



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
Eleventh Regular Session

23 – 29 September 2015
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE WCPFC RECORD OF FISHING VESSELS

WCPFC-TCC11-2015-RP05_rev1¹
19 October 2015

Paper prepared by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. The Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) was established pursuant to Article 24 (paragraphs 4 – 7) of the WCPF Convention. The RFV is a publicly accessible list through the WCPFC website, providing a combined list of CCMs vessels that are entitled to fly its flag and are authorized to be used for fishing in the Convention Area beyond areas of national jurisdiction. The WCPFC Secretariat maintains the Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) on behalf of the members of the Commission.

2. This paper, as in previous years, is an annual summary of information contained within the RFV and the operation of the RFV, and it is provided in accordance with paragraph 15 of CMM 2013-10, *WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorization to Fish* and paragraph 14 of CMM 2014-03, *Standards, Specifications and Procedures for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV SSPs)*. The paper provides:

- An annual summary of the information contained in the WCPFC RFV
- Information on the website initiative presenting RFV summary statistics
- A report on the implementation of the RFV SSPs (CMM 2014-03)
- Administration notes about the RFV, including notes on collaboration on RFV-matters with other organisations.

TCC11 is invited to note and discuss the information in the RFV.

¹ The report was revised to correct an error in paragraph 12 by deleting “which will become a minimum required field on 1 January 2016” from the end of the paragraph.

Summary of the information contained in the WCPFC RFV as at 24 August 2015

3. This section provides an annual summary of the information contained in the RFV as required under CMM 2013-10 paragraph 15. Summary information contained in the RFV is presented in the figures below.

Figure 1:

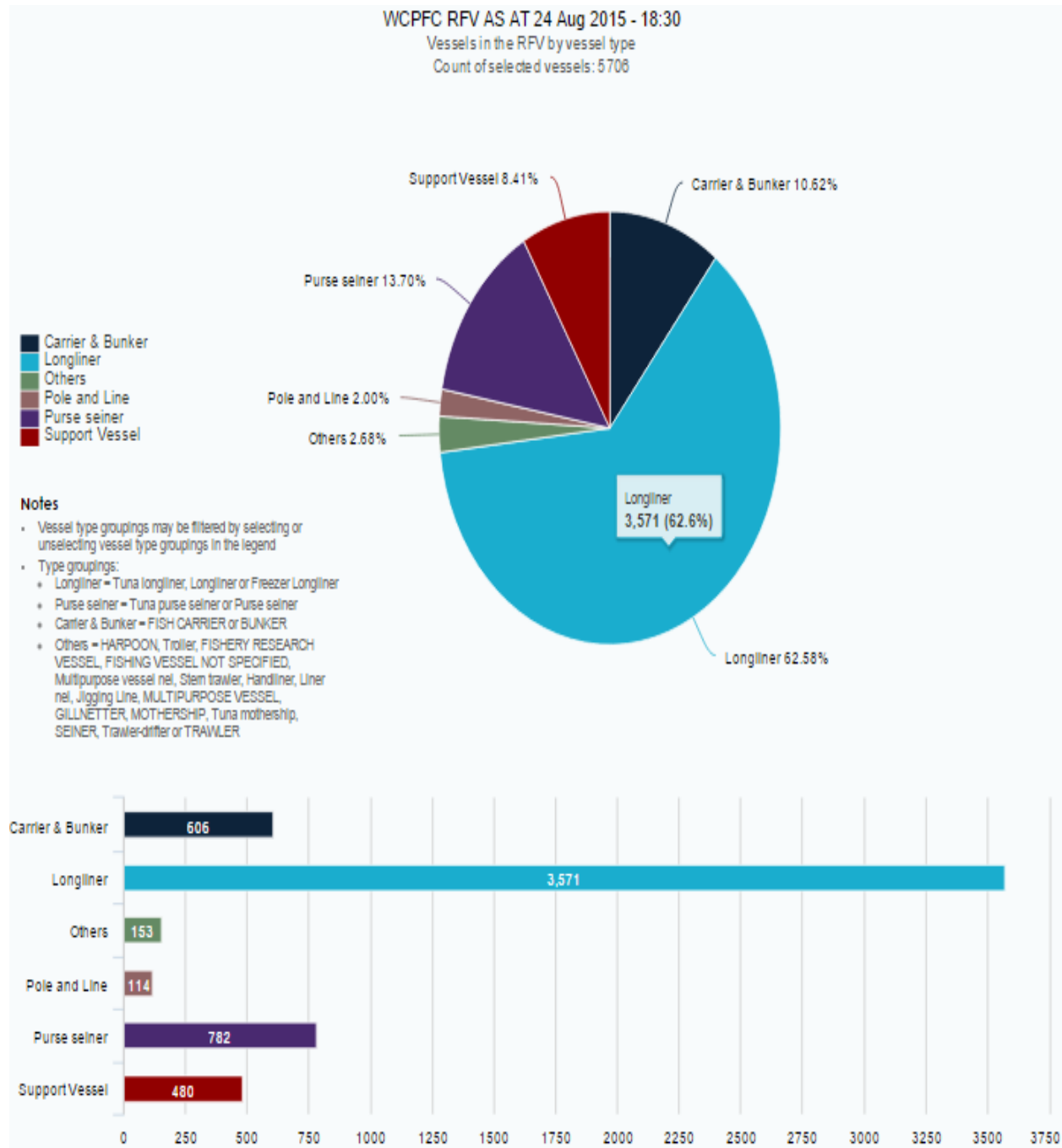


Figure 2:

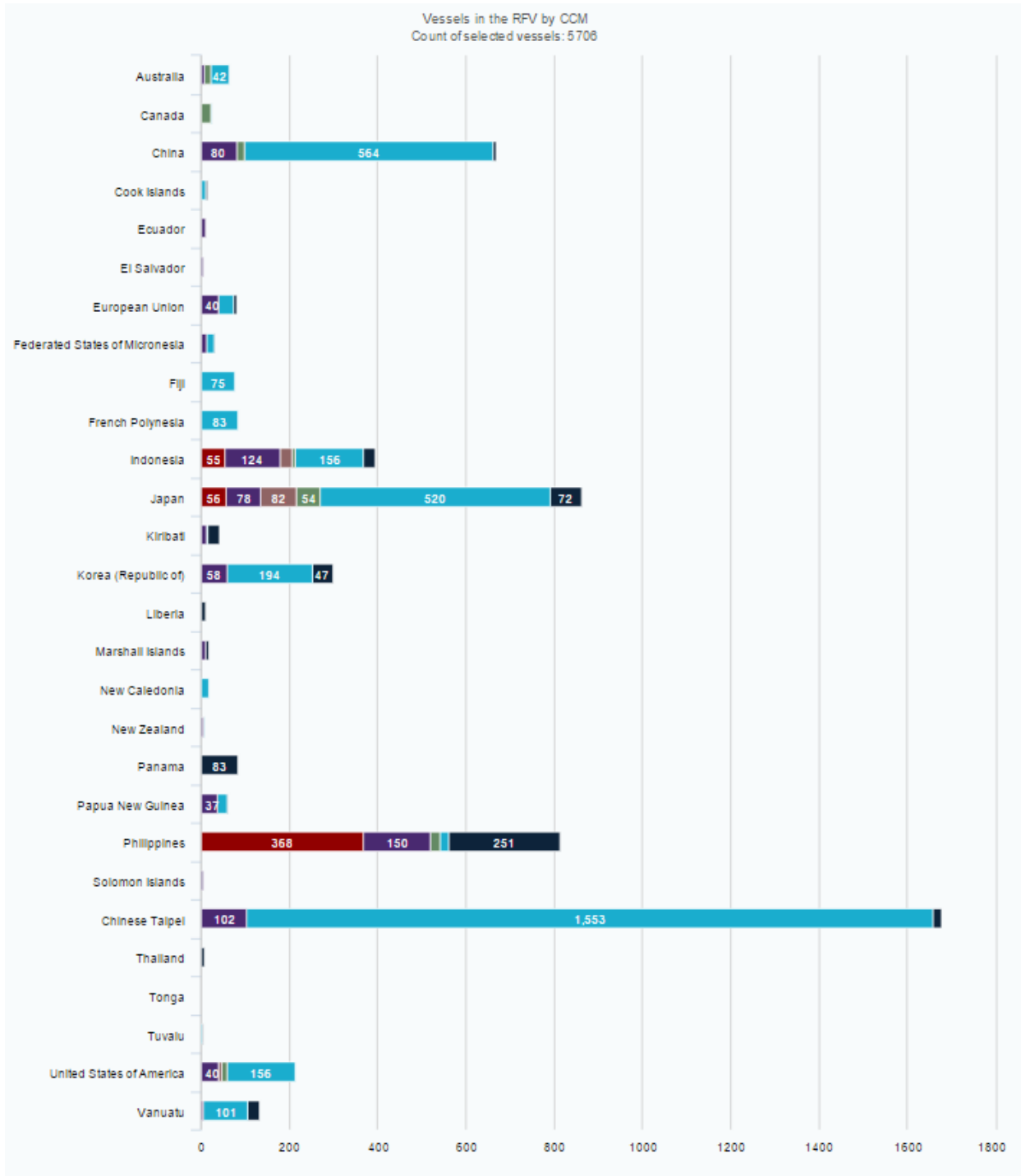


Figure 3:

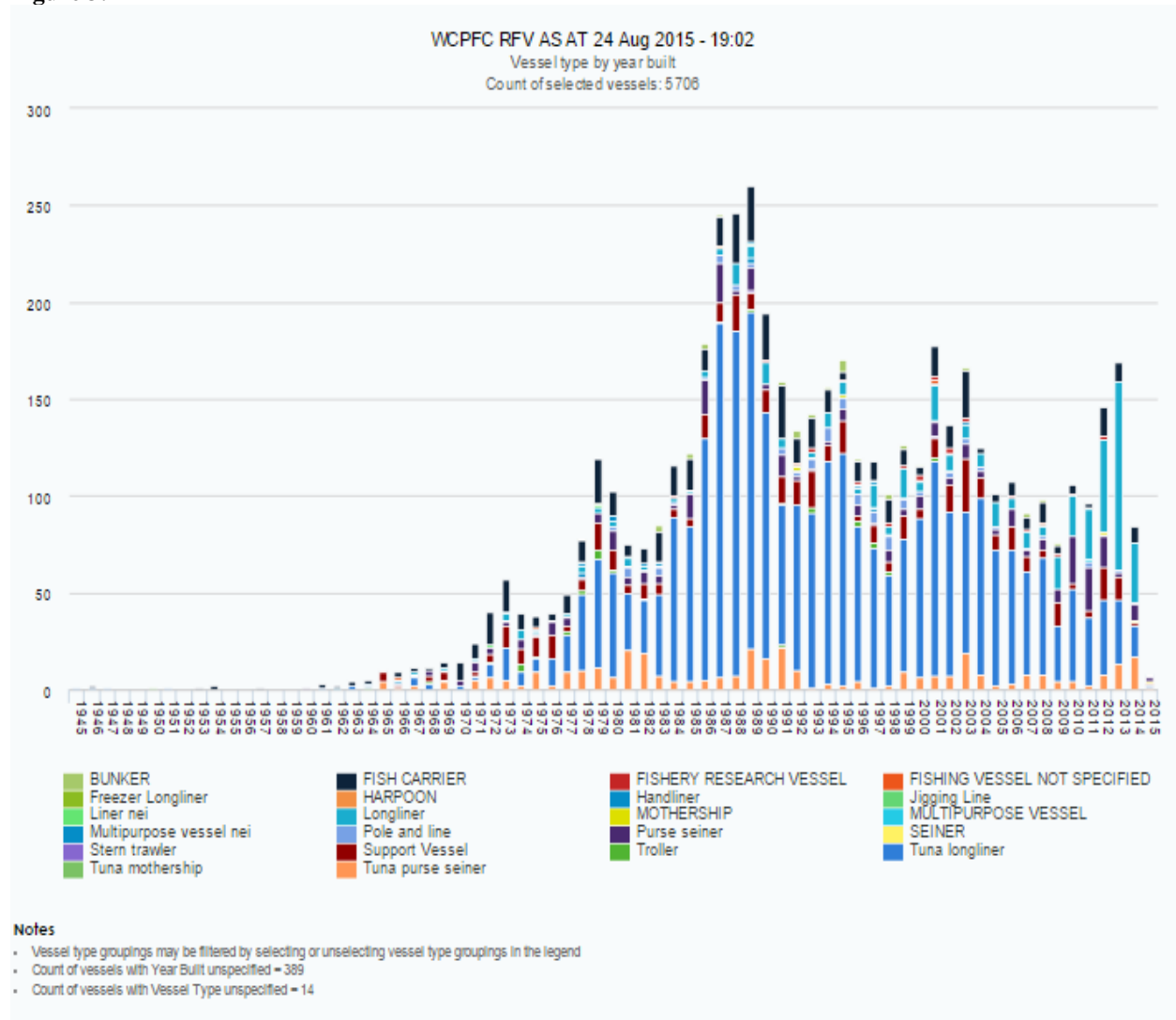
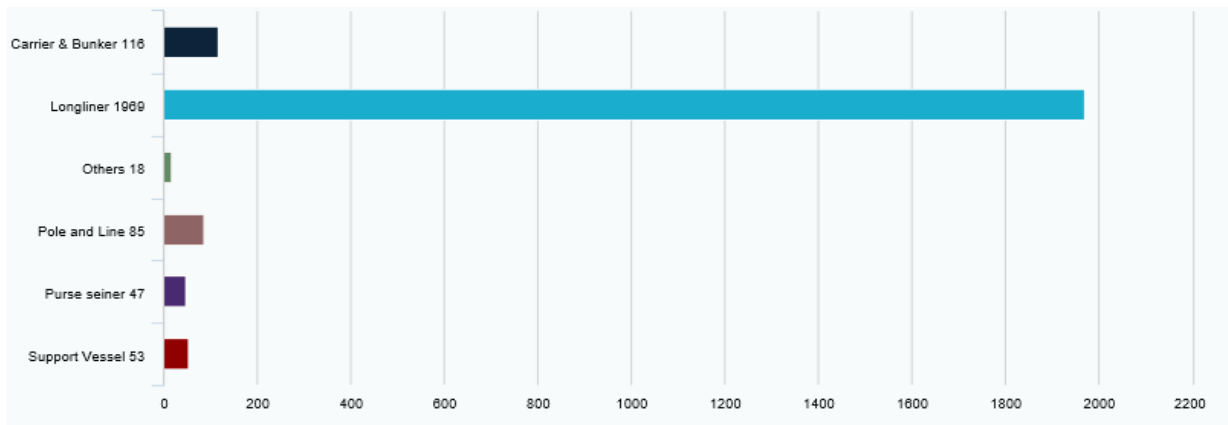


Figure 4:

**WCPFC RFV AS AT 24 August 2015
Number of Vessels authorized to transship**



4. As was agreed by WCPFC11, information on high seas transshipment authorizations is now treated as public domain data and available through the RFV. Figure 4 shows there are currently 47 purse seine vessels in the RFV that answer “YES” to “Authorisation to transship on the high seas”, noting that CMM 2009-06 prohibit purse seine transshipment at sea. Twelve of these answered “No” or “Not Applicable” to “Purse seine vessel authorized to transship at sea”. It is clear that there are discrepancies and lack of understanding on what is required by these fields. CCMs are urged to follow the field description/instructions provided in Attachment 1 of the RFV SSPs (CMM 2104-03) and make the necessary corrections to this field in the RFV.

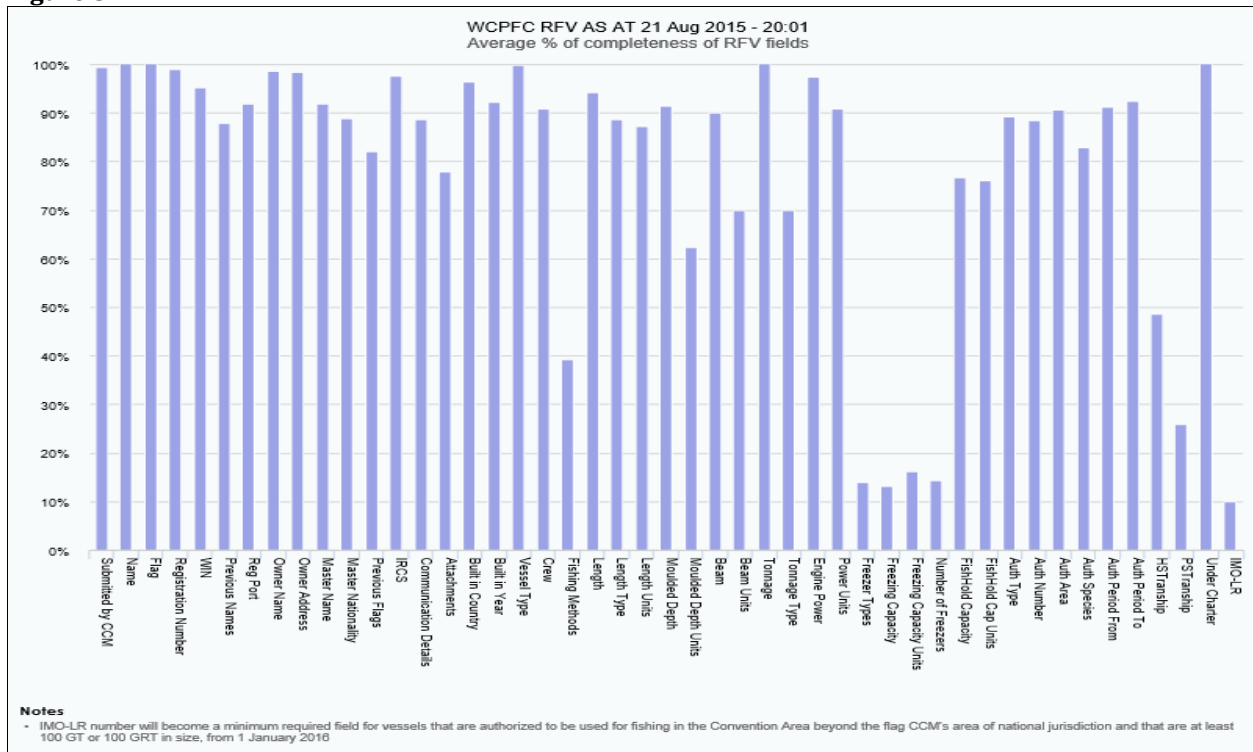
Website initiative

5. The RFV is continuously publicly available via the WCPFC web site as required by paragraph 9 of CMM 2014-03. The tables and graphs of summary information contained in the RFV provided above have been made available on the website at <https://www.wcpfc.int/vessels/charts> since August 2015. 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. These summary statistics can be printed from the website as pdf files (see Annex 2).

Completeness of the fields in RFV

6. CMM 2013-10 paragraph 6 requires a list of information to be submitted by CCM with respect to each vessel entered in its record. The RFV SSPs also require CCMs to submit complete vessel record data to the WCPFC Secretariat that meet the structure and format specifications of Attachment 1 (of CMM 2014-03). Attachment 1 identified “minimum data requirements” which must be present for the vessel to be included on the RFV. Footnote 3 (of CMM 2014-03) clarified that although vessels with only the minimum required data will be added to and maintained on the RFV, this does not relieve the responsible CCM of its obligations to provide all the data required under the WCPFC’s applicable conservation and management measures (CMM 2013-10 paragraph 6). Figure 5 provides an indication of the completeness of the fields in the RFV. This information as well as an evaluation of completeness of the RFV fields by CCM is available on a secure page of the website.

Figure 5:



2014 Fished/Did not fished Report

7. CMM 2013-10 paragraph 9 state that before 1 July of each year, each Member shall submit to the Executive Director a list of all vessels that appeared in its record of fishing vessels at any time during the preceding calendar year, together with each vessel’s WCPFC identification number (WIN) and an indication of whether each vessel fished for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area beyond its area of national jurisdiction. The indication shall be expressed as (a) fished, or (b) did not fish. CCMs are reminded that in accordance with CMM 2013-10 paragraph 9, an indication of ‘fished’ means the vessel fished for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area beyond the flag CCM’s area of national jurisdiction. This is an important piece of information that assists the Secretariat in reviewing the applicability of certain CMMs under the Compliance Monitoring Scheme process (CMM 2014-07).

8. As per previous years, the Secretariat provided CCMs with an Excel spreadsheet template to assist them in providing their reports. The template provides CCMs with a list of their flagged vessels on the RFV and the option of choosing “fished” or “did not fish” from a drop down menu, and it also has the advantage in that it provides the WCPFC Secretariat with a report that can be automatically loaded into the WCPFC RFV database.

9. As at 26 August 2015, 28 CCMs (including 3 CNMs) have submitted their fish/did not fish report for 2014 calendar year while 1 CNM is yet to submit a fish/did not fish report. Timeliness of submission of this report continued to improve this year with all the 28 reports received within the deadline. Annex 1 provides a summary of reporting by CCMs in their fished/did not fish report for 2014 calendar year.

Implementation of CMM 2014-03

10. WCPFC 11 adopted the revised RFV SSP (CMM 2014-03) and this came into effect in early June this year. CCMs were reminded of this in Circular No.: 2015/3. The main revision embedded in CMM 2014-03 was to allow the use of abbreviations or codes for long phrases in order to reduce errors in submissions of RFV updates via an Excel document. Specifically, CCMs are now required to specify ports as port codes (instead of port names), vessel type as vessel type code, use of fishing method code as well as inclusion, as a last column in the Excel file, the IMO-LR number.

11. A list of RFV Port Codes for the city (port) of vessel registration is available on the WCPFC intranet at <https://intra.wcpfc.inVdefault.aspx> and a copy of this list is also posted on the WCPFC website at <http://www.wcpfc.int/vessels>. The submission of RFV update using the direct data entry mode via the WCPFC web portal remains unchanged. However, the RFV updates done through the submission of an Excel file to the Secretariat must now use abbreviated codes in place of full names for the ports of registry, vessel type and fishing method fields.

12. In addition, members may also include IMO-LR Number through direct data entry or if submitting an Excel file update in the last column of their Excel file, noting that this field is to be implemented in accordance with CMM 2013-10 footnote 4.

Secretariat Observations

13. During last year (2014) and the first half of this this year (2015), the Secretariat makes the following observations related to the RFV:

- 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. The completeness of the fields in RFV is discussed above and is also evaluated in the Compliance Monitoring Scheme (CMS) process.
- 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).
- WCPFC 11 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 (WCPFC 11 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.

