TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
NINTH REGULAR SESSION
26th September – 1 October 2013
Pohnpei,
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Impact of Data Deficiencies on Technical and Compliance Work.

FFA Delegation Paper

Impact of data deficiencies on technical and compliance work

SC9 has clearly laid out in its report the implications for the Commission's scientific functions of the continuing failure of CCMs to provide operational data. It is important for the Technical and Compliance Committee to provide similar information with respect to the technical and compliance work of the Commission.

Therefore FFA Members propose that the TCC should advise the Commission of the implications of the continuing failure to provide operational data, and see these implications as including the following:

i) high seas VMS data cannot be verified against operational data
ii) transhipment reporting cannot be verified
iii) the volumes of catch reported as transshipped cannot be reconciled with reported catches
iv) the quality of information for measuring the effectiveness of different mitigation methods on specific non-target species is greatly reduced
v) the WCPFC can't provide a complete set of catch and effort data for the public domain
vi) many aspects of the effectiveness of measures cannot be assessed, especially where there are spatial elements
vii) the effects of targeting shifts on catches and catch rates cannot be determined, reducing understanding of the effectiveness of measures, creating exactly the kind of uncertainty we have seen about the effectiveness of the bigeye catch limits for bigeye;
viii) some charter vessel catch attribution issues can't be resolved; and
ix) the inability to distinguish between impacts in EEZs and high seas risks transferring greater burdens to SIDS

In addition, for this session of TCC, FFA Members believe that the seriousness of these implications means that these failures should be the priority issue in all future work of the commission in assessing compliance.