



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

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ANNUAL REPORT – REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME

WCPFC-TCC5-2009/07

1 September 2009

Prepared by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. Paragraph 2 of Article 28 of the WCPFC Convention states:
“The observer programme shall be coordinated by the Secretariat of the Commission, and shall be organized in a flexible manner which takes into account the nature of the fishery and other relevant factors.”
2. Paragraph 3 of CMM 2007-01 states:
“The Secretariat of the Commission shall provide an annual report to the Commission with regard to the Commission ROP and on other matters relevant to the efficient operation of the programme.”
3. Paragraph 13 of CMM 2007-01 “Role of the Secretariat” lists several Regional Observer Programme (ROP) activities that the Secretariat is required to carry out.
4. This paper reports on the development and implementation of the ROP as required by the Convention, CMM 2007-01 and the outcomes of ROP-IWG.

Regional Observer Programme – Inter-sessional Working Group

5. The summary report of the Third Session of the ROP Inter-sessional Working Group (ROP-IWG3) is tabled separately (WCPFC-TCC5-2009/IP-03).

Standards

6. The ROP-IWG has determined minimum standards to be used in the ROP. These standards have been discussed at the Scientific Committee, and Technical and Compliance Committee before being approved by the Commission. Several standards are still to be decided. The status of these various standards is presented in **Attachment 1**.

ROP Manuals and Work books

7. During the interim authorisation process several CCMs submitted their observer manuals and work books to the Secretariat, the availability of which is indicated in **Attachment 2**. For several years the FFA/SPC Pacific Island countries have developed a harmonized approach to the collection of data and

workbooks; therefore all FFA/SPC Pacific Island countries use the standard FFA/SPC work-books, manuals and guides. However, due to local conditions, domestic laws or access agreements, each FFA/SPC country may also require additional information from their observers. Over time there is potential to achieve a similar degree of harmonization of the manuals used by all national and sub-regional observer programmes that comprise the ROP.

Observer Coverage Summary for 2008 and 2009

8. Due to the lack of available longline data submitted to the data provider by national observer programmes and the delayed entry into the database of supplied information due to insufficient staff, it is difficult to determine coverage for long liners for 2008 and 2009. There has been very little coverage reported by CCMs for longline vessels in 2008. Coverage rates should be submitted by CCMs for their programmes to TCC through their respective Annual Report Part 2.

9. Purse seiner coverage for the multilateral programmes for 2008 is approximately 20 per cent. Observer coverage for other purse fleets by national programmes is difficult to determine due to a lack of necessary data to be able to assign trips to the ROP. This is not expected to pose a problem for the 2009 FAD closure period and from January 2010 when coverage will be 100 per cent. **Attachment 3** is a summary report of observer coverage during the 2009 FAD closure period based on voluntary contributions from most DWFN CCMs or observer providers.

CMM 2008-01

10. CMM 2008-01 “Conservation and Management Measure on Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean” resulted in a rapid increase in demand for observers. FFA/SPC prioritised their observer training work load during early 2009 to increase the number of Pacific Island observers trained to ROP standards. Many non-FFA/SPC CCMs also have observers trained to ROP standards.

CMM 2008-01: ROP experience during the August and September FAD closures

11. Several incidents or misunderstandings were observed or were reported to observer providers and the Secretariat by ROP observers deployed on vessels during the FAD closure period. While these are presented in **Attachment 4(a)** for information, it should be noted that it will not be possible to verify these incident reports until observers who are still at sea have been de-briefed.

12. The intention of bringing these “incidents” to the attention of CCMs now is to assist with promoting a stronger understanding of the provisions of CMM 2008-01 as it enters its second and third year of implementation. Logistical and deployment issues, requiring the attention of both vessels requiring observers and observer providers, are summarized in **Attachment 4(b)**.

