



**COMMISSION
THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Denarau Island, Fiji
5 – 9 December, 2016

8th ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME

**WCPFC13 -2016-IP10
2 November 2016**

1. This report was previously presented and discussed at TCC12 refer *TCC12-2016-RP02 Rev 2*; the tables and information in the original report have been up dated for the annual meeting.

Introduction

2. 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.”
3. Paragraph 3 of CMM 2007-01 state: “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.”
4. Paragraph 12 of CMM 2007-01 on the “Role of the Secretariat” lists a number of ROP activities that the Secretariat is required to carry out.
5. This paper reports on the different aspects of the ROP as required by the Convention, CMM 2007-01 and the outcomes of WCPFC12

General

6. The Secretariat continues to support observer and debriefer training, assistance was given on request to help a few CCM programmes with observer training. It continues also to assist national and sub-regional observer programmes on matters regarding provider and observer roles in relation to CMMs, Commission requirements, Commission minimum standards for the ROP, data collection and data entry requirements, monitoring of transshipment, publication of a CMM booklet for 2016 and other ROP observer issues. Since the last report the Secretariat’s Observer Programme Coordinator has participated in a number of observer related meetings and workshops, such as the Regional Observer Coordinators Workshop, ER/EM workshops in Chinese Taipei, Bali, Data Consultative Committee, IATTC/WCPFC Cross endorsement training, Country Audits, plus a presentation on Observer Safety issues adopted by the WCPFC, at the International Observer Conference.

ROP Audits

7. The Secretariat continues to audit programmes in the second phase of the audits. 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. In 2016 the programmes audited RMI, FSM and the Indonesian programme, they were audited and granted full authorisation to operate as a ROP programme. The EU has nominated the Portuguese Observer Programme to be part of the ROP and they have submitted all materials and requirements enabling the granting of interim authorisation. The programme will need to be audited to gain full authorization. Programmes scheduled to be audited in 2017 include PNG, Korea, Cook Islands, Chinese Taipei, and China.

Available Observer Data

8. The paper *Status of ROP Data Management*” WCPFC-SC12-2016/ST IP-02rev1 revised as TCC12-IP05 was presented at the Science Committee and TCC12 on data management and indicates the amount of data that has been entered and also highlights possible data gaps and other problems in receiving the data for entry.
9. Observer data received at SPC cover an estimated 99% (1,697 trips) of 2013 purse seine trips, an estimated 91% (1,654 trips) of 2014 purse seine trips and an estimated 89% (1,419 trips) of 2015 purse seine trips according to purse seine trips with known observer placements. Observer data have been processed for an estimated 96% (2013), 84% (2014) and 81% (2015) of purse seine trips with known observer placements.
10. It is noted in the “*Status of ROP Data Management*” paper that CCM’s were submitting longline data for both internal domestic and ROP coverage; there were a number of issues reported where data had not been submitted or only partially submitted but trips had been reported by the CCM, noting that the percent coverage claimed by some CCM’s was not substantiated by the data that has been received by the data provider.
11. Members are reminded that 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 frame for carrier observation information data was suggested to be sent to the Commission Secretariat within 120 days.

Data Entry Staff “Pohnpei”

12. The Secretariat has four data entry personnel based in Pohnpei office, however there has been one resignation and a position is required to be filled. Data entry personal have been mainly entering data collected by FSM Observers, and the Japanese longline Observer Programmes. When this is completed the data entry staff continues to enter data sent by SPC to the Secretariat from other programmes.
13. 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.

Whale Shark ROP data from Purse Seine operations.

14. Whale shark interactions between vessels in the WCPO have been monitored by Pacific observer programmes since the early 1990’s. In recent years the collected observer data on whale sharks has been expanded to give a more detailed account of the interactions.
15. Table 1 shows the number of Whale Shark interactions reported in the annual ROP report against trips recorded. There were approx. 80% that were recorded released alive in good condition approximately 14% were declared deceased or badly injured when discarded with 6 % having no condition recorded by observers.

Table 1 Whale shark interactions 2013-2015

Year	Annual ROP Reports	Observer Reported Whale Shark Interactions	PS Trips analyzed for each ROP Annual Report	Average number of trips that an interaction occurs
2013	6 th	381	1235	Every 3.24 trips
2014	7 th	247	845	Every 3.42 trips
2015	8 th	346	1065	Every 3.07 trips

Bird landing data recorded by National and ROP observers for 2015

16. Table 2 shows available 2015 observer collected data, and indicates that 81 birds were recorded by observers as caught by long liners on 309 trips and on 1065 purse seine trips; there were 18 sightings in

the 0-12° S area with no landings from purse seine trips monitored by observers. All caught birds observed on long liners south of the equator in the Convention Area were reported as dead when brought on board the vessel. The reports of interactions are a lot higher than past years due to the inclusion of NZ national data and French Polynesia data to the data base. No birds were recorded by observers north of the equator, probably due to the lack of adequate coverage of long liners. Better bird ID guides has assisted in the better identification of birds

Table 2 Observer Reported bird catches and latitude range sighted or caught:

Species	Lat. 0°-12° S		Lat.12°-20° S		Lat.20°-30° S		Lat.30°-46° S	
	Cght	Sight	Cght	Sight	Cght	Sight	Cght	Sight
Albatross		4					20	
Black Petrel							3	
Black-Browed Mollyhawk							2	
Black-Footed Albatross	1	3			3			
Campbell Island Black Browed							1	
Cape Pigeon	1							
Flesh footed Shear Water							1	
Gulls Terns & Skuas		3						
Laysan Albatross		2						
NZ White Capped Mollyhawk							6	
Petrels & Puffins		6	10	6		2		
Salvin's Albatross							1	
Wandering Albatross							2	
Westland Petrel							3	
Unidentified							1	

Turtle landings recorded by ROPE observers for 2015

- Available 2015 observer data from 309 long line trips and 1065 Purse seine trips indicates there were 166 turtle landing and non-landed interactions recorded by observers on purse seiners and 31 landing and or non-landed interactions on long liners.
- Table 3 shows the number of reported landings and the condition and fate of the turtle on being caught, and condition of the turtle when released. The table also indicates interactions with purse seine nets, this is where the turtle is seen in the net but not landed; many of the turtles were assisted out of the net by crew by either jumping into the water and manhandling the turtle over the cork line; or by using a dip net to lift the turtle over the cork line. Turtles landed on deck were generally released in the same condition as when landed; unfortunately there were a small number reported as dead on purse seiners, with the cause reported by observers consisting of the turtle being tangled in the netting during the set, and also not being observed in the netting as it is hauled and the turtle goes through the power block. The non-landed interactions with longlines; observers reported that turtles were released by cutting the line before they came on deck; there were 14 dead turtles observed on long liners most were Olive Ridley turtles.

Table 3 Turtles reported landed on Longline and Purse Seine vessels -2015

Species Common Name	Gear type	Total Landings & non-landing Interactions	Condition of turtle when landed		Released Cond.	Caught - PS Net / LL Released by Crew before Landing	Sighted Only
			Number Landed	Cond Code	Cond** Code		
Flatback	LL	1	1	A2	A2		
	PS	6	3	A1	A1	3 (A1)	
Green Turtle	LL	7	3	A1	A1	5(A1)	7
			1	A2	A2		
			3	D	D		
	PS	40	24	A1	A1		
			1	A1	A2		
	1	A2	A1				
	2	A2	A2				
Hawksbill Turtle	LL	5	4	A1	A1		
			1	B	D		

	PS	36	10 1 3	A1 U D	A1 U D	5 (A1) 2(A0)	15
Leatherback Turtle	LL	5	1	D	D	4(A1)	
	PS	5	3 1	A1 D	A1 D	1(A1)	
Loggerhead Turtle	LL	4	3 1	A1 D	A1 D		
	PS	33	11 6 1 2	A1 A2 A3 D	A1 A2 A3 D	2(A0) 5(A1) 1(A2)	5
Olive Ridley Turtle	LL	12	1 9 1 1	A1 D A2 A3	A1 D A2 A3		
	PS	43	15 3 2 1 4	A1 A2 A3 D A0	A1 A2 A3 D A0	8 (A1)	10
Total		197	124			36	37

AO (Unknown Condition) - A1(alive and well) – A2(injured expected to survive) – A3 (injured not likely to survive) - D(Dead)

19. Two CMMs have been agreed by the Commission CMM 2013-08 (Silky Sharks) and entered into force from 1 July 2014 and CMM 2011-04 (Ocean White Tip Sharks) and entered into force from 1st Jan 2013. Table 4 Silky Sharks and Table 5 Ocean White Tip shark's shows LL and PS catches recorded by observers for the 2015 period and entered in the ROP data base and reports supplied to the WCPFC Secretariat by SPC the data provider. The data is for 1065 purse seine and 309 LL trips.
20. Despite the CMM requirements, the reporting by observers appears to demonstrate that a small number of vessels are still finning silky sharks and ocean whitetip sharks and the bodies are being discarded and in a few cases retained. The Secretariat as part of the CMS process has advised relevant flag CCMs in Circular No.: 2016/42 the availability online of Shark Catch Alleged infringements, for flag CCMs investigation. These are incidences in which the observer reports contain alleged infringements related to shark finning or prohibition to retain silky sharks or oceanic whitetip sharks; the secure CCM portals have provided flag CCMs with updated lists of the relevant trip details so that further investigations may commence.
21. Table 4 & 5 also notes the condition discarded on long liners and purse seiners, the purse seine numbers are grouped as it was difficult to ascertain the actual conditions of every shark discarded; as in many cases multiple catches occurred in the one set with sometimes up to 10 to 60 sharks recorded as caught and discarded for a set. This also accounts for the large NR (Condition not recorded) numbers for purse seiners. Long line numbers are easier to record as sharks are hauled on board at an individual rate and condition fate and discard condition is easier to monitor,

Table 4 - Silky Sharks

2015 Period	Number Caught	Discarded Body, Fins Retained	Body and Fins Retained	Condition Discarded						
				A0	A1	A2	A3	D	Cut off	NR
Jan 1 –Dec 31 Purse seine	17916	188	53	1779				9765		6372
Jan 1 – Dec 31 Long line	1285	109	124	7	141	112	217	775	194	33
Total	19201	297	177	225				10540		6405

Table 5 - Ocean White Tipped Sharks

2015 Period	Number Caught	Discarded Body Fins Retained	Body and Fins Retained	Condition Discarded						
				A0	A1	A2	A3	D	Cut off (A1)	NR
Jan 1 –Dec 31 Purse seine	213	2	2	0	81	0	0	51	0	81
Jan 1 – Dec 31 Long line	198	6	2	3	80	20	11	81	84	3
Total	411	8	4	3	161	2	11	132	8	84

AO (Unknown Condition) - A1(alive and well) – A2(injured expected to survive) – A3 (injured not likely to survive) - D(Dead) - Cut off (line cut without landing) - NR(No condition recorded)

Cetaceans

25. Many different species of whales and dolphins were observed by the ROP observer. Special on deck ID guides produced by SPC allowed for a more accurate identification of each animal.
26. Table 6 shows Cetacean interaction data for 1065 observed purse seine trips, interactions reported included instances where animals swam around the outside of the net after it was set and waited for escaping fish, for other interactions reported the animals waited after the set completion to be fed by crew, in these cases the animal would come to the vessels after the net had been hauled in and the set finished, and wait for the crew to throw them discards. Bow wave riding, especially by dolphins was observed as an interaction in a number of observer reports.
27. Animals caught in the net included the larger whales, they usually escaped by their own methods by creating their own holes in the net to escape, or as reported in many cases the vessel crew would assist the animals to escape the net, either by pulling them out by a rope, or dropping the net so they could swim out. Unfortunately a small number of species, mainly the dolphin species were caught in the net and by the time they were discovered in the net, they were already deceased.

Table 6: Whale and Dolphin 2015 encounters reported by ROP observers.

Species	A	B	C	Total A-B-C	D
	Interaction not landed	Sighting only	*Caught in PS net (escaped or released alive)		*Caught or Landed (Dead)
Baleen Whales	4	11	13	28	0
Beaked Whale	0	4	3	7	0
Blue Whale	1	3	1	5	0
Bottle Nose Dolphin – l/line	0	9	0	9	
Bottle Nose Dolphin –p/seine	5	25	12	42	6
Brides Whale	1	50	33	84	0
Common Dolphin – l/line	0	1	0	1	0
Common Dolphin –p/seine	1	4	0	5	0
Frasers Dolphin	0	1	0	1	0
Spotted Dolphin	0	2	0	2	0
Unidentified Dolphin	2	4	7	13	4
False Killer Whale	109	394	115	618	26
Gingko Tooth beaked Whale	4	4	0	8	0
Humpback whale	2	23	2	27	2
Indo Pacific Dolphin	8	69	0	77	0
Killer Whale	1	7	4	12	0
Long Beaked Dolphin	0	7	0	7	1
Melon Head Whale	8	13	7	28	0
Minke Whale	1	14	19	34	0
Pygmy Sperm whale	2	11	0	13	0
Pygmy Killer Whale	4	5 22	0	26	0

Rissos dolphin	1	0	15	16	9
Rough tooth Dolphin	6	20	45	71	37
Sei Whale	2	79	27	108	1
Short Finned Pilot Whale	1	183	2	186	1
Sperm Whale	0	28	8	36	0
Spinner Dolphin	5	327	0	332	2
Striped Dolphin	1	34	0	35	0
Toothed Whales	0	2	1	3	0
Unknown Identification	4	7	1	12	0
	173	1358	315	1846	89

. * Caught or landed (Dead) indicates the actual numbers reported dead by observers

ROP Data Fields and subsequent observer training requirements

28. WCPFC12 agreed to additional data fields and instructional changes to the Commission “Observer Minimum Standard Data Fields” collected by observers when aboard long liners. These include instruction and data collection changes to fields on Wire Trace, Hook Type, Hook Size, Tori Line, Side Setting with Bird Curtains, Weighted Branch lines, Shark Lines, Deep Setting Line Shooter, Management of Offal Discharge, Strategic Offal Disposal, Number of Light Sticks, Bait Species, Conditions Codes When Caught and Released. Also agreed were fields that should be submitted with the Observer Trip Monitoring Summary from June 8th 2016. These are Observers “Start date of Trip,” “Observer end date of Trip’ and Status of Debriefing. All these changes can be found on the WCPFC website under “MCS Scheme- ROP – Table of Minimum Standard Data Fields

Observer Coverage Purse-Seine 2015

29. 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 and Flag states that did not provide any information on their observer placements, data received was cross-referenced by Flag state against provider placements, and the Secretariat was able to verify most but not all placements and is also unable to confirm positively that every purse seine vessel carried an observer during 2015. Members are reminded that they are required to submit information on ROP observers to the Secretariat. Table 7 indicates ROP trips for 2015; noting that for some fleets which may have fished in their own waters for part of, or the whole year, are not included in this coverage report. The vessel numbers on the RFV are as Dec 2015 and may not correspond exactly to the numbers fished, as a number of vessels changed flags during the year.

Table 7 – Available Observer Coverage Information of Purse Seine Vessels Jan - Dec

2015	PS Vessels on RFV	PS Fished ROP	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
China	83	19	16	1	1	11	12	11	10	12	14	1	1	1
Chinese Taipei	113	41	37	3	3	32	32	33	35	33	32	3	3	3
Ecuador	11	10	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		1	1	1	1
El Salvador	4	4	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
FSM	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	6	6	4	7	7	7	8
Japan	88	35	25	2	2	30	29	29	20	19	25	2	2	1
Kiribati	13	13	9	1	1	12	10	10	10	6	6	9	9	4
Korea (Republic)	59	26	23	2	2	25	25	24	25	22	23	2	2	2
Marshall Islands	10	10	8	1	1	10	9	9	9	8	9	9	1	6
New Zealand	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2
Papua New	37	22	10	1	1	16	16	14	18	19	20	1	2	1
Philippines	164	22	19	1	2	16	17	16	16	17	15	1	1	1
Solomon's	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EU/Spain	46	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	1	1	2	1	1
Tuvalu	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
USA	38	37	24	3	3	36	36	34	34	34	33	3	3	3
Vanuatu	5	4	2	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Total	696	258	190	211	216	208	205	195	190	179	190	189	189	169

Observer Coverage - Long Line 2015

30. Coverage rates for long liners are set at 5%, using one of the approved and agreed metrics for long line coverage. 5% long line coverage was to be achieved by 30 June 2012. However, many programmes struggle to achieve this coverage rate for various reasons.
31. Long line data being received by the WCPFC data provider (SPC) indicates that data for many fleets as indicted in the paper “Status of ROP Data Management” *WCPFC-SC12-2016/ST IP-02rev1* was not enough to attain the 5% ROP coverage required.
32. 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. Since the TCC11 a lot of work has been carried out on the potential of using Electronic Monitoring (EM) as a mechanism to help attain the 5% observer coverage. A couple of CCM’s have implemented (EM) as a method of coverage and a few have been holding test trials on EM. There will need to be a Commission decision to allow data collected by this method (EM) to be approved as part of the 5% observer coverage. Coverage currently is based on physical observers carrying out observations on board long liners.

Cross Endorsement of observers

33. There are approximately 50 observers from Pacific island countries with IATTC/WCPFC cross endorsement certification. These certified observers are able to carry out work in both Convention areas on the same trip on vessels approved to fish in both Convention areas. Training was held in 2015 in Kiritimati, and in Vanuatu in 2016; further training is planned for the Micronesian countries in 2017. Cross endorsed trained observers are currently in high demand, with vessels wishing to cross over to the IATTC area on a regular basis. Observers on these trips operate under the PIRFO formats designed by SPC/FFA and continue to use this format for the complete trip, however when in IATTC waters they may be required to fill out extra forms for IATTC in areas of dolphin catches and other IATTC weekly reporting requirements.
34. The course held in Vanuatu recently saw 20 new cross endorsed observers trained from Solomon islands PNG, Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Nauru, this was double the normal amount that are usually trained; and was made possible as the cost of this training was assisted by funding made available from the US Treaty training fund administered by FFA; the combined funding with the Commission budget allowed more observers to be trained.
35. Questions were raised at TCC12 on whether IATTC observers can be trained to observe in the WCPFC waters. The Secretariat replied that this is possible, however it pointed out that the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between IATTC and WCPFC is for the high seas only and then only if approved by both Commission Executive Directors. The Secretariat reiterated that vessels fishing in WCPFC waters with an IATTC observer could only do so on the high seas and not in any WCPFC EEZ’s. To operate in a WCPFC EEZ the observer has to be approved by the country whose waters that the vessel wishes to fish.

Observer availability

36. 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. Indonesia has just become an ROP provider and has a large number of experienced observers trained for IOTC and other projects; they will begin WCPFC requirements training in 2017. An issue that has been

reported by a few programmes is that training of observers in the future could be severely curtailed by the lack of funds available for observer training.

Authorised observer providers to the ROP

37. A list of ROP authorised observer programmes and their coordinator contacts are available on the MSC - ROP section of the WCPFC website <http://www.wcpfc.int/regional-observer-programme>; authorised programmes are reminded to send observer coordinator changes as soon as they are known, to keep this list up to date.

CMM Booklet for Observers

38. In 2015, the Secretariat compiled a booklet of all the current Commission Conservation and Management Measures and Resolutions that were in force in 2015, following WCPFC12 this was updated in Jan 2016 to include all CMMs that are in force in 2016 and this has been printed and distributed to all programmes. The booklet also highlights some of the issues that will assist observers in understanding the CMMs and the importance of the data they are collecting.
39. Cost involved in printing and freight was increased in last year's budget and the costs for the booklet were within the new budget allocation. Delivery costs being the main expenditure item; Direction will be sought from programmes on whether the booklet will require as many copies as 2016 as many programmes are embracing electronic reporting, and electronic versions will be available for down load to any observer tablets. An electronic version of the handbook, as well as a complete compendium of CMMs can be downloaded from the WCPFC website.

IWG-ROP

40. TCC11 recommended to WCPFC12 that the IWG-ROP not be activated for this current period, unless there is any urgent matter raised by members during TCC12 requiring the IWG-ROP to be reformed; there is no current reason to have the IWG-ROP activated.

Observer Trip Monitoring Summary

37. 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.
38. The Secretariat was tasked at WCPFC12 to work with SPC-OFP in developing an online solution for providing advance notification to flag States of alleged infringements reported on observer trip monitoring summary. In March 2016, the Secretariat implemented the online Compliance Case file system which is based on the ROP data set. Joint work is continuing between the Secretariat and SPC-OFP to finalise the part of the online IT solution for the "observer trip monitoring summary" to be included in the online compliance case file system in the absence of the complete ROP data set.
39. Table 8 represents data as available by Oct 28 2016 entered for 309 long line trips and 1065 Purse seine trips observed from across all fishing fleets for 2015. There is still some data to be received and entered for trips carried out for the period Jan 1st to Dec 31st 2015. The table represents the Gen 3 form format used in the pacific programmes and a couple of fields in this format are not requirements of the WCPFC, but of the FFA/SPC countries; these are indicated.

40. As can be seen there is a high level of inaccurate reporting on vessel log sheets of target species and bycatch species, indicating that the observer data is a reliable data source that can be used for analysis of this information. The high proportion of species of special interest recorded is due to the landing on deck of sharks and maybe a SSI form for sharks needs to be developed so as to separate sharks from the other SSI such as Turtles, Cetaceans, Birds, etc.

41. Of concern are trips where observers reported some sort of obstruction, intimidation and interference of the observer in allowing him or her to carry out their normal duties, whilst the percentages may seem small, these percentages should be zero. Of the 49 reports of (RS-a) the major interference report was not allowing observers to record information required from vessel instrumentation. There was one report of assault after the cook and the observer argued over the observer not being given what he considered proper food, as given to the rest of the crew. The cook punched the observer during the disagreement. There was also a report of a crew member continually following the observer into the showers and peeping into the observer's cabin when he was dressing, etc.

