

## PROPOSED DRAFT VMS OBJECTIVES

### In the recitals of the CMM:

NOTING that the purpose of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) is to continuously monitor the positions and movements of fishing vessels for compliance purposes;

RECALLING that Resolution 15/03 *On the vessel monitoring system (VMS) programme* adopted in 2015 introduced the obligation for flag CPCs to ensure that certain categories of vessels are equipped with VMS systems capable of providing accurate and independent information on the location and activities of those fishing vessels;

TAKING NOTE that the several regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) recognize the added value of sharing the VMS information between CPCs;

### In the core of the CMM:

The objective of the VMS is to support the Commission in ensuring sustainable fisheries of the stocks covered by the organization. By providing accurate information on the location and activities of the vessels fishing those stocks, the VMS will reinforce the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance mechanisms of the Commission and will:

- a) Improve monitoring, control and surveillance capabilities of CPCs to ensure compliance with the IOTC Conservation and Management Measures;
- b) Enhance the cooperation and coordination on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance mechanisms in the IOTC Convention Area between coastal, flag and inspecting CPCs;
- c) Increase transparency and promote level playing field on the control of fishing activities relating to IOTC regulated stocks;
- d) Prevent, detect and deter IUU fishing;
- e) Obtain accurate and easily usable positioning data to be used for scientific research and fisheries management;

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

Those draft VMS objectives were drafted while trying to answer three fundamental questions:

1. What are the objective of the IOTC/CMMs? Management/Conservation/IOTC objectives/Shared stocks/Common resources
2. What will the VMS do? MCS/Monitor fishing vessels/Transmit accurate information
3. Why the VMS will achieve that? Ensure implementation compliance to CMMs; Prevent IUU; Provide more accurate scientific data; Increase cooperation and help CS

The draft VMS objectives were drafted using the following sources and relevant abstract are reproduced below

### Consultant report:

4.3.1 Objectives of the VMS: *Broadly speaking it is simple to determine that the objective of an RFMO VMS is to provide accurate and independent information on the location and activity of fishing vessels. However, it is also important to ask why that information is needed or useful. A more specific statement of Objectives would be useful to guide consideration of the options above. For example, a VMS set up to ensure flag States are meeting their obligations will be run far differently than one that is set up to assist coastal States to ensure that their EEZs are free from incursions. Both of these are important, as are other considerations. An objective for the IOTC should be developed that recognises the role that accurate real-time VMS data plays in MCS (including through integration with other MCS programs), fisheries cooperation and supporting robust management frameworks, and links these benefits to achievement of IOTC and CPC fisheries objectives.*

5.1 Objective: *The IOTC Vessel Monitoring System shall be developed as a secure; web-based; near real-time; user-friendly; system that will be operated to:*

1. *Assist flag CPCs to discharge their duties and obligations to ensure compliance by their vessels with flag and coastal State laws and with IOTC Resolutions;*
2. *Support CPCs' efforts to closely monitor, control and manage IOTC fisheries with a particular focus on assisting flag, coastal and port CPCs to prevent, detecting and deterring IUU fishing;*
3. *Facilitate greater cooperation between all CPCs by providing accurate, near real-time data in support of integrated IOTC Monitoring, Control and Surveillance programs and activities; and*
4. *To provide critical data to support decision making by CPCs and IOTC.*

### IOTC Agreement

*The Commission shall promote cooperation among its Members with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of stocks covered by this Agreement and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks.*

### NPFC VMS CCM

*The VMS supports the Convention's objective to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in the Convention Area. The VMS forms an important part of the Commission's MCS regime to ensure compliance with, and enforcement of, the provisions of the Convention and CMMs. The purpose of the VMS is to continuously monitor the positions and movements of all fishing vessels in the Convention Area for compliance purposes. VMS data may also be used to support scientific processes as agreed by the Commission.*

#### CCAMLR VMS CCM

*The Commission, Recognising that in order to promote the objectives of the Convention and further improve compliance with the relevant conservation measures, Convinced that illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing compromises the objective of the Convention, Recalling that Contracting Parties are required to cooperate in taking appropriate action to deter any fishing activities which are not consistent with the objective of the Convention, Mindful of the rights and obligations of Flag States and Port States to promote the effectiveness of conservation measures, Wanting to reinforce the conservation measures already adopted by the Commission*

#### UNFSA

*Measures to be taken by a State in respect of vessels flying its flag shall include: - monitoring, control and surveillance of such vessels, their fishing operations and related activities by, inter alia: - the development and implementation of vessel monitoring systems, including, as appropriate, satellite transmitter systems, in accordance with any national programmes and those which have been subregionally, regionally or globally agreed among the States concerned;*