

## 7<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMPLIANCE AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (CTC)

*Port Vila, Vanuatu, 10 to 12 February 2020*

### CTC 7 – Doc 09

## Commission VMS Implementation and Operation Report

*Secretariat*

This report is provided under Paragraph 29 of CMM 06-2018 (VMS) which states: “At each annual meeting of the Commission, the Secretariat shall provide the Commission with a report on the implementation and operation of the Commission VMS”.

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Background

For authorised vessels operating in the SPRFMO Convention Area, Article 27(1)(a) of the SPRFMO Convention requires that the Commission establish appropriate cooperative procedures for “the reporting of vessel movements and activities by a satellite vessel monitoring system that shall be designed to ensure the integrity and security of near real-time transmissions, including through the possibility of direct and simultaneous transmission, to the Commission and flag State”. Article 25(1)(c) requires that “each Member of the Commission shall take all necessary measures to ensure that fishing vessels flying its flag carry and operate equipment sufficient to comply with vessel monitoring system standards and procedures adopted by the Commission.”

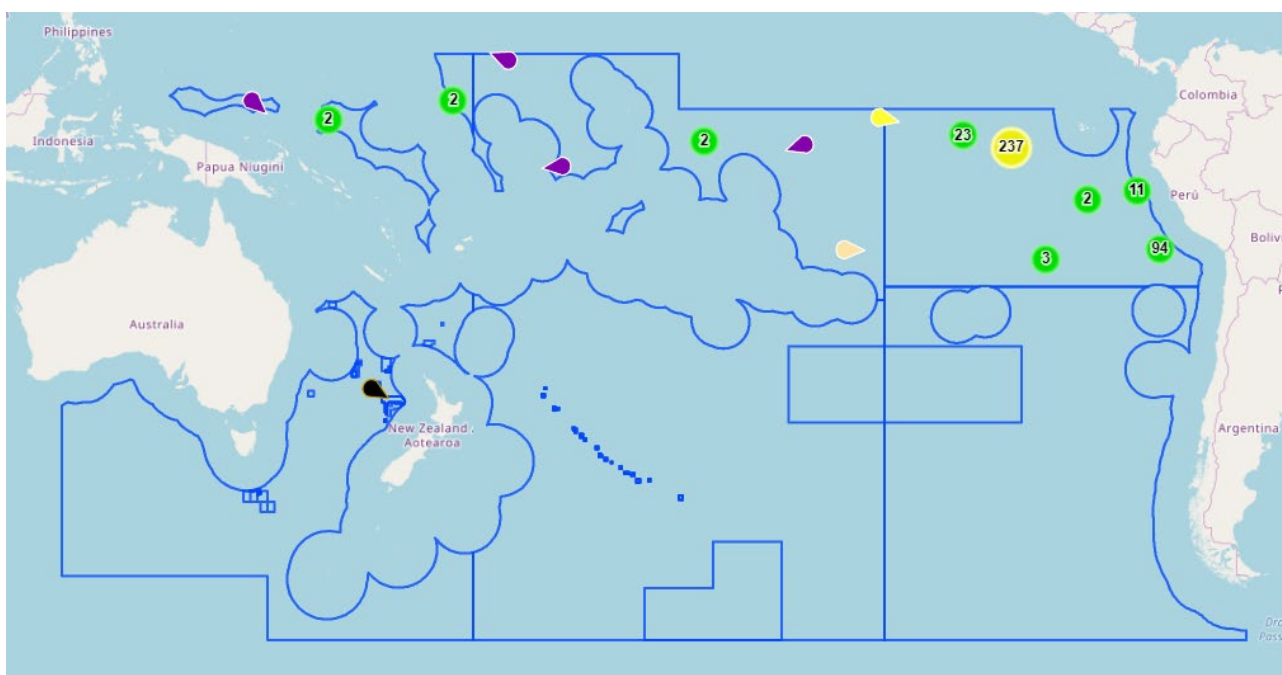


Figure 1 SPRFMO Convention Area in THEMIS (snapshot taken on 08 Jan 2020)

The purpose of the Commission VMS is set out in paragraph 3 of CMM 06-2018 which states that “the purpose of the Commission VMS is to continuously monitor the movements and activity of fishing vessels that are on the Commission Record of Vessels and are authorised by Members or CNCPs to fish for fisheries resources in the SPRFMO Convention Area in a cost-effective manner in order to, inter alia, support the implementation of SPRFMO CMMs”.

