



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Twenty-First Regular Session**  
**24 September to 30 September 2025**  
**Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (Hybrid)**

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**UPDATE ON ROP-IWG TASKINGS**

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**WCPFC-TCC21-2025-17**  
**9 September 2025**

**Submitted by ROP-IWG Chair**

### **Purpose**

1. This paper reports on progress on WCPFC21 taskings to the ROP-IWG, which includes review and updates to the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields (MSDF). The specific tasks relate to the following three areas:
  - i.add or revise fields to better monitor newer or updated CMMs, clarify data reporting for scientific versus compliance purposes, and improve how ROP data feeds into the WCPFC Case File System (CCFS);
  - ii.remove fields that are no longer needed; and
  - iii.consider including new data fields for monitoring and reporting non-fish transfers (e.g. provisions, fuel, bait, personnel) as part of transshipment reporting.

### **Background**

2. The Intersessional Working Group on the Regional Observer Programme (ROP-IWG) was established in 2006 in accordance with the terms of reference in CMM 2006-07, with the task of developing the Regional Observer Programme (ROP). The ROP-IWG was reactivated by the Commission in 2023.<sup>1</sup>
3. Initial proposals to remove redundant MSDF were presented at SC20 ([SC20-ST-WP-04](#)) and TCC20 ([WCPFC-TCC20-2024-19](#)). TCC20 also guided that the ROP-IWG's priority tasks should include:
  - Refinement of procedures that will streamline the inclusion of ROP data in the CCFS, ensuring that observer-reported cases are incorporated in a timely and consistent manner.
  - Review of the ROP Minimum Standard data fields, removing redundant fields (e.g., vessel details) and aligning data collection with existing sources such as vessel registration and the RFV.

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<sup>1</sup> Further information about the ROP-IWGs activities is provided on the WCPFC website:  
<https://www.wcpfc.int/iwg-rop>

- Prioritizing in 2025 a comprehensive review of ROP processes, including:
  - the ROP Minimum Standard data fields,
  - the pre-notification process adopted at WCPFC12, and
  - the development of a standardized process for the use of ROP data in the CCFS.
- 4. The Commission, at [WCPFC21](#), appointed Mr Lucas Tarapik as Chair of the ROP-IWG and endorsed the approach set out in [WCPFC21-2024-16](#) to advance this and other ROP-IWG tasks in 2025 ([WCPFC21 Summary Report](#), paragraph 581).
- 5. In addition, the Commission tasked the ROP-IWG to consider adding non-fish transfers to the [minimum data fields for monitoring transshipments](#) ([WCPFC21 Summary Report](#), paragraph 513). This proposal was based on a CCM proposal submitted to the Transshipment-IWG held during WCPFC21 in 2024.

#### Progress on WCPFC21 taskings for ROP-IWG in 2025

- 6. In 2025, the ROP-IWG held two online intersessional meetings: [ROP-IWG05](#) on 11 April and [ROP-IWG06](#) on 20 June where participants discussed papers related to each of the priority tasks. Feedback received during these meetings has been used to revise the papers which were first submitted to SC21 and are now being submitted to TCC21 for further input.
- 7. It should also be noted that at ROP-IWG06 meeting, the ROP-IWG participants, have preliminarily agreed to recommend that the list of data fields in Attachment 3 to [ROP-IWG06 Chairs Summary Report](#) are removed from the list of WCPFC ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields.

#### Next steps

- 8. On Tuesday 23 September the ROP-IWG will hold a half-day in-person (hybrid) meeting in Pohnpei immediately prior to TCC21. An agenda for this meeting was posted as [TCC21 Paper 17A](#).
- 9. There are three matters proposed for discussion:
  - a. CCFS Process Flow from Observer Provider to WCPFC | Supporting Paper: [TCC21-2025 17B](#)
  - b. Consider scope of refinements to improve the WCPFC Minimum Standard Data Fields (MSDFs), including Observer Trip Monitoring Summary, to support identification of potential alleged infringements of CMM obligations | Supporting Paper: [TCC21-2025-17C](#)
  - c. Consider whether new ROP minimum data fields related to non-fish transfers could support monitoring of at-sea transshipment activities | [TCC21-2025-17D](#)
- 10. For completeness to note that the list of all ROP MSDF including those proposed for changed is in [WCPFC-SC21-2025/ST-WP-10\\_suppl01](#), however, this supplementary paper is not intended to be reviewed at TCC21.
- 11. It is intended that the ROP-IWG will provide final recommendations to WCPFC22 on these matters after consideration by SC21 and TCC21 and following any further review required intersessionally.
- 12. In the update to be provided during TCC21 I will provide an update on the ROP-IWG Workplan for 2026, and I continue to welcome comments from participants on the [draft ROP-IWG workplan](#).