



Parties to the Nauru Agreement

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To: FSMA RAL Holders

Subject: Sea Day and Shore Day Rates Increase for Observers under the PNA Observer Agency (POA)

I'm writing to inform you of Parties' decision at the 14th Special FSMA Meeting, welcomed by Ministers at the 18th PNA Ministerial Meeting, to provide an increase in sea day and shore day rates paid to observers operating under the PNA Observer Agency (POA) in 2024.

The increase in the sea day rate represents the first increase in the rates paid to observers since 2017 (with the exception of a US\$5/day incentive for e-reporting commencing in 2022). The increase has been provided acknowledging the significant changes in CPI since that time, as well as the increasing complexity and importance of the observer's role in the fisheries management system.

The increase in the shore day rate represents the first increase since 2013. Again, the increase has been provided in recognition of the substantial increases in CPI since that time. Shore days are days spent travelling to and from the port of embarkation/disembarkation, waiting for vessel departure or return travel, or debriefing.

The combination of the observer sea day and shore day fee increases means the sea day fee charged to vessels will increase from US\$129/day to US\$158/day in 2024. The sea day fee charged to vessels also covers the costs of observer accommodation and meals in transit, briefing, debriefing, placement, agents fees, visas, bank fees and other miscellaneous costs.

I note that even with this change POA sea day rate increases have remained lower than global inflation averages since the commencement of the Agency.

For vessels re-applying for a Regional Access License (RAL), we expect invoices for the 2024 fishing year to be sent to operators by late November/early December. The new sea day rate will commence from 1 January 2024, and will be applied to any carry over vessel balances from 2023.

As always, vessels will only be charged for sea days used. Any unused balance will be refunded to vessel operators should they choose not to re-apply for a RAL.

I look forward to the POA continuing to provide an efficient, safe and responsive observer service for both Parties and vessel operators and thank you for your continuing cooperation.

Your sincerely,

Dr. Sangaalofa Clark
Chief Executive Officer