggested that several of the issues under consideration, e.g. insurance, costs and safety, could be dealt with at a bilateral level, thus promoting flexibility and efficiency. In associating itself with these comments, Australia noted that CCMs need to know how they can meet their obligations under the ROP and what it is they are required to meet.

6(b) Current data expectations

14. The Chair noted that the types of data to be collected by ROP observers will be determined by science and compliance obligations, and responsibilities as agreed by the Commission, in the CMMs, and the WCPF Convention. In response to the Chair’s request for the meeting to identify the kinds of data to be collected by ROP observers, the USA, Japan and Australia described their existing national observer programmes, either noting issues that are hindering the ready integration of those programmes into the ROP or describing initiatives that will foster integration.

15. The U.S. associated itself with a suggestion by Australia for CCMs to provide data fields and formats to the Secretariat, so that it could identify commonalities and gaps.

16. The Chair commented that it may be helpful to TCC4 if the IWG-ROP2 provides it with material on minimum standards for its consideration.

17. The Chair requested comments on WCPFC/IWG-ROP2/2008-16 “Candidate elements of the ROP with a focus on MCS elements”.

18. Japan noted that this paper refers to both compliance and science aspects, and contains too many fields for an observer to effectively collect. It further noted that to collect the compliance aspects, an observer would need to be well versed in each CMM. Japan stated the need to prioritize observers’ tasks once the total number of tasks have been determined. It

proposed that the data fields in WCPFC/IWG-ROP2/2008-11 “Proposed ROP Data Fields”, may provide guidance in this exercise, although some of these, e.g. “Vessel Sightings”, have lower priority.

19. New Zealand noted that some of the fields listed in WCPFC/IWG-ROP2/2008-16 may become redundant. It further noted that New Zealand and other FFA members have hundreds of observers capable of undertaking science and compliance roles, collecting a far greater number of fields being considered by the IWG and this experience could be drawn on. New Zealand expressed its desire to have as complete a list as possible, noting that this list would be greatly shortened for observers, depending on the fishery and the type of fishing method being used.

20. In associating itself with New Zealand’s comments, the U.S. noted that since some of the items in WCPFC/IWG-ROP2/2008-16 are the responsibility of flag States rather than observers, these should be deleted so that observer responsibilities are clearly identified.

21. Chinese Taipei expressed the need for the elements in the CMMs to be the priority items for observers to collect information on.

22. Australia, while agreeing that many of these elements are already collected in other ways or will be provided by the flag State in its annual reports, noted that there are very few new fields that are not already collected via other means, e.g. ship’s logs. It acknowledged the need for later prioritization, but does not regard the new fields as overly burdensome.

23. Papua New Guinea noted that it already collects many of the new elements listed in WCPFC/IWG-ROP2/2008-16. It further noted that sub-regional programs already collect both science and compliance information without difficulty covering vessels of most CCMs in the region.

24. Korea, Japan and Chinese Taipei noted that WCPFC/IWG-ROP2/2008-16 had not been available prior to the meeting. The U.S., with the assistance of Australia, agreed to coordinate the culling of the list of elements in WCPFC/IWG-ROP2/2008-16 for subsequent consideration by the meeting.

25. The U.S. presented a revised version of “New Data Fields Required” extracted from “Candidate Elements of the ROP with a Focus on MCS Elements” and summarized the small group’s discussions on this issue, that included a proposal to refine some data fields included in Table 8 entitled, “Observer Trip Monitoring Summary”.

26. The Chair, noting the difficulty that some delegations had in discussing the revised potential data fields, including that the amended Table 8 has not yet been agreed, closed discussion on this issue.

27. The IWG-ROP2 agreed that amended Table 8 (Attachment D) and the proposed new data fields (Attachment E) would be provided to TCC4 for review and comment. The IWG-ROP2 agreed that prior to their consideration at TCC4, CCMs should provide comments on the amended tables and those comments should be submitted to the Secretariat by Monday 11 August 2008.

7. Definitions and Scope

28. At the Chair’s invitation for a discussion of the definitions listed in WCPFC/IWG-ROP2/2008-07(Rev.1), the meeting considered the words “principally”, “occasional”, “independent”, “impartial” and “observer trip” without reaching consensus on their respective meanings in the context of the ROP.

29. New Zealand outlined its understanding that the rationale that gave rise to the need for the definitions of principally/occasionally/adjacent/independent/impartial, recalling that WCPFC2

had adopted the “Hybrid Approach” leaving CCMs free to choose the source of observers from the national programmes of other CCMs or existing sub-regional programmes, but agreed for practical reasons that CCMs could use observers from their own national programmes for coastal fleets. New Zealand suggested the following definitions – “principally”, 95 per cent – “occasional”, 5 per cent. These measures should be made in terms of sea days per trip per vessel.

30. Chinese Taipei suggested that the definition of “Independent and Impartial” could be defined as “Observers that are hired by the government or organization authorized by the government, trained and certified by the procedures of the Commission and have no beneficial interest with the vessels to be dispatched.” That is to say, it has nothing to do with the nationality of the observers.

31. The U.S. proposed a definition for “Independent and Impartial” for the meeting’s consideration, in an effort to provide rigour to this definition (Attachment F).

32. The Philippines noted that it has a policy of providing a one-year prohibition before a company employee can be employed by a regulating authority, and vice-versa.

33. In response to a question from Chinese Taipei regarding how the criteria in the U.S. proposal can be implemented, the U.S. advised that this may take the form of an affidavit signed by the observer or by contractual means.

34. Several CCMs, noting linkages to other elements of the ROP, advised that they required more time to examine the U.S. proposal.

8. Authorisation

8(a) Interim Minimum Standards for the ROP

35. The meeting considered a list prepared by New Zealand proposing items for consideration as interim minimum standards to be met by existing national and sub-regional observer programs contributing to the ROP.

Observer Manual/Guidelines

36. Participants provided comments on the importance of Observer Manuals in providing guidance on how an observer programme should be run, and for the individual observers.

37. Papua New Guinea sought clarification on the level of information that would be contained in the manual. It advised that the current Papua New Guinea manual already contains the elements under the minimum standards.

38. Australia associated itself with Japan’s comment that each national or sub-regional observer programme should continue to use its own manual, a copy of which should be submitted to the Secretariat, and that the development of a comprehensive Observer Manual may take several years. It was noted that, over time, there is potential to achieve a significant degree of harmonization of manuals used by programmes contributing to the ROP.

39. New Zealand commented that CCM Observer Manuals submitted to the Secretariat could be maintained as a library of Observer Manuals, for the reference of all CCMs, and that what is called a “Manual” may take many forms, but the key idea was to ensure there was a foundation document to guide observers and observer programmes.

40. In response to a comment by Chinese Taipei that the Secretariat may require extra resources to operate such a library, the Chair replied that the Secretariat will need copies of these manuals to verify that national observer programmes are in compliance with ROP standards.

41. It was agreed that the interim standard for “Observer Manual/Guidelines” will be that CCMs have and use their respective Observer Manual/Guidelines and submit copies of these to the Secretariat.

Data Fields

42. New Zealand stated that it is collecting information using its own forms and data fields, and would like to continue doing so. It is willing to add information required by the Commission which is not already being collected.

43. Japan stated the need for CCMs to agree on the minimum data to be collected, noting the difficulty that would arise if existing programmes would be required to change their current data collection forms. It stated that the format and data collected should be the responsibility of each programme so long as it meets the ROP’s minimum standards.

44. The Chair recalled a U.S. suggestion that there would be a certain minimum data set required from each programme, and if the programme is not currently collecting that data, then collection requirements will need to be updated. He suggested that an expert working group may be required to resolve the issue of how information may be transmitted to the Commission in a usable format.

45. In response to a suggestion by the U.S. that CCMs should begin comparing existing data fields in national or sub-regional programmes, the Chair advised that despite this suggestion’s merit, it should wait until the working group on data has finished its work on the monitoring and compliance fields that will be collected under the ROP.

46. It was agreed that the interim standard for “Data Fields, Management, Distribution and Use” will be that CCMs will use existing data fields collected by national programmes.

Training

47. New Zealand stated its desire to retain its comprehensive observer training programme. It recommended that CCMs take responsibility for ensuring they have a training programme in place, and that the training programme be open and transparent to the Secretariat and if necessary, other CCMs for review against the ROP standards.

48. It was agreed that the interim standard for “Training” is that training programmes should be linked to the Commission’s decisions in place, available for review and training programme materials provided to the Secretariat.

Code of Conduct

49. Australia, Japan, New Zealand and Chinese Taipei stated the requirement for a code of conduct for observers, the former noting that the details and specifications of the Code should be the CCMs’ responsibility.

50. New Zealand noted that where a Code of Conduct is not in place, the Secretariat could develop one to act as a reference, noting however that codes may need to vary due to cultural and religious sensitivities.

