



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON OPERATIONAL ISSUES WITH THE WCPFC MCS PROGRAMMES

WCPFC-TCC11-2015-14
16 September 2015

Paper prepared by the Secretariat

Purpose

1. This report consolidates the main findings and recommendations from the technical and operational papers prepared for TCC as required under the Convention and the related CMMs, and as directed by the Commission. This is the third year that the Secretariat has provided such a report and as in previous years the report is structured following the order of the TCC11 agenda (agenda number and referenced working papers are provided in brackets and in italics).¹

IUU Vessel List - [(2) - TCC11-2015-07_rev3]

2. Six vessels are included on the draft IUU list and there is no updated information related to vessels on the WCPFC IUU list 2015. Copies of the supporting documentation, including letters of nomination and subsequent correspondence are provided as attachments to TCC11-2015-07_rev3 (the attachments are only available to authorized CCM users through the secure CCM section of WCPFC website).

Suggested Action:

3. Pursuant to CMM 2010-06, TCC11 is invited to adopt a Provisional IUU Vessel List, and submit it to the Commission for consideration and approval; and as appropriate, recommend any proposed changes to the current WCPFC IUU Vessel List.

Cooperating Non-Member requests - [(3) - TCC11-2015-08_rev2]

4. Seven (7) requests have been received for renewal of Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) status in 2016, all from current CNMs. Copies of the requests, a spreadsheet that compiles the information and any covering letters are provided as attachments to TCC11-2015-08 (the attachments are only available to authorized CCM users through the secure CCM section of WCPFC website).

¹ Agenda version revision 1 as at 15 September 2015

Suggested Action:

5. TCC11 is invited to consider the requests for CNM status for 2016 and make recommendations and technical advice to the Commission. It is expected that a working group will develop a draft recommendations for TCC11 to consider.

Compliance Monitoring Scheme - [(4) - TCC11-2015-09]**TCC's review of the full draft CMR (4.1)**

6. 36 individual CCMs and three collective groups of Members received draft Compliance Monitoring Reports (draft CMR) on 28 July 2015 from the Secretariat (and therein approximately 416 potential issues were highlighted). The full draft CMR, which incorporated replies from 26 CCMs was made available to all CCMs on 3rd September 2015. Explanatory notes on the documentation that the Secretariat has provided to support TCC11's review of the full draft CMR are provided in TCC11-2015-09.
7. Draft CMRs were again successfully delivered this year, and some considerable hours were worked over the last couple of months by the Compliance/MCS team. In 2015, the content and depth of analysis undertaken by the Secretariat in preparation of draft CMRs continues to improve and is supported by previous years and ongoing investments by the Commission into the development and enhancement of the WCPFC IMS hosted databases for CMM reporting at the Secretariat. The improved timeliness of CCM Annual Report submissions, together with the prioritization made by WCPFC11 in adopting the list of CMM paragraphs for draft CMRs, both contributed to making the process of developing draft CMR being more manageable than in previous years.
8. As has been the case since 2013, the WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Scheme continues to be supported by the online reporting systems for Annual Report Part 2 and Compliance Monitoring which is hosted on the WCPFC Intranet using a Microsoft Sharepoint web application platform. In 2015, the Secretariat has also continued the practice of using the individual CCM portal page on the secure side of the WCPFC website (each CCM has access to their own CCM portal, and not that of others) to facilitate the dissemination of additional supporting information relevant to draft CMRs. The WCPFC does not have a dedicated budget line for CMR system development; instead maintenance and ongoing costs come from the IMS-related budget lines.
9. The current CMS timelines still do not leave much to chance, for example the Secretariat only had three (3) working days between the final date for CCM replies on draft CMR and the required date for circulating the full draft CMR. The WCPFC Secretariat MCS/compliance staff still have to schedule carefully their work program activities and other commitments during the period of late April through the end of September, in order to meet the specified draft CMR deadlines and other deadlines in TCC-related CMMs and TCC annual meeting document. As was the case in 2014, this year some TCC papers were later being issued than should have been the case.
10. Other supporting papers relevant to this agenda item include:
 - i. TCC11-IP01 notes that there were further improvements in the timeliness of submissions of Annual Report Part 1 and Part 2 during 2015, which did assist the Secretariat with being able to meet the deadline for draft CMRs.
 - ii. TCC11-IP04 is the updated Scientific Data Gaps paper, which the Secretariat referenced in the preparation for the full draft CMR section vi) *Provision of Scientific Data* information.

- iii. TCC11-IP02 provides a copy of the WCPFC11 agreed Final Compliance Monitoring Report.
- iv. TCC11-IP05_rev1 explains the current status of information on ROP data submissions for 2014 activities, and available information on longline observer coverage.

Suggested Action:

11. TCC11 consider recommending that WCPFC12:

- a) agree to a list of CMM paragraphs for draft CMRs in 2016;
- b) agree to an earlier submission date for Annual Report Part 1 and Part 2, possibly in May or June; and
- c) Maintain the commitment to WCPFC Secretariat IMS development and enhancement over the next 2 – 3 years.

Target capacity assistance to areas identified by CMR process - (4.3)

- 12. Table 2 on page 8 of TCC11-2015-09 provides a list of the CMM paragraphs which were noted by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 or replies to draft CMRs as areas where certain SIDS require assistance.
- 13. At the end of March 2015, the WCPFC Secretariat attended the FFA MCS Working Group meeting and worked alongside the FFA Secretariat to assist many FFA CCMs with their Annual Reports Part 2. In addition, throughout the year the Secretariat was able to work with and assist many CCMs electronically with their Annual Reports Part 2 and draft CMR reporting – this assistance was often in response to specific requests from CCMs, or CCMs accepting the Secretariat offers to assist them. There was a 2015 budgetary allocation of USD13,000 for targeted capacity building with a note that it was *proposed to be directed to specific areas identified in the CMR process and Annual Report Part 2 assistance, and if funds permit to specific needs identified in the CMR process*. Spending to date against this line item includes costs of one WCPFC staff attending the MCSWG (March), costs of one WCPFC staff attending the Tuna Data Workshop (April) and costs of one WCPFC staff to travel to Solomon Islands and Kiribati to provide Annual Report Part 2 and CMR assistance.

