



**Intersessional Working Group  
Regional Observer Programme  
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**WCPFC MINIMUM DATA STANDARDS FOR REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME (DRAFT)**

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**WCPFC-IWG-ROP-2007/10**

Introduction

1. Harmonised data standards for data collection and reporting have been in place in all the independent WCPFC Pacific Island countries and the French Territories since 1995. These standards are flexible and are reviewed every two years. The following data fields in accordance with Article 28 (3) are considered the basic fields required to be collected by Regional Observer Programme (ROP) observers. Wherever practical all coding in the ROP formats have been standardised using global standards such as the FAO species identifiers. Where no practical code system is in place, codes have been developed.

2. Data standards and formats involve the current needs of scientists, compliance, mitigation measures and any other current priorities. Much of the data collected by observers can be used by both scientists and fisheries managers; therefore the data fields presented in this paper have been added to the fields already agreed upon by the Scientific Committee (SC). There are a number of data fields put aside for further discussion by the SC and whilst the collection of these data fields is to be further assessed by the SC, their value to fisheries managers and officers monitoring compliance with the Commission Conservation and Management Measures is important. So some data fields still to be discussed for scientific value have been re- included as minimum standard data formats for ROP observers.

3. The Commission ROP will monitor the observer data collection standards and ensure that observer providers maintain these minimum standards in their data collection formats when deploying observers for the ROP. National observer programmes that use different observer collection formats to the ROP will not be affected by the ROP requirements on standardised data collection, providing the data that are collected by their programme is able to satisfy the requirements for minimum ROP data standards.

**Vessel Sightings & Observer Trip Monitoring Report**

4. Two additional data field formats not considered by the Scientific Committee and which were forwarded to the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) by the SC for its consideration are the “Vessel Sightings” and the “Observer Trip Monitoring Summary”. A number of observer programme in the Pacific region have been examined and the data collection fields contained in table 7 and 8 are the basic information taken from currently used formats.

## Minimum Standards for ROP Data

5. ROP Minimum Data Standards required to be collected by ROP observers, when performing duties on a vessel chosen to take a ROP observer for Commission coverage purposes are include below. Minimum standards for data fields to be considered by the IWG-ROP and the Third Regular Session of the TCC (TCC3) are highlighted in large bold type. Other standards already accepted by the SC are also listed.

**Table 1. General Vessel and trip information for all vessel types**

VESSEL IDENTIFICATION	
Name of vessel	Approved SC3
Vessel flag	Approved SC3
Flag State Registration Number	Approved SC3
International Radio Call Sign	Approved SC3
<b>Vessel Owner/Company</b>	<b>Information will be useful if there is any problems with the observer or the vessel</b>
TRIP INFORMATION	
Date and time of departure from port	Approved SC3
Port of departure	Approved SC3
Date and time of return to port	Approved SC3
Port of return	Approved SC3
OBSERVER INFORMATION	
Observer name	Approved SC3
<b>Passport nationality of observer</b>	<b>Information will be useful if there is breaches of the Observer Code of Conduct</b>
<b>Observer provider country or organisation</b>	<b>Information will be useful if there is breaches of the Observer Code of Conduct</b>
Observer's ROP certification number	Approved SC3
Date, time and location of embarkation	Approved SC3
Date, time and location of disembarkation	Approved SC3
CREW INFORMATION	
Name of captain	Approved SC3
<b>Passport nationality of captain</b>	<b>Information will be useful if there is breaches of the Code of Conduct or responsibilities of Captain , Vessel Operator or Crew</b>
Name of fishing master	Approved SC3
<b>Passport nationality of fishing master</b>	<b>Information will be useful if there is breaches of the Code of Conduct or responsibilities of Captain , Vessel Operator or Crew</b>

Other crew	Approved SC3
<b>Passport nationality of crew</b>	<b>Information will be useful if there is breaches of the Code of Conduct or responsibilities of Captain is breaches of the Code of Conduct</b>
<b>Total number of Crew</b>	<b>Information will be useful if there is breaches of the Code of Conduct or responsibilities of Captain , Vessel Operator or Crew</b>
<b>VESSEL ATTRIBUTES</b>	
Vessel cruising speed	Approved SC3
<b>Vessel fish hold capacity</b>	<b>Information will be useful to verify against Vessel register and to assist in determining total catch on the vessel</b>
<b>VESSEL ELECTRONICS</b>	
Radars	Approved SC3
Depth sounder	Approved SC3
Global positioning system (GPS)	Approved SC3
Track plotter	Approved SC3
Weather facsimile	Approved SC3
Sea surface temperature (SST) gauge	Approved SC3
Sonar	Approved SC3
Radio/ Satellite buoys	Approved SC3
Doppler current meter	Approved SC3
Expendable bathythermograph (XBT)	Approved SC3
Satellite communications services <b>(Phone/Fax/Email numbers)</b>	<b>Information will be useful if there is breaches of the Observer Code of Conduct and or responsibilities of Observer, Captain , Vessel Operator or Crew.</b>
[Fishery information services]	Approved SC3
Vessel monitoring system	Approved SC3

