



CCSBT-CC/1610/08

Update on CCSBT's Relationships with the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network and RFBs/ RFMOs

1.0 Introduction

This paper updates Members on developments regarding its relationship with the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network and RFBs¹/ RFMOs², including with the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

2.0 Relationship with the IMCS

The IMCS Network is a non-profit and informal organisation, established to facilitate bilateral and multilateral co-operation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and associated activities. The Secretariat became a member of this network in November 2013.

The Secretariat's Compliance Manager attended the IMCS's Fifth Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (5th GFETW), which was held in Auckland, New Zealand between 7 and 11 March 2016. The GFETWs are biennial conferences intended to improve and enhance capacity and communications between Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) professionals from around the world. The Compliance Manager also attended the IMCS business meeting held in Auckland on 8 March 2016, and the Executive Secretary attended the next IMCS business meeting held in Rome on 14 July 2016 as a COFI³ 'side-event'.

During these business meetings, there was discussion about the IMCS potentially establishing/ coordinating a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) sub-network for compliance officers and MCS experts from tuna RFMOs (tRFMOs). The IMCS Secretariat met with the FAO on 14 July in Rome to further pursue collaboration with regard to forming such a sub-network.

If this sub-network is formed in the near future, it is possible that an initial meeting of tRFMO MCS personnel will be held in Madrid during January 2017, with some of the participation costs being funded by the Common Oceans ABNJ⁴ Tuna Project via the IMCS network.

¹ Regional Fisheries Bodies

² Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

³ Committee on Fisheries

⁴ Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

3.0 Relationship with RFBs/RFMOs

FFA

The Compliance Manager attended the FFA's Nineteenth MCS Working Group meeting in Auckland, New Zealand between 14 and 18 March 2016. The aim of attending was to further the CCSBT's understanding of FFA's MCS activities, to explore opportunities where the CCSBT and the FFA may be able to cooperate and/or share information in areas of mutual interest, and, more specifically, to discuss the possibility of the CCSBT being able to share Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data for longliners flagged to CCSBT NCNMs⁵ collected by the FFA in the area between 25⁰S and 50⁰S. If obtained, such data could assist with research on the estimation of NCNM catch.

As an initial step towards investigating sharing these data with CCSBT, the meeting agreed to task the FFA Secretariat with compiling statistics on, (i) the number of vessels by non-CCSBT member flag operating in the CCSBT area of interest between 25°S and 50°S; and (ii) the number of VMS positions by day within the CCSBT area of interest. These statistics had not yet been compiled by the FFA Secretariat at the time of writing this paper.

ICCAT and IOTC

There have been regular routine interactions with both the ICCAT and IOTC Secretariats since CC10, with respect to the shared transshipment observer programme for transshipments at sea involving SBT. There have also been occasional interactions with the IOTC Secretariat to cross-check non-Member/authorised vessel information, including the Consolidated List of Authorised Vessels (CLAV) data (for tuna fishing vessels).

WCPFC

At the request of the Tenth Meeting of the CCSBT's Compliance Committee (CC10) the CCSBT Secretariat continued its dialogue with the WCPFC Secretariat in order to develop a proposed transshipment MoU to present to CC11. Further information on this item is provided in paper CCSBT-CC/1610/15.

Prepared by the Secretariat

⁵ Non-Cooperating Non-Members