Coordinating ROP activities with other RFMOs

13. Paragraph 29 of CMM 2008-01 states:

“In 2009 vessel fishing in the area described above will carry observers compliant with licensing arrangements and on the high seas will have a minimum of 20% observer coverage drawn from the Regional Observer Program. The level of coverage achieved will be monitored and reported through TCC. The Secretariat, in conjunction with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), will develop a cross-endorsement arrangement in order to allow vessels operating within IATTC and Commission areas on the same fishing trip to use the same observer.”

14. WCPFC-TCC5-2009/09 summarises discussions to date between the WCPFC Secretariat and the IATTC Secretariat to progress consideration of a cross-endorsement arrangement in order to allow vessels

operating within IATTC and Commission areas on the same fishing trip to use the same observer. This paper seeks advice and guidance from the TCC for further work on this matter.

Facilitating the use of authorized observers in the ROP

15. During the period approximately 180 observers were used to attain the coverage of fleets during the year and the 100 per cent coverage for August-September 2009. These observers came from observer programmes that had received interim authorization, and were sourced mostly from Pacific Island countries.

16. There was some confusion among CCMs in respect of paragraph 14 of CMM 2008-01 and the use of observers from the national programmes of the flag State. If there are no observers available from other CCMs then by following the procedure indicated in paragraph 14 a vessel may use an observer from its flag State's observer programme, but if the vessel is to fish within the EEZ of another coastal State, only with prior approval of that Stat's relevant national authority.

Monitoring trainers, observer training courses

17. During the period the ROP Coordinator assisted in training sessions in Federated States of Micronesia and the Philippines, and continued to offer advice to many CCMs on different aspects of observer training and the requirements of the WCPFC. A lack of funding for observer training activities remains a significant problem for the regional fisheries bodies and some observer providers.

Data and monitoring requirements of the Commission's CMMs

18. Now that data is starting to flow for the ROP, CCMs need to give priority consideration to data assimilation, administration, verification, quality assurance, security, storage and dissemination. The ROP represents a significant investment that, appropriately managed, can make a major contribution to improving information for the monitoring and management of WCPO tuna fisheries, including the assessment of the status of target and non-target stocks, and monitoring compliance with the Commission's conservation and management measures. It is important that the return on this investment be maximized by ensuring effective and efficient data administration and management.

Observers for special situations

19. The Commission allocated US\$30,000 for this item. The funds will be used to support observer trips for special purposes (e.g. contribute to the spill/grab sampling research work) and to assist with audit procedure development. The ROP-IWG3 requested that the scope of the Cadre of Observers be presented to TCC5 for discussion (**Attachment 6**).

Support staff

20. The ROP function in the Secretariat currently only consists of the Observer Programme Coordinator. With 100 per cent coverage beginning at the start of 2010 and the expected amount of data to be collected, it is time to provide for the employment of the Data Quality Officer, as has been foreshadowed (WCPFC4-2007-FAC1/12 Rev.1).

Authorise observer providers to the ROP

21. **Attachment 5** presents information regarding those observer programmes that have been authorized for inclusion in the ROP on an interim basis until June 2012. These programmes will be audited before 2012 to ensure Commission-agreed minimum standards are being applied.

Audits of Observer Programmes for the ROP

22. To date no full audits have taken place on ROP interim authorised programmes, however some procedures for audits are being developed and it is hoped the first full audits will take place in 2010 at the request of the individual programmes.

Travel/Meetings

23. The Observer Programme Coordinator participated in TCC4 (Pohnpei), WCPFC5 (Korea), ROP-IWG3 (Guam) and the SC5 (Vanuatu). He also assisted with observer training activities in the Philippines, Marshall Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Conclusion

24. The ROP is gaining momentum and several clarifications and responses are required to ensure that there is a harmonised understanding of the roles of the Secretariat, observer providers and flag States when it comes to making ROP observer placements, reporting on those placements, as well as collection, use and storage of data. There is also a need to clearly define several aspects of the FAD closure and to ensure that all fleets and observers fully understand the requirements of the CMMs of the WCPFC.