Revise CMMs prioritized by CMS which were ambiguous or problematic - (4.4)

- 14. Table 3 on page 10 of TCC11-2015-09 provides a list of CMM paragraphs which might be useful for TCC to consider under this agenda item.

Consideration of an independent audit of the CMS - [(4.5) - TCC11-2015-10]

- 15. A discussion paper, TCC11-2015-10, has been prepared for the consideration of TCC11 in response to the WCPFC11 decision to undertake an audit of the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) at some point in the future, and the cost implications of the audit.

Suggested Action:

16. TCC11 review the WCPFC11 decision and provide guidance on how to progress the notion of an audit of the CMS and discuss possible elements for the terms of reference for such an audit.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) – [(8.1) - TCC11-2015-RP01]

17. In 2014/15 the Commission continued its association with the FFA and the Pacific VMS which is based on a system supported by Polestar (ex-Absolute) and hosted in the Macquarie data Centre in Sydney. This system operates as two separate and distinct entities to protect the integrity of the Commission VMS data. The cost to the Commission of this system has remained stable at around \$400,000 per annum, and currently there are almost 3500 vessels reporting to the WCPFC VMS. Other costs include: VMS contracts for airtime services for positions from WCPFC-VMS direct reporting vessels which have been stable at around \$95,000 per annum; and costs of support to VMS redundancy provision which has been maintained at \$18,700 per annum.
18. Notes on in-house developments and matters of interest for 2014/15:
 - i. Completion in the first quarter of 2015 of a VMS to RFV “mapping table” which provides a link between vessels data in the RFV and the vessels data in the Commission VMS database. This is an important part of the Secretariats integrated MCS information management system development. With the completion of this task the Secretariat now has the capability to utilize WCPFC VMS data in its routine monitoring of CMMs.
 - ii. Continued and ongoing support to “flick the switch” implementation (WCPFC9 decision on application of the WCPFC VMS to WCPFC members waters) and members high seas MCS operations;
 - iii. Continued and ongoing monitoring and support of the VMS manual reporting provisions in the VMS SSPs, with some continuing challenges. One of these challenges is that the first step, which occurs before a vessel may be asked to manually report its position to WCPFC: the Secretariat must be able to ascertain that there has been non-reception of two consecutive, programmed high seas VMS positions. Another is that the Secretariat has not yet been able to meet the requirements of VMS_SSPs 5.6 “The Secretariat shall maintain and make available to all CCMs a current list of those vessels subject to manual reporting and the duration of that reporting”. This remains an outstanding and priority task for the Secretariat; and
 - iv. During the outage of the Yamaguchi LES, the Secretariat requested vessels to provide manual reports as there were no other avenues to receive VMS position reports. Some CCMs raised the issue of manual reporting requirement stating that the MTUs on the vessels were functioning and were reporting to the national VMS therefore should not be required to report their positions manually.

Review of compatibility of WCPFC high seas VMS with coastal VMS (TCC Workplan 2013-2015) – [(8.1a) - TCC11-2015-15]

19. The review of the background provided in TCC11-2015-15 demonstrates that the principle of compatibility has underpinned the range of decisions taken by the Commission in its design, development and implementation of the Commission VMS. The paper also overviews past decisions associated with matters of compatibility between the WCPFC high seas VMS and coastal VMS, including the WCPFC9 decision to “flick the switch” (“the application of the Commission VMS solely to waters under the jurisdiction of Members) and to complement and support Members’ national VMS, including compatibility.” WCPFC9 Summary Report paragraph 239, which is reproduced as Attachment 1 in TCC11-2015-15. Of note for TCC11’s consideration is that these WCPFC9 decisions were to be reviewed or revised after two years.
20. The Secretariat notes an area for improvement could be arrangements to provide some improved checks to identify and support the VMS reporting by vessels when they change

between the WCPFC VMS and FFA VMS systems. In recent times there have been a number of instances where, through WCPFC members High Seas Boarding and Inspections, Port Inspections or MCS operations, vessels have been identified as possibly not meeting WCPFC VMS requirements, but further investigations have found that there were some procedural issues which delayed activating the VTAF (Vessel Tracking Activation Form) details. Often a review of the circumstances has found that a vessel that previously was reporting through the FFA VMS, was not properly activated to report directly to the WCPFC VMS.

Suggested Action

21. TCC11 is invited to consider the following reporting mechanism developed to better support enhanced compatibility between the WCPFC and FFA VMS systems:
 1. WCPFC Secretariat to publish and maintain through WCPFC online systems, that are accessible by authorized CCM users, a list of RFV vessels WCPFC VMS reporting status. The list will be updated at least once a week, and will be based on the details of vessels as contained in the RFV. The list will confirm those vessels which VTAF details are held by WCPFC and the date of receipt, and the current VMS reporting channel to the WCPFC VMS (for example, WCPFC-direct; through FFA; manual reporting or not-reporting).
 2. FFA Secretariat is requested to assist the WCPFC Secretariat with establishing and maintaining updated information, including a list of vessels that are presently in Good Standing on the FFA Register and/or regular updates of vessels which are reporting through the FFA-VMS. The modes of transmission for the information, will involve direct links between the Commission's and FFA Secretariats databases.
 3. It is the responsibility of flag CCMs to
 - a. regularly review their respective lists, and to advise the WCPFC Secretariat of any changes to their vessels WCPFC VMS reporting status from that shown in the published list; and
 - b. ensure that the Secretariat has an updated VTAF, and is advised [xx days] before expiry of their good standing status with FFA.

