

PHILIPPINE FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES
Marine Fisheries Development Center
Navotas City, Philippines

MARLO B. DEMO-OS
PFOP, NATIONAL COORDINATOR



**Practical Workshop on Strengthening Fisheries Observer Programs for
Effective Combating of IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia, Bangkok, Thailand.**

Background



The establishment of the **Philippines Fisheries Observer Program (PFOP)** is in accordance with **Article 28** of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean which states that “The Commission shall develop a regional observer program to collect verified catch data, other scientific data and additional information related to the fishery from the Convention Area and to monitor the implementation of the Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted by the Commission”



01. Established since 2009 and implemented by BFAR MFD-MMVOC; Authorized by WCPFC as part of the Regional Observer Programme.



02. Fisheries observer Program is a tool for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) to promote responsible fisheries.



03. Provide independent reliable primary data and information on fisheries related data and compliance to fisheries regulation.



Western & Central Pacific
Fisheries Commission

Functions of Observers under the Commission ROP:



- Collect catch and scientific data
- Monitor implementation of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission.
- Collect other fishery-related information as approved by the Commission.

Jurisdictional Limitation:



Observers shall not perform these functions in waters under the national jurisdiction of the flag State during a joint high seas/national waters fishing trip, without the flag State's consent.

RELEVANT CMMs to Fisheries Observer

WCPFC 2025 Handbook of Conservation and Management Measures plus Resolutions for WCPFC Regional Observer Programmes.pdf



WCPFC CMMs and Resolutions - Relevant to Observers

<i>2004-03 Specifications for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels.</i>	27
<i>2006-04 Striped Marlin in the Southwest Pacific</i>	31
<i>2006-07 Regional Observer Programme</i>	32
<i>2008-04 Prohibition of Large-Scale Driftnets High Seas in the Convention Area.</i>	36
<i>2009-02 Application of High Seas FAD Closures and Catch Retention.</i>	37
<i>2009-03 Swordfish</i>	41
<i>2009-05 Prohibiting Fishing on Data Buoys including information on Data Buoys.</i>	46
<i>2009-06 Regulation of Transshipment.</i>	53
<i>2012-03 Implementation of the ROP by vessels fishing north of 20N</i>	62
<i>2012-03 WCPFC Implementation of a Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI)</i>	63
<i>2017-03 Protection of WCPFC ROP Observers</i>	68
<i>2017-04 Marine Pollution</i>	73
<i>2018-03 Mitigate the Impact of Fishing for Highly Migratory Fish on Sea birds</i>	76
<i>Suppl 2018-03 Safe Handling and release Guidelines for Sea Birds</i>	86
<i>2018-04 Sea Turtles</i>	89
<i>Suppl 2018-04 WCPFC Guidelines for the Handling of Sea Turtles</i>	93
<i>2018-05 Regional Observer Programme</i>	100
<i>2018-06 WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorisation to Fish</i>	110
<i>2019-03 North Pacific Albacore</i>	118
<i>2019-05 Mobulid Rays caught in fisheries in the WCPFC Convention Area</i>	121
<i>Suppl 2019-05 Best Handling practice for the safe Release of Mantas & Mobulids</i>	124
<i>2022-05 SSPs for WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels</i>	129
<i>2022-06 Daily Catch and Effort Reporting</i>	155
<i>2023-03 North Pacific Swordfish</i>	157
<i>2024-01 Pacific Bluefin Tuna</i>	160
<i>2024-02 Monitoring Controlling and Surveillance of Pacific Blue Fin</i>	166
<i>2024-04 Crew Labour Standard</i>	169
<i>2024-05 Sharks (Oceanic White Tip, -Silky, & Other Sharks) & (Whale Sharks)</i>	180
<i>Suppl 2022-05/2024-05 Guidelines for the Safe Release of Encircled Whale Sharks</i>	126
<i>Suppl 2019-04/2024-04 Release of Sharks</i>	127
<i>2024-06 North Pacific Striped Marlin</i>	188
<i>2024-07 Protection of Cetaceans from Purse Seine & Longline Fishing Operations</i>	191
<i>Res 2019-01 Climate Change as it relates to the WCPFC</i>	193

REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAM (ROP)

CMM 2006-07

Rules and Regulations in the Implementation of Fisheries Observer Program in the High Seas

CMM 2017-03

Conservation and Management Measure for the protection of WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Observers

CMM 2012-03

Conservation and Management Measure for Implementing the ROP by vessels fishing north of 20N

CMM 2018-05

Conservation and Management Measure for the Regional Observer Programme



These measures ensure the effective implementation of the ROP, strengthening observer protection, monitoring efficiency, and compliance verification within WCPFC fisheries. Observers are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these CMMs to fully understand their roles and safeguards.

CMM 2006-07

Rules and Regulations in the Implementation of Fisheries Observer Program in the High Seas



Focus: Establishment of the ROP

- Establishes the WCPFC Regional Observer Programme
- Defines observer policies and operational framework
- Integrates observers into regional fisheries management

*Serves as the foundational policy framework for the WCPFC observer system.

CMM 2012-03

Conservation and Management Measure for Implementing the ROP by vessels fishing north of 20N



Focus: Observer Coverage Implementation (North of 20°N)

- Establishes minimum 5% OBSERVER COVERAGE of fishing effort in NON-PURSE SEINE FISHERIES
- Applies to fishing operations north of 20°N

*Establishes minimum observer coverage standards for longline fisheries in the northern WCPFC Convention Area.

CMM 2017-03

Conservation and Management Measure for the protection of WCPFC Regional Observer Programme Observers



Focus: Safety & Welfare

- Critical incidents (death, missing, injury)
- Threats & harassment
- Defines roles of stakeholders
- Requires rapid response mechanisms

*Ensures safety, protection, and welfare of observers at sea.

CMM 2018-05

Conservation and Management Measure for the Regional Observer Programme



Focus: Implementation of ROP

- Observer duties (data collection)
- Vessel cooperation rules
- Observer independence & rights
- Standard operating protocols

*Defines the operational framework governing observer deployment and conduct.

LEGAL POLICY AND FRAMEWORK



CMM 2025-02

Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna in the Western And Central Pacific Ocean.



FAO 245-4 s. 2018

Regulations and Implementing Guidelines on Group Tuna Purse Seine Operations in High Seas Pocket Number 1 as a Special Management Area



FAO 245-4 s. 2018 operationalizes WCPFC requirements into enforceable Philippine fisheries regulations.



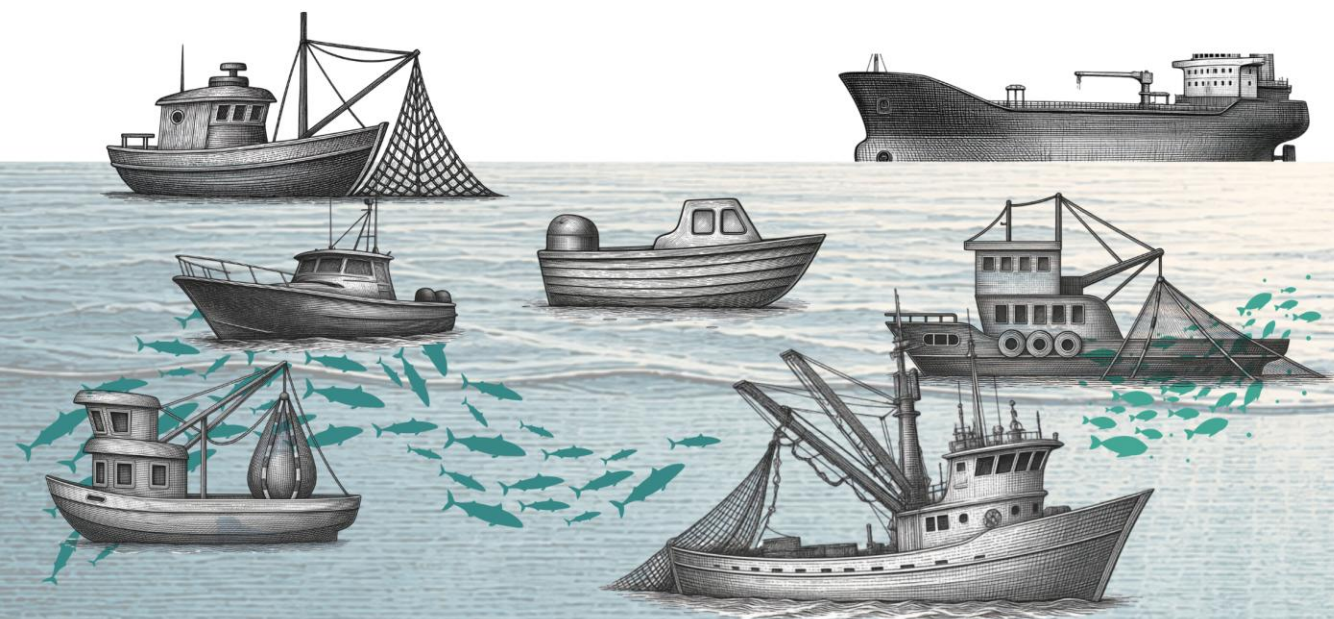
CMM 2025-02

Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna in the Western And Central Pacific Ocean.

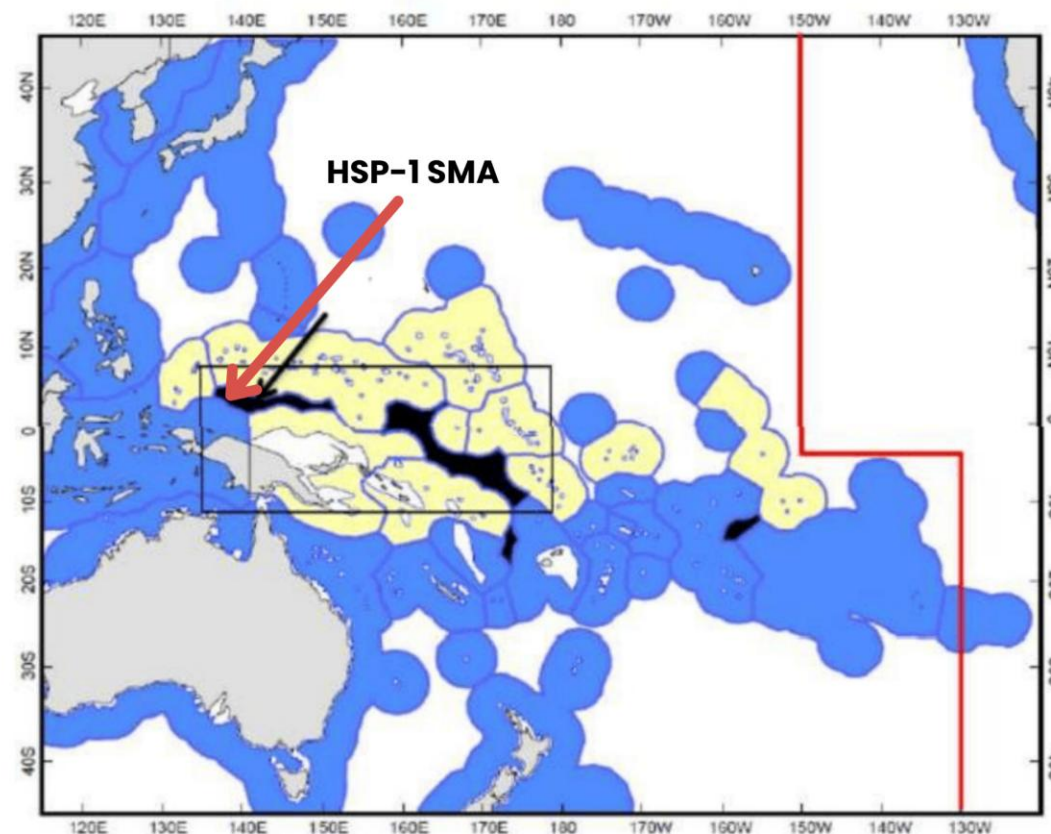
Scope of Application



Applies to Philippine **traditional fresh/ice-chilled fishing vessels** operating as a group (fishing fleet)



Area: High Seas Pocket No. 1 (HSP-1 SMA) under WCPFC jurisdiction



Source: WCPFC CMM 2025-02



CMM 2025-02

Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna in the Western And Central Pacific Ocean.

Observer Requirement (CMM 2025-02)



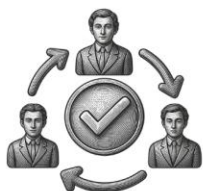
WCPFC Regional Observer mandatory onboard for entire trip in accordance with the provisions of CMM 2018-05. Conservation and Management Measure for the Regional Observer Programme



Priority: Observers from other CCM (Commission Member or Cooperating Non-Member)



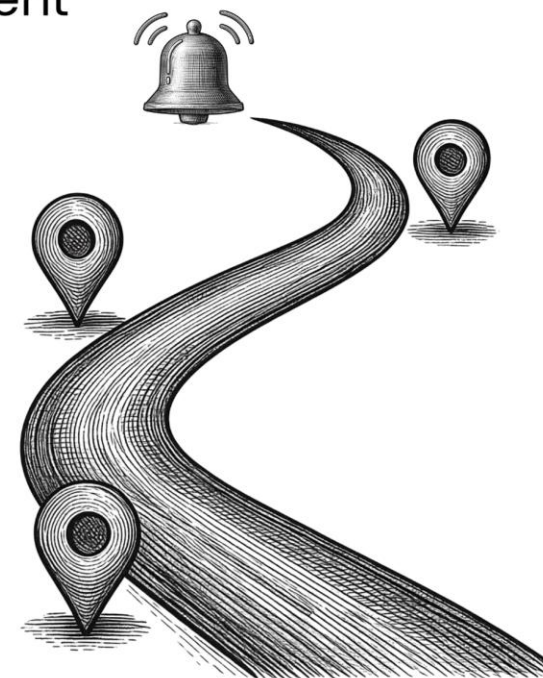
If unavailable: Philippine Fisheries Observer Program may deploy National observers



Coordination timeline:

60 days prior: notify CCMs & Secretariat

30 days prior: confirm observer availability





CMM 2025-02

Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna in the Western And Central Pacific Ocean.

Reporting Requirements

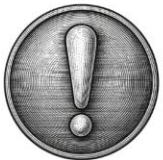
*As also reflected in FAO 245-4 s. 2018



Entry report: **≥24 hours** before entering High Seas Pocket -1 – Special Management Area
Exit report: **≤6 hours** before leaving HSP-1 – SMA



Format: Vessel Identification (VID) /
Entry-Exit / Date-Time / Position



Mandatory reporting of other vessel sightings, including: Vessel type, position, time, markings, heading, speed

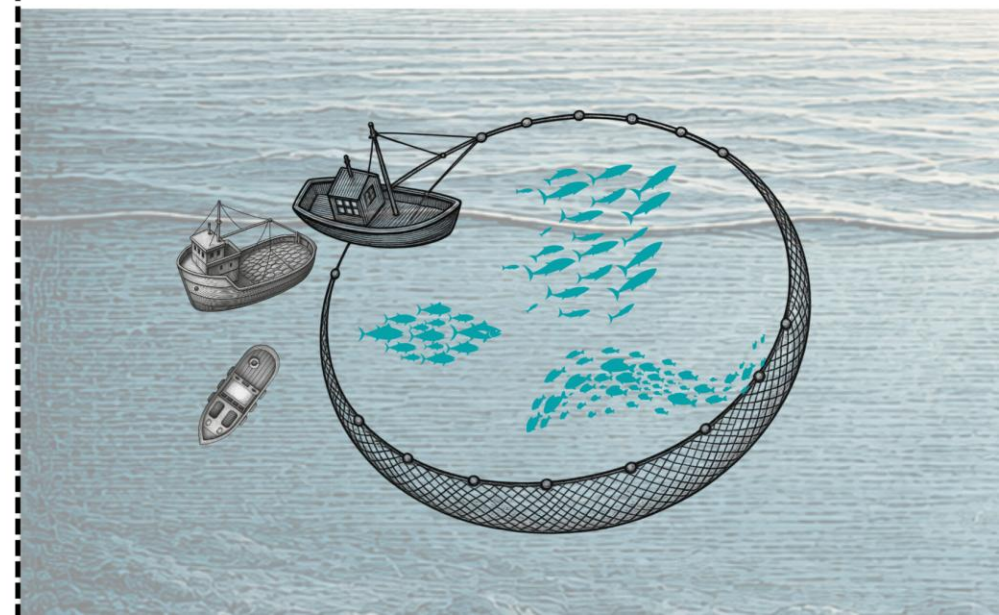
Effort & Fleet Limits



Maximum effort:
4,659 Fishing days



Maximum fleet size:
36 Catcher vessels



S. No. 2414

H. No. 4536

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Sixteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

Bagun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-eighth day of July, two thousand fourteen.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10654]

AN ACT TO PREVENT, DETER AND ELIMINATE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE PHILIPPINE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Republic Act 10654

An Act to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated Fishing, Amending Republic Act No. 8550, Otherwise known as "The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998", and for other Purposes

Section 65-Functions of the BFAR

As a line bureau, the BFAR shall have the following functions:....

Train, designate, and deploy fisheries observers in Philippine-flagged vessels engaged in commercial fishing in Philippine waters or distant water fishing to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures adopted by RFMOs and by the Department

Republic Act 10654

An Act to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated Fishing, Amending Republic Act No. 8550, Otherwise known as “The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998”, and for other Purposes

Penalties

Section 116. Non Compliance with Fisheries Observer Coverage

(a) It shall be unlawful for Philippine distant water fishing vessel to sail **without a fisheries observer onboard** as required by RFMO Conservation and Management measures.

(b) It shall be **unlawful for commercial fishing vessel to sail without a fisheries observer** in compliance with this Code and the rules and regulations promulgated by the Department. Upon summary finding of administrative liability an offender shall be punished with a fine of Five Hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) and forfeiture of the catch and gear. Upon conviction by the court of law, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of one(1) month and one(1) day to six(6) month and fine of twice the amount of the administrative fine, confiscation of catch and suspension or cancellation of license.



