



FFA

**PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY
24th MCS WORKING GROUP VIRTUAL MEETING
Tuesday 23 – 26 March 2021**

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Introduction

1. Representatives from Australia, Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu participated in the virtual 24MCSWG meeting hosted by the FFA Secretariat. Observers attended from Global Fishing Watch (GFW), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), International MCS Network (IMCS), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFs), Pacific Community (SPC), the Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). Staff from the FFA Secretariat and Consultants provided support to the meeting.
2. The list of registered participants and observers is appended as **Attachment 1**.

Agenda Item 1 - Opening of Meeting

3. FFA Director of Fisheries Operations (DFO), Mr Allan Rahari welcomed participants to 24MCSWG.
4. An opening prayer was delivered by Tonga.
5. The FFA Director-General (DG), Dr Manumatavai Tupou-Roosen acknowledged with sadness the passing of Kiribati fisheries colleague Mbwenea Teioki.
6. A moment of silence was observed by the Meeting in honour of the late Mrs Teioki.
7. DG acknowledged FSM MCSWG Chair, Mr Justino Helgen, for continuing his Chairmanship into 24MCSWG and participants and observers for the continued collaboration. She outlined the 24MCSWG objectives highlighting the importance of continuing to build on the successful innovative responses to IUU fishing and ongoing challenges such as with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chair and Conduct of Meeting Remarks

8. DFO noted that FSM continuing as MCSWG Chair for the year 2020/21 is consistent with the FFA chairing arrangements and the MCSWG Chair will be handed to Fiji at 25MCSWG. New Fisheries Operations staff Damian Johnson (MCS Advisor-Strategic Analysis) and Jason Raubani (MCS Policy Advisor) were introduced.
9. The Chair welcomed all participants and expressed sincere thanks to the FFA DG and the Secretariat for the planning and coordination of the meeting. He joined DG in conveying, on behalf of members, their sincere condolences to the family and colleagues of the late Mbwenea Teioki.

Agenda Item 2 - Apologies & Adoption of Agenda

10. There were no apologies received.
11. The Agenda was adopted and is appended as **Attachment 2**. Items marked * will not be discussed on the virtual agenda and will be taken by exception.

Agenda Item 3 - Review of 23MCSWG and FFC Outcomes

12. The Secretariat presented INFO.3 on the status of outcomes from 23MCSWG and FFC noting specific updates will be provided when those items are considered including on the IUU Quantification Study (Item 6), Regional PSM Framework (Item 27), Review of Transshipment CMM (Item 34), Impact of COVID-19 (Item 4) and EM/ER (Item 11).

13. The Meeting noted the status of the Secretariat's work in implementing the outcomes of 23MCSWG and FFC114.

Agenda Item 4 - COVID19 Impacts on FFA MCS Tools and Intersessional Decisions

14. The Secretariat presented WP.6 on impacts of COVID-19 on MCS tools highlighting the ongoing response put in place by the Secretariat to assist members in monitoring and surveillance support, the observer program and investment in technology.
15. Australia conveyed sincere condolences to Kiribati Ministry for Fisheries and Marine Resources Development with the passing of Mbwenia Teioki, a huge loss for Kiribati and the FFA region. They commended the work of the Secretariat in adjusting to the impacts of COVID, in particular in operational and MCS activities as well as with member engagement. Australia thanked the Secretariat's IT team for ongoing enhancements to the delivery of virtual meetings and noted that Australia has started exploring interactive presentation programs (e.g. Mentimeter) to find ways to better engage and present remotely. They noted the WCPFC17 tasking to TCC17 to review the implementation of COVID-19 Intersessional Decisions and supported the ongoing work of FFA, PNA, SPC and Members with the work on the COVID-19 Protocols. They also commended the RFSC's leadership for the response to the impact of COVID-19 including the use of NTSA to conduct operational activities and their continued work to enhance the region's operations and MCS responses.

16. The Meeting:
 - i. Noted the impact of COVID-19 on MCS tools and the need for ongoing review of MCS processes to adapt to the current situation; and
 - ii. Encouraged FFA Members to continue to utilize services provided by the Secretariat to assist members respond and recover from the impact of the pandemic.

Agenda Item 5 - RMCSS Implementation update

17. The Secretariat presented WP.2 which provided an update on the implementation of the RMCSS. The meeting was reminded of the endorsement of the strategy, the four objectives and corresponding activities and the performance indicators and finally a brief progress update on the implementation by Year 1 (2018/2019) and Year 2 (2019/2020).
18. One issue highlighted in the Year 2 update was the very low responses from members to the survey that was sent out and members were encouraged to provide their responses which is critical to monitoring of the RMCSS. Another challenge noted was the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation progress, especially in early 2020. Despite that, there was positive progress reported such as in the adoption of the regional PSM Framework, adoption of the LL EM Policy and establishment of national committees to coordinate MCS work at the national level. Continued attention is required for some activities, especially in the development of regional standards, development of national MCS plans and need for sustainable funding to support MCS work at the national level.
19. Australia commended the good progress in the implementation of the RMCSS and highlighted some of the foundational activities that needed more attention such as in the development of regional standards that are important for the implementation of subsequent RMCSS activities. Thus there is a need for this work to be made a priority.

20. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the progress on the second year of the implementation of the RMCSS;
and
- ii. Encouraged FFA Members to actively participate in future RMCSS surveys noting its importance to assess the overall implementation of the RMCSS

Agenda Item 6 - IUU Quantification Study update

21. MRAG Pacific Consultant, Duncan Souter, presented the report and referenced the 2016 quantification study which served as the baseline for the quantification estimates of IUU fishing in the FFA region. The 2016 study uses data from 2010-2015 to provide an estimate of 306,400mt as the quantity of fish taken illegally in the FFA region with a monetary value of \$USD 616 million. He mentioned that the results of the 2016 study are to be regarded as the first cut which need to be refined and improved over time in future successive studies.
22. FFC110 directed that a quantification study of IUU fishing is to be conducted after every 5yr cycle to continuously monitor the level of IUU fishing in the region.
23. FFA's engagement of MRAG in late 2020 was purposely to review, make improvements and undertake IUU quantification estimates for the next cycle after the 2016 quantification study period had lapsed. The present study will be cited as the 2020 quantification study and uses data for the period from 2017-2019.

24. MRAG mentioned that one of the improvements from the 2016 study is the use of a questionnaire which targeted National Fisheries Administrations in the region to provide a range of information such as number of surveillance flights, dockside boarding and inspections. Most members have not returned the questionnaires.
25. The present quantification study follows closely the methodology used by the 2016 study which classified IUU risks into four main categories: 1) Unlicensed fishing; 2) Misreporting; 3) Non-Compliance with license conditions and 4) Post-harvest risk usually associated with illegal transshipment.
26. Analysis on each of the risks are done separately for each of the three main fisheries in the region: Tropical purse seine fishery; Tropical long-line and southern long-line fishery then combined to provide a range of estimate through the use of Monte Carlo method of probability distribution best estimate.
27. Fiji questioned the method used to estimate risk and quantities associated with unregulated fishing. Fiji mentioned that the question was based on the suspicion that catch from outside Fiji waters are being laundered into legal catch from Fiji through their LL flagged vessels.
28. In response MRAG explained that for long line vessels they compare vessel catch log-sheets with actual volume of fish landed. Any difference is compared to what he referred to as “tolerance range”. Figures which fall beyond tolerance range may suggest IUU fishing. He explained similar methods are used to make estimates with the purse seine fishery.

29. The Meeting:

- i. Noted progress on the 2020 IUU Quantification Study;
- ii. Undertook to ensure all outstanding member questionnaires for the study are completed and returned to the project team; and
- iii. Noted the intention to provide the final report of the Study to FFC118 in May.

Agenda Item 7 - Regional Observer Coordinators Workshop (ROCW21) Outcomes

30. The Secretariat presented WP.3 on the Outcome of the ROCW21 held virtually from 9 - 12 February 2021. The main focus of the workshop were recommendations of the observer livelihood and safety study rather than the usual technical areas which were the focus of past ROGW. There were 5 key recommendations of the study: i) Implement the recommendations from the observer livelihood and Protections study (refer to Annex 2 - Livelihood and Safety Study implementation plan); ii) Request SPC provide PPE procedure posters/pamphlets and COVID-19 Risk Mitigation protocols for observers; iii) Work with relevant national and regional agencies (FFA/SPC/PNAO) to consider developing practical plans and strengthen COVID19 risk mitigation protocols to resume 100% observer coverage at the earliest time possible, iv) Work with national health authorities to have Observers considered among frontline workers, those first to receive the COVID19 vaccine, and v) NOPs to note the benefits of providing risk mitigation training to Observers before placement.

31. In presenting the other ROCW21 recommendations, the Secretariat stressed the importance of working together with members and partners to implement the recommendations including those of the Observer Livelihood and Safety study recommendations. Some of the recommendations are considered to be administrative and the Secretariat will work with partners in their implementation.
32. The Secretariat stated that for some recommendations like the redeployment of observers after May 15 2021, some policy decisions will be required to implement practical plans and this will be the focus of discussion under agenda item 9 – Observer Deployment Plan.
33. ROGW21 identified and discussed some issues relating to observers that needs to be taken at the next level and these include impact of COVID-19 on observer livelihoods, approaches on redeployment of observers and observer pay rate, specifically PIRFO trainer pay rate and observer insurance.
34. A detailed work plan for the implementation of the Recommendations was presented. It was reported that some recommendations in the work plan were already implemented by the Secretariat such as virtual training for observers but the Secretariat will continue to work with members on how to progress the other recommendations at the national level.
35. PNG thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and stated that it has started deploying observers on their domestic vessels. They supported observer redeployment and that there are already tools and measures in place to support redeployment such as those developed and used by PNA to assist facilitate observer deployment. The Secretariat advised that observer deployment on vessels operating are up to those members concerned. In relation to use of technology to facilitate observer deployment under COVID-19 context, this will be the focus of Agenda 8.
36. On a question regarding funding sources, the Secretariat advised that a circular was sent out containing information on funding sources and guidelines to assist with development of funding proposals and further encouraged members to seek assistance from the Secretariat on this matter. Secretariat further stated that funding sources referred to are specifically for MCS work but members can access other funds through other funding sources for other fisheries management areas.
37. WWF conveyed their condolences to Kiribati for the passing of Mbwenea Teioki. They commended FFA and strongly supported discussion on the issue of observer livelihoods and safety. They committed to continue working with FFA and members on this matter and noted the need for observers to have appropriate security tools prior to deployment

38. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the ROCW21 outcome and recommendations;
- ii. Requested that FFA and SPC work with key partners and relevant agencies to ensure the observers COVID19 mitigation protocol is strengthened;

- iii. Recommended that FFC task FFA Secretariat to work with Partners to implement the observer livelihood & Safety study recommendations;
- iv. Recommended that FFC task the Secretariat to review the observer and PIRFO trainers pay rates

Agenda Item 8 - Observer redeployment plan (Implementation plan of Observer Livelihood and Safety Study)

- 39. The Secretariat presented WP.4 on the observer redeployment plan, a proposed practical plan for the redeployment of observers after 15 May 2021, if the temporary suspension of observer deployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic is uplifted. The Secretariat noted that the redeployment plan is based on three main objectives: keeping the observers safe, preventing the risk of contracting COVID, and stopping the transmission of the virus. The Secretariat also presented some suggested staged approach considerations, key mitigation measures prior to deployment, during deployment and post deployment and regional considerations for discussion.
- 40. Some Members noted that they have already started redeployment observers on domestic vessels and they would like to see this continue and develop noting that the measures are in place already to support this targeted redeployment. Some concerns were highlighted that the more we lockdown, the more vessels are taking real advantage of COVID and conducting activities we cannot see, increasing the need to have human eyes at sea to help us address this.
- 41. It was also noted that the situation is different for individual FFA Members and the redeployment for Members will depend on their own situations, noting that redeployment will be easier for those Members with large domestic fleets that don't go to other ports.
- 42. Cook Is noted they have vessels unloading in American Samoa and getting observers in and out of there was impossible. They also advised that they had observers on EU flagged vessels that have been trying to get home for over a year now.
- 43. Members agreed with the need to get observers back on vessels but it was noted that redeployment may not be able to happen at the same time for all FFA Members due to their own differing situations and challenges.
- 44. PIFS joined others in commending the Secretariat for the work done to date, including to those partners who had also contributed. PIFS flagged that the observer redeployment plan is based on placements through vessels at the observer home port, particularly the condition for vessels to pick up and disembark observers at home port. PIFS also noted that vessel operators have been hard hit financially by COVID19 and therefore felt the pickup and disembarking of observers at home port is uneconomical and was, in their view, not practical. PIFS also took the opportunity to inform the meeting of the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway for COVID-19 (PHP-C) developed by PIFS, with support from the World Health Organisation, SPC, Oceania Customs Organisation, Pacific Immigration Community, Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police, and the Pacific Islands Law Officers Network. As of 15 February 2021, the PHP-C moved over 211,350 kilograms of health and humanitarian supplies into and across the region. Additionally, 97 technical health and

humanitarian personnel have also been moved across borders to assist with technical assistance required by our Members. PIFS noted that although it is limited in coverage and based on demand, the PHP-C provides an opportunity for the movement/placement of observers across the region. PIFS would be happy to provide more details on the PHP-C if required.

