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Pilot Project for Observers and Satellite Tracking

NAFO CONSERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES

The existing Part VI - "Pilot Project for a NAFO Observer Scheme" of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures will be replaced with the following:

Part VI - Pilot Project for Observers and Satellite Tracking

In order to improve compliance with the Conservation and Enforcement Measures for their vessels fishing in the Regulatory Area, Contracting Parties agree to implement during the period from 01 January 1996 to 31 December 1997 a Pilot Project to provide for properly trained and qualified observers on all vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area and satellite tracking devices on 35% of their respective vessels fishing in the Regulatory Area.

A. Observers

1. Each Contracting Party shall require all its vessels fishing in the Regulatory Area to accept observers on the basis of the following:
 - a) each Contracting Party shall have the primary responsibility to obtain, for placement on its vessels, independent and impartial observers;
 - b) in cases where a Contracting Party has not placed an observer on a vessel, any other Contracting Party may, subject to the consent of the Contracting Party of the vessel, place an observer on board until that Contracting Party provides a replacement in accordance with paragraph a);
 - c) no vessel shall be required to carry more than one observer pursuant to this Pilot Project at any time.
2. Each Contracting Party shall provide to the Executive Secretary a list of the observers they will be placing on vessels in the Regulatory Area.
3. Observers shall:
 - a) monitor a vessel's compliance with the relevant Conservation and Enforcement Measures. In particular they shall:
 - i) record and report upon the fishing activities of the vessel and verify the position of the vessel when engaged in fishing;

- ii) observe and estimate catches with a view to identifying catch composition and monitoring discards, by-catches and the taking of undersized fish;
 - iii) record the gear type, mesh size and attachments employed by the master;
 - iv) verify entries made to the logbooks (species composition and quantities, round and processed weight and hail reports).
- b) collect catch and effort data on a set-by-set basis. This data shall include location (latitude/longitude), depth, time of net on the bottom, catch composition and discards;
 - c) carry out such scientific work (for example, collecting samples) as requested by the Fisheries Commission based on the advice of the Scientific Council;
 - d) within 30 days following completion of an assignment on a vessel, provide a report to the Contracting Party of the vessel and to the Executive Secretary, who shall make the report, available to any Contracting Party that requests it. Copies of reports sent to other Contracting Parties shall not include location of catch in latitude and longitude as required under 3 b), but will include daily totals of catch by species and division.
4. In the case where an observer is deployed on a vessel equipped with devices for satellite-based automatic remote position recording facilities, the observer shall monitor the functioning of, and report upon any interference with, the satellite system. In order to better distinguish fishing operations from steaming and to contribute to an a posteriori calibration of the signals registered by the receiving station, the observer shall maintain detailed reports on the daily activity of the vessel.
 5. When an apparent infringement of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures is identified by an observer, the observer shall, within 24 hours, report it to a NAFO inspection vessel using an established code, which shall report it to the Executive Secretary.
 6. Contracting Parties shall take all necessary measures to ensure that observers are able to carry out their duties. Subject to any other arrangements between the relevant Contracting Parties, the salary of an observer shall be covered by the sending Contracting Party.
 7. The vessel on which an observer is placed shall provide suitable food and lodging during the observer's deployment. Vessel masters shall ensure that all necessary cooperation is extended to observers in order for them to carry out their duties.

B. Satellite Tracking

1. Each Contracting Party whose vessels fish, or plan to fish, a minimum of 300 days per year in the Regulatory Area, shall:
 - a) require 35% of its vessels fishing in the Regulatory Area to be equipped with an autonomous system able to transmit automatically satellite signals to a land-based receiving station permitting a continuous tracking of the position of the vessel by the Contracting Party of the vessel;
 - b) endeavour to test several systems of satellite tracking;
 - c) install at least one receiving station associated with their satellite tracking system;
 - d) transmit to the Executive Secretary, on a real time basis, messages of movement between NAFO divisions (as per the requirements of the Hail System outlined in Part III. E of these Measures) for its vessels equipped with satellite devices. The Executive Secretary shall, in turn, transmit such information to Contracting Parties with an inspection vessel or aircraft in the Convention Area;
 - e) cooperate with other Contracting Parties which have a NAFO inspection vessel or aircraft in the Convention Area, in order to exchange information on a real-time basis on the geographical distribution of fishing vessels equipped with satellite devices and, on specific request, information related to the identification of a vessel.
2. Subject to any other arrangements between Contracting Parties, each Contracting Party shall pay all costs associated with the satellite tracking system.

C. Analysis

1. Each Contracting Party shall prepare a report on the results of the Pilot Project from the perspective of efficiency and effectiveness, including:
 - a) overall effectiveness of the Project in improving compliance with the Conservation and Enforcement Measures;
 - b) the effectiveness of the different components of the Project;
 - c) costs associated with observers and satellite tracking;
 - d) a summary of observers' reports, specifying type and number of observed infractions and important events;
 - e) estimations of fishing effort from observers as compared to initial estimation by satellite monitoring;
 - f) analysis of the efficiency in terms of cost/benefit, the latter being expressed in terms of compliance with the Conservation and Enforcement Measures and volume of data received for fisheries management.

2. The reports shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary in time for their consideration at the September 1997 Annual Meeting of NAFO and, based on these reports, the Parties agree to establish a permanent scheme that will ensure that the degree of control and enforcement in the Regulatory Area provided by the Project, as indicated above, is maintained.