Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

SEVENTH E-REPORTING AND E-MONITORING WORKING GROUP MEETING (ERandEMWG7)
Virtual Meeting
18 November 2025 from 10.00am to 1.00pm Pohnpei time

INTERIM CHAIR'S SUMMARY REPORT

Agenda item 1. Welcome and Opening

1. The 7th Session of the WCPFC Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring Working Group (ERandEM WG) held its seventh meeting by video conference. The Interim Chair, Lesley Hawn, called the meeting to order and welcomed participants.

2. **The WG adopted the agenda without amendment (Attachment 1)**. The Interim Chair recalled that the Working Group had been tasked by WCPFC21 with progressing work on electronic monitoring, including the development of an EM audit and assurance process, development of templates for program reporting, refinement of standards and specifications for onboard EM systems to ensure the SSPs are aligned and harmonized with standards adopted by other RFMOs and the outcomes of Project 93, and future development of EM data standards for carrier vessels.

3. The following members, cooperating non-members and participating territories (CCMs) attended ERandEMWG7: Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, European Union, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Chinese Taipei, Tonga, United States of America, American Samoa, French Polynesia, El Salvador, and Thailand.

4. Representatives from the following regional organizations attended ERandEMWG7: the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

5. Observers representing Birdlife International, International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Ocean Outcomes (O2), Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and Sharks Pacific, also attended ERandEMWG7.

6. A full list of participants is provided in **Attachment 2**.

7. The Interim Chair outlined that the meeting would proceed with discussion of three documents: the draft EM audit and assurance framework, a draft EM questionnaire, and a draft Vessel

Monitoring Plan (VMP) template. Since compiled comments on the draft audit and assurance document had been circulated only recently, members were encouraged to use this meeting to raise clarifying questions and engage in collective brainstorming.

Agenda Item 2: Objectives of the EM&ER-IWG Virtual Meeting

8. <u>EM Audit and Assurance Framework</u>

a) *Authorization pathway and overall structure*

The draft document proposed two forms of authorization: interim authorization for active EM programs already meeting or exceeding minimum standards, followed by full authorization after a Secretariat audit. Many members expressed uncertainty about the value of an interim authorization under the present circumstances, noting that few CCMs operate fully developed national EM programs and that maintaining two authorization pathways risked unnecessary complexity and additional workload for the Secretariat. Support grew for collapsing the process into a single full authorization pathway applicable to both national and subregional EM programs. Members emphasized the need for clearer guidance on what the Secretariat would check during authorization and the importance of distinguishing "process" from "procedure," which had been a source of confusion in the current draft.

- *Outcome-* The Working Group agreed that the next draft should prioritize a single full authorization process. The interim authorization pathway would be removed or retained only as a narrow option, pending further discussion. Clearer explanations of the sequence, roles, and expectations of the Secretariat and CCMs would be developed.

b) *Information Required for Full Authorization*

Members discussed the types of documents and evidence that should accompany applications for full authorization. There was broad support for requiring:

• EM analyst standard operating procedures or manuals

• Training materials demonstrating alignment with Commission obligations

• Confirmation of relevant national legal frameworks

• Program procedures for equipment malfunctions, incomplete trips, and other exceptions

Members highlighted that translation of large document sets would be burdensome for non-English-speaking CCMs. Several CCMs encouraged development of templates or standardized formats that would reduce workload and provide consistency across submissions. A requirement in the draft to submit a list of vessels equipped with EM systems drew limited support. Members noted that vessel fleets change frequently and that regular EM data submissions already identify which vessels are active. References to unique vessel identifiers were seen as more practical than maintaining a static list.

- *Outcome-* The Working Group agreed that the document pack for full authorization should focus on program-level evidence. The requirement to submit vessel lists would be removed in the next draft.

c) Assurance of EM outputs

Members agreed that assurance should be treated separately from authorization.
One view supported independent third-party audits of sampled EM footage to verify data accuracy. Another view emphasized confidentiality constraints and preferred assurance led by the Secretariat. Several CCMs stressed that national legal limitations may restrict sharing of sensitive imagery outside secure systems. Members also noted that definitions of "complete trip" and "malfunction" were still under development, and these definitions would influence the design of an assurance model.

