



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

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**PROPOSAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE WCPFC MONITORING PROGRAM
THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OVERARCHING CMM**

WCPFC-TCC21-2025-DP06

6 September 2025

Submitted by the United States of America

1. In 2022, the Chair of the Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring (ERandEM) Intersessional Working Group (IWG) suggested the development of a comprehensive WCPFC monitoring program ([WCPFC-ERandEMWG5-2022-02](#)) and outlined a possible approach to integrate a WCPFC Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) into the overarching WCPFC fisheries management and institutional framework. Although there was support for this idea in the IWG, limited resources led ERandEM IWG to focus on developing EM Standards, Specifications, and Procedures, which WCPFC adopted in 2024. As a result, the Commission should reconsider the 2022 approach, in order to ensure that EM works in concert with existing CMMs and monitoring tools, particularly given the recent progress of the IWG made specifically on EM.
2. At WCPFC16, the Commission agreed that “the objectives of the Commission Electronic Monitoring Programme (EMP) shall be to verify catch data, other scientific data, and additional information related to the fishery from the Convention Area and to monitor the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission” ([WCPFC16 Summary Report, para 555](#)). These EMP objectives mirror the objectives of the Regional Observer Program (ROP) (para. 4 of CMM 2018-05):
 4. *The objectives of the Commission ROP shall be to collect verified catch data, other scientific data, and additional information related to the fishery from the Convention Area and to monitor the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission.*
3. This year, the ROP and ERandEM IWGs are undertaking a number of overlapping and related tasks, including review and potential modification of data collection standards to ensure that all relevant data are collected. There is recognition for the need to ensure that the adoption of EM data standards, and other issues such as the development of an audit process, are harmonized with WCPFC ROP requirements. There are a number of ERandEM IWG tasks for 2025 which reflect this, including: a) review of data requirements not already included in the ROP Minimum Standard Data Fields; b) development of an audit process based on the ROP model, and c) consideration of EM data standards for transshipment events. A number of the current priority taskings for the ROP IWG ([WCPFC21-2024-16 Update from the ROP IWG](#)) also include issues that overlap with the development of an EMP, including: 1) review of potential modifications to the ROP minimum standard data fields; 2) consideration of recommendations to increase observer coverage; and 3) consideration of recommendations related to emerging technologies, including EM.
4. Given the mirrored objectives of both the ROP and the emerging WCPFC EMP, the overlapping work of the ROP IWG and the ERandEM IWG, the 2022 proposal by the ERandEM IWG Chair for an overarching program, and the progress made by the WCPFC on its EM program since 2022, **the United States proposes that the Commission consider the development of a single, comprehensive monitoring program through establishment of an overarching CMM, which would include both the ROP and EM.**
5. The United States is requesting feedback from the TCC21 on this proposal to support further discussion in advance of and during WCPFC22.

6. The United States recognizes significant progress being made by the ROP and ERandEM IWGs. Consensus among members to work towards this goal would not add to or detract from the current IWG taskings, but instead complement these efforts and help to ensure that the taskings of these two groups are closely aligned and geared towards the same overall objective.

Draft TCC Recommendation

7. *TCC21 recommended that the Commission consider the development of a single, comprehensive monitoring program through establishment of an overarching CMM, which would include both the Regional Observer Programme and Electronic Monitoring Programme.*