

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
AD-HOC WORKING GROUP ON ELECTRONIC MONITORING
1ST MEETING

La Jolla, California (USA)
27-28 November 2023

DOCUMENT WGEM-01 INF-A

CO-CHAIRS' PROPOSAL

Introduction

The staff-led IATTC EM workshops have covered topics specified in the workplan agreed to by the Commission (see below). This order of topics was intended to follow a logical progression, to the extent possible, understanding that decisions made on some topics would inform and provide direction for subsequent discussions on later topics. For example, preferences on scope and institutional structure would provide sideboards for consideration of financial implications.

In preparing for the first meetings of the EMWG, some CPCs and NGOs have recommended that IATTC consider the adoption of interim, minimum data standards that could be used by CPCs in the intervening time, until the Commission adopts a comprehensive measure on IATTC EMS. The idea is to allow CPC to begin to experiment with EM implementation, producing knowledge and lessons for our collective benefit, while also allowing for the generation of potentially valuable data from tuna fisheries that currently have little or no human observer coverage. Accordingly, the Co-Chairs are offering for consideration an alternate order of topics that differs from the order of discussion followed in the workshops, which would allow the consideration and development of the possibility of interim minimum data standards. While agreement on objectives and scope is necessary to later inform the full set of standards and data collection priorities, the Commission could consider adopting a set of interim minimum standards that would facilitate national EM pilot programs progressing, without prejudice to the future decisions of the Commission on an EMS program in the EPO, including to adoption of a final set of minimum data.

Order of Topics Discussed in Workshops

1. Institutional Structure
2. EMS Objectives and Scope
3. Management considerations (except goals and scope, and financial considerations)
4. Technical standards
5. Data collection standards and priorities
6. Financial considerations
7. Standards

An Alternative of Order of Topics for the Working Group

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