

Draft terms of reference Technical cooperation between the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission on Vessel Monitoring System

The pilot project will have no economic impact on IOTC and it will require an in-person meeting at the IOTC HQ in light of the need for total confidentiality relating to access to GFCM data protocol exchange, software, online infrastructures and tools instrumental to analyze and discuss in detail the following information:

- The legal requirements in relation to the establishment of the VMS at regional and national level, including rules related to information reporting and sharing. This shall encompass:
 - obligations of each contracting party (e.g. technical requirements for the establishment of fishing monitoring centers);
 - obligations for the vessel owner to install vessel tracking devices on board and related minimum requirements;
 - responsibilities vesting on the Secretariats; and
 - technical characteristics relating all kinds of data transmissions performed by onboard transponders, such as vessel identification, location, catch information, data on transshipment activities and the like);
- Detailed characteristics of the centralized/regional VMS currently being deployed;
- Integration of the information collected by the remote electronic monitoring (REM) system in board of the vessels;
- Confidentiality policies disciplining the collection, storage, use and sharing of VMS data under predefined conditions;
- Rules regulating the use of data stored in the regional/centralized VMS for the preparation of derivative information (i.e. aggregated datasets) for scientific purposes, such as the spatial analysis of fishing effort;
- Role of the regional/centralized VMS in the broader scope of control and enforcement mechanisms set into force;
- Historical roadmap and lessons learned from the establishment of the centralized/regional VMS;
- Data describing current costs and benefits of technical options used. Focus should be given also to funding mechanisms in place to ensure operational continuity and long-term development plans;
- Provisions in force addressing information technology and information governance for matters including but not limited to the hosting server infrastructure and liaison with satellite providers (in the case of direct transmission from onboard vessels).