



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Seventeenth Regular Session**  
Electronic Meeting 22 – 28 September 2021

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**DRAFT Revisions to VMS SOPs - revision 2**

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WCPFC-TCC17-2021-15B\_rev2<sup>1</sup>  
27 September 2021

**Submitted by VMS-SWG Co-Chairs**

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<sup>1</sup> Rev1 replaced the original posted on 16 September, and incorporates two edits on page 12 that are shown in **yellow highlight**. Rev2 incorporates some edits to Annex B, in particular - changing Item #4 in Annex B to be "hourly interval" vice "30-minute interval" to be consistent with the standards at Annex 1 of the VMS measure, CMM 2004-02.

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## PREFACE - Revisions to VMS SOPs

### Introduction

To facilitate review, Table 1 below provides an overview of changes the Secretariat and VMS SWG are proposing be made to the Feb 13 2019 version of the VMS Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) - see <https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/commission-vms-standard-operating-procedures>. Where changes in the SOPs were editorial, the revised SOP text remains in black, and a brief note may also be included in the table below and/or in a comment in the margin. Where there are additions or changes in the SOPs that are more substantive, brief notes about the change are included in the table below. The new or changed SOP text is coloured red.

**Table 1. Notes on proposed changes to the VMS SOPs**

<b>Section 2 Overview</b>	Non-substantive edits and tidying of formatting in the introductory section.  <b>Add new Section 2.4 Update of these SOPs:</b> As there are a number of statements throughout that mean an update will be required sooner rather than later. The reference to section 6.9 of the VMS SSPs is to provide clarity about the process for amending and reviewing the SOPs.
<b>Section 3 - VMS Software applications</b>	<b>3.1 Trackwell</b> - Non-substantive edits to improve the clarity of the description of the Trackwell system and its key features for Secretariat and CCM VMS Operators. <b>Section 3.3 Monitoring view</b> was merged into this section.  <b>3.2 Software to Automate Integration of Manual reports into the Commission VMS</b> - the Secretariat provides updates (here and at 4.5) on work that is currently in progress.  <b>Add new Section 3.4 VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST)</b> providing details on recent updates that provide enhanced capacity (for the Secretariat and flag CCMs) to monitor vessel-level VMS reporting status and identify potential non-reporting issues.
<b>Section 4 Operational Procedures</b>	<b>Add new overview</b> to provide the list of subsections under Section 4.
<b>4.1 Trackwell - VMS Client User Access</b>	Add “Trackwell” to the heading for clarity. Replace text related to password requirements, with a note from the Secretariat providing updates on work that is currently in progress.
<b>4.2 Vessel Tracking Data to be submitted by CCMs (VTAF)</b>	Replacement of “type approved by the CCM” with “on the WCPFC Approved ALC/MTU List”. Add that VTAF for vessels on FFA Good Standing List will be held on file by the Secretariat. Replace references to “FFA Vessel Register” with “FFA Good Standing List”
<b>4.3 MTU/ALC Activation procedure for WCPFC VMS</b>	Update the list of WCPFC VMS gateways and clarify activation process for each MTU type / gateway  Add a new sub-title “ <b>Vessel activation procedure for specific gateways</b> ”

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	<p>Add new VMS activation procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Inmarsat BGAN</li> <li>* Iridium</li> <li>* Iridium (mini Leo)</li> <li>* Iridium SBD</li> <li>* ORBCOMM/Skywave – updates based on recent successful efforts by the Secretariat and CCMs to get these units / gateways reporting to the Commission VMS</li> </ul>
<b>4.4 VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST)</b>	New section that explains the current functionality of the VRST, and how it is intended to provide updates for CCMs on the VMS Reporting Status of their vessels, including FFA Good Standing Status, CCM updates on whether the vessel is in port or outside the Convention Area, progress of MTU activations by the Secretariat and confirming VMS reporting.
<b>4.5 Manual Reporting</b>	Adds information on new option for CCMs to provide updates on reporting status (in port, out of the Convention Area) via the VRST. Provides details on status of ongoing work by the Secretariat to provide capacity to automate integration of manual reports into the Commission VMS
<b>4.6 Routine Reports from the Secretariat on VMS reporting anomalies and WCPFC VMS</b>	Modification of first paragraph to refer to Section 4.4 on VRST
<b>4.7 Secretariat processes to identify and follow-up on VMS reporting issues</b>	New section that explains the Secretariat procedure to identify and follow-up on VMS reporting issues
<b>4.8 Proposals for Inclusion of Additional ALC makes and models on the Approved MLC/ALC List</b>	Expanded to more clearly explain the Secretariat procedure to process requests for MTU approval (in accordance with the VMS SSPs). This includes the addition of a new MTU testing checklist, at Annex B, for the Secretariat’s use in assessing MTUs and for providing CCMs additional information prior to Commission decisions to approve new MTUs.
<b>4.9 Removal of ALC/MTU from the Approved ALC/MTU List</b>	New section that explains the Secretariat procedure and provides a cross-reference to the new checklist procedure for the Secretariat’s use in assessing MTUs and for providing CCMs additional information prior to Commission decisions to remove MTUs from the Approved List.
<b>4.10 Commission VMS Helpdesk Support</b>	Minor updates made.

