



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR  
THE MEDITERRANEAN  
COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES  
POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE**



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**Workshop on the implementation of a Vessel Monitoring System  
in the Mediterranean and Black Sea**

Zagreb, Croatia, 28-30 November 2011

**Date and Place**

28-30 November 2011

Central Meeting Room

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development

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**Contacts for technical matters**

- Workshop Moderator- Robert Gallagher ([robgal@me.com](mailto:robgal@me.com))
- GFCM Secretariat ([GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org))

**Background and main objectives**

The 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the GFCM agreed to convene a workshop to follow up the implementation of a satellite-based Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), in accordance with GFCM Recommendation 33/2009/7, contributing to the long-term conservation and management of living marine resources in the GFCM Area. The main aims of the workshop are to address technical matters related to the implementation of VMS and to reflect on the use of data originating from VMS and other tracking devices for scientific purposes. It should be considered as a first initiative in stepping up the progress in the implementation of VMS in the GFCM Convention Area. Specifically, the workshop will:

- Recall the importance of VMS as a tool for the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) of fisheries;

- Review the status of implementation of VMS by Members and national VMS development programmes;
- Address the technical, administrative, legal and resource constraints being faced by Members in the implementation of VMS, as well as the impediments in the tracking and data reporting processes;
- Review the degree of compatibility of satellite tracking devices currently being used by Members with the provisions of the Recommendation;
- Discuss the limitations in establishing a VMS system for artisanal fishing vessels;
- Address issues related to the cooperation of masters and owners/licensees of fishing vessels subject to VMS;
- Identify technical, training and financial assistance requirements by Members in the implementation of VMS and draw up guidelines for a regional technical cooperation framework;
- Discuss the utility of data originating from VMS and other tracking devices in the monitoring of the intensity and distribution of fishing effort, as well as in fisheries scientific analyses and management processes;
- Draw up the specifications of the dataset which Members are expected to submit to the GFCM VMS database to be established by the Secretariat (paragraph 16 of the Recommendation); data submission frequency and data exchange protocols should also be addressed;
- Consider the possibility of establishing a regional VMS monitoring and control station which may deliver real-time information to Parties, as required. This may alleviate the burden on countries to submit VMS data and reduce operating costs.

### **Call for Scientific Papers and Data**

Contracting Parties are invited to nominate two experts to participate in this workshop, preferably one being a fisheries monitoring expert and the other a VMS technology expert. Participation of experts from International Organizations involved in the monitoring of fishing activities through VMS and other tracking devices are also being invited to participate in the workshop.

Experts are encouraged to submit relevant information and/or reports as well as deliver presentations on the implementation of VMS in their respective countries or regions. The titles, names of authors and presentations should be submitted to GFCM ([GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org)) by 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2011. Authors are also encouraged to submit completed electronic versions of their documents and presentations before the workshop in order to make them available during the meeting and on the Internet.

### **Languages**

English, French, Spanish and Arabic may be used for preparation of workshop papers or for data submission. However, no interpretation services will be available. It is expected that English will be the main language for presentations and discussions.

### **Registration**

The meeting is open to experts interested in the issues, however GFCM can cover only a restricted number of experts.

Experts willing to apply for the funding coverage are kindly requested to provide together with the enclosed Registration Form:

- A short version of *Curriculum vitae*

- A letter of interest specifying their field of expertise and a description of the information they are going to provide.

Please apply by sending the complete Registration Form via fax to +39 0657055827 / +39 0657056500 or by e-mail to: [GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org).

**Visa**

Participants are advised to contact their nearest Embassy or Consulate of Croatia as soon as possible to ascertain whether they need to apply for a visa.

**Hotel reservation and city of Zagreb**

A list of hotels is provided online at the GFCM website.