

WCPFC QUARTERLY REPORT

First Quarter 2010

The new year started with several priority actions, including: the finalisation of the WCPFC6 Summary Report and comments by early February to meet the date that the CMMs would come into effect; ROP 100% observer coverage for purse seiners; updating of the Commission Web pages and CMMs; setting up new procedures for the Interim Register for Non-Member Carriers and Bunkers; issuance of Circulars explaining the new processes, procedures and priorities for the first quarter of 2010; establishment of the new internal management system (IMS) for tracking of all reports and action items for CCMs and the Secretariat; developing annual work plans by sector; development of the TCC6 Matrix for the new Chair of TCC6; development of new funding packages to address budget shortfalls for the ROP; preparation of staffing documents for two new positions, Compliance Officer and ROP Data Quality Officer; planning for WPEA Phase I implementation and commencement of work for Phase II; turn over from Compliance Manager Andrew Richards to Peter Flewwelling; and preparation for the departure of the first Executive Director, Andrew Wright.

In addition to supporting the transitional gap from the switch of the Secretariat's staff, the ROP Coordinator assisted CCMs in the commencement on Jan 1st 2010 of the 100% observer coverage for purse seiners and catch retention as requested in CMM 2008-01, continued to work out the cross endorsement issues between IATTC and WCPFC, verified VMS activities with observer reports, and responded to the US-NMFS for additional funding for the ROP audit and ROP-related consultancies. He developed audit procedures for the auditing of sub-regional and national observer programmes that have been authorised on an interim basis to be part of the ROP, which will be applied first to the Philippine programme in the 2nd quarter. With all these initiatives, the current ROP is having some concerns with the lack of data flow to the Commission from ROP trips in accordance with obligations agreed by CCMs in the Convention and CMMs, as well as notifications of placement of ROP observers.

In March, the Science Manager coordinated a consultation meeting with the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute in Philippines to finalize annual work plan and budget for the WPEA project. He also assisted with Mr Peter Williams in coordinating the First Eastern Indonesia Tuna Fishery Annual Catch Estimates Review Meeting in Jakarta. In addition, with other WCPFC representatives (Anthony Lewis, Peter Williams, and Ziro Suzuki) he visited tuna landing sites in Vietnam and assisted in coordinating the first port sampling workshop in Vietnam. All meeting reports will be posted on the Commission's website once finalized.

The Interim Registry for Non-Member Carriers and Bunkers is now operating albeit with a few difficulties being experienced by some CCMs to fully comply with the complex nature of the new CMM 2009-01. The Secretariat is planning to send the Commission's Data Entry Assistant to those CCMs to further explain and assist in the registration processes.

Bridging the gap for CCMs to allow them to see the Commission VMS positions in their EEZs is a key issue to the VMS under Article 24(8) of the Convention and CMM 2007-02. New Zealand is the first CCM to take up this opportunity and Cook Islands is currently under negotiation. In addition, two VMS

officers are transferring registrations from the Record of Fishing Vessels and the Interim Register to the VMS registry and also monitoring the activities of all vessels on the High Seas, especially purse seiners in the High Seas Pockets. Training for these two officers is being planned with a field trip to work with the FFA VMS and experience their boarding, inspection and transshipment operations in the Solomon Islands.

The Compliance Manager, VMS Manager and ROP Coordinator participated in the FFA 13th MCS Working Group meeting in Honiara, Solomon Islands. This new meeting strategy was less formal and focused on practical applications with greater feedback from participants. It was very successful and more open to inputs from all parties and promoted closer relations between FFA and the Commission Secretariats, as well as their members.

The ITC manager has successfully completed the set up of the IMS, is moving to establish a good connection with the new fibre optics cable that is expected to become operational in the 2nd quarter. The new fibre optics cable will significantly enhance the Commission's options for data handling, back-up and redundancy planning, and negotiations with current service providers.

The Finance and Administration Manager is maintaining his financial control mechanisms, maintenance of the Commission assets, planning for new staffing, refurbishing the recently vacated buildings on the property, and assistance in the logistics for the SC6, TCC6 and WCPFC7 meetings.

Andrew Richards, the Compliance Manager departed Pohnpei to take up his new residence in Buka, PNG in late February. The Executive Director, Andrew Wright, departed to Brisbane enroute to Hobart also in late February, however, he maintained close contact and greatly assisted the Secretariat while on leave status until the end of his contract at the end of March 2010. The departure of these two key individuals is the end of a very important and successful era and the commencement of another, hopefully with the patience of the CCMs for the Secretariat to come back up to speed with its new staff.