**Excerpt of WCPFC18 decisions taken in response to VMS-SWG recommendations (supported by TCC17)**

**Commission VMS**

Issue 1 Disparity between CCM-held and Secretariat-held VMS data

280. The Commission noted that there continues to be a disparity between CCM-held and Secretariat-held VMS data, and tasked TCC18 to further consider future work to enable direct/simultaneous VMS reporting by vessels/ALCs reporting to the WCPFC VMS.

281. The Commission supported TCC17s’ recommendation and encouraged any CCMs capable of utilising a direct/simultaneous reporting framework to consider doing so on a voluntary basis. Any such CCMs are requested to report their experiences to TCC in the future, particularly any information regarding changes in the number of discrepancies between CCM-held and Secretariat-held VMS data.

Issue 2 Data gaps from VMS failure

282. The Commission supported the Secretariat’s continued work within their existing budget to address data gaps from VMS failure, including with interested CCMs on a trial basis\*\*, to facilitate automatic integration of VMS manual reports into the Commission VMS. The Commission tasked the Secretariat to report on their further progress to TCC18.

\*\* Footnote: Ensuring that any VMS manual reports automatically integrated into the Commission VMS are clearly identifiable as manually generated reports, and can be distinguished from non-manually generated VMS positions.

283. The Commission tasked TCC18 to consider potential incentives for non-binding measures, including ‘VMS best practices’ that CCMs may adopt to minimise data gaps from VMS failures.

284. The Commission approved the extension of the WCPFC9 adopted amendments to the VMS Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) that were previously extended (via attachment 1 of the SSPs) at WCPFC11, WCPFC13 & WCPFC15, through 1 March 2024, and that this remains in force thereafter unless the Commission directs otherwise (Attachment J).

Issue 3 CCMs’ use of the VMS Reporting Status Tool (VRST)

285. The Commission adopted the updated VMS Standard Operating Procedures which incorporate recent changes in technology and technical processes and that are expected to benefit (and reflect) other VMS technical work undertaken by the Secretariat and VMS SWG to address VMS data gaps (Attachment L).

Issue 4 ALC/MTU approval

286. The Commission noted TCC17s’ advice that the updated VMS Standard Operating Procedures (Attachment L) include details on

i. the standard processes used to assess the ability of an MTU/ALC and its communication / satellite service provider / gateway to successfully report to the Commission VMS.

ii. how the VMS Manager will work with relevant vendors and CCMs to assess proposals for inclusion of additional MTU/ALC units and their communication / satellite service provider / gateway, against the new MTU/ALC type approval checklist; and

iii. how the Secretariat shall provide this information to CCMs, along with any other documentation provided by the flag CCM or vendor, to better inform their consideration of any units proposed for listing or delisting.

Issue 5 Assessing compliance with CMM 2014-02 paragraph 9(a) VMS SSP 2.8

287. The Commission noted the issue of assessing compliance with CMM 2014-02 paragraph 9(a) VMS SSPs 2.8 and tasked the Secretariat to provide a report to TCC18 with suggested options and, if practical, an estimated timeline and costs to facilitate electronic (online) submission and processing of new and updated VTAFs. Any process shall track progress transparently with the relevant flag CCM that provides the VTAF.

288. The Commission also supported TCC17s’ recommendation and approved, for inclusion as Annex 2 of CMM 2014-02, a streamlined VMS reporting template for use in CCM’s Annual Part 2 Report submissions. The Commission agreed that the template will be used in 2022, until such time as the Commission’s work developing Audit Points (including for VMS) may be completed (Attachment K).

Issue 6 Review of Commission VMS

289. On the issue of the review of the Commission VMS, the Commission tasked the Secretariat to provide further information in the VMS Annual Report to TCC18 on the status of implementing VMS SWG recommendations.