



**COMMISSION
FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Manila, Philippines
3 – 7 December 2017

**ENHANCED MONITORING OF LONGLINE VESSELS AND TRANSSHIPMENT
ACTIVITY**

**WCPFC14-2017-DP09
3 November 2017**

Paper by FFA Member CCMs



3 November 2017

Feleti P. Teo OBE
Executive Director
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
PO Box 2356, Kolonia
Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Feleti,

Enhanced monitoring of longline vessels and transshipment activity

I write on behalf of the 17 members of the Forum Fisheries Agency in my capacity as the Chair of the Forum Fisheries Committee.

I am pleased to note good progress by FFA members and other CCMs in improving monitoring in the WCPO including trialling and implementing electronic reporting (e-reporting) and electronic monitoring (e-monitoring) to improve the timeliness and reliability of fisheries data. These data are critical for enabling stock assessment and effective fisheries management and compliance.

However, FFA members remain very concerned about monitoring gaps in longline fisheries and the impact of mis-reporting of catch and transshipment. The Pacific tuna fisheries IUU quantification study published last year (<https://www.ffa.int/node/1672>) revealed that the extent of misreporting and post-harvest risk (unreported transshipment) in longline fisheries is severe and is likely to involve 246,000 tonnes of product with estimated value over \$390 Million USD. This is an unacceptable impact and it is in the interest of all CCMs to improve monitoring and reduce the impacts of misreporting to ensure we are basing our management decisions on reliable information.

To address these risks, FFA members are prioritising efforts around e-reporting, greater monitoring with observers and e-monitoring, and the development of electronic catch documentation schemes. FFA members are particularly concerned about the low level of monitoring in the longline sector and the inability to monitor unreported transshipment at sea from longline vessels to fish carriers.

Monitoring of transshipment at sea with observers on the carrier vessel (>33m) is currently required under CMM 2009-06 if a transshipment occurs from a longline vessel. However, without continuous monitoring on the carrier while it is at sea, there is no way of knowing if a carrier has received catch from a longline vessel and failed to report. As noted in the IUU quantification study, this is a major risk and there are ways to address this through full monitoring of carriers while they are at sea. Improved monitoring of carriers at sea could include the use of observers and/or e-monitoring systems with sensors that enable verification of when cranes are used to receive catch. FFA members are reviewing options to improve transshipment and carrier monitoring and will advise the Commission of any developed proposals.

FFA members greatly appreciate the work of the WCPFC ERandEMWG, and note that it is important for work to continue in 2018 in support of standards for e-reporting and e-monitoring. In particular, FFA members propose that the following items are included in the ERandEMWG workplan for 2018:

- Review e-monitoring standards for longliners with the goal of presenting e-monitoring standards for consideration at the Commission in 2018;
- Develop standards for how e-monitoring systems could be used to enable detection and monitoring of transshipment on fish carriers; and
- Consider development of standards for e-reporting applications in port monitoring and links with e-CDS development.

More broadly, FFA members request that Commission consider amending processes within the SC, TCC and the Commission to ensure monitoring needs are adequately considered and addressed in these forums. Particular focus needs to be on ensuring governance arrangements are in place across these committees to ensure that data needs are defined to support decision making and assessments, and that this definition is to determine what data is collected.

Please distribute this letter to all CCMs and we welcome comments or queries about the proposal, which should be directed to the FFA Secretariat (david.power@ffa.inc & vivian.fernandes@ffa.int).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Baldwin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jenny Baldwin

Chair

Forum Fisheries Committee