

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
***AD HOC* WORKING GROUP ON ELECTRONIC MONITORING**
3rd MEETING
Panama City, Panama
25 August 2025

DOCUMENT WGEM-03-01
CO-CHAIRS' DISCUSSION PAPER

Introduction:

At the 102nd Commission meeting in September 2024 the Commission adopted C-24-09: EMS Interim Minimum Standards, a significant accomplishment for both this working group and the Commission. A year later the co-chairs would like the working group to review progress on voluntary EM implementation in IATTC fisheries and discuss the next steps for the working group necessary to advance the use of EM in IATTC. A previous co-chairs' draft schedule of EM topics ([WGEM-01-INF-A Options-for-Schedule-of-EM-Topics](#)) proposed an order of topics for the discussions of this working group, but the current co-chairs would like to propose the following order:

1. Interim minimum data collection standards and priorities, and financial implications for implementation of interim standards and priorities
2. EMS Objectives and Scope
3. Institutional Structure
4. Management considerations (except goals and scope, and financial considerations)
5. Final data collection standards and priorities
6. Technical standards
7. Financial considerations for standard implementation and final priorities

We have already adopted the interim standards, number 1 on the list, and number 2 as proposed before the first working group meeting was "Institutional Structure". However, the co-chairs think that addressing institutional structure at this time might be premature, and that instead we should **next discuss EMS goals, and scope, which will focus and serve as a foundation for the remainder of our work. One reason is that the objectives and scope will in large part determine our workload and the number and frequency of meetings we may wish to hold. They may also influence decisions on institutional structure.**

["WGEM-01-01: Outcomes-of-the-EMS-workshops"](#) provided a summary of discussions and a set of updated IATTC staff recommendations on this topic from the six IATTC workshops on electronic monitoring as follows:

Goals and scope

Goals

The EPO EMS should generate data to be made available for use in both scientific and compliance related activities, as defined by the Members.

Scope

The EPO EMS should include the following types of vessels operating in the IATTC Convention Area: tuna purse-seine vessels of all sizes; all longline vessels of 12 meters in length or more and motherships of longline vessels less than 12 meters in length, and transshipment authorized carriers.

The co-chairs propose some discussion questions related to these summary recommendations:

- Are the goals and scope above consistent with the current needs of the Commission and the aspirations of the Members for the use of EM in IATTC fisheries?
- Are there high priority applications for EM that we should consider in our near-term work? For example: addressing fishery data gaps, enhancing fishery monitoring, complementing or replacing human observers, etc.
- Are there specific fisheries, vessel classes, or gear types we wish to prioritize?
- Can we also define objectives - specific, measurable steps to reach those goals in the short to medium term?

We propose the following agenda for the meeting on August 25:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Presentation from TNC and partners:
 - a. EM Pilot on Small Class Purse Seine Vessels in Ecuador
 - b. Edge AI EM research on Costa Rica
 - c. INCOPESCA / CNIP / IATTC / TNC Costa Rica Longline EM Pilot
4. Ecuador FIPs (Conservation Mahi Mahi & Swordfish.ec) — Industry-led EM Pilot on Industrial Longliners with Zunibal & WWF Ecuador
5. Questions and discussion about the presentations
6. Discussion of goals and scope for EM in IATTC
7. Frequency and format of future meetings
8. Other business
9. Recommendations to the Commission
10. Next Meeting
11. Adjournment

In advance of the meeting, we encourage you to review the following documents:

- [C-24-09 EMS Interim Minimum Standards](#)
- [WGEM-01-01: Outcomes-of-the-EMS-workshops](#)

- Report of [the](#) First Ad-Hoc Working Group on Electronic Monitoring
- [WSEMS-01-02-REV-03-Dec-2021 IATTC-Workplan-for-the-Implementation-of-Electronic-Monitoring-System-\(EMS\)-in-the-EPO](#)
- [WSEMS-02-02-REV-15-Dec-2021 Goals-and-scope-of-an-EMS-in-the-EPO](#)

We look forward to our meeting on August 25.

Sincerely,

C. Colin Brinkman

Guillermo Moran

Co-Chair

Co-Chair