



Electronic Monitoring Workshop
Thursday 18th – Friday 19th July 2024
Wellington, New Zealand

AGENDA ITEM. 1	Electronic Monitoring - Background
PAPER NUMBER:	WP.1
Summary This paper provides background information and an overview of the discussion that will take place under each of the agenda items. Recommendations: The meeting is invited to note the paper.	

Introduction

1. Electronic Monitoring (EM) is envisaged to complement other monitoring tools in place in the region with the aim to improve the availability of quality-assured independent information for compliance and scientific purposes and contribute to improving the economic viability of longline fisheries. The improvement to the economic viability of the longline fisheries is expected to be through overall better management of the fishery by reducing IUU fishing and better information available for compliance and scientific purposes. FFA Members have trialed EM since 2014 and two Members (Australia and New Zealand) have rolled out implementation.

2. The Regional Longline Electronic Monitoring Policy was adopted by FFC114 (2020) and is a guide for Members in support of the development of their national EM programmes. In addition to EM trials by some of the FFA Members, there have been a number of EM related initiatives progressed in the past, some of which is overviewed below.

Tasking from FFC126 (2023) relating to a regional database of annotated images

3. FFC126 (2023) tasked the Secretariat to “*work with SPC to explore the development of a regional database of annotated images in support of artificial intelligence (AI)*” based on a recommendation from MCSWG26 (2023).

4. SPC, in consultation with FFA, put out a Request for Quotation (RFQ) on Considerations for a Regional Database of Annotated Images for Artificial Intelligence in Fisheries E-Monitoring which was advertised on 1 March 2024. A Consultant, Mr. Viv Fernandes, was chosen to undertake this work.

5. The main objective of this workshop is to consider the Consultant's report which is in WP.2 and will be discussed under **Agenda 3**. The workshop is expected to provide views on the report that would help shape the final recommendations of the report, going forward to FFC for consideration.

EM Standards, Specifications and Procedures

6. The FFA Regional MCS Strategy calls for the development of regional standards for EM both for 'data standards' (what data is collected) and 'process standards' (how data is collected). This will facilitate the compatibility of data generated from EM with regional standards and data confidentiality rules. It will also facilitate the implementation of EM in such a way as to be integrated with existing databases, FFA surveillance activities and national-level data systems that support analysis by Members.

7. FFC122 (2022) endorsed the FFA EM Standards, Specifications and Procedures (SSPs) as interim guidelines, noting these will continue to be reviewed and revised as Members build their experience with EM. These FFA EM SSPs were tabled at WCPFC19 (2022) as an information paper ([WCPFC19-2022-DP08](#)) to help progress the work of the development of SSPs by the WCPFC ERandEM Working Group. The FFA SSPs addresses:

- SSP1a: On-board EM systems`
- SSP1b: EM hardware and software in Data Review Centres (DRCs)
- SSP1c: EM System Certification
- SSP2a: EM Records Transmission
- SSP2b: EM Records Analysis and Quality Assurance
- SSP2c: EM Records and EM Data Storage
- SSP3: EM Records and EM Data Ownership and Access
- SSP4: EM Records and EM data security and confidentiality

8. The first two SSPs above are the focus of the work of the ERandEM Working Group (ERandEM WG) and were the basis of the discussion at ERandEM WG6 on 31 May 2024. The Chair committed to provide a paper to SC20 (2024) which will include a 'clean' version of the proposed interim EM standards and further outline a way forward for matters such as assurance, harmonization and interim minimum data standards. This is the subject matter in WP.3 and will be discussed under **Agenda 4**.

Data Collection Committee (DCC) Longline EM Minimum Data Fields

9. FFC126 (2023) endorsed the Data Collection Committee (DCC) Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027. The DCC supports the sustainable management and economic development of tuna fisheries in the Pacific Region through the improvement of the data standards, data processes and data quality that underpin the science, compliance and the provision of technical advice by the SPC, FFA and PNAO to its respective Members.

10. An initial meeting to review the standardisation of Longline E-Monitoring data fields for member countries of the SPC, FFA and PNAO was conducted in February 2020. This initial meeting produced a draft DCC Longline EM minimum data fields which was tabled at SC16 (2020) – see [SC16-ST-IP-07](#).

11. Further work on this issue has progressed since 2020 and more information is in WP.4 and will be discussed under **Agenda 5**.

Progressing regional EM implementation

12. **Agenda 6** will provide an opportunity for the Secretariat to brief Members on the EM related work for the last 6 months as well as looking ahead for the next 6 months (WP.5) and garner views from Members on other areas of work that is a priority for the Secretariat to address.