

3rd Meeting of the Scientific Committee

Port Vila, Vanuatu
28 September - 3 October 2015

SC-03-21

Proposed amendment to CMM 3.02: Biological Observation of Landings

SC-03 Agenda item 8.5

by Chile and SPRFMO Secretariat

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

Background

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

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

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

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

Given the potential importance of such data for the purpose of scientific assessments, the Commission requested the Scientific Committee to “review data collection and reporting standards”, “including for in-port inspections”¹ (paragraph I of Road for the Scientific Committee).

In addition, and to bridge the period until such data standards are included in the SPRFMO CMM, the Scientific Committee could also consider to adopt the proposed amendments of the CMM 3.02 as its own informal (i.e. not obligatory) guidance for the standard and management of these voluntarily submitted fishery data for scientific purposes. Such informal guidance by the Scientific Committee could help to ensure that valuable data for which a data standard has not (yet) been adopted by the Commission are received by the Secretariat in a format that allows their access and utilisation by authorised users. Otherwise, if the storage and management of such data cannot be integrated with other SPRFMO data, there is a risk that they might be too difficult to access and thus be lost for any practical purpose.

Proposal of amendment of CMM 3.02

This document proposes an amendment to CMM 3.02, allowing the voluntary submission of data collected during a landing or while a vessel is in port. The amendment includes an addition in paragraph 2 of CMM 3.02, in order to indicate that if observation of SPRFMO managed species is collected during landings, only the data indicated in the proposed Part L of Annex 7 should be collected.

The proposed Part L, to be added within Annex 7 of CMM 3.02 to maintain consistency of the document, indicates that for an observed landing:

- Vessel data, observer data and observed landing event data are to be collected.
- The collection of length-frequency data, biological data and tag recovery data maintains the same standards of those observations undertaken at sea.
- Standards for tag recovery, hierarchies and coding specifications should be followed when possible.
- Data on incidental capture and VMEs are not considered relevant for observed landings.

This will provide an adequate standard for collection and reporting of observer data at landings and will enable this information to be included in the SPRFMO database.

The Scientific Committee is requested to consider recommending this proposal for inclusion into CMM 3.02 by the Commission at its next meeting in 2016.

In addition and until such time that the standards are included in the SPRFMO CMM, the Scientific Committee is requested to contemplate its own approval of these standards as informal, not obligatory SC guidelines in order to facilitate the meaningful management and accessibility of biological data collected during landings for scientific purposes.

¹ It is noted that the term “in-port inspections” is somewhat confusing as “inspections in port” (CMM 2.07) are conducted for compliance purposes whereas the data obtained from observations of landings are intended to be used for scientific assessments.

**Proposed Amendment to
CMM 2.02, Standards for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data**

2. Observer Data

(a) Implementation of Observer Programmes

Members and CNCs are to develop, implement and improve Observer Programmes to attain the following objectives:

- i) To collect vessel information, effort and catch data for all fisheries and fished species in the Convention Area, including target, by-catch and associated and dependent species.
- ii) To collect biological or other data and information relevant to the management of fishery resources in the Convention Area, as specified in these standards, or as identified from time to time by the Scientific Committee or through processes identified by the Commission.
- iii) To collect relevant scientific information related to the implementation of the provisions of the Conservation Measures adopted by the Commission.
- iv) To collect representative data, including length-frequency and biological samples, across the Convention Area, distribution of fishing effort, seasons, fishing fleets and fleet types.

(b) Information and Data to be collected

All national observer programmes operating in the Convention Area should provide the information in Annex 7 ([parts A to K](#)). Voluntary submissions of observer information on SPRFMO managed species collected from landings, or from vessels while they are in port, should only include the information described in part L of Annex 7.

(c) Data Provision

Observer data should be provided to the Secretariat of the SPRFMO in a standardised format, to be included in a SPRFMO Observer Database. Specifications and standards for Observer data submissions are on the SPRFMO website. Until the Secretariat determines a change is needed, observer data will be submitted in Microsoft Excel format. Members and CNCs will provide by the 30th September, their previous (January to December) year's data.

(d) Annual Reporting

All SPRFMO Members and CNCs should provide annual observer implementation reports, which should include sections covering: observer training, programme design and coverage, type of data collected, and any problems encountered during the year. These reports shall be adequate enough to allow the Compliance and Technical Committee, the Scientific Committee or the Commission to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of observer programmes implemented under this standard.

(e) Maintenance of Confidentiality

The Secretariat of the SPRFMO is to compile and disseminate accurate and complete observer data to ensure that the best scientific evidence is available, while maintaining confidentiality where appropriate. In doing so, the Secretariat is to follow the procedures specified in Section 7.

Annex 7

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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