45. A Member questioned whether or not observers should be vaccinated before being deployed, understanding the difficult trade-offs that was required between individual rights and the requirement that, as employers, we provide a safe working environment for workers and that vaccination is a critical part of that. The Secretariat noted the complexity of this issue and that it was up to Members to make this decision. Participants also noted that some airlines were making it mandatory for passengers to be vaccinated.

46. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the progress and challenges faced by Members in redeploying observers; and
- ii. Considered the draft observer redeployment plan (**Attachment 3**) noting the importance of COVID testing and vaccination of observers as referred to in the COVID-19 Regional Fisheries Protocols.

Agenda Item 9 - Observer Insurance Minimum Standards Workshop outcome

47. The Secretariat presented INFO.5 on the outcomes from the 2nd Regional Observer Insurance Workshop held on 19 March 2021. Observer insurance has been an outstanding issue amongst Pacific Islands observer programmes for over 25 years. The uncertainty around insurance coverage is a key weakness in the safety arrangement for many observer programmes in the region. This matter has been on a regional agenda for years but did not reach any amicable resolution which has placed Pacific Island observers' insurance cover in question. Several concerns were raised at the Workshop who agreed that:

(i) FFC consider injury, illness, death, loss of belonging and damage or injury caused by the observer, as the best practice minimum standards for risks covered by an observer insurance policy for endorsement, as appropriate;

(ii) A definition of "full insurance coverage" is included as a proposed amendment to the HMTCTC this year 2021. "full insurance coverage" means insurance that covers door to door protection (based on 5 years of average Observer wages for i, ii, iii) for the following risks: death and an appropriate proportion thereof for injury, illness, loss of belongings, damage or injury caused by the observer)

(iii) The Secretariat reports to the FFC on the mechanisms envisaged for the Observer Compensation Scheme.

48. Tokelau congratulated the Secretariat on this work and offered their strong support to the recommendations from the Workshop. They looked forward to FFC approving this work and moving forward to protect the observers whose work is invaluable to the management of the fisheries.

49. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the outcomes of the Observer Insurance Minimum Standards Workshop;
and
- ii. Recommended that the outcomes are provided to FFC118 for further consideration and endorsement.

Agenda Item 10 - Data Collection Committee (DCC) EM Data standards.

50. The Secretariat presented WP5, highlighting issues from the November 2020 Data Collection Committee (DCC-NOV-2020) meeting and covering Longline EM Minimum data fields. By way of background, the meeting was reminded that the DCC has been in place since 1995 and consists of regional partners including FFA, SPC and PNAO. The Secretariat noted that the DCC-FEB-2020 had developed the Draft DCC LL EM Minimum data fields standards which was tabled at the MCSWG23 and forwarded to SC16 and ER&EM WG4. The DCC met on 18 – 20 November 2020, on the recommendation of MCSWG23 (May 2020) to review the status of longline electronic monitoring (LL EM) minimum data fields for compliance and, in addition, propose minimum standards for transshipment monitoring (minimum data fields and training). The Secretariat referenced the report of the DCC meeting provided in INFO17 which discusses the recommendations from the DCC-NOV-2020 meeting that may be relevant to the MCSWG.
51. Australia sought clarification on how the DCC EM standards will be incorporated into the FFA standards. In response, the Secretariat explained that one of the taskings from FFC114 was for FFA, SPC and PNAO to develop a work plan to progress the supporting task required to implement the Regional Longline Electronic Monitoring Policy. A draft work plan is in place which identifies the development of EM standards required by section 7 of the Policy as priority tasks. DCC is made up primarily of SPC, FFA and PNAO (with invitation to other stakeholders depending on the issue to be addressed) and given that the focus of the DCC-NOV-2020 meeting was on EM, the draft TORs for the development of the EM standards required by the Policy which is envisaged to go out to consultancy were put in front of DCC for discussion and review. DCC provided inputs on these and recommended that FFA, SPC and PNAO finalized the TORs so that the work can commence and there is ongoing collaboration amongst SPC, FFA and PNAO to finalize these TORs for the development of EM standards. So the EM standards required by the Policy have been assisted by DCC reviewing the draft TORs for this work but DCC is not developing a separate set of standards.
52. The DCC chair also noted the current initiative by TNC, in partnership with SPC, FFA and others, involving a second transshipment trip on a carrier vessel to better understand the role that EM can play in increasing transparency of transshipment activities and encouraged Members to support this initiative.

53. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the report of DCC-Nov-2020;
- ii. Supported the Draft DCC Longline EM minimum data field standards (version DCC-NOV-2020), in particular, the updated structure and table for the EM

longline potential Compliance Events, including Compliance CATEGORIES and EVENTS reference codes table, provided; and

- iii. Encouraged members to work with service providers to test the viability of the draft EM longline data fields, in particular the compliance related fields.

Agenda Item 11 - Electronic Reporting (ER) and Electronic Monitoring (EM) update

- 54. The Secretariat presented an update on the ER-EM developments noting a paper tabled by SPC, FFA and PNAO to SC16 and ERandEMWG4 showing the status of implementation of ER and EM across the FFA membership.
- 55. In terms of ER, all FFA members are reporting electronically some of their catch and effort data and/or observer data. The PNA Members are reporting their PS catch and effort data electronically using the industry FIMs reporting system and vessel operators and observers can use this to report their data electronically. In the longline fishery, members are using *OnBoard* (a SPC-developed application) to electronically report their LL catch and effort data and *Olio* (another SPC-developed application) for observer data. Some Members are also using third party e-log applications to electronically report their catch and effort and observer data.
- 56. This shows that ER is widely implemented by Members. Recalling the FFC114 decision to progressively adopt ER for fishing vessels operating within Members EEZ and the high seas with a view to achieving 100% by 2022, with special considerations for domestic vessel fishing solely within EEZ, and the need to seek compatible decision at WCPFC, Members are encouraged to discuss and identify what they need in order to meet this deadline and to seek assistance from regional agencies, and others, where required.
- 57. In contrast, EM is not widely implemented yet across the Members and cost has been cited as one of, if not, the main factor. To this end, there is a cost benefit analysis for EM tasked by FFC114 which is currently out for tender. The result of this cost benefit analysis will hopefully be available to FFC118 to inform and guide Members in the implementation of EM at the national level.
- 58. The focus now on EM is the development of EM standards and work is underway to finalise the TORs for the various EM standards, to go out to consultancy. FFA/PNAO/SPC have in place a draft work plan to progress the supporting tasks required to implement the Regional LL EM policy and this is a living document that will be updated as we progress the implementation of the Policy. The initiative led by TNC (in collaboration with SPC/FFA and other partners) on a transshipment trip on a carrier vessel will assist to better understand the role the EM can play in increasing transparency of transshipment activities.
- 59. WCPFC EREM WG met last year and the key focus was on the draft CMM on EM and there was strong engagement and the view from the FFA to have more time to understand EM. It should be noted that the adoption of the CMM and the standards and identify a framework on how they are applied are separate issues from a decision to adopt and implement EM.

- 60. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the status of implementation of electronic reporting and electronic monitoring;
- ii. Tasked the Secretariat to work with members, SPC and partners to identify the work require to implement the FFC114 decision regarding having ER for fishing vessels operating within members' EEZs and the high seas by 2022 (noting the need to cater for special circumstances of small domestic vessels operating solely within EEZs);
- iii. Encouraged Members to seek assistance from SPC, FFA and PNAO on resources and training which may be available to support meeting the 2022 deadline for ER;
- iv. Encouraged Members to seek assistance from the Secretariat, where relevant, particularly with reviewing of legislations, in order to implement ER and EM; and
- v. Encouraged Members to actively engage in the WCPFC ERandEM Working Group.

Agenda Item 12 - Persons of Interest Initiative-Update

61. The Secretariat presented an update on the POI initiative. Three POI workshops have been undertaken to date which resulted in piloting the POI initiative that initially covered both persons and vessels of interest.
62. Following the third workshop in 2020, FFC directed that the Secretariat work on developing the first POI Register, a draft guidelines and procedures and also a review of the HMTCs framework. A related task is the review of the ISMS Policy that is in progress.

63. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the paper and the draft POI Guidelines; and
- ii. Considered future work required for the POI initiative.

Agenda Item 13 COVID19 Protocols Regional Workshop Outcome

64. The Secretariat presented INFO.6 on the COVID19 Protocol for the Fishing Sector highlighting the great cooperation of the Steering Committee composed of PNAO, SPC, Australia's Office of the Pacific (DFAT), MRAG, and the FFA. Working closely with members, the SC were able to finalise the Protocols successfully in a short period of time. To raise awareness amongst members and stakeholders a workshop was held in January which was well attended. The workshop noted the challenges to implementing the Protocols including the need for responsive MCS tools and processes (such as on detecting vessel interactions and the need to enhance data sharing arrangements) and raised several issues that were considered in the SC review process. This

included the need to include advice on COVID testing and vaccination and a review of quarantine procedures in relation to enforcement action on suspected IUU vessels. The Secretariat also offered assistance to members in incorporating the Protocols into their national policies/legislation and if national COVID-19 workshops were required. Members noted a suggestion raised at the Workshop on the possible application of the Protocols through the HTMCs.

65. Australia acknowledged the great working relationship amongst the Steering Committee members. It was noted that the updated testing protocols were mandatory with vessels required to test their crew prior to boarding. Due to the continuing challenge on the availability vaccines, vessels are encouraged to have their crew vaccinated. The Protocols are a living document and members were encouraged to provide any comments during this review process including in the coming months to ensure the Protocols remain relevant.

66. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the outcome of the Protocol Regional Workshop and ongoing review by the Fisheries COVID-19 Steering Committee.
- ii. Encouraged Members to incorporate relevant COVID-19 mitigation measures into National SOE legislation, procedures, and license conditions of access.
- iii. Encouraged Members to consider challenges that impacted the effectiveness of MCS responses such as the data sharing arrangements and national agency coordination; and
- iv. Encouraged members to identify national needs in relation to the implementation of the Protocols, national stakeholder awareness workshop and submit appropriate requests to FFA or SPC Health accordingly.

Agenda Item 14 - Regional Information Management System (RIMS) and IMS Updates

67. The Secretariat presented on the ISMS Security Maturity Assessment that was piloted in four countries last year with three more Members to undertake this exercise this year. The Assessment carried out for Members was focused on risks to assess if organisations are able to meet the international benchmark of IMS security in the fisheries sector. The Assessment also provides members with the visibility of the organisation's readiness to respond to any cyber-attacks/risks as well as look into a budget to mitigate these risks. The Secretariat emphasised again that the ISMS policy developed with members will complement the National ICT policies that are currently in place.
68. The Virtual Meeting and Capacity Survey was conducted in 16 member countries. The main issues reported were unreliable internet connection, unreliable conferencing system and video conferencing rooms being too small.
69. The Secretariat acknowledged the JPF funding assistance aimed at upgrading members' Video Conferencing systems for virtual meeting.

70. The Meeting noted the update on IMS Security assessment and investment in technology support to Members.

Agenda Item 15 - FFA ISMS Policy Review update

71. The Secretariat presented an update on the ISMS Policy review undertaken following the directive of the FFC114. At the FFC114, the Secretariat was tasked to review the application of the ISMS, in particular where it related to the storage, security and dissemination of personal information. To fast track the review, two consultants were engaged and an ad-hoc ISMS Working Group was established within the Secretariat to provide assistance to the consultants and also to provide other support to the ISMS Committee.
72. A first report from the review has been compiled for the Secretariat internal use to assist in addressing issues raised in the report. The findings are that the FFA ISMS covers all information, including personal information, and any generic issues relating to the application and implementation of the ISMS will also be applicable to personal information, and is fit for purpose, and no significant changes are required to its component documents. However, the review highlighted the usefulness of an additional ISMS policy statement relating to Personal Information.
73. There are 33 recommendations in the report which basically deal with the operational aspect of the ISMS. The ISMS committee has reviewed the recommendations and has started to implement certain recommendations, and also tasking relevant divisions and the ISMS Working Group to fast track the implementation.
74. The meeting supported the proposal by Australia and Tokelau for the Secretariat to provide annual reports to Members on the operational aspect of the implementation of the FFA ISMS.
75. PNG suggested that an integrated approach is taken by the Secretariat with PNA on information/data sharing and the Secretariat noted and will explore this.

76. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the update on the review of the FFA ISMS Policy; and
- ii. Tasked the Secretariat to provide the annual report to Members on the operational aspect of the FFA ISMS, and to explore the possibility of an integrated approach with regards to PNA and FFA information systems

Agenda Item 16 - RFSC Surveillance Operations and COVID-19 Response

77. The Secretariat advised that the framework and documentation of RFSC was reviewed and simplified in 2020. Operations were impacted by COVID, however RFSC and all Members adapted to new ways of working. 2020 operations saw increased cooperation between national agencies, resulting in a total of 660 sightings, 65 sea boardings and 85 dockside boardings. There were five apprehensions, and nil dark targets identified.
78. In 2021 the focus will remain on quality physical inspections to deter unreported IUU activity in licensed fleets. Op Rai Balang recently concluded, with success in intelligence driven surveillance, integration of RIMF for coordination, and the achievement of a key milestone under NTSA (AS aerial

support for VU EEZ). AS echoed their support for achieving the NTSA milestone, and acknowledged the efforts of CK, NU and VU in the past 12 months.

79. A specific “OP COVID” was proposed, to enable FFA to access WCPFC VMS data in order to enhance contact tracing capacity and better support Members. Members are requested to nominate RFSC as an MCS Entity, if not already done.
80. PNG requested that the record be updated to reflect that PG apprehended and subsequently prosecuted a dark target during OP Island Chief 2020. PG further requested clarification on aircraft operating in PG airspace, which is coordinated by RFSC with operating procedures reflected in QUADs Manual.
81. Australia commended the FFA Sec and RFSC for the coordination efforts required to execute 3 of the 4 regional operations during 2020 despite the widespread impacts of COVID-19. They noted the work of Niue and Cook Islands during Op Island Chief 2020 and recent activity by Vanuatu, utilising the NTSA to coordinate bilateral activities and information sharing with Members.

82. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the future focus for OP365 and regional operations for 2021; and
- ii. Supported the proposed Operation “OPCOVID” under the Operation 365 framework, to support Members State of Emergency (SOE) requirements for COVID-19 risk assessments of WCPFC/FFA registered vessels operating in Member waters and ports

Agenda Item 17 - Aerial Surveillance Program update (INFO Paper only)

83. Members took as read the update on the PMSP/FFA Aerial Surveillance Program.

Agenda Item 18 - QUADs Update Presentation (INFO Paper only)

84. Members took as read the update from the QUADs.

Agenda Item 19 - NTSA and NTIS update (INFO Paper only)

85. Members took as read the update on NTSA and NTIS.

Agenda Item 20 - HMTCS Update Implementation

86. The Secretariat presented WP.7 on the implementation of HMTCS including the review of the HMTCSs. A brief background on the initial intention and scope of the HMTCSs was provided emphasising that the review was covering the ‘scope’ and ‘application’ of the HMTCSs. Further guidance by the Members in the pre-MCSWG meeting was acknowledged and these have been built into the review of the HMTCSs.
87. The Secretariat highlighted several proposals for amendments in response to the FFC 114 directive for the review. The updates on the changes that the Secretariat carried out within the HMTCS framework ranges from new paragraph numbers, standardisation of terminologies through the

framework and development of languages emanating from Members' interventions at the pre-MCSWG. The amendments are presented in Annex XX

88. The Secretariat noted that proposals for minimum standards for both the ER and COVID19 were raised in previous presentations for the consideration by the Members and this is integral to the HMTCs review process.
89. Tokelau supported the proposed amendments to the HMTCs however expressed their concern on the application of the HMTCs only to foreign fishing vessels. They therefore suggested that there should be a thorough discussion on this and the policy aspects of HMTC application at FFC to ensure there is equity in the implementation HMTCs and members are not disadvantaged.
90. Cook Islands lent their support to Tokelau's comments.
91. In response to a question regarding the rationale in the proposal to move the transshipment notification period to 48hrs prior, Tuvalu advised that their rationale was their current improved capability to cater for transshipment.
92. Australia, Cook Is and PNG agreed that the decision on the notification period would have implications on other operational processes so cannot be taken in isolation.
93. The Secretariat will explore and work on proposed languages in response to the concerns raised by Members.
94. Fiji acknowledged the Secretariat's work on the HMTCs and supported the recommendations to be taken to FFC118.
95. The Secretariat also noted the suggestion by Fiji for the scope and application to remain the same with their emphasis on much needed improvements specifically in the area of safety and welfare of observers.

96. The Meeting:

- i. Reviewed the proposed amendments to the HMTCs;
- ii. considered any leading standards that can be included into the HMTCs;
- iii. noted the proposed amendments (**Attachment 4**) and provide feedback to the Secretariat prior to FFC118; and
- iv. Tasked the Secretariat to provide a report to clarify issues relating to the legal foundation, scope and application of the HMTCs to FFC118.

Agenda Item 21(a) - MCS Data Analysis Guideline

97. The Secretariat presented WP.12 on MCS Data Analysis Guidelines which is a requirement from the RMCSS objective 3.1 to "develop MCS data analysis procedures to guide national MCS officers to identify, analyse and verify IUU fishing". This builds on previous FFA development of MCS data

analysis guidelines and best practice, which was reviewed during September and October 2019 and this review informed the development of the updated draft guidelines. The MCS Data Analysis Guidelines were drafted largely between November 2019 and May 2020 and an update and late draft of the Guidelines was provided to MCSWG23. This approach for the Guidelines was informed by the 2016 Regional MCS Evaluation which recommended the disaggregation of I (illegal), U (unregulated) and U (unreported) and the RMCSS.

98. The Guidelines are non-binding and provided for Members' guidance and support. The Guidelines key elements include developing an understanding of the IUU elements that we are analysing; identifying the data and information sources that can inform the analysis; identifying key data analysis steps but recognising differences that exist across the region. The Guidelines provide analysis steps to help guide the analyst, understanding key regional and sub-regional agencies; and understanding of MCS Data sources. The Guidelines are a reference document for MCS Data Analysts and managers and the Secretariat need members' feedback in using the Guidelines to inform the further development of the guidelines and the development of targeted resources to support data analysis capacity development. The Secretariat stated that this is a first step and that they recognise that there is a need and an opportunity for continued and ongoing development of the Guidelines and associated supporting resources to best support FFA Members.
99. In terms of where we are now: there is very good tactical and operational support from RFSC; there are challenges in accessing data analysis tools within FFA Members; challenges in timely access to some data; Members are undertaking analysis already and incorporating this in their MCS programmes. The next step is to support members to use and incorporate the Guidelines in the national processes; develop additional targeted resources to support MCS data analysis development; develop the framework for the review and update of the guidelines and associated resources. This is done as part of a broader MCS Data Analysis capacity development work plan being developed by FFA and FFA will engage with Members on this.
100. Members thanked the Secretariat for this work and lent support to the Guidelines.

101. The Meeting:

- i) Noted the development of the MCS Data Analysis Guidelines;
- ii) Recommended the new Guidelines will be made available on RIMF;
- iii) Encouraged Members to use the MCS Data Analysis Guidelines to inform the development of national data analysis capacity and to seek the support of the Secretariat in the application of the guidelines where needed; and
- iv) Tasked the Secretariat to use the MCS Data Analysis Guidelines to inform the development of concise, focussed job aids to support the development of the data analysis capacity within FFA Members.

Agenda Item 21 (b) - FFA Boarding Inspection Guideline (Info Only)

102. Members took as read the update on implementation of the FFA Boarding Inspection Guidelines.

Agenda Item 22 - Collaboration with Emerging Technology providers (KIOST, DVD, OceanMind, UNODC and CSIRO)

103. The Secretariat presented WP.13 on its collaboration with emerging technology partners to test and develop tools to enhance MCS analytics and intelligence support to Members. The collaborations stem from the FFC110 decision to continue to explore and encourage partnership in emerging technologies to improve current MCS Tools development capacity and provide solutions to addressing gaps in identification and combating IUU fishing. The current focus areas and entities involved in these collaborations include:

- Dark Vessel Detection (DVD) with Canada: There continues to be challenges faced in the manual correlation of data. This was trialled during Operation Rai Balang and the trials will continue up to Sep 2021. The Secretariat is seeking volunteer members to trial these within their EEZs during Operations Tui Moana and Island Chief. Thus far trials have highlighted the need for collaboration including amongst national related agencies.
- Satellite Aperture Radar (SAR) with KIOST Korea: The Secretariat has continued acquiring SAR products under this project. Korea approved the continuation of this project for next 4 years to Dec 2024. Key focus areas include capacity building and data analysis training for members.
- Machine Learning with OceanMind: A pilot trial on transshipment will be carried out using AIS as source of data.
- Transshipment and Bunker analysis with Global Fishing Watch: This is accessible online with integrated satellite technology system, light detection systems and AI to track patterns. There is an opportunity for GFW data to be used as an additional data source for the RSP. In trials using the transshipment system a challenges noted included access to data to verify interactions and working with two systems.
- Analytic work with CSIRO Australia: A Letter of Intent (LOI) was signed with CSIRO in July 2020 with key areas of collaboration in capacity building and data analytics. Two areas identified to progress as a start from the Scope of activities in the LOI for this collaboration is in transshipment analysis and POI/VOI analysis. The Secretariat is currently in discussion with CSIRO on the project proposal for the transshipment analysis work which will use public domain data as per MOC direction in November 2020, with the aim to have a preliminary analysis for FFC118 consideration. After which, the intention is to further develop the tool to incorporate non-public domain data in-house at FFA.
- UNODC/Vulcan Skylight: Continuing collaboration on MDA training and use of Skylight ASI to enhance risk analysis.

104. Common obstacles impacting the trials include the data sharing policies which limit the value of these trials, the need for the systems to be integrated to enable more efficient analysis and limited funding.

105. The Secretariat is considering a policy framework to guide the Secretariats approach on all emerging technologies service providers and to include the following key elements:

- the need for a strategic approach
- identify priority areas of IUU risk analysis, tools and the development of clear procedures
- ensuring data security is not compromised

106. The following were raised in discussion:

- RMI noted that they are currently finalising an MoU with Global Fishing Watch.
- In response to a question on whether data from these technologies can be incorporated into the FFA system together with VMS, the Secretariat advised that if the data was provided in a compatible format (such as KMZ) this can be uploaded to the RSP.
- One member noted the need for the Secretariat to consider protecting intellectual property rights in the development of the formal arrangements with the commercial technology providers.
- Vanuatu noted that they were also in discussions with GFW on integrating AIS with VMS data to look at Vanuatu flagged vessels in the High Seas and analysing transshipment.
- In developing the policy framework, Australia noted the need to consider a host of factors including the priority needs, risks identified from IUU quantification study, weaknesses and gaps.

107. WWF commended the FFA in its efforts to address IUU using the tools and technology at its disposal. They noted their appreciation for the effort to pursue various technological solutions to address these challenges. They recognised the significance of FFA making emerging technology a standing agenda item and noted how far the approach has come since the first MCS Emerging Technologies Workshop held in collaboration with WWF in 2014.

108. Members noted that the next Seafood and Fisheries Emerging Technologies Conference (webinar) session focussed on MCS is coming up on April 8th and WWF welcomed FFA members to attend that session.

109. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the progress of Secretariat engagement with emerging technologies service providers and new partners.
- ii. Noted the potential of integrating machine learning and automated processes into FFA's regional MCS systems, and support the FFA Secretariat's dedicated efforts in this area.
- iii. Tasked the Secretariat to work with Members and partners to develop a technology engagement policy to guide the FFA Secretariat's engagement with emerging technology to consider factors including;
 - the integration of these technologies with regional and national systems;
 - data security and ownership issues, including intellectual property rights that result from any developments;
 - consistent assessment and monitoring of the progress of technology trials and implementation;
 - gaps and priorities; and
 - available and necessary resources.

Agenda Item 23 - Maritime Boundaries update

110. The Secretariat referenced the INFO.11 paper and invited SPC(GEM) to make a presentation on the status of the maritime boundaries in the region.
111. It was noted that 13 shared boundaries are still to be finalised. There are 5 high seas limits yet to be declared and only 1 out of 17 extended continental shelf (ECS) submission has been recommended.
112. In noting the ongoing collaborative work and progress between FFA and SPC it was highlighted that the Phase 1 and Phase 2 deliverables have been provided to FFA and the datasets are being made available to the stakeholders through the Pacific Data Hub (<https://pacificdata.org>) repository. A short display of the front-end dashboard was made to show the various features and information made available.
113. The following were raised in discussion:
- In response to a query on additional internal areas to be included in the maps of the different systems provided to members, the Secretariat and SPC(GEM) advised that the team would be happy to assist members with such work and requested the relevant supporting documents be provided with the requests.
 - In response to a question from RMI regarding the updates done on the maps in the FFA VMS, the Secretariat advised that the updates to the maps in the primary system was done in June 2020. The Secretariat will look into why the new boundaries are not showing up on the RSP.

114. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the status and progress of work regarding maritime boundaries and ongoing collaboration between FFA and SPC GEM; and
- ii. Noted the assistance available to members to meet their national efforts in negotiations and delineations of their maritime boundaries.

Agenda Item 24 - FFA Vessel Register and VMS Update

Vessel Register

115. The Secretariat presented WP.14A on the Vessel Register outlining the key elements of the FFA Vessel Register operations including FFA Vessel Register Procedures, Vessels in Good Standing (Current Status), Vessel Registration fee and levies, Issues relating to the Vessel Registration fee, FFC tasking on the analysis of the true cost of operating the FFA Vessel Register and Evaluation trial of a software tool Maritime Intelligence Risk Suite (MIRS) - from IHS-Markit.
116. It was noted that as at the end of February 2021, 1016 vessels of all gear types were registered which indicated a decrease from the February 2020 numbers (1203). The current fee is USD3,306 with a 45% discount for domestic vessels. Some operators have continued to raise their concerns with the automatic annual increase with the fees. An analysis of the operational costs of the FFA

Register services has been carried out through a consultancy by Ernst & Young of Australia and a first draft of the report has been provided on 19 March for the Secretariat to review and provide comments.

