

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

87TH MEETING

Lima, Peru
14-18 July 2014

RESOLUTION C-14-02

RESOLUTION (AMENDED) ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM (VMS)

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), meeting in Lima, Peru, on the occasion of its 87th Meeting:

Recognizing the value of satellite-based Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) for the Commission's conservation and management programs, including compliance;

Aware that many Parties have established VMS systems and programs for their fleets since the adoption of Resolution C-04-06, but that there is no compulsory VMS system for Members and Cooperating non-Members of the Commission (hereinafter referred to as "CPCs") harvesting tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area;

Taking into account recent developments in other RFMOs operating in the Pacific Ocean;

Agree that:

1. Members and Cooperating non-Members' (CPCs) shall ensure that all their commercial fishing vessels 24 meters or more in length operating in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) and harvesting tuna or tuna-like species shall be equipped by 1 January 2016 with a satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS).
2. While specific operational details of CPCs VMS requirements may vary, CPCs shall ensure that:
 - a) The information collected by the VMS for each vessel shall include:
 - i) the vessel's identification;
 - ii) geographical position (latitude and longitude) with an error of less than 100 meters at a confidence level of 98%;
 - iii) the date and time (UTC) of the fixing of the said position of the vessel, and;
 - iv) the speed and course of the vessel.
 - b) The information in paragraph 2.a) above shall be collected at least every four hours for longliners and two hours for other vessels by the land-based Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) of the flag CPC.
 - c) VMS equipment installed on vessels will, at a minimum, be tamper evident¹, fully automatic for regular position data reporting, operational at all times regardless of environmental conditions, and, if possible, capable of manual transmission of reports and messages.

¹ Namely any tampering shall be evident upon inspection, it shall be protected against input or output of false positions and the system cannot be over-ridden.

3. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the satellite tracking device fitted on board a fishing vessel, the device shall be repaired or replaced within one month. After this period, the master of a fishing vessel is not authorized to commence a fishing trip with a defective satellite tracking device. Furthermore, when a device stops functioning or has a technical failure during a fishing trip lasting more than one month, the repair or the replacement has to take place as soon as the vessel enters a port; the fishing vessel shall not be authorized to commence a fishing trip without the satellite tracking device having been repaired or replaced. The Commission shall develop guidelines and templates for manual reporting.

If practicable, the VMS equipment should be usable to transmit to the Director the IATTC data required in the relevant IATTC Resolutions including C-03-04 and C-03-05.

The Commission strongly encourages non-Members whose flag vessels fish in the EPO to participate in the VMS program established on implementation of this Resolution. To this end, the Director will make the appropriate contacts with those parties and notify CPCs of actions taken and any response received. The Commission shall consider at each Annual Meeting appropriate action concerning those non-Members in order to encourage cooperation with IATTC.

Each CPC shall provide to the Director by May 31, 2017, a progress report on its VMS consistent with this resolution. The Commission will discuss how best to proceed with future consideration of VMS to support its conservation and management program at its annual meeting in 2015, including the possible development of a stand-alone IATTC VMS scheme.

The Director shall ensure that any information provided to the Director or the Commission pursuant to this resolution is maintained in strict accordance with the Commission's rules and procedures on confidentiality.

4. This Resolution replaces Resolution C-04-06 on January 1, 2016