

Draft Report of the Small Working Group to review the Template of the CCM Annual Report

The small working group was formed at the request of the TCC plenary and met during the lunch break on Friday 29 September. All interested parties were invited to attend the small working group, resulting in approximately 12 participants.

The small working group generally agreed to focus on achieving the following objectives:

To provide a simplified framework that will:

- simplify the process by which CCMs can meet their reporting obligations to the Commission;
- ensure that each CCMs annual report is consistent in terms of structure and content; and
- allow the Secretariat to easily extract data and compile region-wide reports.

The small working group noted that Part 1 of the Annual report primarily relates to scientific information and is therefore the business of the Scientific Committee rather than the TCC.

Having agreed on this purpose, the small working group considered a draft template for the annual report that was prepared by the Australian delegation based on FFA discussions.

Specific issues discussed included:

- Reporting period: The small working group noted that this is an “Annual Report” and should therefore provide information on a consistent 12 month period. In general, the small working group agreed that reports should be prepared on a calendar year basis, noting that this would result in a lag of approximately 9 months by the time the TCC considered the reports. Requiring submission of the Report earlier in the year would allow for in depth consideration of CCM Reports and collation of presented information into a Regional report. Other suggestions included a reporting period of 1 July to 30 June or a reporting period spanning from last Report to 30 days prior to the next TCC meeting. The calendar year option was generally viewed as the most appropriate to meet the objectives above.
- The WCPFC Annual Report Template should include guidelines or instructions for CCMs. Specifically, participants requested that the template should include an indication of the minimum standard of information required (to ensure consistency) and, more importantly, guidance as to why the information was required to foster greater understanding, and therefore compliance.

- The inclusion of observer information in the Report. It was discussed that at present the ROP does not exist so any reporting on observer data would be purely on national/sub regional programmes, which may not have compliance related functions. It was therefore agreed that any reporting on observers (prior to the implementation of the ROP) should be couched in terms of monitoring rather than surveillance and enforcement.
- Optional Information. Participants were generally uncertain as to why the template provides for the submission of some information on an optional basis. It was agreed that as information provided should be very basic in nature and therefore should not compromise operational aspects, all fields should be completed.

Based on these key discussion points and written comments from some participants, the draft template was revised for presentation to the TCC. The intent of the template is to provide a simplified tabular format for the preparation of annual reports. It was noted that some CCMs may find it useful to also provide, for the reference of readers, a short description of the management and governance of fishing for highly migratory fish in the Convention Area. Some participants felt that this would provide good context for the interpretation of the information in the template.

Draft Recommendations of the TCC:

1. The TCC recommends to the Commission that the template for Part 2 of the Annual CCM Report in Attachment 1 be adopted for future reports.
2. The TCC recommends to the Commission that Part 2 of the Annual CCM Report be completed on a Calendar Year basis and submitted to the Secretariat by 31 July each year.
3. The TCC recommends that the Commission invite the Scientific Committee to review Part 1 of the Annual CCM Report in light of its relationship with Part 2, including its consistencies (such as reporting periods and submission times).
4. The TCC recommends to the Commission that the Secretariat be tasked to prepare minimum standards for the completion of Part 2 of the Annual CCM Report. These guidelines should be focussed on ensuring that a minimum level of consistency is achieved without being overly prescriptive.