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**IMPLEMENTATION OF REC. 16-14: SCIENTIFIC OBSERVER PROGRAMMES**  
*ICCAT Secretariat*

The Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs [Rec. 16-14], paragraph 10 d) stipulates that each CPC: *provide in its Annual Report for use by the Commission and the SCRS, specific information on the implementation of this Recommendation, which shall include: details on the structure and design of their scientific observer programs, including, inter alia: - the target level of observer coverage by fishery and gear type as well as how measured; - data required to be collected; - data collection and handling protocols in place; - information on how vessels are selected for coverage to achieve the CPC's target level of observer coverage; - observer training requirements; and - observer qualification requirements.*

To collect this information in a coherent format, the Secretariat, in consultation with the SCRS, developed form ST11, which replaced the previous form CP45, which had been developed in response to a similar requirement in Rec. 10-10. For reporting 2020 data, the SCRS combined the information that had previously been reported in ST11 into the existing ST09 Domestic Observer Program form so that the Domestic Observer Program data and the information about the program implementation and design are now reported together. Accordingly, some aspects of the responses to Rec. 16-14 are captured in the reporting of the ST09 form. Others, such as data collection and handling protocols, information about how vessels are selected for coverage to achieve CPC's target level of observer coverage, observer training requirements, and observer qualification requirements are not captured in the summaries of the statistical data, which may be reported directly through Annual Reports.

**Annex 1** shows the responses to requirement S:GEN11 and to the letter sent by the Chairman of the Compliance Committee where applicable. It should be noted that the responses in the Annual Reports are not always coherent with the submission of data due to possible misunderstandings.

A summary of the responses about structure/design of their Scientific Observer Program (now referred to as the Domestic Observer Program), gathered from historical ST11 submissions is summarized in PLE-105/21 **Appendix 3** summarizing the National Observer Program information. This table is updated annually when CPCs provide information that differs from previous years. There are 33 Flag CPCs that have provided information about Domestic Observer Program design and implementation. Of these, seven have provided partial information. In addition, the following CPCs, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Guinea Republic Honduras, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Philippines, Uruguay and Bolivia have confirmed that there were no fisheries and/or no catches of ICCAT species in 2020.

PLE-105/2021 **Appendix 4** shows that the Secretariat was successfully able to process forms from 25 CPCs (see under the heading Successfully Processed, in the year 2020) with several CPC revising data from 2019, as well as 11 Flag CPCs who submitted forms with no data.

Flag CPCs that have submitted either domestic observer program information (on CP45, on ST11 or on ST09 since 2015) or that have submitted ST09 forms with observer data:

Algeria, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Cabo Verde, China PR, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Curaçao, Egypt, El Salvador, EU (for Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain, France (St Pierre et Miquelon), Ghana, Guatemala, Iceland, Japan, Korea Rep., Libya, Morocco, Mexico, Namibia, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, South Africa, St Vincent and Grenadines, Tunisia, Turkey, UK-Bermuda, UK (Great Britain, British Virgin Islands, Sta Helena, Turks and Caicos,) and USA.

Flag CPCs that have neither submitted historical ST09 information (2015-2020) nor ST11, CP45, or 2021 versions ST09 for with Information on Scientific Observer Programs (those in **bold font** have confirmed zero catches in 2020, while those in *italics* have provided an explanation either in their Annual Report or through their response to the letter from the Chair of the Compliance Committee): **Albania**, Angola, Barbados, Côte d'Ivoire, EU (for those Member States not listed above) Gabon, Gambia, Grenada, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Equatorial, Guinée Rep., **Honduras**, Liberia, Mauritania, **Nigeria**, **Philippines**, São Tomé e Príncipe, *Senegal*, Sierra Leone, Syria, *Trinidad and Tobago*, **Uruguay**, Venezuela, Guyana, **Suriname**.

It should be noted that to date, the SCRS has not evaluated any alternative approaches to scientific observer programmes, and hence the Commission has not endorsed any such alternative approaches. CPCs wishing to seek such endorsement should make an explicit request for the SCRS to evaluate its approach.