- *Outcome-* The next draft would include a dedicated section on assurance, presenting multiple options, including Secretariat-led review and potential risk-based third-party models. Clarification of trip completeness and malfunction definitions would be addressed in parallel.

d) Audit Procedure, Modality, and Frequency

The draft proposed a five-year audit cycle with options for earlier audits upon request and default in-person delivery. Many members viewed a five-year interval as too long, given rapid changes in EM technology. A three-year cycle received broad support. Members also expressed interest in requesting audits sooner when program modifications or expansion occurred. Regarding modality, members strongly supported an initial in-person audit at the EM review center, enabling auditors to observe workstations, workflows, data safeguards, and review processes. Several CCMs stressed that sensitive imagery can be shown securely during an in-person audit without exporting data. Online audits, following an initial in-person audit, were seen as acceptable for routine verification. There was little support for vessel visits during audits, given their limited usefulness, high cost, and logistical challenges. Members also raised questions about cost responsibilities and potential resource constraints for the Secretariat.

- *Outcome-* The next draft would propose a three-year audit cycle, beginning with an in-person audit of the review center, followed by online audits as appropriate. Routine vessel visits would not be included.

9. Draft Vessel Monitoring Plan Template

The Interim Chair introduced a draft VMP template developed using the IATTC template as a base and aligned with WCPFC's interim standards. Members discussed the purpose and expected use of the template. It was generally understood that the VMP would not be a binding template at this stage. Instead, it would function as a harmonization tool for CCMs, particularly for vessels operating in multiple RFMOs. Members observed that some template elements differed from IATTC formats, which caused confusion, even when the underlying

content was similar. Areas requiring clarification included control box settings, camera settings, sorting-area measurements, and certain "reference information" fields. Members recalled that the WCPFC interim standards do not currently require VMPs to be submitted to the Secretariat or to be carried onboard vessels, although this could evolve. Some CCMs expressed interest in exploring the future value of onboard VMPs to support compliance inspections or auditing. Concerns were again raised regarding translation demands, and members encouraged formatting changes that would simplify bilingual use.

- *Outcomes-* The VMP template would remain an optional reference. Members would review the template intersessionally and propose refinements. Potential changes to submission or onboard carriage requirements would be deferred to future standards reviews.

10. Draft EM Questionnaire
The Interim Chair presented a draft online self-assessment questionnaire based on the Regional Observer Program audit questionaire. The questionnaire includes authorization-related questions, all existing interim technical standards, and all mandatory SSP provisions. Members recognized the value of such a tool both for CCM self-assessment and for Secretariat audits, and agreed it should expand as additional standards are adopted. Suggestions included linking the questionnaire more explicitly to national training requirements, national QA processes, and legal frameworks.

- *Outcome-* Members would review the questionnaire intersessionally and provide comments. A revised version would be prepared for the next meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Planning Ahead

11. Members supported continuing informal engagement during WCPFC22, including virtual participation by the Interim Chair if needed, noting the possibility of conceptual discussions on EM-related CMM elements at the Commission session. For formal Working Group business, members expressed preference for a dedicated virtual meeting in early January, noting that mid-February conflicts with major national holidays for several CCMs. A date of 14 January was agreed.

- *Outcome-* The Interim Chair would prepare a revised draft of the EM audit and assurance framework, incorporating the Working Group's guidance, including the shift to a single authorization pathway, a standalone assurance section, updated audit frequency and modality, and removal of vessel list requirements. Members would review the revised framework, the expanded questionnaire, and the VMP template ahead of the January meeting.

12. The Interim Chair thanked participants for their constructive engagement and closed the meeting at 12:00pm Pohnpei time.

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

WCPFC
E-Reporting and E-Monitoring Intersessional Working Group
18 November 2025
10:00am – 1:00pm (Pohnpei time)

Adopted EMandER-IWG7 Annotated Agenda

---

1. Opening of the Meeting
   a. Welcome address by Chair
   b. Introduction
   c. Adoption of agenda
   d. Review of EM workplan

2. Objectives of the EM&ER-IWG Virtual Meeting
   a. Discuss the draft audit and assurance document and associated comments/feedback
   b. Discuss draft templates for vessel monitoring plans, and other templates to streamline reporting processes for EM.

