



COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

Intersessional Meetings of Aquaculture and Fisheries Subject Groups - Joint Session

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SPC and WCPFC activities report to CWP

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Summary of recent activities by the WCPFC and SPC relevant to CWP

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) was established in 2004 through the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). The WCPFC has twenty-six (26) members, seven (7) participating territories and nine (9) cooperating non-members involved in the management of key oceanic tuna, billfish and shark and other associated species in fisheries taking 55-60% of the global tuna catch.

The Pacific Community (SPC) is the contracted WCPFC science service provider which includes the role of scientific data manager.

In the past three years, the WCPFC and SPC have been involved in the following activities related to the CWP which include:

- The enhancement of the **WCPFC Public Domain Data** products, which are relevant to FAO FIRMS GLOBAL ATLAS. These WCPFC public domain data products continue to be updated to adhere to the latest FAO CWP standards. There are now five (5) public domain data products of different temporal and spatial resolution, which are available at <https://www.wcpfc.int/public-domain>. Public domain data up to and including 2022 for purse seine and pole-and-line, and up to and including 2021 for longline, have recently been available.
- The enhancement of **WCPFC Public domain Bycatch Data and estimates**, which provide summary bycatch data by year and 5°x5° spatial grids for the longline and purse seine fisheries based on observer data. These data are available at <https://www.wcpfc.int/public-domain-bycatch> and <https://www.wcpfc.int/bycatch-estimates>.
- WCPFC members endorsed a proposal to publish **WCPFC Public domain Size frequency data** to 18th WCPFC Regular Session in December 2021. These data are now available on the WCPFC web site.
- WCPFC members recently endorsed a proposal for the **voluntary submission of cannery/processor data** which will be used to validate purse seine tuna species catch estimates determined from observer data. These data will have a confidentiality category status as high risk. Visits to Korea and the

Philippines have been conducted in the first half of 2023 to discuss the potential provision of data from canneries in those countries under this initiative.

- The generation of **WCPFC Annual Catch and Effort Estimates (ACE) Tables** by gear and fleet (<https://www.wcpfc.int/ace-by-fleet>) in response to a request from WCPFC members to streamline their reporting obligations.

The WCPFC in conjunction with their members, SPC and other regional agencies (Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries [FFA] and the Office of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement [PNAO]) continue to progress work in trialling and implementing E-Reporting (ER) and E-Monitoring (EM) in the WCPO tuna fisheries. In the past three years, activities in these areas include:

- Adoption of an EM Longline Policy within the FFA membership
- Draft EM Longline Standards, Specification and Procedures (SSPs) have been developed within the FFA membership
- Development of draft EM longline minimum data fields within the SPC/FFA/PNAO membership (under their sub-regional Data Collection Committee)
- Development of early draft EM longline transshipment minimum data fields for trials in monitoring at sea transshipment of the longline catch.

SPC, PNAO and FFA continue to progress the development of ER tools to acquire, consolidate and integrate data from their members tuna fisheries, in particular:

- E-Reporting tools for vessel reporting (for example, the PNAO iFIMS elog for purse seine fishery and SPC OnBoard system for South Pacific Longline Fishery)
- E-Reporting tools for observers (for example, the PNAO iFIMS eObs for purse seine fishery and SPC OLLO system for South Pacific Longline Fishery)
- E-Reporting tools for port samplers (for example, the SPC OnShore system for South Pacific Longline Fishery, and the National Stock Assessment Project-NSAP eDGES app for enumerators monitoring landings in the Philippines domestic fisheries)

SPC supports, and continues to progress the development of ER tools (and associated cloud-based database systems) to acquire data from artisanal and coastal fisheries of their members, including:

- The TAILS mobile app which is used to acquire artisanal, small-scale landings data
- The Ikasavea mobile app system which is used for market surveys conducted by fisheries surveyors.

The WCPFC Secretariat supports an E-Reporting API to receive high seas transshipment notifications. A lightweight app (TSER) has been developed to allow vessel masters, company managers and staff of national fisheries management agencies to submit high seas transshipment notifications and declarations to the WCPFC Secretariat.

The WCPFC Secretariat completed the redevelopment of the Record of Fishing Vessels including an e-reporting API to support data exchange of the vessel information between the WCPFC Members, the WCPFC Secretariat and regional agencies (SPC, PNAO and FFA). Work continues on providing a bridge between WCPFC e-reporting gateways and the FLUX protocol allowing EU to meet their reporting obligations.