



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

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**6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME**

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**WCPFC-TCC10-2014-RP02**  
**17 September 2014**

**1. Introduction**

- a) Paragraph 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.”
- b) 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.”
- c) Paragraph 12 of CMM 2007-01 “Role of the Secretariat” lists a number of ROP activities that the Secretariat is required to carry out.
- d) This paper reports on the different aspects of the ROP as required by the Convention, CMM 2007-01 and the outcomes of WCPFC10

**2. General**

The ROP section of the Secretariat continues to support observer and debriefer training sessions at the WCPFC training centre in FSM; assistance was also given on request to help the Philippines and Chinese Taipei with observer and debriefing training. The Secretariat ROP section continues to assist national and sub regional observer programmes on matters regarding provider and observer roles in relation to CMMs, Commission requirements, data collection and data entry requirements, monitoring of transshipment and other important observer issues. Since the last report the Secretariat ROP section has participated in observer related meetings and workshops, such as the Regional Observer Coordinators Workshop, Data Consultative Committee, and International Observer Conference, etc.

**3. Continuation of ROP Audits:**

- 3.1 Para 88 (vii) of the IWG-ROP2 report indicates there should be continuous reviews of the ROP programmes by the Secretariat to ensure standards are maintained, this is also reflected, in *(CMM 2007-01 Para 12 the role of the Secretariat will be to: coordinate ROP activities, including, inter alia: (ii) so that existing national programmes and sub-regional programmes participating in the ROP maintain standards as adopted by the Commission; to ensure WCPFC standards are in place and being maintained.*
- 3.2 The initial audits of national and sub-regional observer programmes for the implementation of the Regional Observer Programme (ROP) were completed by June 2012. A second phase of audits was agreed by WCPFC10 to commence in 2014; a schedule for the years of future audits was approved as a guide. The Secretariat ROP section has commenced the audits and the

Philippines review has been completed; Vanuatu Solomon Islands and FFA, and if time permits the USA is scheduled to be reviewed before the end of 2014.

- 3.3 A small budget each year to accommodate these reviews is required however, the current budget granted by the Commission for ROP audits is sufficient if granted on a yearly basis.

#### **4 Available Observer Data.**

- 4.1 The paper *Status of ROP Data Management*” WCPFC-SC10-2014/ST IP-03 presented at the Science Committee on data management indicates the amount of data that has been entered and also highlights possible data gaps and other problems in receiving the data for entry. (see TCC10-2014-IP05)
- 4.2 Observer data received for purse seine trips is quite high, however this does not allow for an accurate calculation on the actual number of trip undertaken which would allow for a better determination of coverage. Having the total number of trips undertaken in a period by each programme would help with determining accurate coverage, and would help in focusing efforts to obtain the data.
- 4.3 It was agreed that the Secretariat ROP should receive on a regular basis the total amount of ROP observer trips carried out by each programme on long liners, purse seiners and fish carriers. This will assist in determining observer coverage, it is also would assist SPC to determine the data they expect to receive from these trips. Whilst there has been some progress made in supplying this information, there still remains a small number of programmes who do not supply this information and ignore calls to do so.
- 4.4 It is noted in the “*Status of ROP Data Management*” paper that that some domestic-based longline fleets (not bound by ROP coverage rates) are achieving coverage better than 5%, but that some of the major longline fleets require a significant number of observer trips to achieve the ROP target coverage of 5%
- 4.5 It was agreed at WCPFC10, that a time frame for submission of observer collected data to the Secretariat or the Commission Data Provider (SPC) should normally occur within 100 days for purse seiners and 120 days for long liners. The time commences when the observer disembarks the vessel. The time frame has improved the receiving of observer data to SPC; however there are still some issues with a small number of ROP’s in following this time frame.<sup>1</sup>
- 4.6 The time frame agreement for submission of observer data was silent for observer data and reports collected on ‘Fish Carriers’ transshipping at sea, and it is recommended that observer data forms, workbooks, reports and journals gathered on fish carriers by ROP observers be sent to the Commission Secretariat within 120 days.

#### **5 Data Entry Staff “Pohnpei”**

- 5.1 The ROP Secretariat has four data entry personnel based in Pohnpei office, In addition to these data entry personnel the ROP Coordinator and the Data Quality Officer are involved regularly in offering advice and assistance to some of the Data Entry problems and question.
- 5.2 The data entered in Pohnpei will continue to be entered and compiled in secure offices for transmission to the SPC observer data base.

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<sup>1</sup> TCC9 Summary report paragraph 160: “TCC9 agreed to recommend to WCPFC10 that ROP data should be submitted to the Secretariat or SPC where possible within 100 days of the observer disembarking purse seine vessels and within 120 days of the observer disembarking longline vessels.” Adopted: WCPFC10 Summary Report, paragraph 220.

