



**Intersessional Working Group
Regional Observer Programme
24-25th September**

**REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME**

WCPFC IWG-ROP 2007 - 07

1. Background

1. The Third Regular Session of the Commission (WCPFC3) at Apia, Samoa, 11-15 December 2006 adopted Conservation and Management Measure-2006-07 which established an Intersessional Working Group on a Regional Observer Programme (IWG-ROP).
2. The recommendations of the Second Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC2), Brisbane, Australia, 28 September to 2 October 2006, adopted by WCPFC3, included a requirement for the IWG-ROP to develop a detailed strategic plan, including a practical timetable, for the development and phased implementation of the ROP, taking into account the characteristics of each fishery.
3. This document represents the Strategic Plan for the Development of the ROP, which should be considered in conjunction with the ROP Programme Document.
4. The IWG-ROP is responsible for reviewing the draft of the strategic plan and preparing a revised draft for TCC3. This version of the Strategic Plan has had CCM comments and suggestions where possible incorporated into a revised draft document. Elements where there were differing views have been square bracketed to allow further discussion. Following a number of comments regarding the Appendices A to K originally attached to this document; where possible the Appendices have been removed to be considered as part of the ROP Manual when it is submitted for approval in 2008.
5. The Secretariat will coordinate the preparation of a revised version of the draft Strategic Plan document and the Programme Document, addressing comments from SC3 and TCC3, and submitting it to the Commission 40 days in advance of WCPFC4 (i.e. posted on the WCPFC website by 26 October 2007).

2. Introduction

5. This Strategic Plan sets out a process for the development and phased implementation of the Regional Observer Programme (ROP).

3. Guidelines for development and phased implementation

6. In accordance with Article 28 of the Convention, this Strategic Plan for the development and phased implementation of the ROP is based on the following guidelines and principles.

[The ROP will:

- a) Collect verified catch data, other scientific data and additional information related to the fishery from the Convention Area and monitor the implementation of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission;
- b) Report findings of the ROP in accordance with procedures developed by the Commission;
- c) Provide a sufficient level of coverage to ensure the Commission receives appropriate data and information on catch levels and related matters within the Convention Area, taking into account the characteristics of the fisheries;
- d) Be coordinated by the Secretariat of the Commission;
- e) Be organized in a flexible manner which takes into account the nature of the fishery and other relevant factors;
- f) Use independent and impartial observers authorized by the Secretariat;
- g) Be cost-effective and coordinated, to the maximum extent possible, with other regional, sub-regional and national observer programmes;
- h) Entitle each member, cooperating non members and territories of the Commission, to have its nationals included in the ROP;
- i) Use observers trained and certified in accordance with uniform procedures approved by the Commission;
- j) Ensure observers do not unduly interfere with the lawful operations of the vessel and, in carrying out their functions, they shall give consideration to the operational requirements of the vessel and shall communicate regularly with the captain and master for this purpose; and
- k) Provide that each Member of the Commission will ensure that vessels flying its flag in the Convention Area, except for vessels that operate exclusively within waters under the national jurisdiction¹ of the flag State, will accept an observer from the ROP, if required by the Commission.]

4. Preliminary Estimate of Fisheries to be monitored

7. Fisheries within the Convention Area will be listed by gear type and flag with estimates of recent annual catches and observer coverage rates. This information is used to characterise the nature of the fisheries and to identify other relevant factors necessary to develop a phased implementation plan for the ROP.

5. [At-Sea Transshipment]

8. [The ROP will be one of the means used to monitor transshipment at sea consistent with Article 4 of Annex 3 of the Convention. The coverage level shall be determined by the Commission on recommendation by the TCC² The ROP will coordinate and collaborate with other national or international transshipment observer

¹ There was some discussion on the following at TCC2 - *[When a vessel is operating on the same fishing trip principally in waters under the national jurisdiction of its flag State, and also in the adjacent high seas, a national observer of the flag State, authorized under the ROP, may undertake their ROP duties when the vessel is on the high seas]*

² Refer to TCC2 and FAO Fisheries Technical Paper 414.

programs to ensure consistency of program design, data collection activities and standards.” SC will determine sampling protocols – especially for those catches not previously observed.]

