

Baltic Sea REM Pilot Project

**Workshop on monitoring, control, and
enforcement of the Landing Obligation**

7 March 2022



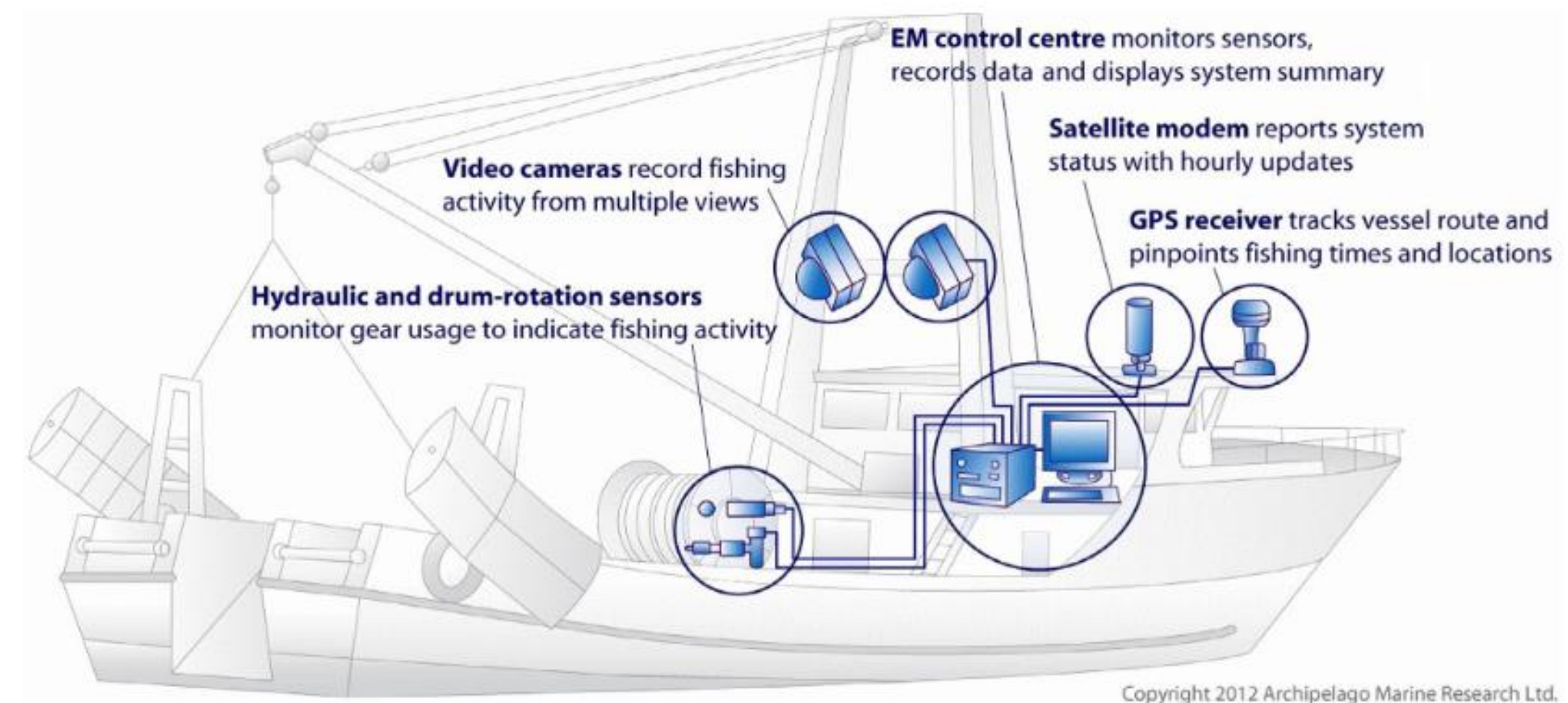
Baltic Sea LO Compliance evaluation: Some outcomes

- **Collection of reliable reference data is essential for evaluating compliance**
- **Traditional control tools have proven to be inefficient in enforcing the LO, thus effective monitoring and control methods are necessary**
- **Introduction of REM systems (CCTV + sensors) or control observers is considered by control experts the most efficient tools to monitor and enforce the LO**
- **It would also act as deterrent of illegal practices and enhance the reference data available for evaluating compliance**



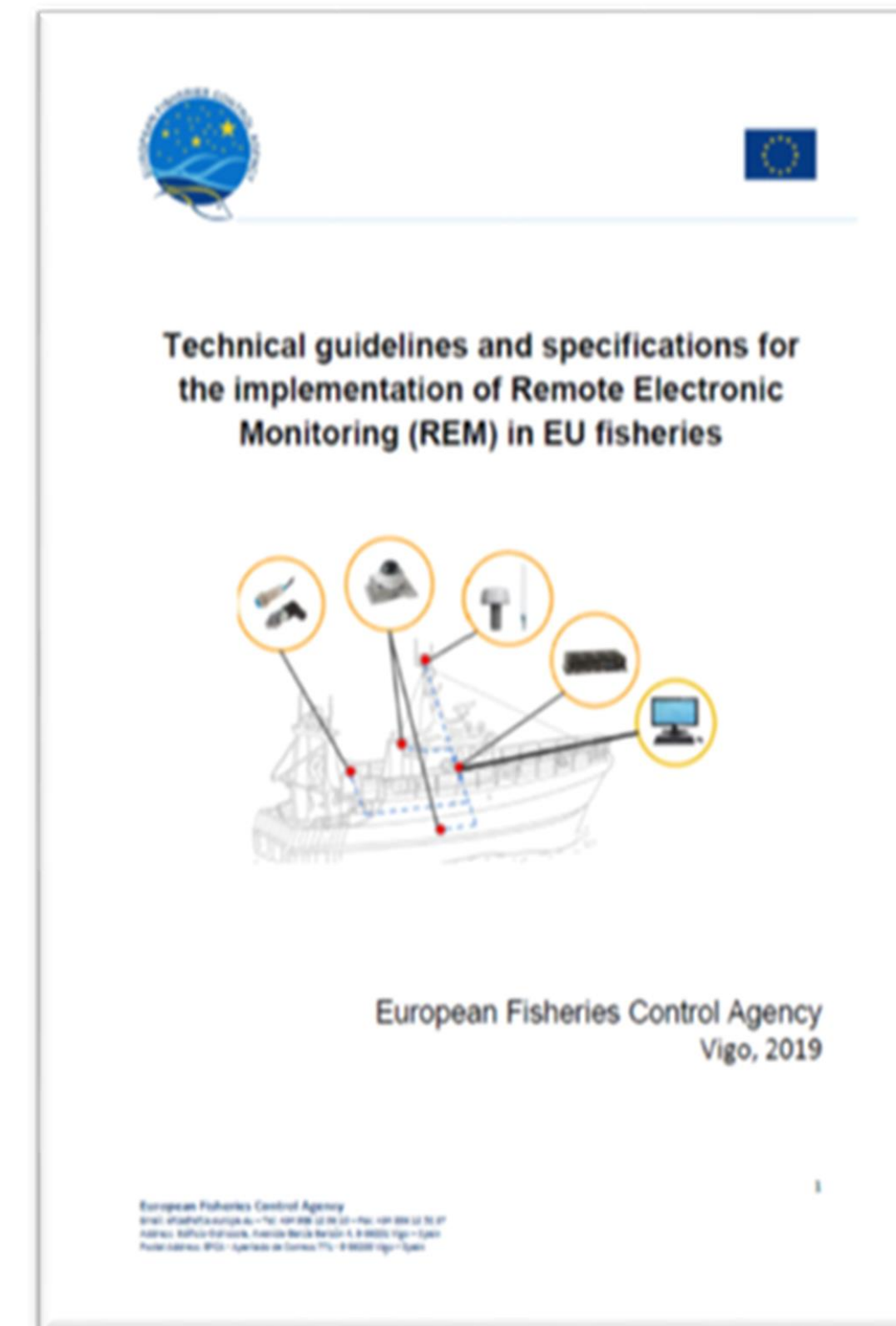
REM: Other advantages

- Allows for continuous monitoring 24/7 and operative even under a COVID scenario
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning development to facilitate automated catch monitoring and recording
- Provides a first-hand information on catch profiles, improving scientific data estimates:
 - Enhances catch and discard estimates and thus **better advice for management of fish stocks**
 - Monitoring **bycatch of sensitive species**
- REM could represent a dramatic change:
 - Effective implementation of CFP (LO)
 - Savings in term of asset deployment



EFCA REM Working Group

- **EFCA REM Working Group created originally for developing the “Technical Guidelines and Specifications for the Implementation of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) in EU Fisheries”. Published in the EFCA website in 2019.**
- **In 2021 the EFCA Administrative Board decided to reactivate the EFCA REM Working Group to assist MS in the implementation of regional/national pilot projects.**
- **During the first meeting of the EFCA REM WG on 15 December 2021 term of reference of the group were presented, and the workplan of the group and regional subgroups was discussed.**



EFCA REM Working Group

- **Terms of Reference endorsed by EFCA Administrative Board**
 - Assist MS in the implementation of regional/national pilot projects and promote exchange of experiences
 - Consider best practices to effectively control and enforce the LO and provide a source of verifiable data
 - Seek to ensure standardisation and a level playing field are maintained in the implementation of REM
- **Open to representatives from all MS and European Commission under coordination of EFCA**
- **Plenary group, plus subgroups composed by MS involved in regional REM pilot projects**
- **Report to the JDP Steering Groups and to the MS regional Control Expert Groups (CEG)**



REM Work with the BALTFISH regional group