Paragraph 8 of CMM 06-2018 requires vessels flying its flag to report to the Commission VMS automatically either:

- (a) to the Secretariat via their Member or CNCP’s FMC; or
- (b) simultaneously to both the Secretariat and its FMC.

This paper describes the Commission VMS including the number of vessels reporting as well as the day to day operation of the VMS by the SPRFMO Secretariat. The paper also provides an overview of the number of requests received for VMS data and the processes associated with such requests. Finally, it provides an update on the performance of the current VMS provider.



## 2. Description of the Commission VMS

The central tool provided by CLS which allows permanent monitoring of fishing fleet and control of parameters onshore is the THEMIS (Thematic Maritime Information System) Application. THEMIS is a high-end web-based application. Access to this application is highly secured (via HTTPS protocol) and requires certificates of authenticity along with personal logins and passwords.

The software user interface is composed of a cartographic window, with tools for performing simple actions such as working with the map or displaying vessel positions. The Graphical User Interface allows direct editing (create/modify/delete) of the VMS related information stored in the system database. The overall management of all information (beacons, vessels, zones, positions, etc) is done via a client application.

Shortly after the 2019 annual meeting the Secretariat (with assistance from the New Zealand (MPI) Business and Spatial Intelligence team) uploaded all the new Bottom fishing management areas (refer CMM03) as well as all the exploratory areas (refer CMMs14a, 14b and 14c) to the graphic interface.

The application also allows uploading a DNID<sup>1</sup> to a vessel beacon, polling a vessel, programming and activating a DNID, or changing the reporting interval.

## 3. State of Reporting

Table 1 below gives an overview of the type of reporting that the Members and CNCPs have chosen as well as the number of vessels that reported their presence inside the SPRFMO Convention Area during 2019.

*Table 1 The current state of reporting for SPRFMO Members and CNCPs*

Flag	Type of Reporting	Number of Vessels 2019
Australia	Simultaneous	3
Chile	Via FMC	3
China	Via FMC	429
Colombia	-	nil
Cook Islands	Via FMC(FFA)	6
Cuba	-	nil
Curaçao	Via FMC	nil
Ecuador	Simultaneous	1
EU	Via FMC	4
Faroe Islands	-	nil
Korea	Via FMC	19
Liberia	Via FMC	7
New Zealand	Simultaneous	12
Panama	Via FMC	46
Peru	Via FMC	3
Russian Federation	Via FMC	1
Chinese Taipei	Via FMC	12
USA	-	nil
Vanuatu	Via FMC	nil
<b>Total</b>		<b>546</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data Network Identity number.



