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Outcomes of the Data Collection Committee 2020 meetings

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Summary

The aspirations of FFA Members to advance the development of an Electronic Monitoring (EM) system has progressed through the cooperative DCC process.

- A Regional Longline Fisheries Electronic Monitoring Policy was adopted by FFC114.
- Draft DCC Longline EM minimum data field standards (version DCC-November 2020) have been compiled.
- A Longline EM Policy Workplan 2020–2021 has been developed to progress Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSP) development.
- TORs to advance the development of SSPs through consultancies and consultation are completed.
- SSP development and EM implementation process will require national and regional coordination.
- Draft Generic Minimum Data Standards for Longline transshipment monitoring and draft EM Longline transshipment minimum data fields have been tabulated.

Introduction

1. The slow progress to establish standards for a WCPFC regional EM programme (REMP) at the WCPFC ERandEM Working Group has led to FFA member countries' initiative to advance the work on EM within the FFA membership. This Information Paper is to provide a report on the status of this progress.
2. This determination for progress in Electronic Monitoring (EM) standards was articulated by Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) Min 16 (June 2019) tasking FFA, with SPC and PNAO, to develop an EM policy for FFA Members. The SPC/FFA/PNAO Data Collection Committee (DCC) held a DCC Longline Electronic Monitoring Workshop in October 2019. The output was a draft **Regional Longline Fisheries Electronic Monitoring Policy**. This Policy listed categories of standards but left the detail to be determined through the DCC process in 2020.
3. FFC114 (June 2020) adopted the Regional Longline Electronic Monitoring Policy as a guide for development of Members' national EM programmes. The Policy is framed around harmonised Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) to support the Policy, with the caveat that it does not prejudice the right of individual FFA member countries to adopt additional SSPs for their national EM Programmes.
4. DCC held two EM meetings in 2020 to develop harmonised data standards. The first was the Review of the Longline EM Data Fields (February 2020) in Nadi, Fiji (DCC-EM-LL Fields Feb-2020). The second meeting was the Longline EM Compliance Data and Transshipment Standards Workshop (November 2020), via Zoom, (DCC-EM-LL Compliance and Transshipment Nov-2020).
5. The first DCC-EM-LL Fields Feb-2020 workshop developed draft DCC Longline EM minimum data fields. The data fields considered were from an Electronic Monitoring Longline Process Standards Workshop (2016) and Second Regional E-Monitoring Process Standards Workshop (2017). The table had been augmented to include recommendations of WCPFC Project 93 and Emery et al., (2018). The workshop agreed to a table of EM fields; however, a second meeting was proposed to consider additional fields needed for compliance.
6. The principal output of the DCC-EM-LL Compliance and Transshipment (DCC-NOV-2020) meeting was a list of EM LL potential Compliance Events, including Compliance CATEGORIES and EVENTS

reference codes. A table of minimum data standards from both meetings was compiled, however the column EM PROTOCOL (how the data are to be acquired) remains to be agreed.

7. The Regional Observer Coordinators Workshop (ROCW21), February 2021, agreed to support the implementation of EM data and training standards, under PIRFO, to allow national implementation of EM on longliners. The ROCW also agreed to have a regular ROCW agenda item on ER and EM for participating programmes to advise on developments.
8. The 24th MCS Working Group (March 2021) supported the Draft DCC Longline EM minimum data field standards with the updated structure and compiled table (version DCC-NOV-2020), including a Compliance CATEGORIES and EVENTS reference codes table. They also encouraged members to work with service providers to test the viability of the draft EM longline data fields, in particular the compliance related fields.
9. FFC114 (June 2020) had also tasked the FFA Secretariat, in collaboration with SPC and PNA Office (PNAO), to develop a fully costed workplan to progress implementation of the EM Policy. An EM inter-agency meeting (1 March 2021) agreed to a draft workplan for each agency and their role in development of these SSPs.
10. There are various SSPs required by the Regional Longline EM Policy Section 7 and these are for:
 - EM Systems
 - Fishing Vessels
 - Data Review Centres (DRC)
 - EM Records and EM data management
 - Coverage and analysis rates
 - EM Records transmission
 - EM Records analysis and quality assurance
 - EM Records and EM Data Storage
 - EM Records and EM Data ownership and access
 - EM Records and EM data security and confidentiality
11. To further the advance of the SSPs, the EM inter-agency meeting (March 2021) agreed to Terms of Reference (TORs) for consultancies to develop the various SSPs required under the Policy. A key part of this development is engagement with members' national EM programmes.