**6 Data and monitoring requirements by the ROP of the Commission's CMM 2012-04 on the protection of Whale Sharks from Purse Seine operations;**

- 6.1 Whale shark interactions between vessels in the WCPO have been monitored by Pacific observer programmes since the early 90's. In recent years the collected observer data on whale sharks has been expanded to give a more detailed account of the interactions.
- 6.2 The Commission adopted the CMM 2012-04 *Conservation and Management Measure for the protection of Whale Sharks from purse seine operations*. CMM 2012-04 was drafted and approved at WCPFC9 in 2012; however provisions of the CMM did not come into force until Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2014. Data collected by observers for 2013 shows that most vessels were applying the requirements of the CMM 2012-04 much earlier in 2013; this may be in part because of the PNA rules that predate the CMM.
- 6.3 Table 1- Available data entered for 2013 reports the number of whale sharks encounters and their fate and condition as monitored by observers for the different fleets, reported as directed by paragraph 7 of CMM 2012-01.

**Table 1- Whale Shark Encounters by Purse-seine Vessels in the WCPF Convention Area in 2013**

Vessel Flag State	Landed		Released		**Interaction with Vessel Gear Not Landed	Sighted No Interaction with Vessel Gear	Total landings Interaction Sightings for 2013
	Number	Condition*	Number	Condition*			
China	2	A0	1	A2	4	0	6
EU -Spain	1	A0	1	A2	1	1	3
Ecuador	0		0		1	0	1
Japan	2	A0 -	1	A0	27	0	29
Korea	5	A0 -	1	A2	18	3	26
Marshall Islands	7	A0	2	A1	4	0	13
	2	A2	2	A2			
			1	A3			
			3	D			
New Zealand	0		0		3	0	3
Papua New Guinea	5	A0	1	A1	19	5	29
			3	A2			
			1	D			
Philippines	0		0		1	0	1
Chinese Taipei	6	A0	2	A0	8	2	17
	1	D	3	A1			
			1	A3			
			1	D			
USA	4	A0	5	A2	2	0	7
	1	A2					
Vanuatu	1	A1	1	A1	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>		<b>37</b>		<b>88</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>136</b>

\*Note Codes used by observers to describe condition when species of special interest is landed and released are included in Attachment 1

\*\*Interaction with vessel gear indicates whale shark was not landed and was usually caught in the net and then subsequently released from net without bringing the shark on board.

## 7 Bird landing data recorded by observers for 2013

7.1 Available 2013 observer collected data indicates there were 3 birds hooked on long liners in the southern tropical Pacific; all three were deceased on landing. (1-unknown, 1 described as an Albatross and the other described as a Black Footed Albatross). There were a number of sightings and a small number of interactions when birds landed on vessels reported by observers; in all the sightings or interactions birds were described as healthy and flew away in good condition.

## 8. Turtle landings recorded by observers for 2013

8.1 Available 2013 observer data (about 40% of expected data to be received) indicates there were 133 turtle landings recorded by observers. Table 1(b) shows the number of reported landings and the condition and fate of the turtle on and after being caught. The landings on purse seiners were reported in most cases to have been brought aboard using the brail and then released on the opposite side of the vessel. A few were recorded as being tangled in the net; small numbers were only sighted when the net came aboard; in most cases reported these turtles were removed (untangled) and released. A couple of smaller turtles were reported to have been sighted tangled in the net, but they went through the power block where they were crushed.

**Table 1(b) Turtles reported landed on Longline and Purse Seine vessels 2013**

Species Common Name	Gear type	Total Number reported Landed	Condition of turtle when landed		Condition of turtle when released	
			Number Landed	Condition* Code	Number Released	Condition* Code
<b>Flat back Turtle</b>	Longline	<b>1</b>	1	A1	1	A1
	Purse seiners	<b>2</b>	2	A1	2	A1
<b>Green Turtle</b>	Longline	<b>1</b>	1	A1	1	A1
	Purse seiners	<b>28</b>	4	A0	4	A0
			16	A1	17	A1
			3	A2	5	A2
			3	A4	2	D
2	D					
<b>Hawksbill Turtle</b>	Longline	<b>0</b>		-		-
	Purse seiners	<b>28</b>	3	AO	1	AO
			15	A1	18	A1
			5	A2	3	A2
			3	A4	1	A3
2	D	5	D			
<b>Leatherback Turtle</b>	Longline	<b>2</b>	2	A1	2	A1
	Purse seiners	<b>5</b>	1	AO	1	AO
			3	A1	2	A1
			1	D	1	A2
					1	D
<b>Loggerhead Turtle</b>	Longline	<b>2</b>	1	A1	1	A1
			1	D	1	D
	Purse seiners	<b>30</b>	6	AO	3	AO
			21	A1	22	A1
			1	A2	1	A2
			1	A3	1	A3
			1	A4	3	D

<b>Olive Ridley Turtle</b>	Longline	<b>3</b>	3	D	3	D
	Purse seiners	<b>29</b>	1	AO	2	AO
			19	A1	21	A1
			4	A2	4	A2
			3	A4	2	D
2	D					
<b>Unidentified Turtle</b>	Longline	<b>2</b>	2	A1	2	AI
	Purse seiners	0				

\*Condition Codes used in the table are available in Attachment 1.

## 9. ROP Data Fields and subsequent observer training requirements

9.1 New CMMs approved by WCPFC10 that require additional data fields to be added to Commission “Observer Minimum Standard Data Fields” collected by observers.