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## Commission VMS Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

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### 1. Version notes

Version	WCPFC decision reference	Description of updates	Effective date
1.0	WCPFC6	<i>Approved by the Commission of the SOP, as per requirement of VMS SSPs section 6.9</i>	<i>Feb 19 2010</i>
2.0	WCPFC15	<i>Updates made to include versioning and to streamline and improve the focus of the SOPs and better reflect current Secretariat practices including reference to the present VMS service provider/s</i>	<i>Feb 13 2019</i>
3.0	<b>DRAFT – for consideration by TCC17 / WCPFC18</b>	<i>Updates made to provide details on recent and ongoing Secretariat software upgrades to improve capacity to monitor manual reports and monitor / address MTU non-reporting. Also clarifies procedures for activating MTUs and specific gateways, and current procedures for MTU testing (including new MTU testing checklist) prior to Commission decisions on approval or de-listing.</i>	<i>Proposed Feb 08 2022</i>

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### 2. Overview

The WCPFC operates a Vessel Monitoring System (Commission VMS) to assist in the management and conservation of highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

In December 2008, a Service Level Agreement (SLA) was formalised with FFA for the provision of the WCPFC VMS services. The contracted system that provides VMS information to the FFA VMS and the

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WCPFC VMS systems is referred to as the “Pacific VMS”. The WCPFC VMS came into operation on April 1, 2009.

The approved structure of the WCPFC VMS system allows vessels to report to the WCPFC through two ways: i) directly to the WCPFC VMS, or ii) to the WCPFC through the FFA VMS. In respect of the latter, it is recognized that there may be additional requirements for VMS reporting which arise from FFA requirements and national VMS requirements that are relevant.

The WCPFC has more than 3,000 WCPFC-registered vessels that report to the WCPFC VMS through the Pacific VMS. In addition, the WCPFC VMS receives, through the SLA with FFA, high seas VMS information relating to FFA-registered vessels.

The Commission VMS requires the use of Mobile Transceiver Units (MTUs)/Automatic Location Communicators (ALCs) that are on the Commission’s approved list of MTU/ALC<sup>1</sup>. This list is based on the Secretariat’s assessments of ALCs against minimum standards for the Commission VMS. These standards are set out in Annex 1 of CMM 2014-02 (or its successor measure) and WCPFC SSPs. The Secretariat assess whether the ALC make and model has the ability to successfully report to the Commission VMS.

## **2.1 Purpose of these Standard Operating Procedures**

These standard operating procedures (SOPs) have been developed to provide uniform guidance for Commission personnel in the management and operation of the Commission VMS.

## **2.2 Specific Commission Decisions and Guidelines governing the Commission VMS and access to VMS data**

- a) Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission (2007 data RaP) – December 2007;
- b) Service Level Agreement (SLA) with FFA for the provision of the WCPFC VMS services – December 2008 (WCPFC VMS came into operation on April 1, 2009);
- c) Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of High Seas Non-Public Domain Data and Information Compiled by the Commission for the Purpose of Monitoring, Control or Surveillance (MCS) Activities and the Access to and Dissemination of High Seas VMS Data for Scientific Purposes. (2009 MCS data RaP) – December 2009;
- d) WCPFC Standards Specifications and procedures (SSPs) for the fishing vessel monitoring system (VMS) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) – December 2018 (or its update);
- e) WCPFC Agreed Statement describing Purpose and Principles of the WCPFC VMS – December 2011;
- f) WCPFC9 decision regarding application of Commission VMS to national waters of Members (WCPFC9 Summary Report paragraph 238) – December 2012;
- g) Conservation and Management Measure for the Commission VMS – CMM 2014-02 (or its replacement CMM) – December 2014;
- h) WCPFC VMS Reporting Requirement Guidelines – May 2018 (or its update); and
- i) The last update of the list of approved MTU/ALCs can be accessed from the website: <https://www.wcpfc.int/vessel-monitoring-system>

## **2.3 General Information Security Policy and Administrative Procedures for the Secretariat**

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<sup>1</sup> The terms “ALC”, “MTU”, “ALC/MTU”, and “MTU/ALC” are used interchangeably in this document.

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The Secretariat's WCPFC Information Security Policies and Guidelines, as well as Administrative Procedures apply to the administration and access to the Commission VMS.

## 2.4 Update of these SOPs

VMS SSPs 6.9 states: “A set of Standard Operating Procedures, elaborated by the Secretariat, and subject to approval by the Commission on the recommendation of the TCC, will be developed to deal with all operational anomalies of the VMS, such as interruption of position reports, downloading of DNIDs and their equivalent and responding to reports providing incoherent data (e.g. vessel on land, excessive speed, etc.).” In 2021, the Secretariat is in the process of enhancing the VMS procedures, and online user experience and helpdesk. For this reason, this document will be reviewed no later than TCC18 in 2022. Note that the 2021 updates in these SOPs are consistent with the current VMS reporting framework outlined in the Convention and CMM 2014-02. The updates reflect technological updates, processes and enhancements to address current VMS data gaps or procedural issues.

## 3. VMS Software Applications

### 3.1 Trackwell

The Trackwell VMS user interface is implemented as a suite of web modules selectable from the main menu.

The main modules are:

- a) Monitoring - Secretariat and CCM VMS operators main view;
- b) Vessel – the vessel registry database synchronized with the Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV)
- c) Events and Actions – used to define the events to be monitored and the actions to be taken when an event occurs;
- d) Reports – provide a list of pre-programmed reports for Secretariat and CCM VMS operators eg. A count of position reports per day by area per month or a date range;
- e) Live Map – An interactive map display showing vessels’ position and zones in near real-time; and
- f) **Map history - this module contains tools to display historical trails of one or more vessels in a graphical map interface. The user can then define a date and time range to see the trail history of the selected vessels.**

The Monitoring View is the operator’s main view. All important events and alerts handled by the system are listed in this view as issues. An operator can select an “Issue” to work on or record actions taken in relation to the selected issue until it is closed.

