Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
Twenty-First Regular Session
24 September to 30 September 2025
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (Hybrid)

PROPOSAL ON VMS REPORTING STATUS TOOL (VRST)

WCPFC-TCC21-2025-DP08
8 September 2025

Submitted by Japan

Japan's proposal on VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST):

1. Japan proposes the following functional changes to the VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST) for 2026, which will enable its continued effective operation.

(1) Once a vessel's status is set to "In Port," it will remain so unless location data outside the flag CCM's EEZ is received from the vessel.
(2) Flag CCMs will be able to review the VMS reporting status history for up to one year instead of one month.
(3) Flag CCMs will be able to change the vessel's status in batches over a period of up to one year.

Background:

2. The VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST) is a valuable resource for flag CCMs to review and verify the latest VMS status of each fishing vessel and to take the necessary actions. Based on the Recommendation made at TCC19, the new status update option, "Reporting to Flag VMS," was introduced in the "Non Reporting Vessels" interactive interface of the VRST. This update aims to further streamline and assist in focusing on VMS-related communication, improve the accuracy of VMS status monitoring by flag CCMs and the Secretariat, and significantly reduce the number of unnecessary dCMR VMS data gap issues.

3. However, there are still operational challenges, and Japan proposes improvements to the VRST to make it more effective.

4. Specifically, even after confirming that a vessel has entered port and setting its status to "In Port" in the "Non Reporting Vessels" interactive interface, the status often reverts to "Pending" the following day, even if the vessel remains in port for several days or weeks. This forces flag CCMs to review and verify the status of numerous vessels every day, hindering their ability to improve VMS status monitoring.

5. Therefore, Japan proposes that, once a vessel's status is set to "In Port," it will remain so unless location data outside the flag CCM's EEZ is received from the vessel.

6. Furthermore, in order to enable flag CCMs to conduct detailed analysis of reporting status of vessels whose location data is not reported to the Commission VMS, and to allow the registration of past status identified through such analysis in the "Non Reporting Vessels" interactive interface, Japan proposes: (i) Flag CCMs will be able to review the VMS reporting status history for up to one year instead of one month; (ii) Flag CCMs will be able to change the vessel's status in batches over a period of up to one year.