

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

10th Meeting of the Data and Information Working Group

Lima, Peru, 15-19 October 2012

DIWG-10-05

Landing/Transshipment Standard Fields “Name of Observer” & “Port Authority”

This item was raised at the 9th DIWG and briefly discussed under General Business.

The current Landings Standard (Annex 12) includes “Name of observer”, “Authority” and “Port Authority” and the current Transshipment Standard (Annex 13) includes “Name of observer” and “Authority”.

The question was posed:

“What type of data should be recorded/submitted in these fields?”

Different participants currently interpret the meaning of these terms in different ways. Participants requested that the Interim Secretariat prepare a paper outlining options/ guidelines for collecting and submitting appropriate data for these fields.

History of the fields:

Transshipment activity standards proposed at the Fifth DIWG meeting (March 2008, Ecuador, SPRFMO-V-DIWG-07, Annex 5) included supervision of the transshipment phase by an observer working under a corresponding authority, and certification of the landing phase by a certifying authority in the port state. The proposal was made when considering the provisions of the third draft of the Convention which, at that time, included a provision that vessels would only transship when there was full observer coverage and when all of the product would be landed at the port of a Contracting Party. The term “Name of Observer” was a means of identifying the person who supervised the transshipment operation. The term “Authority” referred to the name of the authority that the observer was associated with. A majority of participants agreed to include “Name of Observer and Authority” into the draft transshipment standard.

Two draft Transshipment standard proposals containing “Name of Observer” and “Authority” were then presented at the Sixth DIWG meeting (Sep 2008, Canberra, SPRFMO – VI- DIWG- 06 (Rev 1) and SPRFMO-VI-DIWG-13). Consensus was reached and these fields were subsequently adopted at the Sixth International Meeting (Oct 2008, Canberra).

The fields “Name of Observer” and “Authority” were not included in the proposed draft Landing standard (SPRFMO-VI-DIWG-05). However, those 2 fields were included in a draft Landings standard proposal presented by Chile (SPRFMO-VI-DIWG-14). The DIWG did not reach consensus and agreed to work intersessionally on this issue. These terms were again proposed at the Seventh DIWG meeting (May 2009, Lima). Although significant progress was made, Participants did not reach agreement and the issue was placed on the agenda for the Eighth DIWG (Oct 2010, Viña del Mar).

The provision in the third draft of the Convention was eventually replaced with a more general provision that ensured that transshipment would be in accordance with procedures in the adopted Convention (Article 25 (1) d). This means, in particular, that there is currently no requirement for transhipped product to be unloaded in the port of a Contracting Party.

During the Eighth DIWG both the previously agreed Transshipment standard (DIWG-08-09) and a proposed Landings standard (DIWG-08-10) were discussed and, after minor edits, agreed upon. A new section under the title “Verification (if applicable)” was created and the term “Name of Observer” was retained in both standards. The term “Authority” was used when referring to fishing vessel Landings or Transshipments. For reasons which are not clear, the term “Port authority” was used when referring to landings conducted by reefer vessels.

The current Landings and Transshipment Standards were adopted at the Second Preparatory Conference (Jan 2011, Cali).

Interim Measures:

The Revised Interim Measures for Pelagic Fisheries 2009 asked Participants that are Port States within the region to verify landings (and port transshipments) of *Trachurus* species caught in the Convention Area. This measure persists and is contained within Paragraph 20 of the 2012 Interim Measures for Pelagic Fisheries.

Convention

Article 27 of the Convention states that the Commission shall establish procedures for effective monitoring, control and surveillance including, *inter alia*:

- a) An in-port inspection programme for Contracting Parties;
- b) Regulation and supervision of transshipment;
- c) Measures to monitor transshipments and landings.

Article 28 of the Convention states that “the Commission shall establish an Observer programme ... to collect verified catch and effort data”.

Options:*Landings standard - "Name of Observer"*

100% Observer presence is not required; hence it is possible for this field to be left blank. However if an Observer (or Inspector) was present then the standards indicate that this information should be recorded.

Thus the field "Name of Observer" (Landings) could contain the following:

- a) A NULL indicating that no such person was present or;
- b) The name of the Observer who oversaw the landing operation and verified the catch amount:
 - a. This person could have been aboard the vessel during the previous trip or;
 - b. This person could be a port based observer or;
- c) The name of the person who conducted an in-port inspection during the landing operation.

Only one name is required.

Landings standard - "Authority"/"Port Authority"

Although these terms differ, there does not seem to be much practical difference between how they could be completed.

Thus the fields "Authority" or "Port Authority" (Landings) could contain the following:

- a) A NULL indicating that no Observer was present and hence no authority has verified the catch or;
- b) The name of the Authority that the Observer is representing or;
- c) The name of the Authority that the Inspector is representing.

Transshipment standard - "Name of Observer"

In order to be consistent the following is suggested:

- a) A NULL indicating that no such person was present or;
- b) The name of the Observer who oversaw the transshipment operation and verified the catch amount:
 - a. This person could have been aboard the catcher during the previous trip or;
 - b. This person could be a reefer based observer or;
- c) The name of the person who conducted an at-sea inspection during the transshipment operation.

Transshipment standard - "Authority"/"Port Authority"

In order to be consistent the following is suggested:

- a) A NULL indicating that no Observer was present and hence no authority has verified the catch or;
- b) The name of the Authority that the Observer is representing or;
- c) The name of the Authority that the Inspector is representing.