

NPFC-2023-SC08-IP09 (Rev. 1)



# Compliance Program Update

**8th Scientific Committee Meeting**

**18 December 2023**

**North Pacific Fisheries Commission**

# OUTLINE

1. NPFC Observer Program
  - a) Bottom Fisheries
  - b) Transshipment
  - c) Pelagic Fisheries
2. Performance Review Recommendations
3. New Conservation and Management Measures
4. Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

# NPFC Observer Program

The NPFC Convention (2015) specifies, in

- Article 13, paragraph 6:

*“Each Contracting Party shall place observers on board fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag operating in the Convention Area in accordance with the Observer Program which shall be established in accordance with Article 7, subparagraph 2(b). Fishing vessels **engaged in bottom fishing** in the Convention Area **shall have one hundred (100) percent coverage under the Observer Program.** Fishing vessels engaged in **other types of fishing** activities in the Convention Area **shall have a level of observer coverage as the Commission may decide.**”*

- Article 7, subparagraph 2 (b):

*“The Commission shall adopt measures to ensure effective monitoring, control and surveillance, as well as compliance with and enforcement of the provisions of this Convention and measures adopted pursuant to this Convention. To this end, the Commission shall: ...*

- (b) **develop and implement a North Pacific Ocean Fisheries Observer Program (“Observer Program”), taking into account relevant international standards and guidelines;**”*

# 2023 NPFC Observer Program- Bottom Fisheries



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

Requirement for 100% observer coverage in the bottom fisheries is reflected in 3 CMMs:

## **1. Bottom Fishing /VME protection N WEST Pacific (2023-05), paragraph 8):**

*“Observers*

*All vessels authorized to bottom fishing in the western part of the Convention Area shall carry an observer on board.”*

## **2. Bottom Fishing /VME protection N EAST Pacific (2023-06)**

Not referenced in text of measure, instead is in **Annex 1, paragraph 4**

*“4. The member of the Commission is to ensure that all vessels flying its flag conducting exploratory fisheries are equipped with a satellite monitoring device and have an observer on board at all times.”*

## **3. Sablefish (2019-10, paragraph 8)**

*“All vessels authorized to fish sablefish in the eastern part of the Convention Area shall have 100% observer coverage.”*

Annexes 4 and 5 of the bottom fishing measures contain details of what Members should submit in their annual reports and outline the programme standards for the scientific component of the program. However, only scientific components have been elaborated to date, and no fisheries data from the program is shared. Secretariat receives only summary reports and details how many observers were trained, etc. as part of Members' annual reports.

# NPFC Observer Program – Transshipment



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The transshipment measure, adopted at COM07 (March 2023) requires the establishment of a regional observer and/or EM program no later than COM 09. In the interim, as of September 2023, 100% observer coverage is required on all carrier vessels participating in transshipments.

Observers currently complete the form on the right - to indicate observed non-compliance with the transshipment measure, otherwise the only data collected relates to how long the transshipment took and how many interruptions there were and how much was observed.

Paragraph 38 of the transshipment measure contemplates the use of transshipment data for **science as well as compliance** purposes, therefore, if there is interest in transshipment data, SC is encouraged to provide input into the development of this program:

*“38. The data and information on the NPFC Transshipment Record may be used **for either scientific or compliance purposes** by:*

- (a) a Commission Member, or Cooperating non-Contracting Party; or*
- (b) the Commission.”*

OBSERVER TRANSSHIPMENT REPORT (1/1)	
<b>Please ensure that the completed transshipment declaration is attached/provided.</b>	
PART I – OBSERVED TRANSSHIPMENT INFORMATION	
1	Observed (Y/N)
2	Total Hours Observed
3	Interruption(s) in Observation (Y/N)
4	Number of Interruptions
5	Total Time Interrupted
PART II - COMMENTARY	
In this section, the observer shall note any observed non-compliance with CMM 2023-03 <i>on Transshipments</i> , including the verification of the consistency of the transshipped quantities (by species) of fisheries resources, or products of fisheries resources.	
PART III - VERIFICATION	
6	Observer
	Name
	Nationality
	Signature

# NPFC Observer Program- Pelagic Fisheries

TCC's SWG on PD have had very preliminary conversations on the development of a broader observer program that would also collect data on NPFC's pelagic fisheries.

