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SMALL GROUP REPORT ON COMMISSION VMS CAPITAL AND OPERATING COST ESTIMATES IN 2008/2009 FOR THREE SCENARIOS

WCPFC4-2007/29

6 December 2007

Introduction

The small group on the Commission VMS Capital and Operating Cost Estimates considered WCPFC4-2007/25 entitled “Commission VMS – Capital and Operating Costs in 2008/2009 for Three Scenarios”. The three scenarios considered were:

1. “Pohnpei Turn-key”;
2. “Contracted Data Centre”; and
3. “Pacific VMS”.

Outcomes

Factors considered by the small group in reaching its recommendation included:

- (a) capital expenditure cost estimates;
- (b) operational expenditure cost estimates;
- (c) system functionality;
- (d) system availability and stability;
- (e) system confidentiality and security;
- (f) system access integrity;
- (g) data exchange with other RFMOs;
- (h) system independence; and
- (i) future-proofing.

The small group agreed that the “Pacific VMS” scenario was clearly superior to the other two scenarios in respect of capital and operating cost estimates. All the remaining factors were common standards and requirements applied across all three scenarios.

In considering the operational expenditure cost estimates, the small group noted that the cost model for automatic location communicator (ALC) reporting may vary depending on the number of active ALCs and the mandated reporting rate for compliance reporting, or any additional reporting required is yet to be decided by the Commission.

Also in relation to costs, the small group noted:

- (a) that the Commission will not be charged any extra fee by the FFA in addition to the cost-recovery of costs related to maintaining the “Pacific VMS”; and
- (b) vessels already reporting high seas VMS data to the FFA VMS would not incur any additional charge to vessels.

The small group noted that for the “Pacific VMS” scenario, the VMS technical expert confirmed that although the Commission and the FFA will share common data centre infrastructure, the Commission VMS and FFA VMS will be operated completely independent of each other. Thus the operators of one system cannot gain access to the data of the other system and the Commission VMS data will be secure. These elements shall be the basis for the future framework of the Commission VMS

In relation to the Commission VMS overview as depicted in WCPFC-TCC3-2007/12, the small group noted that the “Pacific VMS” scenario will maintain the same core design.

The small group recommended the “Pacific VMS” scenario as the preferred option for implementing the Commission VMS in 2008/2009.