



**A SUMMARY OF THE ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME
DURING 2016**

ICCAT



ANNUAL CONTRACTORS REPORT

10/10/2016



Submitted by:



Project code:	ZI0902
Version:	6.0
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Acronyms

AIS	Automatic Identification System
CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CV	Carrier Vessel
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated
LSPLV	Large-Scale Pelagic Longline Vessel
PNC	Potential Non-Compliance
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
ROP	Regional Observer Programme
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System

1. Introduction

In 2006 ICCAT adopted Recommendation [06-11], updated by Recommendation [12-06], to establish a Programme for Transshipment in response to concerns that at-sea transshipment operations constituted a gap in the enforcement scheme of the Commission. MRAG Ltd. and Capfish (the Consortium) has been implementing the Regional Observer Program (ROP) since its inception in April 2007.

The ROP aims to address Member State concerns regarding laundering of Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) tuna catches by monitoring transshipments at sea from large-scale pelagic longline fishing vessels (LSPLVs) operating in the Convention area. Recommendation [12-06] states that all tuna, tuna like species and other species caught in association with these species in the Convention area must be transhipped in port. However, at sea transshipments can be authorised by Contracting Parties provided the Carrier Vessel (CV) has VMS capabilities and a trained ICCAT observer is on board to monitor the process.

2. Deployments

This report provides a summary of the ROP's ninth year, covering ICCAT deployments 173/15 to 185/16 completed between August 2015 and August 2016.

2.1 *Summary of deployments*

A total of 445 transshipments have been monitored during 13 trips consisting of 727 sea days, with an average deployment length of 56 days. The total weight of fish observed being transhipped over the period was 28, 861 tonnes, a summary of key figures from all deployments is given in Table 1. These figures are considerably lower than the previous year with a 15% decrease in sea days and an 8.3% decrease in the total transshipment weight.

Of the 445 transshipments, 53% were from Chinese Taipei flagged vessels and 26% were from Japanese flagged vessels (Figure 1). Other flags that transhipped included China, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Belize, Korea and, for the first time, the Côte d'Ivoire who are joining the programme this year. The locations of all the transshipments are shown in Figure 2

Table 1. Summary of deployments 173/15 – 185/16.

<i>No</i>	<i>Vessel Name</i>	<i>Observer Name</i>	<i>Date On</i>	<i>Date Off</i>	<i>Port on</i>	<i>Port off</i>	<i>Sea Days</i>	<i>No T/shipmts</i>	<i>Fish Transhipped (t)</i>
173	Taisei Maru No.24	Hakan Yilmazyerli	20-Aug-15	21-Oct-15	Cape Town	Cape Town	62	45	3081.39
174	Ibuki	Maurice O Malley	31-Oct-15	31-Dec-15	Port Louis	Port of Spain	61	47	3158.96
175	Futagami	Jo Newton	26-Oct-15	21-Nov-15	Cape Town	Sao Vicente	26	12	743.46
176	Chikuma	Bruce Biffard	05-Dec-15	10-Feb-16	Port Louis	Port Louis	67	38	2589.58
177	Genta Maru	Mzwandile Silekwa	07-Dec-15	30-Jan-16	Cape Town	Singapore	54	31	1818.28
178	Taisei Maru No.15	Barrie Rose	17-Dec-15	13-Feb-16	Cape Town	Cape Town	58	39	2139.34
179	Chitose	Rebeca Ocon	25-Jan-16	23-Feb-16	Walvis Bay	Colon	29	47	2829.07
180	Victoria II	Maurice O'Malley	18-Feb-16	02-May-16	Cape Town	Singapore	74	17	1320.37
181	Taisei Maru No.24	Basil Vilakazi	25-Feb-16	29-Apr-16	Cape Town	Cape Town	64	42	3116.04
182	Futagami	Jo Newton	10-Apr-16	22-May-16	Cape Town	Cape Town	42	18	1045.78
183	Genta Maru	Tony Dimitrov	07-May-16	28-Jun-16	Cape Town	Cape Town	52	41	2265.64
184	Chikuma	Barry Rose	07-May-16	25-Jul-16	Panama City	Singapore	79	39	2949.48
185	Taisei Maru No. 15	Pedro Costa	10-Jun-16	06-Aug-16	Cape Town	Cape Town	57	29	1803.86

