



**COMMISSION**  
**Twenty-Second Regular Session**  
1-5 December 2025  
Manila, Philippines (Hybrid)

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**Summary of the Work Undertaken by the Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring  
Intersessional Working Group (ERandEM IWG) in 2025**

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**WCPFC22-2025-12**  
**25 November 2025**

**Submitted by the ERandEM IWG Chair**

21 November 2025

**Dear Commissioners,**

Recognized as a vital tool for accurate data collection, compliance monitoring, and verification, EM warrants timely implementation to advance transparency, strengthen fisheries management, and support the sustainable use of marine resources, as emphasized by the ERandEM IWG.

Please find below a summary of the work undertaken by the Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring Working Group (ERandEM WG) in 2025, in accordance with the adopted workplan at the 21st Session of the WCPFC.

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**ERandEM IWG Workplan for 2025/2026**

The Commission tasked the ERandEM IWG to:

1. Develop a proposed **assurance/audit process** for EM standards for longline fisheries, based on the ROP audit model.
2. Review and develop **templates for Part 1 EM program reporting** and other elements of EM standards where standardized reporting would benefit members.
3. Review EM data requirements based on relevant CMMs not already addressed in the ROP minimum data fields, including outstanding EM data requirements. This work also includes refining SSPs for onboard EM systems and data fields to ensure alignment with other RFMOs' standards and outcomes of Project 93.
4. Initiate development of **EM standards for carrier vessels** conducting transshipment for longline vessels, in close collaboration with the ROP to address interconnections between

EM and observer program activities.

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### Activities Undertaken by the Interim Chair

- **August 2025:** The Secretariat circulated **WCPFC Circular 2025/51**, outlining the path forward, the interim Chair's intent to engage with CCMs at TCC21, and establish a close working relationship with Mr. Lucas Tarapik, Chair of the ROP-IWG.
- **TCC21 Engagement:** The interim Chair consulted CCMs to gather insights on priorities and challenges for advancing the IWG's work. Discussions focused on enhancing collaboration, streamlining processes, and ensuring alignment with the Commission's broader objectives.
- **October 2025:** The Secretariat circulated **WCPFC Circular 2025/66**, summarizing feedback and insights relevant to EM program development. The circular proposed effective intersessional working arrangements, recommended priority work areas based on the 2025 workplan, and included a Gantt chart and draft audit and assurance process for review by the group.
- **ERandEM WG7 (November 18, 2025):** The 7th session of the Working Group was held via videoconference. A summary report of the meeting can be found at <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/meetings/erandemwg7>. Key outcomes included:
  - Prioritization of a **single full authorization pathway** for EM programs.
  - Establishment of a **standalone EM assurance section**, separate from authorization.
  - Update of the **audit cycle to three years**, beginning with an initial in-person review.
  - Focus on **program-level evidence**, removing the requirement to submit vessel lists.
  - Maintenance of the **VMP template and EM questionnaire** as reference tools for intersessional review.

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### Next Steps

- Maintain engagement with CCMs during WCPFC22, including virtual participation by the Interim Chair where needed, to support continuity of intersessional work.
- Prepare updated documents: The Interim Chair will revise the EM audit and assurance framework, VMP template, and questionnaire, incorporating guidance and recommendations from ERandEM WG7.
- 14 January 2026: Hold a virtual meeting to review and provide feedback on revised drafts of the EM audit and assurance framework, VMP template, and EM questionnaire.
- Support intersessional review: Members will review updated drafts in advance of the next meeting to support informed discussion.

The progress made in 2025 provides a strong foundation for continued intersessional work in 2026.

The Interim Chair looks forward to working closely with CCMs and the Secretariat to implement the next steps outlined above, ensuring that EM continues to contribute effectively to sustainable fisheries management and the Commission's broader objectives.