



Surveillance and Enforcement of Remote Maritime Areas (SERMA)

Workshop Conclusions & Recommendations

(Held 2-4 Nov 2009, Silver Spring, USA; finalized 12 Jan 2010)

Conclusion 1: Surveillance and enforcement of remote maritime areas (SERMA) is an increasingly important and expanding issue, including but not limited to marine conservation.

Conclusion 2: Resource and food security are elements of national and international maritime security.

Conclusion 3: The current practice under which fishing vessels are exempt from many key regulatory requirements inhibits the effective surveillance and enforcement of remote fisheries, and may pose a risk to national and international maritime security. These exemptions include safety and pollution conventions and measures, automatic reporting and safety at sea requirements, as well as registry listings.

Conclusion 4: Current and emerging technologies now make surveillance of remote marine protected areas possible. Many such systems are already in operation or in planning stages, often for maritime security purposes.

Recommendation 1: Surveillance requirements for marine protected areas should be integrated into national (and where appropriate, international) marine security, intelligence and surveillance systems. Integration requires cross-agency cooperation (including military, when appropriate) within national jurisdictions; trans-national cooperation across borders; and international cooperation through multi-lateral arrangements for areas beyond national jurisdiction. Cooperative integrated measures share costs and reduce redundancy.

Recommendation 2: States should continue to invest in development of new surveillance technologies, improvement of existing technologies, and creation of effective “data fusion” systems to integrate data from the wide array of surveillance data sources and make them usable to enforcement personnel.

Recommendation 3: Regulatory requirements for fishing vessels operating in remote areas outside of territorial waters should be harmonized into a system of international shipping standards as provided for through the International Maritime Organization.

Recommendation 4: States currently with limited capacity, particularly those responsible for remote and vulnerable maritime areas, such as small island developing States, may require capacity building and assistance with the surveillance and enforcement of fisheries laws and regulations in areas subject to their jurisdiction and with respect to their vessels, which should be provided as requested. This could include data, surveillance and cost sharing arrangements, collaborations, technology transfers and training from other States.

Recommendation 5

- a) Conservation enforcement should be seen in the broader context of other Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) related funding and activities;
- b) Future discussions and meetings should continue to encourage the broad engagement of relevant parties in this cross-cutting issue;
- c) A global meeting in 2011, either alone or in concert with another event, is recommended.