[xx days] = is a timeframe to be decided

Review implementation of Commission recommendations [from Joint WCPFC/FFA Review of the WCPFC VMS (paper WCPFC-2011/27)] (from 2012) small WG (TCC workplan 2013-2015) - [(8.1b) - TCC11-2015-16]

22. In 2011, the WCPFC VMS was reviewed to assess the performance of the Service Level Agreement in providing an effective and efficient VMS services for the Commission. The report from the study was presented to TCC7 and WCPFC8.
23. The agreed outcome from WCPFC8 was to task a small working group, jointly chaired by Stan Crothers (Tokelau) and the late Colin Brown (Cook Islands), to recommend approaches to address the two highest priority recommendations from the WCPFC/FFA Joint VMS Review (VMS-SWG (2012)):
 - i. Identify the needs, purposes and attributes of the Commission VMS;

- ii. Review the existing VMS Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) and CMM 2007-02 to determine if they meet the needs, purposes and attributes identified in (a) and if not, provide recommended changes to the SSPs and CMM 2007-02.
24. The final report of the VMS-SWG (2012) was presented to WCPFC9 (WCPFC9-2012-15). Three documents were produced by the working group and were appended to the VMS SWG (2012) report:
 1. *Draft Purpose and Principles statement for the Commission VMS (WCPFC9-2012-15, Appendix 1)*;
 25. The VMS-SWG (2012) noted that there was general consensus, but not full agreement, by the working group on the draft Purpose and Principles statement. The VMS-SWG further clarified that the purpose and statement does not confer any obligations on CCMs, it simply provides direction for future Commission decision-making.
 26. WCPFC9 reviewed the VMS SWG (2012) and adopted a modified version of the statement describing the purpose and principles of the WCPFC VMS (WCPFC9-2012-15 (rev 1)). (WCPFC9 Summary Report Attachment F).
 2. *Draft CMM and SSPs (WCPFC9-2012-15, Appendix 2 and 3)*;
 27. There was no consensus by the working group on the proposed draft amendments to the CMM and SSPs. These documents were attached to the report of the VMS-SWG (2012) for CCMs' information only and WCPFC9 did not discuss these recommendations.
 28. Table 1 in TCC11-2015-16 provides a short commentary in the form of notes on subsequent WCPFC decisions which might be considered relevant to the draft amendments to the CMM and SSPs as provided by the VMS-SWG (2012) report as information.

Suggested action:

29. TCC11-2015-16 is provided to assist TCC11 with its consideration of this project priority specific task.

Regional Observer Programme – [(8.2) - TCC11-2015-RP02]

30. In 2014/15 most Regional Observer Programme (ROP) observers for the 100% observer coverage on purse seiners were sourced from Pacific Island Observer Programmes. Pacific Island observer programmes also continue to supply most observers to meet 100% high seas transshipment on carriers and some of the 5% ROP longline coverage rate requirement. There is often an attrition rate in observer programmes, so training is required for most observer programmes on a continual basis. Non-Pacific Island countries of the Commission also have available observers that are being used in ROP trips to collect data as required by the Commission. There are approximately 25 observers from FSM, Nauru, Kiribati and RMI with IATTC/WCPFC cross endorsement certification.
31. The ROP section of the Secretariat has continued to support observer and de-briefer training sessions of Members, and in 2015 a USD\$30,000 budget was provided for this activity. These include, trainings at the WCPFC training center in FSM; assistance was also given on request to help the Philippines with observer and de-briefer training. In addition, staff have participated in observer related meetings and workshops within the region.
32. The main issues to emerge from the program that require TCC11's consideration and which are not otherwise noted in the agenda are as follows:
 - i. A second phase of audits commenced in 2014 to ensure ROP standards are maintained, and a schedule was approved as guidance by WCPFC11. The Philippines, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and FFA observer programmes were

reviewed in 2014. In 2015 those observer programmes audited were Nauru, Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, and the United States, Hawaii-based Pacific Island Regional Observer program; Korea is still to be reviewed later in 2015. The current annual budgetary allocation USD15,000 is sufficient and should be maintained; (TCC11-2015-RP02, 3.1 – 3.2)

- ii. In August 2015, a cross-endorsement training for 12 experienced observers by IATTC and WCPFC staff was held in London, Kiribati Island. The location was chosen noting that the port (London) in Kiribati is a popular port of call for vessels that intend to fish in both Convention areas. A further training in 2016 to increase numbers with WCPFC/IATTC cross endorsement is proposed and a budget of \$28,000 is suggested.
- iii. The paper *Status of ROP Data Management* presented at the Science Committee on data management indicates the amount of ROP data that has been entered and also highlights possible data gaps and other problems in receiving the data for entry. This paper is one of the papers that was drawn on in the preparation of draft Compliance Monitoring reports covering 2014 activities by the Secretariat. (see TCC11-2015-IP05);
- iv. The paper (TCC11-2015-RP02) provides summary information from observer reports on whale shark and cetacean encounters with purse seine vessels; seabird and sea turtle fishery interactions, as well as silky shark and oceanic white tip sharks interactions;
- v. As directed by WCPFC10 and WCPFC11 the Secretariat has compiled a booklet of the current Commission Conservation and Management Measures and Resolutions that are specifically relevant to observers that are in force. The booklet also highlights some of the issues that will assist observers in understanding the CMMs and the importance of the data they are collecting. Electronic versions were provided on the website for 2014 and 2015, and referenced in FIMS observer tablets. The first hard-copy publication of this booklet (2015) has also proven extremely popular and a wider audience other than observers has requested the booklet including vessel captains who have asked some observers to leave the book on board when they disembark. In 2015, the total cost of printing and freight in 2015 was \$12,562 which represents a delivered cost of \$8.37 per booklet. In 2016, an increased budget of \$14,500 for the printing and distribution of the 2016 version is sought (1750 booklets including postage cost).

Suggested action:

33. TCC11 is invited to provide support to the Secretariat proposed activities in 2016 with budgetary implications:
- i. Cross endorsement training of observers to be able to carry out duties in IATTC waters and the WCPFC waters on the same trip continues in 2016 and the proposed indicative budget for 2016 be increased from \$25,000 to \$28,000.
 - ii. The CMM Booklet relevant to observer roles and duties continues to be printed in 2016 and the proposed indicative budget for 2016 be increased from \$8,500 to \$14,500.

