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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE WCPFC RECORD OF FISHING VESSELS

WCPFC-TCC12-2016-RP05_rev1¹
31 August 2016

Paper prepared by the Secretariat

Purpose

1. This paper presents for the consideration and information of TCC12 the annual summary of information contained in the WCPFC Record of Fishing and the status of its operation.

Background

2. The Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) was established pursuant to Article 24 (paragraphs 4 – 7) of the WCPF Convention. Conservation and Management Measures 2013-10 on *WCPFC Record of fishing vessels and authorization to fish* (CMM 2013-10) and *Standards, specifications and procedures for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Record of Fishing Vessels* (CMM 2014-03) regulates how the WCPFC RFV operates. The RFV is a publicly accessible list through the WCPFC website, providing a combined list of CCMs vessels that are entitled to fly its flag and are authorized to be used for fishing in the Convention Area beyond areas of national jurisdiction. The WCPFC Secretariat maintains the Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) on behalf of the members of the Commission.

3. This paper, as in previous years, is an annual summary of information contained within the RFV and the operation of the RFV, and it is provided in accordance with paragraph 15 of CMM 2013-10, *WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorization to Fish* and paragraph 14 of CMM 2014-03, *Standards, Specifications and Procedures for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Record of Fishing Vessels* (RFV SSPs). The paper covers:

- A summary of the information contained in the WCPFC RFV
- Completeness of the fields in the RFV
- RFV and fished/did not fished report
- Observations and administrative notes

¹ Revised to correct number of vessels in 2015 for USA in Annex 1

Summary of the information contained in the WCPFC RFV as at 17 Aug 2016

4. This section provides an annual summary of the information contained in the RFV as required under CMM 2013-10 paragraph 15. The RFV is continuously publicly available via the WCPFC web site at <http://www.wcpfc.int/record-fishing-vessel-database> as required by paragraph 9 of CMM 2014-03. The summary statistics, presented as graphs and tables below, are automatically updated, as the RFV changes and is reflective of what is in the RFV at that point in time. There are a number of filters that users can apply to the charts. These are available at <http://www.wcpfc.int/vessels/charts/types> and can be printed from the website as pdf files.

Figure 1:

