

CMM 19-2021

Conservation and Management Measure for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels

The Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation;

MINDFUL of Article 27 (1)(a) of the Convention and the obligations therein to establish appropriate cooperative procedures to ensure compliance with the Convention and the Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted under the Convention, including the marking of vessels;

NOTING that the FAO Standard Specification for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels¹ has been implemented by organisations with management authority over waters overlapping or adjacent to the Convention Area, such as the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources;

RECOGNISING the importance of proper marking and identification of fishing vessels for safety at sea and for addressing illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities;

ADOPTS the following CMM in accordance with Articles 8 and 27 of the Convention:

1. Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCs) shall ensure that fishing vessels, as defined in Article 1(1)(h) of the Convention, that they authorise to fish in the Convention Area are marked in such a way that they can be readily identified, with markings prominently displayed at all times. Specifically:
 - a) the vessel's name and International Radio Call Sign (IRCS) shall be marked on the vessel's hull or superstructure, port and starboard;
 - b) in addition, the vessel's IRCS shall be marked on a deck, which is any horizontal plane including the top of the wheelhouse;
 - c) vessels to which an IRCS has not been assigned shall be marked, as specified in (a) and (b) above, with the characters allocated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) or vessel registration number assigned to the vessel by the Member or CNCP. In such cases, a hyphen shall be placed between the nationality identification characters and the fishing authorisation or registration number identifying the vessel.
2. Members and CNCs shall ensure that marks:
 - a) be placed as high as possible above the waterline on both sides (such parts of the hull as the bow and the stern shall be avoided);
 - b) be so placed that they are not obscured in part or full by the fishing gear whether it is stowed or in use; not extend below the waterline, including at full load/displacement conditions.
3. Members and CNCs shall ensure that the markings for the IRCS or alternative meet the following technical specifications:
 - a) block lettering and numbering shall be used throughout;
 - b) the width of the letters and numbers shall be in proportion to the height as referred to in paragraph (c);

¹ The Standard Specifications and Guidelines approved by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) at its 18th Session, Rome, 10-14 April 1989.



c) for the hull, superstructure and/or inclined surfaces, the height (h) of the letters and numbers shall be:

Length of vessel overall (LOA) in metres (m)	Height of letters and numbers in metres (m) is not less than:
25 m and over	1.0 m
20 m but less than 25 m	0.8 m
15 m but less than 20 m	0.6 m
12 m but less than 15 m	0.4 m
5 m but less than 12 m	0.3 m
Under 5 m	0.1 m

d) for the deck, the height shall not be less than 0.3 m for all classes of vessels of 5 m and over;

e) the length of the hyphen shall be half the height of the letters and numbers;

f) the width of the stroke for all letters, numbers and the hyphen shall be $h/6$;

g) spacing: (i) the space between letters and/or numbers shall not exceed $h/4$ nor be less than $h/6$; (ii) the space between adjacent letters having sloping sides (e.g. A V) shall not exceed $h/8$ nor be less than $h/10$;

h) the marks shall be: (i) white on a black background; (ii) black on a white background; or (iii) any colour that contrasts with the background so that the markings are clearly visible;

i) the background shall extend to provide a border around the mark of not less than $h/6$;

j) good quality marine paints shall be used throughout;

k) the use of retro-reflective or heat-generating substances shall be accepted, provided that the mark meets the requirements of these technical specifications; and

l) the marks and the background shall be maintained in good condition at all times.

4. Members and CNCs shall ensure that apart from the vessel's name and/or identification number and the port of registry as may be required by international practice or national legislation, the markings required under paragraph 1 shall be the only other vessel identification mark consisting of letters and numbers to be painted on the hull or superstructure. If allowed by national law, the name of the vessel owner may be painted on the hull or superstructure as long as it does not limit the visibility of the marking required by paragraph 1.

5. Members and CNCs shall, to the extent practicable, provide the marking and identification information for fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag and fish in the Convention Area to the Executive Secretary as part of the information required for the Commission Record of Fishing Vessels under CMM 05-2022 (Record of Vessels).

6. This measure shall enter into force on January 1, 2023.