



Food and Agriculture
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COMMON
OCEANS
PROGRAM


Tuna project

Report of the Electronic Monitoring Minimum Standards Harmonization Workshop

WCPFC-SC21-2025/ST-WP-12

H. Murua, *et al.*
(Common Oceans Tuna Project)

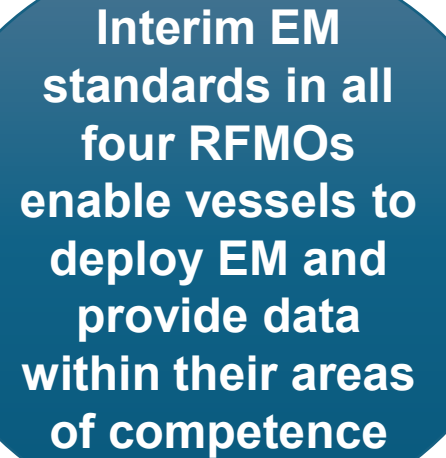
Background

IOTC – LL, PS, PL and GN EM Standards **adopted** May 2023. EM can be used to meet the required observer coverage if all minimum data requirements are met.

ICCAT – LL and PS EM Standards **adopted**, November 2023. EM can be used to complement the required minimum level of human observer coverage and associated tasks.

IATTC - LL and PS interim EM Standards **adopted**, September 2024. EM cannot yet be used to meet human observer coverage requirements or fulfill IATTC data obligations and requirements.

WCPFC - LL interim EM Standards **adopted**, December 2024.



Interim EM standards in all four RFMOs enable vessels to deploy EM and provide data within their areas of competence

Workshop objectives

To review and discuss EM standards adopted/drafted by different tuna-RFMOs and organizations.

Identify similarities and discrepancies among tuna-RFMOs EM standards and propose a potential harmonization (not to lower EM standards but to compare them).

To produce a summary of similarities and differences in EM standards among tuna RFMOs that can be incorporated in a future revision of the EM standards

Acknowledgement: Jenny Moffett and the Nature Conservancy for the comparative analysis of the existing EM standards



Some of the report recommendations

- Write as standards (checklist vs narrative) and ensure the distinction between mandatory requirements and guidelines are clear
- Development of a universal Vessel Monitoring Plan (or harmonization of mandatory requirements)
- Harmonization of audit and assurance protocols and data reporting templates
- Harmonize definitions related to coverage
 - **Installation Coverage:** The percentage of vessels equipped with EM systems.
 - **EM Record Coverage:** The percentage of total fishing effort (trips/events) for which EM records are available.
 - **Analysis Rate:** The percentage of EM records that have been analyzed to produce EM data.
 - **EM Coverage:** A composite metric calculated as EM Record Coverage multiplied by Analysis Rate.

Top 5 points from EM providers

- Please harmonize, but focus on outcomes (to allow innovation)
- Beware locking in legacy technology and think scalability
- Global ‘certification’ for systems critical for cross-RFMO fishing
- Don’t break the systems up – divided accountability
- Your data is both valuable and sensitive – help us let you keep it secure

Next steps

- For WCPFC
 - Consideration of this report by the ER and EM IWG
- For EM providers
 - Inter-operability
 - Advice on specific EM data fields
- For the overall project
 - Development of a universal Vessel Monitoring Plan template
 - Funding for a further workshop in quarter 1 2026 to review progress on EM implementation, emerging issues, and status of any workshop recommendations

Recommendations

- The SC recommends that the ER and EM IWG consider this report.
- The SC recommends that the ER and EM IWG continue engagement with this project.