Vessel Monitoring System

117. The Secretariat presented WP.14B on the VMS operations outlining the FFA VMS Hosting and the Service Provider, Monitoring of the Vessels (Current Status), National VMS Assistance, VMS Reporting Status, Use of Type Approved MTUs and the use of the WCPFC In-Zone VMS data.

118. It was noted that during March 2021, 1526 vessels were reported through CLS, Inmarsat-C, Faria, WCPFC and other channels. The number of vessels reporting to the FFA VMS increases to more than 5000 if the Automatic Identification System (AIS) data is included. Assistance offered to members include funding to assist with their national VMS related costs, monitoring of their domestic fleet, V-SAT communications.

119. The meeting was informed of the MCSWG22 tasking for the Secretariat to carry out the necessary work needed in phasing out the use of Data Network ID (DNID) based MTUs. These units require a lot of admin tasks and often cause non-reporting issues.

120. The following were raised in discussion:

- In response to a query on when in-country/regional VMS training (including on MTU interrogation) will take place the Secretariat advised that the training was put on hold due to the travel restrictions but are looking into virtual training opportunities.
- The Secretariat noted the need for any potential local MTU installers to be trained and will contact the relevant vendors regarding these trainings and authorisations.
- Members noted that the smaller solar powered MTU units being trialled are cellular and use the local telecom networks so as to lessen the air-time costs involved.

121. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the operations of the FFA Vessel Register;
- ii. Noted the update from the Secretariat on the FFC tasking to undertake a study on the true cost of operating the FFA Vessel Register;
- iii. Noted the status of the FFA VMS Operations; and
- iv. Tasked the Secretariat to phase out the Data Network ID (DNID) based Inmarsat-C units by providing the existing units to be used by the vessel operators for 1 year, subject to consultation with PNAO.

Agenda Item 25 - MCS Data Sharing

122. The Secretariat presented WP.15 on MCS data sharing noting that this is critical to combating IUU fishing and other maritime threats, including transnational crime and drug trafficking and highlighting that PIF Leaders have called for the strengthening of info sharing at national and regional level. Members currently share their data using several data sharing frameworks, including the FFA Data Sharing Agreements, NTSA, WCPFC Data Rules and Data Sharing arrangements with surveillance providers or third parties. It was noted that there is no established list of MCS data and information types but the Secretariat highlighted the table summarising MCS data and information types and the applicable data sharing arrangements that was included as an annex to WP.15. The ISMS Policy sets out policies on data access and use and the Secretariat encouraged Members to seek the Secretariat's assistance in developing their national ISMS policies. The Secretariat noted the importance of sharing data and information to support partnerships in emerging technologies to enhance current MCS tools and Members noted how advances in technologies have implications on data ownership.
123. In response to concerns raised over some members continuing not to share their data, the Secretariat advised that during operations these countries are requested to share their data and are encouraged to share their data for MCS purposes.
124. The Chair requested the continued work of the Secretariat to support improved MCS data sharing.
125. The Secretariat confirmed that licensing information is available on the RSP and can assist with further intelligence on vessels if requested.
126. It was noted that AIS data can be used as evidence regarding a Vessel of Interest, however it may need to be verified with more reliable sources.

127. The Meeting:

- i. Encouraged Members to share fisheries data and information useful for MCS purposes widely using the existing data sharing frameworks.
- ii. Tasked the Secretariat to compile a list of MCS data and information types for Members consideration at the annual MCS working group meetings.
- iii. Encouraged Members to seek the Secretariat's assistance in developing national Information Security policies.
- iv. Agreed that Members consider sharing sanitised MCS data and information to support and progress pilot trials of emerging technologies.
- v. Noted that advances in technologies have implications on the current approaches to sharing fisheries data and information..

Agenda Item 26 - CDS Workshop outcome

128. The Secretariat presented WP.16 on the CDS Workshop outcome and provided a CDS implementation update outlining recent work and developments under the Catch Documentation and Enhancing Compliance (CDEC) project, including the first CDEC Workshop (CDECW1) held between March 9-11, 2021. The CDECW1 was attended by participants from FFA member countries with the exception of three and representatives from partner organisations including; SPC, PNAO (when their schedule permitted), WCPFC and PEW. Also represented were members of the Competent Authorities, Fishing Industry Associations and WWF Fiji.
129. The key outcome from CDECW1, the updated draft FFA CDS Framework, was presented in detail seeking additional feedback from members to formulate a framework that is relevant, practical and more applicable to members to apply at national level. The Secretariat noted the aspirational nature of the draft FFA CDS Framework and that the rationale is not part of the framework, but this is included for Members only, to inform them of the considerations that applied to the elements that have been included in the framework.
130. Tokelau thanked the Secretariat for all of the hard work that had gone into developing the draft framework and stated that they were encouraged by the framework and saw an opportunity for it to serve as a backdrop to future CDS decision making. However, it was noted that the kind of CDS required to support a catch based management regime could be quite different for those that retain market access or for consumer preferences. So there was interest in the next steps and where the work would go from here. The Secretariat noted that they will work closely with the Members to address their specific needs and that it was clear that Members will need to take decisions as to what the specific CDS system may look like. It was noted that there may be CDS development at national level to meet individual national requirements, but also clearly there was scope and, arguably a need, for a broader regional CDS to meet regional needs, such as ensuring the integrity of catch limit management and that decisions need to be taken in the context of our work.
131. PIFS made the following comments;
- seeks clarification on the Scope of the Framework to confirm their understanding that tuna caught by FFA members mean those tunas are caught by FFA flag vessels
 - wish to know if tuna caught by Distant Water Fishing Nations in the EEZ are covered under the scope as well.
 - Are there any plans under the CDS Framework trade element to use the Customs Nomenclature code on the classification of fish and fishery products
 - note that data collection is still a challenge and wish to know if there is any plan to consider BlockChain as part of the work going forward.
132. The Secretariat noted that this could include catches taken by foreign flagged vessels in FFA Member waters, catches in the members EEZ are covered under the scope and that no decision had been made with regards to the Customs Nomenclature Code including the BlockChain that may be used to support specific CDS development.
133. The importance of standards to support CDS development was highlighted and it was noted that the framework guided CDS developed to meet FFA Member requirements, so this may or may not be within the context of the WCPFC depending on the direction from Members.

134. PNG noted that there's a lot more work that needs to be done and proposed that the focus be on the gaps that e-CDS can address so as to have a simple Framework that can be easily adopted.

135. Members noted the assistance under the CDEC project to support CDS development which they are able to access.

136. Amendments to two elements of the Regional CDS Framework Core Elements were considered.

137. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the outcomes of the CDECW1;
- ii. Supported taskings for the Secretariat to action, as outlined in the CDECW1 outcomes, in line with the CDEC project implementation.
- iii. Recommended the FFA Regional CDS Framework (**Attachment 5**) be forwarded to FFC118 with changes to reflect the discussions in relation to the scope and application of the Framework.

Agenda 27 - Update on Regional Port State Measures Framework

138. The Secretariat informed members that INFO.12 had been uploaded and that comments were welcomed. Although this paper was not presented, there were comments raised in the Zoom chat, as follows:

- FFA members were informed by Andy Wright (of NZ MPI who is also the PSMA Vice-Chair) that the 3rd Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the FAO PSMA is scheduled from 31st May until 4th June, and will be hosted virtually by the European Union. The PSMA Vice Chair, will be in touch with those FFA members who are parties to the PSMA closer to the occasion, and to seek members' views on the priorities.
- NZ also wanted to sight members on the work that NZ will be undertaking this year to make some amendments to the WCPFC PSM CMM to make it more fit for purpose. This will be circulated to members in the near future for feedback.
- In addition, PEW expressed thanks to FFA members and Secretariat for progressing the work on the Regional Port State Measures Framework. They also noted that if there is any interest in revising the WCPFC measure to strengthen it in line with FFA members' needs, PEW would be supportive and available to work with any interested member. PEW also encouraged participation at the June meeting of the Parties to the PSMA.

Agenda Item 28 -FFA Regional MCS capacity building and training

139. The Secretariat presented INFO.13 on Regional MCS Capacity Building and Training Updates. The presentation informed Members of the continuous interest in the Certificate IV Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance course and the progress of new courses Certificate IV in First Line Management and the Diploma in Fisheries Investigation and Prosecution. The FFA Training Adviser also introduced the development of the Fisheries Management and Development Training Package implementation guide.

140. PNG and FSM thanked the Secretariat for their staff who participated in the Program.

141. The Meeting:

- i. Supported the enrolment in, and the development of accredited courses in the vocational education sector;
- ii. Supported the regionally designed fisheries qualifications by including these certificates as desirable education for employment; and
- iii. Agreed to provide time, resources and mentoring support to students to enable and motivate them to secure a qualification.

Agenda Item 29 - NZ MPI Te Patui MCS Training update

142. MPI updated the meeting on the NZ MPI Te Patui MCS Training. The meeting heard of their development and delivery of training in fisheries management fundamentals and processes, MCS and boarding and inspection. Their response to COVID-19 has included the delivery of training online and development of training modules that can be studied remotely.

143. The Authorised Officer Incident Report Book was recently developed in conjunction with SPC and is recommended for recording coastal related infringements. This Incident Report Book is available to Members to trial.

144. The Meeting noted the update on the **NZ MPI Te Patui MCS Training**.

Agenda Item 30 - NPOA IUU (INFO Paper only)

145. Members took as read the NPOA IUU Update

Agenda Item 31 - MARPOL CMM implementation study update report (INFO Paper only)

146. Members took as read the update on the MARPOL CMM implementation study

Agenda Item 32 - Regional Security & Maritime Domain Awareness (INFO Paper only)

147. Members took as read the update on Regional Security & Maritime Domain Awareness

Agenda Item 33 - IMCSN Information Paper (INFO Paper only)

148. The meeting took as read the update from IMCSN.

Agenda Item 34 WCPFC TCC Priorities

149. FFA Members considered this item in closed session.

Agenda Item 35 - Clearing recommendations and meeting summary record of proceedings

150. The Meeting cleared the 24MCSWG Outcomes (**Attachment 6**) and agreed to clear the records offline.

Agenda Item 32 - Closing

151. The Chair, Justino Helgen thanked all the Members for their contributions as well as the Director of Operation, Allan Rahari and the Secretariat staff for their hard work in organising the meeting.

152. The Director for Fisheries Operations joined the Chair in thanking members for their guidance and acknowledged their partnership including with observers. He also thanked the Fisheries Operations team for the support with the meeting arrangements and thanked the Chair for his Chairmanship over the past two years.

153. The Director General expressed her sincere gratitude to members for their active engagement. She noted the great work in addressing the challenges faced during the COVID19 pandemic which highlighted key areas of growth including in progressing and integrating IT systems. She was encouraged by members direction and guidance and thanked the Chair for his outstanding chairmanship. She also acknowledged partners and observers for continued collaboration and thanked DDG, DFO and staff for the great work in arranging a successful 24MCSWG meeting.

