



**THIRD E-REPORTING AND E-MONITORING WORKING GROUP MEETING
(ERandEMWG3)
Busan, Republic of Korea
6 - 7 August 2018**

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE E-REPORTING STANDARDS

WCPFC-2018-ERandEMWG3-02

25 July 2018

PAPER BY THE SECRETARIAT AND SPC-OFP

Purpose

1. This paper reviews the background of WCPFC E-reporting standards development and provides an update on the level of voluntary uptake by CCMs in their data submissions to WCPFC to date. Some questions that might inform a discussion about a future process for maintaining the WCPFC E-reporting standards, are presented for consideration of ERandEMWG3 participants.

Background

2. This paper responds to the task to the Secretariat under paragraph 7(c) of the E-reporting SSPs to “report annually on the performance of the Electronic reporting standards and their application, and as necessary, make recommendation for improvements or modifications.”
3. Over the past five years the Commission has been considering the application of E-reporting and E-monitoring for fisheries monitoring. In 2014, WCPFC held an E-Monitoring and E-reporting workshop at FFA Headquarters (Honiara, Solomon Islands) in 31 March – 1 April 2014 to discuss the potential for electronic reporting and electronic monitoring in the WCPO and to consider next steps for progressing these initiatives. The workshop noted that a key risk for the Commission is the lack of documented policies and standards for these technologies. The benefits of standardised reporting formats for data exchange were articulated in the consultant’s paper, **WCPFC10-2013-16_rev1**. Potential benefits identified at the time included but were not limited to:
 - a. timely and enhanced data management;
 - b. facilitating data exchange between the Secretariat, CCMs, and regional bodies;
 - c. efficiently managing the increasing amounts of data received by the Secretariat; and
 - d. giving effect to t-RFMO recommendations on data harmonisation.

The potential risks of not having agreed WCPFC data standards included poor data coordination, increased data storage and transmission complexities, higher data security risk and increased long-term costs to the Commission and CCMs.

4. At WCPFC11 (December 2014) the Commission agreed that a priority task should be the development of draft standards, specifications and procedures for the use of electronic reporting and electronic monitoring technologies in WCPFC fisheries. To facilitate the development of these standards, specifications and procedures the electronic reporting and electronic monitoring working group (ERandEMWG) was established.
5. The first two meetings of the ERandEMWG prioritised the development and consideration of draft E-reporting standards, particularly for operational level catch and effort data and for observer data. The culmination of the past two ERandEMWG meetings was the adoption in December 2016 of “*The Standards, Specifications and Procedures for Electronic Reporting*” (E-reporting SSPs), this was adopted by the Commission in the form of a general decision to which other forms of E-reporting standards, once agreed would be included over time.
6. In December 2016, the Commission adopted the standards, specifications and procedures for Electronic reporting which include *E-reporting standards for operational catch and effort data* (WCPFC13 Summary Report paragraph 584 and Attachment T). Additionally, in December 2017 the *E-reporting standards for observer data* (WCPFC14 Summary Report paragraph 401 and Attachment T) were agreed for inclusion in the E-reporting SSPs. A table that summarises the status of the WCPFC E-reporting standards is provided in **Table 1**. Copies of the E-Reporting SSPs can be found on the WCPFC website at this link:= https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/data-05/e-reporting_ssps.
7. The draft standards for E-reporting of high seas transshipment declarations and transshipment notices were initially tabled at WCPFC14 in December 2017 and are now recommended by the Secretariat for adoption in December 2018 (*refer WCPFC-2018-ERandEMWG3-03*). The draft standards have been tabled by the Secretariat for the consideration by ERandEMWG participants at this meeting.

Table 1. Notes on the decisions by the Commission on the standards, specifications and procedures for Electronic Reporting (E-reporting SSPs)

Version	WCPFC decision reference	Description of updates	Effective date (Refer para 4)
2.0	<i>WCPFC14 Summary report, Attachment T</i>	<i>For adoption of ER for observer data</i>	9 June 2018
1.0	<i>WCPFC13 Summary Report, Attachment T</i>	<i>For adoption of ER SSPs, for operational level catch and effort data</i>	9 June 2017

Comment on the voluntary uptake and/or performance of the E-reporting standards

8. At the time of ERandEMWG3 meeting, the WCPFC E-reporting SSPs as it relates to the *E-reporting standards for operational catch and effort data* will have been in effect for a little more than twelve months. The WCPFC E-reporting SSPs as it relates to the *E-reporting standards for observer data* has been in effect for only a few months. (refer Table 1)