RELEVANT FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS (FAOs)

FAO 240 series of 2012

Rules and Regulations in the Implementation of Fisheries Observer Program in the High Seas

FAO 236-6 series of 2024

Amending Rules and Regulations on the Operations of Purse Seine and Ringnet Vessels Using Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) Locally known as Payaos During the FAD Closure Period

FAO 245-4 series of 2018

Regulations and Implementing Guidelines on Group Tuna Purse Seine Operations in High Seas Pocket Number 1 as a Special Management Area

FAO 261 series of 2018

Rules and Regulations on Fisheries Observer Program (FOP) in the Philippines and distant water fishing targeting straddling and highly migratory fish stocks



FAO 245-4 s. 2024

Regulations and Implementing Guidelines on Group Tuna Purse Seine Operations in High Seas Pocket Number 1 as a Special Management Area

Vessel Requirements



Must be registered as group purse seine vessels (≤ 250 GT)



Valid:

- CFVGL (Commercial Fishing Vessel & Gear License)
- Special Fishing Permit for HSP-1 access
- Listed under WCPFC Vessel Register



Equipped with:

- Operational Vessel Monitoring System (VMS/ALC)



- Must comply with gear regulations and operational standards



- Catch Documentation System (CDS) compliance

Observer Requirements

FAO 245-4 s. 2018 establishes a strict observer monitoring framework:



100% observer coverage required for all HSP-1 operations.



Deployment of WCPFC Regional Observers or BFAR-accredited observers, observer must be onboard from departure and throughout the entire fishing trip.

COVERAGE



Philippine fishing vessel (PS/RN) operating during FAD Fishing Closure in PH EEZ

Philippine fishing vessel (PS/RN) operating in High Seas Pocket No.1

Purse Seine/Ring Net Vessel of 50 GT and above operating within the PH EEZ.

DOMESTIC DEPLOYMENTS

1

PURSE SEINE AND RING NET
CMM 2025-04
FAO 236-6 series of 2024

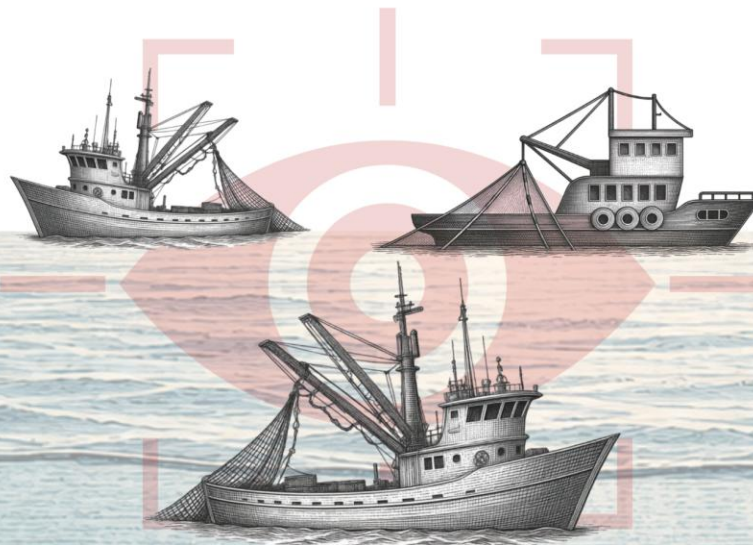
Free School
FAD Fishing Closure
(July 1 – Aug. 15, Annually)



2

PURSE SEINE AND RING NET
CMM 2018-05
FAO 261 series of 2018

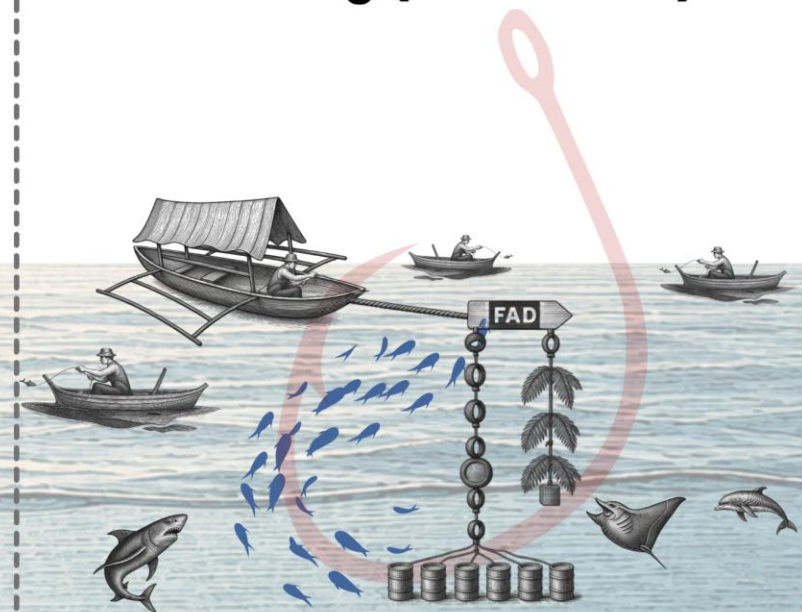
Phased Implementation
(to attain 100% coverage)



3

TUNA HANDLINE

Stakeholders Request for
Study on Tuna Handline
Fishing (2024-2025)



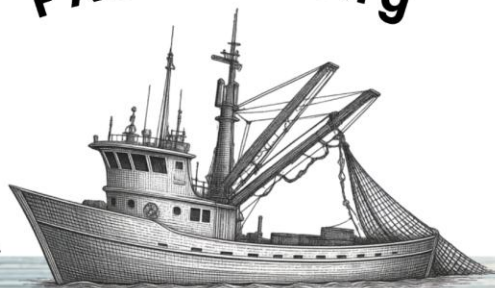
INTERNATIONAL DEPLOYMENT

4

HIGH SEAS POCKET-1 SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

WCPFC CMM 2025-02 – Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna in the Western And Central Pacific Ocean

FAD Fishing



Free School Fishing



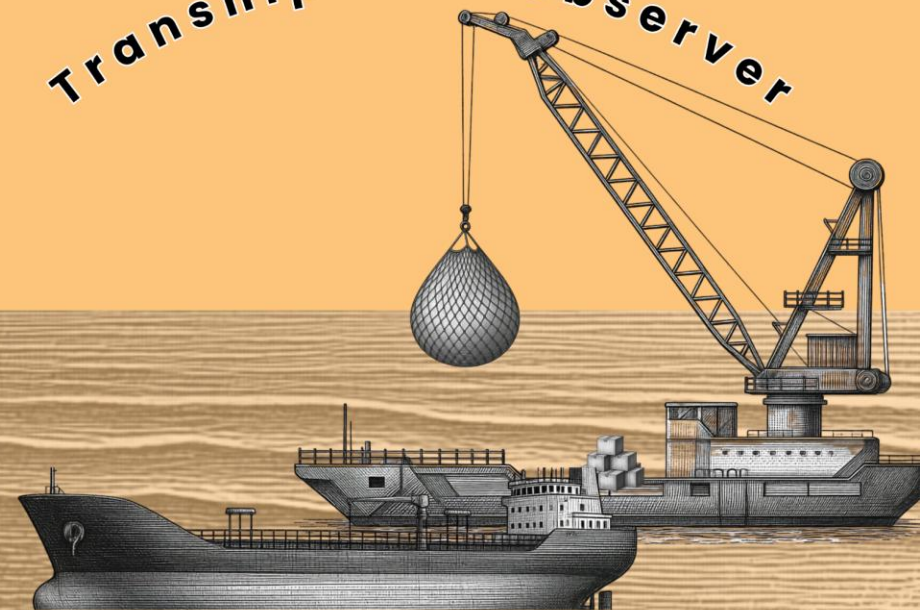
5

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON?

NPFC CMM 2025-03 – Conservation and Management Measure on Transshipments

NPFC CMM 2025-17 – Conservation and Management Measure on the NPFC Transshipment Observer Program

Transshipment Observer



[illegible]

Fisheries Observers

Are personnel duly authorized by the BFAR Director and/or Commission ROP to collect data and other scientific and additional information related to fishing as required by the Bureau and other relevant RFMOs and/or concerned fisheries agencies in the Philippines

An independent specialist who serves onboard commercial fishing vessels and is employed by a fisheries observer program, either directly by the government agency or by a third-party contractor



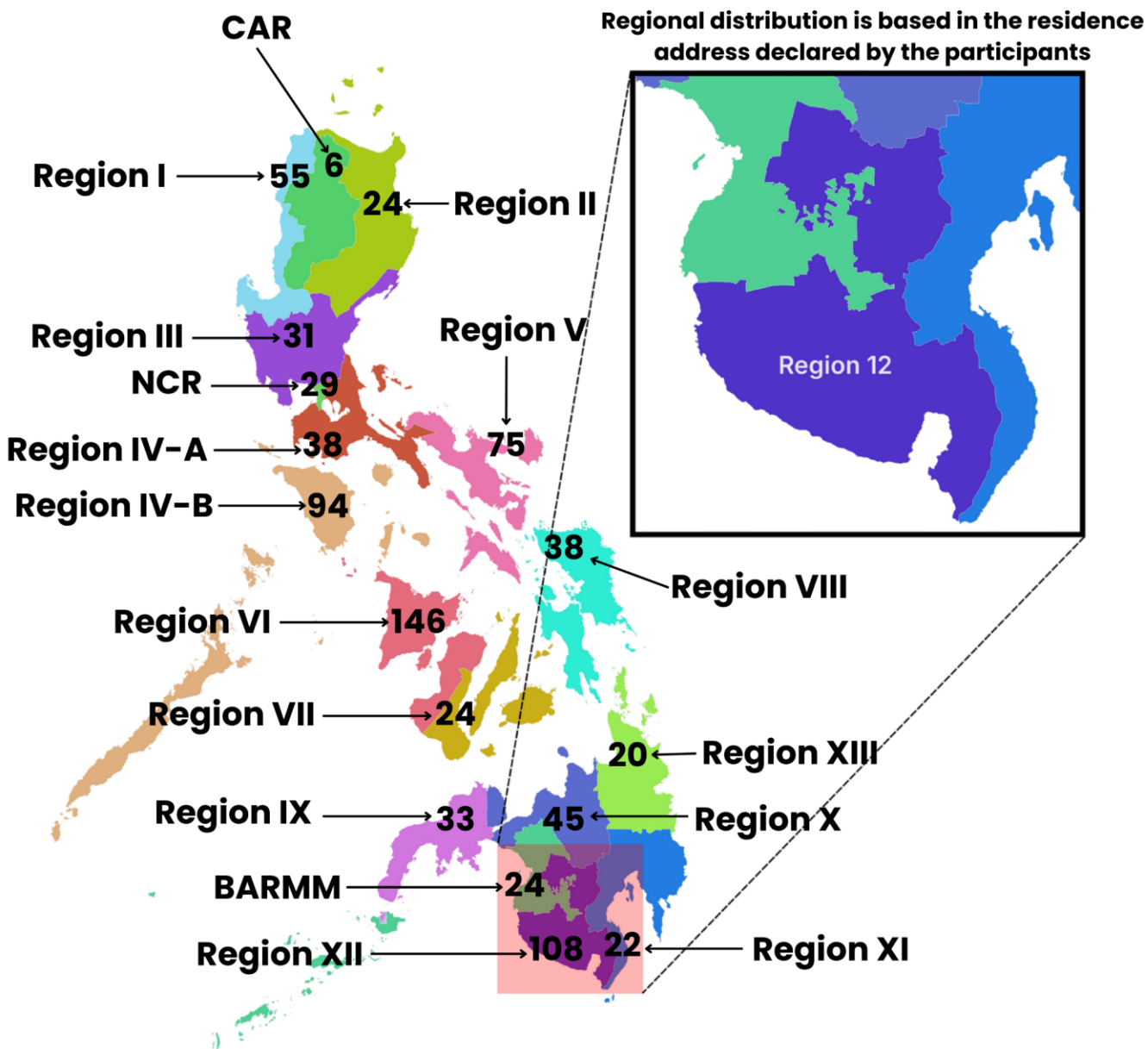


NOTE:

Fisheries inspection programs conducted by officials with enforcement power ARE NOT to be considered observer programs. Though observers may be tasked to register compliance with fisheries regulations, it must be noted that **observers do not have enforcement powers** are not to be considered enforcement agents.

Observers do not enforce fishing regulations and do not directly participate in fishing activities.





812 Trained Fisheries Observers
(AS OF AUGUST 2026)

5.8%
FEMALE



0.6%
LGBTQIA+



93.6%
MALE



Summary

Record Count

812

Batches

28

Schools

131

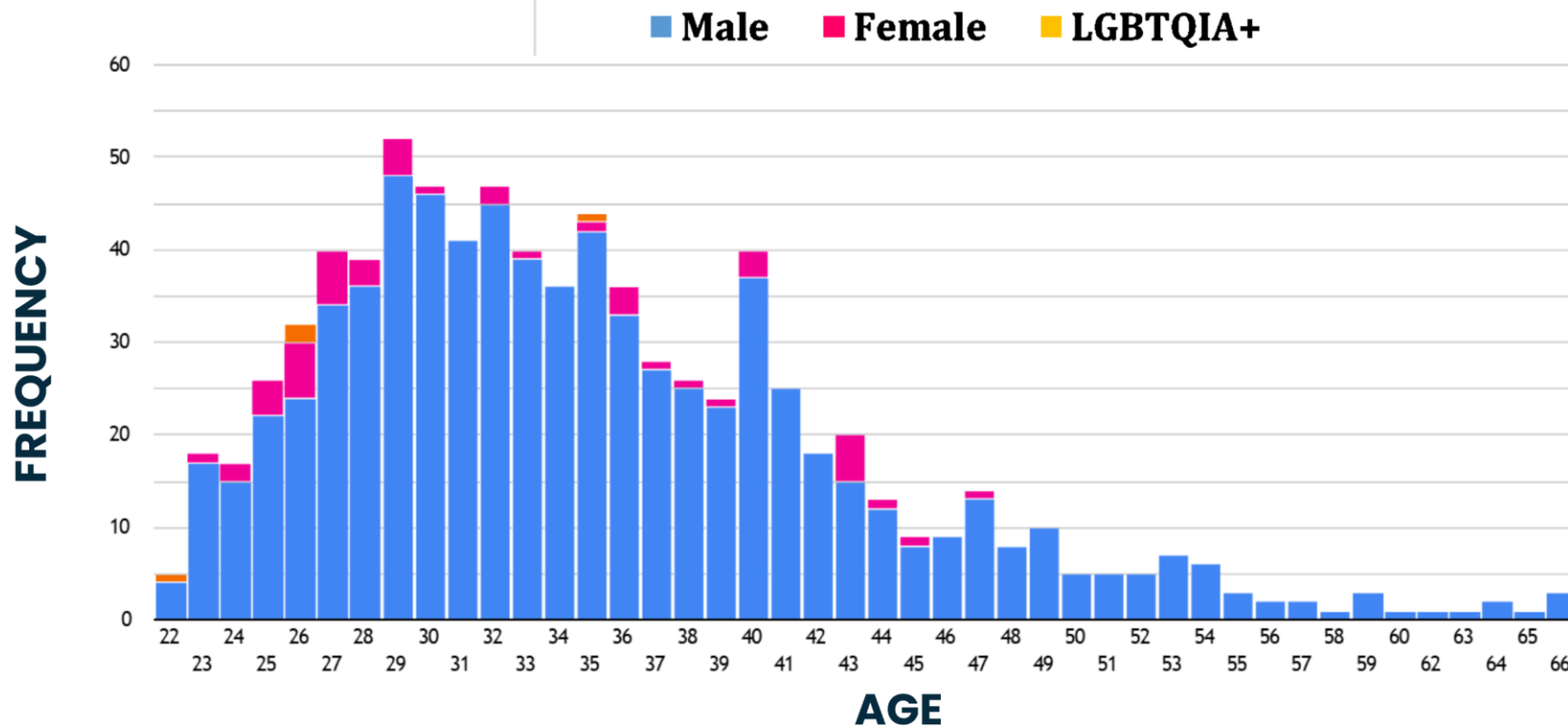
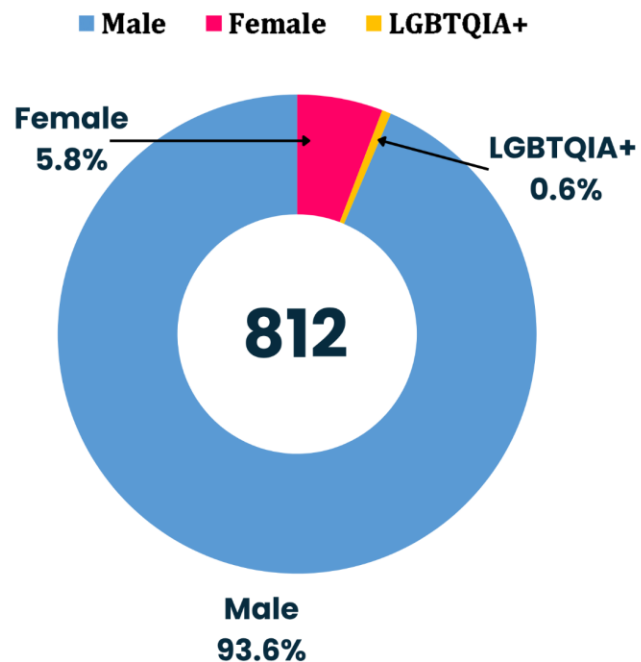
Provinces

82

Regions

17

Gender and Age



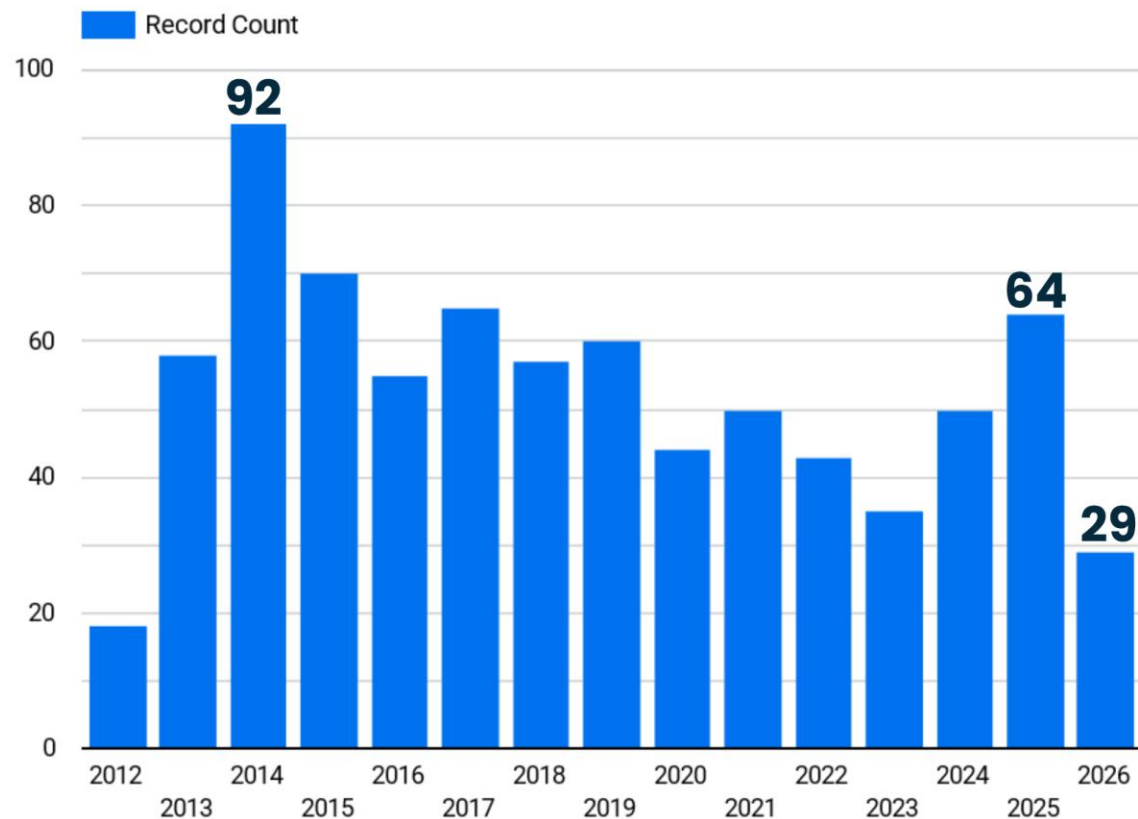
HIGH SEAS POCKET 1 – SMA

OBSERVER TRIPS
790

OBSERVERS
275

VESSELS
51

TRIPS BY YEAR



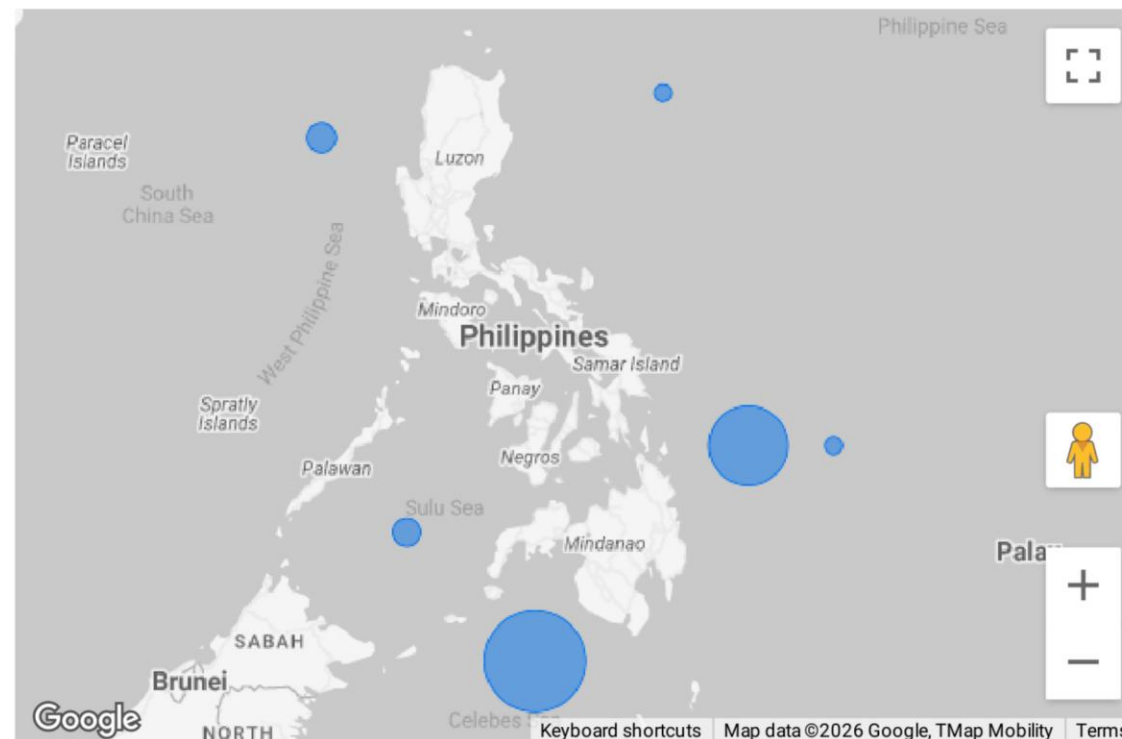
NATIONAL WATERS

OBSERVER TRIPS
702

OBSERVERS
280

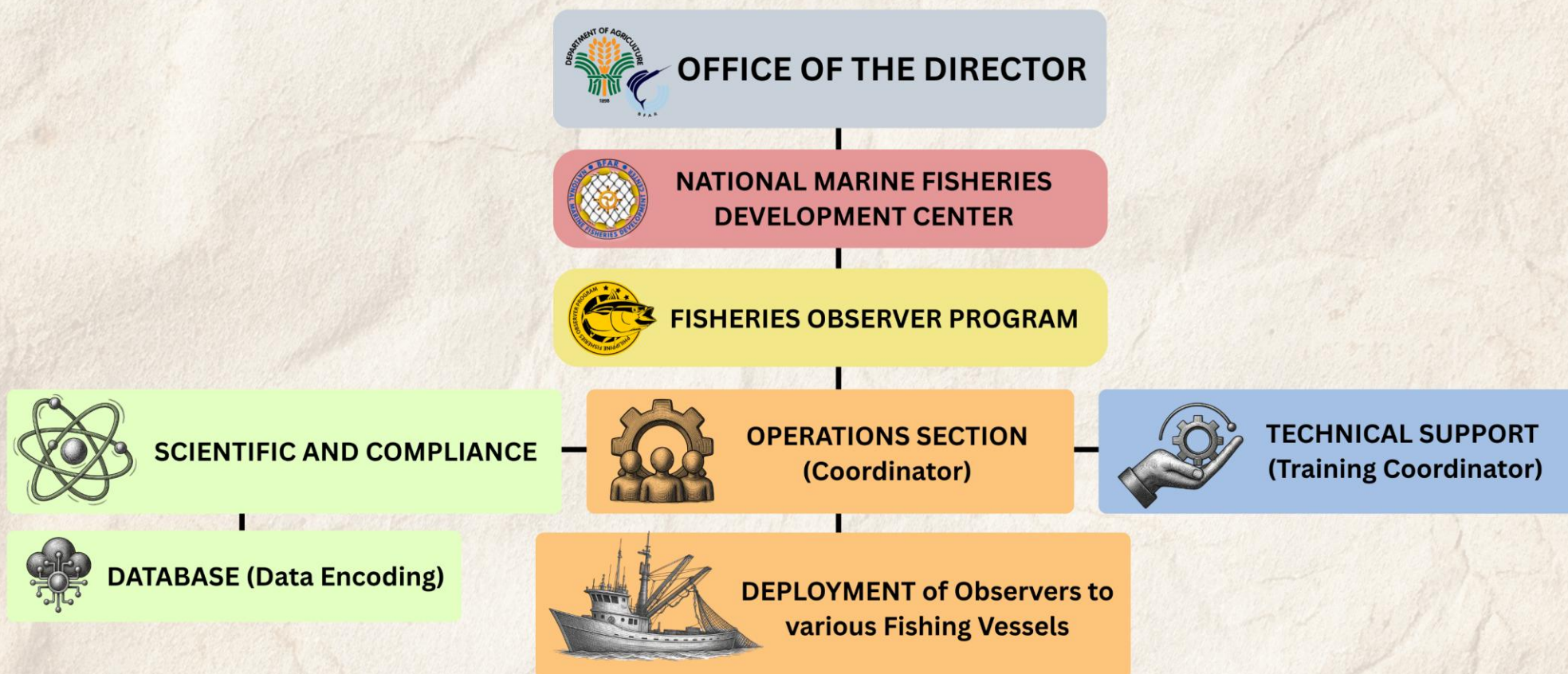
VESSELS
216

FISHING GROUND



Record Count 1 293

BFAR NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



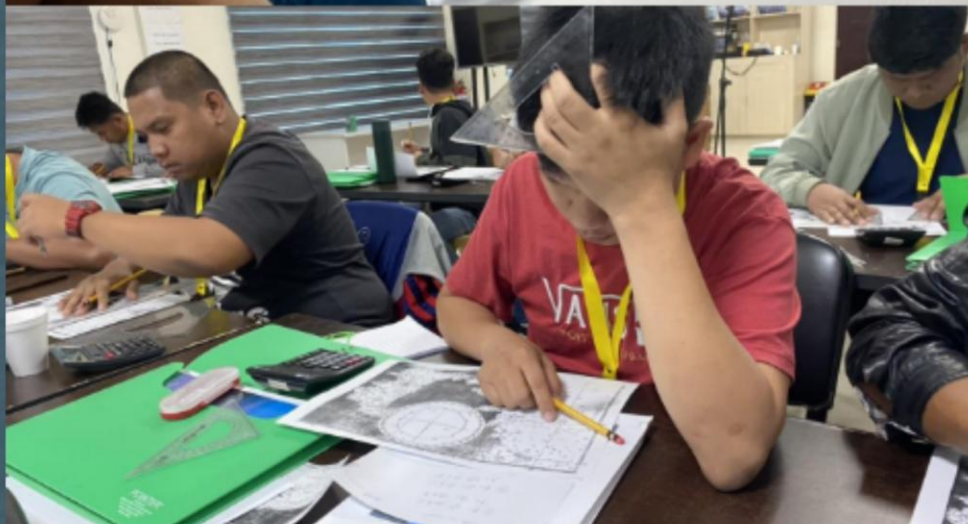
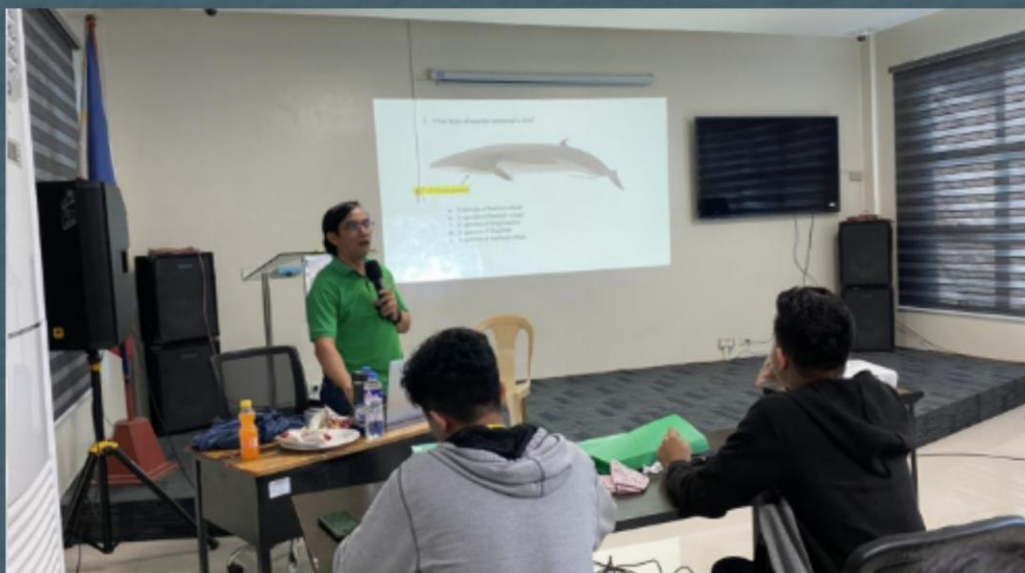


CHART PLOTTING



ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND PROTECTED (ETP) SPECIES





BASIC SAFETY TRAINING LECTURED BY GLOBE MARITIME TRAINING CENTER



**Shipboard Training Actual Operation of Longline and Purse Seine Onboard
M/V DA-BFAR and F/B Tambakol**

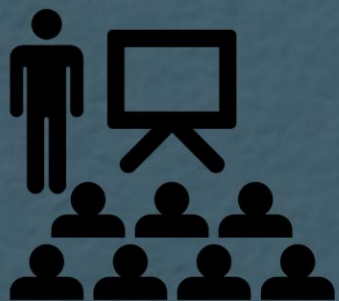


AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (AFMA) LECTURES ON ELECTRONIC MONITORING, AFMA FISHERIES OBSERVERS, AND OTOLITH EXTRACTION



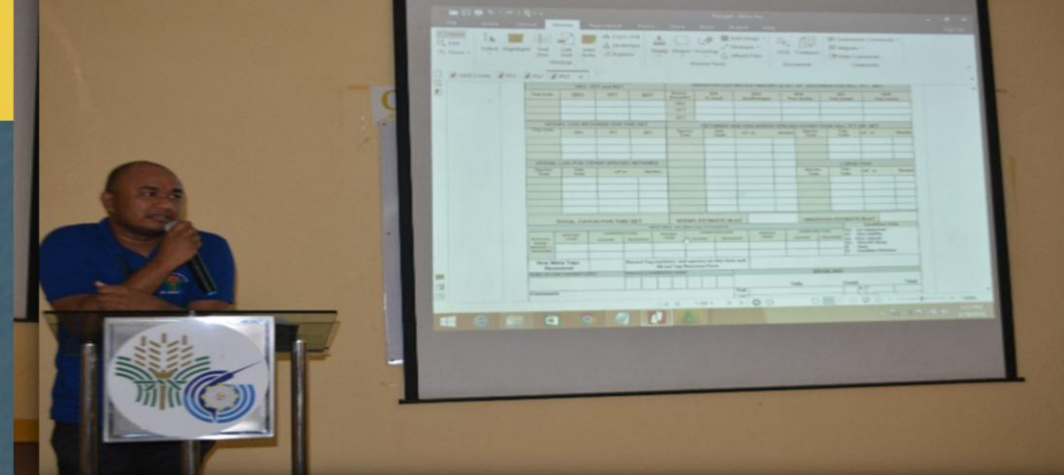
DEBRIEFER'S TRAINING COURSE

***SENIOR OBSERVERS ARE QUALIFIED
TO TRAIN FOR DEBRIEFER COURSE.**



3 BATCHES TRAINED

90 DEBRIEFERS TRAINED





TRAINING PROGRAMS



JOINT FISHERIES OBSERVER TRAINING COURSE FOR INDONESIA AND VIETNAM (FEBRUARY 27 – MARCH 12, 2024)







- Trip details
- Vessel Characteristics
- Marine Equipment and Electronics
- Captain, Fishing Masters, and Crew details
- Daily logs and Vessel Sightings
- Set specifications, sequence, and timing
- Type of Baits used (if applicable)
- Species Identification
- Species fate, condition, length, sex, and processing methods
- By-catch conditions and fate codes
- Species of Special Interest – sightings, interactions with gear, conditions, and fate
- Report Tags picked up by vessel

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS (Onboard)

- Must be an Certified/Authorized Fisheries Observer.
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippine EEZ and High Seas Pocket 1 – Special Management Area
- Able to work independently

(1) Letter of Intent

(2) Community Tax Certificate (Cedula)

(3) Insurance (Medical/Accidental)

(4) Medical Certificate (Fit to Work)

(5) Seafarer's Identification and Record Book (SIRB)

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED FOR ON BOARD OBSERVERS



(1) Life Jacket

(2) Rubber Boots

(3) Hard Hat

(4) Raincoat

(5) Safety Goggles

(6) Medical Kit

(7) Measuring Board

(8) Weighing Scale

(9) **Two-way satellite devices**

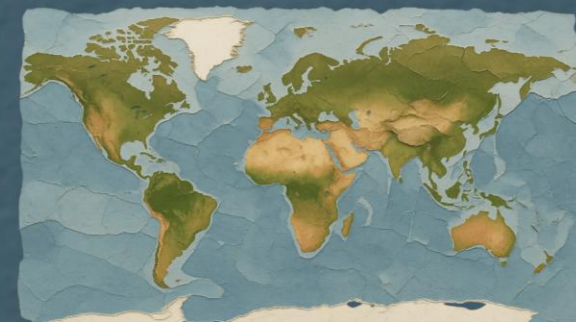
(10) Action Camera



WCPFC12-2015-11

**Agreed Minimum Standards and Guidelines
of the Regional Observer Programme**

NOTE: To ensure that independent communications is available to an Observer; a "Two Way Communication Device" must be issued to all ROP observers on all trips.





REPORTING AND DATA REPOSITORY



TUFMAN 2 (TUNA FISHERIES DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM)

TUFMAN 2

LogsheetsObserverRef tablesLogsToolsHelp

gov.ph24 Jun 2026, 14:12PH

Observer trips / View

25-01: KEG: 19 Dec. 2025 - 22 Apr. 2026

PS-1PS-2PS-5GEN-1 (Sightings)GEN-1 (Transfers)GEN-2 (Sightings)GEN-2 (Vess. Interaction) 2016GEN-3GEN-6DCTChartsTablesMap

Days		UTC date		Time UTC		Time diff.		Anchored		Floating		Free schools		Did you observe an...		Reported in j...	
Ship date	Time					No school	Schools	No school	Schools								
20 Dec 2025	03:05	19 Dec 2025	18:05	9	0	1	0	0	0							Daily log	
21 Dec 2025	02:00	20 Dec 2025	17:00	9	0	2	0	0	0							Daily log	
22 Dec 2025	02:52	21 Dec 2025	17:52	9	0	1	0	0	0							Daily log	

Daily log

Ship date	Time	Latitude	Longitude	EEZ	Activity code	Knots	Wind ...	Sea	How detected	School	Comments	Full
20 Dec 2025	03:05	0339.067N	14001.349E	11	2 Searching		Slight				To lightboat	
20 Dec 2025	03:11	0338.726N	14001.578E	11	13 Other		Slight				drifting near lightboat	
20 Dec 2025	04:30	0338.310N	14003.079E	11	9 Investigate floating objec		Slight	7 Anchored FAD/p	5 Anchored raft, FAD		Investigate by lightboat	
20 Dec 2025	04:42	0337.369N	14002.867E	11	1 Fishing		Slight	7 Anchored FAD/f	5 Anchored raft, FAD		Set No. 1	
20 Dec 2025	07:32	0335.966N	14004.407E	11	13 Other		Slight				Set end, deploy "habong" to fish remain fronet	
20 Dec 2025	08:41	0333.982N	14005.954E	11	2 Searching		Slight				Dragging "habong" to lightboat	
20 Dec 2025	11:39	0336.451N	14010.828E	11	2 Searching		Slight				Still dragging "habong"	
20 Dec 2025	15:25	0336.915N	14011.680E	11	2 Searching		Slight				Still dragging "habong"	
20 Dec 2025	16:47	0336.264N	14016.515E	11	13 Other		Slight				Drifting (pass "habong" to LB)	
20 Dec 2025	17:46	0336.217N	14018.350E	11	2 Searching		Slight				Search area to drift	
20 Dec 2025	19:03	0336.670N	14019.879E	11	11 Drifting at day's end		Slight					

SaveQuick saveCancel

Drop attachment here

ActionsInfoWarnings and errors

Summary

Days missing: 96

Departure date is missing

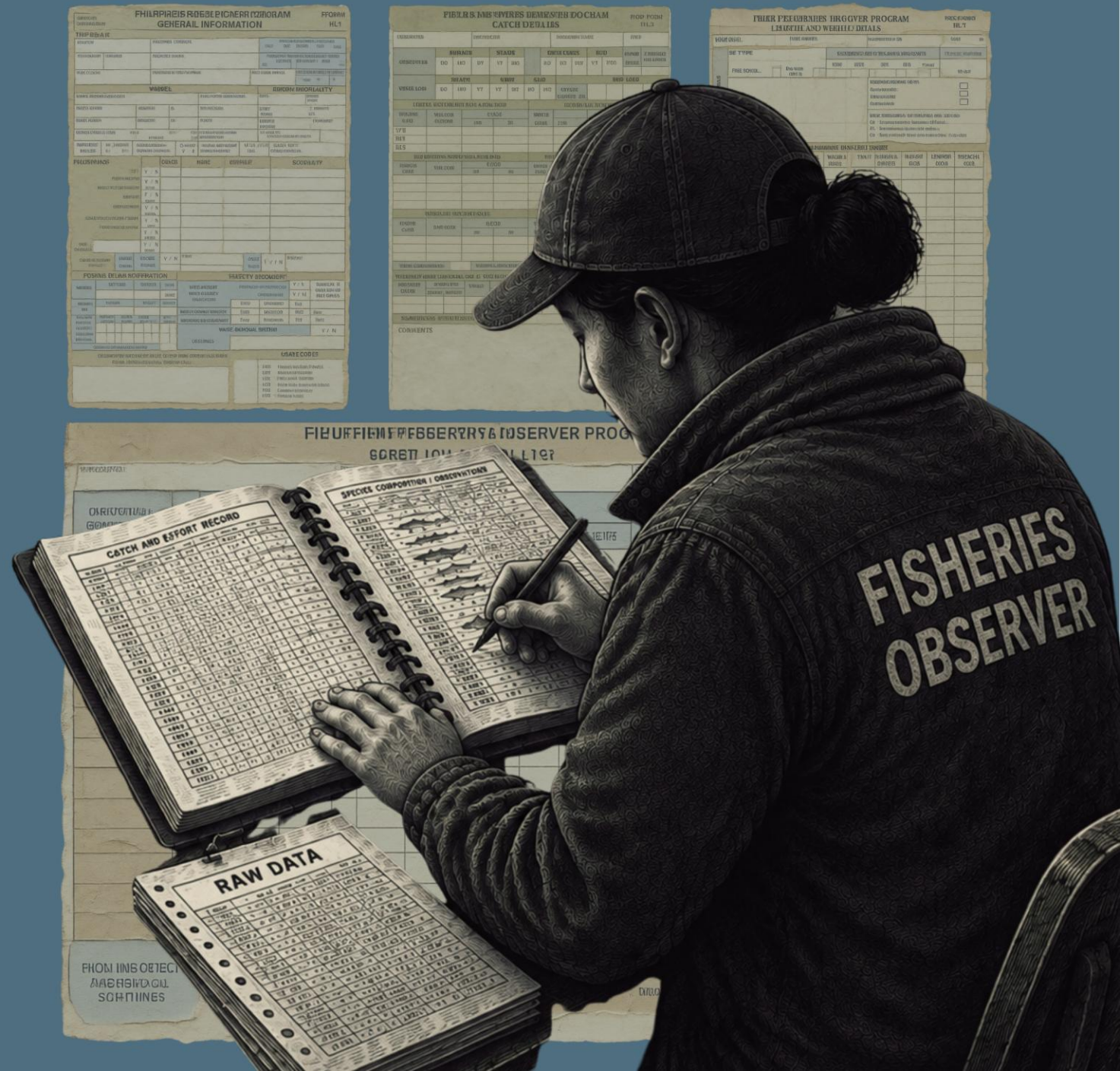
Some Gen-3 questions are not answered

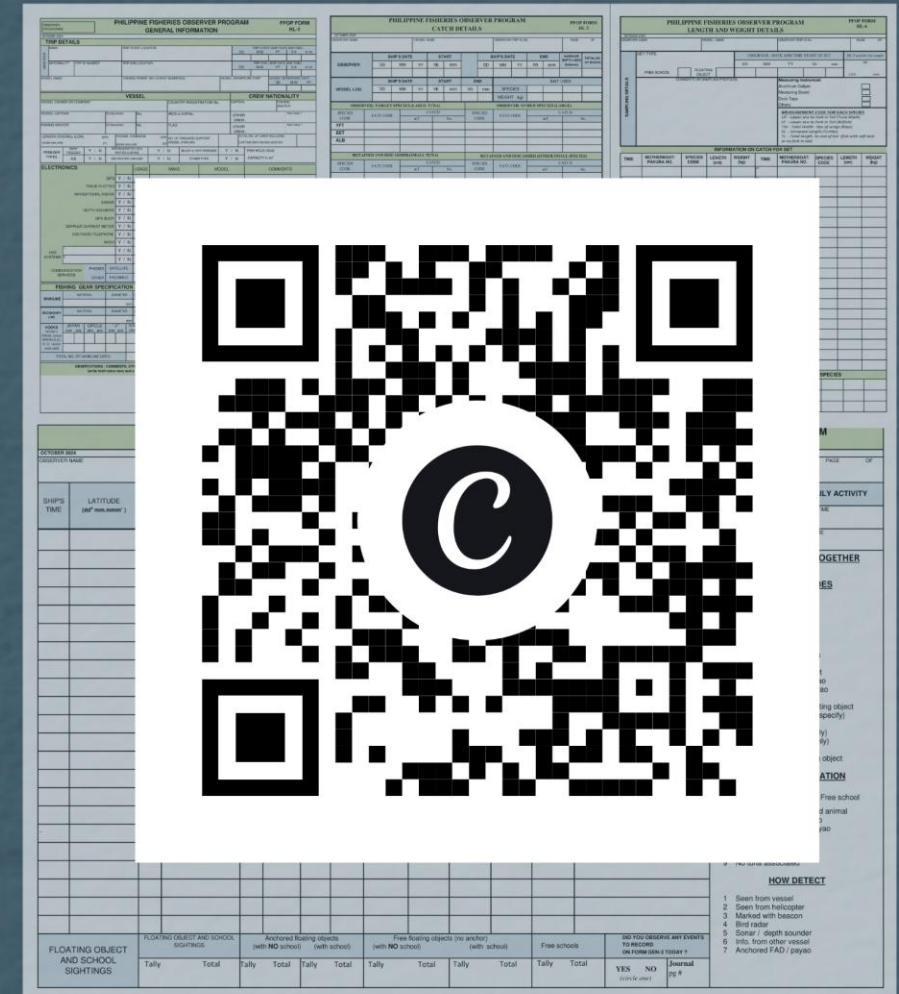


ANNEXES: FISHERIES OBSERVER DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS (OBSERVER WORKBOOK)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES
Marine Fisheries Development Center
Navotas City, Philippines

MARLO B. DEMO-OS
PFOP, NATIONAL COORDINATOR







FISHERIES OBSERVER FORMS (WORKBOOK)



PURSE SEINE/ RINGNET		PHILIPPINE FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM GENERAL VESSEL MINIMUM DATA STANDARDS		PFOP FORM PS/RN-1		
REVISED JUNE 2014						
OBSERVER INFORMATION & TRIP DETAILS						
OBSERVER NAME	TRIP START LOCATION		OBSERVER TRIP START (SHIP'S DATE AND TIME) D D M M Y Y h h m m			
OBSERVER TRIP ID NUMBER	TRIP END LOCATION		OBSERVER TRIP END (SHIP'S DATE AND TIME) D D M M Y Y h h m m			
OBSERVER NATIONALITY	VESSEL NAME		GEAR TYPE Purse Seine ☐ Ring Net ☐			
OBSERVER PROVIDER	VESSEL DEPARTURE PORT		VESSEL DEPARTURE DATE D D M M Y Y			
VESSEL IDENTIFICATION, ATTRIBUTES, & CREW INFORMATION						
VESSEL OWNER OR COMPANY		FLAG STATE REGISTRATION NUMBER		VESSEL FLAG		
INTERNATIONAL RADIO CALLSIGN: (IRCS)	WIN No. AS PER CMM 2004-03: (if no IRCS)		INTERNATIONAL FISHING PERMIT NUMBER			
NAME OF CAPTAIN	NATIONALITY OF CAPTAIN		CFVGL NUMBER		TOTAL NUMBER OF CREW INCLUDING CAPTAIN AND FISHING MASTER	
NAME OF FISHING MASTER	NATIONALITY OF FISHING MASTER		HULL MARKINGS CONSISTENT WITH CMM 2004-03		Y N	
		IF VESSEL IS USING WIN NUMBER ARE THE MARKINGS CONSISTENT WITH CMM 2004-03		Y N		
VESSEL CRUISING SPEED	(kts)	VESSEL LENGTH (LOA) (Circle Unit)	FT YDS MTR	ENGINE POWER (Circle Unit)	KW PS HP	
Freezer Types	SNAP FREEZER	Y / N	REFRIGERATED SEA WATER & BRINE	Y / N	BLAST or DRY FREEZER	Y / N
	ICE	Y / N	SEA WATER CHILLED	Y / N	OTHER TYPE	Y / N
FISH HOLD (Well) CAPACITY in mT	CAT		CAR			
MAXIMUM NET DEPTH	MTR MAXIMUM YDS NET FATH LENGTH	MTR MAIN NET YDS MESH SIZE FATH	WING	BODY	BUNT	CM INS
NO OF ONBOARD SUPPORT VESSELS	Tender Boats		BOAT 1	BOAT 2	BOAT 3	BOAT 4
Aircraft	MAKE	MODEL	CALLSIGN	REGISTRATION	COLOUR	EFFECTIVE RANGE KM NM
VESSEL ELECTRONICS						
GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS)		Y / N	DEPTH SOUNDER		Y / N	
TRACK PLOTTER		Y / N	SONAR		Y / N	
NAVIGATION RADAR		Y / N	SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE (SST) GAUGE		Y / N	
BIRD RADAR		Y / N	EXPENDABLE BATHYTHERMOGRAPH (XBT)		Y / N	
SATELLITE/GPS BUOYS		Y / N	DOPPLER CURRENT METER		Y / N	
ECHO SOUNDING BUOYS		Y / N	WEATHER FACSIMILE		Y / N	
RADIO BUOYS		Y / N	FISHERY INFORMATION SERVICES		Y / N	
COMMENTS						
VMS - 1	System:	Y / N				
VMS - 2	System:	Y / N				
COMMUNICATION SERVICES	PHONES	SATELLITE:	Y / N	Phone No.:	MOBILE:	Y / N
	OTHER	FACSIMILE:	Y / N	Fax No.:	EMAIL:	Y / N

PS/RN - 1 FORM

A VESSEL PROFILE AND **TRIP INFORMATION** FORM USED TO RECORD OBSERVER DETAILS, VESSEL IDENTIFICATION, OWNERSHIP, GEAR TYPE, CREW INFORMATION, VESSEL SPECIFICATIONS, ELECTRONICS, COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, AND OPERATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PURSE SEINE AND RING NET VESSELS.



PS/RN - 2 FORM

PHILIPPINE FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM DAILY ACTIVITY MINIMUM DATA STANDARDS										PFOP FORM PS/RN-2	
PURSE SEINE/ RINGNET		OBSERVER NAME		VESSEL NAME		OBSERVER TRIP ID NUMBER		PAGE		OF	
REVISED JUNE 2014											
SHIP'S TIME ACTIVITY TAKES PLACE	LATITUDE (dd°mm.mmm')	N S	LONGITUDE (ddd°mm.mmm')	E W	ACTIVITY CODE	HOW DETECT	SCHOOL ASSOC.	SEA C-S-M-R-V	COMMENTS	START OF OBSERVER DAILY ACTIVITY	
										SHIPS DATE	SHIPS TIME
										UTC DATE	UTC TIME
										RECORD BOTH TIMES TOGETHER	
										ACTIVITY and AIRCRAFT CODES	
										1 Set 2 Searching 3 Transit (Fishing Gear Stowed) 4 No fishing - Breakdown 5 No fishing - Bad weather 6 In port - please specify port 7 Net cleaning set 8 Investigate free school 9 Investigate floating object 10D Deploy - raft, FAD or payao 10R Retrieve - raft, FAD or payao 11 No fishing - Drifting at day's end 12 No fishing - Drifting with floating object 13 No fishing - Other reason (specify) 14 Drifting -With fish aggregating lights 15R Retrieve radio buoy 15D Deploy radio buoy 16 Transshipping or bunkering 17 Servicing FAD or Floating Object H1 Helicopter takes off to search H2 Helicopter returned from search --	
										If FAD involved be sure to fill out GEN-5 Form-FAD and Floating Object Information Record Changing buoys? -use first line for 15R and next for 15D	
										METHOD OF DETECTION OF SCHOOL	
										1 Seen from vessel 2 Seen from helicopter 3 Marked with beacon 4 Bird radar 5 Sonar / depth sounder 6 Info. from other vessel 7 Anchored FAD / payao (recorded) --	
										"Seen from helicopter" Use when vessel gets to the school of tuna that helicopter either: 1. reported on; or 2. dropped buoy on	
										SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (tuna)	
										1 Unassociated 2 Feeding on bait fish 3 Drifting log, debris, dead animal. 4 Drifting Raft, FAD, Payao 5 Anchored Raft, FAD, Payao 6 Live whales/marine mammals 7 Live whale shark 8 Other floating object please specify 9 No tuna associated	
										Free Schools	
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS SIGHTED:										Free Schools	
										Associated Schools	

A DAILY OPERATIONAL LOG USED TO RECORD **VESSEL ACTIVITIES**, POSITIONS, FISHING OPERATIONS, SCHOOL DETECTION METHODS, TUNA SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS, AND ACTIVITIES INVOLVING FREE SCHOOLS, FADS, OR FLOATING OBJECTS DURING PURSE SEINE AND RING NET OPERATIONS.





PS/RN - 3 FORM

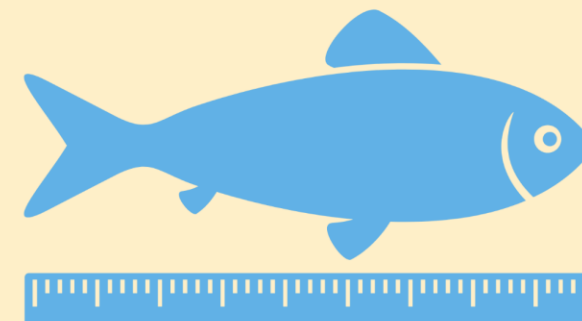
A SET-LEVEL DATA COLLECTION FORM USED TO RECORD FISHING SET DETAILS, CATCH COMPOSITION, RETAINED AND DISCARDED CATCH, LARGE FISH INTERACTIONS, SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST ENCOUNTERS, AND CATCH ESTIMATES DURING PURSE SEINE AND RING NET OPERATIONS.

[illegible]

PHILIPPINE FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM										PFOP FORM		
LENGTH MEASUREMENTS MINIMUM DATA STANDARDS										PS/RN-4		
PURSE SEINE/ RINGSNET		OBSERVER NAME		VESSEL NAME		OBSERVER TRIP ID NUMBER		PAGE		OF		
REVISED JUNE 2014												
SAMPLING DETAILS	SET TYPE		WHICH BRAIL SAMPLED?		BRAIL TIMES		OBSERVER - DATE & TIME START OF SET (Same as PS/RN-3)					
	Free school ☐ Floating object ☐		BRAIL 1 ☐		START		DD		MM		YY hh mm	
	Fill only one of grab, spill or other ☐		BRAIL 2 ☐		END							
	if GRAB target no. of samples in each bail		if SPILL bail # sampled		if OTHER explain in comments		MEASURING INSTRUMENT		PS/RN-4 used for this sample			
							Aluminum calipers ☐		of			
								Measuring board ☐				
								Deck Tape ☐				
								Others ☐		(1,2,3) (total)		
Comments on Sampling Protocol						MEASUREMENT CODES FOR EACH SPECIES						
						UF - Upper Jaw to Fork in Tail (Tuna, Shark) LF - Lower Jaw to Fork in Tail (Billfish) TW - Total Width -tips of wings (Rays) CL - Carapace Length (Turtles) TL - Total Length-to end of tail (small pelagic, fish with soft or no fork in the tail)						
INFORMATION ON CATCH FOR SET												
SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (cm)	SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (cm)	SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (cm)	SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (cm)	SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (cm)	SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (cm)	
1		21		41		61		81		101		
2		22		42		62		82		102		
3		23		43		63		83		103		
4		24		44		64		84		104		
5		25		45		65		85		105		
6		26		46		66		86		106		
7		27		47		67		87		107		
8		28		48		68		88		108		
9		29		49		69		89		109		
10		30		50		70		90		110		
11		31		51		71		91		111		
12		32		52		72		92		112		
13		33		53		73		93		113		
14		34		54		74		94		114		
15		35		55		75		95		115		
16		36		56		76		96		116		
17		37		57		77		97		117		
18		38		58		78		98		118		
19		39		59		79		99		119		
20		40		60		80		100		120		
TARGET SPECIES				OTHER SPECIES								
YFT BET SKJ												
Number Sampled												
Sample Weight (kg)												

PS/RN - 4 FORM

A BIOLOGICAL SAMPLING FORM USED TO RECORD SPECIES-SPECIFIC **LENGTH MEASUREMENTS**, SAMPLING PROTOCOLS, MEASURING INSTRUMENTS, AND SAMPLE WEIGHTS TO SUPPORT CATCH COMPOSITION ANALYSIS AND FISHERIES RESEARCH.





