

## **Draft Work Plan 2025-2026, intersessional activities and schedule of meetings**

### **Prepared by the VMS WG Chair**

This document provides the CoC22 with a draft Workplan 2025 – 2026, including the key intersessional activities and an indicative schedule of meetings for 2025, for the consideration of the CoC22.

This draft workplan seeks to focus the activities of the VMS WG to deliver the 2019 Commission tasking to *“to progress consideration of options to strengthen the IOTC VMS, the Commission agreed to establish an expertise-based working group to undertake work”* (preambular language from the VMS WG ToR).

Consistent with the ToR for the VMS WG, the workplan outlines the progress on the tasking in the WG’s ToR:

1. Further consider and provide advice on the consultant’s report as required, as well as the VMS Steering Group’s report.
2. Consider and provide advice on the following issues, such as:
  - a. Preferred model for a future IOTC Commission VMS, including hosting options
  - b. Scope and application of the VMS (e.g. vessel types and size, geographic scope)
  - c. Method for ensuring real time or near real time position reporting (e.g. direct, indirect or simultaneous polling)
3. Develop possible funding models and options.
4. Consider improvements that can be made to Resolution 15/03.
5. Develop rules and procedures for the sharing, use and protection of VMS data.
6. Develop mechanism for the smooth transition of the existing to the new system, if required.

Priority	2025	2026	Progress to December 2024
<b>1. Further consider and provide advice on the consultant's report as required, as well as the VMS Steering Group's report</b>			
	nil	nil	The WG was established to consider the 2019 Consultants report
<b>2. Consider and provide advice on the following issues</b>			
a. Preferred model for a future IOTC Commission VMS, including hosting options			
	WG considers the Consultant's report and agrees next steps		Consultant's report re the pilot program finalised.
b. Scope and application of the VMS (e.g. vessel types and size, geographic scope)			
Number 1 priority Like the SSPs and data protection rules, understanding and finalising the scope of the VMS program is likely to have implications for the program costs and CPC engagement. It is envisaged to consider the risks to inform the scope of the VMS program moving forward.	Prepare a risk matrix of the vessels on the IOTC's authorised list of vessels to inform consideration of the scope of the IOTC VMS program.	Agree the scope of the IOTC VMS program.	Two options currently on the table: 1. Remain at 15 m LOA 2. Include all vessel to 12m LOA. No agreement has been able to be reached to date.
c. Method for ensuring real time or near real time position reporting (e.g. direct, indirect or simultaneous polling)			
Number 2	Consider the implementation of the pilot program to test feasibility and costs	Consider the outcomes of the pilot program	Consultant's report re the pilot program finalised.
<b>3. Develop possible funding models and options</b>			
Number 2	Consider the implementation of the pilot program to test feasibility and costs	Consider the outcomes of the pilot program	Consultant's report re the pilot program finalised.
<b>4. Consider improvements that can be made to Resolution 15/03</b>			
	Consider options to streamline the CMM to better reflect the VMS program and any associated Annexes (e.g., SSP) that might need to be developed to support the program.	Consider a draft complete amendments to Res 15/03.	Draft amendments to Res. 15/03 were agreed at WG 6.

<b>5. Develop rules and procedures for the sharing, use and protection of VMS data</b>			
Number 1 priority Without key associated documents it may be difficult for CPCs to engage further in the discussions to strengthen the IOTC VMS program. It is envisaged that this would form the bulk of the intersessional work in 2025.	Establish a small drafting group to prepare draft VMS Data Confidentiality, Protection, sharing and Use Rules and associated VMS SSPs	Finalise drafting of the VMS Data Confidentiality, Protection, sharing and Use Rules for the consideration of the WP, WPICMM, CoC and Commission	Nil to date.
<b>6. Develop mechanism for the smooth transition of the existing to the new system</b>			
	nil	Consider the current level of VMS implementation and compliance, develop a plan to transition to the new VMS program.	None as yet.

Proposed schedule of meetings 2025 and 2026 to be held electronically. These tentative dates need to be confirmed with other scheduled IOTC meetings and would possibly only run for 2 hours targeting a specific element of the draft documents.

1. 15 June 2025
2. 15 September 2025
3. 15 November 2025
4. 15 February 2026
5. 15 March 2026