



**Commission for the Conservation and Management of
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**Third Intersessional Working Group
Regional Observer Programme**

**17–20 March 2009
Guam, USA**

SUMMARY REPORT

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**Commission for the Conservation and Management of
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**THIRD INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP
REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME**

**17–20 March 2009
Guam, USA**

SUMMARY REPORT

AGENDA ITEM 1 — OPENING OF MEETING

1. The Chair of the Intersessional Working Group for the Regional Observer Programme (ROP-IWG), Dr Charles Karnella (USA), welcomed participants to the group's third meeting (ROP-IWG3).
2. Participants included representatives from Australia, European Union (EU), Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Japan, Republic of Korea, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Philippines, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, United States of America (USA) and Vanuatu. The Oceanic Fisheries Programme of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC-OFP) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) participated as observers. The WCPFC Secretariat also attended. A list of meeting participants is appended as Attachment A.

AGENDA ITEM 2 — APPOINTMENT OF RAPPORTEURS

3. The WCPFC Secretariat, assisted by the FFA Secretariat, provided rapporteuring services.

AGENDA ITEM 3 — ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. The agenda adopted by ROP-IWG3 is appended as Attachment B.

AGENDA ITEM 4 — CHAIR’S OVERVIEW OF ROP-IWG2/TCC4/WCPFC5 DECISIONS

5. The Chair reviewed activities that had been undertaken during 2008 to support the work of the ROP-IWG, including the group’s second meeting held in Nadi, Fiji (ROP-IWG2), the Fourth Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC4), and the Fifth Regular Session of the Commission (WCPFC5).

AGENDA ITEM 5 — STATUS REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT ON WORK UNDERTAKEN SINCE ROP-IWG2

6. The Secretariat presented WCPFC/ROP-IWG3/2009-IP02, which summarized the ROP work it has undertaken since ROP-IWG2. It noted that four Members, Cooperating Non-members and Participating Territories (CCMs) — PNG, USA, FSM and RMI — have applied for interim authorization of their observer programmes. The two former programmes have been granted interim authorization because they have provided the materials required and have each nominated a national WCPFC ROP Coordinator.

AGENDA ITEM 6 — STATUS REPORTS FROM CCMS ON THEIR PREPARATIONS TO ENGAGE IN THE ROP, AND ISSUES ARISING

7. Status reports were provided by Australia, the European Commission, Fiji, FSM, Japan, Korea, Palau, PNG, the Philippines, RMI, Solomon Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tuvalu, USA, Vanuatu and the FFA Secretariat. These status reports are appended as Attachment C.

8. The WCPFC Executive Director noted the poor response rate by CCMs to their collective commitment to provide information to the WCPFC Secretariat about their respective national observer programmes by 11 August 2008. CCMs were urged, in accordance with this earlier commitment, to provide the WCPFC Secretariat with the national observer coordinator’s contact details no later than 1 June 2009.

AGENDA ITEM 7 — ROP-IWG2, TCC4 AND WCPFC5 PRIORITIES

ROP implications

FAD closure and catch retention

9. The WCPFC Executive Director referred to the sections of Conservation and Management Measure 2008-01 (CMM 2008-01) that describe the closure of purse-seine fishing on fish aggregating devices (FADs) and the retention of bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin tuna on board purse seiner vessels. He described the implications of these requirements to the ROP.

10. One CCM proposed that the focus of ROP-IWG3’s efforts should be on FAD closure requirements. This CCM noted that catch retention was a measure that was implemented in 2010, whereas FAD closure was to be implemented in August 2009 so should be considered a higher priority. The meeting proceeded on this basis.

11. The ROP-IWG3 agreed that in relation to CMM 2008-01, ROP observers on board purse seiner vessels will carry out their usual functions with the additional roles of monitoring FAD closure and catch retention. Because the focus will be on FAD closure, the WCPFC Secretariat was requested to provide the ROP-IWG with a definition of “FAD set”, based on the definitions used by other regional fisheries management organizations and the Parties to the Nauru Agreement.

12. The WCPFC Secretariat presented WCPFC/ROP-IWG3/2009-IP02 (Rev.1), which included definitions of “FAD set” from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Parties to the Nauru Agreement 3rd Implementing Agreement draft regulations.

13. ROP-IWG3 discussed various options for defining “FAD set”, taking into account issues such as the distance of a fishing vessel from a FAD and the need for consistency with terminology used in CMM 2008-01.

14. ROP-IWG3 agreed that a “FAD set” for the period August–September 2009, be defined as “a set on a FAD is a set with a purse-seine net made by a fishing vessel that is a distance of one nautical mile or less from a FAD at the moment in which the skiff is released into the water for the purposes of that set.”

15. A small group considered the “FAD Information Record”, which contains various fields for observers to fill in during August–September 2009.

16. ROP-IWG3 agreed that the “FAD Information Record” (Attachment D) could be used during the period August–September 2009 for the ROP

17. ROP-IWG3 recommended that data fields contained in Form WCPFC PS-CM4 be included in the ROP minimum data standards for ROP observer data collection.

High seas pocket closures

18. There was no discussion on this issue.

Vessel safety checklist (VSC)

19. The WCPFC Secretariat clarified that the vessel safety checklist (VSC) presented in WCPFC/ROP-IWG2/IP-10 addresses the issue of whether an observer feels that a vessel is safe to board, and also addresses the vessel’s seaworthiness. He further clarified that the VSC is proposed as a guideline for observers, and is not a mandatory requirement.

20. ROP-IWG3 expressed general support for the use of the VSC as a guideline for observer programmes prior to placing an observer on board a vessel.

21. The WCPFC Secretariat was requested to revise the VSC in accordance with comments from ROP-IWG3. The revised VSC is appended as Attachment E.

22. ROP-IWG3 recommended that the interim minimum standard for a VSC be that a CCM should have a VSC in place, and that the VSC be used prior to an observer boarding a vessel. If a VSC is not in place, CCMs may use, as a guideline, the VSC developed at ROP-IWG3. CCMs should submit copies of their VSC to the WCPFC Secretariat as soon as possible.

Cost issues

a. ROP observer data management

23. The WCPFC Secretariat presented information regarding the estimated cost of managing the data generated by the ROP, referring to Attachment B of WCPFC5-2008/16. It advised that these cost estimates were prepared prior to the Commission's agreement on CMM 2008-01.

24. The WCPFC Secretariat noted that the three data management options presented in Attachment B of WCPFC5-2008/16 are:

- 1) use of existing national and sub-regional observer programme data management arrangements;
- 2) out-sourcing of WCPFC Secretariat functions to SPC-OFP under the existing contract for data services; and
- 3) data management centralized at the WCPFC Secretariat.

25. The Secretariat advised that WCPFC5 had allocated \$US40,000 for ROP data entry in 2009 that has been provided to the SPC-OFP.

26. In relation to the options presented at ROP-IWG2, ROP-IWG3 expressed its support for option 2 in the short term, noting the longer-term relationship between the WCPFC Secretariat and the SPC-OFP is subject to the outcome of the Independent Review of Science Structure and Function. Some CCMs noted their preference for the WCPFC Secretariat to develop its own data-handling capability in the future. ROP-IWG3 noted the desirability of either option 2 or option 3 for the long term.

27. Noting that the decisions at ROP-IWG2 had numerous implications for the ROP, the WCPFC Secretariat, in consultation with its data services provider (SPF-OFP), revised the data processing options and costs for the ROP, which were originally provided in WCPFC5-2008/16, Attachment B. ROP-IWG3 was provided information and advice (WCPFC/ROP-IWG3/2009-IP03) on the costs for data processing options at: i) SPC's headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia; ii) the WCPFC Secretariat in Pohnpei, FSM; and iii) SPC's Fiji Office. The WCPFC Secretariat explained that it would undertake additional work on these estimates and table the revisions for consideration by CCMs at the Fifth Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC5) in Pohnpei, FSM from 1–6 October 2009.

28. While commenting on potential additional needs concerning establishment costs and management oversight for both the Pohnpei and Fiji options, ROP-IWG3 noted that more time was required to consider the information provided by the Secretariat. It encouraged the Secretariat to further explore hosting and costing options for consideration at TCC5.

