



**FOURTH E-REPORTING AND E-MONITORING WORKING GROUP MEETING
(ERandEMWG4)
Virtual Meeting
14 October 2020**

GUIDANCE ON PROVISIONAL AGENDA

**WCPFC-ERandEMWG4-2020-01_supplement
8 October 2020**

Paper prepared by the ERandEMWG Chair

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide guidance for the discussions and provides information on how the agenda items will be progressed. The ERandEMWG is a forum and is mandated to provide advice to the Commission and subsidiary bodies. The ERandEMWG is not a decision-making body.

Agenda item 2 Introduction

2. Introduction will involve a report from the chair on the background of the ERandEMWG and progress made against the Terms of Reference. This agenda item may be informed by updates from CCMs or regional bodies on steps taken with respect to EM that are relevant to the implementation of EM within WCPFC. As agreed at TCC16, reports provided will be taken as read however CCMs may raise issues or clarifying questions.

Agenda item 3 Draft Conservation and Management Measure

Background

3. WCPFC15 summary report para 410 *“The Commission supported the continuation of intersessional work, led by the ERandEMWG chair Kerry Smith (Australia) to further develop a draft conservation and management measure on E-monitoring for consideration by the Commission in 2020. The ERandEMWG Chair was tasked to provide a report on progress to WCPFC16 in 2019.”*
4. WCPFC16 para 554 *“The Commission noted the intersessional progress by the Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring Working Group on the development of draft Minimum standards for Electronic Monitoring Programmes”*.
5. The draft CMM was initially introduced as a concept paper to ERandEMWG3 and is intended to provide the WCPFC policy framework and set out obligations. The draft CMM captures objectives, principles, roles and responsibilities and sets up an accreditation process, as first raised at ERandEMWG3.

6. In early 2020 a drafting group was established to progress work on the draft CMM and the group has considered two versions of the draft CMM. There has been good engagement and comments have included clarifying various elements as well as more substantial questions. The Chair intends to introduce the draft CMM at a high level and seek input to help resolve specific issues based on comments received through the drafting group.
7. Under this agenda item, the chair will ask CCMs to focus comments on the major changes in the draft CMM as follows and seek endorsement to take the comments and feed them back through the drafting group. CCMs are asked to consider any recommendations that may be required to take work forward to the Commission.

Status of comments and text of the draft CMM as of 30 September 2020

Preamble

- a. Minor changes - One change that notes that EM are part of a suite of data collection and validation tools. One change that includes reference to the Convention text on compatibility.

Establishment of the WCPFC's E-Monitoring Programme (EMP)

- b. Major change – One CCM suggested that the use of the term “Regional” was redundant. This change was made throughout the doc.
- c. Major change – there was a desire to recognise the need for prioritisation in terms of implementation.

Objectives

- d. Minor change - The objectives were agreed at WCPFC16 however one change was made to clarify what was meant by “verified catch data”. The chair changed this to “verify catch data”.

Definitions

- e. There have been some additions to the definitions in response to questions from CCMs.

Scope of the WCPFC's EMP

- f. Additional language has been included to recognise that EM forms part of the suite of independent monitoring and verification tools.
- g. Further discussion is required in relation to the scope, particularly around vessels that fish on the high seas as well as in waters under the jurisdiction of one or more coastal States. Discussions previously have noted that an implementation plan must consider prioritisation and phasing.

Guiding principles for operation of the WCPFC's EMP

- h. Major change – There have been a number of additions to this section including the addition of sub headings. Further discussion is needed on this section.

Obligations of CCMs of the Commission

- i. Major change – there was a reference to ‘participating CCMs’. The reference to participating has been removed as one CCM noted that it implied the measure was not applicable to all

CCMs. The chair suggests that an implementation plan with a timeline may be added as an annex to the draft CMM. This approach may provide clarity as to which sectors the CMM applies to.

- j. A number of changes were made to this section, mainly moving text to other areas.

Role of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies

- k. Minor comments were received in relation to the role of the Commission.

