



Observers for High Seas FAD Closure

ROP April 2011

The purse seine fishery on the permitted high seas areas and in the EEZs of the WCPFC Convention area bounded by 20°N and 20°S shall be closed to fishing on FADs between 0000 (GMT/UTC) hours 1st July – 30th September 2011

CMM 2008-01 provides at:

Para. 13. During this period, a vessel may only engage in fishing operations if the vessel carries on board an observer from the Regional Observer Programme to monitor that at no time does the vessel deploy or service any FAD or associated electronic devices or fish on schools in association with FADs.

Para. 13. During this period all purse seine vessels without an observer from the Regional Observer Programme on board will cease fishing and return directly to port.

Para. 14 Vessels seeking an observer from the Regional Observer Programme for the period of the closures shall notify the Regional Observer Programme Coordinator 21 days in advance.

Para. 14 If the lack of an available observer from the Regional Observer Programme would prevent a vessel from being able to fish during the period in question, the flag State may place an observer from its national program on the vessel to monitor compliance with these measures with approval from the Regional Observer Programme Coordinator and, in respect to fishing in EEZs, the approval of the relevant national authority.

What does this all mean?

- 1) The flag State of a purse seine vessel intending to fish through the July /September FAD closure must make arrangements to source observers for their vessels from a national, sub-regional or regional observer programme of another CCM that has received interim authorization. Flag States are encouraged to take into account any fisheries partnership arrangements they have with coastal State CCMs if they are likely to fish inside these countries' EEZs during the FAD closure.
- 2) The list of programmes that have received interim authorization, including contact details for the designated WCPFC National Observer Coordinator, is available on the WCPFC website under the Regional Observer Programme.
- 3) Flag States are invited to inform the Secretariat within 21 days of the commencement of the FAD closure of observer arrangements for all their purse seine vessels that elect to fish through the closure.

- 4) The Commission Secretariat will attempt to assist the sourcing of observers from national, sub-regional or regional observer programmes that have received interim authorization, if requested.
- 5) If all attempts to source an observer from an observer programme that has received interim authorization fails then, with prior approval of the ROP Coordinator, the flag State may use its own observers. If the vessel is also fishing in an EEZ, approval must be sought from the relevant national authority for that coastal State.

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