

DRAFT**Overview of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Regimes of Other International Fisheries Management Bodies**

Prepared by the Secretariat

Introduction

This document gives an overview of the monitoring, control and surveillance provisions of the following Regional Fisheries Management Bodies (RFMB):

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| • Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources: | CCAMLR |
| • Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna: | CCSBT |
| • Inter-American Tropical Tuna Convention:
including the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Programme: | IATTC |
| • International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna: | AIDCP |
| • Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation: | ICCAT |
| • North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission | NAFO |
| • Forum Fisheries Agency: | |
| • North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission: | FFA |
| | NAMMCO |

For each organisation, an overview of their provisions in the following areas is provided:

1. vessel registers;
2. vessel monitoring systems (VMS);
3. inspection;
4. observer programmes;
5. catch documentation; and
6. compliance.

The fisheries bodies reviewed represent a personal selection from the many available. In addition, the intention has not been to provide a comprehensive picture of their provisions for monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing operations, but rather, in the time available, to provide background information for the meeting of the RMS Working Group.

Table 1 summarises the monitoring, control and surveillance provisions of the eight RFMBs and includes the IWC's Chairs proposals for an RMS 'package' as given in IWC/56/26.

Source Material

(To be completed. But information either from the websites of the RFMBs plus additional information from personal communication with their Secretariats.)

Table 1. Summary of the monitoring, control and surveillance provisions of selected RFMBs

	Vessel Registers	VMS	Inspection	Observation	Additional catch verification¹	Compliance
CCAMLR	Yes	Yes, national but moving to centralised system	International inspection of Party vessels at sea (~15% toothfish fishing trips will be subject to an inspection). 100% inspection of Party and non-Party vessels in port.	Onboard scientific observers. Placed by bilateral arrangements between Parties. 100% coverage.	Catch Document System (CDS)	Each Party to take appropriate measures. Flag States to ensure that any of their vessels that have contravened a conservation measure do not fish in the Conservation Area until they have complied with sanctions imposed. Has established an IUU vessel list for which Parties shall not, <i>inter alia</i> , issue licence to fish in their waters, issue or validate a CDS, allow toothfish caught by these vessels to be landed/imported/exported from their territories.
CCSBT	Yes	No	No CCSBT provisions	Onboard scientific observer. Parties place observers on own boats. <100% coverage.	Statistical Document System	Each Party to take all action necessary to ensure compliance.
FFA	Yes	Yes, centralised	No FFA-run scheme	Onboard observers but <100% coverage	No	Parties to, as far possible, ensure that foreign fishing agreements with Flag States require the Flag States to take responsibility for compliance of its flag vessels. Vessels can be removed from the vessel register – means banning the vessel from obtaining a licence to fish.
IATTC	Yes	Yes, national	No IATTC provisions	Onboard scientific observer. Placed by IATTC or Parties. AIDCP requires 100% coverage for large purse seiners. <100% on other boats.	Statistical Document System	Each Party to take appropriate measures to ensure compliance. Permanent Working Group on Compliance that <i>inter alia</i> reviews and monitors compliance with conservation and management measures; recommends measures for addressing compliance-related measures. Has established an IUU vessel list.
AIDCP	Yes		Parties inspect their vessels twice a year to ensure the gear and equipment requirements are met.			Parties must adopt national laws to ensure compliance. Vessels exceeding Dolphin Mortality Limits (DML) receive far fewer DMLs in the following year than they would have expected. International Review Panel reports to Parties on compliance issues and makes recommendations concerning possible infractions. Has established an IUU vessel list.
ICCAT	Yes	Yes, national	At least port inspection of Party and non-Party vessels.	Onboard observers. Parties place observers on own boats. <100% coverage	Statistical Document System	Each Party to take all necessary action to ensure compliance. Has taken multilateral trade sanctions against specific countries not abiding by ICCAT agreements.

¹ i.e. additional to normal catch reporting requirements and inspection and observation activities.

Table 1. Summary of the monitoring, control and surveillance provisions of selected RFMBs (cont.)

	Vessel Registers	VMS	Inspection	Observation	Additional catch verification	Compliance
NAFO	Yes	Yes, national	International inspection of Party vessels at sea (<100%). Non-Party vessel inspection with vessel's consent. 100% inspection of Contracting and non-Contracting Party vessels in port.	Onboard observers Parties place observers on own boats. 100% coverage now, but may reduce in future under well-defined conditions.	Labelling?	Enforcement of measures is a national responsibility. Has list of serious infringements. Flag States of vessels committing a serious infringement may require vessel to proceed immediately to port for inspection.
NEAFC	Yes	Yes, for vessels >24m national	International inspection of Party vessels at sea (21% of authorised vessels in 2004). Non-Party vessel inspection with vessel's consent. Port inspection scheme for Party vessels under development. 100% inspection of non-Party vessels in port.	No observer scheme.	No	Enforcement of measures is a national responsibility. Has list of serious infringements. Flag States of vessel committing serious infringement may require vessel to proceed immediately to port for inspection. Has established provision and confirmed IUU vessel lists. For the latter, Parties are required to, <i>inter alia</i> , not grant authorisation to fish in their waters and prohibit imports of fish from such vessels. Parties may co-operate to adopt appropriate multilaterally-agreed non-discriminatory trade measures consistent with WTO to prevent and deter IUU fishing.
NAMMCO	No	No	National inspection schemes. Level of inspection can vary from 100%	International observer scheme <100% coverage. Appointed by NAMMCO Management Committee.	No	Each Party to take appropriate measures to ensure compliance.
IWC – Chair's proposal (IWC/56/26)	Yes?	Minimal ²	National inspector on board for duration of the trip (with exception of category (a) vessels). National inspection of all boats at point of landing.	International observer programme. 100% coverage on all vessels (except category (a)) and at all points of landing. Secretariat appoints observers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA registers & market sampling • Catch documentation • Resolution <i>re</i> legislation to prohibit imports from IUU activities. 	Each Party to take appropriate measures to ensure compliance. Compliance Review Committee, <i>inter alia</i> , reviews infraction reports from Contracting Governments, the functioning of the int. observer scheme, reports its view as to whether an alleged infraction is a violation of Schedule provisions, reviews actions taken by Contracting governments in response to violations, recommends to the Commission action to be taken to improve compliance. Contracting Governments urged by Resolution to institute national legislation prohibiting import of whale produces from IUU activities.

² Only for vessels operating day trips, carry out no substantial flensing on board and cannot accommodate a national inspector or international observer (category (a) vessels). All other boats will have an observer with a portable GPS

CCAMLR

Vessel Registry

- The Secretariat maintains a registry of Contracting Party vessels licensed/authorised to fish (for commercial or research purposes) in the Convention Area. Licences are issued by Contracting Parties. Fishing by vessels of Contracting Parties in the Convention Area without a license is prohibited.
- Currently the registry is only available to CCAMLR Contracting Parties

VMS

- Each Contracting Party was required to establish an automated satellite-linked VMS to monitor the position of its licensed vessels (except for those involved only in the krill fishery) by 31 December 2000 at the latest. The requirement applies to all fisheries with the exception of the krill fishery (although this is being considered). Information is collected by the Flag State every 4 hours. This information includes the fishing vessel identification, location, date and time.
- Minimum performance standards are that the VMS:
 - is tamper-proof
 - is fully automatic and operational at all times regardless of environmental conditions
 - provides real-time data
 - provides the geographical position of the vessel, with a position error of < 500 metres with a confidence interval of 99%, the format being determined by the Flag State; and
 - in addition to regular messages, provides special messages when the vessel enters or leaves the Convention Area and when it moves between one CCAMLR area, sub-area or division within the Convention Area.
- Within two working days of receiving the required VMS information, each Contracting Party shall provide to the Secretariat dates and the statistical area, subarea or division for each of the following movements of its flag fishing vessels: (i) entering and leaving the Convention Area; and (ii) crossing boundaries between CCAMLR statistical areas, subareas and divisions.
- In the event of a technical failure or other non-function of the VMS, the master or owner of the fishing vessel shall as a minimum: (i) communicate at least once every 24 hours by telex, fax, telephone or radio the fishing vessel identification, location, date and time to the Flag State; (ii) take immediate steps to repair or replace the device as soon as possible, and in any event within 2 months – if during that period the vessel returns to report, it shall not be allowed to commence a further fishing trip without have the device repaired or replaced.
- In the event that the VMS ceases to operate, the Contracting Party as soon as possible shall advise the Executive Secretary of the name of the vessel, the date, time and the location of the vessel when the VMS failed. The Party shall also inform the Executive Secretary when the VMS becomes operational again. The Executive Secretary shall make such information available to Contracting Parties on request.

Note:

CCAMLR is currently running a trial centralised VMS system. The CCAMLR Secretariat believes a central system provides some clear management advantages (especially in CCAMLR's case) as it allows quite fine zonal control in both time and space (i.e. the picture as to who is fishing where is almost instantaneous and therefore there is some capacity to go closer to any catch limit). It believes another advantage is that there might be some independent verification of flag reports if position-reporting to the flag and central depository is direct and in parallel. The status of the trial is was reviewed at the October 2004 CCAMLR meetings where it was agreed to move to a centralised system.

Costs

- Currently costs are covered by the vessel owners. In some cases (e.g. South Africa and Australia), the base station costs have been provided by the Government authorities.
- Data processing by the Secretariat is relatively minor.
- Regarding a centralised VMS system, it is envisaged that the start-up costs and that of a designated officer to handle day-to-day running over the first two years will be of the order of A\$150,000 (£59,000).