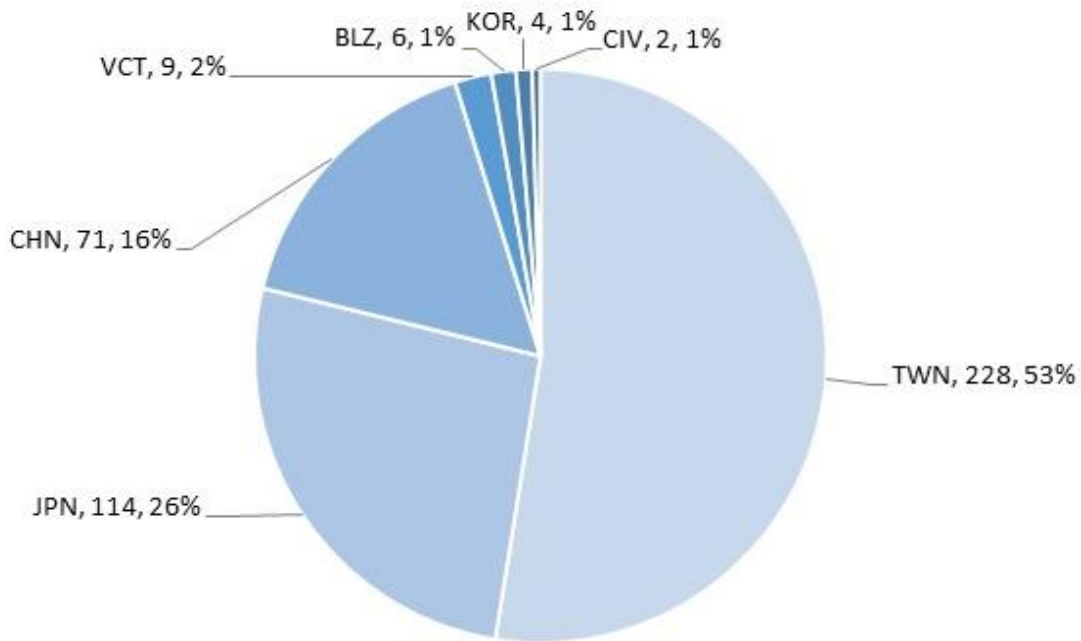


Figure 1. Transhipments by Flag State between August 2015 and August 2016 by number and percentage of total.

