

18 August 2016

To: VMS Working Group

Dear colleagues from the VMS Working Group,

Re: Letter from the CTC Chairperson regarding the tasks of the VMS WG

The Secretariat has received the attached letter from the CTC Chairperson, Mr. Osvaldo Urrutia, regarding important upcoming tasks of the VMS Working Group, such as the technical and financial analysis of the three highest scoring VMS tenders, and the development of rules and procedures for the SPRFMO VMS.

Please be assured that, if desired, the Secretariat will be happy to assist in this important work.

Your feedback and comments will be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,



Johanne Fischer
Executive Secretary

Dear members of the VMS-WG,

I hope these lines find you well. I am writing in my capacity of CTC Chair and coordinator of the VMS-WG. As you may recall, we are tasked to continue our work intersessionally under this WG according to the Terms of Reference contained in Annex M of the Fourth Commission Meeting Report.

As you know, there are several important and outstanding issues concerning the VMS for SPRFMO:

1.- We need to continue our work and assist the Commission with their selection of a VMS provider in January 2017. As you would recall from paragraph 9 of Annex L of the Fourth Commission Meeting Report, *“Based on the proposed shortlist, the CTC shall prepare, intersessionally, a technical and financial analysis of the three best options and provide advice to the FAC and Commission by 29 November 2016”*. Bearing in mind the technical nature of this task, I would like to remind of this duty so as for you to be ready to send your additional comments to the Secretariat way in advance of this deadline.

Regarding this obligation that we have as CTC, and considering that it is not always easy to engage intersessionally other than by email, I wonder whether it may be a productive step asking the Secretariat to undertake a draft technical and fiscal analysis of the three shortlisted proposals to assist our work as CTC. Of course, this would only be for reference purposes for our work as CTC. I think that having a starting point may facilitate our exchanges. If this is the case and if you all share this view, I trust a draft could be prepared and sent by the Secretariat to the VMS-WG so that Members can contribute meaningfully to prepare the CTC analysis as requested by the Commission, in advance of the next CTC meeting. However, if anyone has any objections to this way of proceeding please let me know and we will proceed in a different manner. If no one comes forward in the next 10 days, then I would consider asking the Secretariat to prepare the fiscal/technical document as a draft for our work.

2.- The VMS-WG will develop the rules and procedures for the SPRFMO VMS according to paragraph 9 of CMM2.06. This work is to be undertaken in the intersessional period between SPRFMO-4 and SPRFMO-5 (paragraph 4 Annex M, Commission Meeting Report 2016). In this regard, you would be aware that some Members agreed to lead up some of these topics at the Fourth Commission meeting, as it is reflected in Annex L of the Commission Report:

- Australia undertook the task of developing procedures to prevent tampering of ALCs. They provided a first draft on 17 June and asked that comments be provided by 31 July 2016. A reminder was circulated on 18 July and some comments have been provided. Australia is now working on a second draft.
- Chile was to develop a policy for security, confidentiality and access requirements during the intersessional period. No draft has been circulated yet but Chile has confirmed that they are working on this.
- New Zealand was to develop a manual reporting policy in case of ALC failure during the intersessional period. No draft has been circulated yet but New Zealand has confirmed that they are working on this.

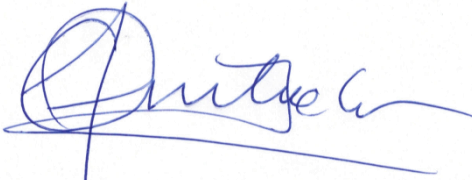
We appreciate the efforts and encourage these Members to speed up their work so as to count on written drafts in advance of the next Commission meeting.

Nevertheless, we still need to address other important and necessary topics within the VMS framework, such as consideration of direct and/or indirect polling and circumstances under which the Secretariat can interact with vessels, whether the VMS platform is externally or internally hosting, and the format, type and content of VMS data transmission and storage of VMS data. Without decisions on those topics it will be very hard to actually implement a SPRFMO VMS. In addition, there are some improvements that can be made to the current measure (for example, there are various rules already existing for VMS in CMM4.02 and CMM4.01 measures, and it might be advantageous to have those condensed into one place).

In this context, I would like to strongly encourage and ask individual participants of the VMS-WG to take up some or all of these outstanding issues in advance of the next Commission Meeting. We have several and interrelated decisions to make and a lot of work to do in January so it is important we do as much as we can in the months before the meeting.

I look forward to working with you all through this period and in our next meeting.

Kind regards,



Osvaldo Urrutia
CTC Chairperson