

中华人民共和国农业部渔业渔政管理局

BUREAU OF FISHERIES, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

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Dear Dr. Compeán,

Subject: Progress Report on VMS of China

Reference is made to Resolution C-14-02 para 6, which requires that “each member shall provide to the Director, by 31 May, 2017, a progress report on its VMS consistent with this resolution”. Therefore, I would like to provide the progress made by Chinese government with regard to vessels operating in IATTC waters.

Noting that VMS is the fundamental element for management of vessels operating fishing activities at sea, and is the basic tool for fighting IUU fishing, also realizing that China has a large fleet operating overseas, we started to establish a VMS program since October 2006 in a gradual manner, which means that vessels fishing overseas shall be equipped with VMS (Inmarsat-C or AROGS) within different deadlines for different fishing operation.

The first criterion regarding the installation of VMS on board was distributed in Jun 2006 by Chinese government, which required that all deep frozen tuna long liners, purse seiners and factory trawlers be equipped with an operating VMS by Sep 1, 2006. The second one was issued in Oct 2008, covering longline albacore vessels and squid jigger, and came into force on Nov 1, 2009. The last one was in Apr 2010, requiring the rest of the oversea fishing vessels be equipped with the same VMS by Jan 1, 2011. By 2011, all the vessels fishing overseas, except a few of them operating in EEZ of a coastal State where the State prohibits such installation, had an operating VMS on board, and it was a necessity for all the new vessels that came into operation thereafter. We can get a real time full picture of our fishing vessels, their velocity, position, direction, reporting status so on and so forth, we can also acquire their historical track for scientific or management purposes.

To better enhance the management of VMS, Chinese government established the Temporary Regulation on VMS on board the Vessels Fishing Overseas in 2012, and after 2 years of entering in to force, in 2014 established the modified version, which is the regulation we follow currently. In the Regulation, we specified the obligation of the fishing authorities, the fishing company and the Association in the vessel-monitoring program. We set up certain rules regarding the reporting process, including the interval of the VMS reporting, the crew members in charge for the reporting, and manual

reporting requirements. Requirements on data confidentiality was also taken into consideration in the Regulation. Furthermore, deliberately moving, detaching, closing VMS or faking VMS data on board the vessel will lead to strict penalty, including imposition of fine and suspension of fishing authorization, depending on certain violation. The Regulation was totally in line with the t-RFMO's requirements and in accordance with our domestic legislation. It provides us with a guideline and helps us to formulate the management scheme covering a fishing fleet of more than 2500 vessels.

We will continue building our VMS scheme, so that it will be more efficient and accurate for management and scientific research, and we will keep coordinating our regulation to meet the needs of better compliance with t-RFMO's CMMs.

Best Regards,

Liling Zhao
Director
Division of Distant Water Fisheries
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