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ROP-IWG Workplan

WCPFC22-2025-IP04
1 November 2025

Submitted by the ROP-IWG Chair

ROP-IWG Workplan: as endorsed at WCPFC21 and updated with 2025 progress and SC21 and TCC21 outcomes ¹

Green text in the 2025 column reflects updates on intersessional work and from SC21 and TCC21. Consideration of tasks to progress in 2026 depends on the progress of work presented at SC and TCC and the adoption of proposals by Commission.

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	CC/IWG linkages & References
1. Review and recommend ROP-IWG draft modifications to ROP Minimum Data Fields				
a. Development of draft recommended modifications to ROP data fields with the intention of allowing for more useful consideration of ROP data in the CCFS and in the Compliance Monitoring Scheme processes. (WCPFC19 Summary Report para 451 (ii))	Consider improvements to the Observer Trip Monitoring Summary data fields, which trigger pre-notifications to better align with the Commission's priorities in terms of compliance. Consider and provide advice on training and capacity needs of SIDS, to implement observer programs, including training and data management.	Consider improvements to the Observer Trip Monitoring Summary data fields, which trigger pre-notifications to better align with the Commission's priorities in terms of compliance. Consider and provide advice on training and capacity needs of SIDS, to implement observer programs, including training and data management. Continuous work progress from with existing task for review and implementations	Consider improvements to the Observer Trip Monitoring Summary data fields, which trigger pre-notifications to better align with the Commission's priorities in terms of compliance. Consider and provide advice on training and capacity needs of SIDS, to implement observer programs, including training and data management. Continuous work progress from with existing task for review and implementation.	<i>Expected to contribute to TCC Workplan Priority Specific Task (j)</i> <i>Review and provide advice improvements to the ROP data fields, including those in ROP pre-notifications, to allow for more useful consideration in the compliance case file system and compliance review process [TCC task with assistance from Secretariat]</i> ROP Minimum Data Fields –Observer Trip Monitoring Summary WCPFC21-2024-16 Update from the ROP-IWG (1).pdf

¹ [WCPFC21 Outcomes and Summary Report](#), paragraph 53; reference workplan in [WCPFC21-2024-16](#)

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	CC/IWG linkages & References
1a Status		TCC20 outcomes, paragraph 48, 50 and TCC20 Summary Report paragraphs 371	Introduce CCFS process flow amendments and seeks CCMs for feedback and scope of refinement to ROPs MSDFs, including trip monitoring summary, to support identification Presented at refined for SC21' – no recommendations Presented at TCC21 – CCMs to provide further feedback to support final recommendations at WCPFC22	<u>TCC20 Outcomes</u> <u>TCC20 Summary Report</u> SC21 'WCPFC-CS21-2025'/ST-WP-10 and suppl01'' TCC21: <u>WCPFC-TCC21-2025-17B_rev1</u> – Commission CCFS Process Flow <u>WCPFC-TCC21-2025-17C_rev1</u> – Scope of Monitoring Data to Support Compliance Case Files
b. Prioritize work on issues such as a solution to identifying interactions with whale sharks and cetaceans, and on the inclusion of ROP data fields that were identified in the TCC Workplan 2022-2024 project specific task (j), and to identify any CMM that should also be prioritized in this work. (WCPFC19	Review and provide advice on improvements to the ROP minimum standard data fields for whale sharks and cetaceans – to allow for a distinction between an interaction and a possible infraction in the compliance case file system. Review and provide advice on improvements to the ROP minimum		As for 1 a. above	<i>Expected to contribute to TCC Workplan Priority Specific Task (j)</i> <i>Review and provide advice improvements to the ROP data fields, including those in ROP pre-notifications, to allow for more useful consideration in the compliance case file system and compliance review process [TCC task with assistance from Secretariat</i> <u>ROP Minimum Data Fields</u> – Species of Special Interest <u>CMM 2011-03/2024-07</u> – CMM for Protection of Cetaceans from Purse Seine Fishing

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	CC/IWG linkages & References
Summary Report para 451 (iii))	standard data fields for sea turtles and seabirds to allow for use of ROP data in the compliance case file system, taking into account overall workloads of observers. Consider and provide advice on training and capacity needs of SIDS, to implement observer programs, including training and data management.			CMM 2022-04/2024-05 – CMM for Sharks (paragraph 23) CMM 2018-04 CMM of Sea Turtles CMM 2018-03 CMM to mitigate the impact of fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on seabirds. CMM 2019-05 CMM for Mobulid Rays Includes other amended or new CCMs as required
1.b Status	Secretariat paper TCC18-2022-17 <i>Supporting paper for TCC18 consideration of potential improvements to the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields for impacts of fishing on whale sharks and cetaceans.</i>		As for 1 a. above except: SC21 recommended the IWG-ROP assess and identify specific data gaps for enhancements needed in order to improve the accuracy and consistency of shark species identification and reporting, noting lower reporting rates of oceanic whitetip sharks by observers relative to logbooks in some regions and diminishing levels of length records since the implementation of CMM 2011-04	WCPFC-TCC21-2025-17C_rev1 – Scope of Monitoring Data to Support Compliance Case Files

