



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

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Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

**Proposal for provisional amendment of the VMS Standards, Specifications
and Procedures on manual reporting**

WCPFC-TCC8-2012-30

1 October 2012

Outcomes of TCC8 small working group:

Proposal for provisional amendment of the VMS Standards, Specifications and Procedures on manual reporting

Background

1. TCC8 reviewed the remaining bracketed text in the Commission VMS SSPs in paragraphs 5.4 and 5.5 related to manual reporting. TCC8 advised that CCMs were not able to agree on final text for these provisions, but noted that CCMs wished to ensure that there is a manual reporting requirement and a requirement for vessels to return to port in place for 2013.
2. TCC8 agreed to recommend to WCPFC9 to revise the language in paragraphs 5.4 and 5.5 provisionally for one year, and recommended that WCPFC9 task TCC9 to continue to consider this issue. TCC8 noted that the revised language proposed by TCC8 does not reflect final agreement on either the period of manual reporting or the length of time that a vessel may continue to fish while manually reporting.
3. TCC8 noted that Coastal States' laws and regulations continue to apply with respect to manual reporting with respect to VMS breakdown where vessels are in coastal State jurisdictions and noted Section 1 in the Commission SSPs relating to application of VMS.
4. TCC8 recommended that WCPFC9 task the Secretariat with updating its report on manual reporting and with carrying out an assessment of whether certain models of ALC/MTU units are failing more often than others. TCC8 recommended that TCC9 be tasked to consider the updated report and the assessment and make recommendations to WCPFC10 on options regarding the use of those ALC/MTU units that fail repeatedly.

Standard Reporting Format

5. TCC8 agreed a standard format for manual reporting as follows and recommended that WCPFC9 adopt this standard format:

1	WIN
2	Vessel Name
3	Date: dd/mm/yy
4	Time: 24 hour format HH:MM (UTC)
5	Latitude – DD-MM-SS (N/S)
6	Longitude – DDD-MM-SS (E/W)
7	Activity (Fishing/Searching/Transit/Transshipping)

Recommended language for consideration by TCC8

TCC8 agreed to recommend to WCPFC9 that, for the period 1 March 2013 to 1 March 2014, section 5 of the Commission’s VMS SSPs be modified as follows:

4. In the event of non-reception of two consecutive, programmed high seas VMS positions, and where the Secretariat has exhausted all reasonable steps¹ to re-establish normal automatic reception of VMS positions the Secretariat will notify the flag State CCM who shall then direct the vessel Master to begin manual reporting. During this period the vessel shall be required to report its position manually to the Secretariat every 6 hours. If automatic reporting to the Commission VMS has not been re-established within 30 days of the commencement of manual reporting the flag state CCM shall order the vessel to cease fishing, stow all fishing gear and return immediately to port. The vessel may recommence fishing on the high seas only when the ALC/MTU has been confirmed as operational by the Secretariat following the flag State CCM informing the Secretariat that the vessel’s automatic reporting complies with the regulations established in this SSP.

4bis. The standards outlined in Paragraph 4 above will apply for the period 1 March 2013 to 1 March 2014 and will be reviewed for MCS effectiveness at TCC9.

5. In exceptional circumstances², the flag State CCM may extend the period established in paragraph 4 for an additional consecutive 15 days during which time the vessel will continue to report its position manually every 4 hours to the Secretariat while on the high seas. When such permission is provided the flag State CCM shall provide a report to the Secretariat as to the nature of the exceptional circumstances and steps taken to re-establish automatic reporting. Such reports shall be included in the Secretariat’s annual report on the operations of the Commission’s VMS to the TCC as required under paragraph 7.3.9.

¹ The flag State CCM, in coordination with the Secretariat and through communication with the vessel master as appropriate, will endeavor to re-establish normal automatic reception of VMS positions. If such efforts reveal that the vessel is successfully reporting to the flag State CCM’s VMS or a sub-regional VMS (indicating that the vessel’s VMS hardware is functional), the Secretariat, in coordination with the flag State CCM will take additional steps to re-establish automatic reporting to the Commission VMS.

² Exceptional circumstances includes such events as satellite malfunction unrelated to MTU/ALC and mechanical failure of fishing vessel that reduces the ability of the fishing vessel to return to port within 30 days