### 3.2 Software to Automate Integration of Manual Reports into the Commission VMS

Vessels are expected to report their positions automatically. The Commission VMS does not presently have a capability to automatically upload manual positions (eg in the case of MTU/ALC failure). **The Secretariat is developing, with TrackWell, a facility for CCMs’ vessels to enable them to submit manual position reports to the Commission VMS via email. Updates on this work were provided to TCC17<sup>2</sup>.**

### 3.3 VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST)

Since 2020, through the development of the VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST), the Secretariat provides a fully automated report for each CCM to review, in more detail, the reporting status for all their vessels.

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<sup>2</sup> See further details in section 4.5 below.

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The reporting status provides a daily snapshot of whether<sup>3</sup> each vessel on the RFV is meeting its Commission VMS requirements. These requirements are met by direct reporting to the Commission VMS or through reporting via the FFA VMS (based on FFA Good Standing List). For any vessel not reporting, the daily snapshot should assist to indicate whether WCPFC has completed the necessary steps to activate its MTU to report to the Commission VMS, and if so, the VRST provides a generic current vessel status (e.g., “OK” or “STOP”) for each of their vessels and a daily VMS-reporting status (how many position reports are transmitted by each vessel each day for the past 31 days)<sup>4</sup>. The data can be exported to a file in CSV format for each report.

The VRST was enhanced in 2021 giving flag CCMs the ability to update VRST data to inform the status for their non-reporting vessels.

## 4. Operational Procedures

This section contains ten (10) subsections:

1. Trackwell - VMS Client Tool;
2. Vessel Tracking Data to be submitted by CCMs (VTAF);
3. MTU/ALC Activation Procedure for WCPFC VMS;
4. VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST);
5. Manual Reporting;
6. Routine Reports from the Secretariat on VMS reporting anomalies and WCPFC VMS;
7. Secretariat processes to identify and follow-up on VMS reporting issues;
8. Proposals for Inclusion of Additional ALC makes and models on the Approved MLC/ALC List;
9. Removal of ALC/MTU from the Approved ALC/MTU List; and
10. Commission VMS Helpdesk.

### 4.1 Trackwell - VMS Client User Access

The VMS Manager can provide user access to the Commission VMS to an individual user on request from an authorised CCM official.

The Commission VMS is configured so that each user has a unique login ID and password which can be changed at the discretion of the user.

The system is being integrated with the WCPFC website user accounts which will allow Party Administrators to give access to the Commission VMS. Users will have a single user account and password across all WCPFC systems in a manner consistent with the WCPFC Information Security Policy and associated rules.

### 4.2 Vessel Tracking Data to be submitted by CCMs (VTAF)

The flag CCM is to submit all necessary data to complete its data file in the Commission’s VMS database, in respect of all vessels authorized to operate in the WCPFC Convention area. **In accordance with the VMS SSPs**, this data will include the name of the vessel, unique vessel identification number (UVI) [\* if and when adopted by the Commission], radio call sign, length, gross registered tonnage, power of engine expressed in kilowatts/horsepower, types of fishing gear(s) used as well as the make, model, unique network

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<sup>3</sup> Based on available data and information.

<sup>4</sup> That VRST’s display of CCMs’ most recent month’s vessel-level VMS-reporting status does not impose any additional monitoring obligations on flag CCMs or the Secretariat.

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identifier (user ID) and equipment identifier (manufacturer's serial number) of the ALC that vessel will be using to fulfil its Commission VMS reporting requirements.

To facilitate the submission of necessary vessel tracking data for each vessel required to report to the WCPFC VMS, the Secretariat has provided a guideline Vessel Tracking Agreement Form (VTAF) to enable activation and automatic tracking of the vessel through WCPFC VMS. VTAFs of vessels already reporting to FFA VMS will not be activated and may not need to be provided but if submitted, can be filed in case the vessel needs to have the ALC activated to report to WCPFC VMS system (should the vessel no longer report to the FFA VMS system).

A copy of the guideline VTAF form is appended at **Annex A**.

When updated or new VTAF data is received from a CCM, the following initial steps are to be taken by the Secretariat:

1. acknowledge receipt of the VTAF by e-mail to the CCM official who sent it.
2. check that the VTAF data is completed correctly. Any incomplete VTAF data will be referred back to the CCM official who sent it.
3. check that the MTU/ALC described in the VTAF is **on the WCPFC Approved ALC/MTU List**. If not, advise the CCM official accordingly.
4. if the MTU is **on the WCPFC Approved ALC/MTU List**, then check the FFA Good Standing List to determine if the vessel is listed. If it is listed, **the MTU will be held on file by the Secretariat** and no further action required. The vessel will be monitored when it enters waters of the WCPFC Convention Area covered by the WCPFC VMS.
5. If the vessel is not listed on the FFA Good Standing List then its MTU/ALC must be activated to report directly to the Commission VMS (see **Section 4.3** below).

## **4.3 MTU/ALC Activation procedure for WCPFC VMS**

Vessels not listed on the FFA Good Standing List will be activated to report directly to WCPFC VMS once a VTAF or information required under Paragraph 2.9 of the Commission VMS SSPs is provided in full.

