

**Informal SPC/FFA Consultation
with Heads of Fisheries
6 May 2010**

Honiara, Solomon Islands



SPC
Secretariat
of the Pacific
Community



FFA

Provision of Regional Observer Programme (ROP) data to the WCPFC

BACKGROUND

Member countries of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) are obliged to provide data collected from ROP trips¹ to the WCPFC Secretariat according to the requirements specified in the WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) 2007–01, and in particular CMM 2007–01, Attachment K, Annex C, which was approved by all members of the Commission:

4. No later than 31 December 2008:

- Existing sub-regional programmes and national programmes shall be regarded as a part of the ROP, and shall continue unless otherwise determined by the Commission.*
- Data obtained through these observer programmes shall be submitted to the Commission and shall be considered Commission data.*

According to the requirements stated in CMM 2007–01, the ROP data to be provided by member countries should cover observer activities on ROP trips conducted since the establishment of the WCPFC ROP, which was January 1st 2009.

For over 20 years, SPC has processed and managed logsheet, port sampling and observer data on behalf of its member countries and territories. Since the establishment of the WCPFC, all SPC members have authorised SPC to provide their aggregated catch and effort data (5°x 5° by month for longline and 1°x 1° by month for surface gears) covering their domestic fleets to the WCPFC on their behalf, thereby satisfying their obligation to WCPFC for the provision of these data, and several SPC members have authorised SPC to provide operational (logsheet) catch and effort data, which is also a WCPFC obligation.

If authorised by its members, SPC will also provide observer data that cover ROP trips to the WCPFC on their behalf, thereby satisfying their obligation to WCPFC as stipulated in the WCPFC Convention and CMM 2007–01. This would simply be an extension of the current role that SPC plays in the provision of data on behalf of its members to satisfy their obligations to WCPFC.

RECOMMENDATION

SPC members whose national observer programmes are service providers to the WCPFC ROP authorise SPC to provide the observer data covering ROP trips, from January 1st 2009 onwards, to the WCPFC on their behalf, thereby satisfying their obligation to WCPFC as indicated in WCPFC CMM 2007–01, Attachment K, Annex C.

¹ An “ROP trip” is defined in the WCPFC Convention Article 28, Paragraphs 4 & 5