- *CMM 2013-03, Conservation and Management Measure for WCPFC Implementation of a Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI)* (A Vessel Unique Identifier International Maritime Organisation (IMO) number or Lloyds register number has been added to the list of data fields an observer is to collect from vessels that are more than 100 GT or GRT , noting that the requirement deadline for vessels to have these UVI’s is by Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2016

9.2 New CMM’s approved at WCPFC10 that may involve a change in the status of observer data field input, but require no additional data fields.

- *CMM 2013-01 “Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean* (Data currently being collected is adequate however observer requirements for high seas pockets on Philippine fleet are required.)
- *CMM 2013 – 08 “Conservation and Management Measure for Silky Sharks”* Change in the status of silky sharks to a species of special interest, (SSI). Observer minimum standard data fields currently collected by ROP’s are considered adequate; however the change of silky shark status to a Species of Special Interest will require observers to put the collection of silky shark information as a priority.
- *CMM 2013-09 “Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna”* Observer minimum standard data fields currently collected by ROP’s are considered adequate, however observer programmes should emphasize the importance of collecting correct and thorough data on this species if encountered in the catch on a vessel.

## 10 Observer Coverage Purse-Seine 2013

10.1 The Secretariat’s role stated in CMM 2007-01 Para 12 (iii) “*receiving communications and providing reports on the ROP’s operation to the Commission (and its subsidiary bodies); including target and achieved coverage levels;*” indicates that there is a requirement for the Secretariat to report on coverage levels achieved..

10.2 Observer coverage was monitored by the Secretariat with information supplied by observer providers and flag States for purse seine vessels when fishing in the Convention area 20N – 20S. Due to a small number of providers that did not provide information on their observer placements, data received from flag States was used to cross-reference placements, the Secretariat was able to verify most but not all placements, while the Secretariat ROP Section is reasonably sure 100% coverage of purse seiners occurred, the ROP section is unable to confirm positively that every purse seine vessel carried an observer during 2013. Table 2 indicates the known observer coverage for Purse seiners for period Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2013

**Table 2 – Available Observer Coverage Information of Purse Seine Vessels Jan –Dec 2013**

Vessel Flag	Vessel No.**	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CN	13	12	8	6	6	6	6	10	11	12	13	13	13
EC	10	8	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	8	8
EU	45	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	2	2	3	4	4
FM*	9	4	1	1	1	3	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
JP	35	32	32	32	35	33	24	26	27	30	29	35	35
KI	9	7	5	5	4	4	3	6	6	6	6	6	6
KR	29	27	27	27	27	27	27	22	23	20	20	20	19
MH	10	9	9	10	8	8	6	7	8	6	5	3	3
NZ	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
PG*	12	5	7	5	2	2	2	4	7	7	8	10	11
PH-HSP1	36	12	10	12	14	16	13	0	0	0	0	21	22
SB*	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SV	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
TV	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TW	39	37	37	38	38	38	38	35	35	35	35	36	36
US	40	36	35	36	37	38	38	37	36	37	40	40	40
VU	16	15	13	8	9	6	5	11	14	14	14	13	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>222</b>

\* Some vessels fished domestically during the period and are not included in the ROP coverage table

\*\* Vessel numbers taken from RFV (Dec 2013) some were not active in Convention Area during 2013.

Notes:

- Vessels reflagged during the period of the tables, and the tables indicate the flag of the vessel as of Dec 2013.
- The FAD closure period saw a slight drop in vessel activity for some fleets due to vessels shifting from the WCPO to the EPO. The FAD closure period also saw an increase in vessels going to shipyards for/maintenance.

## 11 Observer Coverage - Long Line 2013

- 11.1 Coverage rates for long liners is set at 5% and this was to be achieved by 30 June 2012, (CMM 2007-01 Annex C Para 6); long line data being received by the WCPFC data provider (SPC) indicates that data for many fleets has not been made available.
- 11.2 At the SC10 meeting held in Majuro- ISG7 met to discuss identifying an appropriate metric for measuring observer coverage rates on longline vessels fishing under the ROP in the WCPFC. There are a variety of metrics that can be used to measure observer coverage in longline fisheries. This issue will be discussed in paper *WCPFC-TCC10-2014-13*
- 11.3 It is reminded that when discussing this paper the IWG-ROP determined that there are no vessel size exemptions for the placement of observers on long liners, and that placement of observers is based on safety and the ability of an observer to be able to work on a vessel without unduly hindering the operation of the vessel.

## 12 Transshipment Coverage 2013

- 12.1 18 fish carriers reported multiple transshipment trips to the Secretariat during 2013, these carriers carried 51 observers for the period Jan 1<sup>st</sup> – Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2013. Further figures for 2014 are available in paper WCPFC TCC10 2014-RP03

**Table 3(a) - List of Carriers reporting to WCPFC Secretariat Jan-Dec 2013**

Carrier Flag State	Number of active 'Fish Carriers' that reported Transshipment Activities on the High Seas of the WCPFC Convention Area.	Number of Observer used to monitor "At Sea Fish Carrier Transshipments" in the WCPO
Kiribati	2	6
Korea	1	2
Panama	1	4
Vanuatu	14	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>51</b>

- 12.2 Table 3(b) indicates the total number and flag of long line vessels that unloaded their catch in the high seas to one of the 18 receiving vessels which were reported to the Commission Secretariat. A total of 471 transshipments at sea by 231 long line vessels were reported in 2013.

