

Progress Report on VMS pursuant to IATTC Resolution C-23-11 Canada May 2025

Pursuant to paragraph 7, this is Canada's progress report on its VMS consistent with Resolution C-23-11. Canada remains compliant with this Resolution ensuring that all commercial fishing vessels 24 meters or more in length operating in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) and harvesting tuna or tuna-like species is equipped with a satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS).

Section 43.4 of Canada's *Fisheries Act*, in combination with associated regulations, provides a legal mechanism by which Canadian-flagged vessels and fishers are obligated to abide by conditions of licence, which Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) imposes upon all fishing licenses. Conditions of license are updated on an annual basis to ensure that the most current Commission obligations are adopted and implemented within Canada's national binding measures.

Per the 2024 conditions of licence, the licence holder shall ensure the following requirements are satisfied for any vessel with a length listed as 24 m or greater operating in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) and harvesting tuna or tuna-like species:

- The vessel is equipped with DFO approved VMS satellite transponder equipment with the antenna mounted in a location that ensures unobstructed signal transmission/reception at all times
- The VMS transponder and system are turned on and fully operational not less than two full business days before the licensed vessel departs from port for the first fishing trip and remain on until the Hail In Report is submitted
- The vessel reports the following data every hour: (a) positional data (latitude & longitude); (b) Vessel Registration Number (VRN); (c) date and time (Universal Time Constant); and (d) the vessel's speed and course.
- The positional data provided by the VMS system is accurate to at least: (a) <500 m with a confidence level of 99 percent; and (b) <100 m squared with a confidence level of 98 percent.
- The VMS equipment is fully automatic, tamper proof, able to transmit regardless of environmental condition, capable of manual transmission and operational at all times during all tuna fishing trips and tuna fishing activities.
- The VMS equipment is activated and fully operational at all times while engaged in fishing trips and during tuna fishing activities such as conducting offloads and in-season port visits.

Furthermore, should the VMS system become inoperative, the vessel masters shall ensure that fishing operations by the vessel are immediately halted. The vessel master shall immediately make port and arrange for repair of the system through their service provider and notify DFO. The vessel master and licence holder shall ensure that fishing activity shall not re-commence until the VMS system is fully operational.

Next Steps

For the 2026 season (starting April 1, 2026), all Canadian tuna vessels (regardless of length) operating in the EPO and harvesting tuna or tuna-like species will be required to be equipped with VMS. Requirements will be consistent with existing and international standards.