Minimum Standards for the Regional Observer Programme

Item	Agreed Minimum Standard	Status and Comments
Definitions and Scope	The words “principally”, “occasional”, “independent”, “impartial” and “observer trip” and their respective meanings in the context of the ROP have been discussed at ROP-IWG, TCC and WCPFC.	<u>Status</u> - No consensus has been reached on the meaning of the words; “principally”, “occasional”, “independent” and “impartial”. <u>Comment</u> – “Observer trip” is still to be defined for different gear types.
Manuals and Work- Books	The ROP standard for “Observer Manual/ Guidelines” will be: CCMs have and use their respective Observer Manual/Guidelines and submit copies of these to the Secretariat. Each CCM National Observer Programme and Sub-Regional Observer Programmes will provide copies of their respective Observer Workbooks to the Secretariat.	<u>Status</u> - Each national and or sub-regional observer programme continues to use its own manual and workbooks. Copies of manuals and workbooks from some CCMs were submitted to the Secretariat (Attachment 2) during the authorization process. Observer Manuals/Work-books submitted to the Secretariat are maintained as a library for the reference of all CCMs. <u>Comment</u> - Over time there is potential to achieve a significant degree of harmonization of the manuals used by programmes that comprise the ROP.
Data Fields	The standard for “Data Fields, Management, Distribution and Use” will be that CCMs will use existing data fields collected by national programmes.	<u>Status</u> - Programmes continue to use their own formats, however some programmes are reviewing the data collected by observers to include the minimum data fields required by the Commission. <u>Comment</u> – some CCMs have asked the ROP Coordinator to design forms containing the minimum data standards required to be collected when vessels are on the high seas.
Data Standards	Minimum data standards were adopted by ROP-IWG2, TCC4 and later approved at WCPFC5. Data field standards are listed in attachment H of the ROP-IWG2 Summary Report. Additional data fields for the FAD closure will be presented to the TCC5 for consideration.	<u>Status</u> - Approved minimum data standard fields are available and will be placed on the WCPFC website. <u>Comment</u> – Additional ROP minimum data standard fields for the FAD closures and monitoring were discussed at ROP-IWG3 and SC5 (refer to WCPFC-TCC5-2009/28), and if endorsed by TCC5 will be submitted to WCPFC6 for final approval.
Training and Trainers	The standard for “Observer Training” is that training programmes should be linked to the Commission’s decisions in place,	<u>Status</u> - Standards will be checked as part of the audit process <u>Comment</u> - Audit procedures to check

	<p>available for review and training programme materials provided to the Secretariat.</p> <p>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 Secretariat.</p>	<p>on training standards will be developed by the Secretariat.</p> <p><u>Status</u> - Standards will be checked as part of the audit process.</p> <p><u>Comment</u> - Audit procedures to check on standards of the trainers will be developed by the Secretariat.</p>
Code of Conduct	<p>The standard for “Code of Conduct” is that each CCM should have a Code of Conduct in place, available to each observer, available for review and if not in place, to be developed.</p>	<p><u>Status</u> - Some CCM observer programmes have submitted “Codes of Conduct” as part of the interim process of authorization.</p> <p><u>Comment</u> – Several CCMs have requested the Secretariat to assist in developing Codes of Conduct for their respective programmes.</p>
Sea-Safety	<p>The standard for “Sea - Safety” is that all ROP observers must undergo training in sea safety and emergency procedures, and that such training procedures be made available to the Secretariat.</p>	<p><u>Status</u> - Programmes that have applied for interim authorisation have confirmed that observers are trained in sea going safety to an international standard.</p> <p><u>Comment</u> - audit procedures to check on sea safety training standards will be developed by the Secretariat.</p>
Coordinating Observer Placements and the Deployment of Observers	<p>The standard for “Coordinating Placement” is that the WCPFC National Observer Programme Coordinator should be in place, there should be a system for observer placement administration and that documentation describing observer placement administration should be provided to the Secretariat.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the observer provider to administer observer placement costs and they may be recovered by various means.</p> <p>The Interim Standard for the deployment of ROP observers is that the CCMs shall use existing deployment procedures in place for their national and sub-regional programmes. CCMs will develop these procedures, available for review by the Secretariat.</p>	<p><u>Status</u> - WCPFC National ROP Coordinators have been forwarded to the Secretariat (refer Table 3)</p> <p><u>Comment</u> – Some CCM observer programmes have forwarded placement information to the Secretariat.</p> <p><u>Comment</u> - Administration of observer placement costs is occurring, however several problems have been reported in this process (Refer to Incident Report).</p> <p><u>Comment</u> - Audit measures to check on deployment procedures will be developed by the Secretariat.</p>
Briefing and De-briefing of observers	<p>The interim standard for “Briefing and De-briefing of observers” is that there is a system for briefing and de-briefing of observers in place and documentation describing briefing and de-briefing</p>	<p><u>Status</u> – Two CCMs have supplied this information.</p> <p><u>Comment</u> – The debriefing system will be checked as part of the audit procedure.</p>