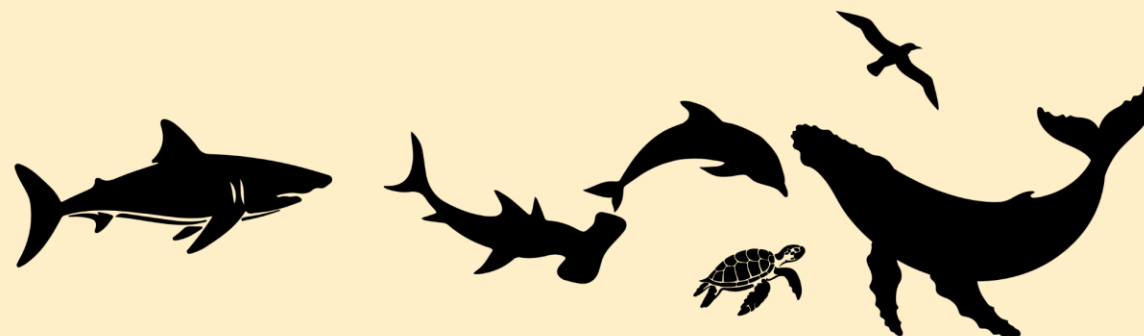
**A STANDARDIZED DATA
RECORDING SHEET USED TO
DOCUMENT VESSEL ACTIVITIES,
SIGHTINGS, POSITIONS, FISH
TRANSFERS, BUNKERING, AND
OTHER OPERATIONAL EVENTS
OBSERVED DURING FISHING
OPERATIONS.**



GENERAL FORM										PHILIPPINE FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM										PFOP FORM GEN-2											
SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST MINIMUM DATA STANDARDS																															
REVISED AUGUST 2014																															
OBSERVER NAME					VESSEL NAME					OBSERVER TRIP ID					PAGE					OF											
The Species was: ☐ LANDED ON DECK ☐ INTERACTED WITH VESSEL'S GEAR ONLY ☐ SIGHTED ONLY																															
TIME OF LANDING (see PS-2, PL-2, LL-4)					OR					SHIP'S DATE AND TIME					LATITUDE					N S					LONGITUDE					E W	
TIME OF INTERACTION /SIGHTING																															
SPECIES CODE					SPECIES DESCRIPTION																										
SPECIES LANDED ON DECK:																															
LANDED:					CONDITION CODE					CONDITION DESCRIPTION																					
DESCRIBE ONBOARD HANDLING										LENGTH (cm)					LENGTH CODE					SEX (M-F-I-U)											
DISCARDED:					CONDITION CODE					CONDITION DESCRIPTION																					
TAGS																															
					RETRIEVED										PLACED																
TAG NUMBER					TYPE					ORGANISATION					TAG NUMBER					TYPE					ORGANISATION						
INTERACTIONS WITH VESSEL OR GEAR:																															
VESSEL ACTIVITY DURING INTERACTION: ☐ SETTING ☐ HAULING ☐ SEARCHING ☐ TRANSITTING ☐ OTHER(specify) ☐																															
CONDITION START OF INTERACTION:					No. CODE DESCRIPTION					END OF INTERACTION:					No. CODE DESCRIPTION																
DESCRIBE THE INTERACTION																															
SPECIES SIGHTED:																															
VESSEL ACTIVITY DURING INTERACTION: ☐ SETTING ☐ HAULING ☐ SEARCHING ☐ TRANSITTING ☐ OTHER(specify) ☐																															
NUMBER SIGHTED					NUMBER OF ADULTS					NUMBER OF JUVENILES					ESTIMATE THE ORIGINAL LENGTH(S) (From the head to the tail)																
DISTANCE FROM VESSEL					SPECIES BEHAVIOUR WHEN SIGHTED																										
m																															
SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST																															
TTL					LOGGERHEAD TURTLE					FAW					FALSE KILLER WHALE					DBO					BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN						
DEK					LEATHERBACK TURTLE					SHW					SHORT-FINNED PILOT WHALE					DCO					COMMON DOLPHIN						
TUG					GREEN TURTLE					KPW					PYGMY KILLER WHALE					DRR					RISSO'S DOLPHIN						
LKV					OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE					MEW					MELON HEADED WHALE					DSI					SPINNER DOLPHIN						
TTH					HAWKSBILL TURTLE					HUW					HUMPBACK WHALE					DSP					SPOTTED DOLPHIN						
KEZ					EASTERN PACIFIC GREEN TURTLE (BLACK TURTLE)					SIW					SEI WHALE					DST					STRIPPED DOLPHINS						
FBT					FLATBACK TURTLE					MYS					BALEEN WHALE					RTD					ROUGH TOOTHED DOLPHIN						
TTX					ALL TURTLES					ODN					TOOTHED WHALES					DLP					ALL DOLPHINS						
					MAM					ALL MARINE MAMMALS																					
					BRW					BRYDE'S WHALE																					
					RHN					WHALE SHARK										BIZ					ALL BIRDS						

GEN - 2 FORM

A STANDARDIZED FORM USED TO DOCUMENT INTERACTIONS WITH **ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND PROTECTED (ETP) SPECIES OR SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST (SSI)**, INCLUDING MARINE MAMMALS, SEA TURTLES, SEABIRDS, AND WHALE SHARKS. IT RECORDS SIGHTINGS, CAPTURES, HANDLING, CONDITION, MEASUREMENTS, TAGGING INFORMATION, AND INTERACTIONS WITH FISHING GEAR OR VESSELS.





FISHERIES OBSERVER FORMS (WORKBOOK)



GENERAL FORM		PHILIPPINE FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM		PFOP FORM	
		VESSEL TRIP REPORT		GEN - 3	
REVISED AUGUST 2014					
This form must be filled in by the observer for every trip					
OBSERVER NAME		OBSERVER PROVIDER / PROGRAMME		COASTAL STATE LICENCES (IF ANY)	
OBSERVER NATIONALITY	OBSERVER TRIP ID NUMBER	VESSEL FLAG STATE REG #	VESSEL FLAG	INTERNATIONAL RADIO CALL SIGN (IRCS) or WIN # (if no IRCS)	
VESSEL NAME		VESSEL GEAR TYPE	NATIONALITY OF BOARDING VESSEL IF BOARDED DURING TRIP AT SEA		
Did the vessel do any of the following (indicate 'YES' or 'NO' with a 'X' for every item)					
Observer rights/ social behaviour	RS-a	Did the operator or any crew member assault, obstruct, resist, delay, refuse boarding to, intimidate or interfere with observers in the performance of their duties	Yes	No	pg No.
	RS-b	Request that an event not be reported by the observer			
	RS-c	Mistreat other crew			
	RS-d	Did the operator fail to provide the observer, while on board the vessel, at no expense to observer or the observer's Government, with food, accommodation, access to safety gear and medical facilities of reasonable standard-equivalent to those normally available to an officer on board the vessel			
National Regulations	NR-a	Fish in areas where the vessel is not permitted to fish			
	NR-b	Target species other than those they are licensed to target			
	NR-c	Use a fishing method other than the method the vessel was designed or licensed			
	NR-d	Not display or present a valid (and current) licence document onboard			
	NR-e	Transfer or transship fish from or to another vessel			
	NR-f	Was involved in bunkering activities			
	NR-g	Fail to stow fishing gear when entering areas where vessel is not authorised to fish			
WCPFC CMMs	WC-a	Fail to comply with the Commission Conservation and Management measures (CMMs)			
	WC-b	High-grade the catch			
	WC-c	Fish on FAD during FAD Closure			
Logsheet recording - Position	LP-a	Inaccurately record vessel position on vessel logsheets for sets, hauling and catch			
	LP-b	Fail to report vessels positions to countries, where required when entering and leaving an EEZ (crossing to or from an EEZ into or out of the High Seas)			
	LC-a	Inaccurately record retained "Target Species" in the Vessel logs [or weekly reports]			
	LC-b	Inaccuracy record "Target Species" Discards			
	LC-c	Record target species inaccurately [eg. combine bigeye/yellowfin/skipjack catch]			
	LC-d	Not record bycatch discards			
	LC-e	Inaccurately record retained bycatch Species			
SSIs	SI-a	Land on deck Species of Special Interest (SSIs) (eg. Marine mammals, turtles, seabirds or whale sharks)			
	SI-b	Interact (not land) with SSIs			
Pollution	PN-a	Dispose of any metals, plastics, chemicals or old fishing gear			
	PN-b	Discharge any oil			
	PN-c	Loss any fishing gear			
	PN-d	Abandon any fishing gear			
	PN-e	Fail to report any abandoned gear			
Sea Safety	SS-a	Fail to monitor international safety frequencies			
	SS-b	Carry out-of-date safety equipment			

Please turn over for comments and observer sign-off

IF YOU ANSWERE YES TO ANY ITEM ON THE FRONT OF THIS FORM PLEASE EXPLAIN BRIEF DETAILS IN THE AREA BELOW. A FULL EXPLANATION MUST BE WRITTEN IN THE OBSERVER DAILY JOURNAL AND/OR TRIP REPORT. JOURNAL PAGE NUMBERS FOR THE EXPLANATION SHOULD BE RECORDED IN THE BOXES PROVIDED ON THE FRONT OF THIS FORM.

date	
date	
date	
date	
date	
date	

If a "YES" is indicated for any of the above indicate a page number in the observer Trip Daily Journal (or other document) in which a more detailed report has been written. An explanation must be provided for any reported "YES".

OBSERVER SIGNATURE

DATE

GEN - 3 FORM

A TRIP-LEVEL MONITORING FORM USED TO DOCUMENT VESSEL INFORMATION, OBSERVER DETAILS, AND POTENTIAL COMPLIANCE-RELATED OBSERVATIONS, INCLUDING VIOLATIONS RELATED TO NATIONAL REGULATIONS, WCPFC CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES, LOGSHEET ACCURACY, SSIS, POLLUTION, SAFETY, AND OBSERVER RIGHTS.



PHILIPPINE FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAMME												PFOP FORM GEN-5	
FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE (FAD/PAYAO) and FLOATING OBJECT INFORMATION RECORD													
REVISED JUNE 2014													
OBSERVER NAME				VESSEL NAME				OBSERVER TRIP ID NUMBER				PAGE OF	
Date (from PS/RN-2)	Time	Set No.	Object Number	Origin of FAD	Deployment Date	Latitude dd°mm.mmm'	N S	and Longitude ddd°mm.mmm'	E W	SSI trapped	FAD as Found	Comments/sketch/change description	
										YES/NO			
FAD Materials			FAD Attachments		Max est. depth	FAD Length	FAD width	Buoy number	FAD/Payao No. and or markings		FAD as left		
					m	m	m						
Date (from PS/RN-2)	Time	Set No.	Object Number	Origin of FAD	Deployment Date	Latitude dd°mm.mmm'	N S	and Longitude ddd°mm.mmm'	E W	SSI trapped	FAD as Found	Comments/sketch/change description	
										YES/NO			
FAD Materials			FAD Attachments		Max est. depth	FAD Length	FAD width	Buoy number	FAD/Payao No. and or markings		FAD as left		
					m	m	m						
Date (from PS/RN-2)	Time	Set No.	Object Number	Origin of FAD	Deployment Date	Latitude dd°mm.mmm'	N S	and Longitude ddd°mm.mmm'	E W	SSI trapped	FAD as Found	Comments/sketch/change description	
										YES/NO			
FAD Materials			FAD Attachments		Max est. depth	FAD Length	FAD width	Buoy number	FAD/Payao No. and or markings		FAD as left		
					m	m	m						
Date (from PS/RN-2)	Time	Set No.	Object Number	Origin of FAD	Deployment Date	Latitude dd°mm.mmm'	N S	and Longitude ddd°mm.mmm'	E W	SSI trapped	FAD as Found	Comments/sketch/change description	
										YES/NO			
FAD Materials			FAD Attachments		Max est. depth	FAD Length	FAD width	Buoy number	FAD/Payao No. and or markings		FAD as left		
					m	m	m						

How FAD is detected	FAD Materials	FAD Materials	Origin of FAD	Floating Object
1 Seen from vessel (no other method)	Main Materials	FAD Attachments	1 Your vessel deployed this trip	"as Found" or "as Left"
2 Seen from Helicopter	1 Logs, trees or debris tied together	11 Chain, cable rings, weights	2 Your vessel deployed previous trip	1 Man made object (Drifting FAD)
3 Marked with Radio beacon	2 Timber/ planks/ pallets /spools	12 Cord/ rope	3 Other vessel's (owner consent)	2 Man made object (Non FAD)
4 Bird radar	3 PVC or plastic tubing	13 Netting hanging underneath FAD	4 Other vessel's (no owner consent)	3 Tree or Log (natural, free floating)
5 Sonar/ Depth sounder	4 Plastic drums	14 Bait containers	5 Other vessel's (consent unknown)	4 Tree or logs (converted into FAD)
6 Information from other vessel	5 Plastic sheeting	15 Sacking / bagging	6 Drifting and found by your vessel	5 Debris (flotsam bunched together)
7 Anchored (GPS)	6 Metal drums (i.e. 44gal)	16 Coconut fronds/tree Branches	7 Deployed by FAD auxillary vessel	6 Dead Animal
8 Marked with Satellite beacon	7 Philippines design drum FAD	17 Other (describe)	8 Origin unknown	(specify; i.e. whale, horse, etc.)
9 Navigation Radar	8 Bamboo /Cane		9 Other origin	7 Anchored Raft FAD or Payao
10 Lights	9 Floats/ corks		(please specify in	8 Anchored Tree or Logs
11 Flock of Birds sighted from vessel	10 Unknown(describe)		comments section)	9 Other (please specify)
12 Others (please specify)				10 Man made object (Drifting FAD-changed
13 Vessel deploying FAD (not detected)				

Note that "Main materials" and "FAD Attachments" are guidelines lists only.
Code 1-17 can all be used to describe either or both main and attachment materials

GEN - 5 FORM



A DATA RECORDING FORM USED TO DOCUMENT CHARACTERISTICS, DEPLOYMENT INFORMATION, MATERIALS, LOCATION, AND CONDITION OF **FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES** (FADS), PAYAO, AND OTHER FLOATING OBJECTS ENCOUNTERED DURING FISHING OPERATIONS. IT SUPPORTS MONITORING OF FAD-ASSOCIATED FISHING ACTIVITIES AND FLOATING OBJECT INTERACTIONS.





FISHERIES OBSERVER FORMS (WORKBOOK)



HANDLINE (HL) - 1 & 2 FORM

PHILIPPINE FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM										PFOP FORM	
GENERAL INFORMATION										HL-1	
OCTOBER 2024											
OBSERVER											
TRIP DETAILS											
NAME		TRIP START LOCATION				TRIP START (SHIP DATE AND TIME)					
						DD M M Y Y h h m m					
NATIONALITY		TRIP ID NUMBER		TRIP END LOCATION				TRIP END (SHIP DATE AND TIME)			
								DD M M Y Y h h m m			
VESSEL NAME		FISHING PERMIT OR LICENCE NUMBER(S)				VESSEL DEPARTURE PORT		VESSEL DEPARTURE DATE			
						DD M M Y Y					
VESSEL											
VESSEL OWNER OR COMPANY											
VESSEL CAPTAIN											
FISHING MASTER											
LENGTH OVERALL (LOA)											
FREEZER TYPES											
ELECTRONICS											
GPS											
TRACK PLOTTER											
NAVIGATIONAL RADAR											
SONAR											
DEPTH SOUNDER											
GPS BUOY											
DOPPLER CURRENT METER											
SSB RADIO TELEPHONE											
RADIO											
VMS SYSTEMS											
COMMUNICATION SERVICES											
FISHING GEAR SPECIFICATION											
SAFETY EQUIPMENT											
LIFE JACKET AVAILABILITY											
FIRE EXTINGUISHER											
IMPROVED LIFE RAFT											
WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEM?											
OBSERVATIONS / COMMENTS, OTHER GEAR, UNUSUAL USE OF GEAR											
USAGE CODES											

PHILIPPINE FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM										PFOP FORM	
DAILY LOG										HL-2	
OCTOBER 2024											
OBSERVER NAME											
VESSEL NAME											
OBSERVER TRIP ID NUMBER											
PAGE OF											
SHIP'S TIME											
LATITUDE (dd° mm.mmm')											
N S											
LONGITUDE (dd° mm.mmm')											
E W											
ACTIVITY CODE											
SCHOOL											
SEA CONDITION C-S-M-R-V											
BAIT											
SPECIES 1											
SPECIES 2											
SPECIES 3											
SPECIES 4											
COMMENTS											
START OF OBSERVER DAILY ACTIVITY											
SHIP'S DATE											
SHIP'S TIME											
UTC DATE											
UTC TIME											
RECORD BOTH TIMES TOGETHER											
ACTIVITY CODES											
1 Set											
2 Searching											
3 Transit											
4 No fishing-breakdown											
5 No fishing-bad weather											
6 In port-please specify											
7 Anchored in bait grounds											
8 Investigate free school											
9 Investigate floating object											
10D Deploy-raft, FAD or payao											
10R Retrieval-raft, FAD or payao											
11 Still fishing											
12 Drifting and tied with floating object											
13 No fishing-other (please specify)											
14 Bait fishing											
15D Deploy-Buoy (change only)											
15R Retrieve-Buoy (change only)											
16 Transfer											
17 Servicing FAD or floating object											
SCHOOL ASSOCIATION											
1 Unassociated											
2 Feeding on baitfish											
3 Drifting log, debris or dead animal											
4 Drifting raft, FAD or payao											
5 Anchored raft, FAD or payao											
6 Live whale											
7 Live whale shark											
8 Other (please specify)											
9 No tuna associated											
HOW DETECT											
1 Seen from vessel											
2 Seen from helicopter											
3 Marked with beacon											
4 Bird radar											
5 Sonar / depth sounder											
6 Info. from other vessel											
7 Anchored FAD / payao											
FLOATING OBJECT AND SCHOOL SIGHTINGS											
Floating object and school sightings											
Anchored floating objects (with NO school) (with school)											
Free floating objects (no anchor) (with NO school) (with school)											
Free schools											
DID YOU OBSERVE ANY EVENTS TO RECORD ON FORM GEN-3 TODAY?											
YES NO (circle one)											
Journal pg #											



FISHERIES OBSERVER FORMS (WORKBOOK)



HL 3 & 4 FORM

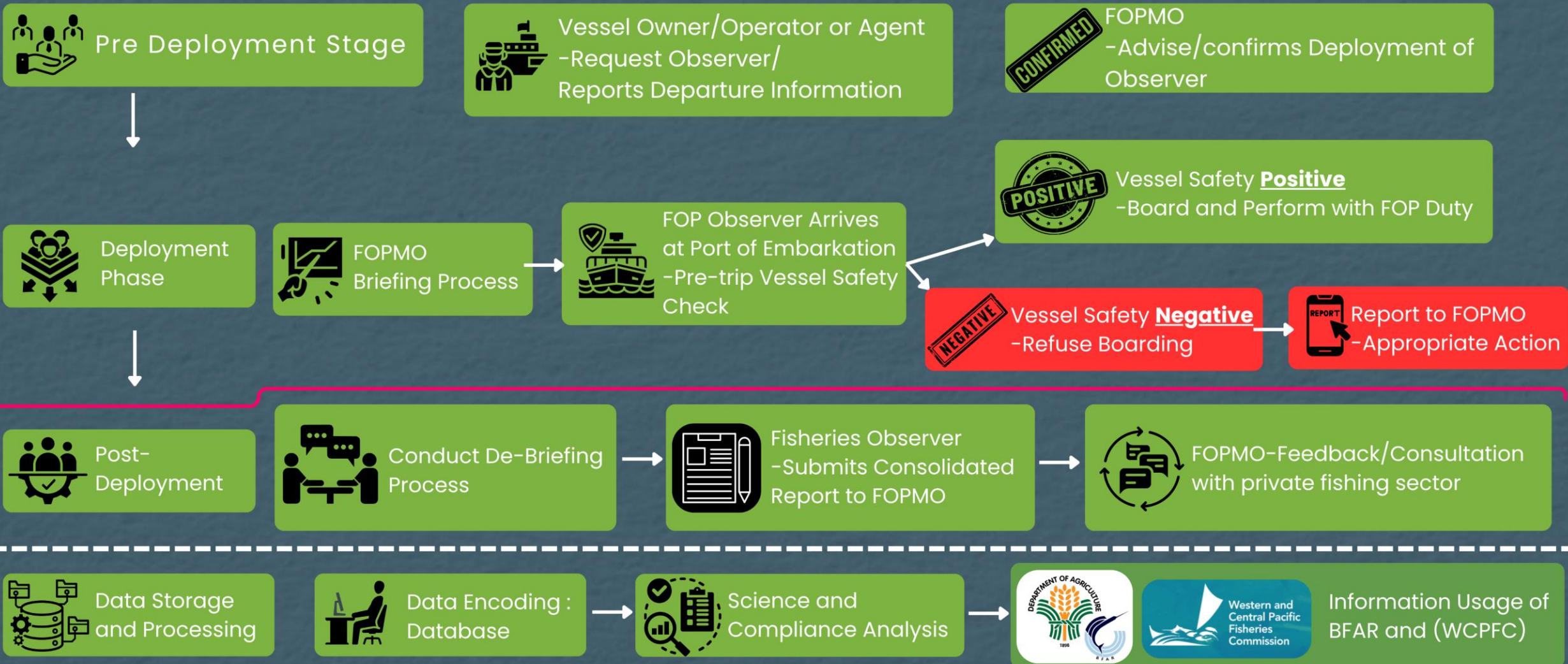


PHILIPPINE FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM												PFOP FORM HL-3					
CATCH DETAILS																	
OCTOBER 2024				OBSERVER NAME				VESSEL NAME				OBSERVER TRIP ID NO.				PAGE OF	
OBSERVER:	SHIP'S DATE			START			SHIP'S DATE			END			HANDLINE DEPTH USED (fathoms)	TOTAL NO. OF HOOKS			
	DD	MM	YY	hh	mm	DD	MM	YY	hh	mm							
VESSEL LOG:	SHIP'S DATE			START			END			BAIT USED							
	DD	MM	YY	hh	mm	hh	mm	SPECIES									
								WEIGHT (kg)									
OBSERVER: TARGET SPECIES (LARGE TUNA)						OBSERVER: OTHER SPECIES (LARGE)											
SPECIES CODE	FATE CODE		CATCH			SPECIES CODE	FATE CODE		CATCH								
			mT	No.					mT	No.							
YFT																	
BET																	
ALB																	
RETAINED AND DISCARDED (SMALL TUNA)						RETAINED AND DISCARDED (OTHER SMALL SPECIES)											
SPECIES CODE	FATE CODE		CATCH			SPECIES CODE	FATE CODE		CATCH								
			mT	No.					mT	No.							
VESSEL LOG: TARGET SPECIES						VESSEL LOG: OTHER SPECIES											
SPECIES CODE	FATE CODE		CATCH			SPECIES CODE	FATE CODE		CATCH								
			mT	No.					mT	No.							
VESSEL ESTIMATE IN mT				OBSERVER ESTIMATE IN mT				FISHHOLD NO. USED									
SPECIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST												Condition Code					
SPECIES CODE	CONDITION CODE		SPECIES CODE	CONDITION CODE		SPECIES CODE	CONDITION CODE						A0 - not categorized A1 - Alive Healthy A2 - Alive-Injured A3 - Alive but dying D - Dead U - Condition Unknown				
	CAUGHT	RELEASED		CAUGHT	RELEASED		CAUGHT	RELEASED									
How many tags were recovered ?				TAG #				SPECIES				SEX					
COMMENTS																	

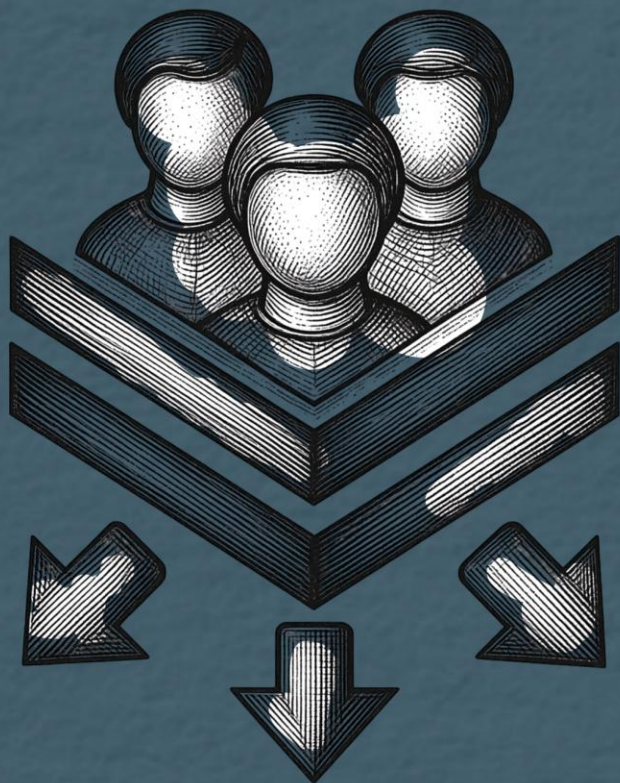
PHILIPPINE FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM												PFOP FORM HL-4					
LENGTH AND WEIGHT DETAILS																	
OCTOBER 2024				OBSERVER NAME				VESSEL NAME				OBSERVER TRIP ID No.				PAGE OF	
SAMPLING DETAILS	SET TYPE				OBSERVER - DATE AND TIME START OF SET				HL-2 used for this sample								
	FREE SCHOOL ☐ FLOATING OBJECT ☐				DD MM YY hh mm				OF								
									(1,2,3) (total)								
	COMMENTS ON SAMPLING PROTOCOL				Measuring Instrument												
					Aluminum Caliper ☐ Measuring Board ☐ Deck Tape ☐ Others ☐												
MEASUREMENT CODE FOR EACH SPECIES																	
UF - Upper Jaw to Fork in Tail (Tuna Shark) LF - Lower Jaw to Fork in Tail (Billfish) TW - Total Width - tips of wings (Rays) CL - Carapace Length (Turtles) TL - Total length- to end of tail (fish with soft tails or no fork in tail)																	
INFORMATION ON CATCH FOR SET																	
TIME	MOTHERBOAT/PAKURA NO.	SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (cm)	WEIGHT (kg)	TIME	MOTHERBOAT/PAKURA NO.	SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (cm)	WEIGHT (kg)	TIME	MOTHERBOAT/PAKURA NO.	SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (cm)	WEIGHT (kg)			
1					21					21							
2					22					22							
3					23					23							
4					24					24							
5					25					25							
6					26					26							
7					27					27							
8					28					28							
9					29					29							
10					30					30							
11					31					31							
12					32					32							
13					33					33							
14					34					34							
15					35					35							
16					36					36							
17					37					37							
18					38					38							
19					39					39							
20					40					40							
		TARGET SPECIES			OTHER SPECIES												
		YFT	BET	ALB													
Number Sampled:																	
Sample weight (kg)																	



MECHANICS OF IMPLEMENTATION



01. PRE-DEPLOYMENT PHASE



1.1 Observer Request and Deployment Planning

- Vessel operator submits observer deployment request within the required timeframe:
 - EEZ – at least 72 hours before departure for Philippine EEZ operations
 - HSP1 – 60 days prior: notify CCMs & Secretariat
 - 30 days prior: confirm observer availability
- PFOPMO evaluates requirements and assigns qualified observers.

1.2 Observer Preparation

- Verify observer certification, authorization, and deployment requirements.
- Conduct pre-deployment BRIEFING covering:
 - Objectives and scope of observation
 - Data collection protocols
 - Safety procedures
 - Code of Conduct and confidentiality requirements

1.3 Vessel Readiness Assessment

- Confirm vessel compliance with safety and accommodation requirements. (VESSEL SAFETY CHECK)
- Coordinate embarkation arrangements with vessel operators and captains.



WESTERN CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION
REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME
VESSEL SAFETY INFORMATION

VESSEL INFORMATION				
TYPE OF VESSEL	PS	LL	P&L	OTHER
NAME OF VESSEL			Vessel Size (Length)	
FLAG STATE			< 16 metres	☐
VESSEL WCPFC WIN NUMBER			16-25 metres	☐
REGISTRATION NUMBER			26 -39 metres	☐
CALL SIGN			40-65 metres	☐
OWNER/OPERATOR			> 65 metres	☐
MASTER /CAPTAIN				

VESSEL SAFETY INFORMATION FOR AN OBSERVER BOARDING.

ITEMS TO BE CHECKED	YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
1. VESSEL MARKINGS TO WCPFC STANDARDS CMM 2004-03				
2. REGISTRATION DOCUMENTATION IN ORDER				
3. VESSEL SURVEY DOCUMENTATION CURRENT				
4. MARINE RADIO HF SSB OR SUBSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS				
5. MOUNTED FIRE EXTINGUISHERS (CURRENT CHECKED)				
6. FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT (IN GOOD ORDER)				
7. NAVIGATION LIGHTS / VESSEL LIGHTS (WORKING ORDER)				
8. SOUND PRODUCING DEVICES OR BELL				
9. DISTRESS SIGNALS AND FLARES				
10. CORRECT SIZE PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICES AVAILABLE				
11. APPROVED LIFE RAFT / LIFE BOATS UNDER CURRENT SURVEY AND ADEQUATE FOR NUMBER OF PERSONS ONBOARD.				
12. OTHER WORK RELATED VESSELS ON BOARD THAT COULD BE UTILISED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY				
13. EPIRBs (CURRENT SURVEY)				
14. NAUTICAL CHARTS AND NAVIGATION AIDS (GPS/RADAR)				
15. FIRST AID EQUIPMENT				
16. ADEQUATE SANITATION				
17. SATELLITE PHONE				
18. EMAIL/FAX				
19. INSURANCE FOR OBSERVER WHILST ON BOARD				
20. IS THERE ADEQUATE ROOM ON BOARD FOR AN OBSERVER AND CREW TO WORK TOGETHER IN A SAFE MANNER				

VESSEL AT THE TIME OF CHECKING IS CONSIDERED TO BE UNSAFE FOR AN OBSERVER BOARDING ☐

VESSEL AT THE TIME OF CHECKING MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SAFETY FOR AN OBSERVER BOARDING ☐

NAME OF CHECKER _____ POSITION _____

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

The Vessel Safety check (VSC) carried out by the "Checker" does not constitute or should be construed as a warranty or guarantee of the seaworthiness of the vessel, or the serviceability or adequacy of equipment on board. There is no assumption of liability of any kind for advice given and opinions expressed in connection to this VSC examination.

WCPFC VESSEL SAFETY INFORMATION



02. DEPLOYMENT PHASE



2.1 Embarkation & Waiting Period

- Observer boards 4 hours before scheduled departure, applicable to all types of deployment.

2.2 Accommodations

- Vessel shall provide accommodation, food, medical facilities, and sanitary amenities comparable to crew standards. Female observers shall be provided reasonable privacy arrangements.

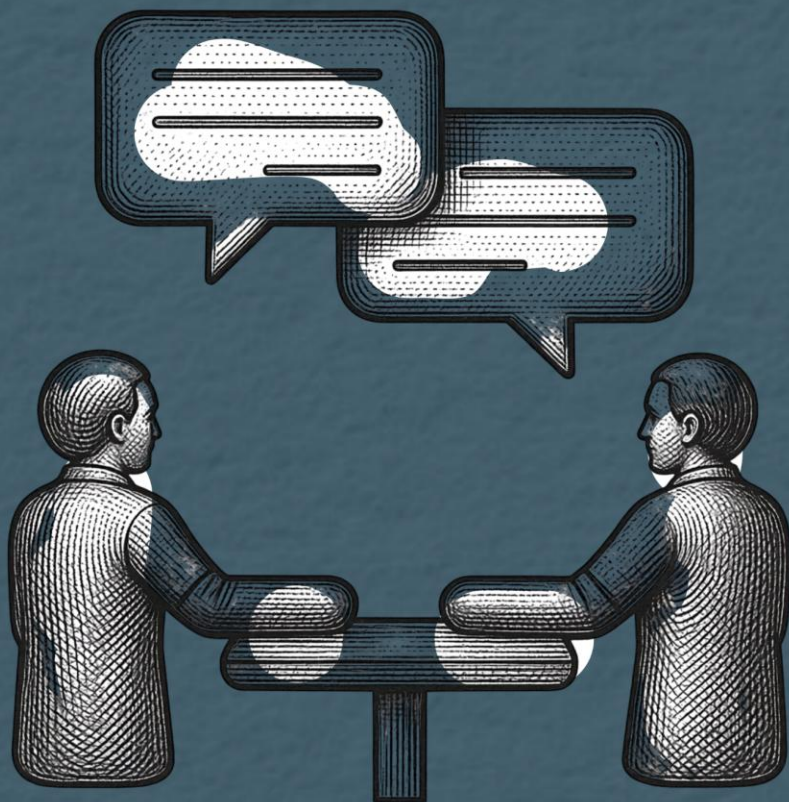
2.3 Observer Duties

- Collect catch, effort, and bycatch/ETP interaction data; monitor compliance with BFAR regulations and WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures; and follow the Observer Code of Conduct.

2.4 Prohibitions & Restrictions

- Any harassment, intimidation, or interference with observers is prohibited. Fishing operations requiring observer coverage shall not proceed without an authorized observer.

03. POST-DEPLOYMENT PHASE



3.1 Observer Debriefing

- Observer reports to deployment officer of the PFOPMO upon arrival at port.
- Conduct debriefing to review:
 - Trip activities & Data completeness;
 - Compliance observations;
 - Operational issues encountered.

3.2 Data Validation and Quality Control & Submission

- Submit:
 - General Observer Trip Report;
 - Completed Observer forms; (PS/RN 1-4 & Gen 1-5 Forms);
 - Supporting photographs and documentation.
- PFOPMO reviews submitted forms for:
 - Completeness;
 - Accuracy;
 - Consistency with vessel records and logbooks.
- Clarifications or corrections are requested when necessary.

3.4 Reporting and Feedback

- Generate observer reports and compliance summaries.
- Provide relevant feedback to management agencies and stakeholders.

04. DATA STORAGE AND PROCESSING



4.1 Data Management

- Encode, organize, and store observer data in the PFOPMO observer database.
- Maintain records of:
 - Observer deployment history & Vessel information;
 - Catch/Bycatch and effort data, Bycatch ETP interactions;
 - Compliance observations.

4.2 Data Quality Assurance

- Conduct data validation, verification, and quality control procedures.
- Ensure consistency with WCPFC reporting requirements and national fisheries management needs.

4.3 Data Analysis and Reporting

- Process observer data to support:
 - Stock assessment & Bycatch evaluation;
 - Compliance monitoring (WCPFC CMM's & FAO's);
 - Scientific research and policy development.
- Data Sharing and Reporting
- Provide validated information to BFAR, WCPFC, RFMOs, and authorized research institutions consistent with confidentiality protocols.