Inspection

At sea

- Each Member of the Commission may designate Inspectors who shall be nationals of the Contracting Party that designates them. Members certify the qualifications of each Inspector they designate. Inspectors shall be able to communicate in the language of the Flag State of the vessels on which they carry out their activities. All decisions on deploying inspectors and conducting inspections reside with CCAMLR Members. The Commission maintains a register of certified Inspectors designated by Members.
- Inspectors are entitled to board a fishing or fisheries research vessel in the Convention Area to determine whether the vessel is, or has been, engaged in scientific research, or harvesting, of marine living resources.

- Inspectors complete an approved CCAMLR inspection report form, document any incidents of non-compliance, and take photos and/or video-recordings of the non-compliance. The form, along with the evidence, must be forwarded within 15 days to the Contracting Party, which in turn must submit the information to the Secretariat who then submits the information to the Flag State of the offending vessel. The Flag State must then take steps to prosecute and, if necessary, impose sanctions.
- The number of inspectors deployed and vessels inspected at sea varies from year to year and from area to area. Approximately 15% of toothfish fishing trips inside the Convention Area will be subject to an at-sea inspection and a typical inspection will last for +2 hours. Members annually report all inspections to the CCAMLR Commission.
- Costs for at sea inspections are borne by the Flag State of the designating member.

At port

- Each Contracting Party shall verify, through inspections of all of its fishing vessels at the Party's departure and arrival ports, and where appropriate within its EEZ, their compliance with the conditions of its licence. In the event that there is evidence that the vessel has not fished in accordance with the conditions of its licence, the Contracting Party shall investigate the infringement and, if necessary, apply appropriate sanctions in accordance with its national legislation.
- Contracting Parties must inspect transshipments and landings from all fishing vessels carrying toothfish which enter their ports. The inspection shall be for the purpose of determining that if the vessel carried out harvesting activities in the Convention Area, these activities were carried out in accordance with CCAMLR conservation measures, and that if the vessel intends to land or tranship *Dissostichus* spp. the catch to be unloaded or transhipped is accompanied by a *Dissostichus* catch document and that the catch agrees with the information recorded on the document.
- Costs for port inspections are borne by the Port State.

Non-Contracting Parties

- Contracting Parties must inspect transshipments and landings from vessels of non-Contracting Parties who have been found fishing in the Convention Area when such a vessel enters a Party's port. Such vessels are prohibited from landing or transshipping any fish until logbooks, other documents, catch and gear have been inspected. They will be prohibited from landing or transshipping the fish unless the vessel establishes that the fish were caught outside the Convention Area or in compliance with all relevant CCAMLR Conservation Measures.

Observation

- The CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation was first implemented in the 1992/93 fishing season. It was designed to gather information on fishing activities in the Convention Area, including details of vessel operations, biological data pertaining to the species caught, and incidental mortalities of non-target species. The Scheme is science-driven and every effort has been made not to compromise its veracity or execution by aligning it with any form of compliance enforcement.
- All finfish fisheries are required to carry at least one scientific observer for the entire duration of each fishing trip inside the Convention Area. National and international observers are also being deployed on a voluntary basis in the krill fishery.
- The Scheme operates through bilateral agreements between CCAMLR Members to exchange observers (i.e. an observer of one Member serves on a vessel of another Member). Some members prefer to make such arrangements on a vessel-by-vessel basis, others have long-term 'umbrella' arrangements (e.g. for a year or for a fishing season) which give them an opportunity for placing scientific observers on an ad hoc basis. As placing scientific observers is based on bilateral arrangements, each particular observer is agreed by both parties.
- Observers designated under the Scheme must be nationals of the Member that designates them and shall be able to communicate in the language of the Flag State of the vessels on which they carry out their activities.
- Scientific observers must submit their reports to the Commission, through the designating member, within one month of the completion of the observer cruise or after the return of the observer to his/her home country. A copy is sent to the Member whose vessel was involved.

Typical no. boats involved per year: ~ 50 fishing and research vessels

Costs:

- Costs in relation to the equipment, clothing, communication and salary and any related allowances of a scientific observer shall normally be borne by the member designating the observer. Transportation of scientific observers to and from boarding points is also the responsibility of the designating member.
- Most CCAMLR members exercise cost-recovery from the ship operators. This can be done via a bill from the company providing the observers to the ship operators (as in the UK or South Africa), a direct arrangement between the observer and ship operators (Chile) or by a centralised State-sanctioned system (e.g. Australia) where cost recovery is a bit more diffuse.

Costs of archiving of observer reports etc. are borne as part of the Secretariat budget, who has a specifically designated post for the job, i.e. the scientific observer data analyst (around A\$50,000/yr - £19,700)

Catch Documentation Scheme/catch reporting

- CCAMLR maintains a catch reporting system that requires fishing vessels operating in designated fishing areas to report catch to the CCAMLR Secretariat at 5-day or monthly intervals.
- CCAMLR's Catch Documentation Scheme for *Dissostichus* spp. came into effect in May 2000 to complement other measures to deter IUU fishing activities. It is open to all Flag States irrespective of whether they are CCAMLR members or not, and it applies to all catches of toothfish regardless of whether they were taken as by-catch or as a result of targeted fishing.
- Specifically the Catch Documentation Scheme: (1) enables international trade in *Dissostichus* spp. to be monitored by identifying the origins of *Dissostichus* spp. imported or exported from the territories of Contracting Parties; (2) determines whether *Dissostichus* spp. imported into or exported from the territories of the Contracting Parties, if caught in the Convention Area, were caught in a manner consistent with CCAMLR conservation measures; (3) gathers catch data for the scientific evaluation of the stocks.
- Each Contracting Party is required to provide *Dissostichus* catch document forms to each of its flag vessels authorised to harvest *Dissostichus* spp. and to ensure that the masters or authorised representatives of such vessels complete a catch document for the catch landed or transhipped on each occasion that it lands or tranships *Dissostichus* spp. Each Party also requires that each landing of *Dissostichus* spp. at its ports and each transhipment of *Dissostichus* spp. to its vessels be accompanied by a completed catch document.
- A non-Contracting Party seeking to co-operate with CCAMLR by participating in the Scheme may issue catch document forms to any of their flag vessels that intend to harvest *Dissostichus* spp.
- Information required on the Catch Document includes: contact details of the issuing authority; name, home port, national registry number, call sign, etc of the vessel; reference number of the licence/permit issued, weight of *Dissostichus* spp. landed or transhipped by product type and by CCAMLR statistical subarea or division if caught in the Convention Area, and/or by FAO statistical area, subarea or division if caught outside the Convention Area; the dates within which the catch was taken; the date and port at which the catch was landed or the date and the vessel, its flag and national registry number, to which the catch was transhipped; the contact details of the recipient(s) of the catch and the amount of each species and product type received.
- Validation of the Documents must be made at several stages: by the master of the fishing vessel, by the Flag State authorities; by masters of vessels receiving transshipments or by the Port authority at point of landing; by the authority of exporting (or re-exporting) countries.
- Contracting Parties require that all *Dissostichus* spp. imported into or exported from their territories, are accompanied by the export-validated catch document and, where appropriate, validated re-export document(s) which must be examined and verified by its customs authorities or other appropriate officials.
- Contracting Parties must promptly provide by the most rapid electronic means copies of each export-validated, and where appropriate, re-export document to the Secretariat that it issued from and received into its territory. The Contracting Parties are, in addition, required to report annually to the Secretariat data from these documents on the origin and amount of *Dissostichus* spp. exported from and imported into its territory.
- Any Contracting Party or any non-Contracting Party participating in the CDS, may require additional verification of catch documents by Flag States by using, *inter alia*, VMS in respect of catches taken on the high seas outside the Convention Area, when landed at, imported into or exported from its territory.
- The Scheme does not require that catch documents accompany the product any further than the point of import. However in practice, the documents almost always travel further, at least to the wholesaler level.

Costs

- The costs of issuing and handling documents is borne by the members concerned.
- All archiving costs and any attached analyses, as well as provision of relevant information (i.e. on the website) are budgeted directly from the Secretariat budget and involve the salaries of 1.5 officers and some attendant administration costs (about A\$70,000 - £27,600).

Compliance

- The Convention requires that each Contracting Party takes appropriate measures within its competence to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Convention and with conservation measures adopted by the Commission. Each Contracting Party is required to provide information to the Commission on measures taken to ensure compliance, including the imposition of sanctions for any violation.
- The CCAMLR System of Inspection includes that:
 - if, as a result of inspection activities there is evidence of violation of measures adopted under the Convention, the Flag State shall take steps to prosecute and, if necessary, impose sanctions. The Flag State is required to provide information to the Secretariat within 14 days of the laying of charges or the initiation of proceedings relating to a

prosecution, and to continue to inform the Secretariat as the prosecution develops or is concluded. In addition, the Flag State is required to send a written report at least once a year to the Commission about the results of such prosecutions and sanctions imposed.

