



Office of
Deputy Commissioner
of Maritime Affairs

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

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22 May 2017

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
Attn: Dir. Guillermo A. Compeán
8604 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037-1508

RE: Liberia's Application for Cooperating Non-Party Status

Dear Director Compeán, et al.:

In accordance with paragraph 6 of IATTC Resolution C-14-02 on the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), Liberia provides the following:

1. All Liberian flagged carrier vessels (authorized for transshipment operations) are required to install and operate an Iridium satellite-based VMS, designed to provide real-time position reporting, email/messaging, and notification forms via a reporting tablet.
2. The VMS unit is provided by the Flag Administration; installation and operational functionality is mandatory before the issuance of any Transshipment License. The VMS consists of a satellite terminal, Bluetooth junction box and thorium tablet. The tablet is capable of transmitting reports and transshipment declarations/data. The VMS data is collected and stored by the land-based Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) of the Flag Administration. The VMS units are tamper-proof and capable of operating continually with backups in place. In the event of a technical failure, the defective VMS unit has to be repaired or replaced within one (1) month. A dispensation must be obtained from the Flag Administration during this period. A Master of a Liberian flagged vessel is prohibited from commencing a transshipment operation with a defective VMS unit. Notwithstanding, a vessel with a defective VMS unit must communicate, at least every 4 hours, reports to the FMC.
3. Although capable, the VMS provided to Liberian flagged carrier vessels is currently not transmitting transshipment information electronically to the IATTC. Transshipment data is submitted via email.
4. Decide on a format and acceptance criteria for electronic transmission of Transshipment Declarations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret C. Ansumana', is written over a light blue grid background.

Margaret C. Ansumana
Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Aff., R.L.