- 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.
- We continue to receive queries relating to expired or blank authorization period for a vessel on the RFV. The Secretariat continues to maintain 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 (TCC 9 Summary Report, para 324).

Administrative notes including collaboration with sub-regional and international organisations

Updates on Global Consolidated List of Authorised Vessels

As reported to TCC10, work on the CLAV has reinvigorated through the GEF-Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction project. On 1-11 October 2014, CLAV IT Expert, Mr. Fabio Fiorellato visited the WCPFC Secretariat. During his visit, Mr. Fiorellato work closely with WCPFC IT Manager and the new procedures are now operational to ensure WCPFC RFV is incorporated into the CLAV.

Global Record of Fishing Vessels – FAO initiative

A meeting of the Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group was held in Rome from 23-17 February 2015.² The WCPFC Secretariat was not present in the meeting but is keeping track of this initiative. Amongst the outcomes of the meeting was the Working Group's support for the establishment of several specialized Core Groups as needed, such as focusing on data requirements, data exchange and third party data. The Working Group emphasized the importance of ensuring sufficient regional representation as well as the participation of developed and developing countries and observers in each core group. To this end, the WCPFC Secretariat is keeping track of this initiative in order to ensure that any issues relevant to the WCPFC RFV are taken into account.³

Aligning WCPFC RFV and VMS database

In 2014, the Secretariat initiated internal work on aligning the WCPFC RFV and the VMS databases in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness of both tools. This is an ongoing work with all historical records in both databases aligned already.

Administrative note

CCMs are reminded to send all general RFV inquiries, requests for assistance and submissions of electronic files to update the RFV to the email address: contact.rfv@wcpfc.int

² ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/global_record/2015/default.htm

³ For more information on the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, see <http://www.fao.org/fishery/global-record/en>

Annex 1: Fish/Did not fish report

CCM	Date of receipt of fish/did not fish report	# of vessels on the Fish/did not fish report	Total number of vessels that fished	# of vessels that fished by Vessel Type					
				LL	PS	Fish Carrier	Bunker	Pole & Line	Others
AU	26-Jun-15	73	13	13					
CA	17-Jun-15	23	0						
CK	20-Feb-15	15	3	3					
CN	26-Jun-15	644	457	435	20	2			
EC	30-Apr-15	11	7		7				
EU	30-Jun-15	108	14	6	4	4			
FJ	25-Jun-15	85	50	50					
FM	9-Apr-15	31	27	18	9				
ID	1-Jul-15	399	51	23	13			9	6 (2 support vessel; 4 handliner)
JP	29-Jun-15	1321	479	340	37			71	31 (29 fishery research vessel; 2 fishing vessel not specified)
KI	22-Jun-15	68	68	6	16	29	16	1	
KR	8-Apr-15	303	173	115	27	26	5		
MH	14-Apr-15	17	14		10		4		
NC	30-Jun-15	18	1	1					
NZ	23-Jun-15	9	6	1	4				1 (multi-purpose)
PA	30-Jun-15	70	55			54	1		
PF	1-Jul-15	95	0						
PG	23-Jun-15	56	43	12	30	1			
PH	1-Jul-15	836	353		81	102	1		169 (4 mothership; 165 Support vessel)
SB	23-Feb-15	5	0						
SV	27-Jun-15	4	3		3				
TH	1-Jul-15	6	5			5			
TO	25-Apr-15	2	0						
TV	29-Jun-15	10	5	2	1		2		
TW	1-Jul-15	1706+13	625	572	37	16			
US	1-Jul-15	213	197	145	40			3	9 (3 freezer LL; 6 trollers)
VN	26-Jun-15	1	0						
VU	1-Jul-15	146	113	82	4	27			
Grand Total		6285	2762	1824	343	266	29	84	216

Annex 2: RFV summary statistics – pdf print from website