Report of the IWG-ROP4 – [(8.2a) - TCC11-2015-17]

34. The Intersessional Working Group on the Regional Observer Programme held its fourth meeting in Nadi, Fiji from 6-8 July 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues which had been forwarded by the TCC and Commission. A report will be provided to TCC11 by IWG-ROP Chair, Ray Clarke.
35. The IWG-ROP4 report contains 25 recommendations and suggestions on ROP issues, including alcohol-related misconduct by observers, ID cards, transshipment notification rules, facilitating the provision of data and observer reports, a pre-notification scheme which would allow vessel captains or owners to be advised more quickly if they had been reported by an observer for an alleged infringement. Discussions also took place on issuing satellite communicators to individual observers for their safety, mechanisms and metrics approved for longline observer coverage, data flow to the Commission, and the hybrid approach on the sourcing of observers.

Measuring and Monitoring ROP longline coverage – [(8.2b)- TCC11-2015-IP05]

36. This agenda item provides the updated ROP data management paper from SC11 which incorporates the WCPFC11 adopted *guidelines for ROP longline coverage by fleet/fishery as described in WCPFC11 Summary Report Attachment L Table 1*. The information therein was the basis of draft CMR reviews of CCMs implementation in 2014 of the ROP longline coverage rate requirement (*CMM 2007-01 Attachment K Annex C 06*).
37. WCPFC11 adopted the guidelines noting that it should be open to review and adjustment at future TCC meetings.

Suggested action

38. TCC11 is invited to discuss and as appropriate make recommendations on the ROP longline coverage guidelines for monitoring and measuring ROP longline coverage.

Review implementation of Commission recommendations from 2012 ROP-TAG – [(8.2c) - TCC11-2015-18]

39. The Regional Observer Programme Technical Advisory Group (ROP-TAG) commenced in 2012 under the terms of reference that were approved by WCPFC8. A final report of the ROP-TAG was provided to TCC9 (WCPFC-TCC9-2013_rev1).
40. The table provided in TCC11-2015-18 provides the list of the ROP-TAG recommendations to TCC9, and includes notes on the progress of each recommendations consideration and as appropriate approval by the Commission. Some issues have been further progressed by the IWG-ROP4 meeting (held in mid-2015), and others were concluded at the relevant TCC session. No ROP-TAG recommendations appear to be outstanding.

Suggested action

41. The paper is provided to assist TCC11 with its consideration of this project priority specific task.

Draft proposed changes to longline ROP observer data collection standards – [(8.2d) (TCC11-2015-19)]

42. The Commission has previously agreed to ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields – the latest version was updated based on WCPFC11 decisions and can be accessed from the WCPFC website: <http://www.wcpfc.int/regional-observer-programme>
43. The SC11 recommended changes to the ROP Minimum Standard ROP Data Fields are intended to achieve two objectives:

- i. To bring WCPFC observer data collection protocols in line with some of the more recent WCPFC bycatch mitigation CMMs, eg CMM 2014-05, including paragraph 1 which requires the use of at least one of two prescribed mitigation measures in longline fisheries that are targeting tunas and billfishes: either prohibit use or carrying of wire trace as branch lines or leaders; or prohibit use of branch lines running directly off the longline floats or drop lines, known as shark lines (diagram provided in CMM).; and
 - ii. To reflect lessons learned from recent experience in analyzing observer data in mitigation studies, such as those done by SPC for sharks, which have been reviewed by the Scientific Committee
44. TCC11-2015-19 Attachment 1 includes the exact text as recommended in SC11 Executive Summary Attachment I (as per the SC11 Executive Summary report issued 24 August 2015). It also includes two columns which have been introduced by the Secretariat alongside the SC11 recommendation which are i) a commentary on the proposed changes and ii) a few proposed edits to the SC11 recommendations.
45. The key changes that the Secretariat has proposed are:
- i. A modification to the “hook type and hook size notes”;
 - ii. An edit to clarify the field “Leader (trace) material”;
 - iii. An addition to the field “Shark Lines” to ask observers where possible to record the length of the line for each set (voluntary);
 - iv. Edits to clarify the “seabird mitigation measure” fields, specifically for “Tori poles and number of lines” and “Blue dyed bait”.

Suggested action

46. TCC11 is invited to consider the Secretariat’s notes and suggested changes to the SC11 proposed changes to the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields contained in Attachment 1 of TCC11-2015-19.

High Seas Transshipment Monitoring - [(8.3) - TCC11-2015-RP03]

47. In 2014 there were 555 high seas transshipment reported to the WCPFC Secretariat in accordance with CMM 2009-06; 24 receiving vessels and 303 offloading vessels from 10 CCMs were involved in these reported transshipments during 2014. Advance notifications and post-transshipment declaration reporting by CCMs of high seas transshipment events has improved but gaps remain in WCPFC holdings of reported transshipment events. From 1 Jan - 30 June 2015, 336 high seas transshipment activities were reported involving 16 receiving vessels and 201 offloading vessels from 7 CCMs.
48. Some points of note from 2014 year and first six months of 2015 include:
- i. As was the case in past years, reported high seas transshipments were sparse in the north western part of the WCPF Convention Area, and were more dense in the tropical eastern Pacific, particularly within and around the overlap area with IATTC;
 - ii. Few high seas transshipment activities were reported to have occurred in the high seas pockets, no reported high seas transshipments in HSP1-SMA or EHSP-SMA;
 - iii. No high seas transshipment activities were reported to have occurred in the southern part of the Convention Area;