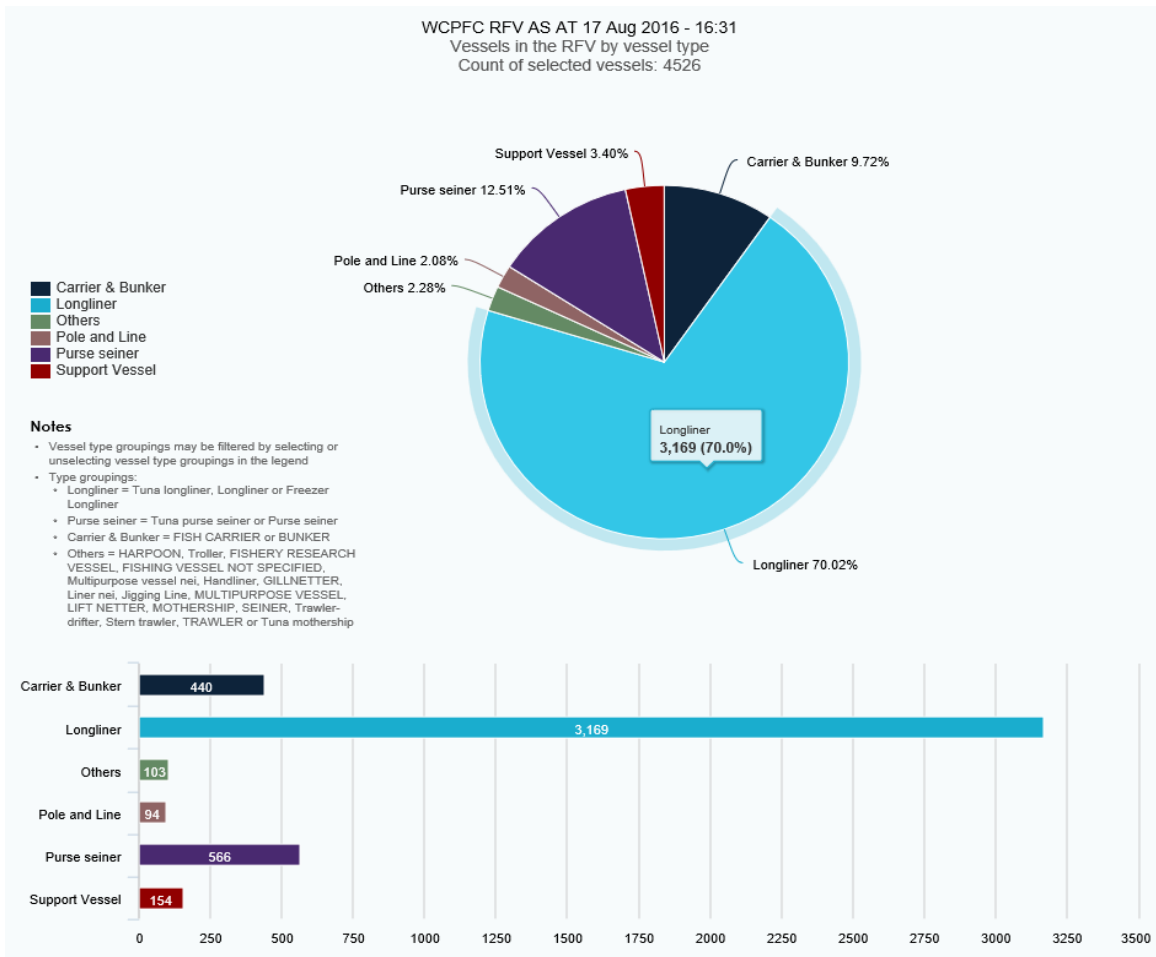


Figure 2:

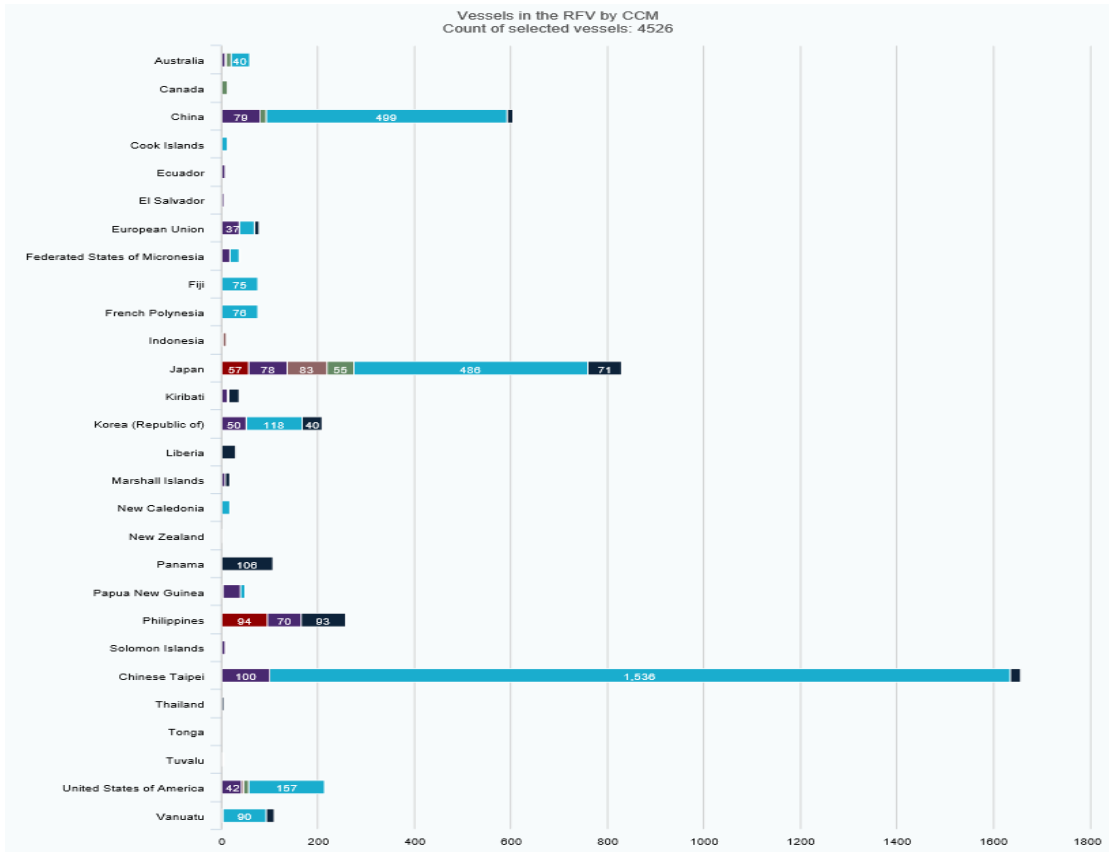


Figure 3:

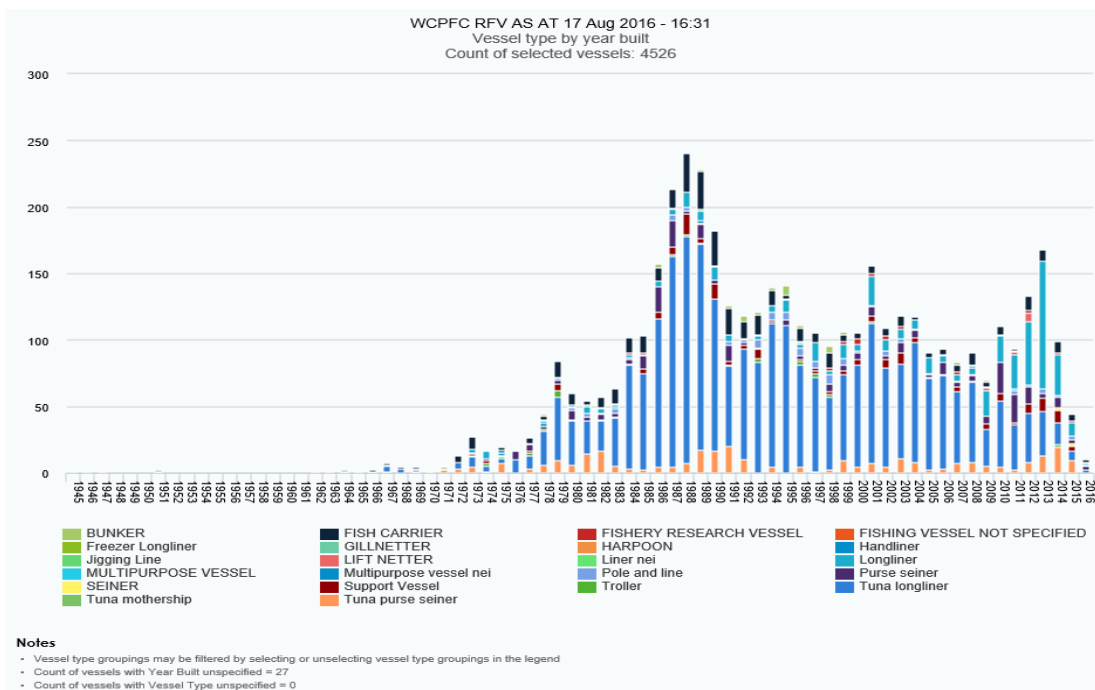
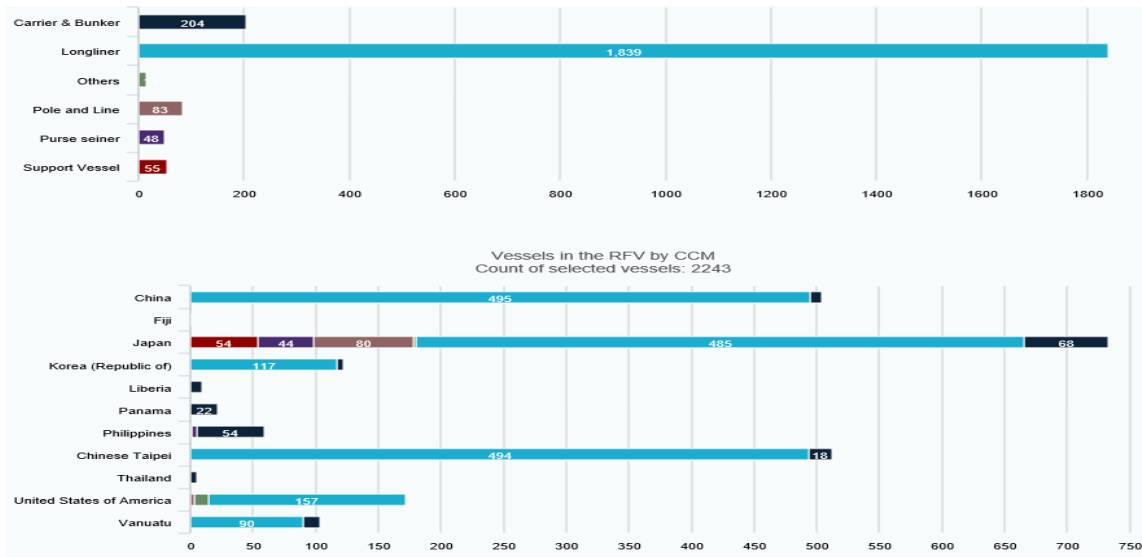


