

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
A WORKING GROUP ON THE USE OF ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEMS (EMS)**

CONSIDERING the need for effective monitoring and control of ICCAT fisheries in order to ensure the conservation and management of the stocks managed by ICCAT;

RECOGNIZING that technological development, in particular electronic monitoring systems (EMS) can be used to improve control and constitutes a significant means for authorities to ensure compliance with the applicable rules;

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

ACKNOWLEDGING the benefits, including potential cost savings of implementing EMS on commercial fishing vessels;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that EMS can enhance the collection of fisheries data for scientific and management purposes;

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

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:

1. An Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) Working Group is established with the objective of exploring the use of available EMS technologies (e.g. closed circuit televisions and artificial intelligence) in ICCAT fisheries, with a focus on commercial fisheries, in order to improve the effectiveness of monitoring and control as well as the collection of scientific data, taking into account the needs and specificities of each fishery.
2. The EMS Working Group should 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) Identify the objective and purpose of potential applications of EMS in ICCAT fisheries, including considering potential improvements that could be achieved in vessel monitoring and control from the use of EMS, including preventing inaccurate catch reporting and improving the reliability and coverage of collected data, as well as addressing IUU fishing;
 - c) To identify challenges and limitations relating to the use of EMS;
 - d) To explore the costs associated with implementing EMS for the different technical solutions available on the market;
 - e) To identify the type of activities that can be recorded and the data that can be collected by the system depending on the type of fishing activity and fishing vessel;
 - f) To identify which components of the fishing operations should be monitored;
 - g) To compare the use of data collected through human observers and EMS, and evaluate the potential of EMS to enhance, supplement and possibly offer alternatives to human observers under appropriate circumstances;

- h) Where needed and appropriate, 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.);
 - i) To identify minimum standards and consider the specifications needed for the implementation of EMS technology by CPCs, including considerations such as:
 - 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 relevant vessels;
 - 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 EMS and the associated data;
 - iv. requirements of any software that may be used 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 and possible use of artificial intelligence;
 - vi. 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);
 - j) To recommend implementation strategies and priorities for different ICCAT fisheries and implementation timelines, taking into account the relevant provisions of ICCAT Recommendations.
3. The EMS Working Group should meet for the first time as soon as practically possible after the adoption of this Resolution.
 4. The Working Group will be assisted by the ICCAT Secretariat. To facilitate immediate work on this matter, the Working Group will be initially chaired by the Chair of the Permanent Working Group (PWG), unless and until the Working Group elects its own chair. The Working Group will consult, as needed and appropriate, with the SCRS in light of the ongoing work of that body on EMS, as well as where needed, with the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM).
 5. The ICCAT Secretariat will provide simultaneous interpretation in the three ICCAT languages (English, French and Spanish) during all Working Group meetings.
 6. As part of the first meeting, the EMS Working Group should develop a workplan covering the period 2022-2024. The EMS Working Group will submit an annual progress report, including any recommendations to the PWG for appropriate action at least 30 calendar days in advance of the ICCAT Annual Meeting.