6. Implementation Tasks

9. “The phased implementation of the ROP will require completion of a phased series of tasks and activities. These are identified below and a provisional timetable for implementation is provided – however it should be noted that in some instances implementation is dependent upon the availability of adequate resources.”

7. Documentation

7.1 Prepare a Programme Document for the ROP

10. In December 2006 WCPFC3 adopted CMM-2006-07 that states, in part, that the Intersessional Working Group on the Regional Observer Programme (IWG-ROP) should review the first draft of a Programme Document contained in WCPFC-TCC-2006/11 and prepare a revised draft. The revised Programme Document has been distributed for comments and will also be discussed at the IWG-ROP meeting before it is sent to TCC3, this is an immediate priority.

7.2 Prepare - ROP Manual and ROP Observer Workbook

11. TCC2 noted WCPFC-TCC2-2006/11 refers to an “Observer Manual”. The “Observer Manual” may also be known as the “ROP Manual”. Preparation of the ROP Manual will commence immediately. with the initial version of the ROP Manual available in mid-2008.

12. The ROP Manual will be a manual for management of the ROP, to be used by the ROP Coordinator, sub-regional and national programme coordinators and fishery managers of the CCMs of the Commission.

13. The Secretariat is responsible for preparing the ROP Manual and its continued development. The ROP manual will set out a current list of observer tasks, duties roles and other appropriate information important to the management and operation of the ROP.

14. The ROP Observer Workbooks, for each gear-type, will be a set of references for ROP Observers to include but not be limited to data collection forms, instructions for the use of forms, tasks, sampling protocols, and species ID guide. Members with established observer programmes that are able meet appropriate ROP standards and area able to deliver these standards to the Commission in a consistent manner may use their work book, guides and forms.

15. The Commission will establish minimum data standards for catch data, other scientific data and other additional information collected by observers, including sampling protocols, through the SC and TCC. The minimum data requirements will be maintained in the ROP observer workbooks

16. The Secretariat is responsible for preparing the ROP Observer Workbooks and their continued development. The first versions of the ROP Observer Workbooks will be available in mid-2008.

8. Institutional and personnel

8.1 Recognition of the special requirements of developing States

17. The ROP will in accordance with the Convention, take into account the special requirements of developing States in the design and implementation of the ROP to enable the effective participation of nationals of each member of the Commission in the programme as observers [Article 28 (6)(b)]. Although the special requirements of developing States will be taken into account the ROP will maintain the appropriate standards, and these will not be relaxed.

18. The Strategy will pay particular attention to the needs of Small Island Developing States, noting Article 30 (4) of the Convention provides for “training and capacity building at the local level, development and funding of national and regional observer programmes”. Although the needs of Small Island Developing States will be taken into account the ROP will maintain the appropriate standards and these will not be relaxed.

19. The Secretariat as part of established protocol for the use of the special requirements fund shall appraise opportunities and assess training and other costs to support phased capacity building of observer resources among members of the Commission.

[8.2 Standards Required for the Accreditation of Observer Providers³]

[20. The Secretariat will establish standards and procedures required for the Accreditation of Observer Providers

21. The standards and accreditation procedures will support the harmonized and coordinated collection of science, compliance and technical information by national, sub-regional and regional programmes contributing to the ROP.

22. Observer provider certification standards and procedures, that may be periodically reviewed and refined by the Secretariat, will be distributed to all CCMs.

23. Observer providers will be audited on a regular basis by the Secretariat to ensure that approved ROP standards are being maintained]

[8.3 Develop a cadre of ROP observers for special situations

24. TCC2 considered the need for a cadre of observers drawn from existing programmes,, that may be, employed by the Secretariat, to address specific issues such as IUU fishing, training and certification.

25. The Secretariat will support a cadre of experienced observers when required by the Commission, to be available for deployment in special situations.

26. This is a medium term priority that will be implemented only when the ROP is established and operational.]

8.4 Develop Standardised procedures for ROP observer deployment

27. In accordance Article 28(4) “Each member of the Commission shall ensure that fishing vessels flying its flag in the Convention Area, except for vessels that operate exclusively within waters under the national jurisdiction of the flag State, are prepared to accept an observer from the regional observer programme, if required by the Commission.” ROP observers will be deployed directly by the members national and or sub-regional observer programmes (ROP providers), and if approved by the Commission for special cases, by the Secretariat.

