



THIRD REGULAR SESSION
Apia, Samoa
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**Amendments proposed by Japan on the
Commission Vessel Monitoring System**

WCPFC3-2006/DP21
10th December 2006

Proposal by Japan

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC),

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular Articles 3(2) and 24(8), (9) and (10);

Noting the importance of the vessel monitoring system as a tool to effectively support the principles and measures for the conservation and management of highly migratory species within the Convention Area;

Mindful of the applicable rights and obligations of Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs) in promoting the effective implementation of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission;

Further mindful of the key principles that are associated with underpin the vessel monitoring system, including the confidentiality and security of information handled by the system, and its efficiency, cost-effectiveness and flexibility.

Adopts, in accordance with Article 10 of the WCPFC Convention the following provisions relating to the development and implementation of the WCPFC Vessel Monitoring System (Commission VMS):

1. The Commission hereby establishes a Commission VMS, implementation of which will commence by [2008] and be progressively implemented in accordance with the following provisions and subsequent decisions.

2. Definitions:

For the purpose of the Commission VMS, following terminologies are defined:

- (a) “Automatic Location Communicator” (ALC) means a near real-time satellite position fixing transmitter;
- (b) “FFA Secretariat” means the secretariat of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency based at Honiara, Solomon Islands;
- (c) “FFA VMS” means the vessel monitoring system developed, managed and operated by the FFA Secretariat and members of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency;

32. Applicability

(a) The Commission VMS shall apply, initially, to all fishing vessels that fish for highly migratory fish stocks on the high seas between south of 20 degree North and north of 20 degree South in the Convention Area. and to fishing vessels in waters under national jurisdiction of a Member when that Member so requests.

(b) Any CCMs may request, for the Commission’s consideration and approval, that waters under its national jurisdiction be included within the area covered by the Commission VMS. Necessary expenses incurred in the inclusion of such area into the Commission VMS shall be borne by the CCMs that made the request.

~~3. CCMs shall cooperate to ensure compatibility of between national and high seas VMS. (Note: see 5(b))~~

4. Nature and specification of the Commission VMS

~~4. Each flag State CCM shall require its fishing vessels that fish in the Convention Area in areas under national jurisdiction of another CCM to operate an ALC in accordance with the standards, specifications and procedures determined by the coastal State.~~

- (a) The Commission VMS shall be a stand-alone system:
- developed in and administered by the Secretariat of WCPFC under the guidance by the Commission, which in principle receive the submission of data directly from fishing vessels operating on the high seas in the Convention Area that are required to report VMS data to the Commission.
 - with the added capability that it can accept VMS data forwarded from the FFA VMS, so that the fishing vessels operating on the high seas in the Convention Area that are required to report VMS data to the Commission will have the option, if they so desire, to report those data via the FFA VMS.
- ~~(b)6-~~ The Commission shall develop rules and procedures for governing the operation of the Commission VMS, including, *inter alia*:
- vessel reporting, including the specifications of the data required, its format and reporting frequencies;
 - rules on poling

- ALC failure alternates;
- cost sharing;
- obligations and roles of fishing vessels, CCMs, the FFA Secretariat and the Commission Secretariat.

(c) The Commission shall establish confidentiality rules of the Commission VMS data, which should be consistent with other security policies and guidelines of the Commission.

~~7. In establishing such rules and procedures, the Commission shall take into account the characteristics of traditional fishing vessels from developing States. (Note: see 6(c))~~

~~(d)8. All CCM fishing vessels required to report to the Commission VMS shall use an ALC that complies with the Commission's minimum standards for ALCs.~~

~~(e)9. The minimum standards for ALCs used in the Commission VMS are appended at Annex 1. (Note: the same one as agreed in the TCC2)~~

510. Obligation of CCMs

~~(a) Each flag State CCM shall ensure that fishing vessels on the high seas in the Convention Area comply with the requirements established by the Commission for the purpose of the Commission VMS. ~~are equipped with ALCs that shall communicate such data as determined by the Commission.~~~~

~~(b) CCMs shall cooperate to ensure, if appropriate, the compatibility of VMS systems between their EEZ and the Commission VMS.~~

~~11. Security standards of Commission VMS data shall conform to the WCPFC Information Security Policy. (Note: see 4(c))~~

612. Preparation and phased implementation

~~(a) The Commission instructs the [third] session of the Technical and Compliance Committee to develop necessary rules including those in paragraph 4(b), 4(c) and others where necessary for the approval by the subsequent session of the Commission.~~

~~(b) The Commission also instructs the [third] session of the Technical Committee to shall develop a schedule detailing the phased implementation of the Commission VMS with a view to achieving complete smooth and effective implementation after for the initial [three (3) years], taking account of special circumstances that may apply in particular areas of the Convention Area. (Note: see 6(c))~~

~~(c) In developing the schedule of phased implementation, due account should be paid to:~~

- the preparedness and capacity of the Secretariat
- the characteristics of traditional fishing vessels from ~~developing coastal~~ States including developing states;

- Special circumstances that may apply in particular areas of the Convention area

(d) After [three] years of implementation, the Commission shall conduct a through review of the implementation and consider further improvement in implementation of the system.