



Madrid – April 14, 2010

## ICCAT CIRCULAR # 1120/10

**SUBJECT: JOINT T-RFMOs WORKSHOP ON IMPROVEMENT, HARMONIZATION AND COMPATIBILITY OF MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE MEASURES, INCLUDING MONITORING CATCHES FROM CATCHING VESSELS TO MARKETS**

I have the honor to transmit to you the background information and Draft Agenda for the Joint t-RFMOs Workshop on Improvement, Harmonization and Compatibility of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Measures that will be held in Barcelona, Spain, in June 3-5, 2010. This information was forwarded to the Secretariat by Japan.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

*P.O.*   
Driss Meski  
Executive Secretary

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**Attachments:** Background info and Draft Agenda.

**DRAFT FRAMEWORK FOR AN  
INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON IMPROVEMENT, HARMONIZATION AND COMPATIBILITY  
OF MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE MEASURES**

**1. Background**

The 2nd Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs (KOB2) held in San Sebastian from June 29 to July 3, 2009 agreed to hold an international Workshop on improvement, harmonization and compatibility of monitoring, control and surveillance measures, including monitoring catches from catching vessels to markets. It will be held in Barcelona from June 3 to 5, 2010 with assistance from Japan.

KOB2 agreed the following terms of reference for this workshop:

The Workshop will carry out work to standardize and harmonize, to the degree possible, operational aspects of:

1. Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS), including:
  - The content, frequency and format of VMS messages
  - Guidelines for centralized centers at RFMO Secretariats
2. Observer Programs, including:
  - Minimum standards or best practices for regional observer programs
  - Minimum levels of observer coverage for different gear types
3. Transshipment controls, including:
  - Minimum standards or best practices for in-port and at sea transshipment control and monitoring
4. Monitoring catches from catching vessel to market, including:
  - Extension of existing bigeye statistical document programs to cover fresh products and products destined for canneries
  - Minimum standards or best practices for Catch Document Systems

In carrying out its work, the Workshop will take into account the need to provide adequate capacity building assistance to developing coastal States, in particular small island developing States, territories, and States with small and vulnerable economies to facilitate their participation and preparation for this Workshop.

The draft Agenda, the schedule of the meeting, and the relevant documents, will be circulated well in advance and simultaneously to all members of tuna RFMOs, so the participants will have plenty of opportunity to participate in its construction.

**2. Draft Agenda**

Based on the agreed terms of reference above, the following draft Agenda is proposed:

Day 1 (June 3):

1. Opening  
The convener (Japan) will make opening remarks.
2. Election of Chair and Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of measures relating to VMS, Observer, Transshipment and Monitoring  
Japan will present a general overview of measures relating to VMS, observer, transshipment and monitoring catches from catching vessels to market taken by tuna RFMOs.

5. VMS
  - 1) Current VMS requirements in each RFMO (the system, content, frequency, format of VMS message, etc.)
  - 2) Guidelines for centralized VMS centers at RFMO Secretariats
    - The ICCAT Secretariat will present its centralized VMS, focusing on merits and demerits in terms of costs, utility for enforcement, data confidentiality, required capacity, etc.
6. Transshipment controls
  - 1) Minimum standards or best practices for in-port and at sea transshipment control
    - The IOTC and IATTC Secretariats will present their transshipment programs.

Day 2 (June 4):

7. Observer programs
  - 1) Minimum standards or best practices for regional observer programs
    - The WCPFC Secretariat will present its observer programs.
  - 2) Minimum levels of observer coverage for different gear types
8. Monitoring catches from catching vessel to market
  - 1) Extension of existing bigeye statistical document programs to cover fresh products and products destined for canneries
  - 2) Minimum standards or best practices for Catch Document Schemes
    - The ICCAT and CCSBT Secretariats will present their CDS programs.

Day 3 (June 5):

9. Others
  - 1) Port state measures
10. Adoption of meeting report
11. Closing

Note:

- 1) Capacity building of developing countries should be taken into account when considering strengthening of MCS measures.
- 2) A drafting group will be formed to produce a draft report of the workshop, which could include recommendations to tuna RFMOs. The drafting group will meet after the session on the first and second days and during the lunch time on the third day.