	available to the Secretariat.	
Debriefers Standards for Qualification	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 Secretariat.	<u>Status</u> - Two CCMs have supplied this information. <u>Comment</u> - Qualifications will be checked as part of the audit procedure.
Equipment and Materials	The standard for “Equipment and Materials” is that observers are provided with appropriate equipment, including safety equipment.	<u>Status</u> – Status is difficult to determine <u>Comment</u> - Some national and sub-regional programmes deploying observers have not supplied minimum safety equipment. <u>Comment</u> -Checking on supply of safety equipment will be developed as part of the audit procedure.
Communications	The standard for “Communications” is that observers have access to appropriate communication facilities, including emergency communication facilities.	<u>Status</u> – Observers report that cooperation on communications has generally been good.
Measuring performance	The standard for “Measuring Performance” is a means to report on the performance of the observer programme and a means to report on the performance of individual observers as part of the annual reporting requirements established by the Commission.	<u>Status</u> – No performance has been measured as programmes have just started deploying observers for the ROP. <u>Comment</u> - Measuring performance of observers will be checked as part of the audit procedure.
Dispute settlement	The standard for “Dispute Settlement” is a dispute resolution mechanism in place, and if not in place, to be developed, and a description of the dispute resolution mechanism provided to the Secretariat	<u>Status</u> – Several dispute resolution procedures have been received by the Secretariat from CCMs. <u>Comment</u> - Many programmes do not have dispute resolution procedures in place.
Authorization Process	The Secretariat will authorize national observer programmes, rather than individual observers, and that this was consistent with the Convention text. It was noted that CMM 2007-01 states that the Secretariat will authorize observer providers.	<u>Status</u> – Seventeen (17) programmes have applied for, and have been granted Interim Authorisation. <u>Comment</u> - All programmes that have been granted interim authorization will be audited by June 2012 to gain full authorization.
Authorization of national and sub-regional observer programmes by the Secretariat	Process contained in ROP-IWG3 Para 88 (i-vii).	<u>Status</u> – Seventeen (17) programmes have applied for, and have been granted Interim Authorisation.
Role and Function of Audits/ Audit	ROP-IWG3 Para 89 -101 Audit Process contained in Para 101 (1-3)	<u>Status</u> -Interim authorised programmes will be audited by June 2012 to gain full authorization.
Observer Coverage	The ROP-IWG3 recommended that	<u>Status</u> - Because there is limited