The following procedures are to be followed by the Secretariat for such vessels:

1. Secretariat to enter VTAF data as a new record in MTU Update request (see Figure 1).



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MTU Update Request - New Item

EDIT PAGE

Save Cancel Paste Copy Attach File Spelling

Commit Clipboard Actions Spelling

Save Cancel

Submitted By \* [dropdown]

Received Date \* [calendar]

Vessel \* [dropdown]

**MTU Details**

Approved MTU Type \* [dropdown]

Equipment ID \* [text input]  
Manufacturer's serial number for this MTU

Network ID [text input]  
Unique ID Number by which MTU is tracked on the satellite network

Save Cancel

Figure 1

2. Secretariat to follow activation procedure that is specific to the gateway for the MTU/ALC (see below). The following details must be provided for all activation requests:
  1. Vessel Name
  2. Reg No
  3. IRCS
  4. Vessel Type
  5. Flag
  6. Approved MTU Type
  7. Equipment ID
  8. Network ID
3. If activation was successful, Secretariat to advise CCM, **via email** that the vessel has been activated to report<sup>5</sup>. The Secretariat to complete internal procedure so that MTU update request form is completed to show “MTU Update Request Completed OK”. This provides advice to Trackwell VMS system that the vessel MTU/ALC details have been confirmed and are activated to report to WCPFC VMS. **The MTU Network ID is the unique ID of the MTU that links the MTU to the vessel based on VTAF submission.**
4. If activation was not successful, the Secretariat to request the CCM official to check the vessel’s MTU/ALC, rectify any anomalies with the MTU/ALC **or VTAF data** and inform the WCPFC Secretariat of when the vessel is ready for activation.

<sup>5</sup> The success of their vessels’ MTU/ALC activations will also be evident in the VRST to CCMs.

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5. On receipt of the advice by the CCM that the MTU/ALC is ready for a second activation attempt, the Secretariat to activate the vessel on the system again.
6. If the MTU/ALC activation fails on the second attempt, the Secretariat to notify the CCM and draw to the CCM's attention that vessel position reports shall be provided by the vessel on a manual basis, as required by the Commission VMS SSPs.

## **Vessel activation procedure for specific gateways:**

WCPFC VMS has gateways for the following services:

- Argos
- Faria **Watchdog**
- Halios – CLS MTUs using the Iridium service
- **Inmarsat BGAN – for iFleetONE MTUs**
- Inmarsat C
- **Iridium – for insight X2 EMTU (Nautic Alert)**
- **Iridium (mini LEO) - for BB3 & BB5 MTUs (SASCO)**
- **Iridium SBD – for iTrac II (MetOcean Telematics) and RomTrax Wifi (Rom Communications)**
- SkyMate
- **Skywave/ORBCOMM – currently operational for Chinese Taipei and Australian vessels using IDP-690.**

## **ARGOS**

Argos MTUs installed post WCPFC14 decision are no longer accepted for activation. Therefore, if a CCM contact requests activation of an Argos MTU, the Secretariat to draw to the CCM's attention to the WCPFC14 decision and that vessel position reports shall be provided by the vessel on a manual basis, as required by the Commission VMS SSPs, until a suitable MTU/ALC may be installed and activated.

## **FARIA WATCHDOG:**

Faria MTUs and the vessel's details are to be sent to SpeedCast ([support.mss.apac@speedcast.com](mailto:support.mss.apac@speedcast.com)) with a request to provide Faria 4-digit unique MTU Id made on activation. **The outcome will be advised by the Secretariat to the CCM contact<sup>6</sup>.**

## **HALIOS**

List of vessels with Halios MTU/ALCs to be activated should be sent by the Secretariat to CLS-OCEANIA ([hspencer@groupcls.com](mailto:hspencer@groupcls.com)). **CLS-OCEANIA will then advise the Secretariat whether activation is successful or not. MTU reporting status may also be verified through the CLS portal application - <https://mydata.cls.fr/iwp/Main.do>.**

## **INMARSAT C**

For Inmarsat C MTUs, activation is done at the Secretariat using a web application developed by SpeedCast (see Figure 2, below).

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<sup>6</sup> This activation confirmation process between the Secretariat and CCM will be followed for all approved MTU/ALC types shown in this section; the MTU/ALC status will also be evident to the CCM contact via the VRST.

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Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Please select DNID Options

Command Type

Ocean Region

Data Network ID

IMN Number

Member Number

UTC Time (24hr)

Reports per 24 hours

Sub Address

Acknowledgement

Telnet

TELNET:

SpeedCast  
Wherever You Are  
© Speedcast Australia 2016

Figure 2

If activation was not successful then the Secretariat to advise CCM Official of why the activation was unsuccessful, which may include:

- Unknown mobile number
- Mobile logged out
- Mobile is not in the Ocean Region
- DNID sent to vessel, but vessel did not send acknowledgement to Commission VMS;
- Program sent to vessel but vessel did not send acknowledgement to Commission VMS; or
- Start Command sent to vessel but vessel did not send acknowledgement to Commission VMS.

## INMARSAT BGAN

Activation request for iFleetONE MTUs are sent to Addvalue ([weehong.ng@addvalue.com.sg](mailto:weehong.ng@addvalue.com.sg)). Addvalue will then advise the Secretariat if activation is successful or not.

## IRIDIUM

Activation request for insight X2 EMTU is to be sent to Nautic Alert via email: [nfvelado@nauticalalert.com](mailto:nfvelado@nauticalalert.com). Nautic Alert will then advise the Secretariat if activation is successful or not.

## IRIDIUM (mini LEO)

Activation request for Sasco BB3 & BB5 MTUs are to be sent to SASCO email: [chuck@sasco-inc.com](mailto:chuck@sasco-inc.com). SASCO will then advise the Secretariat if activation is successful or not.

## IRIDIUM SBD

This is a gateway service for iTrac II and RomTrax Wifi MTUs.

Activation of iTrac II MTU are to be sent by the Secretariat to MetOcean Telematics ([service@metocean.com](mailto:service@metocean.com)). MetOcean Telematics will then advise the Secretariat if activation is successful or not.

