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Update on ROP-IWG 2025 Taskings and Workplan

WCPFC22-2025-11_Rev01¹
18 November 2025

Submitted by ROP-IWG Chair

Purpose

1. This paper reports on progress on WCPFC21 taskings prioritised for the ROP-IWG, which includes the review and updates of the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields (MSDF). The specific tasks relate to the following three areas:
 - 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);
 - removing fields that are no longer needed; and
 - considering the inclusion of new data fields for monitoring and reporting non-fish transfers (e.g. provisions, fuel, bait, personnel) as part of transshipment reporting.

Background

1. The Intersessional Working Group on the Regional Observer Programme (ROP-IWG), established in 2006, is tasked with developing the Regional Observer Programme (ROP) in accordance with the terms of reference in CMM 2006-07. The ROP-IWG was reactivated by the Commission in 2023 to.²
 - refine procedures that 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.

¹ Updates reference to WCPFC22-2025-11a to reference the issue of the Rev01 of this paper.

² Further information about the ROP-IWGs activities is provided on the WCPFC website:
<https://www.wcpfc.int/iwg-rop>

- prioritize in 2025 a comprehensive review of ROP processes, including:
 - the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields (MSDF),
 - the pre-notification process adopted at WCPFC12, and
 - the development of a standardized process for the use of ROP data in the CCFS.
2. In 2024, the Commission appointed Mr Lucas Tarapik as Chair of the ROP-IWG and endorsed the approach set out in [WCPFC21-2024-16](#) to advance these and other ROP-IWG tasks in 2025 ([WCPFC21 Summary Report](#), paragraph 581).
 3. 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.
 4. These priority taskings were the basis for ongoing intersessional work during 2025.

Progress on WCPFC21 taskings for ROP-IWG in 2025

2. 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 papers first submitted to SC21 and later considered during the [ROP-IWG7](#) in-person meeting on 23 September, held adjacent to TCC21, for further input.
5. It should be noted that during the TCC21 plenary, the ROP-IWG Chair held a Small Working Group meeting and invited CCM participants for discussions to collaboratively refine the Discussion Papers. The revised discussion papers were noted by [TCC21](#) for presentation during WCPFC22.
 - i) TCC21 noted the updated working draft of the proposed Commission CCFS Process Flow ([TCC21-2025-17B_rev1](#)), which incorporates informal discussions among ROP-IWG participants during TCC21 regarding potential amendments to the pre-notification process adopted at WCPFC12.
 - ii) TCC21 noted the working draft paper ([TCC21-2025-17C_rev1](#)) proposing updates to the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields (MSDF) to add or revise fields for better monitoring of CMMs and improving ROP data integration into the WCPFC Compliance Case File System (CCFS).
 - iii) TCC21 recommended that WCPFC22 agree that 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.
 - iv) TCC21 noted the proposal, ([TCC21-2025-17D](#)) and ongoing work through the ROP-IWG, on the non-catch transfer data fields for further discussions intersessionally.
 - v) TCC21 noted the ROP-IWG 2026 workplan for consideration by WCPFC22.
 - vi) TCC21 encouraged CCMs to provide further feedback and views on the working draft to the ROP-IWG Chair by October 10, 2025, to support ongoing refinements and for consideration

of final recommendations at WCPFC22. The ROP-IWG Chair later extended this to 18 October 2025 to facilitate additional responses.

6. Feedback during the ROP-IWG intersessional period after TCC21 is provided with proposals for further refinement from CCMs on the working draft proposals. However, noting the limited time for a proposed ROP-IWG meeting, the ROP-IWG Chair is proceeding with the final revised proposals from TCC21 to the Commission meeting.

Next steps

7. The updated working draft proposals and recommendations are provided by ROP-IWG Chair to WCPFC22. These consider outcomes from SC21 and TCC21 and intersessional discussions.
3. It is proposed the Commission agrees to the removal of the data fields from the MSDF as recommended by TCC21. ([WCPFC22-2025-11a rev1](#)) Additional feedback on working draft proposals to support further progress in 2026 is welcomed. ([WCPFC22-2025-IP04a](#), [WCPFC22-2025-IP04b](#), [WCPFC22-2025-IP04c](#))
8. I anticipate finalising the current work next year and progressing additional items in line with the 2026 workplan, which is proposed for the Commission's endorsement at WCPFC22. This workplan includes consideration of the outcomes from SC21 and TCC21. ([WCPFC22-2025-IP04 rev1](#)).

Recommendations

9. It is recommended WCPFC22:
4. Agree to the removal of redundant data fields from the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields in [WCPFC22-2025-11a rev1](#) as recommended by TCC21.
10. Endorse the workplan for intersessional progress in 2026 in [WCPFC22-2025-IP04 rev1](#).