
**PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR THE COMMISSION
FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN
AND CENTRAL PACIFIC**

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**OPTIONS FOR VMS COOPERATION AMONG THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND THE MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY
MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

Prepared by the delegation of France

1. France considers that it is of the utmost importance to have this Commission's VMS implemented as quickly as possible. Due to the necessity of monitoring and control of licensed vessels and the necessity to fight IUU fishing, such tool must be operational over the whole Commission's area.
2. At the moment two Vessel Monitoring Systems are being used by fishing vessels operating in the Convention area, PrepCon members and other States. These two systems are Inmarsat C onboard 921 vessels and Argos onboard 3,595 vessels.
 - Both systems have respective advantages, are relatively cheap, easy to operate and allow having a close and efficient control of the fleets (Inmarsat = 4 positions/day + position on demand / Argos: 48 positions/day + impossibility to tamper data).
 - Furthermore, both systems can be simultaneously operated in a transparent way on most of Fisheries Monitoring Centres' software without major modifications .
3. France consequently propose that both systems be used by the future Commission, in order to avoid vessels to carry two systems onboard .
4. Concerning possible phases in VMS development France supports the proposal mentioned in working paper WCPFC/PrepCon/WP.23, prepared by the Interim Secretariat, with the exception of the requirement for mandatory polling and two-way , which do not appear at this stage to be necessary for an efficient control of the fleet , due to the frequent respective automatic reporting of both systems.