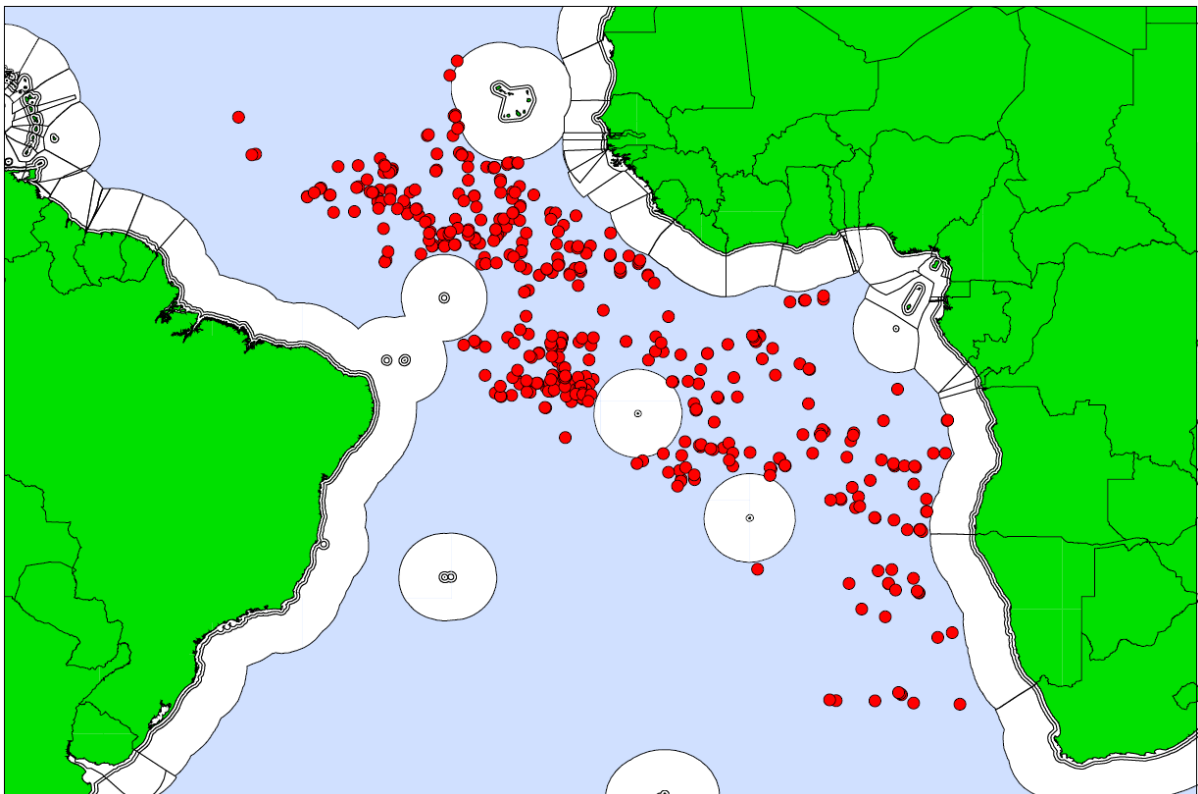


Figure 2. Locations of observed transhipments from deployments shown in **Table 1**.

A summary of the ROP deployments (observers actively at sea) from 173/15 to 185/16 is shown in Figure 3, Figure 4, Figure 5 and Figure 6. There was no clear pattern throughout the year, although there was very little transhipped during August (Figure 4).

Figure 5 and Figure 6 show the transfer rates and amount transferred per transhipment, respectively and remain similar to previous years.

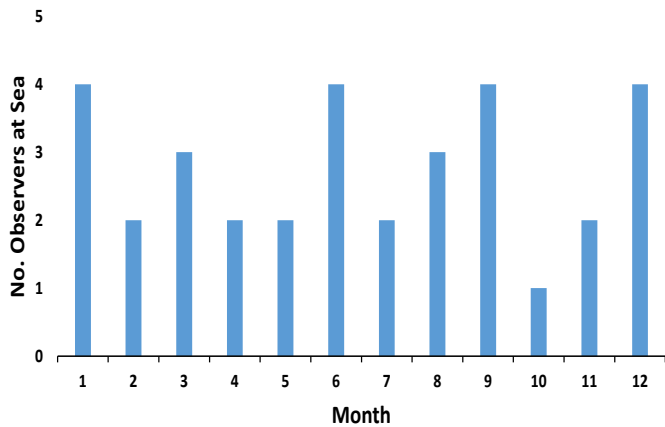


Figure 3. Number of observers deployed by month

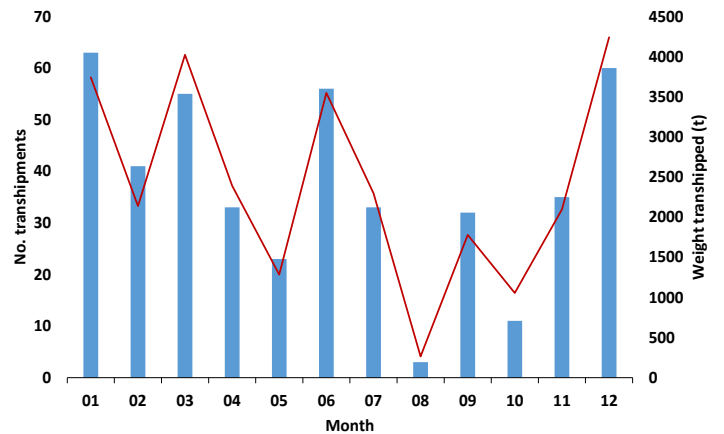


Figure 4. Number of transshipments and weights transferred (all fish, red line) by month

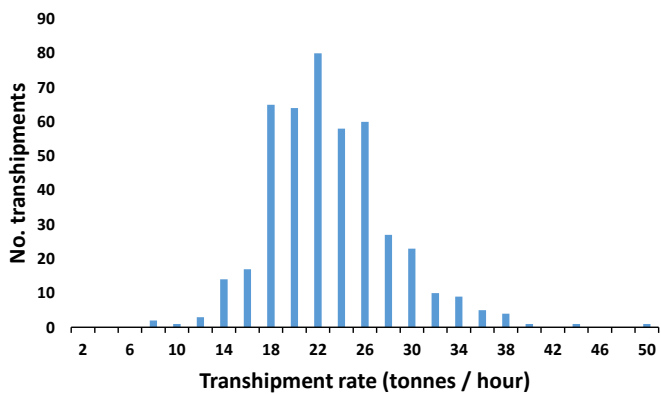


Figure 5. Transshipment rates (tonnes / hour)

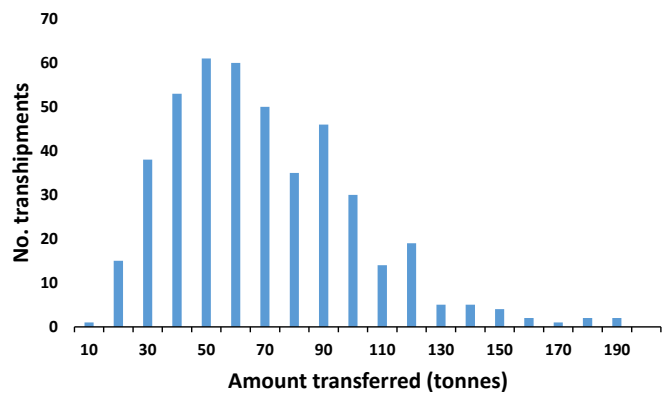


Figure 6. Quantities transferred (tonnes)

2.2 Transhipments within EEZs

No transhipments were made within EEZs.

2.3 Procedures and logistics

The deployment request procedure has remained the same as previously described by the Consortium in annual reviews of the ICCAT ROP.

During the period covered by this report, vessels have moved between IOTC and ICCAT areas on seven occasions where the observer stayed on board the vessel.

3. Species identification

The methods used by observers for species identification and reporting procedures have remained the same and are detailed in previous reports (ICCAT 2011).

4. Southern bluefin tuna

Since the adoption of the Resolution on the Implementation of a CCSBT Catch Documentation Scheme on 1st January 2010, any southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) transferred must be accompanied by a catch monitoring form (CMF) which should be countersigned by the observer. During the period covered by this report southern bluefin tuna was transhipped on 10 occasions over two deployments, with a total of 455.628 tonnes declared (Table 2). Observers prepare a separate report for CCSBT on any trips where southern bluefin tuna are transhipped.