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			Possible areas of additional items to monitor include SC21 discussions on sea turtles (CMM 2018-04) considered reporting requirements and were to revisit this during a review of this CMM scheduled for 2026. This review could raise matters relevant for ROP-IWG consideration. SC21 Summary report , Paragraphs 90 - 106	
c. Review and where needed provide draft recommendations and advice on standards and procedures, including for debriefing, with the intention of allowing for more useful consideration of ROP data in monitoring the implementation of CMMs (CMM 2006-07 Attachment 1 2(vii))	Develop advice and draft recommendations for more useful consideration of ROP data for CCFS and Compliance Monitoring purposes. Develop advice and draft recommendations for more useful consideration of ROP data for Transshipment monitoring. Consider and provide advice on training and capacity needs of SIDS, to implement observer programs, including	Develop advice and draft recommendations on ROP data fields to support a future CMM on Crew Labour Standards, if required.	As for 1 a. above	CMM 2018-05 CMM for the Regional Observer Programme suppl CMM 2018-05-1 - WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Standards & ROP Guidelines <i>May contribute to work being undertaken by Intersessional Work on Crew Labour Standards</i> <i>Timeline will require updating now CCM 2024-04 has been adopted with implementation scheduled for 2028.</i> TCC21: WCPFC-TCC21-2025-17B rev1 – Commission CCFS Process Flow

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	training and data management			
1.c Status			Presented at TCC21 – CCMs to provide further feedback to support final recommendations at WCPFC22	SC21: ‘WCPFC-CS21-2025’/ST-WP-10 and suppl01 ” TCC21: WCPFC-TCC21-2025-17B_rev1 – Commission CCFS Process Flow
d. Also, where opportune, consider if streamlining and updating of other ROP data fields could be beneficial and develop draft recommendations and advice (CMM 2006-07 Attachment 1 2(vii))	Consider opportunities to remove redundant ROP data fields	Consider opportunities to remove redundant ROP data fields Develop advice and draft recommendations on ROP MSDF for discussion and implementation	Consider opportunities to remove redundant ROP data fields Develop advice and draft recommendations on ROP; s MSDF for discussion and implementation	CMM 2018-05 CMM for the Regional Observer Programme suppl CMM 2018-05-1 - WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Standards & ROP Guidelines
1.d Status			Presented at TCC21 - recommended WCPFC22 agree the list of ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields in the following table (TCC21-2025-17E) as amended by SC21 discussions are removed from the list of ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields	SC21: ‘WCPFC-CS21-2025’/ST-WP-10 and suppl01 TCC21: WCPFC-TCC21- 2025 – 17E List of Data Fields Recommended for Removal from the ROP MSDF

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	CC/IWG linkages & References
e. Review and where needed develop draft recommended modifications to ROP data fields for Observer transshipment monitoring. (WCPFC19 Summary Report para 466 (iv and v))	Consider the Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transshipment Monitoring - 2023 and whether any revisions are necessary to the minimum data fields for Observer transshipment monitoring. Consider the Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transshipment Monitoring - 2023 (FC-3 form) and if there are data fields that should be required to be collected by carrier vessels to complement the data to be collected by observers. Consider and provide advice on training and capacity needs of SIDS, to implement observer programs, including training and data management.	Continue to review based on implementation experience, the Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transshipment Monitoring - 2023 (ROP data fields in FC-1 and FC-2 data fields) and whether any revisions are necessary to the minimum data fields for Observer transshipment monitoring. If needed, consider the Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transshipment Monitoring - 2023 (FC-3 form) and if there are data fields that should be required to be collected by carrier vessels to complement the data to be collected by observers		Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transshipment Monitoring - 2023 – previously considered to encompasses the “ROP data fields from FC-1, FC-2 and FC-3 forms” <i>Expected to contribute to TCC Workplan Priority Specific Task (q) Review and consider updates to improve the effectiveness of CMMs related to transshipment at sea and compliance with their provisions and to work being undertaken by TS-IWG Review of CMM 2009-06.</i>
1.e Status	Agreed Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transshipment Monitoring - 2023 are to be collected		WCPFC21 tasked the ROP-IWG to include NON-FISH Transfer data fields in the	SC21: ‘WCPFC-CS21-2025’/ST-WP-10 and suppl01 ”

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	CC/IWG linkages & References
	by transshipment observers during transshipment events, and submitted to the Secretariat within 90 days of disembarkation of the observer.		MSDF (WCPFC21 Summary Report, paragraph 511) Introduced and seek CCMs for insights and comments on how to progress work on the non-fish data fields in the MSDF.at ROP-IWG meetings 5 – 7 with suggestion on recommendations and noting suggestions for inclusion in MSDF Presented at SC21 “WCPFC-SC21-2025-WP10_suppl01 – attachments 2 (no recommendations from SC21 outcome) Discussed during in-person meet prior to TCC21 () Japan took the request to lead and came up with a proposal with support from CMMs TCC21 notes as ongoing work through the ROP-IWG on the non-fish catch transfer data fields for further discussions intersessionally.	TCC21: WCPFC-TCC21-2025-17D Proposal for Data Fields for Non-fish Transfers TCC21 – 7.5.1 Japan: Proposed ROP data fields for Non-Catch Transfer

