



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
Twenty-First Regular Session
24 September to 30 September 2025
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (Hybrid)

DRAFT ROP-IWG WORKPLAN

WCPFC-TCC21-2025-17E

23 September 2025

Submitted by ROP-IWG Chair

The below table sets out the tasks for the ROP-IWG that were prioritised for progressing in 2025. Other taskings to the ROP-IWG can be revisited and are listed as possible 2026 items. The previous full version of the ROP-IWG workplan for 2023-2025 is attached in Annex 1 as background information. An additional tasking proposed by SC21 has also been included for consideration. Feedback is welcomed from CCMs.

ROP-IWG 2025-? Workplan Updates

Priority tasking	ROP-IWG5 meeting outcome	ROP-IWG6 meeting	SC21 and TCC21
<p>1 (a) Useful consideration of the ROP data into the CCFS and CMS process (TCC20 recommendation)</p>	<p>Review progressive work on ROP MSDF for Purse Seiner, Long Line and Pole and Line (Working paper2, Annex A – inclusive of CCMs comments)</p> <p>Introduced working Paper 2 Annex B, a concise version highlighting suggested changes to MSDF only (last modified in 2016)</p> <p>Suggestion and comment on working paper 2 for consideration towards next meeting</p> <p>Discussion also notes the task to review CCFS pre-notification process flow</p>	<p>Follow up review on the Working Paper 2 Annex B (concise summary of the suggested changes to MSDF)</p> <p>Introduce CCFS process flow amendments and seeks CCMs for feedback and propose for 3rd meeting to review</p> <p>Introduce scope of refinement to ROPs MSDFs, including trip monitoring summary, to support identification (WP2-supplementary 01)</p>	<p>Final draft on WP2 anticipated for presentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presented at SC21 ‘WCPFC-CS21-2025/ST-WP-10_suppl01’ (no recommendations from SC21 outcome) - Not presented during in-person prior to TCC21, considered agreed by CCMs during ROP-IWG6 <p>Discussed during in-person prior to TCC21 (WCPFC-TCC21-2025-17B (proposed for further review)</p> <p>Discussed during in-person meet prior to TCC21 (WCPFC-TCC21-2025-17C (proposed for further review)</p>
<p>1(b) observer data field for “Species of Special Interest”(Annex 1A)</p>	<p>Review progressive work on ROP MSDF for Purse Seiner, Long Line and Pole and Line (Working paper2, Annex A – inclusive of CCMs comments)</p>	<p>Follow up review on the WP2 Annex 1 and 1A (proposed changes to MSDF and supplementary amendments to MSDF)</p>	<p>Final draft on WP2 anticipated for presentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presented at SC21 “SC-ST-WP-10” (no recommendations from SC21 outcome)

	<p>Introduced WP2 Annex B was a concise version highlighting suggested changes to MSDF only (last modified in 2016) Suggestion and comment on working paper 2 for consideration towards next meeting</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not presented during in-person prior to TCC21, considered agreed by CCMs during ROP-IWG6
<p>1(c) "Develop standards and procedure in utilizing ROP data (TCC20)</p>	<p>Review progressive work on ROP MSDF for Purse Seiner, Long Line and Pole and Line (Working paper2, Annex A – inclusive of CCMs)</p> <p>Introduced working Paper 2 Annex B was a concise version highlighting suggested changes to MSDF only (last modified in 2016)</p> <p>Suggestion and comment on working paper 2 for consideration towards next meeting</p>	<p>Follow up review on the Paper 2 Annex B (concise summary of the suggested changes to MSDF)</p>	<p>Final draft on WP2 anticipated for presentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presented at SC21 'WCPFC-CS21-2025'/ST-WP-10_suppl01" (no recommendations from SC21 outcome) - Not presented during in-person prior to TCC21, considered agreed by CCMs during ROP-IWG6
<p>1 (d) Consider removal of redundant ROP data fields (Annex 1A)</p>	<p>Review progressive work on ROP MSDF for Purse Seiner, Long Line and Pole and Line (Working paper2, Annex A – inclusive of CCMs)</p> <p>Introduced working Paper 2 Annex B was a concise version highlighting suggested changes to MSDF only (last modified in 2016)</p> <p>Suggestion and comment on working paper 2 for consideration towards next meeting</p>	<p>Follow up review on the Paper 2 Annex B (concise summary of the suggested changes to MSDF)</p>	<p>Final draft on WP2 anticipated for presentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presented at SC21 'WCPFC-CS21-2025'/ST-WP-10_suppl01" (no recommendations from SC21 outcome) - Not presented during in-person prior to TCC21, considered agreed by CCMs during ROP-IWG6