**Table 2. Longline information and data**

<b>VESSEL ATTRIBUTES</b>	
Refrigeration Method	Approved SC3
<b>GENERAL GEAR ATTRIBUTES</b>	
Mainline material	Approved SC3
Mainline length	Approved SC3
Mainline diameter	Approved SC3

Branch line material(s)	Approved SC3
<b>SPECIAL GEAR ATTRIBUTES</b>	
<b>[Wire trace]</b>	<b>Information will be useful in monitoring CMM 2006-05 for sharks .</b>
[Mainline hauler]	Still to be determined by SC
[Branch line hauler]	Still to be determined by SC
<b>[Line shooter]</b>	<b>Information will be useful in monitoring Mitigation measure guidelines as stated in CMM 2006-02 Table 1 Column B and Attachment 1 para 1 - (Refer para 10)</b>
<b>[Line shooter speed]</b>	<b>Information will be useful in monitoring Mitigation measure guidelines as stated in CMM 2006-02 Table 1 Column B and Attachment 1 para 1 - (Refer para 10)</b>
[Automatic bait thrower]	Still to be determined by SC
[Automatic branch line attacher]	Still to be determined by SC
<b>[Hook type]</b>	<b>Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution 2005- 04 monitoring of hook types refer para 8</b>
<b>[Hook size]</b>	<b>Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution 2005-04 monitoring of hook types refer para 8</b>
<b>[Tori pole]</b>	<b>Information will be useful in monitoring Mitigation measure guidelines as stated in CMM 2006-02 Table 1 and Attachment 1 para 1 -(Refer para 10)</b>
<b>[Bird curtain]</b>	<b>Information will be useful in monitoring Mitigation measure guidelines as stated in CMM 2006-02 Table 1 and Attachment 1 para 2 - (Refer para 10)</b>
<b>[Weighted branch lines]</b>	<b>Mitigation measure guidelines stated in CMM 2006-02 Table 1 and Attachment 1 para 4 Attachment 2 para 1– (Refer para 10)</b>
<b>[Blue dyed bait]</b>	<b>Information will be useful in monitoring Mitigation measure guidelines as stated in CMM 2006-02 Table 1 and Attachment 2 para 2- (Refer para 10)</b>
<b>[Underwater setting shoot]</b>	<b>Information will be useful in monitoring Mitigation measure guidelines as stated in CMM 2006-02 Table 1 Column B -(Refer para 10)</b>
<b>[Disposal method for offal management]</b>	<b>Information will be useful in monitoring Mitigation measure as determined by CMM 2006-02 Table 1 Column B Attachment 2 para 3 (Refer para 10)</b>
<b>SET AND HAUL INFORMATION</b>	
Date and time of start of set	Approved SC3
Latitude and longitude of start of set	Approved SC3
Date and Time of end of set	Approved SC3

Latitude and longitude of end of set	Approved SC3
[Total number of baskets or floats]	Still to be determined by SC
[Number of hooks per basket or number of hooks between floats]	Still to be determined by SC
Total number of hooks used in a set	Approved SC3
<b>[Length of float-line]</b>	<b>Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution on Turtles 2005-04 Par 2, 3 &amp; Para 8</b>
<b>[Distance between branch-lines]</b>	<b>Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution on Turtles 2005-04 Para 2, 3 &amp; para 8</b>
<b>[Length of branch-lines]</b>	<b>Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution on Turtles 2005-04 Para 2, 3 &amp; para 8</b>
<b>[Time-depth recorders (TDRs)]</b>	<b>Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution on Turtles 2005-04 Para 2, 3 &amp; para 8</b>
<b>[Number of light-sticks]</b>	<b>Information will be useful for monitoring CMM 2006-03 on Swordfish</b>
Target species	Approved SC3
Bait species	Approved SC3
Date and time of start of haul	Approved SC3
Date and time of end of haul	Approved SC3
<b>[Total amount of baskets, floats monitored by observer in a single set]</b>	<b>Information will be useful in monitoring Resolution 2005-04 on Turtles Para 2, 3 &amp; para 8</b>
<b>INFORMATION ON CATCH FOR EACH SET</b>	
[Hook number between floats]	Still to be determined by SC
Species code	Approved SC3
Length of fish	Approved SC3
Length measurement code	Approved SC3
Gender	Approved SC3
Condition when caught	Approved SC3
Fate	Approved SC3
Condition when discarded	Approved SC3
Tag recovery information	Approved SC3

**Table 3. Pole-and-line information and data**

<b>VESSEL ATTRIBUTES</b>	
<b>Vessel fish hold capacity</b>	<b>Information will be useful for verification CMM Record of fishing Vessels 2004-01 para 5(q)</b>
<b>GEAR ATTRIBUTES</b>	
Automatic poling devices	Approved SC3

<b>INFORMATION ON DAILY ACTIVITIES</b>	
Date and time of start of daily activities	Approved SC3
Time of activity	Approved SC3
Latitude and longitude of activity	Approved SC3
Type of activity	Approved SC3
Numbers of school sighted per day	Approved SC3
<b>BAITFISHING INFORMATION</b>	
Bait species caught	Approved SC3
[Number of buckets of bait caught]	Still to be determined by SC
<b>SCHOOL INFORMATION</b>	
Method of detection of school	Approved SC3
Type of school association	Approved SC3
<b>INFORMATION ON CATCH PER SCHOOL FISHED</b>	
Number of crew poling	Approved SC3
Time of start of spraying, chumming and poling	Approved SC3
Time of end of spraying, chumming and poling	Approved SC3
Retained catch, by species	Approved SC3
Discards, by species	Approved SC3
Tag recovery information	Approved SC3
Species code	Approved SC3
Length measurement code	Approved SC3
Length	Approved SC3

**Table 4. Purse seine information and data**

<b>VESSEL AND RELATED ATTRIBUTES</b>	
No of onboard support vessels	<b>Information will be useful for possible FAD CMM , determining fishing power&amp; monitoring of vessel activities</b>
Helicopter Make/Model./Colour/ Callsign/Registration	<b>Information will be useful for possible FAD CMM , determining fishing power &amp; monitoring of vessel activities</b>
<b>GEAR ATTRIBUTES</b>	
Maximum depth of net	Approved SC3
Maximum length of net	Approved SC3
Net mesh size	Approved SC3
Brailer capacity sizes	Approved SC3
<b>INFORMATION ON DAILY ACTIVITIES</b>	
Date and time of start of daily activities	Approved SC3
Time of activity	Approved SC3
Latitude and longitude of activity	Approved SC3
Numbers of school sighted per day	Approved SC3
<b>SCHOOL INFORMATION</b>	
Method of detection of school	Approved SC3
Type of school association	Approved SC3
<b>SET INFORMATION</b>	
Observer's record of date and time of start of set	Approved SC3
Observers record of date and time of end of set	Approved SC3
Vessel's record of date and time of start of set	Approved SC3
Retained catch, by species	Approved SC3
Discards, by species	Approved SC3
Tag recovery information	Approved SC3
<b>INFORMATION ON CATCH FOR EACH SET</b>	
Species code	Approved SC3
Length measurement code	Approved SC3
Length	Approved SC3

**[ Table 5. Troll or other fishing information and data ]**

VESSEL ATTRIBUTES	
As per General attributes	
GEAR ATTRIBUTES	
As per General gear attributes	
INFORMATION ON DAILY ACTIVITIES	
To be developed	
INFORMATION ON CATCH FOR EACH OPERATION	
To be developed	

**Table 6. Species of special interest**

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Type of interaction	Approved SC3
Date and time of interaction	Approved SC3
Latitude and longitude of interaction	Approved SC3
Species code of marine reptile, marine mammal or seabird	Approved SC3
LANDED ON DECK	
Length	Approved SC3
Length measurement code	Approved SC3
Gender	Approved SC3
Condition when landed on deck	Approved SC3
Condition when released	Approved SC3
Tag recovery information	Approved SC3
Tag release information	Approved SC3
INTERACTION WITH VESSEL OR GEAR ONLY	
Vessel's activity during interaction	Approved SC3
Condition observed at start of interaction	Approved SC3
Condition observed at end of interaction	Approved SC3
Description of interaction	Approved SC3
Number of animals sighted	Approved SC3



## **Vessel and Aircraft sightings**

6. The vessel sightings format is a standard format used by many observer programmes that help to identify IUU vessels, vessels not registered to fish in areas that they are sighted; Vessel sightings have also assisted in verifying VMS positioning of vessels. Whilst the priority for gathering information by observers on vessel sightings is low compared to their other ROP duties, there are many times when a vessel is searching or transiting when an observer can be gainfully used to record other vessels sighted. It should be noted that national and sub regional observer have occasionally been asked by vessel masters to report on the vessel/s that the vessel master has sighted and believes is operating outside the laws and rules that are applied to his own vessel. The information gathered by the observer will assist in identifying IUU and rogue vessels and also assist in identifying companies or countries that are flaunting the WCPFC Convention.

