

**REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON IMPROVEMENT,
HARMONIZATION AND COMPATIBILITY OF MONITORING, CONTROL AND
SURVEILLANCE MEASURES, INCLUDING MONITORING CATCHES FROM
CATCHING VESSELS TO MARKETS**

(Barcelona Spain - June 3 to 5, 2010)

1. Opening

1. The International Workshop on Improvement, Harmonization and Compatibility of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Measures, Including Monitoring Catches from Catching Vessels to Markets was hosted by Japan and the European Union, and was organized by the ICCAT Secretariat.

2. Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Fisheries Agency of Japan) welcomed the group on behalf of the conveners. The meeting included participants from 32 Members and cooperating non-Members of the five tuna RFMOs (IATTC: Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission; ICCAT: International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas; IOTC: Indian Ocean Tuna Commission; WCPFC: Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission; and CCSBT: Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna) as well as representatives of the Secretariats of the five tuna RFMOs, three inter-governmental organizations, and four non-governmental organizations.

3. Mr. Miyahara also reminded the participants that the objective of this meeting is to provide recommendations for harmonizing protocols, identifying minimum standards and promoting best practices, but that these recommendations could not be considered binding or mandatory.

2. Election of Chair and Rapporteur

4. Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Fisheries Agency of Japan) was elected chair of the meeting. At his recommendation, Ms. Shannon Cass-Calay (United States) and Ms. Holly Koehler (United States) were elected co-rapporteurs.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

5. The agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1**. The list of participants is attached as **Appendix 2**.

4. Review of Measures Relating to VMS, Observer, Transshipment and Monitoring Catches from Catching Vessels to Market Taken by Tuna RFMOs.

6. Mr. Miyahara presented a review of the measures implemented by the five tuna RFMOs including vessel monitoring system (VMS), regional and national observer programs, transshipment procedures, and monitoring of catches. The procedures of the five tuna RFMOs were summarized, compared and discussed. Since this presentation was intended to introduce the items to be discussed during the meeting, participants were invited to defer discussion until the detailed examination of each topic.

5. Vessel Monitoring Systems

7. Mr. Driss Meski (Executive Secretary of ICCAT) described the VMS system used by ICCAT. This system is also described in document **TRFMO2-W2_003/2010**. The ICCAT VMS was established by the adoption of three primary recommendations [Rec. 03-14], [Rec. 06-05] and [Rec. 07-08]. According to these measures, each Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (CPC) must use a VMS for all commercial fishing vessels exceeding 24 m overall length as of November 1, 2005. Furthermore, as of January 1, 2010, this measure also applies to vessels over 15 m fishing eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. Each CPC must also establish and manage centers to monitor the fishing activities of its flagged vessels.

8. Mr. Alberto Parrilla (ICCAT Secretariat) presented a description of the ICCAT centralized eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna VMS components and software. The ICCAT VMS is an electronic system that relays the geographic location of vessels via satellite. The information is sent to fisheries monitoring centers that must process the data and ensure a standard format before transmission to ICCAT. ICCAT ensures the confidentiality of data using secure protocols (FTPS, HTTPS) and digital certificates. The ICCAT VMS uses a graphic user interface (THEMIS) to display detailed geographic information and descriptive statistics (e.g. vessel locations, user-specified alerts, fishing vessel report by month). This information is useful to monitor fishing activity, and could also be used for fisheries biology and stock assessment, given certain confidentiality requirements. A disadvantage of the ICCAT VMS is that it relies on data received from CPCs. Therefore, CPCs are encouraged to submit validated and complete information for all registered vessels.

9. The group generally supported the use of centralized VMS programs. However, participants noted that the information gathered by VMS is useful not only for monitoring fishing behavior and informing science objectives, but is also used for monitoring compliance with adopted conservation and management measures (e.g. effort controls and time-area closures) and to provide support for inspection programs both at sea and in port. The group also recognized the value of VMS data in the implementation of CDS and in combating IUU fishing.

10. Some participants expressed concern regarding the high cost of centralized VMS systems, particularly for developing nations. The group also considered the integration of regional and national VMS systems, and communication amongst RFMOs to share successful programs and practices. The group also noted the usefulness of cost/benefit analyses to ensure that VMS systems are developed and maintained in a cost-effective manner. Concerns were expressed over confidentiality requirements and some participants were reluctant to share information across RFMOs for this reason.

11. To maximize the utility of VMS data across RFMOs, the group discussed identifying clear objectives for the programs, standardization of protocols including the format, content and frequency of VMS messages, and developing data-sharing procedures. Several participants also emphasized that there should be no gaps in the geographic coverage in regional VMS programs and that all relevant vessel sizes and classes should be covered by such programs. Some participants noted that while polling frequencies may vary from fishery to fishery, real time transmission of this information is important to support inspection programs.

12. Finally, the group discussed some shortcomings of existing centralized VMS programs. In particular, the high cost and dependence on CPCs to transmit complete and accurate data. The group also noted that fishing behavior is not well characterized using vessel location alone, and that supplementary information from observers would be useful.

6. Transshipment Controls and Transshipment Observer Programs

13. Mr. Brian Hallman (Deputy Director of IATTC) presented a summary of the IATTC transshipment observer program. This program began January 1, 2009 and was established under two resolutions, C-06-04 and C-08-02. This program has the following characteristics: it applies only to longline vessels; it does not apply to live tuna transferred to a farm; it establishes a register of authorized carrier vessels; it requires all vessels to be equipped with VMS; vessels are prohibited from making transshipments in the eastern Pacific Ocean without an observer onboard except in cases of *force majeure*; it requires transshipment documentation copied to the IATTC, competent authorities of the CPC and the flag nation where final offloading will occur. Costs are borne by the flag governments of the vessels involved.

14. IATTC transshipment observers are required to observe catches during transshipment to ensure that quantities are consistent with the catches reported in the transshipment documentation. In addition, observers board fishing vessels to confirm the vessel's license, ensure the functionality of VMS equipment, examine the logbook, check documentation and assess compliance. Fishing violations are recorded in the observer's report, and reported to the Master of the carrier vessel. The program is operated by an NGO contractor (MRAG) at the cost of roughly 650,000USD a year.

15. Mr. Gerard Domingue (IOTC Secretariat) presented the IOTC transshipment program. The program has been in place since 2009 and the implementation of the program is guided by IOTC Resolution 08/02. The program monitors transshipments by authorized purse seiners and longliners operating in the IOTC area. The

program requires that all transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species take place in port, with the exception for large-scale tuna longline vessels (LSTLV) which typically transship at sea.

16. Under the IOTC regulation, transshipment in port requires the vessel to provide 48 hours notice and detailed information regarding the vessel, carrier vessel, and transshipment location and information on the fishing area. Carrier vessels must submit an IOTC Transshipment Declaration to the IOTC Secretariat and the flag State of the LSTV at least 24 hours after completion of transshipment and must submit appropriate transshipment documentation to the port and landing State at least 48 hours prior to landing. Port and landing States must verify the accuracy of the information received and cooperate with the fishing vessels to ensure consistency between landings and reported catch.

17. The observation of transshipment at sea in the IOTC Area is outsourced to a consortium. The contractor is responsible for selecting, training, equipping, insuring, and deploying observers, development and maintenance of the observer database and submitting reports to the IOTC Secretariat. The Secretariat maintains the authority to accredit observers and approve deployments. At-sea observers inspect vessel VMS and logbooks, records transshipment details (e.g. catch, indication of violations), and submits regular reports to the contractor. The program is funded by its participants at a cost of roughly €970,000 a year.

18. The ICCAT Secretariat (Mr. Driss Meski) provided a brief explanation of the ICCAT transshipment program. The Regional Observer Program for Transshipment was established in 2006 under Resolution [06-11]. To date, ICCAT has deployed about 75 observers to carrier vessels. The main Contracting Parties involved are Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, China and the Philippines. ICCAT regularly sends reports to all the Contracting Parties and to the ICCAT SCRS and the Commission. There is a consortium in charge of implementing the Program, and the costs are borne by the participating flag nations. ICCAT is currently pursuing cooperative ventures with the IOTC and others to reduce costs.

19. The group discussed the various aspects of the transshipment programs used by the tuna RFMOs. Some participants were concerned about the high cost of such programs, particularly for developing countries. The group considered various cost-minimization strategies including: cooperation across RFMOs (e.g. sharing training manuals, procedures, and creating a pool of observers trained to operate in multiple RFMOs), and the coordination of existing regional and sub-regional programs to eliminate redundancy. To this end, it was noted that the CCSBT transshipment program is conducted in conjunction with the IOTC and ICCAT transshipment programs. Several participants noted that programs that employ contractors were expensive, and recommended the use of trained regional observers.

