



REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP

Eighth Meeting

3 June 2026

Electronic Meeting

Proposed ROP Data Fields for Non-Catch Transfers

ROP-IWG09-2026-04

31 May 2026

Submitted by the ROPIWG Chair

Purpose

1. This paper updates the proposed data fields for non-catch transfers to be included in the ROP [Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transshipments Monitoring](#) based on discussion at ROPIWG08 and feedback since that meeting. The update data fields are identified in track changes. An example of a possible form until updated E-reporting standards are developed and able to be implemented by CCMs is in Annex 1.
2. It should be noted that decisions on whether non-catch transfers are required to be reported by CCMs and/or supported by monitoring through the ROP will be considered separately by TCC22 and the Commission, rather than by the ROPIWG.
3. Additional feedback was provided on the proposed definition of non-catch transfer:

Include a footnote defining “non-fish transfer,” based on the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) CMM definition, as: “a transfer of fuel, gear, materials, or other supplies between fishing vessels in the Convention Area, or the transfer of at least one person between fishing vessels in the Convention Area.” For clarity, the definition distinguishes between the transfer of persons (e.g., crew members or passengers) and persons boarding solely for the purpose of unloading fish or other cargo/items.
4. The proposal aims to improve monitoring of interactions at sea where no fish are transferred but other activities occur, such as the exchange of crew or supplies. Capturing this information would help verify such encounters and reduce potential compliance queries, particularly as the Secretariat continues to develop tools to detect vessel proximity.
5. Although the Commission has not yet fully considered changes to CMM 2009-06, assigning this task to the ROPIWG provides an opportunity to identify the data that may be needed to assess how additional reporting might impact observer programmes.

List of data fields to be collected by the ROP observer (Non-catch transfer data fields)

1a. Carrier (supply donor) vessel

- i. Vessel's name
- ii. IMO or IRC number
- iii. Current flag

1b: Receiver (Longline) vessel

- i. Vessel name
- ii. IMO or IRC number
- iii. Current flag

2. Non-catch transfer

- i. Date and time in UTC
- ii. Latitude
- iii. Longitude
- iv. ~~Supplies transferred~~ ~~Goods supplied~~
 - Fuel (Yes/No) – Quantity
 - Bait (Yes/No) – Types and quantity
 - FADs or FAD materials (Yes/No) – Types and quantity
 - Passengers/Crew (Yes/No) – Total and Nationality
 - Others (specify) that may include,
 - waste transfer (e.g. non- biodegradable materials)
 - food
 - safety gears (types and quantity)
 - engine parts (types and quantity) (specify)
 - fishing gears (types and quantity)

3. Remarks (if needed)

Next steps

6. Discussions at ROPIWG09 are intended to finalise the proposed data fields for presentation to TCC22, with a recommendation that they be adopted at WCPFC23.



Regional Observer Program

Observer "Non-catch Transfer" Report

Vessels

Carrier (supply donor) vessel		Receiving vessel	
Name		Name	
IMO number		IMO number	
Current flag		Current flag	

Non-catch transfer

Date					
Time (UTC)					
Latitude					
Longitude					
Supplies Transferred (provide quantities where possible)					
Fuel	Yes / No	Quantity (KL)			
Bait	Yes / No	Types		Quantity (kg)	
FADs or FAD material	Yes / No	Types		Quantity (No)	
Passengers/Crew	Yes / No	Nationality		Total	
Waste transfer (e.g. non-biodegradable materials)	Yes/No	Quantity & Descriptions			
Safety gears	Yes/No	Types		Quantity	
Engine parts	Yes/No	Types		Quantity	
Fishing gears	Yes/No	Types		Quantity	
Others (specify)	Yes/No				
Remarks (if any)					