**Table3 (b) Number Off loading Vessels Transshipping in the high seas**

Offloading Vessel Flag State	Number of “Off Loading Longline Vessels” that transhipped on the High Seas of the WCPFC Convention Area.	Number of times long line vessels offloaded catch to carrier on the High Seas of the WCPFC Convention Area.
Belize	1	3
China	104	189
Indonesia	6	11
Japan	33	58
Kiribati	5	5
Korea	41	43
Philippines	1	4
Chinese Taipei	65	137
United States	1	1
Vanuatu	43	157
<b>Totals</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>471</b>

- 12.3 Table 3(c) represents the total in metric tonnes of longline catch that was transhipped in the 471 unloading’s during 2013.

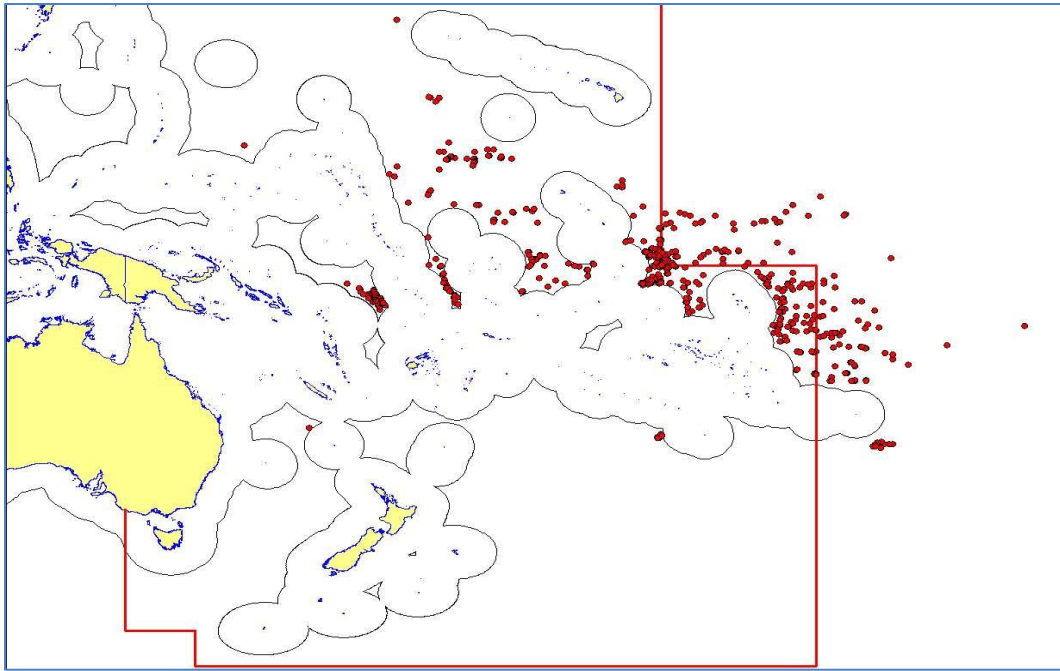
**Table 3(c) Species Transhipped in the high seas for 2013**

Species Transhipped	Estimated Total Mt. Transhipped on High Seas	Species Transhipped	Estimated Total Mt. Transhipped on High seas
Big Eye	17,602	Striped Marlin	419
Yellowfin	3,728	Swordfish	2669
Albacore	9,321	Shark	1345
Skipjack	143	Other Species*	1767
Blue Marlin	1,511		

\*Other species include wahoo, spearfish, mackerel, oil fish, mahi mahi, opah, and other longline bycatch species.

#### Transshipment Locations

- 12.4 The 18 carriers and 231 long liners transhipped catch at sea in locations as indicated on the chart; these transshipments were monitored by ROP observers placed on the fish carriers



**Chart of Transshipment Locations for 2013**

Transshipment Reporting Assistance

- 12.5 TCC 9 agreed to continue discussions on the need for notification requirements for fish carrier vessels and transshipment observers at TCC10 (paragraph 177 of TCC9 Report).
- 12.6 Transshipment records recorded in 3(a), 3(b), 3(c), are from vessels that have sent in “Notifications and Declarations” to the Commission Secretariat, and have reported a transshipment event that occurred in waters beyond national jurisdiction. As reported at previous meetings, there continues to be a problem in knowing the intentions of a fish carriers coming into or operating in the Convention Area. Without a proper mandatory notification scheme it is difficult for the Commission Secretariat to have knowledge of how many carriers intend to transship at sea.
- 12.7 Several CCMs at TCC9 expressed support for the recommendation which requires fish carriers to report their intentions to the Secretariat when carriers are entering the Convention Area and/or departing ports within the WCPFC Convention area.
- 12.8 Without knowing a fish carriers intention prior to their operation in the Convention Area, it is not possible to ensure that fish carriers observer coverage for at sea transshipments is 100%;
- 12.9 It is suggested the following be given consideration. Noting that reporting to the Commission Secretariat is not intended to negate any current zone or port entry or exit procedures.
- a) All fish carriers, 24 hrs prior to entry of the vessel into the WCPFC Convention area must inform the Commission Secretariat on their intentions to either transship at sea, transship in a designated port, or transship both in port and on the high seas.
  - b) All fish carriers, 24 hrs prior to departing a port in the WCPFC Convention area must inform the Commission Secretariat on their intentions to transship at sea or transship in a designated port or transship both in port and on the high seas.
  - c) All fish carriers on completion of their transshipping activities at sea or in port in the WCPFC Convention Area must inform the WCPFC Secretariat within 24hrs of their destination port.