Activation RomTrax Wifi are to be sent by the Secretariat to Rom Communications ([michael@romcomm.net](mailto:michael@romcomm.net)). Rom Communications will then advise the Secretariat if activation is successful or not.

## SKYMATE

For skymate MTUs, the vessel's details are to be sent by the Secretariat to Skymate ([williamricaurte@navcast.com](mailto:williamricaurte@navcast.com)). Skymate will then advise the Secretariat if activation is successful or not.

## SKYWAVE / ORBCOMM

For Skywave/ORBCOMM MTUs, the flag CCM's mobile communications service provider (MCSP) for the MTUs establishes a reporting channel / account for the vessels that are required to report to the Commission VMS.

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The MCSP establishes a link with the VMS service provider of WCPFC (currently Trackwell) through an application programming interface (API) which allows Trackwell to access the VMS data.

The flag CCM submits to the WCPFC Secretariat the Vessel Tracking Agreement Form (VTAF) for each vessel carrying these MTUs. The Secretariat processes the VTAF information and registers the MTU on the WCPFC MTU Register.

The Secretariat completes its MTU update request form to show “MTU Update Request Completed OK”. The completion of this form advises Trackwell VMS system that the vessel’s MTU details have been confirmed and are activated to report to WCPFC VMS.

Orbcomm MTUs communicate with the Commission’s VMS through Orbcomm service providers. TrackWell currently receives data from Orbcomm MTUs in use on two CCM’s vessels. If other CCMs authorize their vessels to use Orbcomm MTUs, consultation with WCPFC and TrackWell is necessary to establish communication channel arrangements between the CCM’s Orbcomm service provider and WCPFC’s VMS service provider (TrackWell), before the vessels can be activated to report to the WCPFC VMS.

## 4.4 VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST)

Access to the VRST is granted to WCPFC website user accounts by assigning one of the following two roles:

1. VMS Viewer - provides read-only access to the VRST.
2. VMS Editor – provides VMS Viewer access plus it allows the user to update the reporting status of vessels not reporting.

The roles can be assigned by a CCM Party Administrator, or upon CCM request, the Secretariat can assist in managing user accounts on behalf of a CCM. More information on managing roles can be found in the Party Administrator Guide on the WCPFC knowledgebase - <https://wcpfc.freshdesk.com/>

The VRST provides the authorized CCM contact a daily snapshot of whether each CCM vessel on the Record of Fishing Vessels is meeting its Commission VMS requirements. The VRST is updated each day at 1am UTC. There are currently four parts to the VRST (see Figure 3 below):

### 1. Information

The “Information” tab of the VRST provides explanatory information about the VRST.

### 2. All Vessels

The "All Vessels" tab of the VRST is in response to the WCPFC12 task and provides the latest WCPFC VMS reporting status for every vessel on the Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV).

### 3. CCM Vessels

The "CCM Vessels" tab of the VRST lists only RFV vessels flagged to the CCM, viewable only by that CCM’s authorized contact.

The CCM Vessels tab provides CCMs with a daily snapshot of whether each of their vessels on the RFV is meeting its Commission VMS requirements. If a vessel is not on the FFA Good Standing

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List, the VRST provides an indication of whether WCPFC has completed the necessary steps to activate the vessels MTU to report to the Commission VMS, and if so the VRST provides a generic current vessel status (e.g., “OK” or “STOP”) for each of their vessels and a daily VMS-reporting status (how many position reports are transmitted by each vessel each day for the past 31 days<sup>7</sup>).

For vessels that are not on FFA Good Standing List, the VRST will display the following status to the vessels based on reporting and CCMs advice.

- ‘ACTR’ – VTAF info received and in the process of activation by the Secretariat.
- ‘In Port’ – based on advice from CMMs that the vessel is in port and MTU is powered down.
- ‘OK’ – the vessel’s MTU is reporting correctly to WCPFC VMS. No action required.
- ‘Outside the WCPFC Convention Area’ – based on advice from flag CCM, the vessel is operating outside of the Convention area and is not reporting to WCPFC VMS.
- ‘Within flag CCM EEZ’ – based on advice from flag CCM, the vessel is within the flag CCM’s EEZ and is not reporting to WCPFC VMS.
- ‘STOP’ – The vessel has stopped reporting. Secretariat staff to work with Flag CCM to resolve the non-reporting issue.

#### 4. Non-Reporting Vessels

The “Non-Reporting Vessels” tab of the VRST is a subset of the CCM Vessels tab list providing a list of vessels from which the expected VMS data is not being received.

For each vessel that is not reporting to the WCPFC VMS, authorized CCM users are able to update the status to ‘In Port’ or ‘Outside the Convention Area’ or ‘Within flag CCM EEZ’ and the date the status took effect. When VMS data is received by the WCPFC VMS, the status will be automatically reset to ‘OK’.

