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**NEW CALEDONIA – ROP DATA MANAGEMENT**

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**WCPFC6-2009/DP39**  
**10 December 2009**

**Submitted by New Caledonia**

The New Caledonia delegation would like to comment on the issue of costing in relation to the observer data administration and management within the Commission.

The delegations to this year's SC and the TCC were presented several tables scaling various options for these data entry.

Following the recommendations made, the Secretariat has shortened the list of options to 3 scenarios with the following respective annual costs for data entry in full year:

- Observer Providers, FFA Secretariat and SPC: 692,000 US\$ (option 5.1)
- Observer Providers, FFA Secretariat and WCPFC Secretariat: 508,000 US\$ (option 5.3)
- Observer Providers, FFA Secretariat, SPC and WCPFC Secretariat: 637,000 US\$

The latter is a hybrid of the first two options, based on a 30%-13% sharing of entry activity between the SPC and the Secretariat respectively.

At TCC5, the Executive Director pointed out that the Secretariat's current capability to process raw data is limited.

The New Caledonian delegation believes that the difference in cost between the options should be considered in light of their respective cost-effectiveness and not on raw figures only. This is our understanding of article 13.1 of the Honolulu Convention which reads that the Commission shall, to the greatest extent possible, utilize the services of existing regional organizations, in order to carry out its functions in a cost-effective manner.

With regard to the ROP data management, the New Caledonian delegation is convinced that a high involvement of the SPC-OFP in this data management under option 5.1 would help provide the Commission with best-value data.

To initiate this process, New Caledonia is in a position to contribute voluntarily with a significant amount of 115,000 Euros to the Regional Observer Program Support Fund so as to have the SPC-OFP in New Caledonia participating in the ROP data management. We will work closely with the Secretariat to identify the fields where this contribution could be used at the best in the mutual interest of both the WCPFC and New Caledonia.

Moreover, New Caledonia is ready for making a similar voluntary contribution on a longer term to ensure that the Commission manage the ROP data efficiently through a constant level of involvement of the SPC-OFP in Noumea.

In recognition of recommendations stated in several WCPFC-FAC papers, notably 2009-FAC3/06, this strong and active participation of New Caledonia to support the work of the WCPFC derives from a voluntary approach of its government in accordance with the policy initiated by France.