

3rd Meeting of the Scientific Committee

Port Vila, Vanuatu
28 September - 3 October 2015

SC-03-21

Proposed amendment to CMM 3.02: Biological Observation of Landings

SC-03 Agenda item 8.5

by Chile and SPRFMO Secretariat

Summary for the Report: Chile presented a proposal to amend the CMM 3.02 (Data Standards) to include biological data collected by observers during landings. This proposal has already been considered by the SC in 2014 with the result that it was recommended for adoption by the commission. However, at the last Annual Meeting, the proposal could not be addressed and the SC is now requested to renew its recommendation. In addition, the SC is requested to consider the endorsement of the proposed standards as informal SC guidelines to support the management and utilisation of these types of data.

Background

Collection of observer information is described in the Conservation Management Measure on Standards for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data (CMM 3.02). The Observer Templates found on the SPRFMO website, and the associated database tables have been designed using Annex 7 of CMM 3.02. The templates assume that the observer information is collected during the fishing trip and while at sea. However, an important amount of information is currently being collected by observers at point of landing or port. These observations are a significant source of information for vessels not covered by observations at sea. Annex 7 of CMM 3.02 does not currently support the collection and storage of this type of information.

At the Scientific Committee meeting in 2014, Chile presented SC-02-20 (“Proposal for Observation of Landings”) and proposed to include the collection of these port-observer data in the current CMM 3.02.

The Scientific Committee recognised the importance of collecting these data, and the opportunity to extend port-based data collections to include by-catch mitigation devices was also identified. It was agreed that intersessional work would be required to further develop the detail of proposed changes, and once agreed could be considered by the Commission alongside changes proposed in relation to seabird by-catch.

Chile tabled its proposal at the CTC meeting in 2015 (CTC-02-26); however, due to time constraints, the CTC could not conclude a final text during the meeting and referred the matter to the Commission. Unfortunately, in view of many issues of higher priority, the Commission did not address this proposal.

Annex 7

L. Standard for Observer Data collected during a Landing or while a vessel is in port

With regards to fishing vessels flying their flag, and landing unprocessed (ie. whole and no part of the fish having been removed) SPRFMO managed species, and where these landings are observed Members and CNCPs are to collect and provide the following information:

1. The following vessel data are to be collected for each observed landing:

- a) Current vessel flag;
- b) Name of vessel;
- c) Fishing vessel registration number;
- d) International radio call sign (if any);
- e) Lloyd's / IMO number (if allocated);
- f) Type of vessel (use appropriate ISSCFV codes, Annex 10);
- g) Type of fishing method(s) (use appropriate ISSCFG codes, Annex 9).

2. The following observer data are to be collected for each observed landing:

- a) Observer's name;
- b) Observer's organization;
- c) Country of Landing (standard ISO 3-alpha country codes);
- d) Port/Point of Landing.

3. The following data are to be collected for each observed landing:

- a) Landing Date and time (UTC format);
- b) First day of trip – to the extent practicable;
- c) Last day of trip – to the extent practicable;
- d) Indicative fishing area (decimal Lat/Long, 1 minute resolution – to the extent practicable);
- e) Main target species (FAO species code);
- f) Landed state by species (FAO species code);
- g) Landed (live) weight by species (kilograms) for the landing event being observed.

In addition, the collection of Length-Frequency data, Biological data and/or Tag recovery data should follow the standards described in parts E, F and I respectively of this Annex for those species observed during landings or while a vessel is in port.

Members and CNCPs should note that Annex 7 parts G (Incidental capture) and H (VMEs) are not considered relevant for observed landings. However, the standards described in parts I (Tag recovery), J (Hierarchies) and K (Coding specifications) should still be followed when possible.