

Observer Programme Coordinator Commences Duties

After a protracted recruitment process that commenced in early 2006, the Commission's Observer Programme Coordinator, Mr Karl Staisch, commenced work at the Commission Secretariat, Pohnpei on Friday 23 February 2007. Karl, most recently the Observer Programme Manager at the secretariat of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Honiara, Solomon Islands, has over 19 years' experience as a fisheries observer and observer programme manager.

With the Regional Observer Programme (ROP) recognized as a key element in support of the Commission's scientific and compliance functions, Karl will be instrumental in assisting Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) to shape the ROP. His initial task will be to facilitate the holding of an Inter-sessional Working Group on the Regional Observer Programme (IWG-ROP), to expedite further development of the ROP. The IWG-ROP will be held as soon as practicable in 2007.