

**Virtual Meeting 5 of ROP-IWG**

11 April 2025 10:00h – 13:00h (Pohnpei time)

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**Approach to Grouping Compliance and Management Summary Data Fields**

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WCPFC-ROP-IWG05-2025-04

8 April 2025

**Paper submitted by ROP-IWG Chair and Secretariat**

### Purpose

1. This paper suggests a way to improve the presentation of the reporting of Vessel Trip Monitoring summary fields for Compliance and Management purposes. It recognises that the specific data fields are to be discussed and could change.

### Data Fields for use in Compliance Reporting within the Compliance Case File System Table 1

2. The following outlines a proposed approach to strengthen the reporting of compliance-related issues. These data fields are adapted from the current Vessel Trip Monitoring fields within the Commission's Minimum Standard Data Fields (MSDF) and have been expanded to provide clearer and more detailed insights into incidents observed and reported by observers. This enhancement aims to improve the accuracy and usefulness of observer-reported information for compliance monitoring and enforcement.
3. The fields outlined in Table 1 have been expanded to provide a more detailed and targeted description of incidents relevant to compliance monitoring. These fields are commonly referenced during compliance assessments and checks. Accordingly, it is suggested that the fields in Table 1 be organized into a separate table to better support the Compliance Case File System (CCFS) in identifying and addressing potential compliance issues. It is suggested that the fields in table 1 are entered in the MSDF under "*Data Fields for use in Compliance Reporting within the Compliance Case File System*"

### Fields to be Collected by Observers for Fisheries Management, Science, and Technological Applications Table 2

4. The remaining agreed fields in the current Vessel Trip Monitoring Summary remain essential for a broad range of uses beyond compliance monitoring. These fields are outlined in **Table 2** and are suggested for inclusion in the Minimum Standard Data Fields (MSDF) under the title: "*Fields to be Collected by Observers for Fisheries Management, Science, and Technological Applications*".
5. When accurately recorded and reported by observers, these data fields provide valuable insights into the operational and environmental aspects of fishing activities. While they may not directly indicate compliance issues, they contribute significantly to:
  - A comprehensive understanding of fishing practices over the course of a trip.
  - Supporting scientific research efforts related to tuna fisheries and ecosystems.
  - Informing policy development for the sustainable use of marine resources.
  - Facilitating the adoption of technological innovations in monitoring and data analysis.

6. Together, these fields help build a complete and more effective framework for regional fisheries management and conservation strategies.

### Enhancing Compliance Through Improved Observer Reporting

7. Historically, many of the fields listed under the title "*Vessel Trip Monitoring Summary*" have been approved for collection by observers. Observers have routinely recorded relevant information and incidents in these fields, supported by more detailed notes in their journals, diaries, or workbooks.
8. To strengthen the utility of these data for compliance monitoring, it is recommended that the responses provided by observers be expanded to allow for clearer differentiation and more detailed descriptions of reported incidents. Additionally, it is proposed that compliance-related fields be formally separated from the broader *Vessel Trip Monitoring Summary* and organized into a distinct list within the Minimum Standard Data Fields (MSDF).
9. This separation will enhance clarity, improve the consistency of compliance reporting, and better support the use of observer-collected data in the Compliance Case File System (CCFS).
10. Note Agenda Items 3, 4 and 5 also include specific discussion on individual data fields rather than their groupings into particular lists as proposed in this paper: [WCPFC-ROP-IWG05-2025-02](#), [Agenda item 4.2](#) and [Agenda Item 5](#) include specific discussion of data fields.

**Table 1 - Data Fields for use in Compliance Reporting within the Compliance Case File System**

For each incident, did the vessel engage in any of the following activities? (Indicate 'Yes' or 'No' by circling the appropriate answer

If the response has been verified during debriefing, mark by circling Yes or No in the debriefed column. If unable to determine or if not applicable; circle the UTD/NA. Indicate the page numbers in your journal, diary, or workbook where a full description of the incident has been recorded.

SPC Code	Description of incident	Incident	Incident			Debriefed		Journal Page Number/s
			Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	
LP-a	Inaccurately record vessel positions on vessel log sheet for sets, hauling and catch; (Yes No)	Check vessel log sheets against your recorded position for sets and hauls and determine if they are inaccurate (note positions may vary slightly but should be in a very close range to your recorded positions.	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	210
RS-a*	Did the operator or any crew assault, obstruct, resist, delay, refuse boarding, intimidate or interfere with observers in the performance of their duties; (Yes No]	Physically Assault	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	214
		Verbally Assault	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	
		Obstruct	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	
		Resist or Delay	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	
		Refuse Boarding	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	
		Intimidate	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	
		Other (Describe)	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	
RS-b	Did the Captain or crew request that an event not be reported by the observer; (Yes No)	Captain asks observer not to report a catch or other incident	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	213
RS-c	Did the Captain Mistreat Crew with Verbal or Physical Abuse.	Verbal Abuse	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	216
		Physical abuse	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	
	Deprive the crew member /s of	Fresh water	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	
		Adequate Food	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	
		Sanitary Hygiene	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	
		Acceptable Sleeping Conditions	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	
		Work Safety Protection	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	
		Medical Care if required	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	
		Other (please specify	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	
RS-d	Did the operator fail to provide the observer, while on board the	Suitable Accommodation	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	215
		Food	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	
		Safety Gear	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	

	vessel, at no expense to the observer or the observer's government, with food, accommodation and medical facilities of a reasonable standard equivalent to those normally available and medical facilities of a reasonable standard equivalent to those normally available to an officer on board the vessel (Yes No	Medical Facilities	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	
		Other (describe)	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	
WC-a	Fail to comply with any Commission Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)	Did the vessel fail to comply with some of the rules in the WCPFC CMMs - i.e. set on FADS when there is a closure, etc	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	209
WC-c	Fish on FAD during FAD Closure	Observer to note vessel exemptions (if any) and record all sets on FADS during FAD closures.	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	Add
NR-a	Fish in areas where it is not permitted to fish; (Yes No)	Did the vessel fish in closed areas such as within territorial seas or specific closures given by the Commission	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	210
PN-a PN-b	Dispose of any metals, plastics, chemicals, oils or old fishing gear	Was there any intentional disposal of metals or plastics (from the kitchen or other areas of the boat), or parts of fishing gear (such as netting, nylon line, etc.) Was any unprocessed perishable waste discarded within 12 nautical miles of land or a reef? Was any fuel oil spilled or dumped within 50 nautical miles of shore?	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	221/222

**\*Guide for RS-a General Description of Interference and Misconduct**

- **Physical Assault:** This occurs when an observer is physically attacked by an individual or group, with or without a weapon. Actions such as scratching, pushing, kicking, punching, throwing objects, or using weapons are considered forms of physical assault. Threats of such acts also fall under this category.
- **Verbal Abuse:** This involves the use of words to harm, threaten, intimidate, ridicule, manipulate, or degrade an observer. Verbal abuse can significantly affect the observer's ability to perform duties and may impact their mental and emotional well-being.
- **Obstruct:** Deliberately creating obstacles or causing difficulties that prevent an observer from fulfilling their duties on board. This may include actions that hinder data collection, movement, or communication.

- **Resist:** When the vessel operator or crew actively hinders or prevents the observer from performing their expected roles and responsibilities during deployment.
- **Delay:** Any action by the operator or crew that unnecessarily holds up or slows down the observer's ability to carry out their tasks, including access to required areas or information.
- **Refuse Boarding:** Denying an observer access to board a vessel without a valid or lawful reason. This is considered non-compliance with observer programme protocols.
- **Intimidation:** Behaviours, words, or implied threats that instil reasonable fear for the observer's health or safety. These include threats of violence or other coercive actions that impact the observer's ability to work safely and effectively.

**Table 2 Fields to be Collected by Observers for Fisheries Management, Science, and Technological Applications:** Observers are required to collect a comprehensive range of data fields that support multiple critical functions within fisheries management, scientific research, and the development and application of new technologies. These fields include but are not limited to the fields in this table below.

SPC Code	Description	Explanation and Questions	Yes	No	UTD	Debriefed	Journal Page Number/s
LC-a	Inaccurately recorded retained Target Species in the vessel logs; (Yes No)	Did the vessel record species incorrectly or inaccurately, often on Purse seiners, small YFT and BET are thrown in with Skipjack	Yes	No	UTD	Yes No	202
LC-b	Inaccurately record discarded Target species (Yes No)	Long liners often discard commercial species because they are shark or whale damaged or on Purses seiners because they are too small or are poor quality these are often not recorded at all or are under recorded ( <i>Note that commercial tuna species discarded on a purse seine vessel can only be discarded when it is unfit for Human Consumption</i> )	Yes	No	UTD	Yes No	203c
LC-e	Inaccurately record retained by catch species (Yes No)	Long liners and purse-seiners often do not record by catch species they retain such as billfish, mahi mahi	Yes	No	UTD	Yes No	204
LC-f	Inaccurately record By catch species discards; (Yes No)	Long liners and purse seiners often do not record at all any discard species and if they do it is often inaccurate	Yes	No	UTD	Yes No	205
LC-c	Record species inaccurately; (Yes No)	Purse seiners often record BET as YFT especially when they are small	Yes	No	UTD	Yes No	206
SI-b	Interact with non-target species; (Yes No)	Did the vessels have interaction with non-target species ; e.g. species of special interest.	Yes	No	UTD	Yes No	207
WC-b	High grade the catch; (Yes No)	High grading is where smaller or less quality species are caught and retained but due to lack of space in the freezers, they are then discarded to make way for better quality and larger species.	Yes	No	UTD	Yes No	209

LP-b	Fail to report vessel position to countries, where required, when entering and leaving an EEZ (crossing to or from an EEZ into or out of the High Seas (Yes No)	Vessels are required to indicate to every country when they enter and leave their Zones	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	211
Nr-e	Transfer or tranship fish from, or to, another vessel (Yes No)	Did the vessel the observer is on transfer from or receive any tuna during the trip from another vessel while at sea.	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	212
NR-c	Use a fishing method other than the method the vessel was designed or licensed. (Yes No)	Did the vessel fish by a method to which it was not designed i.e. purse seiner setting long lines etc.	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	217
PN-c	Lose any fishing gear; (Yes No)	Did the vessel lose any gear during it fishing campaign Describe type of gear and how it was lost.	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	218
PN-d	Abandon any gear; (Yes No)	Did the vessel leave gear behind when they go to port (FADS not included)	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	219
PN-e	fail to report any abandoned gear; (Yes No)	Did the vessel report the loss or abandonment of gear to the authorities of the country where the vessel fishes in the case of the high seas they should report to the flag state of the vessel?	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	220
SS-a	fail to monitor international safety frequencies; (Yes No)	Did not keep the radio s on the bridge tuned to 2180 etc when not in use	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	223
Nr-g	fail to stow fishing gear when entering areas where they were not authorized to fish; (Yes No)	When entering a non-licensed area, the vessel must stow all gear. These include territorial seas going to port or in countries where the vessel isn't licensed to fish,	Yes	No	UTD	Yes	No	224