

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

NPFC Transshipment Observer Program

The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) seeks expressions of interest from qualified providers of at-sea observer coverage on receiving vessels conducting transshipment operations in the NPFC Convention Area for a 3-year period, with the possibility of renewal.

Observer service providers are invited to respond to this request, indicating how they meet the qualifications specified below.

Please note that this Request for Information is NOT a request for proposals to contract with the NPFC Secretariat under the Transshipment Observer Program but is intended to solicit information about the interest and availability of potential service providers. If interest in providing the service is received from multiple qualified service providers, a Request for Proposals will follow.

Background information on the NPFC may be found at the following link: [About NPFC | NPFC](#). Potential observer service providers are also encouraged to familiarize themselves with the NPFC Resolution on Core Principles on Labor Standards in NPFC Fisheries, which can be accessed here: [Resolution on Core Principles on Labor Standards in NPFC Fisheries | NPFC](#)

At its 9th Commission meetings in March 2025, the NPFC adopted an NPFC Transshipment Observer program (attached), which will come into effect on 1 April 2026. The NPFC Transshipment Observer program has the following 3 objectives:

- Collect verified transshipment data
- Collect additional information
- Monitor the implementation of NPFC CMMs [CMMs \(PDF\) | NPFC](#), with particular attention to the CMM on Transshipments (also attached).

Scope

It is anticipated that approximately 5500 sea days would be required annually on about 40 receiving vessels sailing from and returning to about 10 ports, likely in China, Chinese Taipei, and Korea. Transshipment observers are to monitor approximately 2,000 transshipment events annually totaling about 300,000 MT of small pelagics in 10-20 kg bags and boxes (from 2023-2024 data).

Observer Service Provider Responsibilities

The observer service provider will recruit, train, equip, deploy, recover and manage observers in accordance with the provisions of the Conservation and Management Measure - CMM 2025-17 *On NPFC Transshipment Observer Program* (attached).

Specifically, the observer service provider will ensure observers complete the duties in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 13-19. The observer service provider shall also ensure observers are advised of their rights as per paragraphs 20-26, including the right to refuse a deployment for justified reasons.

Observer transshipment reports will be transmitted, by the observer service provider, to the NPFC transshipment database.

Observer Service providers must ensure that observers meet eligibility criteria to be “authorized”, including being independent and impartial; however, trained and qualified observers may be sourced from Member/CNCP or other regional (transshipment) observer programs.

Observer Service providers must demonstrate that observers meet the following minimum qualifications:

- a) sufficient experience in identifying, or satisfactorily completed training to identify, NPFC species and fishing gear;
- b) satisfactory knowledge of NPFC conservation and management measures;
- c) the ability to observe and record information accurately; and
- d) sufficient training in technical matters and safety.

Additionally, Observer service providers are encouraged to ensure that authorized observers have a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel to which they are deployed.

Observer Duties:

Observers are to observe, record, and report on transshipment activities undertaken by carrier vessels, including the verification of species, amounts and form of fish transshipped, and other information as required under CMM 2025-17 Annex I.

Required qualifications of potential service provider to express interest:

Qualified observer service providers are invited to submit a “letter of interest” demonstrating with clear examples how they meet the following qualifications:

- Provide the required corps of fully trained and equipped observers
- Show how observers meet independence/impartiality requirements
- Identify how observers meet the safety, training, and equipment requirements outlined in CMM 2025-17

In addition to the qualifications listed above, interested observer service providers must **demonstrate their capacity and relevant operational experience** in the following specific areas:

1. Multinational Deployment Experience:

Observer Service providers must provide evidence of prior experience in deploying independent transshipment observers to vessels of various regions operating out of ports in different countries. Examples of logistical coordination with local authorities or port agents should be included where possible.

2. Observer Recruitment and Training:

Observer Service providers must demonstrate practical experience in the recruitment and training of transshipment observers. Training programs should specifically include modules on verifying compliance with relevant Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), and on species and gear identification relevant to the NPFC Convention Area.

3. Observer Safety and Welfare:

Observer Service providers must demonstrate experience in ensuring observer safety, including the observers fulfilling internationally recognized maritime safety standards and procedures during deployment. Service providers should also outline any internal

protocols for incident response, observer debriefings, or reporting mechanisms for safety or harassment concerns.

4. Cost Effectiveness

Observer Service providers are encouraged to include a description of how their program design would ensure cost- effectiveness and avoid duplications, including through sourcing observers from existing programs in the region, as per paragraph 5 of CMM 2025-17.

If multiple qualified candidate service providers express an interest in the provision of observer services, a tender process will be launched and interested parties will be invited to submit a proposal.

Please submit any requests for further information, or submissions of a Letter of Interest, by 27 May 2025 to:

Judy Dwyer, NPFC Compliance Manager: jdwyer@npfc.int

Jumpei Hinata, NPFC Compliance Assistant: jhinata@npfc.int

Attachments:

1. NPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2025-17- *On NPFC Transshipment Observer Program* (coming into effect 1 April 2026)
2. NPFC Conservation and Management Measure 2025-03- *On Transshipments* (coming into effect 10 July 2025)