

Resolution on establishing a CCSBT Vessel Monitoring System

(adopted at the Fourteenth Annual Meeting – 16 -19 October 2007)

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The Extended Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT),

Recalling that, at its thirteenth annual meeting, the Extended Commission agreed to develop and implement a CCSBT Vessel Monitoring System (the 2006 VMS resolution);

Recognising the importance of the CCSBT Vessel Monitoring System as an integral part of an effective monitoring, control and surveillance regime for the southern bluefin tuna fishery, in particular to ensure the long-term sustainability of the stock;

Mindful that adoption of a vessel monitoring system was identified as an important monitoring, control and surveillance measure to deter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Course of Actions adopted at the Kobe Joint Meeting of Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations from 22 – 26 January 2007;

Also mindful that States and fishing entities are enjoined to develop and implement, as appropriate, vessel monitoring systems in the *International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*, adopted on 23 June 2001 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Council, and in the resolution on sustainable fisheries adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-first meeting, in 2006;

Recognising the need to stipulate minimum standards and other requirements for the CCSBT Vessel Monitoring System;

Agrees, in accordance with paragraph 4(b) of Article 8 of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, that:

1. In accordance with the 2006 VMS resolution, each Member and Cooperating Non-Member shall, by 1 January 2008, develop and implement satellite-linked Vessel Monitoring Systems for fishing vessels catching southern bluefin tuna and flagged to Members and Cooperating Non-Members.
2. Vessel monitoring devices (Automatic Location Communicators) shall be fitted on all vessels, including support vessels, fishing commercially for southern bluefin tuna and all vessels on the CCSBT Authorised Vessels List.
3. Automatic Location Communicators shall meet and be used in accordance with the minimum standards appended at **Annex 1**.
4. Automatic Location Communicators shall be activated at all times that a vessel is fishing commercially for southern bluefin tuna or supporting fishing for southern bluefin tuna, including the period in which it travels from or returns to port.

5. Data transmitted by Automatic Location Communicators from vessels fishing commercially for southern bluefin tuna on the high seas shall be communicated at hourly intervals to the CCSBT Secretariat and, if required by the State or Fishing Entity to which the vessel is flagged, to that State or Entity.
6. The Secretariat shall produce and provide to all Members and Cooperating Non-Members six-monthly reports identifying vessel movements and noting any inconsistencies or gaps in the data provided.
7. The Secretariat shall notify the Member or Cooperating Non-Member if a vessel, flagged to another Member or Cooperating Non-Member, comes within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the first Member or Cooperating Non-Member.
8. In the event of a technical failure or non-functioning of an Automatic Location Communicator on board a vessel, the master or the owner of the vessel, or their representative, shall communicate the vessel's geographical position (latitude and longitude) every six hours to the CCSBT Secretariat and, if required by the State or Fishing Entity to which the vessel is flagged, to that State or Entity.
9. Vessels with a defective Automatic Location Communicator shall take immediate steps to have it repaired or replaced as soon as possible. The vessel shall return to port if it has not repaired or replaced the Communicator within two months. If a vessel with a defective Communicator returns to port, it may not commence a fishing trip where it may catch southern bluefin tuna or support fishing for southern bluefin tuna, without having the defective Communicator repaired or replaced.
10. The CCSBT Secretariat and the authorities of Members and Cooperating Non-Members transmitting and receiving VMS Reports shall comply with the confidentiality and security provisions appended at **Annex 2**.
11. This resolution supersedes the 2006 VMS resolution to the extent of any inconsistency.
12. The Secretariat shall review and report to the Compliance Committee in 2009 on the implementation of this resolution and any possible measures to improve its effectiveness as a component of the monitoring, control and surveillance regime for the southern bluefin tuna fishery.

Annex 1 – Minimum standards for Automatic Location Communicators

All Automatic Location Communicators shall comply with the following minimum standards:

1. Automatic Location Communicators shall automatically and independently of any intervention on the vessel communicate the following data (VMS Reports):
 - a. Automatic Location Communicator static unique identifier;
 - b. The current geographical position (latitude and longitude) of the vessel;
and
 - c. The date and time (expressed in Universal Time Constant) of the fixing of the position of the vessel in subparagraph 1(b) above.
2. The data referred to in paragraphs 1(a) and (b) of this Annex shall be obtained from a satellite-based positioning system.
3. Automatic Location Communicators fitted to fishing vessels must be capable of transmitting VMS Reports hourly.
4. The data referred to in paragraph 1 of this Annex shall be received by the Secretariat within 90 minutes of being generated by the Automatic Location Communicator, under normal operating conditions.
5. Automatic Location Communicators fitted to a fishing vessel must be protected so as to preserve the security and integrity of VMS Reports.
6. Storage of information within the Automatic Location Communicators must be safe, secure and integrated under normal operating conditions.
7. It must not be reasonably possible for anyone other than the monitoring authority to alter any of that authority's data stored in the Automatic Location Communicators, including the frequency of position reporting to that authority.
8. Any features built into the Automatic Location Communicators or terminal software to assist with servicing shall not allow unauthorised access to any areas of the Automatic Location Communicators that could potentially compromise the operation of the Automatic Location Communicators.
9. Automatic Location Communicators shall be installed on vessels in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and applicable standards.
10. Under normal satellite navigation operating conditions, positions derived from the data forwarded must be accurate to within 100 square metres Distance Root Mean Squared, i.e. 98 per cent of the positions must be within this range.

11. The Automatic Location Communicators and/or forwarding service provider must be able to support the ability for data to be sent to multiple independent destinations.
12. The satellite navigation decoder and transmitter shall be fully integrated and housed in the same physical enclosure.
13. In the case that the antenna is mounted separately from the physical enclosure, a single common antenna shall be used for both satellite navigation decoder and transmitter, and the physical enclosure shall be connected using a single length of unbroken cable to the antenna.

Annex 2 – Confidentiality, Use and Security of VMS Reports

Confidentiality and use of VMS Reports

1. VMS Reports shall be confidential.
2. The Secretariat and Members and Cooperating Non-Members which receive VMS Reports from the Secretariat shall only use those VMS Reports to monitor compliance with CCSBT and other RFMO conservation and management measures, and for stock assessment.
3. To this end, the Secretariat shall provide Members and Cooperating Non-Members, upon request, with VMS Reports. The flag State / fishing entity shall be informed of any request to obtain VMS Reports transmitted by a vessel flagged to it.

Information technology security

4. The Secretariat, and Members and Cooperating Non-Members which receive VMS Reports shall adopt secure information technology systems to ensure that the confidentiality of VMS Reports is maintained.
5. The Secretariat shall inform all Members and Cooperating Non-Members of the information technology security measures taken to comply with this resolution.