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Proposal to amend the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures with a view to introducing satellite based vessel monitoring and related measures.

Introduction

Contracting Parties have agreed to require all vessels fishing in the Regulatory Area to be equipped with satellite tracking devices not later than January 1, 2001. The purpose of the amendment is to adopt detailed rules for satellite tracking and to adjust the Hail System requirements since certain report types become superfluous with satellite tracking. The proposed detailed measures for satellite tracking are identical to the ones contained in the Scheme of control and enforcement applicable in the NEAFC Regulatory Area. The amendment should be applicable no later than July 1st, 2001.

Proposal

Draft amendment (to enter into force no later than July 1, 2001)

– **Part VI – Programme for Observers and Satellite tracking**

- Chapeau : the terms “for application in 2001” are replaced by the terms “for application in 2003”
- Section B :
- The title is replaced by : “Satellite tracking/ Vessel monitoring System “VMS” ”
- The current text is replaced by the following text :

“1. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that each of its vessels operating in the Regulatory Area is equipped with a satellite tracking device allowing the continuous tracking of its position by the Contracting Party.

To that end the satellite tracking device shall ensure the automatic communication at least once every six hours when operating in the Regulatory Area to a land-based fisheries monitoring centre (hereafter referred to as FMC) of data relating to:

- the vessel identification;
- the most recent geographical position of the vessel (longitude, latitude) with a position error which shall be less than 500 metres, with a confidence interval of 99%;
- the date and time of the fixing of the said position of the vessel.

Each Contracting Party shall take the necessary measures to ensure that its FMC receives these data.

2. The FMC of each Contracting Party shall be equipped with computer hardware and software enabling automatic data processing and electronic data transmission. Each Contracting Party shall provide for back-up and recovery procedures in case of system failures.

3. Each Contracting Party shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the VMS data received from its fishing vessels are recorded in computer readable form for a period of three years.

4. The masters of fishing vessels shall ensure that the satellite tracking devices are at all times fully operational and that the information in paragraph 1. is transmitted. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the satellite tracking device fitted on board a fishing vessel, the device shall be repaired or replaced within one month. After this period, the master of a fishing vessel shall not be authorised to commence a fishing trip with a defective satellite tracking device. Where a device stops functioning and a fishing trip lasts more than one month, the repair or the replacement has to take place as soon as the vessel enters a port, the fishing vessel shall not be authorised to continue or commence a fishing trip without the satellite tracking device having been repaired or replaced.

5. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that a fishing vessel with a defective satellite tracking device shall communicate, at least daily, reports containing the information in paragraph 1. to the FMC, by other means of communication (radio, facsimile or telex).

6. Each Contracting Party shall communicate reports and messages pursuant to paragraph 1. and paragraph 5. to the Executive Secretary as soon as possible, but not later than 24 hours after receipt of those reports and messages. If the Contracting Party so desires, it shall ensure that each of its fishing vessels shall communicate reports (by satellite, radio, facsimile or telex) to the Executive Secretary.

7. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that the reports and messages transmitted between the Contracting Party and the Executive Secretary or if the Contracting Party so desires, between its fishing vessels and the Executive Secretary, shall be in accordance with the data exchange format set out in Annex II. (Part III "VMS position report format")

8. The Executive Secretary shall make available as soon as possible the information received under paragraph 7. to other Contracting Parties with an active inspection presence in the Regulatory Area. All reports and messages shall be treated in a confidential manner.

9. Each Contracting Party shall notify the name, address, telephone, telex and facsimile numbers as well as the addresses for electronic communication of their relevant authorities to the Executive Secretary before 1 July 2001 and thereafter any changes without delay.

10. Subject to any other arrangements between Contracting Parties, each Contracting Party shall pay all costs associated with this system."

VMS position report format
(Annex II of Part III)

Data Element:	Code:	Mandatory / Optional	Remarks:
Start record	SR	M	System detail; indicates start of record
From	FR	M	Address of the transmitting party (Contracting Party)
Address	AD	M	Message detail; destination; XNS for NAFO Secretariat
Sequence Number	SQ	O	Message detail; message serial number in current year
Type of Message	TM	M	Message detail; message type, "POS" as Position report/message to be communicated by VMS or other means by vessels with a defective satellite tracking device
Radio call sign	RC	M	Vessel registration detail; international radio call sign of the vessel
Trip Number	TN	O	Activity detail; fishing trip serial number in current year
Vessel Name	NA	M	Vessel registration detail; name of the vessel
External Registration Number	XR	M	Vessel registration detail; the side number of the vessel
Latitude	LA	M	Activity detail; position at time of transmission
Longitude	LO	M	Activity detail; position at time of transmission
Date	DA	M	Message detail; date of transmission
Time	TI	M	Message detail; time of transmission
Record Date	RD	M	Year, month and date
Record Time	RT	M	Hours and minutes in UTC
Record Number	RN	M	Serial number of the record in the relevant year
End of record	ER	M	System detail; indicates end of the record

Each data transmission is structured as follows:

- double slash ("/") and the characters "SR" indicate the start of a message;
- a double slash ("/") and field code indicate the start of a data element;
- a single slash ("/") separates the field code and the data;
- pairs of data are separated by space;
- the characters "ER" and a double slash ("/") indicate the end of a record."