

UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IOTC REGIONAL OBSERVER SCHEME

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 22 AUGUST 2013

PURPOSE

To inform the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB) 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IOTC Secretariat of the Regional Observer Scheme (ROS) set out by Resolution 09/04 *on a Regional Observer Scheme*, and superseded by Resolution 11/04 *on a Regional Observer Scheme* at the 15th Session of IOTC (S15) in 2011.

BACKGROUND

At the 13th Session of the Commission (S13), the Commission adopted Resolution 09/04 *on a Regional Observer Scheme*, superseded in 2010, and again in 2011 by Resolution 11/04 *on a Regional Observer Scheme*.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 (SC13) 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 of 22 August 2013, twelve CPCs (Australia, China, Comoros, EU(France and Portugal), France(OT), Japan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles) have submitted a list of accredited observers.

As of 22 August 2013, ninety three (93) observer trip reports have been submitted to the Secretariat by Australia, China, the EU, France(OT), Japan, Korea and South Africa.

[Appendix A](#) provides a summary of the status of implementation of the ROS by all IOTC CPCs (data as of 22 August 2013). [Appendix B](#) and [Appendix C](#) provide an estimation of the level of effort covered by observers in 2010, 2011 and 2012 (data as of 22 August 2013).

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPEB **RECOMMEND** that the Scientific Committee:

- 1) **NOTE** the update on the implementation of the Regional Observer Scheme (ROS) and **EXPRESS** 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 continued lack of compliance with the implementation of observer programmes by CPCs for their fleets and lack of reporting to the IOTC Secretariat as per the provision of Resolution 11/04 *on a Regional Observer Scheme*.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: [Update on the implementation of the IOTC regional observer scheme](#)

Appendix B: [Estimated observer coverage for longline vessels](#)

Appendix C: [Estimated observer coverage for Purse seine vessels](#)

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

CPCs	Active Vessels LOA≥24m or High Seas vessels ¹				Progress	List of accredited observers submitted	Number of observer reports provided (format of reports) ²			
	LL	PS	GN	BB			2010	2011	2012	2013 ³
MEMBERS										
Australia	6	5			Australia has implemented an observer programme that complies with the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme.	YES: 21	2(O)	1(O)	2(O)	No
Belize	6				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No	No
China –Taiwan,China	36 370				China has an observer programme. No observer reports provided.	YES: 2 YES: 54	1(O) No	No No	No No	No 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	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eritrea	No information received				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No	No
European Union	44	22			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. To date, no information has been received from EU,Spain and EU,UK	Partial: EU,France: 25 EU,Portugal: 4 EU,Spain : No EU,UK : No	No	EU, France: 12(O) EU, Portugal: 1(O)	EU, France: 13(O) EU, Portugal: 1(O)	No
France (OT)		5			France has an observer programme on board it purse seine fleet.	YES: 23	No	9(O)	7(O)	No
Guinea					No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No	No
India	20				India has not developed any observer programme so far.	No	No	No	No	No
Indonesia	1278				Indonesia has an observer programme based in Benoa, Bali with 5 trained observers. The number of observers should double in 2012.	No	No	No	No	No
Iran, Isl. Rep. of		4	1229		No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No	No
Japan	72				Japan has started its observer programme on the 1 st of July 2010, and 19 observers are currently being deployed in the Indian Ocean.	YES: 19	6(E)	8(E)	No	No
Kenya	2				Kenya is developing an observer programme and 5 observers have been trained under the SWIOFP training.	YES: 5	No	No	No	No
Korea, Rep. of	7	3			Korea has an observer programme since 2002 with 3 observers being deployed in the Indian Ocean giving a14.5% coverage of the fishing operation in 2009.	YES: 20	2(O)	No	2(O)	No

¹ The number of active vessels is given for 2012.

² Year in which the observed trip has started (E: Electronic; O: Other)

³ 2013 data covers only the first quarter. Will be updated for the SC.

