



SIOFA SC Workshop on Scientific Observer Forms (WS2024-OBS2)

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WS2024-OBS2-02

CCPs comments on observers' logbook templates

Relates to agenda item 3.a

The SIOFA Secretariat / Thailand

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Abstract	<p>Project SEC2022-OBS1 provided new data collection templates for improving the collection and reporting of observers' data.</p> <p>This document compiles the comments provided by the CCPs about these templates and the issues they have identified.</p> <p>One CCP reported issues, the working group is invited to discuss and address them.</p>

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Introduction

The Meeting of the Parties supported the establishment of a framework for scientific observation of SIOFA fisheries. The general aim of this project is to ensure that the scientific observers working in SIOFA fisheries operate using a consistent set of standards for observation and measurement.

This project (referenced as SEC2022-OBS1) has been implemented by an external consultant. The consultants also developed new logbooks for recording the data collected by observers. The logbooks are templates developed under Microsoft Excel, with a file for each of the main SIOFA fisheries, namely:

In 2023, CCPs were invited by the Scientific Committee to test the logbooks for recording observers' data. Thailand tested the template provided feedback to the Secretariat.

Methods

The comments received by the Secretariat have been merged into the result section.

Results

Thailand's feedback on the observer's forms

1. Descriptions for recording data in each section of the observer's forms should be provided by creating an instruction sheet within the same file. This will help CCPs clearly understand and record data easily and accurately. For example, explanation of some technical terms, e.g., Horizontal opening (m), Vertical opening (m), Fish serial number, etc., should be provided.
2. For fields with limited answer options, it is recommended to use dropdown items to facilitate data entry and prevent errors. For example, when recording the FAO Species code, it should be a dropdown list that specifies FAO species. However, since it may not cover all species encountered in fishing within SIOFA area, there should also be a field for adding additional information.
3. Some fishing trips in the SIOFA area span across calendar years. If reported as a trip report, this would not align with the requirements specified in SIOFA CMM 02(2023) Data Standards, which mandates reporting by calendar year.