



**COMMISSION**  
**FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA  
10 – 14 December 2018

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**INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW OF FUNDING  
MECHANISMS FOR IATTC/WCPFC CROSS ENDORSEMENT TRAINING**

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**WCPFC15-2018-IP13**  
**15 November 2018**

**Paper by the Secretariat**

## **Purpose**

1. TCC14 recommended to WCPFC15 that the funding mechanisms for IATTC/WCPFC cross-endorsement training be reviewed by WCPFC15, including:
  - the costs and benefits of the training to the Commission and to CCMs;
  - the Commission's overall approach to the provision of funding for observer training; and
  - the Commission's priorities for the ROP

This paper covers the first dot point

## **Background**

2. In August 2011 the Commission signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) in recognition that some fishing vessels operate in both Convention Areas. At the time flag CCMs had requested consideration to allow their vessels to retain the ROP observer they carried from the WCPFC on board when they crossed into the EPO waters of the IATTC; allowing this would save vessels time because they would not need to go to port and arrange for transport of an IATTC observer for the trip into the EPO.
3. Since 2012, the Memorandum has been operational, and training has been regularly delivered to WCPFC ROP observers who work on purse seine vessels. At commencement the IATTC and WCPFC Secretariats worked closely together to review and compare the training and data collection requirements. The outcome of the joint work was agreement that IATTC/WCPFC cross-endorsement training would involve IATTC supplying a trainer, who working with the WCPFC ROP Coordinator, would jointly deliver training for WCPFC ROP observers to be trained to complete a couple of specific IATTC forms, that are relevant for the catch and conservation of dolphins in IATTC waters. The extra forms were only to be used in the case of any accidental dolphin catches, and other than a weekly reporting requirement and a new manta ray form, the WCPFC ROP observer would continue to collect data as instructed for the WCPO using the FFA/SPC formatted observer data collection work books.
4. In accordance with the Memorandum of Cooperation, "cross-endorsement" certification is given to an observer when both IATTC and WCPFC Secretariats recognize that an observer has met the necessary training requirements of both organisations for vessels operating in both Convention Areas and that the standard is equivalent.
5. The Cross-endorsement training takes about 5-6 days and covers all the requirements for IATTC, as the WCPFC requested this service to assist vessels that fish primarily in WCPFC waters, IATTC assists by supplying the trainer and his time with other costs funded by the WCPFC. Only experienced observers are selected by the observer coordinator from the pool of experienced observers that the programme has available in the country of training. Depending on costs for in country training, there may be some funds available for countries close by to send limited participants to the course.

## **Information of costs and outcomes of the IATTC/WCPFC cross endorsement training**

6. Since 2012 the Commission has allocated an annual budget of between \$25,000 – \$45,000 to support the IATTC cross-endorsement training of ROP observers. The annual expenditure has ranged between \$20,000 – \$29,500, and this has been used to cover the costs of airfare, DSA, meeting expenses and venue hire. WCPFC funds the travel for the ROP coordinator from the staff travel budget line and funds the travel for the IATTC Observer trainer who is based in IATTC Headquarters, San Diego. Each

training has been held in a different location, and this was done with a view to provide greater opportunities for additional observers from each training location to receive the cross-endorsement training in that year.<sup>1</sup> In 2016, the FFA Secretariat helped fund the participation of additional observers to attend the training held in Vanuatu. Table 1 below lists the WCPFC annual budget and expenditure from 2012 – 2018.

