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Sent: Friday, 4 March 2016 7:28 a.m.
To: Johanne Fischer; Ad Corten (adcorten@gmail.com); Alberto Diaz Alfaro; Alexander Glubokov ; Andrew Wright ; Gang Li; George Day ; Jianye Tang; Jorgen Palmbak ; Justin Clement; Justine Gilbert; Karin Mundnich; Kris Ramm; Luis Molledo; Luis Rubén Mariátegui Rosales; Michael Tossato; Miguel Niquen; Omar Ricardo Ríos Bravo Rueda; Rini Ghosh; Scott Hansen; Simon Nicol (Simon.Nicol@agriculture.gov.au); Secretariat
Subject: Items to be addressed by the OPWG

Dear OPWG

Regarding the items to be addressed by the OPWG (SPRFMO COMM -04 2016 <http://www.sprfmo.int/assets/Meetings/Meetings-2013-plus/Commission-Meetings/4th-Commission-Meeting-2016-Valdivia-Chile/Final-Report-and-Annexes/Annex-X-ToR-for-the-SPRFMO-Observer-Programme-WG.pdf>), in a first stage I would like to propose grouping them (bold numbers) in related topics as follow, and then develop each group according to its priority :

1. a, b, d; Scope and objectives of the SPRFMO Observer Programme, and role of the observers
2. c, h, i; institutional setting, management, and funding of the Programme
3. e, j; Source of observers and alternatives and accreditation of observer providers
4. f, g; minimum information and levels of coverage
5. k, l, q, s, standards for qualification, training and certification of observers, code of conduct, standards for supplies and equipment of the observers, development of observers manuals
6. m, v, u ; data transmission and confidentiality
7. n, o, p, u; exchange of observers, coordination with other programmes (sub regional-national programmes, fisheries research support between members and CNPs, and elements of annual reporting
8. r ,t ; development of standards for placement, health, safety, etc., and requirement for vessels concerning observers such as accommodations, safe conditions, use of equipment, etc.

Notwithstanding the above, I consider all items strongly connected and dependent on each other, therefore difficult to prioritize. However I think we should concentrate first in numbers **1** and **8**.

Safety and working conditions of observers at sea (**8**) should be the top priority of the programme due to the influence of these factors on the quality of the information collected, and also is a way to honor the memory of our dear colleague Keith Davis and ensure that such a tragedy never happens again.

Best regards

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