



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
Tenth Regular Session
25 - 30 September 2014
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

POTENTIAL FOR THE USE OF PORT COORDINATORS – DISCUSSION PAPER

WCPFC-TCC10-2014-18

29 August 2014

1. At WCPFC9 the Executive Director was asked to investigate the potential use of Port based Commission Coordinators for the main transshipment and unloading ports in the WCPFC Convention area consistent with their application and use in IATTC. A paper was prepared and discussed at TCC9 as WCPFC-TCC9- 2013/16.
2. In early 2014, the Secretariat and NORMA met to discuss and attached is a revised paper that attempts to put the proposal more in the context of what might work in the WCPFC where the structure of the observer program is somewhat different to that in the IATTC. This discussion paper/ proposal was circulated to CCMs on 7 May 2014 as WCPFC Circular 2014/36, noting that it would be submitted to TCC for discussion.
3. A response to WCPFC Circular 2014/36 was received from the European Union, this is also attached herein (and it was also circulated to CCMs as WCPFC Circular 2014/47 on 16 June 2014).
- 4. TCC10 is invited to discuss and as appropriate make recommendations.**



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

**Circular No.: 2014/36
Date: 07 May 2014
No. pages: 09**

Potential for the Use of Port Coordinators in the WCPO

Dear All,

Please find enclosed a paper prepared jointly by WCPFC Secretariat and the National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) of the Federated States of Micronesia. Following discussion between the Secretariat and NORMA officers it was decided to revise the original paper presented to TCC9 paper to make it better reflect an approach that might work in the WCPFC.

This paper is forwarded for your review and comment and will be submitted to TCC for discussion.

Thanks,



Professor Glenn Hurry
Executive Director



POTENTIAL FOR THE USE OF PORT COORDINATORS

**Joint National Oceanic Resource Management
Authority NORMA and WCPFC Secretariat paper**

5th May 2014

Paper by the WCPFC Secretariat and
the NORMA FSM

An earlier version of this paper was circulated by the Secretariat to CCMs as
WCPFC Circular 2013/16

Through further discussion between the Secretariat and NORMA officers it was decided to revise the paper and make it more in line with what might work in the WCPFC and re-submit the concept for discussion.

Potential for the use of Port Coordinators in the WCPO

Background

At WCPFC9 the Executive Director was asked to investigate the potential use of Port based Commission Coordinators for the main transshipment and unloading ports in the WCPFC Convention area consistent with their application and use in IATTC. A paper was prepared and discussed at TCC9 as WCPFC-TCC9- 2013/16. Following recent discussion with NORMA here in FSM, the Secretariat and NORMA have resubmitted a revised paper that attempts to put the proposal more in the context of what might work in the WCPFC where the structure of the observer program is somewhat different to that in the IATTC. It is proposed that if this paper is acceptable to members we would commence in 2015 on a trial basis and then extend the concept more broadly across the WCPO.

In preparing the original paper some background to the IATTC approach to Port Coordinators (IATTC Field offices) WCPFC Secretariat contacted Dr Compean the Executive Secretary of the IATTC. The original information provided by Dr Compean is attached for background to this proposal.

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 will be different to the IATTC where IATTC has its own Observer program, and the focus is on port sampling and catch recording. SPC has noted a number of times that this is impractical where fish are being shipped and mixing and/or sorting of fish have taken place on board prior to transshipping. However, as most of this transshipping activity in the WCPFC occurs in the port of developing members and provides a real benefit to the Commission as a whole, there would be very real benefit to the WCPFC to work collaboratively with members to continue to improve observer reporting on transshipment and catches, and port monitoring.

In the WCPO there are at least thirteen (13) ports where transshipping is occurring and of these six (6) ports Pohnpei, Majuro, Rabaul, Honiara, Tarawa 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 Easter Pacific Ocean (EPO).

There is also the need to monitor nutritionally usable non-tuna bycatch species caught in the WCPO for national food-security that is being discarded or retained then landed in ports. The eight most common nutritionally usable bycatch species caught in the WCPO are: Barracudas (*Sphyraena* spp.), Dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), Rainbow runner (*Elagatis bipinnulata*), Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*), Bill fish species: black marlin (*Istiompax indica*) blue marlin (*Makaria nigricans*) striped marlin (*Kajika audax*) sail fish (*Istiophorus platypetrus*). Such monitoring of non-tuna bycatch species can provide sources of information to highlight areas for further studies and national food-security developments.

Proposed Structure of the WCPFC Program

Structure

It is proposed that the Commission would fund the establishment of a position within the domestic fisheries agencies in these main shipping locations to improve the monitoring of transshipment, the recording of transshipped catch and the return of log books and observer reports. If the Commission was to move towards a catch documentation scheme, e-Monitoring and e-Reporting these positions would also be very valuable in assisting to establish and monitor these processes.

Justification

The justification for this proposal is that most of the transshipping happens in the WCPO in the ports of developing member countries, which provides a real benefit to the Commission as a whole. However Commission members have requested that these members be rigorous in monitoring and reporting on these transshipments and that they ensure that all data from these vessels is properly recorded and delivered to the SPC in a timely fashion. For the last three meetings there has also been serious discussion on implementing a formal Port State inspection scheme consistent with the FAO Port State Measures Agreement.