	appropriate changes be made to the format of the Annual Report Part 2 to accommodate information regarding ROP Observer coverage. CCMs present at ROP-IWG3 agreed to voluntarily provide this information in 2009.	information in the ROP database it is difficult to determine coverage for longliners and purse seiners for 2008. <u>Comment</u> – The observer coverage rate for purse seiners from 2010 will be 100 per cent. In 2009 the target coverage rate for purse seiners is 20 per cent.
“FAD Set” for the period August/Sept 2009	“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.”	<u>Status</u> – ROP-IWG3 proposed definitions given for a “FAD Set” on an interim basis for the 2009 FAD closure. <u>Comment</u> - A definition of a “FAD Set” needs to be adopted for fishing commencing in 2010.
Vessel Safety	The interim minimum standard for a Vessel Safety Checklist (VSC) will be that a CCM should have a VSC in place, and to be used prior to an observer boarding a vessel; and if not in place, CCMs may use, as a guideline, the VSC developed at the ROP-IWG3. CCMs should submit copies of their VSC to the Secretariat as soon as possible.	<u>Status</u> – Several CCM programmes have their own Vessel Safety Checklist (VSC) format in place. These have been supplied to the Secretariat. <u>Comment</u> – Several CCM programmes have indicated they will adopt the ROP-IWG3 VSC guidelines.
Vessel Size	The implementation of the ROP for small vessels was deferred in accordance with paragraph 10, Annex C of CMM 2007-01.	<u>Status</u> - No consensus has been reached on size limitations, therefore currently there is no limit to the vessel size to take an observer on board.
Data Management Costs	Paper to be presented to TCC5	<u>Status</u> - Cost scenarios are included in WCPFC-TCC5-2009/08 [Estimated Costs of Observer Data Management Options]. <u>Comment</u> - Data cost issues as well as data entry, handling and data storage matters need to be resolved to ensure proper access to information.
Observers for Special Situations	A cadre of specialized observers drawn from existing ROP authorised national and sub-regional observer programmes will be employed by the Secretariat to address issues of special interest.	<u>Status</u> - Attachment 2 describes the roles and guidelines suggested to be used for the Cadre of Observers.
Insurance and Liability	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 make sure an observer placed on a vessel for ROP duties, has health and safety insurance.	<u>Status</u> – CCMs’ responsibility <u>Comment</u> - National standards for health and safety insurance of observers will be checked as part of the audit procedure for full authorization.

Attachment 2

Observer Programme Manuals in the ROP Library

China	Electronic Copies
FFA/ FSM Arrangement	Hard Copy and Electronic Copies (FFA/SPC Workbooks and Manuals)
FFA/US Multilateral Treaty on Fisheries	Hard Copy and Electronic Copies (FFA/SPC Workbooks and Manuals)
Federated States of Micronesia	Hard Copy and Electronic Copies (FFA/SPC Workbooks and Manuals)
Kiribati	Hard Copy and Electronic Copies (FFA/SPC Workbooks and Manuals)
Korea	Hard Copies
Marshall Islands	Hard Copy and Electronic Copies (FFA/SPC Workbooks and Manuals)
Palau	Hard Copy and Electronic Copies (FFA/SPC Workbooks and Manuals)
Papua New Guinea	Hard Copy and Electronic Copies (FFA/SPC Workbooks and Manuals)
Solomon Islands	Hard Copy and Electronic Copies (FFA/SPC Workbooks and Manuals)
Chinese Taipei	Hard Copies
Tuvalu	Hard Copy and Electronic Copies (FFA/SPC Workbooks and Manuals)
USA- Hawaii	Hard Copy and Electronic Copies
Vanuatu	Hard Copy and Electronic Copies (FFA/SPC Workbooks and Manuals)

Summary of purse seine observer coverage for the period 1 August to 31 September 2009¹

Vessel Flag	Number of Vessels	Number of Obs. placed	Vessels advised not fishing	Number of Observers Required	Observers still to board and/or notification of not fishing to be received
China	12	11	1	11	0
Chinese Taipei	32	24	8	24	0
Ecuador	7	0	7	0	0
El Salvador	2	2	0	2	0
FSM	5	5	0	5	0
Japan	36	24	12	24	0
Kiribati	3	2	1	2	0
Korea	27	24	3	24	0
Marshall Islands	6	6	0	6	0
New Zealand	4	4	0	4	0
Papua New Guinea	3	0	1	2	2
Philippines	17	12	5	12	0
Solomon Islands	1	0	1	0	0
Spain	4	1	3	1	0
Tuvalu	1	1	0	1	0
United States ²	39	33	6	33	0
Vanuatu	16	15	1	15	0
Totals	215	164	49³	166	2

¹Table compiled using information up until 25 August 2009.