154. The Chair declared the meeting closed following a Virtual Zoom Photograph being taken.

Attachment 1**24MCSWG Virtual ZOOM Meeting List of Participants**

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**PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY
23rd MCS WORKING GROUP MEETING
Honiara, SOLOMON ISLANDS
VIDEO CONFERENCE
Tuesday 26 – Friday 29 May 2020**

Agenda

Item #	Agenda	Times (Local-SI)
DAY 1 - TUESDAY 23 March 2021		
1	Opening of Meeting	1000 - 1010
2	Chair and Conduct of Meeting Remarks Adoption of Agenda	1010 - 1020
Setting the Scene		
3	Review of 23MCSWG and FFC Outcomes	1020 - 1040
4	COVID19 Impacts on FFA MCS Tools and Intersessional Decisions.	1040 - 1100
5	RMCSS Implementation update	1100 - 1120
6	IUU Quantification Study update	1120 - 1150
Theme 1. Regional standards for effective MCS systems		
7	Regional Observer Coordinators Workshop (ROCW21) Outcomes.	1150 - 1210
8	Observer redeployment plan(Implementation plan of Observer Livelihood and Safety Study)	1210 - 1240
9	*Observer Insurance Minimum Standards Workshop outcome	
10	Data Collection Committee (DCC) EM Data standards.	1240 - 1300
11	Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring update	1300 - 1330
DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY 24 March 2021		
12	POI Update	1000 - 1030
13	COVID19 Protocols Regional Workshop Outcome	1030 - 1050
Theme 2. Quality information is available and accessible to national and regional officials to assess IUU risks and plan MCS activities		
14	RIMF Update and Investment in technology	1050 - 1120
15	FFA ISMS Policy Review update	1120 - 1140
16	RFSC Surveillance Operations and COVID-19 Response	1140 - 1210
17	*Aerial Surveillance Program update	
18	QUADs Update Presentation (INFO Paper only)	1210 - 1230
19	*NTSA and NTIS update	
20	Harmonised Minimum Terms and Conditions (HMTCS) Implementation	1230 - 1250
21	MCS Data Analysis Guideline *FFA Boarding Inspection Guideline	1250 - 1300
22	Collaboration with Emerging Technology providers KIOST, DVD, OceanMind, UNODC and CSIRO.	1300 - 1320
DAY 3 - THURSDAY 25 March 2021		
Theme 3. Procedures established and operationalised to conduct effective MCS activities		
23	Maritime Boundaries update	1000 - 1020
24	FFA Vessel Register and VMS Update	1020 - 1050
25	MCS Data Sharing	1050 - 1130

26	CDS Workshop outcome	1130 - 1200
27	*Regional Port State Measures Framework *Parties to the PSMA update	
28	FFA Regional MCS capacity building and training	1200 - 1230
29	NZ MPI Te Patui MCS Training update	1230 - 1300
Theme 4. Effective compliance and enforcement through efficient use of available information, analyses and intelligence		
30	*NPOA IUU	
31	*MARPOL CMM implementation study update report	
32	*Regional Security & Maritime Domain Awareness	
33	*MCSWG Observer Updates IMCSN Information Paper	
DAY 4 - FRIDAY 26 March 2021		
	(Close Session - Members Only) WCPFC MCS Issues & developing priorities for TCC17 Priorities for TCC17 Update from TCC16 and WCPFC17 related to WCPFC issues, WGs/IWGs and way forward: • CMS, including RRs • ER and EM (under agenda 12) • Transshipment CMM Review • Observer VMS-SWG: review and discuss co-Chair's updated paper	
34	WCPFC Part 2 Report Update	1000 - 1230
35	Clearing recommendations	1230 - 1300
	Close of Meeting	

NOTE: *Information Papers to be taken by exception



Observer Redeployment Plan

ANNEX 1 – OBSERVER REDEPLOYMENT PLAN

TABLE 1 – REDEPLOYMENT STAGES

POSSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT STAGES	GOAL	TIMEFRAME
1. Focusing redeployment of observers on domestic fleets only.	Immediate	Ongoing
2. Redeploying observers on licensed vessels based on COVID risk assessments.	Immediate	2 nd Qtr 2021
3. Redeploying observers on vessels that pick up and disembark observers at homeport.	Intermediate	3 rd Qtr 2021
4. Redeploying observers on vessels based on the duration of a fishing trip.	Intermediate	3 rd Qtr 2021
5. Redeploying observers on certain gear type, i.e. carrier vessels only	Intermediate	4 th Qtr 2021

TABLE 2 - PRE-DEPLOYMENT

REQUIREMENTS	MUST	GOAL	TIMEFRAME	NATIONAL	REGIONAL
Observer awareness of the FFA COVID19 Protocols <i>(Sourcing and training on PPEs and COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Pre-deployment)</i>	✓	Immediate	Ongoing	✓	✓
COVID risk analysis on Vessels prior to redeployment. <i>(Conduct background checks, COVID-19 risk analysis on Vessels using the tools provided in Annex 1 pg 15 of Protocols)</i>	✓	Immediate	Ongoing	✓	✓
Implementation of the FFA COVID-19 Protocols <i>(Maintain Good personal hygiene, Practise physical distancing on board vessel, Maintaining, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces on the vessel, Regular health checks, Monitoring vessel contact) or equivalent and/or stringent protocols on fishing vessels by all personnel involved in fishing operations)</i>	✓	Immediate	Ongoing	✓	✓
Issue observers with appropriate PPEs and training on how to use them;	✓	Immediate	Ongoing	✓	✓

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Medical certificate from observers to ensure they are certified as medically fit for observer work, <i>(Need assurance of no underlying conditions that might make them particularly vulnerable to Covid-19 if infected)</i>	✓	Immediate	Ongoing	✓	
Observer to undergo refresher training prior to redeployment	✓	Immediate	Ongoing	✓	
Observer vaccination	Individual decision	Intermediate	Ongoing	✓	
Observers to undergo sea safety re certification training before redeployment	Not urgent	Intermediate	2 nd – 3 rd Qtr 2021	✓	
Vessels to pick up observers at home port	Based on mutual agreement by the	Intermediate	3 rd Qtr 2021	✓	✓

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	vessel, observ er provid er, and rele va nt Port States.				
Crew vaccination by vessel operators	Individ ual decisio n	Interme diate	4th Qtr 2021	✓	✓

TABLE 3 - DURING DEPLOYMENT

REQUIREMENTS	MUST	GOAL	TIMEFRAME	NATIONAL	REGIONAL
Implementation of the FFA COVID-19 Protocols (<i>Maintain Good personal hygiene, Practise physical distancing on board vessel, Maintaining, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces on the vessel, Regular health checks, Monitoring vessel contact</i>) or equivalent and/or stringent protocols on fishing vessels by all personnel involved in fishing operations	✓	Immediate	Ongoing	✓	✓
Require reporting on aspects of the FFA COVID-19 Protocols such as crew change at sea, submission of daily crew and observer temperature records and records of interactions with other vessels at sea	✓	Immediate	Ongoing	✓	✓
Vessel to implement national, regional and own COVID19 protocols	✓	Immediate	Ongoing	✓	✓
Mandatory Observer weekly reporting on welfare and wellbeing	✓	Immediate	Ongoing	✓	✓

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Vessels to disembark observers at home	Based on mutual agreement by the vessel, observer provider and relevant Port State.	Intermediate	3 rd Qtr 2021	✓	✓
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TABLE 4 - POST - DEPLOYMENT

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS	MUS T	GOAL	TIMEFR AME	NATIO NAL	REGIO NAL
Implementation of the FFA COVID-19 Protocols or equivalent and/or stringent protocols on fishing vessels by all personnel involved in fishing operations when disembarking vessel;	✓	Immed iate	Ongoing	✓	✓
Observer taking COVID19 test on disembarking the vessel	✓	Immed iate	Ongoing	✓	
Quarantine of observers for 14 days (who will meet the cost???)	✓	Immed iate	Ongoing	✓	✓

TABLE 5 – CONSIDERATION OF REGIONAL STANDARDS

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REGIONAL REQUIREMENTS	MUS T	GOAL	TIMEFRAM E
Requirement for standard observer medical examination.	✓	Immedi ate	2 nd Qtr 2021
Aspects of the FFA COVID-19 Protocols such as regulating crew change at sea and requiring submission of daily crew temperature records and maintaining records of interactions with other vessels at sea.	✓	Immedi ate	2 nd Qtr 2021
Requirements for crew vaccination by vessel operators.	Indivi dual decis ion	Interme diate	2 nd Qtr 2021

TABLE 6 - APPROACH

SUGGESTED CONDITIONS/REQUIREMENTS	OBJECTIVES	TIMEFRAME
Implementation of the FFA COVID-19 Protocols or equivalent and/or stringent protocols on fishing vessels by all personnel involved in fishing operations;	Applying best practices to avoid the transmission of C19 virus amongst fisheries sector workforce in the Pacific and its communities.	Ongoing
observer awareness of the FFA Protocols;	Observers understand the C19 safety protocols to minimize the risk of contracting the virus	Ongoing
Requiring observers to undergo refresher training before redeployment	To refresh their knowledge prior to redeployment in accordance with the PIRFO standards for observers not taking trips over 12 months period	Ongoing
Requiring SOLAS certificate from observers to demonstrate they have acquired the necessary knowledge on sea safety	To ensure observers have the necessary SOLAS certification and be able to act appropriately during at sea and in port emergencies	Ongoing
Issue observers with appropriate PPEs and training on how to use them	To ensure observer are well equipped with appropriate PPEs and understand how to use them	Ongoing
Requiring a medical certificate from observers to ensure they are certified as medically fit for observer work	To ensure observers are physically and medically fit prior to engagement on trips	2 nd Qtr 2021
Consideration of observers and crew in vaccination roll out;	Observers are safe to be redeployed on vessels and minimize the risk of contracting C19	3 rd Qtr 2021
Requiring vessels to pick up and disembark observers at homeport	- To enable observers to embark and disembark from vessels at home port to carry out their mandated duties. - To avoid travelling to a second country with travel restrictions and will not reach the port of embarkation on time, and vice versa. - To avoid the high risk of contracting C19 virus whilst traveling to and from the vessel port of embarkation/disembarkation	3 rd Qtr 2021



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Attachment 4

Proposed Amendments to HMTCs

Attachment 4 for Agenda Item 20 of MCSWG24: HMTC

Meeting	Proposal	Proposed Amendments to HMTCs 2019	Implication on Members
HMTCs Virtual Meeting, March 2021	The papers from the meeting noted that the majority of the paragraphs are still relevant and applicable to the current practices and system with the fishery. The general changes include: 1. Standardising the use of certain defined terms throughout the document; and 2. Editorial and format changes to the paragraphs and Annexes of the HMTCs document.	To standardise any reference of “fisheries waters”, “exclusive economic zone” or “EEZ” to “zone”, To standardise any reference of “issuing authority”, “appropriate authority” or “relevant authority” to “licencing member”. To standardise any reference of “tranship” or “transshipping” to “transshipment”.	This proposed amendment does not have any implication on Members, as the terms used are existing definitions within the paragraph 1 of the current HMTCs.
	Part I and II 3. To amend the introduction paragraph to provide clarity on the legal status of the HMTCs.	To amend the introduction paragraph so that it now reads as follows: <i>The Harmonised Minimum Terms and Conditions for Access by Fishing Vessels (HMTCs) constitute one of the FFA Members key strategic tools to regulate access to their waters. They are a fundamental mechanism to strengthen regional solidarity and ¹for setting leading standards for FFA Members to effectively manage and protect, as</i>	This proposed amendment does not have any implication on Members as the proposed amendments simply strengthen the objective and provides clarity on the legal status of HMTCs.

¹Note: **Red ink** text are the proposed new language.

		well as maximise their benefits from, their fisheries resources. The Forum Fisheries Committee has the responsibility for adopting and amending HMTCs as they see fit. These HMTCs are adopted as minimum standards of access and do not preclude any member from adopting more stringent standards. <i>The HMTCs are to be given national legal effect at the national level through vessel licensing conditions or by incorporation into national laws, as appropriate.</i>	
4. Updating the paragraph 1-Definitons to include POI related definitions and to amend the definition for “operator” and “zone”.	To insert new definitions in paragraph 1 for the following terms: <i>“De facto director” means those who have not been validly appointed but act in the position of a director;</i> <i>“Directors” means those persons appointed in the normal way in accordance with the rules of the company in question;</i> <i>“Shadow directors” means those whose instructions or wishes are customarily followed by the validly appointed directors;</i> <i>“Operator” means any person who is in charge of, directs or controls a vessel, including the owner, charterer, master, fishing master, navigator, beneficial owner, directors, de facto directors, and shadow directors.</i> <i>“Zone” means the exclusive economic zone or fisheries zone of an FFA member. And does not include the territorial sea,</i>	The proposed amendments to the terms within the Definition, provides clarity on the use of the terms with the HMTC. Members may choose to adopt these new proposed definitions into their national fisheries law/regulation.	

		<i>archipelagic waters or internal waters.</i>	
	Part III 5. Noting the proposal from Tuvalu in MCSWG23 for the notice period for transshipment request, it was proposed that 48 hours be the new minimum in paragraph 6. This will not affect Members that have legislated this requirement in their laws and license conditions, as Members who have 72 hours' notice, will be the more stringent measure.	To amend reference to “72 hours’ notice” for transshipment in paragraph 6(b)(ii) and Annex 1, Summary of selected licence terms and conditions, sub-paragraph 7 as follows: <i>6(b) (ii) provide 48 hours’ notice to the licensing member of a request to carry out transshipment of any or all of the fish on board and shall provide the name of the vessel, its international radio call sign, its position, the catch on board by species, the time and port where such transshipment is requested to occur, and an undertaking to pay all fees required under the laws of the licensing member;</i> Annex 1, Summary of selected licence terms and conditions <i>7. The Master shall provide 48 hours’ notice of a request to carry out transshipment fish or re-provision the vessel. The vessel may only carry out transshipment in an approved port and at a time and shall operate under such conditions as are specified by the licensing member, including the provision of a report of the transshipment activity.</i>	This proposed amendment does not have any implication on Members, as Members with legislative requirement, or licence condition of 72hours or more will not be required to change such requirement as those requirements may be considered as more stringent. The change to 48hours notice would mean that this would become the new minimum standard for the operator to provide notice of their intention to carry out transshipment. PSMA, CMM2017-02 and FFA PSM Framework does not provide for specified time for notice to carry out transshipment. PSMA makes reference "to be provided sufficiently in advance to allow adequate time for the port State to examine such information" (Art8(2)) for entry in to port. Which all transshipment in Members waters must take place in port unless

