



TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS,
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES AND OBSERVERS

Circular No.: 2025/08
Date: 18 February 2025
No. pages: 03

Subject: Regional Observer Programme Intersessional Working Group: Proposed 2025 Workplan

Greetings All,

1. Introductory Explanatory notes addressing WCPFC21-2024-16 Working Paper

This Circular brings the proposed ROP–IWG 2025 Workplan to the attention of CCMs, sub-regional agencies (FFA/PNAO) and others including other intersessional working groups such as the ERandEM-IWG.

The purpose of this proposal is for CCMs to review the 2025 Workplan, and to work in collaboration to prioritize the workplan taskings that were adopted at WCPFC21.

The progress of this work will be supported by the WCPFC Secretariat and the WCPFC Science Service Provider (SPC).

2. The key areas this proposal is targeting reflect the 2025 elements of the ROP–IWG tasks

Considering the workplan adopted in the ROP-IWG Working Paper presented to WCPFC21 ([WCPFC21 -2024-16](#)) and the priority taskings referred to in that paper (Annex 1 and the TCC20 recommendations), the ROP–IWG will now commence work on key areas. These include:

- i. The MSDF feedback collated in Annex 1A to 1(a) including 1(d) “Considering removal of redundant ROP data fields” [Annex 1A, [WCPFC21 -2024-16](#)];
- ii. Useful consideration of ROP data into the CCFS and CMS process” [TCC20 recommendation];
- iii. 1(b) “Observer data fields for “Species of Special Interest” [Annex 1A, WP16];
- iv. 1(c) “Develop standards and procedures in utilizing ROP data” [TCC20 recommendation];
- v. Review on the Trip Report Summary (GEN-3) Form with recommendations for amendments to data fields if required in close consultations with the FFA (DCC) PNAO and interested CCMs Observer Programmes will be optional with draft recommendations provided to DCC chair for review; and

vi. In reference to paragraph 59 of the WCPFC21 Provisional Outcomes arising from discussions of the Transshipment IWG:

- *“The Commission tasks the ROP-IWG to discuss adding non-fish transfers to the observer minimum data fields for monitoring transshipment.”*

I note there is a full workplan for all taskings for the ROP-IWG noted at [TCC19](#) and WCPFC20 which requires updating based on progress made to date and the need to include additional taskings from TCC20/ WCPFC21. This full workplan will reflect work required beyond 2025 (i.e. matters not prioritized for 2025). I intend to update this full workplan and make it available in advance of the scheduled virtual meeting (details below). This workplan will also consider potential consequential changes arising from the above proposals.

3. Progressing work in 2025

The recommended approach for advancing intersessional work remains through electronic email exchanges to initiate discussions on these taskings and suggestions.

Additionally, a virtual meeting is proposed for **10am, 7 March 2025 (Pohnpei time)** to support progress on 2025 tasks. The Secretariat will provide support for the meeting.

As agreed at WCPFC21, an in-person ROP-IWG meeting will be held adjacent to or in the margins of TCC21 (24-30 September 2025).

CCMs who wish to participate in this IWG are asked to provide their updated email contacts after the date of this Circular by sending an email direct to myself (ltarapik@fisheries.gov.pg) and the WCPFC Deputy Compliance Manager, Eidge Sharp (Eidge.Sharp@wcpfc.int). A list of CCM participants will be finalized and further information and working papers progressed in 2025 will be posted on the [WCPFC Virtual Intersessional Working Group](#) webpage.

Sincerely,



Lucas Tarapik
ROP-IWG CHAIR

Annex 1: Workplan and Schedule for 2025

Planned Programme	Objective	Scheduled date and Venue	Participants
1 st virtual meeting	<p>Introduction of the main priority tasks work plan for 2025</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revisit Annex 1 & 1A and discuss update on existing work progress 2. Introduce a standardized mechanism to use ROP data in the CCFS and CMS process for work progressing 3. Trip Summary Report (GEN-3) review outcome 4. TS-IWG MSDF (non-transfer) discussion 5. Provide update on the 2023-2025 workplan <p>✚ Further discussions through email after this virtual meeting is anticipated</p>	<p>7th March 2025 (suggested)</p> <p>From respective CCMs. (start time yet to be confirmed considering different time zones)</p>	<p>CCMs representative and Sub-Regional Agencies (FFA/PNA) and Secretariat Observers</p>
In person meeting	<p>Implementation approach</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annex 1 & 1A final draft review and approval for actioning 2. CCFS and CMS standardized process review by CCMs for final output 3. Other taskings summary updates tabled. 4. Final outcome of the workplan 2025 presented during TCC22 	<p>During or adjacent to TCC21 as agreed at WCPFC21 (TCC21 is 24-30 September 2025)</p> <p>Pohnpei, FSM</p>	<p>CCMs representative and Sub-Regional Agencies (PNA/FFA) and Secretariat</p>
Finalize outcome of Work Plan 2025 (online meeting)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anticipated outcome from TCC22 and any recommendations and discussion with Secretariat for way forward planning 2. Preparations of the Working Paper (WP) for WCPFC22 regular session 	<p>30th October 2025</p> <p>From respective CCMs</p>	<p>ROP-IWG Chairman and Secretariat (WCFPC)</p>
Presentations of the IWG-ROP WP during the Commissions 22 nd Regular Session	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide an update on the progressive outcome of the 2025 work plan 2. Update Commission on the next planned Programme (work plan) for 2026 onwards 	<p>01st December 2025</p> <p>Pohnpei, FSM</p>	<p>ROP-IWG Chairman and Secretariat (WCPFC)</p>