3. Planning Ahead
   a. In-person meeting during WCPFC22?
      1. Would members recommend an in-person meeting on the margins of WCPFC22 to continue to address the assurance and audit document and/or the draft templates, including the VMP?

   b. Virtual Meeting in 2026
      2. Would members recommend a virtual meeting in the spring to review and finalize revisions to the draft audit and assurance document and reporting templates?

Attendees – 7th meeting of the WCPFC E-reporting and E-monitoring Intersessional Working Group (ERandEMIWG7)

Participants

MEMBERS

Australia

David Power — AFMA — Senior Manager

Madeleine Miller — AFMA — Senior Policy Officer

Marguerite Tarzia — Australian Fisheries Management Authority — Manager, Foreign Compliance

Mat Kertesz — Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry — Director, Fisheries – Pacific, Multilateral and Research

Canada

Felicia Cull — Fisheries and Oceans Canada — Senior Policy Advisor

China

Du Liangyu — Shanghai Ocean University — Assistant Engineer

Feng Wu — Shanghai Ocean University — Lecturer

Jiaqi Wang — Shanghai Ocean University — Scientist

Li Tinglin — China Overseas Fisheries Agency — Staff

Li Yan — China Overseas Fisheries Association — Deputy Director of Highseas Fisheries

Cook Islands

Lualua Tua-Trood — Ministry of Marine Resources, Government of the Cook Islands — Director, Offshore Fisheries Division

European Union

Álvaro Nunez — Zunibal — REM Product Engineer

Carmelo Lepori — Zunibal — Sales Manager REM

Federated States of Micronesia

Barbara Hanchard — National Oceanic Resource Management Authority — Consultant

Mavrick Adolf — National Oceanic Resources Management Authority (NORMA) — Electronic Monitoring & Reporting Coordinator

Indonesia

Dodiet Rachmadi Slamet — Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries — Senior Capture Fisheries Production Specialist

Dyah Harini — Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries — Senior Capture Fisheries Production Specialist

Mahendra Andriyasa Rahardian — Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries — Junior Capture Fisheries Production Specialist

Mumpuni Cyntia Pratiwi — Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries — Senior Capture Fisheries Production Specialist

Okta Ria Yunita — Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries — Junior Capture Fisheries Production Specialist

Putuh Suadela — Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries — Associate of Capture Fisheries Production Specialist

Rosdiani — Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries — Fisheries Resource Analyst

Saraswati — Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries — Junior Capture Fisheries Production Specialist

Virda Wulandari — Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries — Junior Capture Fisheries Production Specialist

Japan

Masahide Kannou — Fisheries Agency of Japan — Staff, International Affairs Division

Mako Iioka — Fisheries Agency of Japan — Staff

Nobushige Shimizu — Fisheries Agency of Japan — Staff

Takeshi Miwa — Fisheries Agency of Japan — Counsellor

New Zealand

Daniel Kerrigan — Ministry for Primary Industries — Principal Adviser, International Fisheries

Jordan Owczarek — Ministry for Primary Industries — Senior Compliance Adviser, International Fisheries

Papua New Guinea

Lucas Tarapik — National Fisheries Authority — Observer Debriefing Coordinator

Republic of Korea

Choi KiWon — Korea Fisheries Resources Agency — Team Leader

Heewon Park — National Institute of Fisheries Science (NIFS) — Scientist

Ilkang Na — Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries — Multilateral Fisheries Negotiator

Jooyoun Lee — Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries — Policy Analyst

Mi Kyung Lee — National Institute of Fisheries Science — Scientist

Jae-geol Yang — Korea Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Center — Policy Analyst

Republic of the Marshall Islands

Beau Bigler — MIMRA — Chief Fisheries Officer

Dike Poznanski — MIMRA — Assistant Chief of Oceanic Fisheries

Chinese Taipei

Alexa Chang — Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture — Project Assistant

Amber Juan — Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture — Project Assistant

Joy Hsiangyi Yu — Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture — Section Chief, Pacific Ocean Fisheries Management Section, Distant Water Fisheries Division

Ren-Fen Wu — Overseas Fisheries Development Council — Director, Information Division

Tzu-Ching Yu — Overseas Fisheries Development Council — Secretary

Wen-Yu Chen — Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture — Specialist