²Data supplied by the FFA Secretariat (Administrator of the U.S. Multilateral Treaty Observer Programme).

³Twenty-one (21) of these vessels indicated they were in, or going to, dry dock; 19 declared they were fishing outside the 20°N-20°S closure area; 9 declared they were not intending to fish during the closure period.

4 (a) Incident reports received by the Secretariat for the 2009 FAD closure

#	Issue or difficulties reported
1	Vessels reported to be ignoring “FAD Set Closure” and are setting on “Floating Objects” associated with schools of fish.
2	Vessels reporting to observers that they have been given permission to set on FADs by local fisheries personnel.
3	Vessels given exemptions to leave port and fish until observer arrives to make boarding.
4	Fleets given exemptions to fish on FADS in waters other than the fleets /vessels’ jurisdiction.
5	Some vessels in Sub-Regional Multilateral Arrangement fishing on FADs in waters of their own national jurisdictions.
6	Vessels drifting besides FADs at night and moving away slowly with lights directed to the water to try and attract fish away from the FAD before setting early next morning.
7	Sets made in the dark hours of the morning making it impossible for observers to detect any floating objects, and then floating objects found associated with the fish in the set when light is available.
8	Lights on vessel directed to try and attract fish, including the placing of underwater lights hanging from the vessel while vessel drifts at night.
9	One observer reported the presence of savage watchdogs on the bridge (wheelhouse). The dogs were constantly aggressive and an escort was required each time the observer wanted to access the GPS and charts which he is required to do as part of his duties. This limited his ability to carry out his duties in a safe manner.
10	Vessel attempting to place observers that are not from authorised programmes.
11	Vessels setting on logs and other natural floating objects as they believe these are not man-made objects and therefore as they are natural aggregating devices they believe they are not FADs.
12	Vessels using light boats to attract fish away from FADs, and also using light boats to attract or hold free schools gathering around vessels at night.
13	Vessels not stowing gear when returning to port, or transiting through area without observers during the closure period.
14	Vessels leaving observer requirements to the last minute and then reporting unavailability of observers when they want to go to sea.
15	Vessels not setting on, but servicing, floating objects by connecting or replacing electronic equipment.

4 (b) Issues and problems requiring clarification or solutions

16	Transporting of observers - a problem to some destinations due to visa requirements and flight bookings not being available in a timely manner.
17	Observers delayed during transit to vessels because they have been given insufficient travel expenses.
18	Unclear agreements between observer providers and vessel operators on who pays for costs of observer.
19	Vessels expecting observer providers to pay all costs associated with travel to and from vessel, resulting in delays in providing observers, as provider has no funds available to accommodate this type of arrangement.
20	Observers being asked to transfer from one vessel to another at sea do not have adequate data collection forms to do extra trips.
21	Observer training requests increased but little or no funding available for training in most CCMs or

	regional bodies.
22	Vessels sourcing observers from multiple providers and then cancelling arrangements with the providers at the last minute when an observer arrives from one of the providers. This inefficient use of observers can add extra costs to providers in flight cancellation fees.
23	Observers and observer provider coordinators poorly briefed on requirements of CMM 2008-01 by their national coordinators or official contacts who attended meetings on this issue and/or were sent comprehensive details about the closure period.
24	Observers not informing anyone that they have landed in a port and are either awaiting the vessel's departure to go on another trip or belatedly asking an agent at the port for return flights to be organised. Either way the observer has not informed his provider or others of his situation or his intentions.
25	Vessel setting on live whales - vessel master is unclear if this is a "FAD set" or not.
26	Requests for permission to service anchored FADs by light boats (no nets on board) during closure period due to vandalism or longline fishing activity cutting anchored FADs free, thereby causing loss of a FAD or creating a navigation hazard.
27	Vessels seeking exemptions for being at sea without observers at the beginning of period as vessels have broken down at sea and are awaiting a tow back to port or parts for at-sea repairs.
28	Two countries carrying out research requested exemptions for their research vessels to continue to carry out purse seining activities on FADS during closure period. Under CMM 2008-01 no exemptions are possible.
29	Some vessels inquired about the starting time for closure period since this is not clear in CMM 2008-01. UTC/GMT is the accepted international reporting time.
30	Under the definition of a "FAD" in CMM 2008-01 a vessel could be classed as a "FAD". Clarification is required on whether or not a vessel can set on fish that has gathered around the vessel during the night.

Observer Providers with ROP Interim Authorisation

Observer Programme	Authorization Date	Observer Coordinator Contact details ⁴
China	19 Jun. 2009	Chen Xuejian admin@tuna.org.cn
Federated States of Micronesia	01 May 2009	Steven Retalmai nevetslater@hotmail.com
FSM Arrangement	01 Jul. 2009	FFA Secretariat timothy.park@ffa.int
Japan	30 Jun. 2009	Takeshi Miwa takeshi_miwa@nm.maff.go.jp Wataru Tanoue Wataru_tanoue@nm.maff.go.jp
Kiribati	12 Jun. 2009	Tekirua Riinga tekiruar@mfmrd.gov.ki
Korea	14 Jul. 2009	Du Hae An dhan@nfrdi.go.kr
Marshall Islands	01 May 2009	Manasseh Avicks mavicks@mimra.com
Multilateral Treaties on Fisheries	01 Jul. 2009	FFA Secretariat ambrose.orianihaa@ffa.int tim.park@ffa.int
New Zealand	26 Jun. 2009	Alan Martin alan.martin@fish.govt.nz
Palau	14 Jul. 2009	Ellender Ngirameketii pirates@palaunet.com
Papua New Guinea	01 Feb. 2009	Oliver Teno oteno@fisheries.gov.pg
Philippines	29 Jul. 2009	Alma C. Dickson alma_dickson@yahoo.com
Solomon Islands	01 May 2009	Derrick Suimae dsuimae@fisheries.gov.sb
Chinese Taipei	15 Jun. 2009	Ke-Yang Chen ckeyang@msl.gov.tw
Tuvalu	23 Jul. 2009	Falasese Tupau falasese@yahoo.com
USA	07 Mar. 2009	Joe Arceneaux stuart.arceneaux@noaa.gov
Vanuatu	14 Jul. 2009	John Mahit jmahit@gmail.com

⁴ These details were correct as of 25 August 2009. Updated details are available on the WCPFC website.



OBSERVERS FOR SPECIAL SITUATIONS

Introduction

The origin of the use of a cadre of specialized observers was contained in an information paper presented to TCC2. There was limited discussion on this issue at TCC2 however the matter was raised further at WCPFC4 where the meeting adopted CMM 2007-01 containing a provision for the use of specialized observers (CCM 2007-01, para.12 (ix))

The Executive Director presented WCPFC/ROP-IWG3/2009-09 and provided background for this issue to ROP-IWG3 (Refer to the IWG3-ROP Summary Report).

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.

The ROP-IWG3:

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

Cadre of Observers

A cadre of specialized observers drawn from existing ROP authorised national and sub-regional observer programmes will be employed by the Secretariat to address issues of special interest, some of which are included in Table 1.

