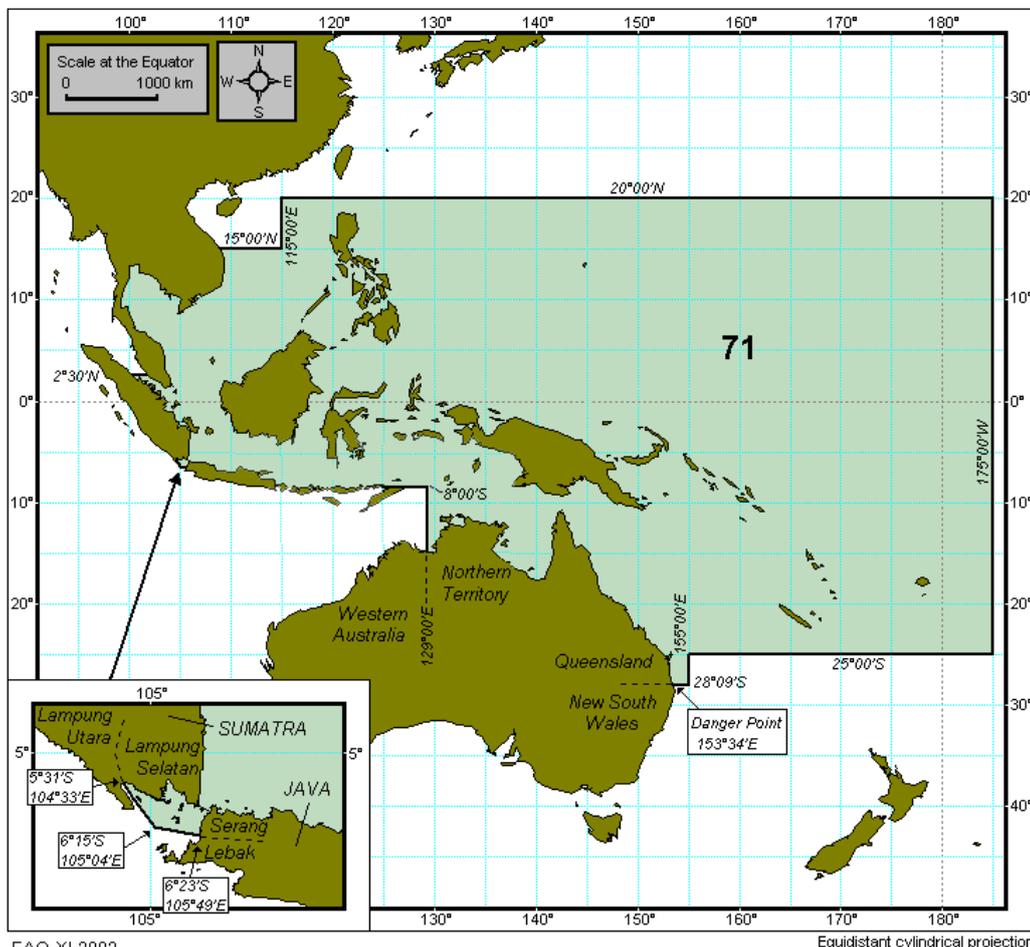


**Project Title: Understanding the Working Conditions of Western and Central Pacific Ocean Fisheries Observers: A baseline survey.**

**About the Project:** This is a rapid, 60-day project conducted by Human Rights at Sea in partnership with the University of Nottingham Rights Lab on the working conditions of western and central Pacific Ocean fisheries observers.

As part of the project, we are surveying fisheries observers to understand your pre-departure experiences (such as aspects of your contract and/or employment arrangements), on board experiences while performing your job responsibilities, and post-trip experiences (such as reporting incidents of abuse and harassment). In 2017, WCPFC adopted minimum safety, security, and welfare standards for fisheries observers, but following the death of Kiribati observer Eritara Aati Kaiuru, there have been concerns that 1) these minimum standards are not being met, and 2) that there is a need for minimum standards in other western and central Pacific Ocean fisheries not governed by the WCPFC.

**Am I eligible to participate?** The only criteria that you must meet to participate in the study are: 1) you must be 18 years or older and 2) you must have observed at least one trip in a western, central Pacific Ocean fishery since 2017. We are defining the western, central Pacific Ocean based on the FAO's Major Fishing Area designation 71 (see below).



**How the survey will work:** This is an online survey. If you are interested in participating in the study, you can click on the link in the email or message. You will first be taken to a page that repeats your rights as a research participant. After reading this information, if you still consent to participate, you will tick a box indicating your consent and that you meet the criteria to participate in the survey. Once these two boxes have been ticked, you will be taken to the survey questions. In total, there are 54 survey questions. We will be asking questions about your pre-departure experiences (such as aspects of your contract and/or employment arrangements), on board experiences while performing your job responsibilities, and post-trip experiences (such as reporting incidents of abuse and harassment).

All questions are in English and we expect the survey to take 20-25 minutes to complete.

**Do I have to take part?** It is up to you to decide whether or not you want to take the survey. If you do decide to take the survey, we ask that you please keep a copy of this sheet, which has important information like what do if you change your mind and list of supportive resources. Even if you decide to take part and start the survey, you can change your mind at any time. If you change your mind while taking the survey you can just close the web browser (click the x to exit the website). All of your responses will be eliminated and destroyed. Even if you complete the survey, you can still decide to change your mind at a later date and do not need to give any reason. If you change your mind later, contact Jessica Sparks at [jessica.sparks@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:jessica.sparks@nottingham.ac.uk) and she will ask for some of your responses to help identify your survey. You can withdraw your responses from any reports written using the data up until the 16<sup>th</sup> of October, 2020. Since we are required to keep data stored in a secured repository, you can still request to have your responses withdrawn from the stored dataset even after a report has been published.

