



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**  
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**ROP MINIMUM STANDARD DATA FIELDS FOR TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA**

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**WCPFC-TCC17-2021-DP01**  
**21 August 2021**

Proposal from the United States of America

# ROP MINIMUM STANDARD DATA FIELDS FOR TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA

## Proposal by the United States of America to the Seventeenth Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee of the WCPFC

### ***Background:***

Article 28(6)(e) of the Convention notes that *the activities of observers shall include collecting catch data and other scientific data, monitoring the implementation of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and reporting of their findings in accordance with procedures to be developed by the Commission.*

Since 2010, in accordance with CMM 2009-06 (paragraph 13), there has been a requirement for 100% observer coverage of transshipments, usually on the receiving vessel for at sea transshipment. Paragraph 14 of CMM 2009-06 further identifies specific information for ROP observers to monitor and confirm during transshipment.

However, TCC's 2019-2021 Work Plan (section 2(m)) identifies the need for "Further development of protocols, observer data fields/forms including electronic data fields and databases, as needed, to better monitor transshipments at sea" as a Priority Project Specific Task.

Overcoming the extraordinary circumstances of the past two years, and as the Commission restarts ROP observers aboard vessels, it will be more important than ever to apply minimum data standards for observing transshipments, as well as ensure that observer data for transshipments are delivered to the Secretariat in a timely manner.

To date, the Commission has not established minimum standard data fields tailored for transshipments, but has encouraged ROP Providers to use the following forms on a voluntary basis:

- [Form FC1 - Fish Carrier General Description](#)
- [Form FC2 - Observer At Sea Transshipment Report](#)
- [Form FC3 - Catch Destination Form](#)

In light of the unprecedented loss of transshipment observer coverage due to the pandemic and in accord with Convention Article 28, CMM 2009-06, and the TCC Work Plan 2019-2021, TCC17 faces an opportune moment for strengthening regulation and monitoring of transshipment at sea.

*Recommendations for Consideration by TCC17:*

**TCC17 recommended that WCPFC18 adopt specific data fields from the Forms FC1, FC2, and FC3 as ROP minimum standard data fields to be collected by ROP observers during transshipments at sea.**

**TCC17 reminded its members and WCPFC18 of the ROP Minimum Standard specifying that that ROP data should be submitted to the Secretariat where possible within 120 days of the observer disembarking the receiving vessel.**