Tonga

Mele Fehoko Atuekaho — Ministry of Fisheries — Deputy Chief Executive Officer

United States of America

Lesley Hawn — NOAA Fisheries – Pacific Islands Regional Office — Interim ERandEM Chair

Alex Kahl — NOAA Fisheries – Pacific Islands Regional Office — International Fisheries

Emily Crigler — NOAA Fisheries — Fisheries Management Specialist

Emily Reynolds — NOAA Fisheries — Fishery Policy Analyst

Jenny Suter — NOAA PIFSC — Chief, Fisheries Monitoring Branch

Kitty Simonds — Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council — Executive Director

Lucy Bulkeley — NOAA WCR HMS — IATTC Policy Support

Melissa Goldman — NOAA — Enforcement Attorney

Nicole Nasby Lucas — NOAA — Fishery Resource Management Specialist

Rachel Ryan — Department of State — Supervisory Foreign Affairs Officer

Raymond Clarke — BumbleBee Seafoods — Vice President

Roger Dang — Pacific Fishing — General Manager

Tyler Lawson — USG NOAA NMFS WCR — Fish Biologist

Valerie Post — NOAA Fisheries — Fishery Policy Analyst

PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES

American Samoa

Domingo Ochavillo — Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources — Chief Fisheries Biologist

Mark Fitchett — Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council — Pelagic Fisheries

Ecosystems Scientist

Nathan Ilaoa — Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources — Director

French Polynesia

Anne-Marie Trinh — Marine Resources Department — Fisheries Officer

Vaitemanu Coudert — Websight Agency — CEO

COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS

El Salvador

Abilio Orellana — CENDEPESCA — Technical Assistant for Projects

Thailand

Praphayapath Thonroshrapee — Department of Fisheries, Thailand — Fisheries Biologist, Practitioner Level

Thitirat Rattanawiwan — Department of Fisheries, Thailand — Fisheries Biologist, Professional Level

OBSERVERS – INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

Brad Wiley— Policy Officer

Colin Brinkman— Co-chair of IATTC Ad Hoc Working Group on Electronic Monitoring

Guillermo Morán Velásquez— Co-Chair of Ad Hoc Working Group on Electronic Monitoring

Marlon Roman —Bycatch and Electronic Monitoring Scientist

Pacific Community (SPC)

Leontine Baje —Fisheries Adviser

Malo Hosken —Regional ER Coordinator

Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

'Ana F. Taholo — Compliance Policy Advisor

Jason Raubani— MCS Policy Advisor

Philip Lens —Manager Observer Programme

Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA)

Brian Kumasi —Policy Manager

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)
Kerrie Robertson — Adira Consulting — Consultant

OBSERVERS – NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Birdlife International
Stephanie Borrelle —Pacific Marine Regional Coordinator

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)
Kerrie Robertson —Consultant

Marine Stewardship Council
Sayuri Ichikawa —WCPO Tuna Project Manager

Ocean Outcomes (O2)
Ho-Tu Chiang —Taiwan Fisheries Senior Manager
Hoki Lo —Consultant
Ryan Xu —Asia Fisheries Coordinator

Pacific Community (SPC)
Leontine Baje— Fisheries Adviser
Malo Hosken —Regional ER Coordinator

Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)
'Ana F. Taholo — Compliance Policy Advisor
Jason Raubani — MCS Policy Advisor
Philip Lens — Manager Observer Programme

Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA)
Brian Kumasi —Policy Manager

Pew Charitable Trusts
Dave Gershman — Senior Officer, International Fisheries Conservation
Jamie Gibbon — Senior Officer

Sharks Pacific
Bubba Cook — Policy Director

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Craig Heberer — Deputy Director, TNC Tuna Program
Dan Gilmete —Pacific Manager, Large-Scale Fisheries
Robynn Laplante — High Seas Policy Advisor

WCPFC SECRETARIAT

Eidre Sharp — Deputy Compliance Manager

Elaine G. Garvilles — Assistant Science Manager

Erlick Leopold —Data Entry and Reporting Technician

Hilary Ayrton —Fisheries Management and Compliance Adviser

Justin Lemuel — Data and Support Technician

Lucille Martinez —Administrative Officer

Simson Nanpei — IT Officer

Tim Jones — IT Manager