29. In noting the Independent Review of Science Structure and Functions that will be considered in 2009, and the stock assessment needs for observer data, some CCMs, requested the WCPFC Secretariat to make observer data

management hosting and costing options available to SC5 and the Statistics Specialist Working Group.

b. ROP observer placements

30. The WCPFC Secretariat presented WCPFC/ROP-IWG3/2009-07, which summarized the various operational costs for observer deployment and possible funding sources for each. It noted that there are primarily two funding options for observer placements: i) bilateral agreements concluded between the observer provider and the flag State for the defrayment of costs, and ii) the cost of observer placements coming from the WCPC Commission budget.

31. ROP-IWG3 recommended that it should be the responsibility of the observer provider to administer observer placement costs, which may be recovered by various means. The cost of Secretariat responsibilities, as articulated in CMM 2007-01 (e.g. for ROP audits and oversight), will be part of the WCPF Commission's annual budget.

Vessel size limitations

32. Japan pointed out that small-scale longline vessels mainly operate in the area south of 20°N, and explained the difficulty of placing an observer on some vessels that have capacity limits that are subject to domestic regulation (i.e. the capacity designated by regulation is the same as the number of crew). However, Japan further explained that in such a case, an alternative vessel of similar size that has space for an observer will be provided to ensure 5% observer coverage for longliners in the area.

33. RMI, on behalf of FFA, stated that FFA's position on this issue is clear (i.e. "size doesn't matter"). It invited other delegates that have exceptions to this position, and the FFA position on the Hybrid Approach, to clearly state their respective positions.

34. With concerns of vessel space, observer safety and economical feasibility, Chinese Taipei emphasized the difficulties of placing observers on board tuna longliners smaller than 100 gross tons; therefore, implementing an ROP for these small vessels should be deferred in accordance with paragraph 10, Annex C of CMM 2007-01.

Definitions

35. All FFA members present at IWG-ROP3 stated their understanding that the Hybrid Approach had been adopted by the Commission at WCPFC2, and reaffirmed their support for implementing the Hybrid Approach as an integral feature of the WCPFC ROP. FFA members noted that the matter of "independent and impartial", "principally", "occasionally", and "adjacent", were related to the matter of "sourcing of observers for the ROP". Solomon Islands, on behalf of FFA members stated that:

In accordance with the Hybrid Approach, the Commission has already determined that ROP observers are sourced from either the national observer programs of other Members or from existing

sub-regional programmes, except where vessels operate principally in coastal waters, but occasionally venture on to the adjacent high seas or into the waters under the jurisdiction of a neighbouring State, if they so agree. For this exception, and with the necessary approval of the neighbouring State, the vessels may carry observers of their own nationality provided those observers have been authorized by the Secretariat.

36. The Philippines stated that it understood the definitions to be as follows: “principally” to mean “greater than 50 per cent”, “occasionally” to mean “less than 50 per cent”, and “adjacent” to mean “next to”. The need for an “independent and impartial” observer will be determined by the code of conduct. An “observer trip” is one where an observer will be needed.

37. Recalling that the terms “principally”, “occasionally”, “adjacent”, and “independent and impartial” had been discussed at ROP-IWG2, ROP-IWG3 again considered definitions that would apply under the ROP. After considerable discussion it was apparent that consensus on definitions for these terms was not possible at this time.

Observer trip

38. The Chair referred to WCPFC/IWG-ROP2/2008-07, which presented background information on the issue of “observer trip”, noting that discussion at ROP-IWG3 should focus on longline vessels taking fresh fish.

39. ROP-IWG3’s recommendation on this matter is under paragraph 44.

AGENDA ITEM 8 — ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF THE ROP

Fisheries to be monitored

40. The WCPFC Secretariat introduced WCPFC/ROP-IWG3/2009-08, which presented preliminary estimates of fisheries to be monitored, prepared by the SPC-OFP using data received from CCMs.

41. Several CCMs provided additional information to the Observer Programme Coordinator.

42. It was acknowledged that the tables in WCPFC/ROP-IWG3/2009-08 represented the best available data to SPC-OFP. However, some CCMs noted that the tables could be misleading with regard to the ROP coverage levels required for different fleets and fisheries. For example, the ROP primarily covers vessels fishing beyond the areas under national jurisdiction of the flag State, but the tables include coverage by national observer programmes for vessels operating in their national waters. These CCMs also noted that the tables fail to acknowledge the significant contribution that coastal States’ national observer programmes and bilateral license conditions have made toward achieving the described coverage levels for foreign flags.

43. The updated table, which indicates the preliminary estimate of fisheries to be monitored, is appended as Attachment F.

Coverage levels

44. ROP-IWG3 recommended that all CCMs include, in Part 2 of their Annual Report to the Commission, a description of how they will achieve 5% observer coverage in each of their fisheries (except purse-seine fisheries) under the jurisdiction of the Commission. This description shall include how the effort in each fishery is determined and how observers will be placed to ensure that 5% coverage is obtained. If there are issues about placing observers (e.g. vessel size, seasonal or geographic coverage), these and any other adjustments or should be described. ROP-IWG3 recommended that appropriate changes be made to the format of the Annual Report Part 2 to accommodate this new information. CCMs present at ROP-IWG3 agreed to voluntarily provide this information in 2009.

Source of observers

45. ROP-IWG3 noted that CMM 2008-01 places significant demands on the ROP in respect of meeting the needs of flag States to source observers from national and sub-regional programmes that have received interim authorization from the WCPFC Secretariat in advance of the purse-seine FAD closure that began on August 1, 2009. Some CCMs considered that their purse-seine vessels may use observers from their own national observer programmes to meet this need, particularly with regard to high seas fishing operations. Other CCMs considered that the Hybrid Approach, which has been adopted by the Commission, requires the use of observers from the programmes of other CCMs or from existing sub-regional programmes, except where vessels operate principally in coastal waters, but occasionally venture onto the adjacent high seas or into the waters under the jurisdiction of a neighboring State, if they so agree.

46. The Philippines stated that although it is preparing to train national observers, it will also source some of its observers from other member countries on the understanding that these observers are willing to accept on-board accommodation standards acceptable to vessel crew.

47. ROP-IWG3 was unable to reach consensus on the source of observers for longline fleets. Some CCMs maintained that the Hybrid Approach required that observers be sourced from the other CCMs' authorized programmes or from existing sub-regional programmes, except where vessels operate principally in coastal waters, but occasionally venture on to the adjacent high seas or into the waters under the jurisdiction of a neighboring State, if they so agree. Other CCMs maintained that their national observer programmes will be the source of observers to meet the coverage requirements for these fleets as agreed to by the Commission.

Cadre of observers

48. The WCPFC Executive Director presented WCPFC/ROP-IWG3/2009-09 and provided background for this issue. He invited CCMs to provide suggestions of circumstances when the cadre of observers could be used, noting that they may be employed in auditing national observer programmes. The Executive Director advised that the Commission has provided the Secretariat with \$US30,000 in 2009 for the cadre of observers.

49. The USA expressed concern that the issue of observer compensation for Commission-deployed observers should not act as a barrier to the full participation called for in Article 28.6(b).

50. While there was support for the use by the Secretariat of a cadre of observers, several CCMs expressed the need for enhanced definition on how it will be developed.

51. ROP-IWG3 has:

- a) tasked the WCPFC Secretariat to prepare a scoping document for the cadre of observers, including guidelines, for consideration at TCC5 and the Commission; and
- b) agreed that the Secretariat should use the funds provided for this purpose in 2009 to support the Observer Programme Coordinator's work on interim authorizations.

Observer and observer trainer qualifications

52. The WCPFC Secretariat introduced the issue of observer and observer trainer qualifications, and requested ROP-IWG3 to propose minimum standards for observer trainers.

53. ROP-IWG3 recommended that the interim standard for observer trainers is that CCMs will use existing national and sub-regional training standards. CCMs will develop trainer qualifications, available for review by the WCPFC Secretariat.

54. The ROP shall, in collaboration with existing national and sub-regional observer programmes, produce guidelines for the qualifications of observer trainers, which may be used as a guide for national and sub-regional programmes training ROP observers.

Standardized procedures for deploying ROP observers

55. The WCPFC Secretariat presented WCPFC/ROP-IWG3/2009-10, which listed operational matters relating to observer deployment.

56. Some CCMs expressed support for the use of these standardized procedures as minimum standard guidelines for ROP observer deployment.

57. ROP-IWG3 recommended that the interim standard for deploying ROP observers is that CCMs shall use existing deployment procedures in place for their national and sub-regional programmes. CCMs will develop these procedures, and make them available for review by the Secretariat.

