



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
5-13 August 2015

**INITIAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRIAL WCPFC PORT
COORDINATORS PROGRAMME**

**WCPFC-SC11-2015/GN-IP-04
4 August 2015**

Paper prepared by the Secretariat, SPC-OFP, FSM and Kiribati

Background

1. WCPFC 11 agreed:
 - a. To establish a trial WCPFC port coordinators programme based on the proposed terms of reference (WCPFC11 Summary Report Attachment P – *see next page*). The programme will be implemented on a trial basis for two (2) years in 5 ports in the WCPO. The positions would be funded from the WCPFC Annual Budget during 2015 and 2016 (based on local salary rates), but the positions would operate as an integral part of the National Fisheries Agency/Department with reporting through the appropriate line manager in the National Fisheries Agency/Department.
 - b. That the five ports which would be eligible to receive funding would be Pohnpei, (FSM), Majuro (RMI); Tarawa or Christmas Island (Kiribati); Rabual (PNG) and Honiara in the Solomon Islands (SI). Each WCPFC Member would be able to submit an invoice to WCPFC Secretariat for payment towards their Port Coordinator, which is up to USD15,000 per year over a two year period plus \$5,000 one off equipment and establishment cost.
 - c. Relevant Members, SPC-OFP and WCPFC Secretariat will jointly report to SC and TCC (in 2015 and 2016), on the implementation of the trial WCPFC port coordinators programme.
 - d. 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, where appropriate.
(*WCPFC 11 Summary Report, para 542*)
2. This paper is a joint report by relevant members, SPC-OFP and WCPFC Secretariat on the implementation of the trial WCPFC port coordinators programme. The trial programme has been underway for only a few months and so this should be considered an initial report on the progress to date.



PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WCPFC-FUNDED PORT COORDINATORS

Reports to: Appropriate staff member of the National Fisheries Agency, as determined by the Head of the National Fisheries Agency.

Key Responsibilities: the national port coordinator provides support to port related fisheries data collection and compilation related to transshipment activities occurring in Pacific Island ports, and which may include pre- or post-processed fisheries products from fishing activities which are of interest to the WCPFC Commission.

Relationships: It is expected that the Port Coordinator will necessarily work closely as part of their day to day duties with the national observer coordinator, national port samplers, national e-reporting staff, relevant subregional observer coordinator/s and as appropriate SPC-OFP staff.

Expected duties: The specific job tasks for the position will be determined by the Head of the National Fisheries Agency, taking into account the areas of greatest need within the National Fisheries Agency. The duties of the National Port Coordinators might include, as appropriate:

- assist with coordination of tuna tag returns and rewards;
- assist with coordination of biological sampling and collection of biological samples;
- collection of relevant PS and LL unloading forms from licensed fishing vessels in accordance with relevant national laws and regulations; (need to make it tighter, out puts specify, deliver ables specify)...
- conduct shark carcass to fin ratio sampling;
- collect the logbooks from licensed fishing vessels in accordance with relevant national laws and regulations;
- monitor non-target catches of the eight most common bycatch species
 - Barracudas (*Sphyraena* spp.); Dolphinfish (*Coryphasena 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, from licensed fishing vessels in accordance with relevant national laws and regulations;
- Check for logbooks and observer reports on in-port transshipments,
- Compile vessel characteristics from raw data forms;

Funding: The above duties 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.

In accordance with Convention Article 30 and CMM 2013-07 *CMM on the special requirements of SIDS and Territories*, the Commission will fund the establishment and salary costs of Port Coordinators 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, where appropriate.

Reporting: The relevant Members, SPC-OFP and WCPFC Secretariat will jointly report to SC and TCC (in 2015 and 2016), on the implementation of the trial WCPFC port coordinators programme.

