

**31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2009****Proposal for improved VMS reporting**

(presented by Denmark in respect of Faroe Islands &amp; Greenland)

**Introduction**

VMS reporting as it is practised today is insufficient to monitor compliance of vessels e.g. regarding fisheries entries into closed boxes. The data are also insufficient to answer questions of the spatial and temporal extent of fisheries and to differentiate between fisheries types.

As was demonstrated in the footprint exercise in NAFO the VMS information is not accurate enough to clearly designate areas as fishing areas and non-fishing areas. According to Article 26, 8 “*The Executive secretary shall make VMS data available in a summary form to the Scientific Council following specific requests from the Fisheries Commission to the Scientific Council to determine fishing effort on and around vulnerable habitats and for any other purpose*” It has been stated in these reports that it is difficult to make accurate reports based on the present reporting system. It has been pointed out in NAFO SCR Doc. 07/48 Serial No. N5400 in the analysis in NAFO SCR Doc. 08/30 Serial No. N5530 and more subtly in NAFO SCR Doc. 07/06 Serial No. N5347 and NAFO SCR Doc.07/90 Serial No. N5481<sup>1</sup>.

Similarly NEAFC asked for ICES advice in 2009 regarding the usefulness of their VMS data (requirements very similar to the ones in NAFO). The answer from ICES included the following (9.3.2.3)<sup>2</sup>:

- a) including in catch reports the fishing gear used if available;
- b) increasing frequency of transmission (ideally once a day and reported on haul by haul basis) and completeness of catch reports (catching all species in the catch);
- c) increasing the polling frequency of VMS data
- d) requiring transmission of vessel speed and heading.

<sup>1</sup> NAFO reports can be found here

NAFO SCR Doc. 07/06 Serial No. N5347 <http://archive.nafo.int/open/sc/2007/scr07-006.pdf> Information on Fishing On and Around the Four Closed Seamount Areas in the NRA

NAFO SCR Doc. 07/48 Serial No. N5400 <http://www.nafo.int/publications/frames/science.html> Information on Fishing Effort in the NRA for 2006

NAFO SCR Doc. 08/30 Serial No. N5530 <http://archive.nafo.int/open/sc/2008/scr08-030.pdf> NAFO SCR Doc.07/90 [Serial No. N5481](http://archive.nafo.int/open/sc/2007/scr07-090.pdf) Requirements to estimate fishing effort from VMS transmissions <http://archive.nafo.int/open/sc/2007/scr07-090.pdf> Analysis of Shrimp Fishing Effort Using VMS data

<sup>2</sup> ICES advice to NEAFC can be found here

9.3.2.1

<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2009/Special%20Requests/NEAFC%20information%20on%20distribution%20of%20vulnerable%20habitats.pdf>

9.3.2.2

<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2009/Special%20Requests/NEAFC%20use%20and%20quality%20of%20VMS%20data.pdf>

9.3.2.3

<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2009/Special%20Requests/NEAFC%20suitable%20criteria%20for%20differentiating%20fisheries%20into%20possible%20management%20types.pdf>

By adding course and speed to the data elements and increasing the VMS communication to once every hour the traceability of vessels will be improved considerably and it will be in line with the advice from NAFO scientific council and ICES.

This proposal should also be seen in connection with improved catch reporting.

### Proposal

To be added to Article 26, 1.

*d) vessel speed*

*e) vessel course/heading*

Must be added to Annex IX VMS Data Format

Data Element	Code	Mandatory/Optional	Remarks
Speed	SP	M	Activity detail; speed at time of transmission
Course	CO	M	Activity detail; course at time of transmission

Must be added to Annex XXII C. Format for electronic exchange of fisheries monitoring information (The North Atlantic Format).

Category	Data Element	Field code	Type	Contents	Definitions
Activity Details	Speed	SP	Num*3	Knots *10	e.g. //SP/105 = 10,5 knots
	Course	CO	Num*3	360° degree scale	e.g. //CO/270 = 270

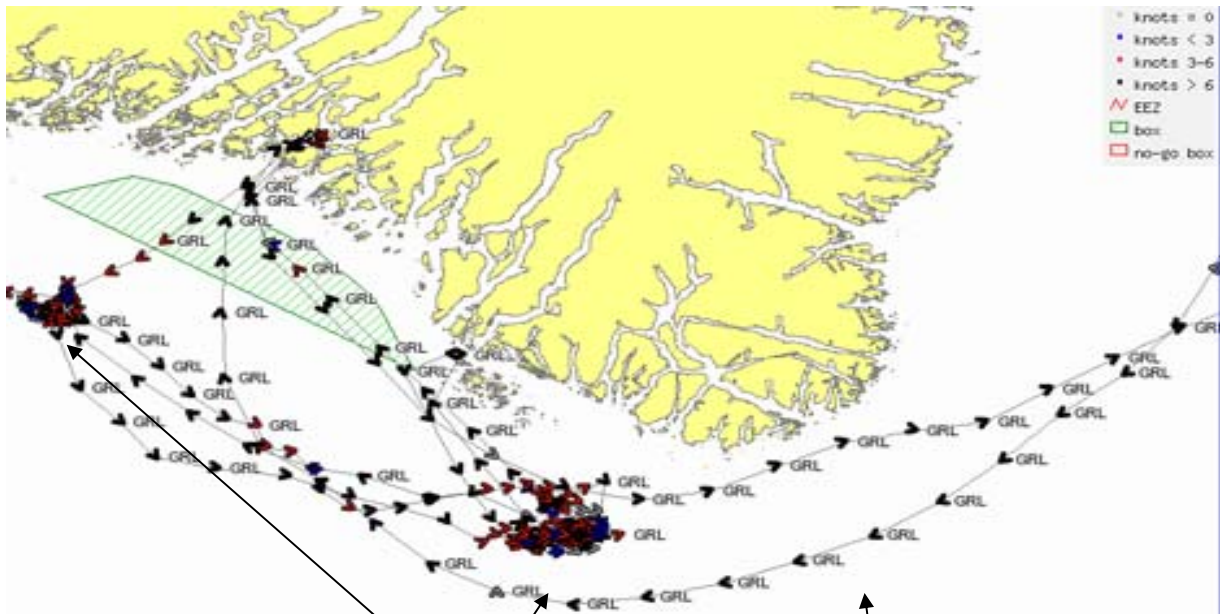
Change in article 26, 1.

*...The satellite monitoring device shall ensure the automatic communication at least once every hour ....*

Amendment to table in Article 27

Report:	Code:	Remarks:
Positon	POS	Position report every hour

## EXAMPLE



 Closed area

Typical fishing pattern  
at slow speed

Steaming (>6knot = black)

Example of 1 hour VMS plot with course and speed. This vessel is not fishing illegally in the closed area. It is obvious that it is fishing in two areas outside the box and steaming the rest of the time.