51. It was agreed that the interim standard for “Code of Conduct” is that each CCM should have a Code of Conduct in place, available to each observer, available for review and if not in place, to be developed.

Safety

52. Japan, the U.S. and New Zealand described their respective safety training programmes for observers, some of which are combined with vessel crew safety training based on international standards, whereas others are specialized for observers.

53. Australia noted its requirement that observers undergo safety training prior to entering its observer programme. It supports the requirement for observer safety training without specifying how such training is obtained.

54. New Zealand noted that under CMM-2007-01, CCMs must ensure that observers are adequately trained on safety issues and flag States must ensure that captains ensure observers can carry out their duties safely.

55. It was agreed that the interim standard for “Safety” is that observers must undergo training in sea safety and emergency procedures, and that such procedures be made available to the Secretariat.

Coordinating Observer Placement

56. The Chair stated the requirement for a system or procedures to be in place to place observers. This equates to the requirement in CMM-2007-01 for the appointment of an individual to liaise with the Secretariat with regard to observers - a WCPFC National Observer Programme Coordinator.

57. The U.S. suggested that the point of contact in each CCM should have the extra responsibility of informing the Commission on what observer placements have been made.

58. It was agreed that the interim standard for “Coordinating Placement” is that the WCPFC National Observer Programme Coordinator should be in place, there should be a system for observer placement administration and that documentation describing observer placement administration should be provided to the Commission.

Briefing and De-briefing of observers

59. The U.S. advised the meeting that in its experience de-briefing is integral to the process of ensuring that observer data is of the highest quality.

60. Japan stated its understanding that briefing and de-briefing of observers occurs under existing programs and that establishing a new process would be redundant and bureaucratic.

61. Australia, while agreeing with the importance of briefing and de-briefing of observers, suggested that it not be overly prescriptive for logistical reasons.

62. It was agreed that the interim standard for “Briefing and De-briefing of observers” is that there is a system for briefing and de-briefing of observers in place and documentation describing briefing and de-briefing available to the WCPFC Secretariat.

Equipment and Materials

63. New Zealand noted that observers should have adequate equipment and materials to properly perform their duties, and this should be the minimum standard.

64. Japan stated that this is already a flag State requirement and in Japan’s case already incorporates an international standard. It suggested that each flag State should work with its fishing industry for them to be prepared for these requirements before an observer comes on board.

65. It was agreed that the interim standard for “Equipment and Materials” is that observers are provided with appropriate equipment, including safety equipment.

Communications

66. The U.S. noted that observers should have access to the communication technology of the vessel.

67. Chinese Taipei stated that the observer can record Temperature Depth Recorder (TDR) information only if the vessel has onboard a TDR for its operation. The observer should be requested to bring their own TDRs.

68. The Chair remarked that at present, there is likely to be only a general requirement for communication equipment, not for specific equipment.

69. The Philippines associated itself with Japan's comment that the issue of communications is somewhat vessel dependent, since communication equipment cannot be standardized throughout the fleet.

70. It was agreed that the interim standard for "Communications" is that observers have access to appropriate communication facilities, including emergency communication facilities.

Measuring performance

71. The U.S. stated the need for a quantifiable value for performance, such as a grade, rather than the use of subjective type assessments or broad statements.

72. New Zealand stated that determining whether or not performance objectives are met can be based at the individual observer level or at the programme level. It believes that one of the metrics for measuring the performance of the programme will be to determine whether the observers are meeting their performance requirements, and that this should be a minimum standard.

73. Papua New Guinea stated that its evaluation of the observers' performance begins with the de-briefing process, so that is achieved internally within its observer program.

74. Korea stated that it is too early at this stage to consider a review of national observer programmes.

75. The Chair suggested that the interim standard should be "measuring the observer programme's performance", with a sub-standard being "measuring the performance of observers" and that a recommendation be made to the Commission to institute a mechanism to measure the performance of observer programmes. It was noted that CMM-2007-01 requires the Secretariat to report annually to the Commission on the operations of the ROP, and that it would be useful to include reports from CCMs on the contributions of their observer programmes to the ROP in their respective Annual Reports to the Commission.

76. It was agreed that the interim standard for "Measuring Performance" is a means to report on the performance of the observer programme and a means to report on the performance of individual observers as part of the annual reporting requirements established by the Commission.

Dispute settlement

77. Japan stated the importance of this issue, explaining that the mechanism to settle problematic issues relating to observer conduct should be developed under the ROP.

78. Kiribati, in associating itself with Japan's comments, noted that disputes don't always arise because of the non-performance of an observer, but may be due to other issues.

79. It was agreed that the interim standard for "Dispute Settlement" is a dispute resolution mechanism in place, and if not in place, to be developed, and a description of the dispute resolution mechanism provided to the Secretariat.

80. The list of interim minimum standards for the ROP, reorganized based on comments by meeting participants, is appended at Attachment G.

8(b) Authorization Process

81. The Chair noted that since the IWG-ROP2 had agreed on interim minimum standards, the next step is to provide the Secretariat with guidance on the process for authorizing observer programmes.

82. New Zealand suggested that a CCM would make a declaration to the Secretariat that it had met minimum standards and provide supporting material, and upon the receipt of such the Secretariat would authorize the programme concerned. New Zealand noted a preference for programme certification rather than individual observers.

83. Japan noted the difficulty for the Secretariat to authorize individual observers, and suggested that the authorization of observer programmes should be discussed.

84. Kiribati commented that if an observer program has met the minimum standards then individual observers within that program would meet the same standards.

85. In associating itself with Japan's view that the program has to be authorized, Australia proposed an authorization process built on the discussed minimum standards whereby CCMs would submit the required information, the different elements of which the Secretariat would review and validate. It noted that this differs from a process in which a CCM declares that its observer programme meets the minimum standards and automatically receives an authorization.

86. Several CCMs noted that although the Convention states that the Secretariat should authorize observers, the impracticality of this dictates that the Secretariat should instead authorize national observer programmes, through a transparent process that assures the Secretariat and the Commission that the program, and its observers, can meet the minimum standards.

87. The meeting agreed to recommend to the Commission that for practical purposes it is acceptable for the Secretariat to authorize national observer programmes, rather than individual observers, and that this was consistent with the Convention text. It was noted that CMM-2007-01 states that the Secretariat will authorize observer providers.

88. The meeting agreed on the following process for authorization of national and sub-regional observer programmes by the Secretariat:

Authorization of national and sub-regional observer programmes by the Secretariat

- i) CCMs seeking authorization to have their national observer programme (NOP) included in the Commission Regional Observer Program (ROP) shall submit an application to the Secretariat, which declares that their NOP meets the minimum standards for the ROP agreed to by the Commission and includes relevant supporting documentation to demonstrate compliance with the minimum standards. Relevant CCMs may also nominate sub-regional observer programmes to be authorized for inclusion in the Commission's ROP through the application process.
- ii) Upon receipt of an application from a CCM for its national programme or relevant CCMs in respect of a sub-regional programme, and on the basis of an initial review for completeness of the application, the Secretariat will issue an Interim Authorization for the NOP or sub-regional observer programme to be included in the Commission ROP. Interim Authorizations will be valid until July 1, 2012.
- iii) If the Secretariat discovers a deficiency regarding compliance with one or more of the minimum standards, the CCM or sub-regional programme shall be contacted and notified of the deficiencies. The CCM or sub-regional program will work with the Secretariat to correct the

deficiencies within 90 days or some other time frame determined by the Secretariat in consultation with the CCM or sub-regional programme concerned. Failure to correct such deficiencies may result in the removal of the Interim Authorization by the Secretariat.

- iv) Before June 30, 2012, the Secretariat shall conduct a programme audit of each NOP and sub-regional programme that received an Interim Authorization to ensure that they meet the minimum standards for the Commission ROP.
- v) If the Secretariat finds a deficiency during the programme audit regarding compliance with one or more of the minimum standards, the CCM or sub-regional programme shall be contacted and notified of the deficiencies. The CCM or sub-regional programme will work with the Secretariat to correct the deficiencies within 90 days or some other time frame determined by the Secretariat in consultation with the CCM or sub-regional programme concerned.
- vi) On the basis of the programme audit, the Secretariat shall authorize NOPs and sub-regional programmes to be included in the Commission ROP as each audit is successfully completed. If a programme audit has not commenced before 1 July 2012, the Secretariat, in consultation with the relevant CCM or sub-regional programme may extend the interim authorization until the audit has been completed. If a CCM or sub-regional programme has failed to correct all deficiencies identified, the NOP or sub-regional programme may not be authorized until such deficiencies are corrected.
- vii) All authorized NOPs and sub-regional programmes will be kept under continuous review by the Secretariat in order to ensure they continue to meet the Commission's minimum standards. CCMs shall ensure NOPs and sub-regional programmes are refined, as necessary, and within the agreed upon time frame, to meet any further standards adopted by the Commission.

9. Role and function of audits

89. In noting the importance of audits that could be conducted by the Secretariat, service provider or other means, New Zealand stated that the Secretariat should have adequate resources to carry out its audit functions.

90. Japan suggested that the audit process could be conducted by using observer personnel from CCMs.

91. The U.S. stated that audits are a Secretariat function and as such the Secretariat should be adequately funded to conduct them. In the short-term there may be a need for contractual services, or as Japan has suggested, using CCMs to assist. The U.S. noted the need to examine budgetary implications so that the Commission is aware of the need to focus on this issue at WCPFC5. It stated the need for discussion about how the criteria will be developed for the Secretariat's audits and offered to provide U.S. observer programme representatives to assist in the development of the audit criteria, as required.

92. Japan expressed its concern with the proposal to out-source the observer program audit, advising that this concern is not only budget-related, but also related to its wish that the experience and expert knowledge remains inside the Secretariat. It noted that some CCMs have great experience in this field that could be shared and reiterated its suggestion regarding the use of a CCM-based audit process.

93. The U.S. noted that the Secretariat, working with others such as the observer program managers from CCMs, could develop audit criteria. It further noted that this may have to be an interim process until some audits have been completed, at which time the audit process can be finalized, based on experience gained.

94. The Philippines stated that when it will commence setting up its national program, it found the criteria it needed in CMM-2007-01 that it regards as a firm basis for conducting audits.

95. New Zealand suggested the use of a cadre of highly experienced observers to assist in drawing up the criteria, in consultation with CCMs.

96. The U.S. associated itself with Japan's views on the need for a common understanding on the purpose of audits. It noted that some work on this matter has been completed, as presented in Annex B of the Draft Strategic Plan for the Development of the ROP made available to IWG-ROP1, on the accreditation of the observer program. While some editing of this document is required, it includes an observer provider certification form, and it may assist in developing audit criteria.

97. New Zealand noted that when considering this document the minimum standards agreed at this meeting needed to be used to direct the focus of such audits and the criteria developed beneath them.

98. The Chair noted the need for an understanding of the role and functions that audits will play in the evolution of the ROP, including harmonization and consistency, and standards to ensure that the operation of the individual programmes meet a certain standard.

98. In response to a query by the Chair regarding other audit functions, New Zealand stated that audits could play a role in improving the efficiency and efficacy of observer programmes based on identification by auditors of areas requiring improvements.

100. In response to a request for clarification by Chinese Taipei on "opportunities to harmonise the operations and activities of individual observer programmes", the Chair advised that one of the Secretariat's roles is to ensure that observers are collecting data in a harmonized manner.

101. The meeting agreed to the proposition on "Audit" as follows:

Audit

1. The IWG-ROP2 proposed that the role of an audit will be to work with CCMs to review the effectiveness of their programme's contribution to the ROP.
2. The purpose of the audit is to inform CCMs and the Commission:
 - of any gaps in observer coverage of fleets active in the WCPO;
 - of any gaps in respect of achieving standards agreed by the Commission;
 - in relation to opportunities to harmonise the operations and activities of individual observer programmes;
 - identify opportunities for achieving efficiency gains among contributing observer programmes; and
 - of other matters as identified by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
3. The IWG-ROP2 recommended that the Secretariat work with CCMs to develop a process for undertaking audits. CCMs are encouraged to provide written submissions in relation to a process by Monday, August 11, 2008. It was recommended that this be available for initial consideration at TCC4.

10. Data Standards

102. On the issue of minimum data standards, it noted that WCPFC/IWG-ROP2/2008-11 elaborates on data standards and asked whether these could form the focus of discussion.

103. A small group, chaired by Australia, considered the issue of “Data and Data Standards” as presented in WCPFC/IWG-ROP2/2008-11 “Proposed ROP Data Fields”, focusing on those fields that have yet to be agreed.

104. New Zealand noted concern about discussing work previously agreed by SC without the presence of its scientific advisers.

105. The outputs of the small group on “Data and Data Standards” are contained in WCPFC/IWG-ROP2/2008-11 (Rev.1), appended at Attachment H. After discussion by the working group, a few items of the table remain to be agreed, pending further consideration.

11 Safety

106. New Zealand, noting the utility and examining observer safety training, and the safety of a vessel on which an observer is placed, separately. It suggested that if an observer programme is requested to place an observer on an unseaworthy vessel, the observer has the right of refusal, and in such circumstances, the observer should prepare a report for submission to that vessel’s flag State, to bring its attention to the state of the vessel.

107. The U.S., in noting the importance of ensuring that observers are made aware of a vessel’s safety features, stated that there should be some minimum standards for making sure the observers know the minimum safety standards on a vessel and how to access them.

108. Japan stated that it is the responsibility of the observer programme to ensure the safety of the observer and the responsibility of the flag State to ensure the safety of the vessel.

109. Australia referred to a check-list in WCPFC/IWG-ROP2/2008-10 to be completed before an observer is placed on a vessel that included assessment of the vessel’s safety. It commented that in its view, the observer has the right of refusal to board a vessel, based on the guidance provided in this check-list.

110. In associating itself with Australia’s comments on a safety check-list, New Zealand stated that it would like to see if such a list could ensure that there are minimum safety standards.

111. Papua New Guinea advised that there already exists in its national observer programme basic standards for observers to check and ensure the safety of vessels (life-jackets, EPIRBs etc.), and the need to check the validity of vessels’ seaworthiness certificates.

112. Japan reminded the working group of the need to clarify whether the use of a safety check-list may result in negative consequences for a vessel, should that vessel not meet all the listed requirements.

113. Mr Tim Park (FFA Secretariat), who had volunteered to coordinate discussion on a safety check-list among IWG-ROP2 participants, advised that because of insufficient time to further consider an observer safety check-list at IWG-ROP2, this matter will be further advanced through electronic discussion with CCMs prior to TCC4.

12. Vessel Size

114. Japan, in referring to a diagram of a fishing vessel (Attachment I) that it described as typical of a small-sized vessel, stated that although it is not seeking a complete exemption from the ROP for this type of vessel, it strongly believes that vessels of this type should receive special consideration in relation to the ROP. Because of the small size of the bunk area, if this type of vessel received an observer, one of the crew would have to leave the vessel.

115. The Philippines supported the suggestion that vessel size should be taken into consideration, especially considering that many Philippines fishing vessels are 30-40 years old and are of Japanese origin. It stated that some of its fishing vessels will not be able to accommodate an observer under certain conditions.

116. Federated States of Micronesia advised that its observer programme has been placing observers on very small vessels operating in its EEZ for many years. It advised that its data collection programme will suffer if it cannot obtain observer data from these small vessels because of an exemption.

117. In response to questions from the U.S. regarding the number of these small vessels entering the high seas in the Convention Area and being based in foreign ports, Japan advised that approximately 270 vessels are on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, which may enter the high seas, approximately 30 of which use foreign ports in the Pacific.

118. In response to questions from New Zealand regarding the distance these small vessels travel outside the Japanese EEZ onto the high seas, Japan advised that most of these vessels operate north of 20°N and some operate as far east as the International Dateline. Japan noted that these vessels use refrigerated seawater and trip length is usually less than one month.

119. The Chair noted that under “Special Situations” in para.10 of CMM-2007-01 relating to the deferral of the implementation schedule for small vessels, the minimum size of such vessels shall be considered by the IWG-ROP for recommendation to the Commission in 2008.

120. In response to a question from the Chair about the number of trips Japan’s small vessels make each year, Japan advised that these vessels make an average of 13-15 trips per year, depending on the location of the fishing grounds.

121. Australia commented that since the safety issue has been previously discussed, the issue under discussion is that the ROP should cover the activities of vessels throughout the WCPFC Convention Area. It stated that the continuing application of “Special Circumstances” in relation to the ROP is of concern to Australia. It noted that from the comments provided by Federated States of Micronesia, small vessels have few, if any, barriers to the placement of observers, so vessel size is not an issue in the collection of scientific information. Australia stated that the ROP should apply to the region as a whole, without the exclusion of certain areas.

122. In response to a comment by Chinese Taipei about its interest in hearing how other CCMs deploy observers on small vessels without difficulty and without compromising safety standards, New Zealand, Tonga and Papua New Guinea provided some details of their respective observer programmes and fleet composition, noting that most of their vessels were less than 24m and nearly all took observers.

123. Papua New Guinea stated that it has been deploying observers on vessels less than 24m and does not regard this as an issue.

124. Japan expressed its appreciation for the comments provided by other CCMs regarding their experiences with placing observers on small vessels, noting that it wishes to gather as much information as possible on this issue.

