



**Second Intersessional Working Group
Regional Observer Programme**

**Nadi, Fiji
7 -10 July 2008**

COST CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF OBSERVERS

WCPFC/IWG-ROP2/2008-15

1. The costs for the administration of the ROP by the Secretariat are funded from the Commission's budget. However, funding has not been approved for the deployment of observers for the ROP.
2. The two main views to support observer deployment costs are:
 - Flag States responsible for vessels that fish in the Convention Area be responsible for all costs associated with deploying observers on their vessels; and
 - All CCMs contribute to the costs of deploying observers in the WCPF Convention Area through the Commission budget.
3. One point of view is that observers are being used to monitor fisheries in the Convention Area where benefits are shared by all members of the Commission. Therefore cost for deployment of observers should be shared by all the members of the Commission. Under this arrangement it is proposed that the Commission administer the collection of the funds required to support the ROP. Funding requirements would be assessed on the basis of, *inter alia*, fleet numbers and/or catch.
4. The other point of view is that an observer programme is an overhead associated with operating in the WCPO tuna fishery and, as a result, the fishing vessels catching the fish should bear the costs associated with deploying observers. Proponents of this view note that the WCPF Convention Text provides that fishing in the Convention Area requires the development of an observer programme (ROP). Therefore it is reasoned that the flag State responsible, or the fishing industry associated with that flag State, should pay for the costs relating to the deployment of ROP observers on their vessels.
5. This is the principle embodied in the "hybrid" model first discussed at TCC1 and WCPFC2 in 2005 which noted that this is the practice in many of the existing sub-regional observer programmes operating in the Pacific Islands region. Under this arrangement costs may be paid directly by the flag State responsible, or by a vessel operator, for an observer to carryout ROP duties in full. Such costs could be negotiated between the provider of the observer and the vessel's flag State.

6. The cost for running the deployments of observers in a phased implementation for the ROP using FFA Pacific Island trained observers is estimated to be US\$100 per day based on a 55 day trip. This cost would accommodate salary, allowances, travel expenses and air travel costs but does not include training costs.

7. A table of relevant cost items for the deployment of ROP observers is listed below. Most of these items, including observer training, need to be taken into account when costing observer deployment. Possible funding options are included.

Table. Relevant operational costs for deployment of observers with possible funding sources

Category	Item	Source of possible Funding
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport costs incl. Air, Taxi, Bus, Ferry. • Excess luggage costs. • Passport, Visa Costs, Airport Tax • Accommodation Per Diem • Meal Per Diem • Insurance • Travel Bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flag State of Vessel • Industry • Country of Observer • Direct Commission Funding • Donors
Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observer Tools, Tapes, Calipers • Sampling Equipment • Wet Weather Gear • Work Books/Manuals and Data Forms • Safety Gear • Carry Bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flag State of Vessel • Industry • Country of Observer • Direct Commission Funding • Donors
Personal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salary • Allowances • Medical Insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flag State of Vessel • Industry • Country of Observer • Commission Funding • Donors
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Materials & Equipment • Venue & Training Facility costs • Trainer costs • Travel Accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flag State of Vessel • Industry • Country of Observer • Commission Funding • Donors
Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea Safety Certification • Red Cross Certification • Radio Operators Certificate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flag State of Vessel • Industry • Country of Observer • Commission Funding • Donors