



**FOURTH MEETING
INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP
REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME (IWG-ROP4)
Novotel Hotel, Nadi, FIJI
July 6 - 8, 2015**

Regional Observer Programme Identification Card

**WCPFC IWG4-ROP-06
19 June 2015**

1. The TCC10 report (paragraphs 119 & 120) recommended that the Commission adopt guidelines contained in 19.2 of the Regional Observer Programme Annual Report (WCPFC-TCC10-2014-RP02) for ROP Identification Cards and tasked the IWG ROP to further investigate the minimum required information appropriate for ROP identification cards.
2. WCPFC11 adopted the TCC 10 recommendations and the guidelines listed below for ROP Identification Cards. (Ref: WCPFC11 Summary Report para 482):

Suggested minimum required information on the front of each card:

- 1) Name of the observer
- 2) Name of the observer provider
- 3) Nationality of the observer
- 4) Unique identifying number for the observer
- 5) Passport style photo of the observer

Information that could be placed on either the front or back of the card:

- 6) Issue date and Expiry date
- 7) WCPFC logo to indicate observer is ROP observer
- 8) Logo of Programme and or Country Flag

Optional information that could be included on the back of the card:

- 9) Signature of Observer;
- 10) Status of observer Qualifications.

Task for IWG-ROP4:

3. The IWG-ROP is to review and provide as appropriate recommendations on the guidelines for minimum required information for the ROP identification cards. The IWG-ROP may also like to consider whether additional requirements or guidelines are necessary to ensure standardization of WCPFC ROP ID cards, including protocols for the issue of cards.

Ensuring standardization of ROP ID cards

4. To ensure standardization of the WCPFC ROP ID card, the following guideline descriptions for each field is suggested;

Front of the card

- a) Name of observer - The name of the observer should contain the full first name and full last name of the observer in that order, middle initials may be included. E.g. Naama T Nagusi.
- b) Name of the observer provider – The name of the observer provider should be written in full if possible but can be abbreviated if the name is deemed too long. e.g., National Marine Fisheries Service could be written as NMFS.
- c) Nationality of the observer - The country of the observer nationality should be written in full if possible but can be abbreviated if name is considered too long to fit - e.g. Tuvalu could be written as Tuvalu whereas Federated States of Micronesia may wish to use FSM. Country codes if used should be 3 letter FAO codes.
- d) Unique identifying number for the observer. - This number will generally be a unique code number SPC OFP issues to all observers that they receive information from and is used when collecting data as an identifier. If some programmes have other unique numbering systems for their observers, these can be used but must be made known to the Commission Secretariat when the list of qualified observers for their programme is relayed to the Secretariat.
- e) Passport style photo of the observer - All hats/headwear, caps, sunglasses and eye glasses should be removed on any photos placed on the ID card. A passport style photo shoulders up should be used.

Information that could be placed on either the front or back of the card:

- f) Issue and expiry date¹ - The date between issue and expiry date should be no longer than 3 years (however, the date can be rounded down or up to make all observer cards issued due on the same date etc.).
- g) WCPFC logo to indicate observer is ROP observer- The Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission logo should be used;



- h) Logo of Programme and or Country flag- An official recognized provider/fisheries logo can be used and/or the country flag can be used.

¹ Programmes that wish to have an expiry date that is the same for all cards; if an observer status changes or card is accidentally destroyed or lost during period of the card, a new card issued should be produced with the same expiry date as old card.

Optional information that could be included on the back of the card:

- i) Signature of Observer; if it placed on the card the signature should go on the back and be the normal signature the observer uses;
- j) Status of observer qualifications. This may be included e.g. if observer is a Senior Observer/ Observer & Debriefier / Observer & Trainer, Qualified for all gear types, qualified for only one gear type etc.

Ensuring a standard WCPFC ROP ID Card

- 4) A card that looks similar for each observer programme can assist with travel, immigration clearance and may help identify an observer when he/she arrives at a vessel.
- 5) One option which might assist some programmes and which could ensure a harmonized card containing all the relevant information is used throughout the WCPFC ROP, may be to consider an option that includes the Commission Secretariat arranging the printing and issuing of WCPFC ROP ID cards on behalf of national and sub-regional programmes. This may have the advantage of facilitating with centralizing a list of WCPFC ROP authorized observers at the Secretariat. It is expected that under such an option, the cards would be produced by the Commission Secretariat on request, and based on information electronically submitted by each observer provider. There are also expected to be some costs incurred by the Secretariat to support the printing and distribution of ROP ID cards to ROP observer providers under such an option. If there is merit in the Secretariat further exploring this option, cost-estimates could be developed for TCC11.

Suggested protocols for issuing of WCPFC ROP ID Cards

The following are suggested as protocols to go along with the distribution of the card:

- a) Authorised ROP providers can only authorise the issue of ROP observer cards to their observers.
- b) The card does not give the holder any rights and is only used for identification of the card holder as an authorised ROP observer.
- c) Observer providers are encouraged to ensure all their observers have ROP ID cards to effectively help an observer identify him/herself when travelling, boarding a vessel, or in any general observer situation.
- d) Cards must be issued only to qualified ROP observers.
- e) The date issued and expiry date should be no longer than 3 years (however, that date can be rounded up or down to make all observer cards issued for a provider due on the same date).
- f) Unique identifier for each observer must be issued by Observer Provider or SPC OFP and communicated to Commission Secretariat.