

To: VMS Working Group

Dear Members of the CTC Working Group on VMS (VMS-WG),

I am referring to our work as VMS-WG bearing in mind our approaching CTC meeting in Valdivia on January 2016. As you will recall, by message circulated on 29 July 2015 (Ref 0088-2015), I reminded of our main targets as they were drafted on the Terms of Reference of the VMS-WG agreed at the Third SPRFMO Commission Meeting in January 2015. At that time I also proposed a new time framework in advance of our next meeting.

Among these objectives and proposed time framework, it was suggested to move forwards our efforts in order to agree on the Request for Proposal criteria. It was proposed that after receiving proposals the VMS-WG should have provided a report to the CTC at SPRFMO-4.

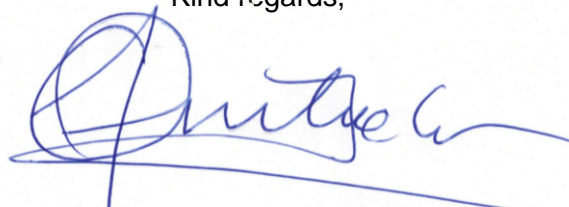
As you are aware, it was not possible to meet the proposed deadlines. However, some good progress has been made in the sense that we have agreed on several substantial matters for the Request for Proposal process. Yet there are still some outstanding issues that need to be agreed upon before calling for proposals.

In this context, the Secretariat has prepared a document called "Draft Call for Proposals for a SPRFMO VMS", which I urged you to consider. I am sure you already know a previous version of this document but it has been updated so as to include all the applicable suggestions and comments provided by all of you. The square-brackets and yellow-highlighted parts of the text are not agreed. We should agree on them on our next CTC meeting so as to report to the Commission, in order to adopt a decision on this matter.

I would kindly like to ask you to work and discuss this paper with your experts so we can make progress in Valdivia and finally adopt a document that is useful to call for proposals on 2016. By doing so, we will be able to continue our work for the full establishment and implementation of SPRFMO VMS system.

I look forward to working with you all in January.

Kind regards,


Osvaldo Urrutia
Chairperson of the CTC