- d) Carriers intending to tranship at sea on entry into the Convention area, or departing from a port in the Convention area, will notify to the Commission Secretariat the name of the ROP certified observer onboard.

12.10 With the reformation of the IWG-ROP it is suggested that paragraph 12.9 (a) to (d) be forwarded for further discussion and resolution to the IWG-ROP.

### **13 Observer Forms - Transhipment**

13.1 Forms for use by observers on transhipment vessels have been created and are available on the ROP section of the WCPFC Website as a guide for programmes. The forms FC-1, FC-2 & FC-3 have been accepted by the FFA/SPC Data Consultative Committee (DCC) to be used by FFA/SPC certified observers when on carriers. Following suggestions by observers that have monitored fish carriers; the Commission Secretariat will introduce as a guide a daily unloading form to assist observers in recording individual daily transfers of fish from unloading vessels to the receiving vessel. FC-4 (*Attachment 2.*)

### **14 Cross Endorsement of observers**

14.1 Training of observers by IATTC and WCPFC for the cross endorsement was last held in RMI in May 2013, additional observers were trained to be able to carry out cross endorsement requirements on vessels wishing to fish in both the IATTC and WCPFC areas. There is a total 21 observers from FSM, Nauru, Kiribati and RMI with cross endorsement certification. These certified observers are able to carry out work in both convention areas on the same trip; further training of observers for cross endorsement was intended in late 2014, however, due to the unavailability of the IATTC trainer this will be delayed until early 2015.

### **15 Observer availability**

- 15.1 The Pacific Island ROP's managed to supply observers for most of the 100% observer coverage of purse seiners, however with 5% coverage of long liners and 100% coverage of carriers transshipping at sea, as well as the usual attrition rate that occurs in observer programmes, training is required for most observer programmes on a continual basis. Non Pacific Island countries of the Commission also have available observers that are being used in ROP trips to collect data as required by the Commission.
- 15.2 A survey carried out in 2013 indicated there were approximately 720 available observers across all the ROP programmes for use as ROP observers; the latest available figures indicate a similar number is available in 2014.
- 15.3 It is reminded that TCC9 agreed that all observer programmes authorised to be part of the ROP will send to the Commission Secretariat as soon as practical the names of those individuals who have been trained and qualified to operate as an observer in the ROP. (TCC9 Summary report para 198)

### **16 Authorised observer providers to the ROP**

16.1 A list of ROP authorised observer programmes and their coordinator contacts are available on the MSC - ROP section of the WCPFC website; authorised programmes are reminded to send observer coordinator changes as soon as they are known, to keep this list up to date.

### **17 Catch Discard reporting**

17.1 The catch discard reports from Jan 1st –31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2013, indicates 34 vessels submitted 226 discard reports with a total of 559.5 metric tons being discarded. Further information on "Catch Discards" can be found in the paper *WCPFC-TCC10-2014-IP11*

## 18 Observer Trip Monitoring Summary

- 18.1 An “Observer Trip Monitoring Summary” is part of the minimum data standards of the Commission; the Pacific Island observer programmes use work books that contain a general form “GEN -3” that is used as a “Trip Monitoring Summary”. The form is not a written report but is an indicator of activities allegedly carried out by vessels and witnessed by the observer. The observer indicates by circling ‘YES or NO’ to the questions on the form. A response of ‘YES’ is an indicator only, and does not indicate that there has been any infringement by a vessel. The observers will include in their written report the reasons “Yes” was circled.
- 18.2 Table 4 represents data entered as of Sept 1<sup>st</sup> for 641 observed trips from across all fishing fleets; this is approximately 40% of the number of trips carried out for the period Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2013.

