



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Rarotonga, Cook Islands
9-17 August 2017

FAD DATA TO BE PROVIDED BY OBSERVERS

WCPFC-SC13-2017-ST-WP-06

Parties to the Nauru Agreement

ABSTRACT

This paper proposes revisions to the WCPFC ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields to reflect the decision of WCPFC12 that vessel operators should provide data on FAD design and construction and FAD activity (deploying, retrieving, setting, visiting, loss etc), and the FAD Management Options – Intersessional Working Group recommendation that data collected by observers on FADs can be used for verification of FAD activities of vessels.

Introduction

1. This paper is prepared as a contribution to discussion on the proposed Agenda item 3.3.1: Review Of ROP Minimum Standards Data Fields where it is planned that *“SC13 will review any new proposals to revise the ROP Minimum Data Standard Data Fields.”*
2. The proposed revisions arise from the WCPFC12 decision to transfer the primary responsibility for the provision of certain data on FADs from observers to vessel operators, with data on FADs provided by observers being required for verification of FAD activities.
3. The current text of the ROP Minimum Data Standard Data Fields can be found at: <https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/table-rop-data-fields-including-instructions>

Background

4. At its 1st meeting in Bali, Indonesia in November 2015, the FAD Management Options – Intersessional Working Group (FADMgmtOptions-IWG) recommended that:
vessel operators provide data on FADs covering 2 major areas:
 - a. *FAD design and construction of FAD to be deployed or encountered (materials, electronics, size etc.)*
 - b. *FAD activity (deploying, retrieving, setting, visiting, loss etc.)*and that:
Data collected by observers on FADs can be used for verification of FAD activities of vessels.
5. WCPFC12 agreed that *“vessel operators should provide data on FADs covering the following two major areas:*
 - a. *FAD design and construction of FAD to be deployed or encountered (materials, electronics, size etc)*
 - b. *FAD activity (deploying, retrieving, setting, visiting, loss etc).”*
6. WCPFC12 also noted the IWG recommendation that *“data collected by observers on FADs can be used for verification of FAD activities of vessels.”*
7. At its 2nd meeting in Pohnpei, Federated States Of Micronesia in September 2016, the IWG recommended that *“the issue of data to be provided by observers be referred to SC13 and TCC13, and CCMs were encouraged to provide delegation papers on this aspect.”*
8. WCPFC13 *“adopted the Report of the second meeting of the FADMgmtOptions-IWG (WCPFC13-2016-FADMgmtOptions-IWG02_rev2), and agreed that the outcomes therein should be further considered at SC13 and TCC13.”*

Approach

9. The effect of the IWG recommendations and the Commission decisions noted above is that the primary responsibility for provision of data on FAD design and construction, and FAD activities will be transferred from observers to vessel operators with data on FADs provided by observers being required for verification of FAD activities.
10. These outcomes reflect a range of considerations for different CCMs including that:
 - a) Vessel operators are better placed currently and under any WCPFC scheme for physical marking of FADs to provide data identifying FADs so that information on FAD design can be effectively linked to logsheet data on catches from individual FAD sets and data on FAD interactions including deployments, sightings etc.
 - b) Information on FAD design and construction that the vessel operator can provide, including photos, plans and diagrams of FAD design and construction, is more effective than the information including drawings by hand currently provided by observers
 - c) There is a growing burden of requirements on observers with the monitoring of an increasing range number of increasingly complex WCPFC CMMs and collection of an increasing range of data.
11. Against this background, it is proposed as discussed further below that:
 - a) The **General Vessel And Trip Information For All Vessel Types Part** of the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields will be revised to include a Section on FAD Information, which will include an inventory of FAD buoys on board at the start and end of each trip
 - b) The **FAD DATA fields** of the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields will be revised to add a FAD Identification field, and delete Data Fields that will be reported by vessel operators and will not be necessary for observers to collect for verification purposes
 - c) A FAD Identification field will be added to the **Purse Seine Information and Data/ Set Information Fields** of the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields.

General Vessel and Trip Information for All Vessel Types

12. Under the heading “General Vessel and Trip Information for All Vessel Types”, there will need to be a new section “FAD Information”. This section will include inventories of the FAD buoys on board at the start and end of each trip. The inventories will list for each buoy the type of buoy (GPS/echo sounding/other), make, model and identification information.

FAD DATA Fields

13. A field for FAD Identification will be added.
14. The following sets of FAD Data fields will be deleted:
 - Materials FAD Is Made From
 - Estimated Size Of FAD

15. This means that the following sets of FAD Data Fields will be retained:

- Sighting Date, Time, Position
- How FAD Is Detected FAD Anchored Or Drifting
- Electronics Associated With FAD
- Origin of FAD
- FAD Activity

Purse Seine Information and Data/ Set Information Fields

16. A FAD identification field will be added to the Purse Seine Information and Data/ Set Information fields. This data is already routinely reported by observers, where possible, but it is not currently included in the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields.

Other Considerations

17. The changes above will require conforming changes to other documentation including the WCPFC ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields Instructions, and observer workbooks.

18. These revisions will require careful planning and implementation to ensure that the value of WCPFC data on FADs is maintained. In particular, there may need to be a period of overlap in reporting of FAD data where observers continue to report on FAD design and construction while the new reporting requirements for vessel operators are introduced.

19. For effective implementation, the operators of all vessels, including support vessels, involved in activities with FADs, including deployment, will need to provide data on FADs and carry ROP observers.

20. When the Commission adopts a CMM with requirements for FAD design and construction, additional ROP data fields will be required to be provided for the purpose of monitoring compliance with that CMM.

21. The key element to making use of FAD data effectively is for FADs, and preferably also FAD attachments, to be consistently identified on the logsheet, on set reports, on FAD activity reports and on FAD design and construction reports so that these FAD-related data elements can be linked.

Recommendation:

That SC13:

- a) note and provide comment on the proposed revisions to the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields proposed above; and
- b) note the need for FAD data to be provided by vessel operators and ROP observers for all vessels, involved in FAD activities including support vessels .