

## 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee

Puerto Varas, Chile, 9 - 14 September 2018

### SC6-Doc12

VMS Data Collection

Secretariat

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## BACKGROUND

According to Paragraph 8 of CMM 06-2018 *“Data collected by the Commission VMS shall be securely stored by the Secretariat indefinitely and shall be used by the Members and CNCs, in accordance with the provisions of this CMM, to achieve compliance with CMMs. VMS data may also be used by the Scientific Committee for analysis to support specific scientific advice requested by the Commission for sound fisheries management decision-making in the Convention Area”*.

The SPRFMO VMS system was officially accepted by the Commission on 8 June 2018 after extensive testing. During the web meeting on 31 July 2018, the Scientific Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a short paper on the type of data that was being collected by the SPRFMO VMS system and a proposed process to enable the Scientific Committee (SC) access to the VMS data as envisioned in Paragraph 8 above.

## DATA FORMATS AND AVAILABILITY

Currently, there are 991 vessels that are authorised to carry out fishing in the SPRFMO Convention Area in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention. In any given day on average around 250 to 300 vessels report their position data to the SPRFMO VMS system.

The position reports from the vessels fishing in the SPRFMO Convention Area come in the following format:

<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Data Type</b>
Vessel Name	Alpha-numeric
Flag	Character
Date	Position date in UTC
Time	Position time in UTC
Latitude	Position latitude in decimal degrees
Longitude	Position longitude in decimal degrees

The frequency of reporting of the vessel position is in accordance to Paragraph 7 of Annex 1 of CMM 06-2018. That is vessels belonging to Australia and New Zealand are reporting automatically on an hourly basis, whereas generally the remaining vessels are reporting automatically at a frequency of once every 4 hours.

In the event the SPRFMO VMS experiences non-reception of four consecutive positions from a vessel (automatic positions), then the missing positions are uploaded manually to the VMS system.

## **PROPOSED PROCESS FOR THE SC TO ACCESS VMS DATA**

Paragraph 8 of CMM 06-2018 foresees that the Scientific Committee may wish to use VMS data to support its advice to the Commission. To enable this function the Secretariat would like to propose the following procedure:

- 1) Any member of the SC who wishes to access SPRFMO VMS data should submit a proposal to the SC 30 days prior to the SC meeting. The proposal should include:
  - a) the purpose for accessing the data from the VMS system including the advantages that using VMS data will have for future SC advice;
  - b) Specific commitments to treat the VMS data as confidential information and to delete the information once the purpose has been achieved;
  - c) A description of the parameters of the request including
    - i) the geographic area/region;
    - ii) the time period; and
    - iii) the fleets or fishery.
- 2) Once the SC receives the request, it should evaluate and forward it to the Commission with its recommendations.
- 3) The Commission will then decide whether to grant or refuse access to the VMS data.