125. Chinese Taipei also thanked the response from those CCMs, but noted that it was not convinced if such programmes meet standards relating to safety, data standards and other criteria set by this Working Group. It also emphasised the difficulty of deploying observers on small vessels under 30m in total length because of the vessels’ constraints, such as lack of sleeping area due to the narrow-and-long designed ship shape, lack of working area for observers, and the long period of operation at sea for three to six months. Chinese Taipei considered, taking into account other measures, such as VMS, transshipment, vessel registry and other measures either in place or

under development, the implementation of the ROP for small vessels under 30m in total length, should be deferred.

126. The Secretariat, on New Zealand's suggestion, prepared and distributed to the meeting a summary of the various fleets on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels by vessel type and flag, less and greater than 30m in length (Attachment J).

13. Data Management

127. The Executive Director described the current status of the Secretariat's resources in regard to data management including security and confidentiality issues related to the ROP. He advised that once ROP data flows from national and sub-regional observer programmes, this will place considerable demands on the Secretariat, that will have budgetary implications.

128. The Executive Director noted the interim arrangements for scientific structure and function of the Commission is currently being reviewed and that this may have implications for the way the Commission's data is managed. He also noted that current contractual arrangements with SPC-OFP could be expanded so as to maintain consistency and avoid duplication. He advised as there would be budgetary implications for this, it required consideration by the Commission. He noted the current organizational structure includes provision for a post of Data Quality Officer to support to ROP data administration needs.

129. In response to a question from the U.S. as to funding status of this post, the Executive Director replied that this post is un-funded at present.

130. The IWG-ROP2 agreed to recommend that the WCPFC Secretariat should provide to the Commission a costing of a range of options for data management for the ROP. These options should include, but not be limited to:

- 1) use of existing national and subregional programmes data management arrangements;
- 2) out-sourcing of Secretariat functions, for example to SPC-OFP under existing contract for data services; and
- 3) centralized in the WCPFC Secretariat, for example including through funding of the Data Quality Officer position for the ROP.

131. The IWG-ROP2 also agreed that national and sub-regional observer programmes will submit their respective data forms to the Secretariat to commence a harmonization exercise and that these forms should be provided by 11 August 2008 to assist the Secretariat to prepare a paper on this subject for TCC4.

14. Costs

132. Japan noted cost considerations required a full understanding of each component of the ROP, including deployment costs (transportation, per diem, insurance, administration fees, etc.) and that because of the diversity of observer programmes run by CCMs, these costs could not be standardized. It advised that it is Japan's position that if the activities of a national or sub-regional programme need to be extended to meet the needs of the ROP, then there will be cost implications that require the Commission's attention. In addition, it reiterated that Japan considered that the cost of the ROP should be borne by the Commission, including the possibility of compensating vessels for costs associated with their participation in the programme.

133. The IWG-ROP2 noted that this matter requires further consideration at TCC and the Commission.

15. Observers for special situations

134. The Executive Director provided some background on the origin of the use of a cadre of specialized observers, noting that it was contained in an information paper presented to TCC2. He advised that there was limited discussion on this issue at TCC2.

135. Noting provision for the use of specialized observers (CCM-2007-01, para.12(ix)) the IWG-ROP2 agreed that as time permits, the Secretariat will elaborate on the use of a cadre of specialized observers taking into account different aspects of the ROP, and provide the results of this work to the IWG-ROP or the Commission.

16. Next Meeting

136. The IWG-ROP awaits further instruction from the Commission regarding its next meeting.

17. Adoption of Summary Report and Recommendations

137. This Summary Report was adopted by the IWG-ROP2. A summary of issues that arose during the meeting, and that require future work, subsequently prepared by the Secretariat but not reviewed by the IWG, is presented at Attachment K.

18. Closing of the Meeting

138. The IWG-ROP2 meeting closed on Thursday 10 July 2008.



**Second Intersessional Working Group
Regional Observer Programme
Nadi, Fiji
7-10 July 2008**

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**Second Intersessional Working Group
Regional Observer Programme**

7-10 July 2008

Nadi, Fiji

AGENDA

1. **Opening of the meeting**
2. **Appointment of rapporteurs**
3. **Adoption of agenda**
4. **Review [IWG-ROP1/TCC3/WCPFC4/CMM-2007-01]**
5. **Reporting on implementation of CMM-207-01 in 2008**
6. **Integration**
- 6(a) **Profile of existing programmes/Table and Questionnaire**
- 6(b) **Current data expectations**
 - i) Science
 - ii) MCS
 - iii) CMMs
 - iv) Convention
7. **Definitions and Scope**
8. **Authorizations**
- 8(a) **Interim minimum standards for the ROP**
- 8(b) **Authorization process**
9. **Role and function of audits**
10. **Data standards**
11. **Safety**
12. **Vessel size**
13. **Data Management**
14. **Costs**
15. **Observers for special situations**
16. **Next meeting**

- 17. Adoption of Summary Report and Recommendations**
- 18. Closing of the meeting**



**Second Intersessional Working Group
Regional Observer Programme**
7-10 July 2008
Nadi, Fiji

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO VOLUNTARY QUESTIONNAIRE

By 9th July 2008, the voluntary questionnaire recently sent out to all CMMs, and which was posted on the IWG-ROP2 website, was voluntarily responded to by 18 CCMs.

The Questionnaire was designed to assist in describing the observer resources that may be available to the WCPFC and to assist in developing the ROP to enable harmonization and avoid duplication of resources. The completion of the questionnaire was voluntarily completed by CMMs. Although it is not comprehensive it some preliminary information about national and sub regional observer programmes in the Convention Area.

Question								
Number of countries and organisations that responded	Australia, Cook Islands, Chinese Taipei, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia French Polynesia, Forum Fisheries Agency, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Philippines, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Wallis & Futuna.							
				Yes	No	No Response		
Does your country have an active observer programme				14	4	0		
How many years has the programme been active	0-2 years	2-4 yrs	4-6yrs	6-10yrs	10 - 20+yrs	No Response		
	1	2	4	2	3	1		
Does the programme produce an “Annual Report:				Yes	No	No Response		
				12	1	1		
Annual budget of observer programme (US\$) amounts depend heavily on coverage and vessels being covered.	\$25 – 40,000	75-100,000	150-200,000	300- 400,000	2			
	2	4	1	1				
	400- 500,000	\$1.5m- 2m	3.1 Million	7.5 Million				
	1	1	1	1				
Question	Vessel type	Coverage for individual Programmes						
What % coverage does the programme attain		3%	5%	7.5%	20%	40%	100%	No Response
	Purse seine		1		3	1	2	7
	Longline	3	3	1	1		1	4
	Other		2				1	9
				Comments				
Total vessels expected to take observers	Purse seine -	305		Some vessels may have observer coverage by more than one programme				
	Longline	703						
	Other	58						
				Comment				
Observer Programme Mandate	Science	13		Most programmes were multi-mandated and covered –Science, Compliance and Management 1-No Response				
	Compliance	10						
	Management	8						
	Environmental	2						
Questionnaire				Comment				
Does your Programme have Manuals	Own M&W	5		Sub Regional M&W is designed and issued by FFA/SPC by the Pacific Island FFA/SPC members				
	Sub Regional	9						

and Workbooks (M&W)	M&W						
What method determines coverage for each gear type	Gear types coverage methods by individual programme						Comment
	Gear Type	Days	Trips	Sets	Hooks	Other	
	Purse Seine	6	3			1	Some programmes cover more than one vessel type
	Long Line	3	5	2	2	1	
	Pole and Line	3					
	Trawl (line)	2					
	Trawler (net)	2					
Other	2				1		
Responsibility for recruitment of observers into programmes	Government			1		One programme used both government and private contractors to recruit observers	
	Private Contractor			2			
	Regional Agency			2			
	Other			0			
Minimum education standards for observers	Degree	4	One programme had 2 standards with the preferred standard being a degree, however good pass in High School was acceptable if required.				
	Diploma	1	One programme did not require an education standard.				
	High School	9					
	Other	1					
Entrance criteria for participants to be permitted to enter observer training courses	Entrance test not required, education standard acceptable		Yes - 6		One programme did not have a test but required the entrant to have degree in marine biology or related fisheries areas and or also fishery experience.		
	Entrance test required		No - 8				
	No Response		Yes - 6	No - 5			
Who does the training of observers in your programme	Government			5	Regional agency is FFA/SPC for most of the Pacific Island programmes		
	College or Private Contractor			0			
	No training Required			0			
	Regional Agency			8			
	In house experienced observers			1			
Average number of participants in a training course	1-5 persons	2	Percentage that pass the training course	90-100%	7		
	6-10 persons	5		80-89%	0		
	11-15 persons	4		70- 79%	3		
	16-20 persons	3		60-69%	2		
				No response	2		

