

PACIFIC ISLAND FISHERIES - ENFORCEMENT

REGIONAL DECISION MAKING

The terms of reference for the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Working Group Meeting (MCSWGM) was endorsed by the FFC in 1997 replacing its predecessor the Fisheries Surveillance Officer's Meeting (FSOM). Whilst the name of the Meeting has changed the officials attending the meetings have been confined to MCS Practitioners. The first meeting of MCSWGM was held in 1998 and its function has remained unchanged since.

The MCSWG is responsible for:

- recommending appropriate MCS operations necessary to effect the agreed management plans for the tuna fisheries of FFA member countries both in-zone and in other areas of influence predominantly the high seas pockets and high seas areas adjacent to FFA members' waters;
- reviewing, coordinating and advice on regional and national MCS activities related to:
 - i. aerial and maritime surveillance
 - ii. national and regional observer programmes
 - iii. port state enforcement
 - iv. the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for FFA member countries
 - v. FFA Vessel Register requirement
- identifying opportunities for increased co-operation in MCS activities among Pacific island countries
- identifying equipment and training requirements to implement effective MCS operations
- reviewing opportunities for joint MCS activity with non-FFA parties within the WCPFC membership, particularly for high seas areas in the region
- assisting in fulfilling international obligations with respect to domestically registered (flag State) vessels, and in the case of foreign charter vessels, discourage illegal fishing activities both in and beyond the EEZs of Pacific island countries
- Identifying and researching new surveillance technology and tools for possible use in the region
- Identifying and recommending changes and improvements to the data sharing arrangement between Pacific island countries and those providing MCS capability.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

WCPFC TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

The Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) is a subsidiary committee of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), established under Article 11(1) of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. The Committee's main task is to provide advice and recommendations to the Commission within its area of competence.

The TCC first annual session was held at Pohnpei FSM in December 2005 and since then has made a range of recommendations including:

- A range of Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) focusing on the sustainable management of the four major tuna stocks, billfishes and incidental catches in the Convention Area. These include, Bigeye, Yellowfin, Skipjack and Albacore, Swordfish, Striped Marlin, Sharks, Sea Birds and Turtles
- A comprehensive and integrated Monitoring, Control, Surveillance and Enforcement Scheme in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean region which include:
 - WCPFC Vessel Register and Authorization to Fish;
 - Regional Observer Programme;
 - a High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme for the Western and Central Pacific Ocean region (the first ever scheme existing in an RFMO);
 - Commission Vessel Monitoring System and
 - WCPFC Illegal Unreported & Unregulated Vessel List.