Figure 4: WCPFC RFV AS AT 17 August 2016

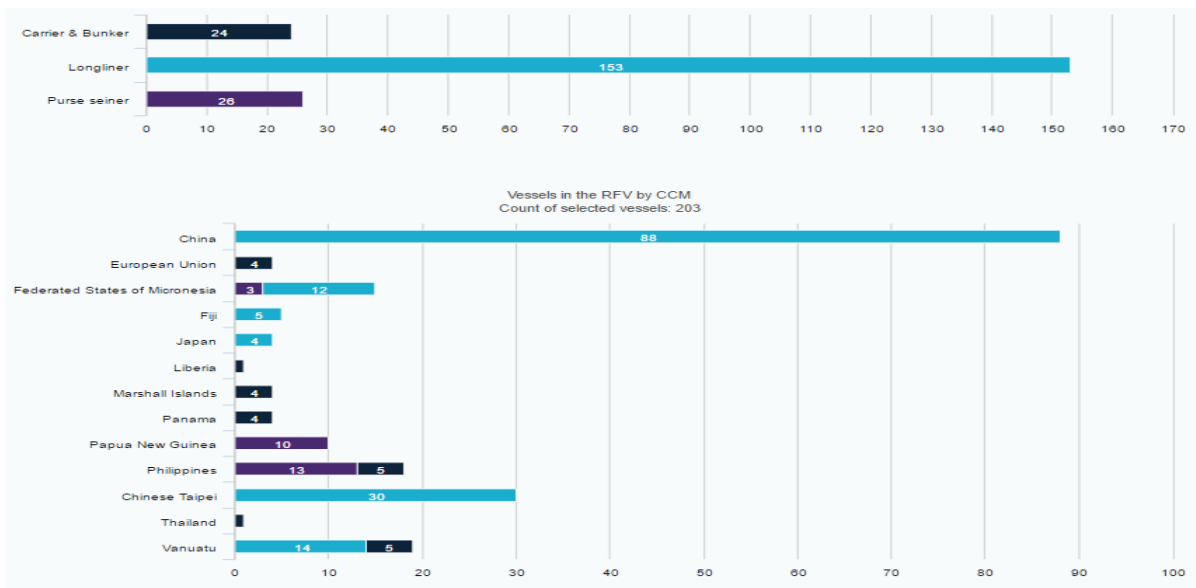
Number of Vessels authorized to transship (ie. field Authorisation to transship on the high seas = YES)



5. As agreed by WCPFC11, information on high seas transshipment authorizations is now treated as public domain data and available through the RFV. Figure 4 shows that at the time of writing this paper, there were 48 purse seine vessels in the RFV that answer “YES” to “Authorisation to transship on the high seas”, noting that CMM 2009-06 prohibit purse seine transshipment at sea. Forty five (45) of these answered “Not specified” while three answered “Yes” to “Purse seine vessel authorized to transship at sea”. As reported to TCC11, it is clear that there are discrepancies and lack of understanding on what is required by these fields. The Secretariat has regularly drawn this to the attention of the relevant CCMs and has urged CCMs to follow the field description/instructions provided in Attachment 1 of the RFV SSPs (CMM 2104-03) and make the necessary corrections to this field in the RFV.

Figure 5: WCPFC RFV AS AT 18 August 2016

Number of Vessels that answered ‘Yes: CCM-flagged’ in the field ‘Under Charter’



6. As reported to TCC11, WCPFC 11 agreed that the information reported by flag CCMs as part of the RFV updates, related to charter notifications and high seas transshipment authorizations should be treated as public domain data (WCPFC 11 summary report para 500). Accordingly, these information were made publicly available on the RFV website in 2015. CCMs are reminded that in accordance with Attachment 1 of CMM 2014-03, the chartering information relates to vessels in which it is notified as chartered under CMM 2015-05 or is considered to be chartered under CMM 2013-10 paragraph 42. The Secretariat has observed in some instances, that CCMs are entering charter information on the RFV for vessels which are **not** formally notified as chartered by a chartering CCM under CMM 2015-05. In addition, some formally notified charters in accordance with CMM 2015-05 are yet to be updated on the RFV. As at 18 August 2016, 14 CCMs answered 'YES-CMM flagged' in the field 'Under Charter' to 203 vessels in the RFV (see Figure 5). However, according to the Secretariat's record, there are currently only 5 CCMs with a total of 72 vessels notified to be chartered under CMM 2015-05. The Secretariat urges CCMs to check that they are using the charter fields correctly. Only the submitting CCM, which is usually the flag State, can update its own vessels on the RFV. Only after the flag CCM has duly received advice from the chartering CCM of charter notifications (CMM 2015-05), would there be an expectation by the Secretariat that flag CCMs would update the relevant fields on the RFV for their submitted vessels.

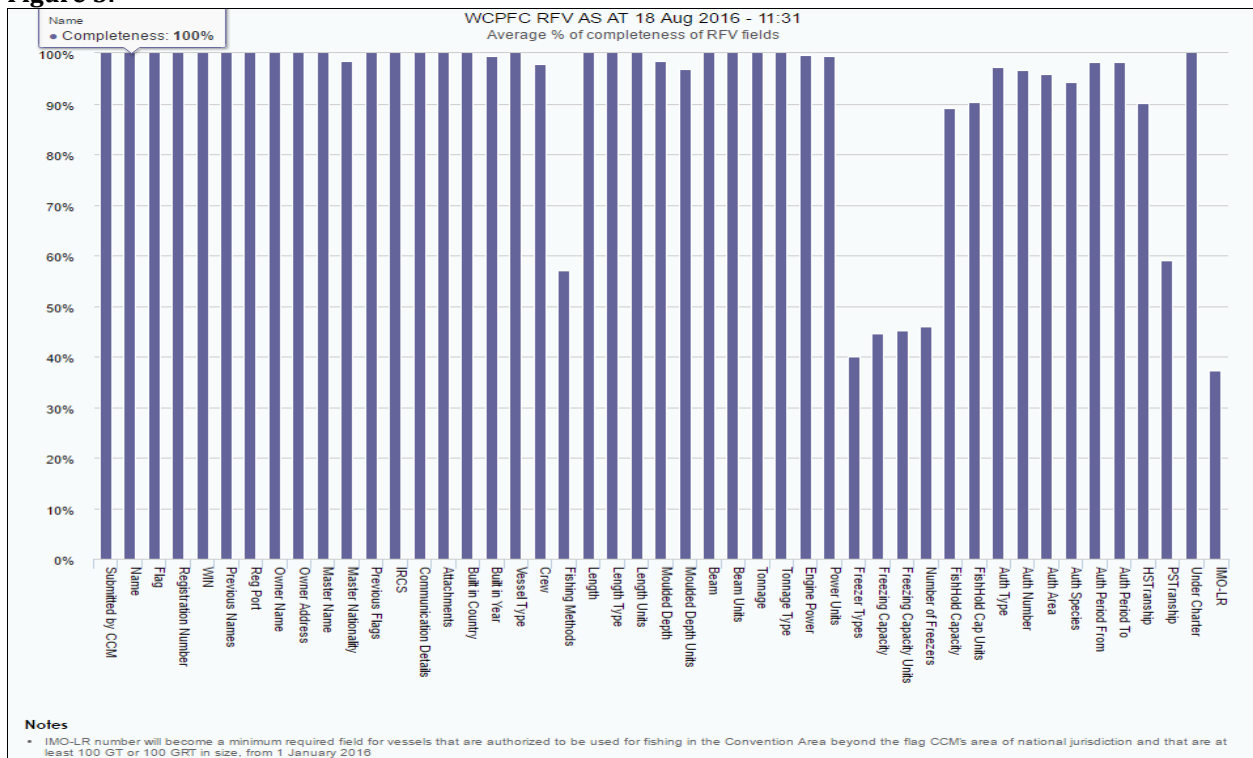
Completeness of the fields in RFV

7. CMM 2013-10 paragraph 6 requires a list of information to be submitted by CCM with respect to each vessel entered in its record. The RFV SSPs also require CCMs to submit complete vessel record data to the WCPFC Secretariat that meet the structure and format specifications of Attachment 1 (of CMM 2014-03). Attachment 1 identified "minimum data requirements" which must be present for the vessel to be included on the RFV. Footnote 3 (of CMM 2014-03) clarified that although vessels with only the minimum required data will be added to and maintained on the RFV, this does not relieve the responsible CCM of its obligations to provide all the data required under the WCPFC's applicable conservation and management measures (CMM 2013-10 paragraph 6).