			authorised by the licencing member.
	6. Noting the developments in e-reporting platforms and systems, it was proposed to update the days required for the completion of a preliminary report within 3 days and final report within 14 days of the completion of a trip in paragraph 7(c).	To amend the paragraph 7(c) so that it reads as follows: <i>7(c) provide to the licensing member on the prescribed form:</i> (i) a preliminary report within 3 days of the completion of a trip; and (ii) a final report within 14 days of the completion of a trip.	This proposed amendment does have implication on Members. Members may change their requirement for when an operator is required to provide a preliminary and final report from the completion of a trip. Majority of the provisions in existing national laws provide authority for the Minister/Director to impose such additional conditions into their licence.
	7. There is a need to rearrange the provisions relating to the requirement for observer, observer safety and observer coverage (paragraph 9, 9A and 10) and to change title of paragraph 9 to “Duties to Observer”.	To rearrange Paragraph 9, 9A and 10, and to change title to paragraph 9 to “Duties to Observer” as follows: <i>9. Observer Coverage;</i> <i>10. Observer Safety; and</i> <i>11. Duties to Observer.</i>	These proposed amendments do not have any implication on Members, as the changes made were editorial and format changes.
	8. The footnote in paragraph 9A(c) is removed and inserted as a new paragraph 10(d).	To insert a new subparagraph 10 (d) as follows: <i>10 (d) The operator shall consult with the observer service provider, and the replacement and transfer of the observer shall only take place with the consent of the observer service provider. At the direction of the observer service provider or licensing authority, the vessel may be ordered back to port.</i>	This proposed amendment does have any implication on Members, as the changes now require the inclusion of licensing authority for this provisions. It may require changes to national fisheries law or licence conditions.
	9. Propose changes to paragraph 15(a) to reflect that the VMS is	To amend paragraph 15(a) (now paragraph 16(a)) as follows:	This proposed amendment do not have any implication

	implemented in accordance with the procedure for the FFA Vessel Register in Annex 4.	<i>16 (a) The vessel monitoring system shall be implemented in accordance with the procedures for the FFA Vessel Register as set out in Annex 4.</i>	on Members, as the changes made are editorial changes.
	10. Noting the discussion in the POI meeting last year, there is a proposal to include the collection of POI related information at the vessel registry stage and to include requirement in paragraph 15 and related provisions in the Annexes.	To insert a new subparagraph as a new 16(b), new data fields in Annex 1 and new subparagraph 2.2 in Annex 4 as follows: <i>16(b) The operator shall provide full details and appropriate documentation of ownership (including beneficial ownership; directors; and where applicable de facto and shadow directors) of a fishing company and fishing vessel.</i> Annex 1: <i>23. Name of owner (if a company, name of directors, and where applicable, de factor directors and shadow directors)</i> <i>24. Name of beneficial owner</i> Annex 4: <i>2.2. All applications for registrations shall include full details and appropriate documentation of owners (including beneficial ownership, directors; and where applicable de facto and shadow directors) of a fishing company and fishing vessel.</i>	These proposed amendments to 16(b) and subparagraph 2.2 in Annex 4 do not have direct implications on Members, as the proposed changes are required for the FFA Vessel Register that is managed by the Secretariat. However, this proposed amendment to Annex 1, does pose some implication on Members. It requires Members to attain the two additional minimum vessel data fields from an operator. This may mean that Member would have to amend their licence application requirements to include name of directors and beneficial owner.
	Additional amendments from POI and MCSWG23 in 2020		This proposed amendment does not have any implication

	11. Moving “CCAMLR IUU List” before “Any other RFMO IUU List” in subparagraph 2.5 of Annex 4.	To amend new subparagraph 2.6 in Annex 4 as follows: 2.6. <i>The Director-General shall review IUU Vessel Lists as a background check on each vessel that is the subject of an application for registration. An application for registrations from any fishing vessel which is listed in any of the following IUU lists shall be rejected:</i> (a) WCPFC IUU list (www.wcpfc.int) (b) IATTC IUU list (www.iattc.org); (c) IOTC IUU list (www.iotc.org); (d) ICCAT IUU list (www.iccat.int); (e) SPRFMO IUU list (https://www.sprfmo.int/); (f) CCSBT IUU List (https://www.ccsbt.org/); (g) CCAMLR IUU List (https://www.ccamlr.org/); and (h) Any other RFMO IUU list.	on Members, as the changes made are editorial and format changes.
	12. To provide clarity on the use of the term “serious offence” in paragraph 5.2 of Annex 4 to include “serious violation” in Article 21.11 of UN Fish Stock Agreement.	To add a new ending paragraph at the end of subparagraph 5.2 in Annex 4 as follow: <i>In this paragraph, the reference to “serious offence” includes reference to “serious violation” in article 21.11 of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish</i>	This proposed amendment does not have any implication on Members, as the changes made provides clarity on the use of the term “serious offence” in paragraph 5 of Annex 4.

		<i>Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.</i>	
2nd Observer Insurance Workshop, March 2021	13. The meeting identified a need to define the term “full insurance coverage” in paragraph 1- Definition , to include the minimum standard for the best practices for an observer insurance policy as discussed in the meeting.	To insert a new definition in paragraph 1 for the term “full insurance”, as follows: <i>“full insurance coverage” means insurance that covers door to door protection (based on 5 years of average Observer wages for i, ii and iii) for the following risks:</i> <i>i. Injury;</i> <i>ii. Illness;</i> <i>iii. Death;</i> <i>iv. Loss of belongings; and</i> <i>v. Damage or injury caused by the observer.</i>	This proposed amendment will have implication on Members. It will require some form of legislative change to national fisheries law or licence conditions to incorporate a definition for “full insurance coverage”.



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Attachment 5

Draft FFA Regional CDS Framework

The Regional Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Framework Overview	Rationale
The Regional Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Framework is aspirational in nature and provides guidance to FFA Members in developing and implementing new CDS or harmonising or reviewing existing CDS at national, sub-regional and regional levels for Pacific caught tuna. The Framework takes into consideration internationally accepted principles and guidance as well as regional priorities and needs. The Framework seeks to ensure that CDS development and implementation is effective, consistent and interoperable.	This Framework has been developed in response to the Catch Documentation and Enhancing Compliance in Pacific Tuna Fisheries (CDEC) Activity. The CDEC Activity was developed to support FFA Members continued efforts to develop and implement CDS at national sub-regional and regional levels. The CDEC Activity highlights that CDS is to be “electronically based” and it is envisaged that an electronic platform, or an e-CDS, will be developed to support the CDS. The term e-CDS refers to the platform by which CDS is delivered rather than the system itself. So, e-CDS is just a component through which a CDS is supported whereas the term CDS captures the broad meaning of the entire system that is being developed. To this end, CDS has been used here and throughout the Framework. However, wherever CDS is referred to in the framework, it should be remembered that this is envisaged to be delivered through an electronic platform.

Definitions:

CDS Term	Definition	Rationale
Catch Documentation Scheme	CDS is a system that traces fish and fishery products through the supply chain.	FFA Members have identified different regional and national fisheries management priorities to which CDS can add value. Traceability is recognised as a fundamental aspect of CDS and through which much of this value can be derived. Therefore, the definition of CDS focuses on the traceability of fish and fishery products. This Framework is kept high level due to the different purposes the Framework may serve in the development and implementation of the CDS in the FFA membership.
Catch certificate	An official electronic or physical document that is validated by a certified validator and provides accurate and verifiable information regarding fish and fishery products throughout the supply chain. The catch certificate validates the legality of harvest activities and records the composition and quantities of certified catch entering the supply chain at the initial Critical Tracking Event. A catch certificate is identified by a unique identifier that is a sequence of digits and/or characters.	This definition is consistent with the internationally accepted understanding of CDS, the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes and the Draft Standard Catch Documentation Scheme of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission developed by FFA. While the CDS aspires to be “electronically based” and would therefore produce an electronic catch certificate, the certification of catch through a certificate, be it electronic or otherwise, is a core element of CDS that needs to be understood and consistently applied in the Pacific.

Critical Tracking Event (CTE)	Events or points where fish or fishery product is moved between premises or is transformed, or which is determined to be a point where data capture is necessary to maintain traceability.	This definition is consistent with the international accepted understanding of CDS and traceability ² .
Electronic CDS (e-CDS)	A web-based platform that supports the creation, validation, verification, storage and dissemination of catch and trade certificates and other e-CDS data and information.	The CDEC Activity highlights that the CDS is to be “electronically based” and it is envisaged that an electronic platform, or an e-CDS, will be developed to support the CDS.
Landing	The initial movement of fish from a vessel to a port or free-trade zone ³ , even if subsequently transferred to another vessel. The offload or transfer in port of fish from a vessel to a container is a landing.	Consistent with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes.
Supply chain	A sequence of processes involved in the production and distribution of fish from catch to the point of import in the end market, including events such as landing, transshipments, re-export, processing, and transport.	Consistent with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes.
Traceability	The ability to identify and follow the movement of a fish or fishery products through all stages of capture, production, processing and distribution by means of recorded identifications.	This definition is adapted from the traceability definition included in the FAO Food Traceability Guidance.

² The term Critical Tracking Event Project to Develop an Interoperable Seafood Traceability Technology Architecture: Issues Brief: Tejas Bhatt, Chris Cusack, Benjamin Dent, Martin Gooch, Dick Jones, Rosetta Newsome, Jennie Stitzinger, Gil Sylvia and Jianrong Zhang. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1541-4337.12187>

³ The United Nations Environment Programme defines Free Trade Zones (FTZ), as specifically defined areas within a country where goods may be imported/landed, handled, processed, assembled, manufactured or reconfigured, and re-exported with the companies deriving a wide range of benefits, often through relaxed regulations, limited taxes and/or reduced oversight. http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/information/mmcfiles/7745-e-Factsheet_FreeTradeZonesandtradeinODS_2015.pdf

Trade certificate	An official electronic or physical document that is validated by a certified validator at each Critical Tracking Event and provides accurate and verifiable information regarding CTEs that occur after the completion of a catch certificate as fish and fishery products move through the supply chain. A trade certificate is identified by a unique identifier that is a sequence of digits and/or characters and is directly linked to a catch certificate that verifies the legality of harvest activities and records the composition and quantities of certified catch entering the supply chain.	This definition is consistent with the international accepted understanding of CDS and the Draft Standard Catch Documentation Scheme of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission developed by FFA While the CDS aspires to be “electronically based” and would therefore produce an electronic export certificate, the certification of catch through a certificate, be it electronic or otherwise, is a core element of CDS that needs to be understood and consistently applied in the Pacific.
Transshipment	Means the transfer of fish that have not previously been landed, from one vessel directly to another, at sea or in port.	Consistent with FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes.
Validation	The act of confirming the accuracy and truth of data and information recorded in a catch certificate or a trade certificate. This process is completed by the certified validator at each CTE and confirms the legality and quantity of product and any other minimum data requirements relating to fishery products included in catch certificates and trade certificates.	This definition was discussed, clarified and agreed to at the CDS workshop 9-11 March 2021
Verification	The act of examining and confirming a recorded weight and composition of fish and fishery products at any critical tracking event by an authorized government official, other authorized individual, or through any other approved means (including electronic monitoring).	

Regional CDS Framework Core Elements:

Key CDS Element	Description	Rationale
Scope	This framework applies to the development of CDS for Pacific tuna that are: ● caught in FFA Member's waters; and/or ● caught by FFA Member's flagged vessels; and/or ● transhipped and/or landed in FFA Members' territories or waters; and/or ● traded by FFA Members. FFA members may also apply CDS to: ● tuna traded and obtained from catches outside of Pacific waters; and/or ● non-tuna species. at their own discretion, and in line with national and international laws. FFA members may also pursue development of CDS in the WCPFC context that would also apply to tuna caught on the high seas and other EEZs within the WCPFC Convention Area.	The CDEC Activity provides funding for CDS that applies to Pacific caught tuna. To be effective in meeting its objective, CDS needs to have the broadest application within a relevant fishery as possible. The scope documents the fishing areas and activities over which FFA Members have direct influence. In preventing unnecessary barriers to trade, the Scope is not limiting but considers tuna traded by FFA members obtained from catches caught in waters outside of Western and Central Pacific Fisheries waters. Participants at the CDEC Workshop in March 2021 raised that FFA Members may want to apply CDS to other non-Tuna species and this has been included in the scope to reflect this.
Objective	CDS has the primary objectives to ensure the legality of Pacific caught tuna and supporting validity and traceability of this catch through the supply chain, from the point of harvest through to the final market.	By ensuring the legality of catch and providing traceability of catch, several additional benefits are achieved, including preventing market access

	FFA Members may define secondary objectives to meet national needs.	to tuna caught by illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) means. CDS can provide important data and information to strengthen fisheries management regimes, improve compliance and support market access. CDS relies on an effective fisheries management regime and on the implementation of a range of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures, particularly vessel licencing and port State measures (PSM).
No unnecessary or unlawful barriers to trade.	CDS should not create unnecessary barriers to trade and must be developed in conformity with relevant provisions under international law, including in accordance with applicable World Trade Organisation agreements. In particular, the least trade-restrictive measures to achieve the above objective must be developed and applied on a non-discriminatory basis. The CDS needs to be designed to minimise the burden on those to which it applies.	CDS must be developed in conformity with relevant provisions under international law, including the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements.
Data Elements	The core data elements for CDS are captured in catch certificates and trade certificates. Catch certificates are issued at, or before, the first point of unloading. Core data elements for a catch certificate include: • unique and secure identification of catch certificate and other CDS documentation; • information on catch and landing including: ○ fishing vessel details (vessel name, flag unique identifier etc);	To ensure that the Framework has value and can provide substantive guidance to FFA Members in developing and implementing new CDS, essential data elements needed to be specified. These data elements are consistent with the international accepted requirements of CDS, the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes and the Draft Standard