What Gear types are observers trained in.	Purse seine	11	Trawl	3	Most programmes had multi geared trained observers.
	Longline	14	Trawler	2	
	Pole and line	4	Other	3	
Does your observer training courses adhere to fixed training standards	Yes	13	Are there advanced training opportunities	Yes	12
	No	0		No	1
	No response	1		No response	1
Do you have observers available to be certified for the ROP	Yes - 11 No - 3		If yes how many observers are currently available for the ROP	160	
Does your programme debrief observers after a trip	Yes - 14 No - 0		If yes how often does your programme debrief observers	Every Trip	10
				As often as possible	4
				Occasionally	0
Can your programme assist with the placement of ROP observers	Yes - 13 No - 1		Does your programme have an Observer Code of Conduct	Yes - 13 No - 2 No Response - 1	
Does your programme provide accident and life coverage for observers	While on board a vessel			9	
	No insurance provided			4	
	When they travel to and from a vessel			9	
	Observers must self insure before a trip			2	
	No responses			3	
Does your programme provide Medical Insurance coverage for observers	When they travel to and from a vessel			7	
	No Insurance provided			4	
	While on board			8	
	Observers must self insure before a trip			4	
	No responses			2	
Does your observer programme have the capacity to assist observers selected for ROP duties with the following:					
Explanation of the WCPFC Convention				Yes - 13	No - 1



**Second Intersessional Working Group
Regional Observer Programme
7-10 July 2008
Nadi, Fiji**

AMENDED TABLE 8

WCPFC-IWG2-2008/11

Observer Trip Monitoring Summary

1. The IWG-ROP2 agreed that Table 8 (WCPFC-IWG2-2008/11), as amended by a small working group during IWG2 facilitated by Ms Alex Cole (USA) would be provided to TCC4 for review and comment. The underlined text (track change in the electronic form) identifies the refinements proposed by the small working group.

2. Table 8 is taken from the Observer Trip Monitoring Summary that 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 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 highlights potential problem areas 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:
<u>Coastal state license:</u>
<u>Vessel certificate of registration:</u>

<u>WCPCFC Authorisation:</u>		
<u>Did the vessel do <u>any of</u> the following: (indicate YES or NO; for any YES response, please provide additional explanation and information in space that will be provided below)</u>		
<u>inaccurately</u> record vessel positions on vessel log sheet for sets, hauling and catch;	Yes	No
<u>inaccurately</u> record retained ‘Target Species’ in the vessel logs;	Yes	No
<u>inaccurately</u> record ‘Target Species’ discards;	Yes	No
<u>inaccurately</u> record retained By catch species	Yes	No
<u>inaccurately</u> record By catch species discards;	Yes	No
record species as a different species e.g. (Juvenile BET as YFT);	Yes	No
interact with species of special interest;	Yes	No
high grade or cull the catch;	Yes	No
<u>fail to</u> comply with <u>any</u> Commission Conservation and Management measure;	Yes	No
fish in areas where it is <u>not</u> permitted to fish;	Yes	No
<u>fail to</u> report vessel position to countries, where required, when <u>entering and leaving an EEZ</u> [crossing to or from an EEZ into or out of the High Seas];	Yes	No
transfer fish from, or to, another vessel at sea;	Yes	No
request that an event not be reported by the observer;	Yes	No
hinder the observer in the carrying out of their duties;	Yes	No
<u>fail to</u> supply reasonable accommodation, food and facilities to the observer onboard the vessel	Yes	No
use a fishing method other than the method the vessel was designed or licensed.	Yes	No
<u>lose any fishing gear;</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>abandon any gear;</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>fail to report any abandoned gear;</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>dispose of any metals, plastics, chemicals or old fishing gear;</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>discharge any oil;</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>fail to monitor international safety frequencies;</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>fail to stow fishing gear when entering areas where they were not authorized to fish;</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>



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PROPOSED NEW DATA FIELDS

The IWG-ROP2 agreed that the proposed new data fields would be provided to TCC4 for review and comment.

New Data Fields Required (Revision)	
If approved will be merged with the tables already approved (Attachment H)	
Article 26	
Vessel Name of vessel making boarding.	Recommend NOT including on any table
Call-sign of vessel making boarding.	Recommend NOT including on any table
Nationality of boarding vessel	Recommend NOT including on any table
Freezer Type	Already included in Table 2
Check from records on board if possible	Where and when Built Length Moulded Depth Beam Gross registered tonnage Engine power NO RECOMMENDATION
CMM 2004-03	
Hull markings consistent with CMM 2004-03	(Yes or No) Recommend including on Table 1
WIN markings consistent with	(Yes or No) Recommend including on Table 1

CMM 2004-03	
WIN format for markings consistent with CMM 2004-03	(Yes or No) Recommend including on Table 1
CMM 2006-05	
Estimated shark fin weight by species	Recommend including on Table 6
Estimated shark carcass weight by species	Recommend including on Table 6
CMM 2007-04	
Seabirds captured alive and released	Already included on Table 6



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PROPOSED DEFINITION OF INDEPENDENT AND IMPARTIAL

Proposal by the United States ([7.8.08@15:39](#))

1. Recalling the discussion at TCC2 in Brisbane, Australia, the IWG-ROP2 recognizes that the requirement for ensuring that observers are independent and impartial, in accordance with Article 28 of the Convention, does not preclude national observers from operating on vessels of their flag CCM.
2. In accordance with the implementation program for the ROP agreed to in Annex C of CMM 2007-01, CCMs will commence implementation of the ROP by using existing sub-regional and national observer programs already operational in the region.
3. Further, in accordance with paragraph 13(i) of CMM 2007-01, the Commission ROP shall consist of independent and impartial observers qualified in accordance with criteria approved by the Commission.
4. The IWG-ROP2 recommends that the following criteria for meeting this “independent and impartial” standard:

“*Independent and impartial*” means that an observer:

- a) May not have a direct financial interest, other than the provision of observer services, in the fishery under the purview of WCPFC, including, but not limited to:
 - i. Any ownership, mortgage holder, or other secured interest in a vessel or processor involved in the catching, taking, harvesting or processing of fish;
 - ii. Any business selling supplies or services to any vessel or processor in the fishery;
 - iii. Any business purchasing raw or processed products from any vessel or processor in the fishery.
- b) May not solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any gratuity, gift, favor, entertainment, inordinate accommodation, loan or anything of monetary value

from anyone who either conducts activities that are regulated by the flag CCM and the Commission or has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the observer's official duties.

- c) May not serve as an observer on any vessel or at any processors owned or operated by a person who previously employed the observer in another capacity (e.g., as a crew member).
- d) May not solicit or accept employment as a crewmember or an employee of a vessel or processor while employed by an observer provider.



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INTERIM MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE ROP

Interim minimum standards for existing national programmes to be authorised to contribute to the ROP:

Item	Interim standard [subject to periodic revision by the Commission]	Responsibility /role
Observer Manual/Guidelines	Observer Manual/Guidelines in use	CCM
	Submitted to the Secretariat	CCM
Data fields, management, distribution and use	Use existing data fields collected by national programmes	CCM
Training	Training programme linked to Commission's decisions in place	CCM
	Training programme available for review	CCM
	Training programme materials provided to Secretariat	CCM
Code of conduct	Code of Conduct in place	CCM
	Code of Conduct available to each observer	CCM
	Code of Conduct available for review	Secretariat
	If not in place, Code of Conduct being developed	CCM/ observer providers/ Secretariat
Safety	Observers have sea safety training and emergency procedures [to international standards]	CCM
	Safety and emergency training procedures available	CCM

	to the Secretariat	
Coordinating placement	WCPFC Observer programme coordinator in place.	CCM
	System for observer placement administration	CCM
	Documentation describing observer placement administration provided to Commission	CCM
Briefing and debriefing	System for briefing and debriefing of observers in place	CCM
	Documentation describing briefing and debriefing available to the Secretariat.	CCM
Equipment and materials (including safety-related equipment)	Observers provided with appropriate equipment, including safety equipment.	CCM
Communications	Observers have access to appropriate communication facilities including emergency communications facilities.	CCM
Measuring performance	Means to report on performance of the Programme	CCM/Observer provider
	Means to report the performance of individual observers.	CCM/Observer provider
Dispute settlement	Dispute resolution mechanism in place.	Commission/Flag State/Coastal State/Observer provider
	Description of dispute mechanism provided to the Secretariat	



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**DRAFT MINIMUM DATA FIELDS
WCPFC REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME
AS REVISED BY IWG-ROP2**

Adapted from WCPFC/ IWG-ROP2-2008/11 Rev 1
8th July 2008

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	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
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
Nationality of observer	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Observer provider -country or organisation	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
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
Nationality of captain	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Identification document	Added by IWG-ROP2 and recommended to be approved
Name of fishing master	Approved SC3
Nationality of fishing master	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Identification document	Added by IWG-ROP2 and recommended to be approved
Other crew	Approved SC3
[Nationality of crew]	Referred to TCC4 for further discussion
Total number of Crew	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
VESSEL ATTRIBUTES	
Vessel cruising speed	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
[Vessel fish hold capacity]	Referred to TCC4 for further discussion
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)	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2 Noting data confidentiality and security.
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	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Mainline hauler	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Branch line hauler	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Line shooter	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Automatic bait thrower	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Automatic branch line attached	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Hook type	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Hook size	Recommended to be approved, -

