



**COMMISSION
FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Manila, Philippines
3 – 7 December 2017

**FOLLOW-UP TO TCC13 ISSUE OF A LACK OF TECHNICAL UPDATES BY FLAG
CCMS TO AUTHORISATION PERIOD DATA ON THE RECORD OF FISHING VESSELS**

**WCPFC14-2017-23
28 November 2017**

Paper by the Secretariat

Purpose

1. This paper responds to the TCC13 request that the Secretariat was to provide a report on feasibility of technical solutions for the issue of vessels being listed on the Record of Fishing Vessels with expired authorization period.

Background

2. During the recent TCC13 meeting there was concern expressed about the lack of technical updates by responsible flag CCMs of the data pertaining to validity of authorization period of their flag vessels on the Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV). For ease of reference this was the TCC13 agreed outcome:
“TCC13 noted the concerns raised by CCMs regarding the technical lack of updates to the authorisation period on the Record of Fishing Vessels and recommended that WCPFC14 discuss this issue further. TCC13 requested that the Secretariat consider the feasibility of technical solutions to this issue in advance of WCPFC14 and provide a report”. (TCC13 Summary report, para 247)
3. Following the TCC13 meeting, the Secretariat examined the data relating to the validity of authorisation periods for vessels on the RFV. The outcome of this analysis identified 451 vessels flagged to 15 CCMs (9% of vessels presently listed on the RFV) that on 25 October 2017 had their stated authorisation periods lapsed. A further 76 vessels flagged to 2 CCMs included no entry in the authorisation period field.
4. Notwithstanding the lapse of authorisation for those vessels, the current applicable rules for the RFV by virtue Article 24 of the Convention and CMM 2013-10, the fact that those vessels remain on the RFV confirms that the responsible flag CCM considers those vessels to be

“entitled to fly its flag and is authorized to fish in the Convention Area.” In addition, the CMM 2014-03 specifies that if a vessel is included on the RFV, but that it is not authorized to fish in the Convention Area beyond its areas under national jurisdiction, then the authorisation period fields should include no entry.

Current status

5. On 27 October 2017, the Secretariat issued Circular 2017-82 that provided a list of flag CCMs with vessels included on the RFV with their stated authorisation periods lapsed or there was no entry against the authorisation field. The Secretariat also provided each of the identified CCMs, through their usual WCPFC RFV contact point/s, a list of their RFV vessels that may have issues with their data on their authorisation periods. Relevant CCMs were requested to take note of the outcome from TCC13, and if considered appropriate, take steps to review the data in the RFV related to the period of validity of authorization for each of their vessels.
6. As at 27 November 2017, there were 355 vessels flagged to 13 CCMs (8% of vessels presently listed on the RFV) that have had their stated authorisation periods lapsed. A further 76 vessels flagged to 2 CCMs include no entry in the authorisation field, and one of these CCMs wrote to confirm that all in accordance with CMM 2014-03 their vessels are permitted to include no entry in the authorization period field.
7. It would appear that following the TCC13 discussions, and perhaps in part prompted by the Circular and emails from the Secretariat, some CCMs did make updates that addressed some of their vessels stated authorisation period being lapsed. However, a sizable number of vessels still remain on the RFV with their stated authorisation periods lapsed or no entry in the authorization period field.
8. After reviewing the limited responses post-TCC13 the Secretariat is of the view that there would not be much value in the Secretariat undertaking work to develop additional technical solutions that would provide automated alerts to CCMs with vessels included on the RFV whose authorisations are nearing expiry or have lapsed.
9. However, the Secretariat would be willing, where so requested by the relevant flag CCM, to provide a periodic reminder about their vessels that remain on the RFV with their stated authorisation periods lapsed or no entry in the authorization period field.

Recommendation

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| 10. WCPFC14 is invited to note this paper. |
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