Table 1 – Issues of Special Interest

<p>Conducting independent observer trips, as part of a review or audit of national and sub regional observer programmes to ensure that the Commission minimum standards are being maintained.</p> <p>Data collected will also play a part in observer data quality control.</p>	<p>Specialized Observers employed for the Cadre will collect data so as it can be used as a guide, to help understand the difficulties that observers may have in collecting some information.</p> <p>The data collected will also be used as a base to assess the quality of data collected by observers from authorised programmes.</p> <p>Observers in the Cadre will also assist in highlighting commission standards that are not being maintained.</p>
<p>IUU fishing</p>	<p>Cadre of observers will assist in identifying possible IUU fishing by vessel sightings at sea and also noting vessels in ports when travelling.</p>

Transshipment at sea	Cadre of observers may be called on to carry out at-sea monitoring of vessels transshipping catch and to monitor and report on different aspects of the transshipment that will assist to develop a possible transshipment observer programme which will have differing roles to a normal observer programme.
Implementation of practice and procedures defined in the Commission CMMs, including special scientific and monitoring purposes defined by the Commission	Observers in the Cadre will be used to monitor high seas closures; FAD deployment bans; by-catch issues involving all species, but in particular, sharks, seabirds, marine mammals and turtles. They will be used to test and report on developments in possible new or improved mitigation measures and will also be asked to carry out special scientific sampling and procedures being developed for observer programmes.

Guidelines

The following guidelines and procedures will apply to the ROP Cadre of Observers.

1. All ROP observers certified by authorised national and or sub regional observer programmes are eligible to qualify as an observer for the “Cadre of Observers”.
2. The Secretariat will communicate the requirements for the use of the observers to all authorised observer providers.
3. The national and or sub regional providers observer providers will chose the best possible available observers and relay this information to the Secretariat; Chosen observers will continue to be employed by their national and sub regional observer programmes and may be called on from time to time to carry out specialized work for the Commission.
4. The selection of the observer from the list of chosen observers for specialized situations will be by the Secretariat taking into account, experience of observer, area of expertise, locale of work and availability of observer for special situations.
5. Salary levels paid by authorised national and or sub regional observer programmes will act as a minimum guide to be paid to the observer employed. Salary level paid to an observer will not be a consideration when selecting or employing observers for the ROP cadre of observers.
6. Chosen and approved observers called for duty in special situations as part of the cadre of observers will be contracted and paid by the Secretariat, and will communicate with the Secretariat on the duties and roles to be carried out.
7. The Secretariat will maintain a list of specialized observers available for special ROP work.
8. Chosen observers called on for duty as part of the cadre of observers must be available and availability must be confirmed by the observer provider at the time requested, so as to not interrupt or jeopardizes work being carried out by the national or sub regional observer programmes.
9. The provider of the observer will be kept informed on matters relating to the use of the observer and will assist where possible with travel and other administrative arrangements.
10. All travel arrangements will be paid for by the Secretary as per the guidelines, procedures and regulations of the Commission.

11. Data, images and other information collected by the observer whilst on a special situation ROP trip remains confidential and should be handled in a secure manner. Data handling protocols and procedures as described in the Commission's Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission will be applicable.
12. Additional training that may be required for special situations will be funded by the Commission
13. Briefing and Debriefing of Observers for Special situations is the responsibility of the Secretariat, including any costs involved.

Funding in 2009

WCPFC5 allocated US\$30,000 for use by the Secretariat to develop and utilize a cadre of observers in 2009. Table 2 provides information on the proposed activities for these budgeted funds in 2009.

Table 2 – Proposed activities in 2009 for the Cadre of Observers

	Item	Cost	Comment
1	Development of guidelines, procedures and list of eligible observers.	\$2000	Funds will be required to produce formats and manuals for the specialized work. A database of available observers will also be established.
2	Specialized training for selected observers on audit procedures.	\$7000	Depending on the requirements, there will need to be extra training and briefings for the selected observers.
3	Deployment of observers onto vessels for assisting with the audit of national and sub-regional programmes, as well as taking part in the spill/grab sampling project.	\$21,000	Costs of deployment and travel for approximately three (3) trips.