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[Adopted]

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Transmission of aggregated VMS data to Contracting Parties for non-inspection purposes

This proposal supports the mandate given by the NAFO General Council to the NAFO Executive Secretary in September, 2014 (GC Doc 14/02) *“to work with Canada to explore and implement a means for the appropriate and timely exchange of information necessary to avoid overlapping activities and mitigate potential conflicts between fisheries and hydrocarbon activities”*.

The current NAFO CEM (Article 29.10 and Annex II.B) strictly restricts the use of VMS data to specific purposes, with due respect of confidentiality. Furthermore and for confidentiality reasons, point 3.2 of Annex II.B states that a Contracting Party "shall make available reports and messages *only to their means of inspection and their inspectors* assigned to the Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Surveillance".

Noting the value in utilising aggregate and anonymous vessel positional data relating to fishing activity to avoid the potential conflict of overlapping spatial interests, such as from the hydrocarbon industry, transmission of VMS data to other parties, should be enabled in specific circumstances and the relevant provisions of the NAFO CEM should be amended.

Proposal

It is proposed to modify the sub-paragraph (g) of Article 29 paragraph 10 of the NAFO CEM:

(g) upon request, provides the NAFO VMS data :

- i. for Search and Rescue and maritime safety purposes as required, and*
- ii. to a Contracting Party, in a monthly aggregated and anonymized form limited to the most recent five-year period, for purposes identified in the request, in the absence of an objection from a Contracting Party within thirty days of the communication of the request by the Secretariat. Such requests shall be in writing and shall identify the purposes for which the VMS data will be used and the entities to which the data will be given. The request shall immediately be forwarded to all Contracting Parties. Any objection to the request shall be sent in writing to the Executive Secretary who shall immediately forward the objection to all Contracting Parties. The Contracting Party requesting the VMS data shall only provide the VMS data to the entities defined in the request on the condition that it is for their own use only and that the data is not the subject of further distribution.*

