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Empowering observers: Offline Longline Observer app

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1. To ensure that the tuna population remains healthy, the Pacific region has invested heavily in research and technology. The Pacific Islands countries and territories (PICTs) are continuing to benefit from technological advancements. The Pacific Community (SPC) and its members have collaborated since 2016 to develop mobile-friendly applications, one of which is the Offline LongLine Observer (OLLO) app. This app, launched in 2019, allows fisheries observers to monitor vessels' catch and support sustainable fishing practices.
2. OLLO is a valuable app for fisheries observers on board vessels. Observers record every fish caught, its size, location, and fate. With OLLO, they can quickly record all the necessary information and get back to observing the fishing, enhancing the efficiency of data collection. These data are then uploaded to a regional oceanic fisheries database, TUFMAN2, when the observer returns to port.
3. OLLO was launched in 2019, and early versions were tested by the New Caledonia Observer Programme (NCOB). The LL-4 form, used to record catch data for each tuna caught, has been developed over several decades to enable efficient and high-quality data collection. Feedback from the first trial version of OLLO suggested that the app's ease and speed of use needed improvement, which SPC developers addressed by displaying the LL-4 in a tabular format where data fields could be completed rapidly and not necessarily in sequence, akin to using the paper form.
4. OLLO has improved data quality by incorporating data checking processes during data entry and streamlining data transmission. The app has been used by 23 observers from three national observer programs on 61 vessels, racking up nearly 3000 days at sea. Between 2021 and 2022, 38% of longline observers used OLLO to record their data. The New Caledonia Observer Programme has entirely eliminated paper forms and transitioned to OLLO. French Polynesia has also embraced OLLO, with Tonga ready to follow suit. The Pacific Community is ready to help other member countries adopt this cutting-edge app.



Figure 1. French Polynesia observer and *Mokai 2* vessel skipper

OLLO Trips by Departure date

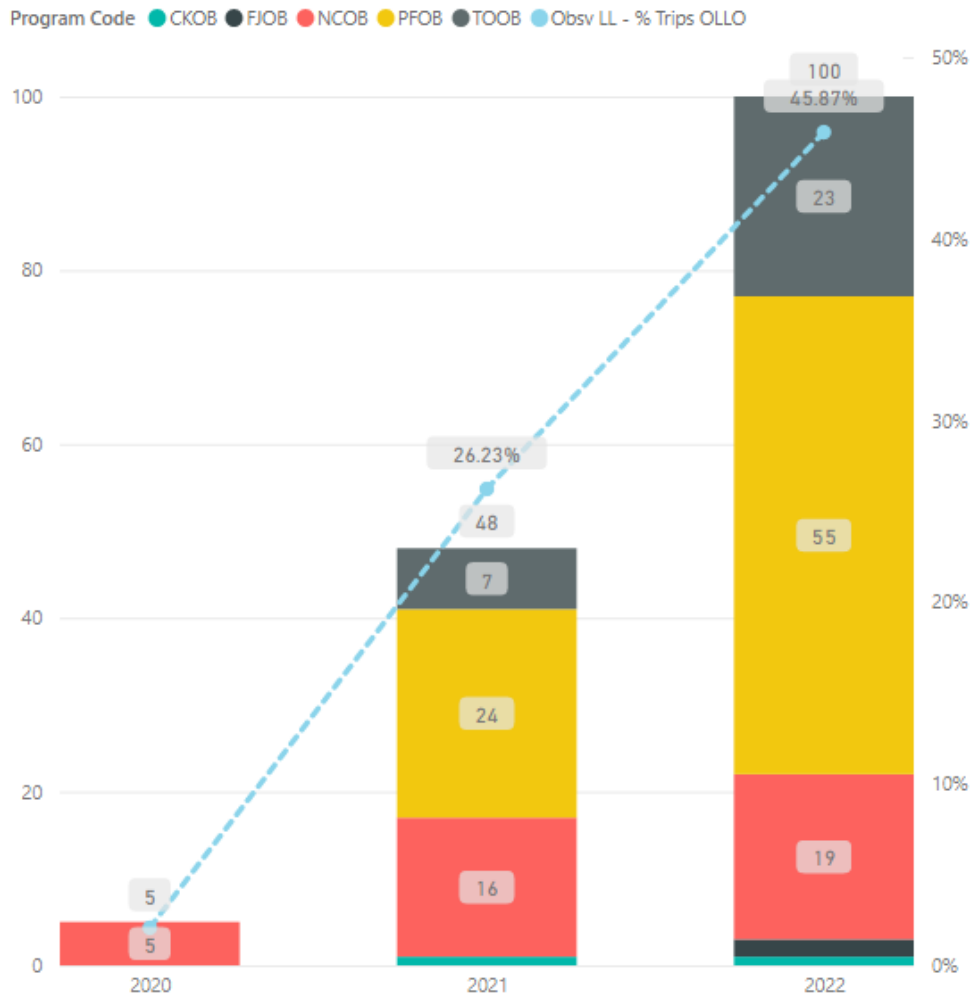


Figure 2. Evolution of the number of observer trips where OLLO was used.