

VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEMS FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES FISHERIES

The situation summary for Agenda Item E.1, June 2013, included background on National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS') intention to require a vessel monitoring system (VMS) on vessels longer than 24 meters (78 feet) fishing for highly migratory species (HMS), as per requirements in Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Resolution C-04-06. In March 2013, NMFS Southwest Region (now West Coast Region) requested "the Council add to a future agenda discussion regarding the mechanism by which implementation of this Resolution would occur" and noted that "Implementation of Resolution C-04-06 could occur one of two ways: under the Tuna Convention Act of 1950 or under the Magnuson-Stevens Act through the Council process by regulation under the HMS Plan."

The Council scheduled consideration of this matter at its June 2013 meeting, and after hearing testimony from Rod McInnis (the Federal Commissioner to the IATTC at the time) about the importance of having the VMS rulemaking in place before summer 2014, the Council requested NMFS conduct the rulemaking under the MSA with Council input. At that time, the matter was scheduled for the November 2013 Council meeting, but was subsequently relocated to the March 2014 Council meeting. In the interest of timely implementation of the regulation, NMFS moved forward with rulemaking under the Tuna Convention Act and published the proposed rule on February 6, with a comment deadline of March 10, 2014 (Agenda Item K.2.a, Attachment 1).

The Council will be briefed by NMFS on the status of this rulemaking.

Council Action:

Consider the NMFS Update and Provide Guidance for Implementation of VMS in HMS Fisheries.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item K.2.a, Attachment 1: 79 FR 7152, Establishment of Tuna Vessel Monitoring System in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. NMFS Report
 - c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - d. Public Comment
 - e. **Council Action:** Consider the NMFS Report and Provide Guidance for Implementation of VMS in Highly Migratory Species Fisheries
- Kit Dahl
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PFMC
02/13/14