- BALTFISH CEG supported by EFCA submitted to HLG a proposal for a joint regional pilot project on REM in the Baltic Sea.
- In June 2021 the BALTFISH HLG endorsed the decision to prepare for the implementation in 2022.
- HLG agreed that each participating MS should select **a minimum of two vessels** to participate in the pilot project on voluntary basis and regardless of fleet segment, with exception of Finland who do not intend to actively participate in the project but indicated would be involved in the REM WG meetings and follow progress.
- The BALTFISH CEG met during the second half of 2021 to detail the planning for the implementation of the Baltic Sea REM pilot project (see next slide).
- The CEG agreed on a deadline for identifying participating vessels (**31 March 2022**) and set a timeline for implementing the **one-year project starting in October 2022**.

REM Pilot Project in the Baltic Sea

		2022										2023										2024											
BS REM Pilot Project Plan			Deadline to identify vessels							Deadline for starting project implementation																							
		J	F	March 2022			A	M	J	J	A	S	October 2022			N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A
Step 1	Vessel selection																																
Step 2	Preparation of land-based infrastructure and resources																																
Step 3	Selection of REM provider																																
Step 4	Drafting of VMPs																																
Step 5	REM installation																																
Step 6	Project implementation																																
Step 7	Data analysis																																
Step 8	Training and exchange of best practices																																
Step 9	Project evaluation																																
Step 00	Meetings of BS subgroup of EFCA REM WG and report to BALTFISH CEG/HLG																																

Ready for implementation: Final issues

- **Technical guidelines and pilot projects operational plans developed, ready to implement REM in EU fisheries**
- **National and regional pilot projects already endorsed and in process of being implemented on voluntary basis**
- **Difficulties to promote participation in REM pilot projects due to the lack of incentives and to the absence of clear and binding legislation**
- **Main goal is to gain experience from REM regional pilot projects to prepare for a possible wider application of REM in EU fisheries**



EFCA

European Fisheries Control Agency



THANK YOU!
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