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Response in Annual report</i>	<i>Response to COC Chair letter (where applicable)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Albania	Albania started, early 2019, the implementation of the by-catch monitoring program through the observers on board of fishing vessels (trawlers and purse seiners in Adriatic Sea) with the support of GFCM. This program aims to obtain representative data on the discard component of total by-catch, as well as information on the incidental catch of vulnerable species.		
Algeria	Les observateurs ne peuvent pas être déployés à bord des navires de pêche étant donné qu'ils ne sont pas pontés, ayant une longueur inférieure à 12 m. La flottille étant artisanale. Néanmoins, il est à préciser qu'un effort a été déployé pour couvrir en partie les chalutiers. S'agissant des palangriers (LL), grâce à la campagne de sensibilisation menée auprès des professionnels de la pêche, il a été possible de collecter quelques informations à ce sujet et qui ont été transmises le 30/07/2021.		
Angola	No annual report	No response to COC letter	
Barbados	Not applicable. Barbados has not implemented an observer program. Provision 16-14 4b applies in the case of Barbados vessels. In this context, Barbados is examining options to comply with Rec. 16-14. Note that the Draft 2021 Fisheries Management Regulations (see section 4) mandate participation in approved observer programmes including electronic monitoring systems.	In the context of the establishment of observer programs, regulations are included that mandate that masters of both commercial and recreational vessels accommodate observers (both for scientific and MSC purposes) or allow for the use of such surveillance equipment necessary for electronic monitoring of fishing activities. This is especially important as the majority of fishing vessels are too small (less than 15m overall length) to safely support non-crew on-board and as such electronic monitoring will most likely serve as alternative scientific monitoring as allowed under Rec16-14 4b. It should however, be noted that details of the observer programme have not yet been finalized and critical issues including technical and financing arrangements, such as cost sharing between	

		government and the industry are still to be resolved.	
Belize	15-February-2021. Belize carries out no alternative scientific monitoring approach as we have no small-scale vessels in our fleet unable to carry observers.		
Brazil	30/07/2021		
Cape Verde	No aplicable. Todavía Cabo Verde no cuenta con un programa de observadores. Es un proceso en estudio para crear las bases a e condiciones operativas para una implementación futura	No response to COC letter	
Canada	All catch, discards and, observer data provided as an aggregate consistent with domestic confidentiality requirements in Task I and II data. Submitted 30/07/2021		
China	Not applicable- China has no small scale vessels.		Seems they may not understand the question in AR?
Cote d'Ivoire	Non applicable, pas d'informations recueillies	Letter to COC Chair: Faire une révision du programme national d'observateur pour plus d'efficacité.	
Curacao	Sent 15 September		
Egypt	Egypt established a new workshop between GAFRD and some relative step to implement the minimum standards in accordance with rec. 16-14		
El Salvador	21 de julio de 2021 (Ref. Oficio CENDEPESCA 0323) Los buques salvadoreños tienen una cobertura del 100% con observadores durante los viajes de pesca. Todos los observadores pertenecen al programa Sea Eye, estos son asignados por Sea Eye y han sido formados por AZTI.		
Equatorial Guinea	No aplicable. Guinea Ecuatorial no tiene observadores cualificados. Se necesita formación.		
EU	12/08/2021		
France SPM	Non applicable. FRSPM n'a pas eu de campagne d'observation ICCAT à bord de ses navires en 2019	2020 not mentioned . Unclear if any fishery	
Gabon	No response in annual report	See explanation in COC response letter	
Gambia	No annual report		
Ghana	30/07/2021		

Grenada	No annual report	No response to COC letter	
Guinea rep	No annual report	Letter to COC Chair: Le Programme observateur en cours concerne la couverture des navires de pêche des petits pélagiques et de la pêche demersale. En raison de nos intentions de participer aux pêcheries thonières ce programme sera très bientôt élargi aux futurs navires qu'on pourrait inscrire	
Guinea Bissau	No annual report	No response to COC letter	
Guatemala	No aplicable. Guatemala no tiene barcos pequeños y no tiene programa de observadores científicos.	Referente al programa de observadores actual, este otorga una cobertura del 100% en ambos buques durante los 365 días del año. Con el objeto de ampliarles información sobre el programa, les adjuntamos contratos actuales suscritos con la compañía SEA EYE en ambos buques.	Seems they may not understand the question in AR?
Honduras	No aplica, en virtud que actualmente Honduras no cuenta con buques pesqueros autorizados sobre especies en la ICCAT.		No fisheries
Iceland	Included in Annual fishing Plan and This Annual Report		
Japan	No Japanese small-scale vessel operates in the ICCAT Convention area		Seems they may not understand the question in AR?
Korea	In 2020, there was no observer dispatched due to COVID-19 pandemic.		
Liberia	Liberia has established a domestic observer program and the observers are currently deployed on the two flagged vessels of Liberia. The Fisheries Law of Liberia required 100% observer coverage.		
Libya	Not Applicable - BFT caught live and transported to other farming CPCs.		Seems they may not understand the question in AR?
Mauritania	Non [no explanation provided]	no response to COC letter	old format of AR used
Mexico	2021/06/24.		
Morocco	Le rapport envoyé le 2021/09/14.		
Namibia	None [no explanation included]	National Observer Program exists. The Fisheries Observer Agency's	Seems they may not