58. The ROP, in collaboration with existing national and sub-regional observer programmes, shall produce guidelines for placing observers, which may be used as a guide for national and sub-regional programmes.

Authorization of debriefers and requirements of debriefing

59. The WCPFC Secretariat advised that ROP-IWG2 had not adopted a minimum standard for observer debriefers.

60. ROP-IWG3 recommended that the interim standard for qualification of observer debriefers is that debriefers will be experienced in observer matters, and that CCMs will use existing national and sub-regional programme standards for debriefers. CCMs will prepare qualifications for a debriefer, available for review by the WCPFC Secretariat.

61. The ROP, in collaboration with existing national and sub-regional observer programmes, shall produce guidelines for the qualifications of observer debriefers, which may be used as a guide for national and sub-regional programmes training ROP observer debriefers.

Liability and insurance

62. The WCPFC Secretariat referred to WCPFC/ROP-IWG2/2008-08, which addressed the issue of liability and insurance, specifically Prof. Edgar Gold's legal analysis. It noted that ROP-IWG2 had not reached a conclusion on this issue, the intention of which is to develop a minimum standard of insurance for ROP observers.

63. ROP-IWG3 recommended that the interim standard for insurance of observers for ROP duties is that CCMs will use existing national standards for health and safety insurance. CCM providers of observers will ensure that an observer placed on board a vessel for ROP duties has health and safety insurance.

ROP workbook (forms and harmonization)

64. The WCPFC Secretariat advised that the ROP workbook is not a "manual" but a collection of forms for use by observers while on board a fishing vessel. The ROP workbook could be used by the cadre of observers in 2009 but could also be used by national observer programmes as they see fit.

65. ROP-IWG3 agreed that each CCM national observer programme and sub-regional observer programmes will provide the WCPFC Secretariat with copies of their respective observer workbooks.

Consider other means for obtaining data collected by observers and explore developing technologies for monitoring vessel operations and sampling catch

66. The WCPFC Secretariat noted that this issue was first raised at TCC2 where the possible use of video cameras and other audio-visual equipment was suggested for use in situations where deploying observers is problematic. The Secretariat has re-introduced this topic to provide CCMs with an opportunity to provide new information for ROP-IWG3's consideration.

67. ROP-IWG3 agreed that the ROP should keep under review technological and other developments relating to collecting data and information that may supplement other data collected by observers deployed under the ROP.

At-sea transshipment

68. The WCPFC Secretariat noted that the Commission has established a process for developing a CMM on transshipment monitoring, in which observers may play a significant role. It also noted that because of the nature of transshipment operations, for practical reasons more than one observer will be required to monitor transshipment operations.

69. The Chair noted the need to closely follow the development of the CMM on transshipment monitoring, and urged those involved in this process to keep in mind the proposed role of observers. Special requirements of developing States

70. The WCPFC Executive Director advised that this issue was included in the ROP-IWG agenda to encourage discussion on how this area of the Commission's work may be operationalized, particularly in relation to ways in which the Commission can assist in developing the capacity of small island States to participate in the ROP.

71. The Chair encouraged CCMs to give due consideration to potential capacity-building initiatives to support the full participation of developing States and Participating Territories in the ROP, including through activities supported under the Special Requirements Fund.

Website

72. The WCPFC Executive Director presented WCPFC/ROP-IWG3/2009-11, noting that the WCPFC Secretariat has funding in 2009 for re-developing the entire WCPFC website, including an area for the ROP. The redeveloped website, which will cater to a variety of stakeholders, will be operational in May 2009.

73. The Executive Director advised that there will be opportunities for CCMs to comment on prototypes of the redeveloped website during its preparation. CCMs will be advised when and where these prototypes will be made available for viewing.

AGENDA ITEM 9 — OTHER MATTERS

74. In response to a question from the EU regarding cross-endorsement of observers between the WCPFC and IATTC, the WCPFC Secretariat advised that it has commenced discussions with the IATTC Secretariat on this issue and will provide a report to TCC5.

AGENDA ITEM 10 — FUTURE OF THE ROP-IWG

75. The ROP-IWG has assisted the Commission in developing and implementing the Commission's observer programme. Its work has been carried out over three meetings, during which most of the major issues were addressed and resolved. As a result of this work, the ROP has become operational in this calendar year.

76. ROP-IWG3 was not able to reach agreement on costs, vessel size limitations, source of observers, and related definitions. This was not for a lack of effort. The various CCMs have strongly held views on these matters and, although there was much discussion and debate on these at the three meetings, additional work needs to be done. This work does not require additional separate meetings, and ROP-IWG3 recommends that these matters be added to the agendas of both TCC5 and WCPFC6. If those discussions do not result in a resolution, then they should provide insight on the best way to proceed.

77. The ROP-IWG sees a need to provide the Commission's Observer Programme Coordinator (OPC) with continuing support in developing and implementing the ROP, and recommends that a technical advisory group be established for this purpose. That group can assist the OPC in harmonizing the national and sub-regional programmes authorized under the ROP. Additionally, the group can assist the OPC in resolving the many technical issues that are likely to arise, particularly in the early stages of the ROP.

78. ROP-IWG3 acknowledged the considerable support provided by the WCPFC Secretariat.

79. Finally, we thank the Commission for the opportunity to assist in developing and implementing the ROP.

80. On behalf of the ROP-IWG, the WCPFC Executive Director thanked the ROP-IWG Chair for his invaluable leadership and guidance.

AGENDA ITEM 11 — ADOPTION OF SUMMARY REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SC5, TCC5 AND WCPFC6

81. This summary report was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 12 — CLOSE OF MEETING

82. The ROP-IWG3 meeting closed on Friday, 20 March 2009.



**Third Intersessional Working Group
Regional Observer Programme**

**Guam, USA
17–20 March**

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A — Participants list

Attachment B — Agenda

Attachment C — CCMs status report

Attachment D — FAD information record

Attachment E — Revised VSC guidelines

Attachment F — Preliminary estimate of fisheries to be monitored



**Regional Observer Programme
Third Intersessional Working Group**

**17–20 March 2009
Guam, USA**

PARTICIPANTS LIST

CHAIR

Dr Charles Karnella

International Fisheries Administrator
NOAA Fisheries Service
Pacific Islands Regional Office
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110
Honolulu, HI 96814
Ph: 808-944-2206
charles.karnella@noaa.gov

AUSTRALIA

Lara Santana

Senior Policy Officer
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries
and Forestry
GPO Box 858
Canberra
ACT 2600
Ph: +61-2-6272-5715
lara.santana@daff.gov.au

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Michael Quillinan

Official
200 Rue de la loi
1000 Bruxelles
Belgium
Ph: +3222962803
Michael.Quillinan@ec.europa.eu

**FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA**

Steven Retalmai

Observer Coordinator
National Oceanic Resource
Management Authority
PO Box PS 122
Palikir, Pohnpei 96941
Ph: 691-320-2700
nevetslater@hotmail.com

FIJI

Anare Raiwalui

Principal Fisheries Officer
Fisheries Department
P.O Box 2218, Government Buildings
Suva
Ph: 679-330-1066
anare.raiwalui@fisheries.gov.fj

Timoci Tavusa Mataiyasi

Observer Coordinator
Fiji Fisheries Department
Box 2218, Government Building
Suva
Ph: 679-330-1611
jmataiasi@yahoo.com.au

GUAM

Joseph D. Torres

Deputy Director
Department of Agriculture
Ph: 671-688-6643; Fax: 671-734-6569
Jdt4ag@yahoo.com

JAPAN

Takashi Koya

Director of Fisheries Negotiations
Internacional Affairs Division,
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
Ph: +81-3-3502-8459
takashi_koya@nm.maff.go.jp

Takumi Fukuda

Assistant Director
Internacional Affairs Division,
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
Ph: 81-3-3502-8459
takumi_fukuda@nm.maff.go.jp

Masaaki Nakamura

Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative
Association
2-31-1, Eitai, Koutou-Ku
Tokyo
Ph: 81-3-5646-2382
gyojyo@japantuna.or.jp

Akihiko Yatsuzuka

National Offshore Tuna Fisheries
Association of Japan
Tohan No. 3 Bldg. 1-3-1 Uchikanda,
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
Ph: 81-3-3295-3721
yatsuzuka@kinkatsukyo.or.jp

Takeshi Miwa

Far Seas Fisheries Division
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
Ph: 81-3-6744-2364
takeshi_miwa@nm.maff.go.jp

Haruo Tominaga

International Affairs Division
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
Ph: 81-3-3502-8459
haruo_tominaga@nm.maff.go.jp

Naozumi Miyabe

National Research Institute of Far Seas
Fisheries
5-7-1 Shimizu-Orido
Shizuoka
Ph: 81-54-336-6032
miyabe@fra.affrc.go.jp

Chihiro Kino

Japan Far Seas Purse Seine fishing
Association
1-14-10 Gina, chuo-ku
Tokyo
Ph: 81-3-3564-2315
japan@kaimaki.or.jp

Hiroshi Hamada

National Ocean Tuna Fishery
Association
Cope Bldg. 7F, 1-1-12 Uchikanda,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Ph: 81-3-3294-9634
h-hamada@zengyoren.jf-net.ne.jp

KOREA

Chiguk Ahn

Deputy Director
Intern'l Fisheries Organization Division
Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry
and Fisheries
88 Gwanmu-ro, Gwacheon-Si
Gyeonggi-do 427-719
Ph: 82-2-500-2429
chiguka62@yahoo.com

Doo-Hae AN

Scientist
National Fisheries Research and
Development Institute
152-1, Haeanro, Gijang-UP, Gijang-Gun
Busan 619-705
Ph: 82-51-720-2320
dhan@nfrdi.go.kr

**REPUBLIC OF THE
MARSHALL ISLANDS****Glen Joseph**

Director
Marshall Islands Marine Resources
Authority
PO Box 860
Majuro
Ph: 692-625-8262

Manasseh Avicks

National Observer and Port Sampling
Coordinator
Marshall Islands Marine Resources
Authority
P.O Box 860
Majuro
Ph: 692-625-8262
mavicks@mimra.com

Doreen deBrum

Policy and Planning Advisor
Marshall Islands Marine Resources
Authority
PO Box 860
Majuro
Ph: 692-625-8262

REPUBLIC OF PALAU**Ellender Ngirameketii**

Chief
Division of Marine Law Enforcement
PO Box 790
Koror
Ph: 680-488-5206
cdmle@palaunet.com

PAPUA NEW GUINEA**Noan Pakop**

Executive Manager-MCS
National Fisheries Authority
PO Box 2016
Port Moresby, NCD
Ph: 675-309-0436
npakop@fisheries.gov.pg

Ludwig Kumoru

Fisheries Scientist-Tuna
National Fisheries Authority
PO Box 2016
Port Moresby, NCD
Ph: 675-309-0444
lkumoru@fisheries.gov.pg

Justin Ilakini

Economist
National Fisheries Authority
PO Box 2016
Port Moresby, NCD
Ph: 675-309-0444
jilakini@fisheries.gov.pg

PHILIPPINES**Benjamin F. S. Tabios Jr.**

Asst. Director for Administrative
Services
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic
Resources
3rd Floor, PCA Bldg., Elliptical Road
Quezon City
Ph: 632-929-8390

Noel C. Barut

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic
Resources
National Fisheries Research and
Development Institute
940 Kayumanggi Bldg. I, Quezon
Avenue
Quezon City
Ph: 632-372-5063
noel_c-barut@yahoo.com

Alma C. Dickson, DFT
Fisheries Technologist
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic
Resources
3/F PCA Main Building, Elliptical Road
Dilliman, Quezon City
Ph: 632-917-835-0884
alma_dickson@yahoo.com

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Derek Suimae
Observer Coordinator
Solomon Fisheries
PO Box G13
Honiara
Ph: 677-38730
dsumimae@fisheries.gov.sb

CHINESE TAIPEI

Chi-Chao Liu
Section Chief
No.1 Yugang North 1st Road, Chien
Chen District
Kaohsiung
Ph: 886-7-823-9838
chichao@msl.f.a.gov.tw

Hong Yen Huang
hangyen@msl.f.a.gov.tw

Ding Rong Lin
dingrong@msl.f.a.gov.tw

Ke-Yang Chen
Officer
Fisheries Agency, Council of
Agriculture
2 ChaoChow Street
Taipei
Ph: 886-2-3343-6030
ckeyang@msl.f.a.gov.tw

Joseph, Chia-Chi Fu
Secretary
Overseas Fisheries Development
Council
19, Lane 113, Roosevelt Road, Sec.4
Taipei
Ph: 886-2-2738-1522 ext. 115
joseph@ofdc.org.tw

Erick HL Tsai
Chairman
Taiwan Tuna Purse Seiners Association
Ph: +886-7-8131619
eriktsai@gmail.com

Charles CP Lee
General Secretary
Taiwan Tuna Purse Seiners Association
Ph: 886-7-8131619
charles@tpps.org.tw

Chen-Hua Chuang
Ph: 886-7-8113140 (ext. 313)
chc@fongkuo.com.tw

TUVALU

Falasese Tupau
Fisheries Licensing officer
Department of Fisheries
Vaiaku
Funafuti
Ph: 688-20143
ffavms@tuvalu.tv

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Raymond Clarke
Fisheries Biologist
NOAA Fisheries Service
Pacific Islands Regional Office
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110
Honolulu, HI 96814
Ph: 808-944-2205
Raymond.Clarke@noaa.gov

Alexa Cole

Senior Enforcement Attorney
NOAA Office of General Counsel
Pacific Islands Region
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110
Honolulu, HI 96814
Ph: 808-944-2167; Fax: 808-973-2935
alexa.cole@noaa.gov

John Kelly

Observer Program Manager
NOAA/NMFS/PIR
1601 Kapiolani Blvd, Suite 1110
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96814
Ph: 808-944-2202
john.kelly@noaa.gov

Stuart “Joe” Arceneaux

Observer Training Coordinator
US Dept. Commerce, NOAA Fisheries
Service
Pacific Islands Regional Office
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110
Honolulu, HI 96814
Ph: 808-944-2216; Fax: 808- 973-2934
stuart.arceneaux@noaa.gov

Gordon Yamasaki

Fisheries Biologist
NOAA Fisheries Service
Pacific Islands Regional Office
American Samoa Field Office
Pago Pago, American Samoa
Ph: 684-633-5598 ; Fax: 684-633-1400
Gordon.yamasaki@noaa.gov

VANUATU

William Naviti

Senior Resource Manager
Fisheries Department
VMB 9045
Port Vila
Ph: 678-23119; Fax: 678-23641
wnaviti@gmail.com

OBSERVERS

**PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM
FISHERIES AGENCY**

Transform Aqorau

Deputy Director General
PO Box 629
Honiara, Solomon Islands
Ph: 677-21124; Fax: 677-23995
Transform.aqorau@ffa.int

Tim Park

Observer Programme Manager
Tim.park@ffa.int

Lara Manarangi-Trott

WCPFC Liaison Officer
lara.manarangi-trott@ffa.int

Apolosi Turaganivalu

Compliance Policy Officer
apolosi.turaganivalu@ffa.int

**SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC
COMMUNITY**

Peter Sharples

OFP-SPC
BP D5, Noumea Cedex
New Caledonia
Ph: 687-262000
peterbs@spc.int

WCPFC SECRETARIAT

Andrew Wright

Executive Director
PO Box 2356
Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941
Federated States of Micronesia
Ph: 691-320-1992; Fax: 691-320-1108
wcpfc@wcpfc.int
andrew.wright@wcpfc.int

Andrew Richards

Compliance Manager
andrew.richards@wcpfc.int

Karl Staisch

Observer Program Coordinator
karl.staisch@wcpfc.int



**Regional Observer Programme
Third Intersessional Working Group**

**Guam, USA
17–21 March 2009**

AGENDA

**WCPFC/ROP-IWG3/2009/03
14 February 2009**

- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**
- 2. APPOINTMENT OF RAPPORTEURS**
- 3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- 4. CHAIR’S OVERVIEW OF ROP-IWG2, TCC4 AND WCPFC5 DECISIONS**
- 5. STATUS REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT ON WORK UNDERTAKEN SINCE ROP-IWG2**
- 6. STATUS REPORTS FROM CCMS ON THEIR PREPARATION TO ENGAGE IN THE ROP AND ISSUES ARISING**
- 7. ROP-IWG2, TCC4 & WCPFC5 PRIORITIES**
 - 7.1 ROP implications:**
 - a. FAD closure**
 - b. Catch retention**
 - c. High Seas pocket closures**
 - 7.2 Vessel Safety Checklist (VSC)**
 - 7.3 Cost Issues**
 - a. ROP observer data management**
 - b. ROP observer placements**
 - 7.4 Vessel Size Limitation**
 - 7.5 Definitions**
 - a. Principally**
 - b. Occasional**

- c. **Adjacent**
 - d. **Independent & Impartial**
 - e. **Observer Trip**
- 8. **ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF ROP**
 - 8.1 **Fisheries to be monitored**
 - 8.2 **Coverage levels**
 - 8.3 **Source of observers**
 - 8.4 **Cadre of observers**
 - 8.5 **Observer and observer trainer qualifications**
 - 8.6 **Standardized procedures for deployment of ROP observers**
 - 8.7 **Authorization of debriefers and requirements of debriefing**
 - 8.8 **Liability and insurance**
 - 8.9 **ROP Workbook (Forms & Harmonization)**
 - 8.10 **Consider other means for obtaining data collected by observers and explore developing technologies for monitoring vessel operations and sampling catch**
 - 8.11 **At-sea transshipment**
 - 8.12 **Special requirements of developing States**
 - 8.13 **Website**
- 9. **OTHER MATTERS**
- 10. **FUTURE OF THE ROP-IWG**
- 11. **ADOPTION OF SUMMARY REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SC5, TCC5 AND WCPFC6**
- 12. **CLOSING OF THE MEETING**



**Third Intersessional Working Group
Regional Observer Programme**

**Nadi, Fiji
17–20 March 2009**

CCMs STATUS REPORT

Australia Status Report

The Australian observer program that is applicable to our Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) is the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) Observer Program. The AFMA Observer Program has been in operation since 1979 for foreign longliners that were operating in the AFZ at the time. The program targets 850 sea days in the ETBF each year which represents about 35% of AFMA’s overall observer program. AFMA has 25 casual observers who complete approximately 120 sea days each.

In 2008, we achieved an observer coverage of 8% of hooks in the ETBF. Observer coverage rates are determined by taking into account considerations relating to requirements under the Threat Abatement Plan for seabirds and the ability to estimate fishery wide impacts with acceptable precision.

At present, the main purpose of the domestic observer coverage is to monitor interactions with protected species such as marine turtles and seabirds, record species and size composition of the catch (including discarded species) and collect biological samples

Australia is currently working through some of the challenges that we are expecting to face in the implementation of the ROP. These challenges related to the very small proportion of time our fleet spends in high seas areas and the opportunistic nature of their operations on the high seas. These characteristics will make it difficult to determine, prior to the vessel starting a trip, which vessels should carry an observer or how many observer trips should be undertaken each year to meet the required coverage rate as determined by the Commission. In fisheries where there are very low levels of fishing on the high seas and it’s conducted on an opportunistic basis the level of observer coverage is likely to be somewhat “lumpy” with high levels in some years and low in others.

Given the limited degree of effort by Australian vessels on the high seas, we intend to utilise observers from the AFMA observer program except on occasions where

definitions (principally, occasionally, adjacent) to be agreed by the Commission will require us to source non-national observers. In those cases we will source observers under bilateral arrangements.

EC Status Report

The European Union is fully committed to the WCPFC ROP and has had a long experience of working in observer programmes of other RFMOs. The EU currently has a relatively small fleet of vessels fishing in the Pacific Ocean and has full observer coverage on its four purse seiners with observers provided under the Spanish national observer programme.

The EU has been participating in the long-running observer scheme in the Eastern Pacific under the auspices of the IATTC and we are fully prepared to participate in the cross-endorsement arrangement envisaged in accordance with paragraph 29 of CMM 2008-01.

FFA Status Report

The FFA Observer Programme Manager spoke of its two sub-regional programmes. He noted that the sub-regional programmes were two upon which the hybrid approach was based. As such it was required to utilise observers from programmes other than that of the flag of the vessel. The two programmes have been operating under the US Multilateral Treaty (USMLT) and the FSM Arrangement (FSMA) for 20 years and 14 years respectively. The programmes utilised the observers of national programmes of FFA Members. As such it called on a current pool of about 190 observers of which about half were used regularly. The USMLT and FSMA fleets were currently composed of 36 and 24 vessels respectively with 20 per cent coverage.

The FFA programme recently committed to assisting the USMLT fleet to meet its coverage obligations under CMM 2008-01.

The FFA Secretariat conducts observer training courses in collaboration with the SPC. Last year six (6) courses were run and in 2009 another six (6) courses were planned with additional Pacific courses being essentially run independently by Papua New Guinea. Last year FFA adopted the Pacific Island Regional Fisheries Observer (PIRFO) accreditation standards as the regional training and accreditation standard. Part of the training in 2008 included training additional observer trainers.

FFA is currently seeking additional funding for extra training to be held this year and to fund a second position of Observer Coordinator.

The FFA Observer Programme is still waiting for nomination by an FFA Member for it to be certified by the WCPFC Secretariat.

FSM Country Statement

The Federated States of Micronesia National Observer Program is coming up to speed in meeting the ROP's requirements. Its Observer Program operates with fairly few fully trained fisheries observers, contributing to less than 5 per cent annual longline average coverage and less than 20 per cent purse seine observer coverage, both domestic and foreign.

We are currently working towards increasing the number of our observers by training and recruiting more, to at least have 50 in total towards the end of this month, March 2009. By then, our observer program will be running with its fullest during the FAD closure in August-September 2009, and just about ready for the PNA's 3IA by January 2010.

Our program is just a step away from being authorized by the ROP to engage in the ROP role, awaiting the final notification of the official liaison person from our national observer program to the ROP. So to conclude my short statement, the FSM's national observer program is just about ready.

Fiji Status Report

Fiji's National Observer Programme was established in 2002 through assistance from the Forum Fisheries Agency and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. Fiji's National Observer Programme comprises 13 trained observers and a coordinator. They are placed on board our licensed tuna longline vessels collecting data from within Fiji's national waters and also conduct port sampling at Fiji's designated fishing ports.

Apart from the National Observer Programme, Fiji's observers are also placed on board purse seiners that come under the U.S. Multilateral Treaty, coordinated by the Forum Fisheries Agency.

With regard to the Regional Observer Programme (ROP), Fiji fully supports the Hybrid Approach and is in the process of negotiating bilateral agreements with flag States whose vessels use Suva as their base. At the same time, Fiji will need an additional 15–20 observers to be trained in order to accommodate the anticipated demand from the ROP.

Once this has been established we will then go to the Commission Secretariat confirming our preparedness regarding the ROP.

Japan Status Report

Japan stated that Japan has dispatched its national observers for longliners and purse seiners to the WCPO, and discussed CMM2008-01 implementation with PNA countries to achieve 20 per cent observer coverage. Japan will soon submit its national observer program to be authorized by the Secretariat.

Philippines Status Report

For the Philippines, we consider that the function of an Observer is more on scientific data gathering, among others. After conducting a series of consultative meeting with the private sector, we have drawn up the standard requirements for observers.

These are the following:

- Bachelor's degree in natural sciences (preferably B.S. Fisheries and Marine Biology)
- One college level subject each in math and statistics
- Must be physically and mentally fit to work in any type of sea conditions.

-Adequate computer skills

They shall further undergo a 45 day training program.

We have drawn up a preliminary list of 25 employees from our national government agency, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and shall recruit 17 more new graduates for this program. From these 42 initial batch of observers shall be drawn the next batch of trainers for our subsequent batch of observers.

Papua New Guinea Status Report

Papua New Guinea (PNG) takes this opportunity to present the status on its preparations towards the implementation of the regional observer program (ROP), specifically highlighting major activities taking place in our National Observer Program (NOP) as well as a status report on the progress under taken to comply with the Commission Measure CMM 2008-01. As you will note, developments pertaining to the above reflects our response to our national requirements as well as our sub-regional and regional obligations.

Firstly, I wish to report that the size of our program has markedly increased with the current number at 127 observers. Our target is to reach 200 observers by the end of this year 2009, but depending on the demand for observers, we are prepared to further increase the numbers in order to fully and actively meet our national observer requirements, including the ROP.

With the increase in our NOP, we do not anticipate major constraints or setbacks in the implementation of the ROP, noting that PNG's 6 designated major ports would be well serviced by our observers, which normally see high level of purse seine activities in our EEZs throughout the year.

Coordination and working arrangements

Mr. Chairman, having prepared ourselves to participate in the ROP, we are also well aware of the need to coordinate and ensure that there is a working arrangement in place to effectively expedite the responsibilities of our observer arrangements. As you are aware, the management and administrative functions are centrally based in Port Moresby at the National Fisheries Authority (NFA). We have Port Coordinators who are senior observers located at the designated ports around the country whose principal responsibilities entail coordinating observer placement on vessels, facilitate briefing mainly between the observer and the captain, including debriefing following the completion of each trip.

Addressing the priorities set by TCC4, ROP IWG2 and WCPFC5

As highlighted so far, PNG is keenly aware of the priorities with regards priorities set by TCC4, ROP IWG2, and the WCPFC5. In response to these priorities, PNG continues to embark on training Program with the aim of reaching 200 observers under its NOP. We like to inform that for this year 2009, we have organised for three observer trainings scheduled to be undertaken. The objective of these training programs is to have sufficient observers to cover:

- Domestic and coastal fisheries;
- Placements under the national program covering the tuna fisheries;

- Sub-regional (FFA) covering – US treaty and FSM arrangement , including the PNA Third Implementing Arrangement (3IA); and
- WCPFC Regional Observer Program (ROP) as and when required.

Actions taken to implement WCPFC CMM 2008 – 01

Mr Chairman, as you may have noted, PNG has its National Observer Program authorised by the Commission last year and therefore have Observers available for deployment to cover fishing activities of vessels during the 2 month FAD closure in PNA EEZ and the High seas respectively in August and September this year (2009).

To further strengthen our national observer capacity, PNG has proceeded to undertake the recruitment of a new Observer Program Manager at the beginning of this year to take better control of the increasing administrative and managerial responsibility of the Program in the light of increasing observer numbers spread throughout the 6 designated ports as well as meeting the requirements of the ROP.

Mr. Chairman, we are in the process of designating a permanent Observer trainer position at our National Fisheries College to be able to conduct and coordinate observer training in the country. We are increasing our current observer training duration of 5 weeks to about 8 weeks to ensure observers are well trained and have a better understanding about the fundamental requirements and knowledge as an observer as well as their roles and responsibilities. Further, our trainers have been training alongside sub-regional trainers, towards certification at the sub-regional level based on the training standards endorsed by the FFC in 2008.

Consultations with DWFN on issues related to the ROP

Mr. Chairman, being mindful of our obligations towards the ROP, PNG has been closely consulting with distant water fishing nations on how best to operate to implement measures under the CMM 2008-01, including the PNA third implementing arrangement (PNA 3IA). As part of our effort, we have recently signed an MOU with our Japanese colleagues detailing the mechanisms for observer coverage on the Japanese fleet and I am glad to report that the first 25 observer are now getting ready to observe on Japanese Purse seiners under the MOU. The MOU among other things addresses the issues of Travel, Accommodation, Observer costs placements etc. In terms of the latter, the issue of Observer costs has always been addressed through our bilateral arrangements with DWFN partners.

Data provision and management

Mr. Chairman, in order to ensure timely and efficient flow of data that is required from the observers, PNG is undertaking a facelift to its existing database and is in the process of further developing and incorporating the use of e-forms into its data reporting and information management system. We will continue to work closely with regional partners like the SPC and FFA with regards scientific data and compliance to dissemination of relevant information to assist with the effective implementation of the ROP.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, in concluding, PNG would like to reiterate that it is keenly aware of its obligations to actively participate in the ROP and it will therefore continue to make its best efforts to prepare itself well.

Tuvalu Status Report

Tuvalu has no commercial domestic fleet but it has an artisanal fleet. However, it is committed to set up a national program and to participate in the ROP. It has therefore made preparations since the ROP-IWG2 Meeting in 2008.

Preparations involve:

- Secure funds from government budget, including diverting observer levy from licensed foreign fishing vessels into the observer fee project fund;
- Reformation of the fisheries MCS Section. The reform requires government process which is slowing our preparations. Approval of the new structure includes recruiting of an Observer Program Coordinator and several more full-time observers;
- Continue participation in the SPC/FFA Observer Training Courses. It is very crucial since they have been providing training to Tuvalu. Training attachments will be provided to the Coordinator in order to enhance his knowledge;
- Tuvalu would like to thank the Secretariat for the progress work undertaken and recent developments since the ROP-IWG2 Meeting in 2008.



**Regional Observer Programme
Third Intersessional Working Group**

**Guam, USA
17–21 March 2009**

FAD INFORMATION RECORD



FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE (FAD) INFORMATION RECORD

**INTERIM
FORM
PS-4**

WCPFC March 2009 - version 3

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| OBSERVER NAME | VESSEL NAME | VESSEL IRCS or WIN # | OBSERVER TRIP ID NUMBER | PAGE OF |
|---------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------|

| Date | Time | Latitude | | | Longitude | | | How detected | FAD materials | | Assoc. electronics | | Origin of FAD | FAD Activity | ESTIMATED SIZE <i>(simple diagram if it helps)</i> |
|---------|------|----------|---------|-----|-----------|---------|-----|--------------|----------------------------|--------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---|
| | | DD° | MM.MMM' | N/S | DDD° | MM.MMM' | E/W | | code | anchor | code | identification | | | |
| | | ° | ' | | ° | ' | | | Y / N <i>circle one</i> | | | | | | |
| Comment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Date | Time | Latitude | | | Longitude | | | How detected | FAD materials | | Assoc. electronics | | Origin of FAD | FAD Activity | ESTIMATED SIZE <i>(simple diagram if it helps)</i> |
|---------|------|----------|---------|-----|-----------|---------|-----|--------------|----------------------------|--------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---|
| | | DD° | MM.MMM' | N/S | DDD° | MM.MMM' | E/W | | code | anchor | code | identification | | | |
| | | ° | ' | | ° | ' | | | Y / N <i>circle one</i> | | | | | | |
| Comment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Date | Time | Latitude | | | Longitude | | | How detected | FAD materials | | Assoc. electronics | | Origin of FAD | FAD Activity | ESTIMATED SIZE <i>(simple diagram if it helps)</i> |
|---------|------|----------|---------|-----|-----------|---------|-----|--------------|----------------------------|--------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---|
| | | DD° | MM.MMM' | N/S | DDD° | MM.MMM' | E/W | | code | anchor | code | identification | | | |
| | | ° | ' | | ° | ' | | | Y / N <i>circle one</i> | | | | | | |
| Comment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
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| | |
|--|--|

| How FAD is Detected | FAD Main Materials | Electronics associated with FAD | Origin of FAD | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| 1 Seen from vessel by crew 2 Helicopter report 3 Found using vessel radio buoy 4 Bird radar 5 Sonar / depth sounder 6 Information from other vessel 7 Anchored (GPS) 8 Marked with GPS buoy 9 Navigation Radar 10 Lights 11 Flock of Birds sighted from vessel 12 Discovered in pursed net 13 Being deployed (so not detected) 14 Other (please specify in comments) 20 Unknown | 1 Logs / trees / branches 2 Timber / planks / pallets / spools 3 PVC or plastic tubing 4 Plastic drums 5 Plastic sheeting 6 Metal drums (i.e 44gal) 7 Philippines design drum FAD 8 Bamboo / cane 9 Floats / corks 10 Floating animal (dead) 11 Floating animal (alive) (circle "Y" for <u>Y</u> es or "N" for <u>N</u> o to show if FAD is anchored or not) 20 Unknown (describe in comments) | 1 Radio buoy (with identification) 2 Radio buoy - unidentified 3 GPS buoy (with identification) 4 GPS buoy - unidentified 5 Sounder buoy (with identification) 6 Sounder buoy - unidentified 7 Light buoy 8 Other (describe) (record all available identification characers) 20 Unknown (describe in comments) | 1 Your vessel 2 Other vessel's - with permission 3 Other vessel's - without permission 4 Drifting and found by your vessel 5 Deployed by FAD auxillary vessel 6 Other (describe in comments) 20 Origin unknown | |

FAD INFORMATION RECORD

These data fields are for collection of data on all purse seine observer trips that take in part or all of the period 01 August 2009 through to 30 September 2009 inclusive.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Observer Name, Vessel Name - Print all names in full (e.g. observer name "John Smith", and a vessel name "Mahino no 8")</p> | <p>Electronics associated with FAD (assoc. Electronics) - codes Use this column to record whether any electronics were associated with the floating object. Most electronic instruments used with floating objects are designed to find the floating object. More modern instruments may also be monitoring the aggregation of fish beneath the vessel. Electronics associated with FAD (assoc. Electronics) - identification Also record any identification numbers (ID Nos) that can be seen on the instrument. If only parts of the ID No. can be seen record what can be seen, dashes for characters that are seen but not identifiable, and question marks if unsure that they are even there Example of poor ID sighting: Record 78Z-H1 [redacted] as 78Z-H1???</p> |
| <p>Vessel IRCS or WIN # Record radio signature vessel uses when contacting other vessel or shore based radios. If the vessel does not have an IRCS use the WIN # allocated by the WCPFC. The Int. Radio Call Sign (IRCS) should be the main number on hull or side of vessel. Try to confirm this before recording it.</p> | |
| <p>Observer Trip ID Number: - No. issued by the authority observer is working for.</p> | |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Page ___ of ____ : Number "FAD Information Forms" throughout the trip as Page 1, Page 2, Page 3, etc. At end of trip record the last page number after "of" on every page (e.g. if there are 10 "FAD Information Form" pages filled out) then first page will be "Page <u>1</u> of <u>10</u>", the fourth page, "Page <u>4</u> of <u>10</u>" and the last page will be "Page <u>10</u> of <u>10</u>".</p> | <p>Origin of FAD (See more notes on FAD origin codes below) Try to find out the origin of the object - how did it get to be in the water to start with? Use the code that best describes the origins of the FAD. If unable to find out where the FAD came from use the code for "unknown". If there is no suitable code for the origin use "other" and describe in the comments area. Record any additional details of the origin of the object in comments.</p> |
| <p>Date & Time. Record the time when the vessel is close enough to the object to begin collecting data. Use same date/time formats and protocols as used on other data forms for this trip. Most observer programmes record the Ship's Date and Ship's Time as used by crew. Normally observers set watches to this date and time as soon as they board the vessel.</p> | <p>Notes on FAD origin codes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The object was set adrift by the host vessel during this or a previous fishing trip. This will be the 2nd of these forms for this FAD if the FAD was deployed this trip. If from a previous trip then this information is only likely to come from the crew. 2. Other vessel's – with permission - location was given to host vessel by other owner. 3. Other vessel's – without permission - object found by host vessel without consulting owner. 4. Drifting object found - object not previously involved in fishing activity. If the object has signs of previous fishing activity, such as a flag or beeper attached, record it as: Other vessel's – without permission (origin of FAD code 3.). 5. From the host vessel company's auxillary FAD deployment vessel - set by a vessel used specifically to set FADs for other vessels in that company to fish on 6. Other – check this box if the origin of the object can be determined but no other options apply. Record the origin code 6 in the space provided and note additional details in "Comments". 20. Unknown You cannot determine the prior origin of the object. Note any extra details in the "Comments" section. |
| <p>Latitude & Longitude: Record position of FAD using Latitude and Longitude obtained by GPS. Record to 3 decimal places if possible. If not possible record 000 for decimal minutes.</p> | <p>FAD Activity Choose the code that best describes the activity that the boat is involved in with the FAD If the code chosen doesn't fully describe the activity be sure to explain more in "Comments" Activity code 2 is to be used to cover both the situations where the object is either (a) being placed in the water for the first time or (b) is being returned to the water after being taken aboard the vessel then moved to another area.</p> |
| <p>How Detected - Record the primary method used to locate the object. If object is a FAD being deployed use code 13 to show it was not located</p> | <p>Comments Write any information that may help understand the interaction with this FAD better. If a drawing or other info. is in an obs. trip journal record journal and page reference in "comments"</p> |
| <p>FAD materials - code - to record main components that make up the floating object. The most common materials used to construct the majority of floating objects are listed in the FAD material codes column on the front of this form. If there are more than one main component record the most abundant in the code field and describe the other components in the "Comments" field. If main component is not in the list use code for other and describe in "Comments". If not sure of the material, use the code for unknown and describe it if you are able.</p> | |
| <p>FAD materials - anchor - to indicate whether the floating object is an anchored object or not circle "Y" for yes or "N" for no in the FAD materials - anchor column</p> | |
| <p>Estimated size Record the width breadth and depth of the main body of the object as found or deployed. If the object has an irregular shape or is made up of multiple components, draw an imaginary box around the object and record the dimensions of the imaginary box. Use a simple diagram to help show the dimensions if this is easier to do</p> | |



WESTERN CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION
REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME
VESSEL SAFETY CHECK GUIDELINES

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|--------------------|----|--|-----|----------------------|--------------------------|
| ROP-IWG3 21/03/09 | | VESSEL INFORMATION | | | | | |
| TYPE OF VESSEL | PS | | LL | | P&L | | OTHER |
| NAME OF VESSEL | | | | | | Vessel Size (Length) | |
| FLAG STATE | | | | | | < 16 metres | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CALL SIGN OR WCPFC WIN NUMBER | | | | | | 16-25 metres | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FLAG STATE | | | | | | 26 -39 metres | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| REGISTRATION NUMBER | | | | | | 40-65 metres | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| OWNER/OPERATOR | | | | | | > 65 metres | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MASTER /CAPTAIN | | | | | | | |

VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC)

| ESSENTIAL ITEMS TO BE CHECKED | YES | NO | N/A | COMMENTS |
|--|-----|----|-----|----------|
| 1. VESSEL SURVEY DOCUMENTATION (CURRENT) | | | | |
| 2. CORRECT SIZE PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICES AVAILABLE | | | | |
| 3. APPROVED LIFE RAFT OR LIFE BOATS UNDER CURRENT SURVEY AND ADEQUATE FOR NUMBER OF CREW | | | | |
| 4. EPIRB'S (CURRENT SURVEY) | | | | |
| 5. DISTRESS SIGNALS AND FLARES | | | | |
| 6. FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT IN GOOD ORDER | | | | |
| 7. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS (CURRENT CHECKED) | | | | |
| 8. MARINE RADIO HF SSB OR SUBSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS | | | | |
| 9. NAVIGATION LIGHTS / VESSEL LIGHTS (WORKING ORDER) | | | | |
| 10. SOUND PRODUCING DEVICES OR BELL | | | | |
| ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE CHECKED | | | | |
| 11. REGISTRATION DOCUMENTATION IN ORDER | | | | |
| 12. OTHER WORK RELATED VESSELS ON BOARD THAT COULD BE UTILISED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY | | | | |
| 13. NAUTICAL CHARTS AND NAVIGATION AIDS (GPS/RADAR) | | | | |
| 14. FIRST AID EQUIPMENT | | | | |
| 15. SANITATION | | | | |
| 16. PHONE | | | | |
| 17. EMAIL/FAX | | | | |
| 18. INSURANCE FOR OBSERVER WHILST ON BOARD | | | | |
| 19. VESSEL INSURANCE | | | | |
| 20. ROOM FOR CREW AND OBSERVER TO WORK SAFELY | | | | |

VESSEL AT THE TIME OF CHECKING IS CONSIDERED TO BE NOT SUITABLE FOR AN OBSERVER BOARDING

VESSEL AT THE TIME OF CHECKING MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN OBSERVER BOARDING

NAME OF CHECKER _____

POSITION _____

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

EXPLANATION ON VSC REQUIREMENTS

The fields in this form are to be used as a guide when developing a Vessel Safety Checklist (VSC) for National Observer Programmes. If a National programme has a VSC in place then that should be used, however the fields in this form may be used to check safety, on whether an observer is safe to board the vessel.

