

The Role and the Objectives of GFCM in relation to the Implementation of VMS

Presented by Nicola Ferri
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Overall background

- GFCM Scheme (Appendix H to the report of the 29th session of the GFCM): Flag State duties
- 31st session of the GFCM: draft rec. concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a VMS system in the GFCM Area
- Ad hoc working group on VMS as a MCS tool convened in 2008
- Rec. GFCM/33/2009/6 Concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in the GFCM area

Rec. GFCM/33/2009/6 Concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in the GFCM area

- Objective of the rec.: contribute to the long-term conservation and management of living marine resources in the GFCM Area through the establishment of VMS
- Application and satellite tracking devices requirements
- Duties of masters, owners or licensees of fishing vessels
- Role of GFCM Members and Cooperating non Contracting Parties
- Role of GFCM Secretariat

GFCM Workshop on the Implementation of a Vessel Monitoring System in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (Zagreb, Croatia, 28-30 November 2011)

- At its 35th session GFCM agreed to convene a workshop on the implementation of VMS to continue to exchange views on technical issues and to consider drawing up a strategy to overcome the constraints which may jeopardise the region-wide implementation of VMS
- Practical technical, administrative, legal and financial constraints faced by GFCM Members to implement VMS have not been fully assessed and addressed yet

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CONSIDERATIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

- Strategy for the establishment of VMS
- Execution of assistance programmes for GFCM Members concerned in developing the institutional framework and national capacity in setting up VMS
- Better define the framework of VMS data submission
- Evaluate the needs of GFCM Members to attain the capacity to fulfil their MCS obligations in line with GFCM requirements and relevant international instruments

Conclusions of the Workshop

- Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/7 is being implemented without major difficulties
- The development of VMS implies further economic resources
- An information system would permit the distribution of data at regional level in order to foster common methods for the GFCM Area
- Considerable research will be required to assess the need of formulating a strategy and appropriate technical choices to bring VMS technology to the Mediterranean and the Black Sea artisanal fisheries

Recommendations of the Workshop

- Existing legal frameworks regarding VMS need to be taken into account in order to specify a number of requirements that are instrumental to the sound implementation of VMS. GFCM Members could benefit from stewardship of GFCM, including in the elaboration of national laws and regulations
- Given the evolution of VMS and inclusion of new technologies (e.g. vessel detection system, consistent with available resources at national level), additional minimum standards that would complete those relating to compliance in Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/7 “Concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) system” should be elaborated. These standards might address issues such as, inter alia, confidentiality, cartography, data collection and data protection, data users and analysis, communication systems (particularly non satellite systems)

The Way Forward (SAC – Commission)

- GFCM data format
- GFCM VMS roadmap
- GFCM VMS technical guidelines
- Additional issues require attention
- Amendment to Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/7 “Concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) system”?

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