

Recommendation to Provide VMS and Catch Data to ICES for Scientific Purposes

The Commission hereby adopts the following recommendation in pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention:

Considering that although vessel monitoring system (VMS) data and regular catch reports are primarily collected for monitoring control and surveillance purposes, they are also a vital source of information for scientific purposes;

Seeking to make access and efficient use of NEAFC VMS and catch data in order for it to meet the needs of scientific purposes in addition to compliance monitoring;

Conscious of the need to maintain industry confidentiality of VMS data (i.e. respecting commercial sensitivity of detailed fishing locations);

The Secretary of NEAFC is instructed, with immediate effect, to make available VMS and catch data from the NEAFC Regulatory Area to ICES. The data transferred shall not contain information identifying vessels and flag State. The data shall be made available twice yearly:

No later than 1 August: data from the period 1 January –30 June

No later than 1 February: data from the period 1 July-31 December

This recommendation shall be in force until 31 December 2018.

Recommendation 10:2013 is repealed.