28. The development of standardised procedures for the deployment of ROP observers is an immediate priority. Guidelines, procedures and minimum requirements for ROP providers and flag State vessels that carry ROP observers will be available for review by the IWG-ROP. Once approved by the TCC the guidelines will be distributed to all CCMs

29. In consultation with national and sub-regional observer programmes the ROP Coordinator shall establish guidelines and procedures for standardised procedures for ROP observer deployment. These procedures will be approved by the Commission and will be distributed to CCMs.

[8.5 Develop Standardised procedures for Debriefing⁴

30. The ROP Coordinator shall establish guidelines and procedures for debriefing ROP observers in consultation with national and sub-regional observer programmes

31. Debriefing of observers is essential to ensure the high quality of data and additional information related to the fishery. Standards for debriefing of ROP observers will use the procedures developed by existing national and sub-regional programmes.]

³ As stipulated in the WCPFC-TCC2 – 2006 Intersessional Working Group on a Regional Observer Programme - Draft Terms of Reference para. 2 x. (a) to (g)

⁴ As stipulated in the WCPFC-TCC2 – 2006 Intersessional Working Group on a Regional Observer Programme - Draft Terms of Reference para. 2 x. (e)

8.6 Observer and Observer trainer qualifications

32. In accordance with Article 28(6(c)) of the Convention “observers shall be trained and certified in accordance with uniform procedures to be approved by the Commission”.

33. The ROP Coordinator shall arrange for the preparation of Observer Authorisation Procedures and Training and Trainer standardised procedures in association with sub-regional and national observer programmes.

34. The required qualification procedures for training will include the development of competency-based training standards including a process for monitoring and regularly auditing the standards and guidelines for observer trainers and observer training. Training will include standards for health and safety at sea.

35. This will result in observers trained to ROP standards, who can be authorised by the Secretariat to carry out ROP duties.

9. Duties and Responsibilities

9.1 Develop and manage a list of specific tasks for ROP observers for each fishery.

36. A list of tasks required to collect verified catch data, other scientific data and other additional information related to the fishery in the Convention Area and to monitor the implementation of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission, shall be developed and made available to authorised observers participating in the ROP..

37.. The Secretariat will be responsible for updating, maintaining and distributing the list of observer tasks following recommendations from the SC, TCC and NC.

9.2 Rights and Responsibilities of observers in the performance of their duties

38. ROP observers have responsibilities as well as rights when performing their duties on a vessel. In accordance with Article 28 (7c) of the Convention: Observer Roles and Responsibilities deployed under the ROP are outlines in the programme document.

39. The Secretariat will be responsible for informing providers, observers and CMMs of the Rights and Responsibilities of Observers, as adopted by the Commission.

9.3 Rights and responsibilities for Captain or Master of the Vessel and Crew when an observer is on board.

40. In accordance with Article 28 (7c) and Annex III. Article 3 - “Terms and Conditions for Fishing” the vessel captains/masters and crew have responsibilities as well as rights when a ROP observer is performing duties on their vessel. These rights and responsibilities need to be agreed prior to deployment of ROP-authorized observers, the Rights and Responsibilities of Captain or Master of the Vessel and Crew, are included in the programme document

41. The Secretariat will be responsible for informing providers, observers and CCMs of the Rights and Responsibilities of Vessel Master and Crew, as adopted by the Commission.

9.4 Adopt and implement a Code of Conduct for observers

42. ROP observers will be required to comply with a Code of Conduct with the principle that the damage to vessels and equipment proven with out a doubt to be caused by the deliberate and intentional conduct of an observer will be compensated by the observer provider that selects the observer to board the vessel for the ROP

43 The Code of Conduct and associated procedures for monitoring will be developed before the placement of Observers for the ROP.

44. The Secretariat will be responsible for informing providers, observer trainers, observers and CCMs of the Observer Code of Conduct, as adopted by the Commission.

10. Safety standards to be met for carrying observers

45. A procedure by which a vessel is deemed unsafe for the placement of an observer will be developed for the use of observers..

