



**Second Intersessional Working Group
Regional Observer Programme**

Nadi, Fiji

7th – 10th July 2008

DEFINITIONS

WCPFC/IWG-ROP2/2008-07

Rev.1

30 July 2008

Introduction

1. The words below, which appear in CMM 2007-01, have been interpreted in different ways by CCMs. WCPFC4 requested these words be defined to assist CCMs to reach a common understanding of their meaning in the context of the ROP.
2. Calculating observer coverage, without a proper definition of an observer trip, also causes problems for any observer programme. Options for clarifying the meaning of an observer trip for the purposes of calculating observer coverage for the ROP are presented for consideration..

Word meanings taken from the English Oxford Dictionary

3. **Principally** - *“Most part; chiefly, mainly; mostly”*
 - a) Suggestion is that in the CMM 2007 - 01 Paragraph 13 (ii) that the word ‘principally’ means chiefly or most of the time.

In the context of para 13 (ii) this means the vessel fishes within national waters of its own flag State zone virtually all the time, and only leaves its flag State zone on rare occasions to fish on the high seas or in the waters of a neighboring country.

Alternatively, in the context of para 13 (ii) CCMs may consider “principally” to mean more than [85] % of a vessel’s time at sea involves fishing in national waters of the flag or chartering State.

4. **Occasional** - *“Occurring infrequently or irregularly, acting in a specified capacity from time to time”*

a) Suggestion is that in the CMM 2007 - 01 Paragraph (ii) that the word “occasionally” means that a vessel that goes onto the high seas or into an neighboring State for a very small proportion of a trip and shows a very low high seas fishing effort over a 12-month period; would not require an observer from another programme, and may carry observers from their own nationality to fulfill Commission requirements when the vessel is operating beyond national waters.

CCMs may consider quantifying this by placing a percentage figure on “occasionally” therefore making it easier to monitor, i.e. 5% or 10% of a vessel’s time at sea involves fishing in waters beyond flag or chartering State jurisdiction.

5. **Adjacent** - *“Next to, or adjoining something else, lie near to, nearby.”*

a) Suggestion is that in the CMM 2007 - 01 Paragraph 13 (ii) that the word “adjacent” means, that any high seas waters just outside but adjoins the flag State of the vessels maritime boundary should be considered close by or adjacent.

CCMs may wish to quantify this by placing a distance to the limits of adjacent i.e. 100, 50 nautical miles, etc

6. **Independent** – *“Free from outside control or influence, not depending on, not connected with another; separate, not subject to control by others, not affiliated with a larger controlling unit”*

7. **Impartial** - *Neutral, unbiased, not partial or biased, treating or affecting all equally*

a) Consistent with the Convention and CMM 2007-01 an ROP observer is accountable to the observer services provider and in turn the Commission membership. Although the Convention states that the observer must be independent and impartial, the substance of their independence and impartiality have not yet been conventionally determined and agreed by the Commission.

b) For an observer to be “independent and impartial” they must be able to execute their responsibilities and functions in an uninfluenced and unbiased way without fear of endangering their safety.

c) In some other RFMOs the means to promote “independent and impartial” observation is achieved by using observers whose nationality is not that of the flag State. If this practice was to apply to the ROP any vessel that is requested to carry an observer for ROP purposes would use an ROP-authorized observer from another CCM.

8) **Observer Trip**

a) Defining an observer trip is complex. Depending on gear types, the duration of a trip can vary from 1 day to 18 months. Longer term trips (3–18 months) obviously present significant challenges for observer programmes, the observers deployed and the vessels that carry them.

A definition based on an observer trip commencing when a vessel leaves port to when it returns to port, or unloads part or all of its catch, means that a trip for some vessels may be very short (1-2 days in some instances) and therefore data collected may not contribute meaningfully to the objectives of the ROP. On the other hand an observer trip on a larger freezer long line vessel may be from 3-18 months which may be considered too long for an observer to carry out ROP duties.

b) Presented in the table below for reference are some of the trip definitions applied by existing sub regional and national programmes to different fleets and gear types. This list is not a complete list of all programmes and there may be other options available for consideration by the IWG-ROP.

Trip definition by Observer Programmes in Convention area.

Programme - Gear Type	Definition of Trip	Average duration of vessel trip, and or Observer Coverage
Sub-regional - Purse seine US Multilateral Treaty Observer Programme Administered by FFA	Observer placed on board at port of trip origin and disembarks at port of unloading. Additional requirement by FFA providing vessel is at least 75% full, observer may terminate trip if vessels partially or fully unloads. Observer Coverage based on number of Trips	Average vessel trip time = 50 days Minimum observer coverage 20%
Sub regional – Purse seine Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement Observer Programme Administered by FFA	Observer must complete at least a minimum of 50 days on board every FSMA licensed vessel in a FSMA licensing period Observer Coverage based on Sea days	Average trip time vessel = 50 days Minimum observer coverage = 50 sea days a year
National – Purse seine PNG National Observer Programme	Observers required on board 100% of all sea days. Observer placed on board at port of trip origin and disembarks at port of unloading. Individual observer expected to complete at least 60 days on board the vessel in a year.	Domestic observer coverage = 100% of all trips

	Coverage based on sea days	
National – Longline Kiribati National Observer Programme	Observer must complete at least 60 sea-days on board selected vessels in a year. Coverage based on sea days	Minimum observer. coverage = 60 sea days a year
Hawaii based pelagic longline programme targeting swordfish	a) Observers required being on board 100% of all trips. Placed on board at ports of trip origin and disembarks at port of unloading Coverage based on trips	Observer. coverage = 100% of all trips
Hawaii based pelagic longline programme targeting tunas	Observer placed on board at ports of trip origin and disembarks at port of unloading Coverage based on trips	Minimum Observer Coverage = 20% of all trips
American Samoa based longline vessels targeting tunas	Observer placed on board at ports of trip origin and disembarks at port of unloading Coverage based on trips	Minimum Observer Coverage = 20% of all trips
National Longline and Purse Seine - Republic of Marshall Islands National Observer Programme	Observer placed on board at ports of trip origin and disembarks at port of unloading coverage is based on sea days Coverage based on Sea days	PS - Domestic Observer Coverage 100% PS -DWFN Observer coverage 5% LL - Domestic Observer Coverage 20% LL - DWFN Observer Coverage 5%