Figure 2 Monthly Vessels in SPRFMO Area

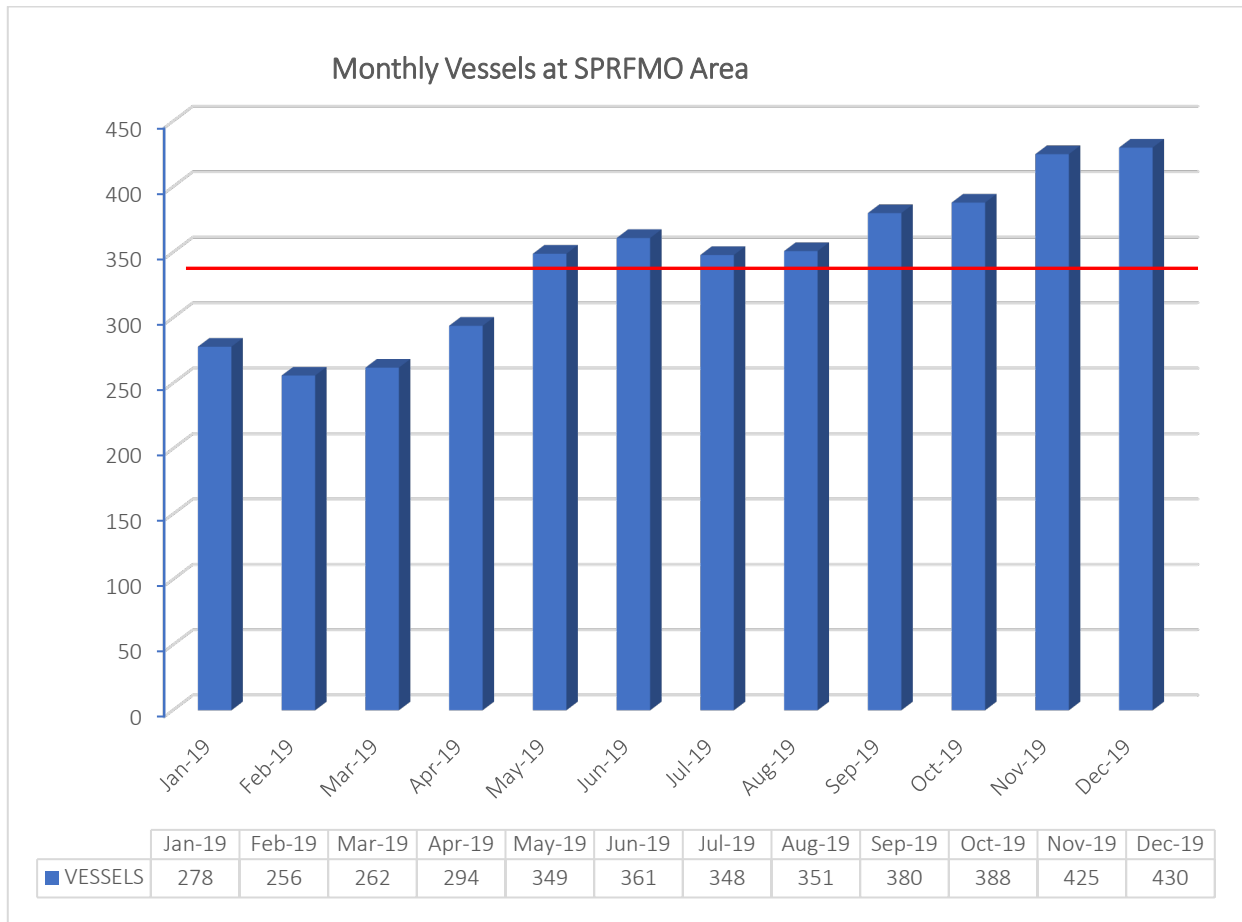


Figure 2 shows that on average around 344 vessels (red line) report to the Commission VMS each month.

## 4. Operation of the Commission VMS

### 4.1. Personnel

During the Seventh Commission Meeting (COMM7), held in the Netherlands, in January 2019, the Government of Chile offered to provide a compliance professional to the SPRFMO Secretariat, in order to help strengthen the compliance and VMS capabilities of the Secretariat and the Organisation.

The Executive Secretary invited applications and conducted a selection process which cumulated in several interviews being conducted during September 2019. The successful applicant was Mr Pablo Ortiz Lima and he has taken up responsibility for the VMS & Compliance related matters effective 1 November 2019.

### 4.2. Day to day work processes

- Investigating alerts including:
  - Overdue reports;
  - Underreporting;
  - Fishing without authorisation;
  - Vessel rendezvous/transshipment alerts;
  - Bottom fishing outside open management areas
- Processing Manual reports
- Responding to requests for VMS data



- Monitoring activities and the number of vessels reporting to the Commission VMS
- Activating and de-activating polling for Bottom Fishing vessels for SPRFMO Area trips
- Checking of bi-monthly invoices covering charges for DNID Upload, Polling, Periodic Rate Change and Position Reports for vessels belonging to Australia, Ecuador and New Zealand

#### 4.3. CMMs directly supported by the Commission VMS

Currently, the Commission VMS is being used to support the implementation of the following SPRFMO CMMs:

- CMM 01-2019 (*Trachurus murphyi*),
- CMM 02-2018 (Data Standards),
- CMM 03-2019 (Bottom Fishing),
- CMM 05-2019 (Record of Vessels),
- CMM 07-2019 (Port Inspection),
- CMM 08-2019 (Gillnetting),
- CMM 10-2019 (CMS),
- CMM 11-2015 (Boarding & Inspection)
- CMM 12-2018 (Transshipment),
- CMM 13-2019 (Exploratory Fisheries),
- CMM 14a-2019 (Exploratory Toothfish NZ)
- CMM 14b-2019 (Exploratory Potting CK)
- CMM 14c-2019 (Exploratory Toothfish EU)
- CMM 16-2019 (Observer Programme).

## 5. Request for VMS Data

As per Paragraph 20 of [CMM 06-2018](#), all requests for access to VMS data must be made to the Secretariat by electronic means via a VMS Point of Contact. A Member or CNCP may request VMS data for the following purposes:

- For their own flagged vessels (Para 21);
- For other flagged vessels if prior written consent has been provided (Para 20);
- Planning for active surveillance/inspections at sea (Para 22a);
- Conducting active surveillance/inspections at sea (Para 22b);
- Supporting search and rescue activities provided an arrangement is in place (Para 22c);
- To the Scientific Committee (SC) for analysis to support specific scientific advice requested by the Commission (Para 7).

The Secretariat designed and consulted on a SPRFMO VMS Data request template and this template is available to Members and CNCPs via the [non-public VMS section](#) of the SPRFMO website<sup>2</sup>.

Table 2 below gives the details of the Members and CNCPs that have requested to access VMS data from the Commission VMS during 2019.

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<sup>2</sup> [COMM8-Prop 15](#) (Review of CMM 06) proposes text that further reinforces the use of this template.



Table 2 Commission VMS data access requests 2019

Member/CNCP	Purpose	Date	Access period	Current Status
Ecuador	Monitor own flagged vessels	Mar 2019	10 months	Inactive

The Seventh SC Meeting Report<sup>3</sup> ([SC7-Report](#), Paragraph 297) tasked the Secretariat with drafting a specific template for requesting access to VMS data for science purposes, in order to meet Commission requests for advice.

The Secretariat has developed a draft template and associated explanatory notes, which were circulated for comment in letter G125-2019 (17 December 2019). The period for receiving comments ended on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January<sup>4</sup>. A number of comments were received, including from the Vice-Chairperson of the SC, particularly relating to requests involving summaries of VMS data. An updated template for SC requests for access to VMS Data is included as Annex 1, and a suggested protocol (flowchart) for making requests for VMS data is included as Annex 2.

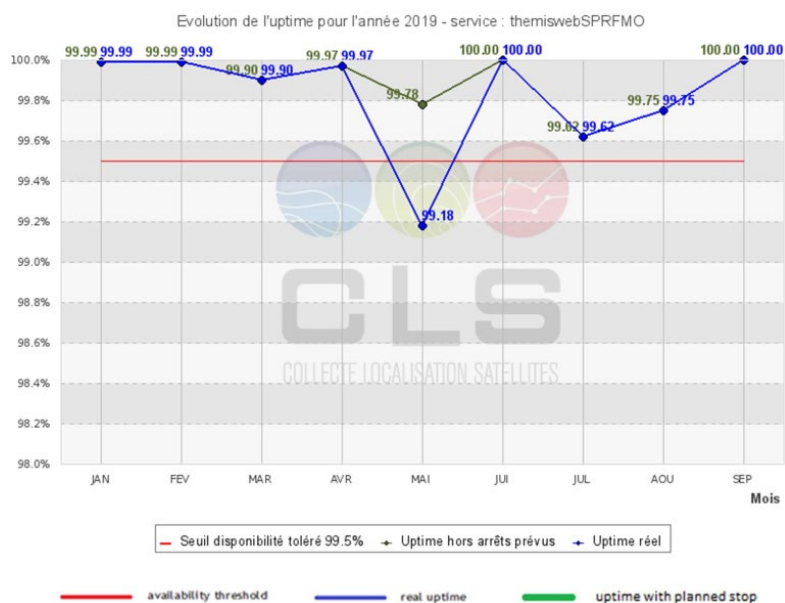
## 6. Performance of the Commission VMS Service Provider

The Commission VMS service provider is the CLS Group.