46. All vessels that have been selected for observer coverage under the ROP must possess a valid sea going certification from their flag State that is available for the observer to inspect on boarding. The inspection will ensure the vessel has satisfactory minimum sea safety standards for an observer boarding the vessel. CCM's are responsible for ensuring their flagged vessels comply with satisfactory minimum sea safety standards throughout the duration of observer deployment.

47. Observers will not be forced to board a vessel that can be proven to not have a current safety survey or appropriate safety equipment. The ROP will report immediately to the vessel flag State on being advised that a vessel does not have a current survey standard, and will report annually to the Commission, a list of vessels unable to be boarded due to the inability to produce a current safety survey certificate.

48. The Secretariat will be responsible for informing providers, observers and CCMs of vessel safety standards required to carry ROP observers, as adopted by the Commission.

11. Develop procedures and processes for resolving disputes that may arise in respect to observers carrying out their duties.

49. The development of dispute resolution procedure for the ROP is required to be developed as a high priority

50. Dispute resolution procedures would only be activated in the event that all reasonable means to resolve a dispute between an observer provider and a flag State had been exhausted.

12. Data

12.1 Establish minimum data standards for data collected by observers

51. The Commission will establish minimum data standards for catch data, other scientific data and other additional information collected by observers, including sampling protocols, through the SC and TCC.

52. All programmes contributing to the ROP must utilise data collection forms that are consistent with the minimum standards established by the Commission.

53. The Secretariat will review forms and data collection formats of national and regional observer programmes to ensure that they conform to the ROP minimum standards and are able to be used for the collection of data by ROP observers.

12.2 Consider standardised and harmonised procedures for data reporting formats

54. The forms used in the current active national and regional observer programmes in the Convention area will be used as the basis for developing minimum data standards

55. The Secretariat will standardise formats based on the minimum data standards adopted by the SC, TCC and the Commission. CCMs with existing observer programmes may continue to utilise their own data collection formats provided they are consistent with the minimum and harmonised data collection standards adopted by the Commission.

56. The harmonised forms developed by the Secretariat will be included in the ROP Observer Workbooks; the development of the harmonised forms will be an ongoing task and guided by the SC, TCC and the Commissions requirements.

12.3 Achieve coverage levels established by the Commission

57. Flag States will be responsible for achieving the coverage levels established by the Commission for vessels flying its flag, subject to Article 28 (4) and (5), in a flexible manner, taking into account the nature of the fishery and other relevant factors. A schedule for phased implementation is proposed in the ROP programme document

58. Progress in achieving the coverage levels established by the Commission will be monitored by the Secretariat and reported in an annual report on the ROP to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, as required.

12.4 Develop and implement procedures for the management, security and reporting of observer data.

59. The Secretariat will be responsible for developing and implementing procedures for the management, security and reporting of observer data consistent with the Rules and Procedures for Access to and Dissemination of Data established by the Commission.

60. These procedures will be developed, implemented and refined as necessary early in the establishment of the ROP.

12. Develop and maintain an ROP database

61. The Secretariat will be responsible for the development and maintenance of the ROP database. It will be necessary for the ROP database to be able to accept ROP minimum standard data in different formats (i.e., those of existing national programs);.

62. The ROP database will be developed to take into account the needs of the Commission and will to the maximum extent possible be compatible with existing data bases in use by national and sub regional observer programmes in the Convention area Data base structures and procedures will be further developed to accommodate the needs of the ROP database, as appropriate.

63. The status of data management and the ROP database will be reported by the Secretariat in an annual report on the ROP to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, as required.

13. Consider other means of collecting data required by the Commission.

64. The SC and TCC and the Commission will be responsible for considering other means of collecting data collected by observers and, where appropriate, developing an integrated sampling design incorporating the various means of collecting data.

65. Progress in this regard will be documented in reports of meetings of the SC and the TCC.

14. Explore developing technologies for monitoring vessel operations and sampling the catch

66. The SC and TCC will be responsible for exploring relevant technologies for monitoring vessel operations. Progress in this regard will be documented in reports of meetings of the SC and TCC.

15. ROP website

67. The Strategic Plan for the development of the ROP, ROP Programme Document, ROP Manual, other relevant documents, information regarding the status of the implementation of the ROP, and summaries of ROP data that are in the public domain, will be presented on the Commission's website.