Transshipment

12. The DCC-EM-LL Compliance and Transshipment meeting (DCC-NOV-2020) also considered draft guidelines for minimum transshipment data fields and transshipment training standards for longline transshipment monitoring. The recommendations related to transshipment were:
 - a. Draft Generic Minimum Data Standards for Longline transshipment monitoring and draft EM Longline transshipment minimum data fields,
 - b. The subregional agencies (SPC, FFA and PNAO) and other relevant stakeholders including WCPFC and CCSBT collaborate with member countries, **to enhance the data collection for transshipment observers** based on the draft Generic Minimum Data Standards for Longline transshipment monitoring;
 - c. The subregional agencies (SPC, FFA and PNAO) consider the benefits of **developing an E-Reporting tool for transshipment observers** based on the draft Generic Minimum Data Standards for Longline transshipment monitoring, including the ability to transmit data in near-real time;

- d. The subregional agencies (SPC, FFA and PNAO) collaborate with member countries, and other stakeholders (e.g. relevant NGOs) **to conduct trials to test the viability of the draft EM longline data fields;**
- e. The **training standards** for both longline transshipment observers and EM analysts should be advanced, as required;
- f. *The outcomes of the work on enhancing the data collection from Longline transshipments are reported to relevant regional meetings.*

Issues

13. The issues that will need to be addressed in progressing regional EM longline standards include:
 - Implementation of LL EM will initially require achieving 100% EM hardware (monitoring equipment) coverage on longliners. This will require clear regional and national coordination.
 - There will be challenges with establishing standards at the national level for EM longline analysis coverage rates which are consistent with the regional standard suggested in the Regional Longline Fisheries EM Policy.
 - Regional agencies need to collaborate with member countries to understand the range of challenges (e.g. how to cover vessels landing in the ports of other countries) including changes to legal instruments (e.g., fisheries licencing conditions).
 - Regional Agencies need to advance the production of guidelines for establishing standards for EM LL analysis coverage rates.
 - SSPs need to be compatible yet distinct and implemented with a perspective of regional and national aspirations and capacities.
 - An expansion of EM programmes capacity will require training of EM analysts and hence training standards are important; standardised training curricula need to be developed.
 - The practicality of collecting the minimum data fields for transshipment by observer and EM systems needs to be field trialled.

Scenario

14. THE PNAO, FFA & SPC's agreed workplan to advance the work required under the Regional Longline Fisheries Electronic Monitoring Policy led to development of TORs to guide the work.
15. Development of SSPs will be in consultation with national EM programmes.
16. DCC will meet in 2021 to review and compile the standards from the two DCC meetings in 2020.
17. SPC established a dedicated DCC E-Monitoring web page to store documents relevant to the work required through the Regional Longline Fisheries Electronic Monitoring Policy.
18. Transshipment monitoring field trial is planned for 2021 with SPC, FFA, Vanuatu, TNC, and Thai Union as partners.

Links

19. The dedicated DCC E-Monitoring web page is found here:
<https://oceanfish.spc.int/en/meetingsworkshops/dcc/512-ll-em-compliance-data-and-transshipment-standards-workshop-2020>

20. The record of the Longline EM Compliance Data and Transshipment Standards Workshop:
https://oceanfish.spc.int/en/publications/doc_download/2075-report-of-the-nov-2020-tuna-fishery-data-collection-committee-meeting-final
21. The Draft DCC Longline EM minimum data field standards with the updated structure and compiled table:
https://oceanfish.spc.int/en/publications/doc_download/2071-draft-dcc-longline-em-minimum-data-field-standards-november-2020-draft-for-review-with-compliance-category-table
22. The DCC recommendations (adopted):
https://oceanfish.spc.int/en/publications/doc_download/2070-dcc-nov-2020-recommendations-adopted