



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
THIRD REGULAR SESSION**

13-24 August 2007  
Honolulu, United States of America

**OVERVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY SC2 ON THE REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME  
WCPFC-SC3-*Informal Small Group IP-01***

**Introduction**

Paragraph 42-47 of Executive Summary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Meeting (SC2) held in the Philippines 2006, included a number of recommendations on the Regional Observer Programme (ROP) to be completed for SC3, the following tables indicate the status of the development of these individual recommendations made at SC2.

For ease of understanding the paragraph numbers are kept as per the Executive Summary of SC2. A table follows each recommendation indicating what action has been taken.

**Recommendations and Actions**

42. The Committee endorsed five recommendations together with accompanying notes, as follows:

***Recommendation 1:*** Objectives (longline and purse seine): That there are five scientific objectives that should be considered in the development of the regional observer programme, all of which are high priority:

a) 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 specie depredation effects; and interactions with other non-target species, including species of special interest (i.e. sharks, marine reptiles, marine mammals and sea birds);

<b>Recommendation 1a</b>	<b>Action</b>
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 specie	Codes developed and included in Data Standards for Regional Observer Programme paper Table 2. <b>WCPFC-SC3/GN WP-6</b>
Depredation effects; and interactions with other non-target species, including species of special interest (i.e. sharks, marine reptiles, marine mammals and sea birds);	Codes developed and included in Data Standards for Regional Observer Programme paper Table 5. <b>WCPFC-SC3/GN WP-6</b>

b) Collect data to allow the standardisation of fishing effort, such as gear and vessel attributes, fishing strategies, the depths of longline hooks, FAD use and setting activities of purse seiners, and other factors affecting fishing power;

<b>Recommendation 1b</b>	<b>Action</b>
Collect data to allow the standardisation of fishing effort, such as gear and vessel attributes, fishing strategies,	Codes developed and included in Data Standards for Regional Observer Programme paper Table 1-4. <b>WCPFC-SC3/GN WP-6</b>
the depths of longline hooks,	Codes developed and included in Data Standards for Regional Observer Programme paper Table 2. <b>WCPFC-SC3/GN WP-6</b>
FAD use and setting activities of purse seiners,	Codes developed and included in Data Standards for Regional Observer Programme paper Table 4. <b>WCPFC-SC3/GN WP-6</b>
and other factors affecting fishing power;	A further study on vessel and gear attributes will be included in the SC work programme for 2008, with the study to be considered at SC4.

c) Sample the length and other relevant measurements of target and non-target species;

<b>Recommendation 1c</b>	<b>Action</b>
Sample the length and other relevant measurements of target and non-target species;	Measurement codes developed and included in Data Standards for Regional Observer Programme paper Table 2-5 <b>WCPFC-SC3/GN WP-6</b>

d) 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;

<b>Recommendation 1d</b>	<b>Action</b>
Sample other biological parameters, such as gender, stomach contents, hard parts (e.g. otoliths, first dorsal bone), tissue samples	Sampling protocols are included in paragraph 3 of <b>WCPFC-SC3/GN WP-6</b> . Biological Sampling of species will be part of the ROP Training and will be carried out on a request basis.
collect data to determine relationships between length and weight, and processed weight and whole weight	Measurement and Fate codes developed and included in Data Standards for Regional Observer Programme paper <b>WCPFC-SC3/GN WP-6</b>

e) Record information on mitigation measures utilised and their effectiveness.

<b>Recommendation 1e</b>	<b>Action</b>
Record information on mitigation measures utilised and their effectiveness	Some measures included in the tables in <b>WCPFC-SC3/GN WP-6</b> however more measures to be developed in line with CMM's.

43. **Recommendation 2:** Objectives (other methods): That the Secretariat commissions the drafting of objectives and priorities for data to be collected by observers for fisheries other than purse seine and longline, for consideration of the Statistics SWG at its next meeting.

<b>Recommendation 2</b>	<b>Action</b>
The Secretariat commissions the drafting of objectives and priorities for data to be collected by observers for fisheries other than purse seine and longline, for consideration of the Statistics SWG at its next meeting.	Refer to paper Statistics Working Group paper ST-WP-2 "Objectives and priorities for data to be collected by observers for fisheries other than purse-seine and longline"

44. **Recommendation 3:** Initial minimum coverage: That the objective of the regional observer programme should initially be to attain a minimum coverage of 5% of fishing effort (longline: total hooks deployed; purse seine: days fished and searched) across all strata to allow identification of specific issues. The distribution of observer effort is to be representative of species of interest, fishing areas, seasons, and fishing fleets (types).

45. Note: Initial minimum coverage: That the initial coverage will not deliver on all possible objectives (e.g. 5% coverage may not be adequate to reliably quantify the incidental catch of sea turtles and seabirds).

46. Note: Area: The Scientific Committee clarified that it was developing recommendations for observer coverage over the Convention Area.

<b>Recommendation 3</b>	<b>Action</b>
Para 44-46	The implementation guidelines proposed in Appendix (A) of the ROP Strategy document "Fisheries to be monitored by the ROP" currently being developed by IWG-ROP (Table 1) are based on the 5% coverage recommended by SC2. SC2 focused on longline and purse seine; however, for other gear types, the level of catches of non-target species may be low and the size composition relatively stable, observer coverage that characterizes the fishery may be sufficient in the initial phase of the ROP. The 5% level of coverage is subject to adoption by the Commission. The required levels of observer coverage established by the Commission will be reviewed on a periodic basis through the SC, TCC and NC.

47. **Recommendation 4:** Coverage required to address specific issues of concern: That the data collected from initial levels of coverage should be used to further determine the levels of coverage required to address specific issues of concern to the Commission. For example, coverage rates may need to be higher in certain areas or circumstances to obtain reliable estimates of the catch of some species (e.g. seabirds, sea turtles, marine mammals) or species populations that are particularly vulnerable, for fisheries for which information is currently unavailable, and for other specific issues of concern to the Commission.

<b>Recommendation 4</b>	<b>Action</b>
The data collected from initial levels of coverage should be used to further determine the levels of coverage required to address specific issues of concern to the Commission.	Data collected from initial levels of coverage will be used to further determine the levels of coverage required to address specific issues of concern to the Commission.

48. **Recommendation 5:** Data collection requirements (longline and purse seine): That the Secretariat develop a draft list of fields of data that observers should collect, for consideration at the next meeting of the Statistics SWG.

<b>Recommendation 5</b>	<b>Action</b>
Data collection requirements (longline and purse seine): That the Secretariat develop a draft list of fields of data that observers should collect, for consideration at the next meeting of the Statistics SWG	Table 1- 7 of the Data Standards for Regional Observer Programme paper <b>WCPFC-SC3/GN WP-6</b> includes most of the data requirements that observers will be asked to collect, however further data field may be added by TCC and the Commission.