	IWG-ROP2
Tori pole	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Bird curtain	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Weighted branch lines	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Blue dyed bait	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Underwater setting shoot	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Disposal method for offal management	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
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	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Number of hooks per basket, or number of hooks between floats	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Total number of hooks used in a set	Approved SC3
Line shooter speed	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Length of float-line	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Distance between branch-lines	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Length of branch-lines	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Time-depth recorders (TDRs)	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
Number of light-sticks	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2

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	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
INFORMATION ON CATCH FOR EACH SET	
[Hook number, between floats]	Recommended to be approved, - IWG-ROP2
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]	Refer to TCC3 for further discussion
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
Bait Species purchased	Added by IWG -ROP2 and recommended to be approved
Estimated weight or quantity of bait caught or used	Recommended to be approved, - IWG - ROP2
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	
Number of onboard support vessels	Recommended to be approved, - IWG - ROP2
Aircraft Make/Model,/Colour/ Call sign/Registration	Changes to wording recommended to be approved, - IWG -ROP2
GEAR ATTRIBUTES	
Maximum depth of net	Approved SC3
Maximum length of net	Approved SC3
Net mesh size	Approved SC3
Brailer capacity sizes	Recommended to be approved, - IWG -

	ROP2
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	
Mechanical Haulers	Added by IWG -ROP2 and recommended to be approved
Weighing Scales	Added by IWG -ROP2 and recommended to be approved

Number of lines used	Added by IWG -ROP2 and recommended to be approved
Refrigeration method	Added by IWG -ROP2 and recommended to be approved
INFORMATION ON DAILY ACTIVITIES	
Date and time of start of daily activities	Added by IWG -ROP2 and recommended to be approved
Time of activity	Added by IWG -ROP2 and recommended to be approved
Latitude and longitude of activity	Added by IWG -ROP2 and recommended to be approved
Type of activity	Added by IWG -ROP2 and recommended to be approved
Numbers of school sighted per day	Added by IWG -ROP2 and recommended to be approved
INFORMATION ON CATCH FOR EACH OPERATION	
Species code	Added by IWG -ROP2 and recommended to be approved
Length of fish	Added by IWG -ROP2 and recommended to be approved
Length measurement code	Added by IWG -ROP2 and recommended to be approved
Gender if possible	Added by IWG -ROP2 and recommended to be approved
Condition when caught	Added by IWG -ROP2 and recommended to be approved
Fate	Added by IWG -ROP2 and recommended to be approved
Condition if discarded	Added by IWG -ROP2 and recommended to be approved
Tag recovery information	Added by IWG -ROP2 and recommended to be approved

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 seabird	Approved SC3

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

Table 7 Vessels & Aircraft Sightings

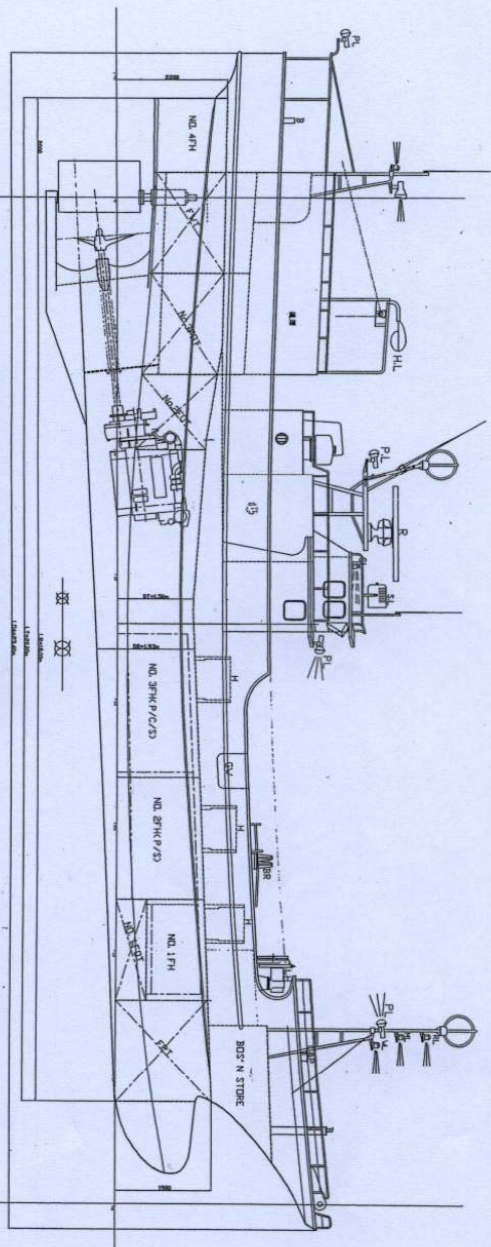
VESSELS & AIRCRAFT SIGHTINGS	
<u>UTC</u> Date & Time of sighting	Recommended to be approved, - IWG -ROP2
Observers Vessel latitude and longitude position	Recommended to be approved, - IWG -ROP2
Where possible sighted Vessel or Aircraft Name	Recommended to be approved, - IWG -ROP2
Where possible sighted Vessel or Aircraft Call sign	Recommended to be approved, - IWG -ROP2
Flag of sighted vessel if possible	Recommended to be approved, - IWG -ROP2
Other vessel markings	Recommended to be approved, - IWG -ROP2
Type of Vessel (i.e. Purse-seiner - Long liner, etc.)	Recommended to be approved, - IWG -ROP2
Compass bearing from observers vessels to sighted vessel	Recommended to be approved, - IWG -ROP2
Estimated distance from observers vessels to sighted vessel	Recommended to be approved, - IWG -ROP2
Activity of sighted vessel i.e. Fishing, drifting, Steaming etc	Recommended to be approved, - IWG -ROP2
Comments-	Recommended to be approved, - IWG -ROP2



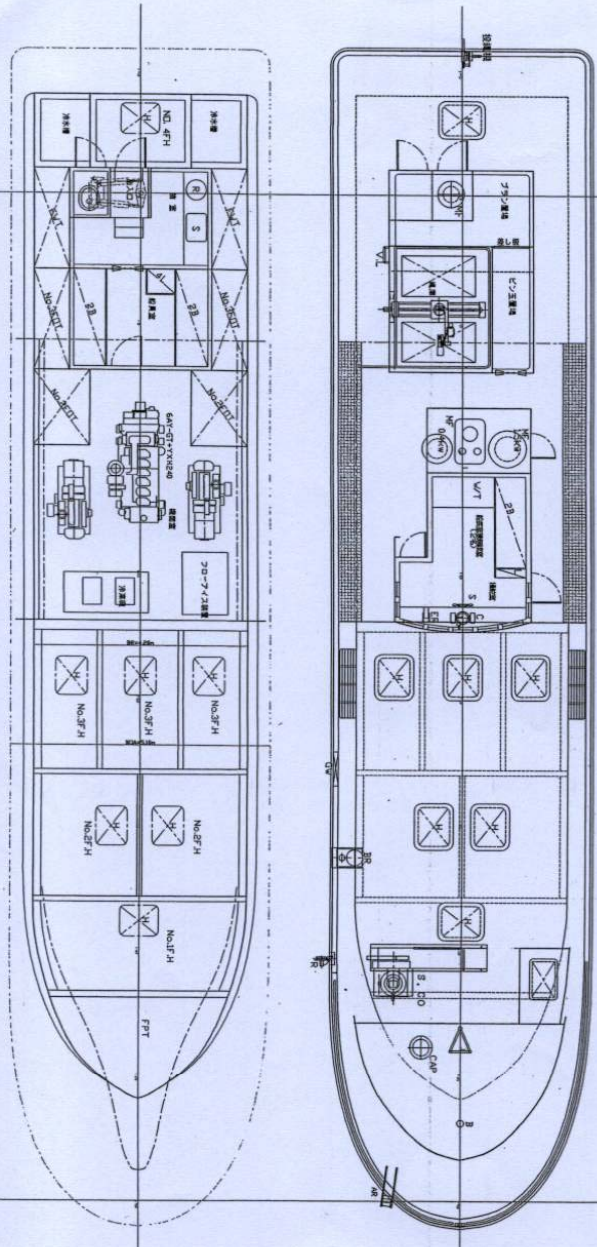
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**DIAGRAMME OF A TYPICAL SMALL SCALE JAPANESE
LONGLINER**

