

RESOLUTION ON ESTABLISHING A VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM PROGRAMME

Submitted by Australia

THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION (IOTC),

TAKING NOTE of the results of the Intersessional Meeting on an Integrated Control and inspection scheme, held in Yaizu, Japan, from 27 to 29 March, 2001

RECOGNIZING IOTC Resolution 02/02 which called for the adoption of a pilot satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS) by 1st January 2004,

TAKING NOTE that the Resolution 02/02 has allowed the progressive incorporation of these systems to accommodate Contracting Parties that lack sufficient capacity for immediate implementation at a national level;

RECOGNISING that this Resolution provides a process for developing States of the region to build the capacity to implement this Resolution;

RESOLVES in accordance with the provisions of Article IX.1 of the Agreement creating the IOTC, that:

1. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating Non Contracting Party shall adopt a satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS) for all vessels registered on the IOTC authorized vessel register which operate in the IOTC area of competence and which fish on the high seas (outside the fisheries jurisdiction of any coastal state) for species covered by the IOTC Convention.
2. The Commission shall establish guidelines for the registration, implementation and operation of VMS systems in the IOTC area of Competence. The guidelines shall establish minimum criteria for which manufacturers of statelite-based VMS systems can apply against to the Commission for approval.
3. Information collected shall include:
 - a. the vessel identification (call sign and license status),
 - b. the most recent geographical position of the vessel (longitude, latitude) with a position error which shall be less than 500 metres, at a confidence level of 99%,
 - c. the date and time of the fixing of the said position of the vessel,
 - d. reporting or reprogramming of reporting requirements (i.e. 3.a, 3.b and 3.c) upon request from remote location or when VMS transponder is powering up or down,
4. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party shall take the necessary measures to ensure that their land-based national Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) receives through the VMS the messages requested in paragraph 3.
5. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party shall ensure that the masters of fishing vessels flying its flag ensure that the satellite tracking device are at all times fully operational and that the information in paragraph 3 is transmitted, at least once every 6 hours.
6. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the satellite tracking device fitted on board a fishing vessel, the device shall be repaired or replaced within one month. After this period, the master of a fishing vessel is not authorized to commence a fishing trip with a defective satellite tracking device. Furthermore, when a device stops functioning or has a technical failure during a fishing trip lasting more than one month, the repair or the replacement has to take place as soon as the vessel enters a port;

the fishing vessel shall not be authorized to commence a fishing trip without the satellite tracking device having been repaired or replaced.

7. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party shall ensure that a fishing vessel with a defective satellite tracking device shall communicate, at least daily, reports containing the information requested in paragraph 3 to the FMC by other means of communication (radio, telefax or telex).
8. Until (at a date to be decided by the Commission) fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 1 which are not yet equipped with VMS shall report at least daily by radio, telefax or telex. Such reports must include, inter alia, information on the official numbers (radio call sign and registration number), the name of the fishing vessel, the date, the time (UTC) and the geographical position (latitude and longitude) when transmitting the report, to their competent authorities, as well as:
 - a. the geographic position at the beginning of the fishing operation;
 - b. the geographic position at the end of the fishing operation.
9. CPCs that cannot fulfill the obligations as outline in this resolution shall report to the IOTC Secretariat (i) the systems and infrastructure and capabilities existing with respect to the implementation this resolution, and (ii) the hindrances for implementation of such a system and (iii) requirements for implementation.
10. The Secretariat shall compile reports prior to the 11th Session of the Commission and present a report to the Compliance Committee on possible solutions, including, but not limited to funding sources, technical and expertise exchanges and alternate methods of fulfilling the obligations.
11. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party shall report annually to the Commission on the progress and implementation of its pilot VMS programme or VMS programme.

CPCs are encouraged to extend the application of this Resolution to their fishing vessels of less than 20 meters between perpendiculars or 24 meters length overall if they consider this to be appropriate to ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures.