
11TH MEETING OF THE COMPLIANCE AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (CTC)

Manta, Ecuador, 23-26 January 2024

CTC 11 – Doc 11

Follow-up Actions Taken in Relation to the 2023 Final Compliance Report (and other Member commitments)

Secretariat

1. Background

At CTC10, the overall compliance for the reporting period 2021/22 was assessed. Additionally, VMS issues for 2020/21, which had been deferred from CTC09 to CTC10 for review, were assessed (along with the 2021/22 VMS issues). In terms of numbers, most of the raised non-compliances pertained to numerous disruptions and reporting issues pertaining to the Commission VMS (CMM 06). Outside of the VMS issues, most of the other issues were administrative/reporting type in nature that were already resolved, largely resulting in an assessment of “Non-Compliant, No Further Action”.

Notwithstanding, CTC noted that “Further Action” was required for some Members/CNCPs in relation to improving their performance and overall compliance with the VMS CMM. Additionally, there were others still failing to submit information and reports within the established timelines/deadlines throughout the reporting period, resulting in “follow up” action being assessed.

Further, there continues to be an ongoing assessment of an issue related to CMM 13-2020 (Exploratory Fisheries) awaiting additional catch composition analyses from the Scientific Committee (SC). This issue was a carry-over from CTC09, and after discussion at CTC10, it was further deferred to CTC11.

2. Follow-up Actions

Table 1 summarises the specific follow-up actions required in relation to the 2023 Final Compliance Report ([Annex 6a of the COMM11-Report](#)) with the status in respect to the commitment or follow up action noted.

Table 2 summarises the follow-up actions required in relation to other commitments made by Members and CNCPs with respect to compliance issues.

Member investigations and/or follow-up reporting to the Commission for the reporting period was in relation to the following CMMs:

- CMM 05-2022 (ROV)
- CMM 06-2020 (VMS)
- CMM 10-2020 (CMS)
- CMM 13-2021 (Exploratory)

CTC11 is requested to:

- **Note** the current status of commitments made last year and make any comments or recommendations it deems appropriate.



Table 1: Status of Follow Up Actions identified in the 2021/22 Final Compliance Report.

Member/ CNCP	Compliance Action plan for:	Compliance Issue	2020/21 Compliance Status	Current Status
Cook Islands	CMM 06-2020 (VMS)	There had been periodic gaps in VMS data identified that resulted from issues with transferring all the VMS data sent from the vessel to Commission VMS (including this specific gap affecting 3 vessels). There were gaps that occurred during the various stages of VMS data extraction and relay from source vessel by intermediaries.	Non-Compliant, Further Action (follow up with service provider to respect contract)	Commitment fulfilled: Following review, the Cook Islands has requested that FFA work with the service provider to rectify the gaps in data due to (extraction/push) issues between CLS and FFA. The resolution resulted in Commission VMS being included in the initial data distribution for the Cook Island vessels with CLS units (Secretariat updated on 17 April 2023).
Curaçao	CMM 06-2020 (VMS)	ALC Security Features - Paras 18/19: Curacao failed to provide information in its Implementation report pertaining to the methods to prevent tampering or the security features of the ALCs.	Non-Compliant; Further Action (provision of missing information)	Commitment fulfilled: Curacao provided the missing information via email to the Secretariat on 10 February 2023.
Liberia	CMM 06-2020 (VMS)	There was an ~3-month gap in VMS data displaying on Commission VMS for a carrier vessel resulting from the installation a new VMS unit and failing to update the beacon information for auto reporting. Once detected, the missing data was provided in a PDF file but this format cannot be updated to THEMIS.	Non-Compliant, Further Action (Provide VMS data to the Secretariat in a useable format)	Commitment fulfilled: The missing VMS data was uploaded to Commission VMS during 15-16 May 2023 to provide the vessel's VMS positioning and vessel track within SPRFMO for the previously identified gap period of 24 August 2022 to 04 December 2022.



Member/ CNCP	Compliance Action plan for:	Compliance Issue	2020/21 Compliance Status	Current Status
Panama	CMM 06-2020 (VMS)	<p>1) Commission VMS displayed numerous VMS disruptions and gap periods for Panama flagged vessels where the VMS data was not attainable in 2021 and 2022 resulting in seven VMS issues being deemed Priority Non-Compliant and requiring a written Compliance Action plan.</p> <p>2) An issue from the review of 2020/21 involving VMS disruptions during September 2021 for a number of vessels that was assigned Non-Compliant, Further Action (provide VMS to Secretariat in usable format (Excel/CSV).</p> <p>3) Another issue from September 2021 related to the Panama VMS system not fully loading all the positions resulting in data gaps and was assigned Non-compliant; Review arrangement with service provider to prevent future issues.</p>	<p>1) Priority Non-Compliant; Compliance Action Plan Required</p> <p>2) Non-Compliant, Further Action (provide VMS to Secretariat in usable format (Excel/CSV).</p> <p>3) Non-compliant, Further Action (Review the arrangement with the service provider to prevent future issues)</p>	<p>Commitments fulfilled:</p> <p>1) Panama provided their Compliance Action Plan, and it was circulated as R12-2023 on 25 August 2023.</p> <p>2) Additional VMS positions for the gap periods were uploaded directly to Commission VMS to update the vessel VMS tracks for the dates in question.</p> <p>3) Part of Panama's overall review and development of a VMS Action Plan included engagement with their Service Provider.</p>
Cuba	CMM 10-2020 (CMS)	<p>Non-receipt of the Annual Implementation report. There is a possible compliance issue with Paragraph 5 due to the Secretariat NOT receiving Cuba's Implementation Report for 2021/22 (due date was 09 November 2022). (Note: The Member was also non-compliant regarding the 2020/21 report).</p>	<p>Non-compliant- Further action needed to provide outstanding reports</p>	<p>Commitments fulfilled:</p> <p>The Secretariat received the 2 outstanding Annual Implementation reports on 09 February 2023.</p>



Table 2: Status of Follow Up Actions pertaining to other compliance related commitments.

Member/ CNCP	Compliance issue in relation to:	Compliance Issue	Commitment or Follow-up	Current Status
Various Members/ CNCPs	CMM 05- 2022 (Record of Vessels)	<p>During CTC 09 there were potential compliance issues identified for several Members pertaining to IMO numbers not being provided as required for Authorized vessels with respect to the mandatory Vessel Details Data specified in Annex 1 of CMM 05-2022.</p> <p>Further discussion around this issue resulted in a decision to “not assess” the Annex 1 compliance at CTC09 rather review the overall situation with respect to all the mandatory provisions of Annex 1 and provide feedback to Members and CNCPs on specific deficiencies for follow up action.</p>	<p>The CTC tasked the Secretariat to review all the Authorized vessels on the Record of Vessels for completeness of the mandatory vessel details data. The Secretariat would inform each Member/CNCP of the specific deficiencies and Members/CNCPs were given until 31 December 2022 to update the details for their listed vessels or remove the vessel’s authorization.</p>	<p>Commitment fulfilled:</p> <p>The Secretariat completed the initial review and contacted the relevant Members/CNCPs during April 2022 with follow up again in November 2022. Since then, the Secretariat has worked with Members/CNCPs to continue to update data (including photos) that Members/CNCPs have provided.</p> <p><i>(Note: Any new vessels require all the mandatory information at the time they are added to the Record of Vessels.)</i></p> <p>The Secretariat will include an update on the mandatory data provisions as part of the Record of Vessels Implementation Report. <i>(Reference CTC11-Doc06)</i></p>
Russian Federation	CMM 13-2021 (Exploratory Fisheries)	<p><i>Carry forward from reporting period 2020/21:</i> There is a possible compliance issue pursuant to paragraph 4 and 17 due to a Russian flagged trawler engaging in fishing for Alfonsino (BYS) using Pelagic gear during the reporting period. Port Inspection information indicates that 3 offloads (Oct 2020; April 2021, May 2021) during the reporting period resulted in ~1,092 tonnes BYS being landed (noting a further 205 tonnes was landed in October 2021). The Secretariat does not have records of Alfonsino being fished in SPRFMO with Pelagic Trawl during the last 10 years, hence this activity likely meets the threshold required for an exploratory fishery.</p>	<p>Following initial discussion at CTC09/COMM10 the issue was deferred to CTC10/COMM11. After additional discussion at CTC10/COMM11 the matter was further deferred to CTC11/COMM12 to allow time for an updated SC analysis.</p> <p>The Fisheries Commission (COMM10) tasked the SC to carry out a catch composition analyses for vessels targeting CJM, BYS and/or EMM.</p>	<p>Ongoing: Discussions will be resumed at CTC11 / COMM12.</p> <p>The SC previously prepared two relevant documents in response to the COMM10 tasking for review at COMM11. <i>(Reference: SC10 - Doc 12_rev1; SC10 - Doc 13)</i></p> <p>Additionally, in reference to the COMM11 tasking, the SC Species Composition Task Group reconvened in 2023 to update analyses presented to SC10 <i>(SC10-Doc13)</i> in 2022, with additional historical data provided by the Russian Federation.</p> <p>The updated analyses, based on similar methodologies presented in 2022, to evaluate the catch composition and fishing patterns of SPRFMO fishing activities targeting jack</p>



		<p>-----</p> <p>Redbait (EMM): During the CTC10 meeting there was discussion concerning the potential compliance issue related to Russia’s redbait catches. The CTC agreed on a status of “not assessed” with respect to the catches of redbait with a further action that directed redbait fishing should not continue until catch advice from the SC and a CMM in place. <i>(Reference CTC 10 – Report - Paragraphs 46-48)</i></p>	<p>Following the CTC10/COMM11 discussions, the SC was further tasked with undertaking additional catch composition analyses incorporating the historic Russian catch data (2007 - 2022).</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Further action: Directed redbait fishing should not continue until catch advice from the SC and a CMM are in place.</p>	<p>mackerel, alfoncino, and/or redbait is presented in SC11-Doc11.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Commitment fulfilled: Directed redbait fishing: Based on a review of the catches identified during the port inspection reports, there is no indication of directed redbait fishing during 2023.</p> <p>Catch Advice from the SC: <i>(reference SC11-Report Paragraphs 245-246)</i> Regarding the development of redbait stock assessment, Members reported that redbait catch was very low in 2022 (no redbait catch reported by the European Union; 45 t reported by the Russian Federation) and 2023 (not yet reported). There are no plans to fish for redbait in the near future, and to develop a stock assessment, data on redbait from several countries over several adjacent years would be required. Noting that recent SPRFMO analyses indicated that it is possible to target redbait specifically, thus the SC recommended that any future targeted fishery for redbait should be undertaken as part of an agreed exploratory fishery.</p>
<p>Secretariat</p>	<p>CMM Review Dates</p>	<p>The Commission noted that the review dates established in CMMs were often being extended without any consideration whether the CMM would benefit from other amendments and modifications to improve implementation. <i>(Reference the Final COMM11 Report, Paragraphs 106-107)</i></p>	<p>The Commission at COMM11 tasked the Secretariat to present a paper at COMM12 with recommendations for a more strategic approach be taken to reviewing the CMMs and that consideration be given to identifying those CMMs for review based some type of prioritisation.</p>	<p>Commitment fulfilled: The Secretariat prepared CTC11-Doc14 in response to the Commissions tasking.</p>