


# Tuna RFMO Requirements for Observer Coverage

Benchmarking of certain current tuna RFMO requirements regarding observer coverage, including electronic monitoring systems (EMS), against best-practice recommendations



**Learn more:**  
RFMO Best Practices Snapshot  
– 2025: Observer Requirements

✔ Priority reform in place    
 ⋯ Partial reform in place    
 ✘ Does not have priority reform in place

Observer Coverage: Priority Improvements Needed by RFMO	CCSBT	IATTC	ICCAT	IOTC	WCPFC
Require 100% coverage of large-scale purse seiners	N/A	✔	✔	✘	✔
Minimum % observer coverage recommended by science for all gear types	⋯ <sup>a</sup>	✘ <sup>b</sup>	⋯ <sup>c</sup>	✘ <sup>b</sup>	✘ <sup>b</sup>
Required increase from 5% observer coverage on longline and small-scale purse seine vessels (where applicable) as progress towards 100%	⋯ <sup>a</sup>	✘	⋯ <sup>c</sup>	✘	✘ <sup>b</sup>
Observer and EM data used for both scientific and compliance purposes	⋯ <sup>d</sup>	✔	⋯ <sup>f</sup>	⋯ <sup>d</sup>	✔ <sup>e</sup>
Binding measure on observer safety	✘	✔	✔	✘	✔
Establish standards for electronic monitoring systems	✘	✔	✔	✔	✔
Establish standards for electronic reporting	✘	✘	✘	✘	✔

<sup>a</sup> Minimum of 10% observer coverage for catch and effort as a target level (includes EMS)

<sup>b</sup> Minimum 5% observer coverage requirement for all gears; CMM 2023-01 allows for up to a 10% increase in bigeye catch quotas if longline observer coverage for such fleets is increased proportionally

<sup>c</sup> 20% observer coverage required for other gear types in bluefin fishery; minimum 10% observer coverage for longline vessels of 20 meters length overall

<sup>d</sup> Observer and EM data can be used for science only

<sup>e</sup> No EM standards adopted yet

<sup>f</sup> Observer data can be used for science and compliance in only the bluefin fishery; Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) can use data collected under its observer programs per its national laws; those data may be used for compliance purposes by individual flag States