

**INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

**87<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

**Lima, Peru  
14-18 July 2014**

**PROPOSAL IATTC-87 D-1B**

**SUBMITTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**REVISION OF THE IATTC RESOLUTION C-04-06 ON THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF A VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM (VMS)**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

The VMS is an essential tool to effectively support the measures for the conservation and management of species within the Convention Area. Despite the fact that the IATTC Resolution on VMS was adopted 10 years ago in 2004, there is no compulsory VMS system for vessels fishing in the IATTC Convention Area. This situation also prevents flag states from effectively carrying out their duties in respect to Article XX of the Antigua Convention namely ensuring that vessels flying its flag comply with the provisions of Antigua and the adopted IATTC conservation and management measures, and that such vessels do not engage in any activity which undermines the effectiveness of such measures.

The proposal also intends to reinforce the role of the Secretariat, in accordance with Article XII.2 (f), (j) and (m), concerning cooperation with non-Contracting Members whose vessels fish in the Convention Area.

It would be equally advisable take stock of the situation and consider the possibility to launch a discussion on the evolution of the IATTC VMS system, notably towards an IATTC Commission VMS system managed by the Secretariat.

Last but not least the proposal also incorporates some language changes to reflect the common use of some terms such as Members and Cooperating non-Members of the Commission (“CPCs”).

## RESOLUTION C-13- XX

### 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 87<sup>th</sup> 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 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 ~~100500~~ meters at a confidence level of 99%;
    - 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 two hours for purse seiners and every four hours for longliners by the land based Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) of the flag CPC.
  - c) VMS equipment installed on vessels will, at a minimum, be tamper evident<sup>1</sup>, 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.
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.
- ~~3. In the event of failure of automatic reporting, the Commission shall develop clear guidelines and~~

<sup>1</sup> 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.

~~templates for manual reporting. Permanence at sea under manual reporting should be limited to thirty days after which the Flag State should order the fishing vessel to immediately cease fishing, stow all fishing gear, and return to port to repair the VMS.~~

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, 2015, 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