Table 8 - Observer Trip Monitoring Summary 2015

Item reported		Times Yes indicated	% of total reports
Observer Rights and Social Behaviour			
<i>RS -a</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	49	3.7
<i>RS -b</i>	Request that an event not be reported by the observer	54	4.1
<i>RS -c</i>	Mistreat other crew (Not a WCPFC required ROP Data Field)	34	2.8
<i>RS -d</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	33	2.7
National Regulations			
<i>NR -a</i>	Fish in areas where the vessel is not permitted to fish	33	2.6
<i>NR -b</i>	Target species other than those they are licensed to target (Not a WCPFC required ROP Data Field)	7	0.6
<i>NR -c</i>	Use a fishing method other than the method the vessel was designed or licensed	8	0.6
<i>NR -d</i>	Not display or present a valid (and current) license document onboard (Not a WCPFC required ROP Data Field)	46	3.7
<i>NR -e</i>	Transfer or transship fish from or to another vessel	84	6.2
<i>NR -f</i>	Was involved in bunkering activities (Not a WCPFC required ROP Data Field)	807	62.7
<i>NR -g</i>	Fail to stow fishing gear when entering areas where vessel is not authorised to fish	54	4.3
WCPFC CMMS			
<i>WC -a</i>	Fail to comply with any Commission Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)	191	14.8
<i>WC -b</i>	High-grade the catch	29	2.4
<i>WC -c</i>	Fish on FAD during FAD Closure	86	6.7
Vessel Log Sheet information			
<i>LP -a</i>	Inaccurately record vessel position on vessel log sheets for sets, hauling and catch	10	0.8
<i>LP -b</i>	Fail to report vessel positions to countries, where required when entering and leaving an EEZ	14	
<i>LC -a</i>	Inaccurately record retained "Target Species" in the Vessel logs [or weekly reports]	424	33.5
<i>LC -b</i>	Inaccurately record "Target Species" Discards	575	45.1
<i>LC -c</i>	Record target species inaccurately [eg. combine bigeye/yellowfin/skipjack catch]	472	36.9
<i>LC -d</i>	Not record bycatch discards	627	49.6
<i>LC -e</i>	Inaccurately record retained bycatch Species	279	22.1
<i>LC -f</i>	Inaccurately record discarded bycatch species	278	21.7
Species of Special Interest - Marine mammals turtles seabirds or whale sharks)			
<i>SI -a</i>	Land on deck Species of Special Interest (SSIs)	625	48.6
<i>SI -b</i>	Interact (not land) with SSIs	429	33.4
Pollution			
<i>PN -a</i>	Dispose of any metals, plastics, chemicals or old fishing gear	457	36.2

<i>PN-b</i>	Discharge any oil	105	8.0
<i>PN-c</i>	Lose any fishing gear	15	1.2
<i>PN-d</i>	Abandon any fishing gear	71	
<i>PN-e</i>	Fail to report abandoned Gear	14	
Sea Safety			
<i>SS-a</i>	Fail to monitor International Safety Frequencies	7	
<i>SS-b</i>	Carry out of date safety equipment	99	

Summary

42. The year 2015 saw a number of events occurred that are having ramifications on all programmes, safety at sea issues were highlighted at the WCPFC12 and Commissions new minimum standards are in place and all programmes will need to ensure they have these new minimum standards in place in their programmes by January 2017. From Jan 2017 all programmes when audited will be checked to ensure these safety measures for observers are in place. These new WCPFC standards are being recognized across the globe as a minimum standard that should be used for observer safety in all programmes.
43. The reports on species interactions and catch in this report uses the SPC data base for its information as part of this data use it is noted that proper and expert data debriefing is required so that accurate data can be entered and made available for these types of reports, it was unfortunate that in a few cases it was obvious that data was not debriefed or was not debriefed properly and a small amount of information could not be used.
44. The CMM booklet continues to be a popular tool for observers and also it is noted that a number of managers are also using this booklet as a quick guide to most of the CMMS of the Commission. The future printings will continue for a couple of years, however it may not be required in the near future due to the introduction of Electronic Reporting where electronic versions can be placed on the tablet used by the observer.
45. There has been a very small number of accusations by a couple of persons regarding the corruption of observers, whilst it is difficult to substantiate if this is occurring any observer, coordinator or vessel captain or owner involved should not be let off lightly if it is found to have occurred. Also when drafting Commission CMM's that are made for vessels to undertake while fishing; consideration should be made to not create pressures that could be put on observers to not report some incidents involved in the monitoring of the CMM's.
46. The ROP continues to develop, and the introduction of Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring as a tools to assist managers and make data more quickly available will make for better and more accurate reporting in the future, however there is a need to ensure the standards and mechanisms that will be required to ensure the data fields and information being collected is harmonised across programmes. Special training in the use of these ER reporting and the use of tablets will need to be included as part of observer training.
47. Overall the 23 observer programmes that are part of the Commission ROP are operating routinely within the standards required by the Commission, there is a small number of programmes that have issues from time to time regarding the maintenance of the standards but these are overcome with assistance from their sub regional bodies i.e. FFA , PNA as well as assistance from the ROP section of the WCPFC Secretariat.

Recommendation

- | |
|---|
| 48. WCPFC13 is invited to consider and note the 8 th Annual Report of the WCPFC Regional Observer Programme. |
|---|