- iv. As was the case in past years, reasonable proportions of the total estimated longline catch of bigeye tuna and swordfish were reported to have been transshipped in the high seas during 2014;
 - v. The first six months of 2015, is comparable to the 2013 and 2014 levels of high seas transshipment events and quantities transshipped in the high seas;
 - vi. The list of vessels which CCMs have advised WCPFC of having positive determinations of impracticability in accordance with paragraph 34 of CMM 2009-06 (now associated with the Record of Fishing Vessels), now includes most vessels that are reported to be involved in high seas transshipments; and
 - vii. Reporting by CCMs of high seas transshipment events has improved but gaps remain in WCPFC holdings of reported transshipment events.
49. TCC10 requested that the Secretariat expand its annual transshipment report to include a summary of the information on transshipment activities that CCMs report annually through Annual Report Part 1 (CMM 2009-06 paragraph 11) in aggregate form (TCC10 Summary Report para 191). TCC11-2015-RP03 Annex 2A – 2D provides a summary of CCMs responses in Annual Report Part 1 of their annual report against all transshipment activities covered by CMM 2009-06.
50. The report (TCC11-2015-RP03) also provides updates on in-house activities in support of high seas transshipment monitoring:
- i. Progress towards more routine advice to CCMs of high seas transshipment reporting gaps; and
 - ii. Progress towards improved capability to verify high seas transshipment reporting through VMS analysis and observer data.
51. Of relevance to the high seas transshipment monitoring, the IWG-ROP4 Report (TCC11-2015-17) includes on page 5 and in Attachment 5 and 6, some recommendations on transshipment notification reporting mechanisms which are proposed to improve the ability of the Secretariat to monitor and check observer placement on carrier vessels. This is proposed for discussion under TCC11 Agenda 8.2 (a) *IWG-ROP4 report*.
52. There are also potential linkages to E-reporting initiatives: it is expected that E-reporting initiatives are likely to offer much potential for improving the quality and timeliness of receipt of WCPFC observer collected information on high seas transshipments. The Secretariat can also see scope for transshipment advance notifications to be provided in a standardized electronic reporting format (as an alternative to the pdf and in-text emails many CCMs are currently using). Such initiatives would have the added benefit of improving the capability of the WCPFC Secretariat to be able to provide high seas advance transshipment notifications (CMM 2009-06 35 a(iii)) as part of routine MCS data requests. These could be matters of relevance to discussions under TCC11 Agenda 10.1 *Electronic Monitoring and Electronic Reporting Initiatives*.

High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) - [(8.4) - TCC11-2015-RP04]

53. Currently there are 13 members that have notified the Commission, through the Executive Director, of their intention to participate in conducting boarding and inspection activities under the WCPFC HSBI Scheme. Kiribati was the latest addition to the inspection register, in March 2014.
54. In 2014, the Secretariat received 56 reports from 4 Members conducting HSBI activities. No vessels were observed to have a paragraph 32 notification of *alleged serious violations* (as

defined in CMM 2006-08 paragraph 37). In the first seven months of 2015, the Secretariat received 52 reports from 4 Members undertaking HSBI activities.

55. The authorities of Inspection Vessel and Authorities of Fishing Vessel is now provided as a database which is accessible and filterable by CCM through the HSBI page on the public side of the website at <http://www.wcpfc.int/high-seas-boarding-inspection>. CCMs were informed of this new initiative in August 2015 through Circular No: 2015/54. Similar to the RFV, the Register of Inspection Vessels is now a publically searchable database using a number of different fields within the register.
56. The Secretariat took up the assistance offered by the United States at TCC10 to work collaboratively to update the multi-language questionnaire. The Secretariat is appreciative of this assistance. The English version of the updated multi-language questionnaire is posted on the HSBI page on the WCPFC website (<https://www.wcpfc.int/high-seas-boarding-inspection>). Relevant members are asked to assist in translating the updated questionnaire to the other languages (Chinese, Spanish, French, Japanese, Korea and Chinese Taipei).

Suggested Actions:

57. CCMs are encouraged to check and ensure that their HSBI-relevant contact details are up-to-date, and to use the online capability through their individual CCM portals to update their details as needed.
58. CCMs are asked to assist in supporting HSBI activities by providing the Secretariat with translated versions of the updated multi-language questionnaire.
59. TCC11 is invited to task the Secretariat to develop a technical solution to make available to authorized CCM MCS personnel through secure login, a list of vessels that have been previously inspected under the HSBI scheme specifically, the VID, Vessel Name, IRCS, date of boarding and Name of inspecting member.

Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) - [(8.5) - TCC11-2015-RP05]

60. As at 27 August 2015, 28 CCMs (including five CNMs) have submitted 5706 records of their respective fishing vessels to the Executive Director.
61. The RFV is continuously publicly available via the WCPFC web site as required by paragraph 9 of CMM 2014-03. Since August 2015 tables and graphs of summary information contained in the RFV have been made available on the website at <https://www.wcpfc.int/vessels/charts>. These summary statistics, presented as graphs and tables, are automatically updated, as the RFV changes and is reflective of what is in the RFV at that point in time.
62. During last year (2014) and the first half of this this year (2015), the Secretariat makes the following observations related to the RFV:
 - i. The adoption of the RFV SSPs has improved the completeness and quality of the vessel records in the RFV. Vessels added or modified post 7 June 2014 (when the RFV SSP first came into effect) all have the minimum required fields present. CCMs may access a current evaluation of completeness of the RFV fields on a secure page of the website and it is also evaluated in the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) process.
 - ii. Some CCMs continue to send RFV updates in the form of pdf letters via email. CCMs are reminded that currently, these are the two modes available for making updates to the RFV: these are through submittal of an electronic file that fully meets the required specifications or through direct RFV data entry via the WCPFC intranet

web portal. A guide is also available on the WCPFC intranet for Managing RFV online to help CCMs with submitting updates to the RFV through direct data entry via WCPFC the web portal. In addition, CCMs are reminded to use the naming convention for the vessel photograph stated in Attachment 2 of the RFV SSP (CMM 2014-03).