**Table 4 Observer Trip Monitoring Summary\***

Item reported		Times Yes indicated	% of total reports
<b>Observer Rights and Social Behaviour</b>			
<b>RS -a</b>	<i>Did the operator or any crew member assault, obstruct, resist, delay, refuse boarding to, intimidate or interfere with observers in the performance of their duties</i>	35	5.5
<b>RS -b</b>	<i>Request that an event not be reported by the observer</i>	38	5.5
<b>RS -c</b>	<i>Mistreat other crew</i>	23	3.6
<b>RS -d</b>	<i>Did the operator fail to provide observer, while onboard, at no expense to observer or the observer's Government, with food, accommodation, access to safety gear and medical facilities of reasonable standard - equivalent to those normally available to an officer onboard the vessel</i>	31	4.8
<b>National Regulations</b>			
<b>NR -a</b>	<i>Fish in areas where the vessel is not permitted to fish</i>	20	3.1
<b>NR -b</b>	<i>Target species other than those they are licensed to target</i>	4	.6
<b>NR -c</b>	<i>Use a fishing method other than the method the vessel was designed or licensed</i>	10	1.6
<b>NR -d</b>	<i>Not display or present a valid (and current) licence document onboard</i>	21	3.1
<b>NR -e</b>	<i>Transfer or transship fish from or to another vessel</i>	27	4.2
<b>NR -f</b>	<i>Was involved in bunkering activities</i>	351	54.8
<b>NR -g</b>	<i>Fail to stow fishing gear when entering areas where vessel is not authorised to fish</i>	32	4.8
<b>WCPFC CMMS</b>			
<b>WC -a</b>	<i>Fail to comply with any Commission Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)</i>	64	10
<b>WC -b</b>	<i>High-grade the catch</i>	16	2.5
<b>WC -c</b>	<i>Fish on FAD during FAD Closure</i>	52	8.1
<b>Vessel Log Sheet information</b>			
<b>LP -a</b>	<i>Inaccurately record vessel position on vessel log sheets for sets, hauling and catch</i>	19	3
<b>LP -b</b>	<i>Fail to report vessel positions to countries, where required when entering and leaving an EEZ (crossing to or from an EEZ into or out of the High Seas)</i>	16	2.5
<b>LC -a</b>	<i>Inaccurately record retained "Target Species" in the Vessel logs [or weekly reports]</i>	179	27.9
<b>LC -b</b>	<i>Inaccurately record "Target Species" Discards</i>	262	40.1
<b>LC -c</b>	<i>Record target species inaccurately [eg. combine bigeye/yellowfin/skipjack catch]</i>	242	37.8
<b>LC -d</b>	<i>Not record bycatch discards</i>	316	49.3
<b>LC -e</b>	<i>Inaccurately record retained bycatch Species</i>	125	19.5
<b>LC -f</b>	<i>Inaccurately record discarded bycatch species</i>	134	20.9
<b>Species of Special Interest - Marine mammals turtles seabirds or whale sharks)</b>			
<b>SI -a</b>	<i>Land on deck Species of Special Interest (SSIs)</i>	122	19.03
<b>SI -b</b>	<i>Interact (not land) with SSIs</i>	196	30.6
<b>Pollution</b>			

<b>PN -a</b>	<i>Dispose of any metals, plastics, chemicals or old fishing gear</i>	281	48.8
<b>PN -b</b>	<i>Discharge any oil</i>	72	11.2
<b>PN -c</b>	<i>Lose any fishing gear</i>	11	1.7
<b>PN -d</b>	<i>Abandon any fishing gear</i>	53	8.2
<b>PN -e</b>	<i>Fail to report any abandoned gear</i>	13	2
<b>Sea Safety</b>			
<b>SS -a</b>	<i>Fail to monitor international safety frequencies</i>	10	1.6
<b>SS -b</b>	<i>Carry out-of-date safety equipment</i>	58	9

:\* (Information as of 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2014)

18.3 The CMM for the Regional Observer programme CMM 2007-01 annex B para 1 (c) says that *“Timely notification from the observer provider on completion of the observer’s trip of any comments regarding the vessel operations. The captain shall have the opportunity to review and comment on the observer’s report, and shall have the right to include additional information deemed relevant or a personal statement.”*

18.4 There is ongoing discussion on observer comments on the vessels operations and the type of Summary in Table 4. Whilst there seems to be agreement with the context of this paragraph a procedure and timing of the procedure has been very difficult to agree on. It is suggested that this issue be forwarded to the IWG-ROP for further discussion and direction

## 19 Observer Credentials:

19.1 TCC9 recommended that the Secretariat will develop guidelines for observer credentials (TCC9 Report para 182).

19.2 It is suggested that the following be minimum required information on the front of each card;

- 1) Name of the observer
- 2) Name of the observer provider
- 3) Nationality of the observer
- 4) Unique identifying number for the observer
- 5) Passport style photo of the observer

Information required that could be placed on either the front or back of the card

- 6) Issue date and Expiry date
- 7) WCPFC logo to indicate observer is ROP observer
- 8) Logo of Programme and or Country Flag

Optional information that could be included on the back of the card

- 9) Signature of Observer
- 10) Status of observer Qualifications

19.3 Different examples of an “Observer Identification Card” are included as a guide *Attachment 3 & 3a*. Identification cards can be put together in many ways, but it is believed that a harmonised standard information format will allow all involved, captains, crew, coordinators, agent’s, immigration officers, airline staff etc, to become used to seeing and understanding the identification cards.

## 20. Identifying mechanisms to prevent misconduct of observers:

20.1 Following TCC9 the Secretariat was asked to prepare a paper for misconduct of observers (TCC9 Report, paragraph 184) this has been complied as Paper WCPFC-TCC10-2014-14A. It should be noted that instances of misconduct are being less reported today, compared to the number of report soon after the start of the ROP in 2006; problematic observers have been removed from programmes and observer have become aware of the consequences. However the paper does recognise there are some ongoing problems in this area and tries to come up with solutions.

## **21 Corruption**

21.1 TCC9 agreed that responses from members about how to best deal with corruption issues, should be tabled for discussion at TCC10 (TCC9 Report, paragraph 204). Questions regarding corruption issues were sent to observer coordinators for their comment, it should be noted that the response to the questions were limited, with most who responded saying they had no problems with corruption. A paper has been compiled on this matter and is listed as Paper WCPFC TCC10 2014-14

## **22 CMM Booklet for Observers**

22.1 The Secretariat compiled a booklet of all the current Commission Conservation and Management Measures and Resolutions that are in force in 2014. The booklet highlights some of the issues that will assist observers in understanding the CMMs and the importance of the data they are collecting. The booklet has been compiled for observers, however will be useful for anyone wishing to have an anthology of the CMM's. It is available on the WCPFC Website under MSC - ROP section.

22.2 It is suggested that observer's either download and print a copy, or more conveniently download the booklet onto a memory stick for their reference when required.

22.3 Due to costs, printing and distributing the booklet was not carried out in 2014. Cost involved in printing and freight would need to be budgeted on a yearly basis. The Secretariat sought quotes for printing costs and these ranged between US\$4950 and US\$36,000 for 1500 booklets. Freight costs to each program would need to be added to the overall cost and is expected to be approximately US\$6000. Direction is required, whether the booklet, which will be required to be updated on a yearly basis, should be printed or just remains available on the WCPFC website for download.

## **23 IWG-ROP**

TCC9 recommended to WCPFC10 to dissolve the ROP-TAG. In doing so TCC9 recommended that the Commission reconstitutes the IWG-ROP to address issues that have arisen with respect to the implementation of the ROP; this was approved by WCPFC10. Unfortunately the IWG-ROP currently does not presently have a chair and this will need to be resolved at WCPFC11. This report contains a few recommendations that ROP issues be forwarded to the IWG-ROP for further consideration and direction. It is envisaged that after a chair is elected the IWG-ROP will meet either electronically or in the margins of a meeting to discuss issues forwarded to it for consideration.

## **24. ROP Report Considerations;**

The following suggestions are presented to TCC10 for consideration

- 1) CCMs that place observers on fish carrier vessels that tranship on the high seas send the completed data forms, workbooks, reports and journals of the observer to the Commission Secretariat within 120 days of the disembarkation of the observer from the carrier.
- 2) CCMs approve that the data field 'Vessel Unique Identifier' International Maritime Organisation (IMO) number or Lloyds register number required as per CMM 2013-04 be added to the list of minimum standard data fields an observer is asked to collect from vessels that are more than 100 GT or GRT.
- 3) CCMs are asked to approve the minimum requirements contained in 19.2 and attachment 3 and 3(a) as guidelines for ROP Identification Cards
- 4) CCM direction is required on whether the Observer CMM booklet, which will be required to be updated on a yearly basis, should be printed and distributed, or just remains available on the WCPFC website for download.

- 5) CCM agree that paragraphs 12.9 on transshipment notification rules (a) to (d) of this report be forwarded to the IWG-ROP for further discussion and direction.
- 6) CCMs agree that procedures for CMM 2007-01 Annex B para 1 (c) as outlined in Para 18.3 and para 18.4 of this report be forwarded to IWG-ROP for further discussion and direction.

## Attachment 1

Codes in this table describe the conditions of any Species of Special Interest, SSI such as marine mammal's birds, turtles and shark species, it is used when an animal is caught and also when the animal is let go or discarded.

### **Condition Codes used for all Species of Special interest**

<b>AO</b>	<b>Alive Unable to describe condition</b>
<b>A1</b>	<b>Alive and healthy</b>
<b>A2</b>	<b>Alive but injured or distressed</b>
<b>A3</b>	<b>Alive but unlikely to live</b>
<b>A4</b>	<b>Entangled but ok</b>
<b>A5</b>	<b>Entangled Injured</b>
<b>A6</b>	<b>Hooked externally injured</b>
<b>A7</b>	<b>Hooked internally injured</b>
<b>A8</b>	<b>Hooked unknown injured</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Dead</b>

