

Original: English

PROPOSAL ON OBSERVER COVERAGE (AMENDMENTS TO REC. 19-02)

(submitted by Japan)

At the 2019 annual meeting, the Commission agreed to increase the observer coverage ratio for tropical tuna up to 10% by 2022 through the presence of a human observer and/or an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS). The availability of feasible EMS was a prerequisite for such increase, and to this end, it was also agreed that the minimum standard of EMS will be established by the IMM WG, in cooperation with the SCRS, at its 2021 annual meeting.

However, as it became clear at the IMM WG meeting in June, most CPCs could not implement their trials on EMS as planned due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, the SCRS could not provide advice on the minimum standards of EMS to the 2021 IMM WG meeting and the IMM WG could not establish a minimum standard of EMS in 2021. This issue was raised and discussed at the 1st Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 held in July.

Given these unforeseen delays in establishing EMS due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Japan considers that the target year to reach a minimum of 10% observer coverage should be deferred to 2023. CPCs should report the results of their trials to the IMM WG in 2022 so that the WG would be able to draft a minimum standard of EMS.

For this purpose, Japan proposes amendments on Rec.19-02 as below:

Proposed amendments to Recommendation 19-02

55. *For longline vessels flying their flag 20 meters length overall (LOA) or greater targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack in the Convention area, CPCs shall ensure a minimum of 10% observer coverage of fishing effort by 2023, through the presence of a human observer on board in accordance with **Annex 7** and/or an Electronic Monitoring system. For this purpose, the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM WG), in cooperation with the SCRS, shall make a recommendation to the Commission for endorsement at its 2022 Annual meeting on the following:*

- a) *Minimum standards for an electronic monitoring system such as:*
 - i) *the minimum specifications of the recording equipment (e.g. resolution, recording time capacity), data storage type, data protection*
 - ii) *the number of cameras to be installed at which points on board*
- b) *What shall be recorded*
- c) *Data analysis standards, e.g., converting video footage into actionable data by the use of artificial intelligence*
- d) *Data to be analyzed, e.g., species, length, estimated weight, fishing operation details*
- e) *Reporting format to the Secretariat*

CPCs are encouraged to conduct trials on electronic monitoring and report the results back to the IMM and the SCRS in 2022 for their review.

CPCs shall report the information collected by the observers or the electronic monitoring system from the previous year by 30 April to the ICCAT Secretariat and to SCRS taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.