**Table 1: Annual IATTC/WCPFC Cross endorsement budget and expenditure 2012 - 2018**

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	Total 2012 - 2018
<b>Training Venue</b>	Honiara, Solomon Islands	Pohnpei, FSM	Port Vila Vanuatu	Kiritimati, Kiribati	No Training	Majuro, RMI	Tarawa, Kiribati	
<b>Number of observers trained</b>	13	14	20	13	0	13	13	86
<b>Annual WCPFC Budget</b>	28000	28000	28000	25000	25000	25000	45000	
<b>Total expenditure</b>	20447	27897	29519	19483	0	21693	26570	<b>145609</b>

7. Table 2 illustrates the breakdown of costs of the last course held in Solomon Islands at the FFA headquarters.

**Table 2: 2018 Training Costs Solomon Islands**

Item	Cost
Airfares (5 persons – including IATTC trainer)	5564.79
DSA (5 persons– including IATTC trainer)	8881.00
Meeting Expenses	402.13
Catering	2597.87
FFA Venue Hire	3000.00
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>20446.79</b>

8. As at 31 October 2018, there are a total of 86 observers that have been trained and who are available for Cross-endorsed purse seine trips; however, these observers are often out on other trips, or have just returned from a regular ROP trip; finding an available Cross-endorsed observer is not always easy. Table 3 shows the countries that have had cross endorsed observers trained to accommodate vessels wishing to fish in the WCPO and the EPO on the same trip. Countries that have little or no

<sup>1</sup> The alternative to changing venue for each training over the years, could have been to host a regional cross-endorsement training that brought observers from different programmes to a central location. However, based on the annual budget allocation fewer observers from fewer programmes would have received cross-endorsement training over the period. The estimated a budget to cover comparable items for a regional training to train a comparable number of observers to that achieved annually during 2012-2018 is estimated to cost a minimum of \$40,000 - \$60,000 depending on venue and the home location for each observer.

Cross-endorsed observers have requested, through their ROP observer coordinators, that the Secretariat look to include their national observers be included in the next training.

**Table 3: Current count of Certified IATTC Cross endorsed ROP observers by ROP programme (# Programmes who have requested training for additional IATTC cross-endorsed observers in 2019)**

Observer Provider	Cross-endorsed Observers	
Cook Islands#	1	
Federated States of Micronesia	15	
Fiji#	3	
Kiribati	(Tarawa)	13
	(Kiritimati)	13
Marshall Islands	8	
Nauru#	4	
PNG	8	
Solomon Island	13	
Tonga#		
Tuvalu	2	
Vanuatu	6	
<b>Total Available Cross-endorsed observers</b>	<b>86</b>	

9. Members at TCC14 requested information on what benefits the cross endorsed observers when in IATTC waters brings to the WCPFC. The employment of a Pacific Island observer rather than a IATTC observer is beneficial to the observer and their country. The ROP observers use the SPC forms for data collection for their trip in WCPO waters and continue to record information on these forms when they cross over into IATTC waters. While the EPO collected data would be considered more the mandate of the IATTC, there are several uses of these data from the WCPFC (science) perspective. For 2019, the Secretariat has requests from at least four Pacific Island countries who have requested for their observers to be considered to receive an invitation to attend a cross-endorsement training.
10. Some examples include:
  - Providing information on our tags that have been recovered within the EPO.
  - Studies on BET acknowledging the stock straddles WCPO and EPO.
  - Studies on certain bycatch species.
  - Extending studies where biological samples have been collected beyond the WCPFC area.

The boundary between the WCPFC and IATTC is mainly for management/compliance purposes and information collected by WCPFC ROP observers is also used to monitor these areas.

11. The main beneficiary of the WCPFC/IATTC cross endorsement has been the United States purse seine vessels; however, Ecuador and El Salvador have also used Cross-endorsed observers. Table 4 indicates the Flag states and the providers of ROP observers as well as the number of trips per year that have had IATTC/WCPFC Cross-endorsed observers placed since 2012, the last 4 years 2015/2018 sees an increase of the use of Cross-endorsed observers in the United States purse seine fleet.

