



FFA

**2 MINUTE BRIEFS
YOUR QUICK GUIDE
TO WCPFC ISSUES
IN 2008**



MONITORING, CONTROL & SURVEILLANCE

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) is in the process of creating monitoring, control and surveillance mechanisms to help control fishing and enforce its rules, made as Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs). Poor enforcement of the rules has often been a weakness of other regional fisheries management organisations and can lead to a decline in confidence in the institution itself as well as encouraging illegal, unreported and unknown fishing to continue.

The WCPFC is developing a regional observer programme to check the reliability of high seas catch data and monitor the impact of fishing on tuna and other species and a WCPFC Vessel Monitoring System to monitor high seas fishing. It has the world's first high seas boarding and inspection schemes where registered patrol vessels can board and inspect fishing vessels in the high seas.

The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) has a long history of cooperation among its members to pool their resources and develop monitoring, control and surveillance tools – early examples include the negotiation of the US Multilateral Treaty and the region's Vessel Monitoring System. FFA currently provides technical expertise, information sharing and projects around monitoring activities, regional surveillance operations, the FFA Observer Program, FFA Vessel Monitoring System, FFA licence information list, and staff training and support regarding relevant regional decision making bodies, notably the Technical Compliance Committee of the WCPFC.

WHY IT HAS COME UP NOW?

The December WCPFC 5 meeting in Busan, Korea, will consider a number of monitoring, control and surveillance issues. The commission will discuss and note the work of the intercessional working group on the development of a regional observer program, discuss and decide on the recommendation from its Technical and Compliance Committee that FFA and the WCPFC develop a service level agreement to provide Vessel Monitoring System services.

HOW DOES IT AFFECT PACIFIC ISLANDS?

In development of monitoring, control and surveillance, there is a need to ensure that new initiatives build on the strength of previous ones and do not impose an extra burden of administration and reporting on Pacific Island countries and territories. The experience of FFA members in developing monitoring, control, surveillance initiatives also provides a useful basis for proceeding to develop tools for the whole Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THIS YEAR'S WCPFC?

A decision will be made regarding Tonga's bid to list a Taiwanese vessel on the IUU list at the December WCPFC 5 meeting in Busan, Korea (see *2 Minute Brief - Illegal, Unreported and Unknown Fishing Vessel List*) and a decision is likely on the draft service level agreement to develop a Vessel Monitoring System for the WCPFC. Other issues such as the observer program will be progressed in 2009.

When: Agenda Item No 7, *Technical and Compliance Issues*, is scheduled to be discussed in the afternoon of Monday 8th December.

WHERE DO I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

FFA

The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) website has a range of briefs and media releases available on www.ffa.int/wcpfc Members of the can access their internal meeting briefs here.

WCPFC

The WCPFC posts all relevant documents in the 'Meetings' & 'Conservation and Management Measures & Resolutions' sections of its site <http://www.wcpfc.int/>