



EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION

Koror PALAU
5-9 December 2011

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ROP TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP.

**WCPFC8 /2011/25
27 October 2011**

ISSUE:

1. TCC7 recommended a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) be created to assist the Secretariat in developing protocols for ROP operational matters. A Term of Reference (TOR) was presented to TCC7 for this TAG; these were modified slightly following comments and the latest version for consideration is presented in this paper.

“TCC7 recommended that WCPFC8 form a Technical Advisory Group (TAG)-ROP to consider further procedures and guidelines for operation of the ROP given the requirements already specified in relevant Commission CMMs. The proposed terms of reference are given in Attachment G”.

2. The TOR's for the Technical Advisory Group are reproduced below for consideration.

DECISIONS:

3. The Commission is invited to approve the formation of a ROP Technical Advisory Group as per the Terms of Reference.

4. The Commission is invited to elect a Chair/Coordinator of the Technical Advisory Group.



DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ROP TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

1. The purpose of establishing a ROP Technical Advisory Group, established as the subsidiary body of the TCC, is to address, in a manner consistent with the Convention and CMMs, operational and technical issues of the Regional Observer Programme (ROP):
2. The ROP Technical Advisory Group will consist of all nominated sub regional and national ROP Coordinators from programmes authorised to be part of the ROP; a representative from the WCPFC Secretariat and a representative of the Science Provider (SPC) and as needed qualified individuals nominated by CCMs.
3. The ROP Technical Advisory Group shall report to the TCC and Commission only on technical and operational issues of the WCPFC ROP.
4. The ROP Technical Advisory Group will conduct its business electronically unless otherwise requested by the Commission.
5. The ROP Technical Advisory Group will consider, from a technical and operational basis, and provide recommendations to TCC on:
 - a. the development of minimum technical and operational standards for practical implementation and operational advice of the ROP consistent with Article 28 of the Convention and the CMMs of the WCPFC Commission; and
 - b. any technical and operational matters regarding the ROP referred to it by the Commission, the TCC, the SC or the NC.
6. The ROP Technical Advisory Group will advise the TCC and the Secretariat on the development of a method of work and communications that will enable ROP technical and operational issues to be identified and resolved.
7. In developing its recommendations, the ROP Technical Advisory Group shall take into account the need for cost-effectiveness and, where applicable, identify the costs associated with the various mechanisms and processes identified.
8. The ROP Technical Advisory Group will not provide recommendations on matters related to policy or review existing agreements or CMMs. When a question as to whether a matter is viewed by participants as being related to policy or review existing agreement or CMMs, it will be referred to the WCPFC Legal Advisor for a final determination.
9. The Technical Advisory Group will perform its work from immediately after Commission approval until September 2012 unless a decision is taken to extend the TAG.