

EU Report on the implementation of IATTC Resolution C-14-02

EU Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy entered into force on 1 January 2010 (the Control Regulation, Annex I).

Its provisions have been developed by the Commission implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011 of 8 April 2011 which lays down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation No 1224/2009 (the implementing Regulation, Annex II).

As the VMS is concerned, the EU is fully compliant with Resolution C-14-02 as all EU fishing vessels over 12 meters are required to carry a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) on-board in accordance with Article 9 of the Control Regulation.

Further, all the provisions of IATTC Resolution C-14-02 are properly reflected in Articles 18 to 28 of implementing Regulation. This includes the type of information the VMS collects (Article 19.1 of implementing Regulation No 404/2011), the polling frequency (Article 22.1, which requires at least two hours regardless the type of gear and, more importantly, allows for shorter frequency), the obligation that the VMS be operational at all times and being tamper proof (Articles 20 and 21) as well as the procedure applicable in case of VMS failure (Articles 25 and 26).

In addition to the VMS, EU fishing vessels have been gradually equipped with Automatic Identification System (AIS) transmitters: as from 31 May 2012: all vessels above 24 m; as from 31 May 2013: all vessels above 18; and from 31 May 2014: all vessels above 15 m.

The Control Regulation similarly foresees the electronic transmission of fishing activities data, in particular the electronic logbook, has been developed allowing near real time transmission of catch data. It allows for the possibility to cross check VMS data which is an essential MCS tool.