**QUESTIONNAIRE ON**

**NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR OBSERVER DATA MANAGEMENT**

*April 2010*

**Introduction**

The substantial increase in observer activity throughout the region as a result of the WCPFC decision to set the coverage of observer activities to 100% for the purse seine fishery and 5% for the longline fishery has placed considerable pressure on the resources of both national and regional fisheries agencies with respect to recruitment of new observers, the coordination of the observer work, but also the management of the data collected.

The data collected by observers are crucial to the work that the SPC-OFP conducts on behalf of their member countries, the WCPFC and FFA. Observer data collection represents a significant investment in time and resources, and we therefore strive to make these data available to scientists and managers in a timely manner to maximize the value of that investment.

As you are aware, observer data are fundamental to a number of important analyses, including the determination of bigeye tuna catch estimates in the purse seine fishery and the determination of key non-target species catch estimates. More importantly, observers provide the only source of size data for some fleets/areas, and the timely compilation of these data is fundamental for the stock assessments conducted each year.

The purpose of this basic questionnaire is to seek advice on how your country intends to approach the management of the observer data collected by your national observer programme in the short term and the longer term, so that SPC-OFP and FFA can attempt to better plan our resources for the provision of any technical support required both in-country and at the regional agency offices (SPC-OFP and FFA).

**Please liaise with your national observer manager/coordinator, senior management and other relevant staff in your country to complete this questionnaire.**

**Questionnaire**

| **QUESTION** | **RESPONSE** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. What is the approximate number of purse seine and longline observer trips that will be conducted by your national programme this year ? |  |
| 1. What are the main requirements for processed observer data in your country ? |  |
| 1. Do you have staff undertake observer debriefing ?   How many SPC/FFA trained debriefers do you have?  Are other staff involved in debriefing?  Are they dedicated to debriefing or also do other work (please specify other duties and % of their job dedicated to observer debriefing) ?  Is your programme currently carrying out debriefing for transiting observers?  Describe the type of debriefing that is currently taking place (i.e a data forms check only, “first check” as described in regional debriefing forms, or a full debriefing with debriefing forms completely filled in) |  |
| 1. Do you have sufficient staff to conduct DEBRIEFING ?   How many staff is required to adequately cover DEBRIEFING ? |  |
| 1. Briefly describe how the observer data are prepared for transmission to SPC, including    * How data are prepared (e.g. scanning) ...    * How data are transmitted to SPC ...    * How regularly the data are sent ... |  |
| 1. Do you have sufficient staff to undertake the SCANNING of observer data to ensure it is provided to SPC on a regular basis ?   How many staff are required to adequately cover SCANNING ?  Who are/will be tasked with scanning observer data (data entry staff, observers, observer coordinator, NTDC, other ?) |  |
| 1. Is your SCANNING equipment satisfactory to do observer scanning ?   Are there other problems that hinder the SCANNING of observer data ?  Describe the problems ...  Do you have any suggestions to improve the SCANNING of observer data ? |  |
| 1. Briefly describe how the observer data are processed, stored and accessed in your country, for example,  * Are any data entered into a database system ? * Are data stored in a filing system ? * How long are completed hard-copy observers reports held in your office, or in an area that you have immediate access to? * Do you use the Observer Trip Viewer database system (provided by SPC with your data) * Are there any outstanding observer trip report data that need to be sent to SPC for processing? If so, how many? |  |
| 1. As a guideline, it normally takes about 3 days to enter data from a 30-day purse-seine observer trip.   Do you have plans to enter observer data in your country (using the TUBS database system) ?  Do you think you have the resources to enter observer data ?  What resources do you envisage are required for observer data entry ?  For example, responses could start with one of the following:   * We would be ready later this year ... * Maybe in two years... * We’d prefer to have SPC process the data and send it to us with a query/mapping system ... |  |
| 1. Please describe your management strategy for producing the observer data workbooks.   Do you have a budget in place to pay for the production of observer data workbooks ?  If not, mention how you might pay for observer forms (assistance from SPC, others etc)  Where do you intend to source your observer workbooks from in the future. (SPC, national printer, regional printer)?  Where do you intend to source your waterproof forms from in the future. (SPC, national printer, regional printer)? |  |
| 1. Do you need assistance from SPC to review and comment on your observer data management procedures/system ?   If yes, in what particular areas ? |  |
| 1. Do you have any other comments to add with respect to observer data management in your country ? |  |