CPCs	Active Vessels LOA≥24m or High Seas vessels ¹				Progress	List of accredited observers submitted	Number of observer reports provided (format of reports) ²			
	LL	PS	GN	BB			2010	2011	2012	2013 ³
Madagascar	8				Madagascar is developing an observer programme. Five and three observers have been trained respectively under the SWIOFP and the IOC projects. Although Madagascar reported observer coverage for the last quarter of 2012, no observer reports have been provided to date.	YES: 7	No	No	No	No
Malaysia	5				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No	No
Maldives				249	Maldives vessels are monitored by field samplers at landing sites.	No	No	No	No	No
Mauritius	5				Mauritius is developing an observer programme, and, 5 and 3 observers have been trained respectively under the SWIOFP and the IOC projects.	YES: 8	No	No	No	No
Mozambique	1				No information received by the Secretariat.	YES: 11	No	No	No	No
Oman	8				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No		
Pakistan			10		No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No	No
Philippines	14				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No	No
Seychelles	28	8			Seychelles is developing an observer programme. Four and three observers have been trained respectively under the SWIOFP and the IOC projects.	YES: 7	No	No	No	No
Sierra Leone	No information received				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No	No
Sri Lanka			2482		Sri Lanka has not started the implementation of an observer programme. The fleet is multipurpose, using mainly gillnets and longlines.	No	No	No	No	No
Sudan	No information received				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No	No
Tanzania, United Rep.of	7				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No	No
Thailand	2				Thailand has not developed an observer programme so far.	No	No	No	No	No
United Kingdom					UK does not have any active vessels in the Indian Ocean.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vanuatu	2				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No	No
Yemen	No information received				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No	No
COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES										
Senegal					Since 2007 Senegal does not have any active vessels in the Indian Ocean.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Africa	13				South Africa has only an observer programme for foreign vessels operating in the EEZ of South Africa at the moment.	YES: 16	No	13 ⁴	13 ⁵	No

⁴ Reports from South African observers onboard foreign vessels operating in the EEZ of South Africa.

⁵ *Ibid.* 3.

APPENDIX B
ESTIMATED OBSERVER COVERAGE FOR LONGLINE VESSELS

CPCs	F			Observed			Coverage		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Australia	622,461	359,832		15,330	6,232		2.46%	1.73%	
Belize									
China - Taiwan,China	16,993,970 - 167,582,569	4,136,710 - 140,704,176		145,800			0.86%	-	
Comoros									
Eritrea									
European Union									
France	2,856,404				113,269			-	
Portugal	949,134	903,600			140,317			15.53%	
Spain	3,174,705								
United Kingdom	61,400	92,300							
France(OT)									
Guinea									
India	143,652	134,845							
Indonesia									
Iran, Islamic Rep. of									
Japan	37,032,932	26,300,526		1,150,505			3.11%	-	
Kenya									
Korea, Rep. of	3,843,901	5,361,769		389,042			10.12%	-	
Madagascar									
Malaysia									
Maldives									
Mauritius	267,063	252,480							
Mozambique									
Oman									
Pakistan									
Philippines									
Seychelles	3,640,668	2,885,431							
Sierra Leone									
Sri Lanka									
Sudan									
Tanzania, United Rep. of									
Thailand									
United Kingdom									
Vanuatu									
Yemen									
COOPERATING NON CONTRACTING PARTIES									
Senegal									
South Africa		1,219,015							

APPENDIX C
ESTIMATED OBSERVER COVERAGE FOR PURSE SEINE VESSELS

CPCs	F			Observed			Coverage		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Australia									
Belize									
China - Taiwan,China									
Comoros									
Eritrea									
European Union									
France	1066	1054			85			8.06%	
Portugal									
Spain									
United Kingdom									
France(OT)	451	632			167			26.42%	
Guinea									
India									
Indonesia									
Iran, Islamic Rep. of									
Japan									
Kenya									
Korea, Rep. of									
Madagascar									
Malaysia									
Maldives									
Mauritius									
Mozambique									
Oman									
Pakistan									
Philippines									
Seychelles									
Sierra Leone									
Sri Lanka									
Sudan									
Tanzania, United Rep. of									
Thailand									
United Kingdom									
Vanuatu									
Yemen									
COOPERATING NON CONTRACTING PARTIES									
Senegal									
South Africa									