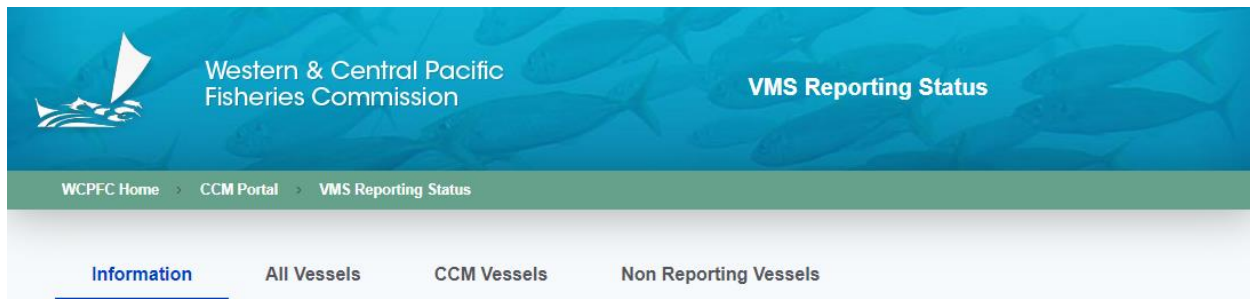


Figure 3

#### 4.5 Manual Reporting

Since 1 March 2013, the Commission has agreed to regular extensions of amendments to the SSPs related to the reporting timeframes for manual reporting in the event of ALC malfunction. A standard reporting format for these manual reports has been previously agreed as is required by the WCPFC Standards Specifications and procedures (SSPs) for the fishing vessel monitoring system (VMS) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) – December 2016 (or its update).

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<sup>7</sup> See footnote 4 above

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CCM vessels that fail to report to the Commission VMS must commence manual reporting not later than the time specified in the SSPs unless the CCM contact has provided an appropriate and accurate update of the MTU status (either via the VRST directly, or by email to the Secretariat VMS staff).

Manual reports should be sent to email: [VMSManualReports@wcpfc.int](mailto:VMSManualReports@wcpfc.int). The first manual report received from a vessel will be recorded in the WCPFC Intranet – VMS Manual Report (see Figure 4 below). This record will remain open until the vessel resumes normal VMS reporting.

VMS Manual Reporting - New Item

EDIT

Save Cancel Paste Copy Attach File Spelling

Commit Clipboard Actions Spelling

Vessel \* #4, [29779]  
Vessel reporting positions manually, or having its VMS switched off

VMS Status \*  
 Malfunction  
 Not Fitted  
 Switched Off

Reporting Start Date \*  
The date when manual reporting must commence, or the date when VMS was switched off

VMS Resume Deadline Date \*  
The deadline by which VMS reporting must be resumed

VMS Resume Actual Date  
The actual date when VMS reporting resumed

Notes  
Any notes regarding this Vessel's manual reporting

Save Cancel

Figure 4

All manual position reports should then be entered in the VMS Manual Reporting database (Figure 5).

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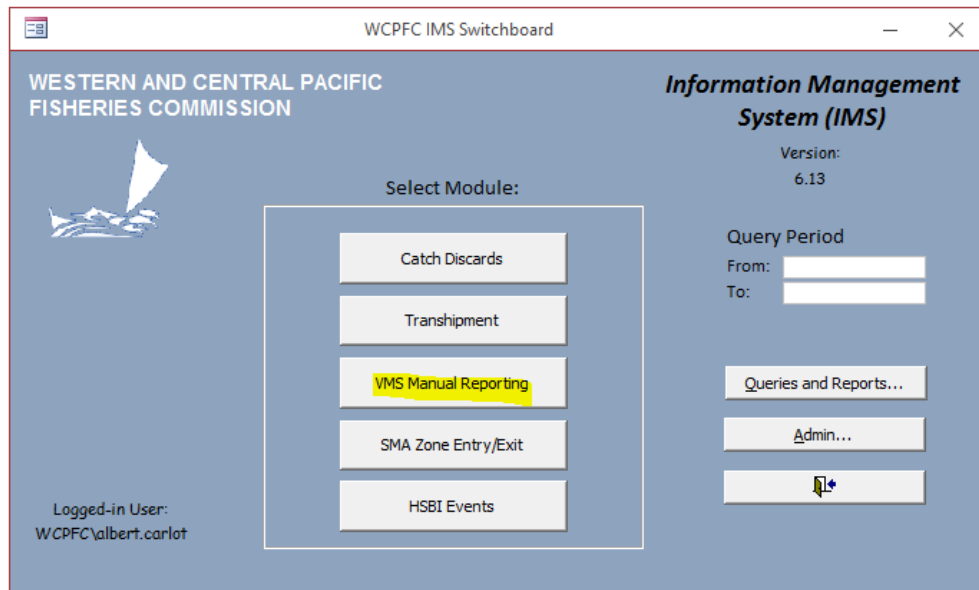


Figure 5

The vessel may recommence fishing on the high seas only when the MTU/ALC has been confirmed as operational by the WCPFC Secretariat following the flag CCM informing the Secretariat that the vessel's automatic reporting complies with the regulations established in the Commission VMS Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs).

Pending approval by the Commission, the process in development to automate integration of VMS manual reports into the Commission VMS is based on the relatively common North Atlantic Format (NAF). In this framework, VMS manual report messages would be submitted to the Commission's VMS via email. Correctly formatted data received would then automatically be integrated into the Commission VMS.

#### 4.6 Routine Reports from the Secretariat on VMS reporting anomalies and WCPFC VMS

As was explained in Section 4.4, the VRST tool, which is accessible by authorized CCM users, provides CCMs a daily snapshot of whether each of their vessels on the RFV is meeting Commission VMS requirements.

The following reports are provided to TCC annually:

- Annual Report on the Commission VMS;
- Review of integrity of the Secretariat's VMS data
- Annual Report on the administration of the data rules and procedures.

Ad hoc reports may be generated on request and following necessary approvals in accordance with the data rules and administrative procedures.