Most of the WCPO fisheries agencies that are major transshipping ports have small fisheries agencies, limited capacity and small budgets that make undertaking these tasks for the Commission very difficult. There are no doubt some benefits that accrue to these countries in terms of crew expenditure and trade based repair work, but often this is negated by the increased demand on local food, fuel and services. To provide some idea of the level of transshipment activity the following is the monthly transshipments sampled in Pohnpei port for 2013.

<u>Month</u>	<u>PS sampled</u>
January	14
February	9
March	36
April	40
May	32
June	23
July	10
August	21
September	9
October	16
November	12
<u>December</u>	<u>24</u>
Total	246

Port Coordinator responsibilities in the WCPFC

The following functions are considered necessary to be undertaken by port coordinators to monitor transshipping of product. Under the current WCPFC model these functions are considered to be under-resourced in Small Island States and developing countries and therefore the activities place a strain in the limited resources available. Assistance is therefore sought by these members to conduct these activities for the broader benefit of the Commission. .

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

- assist with coordination of tuna tag returns and rewards
- assist with coordination of biological sampling and collection of biological samples
- collection of PS and LL unloading forms
- conduct shark carcass to fin ratio sampling
- Collect the logbooks from vessels not covered by the observers program
- monitor non-target catches of the eight most common bycatch species
 - Barracudas (*Sphyraena* spp.)
 - Dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*)
 - Rainbow runner (*Elagatis bipinnulata*)
 - Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*)
- Bill fish species (black marlin- *Istiompax indica*) blue marlin (*Makaria nigricans*) striped marlin (*Kajika audax*) sail fish (*Istiophorus platypterus*)
- Monitor and check transshippers manifestos,
- Check for logbooks and observer reports on transshipments,
- 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 monthly reports to SPC and WCPFC

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. 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.

Proposed implementation of the Port Coordinator program.

It is proposed that the program be implemented on a trial basis for two (2) years in 5 ports in the WCPO.

These port would be Pohnpei, (FSM), Majuro (RMI); Tarawa or Christmas Island (Kiribati); Rabual (PNG) and Honiara in the Solomon Islands (SI).

If after two years the evaluation proves that the program has been successful the Commission can then take an informed decision to extend the program to other ports in the WCPO.

Estimated costs

The estimated cost of this programme is as follows (Please note these are very preliminary): Port Coordinators engaged on local salaries but with observer experience to the debriefer level

5 Port Coordinators @ average of \$15,000 each for 2 years \$150,000 USD

Establishment costs Overheads and equipment at \$5,000 per post (one off cost) \$25,000 USD

Total \$175,000 USD

Suggested approach

It is suggested that members consider and evaluate this suggested approach at TCC10 and decide on advice to WCPFC11.

Professor Glenn
Hurry Executive
Director WCPFC

Attachment: Background information on the original TCC9 paper.

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.



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

**Circular No.: 2014/47
Date: 16 June 2014
No. pages: 3**

Comment on WCPFC Circular 2014/36 – European Union

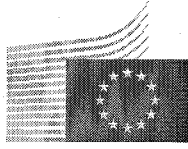
Dear All,

Please find attached a response from the European Union to WCPFC Circular 2014/36 regarding the potential for the use of Port Coordinators in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. It is circulated for information at the request of the European Union.

Thanks,



Professor Glenn Hurry
Executive Director



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND MARKETS
**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, LAW OF THE SEA AND REGIONAL FISHERIES
ORGANISATIONS**

Brussels, **12 JUN 2014**
MARE.B1/AM/Ares(2014)1917424

Prof Glenn Hurry
Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific
Fisheries Commission
Kolonias, Pohnpei 96941
Federated States of Micronesia

Subject: Potential for the Use of Port Coordinators in the WCPO (your circular 2014/36)

Dear Glenn,

Thank you for your circular by which you are seeking Members views on the possible proposal to establish port coordinators in designated major transshipping ports in the WCPO.

First of all, I consider that what is proposed is globally positive and necessary if we want to make collection of data more exhaustive and facilitate the flow of data collected by regional observers in WCPFC.

Having said that, for the proposal to be effective, it would be necessary to ensure a very good cooperation between the different observers' programmes and standardise tasks between them. It would also be essential to ensure coordination with SPC, in order to avoid any duplication of work. The possibility for SPC or the WCPFC secretariat to coordinate the work of the port coordinators should be explored (including budget implications).

Another consideration to be taken into account is the practical difficulty of sampling catches during transshipment operations, where large volumes are moved very quickly from fishing vessels to carrier vessels.

It will be important to ensure adequate support to national agencies to improve port controls operations. The EU funded program ScicoFish has so far provided capacity building support in the region, but will soon come to an end. Alternative sources of support should be therefore explored.

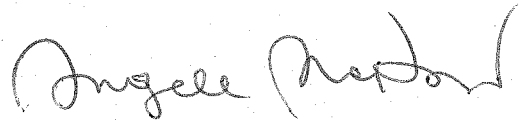
In view of the above, the EU considers that the suggested approach, to implement the program on a trial basis for two years in 5 ports is a good one. If the benefits of the program are proven, a more ambitious approach could be established in the future.

Budget implications, including cost/effectiveness of the program should also be carefully examined. I look forward to the discussion on this issue in TCC.

I would kindly ask you to circulate this letter for information to all WCPFC Members and Cooperating Non Members.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Angela Martini".

Angela Martini
Head of EU Delegation