**Attachment 2**

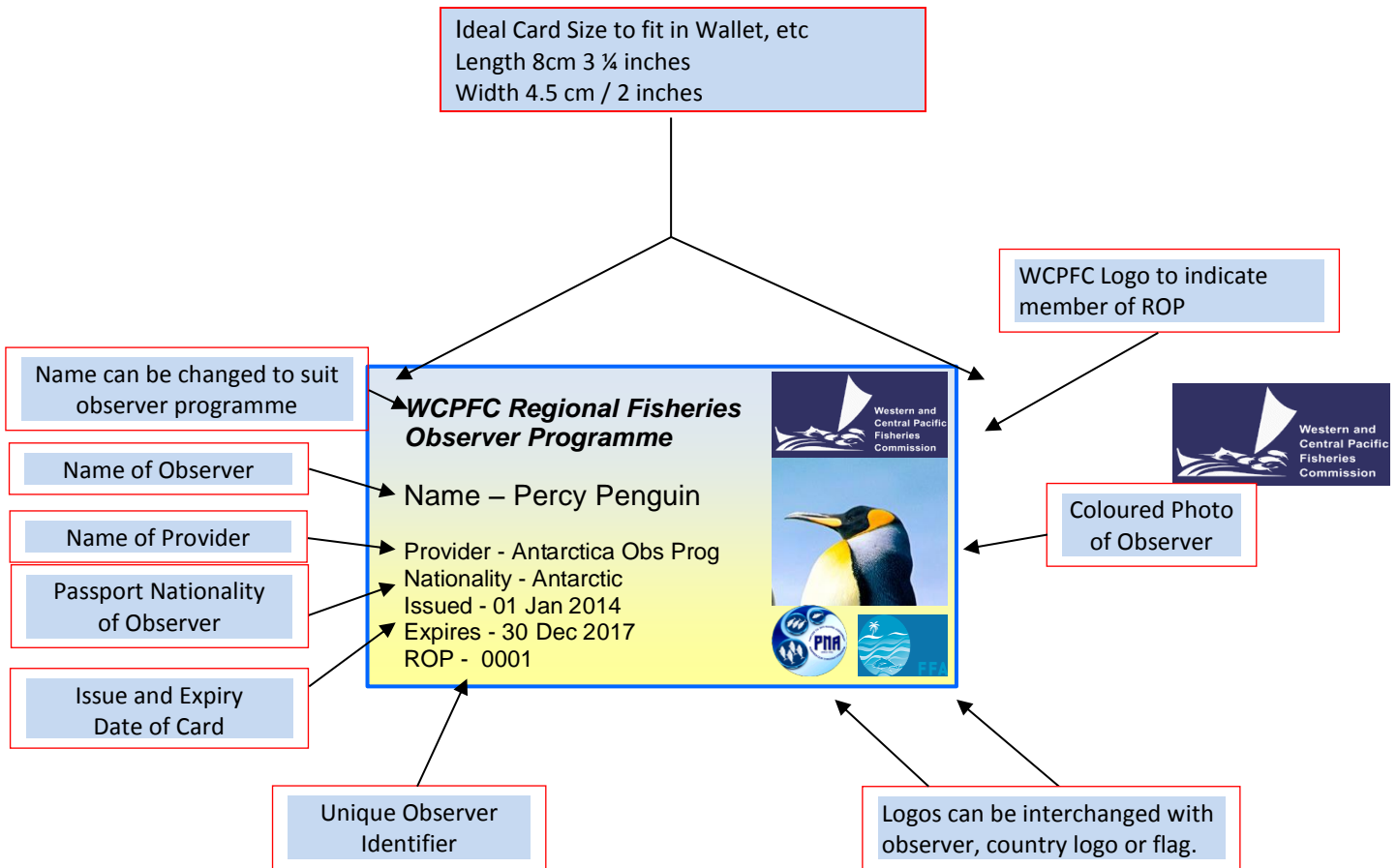
<b>Carrier</b>	<b>WCPFC REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME</b>															<b>WCPFC</b>			
<b>TRANSHIPMENT DETAILS</b>																		<b>FORM FC-4</b>	
WCPFC DESIGNED Aug 2014 - FISH CARRIERS																			
OBSERVER NAME				VESSEL NAME						OBSERVER TRIP ID NUMBER				PAGE _____ OF _____					
TRANSHIPMENT NUMBER						PERIOD START YYYY / MM / DD      HH / MM						PERIOD END YYYY / MM / DD      HH / MM							
TRANSHIPMENT INTERRUPTED YES / NO				NO OF INTERRUPTIONS				TOTAL TIME OF INTERRUPTIONS											
UNIT STRING #	NUMBER OF FISH PER STRING																String Weight CV Scale		
	BET		YFT		ALB		SWO								Shark Fins			Total	
	No.	PROD CODE	No.	PROD CODE	No.	PROD CODE	No.	PROD CODE	No.	PROD CODE	No.	PROD CODE	No.	PROD CODE	No.	EST WGHT			
Empty rows for data entry																			
<b>TOTAL FOR OBSERVATION</b>																			
<b>PRODUCT CODES</b>																			
<b>WW</b>	<b>WHOLE</b>				<b>GG</b>	<b>GILLED &amp; GUTTED</b>													
<b>FL</b>	<b>FILLETED</b>				<b>HG</b>	<b>HEADED AND GUTTED</b>													
<b>DR</b>	<b>DRESSED / TRUNKED</b>				<b>GT</b>	<b>GILL GUTTED AND TAILED</b>													

**Attachment 3**



**GUIDE FOR A REGIONAL ID CARD FOR ROP OBSERVERS:**

The guide for a “Regional Identification Card” for all ROP observers in a similar format would make it easier for captains, crew, immigration and other airport officials to recognise a card that is widely used by observers when boarding or travelling. The Card can be changed to suit each observer programme however the format should remain similar. The reverse side of the card could be used to show the signature of the observer, the different status or qualifications the observer has achieved, i.e. Cross Endorsement, PIRFO Certified, etc.





**Attachment 3a**

The format of this identification card is simple and straight forward, the title could be changed to suit the names of the different providers, a background in light colour could include the logo of the programme The reverse side of the card could be used to show the signature of the observer, the different status or qualifications the observer has achieved, i.e. Cross Endorsement, PIRFO Certified, etc.