#### 4.7 Secretariat processes to identify and follow-up on VMS reporting issues

The Secretariat will routinely check on the VMS reporting status of vessels when there is a change to their listing on FFA Good Standing List and take appropriate action:

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1. If a vessel that has its MTU activated to report directly to WCPFC VMS is subsequently listed on the FFA Good Standing List, WCPFC Secretariat VMS staff will take necessary steps to deactivate the MTU and update WCPFC records to show that the vessel is expected to be reporting to WCPFC VMS through the FFA VMS.
2. If a vessel that was on the FFA Good Standing List is de-listed, VMS staff will take necessary steps to activate the most recent VTAF received for direct reporting.
3. Flag CCMs may receive relevant updates through the VRST about whether their vessel is on the FFA Good Standing List and if a MTU is in the process of activation by the Secretariat (refer to Section 4.4).

For vessels not on the FFA Good Standing List, the Secretariat routinely checks the following issues:

1. That a vessel is not showing as 'STOP' in VRST, when:
  - a high seas transshipment notification is received by the Secretariat,
  - a notification is received that a vessel has been inspected through the High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme,
  - a charter notification is received by the Secretariat
  - a notification in accordance with para. 3, Attachment 2 of CMM 2020-01 is received by the Secretariat, and
  - Upon request by an authorized CCM contact.
2. For all vessels that have a vessel status 'STOP' in the VRST, a workflow process will document actions taken by the VMS staff to resolve non reporting (refer to Figure 6 below).
3. Flag CCMs may receive relevant updates through the VRST about whether their vessel is on the FFA Good Standing List, if a MTU is in the process of activation by the Secretariat, if a vessel is In Port or outside the Convention Area, and if the vessel is reporting normally or has stopped reporting to the Commission VMS. (refer to Section 4.4).

The following procedures are to be followed by the Secretariat when a VMS non-reporting is identified:

1. Create a record in RFV MTU workflow that the vessel has stopped reporting and proceed with the process getting the MTU to resume reporting.
2. Check with the flag CCM to confirm that the MTU is switched on and reporting to the CCM's VMS. If so:
  - a. Confirm with the flag CCM that the VTAF info is accurate;
  - b. For Inmarsat C MTUs, a re-download of DNID and polling might be required;
  - c. For other MTU types, the Secretariat will contact the MCSP to verify the MTU's status, and VMS staff to follow-up with Trackwell or MCSP where appropriate, to ensure the data is being received by the WCPFC VMS.
3. If the flag CCM indicates that the MTU has been replaced, remind the CCM contact of their responsibility to provide VTAF info for the new MTU, and proceed with normal activation process (refer to Section 4.3 above).



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4. Failure of the MTU to properly report requires the flag CCM require the vessel to provide manual reports as per manual reporting requirements (refer Section 4.5 above).

RFV MTU Workflow - New Item

EDIT

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Vessel \* #4

Source

Choose a reason why the follow up is needed

Notes

Describe the latest step in what has been done to resolve vessel reporting issues

Status Follow Up

Follow Up Date

Assigned To Enter a name or email address...

Save Cancel

Figure 6

## 4.8 Proposals for Inclusion of Additional ALC makes and models on the Approved MTU/ALC List

Commission VMS SSPs require that the Secretariat will assess proposals for inclusion of additional ALC makes and models on this list from both CCMs and equipment manufacturers. VMS SSPs 2.7 states “The Secretariat shall include the ALC/MTU make or model being proposed on this list, if no CCM objects in writing within 30 days of the Secretariat circulating notice of its intent to all CCMs, and, if in the Secretariat’s assessment, the ALC/MTU make or model meets the minimum standards for the Commission VMS as set out in Annex 1 of CMM 2014-02 (or its successor measure), the WCPFC SSPs, as relevant, by determining that the ALC/MTU make and model has the ability to successfully report to the Commission VMS, and by using the methodology established by the FFA with expenses for type approval processing.”

The Secretariat is to assess proposals for the inclusion of additional MTU/ALC units and their communication / satellite service provider / gateway, against the new MTU/ALC type approval checklist (appended in **Annex B**). The following procedures are to be followed by the Secretariat when a proposal from MTU manufacturers, CCMs and service providers is received seeking the inclusion of additional ALC makes and models on the Approved MTU/ALC List:

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1. Application received with sufficient<sup>8</sup> supporting technical documentation.
2. Secretariat checks application information and verifies it against minimum standards in Annex 1 of the CMM 2014-02 (or its successor).
3. Submit request for testing to TrackWell. TrackWell will liaise with the ALC/MTU applicant to conduct physical<sup>9</sup> testing to ensure the gateway created is able to receive error-free position reports as per Annex 1 of CMM 2014-02 (or its successor).
4. Trackwell will provide complete test report to the Secretariat for final assessment.
5. As part of the assessment, the Secretariat VMS staff shall detail how each step on the checklist was or was not satisfied for the ALC/MTU proposed for listing.

Where the Secretariat concludes in its assessment that a proposed ALC/MTU make or model does meet these requirements, the Secretariat will follow the existing approval process and timelines outlined above (from VMS SSPs 2.7). Additionally, the Secretariat shall provide CCMs details on how each step on the checklist was satisfied for the ALC/MTU, along with any other documentation provided by the flag CCM or vendor, to better inform CCMs' consideration.

Where the Secretariat concludes in its assessment that a proposed ALC/MTU make or model does not meet these requirements, or if a CCM objects in writing to the Secretariat's proposal to approve a new ALC/MTU make or model, the Secretariat shall make recommendations in the annual report regarding the proposed ALC/MTU make or model for the TCC's consideration. The Secretariat shall provide CCMs with details on how each step on the checklist was satisfied for each unit, along with any other documentation provided by the flag CCM or vendor, to better inform CCMs' consideration.

