



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Pacific Islands Regional Office
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Johanne Fischer
Executive Secretary
SPRFMO Secretariat
P.O. Box 3797
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

Dear Dr. Fischer:

SUBJECT: Scientific Committee Review of the Proposal for the SPRFMO Observer Programme

According to the Terms of Reference for the SPRFMO Observer Programme Working Group (OPWG), I am submitting a draft of the initial proposal for the SPRFMO Observer Programme for the Scientific Committee' (SC) review and consideration. As you know, there are several outstanding issues regarding development of this document that the OPWG is currently considering, and we are specifically seeking the SC's advice on the following matters:

1. **Observer data collection requirements.** We are requesting that the SC review the observer data collection requirements specified in CMM 4.02, "Conservation and Management Measure on the Standards for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data." We propose to move the observer data collection requirements from CMM 4.02 to the in-development Observer Programme CMM while retaining the specific data elements. We seek the SC's advice on whether any amendments are necessary to the existing language in CMM 4.02 (particularly Paragraph 2) as it is moved to the OP CMM and verification by the SC that the specific data elements identified (Annex 7 of CMM 4.02) remain valid.
2. **Levels and metrics for observer coverage.** We propose that, as a starting point, observer coverage levels for the SPRFMO Observer Programme be the same as the coverage levels currently required in CMMs for specific fisheries and that all other fisheries comply with 10% observer coverage. We request that the SC review the language in Part 6 of the enclosed document and provide advice on appropriate coverage levels and the most appropriate metrics for measuring observer coverage in each fishery.

We welcome the SC's advice and input on all other aspects of the in-development Observer Programme CMM.



Please circulate this document to the Chair of the SC as well as to all Members and CNCPs.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Tosatto
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: James Ianeli, SC Chair