8. CCMs may recall that WCPFC12 agreed that all vessels on the RFV shall complete the minimum required fields by 30 June 2016 and instructed the Secretariat to remove any vessels without the minimum required data fields after that date (WCPFC 12 Summary Report para 503). Immediately after WCPFC12, the Secretariat reached out to CCMs, drawing attention to this particular decision and offering assistance, if needed. Following TCC11, the Secretariat routinely communicated with relevant CCMs reminding them of this decision, discussing the vessels that were likely to be affected and continuing to offer assistance, if needed. After 30 June 2016, there were 6 CCMs with a total of 1188 vessels with incomplete minimum required fields. The Secretariat deleted these 1188 vessels from the RFV in accordance with the WCPFC12 decision, on 9 July 2016 and a list of the vessels that were deleted was sent to the relevant CCMs. The breakdown of the number of vessels that were deleted, by submitting CCMs are as follows: China = 67; Ecuador = 4; Indonesia = 387; Korea = 68; Papua New Guinea = 19; and Philippines = 643. Consequently, all minimum required data fields in the RFV that is required to be complete are now complete. Figure 5 provides an indication of the completeness of the fields in the RFV, and confirms that as a result of the WCPFC12 decision the minimum required fields are now completed for all vessels on the RFV. This information as

well as an evaluation of completeness of the RFV fields by CCM is viewable to CCMs on secure CCM-pages of the website.

Figure 5:



RFV and Fished/Did not fished Report

9. CMM 2013-10 paragraph 9 state that before 1 July of each year, each Member shall submit to the Executive Director a list of all vessels that appeared in its record of fishing vessels at any time during the preceding calendar year, together with each vessel’s WCPFC identification number (WIN) and an indication of whether each vessel fished for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area beyond its area of national jurisdiction. The indication shall be expressed as (a) fished, or (b) did not fish. CCMs are reminded that in accordance with CMM 2013-10 paragraph 9, an indication of ‘fished’ means the vessel fished for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area beyond the flag CCM’s area of national jurisdiction. This is an important piece of information that assists the Secretariat in reviewing the applicability of certain CMMs under the Compliance Monitoring Scheme process (CMM 2015-07).

10. As per previous years, the Secretariat provided CCMs with an Excel spreadsheet template to assist them in providing their reports. The template provides CCMs with a list of their flagged vessels on the RFV and the option of choosing “fished” or “did not fish” from a drop down menu, and it also has the advantage in that it provides the WCPFC Secretariat with a report that can be automatically loaded into the WCPFC RFV database.

11. As at 17 August 2016, 27 CCMs (including 4 CNMs) have submitted their fish/did not fish report for 2015 calendar year while 1 CNM is yet to submit a fish/did not fish report.² Timeliness of submission of this report continued to improve this year with all the 27 reports received within the deadline. Annex 1 to this paper provides a summary of reporting by CCMs in their fished/did not fish report for the past three years. As required by paragraph 13 of CMM 2014-03, this information is integrated with the RFV and presently available and used in compliance reviews and MCS analyses by the Secretariat.