## **4.9 Removal of ALC/MTU from the Approved ALC/MTU List**

The Secretariat will recommend to TCC as needed, the removal of units currently on the list of approved ALC/MTU makes and models that no longer meet the minimum standards set out in Annex 1 of CMM 2014-02 (or successor measure), or that do not have the ability to successfully report to the Commission VMS. As part of the assessment, the Secretariat VMS staff shall detail how each step on the checklist in **Annex 2** was or was not satisfied for each unit proposed for removal from the Approved ALC/MTU List.

## **4.10 Commission VMS Helpdesk Support**

The Secretariat is committed to developing online self-service support options via the WCPFC support knowledgebase (<https://wcpfc.freshdesk.com/>) and VMS help topics are in the process of being developed.

Email support for the Commission VMS can be sent to [VMS.helpdesk@wcpfc.int](mailto:VMS.helpdesk@wcpfc.int)


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<sup>8</sup> For example, full technical specifications of all MTU/ALC hardware that will be installed on vessels, citations of any previous domestic or RFMO type approvals of the proposed MTU/ALC, data/results from previous domestic or other testing of the equipment, or images depicting the hardware components.

<sup>9</sup> Tests of successful position reporting to the Commission VMS by the relevant MTU hardware that is physically located within the Convention Area.

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## Annex A

<p><i>On completion.</i>          Please return this Agreement form to email:          VMShelpdesk@wcpfc.int</p>			
Vessel Tracking Agreement Form <sup>1</sup>			
VESSEL DETAILS <i>(as contained in WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV))</i>			
Vessel Name:	WCPFC VID:		
Vessel Type:	International Radio Callsign (IRCS):		
	Country Registration Number:		
Country of Registration:	Home Port:		
VESSEL CONTACT DETAILS			
Name of Contact person:			
Contact Address:	Phone number:		
	Cell Phone/Sat-phone #:		
	Email address:		
MOBILE TRANSCEIVER UNIT (MTU)/AUTOMATIC LOCATION COMMUNICATOR (ALC) DETAILS			
Manufacturer:	Model:		
Software version N°:	Equipment ID <i>(Manufacturer's serial number for this MTU)</i>		
Network ID:  <i>Unique ID Number (user ID) by which MTU is tracked on the satellite network</i>	Name of Mobile Communication Service Provider: <i>(select one)</i> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>ARGOS</span> <span>HALIOS</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>INMARSAT STDC</span> <span>FARIA WATCHDOG</span> </div> OTHER (specify): _____		
INSTRUCTIONS TO SECRETARIAT <i>(select one)</i>			
1. New vessel/MTU to be activated: <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Replacement MTU: <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Spare MTU: <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Other <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(please specify):</i>			
MTU / ALC TRACKING AUTHORISATION			
I _____, the owner of the MTU/ALC described above hereby <i>(Print Name)</i> authorise the WCPFC Secretariat to electronically monitor the unit, and disseminate data from it, in accordance with WCPFC policy.  Signature: _____ Date: _____			

<sup>1</sup> Version issued WCPFC Secretariat 7 March 2017. This form is intended to facilitate the submission by flag CCMs of data as per the requirements of VMS SSPs requirement Section 2.8

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## Annex B

ALC/MTU testing checklist				
Item	Description	Requirements	Evidence Provided (YES or NO)	Secretariat Assessment
<b>Documents to be provided on application</b>				
1	Submit application	Letter of application. Supporting technical reference documentation. Provide proof of Type Approval received for the ALC/MTU.		
<b>Assessment against Annex 1 of CMM 2014-02</b>				
2	The ALC/MTU shall automatically and independently of any intervention on the vessel communicate.	ALC/MTU static unique identifier. the current geographical position. UTC date and time.		
3	Data shall be obtained from a satellite-based positioning system.	Indicate satellite service provider.		
4	ALC/MTU fitted to fishing vessel must be capable of transmitting data.	hourly intervals.		
5	The data shall be received by the Commission VMS under normal operating conditions.	within 90 minutes of being generated by the ALC/MTU.		
6	ALC/MTU fitted to fishing vessel must be protected.	Tamper proof.		
7	Storage of information within the ALC/MTU under normal conditions.	safe, secure and integrated.		
8	It must not be reasonably possible for anyone other than the monitoring authority to alter any of authority's data stored in the ALC/MTU.	Secure DNIIDs and reporting parameters.		
9	Any features built into the ALC/MTU or terminal software to assist with servicing shall not allow unauthorised access to any areas of the ALC/MTU.	ALC/MTU software access should be password protected.		
10	The ALC/MTU shall be installed on the vessel in accordance with their manufacturer's specification and applicable standards.	The ALC/MTU shall be installed on the vessel in accordance with their manufacturer's specification and applicable WCPFC requirements.		
11	Under normal satellite navigation operating conditions, positions derived from the data forwarded must be accurate to within 100 square metres Distance Root Mean Square (DRMS).	98% of the positions must be within this range.		
12	The ALC/MTU and/or forwarding service provide must be capable to support the ability for data to be sent to multiple independent destinations.	capable for direct simultaneous reporting.		
13	The satellite navigation decoder and transmitter shall be fully integrated and housed in the same tamper-proof physical enclosure.	GPS and transmitter module be fully integrated and housed in the same tamper-proof physical enclosure.		
<b>TrackWell testing</b>				
14	Gateway / Communications channel.	Gateway / Channel setup and capable of receiving positions reports in either PUSH or PULL method.		
15	Position transmission.	Positions received without errors.		
16	Latency.	Positions received with 90 minutes of being generated by the ALC/MTU.		
17	Test report.	test completion report provided to the Secretariat		
The Secretariat has assessed the Application and deemed that the <<insert ALC/MTU type name>> has <b>PASSED / FAILED</b> the requirements to be included in the WCPFC Approved List of ALC / MTU				