



**FOURTH MEETING
INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP
REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME (IWG-ROP4)
Novotel Hotel, Nadi, FIJI
July 6 - 8, 2015**

Notification of Intention(s) for Fish Carriers entering the WCPFC Convention Area

**WCPFC-2015-IWGROP4-07
19 June 2015**

Task for IWG-ROP4

1. As tasked by WCPFC11, the IWG-ROP is to discuss and provide direction on the following proposed transshipment notification procedures for all fish carriers:

- a) 24 hrs prior to entry of the vessel into the WCPFC Convention area must inform the Commission Secretariat on their intentions to either tranship at sea, tranship in a designated port, or tranship both in port and on the high seas;
- b) 24 hrs prior to departing a port in the WCPFC Convention area must inform the Commission Secretariat on their intentions to tranship at sea or tranship in a designated port or tranship both in port and on the high seas;
- c) 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; and
- d) 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 on-board.

Note that the above proposed transshipment notification reporting to the Commission Secretariat is not intended to negate any current zone or port entry or exit procedures.

Background

2. At TCC9, some CCMs expressed support for a recommendation requiring fish carriers to notify their intentions to the Commission Secretariat when entering the Convention Area and/or departing ports within the WCPFC Convention area. Among other objectives was the issue to allow orderly placement of transshipment vessel observers as called for in CMM-2009-06. TCC9 agreed to continue discussions on the need for notification requirements for fish carrier vessels and transshipment observers at TCC10 (paragraph 177 of TCC9 Report).

3. TCC10 reviewed that matter and recommended to the Commission that paragraph 12.9 in TCC10-2014-RP02 (page 8) on transshipment notification rules, specifically (a) to (d) be forwarded to the IWG-ROP for further discussion and direction.(para157 of TCC10 Report), given the technical nature of the proposed rules. WCPFC11 agreed that the IWG-ROP should further discuss and provide direction on the proposed transshipment notification rules for all fish carriers.

Rationale for proposed fish carrier intention to transship notification procedures

4. In accordance with CMM 2009-06, there were approximately 555 high seas transshipment events reported to WCPFC involving 24 fish carriers (receiving vessels) and 303 fishing vessels (unloading vessels) in 2014.

5. There is a view, supported by VMS analysis, that considerable transshipment activities may be occurring in the high seas waters of the Convention Area, including the overlap area with IATTC, which are not being reported to WCPFC or which are not being duly monitored by a WCPFC ROP observer.

6. The proposed notification procedures will clarify the intentions of many fish carriers that are coming into or operating in the Convention Area. Through the notification procedures this can improve knowledge of all fish carrier vessels operating within the WCPFC Convention Area, and in particular those which offer support to harvesting vessels on the high seas, there is a need to increase the knowledge of transshipment vessel movements and operations which support the harvesting of species within the Convention Area.

7. There is a requirement of 100% observer coverage of all fish carriers transshipping at sea (*CMM 2009-06 paragraph 13 (a-c)*). The notification procedures will assist the Secretariat with being able to better monitor the 100% observer coverage requirement on high seas transshipments.

8. It is the view that if the Secretariat received timely notification from all fish carrier vessels on their intentions when first coming into, or leaving a port in the Convention area it would reduce uncertainty, clarify observer placement needs and address larger MCS-related concerns of many CCMs to this type of activity.

Proposed fish carrier intention to transship notification procedures:

9. It is recommended that the IWG-ROP agree to recommend the proposed transshipment notification procedures for all fish carriers :

All fish carriers

- a) 24 hrs. prior to entry of the vessel into the WCPFC Convention area must inform the Commission Secretariat on their intentions to either tranship at sea, tranship in a designated port, or tranship both in port and on the high seas;
- b) 24 hrs. prior to departing a port in the WCPFC Convention area must inform the Commission Secretariat on their intentions to tranship at sea or tranship in a designated port or tranship both in port and on the high seas;
- c) 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; and
- d) 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.

Note that the above proposed transshipment notification reporting to the Commission Secretariat is not intended to negate any current zone or port entry or exit procedures.

10. As a suggested way forward to operationalize the above procedures, it is proposed that Attachment 1 be considered as the basis of proposed amendments to CMM 2009-06, which proposes the procedures as an additional reporting requirement for receiving vessels. The suggested format (Attachment 2) could be provided as a suggested format for reporting to the Secretariat.

Attachment 1 – Proposed amendments to CMM 2009-06

39bis. All fish carriers

- a) 24 hrs. prior to entry of the vessel into the WCPFC Convention area must inform the Commission Secretariat on their intentions to either tranship at sea, tranship in a designated port, or tranship both in port and on the high seas;
- b) 24 hrs. prior to departing a port in the WCPFC Convention area must inform the Commission Secretariat on their intentions to tranship at sea or tranship in a designated port or tranship both in port and on the high seas;
- c) 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; and
- d) 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.

Notifications must contain the information in Annex IV to the Executive Director.

Note that the above proposed transshipment notification reporting to the Commission Secretariat is not intended to negate any current zone or port entry or exit procedures.

Annex IV

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN NOTICES TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BY ALL FISH CARRIER VESSELS OF THEIR TRANSSHIPMENT INTENTIONS

The notices are to be made by all Fish Carrier vessels prior to entry into the WCPF Convention Area or prior to departure from a port in WCPF Convention Area

1. the Name and Call sign of the receiving vessel
2. the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessel number (VID) of the receiving vessel
3. confirming the intention of the vessel, which is a choice of:
 - “intends to transship in port in the Convention Area”
 - “intends to transship at sea in the Convention Area”,
 - “intends to transship both in port and at sea in the Convention Area”, or
 - “is transiting through Convention area”.
4. the departure port
5. the intended date and time of departure from departure port (preferably in UTC)
6. the amount of catch on board (in metric tons to the 0.1 level), and indication of whether when vessel when departs is Empty/Partially Full/Full
7. the days expected to remain in general area of transshipment location
8. the expected date of arrival and location of next port of entry
9. the name of WCPFC ROP observer on board, and the name of the WCPFC ROP programme that provided the observer

Attachment 2 – suggested format as guidelines

Using the data fields identified in Annex IV - the following format (FC-6) could be employed by interested CCMs:

Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission			FC-6
Fish Carrier Intention			
WCPFC-May 2015			
Vessel Name	Vessel Call Sign (IRCS)	Vessel VID #	Intention of Carrier Vessel (cross all intentions)
Vessels Intending to Transfer/Transship catch at Sea:	Vessels Intending to Transfer/Transship catch In a Designated port:	Transship at Sea <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Transship in Port <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Transit <input type="checkbox"/>	
Original Departure Port	Original Departure Port	Vessel intending to Transit only in the Convention Area	
Date of departure ____/____/____	Date of departure ____/____/____	Original Departure Port	
Expected date of entering Convention area if coming from outside Convention Area; ____/____/____ N/A	Date of Entering Convention Area if coming from outside port ____/____/____ N/A	Date of Departure ____/____/____	
Intended At Sea Transshipment Location in Convention Area	Intended Designated Port for Transshipment	Date of Entering Convention area if coming from outside port ____/____/____ N/A	
Vessel fish on board (Circle) at departure port Empty Partially Full Full	If known, estimated date of departure from transshipment port ____/____/____	Destination Port	
Days expected to remain in general area of transshipment location.	Vessel – Fish on board (Circle) at departure time from transshipment port Empty Partially Full Full	If leaving WCPFC Convention Area - Est Date of departure ____/____/____ N/A	
If leaving WCPFC Convention Area - Est date of departure ____/____/____ N/A	If leaving WCPFC Convention Area - Est date of departure ____/____/____ N/A	Signed _____	