



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

Review of Guidelines for Long Line Observer Coverage

**WCPFC-2015- IWGROP4 –08
19 June 2015**

Task for IWG-ROP4

1. WCPFC10 agreed to refer issues associated with observer coverage rate targets for longline fleets to the IWG-ROP. Subsequently, WCPFC11 approved the guidelines for ROP longline coverage by fleet/fishery described in Attachment L Table 1, noting that it should be open to review and adjustments at future TCC meetings (Ref: WCPFC11 Summary Report para 483 – 486 and Attachment L).
2. IWG-ROP4 is asked to review and provide advice on the guidelines contained in Table 1 (see Attachment 1 and Attachment 3).
3. The IWG-ROP4 may also consider recommending a timeframe for implementation of the 5% observer coverage rate by fisheries using troll and pole-and-line vessels.

Background

4. CMM 2007-01 *Conservation and Management Measure for the Regional Observer Programme* says in Attachment K Annex C paragraph 6:

No later than 30 June 2012, CCMs shall achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each fishery under the jurisdiction of the Commission (except for vessels provided for in paras 9 and 10). In order to facilitate the placement of observers the logistics may dictate that this be done on the basis of trips.

5. In determining how 5% coverage rate is to be applied the geographical and operational scope is an important consideration: the application of the WCPFC ROP applies to vessels fishing exclusively on the high seas of the Convention Area, and vessels fishing on the high seas and in the waters under the national jurisdiction of one or more coastal States and vessels fishing in the waters under the jurisdiction of two or more coastal States (CMM 2007-01 para 5).
6. In addition the implementation of the ROP for troll and pole-and-line vessels was deferred. CMM 2007-01 Attachment K Annex C paragraph 10 says:
 10. *The implementation schedule for the following vessels shall be deferred:*
 - i) *small vessels, the minimum size of which shall be considered by the IWG-ROP for recommendation to the Commission in 2008.*
 - ii) *troll and pole-and-line vessels used for fishing for skipjack tuna or albacore (to be scheduled for review by the IWG-ROP).*

7. Some flag CCMs have operationally diverse longline fleets with the clear differences in (i) the geographical areas of operation, (ii) the species targeted, (iii) size of vessel, (iv) fish storage capabilities and (v) trip length. The term ‘fishery’ is used in the CMM 2007-01 and has been used in the past, in particular with respect to broad areas of operation and target species, as the basis for the

logical separation of the catch and effort data within one longline fleet for WCPFC assessments. However, to date there is considerable flexibility in how a ‘fishery’ is designated.

8. In addition to those vessels that meet the criteria established for placement of an observer under the ROP are fisheries where most (if not all) vessel trips (and therefore most days-at-sea) would be non-ROP trips, given they are restricted to a single coastal States waters.

9. Meeting the 5% observer coverage rate is a flag State responsibility, and depending on the operational or geographic scope of each CCMs longline fisheries, flag CCMs may also need to work with other CCMs, including those CCMs who are observer providers, to ensure the observer coverage rates for their vessels are met and that the observer data is provided to WCPFC in a timely and orderly manner.

10. CCMs noted at TCC9 that there are some challenges in reviewing implementation by CCMs of the 5% observer coverage rate requirement without clear information from CCMs on the metric used to calculate the relative rate (ie the percentage) of longline observer coverage. It was also apparent that some CCMs were not fully aware of what they were required to achieve in order to satisfy the obligation for 5% ROP coverage rate in the longline fishery. In part this confusion was manifest by requests for assistance and guidance on this issue by the Secretariat.

11. These considerations underpinned the proposal tabled by the Secretariat working in conjunction with SPC-OFP (WCPFC-TCC10-2014-13_rev1), which became the basis of the WCPFC11 decisions related to measuring and monitoring ROP longline coverage (see Attachment 1).

WCPFC11 outcomes

12. The WCPFC11 decisions on measuring and monitoring ROP longline coverage rates comprise four parts:

- i. A set of guidelines for ROP longline coverage by fleet/fishery, which remains open for review and adjustment by TCC (WCPFC11 Summary Report, Attachment L Table 1);
- ii. A notification process for CCMs to advise the Secretariat of their choice of observer coverage metric, which is to assist in determining estimates of total activity of each fleet based on the nominated metric;
- iii. A clarified reporting procedure for CCMs to report on implementation of the 5% ROP observer coverage rate in Annual Report Part 1, and
- iv. A tasking for the Secretariat (with assistance from SPC-OFP) to collate CCMs reported information on longline observer coverage for review by SC and TCC (WCPFC11 Summary Report Attachment L Tables 2 and 3).