**What information will be collected and what will be done with it?** The survey is completely anonymous. We will not ask you for any identifying information except for your nationality (and you do not have to answer this question). All other questions will be about your most recent trip as an observer, or general working conditions that you have experienced throughout your career as an observer. If you do not want to answer a question, you can select prefer not to say in the responses or skip the question. This does not impact your ability to participate in the study. All data will be downloaded from the survey website and stored securely in a password protected online file that only the researchers have access to. The responses will be analysed and reported in a publication that will be publicly released. No individual survey responses will be described in this report, only the summary of all responses. The summarized data (i.e., NOT your individual survey) will be kept for in an online database where other researchers can view it.

**What are the possible advantages of taking part?** Participating in this study may not benefit you directly, but it will be used to advocate for improved working conditions and compliance with labour and safety measures. Ultimately, we hope the survey results will help motivate observer programmes, governments, and other actors such as regional fisheries management organizations (RFMO) to meet the minimum requirements for observer labour rights, health, safety, and welfare.

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?** You may find answering some of the questions upsetting, but we expect that this would not be different from the kinds of things you discuss with

family or colleagues. You may skip any questions you do not want to answer and you may stop taking the survey at any time. Should you experience emotional distress while participating in this study, there is a list of supportive resources at the end of this document that you can contact, or contact your general practitioner/health centre. This list of resources will also be available for download at the end of each section of the survey and at the overall end of the survey.

### **What if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of the project, you can speak to Dr Jessica Sparks, one of the researchers. She can be reached via email at [jessica.sparks@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:jessica.sparks@nottingham.ac.uk).

If you are not satisfied with how this study is being conducted, or if you have any concerns, complaints, or general questions about the research or your rights as a participant, please contact the University of Nottingham Rights Lab's Chief Ethics Officer, Professor Zoe Trodd, via email at [zoe.trodd@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:zoe.trodd@nottingham.ac.uk).

We strongly encourage you to download and save a copy of the study's information sheet here, should you have any questions about your rights as a research participant.

**Who has reviewed the study?** All planned research is looked at by independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and approved by an ethics committee at the Rights Lab, University of Nottingham.

### **APPENDIX D: SUPPORT RESOURCES (will be combined with information sheet)**

If participating in this survey has caused you distress, below is a list of 24/7 toll-free hotlines that you can contact for assistance. Services are listed in alphabetical order by country. If you are in a Pacific Island country that is not listed, contact your local health centre. Following the list of emergency services is a brief list of non-emergency support services.

#### **Australia**

Lifeline

Phone number: 13 11 14

#### **Cambodia**

TPO Cambodia

Phone number: 855 17 222 372 & Facebook Messenger Chatbot

#### **China**

Beijing Suicide Research and Prevention Center

Phone number: 0800-810-1117 or 010-8295-1332

Guangzhou Crisis Research and Intervention Center

Phone number: 020-81899120 or 020-12320-5

Mental Health Center of School of Medicine of Zhejiang University

Phone number: 0571-85029595



HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA



University of  
**Nottingham**  
Rights Lab

The Rights Lab: A University Beacon of Excellence  
Highfield House, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

Shenzen Mental Health Center  
Phone number: 0755-25629459

**Fiji**  
Lifeline Fiji  
Phone number: 132-454

**Hong Kong**  
Samaritans Hong Kong  
Phone number: 2896 0000

**Indonesia**  
Kementerian Kesehatan  
Phone number: 500-454

**Japan**  
Tell Japan  
Phone number: 03-5774-0992

**Malaysia**  
National Council of Befrienders Malaysia  
Phone number: 603-79568145

**New Zealand**  
Lifeline Aotearoa  
Phone number: 09 5222 999 (Auckland); 0800 543 354 (outside Auckland)

**Papua New Guinea**  
Lifeline Papua New Guinea  
Phone number: 675 326 0011

**The Philippines**  
The National Center for Mental Health Crisis Hotline  
Telephone number: (02) 989-8727; cellphone: (0917) 899-8727

Tawag Paglaum – Centro Bisaya  
Phone number: (0939) 937-5433 or (0927) 654-1629

**Samoa**  
FA'ATAUA LE OLA (FLO)  
Phone number: 800-5433

**South Korea**  
Counsel24  
Phone number: 1566-2525

**Taiwan**  
Taiwan Lifeline International  
Phone number: 1995

### **Thailand**

The Samaritans of Thailand  
02-713-6793 (Thai)  
02-713-6790 (English)

### **Vietnam**

Vietnam Emergency Hotline  
Phone number: 113

Additional support services (that are not available to 24/7, but that are specific to seafarers, fishers, and related oceanic professions) are available through:

### ***Apostleship of the Sea/Stella Maris***

See link for a list of ports with services by country:

<https://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/sites/default/files/imce/Stella%20Maris%20Port%20Chaplain%20Directory%202020.pdf>

### ***Mission to Seafarers***

Chat with a chaplain online at <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/> (click on blue “chat to a chaplain” button).

If you need help and support on a welfare or justice issue, please get in touch at: [crewhelp@mtsmail.org](mailto:crewhelp@mtsmail.org)

Contact a chaplain at: <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/contact-a-chaplain>

### ***Association for Professional Observers***

email: [emitch@efn.org](mailto:emitch@efn.org)

webform: <https://www.apo-observers.org/contact-us>

telephone (United States phone number): 001 541 515-3716