



**Second Intersessional Working Group
Regional Observer Programme**

Nadi, Fiji

7-10th July 2008

DRAFT -MINIMUM DATA STANDARDS WCPFC REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME

WCPFC/ IWG-ROP2-2008/11

20 June 2008

Introduction

1. Harmonised data standards for data collection and reporting have been in place in all the independent WCPFC Pacific Island countries, and the French Territories since 1996. These standards are flexible and are reviewed every two years. The following data fields in accordance with Article 28 (3) are considered the basic fields required to be collected by Regional Observer Programme (ROP) observers. Wherever practical all coding in the ROP formats will be standardised using global standards such as the FAO species identifiers. Where no practical code system is in place, codes have been developed.

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

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

Vessel Sightings & Observer Trip Monitoring Report

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

Minimum Standards for ROP Data

5. ROP Minimum Data Standards required to be collected by ROP observers, when performing duties on a vessel chosen to take an ROP observer for Commission coverage purposes are included below. Minimum standards for data fields to be considered by the IWG-ROP2 and the Fourth Regular Session of the TCC (TCC4) are highlighted in large bold type. Other standards already accepted by the SC are also listed.

Table 1. General Vessel and trip information for all vessel types

VESSEL IDENTIFICATION	
Name of vessel	Approved SC3
Vessel flag	Approved SC3
Flag State Registration Number	Approved SC3
International Radio Call Sign	Approved SC3
Vessel Owner/Company	Information useful for communications on matters referring to the vessel and observer placements
TRIP INFORMATION	
Date and time of departure from port	Approved SC3
Port of departure	Approved SC3
Date and time of return to port	Approved SC3
Port of return	Approved SC3
OBSERVER INFORMATION	
Observer name	Approved SC3
Passport - nationality of observer	Information useful if there is an violation of the Observer Code of Conduct
Observer provider -country or organisation	Information useful if there is an violation of the Observer Code of Conduct
Observer's ROP certification number	Approved SC3
Date, time and location of embarkation	Approved SC3
Date, time and location of disembarkation	Approved SC3
CREW INFORMATION	
Name of captain	Approved SC3
Passport nationality of captain	Information, useful if there is a violation of the Observer Code of Conduct or a breach of the responsibilities of Captain , Vessel Operator or Crew
Name of fishing master	Approved SC3
Passport nationality of fishing master	Information, useful if there is a violation of the Observer Code of Conduct or a breach of the responsibilities of Captain , Vessel Operator or Crew
Other crew	Approved SC3
Passport nationality of crew	Information, useful if there are infringements of the Observer Code of Conduct or a breach of responsibilities of the Crew
Total number of Crew	Information, useful to determine number of Crew

	on board, will also assist with future observer placements
VESSEL ATTRIBUTES	
Vessel cruising speed	Approved SC3
Vessel fish hold capacity	Information, useful to verify information is correct against WCPFC vessel register, and to assist in determining total catch of the vessel. Information can also detect changes to vessel capacity not reported to WCPFC vessel register
VESSEL ELECTRONICS	
Radars	Approved SC3
Depth sounder	Approved SC3
Global positioning system (GPS)	Approved SC3
Track plotter	Approved SC3
Weather facsimile	Approved SC3
Sea surface temperature (SST) gauge	Approved SC3
Sonar	Approved SC3
Radio/ Satellite buoys	Approved SC3
Doppler current meter	Approved SC3
Expendable bathythermograph (XBT)	Approved SC3
Satellite communications services (Phone/Fax/Email numbers)	Information, useful if there are breaches of the Observer Code of Conduct and or responsibilities of, Captain, Vessel Operator or Crew. Also useful to know for any other emergencies
[Fishery information services]	Approved SC3
Vessel monitoring system	Approved SC3

Table 2. Longline information and data

VESSEL ATTRIBUTES	
Refrigeration Method	Approved SC3
GENERAL GEAR ATTRIBUTES	
Mainline material	Approved SC3
Mainline length	Approved SC3
Mainline diameter	Approved SC3
Branch line material(s)	Approved SC3
SPECIAL GEAR ATTRIBUTES	
[Wire trace]	Information, useful in gathering information to assist in the monitoring of the CMM 2006-05 for sharks.

[Mainline hauler]	Information assists in determining technology improvements and speed of hauling main line
[Branch line hauler]	Information assists in determining technology improvements and speed of hauling branch lines
[Line shooter]	Information useful in monitoring Mitigation measure guidelines as stated in CMM 2006 - 02 Table 1 Column B and Attachment 1 Para 1 - (Refer Para 10)
[Line shooter speed]	Information will be useful in monitoring Mitigation measure guidelines as stated in CMM 2006 - 02 Table 1 Column B and Attachment 1 Para 1 -(Refer Para 10)
[Automatic bait thrower]	Information will be useful in monitoring Bird Mitigation guidelines as stated in CMM 2006 - 02 Table 1 Column B and Attachment
[Automatic branch line attached]	Information will be useful in monitoring Bird Mitigation guidelines as stated in CMM 2006 - 02 Table 1 Column B and Attachment
[Hook type]	Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution 2005- 04 monitoring of hook types refer Para 8
[Hook size]	Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution 2005-04 monitoring of hook types refer Para 8
[Tori pole]	Information will be useful in monitoring Mitigation measure guidelines as stated in CMM 2006 - 02 Table 1 and Attachment 1 Para 1 -(Refer Para 10)
[Bird curtain]	Information will be useful in monitoring Mitigation measure guidelines as stated in CMM 2006-02 Table 1 and Attachment 1 Para 2 - (Refer Para 10)
[Weighted branch lines]	Mitigation measure guidelines stated in CMM 2006-02 Table 1 and Attachment 1 Para 4 Attachment 2 Para 1 – (Refer Para 10)
[Blue dyed bait]	Information will be useful in monitoring Mitigation measure guidelines as stated in CMM 2006-02 Table 1 and Attachment 2 Para 2- (Refer Para 10)
[Underwater setting shoot]	Information will be useful in monitoring Mitigation measure guidelines as stated in CMM 2006-02 Table 1 Column B -(Refer Para 10)
[Disposal method for offal management]	Information will be useful in monitoring Mitigation measure as determined by CMM 2006-02 Table 1 Column B Attachment 2 Para 3 (Refer Para 10)