9. Irrespective of the effective date, it should be noted that the various E-reporting standards are voluntary, until the Commission takes a decision that says the E-reporting standards are mandatory (*refer E-reporting SSPs paragraph 3*).
10. Uptake of electronic reporting tools is continuing and there have been some positive developments over the past two years, including:
 - a) The Scientific Service Provider has received E-Reported purse seine logsheet data from the PNA FIMS/iFIMS system that adhere directly to the WCPFC E-Reporting standards for operational catch/effort data; this system is mandatory for all purse seine fleets licensed to fish in the PNA waters. Once several issues are resolved to ensure all data can be loaded, it will mean that the coverage of E-Reported logbook data from the tropical WCPFC purse seine fishery that adhere to the WCPFC E-Reporting standards could potentially be >90% coverage in the future.
 - b) The submission of operational data for the Korean longline fleet for 2017 is understood to be sourced from their E-Reporting system, although it does not adhere to the WCPFC E-Reporting standards at this stage.
 - c) There are several E-Reporting initiatives underway in the Pacific Islands countries that will result in an increase in coverage of operational data submissions adhering to the WCPFC E-Reporting standards in the future. For example, French Polynesia is currently implementing the E-Reporting *Onboard* system for their entire longline fleet (60-70 longline vessels by the end of 2018), and they have already successfully covered half their fleet.
 - d) There are a number of E-Monitoring initiatives currently underway throughout the region, and the current system used in Pacific Island countries (provided by the Technical Service Provider SATLINK) exports data that adheres directly to the WCPFC E-Reporting Observer Standards. To date, **2017 longline observer data for 203 trips** have been generated from this E-Monitoring system (adhering to the WCPFC E-Reporting observer standards) and loaded into the SPC regional observer database.
11. In terms of adherence to the adopted e-reporting standards, members are currently reporting as follows:
 - a) All Pacific Island member countries of the Pacific Community (SPC) require domestic and foreign fleets licensed to fish in their waters to submit logsheets, which are then entered or imported into the WCPFC operational catch/effort database (using the TUFMAN 2 system); this system stores data consistent with the WCPFC E-Reporting standards for operational data. The submissions of **2017 operational purse seine data** that are aligned to the WCPFC E-reporting standards **represents 92% coverage**, and for **2017 operational longline data**, **represent coverage of 30%** (of all 2017 longline data submitted).
 - b) All national observer programmes from Pacific Island member countries, the PNA-managed FSM Arrangement observer programme and the FFA-managed US Treaty Observer Programme have their observer data entered into the TUFMAN 2 system, which

produces data for the WCPFC ROP database aligned to the WCPFC E-Reporting standards for observer data. The submissions of **2017 purse seine observer data** held in the WCPFC ROP database that are aligned to the WCPFC E-Reporting standards for observer data **represents 100% coverage**. The submissions of **2017 longline observer data** held in the WCPFC ROP database that are aligned to the WCPFC E-Reporting standards for observer data **represents 29% coverage**.

Proposed guidelines for the update or revision of the E-reporting SSPs

12. Paragraph 7(e) of the E-reporting SSPs tasks the Secretariat to: “based on relevant decisions of the Commission, incorporate the necessary updates into a proposed revision of the SSPs, notify CCMs of the updates to the SSPs and invite comment before they come into effect”. Furthermore, and in accordance with E-reporting SSPs paragraph 4, any amendments or updates to the SSPs take effect six months or on 1 June following the adoption of the relevant decision by the WCPFC.
13. There are presently two E-reporting standards in effect, the length of the E-reporting SSPs document is 305 pages and a third set of draft E-reporting standards are being proposed for adoption in December this year. The Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to clarify with ERandEMWG participants their expectations of how the E-reporting SSPs would be maintained.
14. Some questions that might assist ERandEMWG participants in further considering and providing guidance on this matter are:
 - a. What should be the scope of application of the E-reporting SSPs? Should there be rules established for what datasets/datafields do / don't get included in the E-reporting SSPs?
 - b. Should there be a second tier of E-reporting SSPs for the data sets that the Commission has decided to make E-reporting mandatory?
 - c. What role should the ERandEMWG have, if any, in the process of recommending for adoption and for reviewing or amending the E-Reporting SSPs?
 - d. How often does the ERandEMWG want to meet to consider E-Reporting SSPs? If the meeting is not occurring annually, during the periods that the ERandEMWG doesn't have a formal meeting, should the functions be exercised by the TCC, and as appropriate the SC?
 - e. What, if any, of the ERandEMWG's functions, with regard to E-Reporting SSPs, can be achieved inter-sessionally via email etc.? If so, should intersessional communications that are related to the E-reporting SSPs be facilitated by the Secretariat through WCPFC official contacts, or should a new “E-reporting SSPs contacts list” be established?
 - f. Should the Commission receive as proposals and have presented in detail at the annual commission meeting, all -E-reporting draft standards proposals including revisions? Can the Commission simply take a decision, and noting that updates to the E-reporting SSPs may be required, also decide to task the Secretariat issue a revision of the E-reporting SSPs or its E-reporting draft standards, during the intersessional period?

- g. What process should be followed if a CCM has issues or wants changes made to the E-reporting SSPs during the intersessional period?

Administrative notes

- 15. A copy of the latest WCPFC E-Reporting SSPs can be found on the WCPFC website at this link:=
https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/data-05/e-reporting_ssps

RECOMMENDATION

- 16. ERandEMWG participants are invited to:
 - a. Note the update on the use of the E-reporting standards by members; and
 - b. Recommend to the Commission a process for how the E-reporting SSPs would be updated and maintained.

--