

UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IOTC REGIONAL OBSERVER SCHEME

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 23 NOVEMBER 2011

PURPOSE

To inform the Scientific Committee (SC) of the status of implementation and reporting to the IOTC Secretariat of the Regional Observer Scheme (ROS) set out by Resolution 09/04 *on a Regional Observer Scheme*, and superseded by Resolution 11/04 *on a Regional Observer Scheme* at the 15th Session of IOTC in 2011.

BACKGROUND

At the 13th Session of the Commission, the Commission adopted Resolution 09/04 *on a Regional Observer Scheme*, superseded in 2010, and again in 2011 by Resolution 11/04 *on a Regional Observer Scheme*. In 2010, the Commission addressed concerns raised by some CPCs with artisanal fleets, on which it is difficult to deploy on-board observers due to the small-size of the artisanal vessels and/or to their large numbers which would require high deployment levels and in 2011, the Commission extended the period for submitting the Observer Trip Report from 90 days to 150 days.

Resolution 11/04 *on a Regional Observer Scheme* makes provision for the development and implementation of national observer programmes among the IOTC CPCs starting in July 2010 and covering “*at least 5 % of the number of operations/sets for each gear type by the fleet of each CPC while fishing in the IOTC Area of competence of 24 meters overall length and over, and under 24 meters if they fish outside their EEZs shall be covered by this observer scheme. For vessels under 24 meters if they fish outside their EEZ, the above mentioned coverage should be achieved progressively by January 2013*”.

Moreover, the resolution states that “*the number of the artisanal fishing vessels landings shall also be monitored at the landing place by field samplers*” and that “*the indicative level of the coverage of the artisanal fishing vessels should progressively increase towards 5% of the total levels of vessel activity (i.e. total number of vessel trips or total number of vessels active)*”.

At its 13th Session the IOTC Scientific Committee reviewed the report of the technical workshop organised in May 2010, and endorsed the documents produced by the Secretariat, i) an Observer Manual, ii) a set of observer forms for all gears and iii) an Observer Trip Report template, which contains minimum reporting requirements.

The Scientific Committee also endorsed the recommendation of the workshop that all CPCs shall submit to the Secretariat a list of their observers participating in their national observer programme.

DISCUSSION

As from October 2011, six CPCs (Comoros, EU(France and Portugal), France(OT), Japan, Madagascar and Seychelles) have submitted a list of accredited observers.

To date eleven observer trip reports have been submitted to the Secretariat (three by Australia, one by China, one by EU, Portugal and six by Japan).

Table 1 provides a summary of the status of implementation of the ROS by all IOTC CPCs

RECOMMENDATION

That the Scientific Committee:

- 1) **NOTE** the update on the implementation of the Regional Observer Scheme (ROS) and **EXPRESSED** its strong concerns regarding the low level of reporting to the IOTC Secretariat of both the observer trip reports and the list of accredited observers since the start of the ROS in July 2010.
- 2) **AGREE** such a low level of implementation and reporting is detrimental to its work, in particular regarding the estimation of incidental catches of non-targeted species, as requested by the Commission.
- 3) **RECOMMEND** the Commission consider how to address the lack of implementation of observer programmes by CPCs for their fleets and reporting to the IOTC Secretariat as per the provision of Resolution 11/04 *on a Regional Observer Scheme*.

APPENDIX

Appendix A: Update on the implementation of the IOTC regional observer scheme

APPENDIX A
UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IOTC REGIONAL OBSERVER
SCHEME

CPCs	Active Vessels LOA≥24m or High Seas vessels				Progress	List of accredited observers submitted	Observer Trip Reports submitted
	LL	PS	GN	BB			
MEMBERS							
Australia	4	9			Australia has implemented an observer programme that complies with the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme.	No	YES: 3
Belize	5				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No
China –Taiwan,China	20 562				China has an observer programme. No information received by the Secretariat.	No No	YES: 1 No
Comoros					Comoros does not have vessel more than 24m on which observer should be placed. 2 observers were trained under the IOC Regional Monitoring Project, and 5 by SWIOFP.	YES: 7	N/A
Eritrea					No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No
European Union	47	21			EU has an observer programme on-board its purse-seine fleets, however the programme is limited due to the piracy activity in the western Indian Ocean. EU has or is developing observer programmes on-board its longline fleets, i.e. La Réunion, Spanish and Portuguese fleets.	Partial: EU,France: 7 EU,Portugal: 3	YES: 1
France (OT)		5			No information received by the Secretariat.	YES: 15	No
Guinea	3				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No
India	53				India has not developed any observer programme so far.	No	No
Indonesia	996				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No
Iran, Isl. Rep. of		8	863		No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No
Japan	83	1			Japan has started its observer programme on the 1 st of July 2010, and 14 observers are currently being deployed in the Indian Ocean.	YES: 14	YES: 6
Kenya	1				Kenya is developing an observer programme and 5 observers have been trained under the SWIOFP training.	No	No
Korea, Rep. of	13				Korea has an observer programme since 2002 with 3 observers being deployed in the Indian Ocean giving a 14.5% coverage of the fishing operation in 2009.	No	No
Madagascar	3				Madagascar is developing an observer programme. Five and three observers have been trained respectively under the SWIOFP and the IOC projects.	YES: 8	No
Malaysia	41	1			No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No
Maldives, Rep. of				459	Maldives vessels are monitored by field samplers at landing sites. Have in excess of 250 vessels larger than 24m.	No	No
Mauritius	4				Mauritius has not developed an observer programme, however, 5 and 3 observers have been trained respectively under the SWIOFP and the IOC projects.	No	No
Oman, Sul. of	48				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No
Pakistan			10		No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No
Philippines	7				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No
Seychelles, Republic of	35	9			Seychelles is developing an observer programme. Four and three observers have been trained respectively under the SWIOFP and the IOC projects.	YES: 7	No
Sierra Leone					No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No
Sri Lanka			3346		No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No
Sudan					No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No
Tanzania, United Rep.of	3				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No
Thailand	2	4			Thailand has not developed an observer programme so far.	No	No
United Kingdom					UK does not have any active vessels in the Indian Ocean.	N/A	N/A
Vanuatu	4				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No
COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES							
Mozambique					No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No
Senegal	3				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No
South Africa, Republic of	23				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No