Western and
Central Pacific
Fisheries
Commission

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN ELECTRONIC REPORTING AND ELECTRONIC MONITORING WORKING GROUP (ErandEmWG)

Background

At WCPFC10, the Commission noted that progress had been made by some members in trialing electronic reporting and monitoring, particularly in support of both vessel operational activities and the Regional Observer Programme (ROP). A workshop was help in late March 2014 to discuss the potential for electronic reporting (ER) and electronic monitoring (EM) in the WCPO and to consider next steps in progressing these initiatives. The workshop identified a priority need to further consider the application of ER and EM in the WCPO and agreed that this work be best facilitated by the establishment of a working group. The workshop further noted that a key risk for the Commission is the lack of documented policies and standards for these technologies, resulting in poor data coordination, increased data storage and transmission complexities, higher data security risk and increased long-term costs.

It is important to note that a decision by the Commission to develop data standards is separate from a decision by the Commission to require certain data/information to be submitted electronically. The adoption of ER and EM standards by the Commission will support and accommodate those CCMs that have commenced implementation of a range of EM and ER technologies in their fisheries and will ensure that the Commission's databases and systems are ready to exchange electronic data in an orderly and efficient manner.

These terms of reference define the objectives, scope and responsibilities of the working group. They set out the expectations of the Commission with respect to the outputs of the working group. These TORs may be subject to review or modification by the Commission.

Objective

1. To consider how EM and ER technologies could benefit the work of CCMs and the Commission, in supporting the objective and implementation of the Convention.

Working group

1. The working group shall be open to all Commission Members and Participating Territories.
2. All CCMs are encouraged to provide input to the work of the working group[1].
3. To the highest degree possible, the working group shall conduct its work electronically or, if convenient and cost effective, in targeted face to face meetings.
4. The working group shall report to TCC and SC, as appropriate, where the advice and recommendations shall be considered.
5. The working group shall consult with or seek advice from technical experts, including port coordinators, as necessary.
6. The working group shall be supported by the Secretariat. In particular, the Secretariat shall provide technical advice and engage relevant stakeholders in providing input into the work of the working group.

Principles

1. In its deliberations, the working group shall be mindful of existing and proposed data standards and formats in other regional bodies and RFMOs.

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[1] Which should include industry representatives.

2. The working group shall consider the impacts of ER and EM technologies on the broader work of the Commission/Secretariat and look at ways to minimize data management costs.
3. The working group shall specifically consider impacts of ER and EM technologies on SIDS and endeavour to improve SIDS use of electronic technologies, including supporting trials of these technologies, to further understand their application.
4. The working group shall take into consideration recommendations from Kobe III relating to data harmonisation and exchange.
5. The working group shall not prejudice the rights and obligations of flag CCMs on data collecting and validation.

Workplan
1. As a priority, establish a group of technical experts (sub-working group) to draft standards on electronic reporting for the consideration of the working group, TCC11 and WCPFC12. The sub-working group shall consist of members of the PNAO, SPC, FFA, CDS-IWG chair, Secretariat and other CCM experts as necessary. CCMs, including industry representatives, may join the sub-working group.
2. Hold a workshop to review the draft standards and progress the development of an EM and ER strategy for consideration by TCC11 and WCPFC12, including objectives, scope, roles and responsibilities, timeframes for implementation, including
   a. identify and assess areas where ER or EM could strengthen current reporting processes
   b. identify specific WCPFC reporting obligations which could be submitted electronically
   c. develop a plan of work that includes both design and implementation (potentially phased) for these obligations in particular fisheries taking into consideration
        i. data confidentiality
       ii. reviewing/establishing data access, protection, use and dissemination rules and procedures
      iii. validation of data
       iv. timeframes for data submission
3. Evaluate the best method to implement the recommendations (e.g. a CMM vs report language etc.) that may be required to accommodate ER and EM technologies
4. Consider steps to progress implementation including but not limited to cost benefit analyses, and capacity building.
5. Undertake other actions relating to the application of ER and EM technologies (e.g., integration with CDS, HSBI, port controls etc) that the Commission may wish to consider.

Timeframe
1. The working group and its progress will be reviewed at WCPFC13.
2. Consistent with outcomes from the ER and EM workshop, a phased in approach to the implementation of these technologies should be considered.

Reference
1. Progressing the development of a WCPFC draft electronic reporting standard, including for ROP – TCC10 Information Paper – WCPFC-TCC10-2014-16 Progressing ER standards | WCPFC
2. ER and EM Workshop - March 2014 - Chairs report. WCPFC-TCC10-2014-15 E-Monitoring and E-reporting workshop report | WCPFC