20. The group considered that harmonized procedures could be developed to verify data on catches transhipped as reported by observers (e.g. video techniques, import/export records). The group also discussed the standardization of the declaration form, observer training procedures, and developing data sharing protocols.

21. The group generally recognized that transshipment controls were important to reduce IUU fishing. To further reduce IUU activities, the group considered enhanced efforts to inform relevant States and fishing companies of the regulations in place and continued enforcement by States. Some participants recommended a complete ban on transshipment at sea.

22. Some participants expressed the need to evaluate the impact of the transshipment observer programs on the main scope of RFMOs to combat IUU fishing. Other participants stated that such evaluation is routinely conducted at RFMOs and believed that the program is effective in combating IUU fishing.

7. Other Regional Observer Programs

23. Mr. Peter Flewwelling (Compliance Manager, WCPFC) presented a summary of the regional observer program of the WCPFC. This program is guided by the rules described in two documents, the Convention and the Conservation and Management Measures. The program covers vessels authorized to fish in the Convention area including those that fish exclusively in the high seas, those that fish on the high seas and in waters under the jurisdiction of one or more coastal states, and those that fish under the national jurisdiction of two or more coastal States. The purpose of this program is to collect verified catch data as well as additional data related to the fishery (including compliance-related information), and to collect scientific data. Therefore, WCPFC observers collect catch data and other scientific data, monitor the implementation of conservation and management

measures adopted by the Commission, and report their findings. Currently, the coverage is 100% of purse seine vessels and planned to be 5% for large longline vessels by 2012. To reduce cost and avoid duplication, the observer program is coordinated with existing regional and sub-regional programs. Standardized procedures for training of observers are in place. National observer programs are being audited to certify them to regional standards by 2012.

24. During the general discussion of this topic, the group noted an overlap with many of the elements discussed under Item 6. In particular, some participants noted that observer programs were costly.

25. The group also discussed the role of observers. The group recognized that the objective of an observer program will vary across RFMOs. Some participants expressed that two functions (science and compliance) should be kept separate. However, other participants emphasized that some existing RFMO regional observer programs have both functions and the data collected by observers are used both for science and compliance and monitoring purposes. Some participants also noted that the role of an observer is to report but not function as an enforcement officer or inspector on the vessel. Rather, the flag State is responsible for responding to infractions and enforcing management regulations.

26. The group also discussed the minimum acceptable level of coverage for observer programs. Participants reiterated that this will depend on the objectives of the program, as decided by RFMOs. It was noted that 5% observer coverage may be adequate. However, it was also noted that programs that monitor compliance may need higher levels of coverage.

8. Monitoring catches from catching vessel to market

27. Mr. Driss Meski (Executive Secretary of ICCAT) and Ms. Carmen Ochoa (ICCAT Secretariat) presented a summary of the Catch Documentation System (CDS) used by ICCAT for Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT). The objective of this system is to trace the fish from catch to market and to identify the origin of bluefin tuna landed at ports, delivered to farms or harvested from farms. The required Catch Document (BCD) or Re-export Certificate (BFTRC) has a unique ID number that contains the country code, year and a unique identifier. Other required information includes: vessel number, vessel name, date, number of fish landed, total weight landed, and fishing location. When appropriate, point of export, point of import, farm identifiers, and farming harvest information is also required. The presenter also discussed a few concerns. The ICCAT CDS is a paper-based system, and an important shortcoming is legibility of the documents. Many illegible, and/or incomplete documents are received and these diminish data quality and the effectiveness of the CDS. Furthermore, some documents are received after a long delay, particularly those from split-shipments.

28. Mr. Robert Kennedy (Executive Secretary of CCSBT) presented the CDS used by the CCSBT. This system is intended to provide an accurate and timely record of southern bluefin tuna (SBT) catches, and provide a traceable record of legitimate product flow from catch to the point of first sale. The system is intended to be capable of accounting for 95% of the fishing mortality on southern bluefin tuna. This is a new program which began January 1, 2010, and is currently still in development. The implementation and operation of the program will be reviewed in October 2010. The CCSBT CDS program requires mandatory tagging of all whole southern bluefin tuna and mandatory documentation for transfers of southern bluefin tuna into and between farms, and for transshipments, domestic landings, exports, imports and re-exports. Exceptions exist for recreational fisheries provided that sale is prohibited. The CDS forms contain information including: name and ID of vessel or farm, the number, weight and processed state of southern bluefin tuna, details of transfer.

29. The group discussed the CCSBT and ICCAT CDS programs generally, noting that there were some differences in design and implementation of the two programs. The group also discussed the differences between the existing ICCAT and CCSBT CDSs and the use of tags and forms versus just the use of tags. It was noted that under the ICCAT CDS it is optional to submit validated documents for tagged fish to the Secretariat.

30. It was clarified that the ICCAT CDS did not provide an exemption from validating documentation, but that tags were considered an equivalent form of validation of catch in ICCAT and so that portion of the form did not need to be completed if the product was tagged.

31. Several developing State participants described some of the challenges faced in implementing existing CDSs, particularly with respect to validation of the forms. Some participants also noted that for a CDS to be

effective, cooperation with port and coastal States is essential. It was further emphasized that capacity building assistance should be provided to developing coastal States to assist them in implementing CDSs.

32. Several participants emphasized that coastal States have the responsibility for monitoring catches in their EEZs and that this responsibility should be reflected in any new or expanded CDS. It was further noted by these participants that, as a result, the flag State validation requirements of the 2010 EU IUU regulation were difficult to comply with, and, in their view, appear to create an unfair technical barrier to trade.

Expansion of catch documentation schemes in Tuna RFMOs

33. The delegation of Japan presented a discussion paper (TRFMO2-W2-006/2010) that proposed that catch documentation schemes (CDS) should be expanded to tuna species other than southern bluefin tuna and Atlantic bluefin tuna and to sharks, while noting that in doing so several special cases (i.e., fish caught by purse seine fisheries, artisanal fishery products and fresh and chilled products) will require specific consideration and procedures. The discussion paper also emphasized the need to provide assistance to developing countries and to implement an expanded CDS in a transitional or phased manner in order to ensure adequate time for all States to prepare for implementation.

34. Participants agreed with the principle of expanding CDS to other tuna fisheries and sharks. It was also emphasized that if an expanded CDS was developed, it must utilize modern technologies, such as electronic systems and tags, or use a single form, so that the expanded CDS can be implemented in an effective and efficient manner. There were different views expressed on what species an expanded CDS should include. Some participants expressed that expansion should be based on the condition of the stock and priority should be given to covering overfished and depleted stocks first and then expand the CDS to other species on step by step basis.

35. Most participants underscored the need for capacity building to assist developing countries in implementing both existing CDSs and any expanded CDS.

36. Some participants also noted that some States have adopted unilateral CDS schemes and expressed their view that RFMO CDSs should supersede such unilateral schemes.

37. One participant noted that more discussion was needed on whether tags can replace the validation of forms in the implementation of a CDS. In their view, the concept of validation was different from verification and that flag State validation must include cooperation with coastal States.

38. Other participants noted that coastal States can also provide validations as they are responsible for monitoring catches in their EEZs and the issuance of licenses to fish in their EEZs. These participants emphasized that this must be recognized and did not share the view that validation of CDS documents can only be done by the flag State.

39. The group discussed the specific issue of how to treat purse seine caught product and fresh fish in an expanded CDS. Participants discussed the ideas presented by Japan in its discussion document and considered a number of technical issues on this matter, such as the feasibility of designating canneries, how such canneries would be certified, how forms would be validated, the respective responsibilities of coastal States and flag States, and the need to build on existing programs, including national programs.

40. Several participants noted that they could not offer a view on these issues until they had reviewed the implementation of existing CDS programs. In general, participants agreed that more discussion within RFMOs was needed on these topics, and that tuna RFMOs should be encouraged to do so and report to Kobe III on their consideration of these issues.

41. The group noted the need to expand CDS to fresh/chilled products and recognized that the use of tags would be the only feasible way to cover this type of product in an expanded CDS.

42. The group considered whether to include artisanal catches in an expanded CDS. In general, participants supported covering artisanal catches that are exported in an expanded CDS, but noted that in doing so it may be necessary to develop a simpler CDS form in order to take account of the realities of artisanal fisheries. While recognizing that some States have reported difficulties with the use of the EU form for artisanal catches, the group suggested that the EU form could serve as a useful example for RFMOs (see **Appendix 3**).

43. The group also discussed the issue of providing a “grace-period” for the implementation of an expanded CDS. In general, participants agreed that such a “grace-period” would be necessary for all States.

