12TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SPRFMO COMMISSION

Manta, Ecuador, 29 January to 02 February 2024

COMM 12 – Report ANNEX 9b
Terms of Reference for an Ad-Hoc Working Group on Electronic Monitoring

(COMM 12 – Prop 26_rev2)

~~DECISION XX-20234~~TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON ~~SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING~~ELECTRONIC MONITORING STANDARDS

1. Background

The Working Group on ~~Vessel~~ Electronic Monitoring (EM) Standards is established within the framework of the SPRFMO Convention with the aim of strengthening and improving monitoring systems and enhancing the collection and reporting of data for fisheries ~~ing~~ of SPRFMO resources~~activities in the region~~.

2. Objective

3. The primary objective of the Working Group is to develop EM standards for fishing vessels to be presented for endorsement at the 2025 SPRFMO annual meeting. The WG may also consider any other monitoring related topics identified by members of the WG.

~~and recommend effective strategies for monitoring fishing vessels, including the analysis of on-board observers, Satellite-Based Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS), and electronic monitoring technologies and any other topic as required by the WG.~~

~~3.~~4. Scope

The Working Group shall develop EM standards applicable to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a Member or Cooperating non-Contracting Party (CNCP) fishing for fisheries resources in the Convention Area. ~~'s scope will cover the geographical area of the SPRFMO Convention, ensuring comprehensive coverage of fishing activities in the region.~~

~~4.~~5. Activities

~~Among others~~In developing the EM standards, the group should consider ~~can work on~~ the following ~~activities~~elements:

~~4.1 Analysis of On-board Observers:~~

- ~~Review and evaluation of current on-board observer procedures.~~
- ~~Development of guidelines and best practices for the selection, training, and deployment of observers.~~
- ~~Proposal of mechanisms to enhance the quality and accuracy of observer reports.~~

~~4.2 Satellite-Based Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS):~~

- ~~Evaluation of the effectiveness of existing VMS systems.~~
- ~~Proposal of measures to ensure compliance and transparency through VMS.~~
- ~~Exploration of emerging technologies to enhance tracking capabilities.~~

~~4.3 Electronic Monitoring of Fishing Vessels:~~

- Institutional structure and management of the EM programme: objectives of the programme, scope of the fleets, data collection and review coverage, roles and responsibilities of members, specifications and procedures, timeframes for implementation, accreditation of vendors, data confidentiality and access and use, coordination, observer training, cost and financial considerations, etc…

- EM Data Standards: minimum requirements for EM system and equipment, EM data collection and storage, EM data transfer logistics, EM data analysis and submission, EM maintenance and functioning, EM data validation and quality control, roles of EM users, including the collection of minimum data requirements, etc…
- EM related terms and definitions
- Complementarity with CMMs 02-2022 and 16-2023
- Identification of mandatory data under CMM 02-2022 which cannot be collected through the means of an EM System
- Flexibility of the EM minimum standards to account for future technological advances.
- Advice on necessary amendments to current CMMs to account for the use of EM

- ~~Review of available electronic monitoring technologies.~~
- ~~Development of guidelines for the implementation and maintenance of electronic monitoring systems.~~
- ~~Evaluation of the feasibility of integrating electronic monitoring technologies with VMS and on-board observers.~~

~~5.~~6. Collaboration and Consultation:

The Working Group will encourage collaboration with national and international experts, governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as consultation with relevant stakeholders.

~~6. Deliverables:~~

- ~~Periodic progress reports.~~
- ~~Final recommendations for improving fishing vessel monitoring systems.~~
- ~~Proposals for amendments to existing regulations, if necessary.~~

7. General arrangements:

- The working group shall be chaired by 2 co-Chairs.~~ [ ]~~
- The working group shall be open to all Members, CNCPs and observers and constituted of scientists and experts.
- The Working Group will meet virtually at least twice in the intersessional period before the 12th annual meeting of the Scientific Committee~~annually~~~~every 4 months~~.
- The developed standards shall be presented at the 12th meeting of the Scientific Committee. When endorsed by the Scientific Committee, the standards shall be presented to the Compliance and Technical Committee for its endorsement. When the minimum EM standards are endorsed by the SC and CTC, the Commission shall consider them for adoption.

- ~~In addition to the annual ordinary meetings, the WG may hold extraordinary meetings at request of any Member of the Working Group.~~
- ~~Considering the principle of cost effectiveness, meetings will be held virtually. However, if desired and requested by any Member, in-person meetings should be analysed and discussed within the working group.~~

~~8. Evaluation:~~

~~The effectiveness of the Working Group will be periodically annually assessed, and adjustments will be made as necessary to ensure the achievement of its objectives.~~