

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DEL ATÚN TROPICAL

72ND MEETING

LIMA (PERU)
14-18 JUNE 2004

DOCUMENT IATTC-72-12

**DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VESSEL
MONITORING SYSTEM (VMS) PILOT PROGRAM**

The issue of a pilot VMS program was considered at the 70th meeting of the IATTC in June 2003. There was general agreement on establishing such a program, but insufficient time to agree on all the details. After the meeting an updated draft was circulated to the Parties by the Director on 18 August 2003 in an attempt to reach agreement by correspondence. However, there was insufficient response as a basis for that. Accordingly the text developed at the 70th Meeting (Proposal IATTC-70-K1b), by the United States and several other delegations, as attached as a basis for discussion.

PROPOSAL IATTC 70 K1b

The Parties to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Recognizing the potential value of satellite-based Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) for the Commission's conservation and management programs, including data gathering, research, and compliance;

Aware that many Parties have established VMS systems and programs for their fleets and that their experience may be very helpful in supporting the conservation and management programs of the Commission;

Noting that such systems have been discussed at several meetings of the Commission, and are considered in the Resolution on Compliance of June 2000;

Agree that:

1. Each Party with tuna-fishing vessels 24 meters or more in length operating in the eastern Pacific Ocean and harvesting species for which the Commission has established conservation and management measures shall, by January 1, 2004, or as soon as possible thereafter, establish an initial program for a satellite-vessel monitoring system (VMS); except that a Party that already has such a program in effect shall be deemed to have satisfied this requirement;
2. The program should cover ten percent of the vessels of Parties with fleets of ten or more vessels; Parties with less than ten vessels should ensure the participation of at least one vessel.
3. While specific operational details of Parties' VMS requirements may vary, the Parties should seek to ensure that:
 - a. The information collected by the VMS for each vessel will include the vessel's identification and position (latitude and longitude) with an error of less than 500 meters at a confidence level of 99%, and the date and time and position information will be collected at least once every six hours.
 - b. VMS equipment on vessels will, at a minimum, be tamper proof, fully automatic for position data reporting, operational at all times regardless of environmental conditions, and capable of manual transmission of reports and messages.

4. The Director shall ensure that information provided to the Commission is maintained in strict accordance with the Commission's rules and procedures on confidentiality.
5. If practicable, the VMS equipment shall be usable by on-board observers on participating vessels to transmit to the Director the weekly data considered in the *Resolution on At-Sea Reporting* of June 2001.
6. The Director shall invite governments not party to the Commission whose flag vessels fish in the EPO to participate in the VMS program established by this resolution.
7. Each Party shall provide to the Director by May 31, 2004, a progress report on its VMS consistent with this resolution. Based on these reports, the Commission will discuss how best to proceed with future consideration of VMS to support its conservation and management program and associated data collection and research activities at its annual meeting in June 2004.