- iii. WCPFC11 agreed that the information reported by flag CCMs as part of the RFV updates, related to charter notifications and high seas transshipment authorizations should be treated as public domain data (WCPFC11 summary report para 500). Accordingly, these information were made publicly available on the RFV website this year. CCMs are reminded that in accordance with Attachment 1 of CMM 2014-03, the chartering information relates to vessels in which it is notified as chartered under CMM 2012-05 or is considered to be chartered under CMM 2013-10 paragraph 42. The Secretariat observed in some instances, CCMs are entering charter information on the RFV for vessels which are not formally notified as chartered by a chartering CCM under CMM 2012-05. The Secretariat urges CCMs to check that they are using the charter fields correctly. Only the submitting CCM, which is usually the flag State, can update its own vessels on the RFV. Only after the flag CCM has received its advice of charter notifications (CMM 2012-05), would there be an expectation by the Secretariat that flag CCMs would update the relevant fields on the RFV for their submitted vessels.
- iv. CCMs are reminded of the importance of the Record of Fishing Vessels VID number which is the internal WCPFC Secretariat system identifier for WCPFC RFV records. The VID provides a necessary check, particularly when updates are being made through the mode of MS Excel file, so as to ensure that the correct vessel records are being updated. CCMs are urged to duly check to make sure that the VID numbers that they provide in MS Excel files are the correct ones.
- v. The Secretariat continues to receive queries relating to expired or blank authorization period for a vessel on the RFV. The Secretariat maintains the advice provided previously by the former Legal Advisor, Professor Martin Tsamenyi, that if a vessel flagged to a Commission member or Cooperating Non-member is listed on the RFV, this implies, through reference to CMM 2013-10, that the flag State considers that the vessel is “entitled to fly its flag and is authorized to fish in the Convention Area” and that that the expiry of authorization date is an administrative matter between the flag State and the vessel (TCC9 Summary Report, para 324).

Eastern High Seas Pocket Special Management Area (EHSP-SMA) – [(8.6) - TCC11-2015-RP06]

63. In accordance with CMM 2010-02, entry and exit reports for the EHSP-SMA are submitted to the Secretariat via email and are stored in WCPFC’s Information Management System (IMS). The Entry/Exit reports received are also transmitted to the three coastal CCMs surrounding the EHSP, and the three countries have requested and receive 100nm high seas VMS data for the EHSP-SMA, in accordance with the Data Rules and Procedures.
64. This year’s report confirms that over 100 vessels were detected or reported entering or exiting the EHSP-SMA. The report also provides a consistent finding to previous year reports that there are vessels that enter and exit the EHSP-SMA which are not reporting in accordance with CMM 2010-02.
65. The Secretariat also maintains a ‘live list’ of all fishing vessels present in the EHSP in the secure page on the WCPFC website, published in the form of Excel files. In August 2015, the display of this live list has changed making it more user friendly (Circular No.: 2015/54). Vessels present in the EHSP are now displayed in a table as well as in a map of the EHSP in

the EHSP page on the website. Vessels are also directly linked to the WCPFC RFV providing user with the ability to easily access vessel details on the RFV. CCMs can log into the EHSP secure page to view this new initiative.

66. Finally a linkage to the ERandEMWG outcomes (TCC11-2015-11) is noted, which proposes the establishment of a proposed electronic data standard and specification for paragraph 2 of CMM 2010-02 reporting.

Data Provision and Gaps - [(9) - TCC11-2015-IP04]

Review of tiered scoring system for evaluating compliance with provision of scientific data to the Commission - (9.1)

67. This agenda item provides the updated data gaps paper from SC11 which incorporates the WCPFC11 adopted *tier scoring system for evaluating compliance with the provision of scientific data to the Commission*. The information therein was the basis of draft CMR reviews of CCMs implementation for 2014 activities, of the five paragraphs in the *Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission* decision.
68. WCPFC11 adopted the tier scoring system on the understanding that TCC will keep looking at the process of refining the CMR. The tiered scoring system was sent to the SC for its consideration and IP04 includes some edits to the presentation of the tier-scoring system in response to SC11 feedback.

Suggested action

69. TCC11 is invited to discuss and as appropriate make recommendations on the tiered scoring system.

Intersessional activities - [(10) - TCC11-2015-20]

E-reporting and E-monitoring Initiatives - (10.1)

70. The First E-reporting and E-monitoring Intersessional Working Group meeting was held in Nadi, Fiji from 8-10 July 2015. Electronic reporting is recognized as providing ways to enhance data accuracy, data entry efficiency, reducing reporting burden and avoiding duplication for vessel operators and national fisheries agencies. A report will be provided to TCC11 by ERandEMWG Chair, Kerry Smith.
71. The key output from the meeting (Attachment 5 of TCC11-2015-20) is a set of draft electronic reporting standards which are to apply initially to five reporting requirements: Eastern High Seas Pocket Special Management Area reporting (CMM 2010-02); High Seas Pocket One Special Management Area reporting (CMM 2014-01 Attachment C); Manual position reporting in the event of ALC/MTU failure; Operational level catch and effort data; and Observer data.
72. The proposed draft electronic reporting standards are expected to ensure 1) that electronic technologies can be fully utilized to satisfy agreed Commission scientific data and other reporting requirements; and 2) that technologies can be developed in a way that suits the needs of countries, and vessel operators and the Commission. The proposed draft electronic reporting standards have been recommended to TCC for consideration. The views of SC11 were sought on the report and its proposed draft electronic-reporting standards.

CDS-IWG - [(10.2) (TCC11-2015-21)]

73. The CDS-IWG workshop will take place on Monday 21st – Tuesday 22nd September, in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, and a report will be provided to TCC11 by CDS-IWG Chair, Alois Kinol.

Recommendations from SC and NC - [(10.3) - TCC11-2015-IP03]

74. This paper provides a list of selected SC11 recommendations, where there were outcomes that might be relevant to the TCC11 discussions. For reference, the paper also lists the relevant WCPFC11 and TCC10 outcomes, against the TCC11 agenda.

