



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**  
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USA - TCC10 Recommendation for CMM-2011-02

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**30 Sept 2014**

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## COMMISSION VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM<sup>1</sup>

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### Conservation and Management Measure 2011-02

*The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC),*

**Recalling** the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular Articles 3 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 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 upon which the vessel monitoring system is based, 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 process relating to the implementation of the WCPFC Vessel Monitoring System (Commission VMS):

1. A Commission VMS.
2. The system shall commence, to be activated 1 January 2008, in the area of the Convention Area south of 20°N, and east of 175°E in the area of the Convention Area north of 20°N.
3. With respect to the area [of the Convention Area](#) north of 20°N and west of 175°E, the system [shall commence 31 December 2013](#) ~~will be activated at a date to be determined by the Commission.~~
4. ~~Any fishing vessels fishing for highly migratory fish stocks on the high seas within the areas of the Convention Area described in para 2 above that move into the area north of 20°N and west of 175°E shall keep their ALCs activated and continue to report to the Commission in accordance with this Conservation and Management Measure.~~

#### 4. Definitions

(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;

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<sup>1</sup> By adoption of this CMM (CMM-2011-02) the Commission rescinds CMM-2007-02 which has been revised and replaced.

(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;

65. Applicability

(a) The Commission VMS shall apply to all fishing vessels that fish for highly migratory fish stocks on the high seas within the Convention Area.

(b) It shall apply to all vessels in excess of 24 metres in length with an activation date of 1 January 2008, and it shall apply to all vessels 24 metres in length or less with an activation date of 1 January 2009.

(c) Any CCM 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 CCM which made the request.

76. Nature and specification of the Commission VMS

(a) The Commission VMS shall be a stand-alone system:

- developed in and administered by the Secretariat of WCPFC under the guidance of the Commission, which receives data directly from fishing vessels operating on the high seas in the Convention Area; and
- 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 will have the option to report data via the FFA VMS.

(b) The Commission shall develop rules and procedures for 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 polling;
- ALC failure alternates;
- cost recovery;
- cost sharing;
- measures to prevent tampering; and
- obligations and roles of fishing vessels, CCMs, the FFA Secretariat and the Commission Secretariat.

(c) Security standards of the Commission VMS data shall be developed by the Commission, consistent with the WCPFC Information Security Policy.

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

(e) The minimum standards for ALCs used in the Commission VMS are appended at Annex 1.

87. In establishing such standards, specifications and procedures, the Commission shall take into account the characteristics of traditional fishing vessels from developing States.

8. In establishing such standards, specifications and procedures, the Commission shall take into account the characteristics of traditional fishing vessels from developing States.

9. Obligation of CCMs

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

(b) CCMs shall cooperate to ensure compatibility between national and high seas VMSs.

10. Review

After two years of implementation, the Commission shall conduct a review of the implementation of this Conservation and Management Measure and consider further improvements to the system as require