

MCS information collection and sharing

Compliance Policy 4

1. Introduction

Members' MCS systems routinely gather information about other Members' registered fishing vessels or authorised carrier vessels, when the vessels are operating at sea in an area of surveillance or inspections. Similarly, Port states routinely gather information while vessels are in port. Sharing such information with the flag Member should result in more cost-effective and comprehensive monitoring of fleets, enabling Members to better meet their obligations.

In this policy all references to the Commission include the Extended Commission, and all references to Members include Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs) of the Extended Commission.

2. Purpose of policy

The purpose of this policy is to promote sharing of MCS information:

- a) among Members;
- b) between Port states and Flag Members; and
- c) with the Secretariat.

3. Policy statement

All Members are expected to:

- a) share MCS information promptly with other Members' national fisheries agencies and the Secretariat; and
- b) advise Port states of information the Member would like to receive to ensure the integrity of the SBT management regime.

It is intended that information from routine aerial surveillance, port inspections, at-sea inspections and market monitoring or investigations would be shared with relevant Flag members. Members are expected to respond to any information received that indicates potential non-compliance, and advise the Member or Port State providing the information of the response taken.

To achieve cost-effective information sharing, the Compliance Committee will:

- a) identify the MCS information to be collected and shared by Members and Port States;
- b) recommend standardised formats for collecting and sharing this information;
- c) recommend guidelines to ensure information security and confidentiality;
- d) request the Secretariat to regularly analyse information it may receive and report on any trends or unusual variations.

Members are encouraged to participate in the current fisheries MCS network, including building on existing bilateral arrangements and international networks such as the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network.

Over time, there may be a need to establish a formal compliance network among Members and with members of other RFMOs. A formal compliance network would include obligations to provide information and respond to information received, and may include reciprocity of enforcement powers.

4. Roles and responsibilities under this Policy

Who	Responsibility to:
Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve policy• Consider recommendations from Compliance Committee
Compliance Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommend standardised MCS information to be collected and shared• Recommend guidelines for information security and confidentiality• Review and revise policy
Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyse information it may receive and report on trends and variations
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share information

5. Policy review

This policy is to be reviewed every three years from the date of agreement. The Commission may direct a review at any earlier time. A Member may request an earlier review. The request, setting out the reasons for the review, must be submitted to the annual meeting of the Compliance Committee.

6. Approval

This policy was approved by the Commission:

Chair, Commission

Date

Review date: _____ (unless reviewed earlier)