<p>Commission tasked ROP-IWG to include NON-FISH Transfer data filed in the MSDF</p>	<p>Introduced and seek CCMs for insights and comments on how to progress work on the non-fish data fields in the MSDF.</p>	<p>Present WP3 suggestion on recommendation and noting suggestions for inclusion in MSDF (WP2 Annex B)</p>	<p>Anticipate agreement on the inclusion of the non-fish transshipment MSDF,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presented at SC21 "WCPFC-SC21-2025-WP10_suppl01 – attachments 2 (no recommendations from SC21 outcome) 2. Discussed during in-person meet prior to TCC21 (WCPFC-TCC21-2025-17C Japan took the request to lead and came up with a proposal with support from CMMs (proposed for further review)
<p>What to progress in 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Considerations to progress work on 2026 depending on the progressive work presented at SC and TCC before adoption by Commission <p>Other existing workplan that needs to be considered for 2026 (in no specific order) includes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Priority tasking 4: Consideration related to emerging technologies – work closely with ER/EM - IWG for common understanding on the usage of MSDF 2. Review of interim Transshipment Observer Monitoring Minimum Data Fields 3. Consideration of joint IWG any work needs resulting from ERandEM-IWG and ROP-IWG 4. SC21 recommendation to ROP-IWG to assess and identify specific data gaps for enhancement needed to improve the operation and consistency of shark species identification and reporting, noting low reporting rates of oceanic whitetip sharks by observers relative to logbooks in some regions and diminishing levels of length records since the implementation of CMM 2011-04. SC21 Outcomes Document, paragraph 104 <p>Possible areas of additional items to monitor include SC21 discussions on sea turtles (CMM 2018-04) considered reporting requirements and were to revisit this during a review of this CMM scheduled for 2026. This review could raise matters relevant for ROP-IWG consideration. SC21 Summary report, Paragraphs 90 - 106</p> <p>To assist with this meeting discussion participants are invited to discuss the full suite of priority tasks set out in the work plan for 2023-2025 and consider any amendments that may be required to extend the workplan to reflect tasking beyond 2025 ...and further progress intersessionally after the SC21 and TCC21</p>			

Annex 1 – Full previous 2023-2025 ROP-IWG Workplan

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	TCC/IWG linkages & References
<i>1. Review and recommend ROP-IWG draft modifications to ROP Minimum Data Fields</i>				
<p>a. Development of draft recommended modifications to ROP data fields with the intention of allowing for more useful consideration of ROP data in the CCFS and in the Compliance Monitoring Scheme processes. (WCPFC19 Summary Report para 451 (ii))</p>	<p>Consider improvements to the Observer Trip Monitoring Summary data fields, which trigger pre-notifications to better align with the Commission’s priorities in terms of compliance.</p> <p>Consider and provide advice on training and capacity needs of SIDS, to implement observer programs, including training and data management.</p>	<p>Consider improvements to the Observer Trip Monitoring Summary data fields, which trigger pre-notifications to better align with the Commission’s priorities in terms of compliance.</p> <p>Consider and provide advice on training and capacity needs of SIDS, to implement observer programs, including training and data management.</p> <p>Continuous work progress from with existing task for review and implementations</p>	<p>Consider improvements to the Observer Trip Monitoring Summary data fields, which trigger pre-notifications to better align with the Commission’s priorities in terms of compliance.</p> <p>Consider and provide advice on training and capacity needs of SIDS, to implement observer programs, including training and data management.</p>	<p><i>Expected to contribute to TCC Workplan Priority Specific Task (j)</i></p> <p><i>Review and provide advice improvements to the ROP data fields, including those in ROP pre-notifications, to allow for more useful consideration in the compliance case file system and compliance review process [TCC task with assistance from Secretariat</i></p> <p>ROP Minimum Data Fields – Observer Trip Monitoring Summary</p> <p>WCPFC21-2024-16 Update from the ROP-IWG (1).pdf</p>

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	TCC/IWG linkages & References
			Continuous work progress from with existing task for review and implementations	
1a Status		Ref: TCC20 outcomes, paragraph 48	TTC20 outcomes, paragraph 16, 48,50,51	
<p>b. Prioritize work on issues such as a solution to identifying interactions with whale sharks and cetaceans, and on the inclusion of ROP data fields that were identified in the TCC Workplan 2022-2024 project specific task (j), and to identify any CMM that should also be prioritized in this work. (WCPFC19 Summary Report para 451 (iii))</p>	<p>Review and provide advice on improvements to the ROP minimum standard data fields for whale sharks and cetaceans – to allow for a distinction between an interaction and a possible infraction in the compliance case file system.</p> <p>Review and provide advice on improvements to the ROP minimum standard data fields for sea turtles and seabirds to allow for use of ROP data in the compliance case file system, taking into account overall workloads of observers.</p>			<p><i>Expected to contribute to TCC Workplan Priority Specific Task (j)</i></p> <p><i>Review and provide advice improvements to the ROP data fields, including those in ROP pre-notifications, to allow for more useful consideration in the compliance case file system and compliance review process [TCC task with assistance from Secretariat</i></p> <p>ROP Minimum Data Fields – Species of Special Interest</p> <p>CMM 2011-03 – CMM for Protection of Cetaceans from Purse Seine Fishing</p> <p>CMM 2022-04 – CMM for Sharks (paragraph 23)</p> <p>CMM 2018-04 CMM of Sea Turtles</p>

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	TCC/IWG linkages & References
<p>1.b Status</p>	<p>Consider and provide advice on training and capacity needs of SIDS, to implement observer programs, including training and data management.</p>			<p>CMM 2018-03 CMM to mitigate the impact of fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on seabirds.</p>
	<p>Secretariat paper TCC18-2022-17 Supporting paper for TCC18 consideration of potential improvements to the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields for impacts of fishing on whale sharks and cetaceans.</p>			
<p>c. Review and where needed provide draft recommendations and advice on standards and procedures, including for debriefing, with the intention of allowing for more useful consideration of ROP data in monitoring the implementation of CMMs (CMM 2006-07 Attachment 1 2(vii))</p>	<p>Develop advice and draft recommendations for more useful consideration of ROP data for CCFS and Compliance Monitoring purposes.</p> <p>Develop advice and draft recommendations for more useful consideration of ROP data for Transshipment monitoring.</p> <p>Consider and provide advice on training and</p>	<p>Develop advice and draft recommendations on ROP data fields to support a future CMM on Crew Labour Standards, if required.</p>		<p>CMM 2018-05 CMM for the Regional Observer Programme <i>suppl</i> CMM 2018-05-1 - WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Standards & ROP Guidelines</p> <p><i>May contribute to work being undertaken by Intersessional Work on Crew Labour Standards</i></p> <p><i>Timeline will require updating now CCM 2024-04 has been adopted with implementation scheduled for 2028.</i></p>

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	TCC/IWG linkages & References
	capacity needs of SIDS, to implement observer programs, including training and data management			
1.c Status				
d. Also where opportune, consider if streamlining and updating of other ROP data fields could be beneficial and develop draft recommendations and advice (CMM 2006-07 Attachment 1 2(vii))	Consider opportunities to remove redundant ROP data fields	Consider opportunities to remove redundant ROP data fields Develop advice and draft recommendations on ROP; s MSDF for discussion and implementation	Consider opportunities to remove redundant ROP data fields Develop advice and draft recommendations on ROP; s MSDF for discussion and implementation	CMM 2018-05 CMM for the Regional Observer Programme suppl CMM 2018-05-1 - WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Standards & ROP Guidelines
1.d Status				
e. Review and where needed develop draft recommended modifications to ROP data fields for Observer transshipment monitoring. (WCPFC19 Summary Report para 466 (iv and v))	Consider the Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transshipment Monitoring - 2023 and whether any revisions are necessary to the minimum data fields	Continue to review based on implementation experience, the Minimum Data Fields for Observer		Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transshipment Monitoring - 2023 – previously considered to encompass the “ROP data fields from FC-1, FC-2 and FC-3 forms”

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	TCC/IWG linkages & References
<p><i>1.e Status</i></p>	<p>for Observer transhipment monitoring.</p> <p>Consider the Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transhipment Monitoring - 2023 (FC-3 form) and if there are data fields that should be required to be collected by carrier vessels to complement the data to be collected by observers. Consider and provide advice on training and capacity needs of SIDS, to implement observer programs, including training and data management.</p>	<p>Transhipment Monitoring - 2023 (ROP data fields in FC-1 and FC-2 data fields) and whether any revisions are necessary to the minimum data fields for Observer transhipment monitoring. If needed, consider the Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transhipment Monitoring - 2023 (FC-3 form) and if there are data fields that should be required to be collected by carrier vessels to complement the data to be collected by observers</p>		<p><i>Expected to contribute to TCC Workplan Priority Specific Task (q) Review and consider updates to improve the effectiveness of CMMs related to transhipment at sea and compliance with their provisions and to work being undertaken by TS-IWG Review of CMM 2009-06.</i></p>
	<p>Agreed Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transhipment Monitoring - 2023 are to be collected by transhipment observers during transhipment events, and submitted to the Secretariat within 90 days</p>			