13. The main intent of the WCPFC11 decisions was to improve the availability of information to support and monitor the implementation of the 5% observer coverage requirement.

Unit for measuring Longline observer

14. Noting that WCPFC10 agreed to refer issues associated with observer coverage targets for longline fleets to the IWG-ROP may like to review and discuss the current arrangements.

15. The CMM 2007-01 specifies that coverage rate is to be 5% of effort in each fishery, and there is also a note that logistics may dictate that coverage may be done on the basis of trips.

16. The current arrangements as agreed at WCPFC11 provide that CCMs can decide on the observer coverage metric. It is understood that the metric would then be applied to the portion of fishery’s effort that is considered to be eligible for ROP coverage. Options of metrics that CCMs have advised include:

- i. **Trips** – number of observer trips compared to trips by the fleet;
- ii. **Total hooks** – number of hooks observed compared to fleet hooks used;
- iii. **Observer sea days**- days observer is at sea compared to number of days fleet is at sea;

- iv. **Observer fishing days-** observed fishing days compared to fleets fishing days;
- v. **No of Sets** -observed sets compared to a fleets number of sets;
- vi. **Fishing vessels numbers.** - coverage determined by number of vessels in a fleet.

17. SC10 discussed that there were strong merits determining ROP longline coverage in a consistent manner and convened a small working group to suggest a way forward for TCC10 through the following recommendation (see Attachment 2).

SC10 recommended that:

- a) *The output from the informal small group on the longline observer coverage (Attachment E) be forwarded to TCC10 to progress this work.*

18. For most CCM longline fleets which have more “regular” departure and return to port patterns, the obvious unit to measure longline observer coverage is the VESSEL TRIP and the existence of logsheet or VMS data which are close to or at 100% coverage allows the appropriate number of trips required to meet the designated requirement to be easily determined. Determining a trip for some distant-water longline vessels that take comparatively long trips (eg a number of months) and may tranship at sea, provides particular challenges to employ a trip metric. In such cases ‘days-at-sea’ might be a more informative and appropriate metric, in that there is an opportunity to compare the observer days-at-sea by fleet and fishery with the overall fleet/fishery activity (i.e. days-at-sea) determined from the VMS and available logbook data.

19. IWG-ROP4 may wish to comment on the metrics for long line coverage. A copy of a recent circular containing the CCM reported information relevant to 2013 longline coverage is attached for information (Attachment 3).

ATTACHMENT 1 - Excerpt from WCPFC11 Summary Report

Measuring and Monitoring ROP longline coverage:

483. WCPFC11 approved the guidelines for ROP longline coverage by fleet/fishery described in Attachment L Table 1, noting that it should be open to review and adjustments at future TCC meetings.

484. WCPFC11 agreed that CCMs shall:

- a. Decide on the observer coverage metric and then compile the observer coverage using this metric for their fleet activity in 2013 (as required in Attachment L Tables 2 and 3) and submit this information to the WCPFC Secretariat before 28 February 2015. A sample report format is provided as guidance to assist CCMs with reporting (Attachment L Table 4)
- b. (for subsequent years) Compile and include this information in their respective Annual Report Part 1 to be submitted from 2015 onwards, noting that revisions can be provided at the annual TCC meeting.

485. WCPFC11 tasked the WCPFC Science/Data service provider with compiling estimates of total activity of each fleet for the nominated metric (outlined by the SC10 ISG7) to be included in the template (Attachment L Table 3)

- a. For 2013 activities, this information should be combined in the template (Attachment L Table 3) with the observer coverage provided by the CCMs (deadline 28th February 2015) and made available by 30th March 2015.
- b. For subsequent years, this information should be combined in the template (Attachment L Table 3) with the observer coverage provided by the CCMs (in their Part 1 reports) and made available for SC and TCC

486. WCPFC11 tasked the WCPFC Secretariat (with assistance from the Science/Data service provider) with compiling the information reported by CCMs on longline observer coverage and reporting the information included in Attachment L Tables 2 and 3 in papers tabled for future SC and TCC meetings.