Table 2 Transhipments of southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) over the last year

Request No.	Vessel Name	Carrier ICCAT#	Vessel	TS No.	Date	No of fish	Declared weight (t)
176	Chikuma	AT000LBR00003		2	16/12/2015	51	3.468
185	Taisei Maru No. 15	AT000JPN00651		21	22/07/2016	1028	50.38
185	Taisei Maru No. 15	AT000JPN00651		22	24/07/2016	827	48.87
185	Taisei Maru No. 15	AT000JPN00651		23	24/07/2016	798	45.62
185	Taisei Maru No. 15	AT000JPN00651		24	24/07/2016	875	48.95
185	Taisei Maru No. 15	AT000JPN00651		25	25/07/2016	932	52.37
185	Taisei Maru No. 15	AT000JPN00651		26	26/07/2016	865	48.13
185	Taisei Maru No. 15	AT000JPN00651		27	27/07/2016	1066	63.19
185	Taisei Maru No. 15	AT000JPN00651		28	29/07/2016	1096	49.41
185	Taisei Maru No. 15	AT000JPN00651		29	31/07/2016	804	45.24

5. Weight estimation

The methodology used by observers for estimating transshipment weights remains the same as those previously described by the Consortium (ICCAT 2011).

6. Observer Training

Currently there are 73 registered ICCAT observers (Appendix 1), although some are not active in the programme. Due to natural turnover of personnel it is important to maintain training on a regular basis, and the observers who have completed ICCAT training since the last annual report are shown in

Table 3.

With prior agreement from ICCAT, IOTC and CCSBT, observers trained under any of the programmes will be available as observers for all three. This minimises delays, reduces costs and ensures a high standard of data integrity between RFMOs. It also allows observers to remain on the vessel if it crosses between RFMO areas in order to save on deployment costs (Section 2.3).

To reflect this arrangement, observers are now issued with a unique observer number and identification card, which are valid for all three RFMOs.

Table 3. ICCAT training conducted over the last year.

Observer name	Training location
Jose Miguel Garcia Rebollo	London
Israel Ribeiro	London
Belinda Moya	London
Toni Trevizan	London
Juan Pablo Melguizo	London

7. Observer programme databases

The database continues to be updated as required and currently contains data from 4,923 transshipments.

8. Additional requirements under Recommendation 12-06

In 2012 ICCAT adopted a number of changes to the ROP which mainly involved observers boarding the LSPLV prior to transshipment in order to verify and check a number of compliance related issues. These are outlined in Recommendation 12-06 and the changes were summarised in the 2013 Annual ROP report (ICCAT 2013). For reference a list of infractions and the codes used by observers to report them is given in Table 4.

Table 4 Potential Non Compliance event description and code.

PNC Event	Code
General	
Observer prevented from carrying out duties on board the LSPLV	GLV
Document / Verification	
Transshipment Declaration not completed	DTD
Transshipment within EEZ without authorisation from coastal state	DEZ
Undocumented transshipments of fish received by the LSPLV	DFR
Prior authorisation to tranship not presented to the observer by the LSPLV	DNP
Prior authorisation to tranship not standard with Flag State	DNS
VMS	
No VMS shown to the observer on board the LSPLV	VNP
No power light visible on the VMS unit	VNL
ATF	
No Authorisation to fish presented to the observer by the LSPLV	ANP
Authorisation to fish not standard with Flag State	ANS
Authorisation to fish dates not valid	AID
Authorisation to fish not valid for ICCAT area	AIA
Logbook	
No logbook presented to the observer by the LSPLV	LNP
Logbook entries incorrect	LEI
Logbook not bound	LNB
Logbook sheets not numbered	LNN
Identification	
Vessel without an ICCAT number involved in transshipment operations	INN
LSPLV markings not displayed correctly	IIM
CCSBT	
No CCSBT Catch document presented for SBT	CND
SBT not individually tagged	CNT
Other	
Other event not elsewhere covered	OTH

Since the Recommendation came into force, 622 PNCs have been reported by observers over 55 deployments, of which 133 occurred within the period covered by this report. Since the last annual report, not all PNCs have been sent out to CPCs. The more common PNCs (for example, logbook not bound) were not sent if the LSPLV has been reported for the same PNC within the previous 12 months, however the PNC was still logged in the Consortium's records.