**Table 4: Flag, Cross-endorsed purse seine trips and Observer Providers**

<i>Flag CCM</i>	Observer Provider							Cross-endorsed Trips	Trip years 2012-2018						
	<b>KI</b>	<b>FJ</b>	<b>FM</b>	<b>SB</b>	<b>PG</b>	<b>TV</b>	<b>VU</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18*</b>
<i>Ecuador</i>	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>13</b>	1	9	3	0	0	0	0
<i>El Salvador</i>	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>11</b>	4	3	3	0	0	0	1
<i>USA</i>	23	3	4	8	7	1	5	<b>51</b>	1	0	3	7	11	15	14
<b>Total</b>								<b>75</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>

\*Trips for 2018 as of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018

### **Recommendation**

12. The paper is for information.



**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION (MOC) ON THE CROSS-ENDORSEMENT OF WCPFC AND IATTC APPROVED OBSERVERS WHEN OBSERVING ON THE HIGH SEAS OF THE CONVENTION AREAS OF BOTH ORGANIZATIONS**

**between**

**THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

**and**

**THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

**UNDERSTANDING** the value of undertaking cooperative efforts to facilitate the operation of vessels that fish in both Convention Areas during the same fishing trip;

**CONSIDERING** the Memorandum of Understanding between WCPFC and IATTC signed in 2006 and the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in 2009;

**CONFIRM** the following conditions for the cross-endorsement of approved observers to operate on authorized vessels that undertake fishing operations in the convention areas of both organizations:

1. The IATTC and the WCPFC recognize the importance of facilitating mutual cooperative participation among the members of both Commissions.
2. The IATTC and the WCPFC recognize that their respective observer programs meet the standards of both Commissions by collecting accurate data on fishing activities essential to the conservation and management of the fish stocks covered by their respective Conventions.
3. Vessels with observers may fish in the IATTC Convention Area only if they are included on the IATTC Regional Vessel Register or may fish in the WCPFC Convention Area only if they are included on the WCPFC Record or Fishing Vessels.
4. Cross-endorsement for an observer will be given only when the IATTC and WCPFC Secretariats agree that the observer has met the necessary training requirements for operating on vessels that fish on the high seas in both Convention Areas and such requirements will be of the same standard.
5. It is understood that the relevant data and information requirements of each Commission will be met by the cross-endorsed observers when the vessel in question is in the high seas in the respective Convention Areas.
6. All data and information collected by observers operating on trips that extend into the high seas or the Convention Area of the other organization will be provided to both the IATTC and WCPFC Secretariats,

in accordance with procedures for the respective Commission and will be considered to be held by the respective Commission.

7. Each Secretariat will identify the data and information required for its Commission and will ensure that observers will be able to meet all such requirements with respect to vessels fishing within the high seas in that Commission's Convention Area.

8. Data and information collected by an observer cross-endorsed by the IATTC and WCPFC Secretariats may be used for compliance purposes and in legal proceedings.

9. The Secretariats may assist in facilitating the training of observers that meet cross-endorsement requirements, with a view towards developing a core group of observers who may be assigned to vessels operating on the high seas in both Convention Areas to meet the requirements of both IATTC and WCPFC with respect to observers.

10. The provisions of this MOC may also apply to specified areas or either organisation which are not high seas, in accordance with relevant approval procedures or each Commission, and when so advised by the Secretariat of the relevant Commission to the other Secretariat that the coastal CCM/CPC in question has requested use of cross-endorsed observers.

11. Cross-endorsement for an observer by the IATTC and WCPFC Secretariats does not affect the application or domestic legislation and procedures of coastal CCM/CPC of either organisation.

12. An observer cross-endorsed by the IATTC and WCPFC remains under the control of the respective national or subregional observer programme and will be made available to fulfil duties in the IATTC Convention Area subject to approval of such programmes. Unless agreed otherwise by such programmes, this MOC does not create any obligation on cross-endorsed observers or programmes.

13. This MOC is subject to periodic review and may be modified as agreed by both Commissions. Either Commission may terminate this MOC with three months' notice or such intention to the other Commission,

End

Note MoC signed on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011 by Chair of WCPFC and Director of IATTC on the 11<sup>th</sup> August 2011