

# The role and objectives of GFCM regarding VMS

*Workshop on the Implementation of a Vessel  
Monitoring System (VMS)*

*in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea*

Zagreb, Croatia, 28-30 November 2011

Presented by Nicola Ferri  
(GFCM Secretariat)



## Summary

- Overall background
- GFCM Ad Hoc Working Group on Vessel Monitoring System as a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance tool (Rome, Italy, 23 September 2008)
- Rec. GFCM/33/2009/6 Concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in the GFCM area
- GFCM Workshop on the Implementation of a Vessel Monitoring System in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (Zagreb, Croatia, 28-30 November 2011)

## Overall background

- GFCM Scheme (Appendix H to the report of the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the GFCM): Flag State duties
- 31<sup>st</sup> session of the GFCM: draft rec. concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a VMS system in the GFCM Area
- Technical, legal and financial constraints to be overcome for the establishment of VMS throughout the GFCM Area
- Ad hoc working group on VMS as a MCS tool convened in 2008

### GFCM Ad Hoc Working Group on Vessel Monitoring System as a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance tool (Rome, Italy, 23 September 2008)

- Objective of the WG: sharing experiences and identifying common views on the implementation of VMS in the GFCM Area
- Progress on the establishment of VMS in the GFCM Area was acknowledged
- Exchange views on a broad array of issues; suggestion that such an exchange be pursued among GFCM Members in the future
- Revised text of the draft rec. concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a VMS system 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

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- At its 35<sup>th</sup> 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

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