As with previous years, the most common PNCs to be reported in this reporting period were related to vessel logbooks, with unbound and unnumbered logbooks accounting for almost 65% of the PNCs issued over the period of this report and around 70% of all PNCs issued. The next most common PNCs were related to vessels being marked incorrectly; with the markings either unreadable or inconsistent with what is recorded in the ICCAT vessel list. There were also a number of vessels that did not show the observer any authorisation to tranship. Numbers and proportions of PNCs are shown below, indicating all PNCs issued in the programme since the introduction of PNCs (Figure 7) and those issued in the period covered by this report (Figure 8).

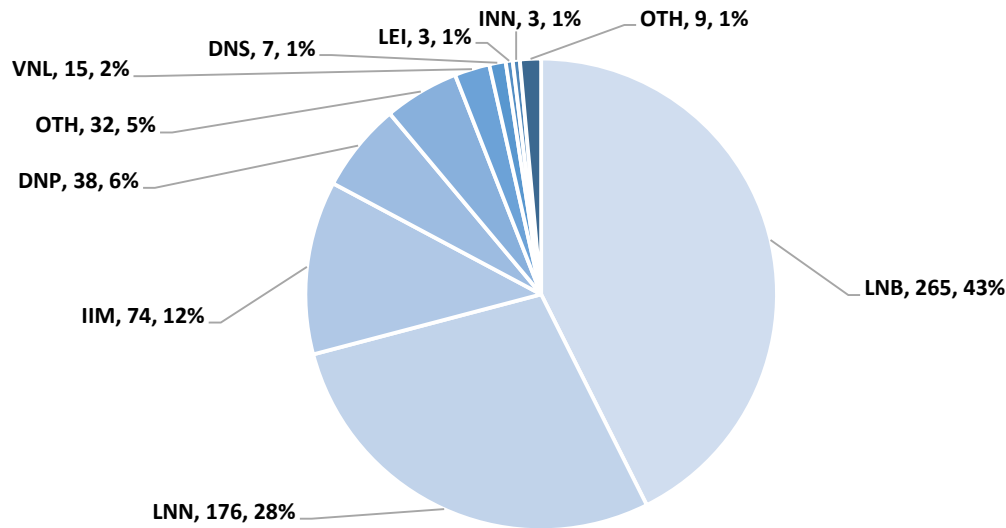


Figure 7. Number and proportion of PNCs issued since the introduction of PNCs to the programme.