Secretariat observations and administrative notes

12. In the operation of the WCPFC RFV in the past year, the Secretariat makes the following observations:

- The implementation of the RFV SSPs, since its coming into force in June 2014, together with the review of completeness by the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) has greatly streamlined and improved the operation of the RFV including the completeness of the information within the RFV.
- The understanding of and use of VID (WCPFC vessel identification number) number, which is a system identifier for a vessel in the RFV continued to improve and this is important as the VID uniquely identifies a vessel, thus enabling the RFV history of the vessel to be tracked, regardless of any change in any of the vessel information including relisting/delisting from the RFV and when vessels change flag. CCMs can view history for an individual vessel record on the intranet, using three dots shortcut see section 2.4 of the ‘Managing RFV On-line Guide’ for guidance on how to do this.
- The RFV is a central data source in the WCPFC Integrated MCS databases. An important part of the day to day administration by the Secretariat of the WCPFC RFV involves the management of the vessel history in the RFV. The Secretariat makes best efforts to check for and avoid the creation of duplicates records in the RFV, and will regularly liaise with CCMs to this end. CCMs should note that when a vessel is ‘deleted’ from the RFV, in practice the record is no longer viewable on the public views of the RFV. The vessel record is archived, and the vessel status is changed from “active” to “deleted”. CCMs can re-instate/re-list a deleted vessel and section 3.3 and section 4 of the ‘Managing RFV On-line Guide’ provide the procedures on how to do this. CCMs are reminded to use these procedures in order to avoid creating duplicate records in the RFV. The effect of duplicates in the RFV means the history of a vessel is not consolidated in one place and this create extra and complicated tasks for the Secretariat Compliance and IT team in terms of consolidating these duplicate records.
- As reported to TCC11, the Secretariat continued to receive queries relating to expired or blank authorization period for a vessel on the RFV, mostly from high seas boarding and inspection (HSBI) party and markets. The Secretariat continues to maintain the advice provided previously by the former Legal Advisor, Professor Martin Tsamenyi, that if a vessel flagged to a Commission member or Cooperating Non-member is listed on the RFV, this implies, through reference to CMM 2013-10, that the flag State considers that

² As at 18 Aug 2016, the Secretariat have not receive a fish/did not fish report from Ecuador

the vessel is “entitled to fly its flag and is authorized to fish in the Convention Area” and that that the expiry of authorization date is an administrative matter between the flag State and the vessel (TCC9 Summary Report, para 324).

- In response to a request at TCC11 that the date when the vessel was last updated is displayed on the public version of the RFV, the Secretariat is pleased to report that this has been implemented since December 2015. Therefore, the display of each individual vessel record now includes a notation for the date the record was last updated.
- CCMs are reminded to send all general RFV inquiries, requests for assistance and submissions of electronic files to update the RFV to the email address: contact.rfv@wcpfc.int

Annex 1: Number of vessels in the RFV vs number of vessels that ‘fished’ as indicated by the Fished/Did not fished report for the year 2013-2015

	2013*				2014				2015			
Column L	2013			2014	2014			2015	2015			
CCMs	VesselCount	vessels in the	Fished	DidNotFished	VesselCount	vessels in the	Fished	DidNotFished	VesselCount	vessels in the	Fished	DidNotFished
AU	151	0	0	0	159	103	18	85	160	74	9	65
BZ	30	24	1	23	32	0	0	0	24	0	0	0
CA	2891	0	0	0	2891	23	0	23	2891	29	0	29
CK	31	18	5	13	30	15	3	12	33	15	2	13
CN	568	547	423	124	678	645	459	186	710	664	455	209
EC	11	0	0	0	11	12	8	4	11	0	0	0
EU	130	104	14	90	129	108	14	94	131	106	14	92
FJ	105	93	68	25	103	85	50	35	102	85	48	37
FM	48	41	33	8	48	31	27	4	52	34	31	3
ID	528	431	162	269	568	414	54	360	566	394	18	376
JP	1662	1325	1098	227	1684	1344	491	853	1695	1258	507	751
KI	78	63	63	0	95	68	68	0	97	50	39	11
KN	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
KR	319	288	171	117	328	337	181	156	333	308	185	123
LR									18	18	0	18
MH	31	22	14	8	25	17	14	3	23	18	15	3
NC	30	31	0	31	30	18	1	17	30	17	0	17
NZ	12	7	5	2	14	9	6	3	14	8	3	5
PA	76	2	1	1	89	72	57	15	111	95	28	67
PF	95	0	0	0	95	95	0	95	98	96	0	96
PG	74	42	18	24	80	54	29	25	87	63	24	39
PH	786	763	317	446	872	843	359	484	908	848	342	506
SB	5	5	0	5	5	5	0	5	9	9	0	9
SV	4	4	4	0	4	4	3	1	4	4	2	2
TH	6	0	0	0	6	6	0	6	8	8	0	8
TO	6	0	0	0	6	2	0	2	6	2	0	2
TV	10	10	6	4	10	10	5	5	10	6	4	2
TW	2235	1740	713	1027	2241	1725	620	1105	2246	1742	662	1080
US	576	216	198	18	583	226	207	19	591	219	193	26
VN	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
VU	153	142	118	24	178	147	114	33	183	131	120	11
(blank)	39	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	38	0	0	0
Grand Total	10648	5918	3432	2486	10976	6419	2788	3631	11137	6275	2701	3574
	*some CCMs fish/did not fish report for 2013 are not included in this table as they may not have been received											''