

UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IOTC REGIONAL OBSERVER SCHEME

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 5 & 17 SEPTEMBER 2012

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IOTC Secretariat of the Regional Observer Scheme (ROS) set out by Resolution 09/04 *on a Regional Observer Scheme*, and superseded by Resolution 11/04 *on a Regional Observer Scheme* at the 15th Session of IOTC in 2011.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At the 13th Session of the Commission, the Commission adopted Resolution 09/04 *on a Regional Observer Scheme*, superseded in 2010, and again in 2011 by Resolution 11/04 *on a Regional Observer Scheme*.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 September 2012, nine CPCs (Australia, Comoros, EU(France and Portugal), France(OT), Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Madagascar, Seychelles and Taiwan,China) have submitted a list of accredited observers.

To date forty three (43) 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 in September 2012. Appendix B and C provide an estimation of the level of effort covered by observers in 2010 and 2011.

RECOMMENDATION

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 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 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	Observer Trip Reports ²		
	LL	PS	GN	BB			2010	2011	2012
MEMBERS									
Australia	6	5			Australia has implemented an observer programme that complies with the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme.	YES: 21	2	1	No
Belize	7				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No
China –Taiwan,China	15 447				China has an observer programme. No information received by the Secretariat.	No YES: 54	1 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: 6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eritrea	No information received				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No
European Union	23	15			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.	Fra: 22 Prt: 3 Spn: 0 UK: 0	No	Fra: 12 Prt: 1 Spn: 0 UK: 0	Fra: 1 Prt: 0 Spn: 0 UK: 0
France (OT)		5			France has an observer programme on board it purse seine fleet.	YES: 15	No	9	No
Guinea	No information received				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No
India	51				India has not developed any observer programme so far.	No	No	No	No
Indonesia	1183	13	2		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
Iran, Isl. Rep. of		5	1244		No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No
Japan	69	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	6	No	No
Kenya	4				Kenya is developing an observer programme and 5 observers have been trained under the SWIOFP training.	No	No	No	No
Korea, Rep. of	7				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.	YES: 11	2	No	No

¹ The number of active vessels is given for 2011.

² Year in which the observed trip has started

Madagascar	3				Madagascar is developing an observer programme. Five and three observers have been trained respectively under the SWIOFP and the IOC projects.	YES: 7	No	No	No
Malaysia	8				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No
Maldives	No information received				Maldives vessels are monitored by field samplers at landing sites. Have in excess of 250 vessels larger than 24m.	No	No	No	No
Mauritius	4				Mauritius is developing an observer programme, and, 5 and 3 observers have been trained respectively under the SWIOFP and the IOC projects.	No	No	No	No
Mozambique	1				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No
Oman	No information received				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No
Pakistan			10		No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No
Philippines	3				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No
Seychelles	23	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
Sierra Leone	0	0	0	0				No	No
Sri Lanka	749				Sri Lanka has not started the implementation of an observer programme.	No	No	No	No
Sudan	No information received				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No
Tanzania, United Rep.of	1				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No
Thailand	2				Thailand has not developed an observer programme so far.	No	No	No	No
United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	UK does not have any active vessels in the Indian Ocean.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vanuatu					No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No
Yemen	No information received				No information received by the Secretariat.	No	No	No	No
COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES									
Senegal	0	0	0	0	Senegal does not have any active vessels in the Indian Ocean.	No	No	No	No
South Africa	15				South Africa has only an observer programme for foreign vessels operating in the EEZ of South Africa at the moment.	YES: 16	No	8 ³	No

³ Reports from South African observers onboard foreign vessels operating in the EEZ of South Africa.

APPENDIX B
ESTIMATED OBSERVER COVERAGE FOR LONGLINE VESSELS

CPCs	F		Observed		Coverage	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
Australia	622,461	359,832	15,330	6,232	2.46%	1.73%
Belize						
China	16,993,970	4,136,710	145,800		0.86%	-
Taiwan,China	167,582,569	140,704,176				
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	2010	2011	2010	2011
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						
Senegal						
South Africa						