



CCSBT-CC/2310/07

Consideration of Draft CCSBT High Level Guiding Principles for Electronic Monitoring (EM) and Electronic Monitoring Systems (EM/S)

1. Introduction

The Seventeenth meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC17) requested that an intersessional working group be convened and meet virtually to consider some of the key EM/S-related issues discussed at CC17, including data requirements for EM/S. In addition, CC17 directed that the working group meeting outcomes be submitted to the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) for its consideration.

The virtual EM/S workshop was held online in two half-day sessions between 17 and 18 May 2023. The workshop agreed a set of draft High-Level EM/S Guiding Principles for CCSBT which are provided at **Attachment A**. These draft Guiding Principles set out CCSBT definitions of Electronic Monitoring (EM) and Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS)¹, a variety of objectives, and security, privacy and confidentiality considerations.

CC18 is requested to:

- Decide whether to endorse these draft EM/S Guiding Principles and recommend them to the Extended Commission (EC).

2. Background

The CC Chair, Mr Frank Meere, chaired the virtual, intersessional working group meeting to discuss Electronic Monitoring/ Systems (EM/S) in the context of CCSBT in May 2023. The aim of the workshop was to help Members reach a common understanding on a number of high-level principles that will guide how EM/S is used within CCSBT. The workshop was attended by representatives from five CCSBT Members (Australia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Taiwan). All participants were provided with the Secretariat's discussion document² (including questions) in advance of the workshop to support and stimulate discussion during the virtual sessions.

Workshop participants recognised that additional work was necessary to assess the potential impact of EM/S use on CCSBT's data requirements, but that these technical discussions required a level of technical expertise that was better suited to the ESC and Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG).

The workshop recommended that the ESC and ERSWG:

- Review the data elements currently required to be collected by the CCSBT Scientific Observer Programme Standards (SOPS) with respect to EM/S at their earliest convenience, and that
- This review should include an assessment of whether each SOPS data element that is currently required to be collected is being utilised and whether its ongoing collection is necessary.

¹ Which are the same definitions as agreed by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

² Discussion Paper on Electronic Monitoring (EM) and Associated Systems (CCSBT-CC/2310/Info 01)

3. Action Required

The Compliance Committee is requested to:

- Decide whether to endorse and recommend to the EC the draft High Level Electronic Monitoring/Systems (EM/S) Guiding Principles for CCSBT provided at **Attachment A**; and
- Discuss if there are any next steps to add to the CC's 2024 Workplan with respect to EM/S.

Prepared by the Secretariat

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.

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.

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"

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.

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