

**SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 2006****Electronic Observer Reports**

presented by NAFO Secretariat

At the NAFO Annual Meeting in 2004, the Fisheries Commission adopted the STACTIC recommendation that Contracting Parties make available detailed observer data (catch and effort for each haul, location (longitude and latitude), depth, time of net on bottom, catch composition and discards) to the Scientific Council by submitting them in an electronic format to the NAFO Secretariat (FC Doc. 04/17, item 11, point 8).

At the STACTIC meeting in April 2005, the Secretariat proposed a multilingual electronic form for observer reports based on the above instructions (STACTIC WP 05/5). It was agreed that a standardized bilingual format would enhance transparency and help the work of inspectors. It was concluded that further review of the format was required with possible input from Scientific Council on the required data elements. In June 2005 the Scientific Council was asked to review the forms. The Scientific Council noted that NAFO FC Doc. 03/18 contained detailed instructions of the Scientific Council regarding the scientific information to be collected by observers and that the Scientific Council had nothing to add to that. Furthermore, the Scientific Council recommended in September 2005 that the Secretariat should receive a budget to digitize the detailed information of current and past NAFO observer reports.

At the STACTIC Annual Meeting the Secretariat introduced Working Paper 05/23 (Electronic Observer Reports) that included the CCAMLR "Scientific Observer Logbook" and "Scientific Observer Cruise Report" as had been requested by STACTIC at the April Meeting. To allow the secure transmission of electronic reports via email the Secretariat proposed PGP as a voluntary encryption protocol. STACTIC decided to postpone the item while awaiting information on the future of the Observer Program scheme.

At the STACFAD meeting in 2005 the requirement for electronic observer reports was discussed in conjunction with the high costs for digitization of reports in a non-tabular or paper format. STACFAD recommended that (a) Contracting Parties be urged to submit their reports in English; (b) that the electronic form be developed quickly; and (c) that the Secretariat receive the necessary funds to translate and digitize the current and past fishery reports submitted by Contracting Parties.

In view of these recommendations and adopted decisions, the Secretariat asks STACTIC to reconsider the matter. To help with the discussion, the Secretariat has revised the forms it presented to STACTIC in 2005 (see Annex 1). They now fully incorporate the stipulations by the Scientific Council adopted by Fisheries Commission in 2003 as well as the duties of observers detailed in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (Article 24). Also, the Secretariat maintains its offer to make available a PGP encryption protocol to those Contracting Parties or flag states that require a secure transmission of electronic observer reports.

1.A

Vessel Name:	Type of Vessel:	Call Sign:	Country or Flag State:	Observer Name:	Period of Observation:
<i>Nombre del Barco</i>	<i>Tipo de barco:</i>	<i>Distintivo de llamada:</i>	<i>País:</i>	<i>Nombre del Observador:</i>	

* See CEM Annex V for fishing vessel type codes.

1.B

[illegible]

* See CEM Annex VI for Gear Codes.

1.6

Catch and Effort Summary Table *Capturas y Esfuerzo*

[illegible]

*See CEM Annex II for the 3-Alpha Species Code. ** Refer to Gear # in Cloumn 1 , Table above.

1.D

Catch in kg *Capturas (kg)*

[illegible]

Part 2. Catch and Effort Information by Haul

Catch and Effort		Obs. Or Log.		Trip Number	
Set #	Gear #	Gear Type	Method of Est.		Date
Effort Information			Start		Finish
NAFO Div.		Lat.			
Effort Units		Long			
Comments:		Depth (m)			
		Time (UTC)			

[illegible]

* Use Conversion Factors Nominal and Product Weights.

Part 3. Length Frequency Data

Length Frequency		Trip Number:	
Species Code:		Set Number:	
Sample Type:		Measure Type:	
Meas. Convention		Total Measured:	
Sample Wt		Catch Weight:	
Gear Type		Gear Number:	
sex:		sex:	

Tally	#	Tally	#
0		0	
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	
6		6	
7		7	
8		8	
9		9	
0		0	
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	
6		6	
7		7	
8		8	
9		9	
0		0	
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	
6		6	
7		7	
8		8	
9		9	
0		0	
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	
6		6	
7		7	
8		8	
9		9	
0		0	
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	

Part 4. Compliance Information

Enter observations on:

- 1) Discrepancies between logbook entries and observer's estimates.
- 2) Functioning of satellite tracking device.
- 3) Any other observation.