The Secretariat considers that the THEMIS interface is very user friendly and initiative to use. In addition, CLS representatives have been responsive to user requests (including last year’s CTC presentation on Electronic Reporting) and diligent with regards to informing users about planned system outages.

According to Figure 3 below the service performance level delivered by CLS, and after considering planned outages, has consistently exceeded the availability threshold of 99.5%.

Figure 3 SPRFMO Operating Report 2019



<sup>3</sup> Paragraph 297 page 43

<sup>4</sup> Note that [COMM8-Prop 15](#) (Review of CMM 06) proposes change to the text of CMM-06 regarding the use of this template.



## Annex 1 Template for Request for Access to VMS Data for Science purposes

### Request for Access to VMS Data for Science purposes

(Template version January 2019)

Request	
Title of request:	
Date of request:	Date data needed for analysis <sup>1</sup> :
Contact information for request	
Member or CNCP making the request:	
Name:	Email:
Affiliation:	

Reason for request
Reference to Commission request for advice (e.g. SC workplan item):
Objective of analysis (based on Commission request):
Fishery to which the advice will be relevant:
Reasons for using VMS data:
Description of analysis:
Description of intended output (e.g. paper for Scientific Committee):
Intended period of data retention:

<sup>1</sup> To allow time for flag States to be contacted for authorisation, requests for data should be submitted to the Secretariat (email [vms@sprfmo.int](mailto:vms@sprfmo.int)) at least 75 days before the data is needed for analysis.



Data requested <sup>2</sup>						
Summary data <sup>3</sup> only: <input type="checkbox"/>	Coordinate (raw) data <sup>4</sup> : <input type="checkbox"/>					
Excel <input type="checkbox"/>	CSV <input type="checkbox"/>	HTML <input type="checkbox"/>	PDF <input type="checkbox"/>	RTF <input type="checkbox"/>	XML <input type="checkbox"/>	KML <input type="checkbox"/>
Start date: YYYY-MON-DD	End date: YYYY-MON-DD					
Type of vessel (e.g. "All"):						
Flags <sup>5</sup> requested (e.g. "All"):						
Speed: <input type="checkbox"/>	Vessel key: <input type="checkbox"/>					
Heading: <input type="checkbox"/>	Vessel gross tonnage: <input type="checkbox"/>					
	Vessel overall length: <input type="checkbox"/>					
Range of geographical area requested						
SPRFMO Area <input type="checkbox"/>	FAO87 <input type="checkbox"/>	FAO81 <input type="checkbox"/>	FAO77 <input type="checkbox"/>	FAO71 <input type="checkbox"/>	FAO57 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Specify Latitude/Longitude boundaries (in decimal degrees):						
Latitude (Northmost): ±DD.DDDD	Longitude (Westmost): ±DDD.DDDD					
Latitude (Southmost): ±DD.DDDD	Longitude (Eastmost): ±DDD.DDDD					
Details of data requested (including description of any summarisation requested)						

Secretariat Assessment of the request	
Request addresses Commission request for advice:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Request is complete and clear:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Secretariat have the capability to meet the request:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Expected Secretariat work required to meet request:	(time in hours)
Expected output to be provided by Secretariat:	

By completing this request the applicant commits to respecting the Security and Confidentiality requirements as detailed in Annex 2 of CMM 06 (VMS). The Secretariat will conform with the Secretariat Security Standards for the use of the Commission Data.

<sup>2</sup> Under Annex 5 Paragraph 2 of [CMM 06 \(VMS\)](#) the release of the VMS data to the requesting Member or CNCP shall only be permitted with approval from the Member or CNCP who owns the VMS data.

<sup>3</sup> Summary data such as average or aggregated data will be prepared by the Secretariat as required if the data request is approved.

<sup>4</sup> Includes date and time, latitude and longitude for the VMS positions requested.

<sup>5</sup> Use Flag codes listed in Annex 2 [CMM 05 \(Record of Vessels\)](#).





## Annex 2 Suggested protocol for Request for Access to VMS Data for Science purposes