WCPFC Secretariat

3. As agreed at WCPFC11, five Members (FSM, RMI, Kiribati, PNG and Solomon Islands) were eligible to receive funding under the trial WCPFC port coordinators programme. Table 1 shows the relevant CCMs that have submitted claims and received funding under this programme. Solomon Islands and Marshall Islands are yet to submit claims to this fund.

Table 1: Relevant members that have claimed the port coordinators fund

Relevant Member	Date of receipt of request	Date (when fund was disbursed)	Amount requested/disbursed
FSM	8 Jan 2015	12 Jan 15	USD 20,000
Kiribati	25 Feb 2015	25 Feb 15	USD 20,000
PNG	8 May 2015	18 May 15	USD 20,000

SPC-OFP

4. SPC-OFP travelled to a number of ports to review port data collection during 2015, with further travel expected. No Port Coordinators were in place at the time of the visits. During the review, SPC-OFP noted recent improvements with the coverage of port unloading; although having a staff member tasked with identifying data gaps and actively following-up on the submission of unloading data was an important element that was often missing from the national approach to port monitoring. The task of monitoring the coverage of unloading data sits well with the role of the Port Coordinators. Improved reporting tools to help gauge the coverage of unloading data have been identified and will be made available in the future. SPC-OFP also found a need for regular internal auditing of the port-sampling program, another task countries may consider assigning to their Port Coordinator.

Reports from relevant members

5. Progress reports from FSM and Kiribati are attached as Annex 1 and 2. Progress report from PNG is expected to be provided during the relevant agenda item for SC11.



National Oceanic Resource Management Authority

FSM NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
P.O. BOX PS122

PALIKIR, POHNPEI, FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA 96941

Tel: (691) 320-5181/2700 Fax: (691) 320-2383 Email: norma@mail.fm Website: www.norma.fm



July 28, 2015

TO: Ana Taholo
Assistant VMS Compliance Manager
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

FROM: Chief of Research

SUBJECT: WCPFC port coordinators project progress report 2015

Dear Ms Taholo,

The Authority wish to report on the progress of the WCPFC Port Coordinators Project for 2015 on the job tasks assigned to FSMs port sampler with some assistance from the national fisheries observers.

1. Funds received in January: IMPLEMENTED
2. Collection of data for PS and LL unloading forms Part 1 and Part 2: ON-GOING
3. 100% collection and monitoring of LL unloading data in Pohnpei port for target and bycatch species: ON-GOING
 - a. A total of 80 longline (FSM 11, China 41 and Taiwan 28) unloadings since January to present have been monitored.
4. Conduct shark monitoring and sampling on the WCPFC key shark species in Pohnpei port: STAKEHOLDERS MEETING AFTER SC 11

There are other specific job tasks that are yet to be implemented as we are concentrating our efforts mostly in the longline transshipments and shark measures. This is to help ensure that were monitoring and reporting accordingly.

Naiten Bradley Phillip Jr.
Chief of Research

Annex 2 – report from Kiribati

KIRIBATI PORT COORDINATOR REPORT

August, 2015

Kiribati is one of the busiest ports within region particularly during the current EL Nino season that brought more vessels to fish and transhipped in port. Early this year Kiribati has received funding support from WCPFC with regards to the establishment of National Port Coordinators post as agreed by WCPFC11. The fund was paid into Kiribati Government Project Account no. 4 which has recently cleared and transferred to Finance Office. As such Ministry of Fisheries has opened the post for two officers (experience observers) to undertake the Port Coordinators post were anticipated to be in office in August following the recruitment process that made in July

Therefore Kiribati is very thankful for this funding assistance which will improve national data collection related to flag vessels fishing activity within the convention area plus foreign flag vessels visited national port for transhipment and other port activities such as bunkering or crew embark and disembark etc.

Since this is the first year of the project Kiribati will be in the better position to provide further outcome in coming year. As mentioned earlier the recruitment process has completed in July therefore Kiribati will have two staff in office early August, 2015 to carry out the Port Coordinators role in accordance with the Commission decision in Apia, 2014.