

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

98TH MEETING

(by videoconference)

23-27 August 2021

RESOLUTION C-21-02

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WORKSHOPS ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEM
(EMS) IN THE ANTIGUA CONVENTION AREA**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), gathered on the occasion of its 98th Meeting by videoconference:

Committed to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fish stocks in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO);

Recognizing that the Commission in its Resolution C-19-08 instructed the IATTC scientific staff, in consultation with CPCs, to “prepare a draft proposal for the development of minimum standards for the implementation of an EMS for the longline fleets, taking into account the experience of CPCs that are implementing EMS on longline vessels and progress made in other tuna RFMOs, to be submitted to the SAC meeting of 2020”;

Noting that Resolution C-19-08 also called on the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), in consultation with the IATTC scientific staff to “present recommendations on this proposal to the Commission for its consideration at its annual meeting in 2020”;

Mindful that an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) is a promising tool for monitoring and improving data collection for both purse-seine and longline vessels;

Acknowledging that EMS are being implemented in fisheries worldwide, including tuna fisheries;

Committed to ensuring that the best scientific evidence is obtained and made available to be utilized as the basis for the adoption of conservation and management measures, as stipulated in the Antigua Convention;

Further acknowledging the IATTC scientific staff’s work plan, set forth in the Staff’s Activities and Research Plan (SAC-10-01a), which envisages to convene a series of EMS Workshops beginning in 2021; and,

Taking into account the recommendations contained in documents EMS-01-01 and EMS-01-02 on the holding of these workshops to further discuss and revise some of the key EMS components for the implementation of an EMS in the Antigua Convention Area, which received an ample support during the 1st Workshop on Implementation of an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS), held by videoconference in April 2021, and the 12th meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee, held by videoconference in June 2021;

Resolves as follows:

1. The Workshops will consider the following components, without excluding others:
 - a. Institutional structure
 - b. Management considerations
 - c. Standards, and
 - d. Definitions (see Resolution C-21-03)

2. The Workshops will be organized and facilitated by the IATTC scientific staff.
3. The Workshops will be held by videoconference or in person, in order to facilitate participation of all relevant stakeholders from all CPCs.
4. The Workshops will be open to the participation of relevant stakeholders, such as scientists, fishery managers, EM equipment and services providers, fishing industry representatives, administrators, representatives of nongovernmental organizations, and fishers.
5. In spite of their informal character, the Workshops will address several issues of a programmatic and organizational nature.
6. The Workshops will facilitate a structured process for the Commission to consider the steps of the EMS workplan and their implementation.
7. The Workshops will enhance communication and foster mutual understanding on matters related to EM among all relevant stakeholders.
8. The SAC will review the outcomes of the Workshops at its meetings and provide additional input if needed.
9. The outcomes of the Workshops, including any conclusions and recommendations that may have been reached, will be presented at the annual meeting of the Commission, for its consideration and endorsement as appropriate.
10. The IATTC scientific staff will present to the SAC an annual report for Workshops that have occurred since the previous SAC meeting. With the inclusion of any additional input from the SAC and other IATTC scientific staff recommendations as appropriate, which may include updates to the EMS workplan, this document will be presented afterwards to the Commission at its annual meeting, with a summary and assessment of all progress made to date.