Review of Existing CMMs - [(11)]

75. At the time of preparing this paper, there were a number of existing CMMs that have been noted for review, either as a result of submission of proposals to review the CMMs or through tasks set by WCPFC11:

South Pacific albacore (CMM 2010-05) - [(11.1) - TCC11-2015-IP09]

76. The agenda item considers SPC update on the status of the South Pacific Albacore.

Bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack (CMM 2014-01, CMM 2009-02) - [(11.2) - TCC11-2015-IP07; TCC11-2015-IP08; and TCC11-2015-DP03]

77. This agenda item review the different aspect of the tropical tuna CMM 20014-01 as they relate :

- i. Summary of tropical tuna CMM reporting – prepared by the Secretariat
- ii. Catch and Effort tables on tropical tuna CMMs – prepared by SPC-OFI
- iii. Purse seine activity in PNA waters – Delegation paper by PNA

Sharks (CMM 2010-07, 11-04, 12-04, 13-08 and 14-05); Seabirds (CMM 2012-07); Sea Turtles (CMM 2008-03); - [(11.3 - 11.5) - TCC11-2015-22; and TCC11-2015-RP02]

78. These agenda items relates to Shark CMM-related matters for TCC11; and other by-catch related issues.

Harvest Strategy Workplan (CMM 2014-06) - [(11.6) - TCC11-2015-DP02]

79. This agenda will consider Australia's proposal for the Harvest Strategy draft workplan.

New CMM Proposals - [(12)]

80. At the time of preparing this paper, one proposal for a new CMM had been received and was circulated for TCC11: *Draft CMM on WCPO Skipjack tuna target reference point (DP04)*.

Other matters requiring TCC advice - [(13)]

Development and trials of metrics for measuring fishing effort and capacity (TCC Workplan 2013-2015) (13.1)

81. The Secretariat has no updates on metrics for measuring fishing effort and capacity. For a summary of notifications received under paragraph 50 of CMM 2013-01/CMM 2014-01 see *WCPFC-TCC11-2015-IP07* (Table 8).

Administrative matters - [(14)]

Proposed TCC Work Plan and Budget for 2015-2017 - [(14.1)]

82. (TCC11-2015-IP10) provides the WCPFC9 adopted TCC Workplan 2013 – 2015 (WCPFC9 summary report paragraph 349). The TCC11 agenda was prepared taking into account the agreed priority projects for 2015.

Data rules and security audit – [(14.2) - TCC11-2015-RP07]

83. In 2014/15 the Secretariat has maintained its system of controls over approvals for access to data and information from the Commission. In 2014/2015, the Secretariat received and processed eighty six (86) requests from Members and others for specific WCPFC data, some of which were related to multiple types of WCPFC non-public domain data. These protocols all seem to have worked well with no known breaches occurring.
84. CCMs may be aware that the individual CCM portals on the WCPFC website, which are used for the Secretariat to provide individual draft CMR and supporting documentation to individual CCMs, also includes WCPFC Official Contacts list which is updatable by each CCM. As advised in August 2015 (Circular No.: 2015/54), the Secretariat has made available on the secure page of the website at <https://www.wcpfc.int/official-circulars> the various groups of Official Contacts details. One of these groups of official contact details is the Authorized MCS Entities and Personnel. The Secretariat has pre-populated this with the latest details it has. Further, CCMs now have the capability to update any of these contact details online. CCMs are asked to check and ensure that these are accurate and up-to-date. A quick guide on how to update CCM contact details is attached to Circular No.: 2015/54.
85. TCC11-2015-RP08 will provide the Report of the independent review of the Secretariat's VMS data, and the integrity of the IMS and RFV, which was conducted by Deloitte & Touche LLP Guam. At the time of writing the final report from this review was still to be received.

**Report on the Secretariat IMS and website development, and online reporting systems
(2013-2015) – [(14.3) - TCC11-2015-RP08]**

86. The WCPFC Information Management System (IMS) is hosted internally within the Secretariat, using Microsoft SharePoint technologies integrated MySQL database. A SharePoint Intranet/Extranet Portal <https://intra.wcpfc.int> provides both the Secretariat staff and the authorized CCM users a web front-end (WFE) interface to the IMS. The Commission website <http://www.wcpfc.int> is hosted externally, and was initially set up to document and gazette WCPFC meeting papers, summary records and copies of WCPFC decisions including CMMs.
87. In 2012, the Commission approved a three year plan of support an intensive development of the Secretariat's internal systems including the further development of an enhanced and integrated WCPFC Information Management System to improve the integration of WCPFC MCS information (*Proposed enhancements to the Information Management System and WCPFC Website 2013-2015 (WCPFC9-2012-FAC6-16)*). The development of the IMS has followed an incremental model of implementation, based on a planned corporate data model that reflects core WCPFC Secretariat business tasks.
88. Priorities in 2012 included delivering to Members an online interface for submitting their annual reports to the Commission on compliance and implementation of measures (Annual Report Part 2), as well as developing an internal online system to assist the Secretariat with generating draft Compliance Monitoring Reports for each CCM. Following approval by WCPFC9, the Secretariat commenced a phased investment to increase the integration of MCS information in the WCPFC IMS and required website enhancements.
89. The commitments made by the Commission to IMS developments and associated IT infrastructure have taken the Secretariat forward in terms of efficiencies and effectiveness, and has continued to enhance the Secretariat's ability to further support the Compliance Monitoring Scheme. Through these initiatives, a range of online reporting systems for CCMs and for the Secretariat have already been delivered (including online reporting systems for Annual Report Part 2, draft Compliance Monitoring Reports, MTU audit reporting, and Record of Fishing Vessels updates). The existing IT portfolio includes a private virtual cloud network at WCPFC HQ, Pohnpei. The operational databases are developed and maintained

on Microsoft enterprise Sharepoint and SQL Server platforms. The Commission Data Warehouse (DWH) which integrates all existing WCPFC operational data and two external datasets (FFA Good Standing Register and VMS daily positions) is developed and maintained on open source platforms, MySQL and Linux. These new tools, as implemented, now replace most of the ad-hoc spreadsheet desktop recordkeeping that had been used by the Secretariat MCS/Compliance staff for recording principal CMM reporting datasets

