



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

**Twenty-First Regular Session**

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Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (Hybrid)

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**LIST OF DATA FIELDS RECOMMENDED FOR REMOVAL FROM THE ROP MSDF**

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**WCPFC-TCC21-2025-17E**

**29 September 2025**

**Submitted by the ROP-IWG Chair**

**Recommendation:**

The Chair noted that at ROP-IWG06, participants preliminarily agreed to recommend that the list of data fields in Attachment 3 is removed from the list of WCPFC ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields (MSDF).

## Excerpt from ROP-IWG06 Chair's Summary Report

### Attachment 3: List of Data Fields Recommended for Removal from the MSDFs

The table presented here is a preliminary list. It does not include all the fields that were proposed for removal in [ROP-IWG5 Working Paper 02](#). Instead, it is a list of fields where feedback to date indicates some support for the removal of these fields, and where no objections or requests for further consideration have been raised.

**At ROP\_IWG06 meeting, participants preliminarily agreed to recommend that the attached list of data fields are removed from the list of WCPFC ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields.**

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	Row # from WP2
<b>VESSEL IDENTIFICATION</b>					
<b>Flag State Registration Number</b>	This number will be sourced from the vessel papers. You can normally get this information during the briefing.	<i>Observer asks to check vessel documentation.</i>	<i>Field that could be collected by other means and so suggest removal.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV - could be removed.</i>	<b>2</b>

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	Row # from WP2
<b>Vessel Owner/Company</b>	Name and contact if possible, of the owner of the vessel, if owned by a company, then use the company name.	<i>Observer asks to check vessel documentation</i>	<i>Field that could be collected by other means and so suggest removal.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV - could be removed.</i>	<b>4</b>
<b>VESSEL ATTRIBUTES</b>					
<b>Vessel fish hold capacity</b>	The total maximum amounts in metric Tons (mT.) that the vessel freezers, wells and other fish storage areas on a vessel can hold.	<i>Observers have been collecting information in metric tonnes since 1994.</i>	<i>2024 PNA Comment: Could be also considered for removal, because this information is also available on the RFV, although we note that the units for this field in the RFV are volume or weight, whereas the units for the MSDF are weight.</i>	<i>RFV records Cubic Metres and can be accessed if needed</i>  <b>Japan supports</b> removing this field since the information is available from the RFV.  <b>USA supports</b> Removal of this field	<b>30</b>

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	Row # from WP2
<b>Length (specify unit)</b>	The "LOA" Length Over All can be taken from the vessel plans or from other paper work that indicates the LOA.	<i>Observer asks to check vessel documentation or the vessel plan. Observer cannot verify if length is correct.</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is available in the RFV and no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV - could be removed.</i>	<b>32</b>
<b>Tonnage (specify unit)</b>	The vessel may be registered using Gross Tonnage (GT) or in (GRT) this will be indicated on the vessel registration papers.	<i>Observer asks to check vessel documentation or the vessel plan. Observer cannot verify if tonnage is correct</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is available in the RFV and no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV - could be removed.</i>	<b>33</b>
<b>Engine power (Specify unit)</b>	The engine power and the power units used on board can usually be found in the vessel plans or from other paper work of the vessel. If not sure where to look, ask the engineer.	<i>Observer can get this in several ways, can get it from engine model number info online if available. Most observers ask the engineer who will tell them the HP.</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is available in the RFV and no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV - could be removed.</i>	<b>34</b>
<b>VESSEL ELECTRONICS</b>					
<b>Radars</b>	Indicate Yes if on board No if not sighted	<i>Observer collects information on make and Model</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is available in the RFV and no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>		<b>35</b>
<b>Global Positioning System (GPS) (Yes/ No)</b>	Indicate Yes if on board No if not sighted	<i>Observer collects information if on board (yes no)</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>		<b>37</b>

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	Row # from WP2
<b>Track Plotter</b>	Indicate Yes if on board No if not sighted	<i>Observer collects information if on board (yes no)</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers</i>		<b>38</b>
<b>Weather Facsimile</b>	Indicate Yes if on board No if not sighted	<i>Observer collects information if on board (yes no)</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>		<b>39</b>
<b>Sea Surface Temperature (SST) gauge</b>	Indicate Yes if on board No if not sighted	<i>Observer collects information if on board (yes no)</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers</i>		<b>40</b>
<b>Vessel Monitoring System</b>	Indicate the type of systems used on a vessel- The most popular and widely used system is the INMARSAT system, however some vessels may use the ARGOS system- some vessels may have both. There are also other systems if these are being used please record	<i>Observers are asked to identify the system used and the make and model of the units on board</i>	<i>Field that could be collected by other means.</i>	<i><u>USA comment:</u> (as above for crew attributes and supports Removal of this field)</i>	<b>47</b>
<b>GENERAL GEAR ATTRIBUTES</b>					

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	Row # from WP2
<b>Mainline length</b>	What is the total length of the mainline when it is fully set usually recorded in miles or kilometer's (make sure the unit is clearly indicated)	<i>Observer collects information from Captain or Deck Boss</i>	<i>There may be technological approaches that could streamline the estimation of mainline length by observers.</i>	<i>Eg Using a known Lat and long for start and end of set on a GPS/VMS tracks could be used to estimate the distances travelled and the shape of the set</i>  <i>USA Supports Removal of this Field</i>	<b>50</b>
<b>Mainline hauler</b>	Indicate Y or No - Most longline vessels will have an instrument that hauls the lines in after it has been set- some very small vessels may haul line by hand.	<i>Observer collects Yes, No information</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>		<b>54</b>
<b>Branch line hauler</b>	Indicate Y or No - Some long line vessels may use special haulers to coil the branch lines	<i>Observer collects Yes, No information</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal, as it is no longer required to be collected by observers.</i>		<b>55</b>
<b>PURSE SEINE - INFORMATION ON DAILY ACTIVITIES</b>					

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	Row # from WP2
<b>Numbers of schools sighted per day</b>	How many free or associated schools of fish were sighted during the day? The vessel may not set on these because of size or amount in school	<i>Observer is asked to record every free school or floating object sighted during the day when searching, also record all activities involved with free schools and floating objects. For this to be accurate the observer would need to be on constant watch from 0430 to 1930 every day 15/16 hrs. a day</i>	<i>No change suggested</i>	<p><i>Difficulties in collecting this info as observer would need to be on watch all day to record accurately. As it is, observers generally only indicate what the vessel investigates</i></p> <p><i>Japan supports removing this field</i></p>	<b>118</b>
<b>OBSERVER TRIP MONITORING SUMMARY</b>					
<b>Vessel certificate of registration:</b>	Flag State Registration Number as in 'General Attributes'	<i>Observer asks to check vessel documentation.</i>	<i>Field that could be collected by other means – suggest removal.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV – could be removed.</i>	<b>197</b>
<b>WCPFC Authorisation:</b>	WIN number if supplied	<i>Observer asks to check vessel documentation.</i>	<i>Field that could be collected by other means– suggest removal.</i>	<i>This information is available and collected in the RFV = could be removed.</i>	<b>199</b>