

Original: English

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
WORKING GROUP IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC  
TUNAS (ICCAT) ON THE USE OF ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEMS (EMS)**

*Presented by the EU*

*CONSIDERING* the need to ensure a proper implementation and enforcement of the rules in force to guarantee a good management of the stocks managed by ICCAT;

*NOTING* that ecosystem considerations require States to cooperate in order to improve regional and global ocean governance;

*RECOGNIZING* that technological development, in particular Electronic Monitoring Systems, can be used to improve control and constitute a significant means for authorities to ensure enforcement of the applicable rules;

*CONSIDERING* that said developments are advancing considerably each year and that related tools should be explored on a regular basis to improve the management of fisheries by ICCAT;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the potential cost-benefit advantage of mainstreaming Electronic Monitoring Systems on commercial fishing vessels;

*DETERMINED* to improve the accuracy of collected data and to explore mainstreaming live-analysis as opposed to ex-post analysis;

*REITERATING* that additional measures on control and traceability may be required to reinforce the efforts made over the past years for the recovery fish stocks in the ICCAT Convention area.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)  
RESOLVES TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP WITH THE FOLLOWING TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1. The objective of the Working Group is to explore the use of Electronic Monitoring systems (EMS) on board fishing vessels in order to improve control of fisheries managed by ICCAT, while taking into account the specificities of each fishery. The Working Group will focus on the use of new technologies (e.g., CCTVs on board vessels and the use of artificial intelligence) to improve control and enforcement of the ICCAT rules.
2. The EMS WG shall carry out the following tasks:
  - a. To compile and evaluate the most relevant reports, documents and other sources of information relating to experiences on the use and implementation of EMS;
  - b. To identify potential improvements, through advances in EMS technology to improve the controllability of the ICCAT measures to prevent inaccurate catch registration and IUU fishing accuracy as well as to improve the reliability of collected data;
  - c. To identify challenges and limitations relating to the use of EMS;
  - d. To identify the type of activity on which the system must collect information;
  - e. To propose and evaluate pilot projects on the use of EMS in ICCAT fisheries; assess and draw lessons from pilot projects on the use of EMS performed outside of the remit of this Working Group, including in non ICCAT fisheries (e.g., other RFMOs, CPCs, etc.);

- f. Taking into account the specificities of the different ICCAT fisheries, the maturity of available technology and the level of progress of relevant pilot projects, to establish minimum standards and identify the specifications necessary for the implementation of EMS technology, and in particular:
    - i. the technical requirements, such as minimum number and resolution of cameras, number and type of sensors, hardware, GPS, etc., and their position and installation on board fishing vessels under a Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP);
    - ii. data management specifications such as data standards, data transmission protocols, data confidentiality and data protection, data storage and period of storage, retrieval and data sharing;
    - iii. criteria on the ownership and maintenance of the system;
    - iv. requirements of the software to analyze the collected data and video footage, including capabilities in terms of system diagnostics function and the ability to create and transmit alerts and warnings;
    - v. authorities or bodies entrusted with the data analysis, protocols for the data analysis, analyzing software or possible use of artificial intelligence;
    - vi. where necessary, protocols for catch handling to ensure effective control by EMS systems; and
    - vii. roles and responsibilities of the different actors involved in the approval of the system and the implementation (e.g., operators/masters, suppliers, authorities, ICCAT Secretariat, or subsidiary bodies);
  - g. While taking into account the means of control already in place, to recommend implementation strategies and priorities for different ICCAT fisheries and recommended implementation timelines.
3. The EMS WG shall first meet no later than three months since the entry into force of this Recommendation.
  4. The EMS WG shall appoint a Chair and be supported by the ICCAT Secretariat.
  5. The EMS WG shall develop a workplan in 2022 covering at least the period 2022-2024. The EMS WG shall submit an annual progress report to PWG 30 calendar days in advance of the Annual Meeting.