Provided by Japan



主 機 種 目	1917
主 機 型 式	主 機 種 目 船 政 機 械 研 究 所 製
主 機 馬 力	7301kw
電 機 員	0名
備 考	
主 機 種 目	2340kW
主 機 型 式	MAN 510M
主 機 馬 力	2340kW
電 機 員	0名
備 考	
主 機 種 目	420kW
主 機 型 式	MT 1.03M
主 機 馬 力	420kW
電 機 員	0名
備 考	
主 機 種 目	80000kW
主 機 型 式	LT 420M
主 機 馬 力	80000kW
電 機 員	0名
備 考	
主 機 種 目	420kW
主 機 型 式	MAN 510M
主 機 馬 力	420kW
電 機 員	0名
備 考	
主 機 種 目	1.53M
主 機 型 式	MAN 510M
主 機 馬 力	1.53M
電 機 員	0名
備 考	
主 機 種 目	27622.00
主 機 型 式	
主 機 馬 力	
電 機 員	
備 考	



船主	
船名	

一般配置図
 軽合金製19/T型
 まぐろ延縄漁船

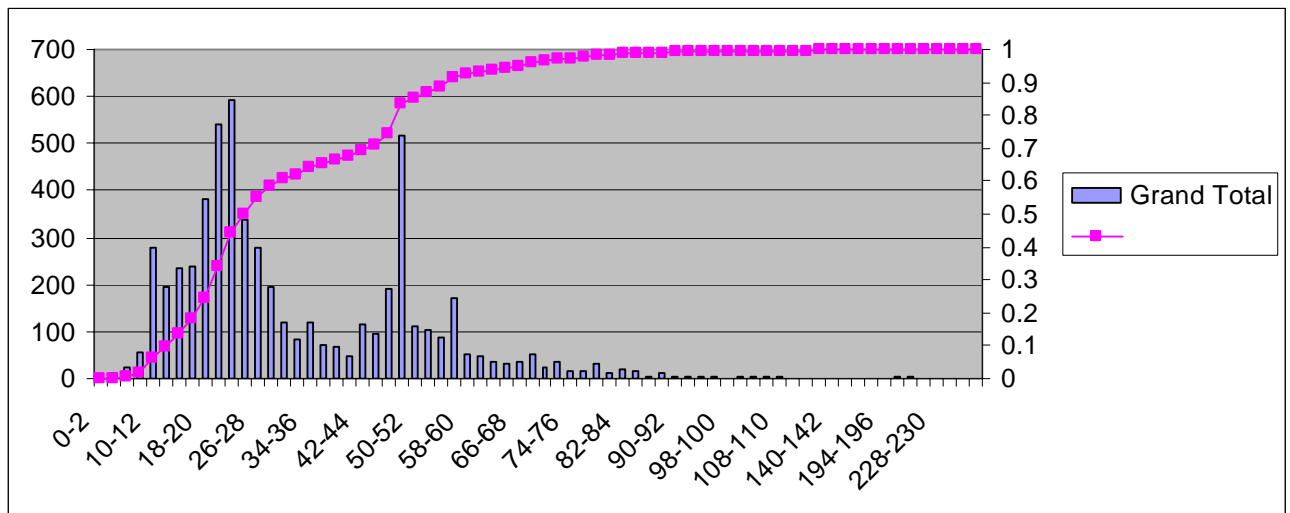
船政機号	A - 1
尺 寸	1/60
製 造 者	大和造船株式会社
製 造 年	平成15年09月19日
出 産 地	
面 積 数	



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Information on size of vessels for IWG-ROP consideration

Data from WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels



Report of a Survey to Establish the Capacity of Longline and
Pole-and-Line Fleets in the
Western and Central Pacific Ocean

Robert Gillett and Mike A. McCoy
November 2006

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Contract # AB133F-06-CN-0131

Table 8: A Summary of the Information on National Longline Fleets

Data Source	Flag State	Total # Vessels ≥ 14 m	# Vessels 14-24 m	# Vessels >24 m	Notes
From Vessel Database	China	184	20	164	
	Korea	162	0	162	
	USA	140	100	40	
	Australia	99	91	8	
	Vanuatu	73	11	62	
	Fr.Polynesia	63	55	8	
	Fiji	55	14	41	
	NZ	43	40	3	Only includes longliners that target YFT ALB, BET or SWO
	Belize	37	9	28	Vessel w/o length allocated to > 24 m on basis of tonnage;
	Cook Is.	31	13	18	Some reflagging to/from other countries; numbers adjusted
	PNG	29	18	11	
	FSM	23	11	12	
	New Caled.	23	17	6	
	Samoa	15	15	0	Some reflagging to/from other countries; numbers adjusted
	Spain	14	0	14	
	Tonga	11	7	4	
	Unknown flag	7	0	7	One vessel without length, but assumed large vessel
	Niue	5	4	1	Some reflagging to/from other countries; numbers adjusted
	Eq.Guinea	1	0	1	
	Honduras	1	1	0	
	Cambodia	1	0	1	
	Panama	1	0	1	
	Philippines	1	0	1	
Senegal	1	0	1		
Tuvalu	1	0	1	One vessel without length	
	Sub-Total	1021	426	595	
	<i>Japan</i>	<i>185</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>109</i>	Consists of only those vessels that were licensed in a Pacific Island country, made a call to a monitored port, or had logsheets received by SPC
	<i>Taiwan</i>	<i>421</i>	<i>270</i>	<i>150</i>	Consists of only those vessels that were licensed in a Pacific Island country, made a call to a monitored port, had logsheets submitted to SPC, or made an OPRT recorded transshipment. One vessel had no length data.
	<i>Indonesia</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>	Consists of only those vessels that were licensed in a Pacific Island country, made a call to a monitored port, or had logsheets received by SPC
	<i>IUU and/or mis-identification</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	Comprised mostly of vessels that appeared only on port lists and nowhere else; Could be IUU vessels, or inadvertent misspelling of names, or vessels other than longliners.
Data Source	Country	Total # Vessels ≥ 14 m	# Vessels 14-24 m	# Vessels >24 m	Notes
	Japan	568	282	286	The methodology for estimating the number of small longliners is given in Appendix 3.
Other Sources	Taiwan	1180	1030	150	The methodology for estimating the number of small longliners is given in Appendix 3. The estimate of vessels > 24 m taken from study database and should be considered a minimum.
	Indonesia	50	40	10	Estimate from Gillett (2006); Estimate is for the three fisheries management areas in NE Indonesia; Assumed that 80% of the vessels are 14-24 meters.

	Vietnam	1695	(1650)	45	Estimate from Lewis (2005); Size division occurs at 20 m; Estimate for small longliners is mid-point of a large range. (Most small vessels are engaged in tuna fishing part-time)
	Sub-Total	3493	3002	491	

Figure 5: The Major WCPFC area Longline Fleets¹

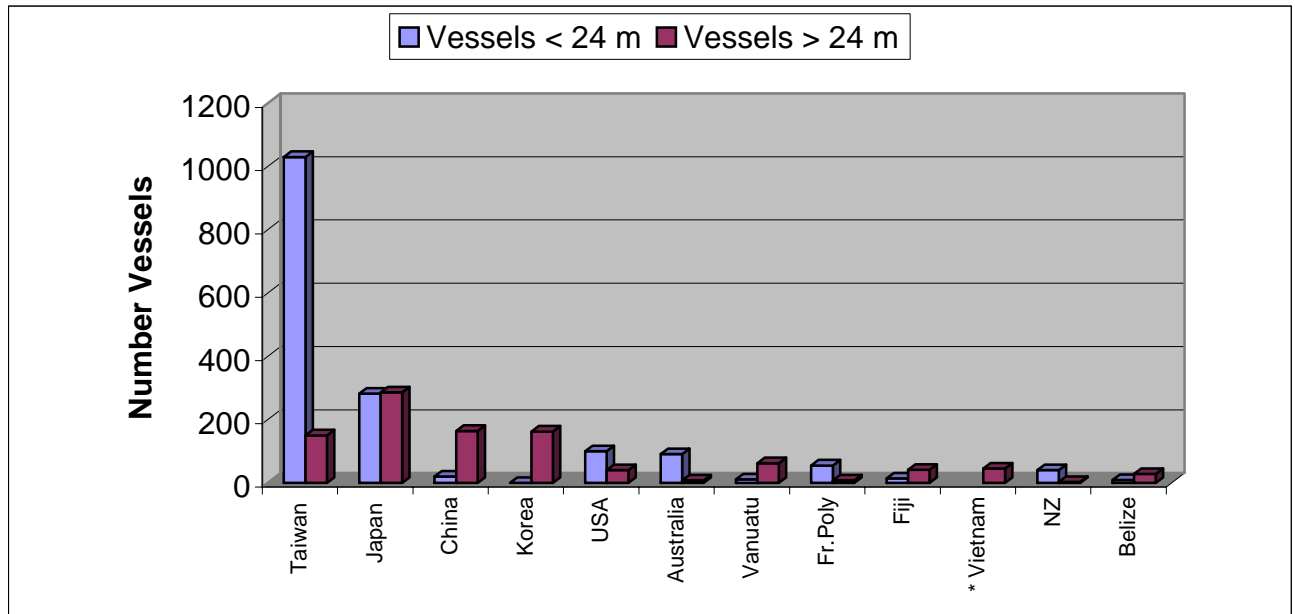


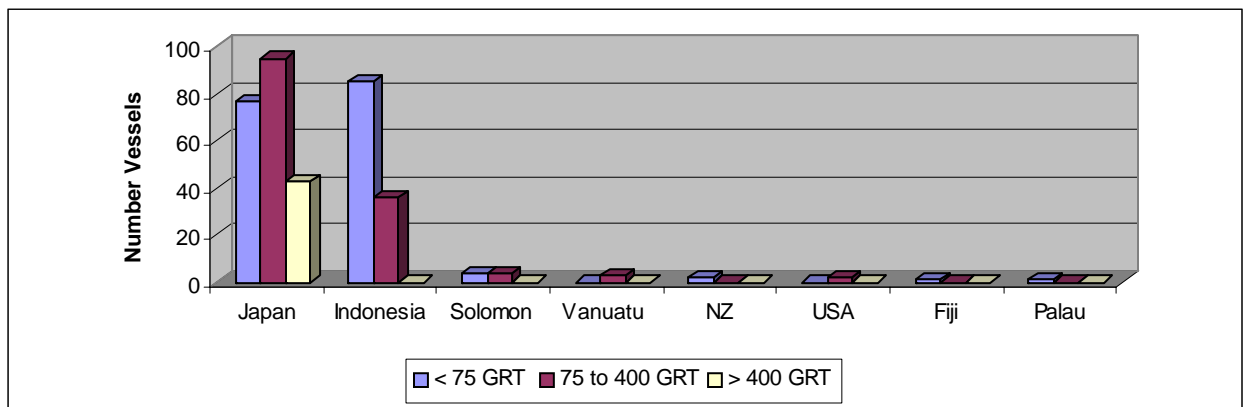
Table 9: A Summary of Information on National Pole-and-Line Fleets

Data Source	Flag State	Total # Vessels ≥ 14 m or (for Indonesia) ≥ 30 GRT	# Vessels ≤ 75 GRT	# Vessels 75 to 400 GRT	# Vessels > 400 GRT	Notes	
From Vessel Database	Fiji	1	1	0	0		
	Palau	1	1	0	0		
	Indonesia	121	85	36	0	Misses vessels > 14 but less than 30 GRT	
	New Zealand	2	2	0	0		
	Solomon	8	4	4	0		
	USA	2	0	2	0		
	Vanuatu	3	0	3	0		
	Sub-Total		138	93	45	0	
		<i>Japan</i>	39	0	5	34	Consists of only those vessels that were licensed in a Pacific Island country, made a call to a monitored port, or had logsheets received by SPC

¹ As many/most of the small longliners in Vietnam operate only part-time, only the large Vietnamese longliners are shown here.

Data Source	Flag State	Total # Vessels ≥ 10 GRT	# Vessels 10 to 50 GRT	# Vessels 50 to 200 GRT	# Vessels > 200 GRT	Notes
Other source	Japan	215	77	95	43	From the Japan report to WCPFC SC2 (Matsunaga et al., 2006).

Figure 6: Pole-and-Line Vessels over 14 Meters





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ISSUES ARISING

Para #	Content	Final date for action
6	<p>Reporting on implementation during 2008 of CMM-2007-01</p> <p>The Chair reminded participants that Annex C of CMM-2007-01 contains the timing of implementation of the ROP, including an agreement by <u>CCMs to begin providing observer data from existing observer programmes to the Secretariat no later than 31 December 2008.</u></p>	31 December 2008
8	<p>Profile of existing programs/Table and Questionnaire</p> <p>The Chair encouraged all CCMs to complete and <u>submit this table to the Secretariat as soon as possible</u></p>	No time period- as soon as possible
27	<p>Current data expectations</p> <p>The IWG-ROP2 agreed that amended Table 8 (Attachment D) and the proposed new data fields (Attachment E) would be provided to TCC4 for review and comment. The IWG-ROP2 agreed that prior to their consideration at TCC4, <u>CCMs should provide comments on the amended tables and those comments should be submitted to the Secretariat by Monday 11 August 2008.</u></p>	Monday 11 August 2008.
41	<p>Authorisation</p> <p><i>Observer Manual/Guidelines</i></p> <p>It was agreed that the interim standard for “Observer Manual/Guidelines” will be that CCMs have and use their respective Observer Manual/Guidelines and submit copies of these to the Secretariat</p>	No time period for submission to Secretariat

48	<p><i>Training</i></p> <p>It was agreed that the interim standard for “Training” is that training programmes should be linked to the Commission’s decisions in place, available for review and <u>training programme materials provided to the Secretariat.</u></p>	No time period for submission to Secretariat
55	<p><i>Safety</i></p> <p>It was agreed that the interim standard for “Safety” is that observers must undergo training in <u>sea safety and emergency procedures,</u> and that such procedures <u>be made available to the Secretariat</u></p>	No time period for submission to Secretariat
58	<p><i>Coordinating Observer Placement</i></p> <p>It was agreed that the interim standard for “Coordinating Placement” is that the WCPFC National Observer Programme Coordinator should be in place, there should be a system for observer placement administration and that <u>documentation describing observer placement administration should be provided to the Commission</u></p>	No time period for submission to Commission
62	<p><i>Briefing and De-briefing of observers</i></p> <p>It was agreed that the interim standard for “Briefing and De-briefing of observers” is that there is a system for briefing and de-briefing of observers in place and <u>documentation describing briefing and de-briefing available to the WCPFC Secretariat</u></p>	No time period for submission to Secretariat
79	<p><i>Dispute settlement</i></p> <p>It was agreed that the interim standard for “Dispute Settlement” is a dispute resolution mechanism in place, and if not in place, to be developed, and a description of the <u>dispute resolution mechanism provided to the Secretariat</u></p>	No time period for submission to Secretariat
88 ii	<p>Authorization Process</p> <p>Upon receipt of an application from a CCM for its national programme or relevant CCMs in respect of a sub-regional programme, and on the basis of an initial review for completeness of the application, the Secretariat will issue an Interim Authorization for the NOP or sub-regional observer programme to be included in the Commission ROP. Interim Authorizations will be valid until July 1, 2012</p>	July 1, 2012

88 iv	Before June 30, 2012, the Secretariat shall conduct a programme audit of each NOP and sub-regional programme that received an Interim Authorization to ensure that they meet the minimum standards for the Commission ROP	June 30, 2012
101 Para 3	Audit The IWG-ROP2 recommended that the Secretariat work with CCMs to develop a process for undertaking audits <u>in relation to a process by Monday, August 11, 2008. It was recommended that this be available for initial consideration at TCC4</u>	August 11 2008
113	Safety Mr. Tim Park (FFA Secretariat), who had volunteered to coordinate discussion on a safety check-list among IWG-ROP2 participants, advised that because of insufficient time to further consider an <u>observer safety check-list</u> at IWG-ROP2, this matter <u>will be further advanced through electronic discussion with CCMs prior to TCC4</u>	To be submitted before TCC4
119	Vessel Size The Chair noted that under “Special Situations” in para.10 of CMM-2007-01 relating to the deferral of the implementation schedule for small vessels, <u>the minimum size of such vessels shall be considered by the IWG-ROP for recommendation to the Commission in 2008.</u>	To be submitted before WCPFC5
130	Data Management The IWG-ROP2 agreed to recommend that the WCPFC Secretariat should provide to the Commission a costing of a range of options for data management for the ROP. These options should include, but not be limited to: 1) use of existing national and subregional programmes data management arrangements; 2) out-sourcing of Secretariat functions, for example to SPC-OFP under existing contract for data services; and 3) centralized in the WCPFC Secretariat, for example including through funding of the Data Quality Officer position for the ROP.	To be submitted before WCPFC5
	Data Management	

131	The IWG-ROP2 also agreed that national and sub-regional observer programmes will submit their respective data forms to the Secretariat to commence a harmonization exercise and that these <u>forms should be provided by 11 August 2008 to assist the Secretariat to prepare a paper on this subject for TCC4</u>	11 August 2008
135	Observers for special situations Noting provision for the use of specialized observers (CCM-2007-01, para.12(ix)) the IWG-ROP2 agreed that as time permits, the Secretariat will elaborate on the use of a cadre of specialized observers taking into account different aspects of the ROP, and <u>provide the results of this work to the IWG-ROP or the Commission</u>	To be submitted before the IWG-ROP or annual Commission meeting