WCPFC11 Summary Report: Attachment L

LONGLINE OBSERVER COVERAGE TABLES

Table 1. Observer coverage targets for Longline fleets active in the WCPFC Area

CCM Fleet	Fishery	ROP Longline coverage required	See Note(s)
AUSTRALIA	Domestic	5%	1, 3
BELIZE	Distant-water	5%	2, 5
CANADA	Distant-water	5%	2, 5
CHINA	Ice/Fresh	5%	1, 4
	Frozen	5%	2, 5, 6
COOK ISLANDS	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3, 4
EUROPEAN UNION	Distant-water	5%	2, 5, 6
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3, 4
FIJI	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3, 4
FRENCH POLYNESIA	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
INDONESIA	Domestic	5%	1, 3
	Distant-water	5%	2, 5, 7
JAPAN	Ice/Fresh, short-trip	5%	2, 4, 6
	Frozen, long-trip	5%	2, 5, 6, 7
KIRIBATI	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
MARSHALL ISLANDS	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3, 8
NAURU	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
NEW CALEDONIA	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
NEW ZEALAND	Domestic	5%	1, 3
NIUE	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3, 8
PALAU	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3, 8
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
PHILIPPINES	Distant-water	5%	2, 5, 7
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	Distant-water	5%	2, 5, 6, 7
SAMOA	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3, 8
SOLOMON ISLANDS	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
TONGA	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3
TUVALU	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3, 4
CHINESE TAIPEI	Small longline fishery- STLL	5%	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
	Distant-water – DWLL	5%	2, 6, 7
USA	HAWAII and California-based	5%	1, 3
	AMERICAN SAMOA	5%	1, 3
VANUATU	Pacific Island-based, short trip	5%	1, 3, 4
	Distant-water	5%	2, 5, 6, 7
WALLIS AND FUTUNA	Pacific Islands	5%	1, 3, 8

Notes

1. Most (if not all) vessel trips (and therefore most days-at-sea) would be non-ROP trips since mostly restricted to waters of national jurisdiction. For the Pacific Island countries, the ROP trips that are conducted outside the waters of national jurisdiction will normally be covered by Observer providers from the coastal state (i.e. PIC Observer providers other than the flag state)
2. All vessel trips (and therefore days-at-sea) would be defined as ROP trips.
3. The DOMESTIC Observer provider would normally cover a component of this fleet.
4. Pacific Islands Observer provider(s) would normally cover this fleet.
5. The Observer provider(s) covering these trips are not known.
6. The FLAG-STATE Observer provider(s) may be covering these trips
7. “Distant-water” vessels have very long trips and since some fleets tranship at sea, there has been no obligation to define a trip in this context, and this type of information is mostly unavailable nonetheless. The unit of coverage should therefore be “days-at-sea” for these situations.
8. Currently this CCM does not have flagged longline vessels on the Record of Fishing Vessels

ATTACHMENT 2

SC10 Summary Report Attachment E

**The Commission for the Conservation and Management of
Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean**

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
TENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands
6-14 August 2014

A LONGLINE OBSERVER COVERAGE METRIC UNDER THE ROP

ISG7 meet during the afternoon tea break on Friday 8 August 2014 to discuss identifying an appropriate metric for measuring observer coverage rates on longline vessels fishing under the ROP in the WCPFC. The following principles were agreed:

1. Observer coverage needs to be representative across the different fisheries under the WCPFC Convention Area.
2. Fisheries need to be defined as used in the stock assessments to help differentiate the different types of fishing activities undertaken by several CCMs. An example of the various fisheries defined for this purpose is given in Table 1 of TCC9-2013-09, though the group noted that this table may need to be modified where appropriate.
3. There are a variety of metrics that can be used to measure observer coverage in longline fisheries. The group identified the following hierarchy of four metrics (from best downwards):
 - i. number of hooks deployed
 - ii. number of days fished
 - iii. number of days-at-sea
 - iv. number of trips
4. While ISG7 agreed that CCMs should be encouraged to achieve a coverage rate which accords with the best metric in the above hierarchy (or the second best), ISG7 recommends that SC10 request TCC10 identify the metric of observer coverage to be used for compliance purposes.
5. ISG7 also agreed that when reporting coverage rates for each CCM that the Scientific Services Provider list coverage rates against each of the four types of coverage rates listed above. This list can be used to identify how coverage rates compare across each of the different metrics.

**TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS AND
PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES**

Circular No.: 2015/35
Date: 19 June 2015
No. pages: 3

**Table collating CCMs reported information on longline observer coverage for 2013
calendar year**

Dear all,

CCMs will recall Circular 2015/08 dated 26th February, 2015 was sent to remind CCMs about the WCPFC11 decisions on longline observer coverage reporting (WCPFC11 Summary Report 483-486). The intent of these decisions was to assist CCMs and the Secretariat with reviewing the implementation of the longline observer coverage requirements in CMM 2007-01.

In accordance with those decisions, please find attached a table which compiles the **2013** information reported by CCMs by 28 February, 2015 as agreed by the Commission. The table was prepared by the Secretariat with assistance from the WCPFC Science/Data service provider (SPC).

CCMs are also reminded that by **6 July 2015**, they are expected to include in Annual Report Part 1 their reported longline observer coverage for the 2014 calendar year. A similar table will be compiled by the Secretariat and SPC based on **2014** information reported by CCMs. This paper will be updated for TCC11, and as needed if there are further updates at TCC11.

The Secretariat remains available to provide any clarification or any additional information as may be required.

Yours sincerely,



Lara Manarangi-Trott, PhD
Officer – in - Charge

NOTES

1. No activity in 2013 by this fleet , or this CCM did not have flagged longline vessels on the Record of Fishing Vessels in 2013.
2. Domestic fleet with no fishing on the high seas or other EEZs and therefore no ROP trips. Observer coverage of the domestic fleet is provided nonetheless.
3. China advised their coverage is 5% according to the following explanation at TCC10:

*"We use number of fishing vessels as the basis to calculate **the 5% coverage on LL vessels**. In 2013, 379 China-flagged LL vessels fished in WCPFC, among which around 30 are ice-fresh vessels and only operates in the EEZ of coastal states, some 70 alb vessels are chartered to SIDS as their domestic fleet. Therefore, we have 279 (379-30-70) LL vessels as the basis, and the 5% coverage requires 14 observers (279x0.05=13.95). In 2013, 9 observers of Chinese national were sent to Chinese flagged LL vessels in WCPFC by Shanghai Ocean University. We also received some observers from coastal states, for example, the Cook Islands sent 6 observers on China-flagged vessels (these vessels are not chartered to the Cooks Islands). Therefore, the minimum number of total observers onboard of the 279 China-flagged LL vessels is 15, and this meets the 5% coverage."*

4. In a communication of 28 February 2015, EU advised that they will use "NUMBER OF TRIPS" for measuring and reporting observer coverage on its flagged LL vessels for years from 2014. For 2013, they had previously advised that *"We are currently exploring options for improving observer coverage on EU LLs. Recent amendments in the ES legislation should contribute also in improving these aspects. At TCC10, EU advised that legislation has been adopted."*
5. No information provided by the CCM for this fleet.
6. The information provided for the US fleets EXCLUDES activities in their respective EEZs, that is, the coverage rates provided are for their ROP trips only.
7. The information provided for the FSM fleets EXCLUDES activities of their domestic fleet, that is, the coverage is for their ROP trips only.
8. Most (if not all) vessel trips (and therefore most days-at-sea) would be non-ROP trips since mostly restricted to waters of national jurisdiction. . Observer coverage is for all activities (ROP and non-ROP) of the domestic fleet.
9. Observer trip value represents the trip data provided to SPC in the absence of advice from this CCM on total number of observer trips conducted. This value may not represent the overall trips undertaken (i.e. it may be an under-estimate).
10. All vessel trips (and therefore days-at-sea) would be defined as ROP trips. "Distant-water" vessels have very long trips and since some fleets tranship at sea, the unit of coverage might more suitably be "days-at-sea" for these situations.
11. Covers both the domestic fleet and distant-water fleet and coverage cannot be split by fleet at this stage.
12. Tuvalu advised their choice of metric for 2014 was "days at sea".