



CCSBT-CC/0910/08

DEVELOPMENT OF A UNIQUE VESSEL IDENTIFIER (UVI)

Background

The first joint meeting of tuna RFMOs held in Kobe during January 2007 (Kobe1) identified technical work that should commence, involving cooperation across the tuna RFMOs. One such item was:

“Creation of a harmonized list of tuna fishing vessels that is as comprehensive as possible (positive list) including use of a permanent unique identifier for each vessel such as an IMO number. The positive list should include support vessels. Creation of a global list of IUU vessels.”

The tuna Secretariats have created a global list of tuna vessels, but as a consequence of the lack of a unique vessel identifier (UVI), the global list contains duplicates that cannot be easily resolved¹ and it is considered to be impractical to update the global list on a regular basis².

At the Second joint meeting of tuna RFMOs held in San Sebastian during June-July 2009 (Kobe2), the tuna Secretariats presented a report detailing research they had done for the generation of a UVI and to develop and administer an accurate and up-to-date combined global vessel list. Some of this information (the information required to generate a UVI and the information currently collected by each RFMO) was presented to CCSBT 15 in paper CCSBT-EC/0810/19.

Kobe2 agreed that among its immediate action items:

“The tuna RFMO Secretariats continue their collaboration to advance implementation of a combined vessel register that incorporates a unique vessel identifier (UVI). The Secretariats will advance this through meetings of their members and on-going collaboration with the competent organizations concerned, such as Lloyds Register-Fairplay, as appropriate, to include all of the tuna fishing vessels and to avoid unnecessary duplication.”

Lloyds Register-Fairplay (LR-F) have identified 23 fields of information that it requires from the tuna RFMOs for the generation of a UVI (Table 1). CCSBT already requires provision of information for 14 of these fields (see Table 1) as part its authorised vessel record. To enable LR-F to generate a UVI, CCSBT Members and Cooperating Non-Members would need to provide an additional 9 fields of information. Furthermore, LR-F have indicated that to continue to generate a UVI, it would need an additional 9 fields (as shown in Table 2) to be provided within 5 years.

¹ Records from different tuna RFMOs may be considered to be different vessels due to slight differences in some characteristics (e.g. spelling of the name), whereas a UVI would prove that many of these are the same vessel.

² Due to the difficulty of amalgamating vessel lists when there is no single unique identifier.

Table 1. Data fields required initially by LR-F to generate a UVI and those already collected by CCSBT.

Required Fields	Currently collected by CCSBT
RFMO Unique Vessel Identifier	Y
Registered Owner	Y
Address of Owner	Y
Operator	Y
Address of Operator	Y
Flag	Y
Previous Flag	Y
Fishing Number (national registration number)	Y
Vessel Name	Y
Previous Vessel Name	Y
Port of Registry	
Call Sign	Y
Ship Builder	
Nationality of Shipbuilder	
Year of Build	
Type of Vessel	Y
Length	Y
Moulded Depth	
Beam	
GRT (if applicable)	Y
GT (if applicable)	
Power of main engines	
Ship Status (stages of construction; in service; broken up etc.)	

Table 2. Data fields required by LR-F within 5 years to generate a UVI.

Required Fields	Currently collected by CCSBT
Parent Company	
Shipmanager	
Bareboat/Demise charterer	
MMSI Number	
Deadweight	
Parallel Register	
Net Tonnage	
Date Ship entered current Register	
Date ship left previous Register	

Discussion

To develop the UVI further and to make progress on an accurate and up-to-date global vessel list, the tuna RFMOs would need to initially collect the 23 fields of information specified above in Table 1. For CCSBT, this would be an additional 9 fields. An additional 9 fields, as specified in Table 2, would need to be collected within 5 years. This could be accomplished by altering the information requirements of the CCSBT record of authorised vessels to include this information.

Once sufficient tuna RFMOs were collecting this information, the main process would be:

- The tuna RFMO Secretariats would provide regular updates of this information in an agreed format to LR-F;
- LR-F will integrate this vessel data with existing LR-F databases, generate a UVI and provide this back to the originating Secretariat (together with certain other LR-F data, such as LR-F's official version of a vessel's name etc);
- The tuna RFMO Secretariats, together with LR-F and FAO enter into discussions with the EQUASIS Supervisory Committee for LR-F to provide a consolidated vessel list to EQUASIS for posting on www.equasis.org for free public lookup as the global vessel record for tuna RFMOs;
- Individual tuna RFMO Secretariats may provide the resulting data to their Member's in electronic format, but data containing the UVI from LR-F displayed in a public web site (such as the CCSBT web site) must only be viewable on a vessel by vessel basis and in a non-downloadable format;

This is an arrangement that provides mutual benefits for both LR-F and the tuna RFMOs. Consequently, LR-F has advised that this arrangement would incur no financial commitments or obligations to the tuna RFMO Secretariats. In addition, LR-F has agreed to include tuna RFMO vessels of less than 100 GRT in the arrangement providing that the full information is provided for these vessels.