



Side Event: Ecuador's Advances in Electronic Monitoring of Longline Fisheries

General Context

A side event titled “*Ecuador’s Progress in Electronic Monitoring for Longline Fisheries*” was held in the framework of the 103rd Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). The event took place on Wednesday, September 3, at 12:15, at the Hilton Panama Hotel, in the “Revolución” Room, and included a working lunch.

The side event was organized by the Conservation Mahi Mahi FIP and the Swordfish.ec FIP as part of their efforts to share national progress on monitoring, control, and surveillance systems, and to promote transparency and sustainability in Ecuador’s longline fisheries.

Objectives

- Present Ecuador’s advances in the implementation of Electronic Monitoring (EM) systems in longline fisheries.
- Share experiences and lessons learned from EM pilot programs applied to industrial vessels, motherships (nodrizas), and artisanal fiberglass vessels (fibras).
- Highlight the role of EM in strengthening traceability, data quality, and compliance with conservation and management measures.
- Contribute to regional dialogue within the IATTC on scalable and adaptable EM solutions for diverse fleet types.

Key Topics and Themes Addressed

During the side event, the following topics were presented and discussed:

- Overview of Ecuador’s Electronic Monitoring initiatives, including pilot programs implemented within mahi mahi and swordfish longline fisheries.
- Technical characteristics of EM systems, such as onboard cameras, GPS integration, internal power supply, encrypted data storage, and data retrieval options through physical extraction or cloud-based platforms.
- Adaptation of EM solutions to different fleet segments, including small-scale artisanal vessels and nodriza-supported operations.



- Use of EM data to document fishing activities, including gear deployment and retrieval, target catch, bycatch, and interactions with protected species.
- Contribution of EM to transparency and traceability, supporting compliance with national regulations and IATTC monitoring standards.
- Future developments, including system improvements, expanded data management, standardized reporting, and alignment with IATTC minimum standards.

Supporting Organizations

The side event was conducted with the support of Conservation Mahi Mahi, Zunibal, as a technology provider, and WWF, reinforcing collaboration between FIPs, technology partners, and conservation organizations to advance innovative monitoring solutions.

Key Outcomes

- The side event demonstrated the technical and operational feasibility of Electronic Monitoring systems in Ecuador's longline fisheries.
- Participants gained a clearer understanding of how EM can strengthen monitoring, reporting, and data reliability across different fleet types.
- Ecuador's experience contributed to regional discussions within the IATTC on Electronic Monitoring as a tool for sustainable fisheries management.
- The event strengthened collaboration among FIPs, technology providers, NGOs, and regional stakeholders.

Relevance to FIP Objectives

This side event supports the environmental and transparency objectives of the Conservation Mahi Mahi and Swordfish.ec FIPs by:

- Promoting improved monitoring and compliance mechanisms.
- Enhancing traceability and data quality.
- Supporting alignment with IATTC conservation and management measures.



Annexes:

Invitation

REUNIÓN 103 DE LA COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DEL ATÚN TROPICAL.
INVITACIÓN A EVENTOS PARALELOS
AVANCES DEL ECUADOR EN MONITOREO
ELECTRÓNICO EN PALANGRE

Proyectos
de mejora
pesquera



- **Miércoles 3 de septiembre - 12:15**
- Hotel Hilton Panamá
- Sala "Revolución"
- Incluye el almuerzo



Con el
apoyo de  **zunibal** 

Photos:

