



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
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Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (Hybrid)

Data Fields for Non-catch Transfers

WCPFC-TCC22-2026-24C

14 September 2026

Submitted by ROPIWG Chair

Purpose

1. This paper seeks TCC22 feedback on proposed minimum standard data fields for ROP observers to report non-catch transfers. This feedback will support further intersessional work to finalise recommendations for consideration by WCPFC23.
2. Whether CCMs should also be required to report non-catch transfers is a separate matter for consideration by the Commission.

Rational for the proposal

3. In 2025, the Commission tasked the ROPIWG to discuss adding non-fish transfers to the observer transshipment monitoring data fields.¹ Initial data fields developed during the Commission meeting were subsequently refined at ROPIWG meetings during 2026.
4. The ROPIWG supported continuing this work and recognised that, where a non-catch transfer is observed from either a carrier or catching vessel, the observer should collect the relevant information through the ROP. The Working Group also identified the need to review whether each proposed field is necessary and practicable, including possible privacy and legal concerns associated with information about persons transferred.
5. The separate question of whether vessels should also be required to report non-catch transfers, including events for which no observer information is available, forms part of the Commission's wider consideration of transshipment reporting arrangements. That question does not prevent the observer data fields being considered and, if agreed, finalised. This paper therefore seeks TCC22 guidance on the proposed data fields, particularly where views remain unresolved, to support further intersessional work and the preparation of recommendations for WCPFC23.

¹ [WCPFC21 Summary Report](#), paragraph 511

6. Implementation arrangements would be developed if the Commission agrees to introduce observer reporting of non-catch transfers. These arrangements could also take account of any complementary vessel-reporting or verification requirements agreed through other Commission processes.

Proposed definition of a non-fish transfer

7. A definition of “non-catch transfer” based on the definition of an “other transfer activity” adopted by the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)², was proposed during the ROPIWG’s work to provide a clear scope for observer reporting.³ For this purpose, a “non-catch transfer” would mean:
“a transfer of fuel, gear, materials or other supplies between fishing vessels in the Convention Area. A person who boards another vessel temporarily, solely to assist with unloading fish or other items is not considered to have been transferred between the vessels.”
8. The proposed definition is intended to support monitoring of vessel interactions at sea where no catch is transferred but other transfers occur, including transfers of personnel or supplies. Recording these would improve transparency, assist verification and reduce potential compliance queries, including where vessel-proximity information indicates that vessels have met at sea.

Proposed non-catch transfer data fields

9. Table 1 shows the proposed data fields discussed during ROPIWG meetings in 2026. Red text identifies amendments arising from these discussions. The suggestion to confirm the direction of the transfer is designed to assist where the transfer involves a tender.
10. If the Commission agrees to introduce this reporting, the proposed fields would be incorporated into a complete set of [Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transshipment Monitoring](#) that also record the relevant trip and observer details and implementation options developed.

Table 1. List of ROP observer data fields for non-catch transfers

	Carrier related data field description	Description and notes
1. Carrier (supply donor) vessel		
	Vessel name	
	IMO number	
	Flag CCM	
2. Non- <u>Catch</u> transfer information		
	Date	
	Time	UTC
	Latitude	
	Longitude	
	Transfer direction	To receiving/parent vessel or From carrier/supply donor vessel
	Goods supplied: i. Fuel (Yes/No)	

² [NPFC CMM 2025-03](#), paragraph 2 (b)

³ [ROP-IWG09-2026-04](#)

	ii. Bait (Yes/No)	
	iii. FADs or FAD materials (Yes/No)	
	iv. Passengers/Crew (Yes/No)	
	v. Waste disposal (Yes/No)	(If yes, specify the type of waste (e.g. non-biodegradable materials))
	vi. Other (specify)	
	Remarks (if needed)	

Recommendations

11. TCC22 is invited to:

- a. **provide** guidance on the proposed scope and minimum standard data fields for ROP observer reporting of non-catch transfers, particularly on matters where views remain unresolved; and
- b. **recommend** that this guidance will inform further intersessional work to finalise recommendations for consideration by WCPFC23