

Two new minimum standards for “Observer safety at sea” and “Emergency Action Plan” for inclusion in the WCPFC Minimum Standards of the Regional Observer Programme, with an implementation date of no later than 1 January 2017.

<p>Item: Observer safety at sea</p> <p>Each ROP authorised observer programme shall ensure that observers from their programme will be provided before any boarding for a trip,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An approved independent two way communication satellite device; and • A waterproof personal lifesaving beacon.” <p>*Noting that this may consist of a single device such as “Satellite Emergency Notification Device” or it may be a combination of an independent satellite-based system such as a Sat phone plus a portable lifesaving beacon (PLB).”</p>
<p>Item: Emergency Action Plan for Observer Safety</p> <p>Each CCM with an ROP authorised observer programme will ensure that they have an “Emergency Action Plan” (EAP) in place to accommodate any reported observer emergency including interference, harassment, intimidation and other personal safety issues.</p> <p>The EAP must include communications protocol and appropriate contact information in an emergency and as a minimum will include.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When to report: (Generally, observers should be required to report any instance of interference, harassment, intimidation, or assault as outlined in ROP training.) • Who to report to: (Observer programmes must have a “Designated Officer/s” who is responsible for maintaining a device capable of receiving a signal from the approved independent two-way satellite communication device.) • Follow up responses: (Observer programme must have an established procedure to initiate contact with the observer, the vessel, and, if necessary, the appropriate enforcement authority of Flag CCM’s and relevant Coastal CCM’s; this procedure must also include clear procedures that must be taken in the event of various emergencies.) • Remedial action: (Observer programme must establish appropriate measures for addressing violations made against observers.) • Completing the EAP protocols for observer related incident involving observer reporting of Interference Harassment, Intimidation must be resolved through a legal or nationally recognized procedure.