1. VESSEL SURVEY DOCUMENTATION CURRENT Fishing Vessels and support vessels operating in the WCPFC must comply with their Flag State regulations and/or the Code of Practice for Safety. Ship surveys including condition, safety and security aspects of hull, machinery and on board safety equipment must be available to be viewed
2. CORRECT SIZE PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICE AVAILABLE Life Jackets must be approved types and in good serviceable condition, Life Jackets of suitable sizes must be readily accessible for the observer and all crew. Life jackets will not be stored away or locked in cupboards or rooms.
3. APPROVED LIFE -Life rafts must be currently in survey and be adequate to carry the amount of crew including the observer on board the vessel.
4. EPIRBS International Standard 406 MHz EPIRBS. The signal frequency (406 MHz) has been designated internationally for use only for distress. Check to see the frequency number and position of these EPIRBS, a few vessels may have the older relatively common type of 121.5/243 MHz emergency beacons, these became obsolete in late 2008
5. DISTRESS SIGNAL AND FLARES. Vessels should have on board appropriate pyrotechnics devices that will suitably operate in both day and night emergency situations
6. FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT Fire fighting must be readily available, be able to work and be currently serviceable. Note that some small vessels may only have fire extinguishers on board.
7. MOUNTED FIRE EXTINGUISHER. Fire extinguishers must be readily available and be of the correct type. Portable extinguishers require periodic maintenance therefore the last inspection date when last tested or refilled should be available. All must be currently serviceable and if possible should be checked to ensure extinguishes have not been fully or partially discharged.
8. MARINE RADIO HF SSB(WORKING ORDER) Marine SSB (Single Side Band) is a means of communications for many fishing vessels. The radio must be capable of transmitting and receiving frequencies used for emergency marine communications as agreed by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) or by the Flag State of the vessel.
9. NAVIGATION LIGHTS AND VESSEL LIGHTS Vessels must be able to display international standard navigation lights between sunset and sunrise and in conditions of reduced visibility. Internal and external vessel lighting must be fully operational. In the case of power failure, battery operated safety lights must be appropriately placed to ensure a safe exit from the vessel
10. SOUND PRODUCING SIGNALS OR BELLS Vessels must carry a sound producing device (whistle, horn, siren or bell) capable of a prolonged blast or ringing for distress signaling purposes.

11. REGISTRATION DOCUMENTATION IN ORDER Flag State Registration documentation papers must be on board and available to be viewed and must show registration number, boats name, country and port of registration.
12. OTHER WORK RELATED VESSELS Many vessels have auxiliary vessels that can be used in emergency situations. Note these.
13. NAUTICAL CHARTS AND NAVIGATION AIDS Vessel must have a set of appropriate, up to date nautical charts. Check to ensure that the Radar, GPS and any other navigational equipment is in good order and functioning.
14. FIRST AID EQUIPMENT The vessel must have adequate first aid facilities with current “use by dates” on all apparatus, drugs, dressings and other first aid paraphernalia.
15. SANITATION The vessel should have clean, well maintained sanitation and bathing facilities. Depending on the size of the vessel, observers may experience a lack of these facilities on board.
16. PHONE if the vessel has a satellite phone note the number for future reference.
17. EMAIL/FAX If the vessel has Fax or Email system note the numbers for future reference or emergencies.
18. INSURANCE FOR OBSERVERS ON BOARD - Observers must be covered by insurance before making a boarding
19. VESSEL INSURANCE – Check if vessel has insurance
20. ROOM FOR OBSERVER AND CREW TO WORK SAFELY. There must be adequate room on board the deck for the Observer and Crew to work in such a manner, so as to not hinder each other in their respective work duties.



**Regional Observer Programme
Third Intersessional Working Group**

**Guam, USA
17–21 March 2009**

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF FISHERIES TO BE MONITORED

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF FISHERIES TO BE MONITORED

| Gear Type | Flag and Sector | Catch | | Observer Coverage | | Implementation |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|--------|-------------------|-------|---|
| | | Year | Tonnes | Year | % | |
| Longline | Australia | 2007 | 4,662 | 2008 | 8.2% | Coverage to increase to 5% by end of 2012 |
| | China | 2007 | 14,855 | 2007 | 1.7% | Coverage to increase to 5% by end of 2012 |
| | Cook Islands | 2007 | 2,572 | 2007 | 0.0% | Coverage to increase to 5% by end of 2012 |
| | Federated States of Micronesia | 2007 | 1,943 | 2007 | 1.0% | Coverage to increase to 5% by end of 2012 |
| | Fiji | 2007 | 9,472 | 2006 | 1.9% | Coverage to increase to 5% by end of 2012 |
| | French Polynesia | 2007 | 4,992 | 2007 | 17.3% | Current 5%+ coverage to be maintained |
| | Japan, Coastal/Japan Offshore | 2006 | 32,591 | 2007 | 0.0% | Coverage to increase to 5% by end of 2012 |
| | Distant-water | 2006 | 33,244 | 2007 | 0.0% | Coverage to increase to 5% by end of 2012 |
| | Korea (Republic of) | 2007 | 20,305 | 2007 | 0.1% | Coverage to increase to 5% by end of 2012 |
| | New Caledonia | 2007 | 1,770 | 2007 | 2.2% | Coverage to increase to 5% by end of 2012 |
| | New Zealand | 2007 | 598 | 2006 | 2.5% | Coverage to increase to 5% by end of 2012 |
| | Papua New Guinea | 2007 | 2,987 | 2007 | 0.9% | Coverage to increase to 5% by end of 2012 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|------|---------|------|---------|---|
| | Samoa | 2007 | 3,559 | 2006 | 0.3% | Coverage to increase to 5% by end of 2012 |
| | Solomon Islands | 2007 | 267 | 2007 | 0.0% | Coverage to increase to 5% by end of 2012 |
| | Chinese Taipei, Offshore | 2007 | 24,988 | 2007 | 0.0% | Coverage to increase to 5% by end of 2012 |
| | Chinese Taipei, Distant-water | 2007 | 17,440 | 2007 | 0.0% | Coverage to increase to 5% by end of 2012 |
| | Tonga | 2007 | 861 | 2006 | 4.6% | Coverage to increase to 5% by end of 2012 |
| | United States (Hawaii) | 2007 | 6,585 | 2004 | 20/100% | Current 5%+ coverage to be maintained |
| | United States (American Samoa) | 2007 | 6,317 | 2007 | 12.0% | Coverage to increase to 5% by end of 2012 |
| | Vanuatu | 2007 | 8,572 | 2007 | 0.0% | Coverage to increase to 5% by end of 2012 |
| Pole-and-line | Japan, Offshore and Distant-water | 2006 | 142,209 | 2007 | 0.0% | Exploratory coverage by end of 2010 |
| | Solomon Islands | 2007 | 3,937 | 2007 | 0.0% | Exploratory coverage by end of 2010 |
| Purse-seine | China | 2007 | 54,941 | 2007 | 4.8% | Coverage 20% in 2009, 100% in 2010. |
| | European Union (Spain) | 2007 | 19,747 | 2007 | 100.0% | Coverage 20% in 2009, 100% in 2010. |
| | Federated States of Micronesia | 2007 | 13,497 | 2007 | 12.3% | Coverage 20% in 2009, 100% in 2010. |
| | Japan, Offshore and Distant-water | 2007 | 244,919 | 2007 | 0.0% | Coverage 20% in 2009, 100% in 2010. |
| | Kiribati | 2007 | 5,450 | 2007 | 0.0% | Coverage 20% in 2009, 100% in 2010. |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|------|---------|------|-------|--|
| | Korea (Republic of) | 2007 | 258,177 | 2007 | 1.6% | Coverage 20% in 2009, 100% in 2010. |
| | Marshall Islands | 2007 | 59,404 | 2007 | 27.6% | Current 20% + coverage to be maintained in 2009, 100% in 2010 |
| | New Zealand | 2007 | 30,562 | 2007 | 0.6% | Coverage 20% in 2009, 100% in 2010. |
| | Papua New Guinea | 2007 | 219,637 | 2007 | 17.0% | Coverage 20% in 2009, 100% in 2010. |
| | Philippines, Distant-water | 2007 | 13,720 | 2007 | 34.6% | Current 20%+ coverage to be maintained in 2009 , 100% coverage in 2010 |
| | Solomon Islands | 2007 | 17,307 | 2007 | 4.2% | Coverage 20% in 2009, 100% in 2010. |
| | Chinese Taipei | 2007 | 232,535 | 2007 | 4.0% | Coverage 20% in 2009, 100% in 2010. |
| | United States | 2007 | 72,204 | 2005 | 20.6% | Current 20%+ coverage to be maintained in 2009, 100% coverage in 2010 |
| | Vanuatu | 2007 | 67,010 | 2007 | 9.1% | Coverage 20% in 2009, 100% in 2010. |
| Troll | New Zealand | 2007 | 1,734 | 2007 | 0.0% | Exploratory coverage by end of 2010 |
| | United States | 2007 | 1,425 | 2007 | 0.0% | Exploratory coverage by end of 2010 |