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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE E-REPORTING STANDARDS

WCPFC-TCC14-2018-RP10

31 August 2018

Paper by the Secretariat and SPC-OFP

Purpose

1. This paper reviews the background of WCPFC E-reporting standards development and provides an update on the level of voluntary uptake by CCMs in their data submissions to WCPFC to date.

Background

2. This paper responds to the task to the Secretariat under paragraph 7(c) of the E-reporting SSPs to “report annually on the performance of the Electronic reporting standards and their application, and as necessary, make recommendation for improvements or modifications.”¹
3. Over the past five years the Commission has been considering the application of E-reporting and E-monitoring for fisheries monitoring. In 2014, WCPFC held an E-Monitoring and E-reporting workshop at FFA Headquarters (Honiara, Solomon Islands) in 31 March – 1 April 2014 to discuss the potential for electronic reporting and electronic monitoring in the WCPO and to consider next steps for progressing these initiatives. The workshop noted that a key risk for the Commission is the lack of documented policies and standards for these technologies. The benefits of standardised reporting formats for data exchange were articulated in the consultant’s paper, **WCPFC10-2013-16_rev1**. Potential benefits identified at the time included but were not limited to:
 - a. timely and enhanced data management;
 - b. facilitating data exchange between the Secretariat, CCMs, and regional bodies;
 - c. efficiently managing the increasing amounts of data received by the Secretariat; and
 - d. giving effect to t-RFMO recommendations on data harmonisation.

¹ An earlier version of this paper was presented to the ERandEMWG03 meeting as ERandEMWG3-WP02. The paper was modified considering the relevant ERandEMWG03 outcomes.

The potential risks of not having agreed WCPFC data standards included poor data coordination, increased data storage and transmission complexities, higher data security risk and increased long-term costs to the Commission and CCMs.

4. At WCPFC11 (December 2014) the Commission agreed that a priority task should be the development of draft standards, specifications and procedures for the use of electronic reporting and electronic monitoring technologies in WCPFC fisheries. To facilitate the development of these standards, specifications and procedures the electronic reporting and electronic monitoring working group (ERandEMWG) was established.
5. The first two meetings of the ERandEMWG prioritised the development and consideration of draft E-reporting standards, particularly for operational level catch and effort data and for observer data. The culmination of the past two ERandEMWG meetings was the adoption in December 2016 of “*The Standards, Specifications and Procedures for Electronic Reporting*” (E-reporting SSPs), this was adopted by the Commission in the form of a general decision to which other forms of E-reporting standards, once agreed would be included over time.
6. In December 2016, the Commission adopted the standards, specifications and procedures for Electronic reporting which include *E-reporting standards for operational catch and effort data* (WCPFC13 Summary Report paragraph 584 and Attachment T). Additionally, in December 2017 the *E-reporting standards for observer data* (WCPFC14 Summary Report paragraph 401 and Attachment T) were agreed for inclusion in the E-reporting SSPs. A table that summarises the status of the WCPFC E-reporting standards is provided in **Table 1**. Copies of the E-Reporting SSPs can be found on the WCPFC website at this link:= https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/data-05/e-reporting_ssps.

Table 1. Notes on the decisions by the Commission on the standards, specifications and procedures for Electronic Reporting (E-reporting SSPs)

Version	WCPFC decision reference	Description of updates	Effective date <i>(Refer para 4)</i>
2.0	<i>WCPFC14 Summary report, Attachment T</i>	<i>For adoption of ER for observer data</i>	9 June 2018
1.0	<i>WCPFC13 Summary Report, Attachment T</i>	<i>For adoption of ER SSPs, for operational level catch and effort data</i>	9 June 2017

Comment on the voluntary uptake and/or performance of the E-reporting standards

7. At the time of ERandEMWG3 meeting, the WCPFC E-reporting SSPs as it relates to the *E-reporting standards for operational catch and effort data* will have been in effect for a little more than twelve months. The WCPFC E-reporting SSPs as it relates to the *E-reporting standards for observer data* has been in effect for only a few months. (refer Table 1)

8. Irrespective of the effective date, it should be noted that the various E-reporting standards are voluntary, until the Commission takes a decision that says the E-reporting standards are mandatory (*refer* E-reporting SSPs paragraph 3).
9. Uptake of electronic reporting tools is continuing and a brief overview of progress on implementation in the region is provided in Hosken et al., 2018² there have been some positive developments over the past two years, including:
 - a) The Scientific Service Provider has received E-Reported purse seine logsheet data from the PNA FIMS/iFIMS system that adhere directly to the WCPFC E-Reporting standards for operational catch/effort data; this system is mandatory for all purse seine fleets licensed to fish in the PNA waters. Once several issues are resolved to ensure all data can be loaded, it will mean that the coverage of E-Reported logbook data from the tropical WCPFC purse seine fishery that adhere to the WCPFC E-Reporting standards could potentially be >90% coverage in the future.
 - b) The submission of operational data for the Korean longline fleet for 2017 is understood to be sourced from their E-Reporting system, although it does not adhere to the WCPFC E-Reporting standards at this stage.
 - c) There are several E-Reporting initiatives underway in the Pacific Islands countries that will result in an increase in coverage of operational data submissions adhering to the WCPFC E-Reporting standards in the future. For example, French Polynesia is currently implementing the E-Reporting *Onboard* system for their entire longline fleet (60-70 longline vessels by the end of 2018), and they have already successfully covered half their fleet.
 - d) There are a number of E-Monitoring initiatives currently underway throughout the region, and the current system used in Pacific Island countries (provided by the Technical Service Provider SATLINK) exports data that adheres directly to the WCPFC E-Reporting Observer Standards. To date, **2017 longline observer data for 203 trips** have been generated from this E-Monitoring system (adhering to the WCPFC E-Reporting observer standards) and loaded into the SPC regional observer database.
10. In terms of adherence to the adopted e-reporting standards, members are currently reporting as follows:
 - a) All Pacific Island member countries of the Pacific Community (SPC) require domestic and foreign fleets licensed to fish in their waters to submit logsheets,

² Hosken, M., P. Williams, N. Smith, E. Loganimoce & E. Schneider. 2018. Progress on ER and EM implementation in the Region. WCPFC ERandEM WG-03-IP01. Third E-Reporting and E-Monitoring Working Group Meeting (ERandEMWG3). Busan, Republic of Korea., 6–7 August 2018. <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/31029>

which are then entered or imported into the WCPFC operational catch/effort database (using the TUFMAN 2 system); this system stores data consistent with the WCPFC E-Reporting standards for operational data. The submissions of **2017 operational purse seine data** that are aligned to the WCPFC E-reporting standards **represents 92% coverage**, and for **2017 operational longline data**, **represent coverage of 30%** (of all 2017 longline data submitted).

- b) All national observer programmes from Pacific Island member countries, the PNA-managed FSM Arrangement observer programme and the FFA-managed US Treaty Observer Programme have their observer data entered into the TUFMAN 2 system, which produces data for the WCPFC ROP database aligned to the WCPFC E-Reporting standards for observer data. The submissions of **2017 purse seine observer data** held in the WCPFC ROP database that are aligned to the WCPFC E-Reporting standards for observer data **represents 100% coverage**. The submissions of **2017 longline observer data** held in the WCPFC ROP database that are aligned to the WCPFC E-Reporting standards for observer data **represents 29% coverage**.

WCPFC ERandEMWG03 meeting (6 – 7 August 2018)

11. The draft standards for E-reporting of high seas transshipment declarations and transshipment notices were initially tabled at WCPFC14 in December 2017 and are now recommended by the ERandEMWG03 meeting for adoption in December 2018 (*refer Summary Report of ERandEMWG03*).
12. At the recent ERandEMWG03 meeting, the topic of update or revision of the E-reporting SSPs was also discussed. The outcome from that meeting was:
“ERandEMWG recommended that, subject to SC and TCC endorsement, with respect to maintaining adopted standards, matters of substance (such as major changes or new proposals) shall be considered in a manner consistent with already established processes for new proposals. The Secretariat shall administer minor changes to the SSPs that reflect decisions of the Commission by circulating a draft to all CCMs advising that the change had been made and would come into effect on a date at least consistent with that in the SSPs. CCMs shall be provided the opportunity to raise concerns and if so, the change becomes a matter of substance and will be handled as such.”

Recommendation

13. TCC14 is invited to note this report.
