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HSBI Standardized Multi-Language Questionnaire

WCPFC22-2025-13f 31 October 2025

Voluntary HSBI Regional Guides
TOOLS FOR HIGH SEAS BOARDING AND INSPECTION

STANDARDIZED MULTI-LANGUAGE QUESTIONNAIRE

INITIAL RADI	io contact
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1.	(a) VESSEL (b) THIS IS THE (c) CALLING YOU ON CHANNEL 16 VHF-FMOVER.			
	Fishing, Carrier or Bunker Fishing, Carrier or Bunker vessel's name Patrol Vessel's name			
2.	Please use radio channel 16, (one six).			
3.	Fishing vessel (name), this is patrol vessel (name) we are here on behalf of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and are authorized to ensure you are complying with all applicable conservation and management measures. Our registration number is [] and the international radio call sign is []. We intend to board and inspect your vessel, and you are required to cooperate.			

PRE-BOARDING QUESTIONS

Pre boarding questions may also help communication during a boarding, or for a radio inquiry. The intention is mainly to assist with a smooth boarding and confirm some details. Answers may also be obtained through visual observation of the vessel and the RFV. These questions may apply to fishing, carrier or bunker vessels.

- 1. Prior to boarding your vessel, we need to ask you a few questions.
- 2. Is your vessel registered with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission?
- 3. [Under which country's flag are you registered?]
- 4. [What is your international radio call sign?]
- 5. What is your homeport?
- 6. How much _(a-c)__ do you have onboard?
 - a. Fish
 - i. what type?
 - b. [Supplies]
 - c. Fuel
- 7. What was your last port of call?

Commented [DP1]: Chair note: Consider if the highlighted text below in square brackets is needed. Some participants have suggested deletion to help simplify the document while others support retention.

- 8. What is your next port of call?
- 9. [What is the name and nationality of vessel master?]
- 10. How many crew do you have onboard?
 - a. what are their nationalities?
- 11. Do you have any weapons onboard?
 - a. where are they located?
- 12. Do you have a fishery observer onboard?
 - a. [what is the observer's name and nationality?]
- 13. We will be sending over a boarding party in (a-c) minutes or after the completion of your current operation;
 - a. five
 - b. fifteen
 - c. thirty
- 14. To assist our boarding party in boarding your vessel, we request you to <u>(a-e)</u>
 - a. Stop your vessel
 - b. Slow your vessel
 - c. Continue on your present course and speed
 - d. Turn to (port / starboard)
 - e. Lower a ladder on the (port / starboard) side
- 15. Do you have a safe boarding ladder for our inspectors to use?
 - a. Please ensure that it is attached securely to your vessel on the starboard side—this is the lee side with minimal wind and wave action and hangs 1-1.5 meters above the waterline.
 - b. Have one crew member stand by the ladder to assist our team if needed.
- 16. Please be advised that the destruction or disposal at sea of prohibited fisheries products, prior to or during the inspection process, may be deemed an obstruction of the inspection procedures and is strictly prohibited.
- 17. Please continue to monitor radio channel 16 while our inspectors prepare to embark upon your vessel.
- 18. Direct crew members not assisting with boarding to remain in their cabins or the mess hall until further notice. This will keep the boarding area clear for safety.
- 19. Inform our team of any on-board medical emergencies or crew health concerns prior to boarding, to facilitate coordinated support and avoid disruptions.

BOARDING QUESTIONS

- Good (morning / afternoon / evening), are you the master of the vessel?
 (a) please notify master to come to us for further inquiries.
- I am here to inspect your vessel for compliance with measures adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.
- 3. These are our identity cards and a copy of the relevant conservation and management measures.
- 4. This is a list of actions being considered as serious violation.

[Refer to Attachment 1 for translated list of serious violations]

- All data collected during the inspection will be used solely for law enforcement and compliance purposes, in line with data protection principles of WCPFC.
- 6. Do you understand?
- 7. You have the right to provide a statement and to explain your position on any matters raised during this inspection. Your explanation will be noted as part of the official record.
- 8. The Vessel master or authorized crew is welcome to accompany us during the inspection. This allows for real-time communication about vessel operations.
- 9. The boarding team will record videos and take photos to verify compliance with WCPFC measures. Your vessel may also voluntarily record video of the inspection process.
- 10. Once the inspection is complete, we will provide an interim report. It will include any objection or statement you want to include in the report.
- 11. You are entitled to contact the authorities of your flag states.
- 12. We will complete the inspection within 4 hours. However, if a serious violation is found, we will extend the boarding time.
- 13. You are entitled to report any action which you consider harassment of the vessel, officers or crew during the boarding, and request these statements to be inserted into the boarding report. You may also report to your flag state authorities after the boarding.
- 14. You may report to the authority of the flag state any damage or loss attributable to boarding action which you believe is unlawful or exceeds what is reasonably required in the light of available information.

15.	ls	there anyone here who speaks	(a-f)
	a.	English	

- b. Japanese
- c. Korean
- d. Chinese
- e. French
- f. Spanish
- 16. I do not have anyone onboard who can speak your language.
- 17. I am using bilingual language cards. Please answer my questions simply and slowly, using yes or no whenever possible.
- 18. These people will assist me in my inspection.
- 19. Please muster your crew on the (fantail / bow / open deck).
- 20. Please indicate where you keep your weapons onboard.
- 21. This is a copy of the text of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention which provides me the authority to board your vessel and conduct this inspection.
- 22. Please review this document and let me know if you have any questions.
- 23. This is a copy of the relevant Commission Conservation and Management Measures which apply to your vessel.
- 24. When were you inspected last? Who inspected you?
- 25. I intend to inspect your vessel to ensure your compliance with these conservation and management measures.
- 26. Please show me:
 - a. Your vessel's documents
 - b. Your current permits
 - c. Your catch logs
 - d. Your plotting charts
- 27. When reviewing documents, our team will handle them with care and return each document immediately after verification. We may take photographs of the document.
- 28. Please show me line cutters and de-hookers.
- 29. Please show me tori-lines. I need to measure the length of them.
- 30. I would like to take two small tissue samples of this fish to confirm the species identification. One sample will be taken back to a certified lab for DNA analysis; the other will be retained if your flag state requests the sample. You may also keep this fish in case your country needs to conduct a DNA test.

- 31. You should sign the seal after we put the samples in the evidence box/bag.
- 32. How do you deal with plastic waste on board? Do you have an incinerator on board your vessel?
- 33. Have you transshipped since your last landing at port? Please show me the related documents.
- 34. Your documents and records indicate you are in complete compliance with all Commission Conservation and Management Measures.
- 35. Your documents and records indicate you are not in complete compliance with all Conservation and Management Measures.
- 36. This is the specific conservation and management measure by which you are not in compliance.
- 37. Please provide any comments or statements here.
- 38. This (is / is not) considered by the commission to be a serious violation.
- 39. I am seizing this item for evidence.
- 40. I am photographing this item to document the violation.
- 41. I will use this boarding report to document my inspection of your vessel.
- 42. Please sign here.
- 43. This boarding report indicates you (are / are not) in compliance with all commission conservation and management measures.
- 44. This is your copy of the boarding report.
- 45. A copy of this boarding report will be provided to the fisheries enforcement authorities of your country (for further action).
- 46. Thank you for your assistance on this boarding.
- 47. I have completed the inspection of your vessel.
- 48. We are departing your vessel at this time.
- 49. Assist our team in safely disembarking by ensuring the boarding ladder remains secure.
- 50. To assist our boarding party in disembarking your vessel, we request you to_(a-e)_until_(1-3).
 - a. Stop your vessel
 - b. Slow your vessel
 - c. Continue on your present course and speed
 - d. Turn to (port / starboard)

- e. Lower a ladder on the (port / starboard) side
- 1. 30 minutes after our departure
- 2. We give you the signal
- 3. We contact you through the radio
- 51. You may resume normal vessel operations immediately after our team departs. No further clearance is required.

Attachment 1. List of actions being considered as serious violation

Attachment 2. Cetacean Identification Guide (multi language)

Commented [DP2]: Chair note: Acknowledging the importance of this guide, some participants have questioned if there may be more appropriate venue for the guide, rather than attaching it to the multilingual standardized questionnaire, for example, posting it on the WCPFC website with multi language...

Attachment 1. List of actions being considered as serious violation

According to the conservation and management measures of WCPFC, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the Convention or conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission:

- a. fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag Member, in accordance with Article 24 of the Convention;
- b. failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
- c. fishing in a closed area;
- d. fishing during a closed season;
- e. intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the Commission;
- f. significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the Convention;
- g. using prohibited fishing gear;
- h. falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
- i. concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
- j. multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the Commission;
- k. refusal to accept a boarding and inspection, other than as provided in paragraphs26 and 27;
- l. assault, resist, intimidate, sexually harass, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay an authorized inspector; and
- m. intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
- n. such other violations as may be determined by the Commission, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures.

Commented [DP3]: Chair note: This is copied from CMM 2006-08 on HSBI