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## 9<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

*Held virtually, 26 January to 05 February 2021 (NZDT)*

### COMM 9 – Report ANNEX 7I Conservation and Management Measure 19-2021 on Vessels Markings and Identification

*(COMM 9 – Prop 17\_rev3)*



## 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 ~~and fishing gear~~;

*NOTING* that the FAO Standard Specification for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels<sup>1</sup> 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. "FAO Standard Specifications for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels" means the Standard Specifications and Guidelines approved by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) at its 18th Session, Rome, 10-14 April 1989.~~

1. Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs) 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; ~~fixtures inclined at an angle to the vessel's side or superstructure would be considered as suitable provided that the angle of inclination would not prevent sighting of the sign from another vessel or from the air.~~
- (b) In addition, the vessel's IRCS shall be marked on a deck, which is any horizontal plane including the top of the wheelhouse, ~~except as provided in paragraph 4 below. Should an awning or other temporary cover obscure the mark on a deck in part or full, the awning or cover shall also be marked. These marks should be placed athwartships with the top of the numbers or letters towards the bow.~~
- (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) ~~to the member or CNCP of the Commission concerned or such other characters of national identification as may be required under bilateral fishery agreements and followed by, as appropriate, the fishing authorisation~~ or vessel registration number assigned to the vessel by the member or CNCP ~~of the~~

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



~~Commission concerned~~. In such cases, a hyphen shall be placed between the nationality identification characters and the fishing authorisation or registration number identifying the vessel.

3. 2. Members and CNCPs 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;

~~(c) be clear of flow from scuppers or overboard discharges including areas which might be prone to damage or discolouration from the catch of certain types of species;~~

~~(d)~~(c) not extend below the waterline, including at full load/displacement conditions.

~~4. Members and CNCPs shall ensure that boats, skiffs and craft carried by the vessel for fishing operations, as defined by SPRFMO Convention, Article 1, Paragraph 1(h), shall bear the same mark as the vessel concerned. Undecked vessels shall not be required to display the mark on a horizontal surface. However, Members and CNCPs shall encourage their vessels, where practical, to fit a board on which the mark is placed, so that it may be clearly seen from the air.~~

~~5.3.~~ Members and CNCPs shall ensure that the ~~vessel markings required under paragraph 2~~ 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);
- (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:

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 shallis 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 ~~to 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.

~~6. Members and CNCPS shall ensure marker buoys and similar objects floating on the surface and intended to indicate the location of fixed or set fishing gear be clearly marked at all times with the marks required under paragraph 2 for the vessels to which they belong.~~

~~7.4.~~ Members and CNCPs 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 ~~12~~ shall be the only other vessel identification mark consisting of letters and numbers to be painted on the hull or superstructure. ~~If required or 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 21.~~

~~8.5.~~ Members and CNCPs 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 05-2019-05.~~

~~9.6.~~ This measure shall enter into force on ~~{~~January 1, ~~2022~~2023.~~}~~