68. The Secretariat will be responsible for development and maintenance of the ROP section on the WCPFC website.

16. Relations with other organisations

69 To promote the implementation of best practices and consistent with Article 22 of the Convention, consultative and collaborative arrangements with observer programmes operated by other RFMOs such as IATTC where having observer continue to work while in each others respective areas as well as recognizing the need to work out something in the area of overlap south of the equator.

70. Priority will be assigned to organizations responsible for areas that overlap the Convention Area or whose Members vessels regularly transit through WCPFC Convention Area..

17. Monitoring and evaluation

71. In accordance with Article 14 (2c); monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this Strategic Plan for the development of the ROP will be undertaken by the TCC.

18 Implementation Plan

72. The Secretariat, in association with national and sub-regional observer programmes, will fully implement this Strategic Plan for the development of the ROP within a period of five (5) years. The already developed standards and procedures used by other regional, sub-regional and national programmes will be reviewed and modified to suit the requirements of the WCPFC. Other standards and procedures will require development.

73. The priorities of implementation are categorized as immediate, medium term and long term. Once developed, many standards will evolve further as observers are placed by providers on behalf of the ROP. With the assistance of currently established national and sub-regional programmes, the first placement of ROP Observers will start after the immediate priorities have been achieved.

74. Implementation activities will commence in early 2008, with many activities being developed simultaneously; this should allow initial deployments in 2009. The years 2008-2010 will see the bulk of the strategies implemented and the programme should be functional with initial placements in 2009 and routine placements to achieve the minimum coverage required on the selected fleets by the Commission occurring by late 2010. The period 2011-2012 will be a period of consolidation of strategies and procedures as the increased quantity and quality of information flowing from the ROP provides a basis for refinement, improved efficiency and effectiveness.

DRAFT

ROP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Develop a Capacity building Strategy for the ROP					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessment of Capacity building needs for national, sub regional observer programmes 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appraisal of formal and informal opportunities to build capacity for the ROP 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessment of training and other costs to support a phased Capacity Building Strategy 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity Building Strategies fully implemented for the ROP 					
Standardised procedures for authorisation of ROP observer providers					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Procedures and standards developed for authorisation of observer provider and distributed to CCMs; incorporated into the ROP manual, and posted on the Commission's website. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Procedures developed for auditing national, sub-regional and regional programmes to ensure ROP standards are being maintained. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Robust, safety-oriented, cost-effective observer programmes operating efficiently within CCMs. 					
Develop a list of specific tasks for ROP observers for each fishery					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approved list of observers' tasks distributed to all CCMs; incorporated into the ROP manual, and posted on the Commission's website. 					
Develop procedures for ROP observer deployments.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guidelines and procedures developed for the deployment of observers, incorporated into the ROP manual, and posted on the Commission's website. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Observers deployed under the ROP qualified to Commission-approved standards 					
Develop standard procedures for briefing and de-briefing					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guidelines and procedures for briefing and de-briefing adopted by the Commission, distributed to all CCMs, incorporated into the ROP manual, and posted on the Commission's website. 					
Prepare observer authorization standards and procedures					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Standards and procedures to authorise observers for ROP duties, distributed to all CCMs; incorporated into the ROP manual, and posted on the Commission's website. 					

ROP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Prepare observer trainer and training authorization standards and procedures					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop minimum standards and procedures for observer training courses, to ensure observers are qualified to participate as an ROP observer. Distributed to all CCMs, incorporated into the ROP manual, and posted on the Commission's website. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop minimum standards requirements to qualify for trainers of ROP observers. Distributed to all CCMs, incorporated into the ROP manual, and posted on the Commission's website. 					
Prepare procedures for resolving ROP related disputes					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop procedures for investigating and determining if breaches by ROP observers of the observer Code of Conduct have occurred. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop dispute and penalty procedures for resolving disagreements in a timely and amicable manner especially in relation to alleged Code of Conduct breaches between the observer and a vessel 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop procedures to investigate and determine if a vessel is alleged by an observer to have hindered or obstructed an observer in the carrying out of their duties. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop procedures to inform a flag State of the vessels alleged actions in hindering a ROP observer in the performance of their duties. <i>(note it is expected each flag State will have their own penalties to deal with these issues)</i> 					
Produce a ROP Manual					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a ROP Manual to assist national, sub-regional and regional observer programmes, flag States and all CCMs contributing to the ROP to understand administration and operational procedures of the ROP. 					
Develop a cadre of ROP observers for special situations					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile a list of highly skilled observers from national & sub regional observer programmes that are available for deployment in Commission approved special situations. 					
Prepare guidelines for rights, duties and responsibilities of observers					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare rights, duties and responsibilities of observers; after adoption by the Commission, distribute to all CCMs, incorporate into the ROP manual, and post on the Commission's website. 					
Prepare guidelines for rights, duties and responsibilities of vessel operators, captains and crew					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare rights, duties and responsibilities of vessel operators, captains and crew; after adoption by the Commission, distribute to all CCMs, incorporate into the ROP manual, and post on the Commission's website. 					

ROP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Code of Conduct for observers					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop Observer Code of Conduct after adoption by the Commission, distribute to all CCMs, incorporate into the ROP manual, and post on the Commission's website. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop procedures to ensure the Code of Conduct is fully understood by ROP observers before they carry out any ROP duties on a vessel in port or at sea. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop procedures to document and report verified breaches of the Code of Conduct to the Commission. 					
Review and prepare standards for health and safety at sea					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare ROP health and safety standards for observers; after adoption by the Commission, distribute to all CCMs, incorporate into the ROP manual, and post on the Commission's website. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop audit procedures to assess safety and health standards in national and subregional observer programmes; after adoption by the Commission, distribute to all CCMs, incorporate into the ROP manual, and post on the Commission's website. 					
Review safety standards of vessels prior to boarding					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop auditing procedures for checking vessel safety standards of vessels chosen for placement by ROP observers; after adoption by the Commission, distribute to all CCMs, incorporate into the ROP manual, and post on the Commission's website. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop procedures to report to the flag State and the Commission vessels which do not meet minimum safety standards and therefore avoid carrying a ROP observer. 					
Develop minimum standards for observer data and harmonised data collection forms.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare minimum standards for observer data fields to be collected by ROP observers; after adoption by the Commission, distribute to all CCMs, incorporate into the ROP workbook, and post on the Commission's website. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Harmonise data collection forms approved by the Commission or its subsidiary bodies and produce observer workbooks for use by ROP observers, distribute copies of formats to all CCMs, and post on the Commission's website. 					
Coverage levels and types of coverage for each fishery					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct operations in a practical and flexible manner to take into account the nature of the different fisheries and gear types and to maintain coverage levels as decided by the Commission's subsidiary bodies and approved by the Commission; ensure that the coverage includes the collection of verified catch data, other scientific data and additional information related to the fishery in the Convention Area, including the requirement to monitor the implementation of Conservation and Management Measures adopted by the Commission. 					

ROP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Adopt and implement operational procedures and guidelines for data management, data security and the reporting of observer data.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare guidelines and procedures for the management and security of data generated by the ROP in accordance with the Commission's Information Security Policy. Distribute to all CCMs, incorporate into the ROP manual, and post on the Commission's website. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare procedures using the ROP information security policy as a guide, for conducting regular audits on the security of national, sub-regional and regional programmes contributing data to the ROP objectives. 					
Review other methods of collecting observer data					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appraisal of new methods and technologies for collecting information traditionally collected by observer programmes for consideration by the Commission's subsidiary bodies. 					
Develop a central ROP observer database					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Secretariat to assist in development and maintenance of a ROP database administered in accordance with the standards and procedures adopted by the Commission. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Data Quality Officer position to ensure quality data to support Commission decision making 					
Establish consultation and collaborative arrangements with observer programmes operated by other RFMOs					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop dialogue with other RFMO so as best practice for observer programmes in other RFMOs tested and applied to the ROP. 					
Develop and maintain a web-based information system for the ROP					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare procedures for the administration of a web-based information system to allow CCMs to gather information on the ROP; to allow specified public domain information on the Commission's ROP as well as creating secure web-access to ROP information restricted to CCMs. 					