

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
5TH WORKSHOP ON AN ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEM (EMS)
IN THE EPO: FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

(by videoconference)
24-26 April 2023

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

The 5th Workshop on an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) in the EPO: Financial considerations, was held by videoconference from 24 to 26 April 2023. A list of participants is provided in Annex 1

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Brad Wiley of the IATTC Policy and Compliance Division.

There were no comments on the draft agenda. It was recalled that the 5th EMS workshop was convened in the context of the terms of reference adopted by the Commission in [Resolution C-21-02](#) for a series of workshops to elaborate on the necessary aspects of an eventual EMS program to be approved by the Members. The goals of these workshops are not only to garner any conclusions and recommendations on the covered topics, but also to educate participants and foster communication and work towards a common understanding among stakeholders on EM matters. Participants were asked to consider and comment broadly on discussion topics related to the economic implications of an EMS for the tuna fisheries in the EPO, the procedures and responsibilities for EMS and its components for the establishment of financing and cost-allocation mechanisms, and the financial and administrative aspects of the EMS program within a suitable IATTC institutional framework.

The Chair indicated that IATTC staff would give one presentation corresponding to document [EMS-05-01, over the course of the meeting, pausing](#) after [each section for comments and discussion](#). Discussions took place consistent with the Chatham House Rule, meaning that comments would not be attributed to any individual, government or other affiliation, unless attribution was explicitly requested by the speaker.

2. Discussion of EMS-05-01, EMS Financial considerations of an EMS in the EPO

Mr. Marlon Roman, of the IATTC staff, presented document EMS-05-01 as indicated above, after stressing that this document contains a number of draft/strawman recommendations prepared by the staff with the goal of stimulating focused discussion on a number of topics.

2.1. Assessing the economic implications of an EMS for the tuna fisheries in the EPO

Staff Recommendation: *Consider the results of the cost-benefit analysis for longline fisheries, as reported in Rogers et al. (2021), and conduct a similar analysis for purse seine fisheries to facilitate a more efficient implementation of an EMS in the EPO.*

The staff explained the rationale for conducting a cost-benefit analysis to assess the economic implications and value of the EPO-EMS. The document presents two examples of fisheries, other than the EPO tuna purse-seine, that reported high levels of economic benefits relative to costs. While highlighting these studies, the staff emphasizes that conducting a cost-benefit analysis for the purse-seine fishery in the EPO is necessary to fully understand the economic value of EM and to consider its use for all EPO tuna fisheries. Additionally, Rogers *et al.* (2021) suggest that the economic variables considered as significant sources of value may differ between fisheries and RFMOs. Therefore, lessons learned from one fishery may not be fully applicable to others, including the purse-seine fishery in the EPO.

- There were not comments on this recommendation.

2.2. Establishing financing, cost-allocation procedures and responsibilities for EMS and its

components

Staff Recommendation: *Establish cost-allocation procedures and financing options for all expenses related to implementing and maintaining an EMS and its components (e.g., EM equipment, installation, technical assistance both at sea and at EM review centers, and EM analysis, including training, hardware and software).*

The staff stressed the need to identify all the associated costs and establish procedures, mechanisms and responsibilities for financing an EMS that would be effectively implemented and maintained in the long term. Towards this end, some approaches were presented, with emphasis on ‘cost recovery’, including some of its types, some key to optimize these costs aiming to add weight to EM economic benefits, and the need to explore options and design guidelines for the recovery of costs of an EPO-EMS.

- One participant asked which program the recommendations were aimed at, and a staff member suggested a hybrid system where centralized EM programs would be used for purse-seine fisheries, and national-based EM programs for longliners. They also noted that costs would need to be considered at the Commission level for data derived from national programs.
- Some participants agreed that, given the nature of the EM workshops, they should not try to limit options but should instead provide options for discussion in policy meetings. They suggested removing the word "procedures" from this recommendation. The staff, mindful of the editing proposed, agreed with its elimination. The staff was also noted that it is difficult to discuss specific details on cost-allocation procedures and financing options until the institutional structure of the EMS has been adopted.
- A group of participants expressed support for focusing on longliners first, as robust observer programs are already in place for purse-seine vessels. They suggested that cost-benefit analyses for purse seiners should focus more on EM in addition to observers, particularly for smaller purse-seine vessels that do not have observer coverage.

Staff Recommendation: *Conduct cost-recovery studies to explore options, and develop guidelines, for the recovery of costs of an EPO-EMS.*

- One participant expressed concern about how to explain cost recovery to fishers, suggesting that the term "cost-justification" might be more appropriate. The IATTC staff responded that it is difficult to provide many details regarding what a cost-recovery plan would entail or recommend a specific financial approach, but that they were informing participants of existing alternatives provided by other studies, including EM programs that have been implemented with designed cost-recovery plans. On this [basis](#), the staff advocates the need to consider including a cost-recovery plan as part of the EMS implementation and supports cost-recovery studies to identify all the associated costs and establish mechanisms for cost-sharing arrangements and other relevant financing aspects. It was also remarked that cost recovery did not necessarily have to be implemented at the IATTC program level but could be coordinated through the IATTC at the national level following the AIDCP model.

2.3. Committee reviewing and monitoring the EPO-EMS

Staff Recommendation: *The Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) should review and monitor the financial and administrative aspects of the EMS, and subsequently submit relevant recommendations to the Commission.*

The IATTC staff expressed the need for EMS to be monitored and reviewed by a suitable body. In the case of the IATTC, the staff considers reasonable that the Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF) could be required to undertake this task, as it is responsible for advising and recommending on all the matters related to the financial administration of the Commission.

- There were no substantive comments on this recommendation.