

High Level Electronic Monitoring/Systems (EM/S) Guiding Principles for CCSBT

CCSBT Definition(s)¹

Electronic Monitoring (EM):

The use of electronic devices to record fishing vessels' activities using video technology linked to a Global Position System (GPS), which may include sensors.

Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS):

The system comprising the vessel and shore-based components for collecting, transmitting and reviewing EM records, reporting of EM data and implementing an EM Program.²

Primary Objectives of EM/S

The use of EM/S is voluntary and, if used, can complement or supplement human observer programmes.

The CCSBT EM/S should be compatible with the EM/S utilised in other relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs).

There is potential for CCSBT EM/S data and information to be used to assist with the assessment and reporting of Members' compliance with CCSBT Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) in future if agreed by Members. This does not prevent Members choosing to use their own EM/S data and information to support compliance with CCSBT CMMs.

EM/S can be used to contribute to meeting the scientific observer coverage requirements as described in the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program Standards (SOPS).

In cases where EM/S can be utilised, the data and information collected by EM/S should, at a minimum, be as robust as that collected by human observers.

EM/S can be used across all SBT fishing activities.

¹ These definitions are consistent with the definitions used (in 2023) by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

² EM Program was defined by IOTC in paper [IOTC-2022-WPDCS18-32](#) as, "a process administered by a national or regional administration that regulates the use of EMS on vessels to collect and verify fisheries data and information responsible through an implementation of an EMS in a defined area and/or fishery"

Information Objective

EM/S can be used as a primary data collection tool and/or to verify data collected by other methods.

Data Review Objectives

The review of EM footage should be representative as defined in the CCSBT SOPS.

Onshore scientific observers/analysts should:

- Have a similar level of relevant qualifications and training as at-sea scientific observers, and
- Meet CCSBT's independence and integrity requirements as defined in the CCSBT SOPS.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) may be considered in the context of CCSBT EM/S.

Security, Privacy and Confidentiality

EM/S and the information and data collected by those systems must be tamper-proof.

Members may choose to share information collected from EM/S. The sharing of EM/S information shall be done in accordance with CCSBT's confidentiality rules.