OBSERVER DEBRIEFING PROTOCOL

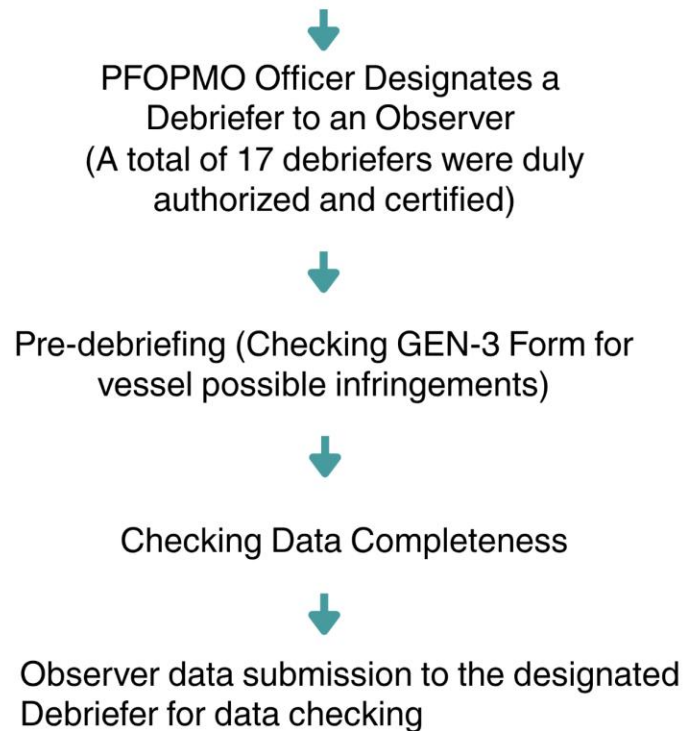
Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES
Marine Fisheries Development Center
Navotas City, Philippines

MARLO B. DEMO-OS
PFOP, NATIONAL COORDINATOR



STEP 1

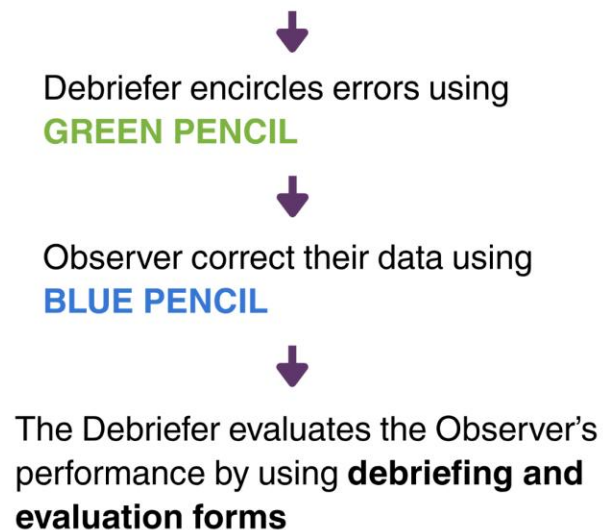
POST-CRUISE PROCEDURES



STEP 2

DATA CHECKING

PRELIMINARY DATA CHECKING



SECOND DATA CHECKING

Debriefing Officer checks the data for errors using **RED PENCIL**





EXAMPLES OF DEBRIEFED FORMS

PURSE SEINE/ BROWNIE		PHILIPPINE FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM										PFP FORM PS/RN-4	
REVISED JUNE 2014 OBSERVER NAME		VESSEL NAME				OBSERVER TRIP ID NUMBER				PAGE OF			
JASON WILSON		F10 ST. MICHAEL-138				P1-R0P-25-21				116 161			
SET TYPE		WHICH BRAIL SAMPLED?		BRAIL TIMES		OBSERVER - DATE & TIME START OF SET (Same as PS/RN-3)							
Free school ☐ Floating object ☐		BRAIL 1		START		DD		MM		YY		hh mm	
		BRAIL 2		END		29		10		25		09 30	
SAMPLING DETAILS BRAIN LINE TYPE Fill only one of grab, gill or other		# GRAB target no. of samples in each bail		# SPILL bail # sampled		# OTHER explain in comments		MEASURING INSTRUMENT		PS/RN-4 used for this sample			
		12						Aluminum calipers Measuring board Deck Tape		1 of 3 (1,2,3) (total)			
Comments on Sampling Protocol						MEASUREMENTS FOR EACH SPECIES							
SAMPLE WERE SEGREGATED ACCORDING TO SPECIES WEIGHED AND INDIVIDUALLY MEASURED						UF - Upper Jaw to Fork in Tail (Tuna, Shark) LF - Lower Jaw to Fork in Tail (Billfish) TW - Total Width - tips of wings (Rays) CL - Carapace Length (Turtles) TL - Total Length-to end of tail (small pelagic, fish with soft or no fork in the tail)							
INFORMATION ON CATCH FOR SET													
SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (cm)	SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (cm)	SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (cm)	SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (cm)	SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (cm)	SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (cm)	SPECIES CODE	LENGTH (cm)
1 YFT	76	21 YFT	65	41 YFT	52	61 YFT	51	81 YFT	55	101 YFT	54	121 YFT	54
2 YFT	63	22 YFT	50	42 YFT	61	62 YFT	55	82 YFT	54	102 YFT	49	122 YFT	49
3 YFT	58	23 YFT	50	43 YFT	51	63 YFT	64	83 YFT	63	103 YFT	58	123 YFT	58
4 YFT	51	24 YFT	58	44 YFT	55	64 YFT	59	84 YFT	53	104 YFT	49	124 YFT	49
5 YFT	54	25 YFT	61	45 YFT	59	65 YFT	58	85 YFT	52	105 YFT	51	125 YFT	51
6 YFT	55	26 YFT	61	46 YFT	54	66 YFT	56	86 YFT	50	106 YFT	59	126 YFT	59
7 YFT	64	27 YFT	63	47 YFT	57	67 YFT	59	87 YFT	55	107 YFT	54	127 YFT	54
8 YFT	56	28 YFT	60	48 YFT	58	68 YFT	51	88 YFT	51	108 YFT	51	128 YFT	51
9 YFT	59	29 YFT	54	49 YFT	58	69 YFT	56	89 YFT	52	109 YFT	55	129 YFT	55
10 YFT	61	30 YFT	54	50 YFT	60	70 YFT	54	90 YFT	50	110 YFT	58	130 YFT	58
11 YFT	68	31 YFT	56	51 YFT	56	71 YFT	55	91 YFT	56	111 YFT	61	131 YFT	61
12 YFT	68	32 YFT	55	52 YFT	60	72 YFT	62	92 YFT	46	112 YFT	62	132 YFT	62
13 YFT	67	33 YFT	61	53 YFT	57	73 YFT	54	93 YFT	52	113 YFT	56	133 YFT	56
14 YFT	52	34 YFT	53	54 YFT	53	74 YFT	50	94 YFT	51	114 YFT	54	134 YFT	54
15 YFT	60	35 YFT	52	55 YFT	60	75 YFT	62	95 YFT	51	115 YFT	61	135 YFT	61
16 YFT	60	36 YFT	55	56 YFT	53	76 YFT	51	96 YFT	52	116 YFT	55	136 YFT	55
17 YFT	62	37 YFT	61	57 YFT	52	77 YFT	52	97 YFT	51	117 YFT	63	137 YFT	63
18 YFT	58	38 YFT	63	58 YFT	52	78 YFT	47	98 YFT	44	118 YFT	57	138 YFT	57
19 YFT	50	39 YFT	51	59 YFT	53	79 YFT	52	99 YFT	56	119 YFT	51	139 YFT	51
20 YFT	55	40 YFT	54	60 YFT	51	80 YFT	61	100 YFT	50	120 YFT	53	140 YFT	53
TARGET SPECIES													
YFT	BET	SKJ	REU	MSD									
Number Sampled	119	-	1	-									
Wet Weight (kg)	441.0	5.0	98.0	48.0	14.0								

MULTI-SPECIES FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM															PPF No.																																																																																																																																																	
SET & CATCH INFORMATION MINIMUM DATA STANDARDS															PS/RN																																																																																																																																																	
VESSEL NAME		F/B ST. MICHAEL-138										PAGE 1 OF 75																																																																																																																																																				
OBSERVER: (see PS/RN-2)		18 08 25 04 28										VESSEL LOG: 18 08 25 04 28																																																																																																																																																				
START OF SET DATE AND TIME 0428 SET SEQUENCE TIMES 0435 0450 0648 0823 START OF SET DATE AND TIME 08 08 25 04 28																																																																																																																																																																
EVENT TIME: 0428 BEIGN PURGING (W/CH ON) 0435 END PURGING (RINGS UP) 0450 BEIGN BRAILING 0648 END BRAILING 0823																																																																																																																																																																
OBSERVER ESTIMATE IN mT, RETAINED SKJ, YFT and BET					OBSERVER ESTIMATE AMOUNT IN mT OF DISCARDS FOR SKJ, YFT, BET.																																																																																																																																																											
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How Many Tags Recovered					Record Tag Numbers and species on this form and fill out Tag Recovery Form					BRAILING																																																																																																																																																						
NAME OF FISH CARRIER USED					FISHHOLD NUMBER(S) USED					<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>Full</th> <th>Tally</th> <th>Count</th> <th>X</th> </tr> <tr> <td>7/8</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>0.875</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3/4</td> <td></td> <td>2</td> <td>0.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2/3</td> <td></td> <td>4</td> <td>0.667</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1/2</td> <td></td> <td>8</td> <td>0.583</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1/3</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>0.333</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1/4</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>0.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1/8</td> <td></td> <td>2</td> <td>0.125</td> </tr> </table>					Full	Tally	Count	X	7/8		1	0.875	3/4		2	0.75	2/3		4	0.667	1/2		8	0.583	1/3		1	0.333	1/4		1	0.25	1/8		2	0.125																																																																																																																		
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PURSE SEINE / RINDNET			CHLIPPERS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM										PS/IRN-2	
REVISED LINE 5514			DAILY ACTIVITY MINIMUM DATA STANDARDS											
OBSERVER NAME			VESSEL NAME			OBSERVER TRIP ID NUMBER			PAGE			OF		
JAYSON WILLIAMS			F/B ST. MICHAEL-138			PI-ROP-25-31			59			129		
SHIP'S TIME ACTIVITY TAKES PLACE		LATITUDE (dd°mm'.mm'')	N S	LONGITUDE (ddd°mm'.mm'')	E W	ACTIVITY CODE	HOW DETECTED	SCHOOL ASSOC.	SEA C-S-M-R-V	COMMENTS		START OF OBSERVER DAILY ACTIVITY		
SHIPS DATE												SHIPS TIME		
08-10-25												0331		
UTC DATE												UTC TIME		
07-10-25												1831		
RECORD BOTH TIMES TOGETHER														
ACTIVITY AND AIRCRAFT CODES														
1 Set 2 Searching 3 Transit (Fishing Gear Stowed) 4 No Fishing - Breakdown 5 No Fishing - Bad weather 6 In port - please specify port 7 Net clearing set 8 Investigate free school 9 Investigate floating object 10 Deploy - raft, FAD or payao 10R Retrieve - raft, FAD or payao 11 No Fishing - Drifting at day's end 12 No Fishing - Drifting with floating object 13 No Fishing - Other reason (specify) 14 Drifting - With fish aggregating lights 15R Retrieve radio buoy 15D Deploy radio buoy 16 Transhipping or bunkering 17 Servicing FAD or Floating Object														
H1 Helicopter takes off to search H2 Helicopter returned from search H3 Helicopter returned from search														
METHOD OF DETECTION OF SCHOOL														
1 Seen from vessel 2 Seen from helicopter 3 Marked with beacon 4 Bird radar 5 Sonar / depth sounder 6 Info. from other vessel 7 Anchored FAD / payao (recorded)														
SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (tuna)														
1 Unassociated 2 Feeding on bait fish 3 Drifting log, debris, dead animal. 4 Drifting Raft, FAD, Payao 5 Anchored Raft, FAD, Payao 6 Live whales/marine mammals 7 Live whale shark 8 Other floating object please specify 9 No tuna associated														
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS SIGHTED:		From Schools		6		Associated Schools		2						

STEP 3

DATA STORAGE

DATA ENCODING

Encodes catch, length, FAD, and SSI templates to **EXCEL/SPREADSHEET** Database

Encodes all forms to WEB Database or **TUFMAN-2** (Tuna Fisheries Data Management System)

DIGITAL ARCHIVING

Scanned trip data or observer workbooks to **PDF File** for reference and back-up



TUFMAN-2



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



STEP 4

SCIENCE COMPLIANCE AND ANALYSIS

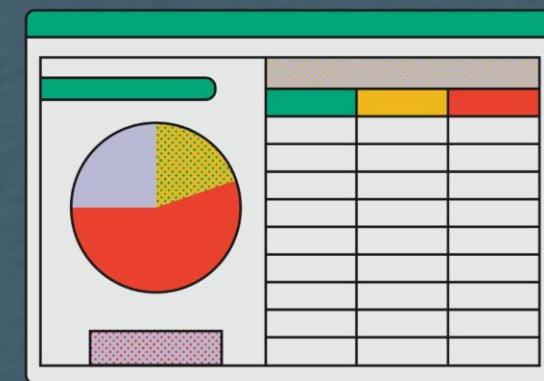
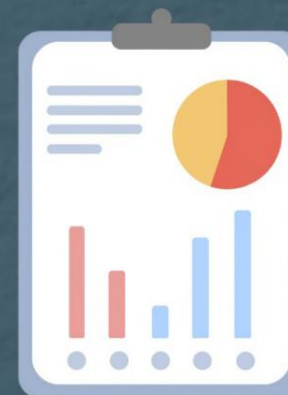
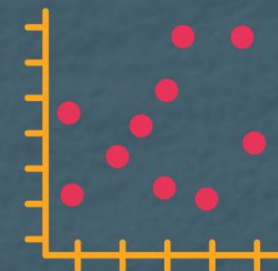
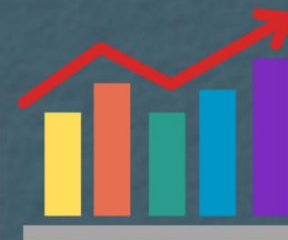
DATA CONSOLIDATION (ANNUAL)

Collects Biological, Operational and Environmental Data

Data Processing, Analyses, and Interpretation (Graphs/Charts, Diagrams, Maps, Images, Illustrations, Technical Drawings, Infographics, Data Tables)



COMPLIANCE MONITORING (relevant WCPFC CMMs to Observers and FAO's)



FAO 245-4 s. 2024



Western & Central Pacific
Fisheries Commission

STEP 5

REPORT GENERATION

Annual Report to BFAR Tuna Catch Estimates



Fisheries Observer Data
PH EEZ (FAO 261 and FAD Closure deployment)
HSP-1 Observer Tuna Catch Estimates
Electronic Reporting Updates



Submission of Annual Report to WCPFC
(Working paper, Information Paper, or
Observer Paper)



Western & Central Pacific
Fisheries Commission





LEGAL DEFENSIBLE EVIDENCE GATHERING

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES
Marine Fisheries Development Center
Navotas City, Philippines

JOEM S. MORENO
PFOP, AQUACULTURIST I





LEGAL DEFENSIBLE EVIDENCE GATHERING

Legally defensible evidence gathering in a fisheries observer program refers to collecting, documenting, handling, and preserving evidence in a manner that ensures it is reliable, authentic, and admissible in administrative or judicial proceedings. The goal is to produce evidence that can withstand legal scrutiny when investigating fisheries violations.



1. Legality – Observers must collect evidence within the authority granted by applicable fisheries laws, regulations, and program policies. They should:

- Follow established legal procedures.
- Respect vessel crew rights and applicable privacy laws.
- Avoid exceeding their legal authority.

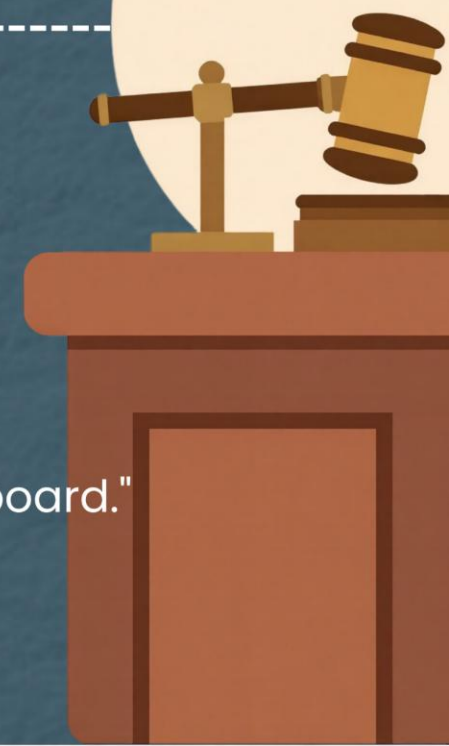


2. Accuracy of evidence should be:

- Objective and factual.
- Free from personal opinions or assumptions.
- Recorded immediately or as soon as practical after observations.

Example:

- Objective: "At 14:35 UTC, approximately 25 juvenile tuna were discarded overboard."
- Not objective: "The captain intentionally broke the law."



3. Completeness

Records should include all relevant details, such as:

- Date and time (preferably UTC).
- GPS coordinates or fishing location.
- Vessel name and registration number.
- Gear type.
- Species involved.
- Estimated quantities.
- Environmental conditions.
- Names or roles of individuals present.



4. Integrity of Evidence

Evidence must remain unchanged from the time it is collected until it is presented. This includes:

- Preventing unauthorized access.
- Avoiding alterations to records.
- Maintaining original files and documents.



TYPES OF EVIDENCE

- Direct observations – Fishing operations, catch handling, discarding, protected species interactions.
- Photographs and videos – Time-stamped images documenting events, gear, catch, or vessel conditions.
- Electronic records – GPS tracks, electronic monitoring data, vessel monitoring system (VMS) information, electronic logbooks.
- Physical evidence – Samples, tags, or biological specimens, where authorized.
- Documents: Logbooks, licenses, permits, landing declarations, and transshipment records.





DOCUMENTATION STANDARDS

Observers should:

- Use standardized data forms.
- Record information in permanent ink or secure electronic systems.
- Correct errors without obscuring the original entry (e.g., strike through with initials and date).
- Avoid leaving blank spaces.
- Sign and date reports where required.



CHAIN OF CUSTODY

A documented chain of custody demonstrates who handled the evidence from collection to final storage or presentation.

Typical chain of custody information includes:

- Unique evidence identification number.
- Description of the item.
- Date and time of collection.
- Collector's name.
- Storage location.
- Every transfer of custody, including dates, times, and signatures.

Maintaining a clear chain of custody helps establish that the evidence has not been tampered with.



PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

To strengthen evidentiary value:

- Record the date and time.
- Preserve original image files and metadata where possible.
- Capture multiple angles.
- Include reference objects for scale when appropriate.
- Avoid editing or enhancing images.
- Document the circumstances under which each image was taken.



REPORT WRITING

A legally defensible report should:

- Be chronological.
- Be factual and impartial.
- Clearly distinguish observed facts from interpretations.
- Include supporting photographs, documents, and data references.
- Be completed promptly while details remain fresh.



COMMON MISTAKES THAT WEAKEN EVIDENCE

- Missing dates or times.
- Incomplete location information.
- Poor-quality photographs.
- Failure to preserve original records.
- Mixing opinions with factual observations.
- Inconsistent notes.
- Gaps in the chain of custody.
- Unauthorized editing of digital files.
- Delayed documentation.



BEST PRACTICES

- Follow standardized operating procedures (SOPs).
- Receive regular training in evidence collection and documentation.
- Use calibrated equipment when measurements are required.
- Synchronize clocks on cameras, GPS units, and electronic devices.
- Secure digital evidence with backups and access controls.
- Conduct periodic quality assurance reviews of reports and evidence.



IMPORTANCE IN FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT

Legally defensible evidence enables fisheries authorities to:

- Support investigations into illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- Verify compliance with fisheries regulations.
- Support administrative sanctions or criminal prosecutions.
- Improve the credibility and transparency of observer programs.
- Strengthen confidence in fisheries management and conservation efforts.

Ultimately, the value of an observer's evidence depends not only on what was observed, but also on whether it was collected, documented, preserved, and handled according to accepted legal and procedural standards. Consistent adherence to these principles increases the likelihood that the evidence will be accepted and relied upon in enforcement proceedings.



COMMON ISSUES

Fisheries observer programs are designed to independently monitor commercial fishing activities, collect scientific data, verify compliance with regulations, and support sustainable fisheries management. Despite their importance, these programs commonly face operational, financial, technical, and human-resource challenges.

CHALLENGES

DESCRIPTION

IMPACT

1. LIMITED OBSERVER COVERAGE

Not every fishing trip carries an observer due to budget or staffing limitations.

Data may not accurately represent the entire fishery.

2. OBSERVER SAFETY

Observers often work in remote locations under harsh weather and difficult sea conditions. They may also experience intimidation or harassment.

Safety risks can reduce recruitment and affect data collection.

3. FUNDING CONSTRAINTS

Observer programs are expensive because of salaries, travel, equipment, insurance, and training.

Reduced coverage and lower data quality.

4. INDUSTRY RESISTANCE

Some vessel operators view observers as disruptive, costly, or threatening to their business interests.

Reduced cooperation and potential interference with observer duties.

CHALLENGES

DESCRIPTION

IMPACT

5. DATA QUALITY AND CONSISTENCY

Differences in observer experience or identification skills can lead to inconsistent data.

Less reliable scientific assessments.

6. BIAS IN COVERAGE

If observers are placed only on certain vessel types, regions, or seasons, sampling may not be representative.

Inaccurate estimates of catch and bycatch.

7. TECHNOLOGY LIMITATIONS

Electronic reporting and monitoring systems may be unavailable, unreliable, or poorly integrated.

Delays and gaps in data collection.

8. LEGAL AND REGULATORY ISSUES

Weak enforcement or unclear regulations can limit observer authority or access to vessels.

Reduced compliance monitoring.



PFOP EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP)

The EAP gives all parties a common response playbook when an observer's safety is compromised at sea.

PURPOSE & COVERAGE



PROTECT

Health, safety, and security of observers onboard fishing vessels.



COVERAGE

BFAR-deployed PFOP observers on covered vessels in Philippine waters, coastal states, and the high seas.



GUIDE

Immediate response, mitigation, disembarkation, reporting, and investigation.

**WCPFC CMM
2017-03**

• Built around WCPFC Observer
• Safety Requirements

• Agreed Minimum Standards and Guidelines of
• the Regional Observer Programme

Clear roles + fast communication + documented action

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS COVERED

Any incident where a fisheries observer's life, health, safety, or security is at risk.

1

Harassment / Assault

Intimidation, threats, harassment, or assault onboard



2

Serious Illness / Injury

Medical conditions or injuries requiring urgent care



3

Overboard / Missing

Observer missing or presumed fallen overboard



4

Death at Sea / Port

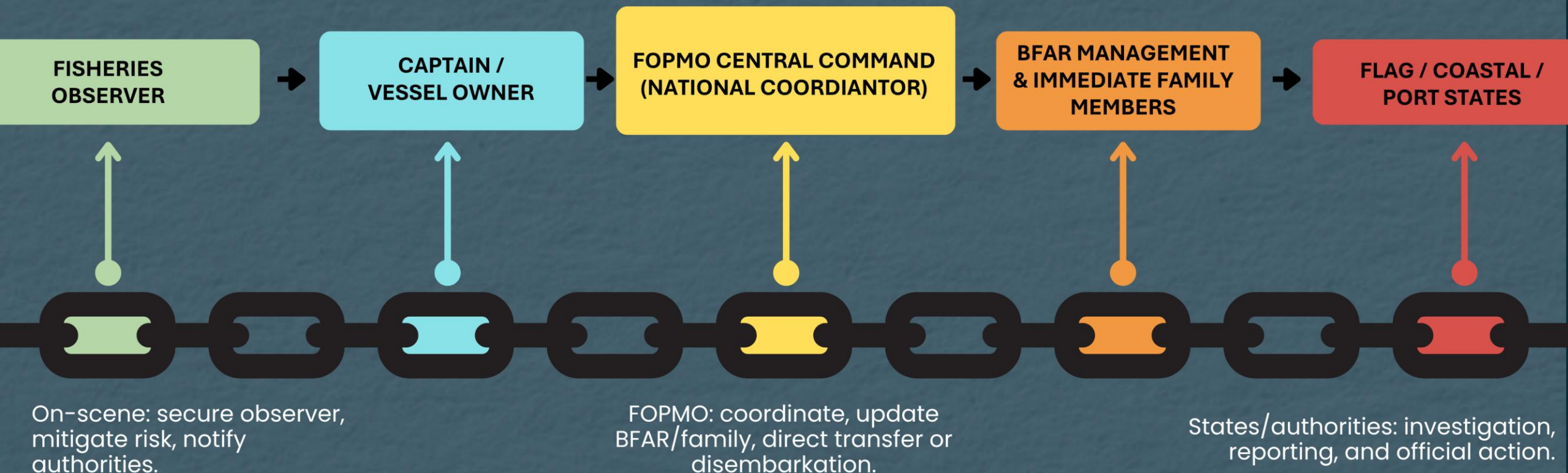
Recovery, preservation, notification, and investigation



WHO DOES WHAT

Emergency response works when each party acts within its role and shares timely updates.

CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY DURING AN OBSERVER EMERGENCY AT SEA



One principle: observer safety takes priority over fishing operations

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTING

Use the fastest available channel, then maintain continuous updates until the observer is safe.

At sea channels

Satellite phone	HF radio
Vessel email / internet	Two-way satellite device
SMS via InReach	Waterproof lifesaving beacon

Shore channels

Phone / mobile	Email
Fax	HF radio
Internet app	Any available means

Minimum report details

- Observer Name
- Vessel Position
- Incident details
- Vessel, captain, owner contacts



PROTOCOL ACTIVATION: WHEN OBSERVER SAFETY IS COMPROMISED

Emergency situations are treated as command events, not routine reports.

Harassment / Assault

- Preserve observer safety
- Remove from hostile conditions
- Secure facts and statements
- Trigger formal inquiry



Serious Illness / Injury

- Provide immediate care
- Coordinate evacuation/port call
- Inform BFAR and next of kin
- Document cause and status



Overboard / Missing / Death

- Cease operations immediately
- Conduct search and rescue
- Notify MRCC and authorities
- Preserve evidence and effects



Protocol principle: protect life first, escalate immediately, maintain command communication, and document every action.

UNIVERSAL RESPONSE SEQUENCE

Applies across all emergency categories before case-specific actions.

1 STABILIZE

Cease or suspend operations where safety requires; protect the observer from immediate harm.



2 NOTIFY

Alert BFAR-FOPMO, the flag CCM, and relevant authorities using all available channels.



3 COORDINATE

Align onboard command, owner/operator, FOPMO, flag/coastal/port States, MRCC, and WCPFC as applicable.



4 DOCUMENT

Record position, time, statements, actions taken, medical status, evidence, and follow-up reports.



Non-negotiables: continuous contact, safe disembarkation where necessary, cooperation with investigations, timely reporting to BFAR Management

PROTOCOL 1 – HARASSMENT / ASSAULT

Primary objective: immediate safety, removal from hostile conditions, and accountable investigation.

1 MASTER / OWNER

- Protect observer and stabilize onboard situation
- Notify flag CCM and BFAR-FOPMO
- Submit core incident details
- Facilitate safe disembarkation
- Cooperate with investigation



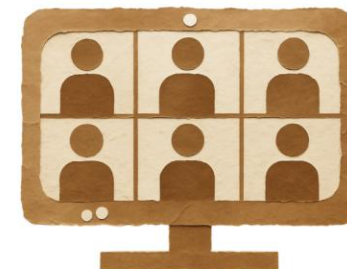
2 BFAR-FOPMO

- Direct transfer or disembarkation
- Maintain contact until port arrival
- Escalate confirmed violations to BFAR, flag CCM, and Secretariat
- Submit report for legal action



3 FLAG CCM

- Investigate from provider report
- Cooperate with FOPMO inquiry
- Report findings and actions taken
- Support observer removal when requested



Non-negotiables: continuous contact • safe disembarkation where necessary • cooperation with investigations • timely reporting to BFAR Management

PROTOCOL 2 – SERIOUS ILLNESS / INJURY

Primary objective: medical care, evacuation pathway, and sustained case updates.

1 MASTER / OWNER

- Cease operations immediately
- Notify flag CCM and BFAR-FOPMO
- Provide available onboard medical care
- Facilitate medical disembarkation/transport
- Cooperate in cause investigation



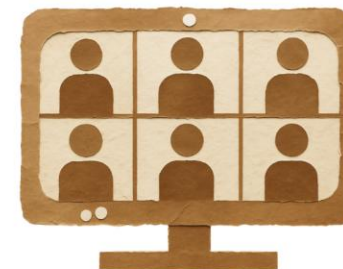
2 BFAR-FOPMO

- Notify BFAR Management of condition/status
- Coordinate care with owner/operator
- Facilitate disembarkation and replacement
- Notify next of kin and provide updates



3 FLAG CCM

- Notify FOPMO to facilitate disembarkation
- Support observer replacement
- Coordinate until medical handover is complete



PROTOCOL 3 — OVERBOARD, MISSING, OR DEATH AT SEA

Primary objective: search and rescue, authority escalation, preservation of evidence and dignity.

1 MASTER / OWNER

- Cease all fishing operations
- Conduct search and rescue for at least 72 hours, unless found or otherwise directed
- Notify BFAR-FOPMO, flag CCM, MRCC, coastal State, and WCPFC
- Alert nearby vessels
- Return to agreed port; preserve evidence and effects



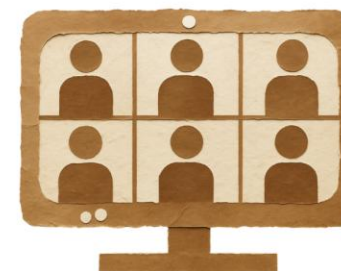
2 BFAR-FOPMO

- Notify BFAR Management, flag/coastal States, and WCPFC
- Record observer identity, incident details, and exact vessel position
- Update family members
- Hand over remains/effects when applicable
- Submit report for investigation/legal action



3 FLAG CCM

- Conduct investigation
- Act on findings
- Coordinate with FOPMO and authorities until resolved





EMERGENCY PROTOCOL CLOSURE

A case is not complete until the observer is safe, authorities are informed, evidence is preserved, and reporting is closed.

✓ SAFETY SECURED

Observer protected, treated, removed, or recovered as required.

✓ AUTHORITY CHAIN NOTIFIED

BFAR-FOPMO, BFAR Management, flag/coastal/port authorities, MRCC/WCPFC as applicable.

✓ KEEP THE FAMILY UPDATED

Timely, dignified, and continuous updates through FOPMO.

✓ CASE FILE PRESERVED

Reports, position data, communications, evidence, personal effects, and investigation record retained.

Protocol ethos: protect life, preserve integrity, and close the loop.

FIRST 30 MINUTES: ACTION CHECKLIST

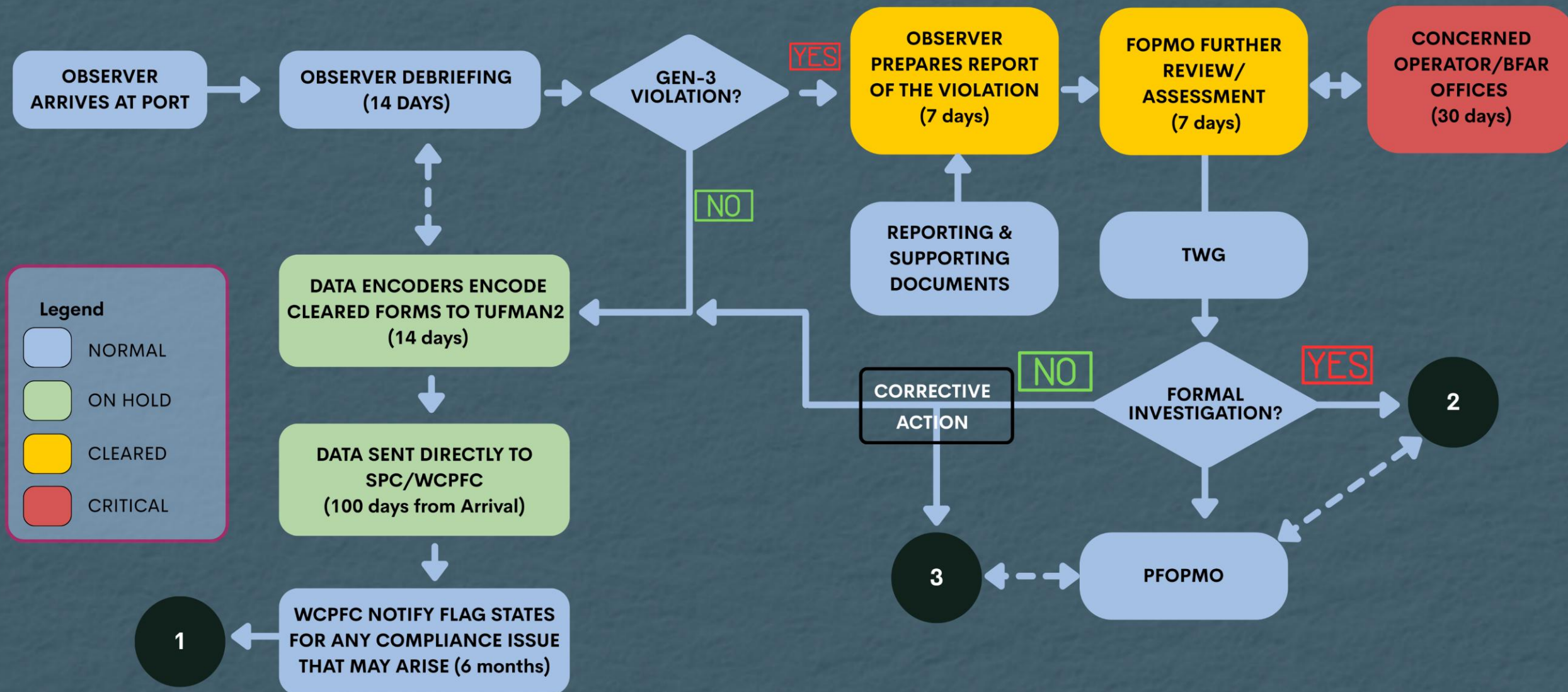
Use this sequence to stabilize the situation while the formal protocol is activated.



The EAP is a shared commitment: rapid reporting, coordinated response, and observer safety above all else.

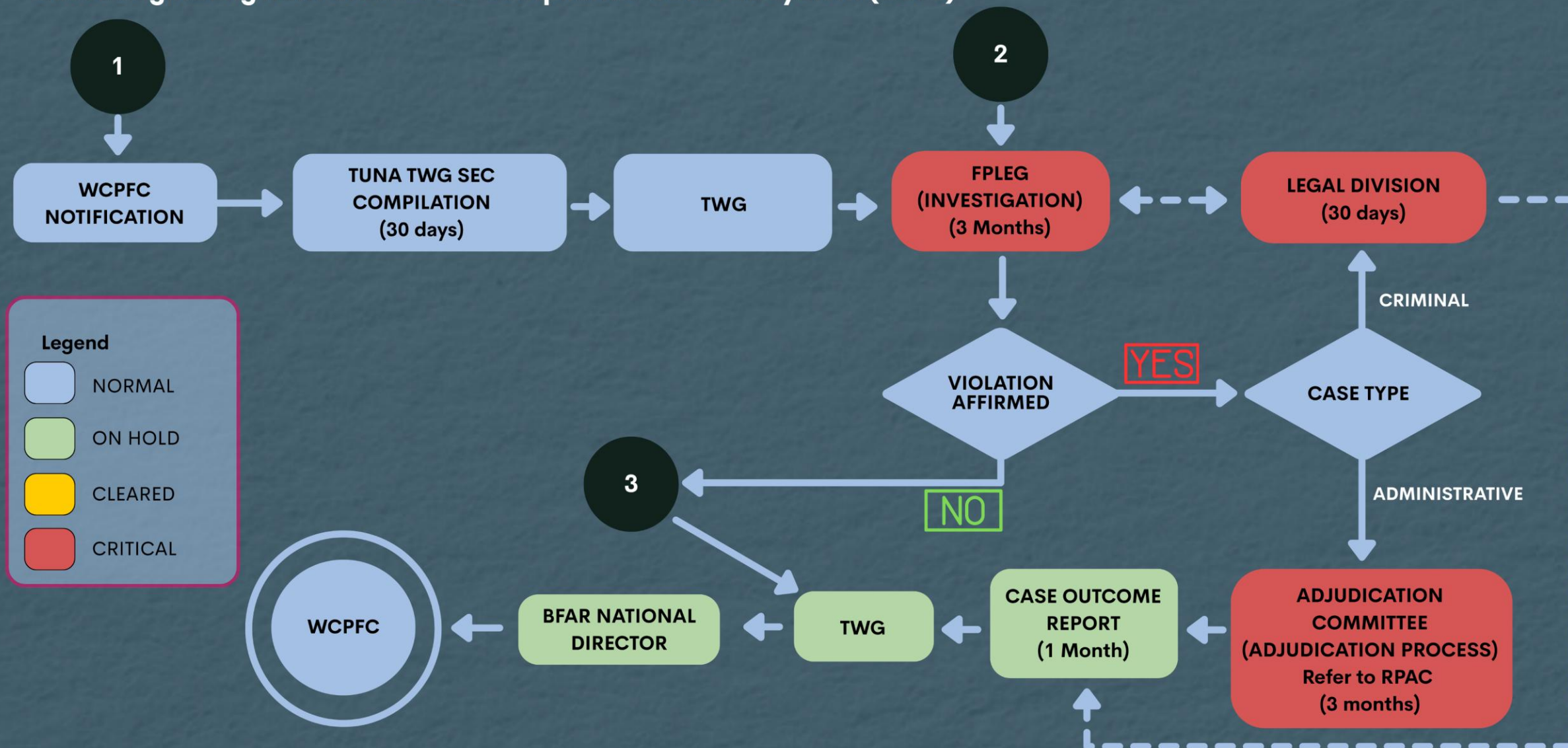
COMPLIANCE ISSUES AND CASE FILES PROTOCOL

Issues/cases originating from the Philippine Fisheries Observer Program (PFOP)



COMPLIANCE ISSUES AND CASE FILES PROTOCOL

Cases originating from the WCPFC-Compliance Case File System (CCFS)







Implemented by



Practical Workshop on Strengthening Fisheries Observer Programs for Effective Combating of IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia, Bangkok, Thailand.

18–20 August 2026