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	CC/IWG linkages & References
f. Review and where needed develop draft recommended modifications to ROP minimum data fields related to FADs, particularly monitoring of non-entangling and biodegradable FAD implementation in the future, to improve data quality in this area. (TCC18 Summary Report para 249	Consider and provide advice on current data fields in the minimum standard data fields on FADS and develop fields for recording non-entangling and biodegradable FAD information	Consider and provide advice on current data fields in the minimum standard data fields on FADS if there are FAD data fields identified that should be required to be reported by vessel operators to complement the data to be collected by observers.		ROP Minimum Data Fields – Purse seine fishery FADs CMM 2021-01 Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (paragraph 17) <i>Expected to contribute to work being undertaken by FAD Management Options IWG</i>
1.f Status				
2. Review and consider ROP observer coverage				
a. Consider ROP observer coverage taking into account other observer programmes and other means of collecting data required by the Commission (CMM 2006-07 Attachment 1 2(viii))	Consider and develop draft recommendations and advice on the potential to increase ROP observer coverage, considering the current status of ROP Observer Programmes and other means of collecting data required by the Commission.			<i>Noting that WCPFC19 endorsed the following recommendations of TCC18. (i) TCC18 noted the imbalance between the information available for monitoring compliance between the longline and purse seine fisheries and recommended that the Commission recognize the need to address this imbalance. (ii) TCC18 noted that compliance with some obligations cannot be independently verified from available data sources. TCC18 recommended that</i>

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	CC/IWG linkages & References
	Consider and provide advice on training and capacity needs of SIDS, to implement observer programs, including training and data management			WCPFC19 task the Secretariat to develop a paper, which identifies those obligations for which there is a lack of independently verifiable data, as well as potential sources of data that could provide independent verification of those obligations, for review by TCC19. (WCPFC19 Summary Report para 351(i) and (ii)) Consequently WCPFC-TCC19-2023-11 Available Data for Verifying Compliance in the Compliance Monitoring Scheme was prepared in 2023 and TCC19 recommended this be a standing and agenda item and paper (TCC19 Outcomes, paragraph 223)
2.a Status			See 4. below	
b. Provide advice on cross-endorsement procedures for transshipment observers with other RFMOs		Consider and develop draft recommendations and advice on systems and procedures necessary to operationalize the 2016 Transshipment Memorandum of Cooperation between WCPFC and CCSBT		Expected to contribute to TCC Workplan Priority Specific Task (q) Review and consider updates to improve the effectiveness of CMMs related to transshipment at sea and compliance with their provisions and to work being undertaken by TS-IWG Review of CMM 2009-06.
2.b Status		Noting the adoption of WCPFC Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transshipment Monitoring - 2023 as of 1 April		

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	CC/IWG linkages & References
		2023, it could be possible to further progress to operationalize the MoC		
3. Standards for ROP Observers				
a. Provide recommendations to the Commission regarding safety standards to be met for carrying observers (CMM 2006-07 Attachment 1 2(xvi))	Provide recommendations and advice on Observer CMM issues and matters raised at TCC or WCPFC meetings on observer safety. Review observer training for observer safety and related issues.	Provide recommendations and advice on Observer CMM issues and matters raised at TCC or WCPFC meetings on observer safety. Review observer training for observer safety and related issues.		Expected to contribute to TCC Workplan Priority Specific Task (I) Development, improvement, and implementation of the Commission's measures for observer safety and related issues. CMM 2017-03 - Conservation and Management Measure for the protection of WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Observers CMM 2018-05 CMM for the Regional Observer Programme suppl CMM 2018-05-1 - WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Standards & ROP Guidelines
3a. Status				
4. Considerations related to emerging technology				
a. Provide recommendations and advice to TCC and to the Commission regarding opportunities that ER and EM technology	Consider updates from national and subregional observer programmes, and IFOMC2023, on recent developments, and provide advice and	Consider updates from national and subregional observer programmes, and others, on recent developments, and provide advice and	Consider updates from national and subregional programmes, and others, on recent developments, and provide advice and	Expected to consider and contribute to work being undertaken by ERandEM WG

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	CC/IWG linkages & References
could provide to supporting and streamlining the work of observers	recommendations where appropriate	recommendations where appropriate.	recommendations where appropriate	
4 a Status		Review EM data requirements based on relevant CMM requirements not already covered in the ROP minimum data fields 2025-2026 (<u>WCPFC21 Outcomes and Summary Report</u> , Adopted future workplan for ERand EM, ERandEM IWG and ROP-IWG with SC and TCC review, page 195)	Work closely with ER/EM - IWG for common understanding on the usage of MSDF <u>TCC21 outcomes</u> - TCC21 supported the continuation of discussions on a pathway to addressing the issues of a comprehensive monitoring programme through a CMM but noted that the imminent focus needs to be on progressing work on the adopted work plans of the ROP-IWG and ERandEM IWG (paragraph 75)	