



GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION  
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN  
COMMISSION GÉNÉRALE DES PÊCHES  
POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE



**GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**Thirty-second Session**

**Rome, Italy, 25–29 February 2008**

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION<sup>1</sup> CONCERNING MINIMUM  
STANDARDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VESSEL  
MONITORING SYSTEM IN THE GFCM AREA**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*IN ACCORDANCE WITH* the Needs and Principles set forth in the General Guidelines for a GFCM Control and Enforcement Scheme, adopted by GFCM in 2005 to ensure effective monitoring measures

*RECOGNIZING* the development in satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS) and the utility within GFCM,

*ADOPTS*, in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 1(b) and (h) of Article III and Article V of GFCM Agreement that:

1. Each flag contracting Member and Cooperating non-Contracting Party (hereinafter referred to as “CPC”) shall implement no later than 1 November 2007 a Vessel Monitoring System

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Paragraph 72 and Annex D of the report of the 31<sup>th</sup> session of the GFCM

(hereinafter referred to as “VMS”) for its commercial fishing vessels exceeding 24 meters length overall and:

- a) Require its fishing vessel to be equipped with an autonomous system able to automatically transmit a message to the land-based Fisheries Monitoring Center (hereinafter referred to as FMC) of the flag CPC allowing a continuous tracking of the position of a fishing vessel by the CPC of that fishing vessel.
  - b) Ensure that the satellite tracking device fitted on board the fishing vessels shall enable the vessel to continuously collect and transmit, at any time, to the FMC of the flag CPC the following data:
    - i) the vessel's identification;
    - ii) the most recent geographical position of the vessel (longitude, latitude) with a margin of error lower than 500 metres, with a confidence interval of 99%;
    - iii) the date and time of the fixing of the said position of the vessel;
    - iv) the speed and course.
2. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the FMC receives through the VMS the messages required in paragraph 1.b).
  3. Each CPC shall ensure that the masters of fishing vessels flying its flag shall ensure that the satellite tracking devices are permanently operational and that the information identified in paragraph 1.b) is collected at least every 6 hours for transmission on, at least, a daily basis. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the satellite tracking device fitted on board a fishing vessels, the device shall be repaired or replaced within one month. After this period, the master of a fishing vessel is not authorised to commence a fishing trip with a defective satellite tracking device. Furthermore, when a device stops functioning or has a technical failure during a fishing trip lasting 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 commence a fishing trip without the satellite tracking device having been repaired or replaced.
  4. Each CPC shall ensure that a fishing vessel with a defective satellite tracking device shall communicate, at least daily, reports containing the information in paragraph 1.b) to the FMC by other means of communication (radio, e-mail, telefax or telex).
  5. Until 1 November 2007 fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 1 which are not equipped with VMS shall report at least daily by radio, telefax, telex or by e-mail. Such reports must include, *inter alia*, information on the official numbers (radio call sign and registration number), the name of the fishing vessel, the date, the time (UTC) and the geographical position (latitude and longitude) when transmitting the report, to their competent authorities, as well as:

- a) the geographical position at the beginning of the fishing operation;
  - b) the geographical position at the end of the fishing operation.
6. CPCs are encouraged to extend the application of this Recommendation to their fishing vessels of less than 24 metres length overall if they consider to be appropriate to ensure the effectiveness of GFCM conservation and management measures.