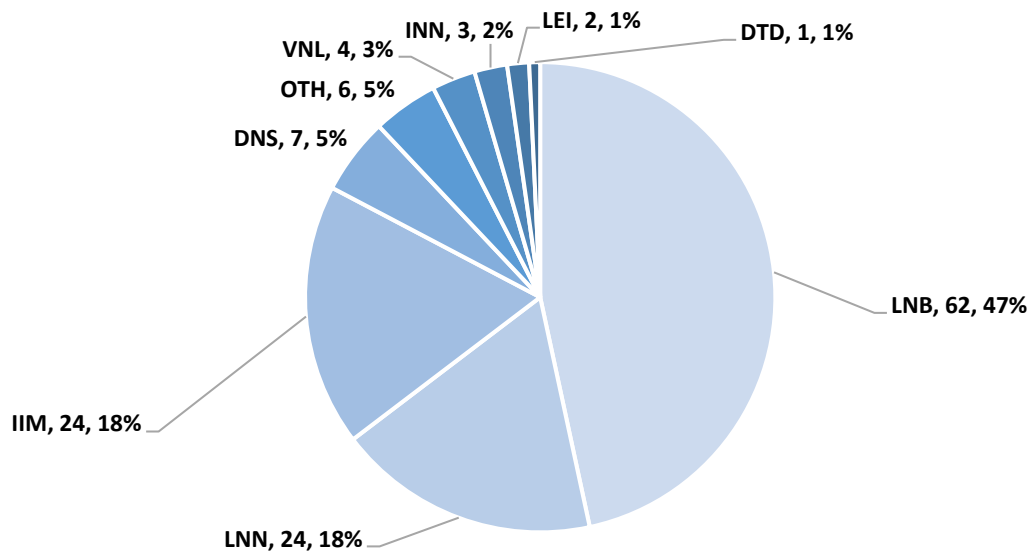


Figure 8. Number and proportion of PNCs issued during the period covered by this report.

9. Conclusions and recommendations

The ICCAT LSPLVs (transshipment) programme has now been running for nine years. The programme is operating smoothly with no specific problem areas. The Consortium remains committed to the programme and both partners continue to collaborate closely to effect the necessary observer deployments whilst maintaining observer standards and quality. Every effort is made to optimise the efficiency of deployments and minimise costs.

As the requirements for vessel inspections under Recommendation 12-06 have now been in place for four years, the Consortium would repeat its recommendation from the last couple of years that the criteria for reporting a PNC event are reviewed, particularly for the more minor non-compliances such as not having a bound logbook. These could still be reported in the final report, but not reported by the observer during their deployment.

Observer safety continues to be a priority for the Consortium and all observers are issued with satellite phones and personal location beacons.

ICCAT TRAINED OBSERVERS

Observer Name	ICCAT #
Jonathon Roe	002
Jano Van Heerden	003
Ramon Benedet	004
Elcimo Pool	005
Ebol Rojas	006
Ethan Brown	007
Raymond Manning	008
Hendrik Crous	009
Peter Lafite	010
Andy Williams	011
Rob Gater	134
Keith Patterson	014
Gary Breedt	015
David Hughes	016
Ross James	017
Schalk Visagie	018
Bruce Biffard	019
Nick Wren	020
Chris Stump	022
Clinton Grobber	023
Fredrick Swan	025
Barrie Rose	026
Andrew Deary	027
Tom Gerrard	028
Jonathon Newton	029
Jane Le Lec	031
Zama Vilakazi	033
Jacques Combrinck	034

Observer Name	ICCAT #
Thomas Franklin	037
Robert Clark	038
Henry John Heyns	041
Stephen Westcott	042
Tudor David Smith	043
Aaron Derek Mair	045
Martin Ward	046
Sam Rush	047
Neil Davidson	048
Taylan Koken	101*
Julio Ocon	102
Pedro Costa	103
Basil Vilakazi	104
Jeffrey Heineken	105
Mzwandile Silekwa	106
David Virgo	107
Dwight Rees Dryer	108
Steven Young	109
Eddie Higgins	110
Alex Zalewski	111
Filipe Miguel de Sousa Rodrigues	112
John McDonagh	113
Ricardo Jorge Monteiro da Silva	114
Lindsay Jones	115
Carla Soler Carreras	116
Anton Tonchev Dimitrov	117
Pedro de Jesus	118
Llewellyn Lewis	119
Samantha Clifton	120
Alistair Burls	121

Observer Name	ICCAT #
Stewart Norman	122
Anthony Donnelly	123
Rebeca Ocon	124
John Caddle	125
Zara Cleere	126
Hakan Yilmazyerli	127
Maurice O'Malley	128
Philip Augustyn	129
Philip Robyn	130
Brandon Scott	131
Daniel Droste	132
Jose Miguel Garcia Rebollo	135
Israel Ribeiro	136
Belinda Moya	137
Toni Trevizan	138
Juan Pablo Melguizo	139

* New identification card numbers are now starting from 101 since the introduction of a single identification card for the ICCAT, IOTC and CCSBT transshipment observer programmes so that observers will all have the same identification number across the programmes.