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	TCC/IWG linkages & References
	of disembarkation of the observer.			
<p>f. Review and where needed develop draft recommended modifications to ROP minimum data fields related to FADs, particularly monitoring of non-entangling and biodegradable FAD implementation in the future, to improve data quality in this area. (TCC18 Summary Report para 249)</p> <p><i>1.f Status</i></p>	<p>Consider and provide advice on current data fields in the minimum standard data fields on FADS and develop fields for recording non- entangling and biodegradable FAD information</p>	<p>Consider and provide advice on current data fields in the minimum standard data fields on FADS if there are FAD data fields identified that should be required to be reported by vessel operators to complement the data to be collected by observers.</p>		<p>ROP Minimum Data Fields – Purse seine fishery FADs</p> <p>CMM 2021-01 Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (paragraph 17) <i>Expected to contribute to work being undertaken by FAD Management Options IWG</i></p>
<p>2. Review and Consider ROP observer coverage</p>				
<p>a. Consider ROP observer coverage taking into account other observer programmes and other means of collecting data required by the Commission (CMM 2006-07 Attachment 1 2(viii))</p>	<p>Consider and develop draft recommendations and advice on the potential to increase ROP observer coverage, considering the current status of ROP Observer Programmes and other means of collecting data required by the Commission.</p>			<p><i>Noting that WCPFC19 endorsed the following recommendations of TCC18.</i></p> <p><i>(i) TCC18 noted the imbalance between the information available for monitoring compliance between the longline and purse seine fisheries and recommended that the Commission recognize the need to address this imbalance.</i></p>

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	TCC/IWG linkages & References
	Consider and provide advice on training and capacity needs of SIDS, to implement observer programs, including training and data management			<i>(ii) TCC18 noted that compliance with some obligations cannot be independently verified from available data sources. TCC18 recommended that WCPFC19 task the Secretariat to develop a paper, which identifies those obligations for which there is a lack of independently verifiable data, as well as potential sources of data that could provide independent verification of those obligations, for review by TCC19. (WCPFC19 Summary Report para 351(i) and (ii))</i>
2.a Status				

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	TCC/IWG linkages & References
<p>b. Provide advice on cross-endorsement procedures for transshipment observers with other RFMOs</p>		<p>Consider and develop draft recommendations and advice on systems and procedures necessary to operationalize the 2016 Transshipment Memorandum of Cooperation between WCPFC and CCSBT</p>		<p><i>Expected to contribute to TCC Workplan Priority Specific Task (q) Review and consider updates to improve the effectiveness of CMMs related to transshipment at sea and compliance with their provisions and to work being undertaken by TS-IWG Review of CMM 2009-06.</i></p>
<p>2.b Status</p>		<p>Noting the adoption of WCPFC Minimum Data Fields for Observer Transshipment Monitoring - 2023 as of 1 April 2023, it could be possible to further progress to operationalize the MoC</p>		
<p>3. Standards for ROP Observers</p>				

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	TCC/IWG linkages & References
<p>a. Provide recommendations to the Commission regarding safety standards to be met for carrying observers (CMM 2006-07 Attachment 1 2(xvi))</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3a. Status</p>	<p>Provide recommendations and advice on Observer CMM issues and matters raised at TCC or WCPFC meetings on observer safety. Review observer training for observer safety and related issues.</p>	<p>Provide recommendations and advice on Observer CMM issues and matters raised at TCC or WCPFC meetings on observer safety. Review observer training for observer safety and related issues.</p>		<p><i>Expected to contribute to TCC Workplan Priority Specific Task (I) Development, improvement, and implementation of the Commission's measures for observer safety and related issues.</i></p> <p>CMM 2017-03 - Conservation and Management Measure for the protection of WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Observers</p> <p>CMM 2018-05 CMM for the Regional Observer Programme suppl CMM 2018-05-1 - WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Standards & ROP Guidelines</p>
<p>4. Considerations related to emerging technology</p>				
<p>a. Provide recommendations and advice to TCC and to the Commission regarding opportunities that ER and EM technology could provide to supporting and streamlining the work of observers</p>	<p>Consider updates from national and subregional observer programmes, and IFOMC2023, on recent developments, and provide advice and recommendations where appropriate</p>	<p>Consider updates from national and subregional observer programmes, and others, on recent developments, and provide advice and recommendations where appropriate.</p>	<p>Consider updates from national and subregional programmes, and others, on recent developments, and provide advice and recommendations</p>	<p><i>Expected to consider and contribute to work being undertaken by ERandEM WG</i></p>

Work Plan Priority Tasks	2023	2024	2025	TCC/IWG linkages & References
			where appropriate	
<i>4 a Status</i>				