

[03-14]

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
CONCERNING MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM IN THE ICCAT CONVENTION AREA**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH the Needs and Principles set forth in the *General Outline of Integrated Monitoring Measures Adopted by ICCAT*, adopted by the Commission in 2002 to ensure effective monitoring measures;

CONSIDERING the deliberations of the ICCAT Working Group to Develop Integrated Monitoring Measures held in Madeira from 26 to 28 May 2003;

RECOGNIZING the developments in satellite-based vessel monitoring systems (VMS), and the possible utility within ICCAT;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Each flag Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereinafter referred to as CPC) shall implement no later than (at a date to be decided by the Commission) a Vessel Monitoring System (hereinafter referred to as VMS) for its commercial fishing vessels exceeding 20 meters between perpendiculars or 24 meters length overall and:
 - a) require its fishing vessel to be equipped with an autonomous system able to automatically transmit a message to the land-based Fisheries Monitoring Center (hereinafter referred to as FMC) of the flag CPC allowing a continuous tracking of the position of a fishing vessel by the CPC of that fishing vessel.
 - b) ensure that the satellite tracking device fitted on board the fishing vessels shall enable the vessel to continuously collect and transmit, at any time, to the FMC of the flag CPC the following data:
 - i) the vessel's identification;
 - ii) the most recent geographical position of the vessel (longitude, latitude) with a margin of error lower than 500 metres, with a confidence interval of 99%;
 - iii) the date and time of the fixing of the said position of the vessel.
2. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the FMC receives through the VMS the messages required in paragraph 1.b).
3. Each CPC shall ensure that the masters of fishing vessels flying its flag shall ensure that the satellite tracking devices are permanently operational and that the information identified in paragraph 1.b) is collected at least every 6 hours for transmission on, at least, a daily basis. 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.
4. Each CPC shall ensure that a fishing vessel with a defective satellite tracking device shall communicate, at least daily, reports containing the information in paragraph 1.b) to the FMC by other means of communication (radio, telefax or telex).
5. Until (at a date to be decided by the Commission) fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 1 which are not yet equipped with VMS shall report at least daily by radio, telefax or telex. Such reports must include, *inter alia*, information on the official numbers (radio call sign and registration number), the name of the fishing vessel, the date, the time (UTC) and the geographical position (latitude and longitude) when transmitting the report, to their competent authorities, as well as:

- a) the geographic position at the beginning of the fishing operation;
 - b) the geographic position at the end of the fishing operation.
6. CPCs are encouraged to extend the application of this Recommendation to their fishing vessels of less than 20 meters between perpendiculars or 24 meters length overall if they consider this to be appropriate to ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures.