

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

101st MEETING

Victoria, B.C., Canada

7-11 August 2023

RESOLUTION C-23-11

TO AMEND RESOLUTION C-14-02

**ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM
(VMS)**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), meeting in Victoria, B.C., Canada, on the occasion of its 101st Meeting:

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

Recalling that Resolution C-14-02 agreed that Members and Cooperating Non-Members ensure that all their commercial fishing vessels 24 meters or more in length operating in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) and harvesting tuna or tuna-like species be equipped, by 1 January 2016, with a satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS);

Mindful that in the event of a failure of the VMS it is necessary to ensure the transmission of manual reports to CPCs to support the proper management and control of their vessels;

Taking into account recent developments in other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) operating in the Pacific Ocean;

Agrees that:

1. Members and Cooperating non-Members of the Commission (CPCs) shall continue to ensure that all their commercial fishing vessels 24 meters or more in length operating in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) and harvesting tuna or tuna-like species shall be equipped with a satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS).
2. While specific operational details of CPCs' VMS requirements may vary, CPCs shall ensure that:
 - a) The information collected by the VMS for each vessel shall include:
 - i) the vessel's identification;
 - ii) the vessel's geographical position (latitude and longitude), with an error of less than 100 meters at a confidence level of 98%;
 - iii) the date and time (UTC) of the fixing of the vessel's position, and;
 - iv) the vessel's speed and course.
 - b) The information in paragraph 2.a) above shall be collected at least every four hours for longliners and two hours for other vessels by the land-based Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) of the flag CPC.
 - c) VMS equipment installed on vessels will, at a minimum, be tamper evident¹, fully automatic for regular position data reporting, operational always regardless of environmental conditions, and

¹ Namely any tampering shall be evident upon inspection, it shall be protected against input or output of false positions and the system cannot be over-ridden.

capable of manual transmission of reports and messages.

3. In the event of identifying a technical failure or non-functioning of the satellite tracking device fitted on board a fishing vessel that prevents the reception of two consecutive transmissions, the vessel master shall commence manual transmission in accordance with paragraph 4 and the device shall be repaired or replaced within 30 days. This shall be applicable where the competent authorities have exhausted all reasonable steps to ensure transmissions and there is no second functioning satellite tracking device on board. A fishing vessel shall not be authorized to commence a fishing trip with a defective satellite tracking device. When a device stops functioning or has a technical failure during a fishing trip lasting more than 30 days, the repair or the replacement must take place as soon as the vessel enters a port.
4. Each CPC shall ensure that a fishing vessel with a defective satellite tracking device shall communicate to the FMC or relevant competent authority at a minimum every 6 hours, reports containing the information in paragraph 2.a i) to iii) by appropriate telecommunication means (e.g., radio, web-based reporting, electronic mail, telefax or telex)..
5. If practicable, the VMS equipment should be usable to transmit to the Director the data required in the relevant IATTC Resolutions, including C-03-04 and C-03-05.
6. The Commission strongly encourages non-Members whose flag vessels fish in the EPO to participate in the VMS program established on implementation of this Resolution. To this end, the Director will make the appropriate contacts with those parties and notify CPCs of actions taken and any response received. The Commission shall consider at each Annual Meeting appropriate action concerning those non-Members to encourage cooperation with IATTC.
7. Each CPC shall provide to the Director, by 31 May 2025, a progress report on its VMS consistent with this resolution. The Commission will discuss how best to proceed with future consideration of VMS to support its conservation and management program at its annual meeting in 2025, including the possible development of a stand-alone IATTC VMS scheme.
8. The Director shall ensure that any information provided to the Director or the Commission pursuant to this resolution is maintained in strict accordance with the Commission's rules and procedures on confidentiality.
9. Nothing in this Resolution shall preclude the rights of CPCs to apply additional or more stringent measures, including regarding the conditions, periods and time limits set out paragraphs 3 and 4.
10. This Resolution replaces Resolution C-14-02 on 1 January 2024.