90. In 2015, the Secretariat has continued its work on the integration of databases under a single data warehouse framework, and the development of in-house IT analysis tools (activities in late 2014/15 has focused on VMS to RFV linkages and in-house displays). The Secretariat has also been working on improvements to display of a range of MCS tool information on the website (for example ESHP-SMA, RFV and HSBI). Together these efforts are undertaken with a view to better supporting CCMs in their implementation of these collective MCS measures. In addition, all of the Required Reports which are tabled at TCC11, and the draft Compliance Monitoring Report and related-work, have benefitted and have been supported by the IMS developments to date.
91. Since 2012, the Commission has maintained an annual budget of USD100,000 for IMS developments. In addition, a modest annual amount for online publishing through the website, including of Annual Report Part 2, has also been maintained in subsequent budgets (USD18,000). Importantly these annual budgets provide for routine maintenance support to the IMS databases, the annual updates and routine procedures associated with the development and publishing of the online Annual Report Part 2 and Compliance Monitoring system, and a modest budget for continued work in support of further enhancing and increasing the integration of MCS information in the WCPFC IMS and to provide the Secretariat with tailored IT analysis tools.
92. In addition to these routine Compliance tasks, for 2014/15 there are also five priority work areas which have been identified by the Secretariat for future IMS development within the Secretariat, and as noted previously the Secretariat has received voluntary contributions from some Member towards the first four of these priorities:
 - a) support ways to improve the collection of accurate and timely data, including through electronic reporting (ER) and electronic monitoring (EM);
 - b) continuing to expand the analytical capability and business intelligence of the WCPFC IMS, including adding a GIS/map for displaying and integrating various WCPFC data;
 - c) improving the access and capability of the Secretariat to review ROP observer data, and ensure that the Secretariat's internal MCS operating procedures and IMS systems adequately cater for record-keeping, handling of evidence and notices to CCMs of possible violations;
 - d) review procedures and propose tools, including through the website, so that the Secretariat is better equipped to provide timely access to MCS-relevant information in support of member MCS activities and to share MCS data with CCMs, in accordance with the WCPFC data rules and procedure; and
 - e) integration of WCPFC Catch and Effort data, held and maintained by SPC-OFP into the WCPFC IMS datasets.

Suggested Action:

93. TCC11 consider recommending that WCPFC12 maintain the commitment to WCPFC

Secretariat IMS development and enhancement over the next 2 – 3 years.

Staffing

94. All eleven MCS/Compliance staff (4 professional level and 9 locally recruited staff) remain in place. The travel commitments of the staff are attached as Attachment 1.

Recommendation

95. TCC11 is invited to note the report.

Attachment 1 - Travel by WCPFC MCS/Compliance staff in 2014/2015:

A list of the travel by the senior Compliance/MCS staff in late 2014/2015 is provided below. The travel has included assistance and involvement in sub-regional activities directly related to the WCPFC work areas. Most travel is funded from the *staff travel* line items in Part 1 of the budget and dedicated activity line items in Part 2.3 of the Technical and Compliance Programme, but some travel was funded by external sources.

China, Beijing and Shanghai

- National visit at invitation of China to discuss WCPFC data submissions, overview Conservation and Management Measures and national CMR matters (October 2014) - Compliance Manager

Federated States of Micronesia

Yap

- Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) Officials Meeting (March 2015) – Compliance Manager

Pohnpei

- Various trainings at the WCPFC training centre in FSM (2015) – Regional Observer Programme Coordinator
- PNA Ministerial Meeting (June 2015) - Compliance Manager
- SC11 Meeting (August 2015) - Compliance Manager, Assistant Compliance Manager, VMS Manager, Regional Observer Programme Coordinator, various MCS support staff

Fiji

Nadi

- WCPFC IWG-ROP4 (July 2015) – Compliance Manager, Regional Observer Programme Coordinator, ROP Data Quality Officer
- WCPFC ERandEMWG1 (July 2015) – Compliance Manager, Regional Observer Programme Coordinator, ROP Data Quality Officer

Suva

- ROP Audit (March 2015) – Regional Observer Programme Coordinator

Kiribati

Tarawa

- ROP Audit (March 2015), Regional Observer Programme Coordinator
- National assistance for Annual Report Part 2 (May 2015) - Assistant Compliance Manager

○

Kirimati Island

- IATTC/WCPFC Cross Endorsement Training (August 2015) - Regional Observer Programme Coordinator

Republic of Marshall Islands, Majuro

- WPRFMC and MIMRA hosted workshop on Bigeye Management Options (August 2015) - Compliance Manager

Nauru

- ROP Audit (first half 2015), Regional Observer Programme Coordinator

New Caledonia, Noumea

- Courtesy visit to New Caledonia Civil Maritime Operations Office (Jan 2015) – VMS Manager
- Parties to Nauru Agreement Observer Workshop (Feb 2015) Regional Observer Programme Coordinator, Data Quality Officer
- Regional Observer Coordinators Workshop - (Feb 2015) Regional Observer Programme Coordinator, Data Quality Officer
- SPC Tuna Data Workshop (April 2015) – Assistant Compliance Manager.

Philippines, Manila

- Assistance to observer and de-briefer training (May 2015) – Regional Observer Programme Coordinator
- Discussion with BFAR on electronic manual reporting format (April 2015) – VMS Manager

Samoa, Apia

- WCPFC11 and associated meetings (Dec 2014)– Compliance Manager, Assistant Compliance Manager, VMS Manager, Regional Observer Programme Coordinator.

Solomon Islands, Honiara,

- FFA MCS Working Group (March 2015) - Assistant Compliance Manager.
- National assistance for Annual Report Part 2 (March 2015) - Assistant Compliance Manager
- Solomon Islands ROP Audit (2014), Regional Observer Programme Coordinator
- FFA ROP Audit (2014), Regional Observer Programme Coordinator

Chinese Taipei,

Taipei and Kaoshiung

- Discussions on e-reporting formats, and VMS training and inspection of MTUs on longline fishing vessels (April 2015) – VMS Manager

Keelung

- Longline Bycatch Data Collected by Tuna RFMOs (Jan 2015) – Regional Observer Programme Coordinator
- ROP Audit (March 2015), Regional Observer Programme Coordinator

Tuvalu, Funafuti

- FFA Ministerial Meeting (July 2015) – Compliance Manager

United States of America, Hawaii, Honolulu

- Courtesy visit to US Coast Guard District 14th Offices and NOAA Offices (April 2015) – Compliance Manager
- WPRFMC hosted workshop on Bigeye Purse Seine Management Options (April 2015) - Compliance Manager
- ROP Audit (August 2015) – Regional Observer Programme Coordinator