SET AND HAUL INFORMATION	
Date and time of start of set	Approved SC3
Latitude and longitude of start of set	Approved SC3
Date and Time of end of set	Approved SC3
Latitude and longitude of end of set	Approved SC3
[Total number of baskets or floats]	Information will assist in determining configuration and effort , will also help verify other information gathered
[Number of hooks per basket, or number of hooks between floats]	Information will assist in determining configuration and effort , will also help verify other information gathered
Total number of hooks used in a set	Approved SC3
[Length of float-line]	Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution 2005-04 Para 2 , 3 & Para 8
[Distance between branch-lines]	Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution 2005-04 Para 2 , 3 & Para 8
[Length of branch-lines]	Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution 2005-04 Para 2 , 3 & Para 8
[Time-depth recorders (TDRs)]	Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution 2005-04 Para 2 , 3 & Para 8
[Number of light-sticks]	Information will be useful for monitoring CMM 2006-03 on Swordfish
Target species	Approved SC3
Bait species	Approved SC3
Date and time of start of haul	Approved SC3
Date and time of end of haul	Approved SC3
[Total amount of baskets, floats monitored by observer in a single set]	Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution 2005-04 Para 2 , 3 & para 8
INFORMATION ON CATCH FOR EACH SET	
[Hook number between floats]	Will assist in determining fishing depth
Species code	Approved SC3
Length of fish	Approved SC3
Length measurement code	Approved SC3
Gender	Approved SC3
Condition when caught	Approved SC3
Fate	Approved SC3
Condition when discarded	Approved SC3
Tag recovery information	Approved SC3

Table 3. Pole-and-line information and data

VESSEL ATTRIBUTES	
Vessel fish hold capacity	Information will be useful for verification CMM 2004 - 01 Para 5(q)
GEAR ATTRIBUTES	
Automatic poling devices	Approved SC3
INFORMATION ON DAILY ACTIVITIES	
Date and time of start of daily activities	Approved SC3
Time of activity	Approved SC3
Latitude and longitude of activity	Approved SC3
Type of activity	Approved SC3
Numbers of school sighted per day	Approved SC3
BAITFISHING INFORMATION	
Bait species caught	Approved SC3
[Number of buckets of bait caught]	Will assist in giving information on possible reasons why catch may be low
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	Information will be useful for possible FAD CMM & monitoring of Vessel activities
Helicopter Make/Model,/Colour/ Call sign/Registration	Information will be useful for possible FAD CMM & monitoring of Vessel activities
GEAR ATTRIBUTES	
Maximum depth of net	Approved SC3
Maximum length of net	Approved SC3
Net mesh size	Approved SC3
Brailer capacity sizes	Approved SC3
INFORMATION ON DAILY ACTIVITIES	
Date and time of start of daily activities	Approved SC3
Time of activity	Approved SC3
Latitude and longitude of activity	Approved SC3
Numbers of school sighted per day	Approved SC3
SCHOOL INFORMATION	
Method of detection of school	Approved SC3
Type of school association	Approved SC3
SET INFORMATION	
Observer's record of date and time of start of set	Approved SC3
Observers record of date and time of end of set	Approved SC3
Vessel's record of date and time of start of set	Approved SC3
Retained catch, by species	Approved SC3
Discards, by species	Approved SC3
Tag recovery information	Approved SC3
INFORMATION ON CATCH FOR EACH SET	
Species code	Approved SC3
Length measurement code	Approved SC3
Length	Approved SC3

[Table 5. Troll or other fishing information and data]

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

Table 6. Species of special interest

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

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

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

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

Table 7 Vessels & Aircraft Sightings

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

Observer Trip Monitoring Summary

9. The Observer Trip Monitoring Summary is currently used by sub regional and national observer programmes in the WCPFC convention area. Its purpose is to assist in the reviewing of the observer data and to be able to understand very quickly some of the problems that an observer claim were encountered when observing on a vessel. Whilst additional and probably more detailed information can be found in the observer reports; the trip summary helps to highlight potential problem areas quickly so they can be examined as soon as practical. The early identification of problems can also assist the vessel masters to resolve or report on some of the alleged concerns reported by the observer before their vessel leaves port.

Table 8 Observer Trip Monitoring Summary

VESSEL TRIP MONITORING		
Observer name & nationality		
Observer Trip number		
Observer Provider		
Name of Vessel		
Vessel Call sign		
Vessel Gear Type		
In <u>the opinion of the observer</u>, taking into account what they have observed on the vessel, did the vessel do the following: (indicate YES or NO)		
record vessel positions accurately on vessel log sheet for sets, hauling and catch;	Yes	No
record accurately retained 'Target Species' in the vessel logs;	Yes	No
record accurately 'Target Species' discards;	Yes	No
record accurately retained By catch species	Yes	No
record accurately 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
comply with Commission Conservation and Management measures;	Yes	No
fish only in areas where it is permitted to fish;	Yes	No
report vessel position to countries where required when 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
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 liscensed.	Yes	No
Comments;		