

Proposed TOR for an IOTC options paper for strengthening VMS

Rationale

1. In actioning the recommendations from the First and Second Performance Review panels to develop an integrated MCS system including strengthening existing MCS tools, IOTC20 tasks the Secretariat with contracting an independent consultancy with external funds to prepare a report identifying possible options to strengthen the IOTC VMS “the Report”.

Objective

2. To provide the Commission with a feasibility study with options to strengthen the IOTC VMS such that it provides an effective platform for the implementation and control of the fisheries management regime adopted by the Commission including monitoring and controlling the activities of fishing, support and supply vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC Area of Competence. The establishment of a regional or Commission VMS should also be considered taking into account a cost benefit analysis, including the national or private investments in VMS as well as national legislations, the technical and confidentiality requirements.

Report Guidelines

3. Outline the legal and institutional basis for VMS, including any multilateral arrangements already in place for VMS in the IOTC Area of Competence or by its members.
4. Describe the VMS being used by coastal States in the IOTC Area of Competence and those of distant water fishing nations,
5. comprising any limitations for VMS at the regional level and including, *inter alia*, related to satellite coverage, cost or capacity.
 - a. The description shall be of a general nature, but include at minimum, any constraints faced by States, the VMS technologies and systems current being used in the region
6. Review the VMS approaches used in the region and in other RFMOs, with a particular focus on tuna RFMOs and/or in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
7. Outline possible options to strengthen the IOTC VMS, including but not limited to:
 - a. Defining the target fleet or fleets, area and jurisdiction of the VMS
 - b. Describing the types of information that could be collected by the VMS (e.g. vessel position, speed, course, catch, etc)
 - c. Possible system architecture and, minimum standards and requirements, including on ensuring that VMS is operational all times, data reporting, rates of transmission, rules on polling, and data sharing
 - d. Confidentiality considerations
 - e. Responsibility for VMS
 - f. Costs and benefits
 - g. Technical issues. Is there justification to allow on/off switches to be connected to monitoring devices installed on board vessels *etc*
 - h. Analyse the main shortcomings of the current VMS programme and make recommendations to resolve them
 - i. Legal issues
 - j. Any other possible options that meet the objective of this study.
8. Make recommendations, based on the analysis undertaken, on the best option for the IOTC to strengthen its VMS program, and identify capacity needs of IOTC members and measures that can contribute to build their capacity.

Procedure

9. The Commission shall appoint a steering group that jointly with the IOTC Secretariat shall oversee the preparation of the Report and provide guidance during its development.
10. A draft of the consultant's report will be provided 60 days in advance of the 2017 Compliance Committee meeting and a presentation by the Consultant made during the session to answer any questions from CPCs.
11. The Compliance Committee shall be tasked to review the report and provide recommendations as appropriate based on the report for the Commission consideration at its meeting in 2017.