

SPRFMO IV REPORT – ANNEX E

**Report of the Data and Information Working Group
Noumea, New Caledonia
September 3-4, 2007**

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Ms. Kelly Denit (United States).

2. Administrative matters

The Chair provided logistic and administrative information to the participants. The Agenda was adopted without change and is attached as Annex 1. A list of participants is attached as Annex 2.

3. Election of Rapporteur

Mr. Kim Duckworth (New Zealand) was elected rapporteur for the meeting.

4. Squid jigging and potting data standards

The DIWG used the text “Standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data” (SPRFMO-IV-DIWG-05) as the starting point for discussions on squid jigging and potting data standards. Written comments of this document were submitted by China. Discussions in the DIWG focused on the fields of data that should be collected for squid jigging.

The DIWG reached consensus on draft text to be recommended to the Plenary session for its consideration and adoption. This text is provided as a separate document entitled “Squid jigging and potting fishing activity - [Proposed] Standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data” (September 2007).

The DIWG noted that these standards were intended to apply during the interim period (until the entry into force of the Agreement under negotiation to establish the SPRFMO), and as such would be voluntary if adopted by the Plenary.

There was discussion on the need to eventually integrate these standards into the SPRFMOs existing “Standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data” (April 2007), but the merging of these two documents was not carried out at this stage.

5. Vessel monitoring system data standards

The DIWG used the text “Draft Standard: Implementation of Vessel Monitoring Systems in the SPRFMO Area” (SPRFMO-IV-DIWG-06) as the starting point for discussions on Vessel Monitoring System data standards. Written comments of this document were submitted by Japan and the European Community.

Discussions in the DIWG focused on:

- Whether the Introduction and Rationale were needed;
- How frequently VMS position reports should be sent by vessels (polling rate). The views expressed ranged from once every 15 minutes to once every 24 hours;
- The accuracy to which positions should be reported;
- What data elements should be used to describe the identity of a vessel.

The DIWG reached consensus on draft text to be recommended to the Plenary session for its consideration and adoption. This text is provided as a separate document entitled “Vessel Monitoring System - [PROPOSED] Standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of data” (September 2007).

The DIWG noted that these standards were intended to apply during the interim period (until the entry into force of the Agreement under negotiation to establish the SPRFMO), and as such would be voluntary if adopted by the Plenary.

6. Observer data standards

The DIWG used the text “SPRFMO Observer Programme Draft Standards: Scientific Component” (SPRFMO-IV-DIWG-07) as the starting point for discussions on Observer data standards. Written comments of this document were submitted by Japan and the European Community. Discussions in the DIWG focused on:

- Whether the Introduction and Rationale were needed;
- What the objectives of observer programmes should be;
- What coverage rates to suggest;
- Whether observers should be required to monitor transshipments at sea.

The DIWG noted that:

- its focus was very much scientific, and that at a later date there will probably be a need for a Compliance / Management focused group to re-consider observer data standards;

- the standard is intended to apply to national observer programmes, and the Participants will need to determine whether a centrally operated SPRFMO observer programme should be established.
- adequate coverage by observer programmes as a means to collect scientific information is important. At the same time it was acknowledged there may be difficulties in achieving high levels of coverage. The proposed level of coverage may need to be changed in the future pending further scientific analysis.

All participants, except for Chinese Taipei, agreed that the levels of observer coverage identified in paragraph 2 for the year 2008 of “[PROPOSED] Standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of observer data” are likely minimum standards.

A majority of DIWG Participants agreed on a draft text that should be recommended to the Plenary session for its consideration and adoption. This text is provided as a separate document entitled “[PROPOSED] Standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of observer data” (September 2007). Chinese Taipei and China expressed a different view and stated that they could not agree (at this time) to the Standard that documented a minimum level of observer coverage as proposed for squid jigging fisheries. Russian Federation proposed including in “[PROPOSED] Standards for the collection, reporting, verification and exchange of observer data” the possibility that members of the SWG can request observer data for scientific purposes.

The DIWG noted that these standards were intended to apply during the interim period (until the entry into force of the Agreement under negotiation to establish the SPRFMO), and as such would be voluntary if adopted by the Plenary.

7. Standards for operational-level catch and effort data for other fishing methods

The DIWG asked New Zealand and the United States of America to develop draft data standards for drop lining during the intersessional period.

8. Standards for landings, transshipment and market related data and future workplan

The DIWG asked New Zealand to develop draft standards for landings data during the intersessional period.

The DIWG asked Vanuatu to develop draft standards for transshipment data during the intersessional period.

The DIWG agreed that standards for market related data should be developed after the SPRFMO interim Secretariat had been established.

The D&IWG proposes to meet again to discuss the above data standards and any other relevant matters during the next meeting of the negotiations for the South Pacific RFMO. The D&IWG requests further guidance from the Plenary regarding moving these issues forward.

9. Other Business

Ms. Kelly Denit was sentenced to serve as the Chair for the next meeting of the DIWG.

10. Adoption of Report

The report was adopted by consensus.

**Data and Information Working Group
Noumea, New Caledonia
September 3-4, 2007**

AGENDA

- 1. Opening of the Meeting**
- 2. Administrative Matters**
- 3. Election of Rapporteur**
- 4. Intersessional Work Items**
 - 4.1. standards for operational-level catch and effort data for squid jigging and traps/potting
 - 4.2. standards for VMS data (joint meeting with SWG)
 - 4.3. standards for Observer data (joint meeting with SWG)
- 5. Other Work Items (as time permits) and Development of a new Work Plan**
 - 5.1. standards for operational-level catch and effort data for other fishing methods
 - 5.2. standards for vessel trip, landings and transshipment reports
 - 5.3. standards for market-related data
- 6. Other Business**
- 7. Adoption of the Report**

**Fourth International Meeting on the Establishment of the proposed
South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation**

**Noumea – New Caledonia
3 – 7 September 2007**

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