

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION
03-14 BY ICCAT CONCERNING MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM IN THE ICCAT CONVENTION AREA**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH the Needs and Principles set forth in the General Outline of Integrated Monitoring Measures Adopted by ICCAT, adopted by the Commission in 2002 to ensure effective monitoring measures;

CONSIDERING the deliberations of the ICCAT Working Group to Develop Integrated Monitoring Measures, held in Madeira from 26 to 28 May 2003;

RECOGNIZING the developments in satellite-based vessel monitoring systems (VMS), and their utility within ICCAT;

RECOGNIZING the legitimate right of coastal States to monitor the vessels fishing in waters under their jurisdiction;

CONSIDERING that real-time transmission to the Fishing Monitoring Center (FMC) of the coastal State of VMS data of all the vessels (including catching, carrier and support vessels) flying the flag of a CPC authorised to fish ICCAT species enables this coastal State, particularly in the case of a developing State, to ensure the effective implementation of ICCAT conservation and monitoring measures;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. Each flag Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereinafter referred to as CPC) shall implement a Vessel Monitoring System (hereinafter referred to as VMS) for its commercial fishing vessels exceeding 20 meters between perpendiculars or 24 meters length overall and:
 - a) require its fishing vessels to be equipped with an autonomous system able to automatically transmit a message to the Fisheries Monitoring Center (hereinafter referred to as FMC) of the flag CPC allowing continuous tracking of the position of a fishing vessel by the CPC of that vessel.
 - b) ensure that the satellite tracking device fitted on board the fishing vessels shall enable the vessel to continuously collect and transmit, at any time, to the FMC of the flag CPC the following data:
 - i) the vessel's identification;
 - ii) the most recent geographical position of the vessel (longitude, latitude) with a margin of error lower than 500 metres, with a confidence interval of 99%;
 - iii) the date and time of the fixing of the said position of the vessel.
 - c) Ensure, in cooperation with the coastal State, that the position messages transmitted by its vessels while fishing in waters under the jurisdiction of that coastal State are transmitted automatically and in real time to the FMC of the coastal State that has authorized the fishing activity, provided that due consideration has been given to minimizing the operational costs, technical difficulties, and administrative burden associated with transmission of these messages.
 - d) In order to facilitate the transmission and receipt of position messages, as described in subparagraph 1(c), the FMC of the flag State and the FMC of the coastal State shall exchange their contact information and notify each other without delay of any changes to this information. The FMC of the coastal State shall notify the flag State FMC of any interruption in the reception of consecutive position messages. The transmission of position messages between the FMC of the flag State and that of the coastal State shall be carried out electronically using a secure communication system.
2. Each CPC shall take appropriate measures to ensure that the VMS messages are transmitted and received, as specified in paragraph 1.

3. Each CPC shall ensure that the masters of fishing vessels flying its flag shall ensure that the satellite tracking devices are permanently operational and that the information identified in paragraph 1.b) is collected and transmitted at least every four (4) hours. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the satellite tracking device fitted on board a fishing vessel, the device shall be repaired or replaced within one month, unless the vessel has been removed from the list of authorized LSFVs. After this period, the master of a fishing vessel is not authorized to commence a fishing trip with a defective satellite tracking device. Furthermore, when a device stops functioning or has a technical failure during a fishing trip, the repair or the replacement has to take place as soon as the vessel enters a port; the fishing vessel shall not be authorized to commence a fishing trip without the satellite tracking device having been repaired or replaced.
4. Each CPC shall ensure that a fishing vessel with a defective satellite tracking device shall communicate to the FMC, at least daily, reports containing the information in paragraph 1(b) by other means of communication (radio, telefax or telex).
5. CPCs are encouraged to extend the application of this Recommendation to their fishing vessels of less than 20 meters between perpendiculars or 24 meters length overall if they consider this to be appropriate to ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures.
6. The Commission shall review this Recommendation no later than 2017 and consider revisions to improve its effectiveness, including by changing the transmission frequency, taking into account SCRS advice, the different nature of various fisheries, cost implications, and other relevant considerations, including generally accepted MCS best practices.
7. To inform this review, the SCRS is requested to provide advice on the VMS data that would most assist the SCRS in carrying out its work, including frequency of transmission for the different ICCAT fisheries.
8. This measure shall repeal and replace Recommendation 03-14.