



Virtual Meeting 6 of ROP-IWG

20 June 2025 10:00h – 14:00h (Pohnpei time)

Current list of MSDF Data Fields that appear to have support for Removal

WCPFC-ROP-IWG06-2025-WP02_suppl02

4 June 2025

Over the course of ROP-IWG and other meetings, we have reviewed and discussed several MSDF data fields. Throughout these discussions, participants have had multiple opportunities to provide input and there has been general agreement about removing some existing MSDFs.

The table presented here does not include all the fields that were proposed for removal in [ROP-IWG05 Working Paper 02](#). Instead, it focuses exclusively on those fields where feedback to date indicates some support, and where no objections have been raised.

Given the absence of any outstanding concerns on these specific fields, this subset list has been prepared so that ROP-IWG participants can review and confirm support for a draft recommendation that these ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields are recommended for removal.

Noting that discussions are continuing the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields, it is acknowledged that additional recommendations from the ROP-IWG are expected related to additional recommended changes to the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields.

Draft Recommendation:

1. ROP-IWG participants agree to recommend that the attached list of ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields are recommended for removal.

Fields for Suggested Agreed Removal (note that the numbering follows the data field numbering system in paper -WP02)

Comments by IWG Members on these fields if any are also included in WP-2.

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	
VESSEL IDENTIFICATION					
Flag State Registration Number	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>	2
Vessel Owner/Company	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>	4
CREW INFORMATION					
Identification document - Captain	Document that confirms nationality i.e. passport "field not on form"	<i>Crew list sometimes indicates, or observer has to ask to see documentation of citizenship.</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal. Observers should not need to record what document was used to prove nationality</i>		23
Identification document - Master	Document that confirms nationality i.e. passport "field not on form"	<i>Crew list sometimes indicates, or observer has to ask to see documentation of citizenship.</i>	<i>Field suggested for removal. Observers should not need to record what document was used to prove nationality</i>		26

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	
VESSEL ATTRIBUTES					
Vessel fish hold capacity	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> Japan supports removing this field since the information is available from the RFV. USA supports Removal of this field	30
Length (specify unit)	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>	32
Tonnage (specify unit)	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>	33
Engine power (Specify unit)	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>	34

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	
VESSEL ELECTRONICS					
Radars	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>		35
Global Positioning System (GPS) (Yes/No)	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>		37
Track Plotter	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>		38
Weather Facsimile	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>		39
Sea Surface Temperature (SST) gauge	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>		40

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	
Vessel Monitoring System	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>USA comment: (as above for crew attributes and supports Removal of this field)</i>	47
GENERAL GEAR ATTRIBUTES					
Mainline length	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>	50
Mainline hauler	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>		54
Branch line hauler	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>		55
PURSE SEINE - INFORMATION ON DAILY ACTIVITIES					

WCPFC CURRENT FIELD	WCPFC AGREED NOTES	COMMENT ON HOW COLLECTED **	COMMENT ON ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES	ALTERNATIVE OR SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS	
Numbers of schools sighted per day	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>	<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> <i>Japan supports removing this field</i>	118
OBSERVER TRIP MONITORING SUMMARY					
Vessel certificate of registration:	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>	197
WCPFC Authorisation:	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>	199