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Revised Purposes and Principles of the WCPFC VMS

Purpose and Principles of the WCPFC VMS

Purpose: The purpose of the Commission Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) is to cost-effectively ~~collect fisheries information from~~ monitor the activities of fishing vessels authorized by flag States to fish for highly migratory fish species in the Convention Area in areas beyond jurisdiction of the Flag State. ~~The fisheries information~~ Data collected by the Commission VMS will be securely stored and used by the Commission and its Members, Cooperating Non-Members, and Participating Territories (CCMs) to achieve compliance with Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs), fisheries scientific analysis and sound fisheries management decision-making in the Convention Area.

Principles

Compatible
The Commission VMS should maximize compatibility and functionality in harmony with national VMSs so that not only is the high seas regime monitored to promote and achieve compliance with CMMs, but also streamlined management of in-zone areas is facilitated, where requested, to help maintain the integrity of the EEZs and ensure coastal States meet their obligations as CCMs thus giving effect to Article 30.

Cost-Effective
The Commission VMS should strive to be used in combination with the Commission's other MCS tools and be as cost-effective as possible, while maintaining the integrity of the system and ensuring data security. To this end, the Commission VMS should avoid duplication with national and sub-regional VMSs and minimize duplication of data transmissions, software, data warehousing, and satellite providers.

Useable and Timely
The Commission VMS should be capable of providing web-based near real-time VMS data to flag and coastal CCMs; generating automatic alerts when fishing vessels enter or exit specific areas (such as the high seas within the Convention Area) or time periods; and making such alerts available to relevant flag and coastal CCMs in near real-time.

Useful
The Commission VMS should be useful in promoting the objectives and principles of the Convention as well as in ensuring compliance with – or assessing the effectiveness of – CMMs adopted by the Commission.

Flexible
The Commission VMS should be sufficiently flexible and dynamic to readily incorporate emerging technologies and the changing needs of the WCPFC. The VMS should also have capability to have different automatic reporting rates by vessel type, area, and/or time period, including the option of no reporting if the data do not fall within the remit of the VMS CMM.

Secure

The Commission VMS should have appropriate controls in place to protect against the loss of:
• Confidentiality -- where information is accessible only to authorized individuals and entities
• Integrity -- by safeguarding the accuracy and completeness of information and processing methods
• Availability -- so that authorized individuals and entities have access to relevant information when required.

Reliable
The Commission VMS should be supported by the establishment and maintenance of VMS unit type-approvals, software and hardware standards, and data management procedures that will ensure Commission VMS data accuracy and integrity to the greatest extent possible. This attribute would be supported by periodic review and audits of such standards and procedures.

Integrated
The Commission VMS should fully integrate with other MCS frameworks and relevant data held in the Commission's information management system including facilitating linkages with the Regional Observer Program, the Record of Fishing Vessels, the IUU Vessel List and operational fisheries data, so that integrated analyses of these and other data sets will serve to continually support efforts by CCMs to effectively combat IUU fishing.

Versatile
The Commission VMS should be designed, insofar as practical, with other potential purposes in mind such as its communication capabilities being used for the purpose of transmitting and receiving catch, effort, and other information generated by vessel crew members or observers.