Role of the Secretariat

- l. Major change – Additional text was added around the role of the Secretariat (to accredit E-monitoring programmes as having met the WCPFC’s E-monitoring standards).

Review

- m. Some language clarifying the role of the Commission (specifically ensuring the Commission could make decisions regarding any changes rather than requiring them to make changes).

Annex A - Minimum Standards for WCPFC’s Electronic Monitoring Programmes

- n. Comments on the draft minimum standards have been expansive and valuable. One major change is in relation to de-linking the draft standards from the draft CMM. It is the chair’s recommendation that the draft minimum standards would be better suited as a stand alone document. This approach is similar to decisions around the Commission ROP which includes the ROP CMM (2018-05) as well as a range of documents as set out on the WCPFC website that inform accreditation, training and data standards.

Agenda item 4 Accreditation Process

- 8. An accreditation process was first introduced as part of the concept paper at ERandEMWG 3. The accreditation process seeks to follow a similar format for the ROP whereby CCMs may seek to have their national programmes accredited as meeting the Commission’s [minimum standards](#). The draft minimum EM standards were presented to ERandEMWG3 and cover four areas - programme, technical, logistical and data analysis. At the meeting in 2018, they were the subject of focused breakout groups which noted a range of issues, not limited to – camera placement and maintenance, evidentiary needs, trips that involve fishing in both high seas and EEZs, training needs.
- 9. The draft minimum standards were initially included as part of the draft CMM but comments from members of the drafting group have indicated that it is more appropriate that the standards stand alone as part of the suite of documents that inform an accreditation process. The chair suggests that further work should be done to refine the draft minimum standards for endorsement in 2021 and to consider what other documents are needed to support an accreditation process.

10. CCMs are asked to consider and comment on the proposed approach and to provide guidance on the supporting documents and roles and responsibilities of the Commission, CCMs and the Secretariat in terms of an accreditation process.

Agenda item. 5 Implementation

11. WCPFC16 Summary Report paragraph 556 – *“The Commission agreed that the conclusions from Project 93 in relation to data gaps be considered in the implementation of regional EM standards.”*
12. WCPFC12 Summary Report paragraph 543 - *“The Commission encouraged the development of Electronic Monitoring by CCMs in areas where data gaps exist such as longline observer coverage and high seas transshipment.”*
13. ERandEMWG3 report paragraph 80 - *“The ERandEMWG recommends that the Commission agree to prioritising E-monitoring in areas where independent data collection and verification is currently low and asked SC14 and TCC14 for advice on priority areas.”*
14. ERandEMWG3 report paragraph 10 - *“It was noted that the characteristics of some fisheries was a factor to be considered with respect to implementation.”*
15. ERandEMWG2 report paragraph 27 – *“The extent of trials and implementation of e-technologies across the WCPFC membership, is increasing the urgency for standards and specifications to be agreed at the WCPFC level, which take into account the developments amongst WCPFC members.”*
16. In 2014, the Commission noted that progress had been made by some members with respect to electronic technologies, specifically electronic reporting and electronic monitoring and tasked a working group with considering steps to progress implementation.
17. Previous discussions that relate to implementation have noted the need to consider cost-benefit analyses, training needs, importance of not transferring a conservation burden to SIDs and Territories, periodic reviews.
18. The chair suggests that work on an implementation plan can occur concurrently with work on the draft CMM. CCMs are asked to comment on priority areas, noting advice from SC and from TCC and the outcomes and discussions around Project 93.
19. In addition, the chair continues to note the linkages with other IWGs and will continue discussions with relevant chairs.
20. ERandEMWG 3 para 19 – *“The ERandEMWG recognised that there are clear linkages to the ongoing work being conducted in various WCPFC intersessional working groups related to electronic reporting of information and recommended that the Secretariat facilitate participation and information sharing among working groups. “*

Agenda item 6. Outcomes and recommendations

21. Under Agenda item 6, CCMs will be asked to endorse outcomes and any recommendations to the Commission. A final report will be drafted and circulated post the meeting for comments. The report will be submitted to the Commission in December.
