



DRAFT: OUTCOMES OF THE 29TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION AND THE 27TH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RELATING TO THE WGEMS

UPDATED: APRIL 2025

PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 5th Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems (WGEMS05) of the recommendations arising from the 29th Session of the IOTC Commission held from 13-17 April 2025 and the 27th Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee (SC) held from 2-6 December 2024, specifically relating to the work of the WGEMS.

1. Any Relevant Outcomes from the 29th Session of the Commission

At the 29th Session, the Commission **CONSIDERED** and **ADOPTED** 14 proposals as Conservation and Management Measures (consisting of 12 Resolutions and 2 Recommendations) as detailed below (the report of S29 has yet to be finalised):

- Resolution 25/01 *On climate change as it relates to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission*
- Resolution 25/02 *On the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) programme*
- Resolution 25/03 *On establishing catch limits for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence*
- Resolution 25/04 *On establishing catch limits for bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of competence*
- Resolution 25/05 *On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels*
- Resolution 25/06 *On a Regional Observer Scheme*
- Resolution 25/07 *On a management procedure for swordfish in the IOTC area of competence*
- Resolution 25/08 *On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC*
- Resolution 25/09 *On the conservation of shortfin and longfin mako sharks caught in association with IOTC fisheries*
- Resolution 25/10 *On establishing a Technical Committee on Management Procedures*
- Resolution 25/11 *On Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing*
- Resolution 25/12 *On the promotion of the implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures*
- Recommendation 25/13 *On promoting the objectives of IOTC through cooperation with the BBNJ Agreement (The agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction)*
- Recommendation 25/14 *On the limitation of fishing capacity*

Pursuant to Article IX.4 of the IOTC Agreement, the above-mentioned Conservation and Management Measures shall become binding on Members, 120 days from the date of the notification communicated by the Secretariat.

Resolution 25/06 *On a Regional Observer Scheme* will supersede Resolution 24/04. The revisions relate to the timings for submitting observer reports and harmonising this with the deadlines for submitting data for the main IOTC datasets. There were no changes in relation to Electronic Monitoring Systems.

2. Updates from the 27th Session of the Scientific Committee

Below find an extract from the Report of the SC relating to WGEMS.

7.6.1 Update on WGEMS04

(para. 142) The SC **NOTED** the report of the 4th ad hoc working group meeting on Electronic Monitoring Standards ([IOTC-2024-WGEMS04-R](#)), including the recommendation to convene an in-person meeting to address outstanding issues and finalise changes to the data fields for each gear type. The meeting was attended by 80 participants (cf. 89 in 2023).

(para. 143) The SC **ACKNOWLEDGED** that the WPDCS conducted a comprehensive review of all ROS data fields for purse seine, longline, and pole-and-line fisheries but did not address the gillnet-specific fields due to the absence of gillnet fishery experts at the meeting.

(para. 144) The SC **NOTED** the recommendation from the WPDCS based on this review:

- That the SC **ENDORSE** the following revised lists of ROS minimum data fields (including their stated collection and reporting requirement) for purse seine, longline and pole and line (include associated “general” fields) provided in [IOTC-2024-SC27-DATA01](#).
- That the SC **ENDORSE** the revised collection and reporting requirement categories as follows:
 - Mandatory – mandatory for collection and reporting
 - Optional – optional for collection and reporting
- That the SC **ENDORSE** the revised ROS data fields (and associated collection and reporting requirements) as a living document, for which CPCs can, if necessary, in future years, bring forward proposals for amendments or improvements, to the WPDCS and SC for review.
- That the SC **advise** the Commission to take actions for all CPCs to ensure that the Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV) details are completely accurate and up to date.

(para. 145) The SC **REQUESTED** the WPDCS to undertake an online intersessional review in collaboration with the IOTC Secretariat to check and where necessary amend field definitions and reporting requirements to ensure that they appropriately recognise (where necessary) the potential use of additional ROS data collection tools (e.g., EM and port sampling) and are otherwise also clear and easy to understand for observers.