



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
THIRD REGULAR SESSION
13-24 August 2007
Honolulu, United States of America

**CONVENOR'S PROPOSED TEXT FOR ST-SWG RECOMMENDATION ON THE
SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES OF THE REGIONAL OBSERVER
PROGRAMME**

WCPFC-SC3-2007/ST IP-8

Convenor's proposed text for St-SWG recommendation on the scientific objectives and priorities of the regional observer program

The [Statistics SWG / Scientific Committee] recommends that there are five scientific objectives that should be considered in the development of the regional observer program, all of which are high priority;

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a. To record the species, fate (retained or discarded) and condition at capture and release (e.g. alive, barely alive, dead, etc) of the catch of target and non-target species; depredation effects; and interactions with other non-target species, including species of special interest (i.e. sharks, marine reptiles, marine mammals and sea birds);

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b. To collect data to allow the standardisation of fishing effort, such as gear and vessel attributes, and fishing strategies;

Deleted: , the depths of longline hooks, FAD use and setting activities of purse seiners, and other factors affecting fishing power;

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c. To sample the length and other relevant measurements of target and non-target species;

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d. To sample other biological parameters, such as gender, stomach contents, hard parts (e.g. otoliths, first dorsal bone), tissue samples and collect data to determine relationships between length and weight, and processed weight and whole weight;

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e. To record information on mitigation measures utilised and their effectiveness; and

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f. To record information on the catch and fishing effort during baitfishing, when baitfishing is undertaken by the tuna fishing vessel.