

POSSIBLE INFRACTION ON VMS UNIT WITH SWITCH AND WHETHER OR NOT OBSERVERS SHOULD CONTINUE TO HIGHLIGHT THOSE AS POSSIBLE INFRACTIONS FOR THE VMS

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PURPOSE

To provide participants at the WPICMM03 with information to be able to provide technical advice to the Compliance Committee related to VMS unit with switch and whether the observers should continue to highlight those as possible infractions related to the VMS.

BACKGROUND

At the 15th Session of the Compliance Committee, the following recommendation was made:

- 70. The CoC **RECOMMENDED** the WPICMM provide technical advice related to the possible infraction on VMS unit with switch and whether or not observers should continue to highlight those possible infractions for the VMS.

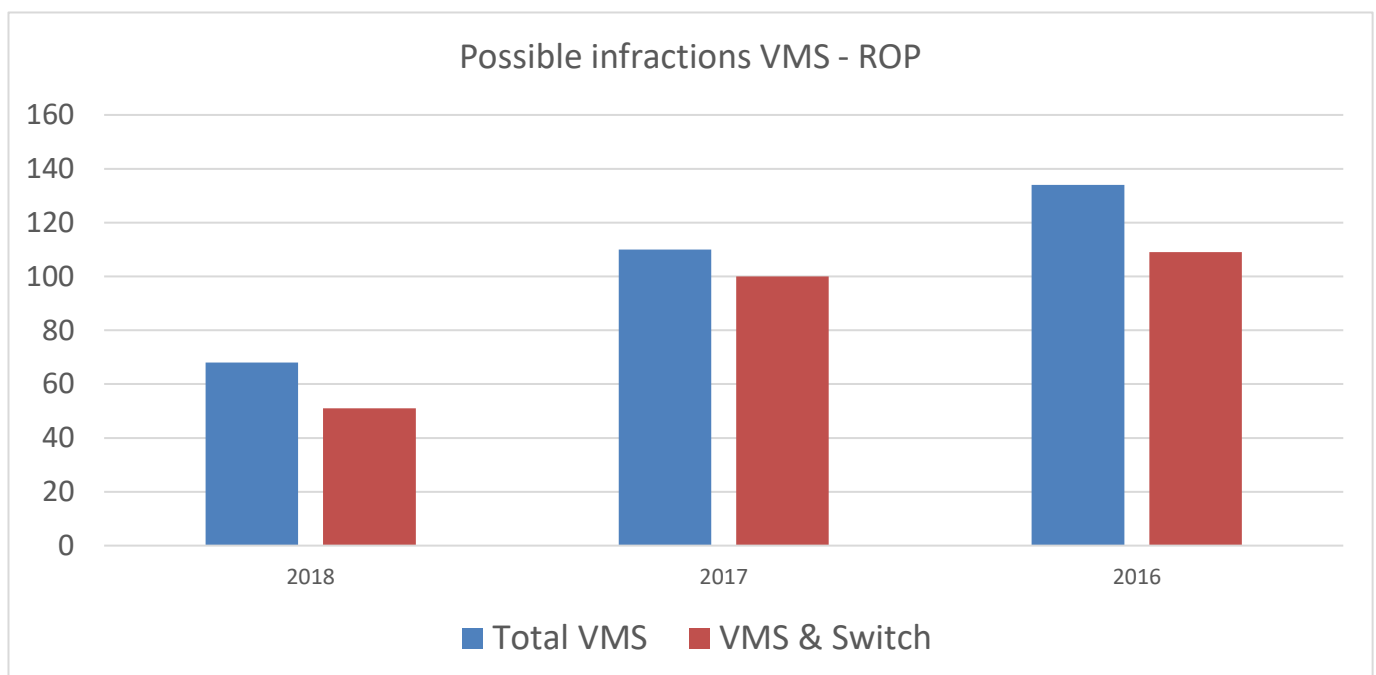
DISCUSSION

RECORD OF POSSIBLE INFRACTIONS RELATED TO VMS OBSERVED UNDER THE REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME

During 2018, a total of 235 possible infractions were recorded (2017: 249 / 2016: 474), of which 68 related to VMS (2017: 110 / 2016: 134).

| Year | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
|--------------|------|------|------|
| Total VMS | 68 | 110 | 134 |
| VMS & Switch | 51 | 100 | 109 |

Table 1: Possible infraction on VMS: Total & with switch (ROP)



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Of the 68 possible infractions reported in 2018 under the VMS category, there were 51 related to the VMS having a switch in the circuit which powers the VMS unit. Those possible infractions were reported for three fleets which participated in the at-sea transshipment programme, during 2018.

Some examples of descriptions of the possible infractions reported, in this context, by IOTC observers are reproduced below:

- The CLS LEO VMS system was fitted with a power switch directly below the unit,
- The LSTLV was fitted with two ARGOS LEO VMS units, only one was switched on during inspection. Both VMS units were fitted with power switches,
- The LSTLV was fitted with an Argos (CLS) LEO unit. The unit was switched on during inspection. The VMS unit was fitted with a power switch which was not professionally fitted,
- The VMS unit was fitted with a power switch.

Some samples of photographs taken by observers when inspecting LSTLVs are reproduced below:







RESOLUTION 15/03 ON THE VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM (VMS) PROGRAMME

Requirements in case of technical failure or non-functioning of the satellite-tracking devices are established in Annex 1 of Resolution 15/03 on the VMS programme. The following are provisions related to the power supply (switch) of the VMS unit:

B) Masters and owners/licensees of fishing vessels subject to VMS shall ensure that the vessel monitoring device(s) on board their vessels within the IOTC area of competence are at all times fully operational. Masters and owners/licensees shall in particular ensure that:

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- a) VMS reports and messages are not altered in any way;
 - b) the antennae connected to the satellite monitoring device(s) are not obstructed in any way;
 - c) the power supply of the satellite monitoring device(s) is not interrupted in any way; and**
 - d) the vessel monitoring device(s) are not removed from the vessel.

C) A vessel monitoring device shall be active within the IOTC area of competence. It may, however, be switched off when the fishing vessel is in port for a period of more than one week, subject to prior notification to, and approval of, the Flag State, and if the Flag State so desires also to the IOTC Secretariat, provided that the first position report generated following the re-powering (activating) shows that the fishing vessel has not changed position compared to the last report.

The Resolution 15/03 is available at this link:

https://www.iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/compliance/cmm/iotc_cmm_15-03_en.pdf

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the WPICMM:

- 1) **NOTE** documents IOTC–2020–WPICMM03–03, which describes the possible infractions related to VMS reported by IOTC observers under the at sea transshipment programme.
- 2) **PROVIDE** technical advice on possible infraction on VMS unit with switch and whether observers should continue to highlight those as possible infractions for the VMS.