As these discussions develop, SC input will be needed to design the program to ensure the data collected meets the objectives stated. Some of the elements that will need to be elaborated include the following:

- Objective(s) (for compliance AND for science)
- Structure (national programs with central coordination or regional program or hybrid)
- Minimum qualifications for observers (will depend on objectives, data collection requirements)
- Data Collection forms (How much detail? Who develops the forms?)
- Training (How long? Requirement for refreshers? Who conducts the training?)
- Certification (National/regional/ Secretariat -contractual)
- Coverage levels required to achieve objectives (likely to vary by fishery)
- Operations (deployments, briefing/debriefing -Members, service provider?)
- Data collection/reporting ( online application? Independent reporting by observers)

# Performance Review Recommendations

Topic	#	Description	Comment
VMS	3.1.7	Reconcile footprint data with VMS	VMS currently collects consistently hourly time and position. Any interest in additional data points? Possibility of eventual daily CAT reporting?
Bycatch	3.1.8	Coordinate efforts to collect standardized data and validate bycatch	Currently Secretariat is not receiving details of targeted catch; annual summaries for most species, weekly catches for Pacific saury. No bycatch reporting.
	4.2.4	Collect bycatch data	First mandatory bycatch reporting (annual) for sharks in January 2024
Observer Program	3.4.3	Develop regional observer program	Transshipment observers-Cost estimates for regional program expected by mid-Jan 2024. Many details yet to be determined. Program to be “established” by COM 09 (possibly Spring 2025).
	5.2.2	Adopt regional observer program	Pelagic observer program in very early stages of development -SC input will be needed, and should include discussion on possibilities for EM.
	3.4.4	Examine feasibility of introducing EM	
	4.5.1	TCC develop compliance provisions for bottom fishery observer program	Bottom fisheries - some data useful to compliance monitoring already being collected on science form. Others could be done with minor updates, some requirements challenging for enforcement  Need mechanism (WG/ Collaboration site, ???) to engage SC and TCC to review /discuss options to move these initiatives forward
Data management	4.2.1	Expand/ harmonize data collection formats	While not flagged for TCC, compliance data (VMS/ transshipment) is increasing and for Secretariat very challenging to manage/conduct analysis without expertise. Also important that data collection are (to extent possible) harmonized. (observer reports/any future log reporting requirements.)
	4.2.2	Contract data management expert	
	4.2.5	Update data inventories	
CMMs	4.1.3	Conduct CMM review	ALL CMMs, including VMEs (2023-05/06) could/should be reviewed to harmonize language, reduce redundancy (e.g. VMS requirement)

# COM 07 adopted 3 new measures

## (2023-03) Transshipment

## (2023 -14) Sharks

- Recording requirement for shark encounters starting on 1 January 2024. (para.9)
- Annual reporting requirement to Secretariat (to the extent possible, by species) (para.10)
- SC may be asked for assistance with identification guide to help with accurate reporting (or perhaps other RFMOs have such a guide)

## (2023-15) Marine Pollution

Prohibition on:

- discarding, abandoning (in some cases) fishing gear (para. 4)
- release of plastics (including incinerator ashes) (para. 8)

# Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) CMM 2023-12



North Pacific Fisheries Commission

VMS was launched in NPFC Convention Area September 2021 and receives hourly positions for all vessels operating in the Convention Area, except research vessels.

Implemented as a monitoring measure, however, paragraph 2 (Purpose) contemplates use for science:

*“...The purpose of the VMS is to continuously monitor the positions and movements of all fishing vessels in the Convention Area for compliance purposes. **VMS data may also be used to support scientific processes as agreed by the Commission.**”*

And paragraph 1(b) of Annex 2 defines “scientific purposes”

*“Scientific purposes” may include estimating distribution of fishing effort for use in the Commission’s research activities; planning for and implementing tagging programmes; modelling fishing effort for use in fisheries management activities, including management strategy evaluation (MSE); estimating abundance indices or undertaking stock assessments; validating logbook data; and, any other scientific purposes agreed to by the Commission.*

Secretariat does not store VMS data but accesses through “cloud”; contractor also provides a monthly CSV file with all positional data from the previous month. Secretariat will report to COM08 on the review of implementation of the measure.

In addition to getting data on time and location, system could also collect data on:

- Course and speed (already reported by most, but not all Members)
- Entry and exit messages (already reported by most, but not all Members)
- AIS (Currently reported by all but only positional data from research vessels)
- Weather and Oceanographic data (wind speed, water color (plankton concentration) currents, surface temperatures)

# Thank You