- sanctions applied by Flag States in respect to infringements of CCAMLR provisions shall be sufficiently severe as to effectively ensure compliance with CCAMLR conservation measures and to discourage infringements. Sanctions shall also seek to deprive offenders of any economic benefit accruing from their illegal activities.
- Flag States are required to ensure that any of their vessels found to have contravened a CCAMLR conservation measure do not carry out fishing operations within the Convention Area until they have complied with the sanctions imposed.
- Each year, since 2002, the Commission identifies those Contracting and non-Contracting Party vessels which have engaged in fishing activities in the Convention in a manner which has diminished the effectiveness of conservation measures in force. The Commission establishes a list of such vessels (IUU Vessel List) in accordance with a number of procedures. On approval of the IUU Vessel List, the Commission requests Parties whose vessels appear on the list to take all necessary measures to address these IUU fishing activities. In respect of vessels appearing in the IUU List, Contracting Parties shall not:
 - Issue a licence either within the Convention Area or within their jurisdictional waters;
 - Issue or validate a *Dissostichus* catch document;
 - Permit their flag support or cargo vessels to participate in any joint operations;
 - Charter or grant their flag
 - Allow any *Dissostichus* spp. thus caught to be landed, imported or exported from their territories.

CCSBT

Vessel Registers

- The Commission recently established an CCSBT Record of fishing vessels larger than 24 meters in length overall authorised to fish for southern bluefin tuna (by Members and Co-operating Non-members). Such vessels not entered into the Record are not deemed to be authorised to fish for, retain on board, tranship or land southern bluefin tuna.
- Information that must be provided includes: vessel name(s) and register number(s); previous names, if any; previous flags, if any; previous details of delegation from other registries, if any; international radio call sign; type of vessel, length and gross registered tonnage, name and address of owner(s) and operator(s); gear(s) used; time period authorised for fishing and/or transhipping. The Record is publicly available as a searchable database on CCSBT's website, although confidentiality requirements noted by Members and Co-operating Non-members are respected.
- Members and Cooperating Non-members will not validate trade documents for large scale fishing vessels not on the list and will not accept imports of southern bluefin tuna product from large scale fishing vessels not on the list.
- Up to 30 June 2005 the list will include large scale vessels over 24 metres. From 1 July 2005 all vessels fishing for SBT must be placed on the vessel list.

VMS

- VMS not currently required. Article 8, para 9 of the Convention states that *'The Commission shall develop, at the earliest possible time and consistent with international law, systems to monitor all fishing activities related to southern bluefin tuna in order to enhance scientific knowledge necessary for conservation and management of southern bluefin tuna and in order to achieve effective implementation of this Convention and measures adopted pursuant to it.'*

Inspection

- CCSBT currently imposes no inspection requirements, although it emphasizes the need for compliance.

Observation

- CCSBT has adopted a Scientific Research Program that incorporates a Scientific Observer Program as one of four priority elements. The observer programme is not run centrally by CCSBT, but rather consists of national programmes. CCSBT has however agreed a set of standards for national scientific observer programmes that members have to apply to vessels fishing for southern bluefin tuna.
- The target observer coverage is 10% for catch and effort monitoring for each fishery. Thus observer coverage should be representative of different vessel types in distinct areas and times.
- It is the responsibility of members to recruit and train observers and to assign them to its vessels. The placement of observers should encompass arrangements to ensure the independence and scientific integrity of the data. Observers should not have current financial or beneficial interests in the fisheries in which they will be required to operate as observers and they should not have been found guilty of a serious criminal offence for 5 years prior to appointment as an observer.
- Observers would normally be nationals of the member country assigning them and the associated costs would be met by that country. Members may make bilateral arrangements to exchange observers.
- Members of the CCSBT must submit annually a report in a prescribed format on their scientific observer programs.
- CCSBT scientific observers do not have any compliance role.

Catch Documentation/catch reporting

- Catch is currently monitored in CCSBT through member fishery reports at each meeting and scientific data exchange.
- CCSBT adopted a similar system to ICCAT for Statistical Documents for southern bluefin tuna that came into effect in June 2000.
- All southern bluefin tuna imported into the territory of a Member should be accompanied by a CCSBT Southern Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document, and should be validated by an official of the Flag Country/fishing entity that harvested the tuna or by an entity delegated by the authority of the flag country/fishing entity. The document includes extensive details of the shipment such as name of fishing vessel, gear type, area of catch, dates, etc. Shipments not accompanied by this form must be denied entry by the member country.
- The CCSBT Executive Secretary has been instructed to request non-Members that are major importing countries/fishing entities of southern bluefin tuna to co-operate with implementation of the programme and to provide the Commission data obtained from such implementation. The USA is, for example, implementing regulations to require importers of southern bluefin product to observe the requirements of the CCSBT trade documentation scheme.

- Copies of all Statistical Documents must be sent quarterly to the Secretariat who keeps them in a confidential database. Documents returned to the Secretariat are reconciled with lists of documents issued by CCSBT members supplied to the Secretariat. The Secretariat reports biannually on the summary data collected.
- Further detailed information, including the format of the CCSBT Statistical Document is available in Document IWC/N04/RMSWG 11.

Compliance

- CCSBT requires that all Parties take all action necessary to ensure enforcement and compliance of its terms. The Convention binds members to implementing any management and conservation decisions taken by the CCSBT.
- Parties must encourage their nationals not to associate with the southern bluefin tuna fishery of non-Parties if such association would contravene the objectives of the Convention.
- Parties are required to take appropriate measures to prevent vessels registered under its laws and regulations from transferring their registration for the purpose of avoiding compliance with the Convention.
- Parties are required to co-operate in taking appropriate action, consistent with international law and their own national laws, to deter fishing activities for southern bluefin tuna by nationals, residents or vessels of any non-Party where such activity undermines the objectives of the Convention.

FFA

Vessel registers

- Any foreign fishing vessel that wishes to apply for a licence to fish in the waters of an FFA Member Country must apply for good standing on the Regional Register of Foreign Fishing Vessels and the FFA VMS Register of Foreign Fishing Vessels maintained by the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency, i.e. a VMS is a pre-requisite. Registration on the Regional Register and FFA VMS Register is not a licence to fish since VMS Registration procedures are in addition to any other registration and licensing procedures required by FFA Member Countries.

VMS

- FFA members decided to implement a regional VMS to assist in the management of the fisheries resources within their EEZs. Operational since March 1999, its principal role is to act in support of existing surveillance assets such as patrol vessels, surveillance flights, and regional observers that currently operate across an area of approximately 30 million km².
- FFA has detailed guidelines for its VMS. The vessel operator must ensure that no person tampers or interferes with the equipment. It must be switched on and operational at all times when the vessel is within an FFA member EEZ. If found that the equipment is not working, the vessel operator is required to send reports containing the vessel name, call sign, position and date and time of report to a delegated authority at intervals of 8 hours or less. If a position report cannot be made, or when the delegated authority so directs, the master of a vessel must immediately stow the fishing gear and take the vessel directly to the port identified by the licensing country or appropriate authority.
- The VMS is managed centrally from FFA Headquarters in Honiara, Solomon Islands where signals (via satellite) from vessels are processed automatically by the FFA VMS hub-site computer known as the 'FFA VMS Decision Engine'. Each member country has VMS equipment that enables it to connect to the VMS hub-site and download the positions of vessels in its own EEZ. In reality it is separate national VMS operating through a hub-site at the FFA Secretariat. Security systems are in place to ensure confidentiality of fishing vessel movements.
- The VMS is capable of simultaneously monitoring the position, speed and direction of up to 1,000 fishing vessels at any one time with a potential to monitor up to 2,000 vessels. The VMS Decision Engine identifies those vessel position reports that violate a set of rules. Alert reports are generated accordingly by the computer and sent to the FFA member in whose EEZ the vessels are operating. The FFA Secretariat and each FFA member have graphical monitoring facilities to view the alert reports and other position data against a display of the member's defined geographical areas.
- The VMS is not currently capable of transmitting fish catch data, though it has been designed with the flexibility to handle catch data transmission as an enhancement to the baseline VMS.
- Advantages of a VMS to cover members' EEZs are seen to include:
 - Cost-effective method of providing support to the region's compliance and monitoring programme
 - Enables targeting of selected vessels by patrol boats and surveillance flights
 - Fosters regional solidarity
 - Improved communications within the western and central Pacific with both distant water fishing nations (DWFNs) and other FFA members and
 - Increased safety at sea and improved response time to emergency calls by FFA members
- The main benefits seen to fishing operators include:
 - Enables ship to shore communication at all times and is not dependent on radio frequencies being available
 - provides a communication method whereby a fleet of vessels can be contacted and directed to target aggregations of fish;
 - provides increased safety at sea and any distress signal is transmitted over the entire VMS network;
- increased and more timely weather information can be obtained more consistently than with existing systems.

Inspection

- Parties to the FFA Convention co-operate in fisheries surveillance and law enforcement through the Niue Treaty. Under this treaty, a Party may permit another Party (through a subsidiary agreement) to extend its fisheries surveillance and law enforcement activities to the territorial sea and archipelagic waters of that Party. However, in such circumstances, the conditions and method of stopping, inspecting, detaining, directing to port and seizing of vessels are governed by the national laws and regulations applicable in the State in whose territorial waters the fisheries surveillance or law enforcement activity was carried out.

Observation

- The FFA controls and administers two regional observer programmes: (1) the US Treaty Observer Programme; and (2) the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Arrangement Programme.

US Treaty Observer Programme

- The objective is to collect compliance and scientific data and to monitor and ensure that US purse seine operations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Treaty.

- There is a minimum requirements for 20% coverage of all trips in each licensing period (June to June). Trip durations vary from about 35-100 days, with an average of around 55 days per trip. All observer costs are covered by the US fleet.
- Operational issues and problems reported by observers are discussed directly with owners, captains and the US Tuna Foundation at the Informal Technical and Broader Cooperation meetings held around October each year. The vessel captains and owners also get a chance to highlight any problems with observers and/or placements at this meeting.

FSM Arrangement Observer Programme

- This observer programme was established in early 1996.
- Coverage was initially 20% of trips undertaken during a calendar year. However, because the operating pattern of these vessels involves many short trips it was decided in 2003 that each of these vessels must take an observer for a minimum of 50 sea days each year.

Observer training

- Training for both programmes is the same as it is for all FFA member country national programmes within the Central Western Pacific. The training is carried out at a course organised by experts from FFA and SPC (Secretariat of the Pacific Community). Training includes sea safety, basic navigation, purse-seining, long-lining, pole and line gear technologies and operations, report writing, species identification, environmental reporting, species of special interaction reporting, sampling and recording of other specified species, monitoring catch and vessel activities, other aspects of scientific and compliance reporting are included. The normal training session takes about 4 weeks of comprehensive and intense instruction

Catch documentation System/catch reporting

- Parties are required to report catch and effort statistics for fishing operations in waters under national jurisdiction or conducted by vessels under their jurisdiction.
- There is no current requirement for catch documentation

Compliance

- The Parties shall, as far as possible, ensure that foreign fishing agreements with flag States require the flag State to take responsibility for the compliance by its flag vessels. They are also to ensure, as far as possible, that foreign fishing arrangements with foreign parties require the foreign party to take responsibility for the compliance by its vessels.
- A vessel must have good standing on FFA's Regional Register of Foreign Fishing Vessels to qualify for a licence to fish in a member's EEZ. Withdrawal of good standing status means banning the vessel from obtaining a licence and that ban remains even after selling or renaming the vessel.

IATTC/AIDCP

Vessel Registers

IATTC

- The IATTC Secretariat maintains a database of all vessels authorised, or known to fish for tunas and tuna-like species in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO). Information to be provided for each vessel includes: name of vessel, registration number, previous names (if known), and port of registry; a photograph of the vessel showing its registration number; previous flag (if known and if any); International Radio Call Sign (if any); name and address of registered owner or owners; where and when built; length, beam, and moulded depth; fish hold capacity in cubic meters, and carrying capacity in metric tons; name and address of operator (manager) or operators (if any); type of fishing method or methods; gross tonnage; power of main engine or engines.
- The database is publicly available on IATTC's website.

AIDCP

- Parties are required to provide a list of vessels under their jurisdictions > 363 metric tons, that have requested Dolphin Mortality Limits (DMLs) or that expect to fish in the EPO. The requests are reviewed by AIDCP's International Review Panel (see section on compliance) and only those vessels meeting certain requirements (e.g. type of gear, crew training) will receive a DML. The International Review Panel issues a list of eligible vessels each year to the Meeting of the Parties.

VMS

- Each Party with tuna-fishing vessels 24 metres or more in length operation in the eastern Pacific Ocean and harvesting species for which IATTC has established conservation and management measures are required, by 1 January 2005, or as soon as possible thereafter, to establish a satellite-based vessel monitoring system. Non-Party governments whose flag vessels fish in the EPO are encouraged to participate in the VMS programme.
- Parties are required to seek to ensure that the information collected by the VMS vessel includes the vessel's identification and position with an error of less than 500m at a confidence level of 99%, and that the date, time and position information is collected at least every 6 hours. VMS equipment on vessels must, at a minimum, be tamper proof, fully automatic for position data reporting, operational at all times regardless of environmental conditions, and, if possible, capable of manual transmission of reports and messages.

Inspection

IATTC

- IATTC does not have any provisions regarding inspection. The IATTC staff monitor both unloadings and logbooks of vessels, mainly for scientific purposes. And while this activity can also yield information regarding possible violations of the Agreement, Commission staff will only report this information in an aggregated fashion so as not to reveal the name of the vessel involved.

AIDCP

- Each Party is required to ensure that each of its vessels that has been assigned a DML is inspected twice a year to ensure that the dolphin safety gear and equipment requirements are met. Inspections of catch or logbooks to ensure compliance with the Commission's fisheries conservation and management programme is the responsibility of each Party with respect to its flag vessels.

Observation

- IATTC and AIDCP share a scientific observer programme. The observers have no enforcement role but report on compliance with IATTC and AIDCP measures.
- IATTC determined that a sample coverage of purse seine vessels would be adequate for scientific purposes. However, AIDCP requires 100% observer coverage of large purse seiners (with a carrying capacity > 363 metric tons) operating in the Agreement Area to carry an observer on each fishing trip. At least 50% of observers must be IATTC observers. In a reflection of this, the observer programme, including the staff costs to operate it, is paid for 30% by IATTC and 70% by AIDCP. For AIDCP, the funds to cover observer costs and the services provided by the IATTC (maintaining databases and reporting, meeting support etc.) come from levies on vessels. For IATTC, the cost is paid from member contributions (as an item in the regular budget). In 2003, there were 148 large purse-seiners and 69 small ones (which don't carry observers).
- IATTC recruits and trains college graduates in the life sciences to be observers. It typically has a pool of observers (~130) made up of nationals from Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Venezuela. Governments with larger fleets prefer that the IATTC observers placed on their vessels are nationals. The IATTC

generally follows this policy for those fleets, though there are instances when a non-national observer must be placed due to a temporary shortage of nationals. For smaller fleets and fleets from outside the Americas, the assignment of observers depends on the departure port and observer availability.

- All IATTC observers are assigned to a particular IATTC field office, each of which maintains an observer-placement waiting list for its observer pool. At the end of a trip assignment, the observer's name enters the waiting list at the bottom and moves up the list observers at the top of the list are placed. The IATTC policy is to not place an observer on a vessel to which he has been assigned during the previous two years, or to be assigned to a vessel with a fishing captain that was the fishing captain of a vessel that the observer was on during the same period. Thus, in those and a few other situations, the waiting list is not strictly adhered to. On occasion, an observer will be placed on two consecutive fishing trips of a vessel if the first trip does not meet a minimum number of days at sea.
- For each observer assignment, IATTC staff attempt to conduct an observer placement meeting prior to departure with the fishing captain and/or other vessel officials to discuss observer duties, vessel rules, and other pertinent topics. After finishing a trip, IATTC observers return to the field office for a 4-5 day debriefing.
- Parties may maintain their own national observer programmes (and Mexico, Venezuela and Ecuador do), provided they collect and report information in the same manner as IATTC observers.
- There is nothing in the IATTC/AIDCP programme that addresses the right of Parties to refuse a particular designated observer, and this situation has never arisen in the implementation of the observer program.

Catch Documentation/catch reporting

IATTC

- IATTC has annual catch reporting by members. However, for purse seiners, which carry an observer on board, a weekly report on catch from the observer to the IATTC Secretariat is required. Longline fleets catching bigeye tuna are required to provide a monthly catch report. For vessels without an observer, fishing companies are encouraged to provide the same information.
- By 1 March 2003, or as soon as possible thereafter, Contracting Parties require that all bigeye tuna, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party, be accompanied by an IATTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document, or by an IATTC Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate. Bigeye tuna caught by purse seiners and baitboats and destined principally for canneries are not subject to this requirement.
- The Bigeye Statistical Document must be validated by a government official or other authorised individual or institution of the flag State of the vessel that harvested the tuna, or if the vessel is operating under a charter arrangement, by a government official or other authorised individual of the exporting state.
- The Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate must be validated by a government official or other authorised individual or institution of the state that re-exported the tuna.
- Contracting Parties importing bigeye tuna are required to report annually to the Secretariat data collected through the documentation programme. This is then circulated to all Contracting Parties. Contracting Parties exporting bigeye tuna are required to examine this information and report the results annually to the Commission.
- Co-operating non-contracting parties are requested to take part in the programme.

AIDCP

- AIDCP adopted procedures for dolphin-safe certification in July 2001. This system tracks tuna caught in the Agreement Area by vessels fishing under the AIDCP and enables dolphin-safe tuna to be distinguished from non-dolphin safe tuna from the time it is caught to the time it is ready for retail sale.
- The national authority of the Party under whose jurisdiction a fishing vessel operates is responsible for tracking the tuna caught, transported, or unloaded by that vessel, but may, by mutual consent, delegate the observation of unloadings and transfers to the national authority of the Party in which the unloading or transfer takes place. The national authority of the Party in which the tuna is processed becomes responsible for the tracking and verification of the dolphin-safe status of all such tuna when it enters a processing plant located in the jurisdiction of that Party, regardless of the flag of the catcher vessel, and for communicating that information to the Secretariat.
- It is the responsibility of each national authority to establish and maintain the systems, databases, and regulations necessary to implement the system in areas under its jurisdiction. Each Party provides a report to the Secretariat detailing the tracking and verification programme established.

Tuna Tracking Forms

- Standardised 'Tuna Tracking Forms' have been developed by the Secretariat who issues them to its observers, except where observers are appointed nationally. In this case TTFs are issued by the appropriate national authority. TTFs are identified by a unique number (i.e. the IATTC cruise number to which it corresponds). At the end of a trip, the original TTFs, with total confirmed quantities of tuna unloaded or transferred from that trip are retained by the competent national authority as follows:
 - If the tuna is to be processed within the territory of the Flag State Party, the original TTF is submitted to the national authority of that Party.

- If the tuna is to be processed within the jurisdiction of a Party other than that of the Flag State, the responsibility for tracking passes to the national authority of the Party where the tuna is to be processed. In such a case, the original TTF is submitted to the national authority of this Party, and a copy sent to the authority of the Flag State Party.

TTFs must be submitted to the Secretariat by the competent authority within 10 days of receipt. TTFs are treated as confidential official documents by competent national authorities.

Storage, processing and marketing

- Parties may establish tracking and verification procedures for storage, processing and marketing of tuna and tuna products that best fit the business practices in their own territories, providing certain requirements are met, including that processed dolphin-safe tuna destined for export area accompanied by a certification of its 'dolphin-safe' status.

Periodic audits and spot checks

- The Parties have committed, while reserving their national sovereignty prerogatives, to work co-operatively towards the development of an international programme to facilitate general reviews and spot checks of national tracking and verification programmes. Consistent with this commitment, the Parties are required to make available, or request the Secretariat to make available, to the International Review Panel, such reports and documentation on the tracking and verification programme, including TTFs, and might be requested by the panel.
- The Parties may request that the Secretariat verify the dolphin safe status of tuna. The Secretariat is required to respond to such a request with confirmation of the status of that tuna on the basis of tracking information contained within the data and documentation transmitted to the Secretariat. There are provisions for responding to inquiries from non-Party States.

Compliance

IATTC

- Each Party as the obligation to monitor and take the actions necessary to ensure strict compliance with the conservation and management measures agreed by the Commission and to encourage non-Parties with vessels operating in the EPO to co-operate in the implementation of, and compliance with, these measures. The monitoring by Parties is augmented by reports from IATTC staff who observe movements of vessels and monitor unloadings, and for large purse seine vessels, by observer reports.
- IATTC's Permanent Working Group on Compliance whose functions are to: review and monitor compliance with IATTC's conservation and management measures; recommend means of promoting compatibility among the national fisheries management measures of the Parties, including infractions and sanctions; recommend appropriate measures for addressing matters related to compliance with fisheries management measures; analyse information by flag and, as necessary, by vessel, and other information necessary to carry out its functions; report the results of its work to the IATTC which will in turn inform the Parties and Non-parties.
- The Working Group is made up of representatives of each of the Parties. Representatives of Non-parties, pertinent intergovernmental organisations, NGOs with recognised experience in matters pertaining to the Working Group, and the owners of tuna vessels fishing in the EPO under the jurisdiction of the Parties may participate in the Working Group as observers. They have speaking, but not voting rights.
- At their meeting in June 2004, IATTC passed a resolution to establish a list of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU activities in the EPO. Fishing vessels flying the flag of a non-party are presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities when an IATTC Party, co-operating non-Party, fishing entity or regional economic integration organisation presents evidence that such vessels are undermining IATTC's management and conservation measures. The list shall be prepared annually. Once adopted by the Commission, the Commission shall ask non parties with vessels on the list to take all necessary measures to eliminate these IUU activities, including, if necessary, the withdrawal of the registration or the fishing licences of these vessels and to inform the Commission of the measures taken. The resolution applies initially to large-scale fishing vessels, but may be extended at a later date.

AIDCP

- AIDCP requires Parties to adopt national laws to ensure compliance with the Agreement. Parties with vessels found in violation of AIDCP's terms must impose sanctions "of sufficient gravity as to be effective in securing compliance [and] deprive offenders of the benefits accruing from their illegal activities." Sanctions can include denial, suspension or withdrawal of the authorization to fish.
- AIDCP also requires Parties to create incentives for vessel captains to reduce incidental dolphin mortality with the goal of eliminating dolphin mortality in the Agreement Area.
- AIDCP imposes limits on dolphin mortalities, and, if a Party's fleet meets or exceeds the total DML distributed to it, that Party's fleet must stop fishing for tuna that associate with dolphins. In addition, vessels that exceed their DMLs receive far fewer DMLs in the following year than they would have received. A vessel may not have its initial DML increased if it sets on dolphins after reaching its DML or without a DML, knowingly sets on banned dolphin stock, makes a night set, uses explosives during any fishing phase involving dolphins, or fishes without an observer. Vessels involved in repeat violations may lose their right to a DML completely and captains identified as continual offenders may be removed from the list of qualified captains.

- AIDCP also established the International Review Panel, which reports to Member Parties on compliance issues in the Agreement Area and makes recommendations concerning possible infractions. Environmental and industry representatives play an active and participatory role in determining possible infractions of the Agreement through the AIDCP's International Review Panel.
- AIDCP adopted a resolution at its meeting in October 2004 to establish a list of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities in the Agreement Area. It will operate in a similar way to the IATTC IUU Vessel List.

ICCAT

Vessel Register

- The Secretariat maintains a Record of vessels of Contracting Parties and Co-operating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities of greater than 24 meters in length overall authorised to operate in the Convention Area. This list includes the following information:
 - Name of vessel, register number
 - Previous name (if any)
 - Previous flag (if any)
 - Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
 - International radio call sign (if any)
 - Type of vessels, length and gross registered tonnage (GRT)
 - Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
 - Gear used
 - Time period authorized for fishing and/or transshipping
- The Record of Vessels is publicly available via ICCAT's website.

VMS

- Recommendation 2003-14 Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area recommends that Contracting Parties and Co-operating non-Contracting Parties implement a VMS for its commercial fishing vessels exceeding 20 metres between perpendiculars or 24 metres overall length. The date by which VMS must be implemented is yet to be decided.
- Vessels must be equipped with an autonomous system able to automatically transmit a message to the land-based Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) of the Flag State allow continuous tracking of the vessel. Data to be transmitted includes: the vessel's identification, the most recent position (longitude and latitude) with a margin of error of less than 500m, with a confidence interval of 99%; the date and time of the fixing of the vessel position.
- Masters of fishing vessels are required to ensure that the satellite tracking devices are permanently operational and that the information listed above is collected every 6 hours for transmission on, at least, a daily basis. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the device, the device must be repaired or replaced within one month. After this period, the fishing vessel is not authorised to commence a fishing trip with a defective device. When a device stops functioning or has a failure during a fishing trip last more than one month, the repair or replacement has to take place as soon as the vessel enters a port. Fishing vessels with a defective device must communicate at least daily, the required information to the FMS by other means (radio, telex, telefax).
- Contracting Parties and Co-operating Non-Contracting Parties are encouraged to extend the application of VMS to their fishing vessels of < 20 metres between perpendiculars or 24 metres overall length if they consider this to be appropriate to ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Inspection

At port

- ICCAT has established a Port Inspection Scheme under which inspectors, appointed by the Contracting Parties, monitor compliance with the Commission's conservation measures for all ICCAT species at their own ports, i.e. 100% coverage.
- In the case of an apparent violation by a foreign fishing vessel, the inspector completes a form (either a form standardised by the Commission or produced by the national government). The inspector signs the report in the presence of the master of the vessel, who shall be entitled to add any observations of his own, and to add his own signature. Copies of the form must be sent to the Flag State of the vessel and to the ICATT Secretariat within 10 days.
- In the case of violation by a domestic vessel, domestic procedures are followed for documentation, which must also provide the same quality of information as the standard ICATT form.
- Parties whose vessels enter, land, or tranship their catches in ports other than their own, can send their own inspectors to inspect their own vessels, having previously obtained an invitation from the port state in which the inspection will be executed.
- ICCAT has similar provisions to CCAMLR regarding inspection of non-Contracting Party vessels entering Party ports.

Observation

- ICCAT uses observers to gather accurate information on bycatch, the magnitude of discards, as well as to determine the catch of undersized fish resulting from the use of fish aggregating devices.
- Placement of observers is the responsibility of the Contracting Parties. Percent coverage varies.

Catch Documentation/catch reporting

- ICCAT maintains annual catch reporting systems by members.
- In addition, it has established trade/statistical document programmes. It initially implemented a system for bluefin tuna in 1993 and has since introduced statistical documents for bigeye tuna and swordfish. Contracting Parties require that these species, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party or at the first entry into a regional economic organisation, be accompanied by the appropriate ICCAT Statistical Document or Re-export Certificate. These requirements responded to a need to improve the reliability of statistical information on catches and to make estimates of unreported catches made by IUU fishing vessels and to deter such activities.
- A Statistical Document must contain the following information: (1) the name of the country issuing the document; (2) the name of the exporter and the importer; (3) the area of harvest of the fish in the shipment; (4) the gear used in catching; (5) the type of product and total weight; (6) the point of export. They must be validated by a government official or accredited recognised institution of the Flag State of the vessel harvesting the fish. The original validated documents accompany all fish when traded internationally. Contracting Parties are required to report the data collected by the Statistical Document Programme to the ICCAT Secretariat each year.
- Non-Contracting Parties are encouraged to co-operate in implementation of the Statistical Document Programme and to provide to the Commission data obtained from such implementation.

Compliance

- The Convention (Article IX) requires Contracting Parties to take all action necessary to ensure the enforcement of its terms and to inform the Commission of how this has been accomplished. Parties undertake to collaborate to adopt effective measures to ensure the application of the Convention's provisions and in particular to set up a system of international enforcement to be applied to the Convention area except the territorial sea and other waters, if any, in which a state is entitled under international law to exercise jurisdiction over fisheries.
- ICCAT has adopted a suite of Resolutions and Recommendations addressing monitoring and compliance and IUU activities.
- Has taken multilateral trade sanctions against named countries not abiding by ICCAT agreements (i.e. prohibition of importation of tuna and tuna products from the named countries).

NAFO

Vessel Registry

- The Executive Secretary is required to establish and maintain a register of all fishing vessels of more than 50 gross tons authorised to fish in the Regulatory Area. Contracting Parties were required, by 1 January 2004, to notify the Secretariat regarding the vessels that are authorised to operate in the Regulatory Area. Vessels that have not been active in the Regulatory Area for two consecutive years are deleted from the register. Research vessels operating must also be notified.
- The Executive Secretary is required to make the register available to all Contracting Parties in a systematic fashion and in accordance with applicable confidentiality requirements. The registry is accessible to all NAFO participants through NAFO's password-protected member webpages.

Vessel Monitoring System

- Fishing vessels operating in the Regulatory Area have been required, since 1 January 2001, to be equipped with a satellite tracking device allowing the continuous reporting of their position by the Contracting Party. The device shall ensure the automatic communication at least once every two hours to a land-based fisheries monitoring centre (FMC) of the flag state of data relating to (a) vessel identification; (b) most recent geographical position with a position error less than 500 metres and confidence interval of 99%; (c) the date and time of the fixing of the said vessel position.
- Contracting Parties are required to provide this information to the Executive Secretary as soon as possible, but not later than 24 hours after receipt of those reports and messages. The Executive Secretary is required to make information received from Contracting Parties available as soon as possible to other Contracting Parties with an inspection presence in the Regulatory Area. All reports and messages must be treated in a confidential manner.
- In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the device, it must be repaired or replaced within 1 month. If not, the master of the fishing vessel will not be authorised to commence a fishing trip. Where a device stops functioning and a fishing trip will last more than one month, the repair or replacement has to take place as soon as the vessel enters a port and the fishing vessel shall not be authorised to continue or commence a fishing trip without the device being repaired or replaced. Fishing vessels with a defective device are required to communicate, at least every 6 hours, the information in (a) to (c) above by other means (email, radio, fax, telex).
- Each Contracting Party is required to pay all costs associated with the satellite tracking system (subject to any other arrangements between Contracting Parties). There are two types of cost involved: (a) setting up the VMS (includes hardware, software, and training) and (b) running of the VMS (includes transmissions and maintenance). In 2002, the total amount spent by NAFO Contracting Parties on VMS was approximately Can\$ 4,000,000. NAFO Contracting Parties started equipping vessels with VMS in 1999 but there were still vessels that required VMS installation in 2002. In total 116 vessels fished in the Regulatory Area in 2002. VMS coverage was not quite 100% but close.

Inspection

On board inspection:

- Inspection and surveillance is carried out by inspectors of the fishery control services of the Contracting Parties following their assignment to the 'Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme'. Contracting Parties are required to notify the Executive Secretary by 1 November each year, the names of the inspectors, inspector trainees and inspection vessels, type of helicopters or other aircraft they are assigning to the Scheme.
- The competent authorities of Contracting Parties with inspection/surveillance presence in the Regulatory Area are required to provide inspection vessels entering this Area with, *inter alia*, a list of sightings and boardings, including dates and positions, which have been conducted in the previous 10-day period. Inspections vessels in the Area are required to maintain contact as far as possible on a daily basis to exchange information on boardings/sightings and to co-ordinate their activities.
- Following notification to the Executive Secretary, and in the case of mutual agreement between the respective Contracting Parties, inspectors assigned by one Party may be placed on board inspection vessels or aircraft of another Party assigned to the Scheme.
- Contracting Parties are required to aim at ensuring equal treatment between all the vessels of all Contracting Parties through an equitable distribution of inspections. The number of inspections carried out by the vessels of one Contracting Party on the vessels of any other Contracting Party should, as far as possible, reflect the ratio of the inspected Party's fishing activity to the total fishing activity in the Regulatory Area per quarter.
- Surveillance reports are to be based on sightings made by an inspector from an inspection vessel or aircraft assigned to the Scheme. Inspectors are required to complete a Surveillance Report Form when his observations do not correspond with the latest information available to the inspector via VMS reports and catch reports. The Surveillance Reports (and any photographs) must be sent electronically straight away to the Contracting Party of the vessel concerned, and a copy forwarded to the Executive Secretary. On receipt of a Surveillance Report, Contracting Parties are required to take prompt action to consider the report and whenever possible, board the vessel concerned and conduct any further investigation

necessary to determine appropriate follow-up action. Contracting Parties are required to report action taken regarding Surveillance Reports involving its vessels to the Executive Secretary by 1 March each year for the previous calendar year.

- Inspection reports should be transmitted within 30 days, whenever possible to the Contracting Party for the inspected vessel. In cases of an infringement or differences between recorded catches and the inspector's estimates of the catches on board, the inspector is required within 24 hours to transmit to the Contracting Party of the vessel inspected, a written statement constituting advance notification of the infringement. A copy of the inspection report (with supporting documentation and photographs as appropriate) must be transmitted to the Contracting Party of the inspected vessel within 10 days after the inspection vessel returns to port.
- A non-Contracting Party vessel sighted engaging in fishing activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area is presumed to be undermining the effectiveness of NAFO's conservation and enforcement measures. A similar view is taken of sightings of transshipments between non-Party vessels. Information on such sightings are transmitted to Contracting Parties via the Secretariat and to the Flag State of the sighted vessel. The Contracting Party sighting the vessel should attempt to inform the vessel that it is presumed to be undermining NAFO conservation and enforcement measures and that this information will be reported to all NAFO Parties and to the Flag State of the vessel. If a non-Contracting Party consents to be boarded by NAFO inspectors, their findings are transmitted to all Contracting Parties and the Flag State via the Secretariat.
- In 2003, in the NAFO Regulatory Area, there were 143 vessels fishing an average of 95 days each. The number of inspections in 2003 totalled 364, i.e. a vessel had a 2.7% chance of being inspected on any single fishing day.

Port inspections:

- NAFO also require port inspections for both Contracting Party and non-Contracting Party vessels that have been fishing in the Regulatory Area and that enter a port of a Contracting Party. Its provisions for inspection of non-party vessels are very similar to those of CCAMLR and ICATT.
- The competent authority of the Port State is required, when requested, to transmit the results of the port inspection to the Flag State of the vessel within 14 working days of the date on which the inspection was completed.

Costs:

The individual NAFO Contracting Parties are responsible for covering the costs of surveillance and inspection

Observation

- As of 1 January 2001, NAFO required 100% observer coverage for all Party vessels fishing in the Regulatory Area (but see Note below).
- Each Contracting Party has the primary responsibility to place independent and impartial observers on its vessels and to provide a list of observers they will be placing to the Secretariat. Where a Contracting Party has not placed an observer, any other Party may, subject to the consent of the Contracting Party of the vessel, place an observer on board until that Contracting Party provides a replacement.
- The main duties of the observer is to monitor if the vessel is complying with Conservation and Enforcement Measures and includes: reporting on fishing activities and discards; verifying logbook entries; collection data on catch and effort; collecting samples for scientific work; monitoring the satellite system; and reporting infringements. Any infringements must be reported to a NAFO inspection vessel within 24 hours, who then report it to the Secretariat.
- Observers are required to provide a report to the Contracting Party of the vessel and to the Secretariat within 30 days following completion of an assignment on a vessel. The Secretariat makes the reports available to any Contracting Party on request (note that data on catch location is removed in these cases).

Costs

- Observers' salaries are paid by the Party sending the observer.

Note: NAFO is currently running a Pilot Project on Observers, Satellite Tracking and Electronic reporting. Vessels with functional VMS systems that have the necessary technical facilities in place to send electronic 'observer reports' and 'catch reports' are eligible for the project. Under this project, Contracting Governments are permitted to withdraw observers for up to 50% of the vessels participating and present in the Regulatory Area. The Pilot Project is designed to enhance reporting (daily messages versus trip messages) while allowing a more cost-efficient reduction (but not elimination) of observers under very well defined conditions.

Catch Documentation Schemes/catch reporting

- NAFO requires Contracting Parties to report provisional monthly catches by species and stock areas, as well as provisional monthly fishing days in the shrimp fishery, whether or not Parties have quota allocations for the stocks from which catches were obtained. These reports should be sent to the Executive Secretary within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made. The Secretariat consolidates the data and reports to members within 10 days of receipt of the data. Fishing vessels entering NAFO's Regulatory Area must report electronically catch on entry, catch on exit and each transshipment in advance of entering and leaving the regulatory area.

- A documentation scheme is not incorporated into these arrangements, although there are product labelling requirements.

Compliance/Dealing With Infringements

- Enforcement of NAFO Regulations lies under national responsibility.
- In an inspector observes an infringement, the inspector is required to: (a) note the infringement in the inspection report, sign the entry and obtain the master's countersignature; (b) enter and sign a notation in the fishing logbook or other relevant document stating the date, location and type of infringement found; (c) if necessary document the infringement with photographs of the gear or catch. The inspector may request that the master remove any part of the fishing gear which appears to be contrary to conservation and enforcement measures.

Serious infringements

- NAFO has drawn up a list of serious infringements, i.e.
 - fishing on an 'others' quota without prior notification to the Executive Secretary
 - directed fishing for a stock subject to a moratorium or for which fishing is prohibited
 - directed fishing for stocks or species after the date on which the Contracting Party for the inspected vessel has notified the Executive Secretary that vessels of that party will cease a directed fishery for those stocks or species
 - fishing in a closed area or with gear prohibited in a specific area
 - mesh size violations
 - fishing without a valid authorisation issued by the flag Contracting Party
 - mis-recording of catches
 - interference with the satellite monitoring system
 - catch communication violations
 - preventing inspectors or observers from carrying out their duties.
- If an inspector cites a vessel for having committed a serious infringement, he is required to attempt to notify an inspector of the Contracting Party for the inspected vessel or designated authority. The Contracting Party of the vessel is required to respond without delay and ensure that the vessel concerned is inspected within 72 hours by an inspector authorised by that Contracting Party. The inspector is also required to immediately report the infringement to the Executive Secretary, who in turn immediately informs other Contracting Parties with an inspection vessel in the Convention Area.
- Where justified, the authorities of the Flag State Contracting Party of the vessel concerned may require the vessel to proceed immediately to port for a thorough inspection under the authority of the Flag State in the presence of an inspector from any other Contracting Party that wishes to participate.

Follow-up to and reports on infringements

- The competent authorities of a Contracting Party notified of an infringement are required to take immediate judicial or administrative action in the same manner as would have been the case when dealing with infringements of fisheries regulations in national waters. Such actions should effectively deprive those responsible of the economic benefit of the infringement, or sanctions appropriate to the seriousness of such infringements, thus effectively discouraging future infringements.
- Contracting Parties are required to report to the Executive Secretary by 1 February (for the period 1 July – 31 December of the previous year) and 1 September for the period 1 January – 30 June of the current year each year: (a) action taken concerning infringements notified to it by a Contracting Party; and (b) differences that they consider significant between records of catches in the logbooks of vessels of the Contracting Party and inspectors' estimates of catches on board the vessels.

NEAFC

Vessel Registers

- Each Contracting Party is required to notify the Secretary prior to 1 January each year if possible, or in any case before the vessel's entry into the Regulatory Area, all fishing vessels authorised to fish in the Regulatory Area and notably whether the vessel is authorised to fish one or more regulated resource. The notification includes such information as vessel name, radio call sign, Flag State, vessel owner/charterer, vessel type, gear, capacity, length, power.
- The Secretary is required to make this notification information available to all Contracting Parties. It is not publicly available.

VMS

- Each Contracting Party was required to implement, by 1 January 2000, a VMS for its fishing vessels exceeding 20 metres between perpendiculars or 24 metres overall length which fish or plan to fish in the Regulatory Area.
- Contracting Party vessels fishing in the Regulatory Area are required to be equipped with an autonomous system able to automatically transmit messages to a land-based fisheries monitoring centre (FMC) allowing each Party to continuously track the position of its fishing vessels. Contracting Parties are required to ensure that the Secretary receives the position of each vessel in real time upon entering into or exiting the Regulatory Area and at least once every two hours when operating in the Area.
- The following data should be reported to the FMC:
 - The vessel identification
 - The most recent geographical position of the vessel (longitude, latitude) with a position error of < 500 metres, with a confidence interval of 99%
 - The date and time of the fixing of the said position of the vessel
 - Where applicable, data relating to the catch on board
 - Where applicable, data relating to transshipment
- Each Contracting Party is to ensure that the masters of fishing vessels flying its flag shall ensure that the satellite tracking devices are at all times fully operational. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the on-board device, the device must be repaired or replaced within one month. After this period, the master of a fishing vessel shall not be authorised to commence a fishing trip with a defective satellite tracking device. Where a device stops functioning and a fishing trip lasts more than 1 month, the repair or replacement must take place as soon as the vessel enters a port. The fishing vessel shall not be authorised to continue or commence a fishing trip without the device having been repaired or replaced. Vessels with defective tracking devices are required to report, at least daily, the information listed above by radio, fax, telex etc.
- Under the NEAFC Scheme, vessels report to their respective (national) Contracting Parties and this information is shared via the NEAFC Secretariat's database. The information from all Contracting Parties is therefore available for use by inspection platforms and NEAFC inspectors entering the NEAFC Regulatory Area. The system is automatic and information is channelled in real time to assist efficient inspection, control and enforcement.
- The present policy in the North Atlantic area is that the VMS is the exclusive responsibility of the flag-States. The cost of the transponder ("blue-box") is borne by the vessel's operator (some vessels received free boxes in the framework of pilot-projects). The cost of message transmission, by satellite or other means, from the vessel to the national Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) is also the responsibility of the vessel's operator. The FMCs bear the cost of "forwarding" relevant messages either to Coastal States or RFMOs. The Secretariat bears the cost of transmission (distribution/forwarding) of messages to the FMCs and their inspection vessels.

Inspection and surveillance – Contracting Party vessels

At sea inspection/surveillance

- Control and surveillance is carried out by inspectors of the fishery control service of the Contracting Parties following their assignment to the Scheme.
- Each Contracting Party is to ensure that the assigned inspectors from another Contracting Party shall be allowed to carry out inspections on board those of its fishing vessels to which the Scheme applies.
- The number of inspections is based on fleet size, taking into account the time spent in the Regulatory Area. In its inspections, each Contracting Party is to aim at ensuring equal treatment between all Contracting Parties with fishing vessels operating in the Regulatory Area through an equitable distribution of inspections.
- Each Contracting Party is required to notify the Secretary before 1 January each year of the names of the inspectors and special inspection vessels as well as the type of aircraft and the details of their identification which they are assigning to the Scheme for that year. This information is passed on to all Contracting Parties by the Secretary.

- Where at any time, more than 10 fishing vessels of any one Contracting Party are engaged in fishing activities conducted on regulated resources in the Regulatory Area, the Contracting Party is required, during that time, to have an inspection vessel in the Regulatory Area, or shall co-operate with another Contracting Party to jointly operate an inspection vessel.
- Inspectors are required to complete an inspection report (a standardised format is to be used) for each inspection and to give a copy to the master of the vessel.
- Surveillance shall be based on sightings of fishing vessels by assigned inspectors from an inspection vessel or aircraft assigned to the Scheme. A surveillance report must be completed and a copy of each report forward without delay by electronic means to the Contracting Party of the Vessel concerned or a designated authority of that Contracting Party and to the Secretary. A hard copy of the surveillance report and any photographs shall be forwarded on request to the Contracting Party of the vessel concerned. The Secretary is required to make surveillance reports available to other Contracting Parties with an active inspection presence in the Area.
- In 2004 the number of notified vessels is 1473 and authorised 800; the number of inspections at sea for the period July 2003 to June 2004 was 165, i.e. 11.2% (of notified vessels) or 20.6% (of authorised vessels). The surveillance costs (air and surface) are borne by the Contracting Parties (in the EU case by the member-States).

Reports on surveillance and inspection activities

- Each Contracting Party is required to report to the Secretary by 1 October each year for the period 1 July to 30 June: (a) the number of inspections conducted by it under the Scheme specifying the number of inspections on the vessels of each Contracting Party and, in the case of infringement, the date and position of the inspection of the individual vessel and the nature of the infringement, as well as the follow-up of such reports; and (b) the number of hours flown and the number of days at sea on NEAFC patrols, the number of sightings (Contracting Party and non-Contracting Party vessels) and the list of individual vessels for which a surveillance report has been completed as well as the follow-up of such reports.

At port inspection

- The creation of a framework for port inspection of Contracting Party and non-Contracting Party vessels is in its final stages, and will probably be implemented in 2005.

Inspection and surveillance – Non-Contracting Party vessels

- A scheme to promote compliance by non-Contracting Party vessels with recommendations established by NEAFC came into force in January 2004.
- Contracting Parties sighting a vessel from a non-Contracting Party engaged in fishing activities in the Regulatory Area are required to notify the Secretary who will transmit the information to all Contracting Parties within one business day, and to the flag state of the sighted vessel as soon as possible. The Contracting Party sighting the non-Contracting Party vessel shall attempt to inform the vessel that it has been sighted engaging in fishing activities in the Regulatory Area and unless its flag state has been accorded the status of operating non-Contracting Party it is presumed to be undermining the NEAFC Recommendations and that this information will be distributed to all Contracting Parties and to the flag state of the vessel.
- NEAFC inspectors shall request permission to board non-Contracting Party vessels sighted as being engaged in fishing activities in the Regulatory Area. If the vessel consents to be boarded, the inspectors findings shall be transmitted to the Secretary without delay, and a copy provided to the vessel. Where evidence so warrants, a NEAFC Contracting Party may take such action as may be appropriate in accordance with international law.
- Non-Contracting Party vessels entering the port of any Contracting Party are required to be inspected by authorised Contracting Party officials and shall not be allowed to land or tranship any fish until this inspection has taken place. Information on the results of such inspections are to be immediately transmitted to the Secretary.
- Contracting Parties shall ensure that their vessels do not receive transshipments of fish from a vessel of a non-Contracting Party not accorded the status of a co-operating non-Contracting Party or engage in joint fishing operations with such vessels.
- Landings and transshipments of all fish from a non-Contracting Party vessel are prohibited in the ports and waters of all Contracting Parties if an inspection at sea or at port has revealed that the vessel has species on board subject to NEAFC Recommendations, unless the vessel establishes to the satisfaction of the competent authorities that the fish were caught outside the Regulatory Area or in compliance with all relevant Recommendations established under the Convention.
- The Secretary is required to notify all Contracting Parties and other relevant RFMBs within one business day of receiving information on presumed IUU activities, and as soon as possible to the flag state of the vessel identified as being engaged in fishing activities in the Regulatory Area. The flag state concerned is requested that it take measures to ensure that the vessel or vessels concerned desist from any activities that undermine the effectiveness of NEAFC Recommendations, including, if necessary, the withdrawal of the registration of these vessels or their authorisation to engage in fishing activities. The flag states are requested to report back to NEAFC on the results of its enquiries/measures it has taken.
- Contracting Parties are required to report annually to the Secretary, *inter alia*, the number of inspections of non-Contracting Party vessels it has conducted at sea or in ports.

Observation

- NEAFC does not operate an observer scheme.

Catch Documentation System/catch reporting

- NEAFC requires Contracting Parties to report catch within 30 days of the end of each month. This includes regulated resources caught in areas under national fisheries jurisdiction. The NEAFC Secretariat consolidates the data and circulates it to members within 10 days of the data submission deadline.
- NEAFC does not have a catch documentation system.

Compliance and infringement procedures

- If inspectors find clear grounds for believing that a fishing vessel flying the flag of another Contracting Party has engaged in any activity contrary to NEAFC measures they are required to:
 - Note the infringement in the inspection report
 - Take all necessary measures to ensure security and continuity of the evidence for subsequent dockside inspection
 - immediately attempt to communicate with an inspector or designated authority of the Contracting Party of the inspected fishing vessel to facilitate Contracting Party action on the infringement.
- The Contracting Party inspecting a fishing vessel is required to communicate in writing the details of an infringement to the designated authorities of the Contracting Party of the inspected vessel within the working day following the inspection whenever possible.
- The original of the inspection report, with any supporting documentation, must be forwarded promptly to the appropriate authorities of the Contracting Party of the inspected fishing vessel and to the Secretary.
- Each Contracting Party is required to ensure that the appropriate measures are taken, including administrative action or criminal proceedings in conformity with their national law, against the natural or legal persons responsible where NEAFC measures have not been respected. Such proceedings shall, in accordance with the relevant provisions of national law, be capable of effectively depriving those responsible of the economic benefit of the infringements or of providing sanctions proportionate to the seriousness of such infringements, thus effectively discouraging future infringements.

Serious infringements

- NEAFC have drawn up a list of serious infringements, i.e.
 - Fishing without a valid authorisation issued by the flag Contracting Party
 - Fishing without or after attainment of a quota;
 - Use of prohibited fishing gear
 - Serious mis-recording of catches;
 - Repeated failure to comply with provisions related to VMS, communication of catches and, as appropriate, communications to the Secretary;
 - Preventing an inspector from carrying out his duties;
 - Directed fishing for a stock which is subject to a moratorium or for which fishing is prohibited;
 - Falsifying or concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
 - Concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to an investigation;
 - Multiple violation which together constitute a serious disregard of conservation and management measures.
- If a NEAFC inspector considers that a fishing vessel has committed a serious infringement, he is required to notify the flag Contracting Party of that infringement. The flag Contracting Party is required to respond to the notification without delay and to ensure that the fishing vessel is inspected within 72 hours by an inspector duly authorised by that Contracting Party. The flag Contracting Party shall, if the evidence so warrants, require the fishing vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by that Contracting Party for a thorough inspection under its authority and in the presence of a NEAFC inspector from any other Contracting Party that wishes to participate. The flag Contracting Party may authorise the inspecting Contracting Party to bring the fishing vessel without delay to a port designated by the flag Contracting Party. If the fishing vessel is not called to port, the flag Contracting Party must provide justification in a timely manner to the Secretary and to the inspecting Contracting Party. The Secretary shall make such justification available on request to any Contracting Party

Reporting of infringements

- Each Contracting Party is required to report any serious infringement to the Secretary without delay. For other infringements, Contracting Parties are required to report to the Secretary by 1 October of each year for the period 1 July to 30 June, the status of the proceedings relative to infringements of NEAFC measures. This report shall indicate the current status of the case (i.e. case pending, under appeal, still under investigation, etc) and any sanctions or penalties imposed shall be described in specific terms (i.e. level of fines, value of forfeited fish and/or gear, written warning, etc.) and shall include an explanation if no action has been taken.

IUU vessel lists

- Non-contracting Party vessels sighted as being engaged in fishing activities in the Regulatory Area are placed on a provisional list of IUU vessels. Each year, NEAFC's Permanent Committee for Control and Enforcement (PECCOE)

consider this list and as appropriate recommend to the Commission that the vessels be removed or transferred to a confirmed IUU list. PECCOE only recommends that the Commission removes vessels from either of these lists if the flag state of the vessel concerned satisfies the Commission that it has:

- (a) taken effective action in response to the IUU fishing activities in question, including prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity, or
- (b) taken measures to ensure the granting of the right to the vessel to fly its flag will not result in IUU fishing activities, or
- (c) the vessel has changed ownership and that the new owner can establish the previous owner no longer has any legal, financial, or real interests in the vessel, or exercises control over it and that the new owner has not participated in IUU fishing, or
- (d) the vessel did not take part in IUU fishing, or
- (e) the vessel was fishing on a co-operation quota and fulfilled all relevant obligations.

The Secretary is required to place the provisional and confirmed lists on the NEAFC website.

- Vessels of co-operating non-Contracting Parties are added to the provisional list of IUU vessels by the Secretary if it is revealed that they have failed to establish that fish were caught in compliance with all relevant Convention Recommendations.
- Contracting Parties are required to take all necessary measures under their applicable legislation in order that: (a) vessels appearing on the IUU list that enter ports are not authorised to land or tranship but are inspected in accordance with the provisions of the Non-Contracting Party Scheme; (b) fishing vessels, support vessels, refuel vessels, the mother-ships and cargo vessels flying their flag do not assist IUU vessels or participate in any transshipment or joint fishing operations with vessels on the IUU lists; and (c) the supply in their ports of provisions, fuel or other services to vessels on the IUU lists is prohibited. With respect to vessels on the confirmed IUU list, Contracting Parties are required to: (a) prohibit authorisation of such vessels to fish in waters under their national jurisdiction; (b) prohibit the chartering of such vessels; (c) refuse the granting of their flag to such vessels; (d) prohibit the imports of fish coming from such vessels; (e) collect and exchange any appropriate information with other Contracting Parties or co-operating non-Contracting Parties with the aim of detecting, controlling and preventing false import/export certificates regarding fish from such vessels.
- Contracting Parties shall jointly and/or individually request non-Contracting Parties whose vessels appear on the IUU lists to co-operate fully with the Commission to avoid undermining the effectiveness of the Recommendations it has adopted. The Commission shall review actions taken by such non-Contracting Parties and identify those which have not rectified their fishing activities. The Commission shall decide appropriate measures to be taken in respect of non-Contracting Parties identified. Contracting Parties may co-operate to adopt appropriate multilaterally agreed non-discriminatory trade measures, consistent with WTO that may be necessary to prevent, deter, and eliminate the IUU fishing activities identified by the Commission.

NAMMCO

Vessel Registers

- No requirement for members to register their vessels and/or receiving places with the Secretariat.

VMS

- VMS not specifically referred to. However, the 'Provisions of the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals' require that national authorities develop and implement regulations for the electronic transmission of information to enable the controlling authorities to ascertain the vessel's position etc. for both near-coast and off-coast whaling operations. The Scheme also requires that for off-coast whaling operations, all vessels should have an instrument installed for recording the specific activities during whaling which can then be monitored after the return to port. Note, however, that such an 'instrument' is still under development.

Inspection

- Inspection under the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals is done nationally. National inspection schemes include national inspectors who either:
 - remain permanently on board whaling vessels or at landing/receiving places during the hunting season, or
 - carry out random control of hunting vessels and landing/receiving places, or
 - a combination of the two.
- The national authorities decide the extent of inspection within their own jurisdiction.
- For both near coast and off-coast whaling activities:
 - the relevant authorities in each NAMMCO member country design and publish a whaling logbook that the vessel captain must keep continually updated during the hunting season. NAMMCO have minimum requirements for the information to be contained in the logbook.
 - National authorities implement an arrangement whereby national inspectors carry out random checks on whaling vessels and at landing/receiving places. The provisions for an inspector's qualifications and competence, duties, rights, etc. are compiled by national authorities. National authorities develop a reporting form for use by inspectors.
 - Inspectors: (1) examine the whaling logbook to check whether it has been filled in correctly and in general to control that national regulations have been followed; (2) draw attention to violations of regulations on board whaling vessels or at landing/receiving places, and demand changes in according to the regulations in effect; (3) collect samples and record data in accordance with national and international requirements; (4) report to their national authorities.

Observation

- Under the International Observer Scheme, NAMMCO appoints observers who oversee hunting and inspection activities in NAMMCO member countries to monitor whether decisions made by the Commission are respected.
- Observers are appointed by a Management Committee for one year at a time. Appointments are made through a procedure that ensures member countries the opportunity to both nominate candidates as well as to oppose the appointment of candidates. NAMMCO can invite non-member countries to nominate candidates. Only in exceptional circumstances are observers appointed to observe in the country - or on a vessel registered in the country - of which he or she is resident.
- As a general rule, observers must have at least the same level of professional competence as that required of inspectors in the country where the observations are to take place. An observer on board a hunting vessel must be able to communicate spontaneously with the crew. A translator may be used for communication on land.
- Observations can take place on board a vessel, or on shore, in connection with flensing, storage and landing/delivering of the catch. Note that NAMMCO has not yet begun placing observers on vessels.
- NAMMCO only send one observer to each country every year, the location being picked according to the season and hunting success prior to the observer's arrival.
- Observers must submit a report (in English or a Scandinavian language) to the NAMMCO Secretariat on activities within one month of the end of the employment period. In the case of infringements, the observer shall send a written report on a specified form as soon as possible to the Secretariat with a copy to relevant authorities in the flag state and to the owner of the vessel.

Catch Documentation Scheme

- No current requirement