	○ species composition; ○ product type; ○ estimated and verified landed weight of catch; ○ fishing trip details (start of trip and end of trip); ○ location/s where catch was taken; ○ transshipment (at sea or in port, as appropriate including donor and receiving vessel, area, date); and ○ landing details. ● details of the authority that issues the catch certificate, e.g., vessel master; and ● details of the authority/ies that validate the information included in a catch certificate. Information relating to the fishing vessel details, species composition, estimated and verified landed weight of catch, catch area and landing details are provided by the vessel master or their representative by completing a catch certificate. Either directly into an electronic platform or through the flag State. The information relating to the fishing vessel details, species composition, estimated and verified landed weight of catch, catch area and landing details may be provided by the vessel master or their representative in the catch certificate which must be presented to be validated by the certified validator of the port State, coastal State or flag State or a combination of the three at the point of unloading. Trade certificates are issued each time fish are moved from one state to another. Trade certificates may be issued by the port State or market State. Trade certificates must be linked to the relevant catch certificate and systems and/or processes put in place that prohibit the	Catch Documentation Scheme of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission developed by FFA. These data elements reflect CTEs identified from the point of unloading (landing or transshipment) throughout the trade cycle and are the minimum required for CDS to meet its stated objectives. These data elements must be implemented in a manner that is consistent with existing data standards developed and agreed by the Tuna Fishery Data Collection Committee.
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	exportation of fish in greater quantities to what was validated as landed in a catch certificate. Core data elements for trade certificates include: ● description of exported product(s) (product type, weight); ● exporter details; ● importer details; ● transport details (Bill of Lading, waybill); ● direct linkage to originating catch certificate; and ● details of the authority validating the trade certificate.	
Electronically based	CDS should be electronically based (e-CDS) and use a web-based platform that supports the creation, validation, verification, storage and dissemination of catch and trade certificates and other CDS data and information. e-CDS provides the mechanism by which States issue, complete, validate, verify, store and disseminate catch and trade certificates. e-CDS must provide for secure access and use for authorised users and have changed auditing functionality for all steps highlighted above. e-CDS may be integrated with other electronic Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) platforms including records of fishing vessels and VMS. e-CDS should be simple and user friendly and only contain verifiable information that is relevant, necessary and readily available. Individual and unique sign on details should be assigned to all users and the e-CDS must capture the meta-data associated with any changes to data and information.	The CDEC Activity highlights that CDS is to be “electronically based” and it is envisaged that an electronic platform, or an e-CDS, will be developed to support the CDS. This is consistent with the increased development and deployment of electronic tools to support fisheries management and MCS in the Pacific, including electronic monitoring and reporting. CDS is only truly effective when it uses e-CDS. e-CDS provides accurate, verifiable data and information in a timely and cost-effective manner. Without this, CDS becomes cumbersome and administratively burdensome and suffers significant loopholes that can be exploited to get IUU derived fish and fishery products into the market.

	Standards and processes for the exchange of data and information are necessary to support the integration of information into e-CDS, and to enable compatibility between different CDS. e-CDS should actively push data to e-CDS from e-reporting systems as soon as they are available and cleared for use, to ensure timely data provision from third party tools into e-CDS. Data transfer between systems should be in JSON or XSD format and adhere to any regionally defined data standards.	CDS relies on significant cooperation, coordination and information exchange between states and this can only be achieved through e-CDS. The use of e-CDS improves the security around CDS processes and reduces the risk of falsification. Data transfer is required in the JSON and XSD data formats, which are accepted industry standards and ensure compatibility with existing regional systems.
Regional CDS	Regional tools, including a regional e-CDS, will be developed under the Catch Documentation and Enhancing Compliance in Pacific Tuna Fisheries (CDEC) Activity to support national and sub-regional implementation of CDS. Once developed, the regional e-CDS will be available to FFA Members on a voluntary or compulsory basis depending on the scope of an agreed CDS for a particular fishery	It is important that FFA and other regional agencies support FFA Members in their national CDS development aspirations. Developing a viable e-CDS is a key priority to overcome a range of barriers to national implementation where FFA Members do not have the capacity or resources to develop their own individual e-CDS. The development of a regional e-CDS is consistent with existing and planned national and sub-regional CDS. It will be available for FFA Members on a voluntary basis and support those members who do not have access to sub-regional systems or the national capacity to develop their own systems.

		It is recognised that the development of a regional e-CDS will add weight to encourage voluntary implementation by other States outside of the FFA membership through the presentation of a shared Pacific position on CDS.
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Regional CDS Development Guidance:

Key Considerations for CDS Development	Guidance	Rationale
Understanding the supply-chain for fish and fishery products	The development of CDS should be based on a firm understanding of relevant supply-chain events. This should include all supply-chain steps from harvest until the first export from the Pacific region or, for fish that is transhipped but not landed in the Pacific region, the point of first landing of fish or fishery product⁴. This understanding should include the identification of critical tracking events (CTE) where fish or fishery product is moved, altered, processed, combined or split, the environment in which the event occurs and the data available at each of these events.	The development of effective CDS requires the identification of the critical tracking events (CTE). The understanding of the supply chain includes the data that is captured at these CTE. In order to identify these CTE and the data captured, it is important to have a firm understanding of the supply chain events from harvest through the domestic supply chain and to the point of export. The focus is on the point of first export from the Pacific region, as this where FFA Members have direct influence over what occurs. However, for products transhipped but not landed in FFA Member's jurisdiction, the focus for supply chain understanding needs to be extended to the point of first landing at which point accurate species composition and weights can be obtained.

⁴ It is currently only at the point of landing that an accurate species composition and weight can be obtained for transhipped catch in most circumstances.

Identifying the data required.	Following the identification of the CTE, the environment in which the events occur, and the data captured at these events, it is important to identify the data that is required to be captured at each event in order to be able to achieve the objectives of the CDS. If this information is not currently captured at a specific event, then processes will need to be developed to allow this information to be captured to support the CDS. These processes will need to accommodate the environment in which the event takes place and the best information available at this event point. This understanding informs the data elements and validation and verification processes of catch and trade certificates and provides the ability to trace the fish and fishery product from harvest through the supply chain.	This step involves identifying the data that is required to ensure that your CDS delivers on the established objectives. It is important to consider the environment in which the event occurs and the information available at that time as these factors will both inform the type of information that can be collected and the best time the information should be collected on the preferred platform for receiving CDS information. It is important that there is a clear understanding of the relationship between CTE and the data elements and validation and verification processes of catch and trade certificates. This is linked to the role states and industry play in the issuance and completion of catch and trade certificates.
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Role of States	The roles and responsibilities of States (including port, flag, coastal, processing, market and export), and sub-regional and regional organisations as appropriate, should be identified and described. The notification process to enable the validation of catch or portion of catch should be aligned with port State measures (PSM) or transshipment notification processes as appropriate. Coastal States should have the primary role in the process of validating catch certificates for catch taken or transhipped in areas under their sovereign control or over which they have sovereign rights. This validation should provide assurance that the catches have been taken legally or transhipped in compliance with their national laws and regional and international obligations. Flag States may validate that catches have been taken legally by their flagged vessels in compliance with flag, coastal and port State laws and regional and international obligations. Port States should implement processes to verify all or a portion of catch landed or transhipped in their ports in compliance with their national laws and regional and international obligations. Any State may object to the validation of the catch certificate. Any State may authorise a regional or sub-regional organisation to confirm details included in a catch certificate on their behalf, including but not limited to authorisation status, confirmation of VMS reporting and vessel licence status. However, this does not absolve the State of any of their obligations under international law. FFA Members must cooperate with processing and market States to ensure and validate the accuracy of information in catch certificates. Where the processing or marketing State is an FFA Member this can be a required element. Where the processing or marketing State is	It is intended that States cooperate to certify catch. An effective CDS relies on this principle and e-CDS should be developed in a way that facilitates this in a timely, efficient and transparent manner. Processes should be developed that build on PSM processes (advanced request to enter port) and/or transshipment requests. The primary role of coastal States in validating catch certificates is included in recognition that coastal States have the primary responsibility for ensuring that fishing activities undertaken in areas under their sovereign control, or over which they have sovereign rights, are sustainable and comply with relevant national, regional and international obligations, including having the primary responsibility for taking the necessary measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in their EEZs. The coastal State involvement in certification will need to consider the level of resourcing available. This initially may need to occur through notification to the coastal State of an intended landing and providing the coastal State with the ability to object to the legality of catches in their EEZ, rather than a certification of every catch landed. As coastal States adapt to the processes required this can potentially move to certification of catch.
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	outside of the FFA membership, cooperation will need to be encouraged and supported on a voluntary basis.	FFA Members need to work collaboratively at both sub-regional and regional level, to encourage voluntary application of CDS by market and processing States outside of the FFA membership.
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Role of industry	The roles and responsibilities of industry should be identified and described. This includes all industry participants involved in all harvest, transshipment, processing, transport and export activities of fish and fishery products that have been identified as a CTE. It should be mandatory for industry participants to input the required information into the CDS (preferably through electronic capture) to meet the CDS objectives. The CDS should encourage industry involvement by being user friendly and allowing efficient data and information capture through electronic means. The environment in which CTE's occur should be considered and influence the type and timing of information required to be entered into e-CDS.	It is important that there is an understanding of industry participants that will be contributing information to CDS. Mandatory information will need to be provided by industry and it is important that this is facilitated and supported. This will help to ensure that CDS is user friendly and encourages and supports ongoing industry participation.
Minimum MCS needs and integration with port State measures (PSM)	CDS is underpinned by the development and deployment of effective MCS responses to support the validation and verification of CDS data and information. Existing MCS systems and processes need to be integrated with CDS to the greatest degree possible and opportunities for the development of automated processes should be pursued. Robust PSM, consistent with the Regional PSM Framework, must be developed and implemented as a foundation for the development and implementation of CDS. Processes should be developed to ensure that there is the appropriate level of national-level cooperation and coordination of e-CDS related activities.	The types of MCS responses deployed will depend on the State roles that FFA Members perform (flag, coastal, port, processing, market and export). It is important that existing MCS tools, such as VMS and records of fishing vessels, are integrated with the CDS and processes should be developed to ensure that this information can be automatically available for CDS certification purposes.

	CDS validation and verification processes should also be integrated with the PSM IUU/compliance risk assessment process.	Effective PSM processes are vital to the development of CDS. Emphasise on the importance of the linkages and dependency of a working CDS on strengthened PSM.
Policy and legal frameworks	FFA Members should define key CDS policy decisions in national policy. This national policy will inform development of appropriate national legal frameworks to support CDS. The elements of this Framework provide guidance on what must be included in a national legal framework, through fisheries law, regulations, licencing conditions or other national instruments as appropriate. National law should recognise cross-sectorial issues and the role of industry and relevant government agencies and provide a mechanism for formal cooperation and information exchange between relevant agencies and industry. The policy and legal framework should support mechanisms for formal cooperation and information exchange between relevant States. This should include supporting the voluntary implementation by non-FFA Members.	Key policy decisions need to be made regarding CDS and these must be reflected in national policy, such as national tuna management and/or development plans, PSM implementation strategies and national MCS strategies. The policy and legal frameworks developed need to support and reflect the State roles (flag, port, market, export) that each FFA Member performs. National CDS law should be consistent with legislation enabling PSM activities and processes and build on the cross-sectoral developments achieved under PSM implementation. The strong focus on cooperation and information exchange recognises the regional nature of fisheries

		in the Pacific and the collaborative management approach taken by FFA Members.
Sustainability of CDS	The development and implementation of CDS must take into consideration available resources including IT capacity and human resources. CDS must be sufficiently resourced to ensure its effective implementation. A phased approach to CDS development implementation may be appropriate and support the development of sufficient resources in a stepwise manner. Cost-recovery options should be explored to support CDS operation.	It is important that the CDS development plan considers the resources available to build and support the system. It is important that CDS is sufficiently resourced to ensure that it can achieve its objectives. It is recognised that an effective CDS and the assurance that it can provide can be used as an effective value add for fish and fishery products. CDS can also be costly and complex to build and maintain so it is important that cost recovery mechanisms are explored to help support the CDS.

FOR FFA MCSWG PARTICIPANTS EYES ONLY

Regional CDS Implementation Guidance:

Key Considerations for CDS Implementation	Guidance	Rationale
Voluntary Implementation of CDS	Mechanisms to promote and encourage the voluntary implementation of CDS, by processing and market states should be developed. Mechanisms may include strategic plans, Standards Operating Procedures (SOPs), Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs). These mechanisms should be developed by FFA Members collectively to ensure the greatest influence can be exerted on processing and market states. These mechanisms must be adequately resourced and include processes for the monitoring, review and evaluation of their effectiveness.	CDS is most effective when it is adopted by all states that have a role in CTEs including processing and market states. This Framework covers the fishing areas and activities over which FFA Members have direct influence and it is recognised that this influence does not extend to market or processing states. Improved cooperation and information exchange with market or processing states strengthens CDS and can provide increased verification/validation of CDS data and information as fish moves through the supply chain.
Governance	Formal and effective oversight must be established for CDS. The structure for this will be defined by the nature of CDS developed (national, sub-regional or regional).	The governance structures established should reflect the collaborative and cooperative approach to CDS being taken between agencies nationally and

	It is important that there is ongoing user support, to both industry and State users, to ensure that CDS remains effective and to minimise user generated data and information issues. Ongoing opportunities for the development of CDS should be advanced. This includes the continued integration of new technologies to ensure CDS remains fit for purpose and efficient in achieving its objectives.	between FFA Members sub-regionally and regionally. Governance should ensure that systems and processes continue to support CDS to meet its stated objectives. CDS needs to develop as technology and requirements change.
Monitoring, review and evaluation	A process should be developed to monitor, review and evaluate the performance of CDS against its objectives. This process should be iterative and develop as CDS develops. These specific requirements for monitoring, review and evaluation will also depend on the nature of CDS developed (national, sub-regional or regional). Key elements of review and evaluation should be monitoring the effectiveness of CDS in certifying legally taken catch, the ease of tracing fish through the supply chain, the voluntary implementation by other States (which improves traceability) and the feedback from industry on the efficiency and effectiveness of CDS processes.	The monitoring, review and evaluation will help determine the continued ability of CDS to meet its objectives and determine where and when modifications and interventions are required. The monitoring, review and evaluation processes need to develop as CDS develops in the region and should be focussed primarily on the achievement of the objectives and the ease of use.

Training and capacity development	Recognised and consistent training should be developed and deployed to ensure that adequate levels of capacity and competency are in place to support the effective implementation and operation of CDS. This will require the development of increased data analysis capability within fisheries administrations and this capacity should be developed early. The training should support consistent application of validation and verification processes across the entire CDS capability. The processes and staff that support the validation and verification of information, both within CDS and in supporting activities (such as vessel inspections), will require targeted and equivalent training on an ongoing basis. Training should also be provided to other agencies and stakeholders to ensure appropriate awareness of CDS and supporting processes.	The development of CDS will require the development of new skills and capacity within FFA member State's fisheries administrations. It is important that CDS is supported by sufficient capacity to ensure the achievement of the stated CDS objectives. The training will need to be deployed across all CDS users and ensure consistent and harmonious implementation of processes supporting CDS across different agencies, industry and States.
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FFA

Attachment 6

24MCSWG Cleared Outcomes.

**PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY
24th MCS WORKING GROUP VIRTUAL MEETING
Tuesday 23 – 26 March 2021**

24MCSWG AGREED OUTCOMES.

1. Representatives from FFA members and Observers participated in the virtual 24MCSWG meeting hosted by the FFA Secretariat. Staff from the FFA Secretariat provided support to the meeting.
2. Shown below are the decisions from the Meeting.

Agenda Item 3 - Review of 23MCSWG and FFC Outcomes

3. The Meeting noted the status of the Secretariat's work in implementing the outcomes of 23MCSWG and FFC114.

Agenda Item 4 - COVID19 Impacts on FFA MCS Tools and Intersessional Decisions.

4. The Meeting:
 - i. Noted the impact of COVID-19 on MCS tools and the need for ongoing review of MCS processes to adapt to the current situation; and
 - ii. Encouraged FFA Members to continue utilising services provided by the Secretariat to assist members respond and recover from the impact of the pandemic.

Agenda Item 5 - RMCSS Implementation update

5. The Meeting:
 - i. Noted the progress on the second year of the implementation of the RMCSS; and
 - ii. Encouraged FFA Members to actively participate in future RMCSS surveys noting its importance to assess the overall implementation of the RMCSS

Agenda Item 6 - IUU Quantification Study update

6. The Meeting:

- i. Noted progress on the 2020 IUU Quantification Study;
- ii. Undertook to ensure all outstanding member questionnaires for the study are completed and returned to the project team; and
- iii. Noted the intention to provide the final report of the Study to FFC 118 in May.

Agenda Item 7 - Regional Observer Coordinators Workshop (ROCW21) Outcomes

7. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the ROCW21 outcome and recommendations;
- ii. Requested that FFA and SPC work with key partners and relevant agencies to ensure the observers COVID-19 mitigation protocol is strengthened;
- iii. Recommended that FFC task the Secretariat to work with partners to implement the observer livelihood & Safety study recommendations; and
- iv. Recommended that FFC task the Secretariat to review the observer and PIRFO trainers pay rates

Agenda Item 8 - Observer redeployment plan (Implementation plan of Observer Livelihood and Safety Study)

8. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the progress and challenges faced by Members in redeploying observers; and
- ii. Considered the draft observer redeployment plan (**Attachment 1**) noting the importance of COVID testing and vaccination of observers as referred to in the COVID-19 Regional Fisheries Protocols.

Agenda Item 9 - Observer Insurance Minimum Standards Workshop outcome

9. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the outcomes from the Observer Insurance Minimum Standards Workshop; and
- ii. Recommended that the outcomes are provided to FFC118 for further consideration and endorsement.

Agenda Item 10 - Data Collection Committee (DCC) EM Data standards

10. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the report from DCC-Nov-2020;
- ii. Supported the Draft DCC Longline EM minimum data field standards (version DCC-NOV-2020), in particular, the updated structure and table for the EM longline potential Compliance Events, including Compliance CATEGORIES and EVENTS reference codes table, provided;
- iii. Encouraged members to work with service providers to test the viability of the draft EM longline data fields, in particular the compliance related data fields.

Agenda Item 11 - Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring update

11. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the status of implementation of electronic reporting and electronic monitoring;
- ii. Tasked the Secretariat to work with members, SPC and partners to identify the work require to implement the FFC114 decision regarding having ER for fishing vessels operating within members' EEZs and the high seas by 2022 (noting the need to cater for special circumstances of small domestic vessels operating solely within EEZs);
- iii. Encouraged Members to seek assistance from SPC, FFA and PNAO on resources and training which may be available to support meeting the 2022 deadline for ER.
- iv. Encouraged Members to seek assistance from the Secretariat, where relevant, particularly with reviewing of legislations, in order to implement ER and EM.
- v. Encouraged Members to actively engage in the WCPFC ERandEM Working Group.

Agenda Item 12 - Persons of Interest Initiative Update

12. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the paper and the draft POI Guidelines; and
- ii. Considered future work required for the POI initiative.

Agenda Item 13 - COVID19 Protocols Regional Workshop Outcome

13. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the outcome of the Protocol Regional Workshop and ongoing review by the Fisheries COVID-19 Steering Committee;
- ii. Encouraged Members to incorporate relevant COVID-19 mitigation measures into National SOE legislation, procedures, and license conditions of access;
- iii. Encouraged Members to consider challenges that impacted the effectiveness of MCS responses such as the data sharing arrangements and national agency coordination; and
- iv. Encouraged Members to seek related assistance from the FFA including the implementation of the Protocols and national stakeholder awareness workshop.

Agenda Item 14 - Regional Information Management System (RIMS) and IMS Updates

14. The Meeting noted the update on IMS Security assessment and investment in technology support to Members.

Agenda Item 15 - FFA ISMS Policy Review update

15. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the update on the review of the FFA ISMS Policy; and
- ii. Tasked the Secretariat to provide the annual report to Members on the operational aspect of the FFA ISMS, and to explore the possibility of an integrated approach with regards to PNA and FFA information systems.

Agenda Item 16 - RFSC Surveillance Operations and COVID-19 Response

16. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the future focus for OP365 and regional operations for 2021; and
- ii. Supported the proposed Operation “OPCOVID” under the Operation 365 framework to support Member State of Emergency (SOE) requirements for COVID-19 risk assessments of WCPFC/FFA registered vessels operating on Member waters and ports.

Agenda Item 17 - Aerial Surveillance Program update

17. The meeting took as read the update on the PMSP/FFA Aerial Surveillance Program.

Agenda Item 18 - QUADs Update

18. The meeting took as read the update on the QUADS update.

Agenda Item 19 - NTSA and NTIS update

19. The meeting took as read the update on the NTSA and NTIS.

Agenda Item 20 - HMTCs Update Information

20. The Meeting:

- i. Reviewed the proposed amendments to the HMTCs;
- ii. considered any leading standards that can be included into the HMTCs;
- iii. noted the proposed amendments (**Attachment 2**) and provide feedback to the Secretariat prior to FFC118;
- iv. Tasked the Secretariat to provide a report to clarify issues relating to the legal foundation, scope and application of the HMTCs to FFC118.

Agenda Item 21(a) - MCS Data Analysis Guideline

21. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the development of the MCS Data Analysis Guidelines.
- ii. Recommended the new Guidelines will be made available on RIMF after it has been presented to MCSWG24.

- iii. Encouraged Members to use the MCS Data Analysis Guidelines to inform the development of national data analysis capacity and to seek the support of the Secretariat in the application of the guidelines where needed.
- iv. Tasked the Secretariat to use the MCS Data Analysis Guidelines to inform the development of concise, focussed job aids to support the development of the data analysis capacity within FFA Members.

Agenda Item 21 (b) - FFA Boarding Inspection Guidelines

22. Members took as read the update on the implementation of the FFA Boarding Inspection Guidelines.

Agenda Item 22 - Collaboration with Emerging Technology providers

23. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the progress of Secretariat engagement with emerging technologies service providers and new partners;
- ii. Noted the potential of integrating machine learning and automated processes into FFA's regional MCS systems, and support the FFA Secretariat's dedicated efforts in this area;
- iii. Tasked the Secretariat to work with Members and partners to develop a technology engagement policy to guide the Secretariat's engagement with emerging technology providers to consider factors including:
 - the integration of these technologies with regional and national systems;
 - data security and ownership issues, including intellectual property rights that result from any developments
 - consistent assessment and monitoring of the progress of technology trials and implementation;
 - gaps and priorities; and
 - available and necessary resources

Agenda Item 23 - Maritime Boundaries update

24. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the status and progress of work regarding maritime boundaries and ongoing collaboration between FFA and SPC GEM;

- ii. Noted the assistance available to members to meet their national efforts in negotiations and delineations of their maritime boundaries.

Agenda Item 24 - FFA Vessel Register and VMS Update

25. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the operations of the FFA Vessel Register;
- ii. Noted the update from the Secretariat on the FFC tasking to undertake a study on the true cost of operating the FFA Vessel Register;
- iii. Noted the status of the FFA VMS Operations; and
- iv. Tasked the Secretariat to phase out the Data Network ID (DNID) based Inmarsat-C units by providing the existing units to be used by the vessel operators for 1 year, subject to consultation with the PNAO.

Agenda Item 25 - MCS Data Sharing

26. The Meeting:

- i. Encouraged Members to share fisheries data and information useful for MCS purposes widely using the existing data sharing frameworks;
- ii. Tasked the Secretariat to compile a list of MCS data and information types for Members consideration at the annual MCSWG meetings;
- iii. Encouraged Members to seek the Secretariat's assistance in developing national Information Security policies;
- iv. Agreed that Members consider sharing sanitised MCS data and information to support and progress pilot trials of emerging technologies; and
- v. Noted that advances in technologies have implications on the current approaches to sharing fisheries data and information.

Agenda Item 26 - CDS Workshop outcome

27. The Meeting:

- i. Noted the CDECW1 outcomes and recommendations;

- ii. Supported tasking for the Secretariat to action, as outlined in the CDECW1 outcomes, in line with the CDEC project implementation; and
- iii. Recommended the FFA Regional CDS Framework (**Attachment 3**) be forwarded to FFC118 with changes to reflect the discussions in relation to the scope and application of the Framework.

Agenda Item 27 - Update on Regional Port State Measures Framework

28. The meeting noted the update on the Port States Measures Framework.

Agenda Item 28 - FFA Regional MCS capacity building and training

29. The Meeting:

- i. Supported enrolment in, and the development of accredited courses, in the vocational education sector;
- ii. Supported the regionally designed fisheries qualifications by including these certificates as desirable education for employment; and
- iii. Agreed to provide time, resources and mentoring support to students to enable and motivate them to secure a qualification.

Agenda Item 29 - NZ MPI Te Patui MCS Training update

30. The Meeting noted the update on the NZ MPI Te Patui MCS Training Program.

Agenda Item 30 - NPOA IUU

31. The meeting took as read the NPOA IUU Update

Agenda Item 31 - MARPOL CMM implementation study update report

32. The meeting took as read the MARPOL CMM implementation

Agenda Item 32 - Regional Security & Maritime Domain Awareness

33. The meeting took as read the update on Regional Security & Maritime Domain Awareness.

Agenda Item 33 - MCSWG Observer Updates IMCSN Information Paper

34. The meeting took as read the IMCSN update.

Agenda Item 34 - WCPFC/TCC Priorities (Closed Session)

35. Members discussed this Item on the WCPFC/TCC Priorities in closed session.

Agenda Item 35 - Clearing of Records and Outcomes

36. The Meeting cleared the 24MCSWG Outcomes and agreed to clear the records offline.