

Resolution on the development and implementation of a Vessel Monitoring System

(adopted at the Thirteenth Annual Meeting – 10-13 October 2006)

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The Extended Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna,

Noting the intention of the Extended Commission to introduce an integrated package of monitoring, control and surveillance measures to improve compliance with the conservation and management measures of the Extended Commission in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the stock;

Recognising the need for monitoring, control and surveillance measures to apply to all sectors of the global Southern Bluefin Tuna fishery;

Further recognising the value of an effective and fully operational satellite-based Vessel Monitoring System in combating illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna and ensuring compliance with the Commission's conservation and management measures;

Aware that some Members and other regional fisheries management organizations have established Vessel Monitoring Systems and that the experiences of such Members and organizations may be useful in developing and implementing a Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna Vessel Monitoring System;

Agrees that:

1. The Commission Members and Cooperating Non- Members shall develop and implement their satellite-linked Vessel Monitoring Systems for fishing vessels catching SBT and flagged to Members and Cooperating Non-Members .
2. Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall finalise the details of their Vessel Monitoring Systems in inter-sessional meetings before the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Commission, in order to agree minimum standards at that meeting. These Vessel Monitoring Systems shall be implemented by 1 January 2008.
3. The Vessel Monitoring Systems shall include the following elements:
 - (i) Flag states/fishing entities shall monitor and manage their vessels equipped with vessel monitoring devices.
 - (ii) Rules and conditions of use shall be developed intersessionally to protect and ensure the confidentiality of any data transmitted to the Secretariat.
 - (iii) The following data shall be continuously and automatically reported, at a frequency that allows the fishing activity of a vessel to be identified, while the vessel is fishing: the vessel identification; its geographical position; and the date and time.

- (iv) Vessel monitoring devices shall be tamper-resistant and located in a sealed unit with official seals that indicate whether the unit has been accessed or tampered with.
 - (v) In the event of a technical failure of the device, the master or owner of a vessel shall be required to report to the flag state/fishing entity, at a frequency that allows the fishing activity of a vessel to be identified, the vessel's identification, its geographical position, and the date and time.
4. Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall implement a mandatory Vessel Monitoring System for fishing of SBT inside the Exclusive Economic Zone by 1 January 2008 for vessels above a specified size.
 5. The VMS shall not derogate from the rights and responsibilities of flag states/fishing entities.
 6. Arrangements in other regional organisations shall be drawn upon in developing rules and conditions relating to confidentiality.
 7. Members and Cooperating Non Members shall ensure their domestic regulations and rules enable them to act in accordance with the Vessel Monitoring System to be developed under paragraphs 1 and 2.
 8. This resolution shall bind all Members and Cooperating Non-Members.