9. Other matters

Port State measures

44. The group considered that RFMOs that have not already done so should adopt port State control measures that are consistent with the recently adopted FAO Port State Measures Agreement, and that take into account the specific circumstances in each RFMO region, including existing national measures, so as to strengthen efforts to combat IUU fishing and promote the long term sustainability of fisheries.

10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

45. The report and workshop recommendations (see **Appendix 4**) were adopted and the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am on June 5, 2010.

11. Closing

46. The group thanked the European Union and the Government of Japan for their generous support in hosting the workshop. Participants also thanked Mr. Miyahara for so ably chairing the meeting, and the ICCAT Secretariat, the co-rapporteurs and the interpreters for their hard work during the workshop.

Appendix 1

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Election of Chair and Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of measures relating to VMS, Observer, Transshipment and Monitoring
5. VMS
 - Current VMS requirements in each RFMO (system, content, frequency, format of VMS message, etc.)
 - Guidelines for centralized VMS centers at RFMO Secretariats
6. Transshipment controls
 - Minimum standards or best practices for in-port and at sea transshipment control
7. Observer programs
 - Minimum standards or best practices for regional observer programs
 - Minimum levels of observer coverage for different gear types
8. Monitoring catches from catching vessel to market
 - Extension of existing bigeye statistical document programs to cover fresh products and products destined for canneries
 - Minimum standards or best practices for Catch Document Schemes
9. Others
 - Port state measures
 - Adoption of meeting report
11. Closing

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CATCH CERTIFICATE

(I) EUROPEAN COMUNITY CATCH CERTIFICATE – Simplified form for fishery products fulfilling the requirements in Article 6 of this Regulation				
Document number		Validating authority (name, address, tel., fax)		
1. Description of product		2. References of applicable conservation and management measures		
Species	Product code	Verified weight landed (kg)		
3. List of vessels that have provided catches and the quantities by each vessel (name, registration number, etc. annexed):				
4. Name, address, tel. and fax of exporter	Signature	Date	Seal (stamp)	
5. Flag State authority validation:				
Name/Title	Signature	Date	Seal (stamp)	
6. Transport details (see <i>Appendix</i>)				
7. Importer declaration:				
Name and address of Importer	Signature	Date	Seal (stamp)	Product CN code
8. Import control: Authority	Place:	Importation authorised (*)	Importation suspended (*)	Verification requested – date
Customs declaration (if issued)	Number	Date	Place	

(*) Tick as appropriate.

(II) EUROPEAN COMMUNITY RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE			
Certificate number	Date	Member State	
1. Description of re-exported product		Weight (kg)	
Species	Product code	Balance from total quantity declared in the Catch Certificate	
2. Name of re-exporter	Address	Signature	Date
3. Authority			
Name/Title	Signature	Date	Seal/Stamp
4. Re-export control			
Place:	Re-export authorised (*)	Verification requested (*)	Re-export declaration number and date

(*) Tick as appropriate.

Appendix

Transport Details

1. Country of exportation Port/airport/other place of departure	2. Exporter signature			
Vessel name and flag Flight number – airway bill number Truck nationality and registration number Railway bill number Other transport document	Container number(s) List attached	Name	Address	Signature

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE KOBE II WORKSHOP ON MCS

The participants in the Kobe II Workshop on MCS held in Barcelona, Spain from June 3-5, 2010 recommended the following to tuna RFMOs, and requested that such RFMOs report on their actions towards these recommendations at the Kobe III Meeting scheduled for 2011:

VMS

1. Where they do not already exist, establish standards for the format (see attached ICCAT format as an example), content, structure and frequency of VMS messages; and
2. Ensure there are no gaps in geographic coverage in regional VMS programs, and all relevant vessel types and sizes participate in VMS programs while on the high seas.

Transshipment

1. Cooperate with other tuna RFMOs to standardize transshipment Declaration forms so that they use, to the maximum extent possible, the same format and include the same required data fields, as well as develop minimum standards for the timeframes by which such Declarations are submitted to RFMO Secretariats, flag States, coastal States, and port States.
2. Establish that advance notifications must be provided to the relevant tuna RFMO Secretariat for those high seas transshipment activities that are permitted by that RFMO's measures (for example, 36 hours in advance of the transshipment operation taking place).

Observers

- RFMOs are encouraged to support the establishment of regional observer programs which could be built on existing national programs. It is the responsibility of each RFMO to clearly establish the purpose and scope of the information collected by its regional observer program, such as whether it will be used to support scientific or monitoring functions, or both, and then define the specific observer tasks and duties appropriate for that particular purpose and scope.
- There are specific aspects of observer programs that could benefit from the development of minimum standards or procedures that if utilized by tuna RFMOs could promote comparable observer-generated data.
 1. Where appropriate and practical, subject all gear types in high seas fishing operations to observer coverage while adopting a minimum of 5% coverage as an initial level. Observer coverage rates should be evaluated and may be adjusted depending on the scope and objectives of each observer program or particular conservation and management measures.
 2. Where appropriate, develop agreements such that RFMO-authorized high seas observers can operate effectively in the various ocean basins covered by other RFMOs with a view to avoiding duplication of observers. Such observer programs will provide required data to the RFMO in whose area the fishing operations take place.
- 3. Exchange information and examples of the standards developed in each program. These should include:
 - a. Training material and procedures;
 - b. On-board reference materials;
 - c. Health and safety issues;
 - d. Rights, and responsibilities of vessel operators, masters, crew and observers;
 - e. Data collection, storage and dissemination including where appropriate between RFMOs;
 - f. Debriefing protocols and procedures;
 - g. Reporting formats – especially for target and by-catch species;
 - h. Basic qualifications and experience of observers.

Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS)

1. Establish or expand the use of CDS to fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species and sharks not currently covered by an existing CDS and to which current conservation and management measures apply, taking into account the specific characteristics and circumstances of each RFMO.
2. Ensure compatibility between new or expanded CDS and existing certification schemes already implemented by coastal, port and importing States.
3. Develop a common/harmonized form for use across RFMOs and the use of electronic systems and tags to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and utility of a CDS.
4. Take into account fish caught by purse seine fisheries and delivered to processing plants when implementing an expanded CDS.
5. Consider a tagging system for fresh and chilled products to improve the implementation of new or expanded CDS.
6. Develop a simplified CDS form to cover catches by artisanal fisheries that are exported (see Appendix 3, EU form that could serve as an example).
7. Provide technical assistance and capacity building support to assist developing countries in implementing existing CDSs and any expanded CDS, including ensuring that capacity building funds that currently exist in RFMOs can be used for this purpose.

Port State Measures

1. Encourage RFMO Members to consider signing and ratifying the FAO Port State Measures Agreement at their earliest opportunity.
2. Where they do not already exist, where appropriate, adopt port State control measures that are consistent with the FAO Port State Measures Agreement, and that take into account the specific characteristics and circumstances of each RFMO.

Data

When useful to support scientific and MCS purposes, cooperate with other tuna RFMOs to develop protocols for exchanging data, including provisions for data confidentiality.

ICCAT Format for the Communication of VMS messages by fishing vessels

Content of the position message

<i>Data element</i>	<i>Field code</i>	<i>Mandatory /Optional</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Start record	SR	M	Message detail; indicates start of record
Address	AD	M	Destination: ICCAT
Sequence No.	SQ	M ¹	Message detail; message serial number in current year
Type of message	TM ²	M	Message detail; “POS” as Position message to be communicated by VMS or other means by vessels with a defective satellite tracking device
Radio call sign	RC	M	Vessel registration detail; international radio call sign of the vessel
Trip No.	TN	O	Activity detail; fishing trip serial number in current year
Vessel name	NA	O	Vessel registration detail; name of the vessel
Contracting Party internal reference No.	IR	O	Vessel registration detail. Unique Contracting Party vessel number as flag State 3-alpha country code followed by number
External registration No.	XR	O	Vessel registration detail; the side number of the vessel or IMO number in the absence of a side number
Latitude	LA	M ³	Activity detail; position at time of transmission
Longitude	LO	M ³	Activity detail; position at time of transmission
Latitude (decimal)	LT	M ⁴	Activity detail; position at time of transmission
Longitude (decimal)	LG	M ⁴	Activity detail; position at time of transmission
Date	DA	M	Message detail; date of transmission
Time	TI	M	Message detail; time of transmission
End of record	ER	M	System detail; indicates end of the record

¹ Optional in case of a VMS message.

² Type of message shall be “ENT” for the first VMS message from the Convention area as detected by the FMC of the Contracting Party. Type of message shall be “EXI” for the first VMS message from outside the Convention area as detected by the FMC of the Contracting Party, and the values for latitude and Longitude are, in this type of message, optional.

Type of message shall be “MAN” for reports communicated by vessels with a defective satellite tracking device.

³ Mandatory for manual messages.

⁴ Mandatory for VMS messages.