



Annex 9: SC response to the request from the WGEMS

The Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Standards invited the Scientific Committee to:

- Note the WGEMS paper;
- Consider the approach the Working Group Co-Chairs suggest of only determining minimum data fields for squid jigging activity at this time, with requirements for other gear types to be determined later as needed;
- Consider whether the draft data fields for squid jigging would meet SC data needs with respect to the squid fishery;
- Consider endorsing the draft standards in principle, while providing feedback as appropriate to the WGEMS.

The Co-Chairs of the WGEMS asked the SC to consider several questions that will help it complete its work, and the SC provided the respective answers:

- What are SC priority data needs for the squid fishery, and how can EM help fulfill those needs? *The SC priority data needs for the squid fishery is the fishing activity data and bycatch/interaction data of seabirds, reptiles or other species of concern. Current EM can meet the requirements for fishing activity data and bycatch data collection through cameras and the integration of VMS and GPS. In the future, with the application of AI technology (AI image recognition) in EM, the scope can be expanded to the collection of biology-related data (such as the length and maturity of target species, and the identification for target and bycatch species)*

- By what time does the SC need squid data from EM systems in order to be useful in contributing to the stock assessment cycle or to understanding interactions with species of concern? Is the current observer data deadline of September 30 for the previous January to December timely enough for these purposes?

For stock assessment, the current submission timeline for the fishing activity data (non-electronic monitoring) and the e-logbook system can meet the SC's requirements regarding data timeliness. Regarding the interaction with species of concern and fishing activity data obtained through EM, September 30 is a reasonable submission deadline, as sufficient time is required to process the videos and photographs. Additionally, based on practical experience, the on-board deployment and port return of human observers for squid fishery in the Convention area typically span across calendar years, rather than following a January-to-December cycle.

- Does the SC have confidence that the data proposed to be collected via EM for squid jigging activity, and interactions of that activity with species of concern, will be sufficient to meet its data needs?

Yes, the SC has confidence that the draft data fields proposed to be collected via EM for squid jigging activity, as well as the data on the interactions of that activity with species of concern, will be sufficient to meet its data needs.

- *Is the SC comfortable deferring development of minimum data fields for EM systems to generate data related to VME encounters until a later time, with the understanding that jigging activity will be the only activity for which EM will be able to substitute for observers at this time?*

Yes, the SC is comfortable deferring the development of minimum data fields for EM systems to generate data related to VME encounters until a later time, given the understanding that jigging activity will be the only activity for which EM will be able to substitute for human observers at this time.