7. Vessel sighting observation was recognised as a useful tool at PrepCon IV, WG.III (WCPFC/PrepCon/26): *“the purpose of the observer programme in its initial stages should be to focus on validation of catch, but that other useful information such as vessel sightings could also be reported under the programme;”*

8. The data fields listed below as minimum standards to be collected by ROP observers have been compiled from harmonised standard formats in use throughout many observer programmes throughout the WCPFC Pacific region.

**Table 7 Vessels & Aircraft Sightings**

<b>VESSELS &amp; AIRCRAFT SIGHTINGS</b>
<b>UTC Date &amp; Time of sighting</b>
<b>Observers Vessel position</b>
<b>Sighted Vessel or Aircraft Name</b>
<b>Sighted Vessel or Aircraft Call sign</b>
<b>International abbreviation codes for Flag of Vessel</b>
<b>Type of Vessel</b> <b><u>Vessel Type codes</u></b> <b>1 Single purse seine</b> <b>2 Longline</b> <b>3 Pole and Line</b> <b>4 Mother-ship</b> <b>5 Troll</b> <b>6 Net boat</b> <b>7 Bunker</b> <b>8 Search, Anchor, or Light boat</b> <b>9 Fish Carrier</b> <b>10 Trawler</b> <b>21 Light aircraft</b> <b>22 Helicopter</b> <b>31 Other- please specify</b>

<b>Compass bearing to sighted vessel</b>
<b>Estimated distance to sighted vessel</b>
<b>Activity of sighted vessel</b> <u>Action codes of sighted vessel</u> <b>FI Fishing</b> <b>PF Possibly fishing</b> <b>NF Not fishing</b> <b>SR Set Sharing (Vessel receiving fish)</b> <b>SG Set Sharing (Vessel giving fish)</b> <b>TR Transhipping fish (Vessel receiving fish)</b> <b>TG Transhipping fish (Vessel giving fish)</b> <b>BR Bunkering (Vessel receiving fuel)</b> <b>BG Bunkering (Vessel giving fuel)</b> <b>DF Dumping of fish</b> <b>OR Other (Vessels receiving please specify item/s)</b> <b>OG Other (Vessel Giving please specify item/s)</b>
<b>Comments-</b>

## Observer Trip Monitoring Summary

9. The Observer Trip Monitoring Summary is currently used by sub regional and national observer programmes in the WCPFC convention area. Its purpose is to assist in the reviewing of the observer data and to be able to understand very quickly some of the problems that an observer claim were encountered when observing on a vessel. Whilst additional and probably more detailed information can be found in the observer reports; the trip summary helps to highlight potential problem areas quickly so they can be examined as soon as practical. The early identification of problems can also assist the vessel masters to resolve or report on some of the alleged concerns reported by the observer before their vessel leaves port.

**Table 8 Observer Trip Monitoring Summary**

<b>VESSEL TRIP MONITORING</b>
<b>Observer name &amp; nationality</b>
<b>Observer Trip number</b>
<b>Observer Provider</b>
<b>Name of Vessel</b>
<b>Vessel Call sign</b>
<b>Vessel Gear Type</b>
<b>In <u>the opinion of the observer</u>, taking into account what they have observed on the vessel, did the vessel do the following: (indicate YES or NO)</b>
<b>record vessel positions accurately on vessel logsheet for sets, hauling and catch;</b>
<b>record accurately retained Target Species in the vessel logs;</b>

<b>record accurately Target species discards;</b>
<b>record accurately retained Bycatch species</b>
<b>record accurately Bycatch discards;</b>
<b>record species as a different species e.g. (BET as YFT);</b>
<b>interact with species of special interest;</b>
<b>high grade or cull the catch;</b>
<b>comply with Commission Conservation and Management measures;</b>
<b>fish only in areas where it is permitted to fish;</b>
<b>report vessel position to countries where required when crossing to or from an EEZ into or out of the high Seas;</b>
<b>transfer fish from, or to, another vessel at sea;</b>
<b>request that an event not be reported;</b>
<b>hinder the observer in the carrying out of their duties;</b>
<b>supply reasonable accommodation, food and facilities to the observer onboard the vessel</b>
<b>use a fishing method other than the method the vessel was designed.</b>
<b>Comments;</b>