		(FOA) mandate is to observe the harvesting, processing and handling of marine resources and to collect biological data onboard commercial fishing vessels	understand the question in AR?
Nicaragua	No annual report received		
Nigeria	Not applicable because of no allocation for it yet in Nigeria		No fisheries
Norway	Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Norway did not allow observers on board Norwegian vessels in 2020		
Panama	No annual report received		
Philippines	This CPC will submit in the following reporting year		No fisheries
Russia	Observers covered 6% fishing days of trawl fisheries (2021/07/09)		
Sao Tome and Principe	No annual report received	No response to COC letter	
Senegal	La recommandation 16-14 visant à établir des normes minimales pour les programmes d'observateurs a été transposée par arrêté N°22787 du 22 aout 2019. Sa mise en œuvre est en cours, le Sénégal a obtenu un financement de la JICAP pour mettre en place un outil de collecte des données des observateurs en mer développé sur des tablettes. Les observateurs ont été déjà formés sur la collecte des données, d'identification des espèces, d'échantillonnage biologiques, les mises à niveau pour pouvoir accomplir les tâches scientifiques à bord ont été faites.		
Sierra Leone	No annual report received	No response to COC letter	
South Africa	2021/07/30.		
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	St. Vincent and the Grenadines did not deploy any scientific observers in 2020. St. Vincent and the Grenadines' National Observer Programme facilitates the placement of scientific observers on board its High Seas fishing vessels for the purpose of collecting fisheries specific data and in compliance with the relevant requirements for observer coverage established by ICCAT. The requirement for		As programme exists, it is presumed no observers in 2020 due to COVID but not specified.

	observer coverage is contained in the St. Vincent and the Grenadines High Seas Fishing Regulations (2003).		
Syria	No fishing activities in 2021, quota transferred.	entry corresponds to 2021	
Trinidad and Tobago	Domestic observer program not yet implemented in Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago, to date, is still without the legal and resource capacities to implement a scientific observer programme. We are, however, cognizant of the urgent need to implement a scientific observer programme for our longline fleet. In this regard the Fisheries Division will be seeking to implement a pilot observer programme, beginning in 2022, contingent upon the availability of human resources and funding. As stated in our Annual Report, The Fisheries Management Bill was laid in Parliament in August 2020 and subsequently in October 2020 and is currently being reviewed by a Parliamentary Joint Select Committee. It is expected that the Bill will be debated in Parliament in 2022. Draft Regulations were developed to facilitate implementation of the registration and licensing system, and monitoring, control, surveillance, and enforcement.	
Tunisia	14/06/2021		
Turkey	Submitted in the report named "Report_on_S11_S32_S41_S42_TUR-2020". Sent to ICCAT on 2021/07/30.		
UK (OT)	The majority of UKOT vessels are < 15 m in length, with limited space for observers. At St Helena all fishing is rod-and-reel or pole-and-line and all catches are landed at a single location. Data collection is conducted upon landing. Bermuda, TCI and BVI do not have the capacity to operate an observer programme and catches are small.		
USA	2021/9/15; this information is provided in Part II, Section 4 of the U.S. Annual Report.		
Uruguay	N/A. Sin actividad de la flota en 2020.		No fisheries
Venezuela	El programa de observadores a bordo de venezuela no funcionó en 2020.		

Bolivia	Bolivia no dispuso de un programa de observadores nacionales en funcionamiento, como tampoco utilizó un enfoque alternativo toda vez que no contó con buques pesqueros autorizados para operar en la zona del Convenio durante el período del presente informe		No fisheries
Chinese Taipei	29/07/2021		
Costa Rica	NO APLICA. Costa Rica no cuenta con observadores científicos en buques pesqueros del Caribe		
Guyana	Not applicable [no explanation provided]		
Suriname	Suriname is not involved in any scientific observer program. Suriname had no vessels catching tuna and tuna like species in 2020.		No fisheries