

RESOLUTION 02/02.
RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM
PILOT PROGRAMME

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),

Recognizing the developments in satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS), and the possible utility within IOTC

Taking note of the results of the Intersessional Meeting on an Integrated Control and inspection scheme, held in Yaizu, Japan, from 27 to 29 March, 2001

Taking note that it was agreed that Vessel Monitoring Systems are a valuable element to assure the monitoring of tuna fisheries activities; that nevertheless, it is necessary to incorporate these systems progressively to allow all Contracting Parties to implement this systems at national level;

Resolves in accordance with the provisions of Article IX.1 of the Agreement creating the IOTC, that:

1. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating Non Contracting Party with vessels greater than 24 metres in overall length (or greater than 20 metres between perpendiculars) and fishing for IOTC species on the high seas outside the fisheries jurisdiction of any coastal state shall adopt a pilot programme for a satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS) for ten percent of such vessels. Those Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties with less than ten vessels shall ensure the participation of at least one vessel. The pilot programme will be a flag-state based programme.
2. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating Non Contracting Party shall implement a two-year pilot programme effective 1 July, 2003. Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non Contracting Parties are encouraged to implement the pilot programme earlier, if possible. Exceptionally, Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non Contracting Parties may defer the introduction of the system to 1st January 2004.
3. Information collected shall include:
 - the vessel identification,
 - the most recent geographical position of the vessel (longitude, latitude) with a position error which shall be less than 500 metres, at a confidence level of 99%, and
 - the date and time of the fixing of the said position of the vessel.
4. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party shall take the necessary measures to ensure that their land-based national Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) receives through the VMS the messages requested in paragraph 3
5. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party shall ensure that the masters of fishing vessels flying its flag ensure that the satellite tracking device are at all times fully operational and that the information in paragraph 3 is transmitted, preferably once every 6 hours.
6. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party shall ensure that a fishing vessel with a defective satellite tracking device shall communicate, at least daily, reports containing the information requested in paragraph 3 to the FMC by other means of communication (radio, telefax or telex).
7. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party shall report annually to the Commission on the progress and implementation of its pilot VMS programme or VMS programme.
8. The Commission shall evaluate the pilot programme at its meeting in 2005, with a view to establishing a comprehensive VMS programme