



COMMISSION
EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION
Tumon, Guam, USA
26-30 March 2012

Joint VMS Review-VMS Attributes

WCPFC8- 2011/DP-41
26 March 2012



25 March, 2012

Dr Charles Karnella
Chair
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
PO Box 2356
Kolonia
Federated States of Micronesia

Dear Dr Karnella,

FFA Member Comments on the Joint WCPFC/FFA Review of WCPFC VMS and VMS Attributes

The TCC7 Small Working Group tasked to respond to the recommendations of the Joint VMS Review identified that CCMs ahead of anything else and as a critical first step address the Review's recommendation that:

"...(Paragraph 112) WCPFC and FFA must identify what they want their systems to do from a usability perspective, defining what they want their systems to do and linking it to management measures themselves e.g. 2008 01 etc. They could potentially prioritise the use of the system around priority measures – which also may have the benefit of reducing costs. Review team suggested objective: to support fisheries management, including combating IUU activity..."

As a starting point for when WCPFC8 considers the *Joint WCPFC/FFA Review of the WCPFC VMS (Agenda Item 8.6.2)* FFA Members provide the following attributes it envisages of the Commission VMS:

- Secure, web-based, real-time, readily accessible and reliable;
- Cost efficient;
- Fully integrated with other MCS frameworks and relevant data so as to continually support Members' efforts to effectively combat IUU fishing;
- Capable of closely monitoring, controlling and managing fisheries to ensure the achievement of optimal compliance levels;
- Focussed not only on the high seas regime to promote and achieve compliance with CMMs, but also management of in-zone areas in order to maintain the integrity of the EEZs and ensure that coastal States can meet their obligations as CCMs;

- Capable of conducting in-depth analyses of appropriate data sets so as to develop a deeper understanding of fisheries and the efficacy of Commission conservation and management measures; and
- Flexible enough to readily incorporate emerging technologies or the changing needs and desires of CCMs.

FFA Members encourage CCMs consider the above listed attributes as a starting point for discussions on the future of the Commission VMS with a view to WCPFC8 agreeing on a list of attributes expected of its VMS.