



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
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POTENTIAL FOR THE USE OF PORT COORDINATORS

WCPFC-TCC9-2013-16

30 August 2013

Paper by the WCPFC Secretariat

This proposal was previously circulated to CCMs as WCPFC Circular 2013/53

**TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS AND
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES**

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Potential for the use of Port Coordinators in the WCPO

Dear All,

Please find enclosed a paper prepared as requested on the potential use of Port Coordinators in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. The paper draws heavily on the IATTC experience and is provided for consideration at TCC9.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Hurry".

Professor Glenn Hurry
Executive Director

Potential for the use of Port Coordinators in the WCPO

At WCPFC9 the Executive Director was asked to investigate the potential use of Port based Commission Coordinators in the main transshipment and unloading ports in the WCPFC Convention area consistent with their application and use in IATTC. In order to provide some background to the IATTC approach to Port Coordinators (IATTC Field offices) I contacted Dr Compean the Executive Secretary of the IATTC. It should be noted that there is a difference in how both tRFMOs approach observer coordination with the IATTC program being run by IATTC.

Background Provided by Dr Compean from IATTC

Dr Compean has provided an excellent summary of how the program was established, the roles and functions of these officers, their location and supervision. Dr Compean's summary is as follows:

"In relation with the foundation of the field offices there is not a resolution or recommendation because at time of the 1949 Convention this was not necessary, the opening of the field offices was decided on the basis of the Director's recommendation to the Commission as is stated in the next paragraphs:

Director and staff

The Commissioners appoint a technically-competent Director who is responsible for carrying out the scientific and administrative work of the IATTC, subject to their instruction and approval. These duties include planning and carrying out scientific studies and reporting on their results, preparation of budget estimates, authorization of the disbursement of funds and accounting for expenditures, arranging for coordination of the work of the IATTC with that of other organizations and individuals when this is necessary or expedient, and performance of such other duties as the Commission might require. The Director carries out his duties with the aid of an internationally-recruited staff of scientists, technicians, and administrative personnel selected by himself on the basis of technical competence.

Headquarters and field stations

The Rules of Procedure (Appendix 5) of the IATTC state that its headquarters (meaning the headquarters of the staff) shall be in San Diego, California. Field stations are presently located in Ensenada and Mazatlan, Mexico; Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, USA; Panama and Ashotines Bay, Republic of Panama; Las Playas and Manta, Ecuador; and Cumaná, Venezuela. At various times in the history of the IATTC staff members have also been stationed in San Pedro, California, USA; Puntarenas, Costa Rica; Taboga, Republic of Panama; Guayaquil, Ecuador; Paita and Coishco, Peru; Pago Pago, American Samoa; and several locations in Japan.

Under the Antigua Convention (adopted in June 2003; entry in force June 2010) the field offices are covered by the authorization to collect information directly by the staff as is stated in several articles:

PART III

THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

ARTICLE VI. THE COMMISSION

1. The members of the Commission agree to maintain, with all its assets and liabilities, and to strengthen the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission established by the 1949 Convention.

ARTICLE VII. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

1.(i) establish a comprehensive program for data collection and monitoring which shall include such elements as the Commission determines necessary. Each member of the Commission may also maintain its own program consistent with guidelines adopted by the Commission;

2. The Commission shall maintain a staff qualified in matters pertaining to this Convention, including administrative, scientific and technical areas, under the supervision of the Director, and ensure that it shall include all personnel needed for the efficient and effective application of this Convention. The Commission should seek the most qualified staff available, and give due consideration to the importance of recruiting staff on an equitable basis to promote broad representation and participation of the members of the Commission.

ARTICLE XIII. SCIENTIFIC STAFF

The Scientific Staff shall operate under the supervision of the Director, and of the Coordinator of Scientific Research if appointed in accordance with Article XII, subparagraphs (d) and (e) of paragraph 2 of this Convention, and shall have the following functions, giving priority to tunas and tuna-like species:

(e) collect and analyze information relating to current and past conditions and trends of the populations of the fish stocks covered by this Convention;

We have already six field offices in: Manta, Ecuador; Las Playas, Ecuador; Mazatlán, México; Manzanillo, México; Panamá, Panamá; Cumaná, Venezuela; and one person based in El Salvador who in charge to visit the port of Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica for collecting information related with the landing of tuna vessels. In each country we have only one legal representative of the IATTC, included Ecuador and México, who coordinate the activities of all the personal in the offices, and are tasked with handling all the administrative functions. The field offices have the responsibility of:

Data Editing, Compilation and Related Pre- or post-processing

- Collect the logbooks from vessels not covered by the observers program
- Collect data from processors and transshippers
- Collect biological samples at local ports
- Sampling tuna landings for size distribution
- Collect tags returns and reward
- Collect longline logbooks and abstracts from raw data forms
- Compile vessel characteristics from raw data forms
- Edit and compile information from station weekly reports

Observer's supervision and other on-going ad hoc activities

- Assist with vessel registry data base.

- Assist with the observer boarding schedule
- Assist observers to board tuna vessels
- Assist observers with the port proceedings
- Assist observers with repatriation
- Conduct when necessary, error checks on observer logbooks

Since my appointment as Director, the headquarters supervision of the field offices is delegated to only one person who is responsible for oversight of field offices operations, whose personnel are supervised on a daily basis. Some of the duties of this person responsible of the field offices are:

Administration related

- Review personnel performance and recommend salary adjustments (station staff and observers) when requested
- Assist in preparation of contracts (station staff and observers) when requested,
- Review and, when necessary initiate, purchase requests for field stations as needed
- Audit/review submitted expense claims/vouchers for field station expenses
- Conduct on-site audit of station activities and compliance with policies every 12-18 months, monitoring individuals' sampling technique and performance; conduct refresher training and introduce new techniques and methods as required. Keep performance and techniques standardized across field stations as directed by science programs.

Data Collection related

- Coordinate sampling among stations
 - Length frequency
 - Vessel logbook and characteristics
 - Ad hoc sampling
 - IATTC programs
 - Programs of other agencies
 - Other information as directed
- Coordinate collection of data from processors and transshippers
- Coordinate field offices for biological sampling
- Assist with coordination of tag returns from field stations and individuals and reward payments
- Edit Length frequency samples prior to data entry
- Review data handling procedures with observers and field office data editors"

Summary of Dr Compean's comments

As can be seen from the above, these field officer positions have a long history in the IATTC and given the roles and responsibilities of these positions, they provide a valuable service in improving and

expediting the placement of observers, improving the quality and timeliness of data collection and compilation and ensuring the timely flow of information from the observer program.

In addition the staff in the field offices would work closely with the member countries and play an important liaison and support role between IATTC, the member countries and industry.

Potential Application of this approach to the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO)

The focus of the responsibilities of Port Coordinators (field officers) in the WCPFC might be different to the IATTC where there is a focus on port sampling and it has been noted by SPC a number of times that this is impractical where fish are being shipped and mixing and/or sorting of fish has taken place on board prior to transshipping. There is very real benefit to the WCPFC to work collaboratively with members to continue to improve observer reporting and debriefing and data management and timeliness. However, the advantages in this approach to the WCPFC may well be in gaining better information on the volume and type of product being transshipped or unloaded.

In the WCPO there are at least thirteen (13) ports where transshipping is occurring and of these six (6) ports Pohnpei, Majuro, Rabaul, Honiara, Tawara and Pago Pago cover the majority of direct PS vessel unloading's and transshipments. The 13 ports that could be considered to be major transshipping or off-loading ports, include Christmas Island and Tarawa, Kiribati; Majuro RMI; Honiara or Noro in the Solomon Islands; Pohnpei FSM; Rabaul and Madang and potentially Lae and Wewak in PNG; General Santos Philippines; Bangkok Thailand; Pago Pago American Samoa; Suva Fiji; and maybe one (1) port Bitung in Indonesia. In addition to this it would be useful to work with IATTC to monitor WCPFC caught off-loads into Ecuadorian ports. This is probably a reasonable estimate as the WCPO produces much more tuna than produced in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO).

In addition to the above there are improvements that could be made to the timeliness and quality of the observer data provided to the WCPFC/SPC and this type of approach could also assist with placement and debriefing of observers with the national programs. The roles and responsibilities of the staff in the WCPO would need some consideration as we have a national system of observers including placement, training and debriefing and any additional resources would need to be complimentary to existing processes. The roles and responsibilities outlined by the Director of IATTC in his response above are a useful starting point in these considerations. As the WCPFC moves forward into a more electronic and automated environment where there is electronic monitoring and reporting the roles and responsibilities of these port based officials would evolve to provide a valuable supporting role in ensuring the workability of electronic technology.

The approach that the WCPFC could take to management and recruitment of these staff could also be similar to the IATTC approach. Although the staff could be recruited and paid for by the WCPFC, they could work out of offices of the CCM's and report weekly to the national head of fisheries and to the WCPFC Port Coordinator Manager located in Pohnpei.

Benefits

Providing the Port Coordinators were complimentary to existing national programs and worked with them to continue to improve existing services and in addition concentrated on providing the improved transshipment and market information needed to verify the volumes of product transshipment, there would appear to be significant benefits that would accrue to the WCPFC from the adoption of this approach and they would be similar to those that flow to the IATTC. It would ensure that there is an improve flow of quality data and information to the Commission which would allow for better assessments and analyses. This approach would also improve information on by-catch and non-target species and particularly on the landing information on sharks and the proper recording of species taken from the fishery.

Estimated costs

The estimated cost of this program is as follows (Please note these are very preliminary):

Port Coordinators paid on local salaries but with observer experience to the debriefer level

13 Port Coordinators @ average of \$15,000 each including overheads	\$195,000 USD
1 Coordinator @ Level J approx. @ \$200,000 USD	\$200,000 USD
Total	\$380,000 USD

Suggested approach

It is suggested that members consider and evaluate this suggested approach at TCC9 and decide on advice to WCPFC10.

Professor Glenn Hurry
Executive Director
WCPFC