

Improve Monitoring Control and Surveillance scheme

Catch Documentation Scheme study

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PURPOSE

To present to participants at the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM) the report of the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) study for their review to provide comments on the report and make recommendations to the Compliance Committee on the way forward.

RATIONALE

The First and Second Performance Review panels recommended to IOTC to develop an integrated MCS system including strengthening existing MCS tools.

The second review of the performance of IOTC made several recommendations related to MCS that were later adopted by the Commission. In particular:

Annexe II - The bigeye statistical document programme should be applied to all bigeye products (fresh and frozen). Catch documentation schemes for target species of high commercial value should be considered. Alternatively, expanding the scope of the current statistical document programme to address current loopholes should be considered.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the CDS study is to ultimately provide to the Commission advice and guidance for the development and implementation of an IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme for target species of high commercial value.

TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CDS CONSULTANT

Provide technical advice on developing and implementing an IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme:

1. Utilizing best CDS practices internationally and existing RFMOs CDS experiences, propose a strategy and recommendations for the development of a CDS to document the trade cycle of catches taken in IOTC Area of Competence, for the 5 major commercial species (Albacore, Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack tunas and Swordfish) taking into consideration the following:
 - i. Architecture, design, document system, operational requirements in the IOTC context;
 - ii. Operational issues and capacity requirements of data collection, submission, handling, processing, analyses, reconciliation and dissemination;
 - iii. Resources required to implement a CDS (CPCs and Secretariat);
 - iv. Capacity building and training requirements;
 - v. Electronic Implementation;
 - vi. The integration of the CDS within the IOTC proposed MCS scheme and the IOTC management framework including other data reporting obligations,
 - vii. The specifics of IOTC fisheries and stakeholders: How IOTC fisheries are conducted (e.g. gear types, transshipment activities, harvesting CPCs); the ways in which products from IOTC fisheries are processed, transported and traded; the overall level of trade by species and product type as well as the CPCs and non-CPCs involved,

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- viii. Coordination and harmonisation requirements with other tuna-RFMOs.
2. Propose a draft text of a Catch Documentation Scheme for the five major commercial species of IOTC, including an implementation road map with associated estimated budget (capacity building, trainings, development of an e-CDS application).

BACKGROUND

Component 2, sub-component 2.1, of the Work Plan of the WPICMM comprise of the following activities:

2	Examine Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) technical matters in order to provide the Compliance Committee with options for strengthening MCS
2.1	<i>Improve IOTC MCS scheme</i>
2.1.1	Review CPCs national MCS scheme and current MCS practices
2.1.2	Review existing IOTC MCS tools
2.1.3	Review upcoming MCS reports comprising of reports on VMS and CDS
2.1.4	Recommendation that the VMS and CDS study reports are submitted to the WPICMM
2.1.5	Make recommendations on these reports for the Compliance Committee

DISCUSSION

The CDS study report is available at chapter III of the consultant’s report, reference IOTC-2019-WPICMM02-MCS CDS Study.

An extract of the main outcomes of the CDS study are reproduced below (Paragraphs 4.2 of the consultant’s report):

4.2 Development of a Catch Documentation Scheme

Chapter III covers the adoption of an e-CDS for IOTC.

The objective and nature of a CDS are covered, providing insight of what CDS systems are meant to achieve, how they achieve their objective, and what functions they need to be endowed with. The sections covering these elements are sourced from FAO TP 596, which was developed for t-RFMOs – including IOTC – which have not yet developed a CDS.

The salient element in this proposal, which will need careful assessment, is the assertion that the development of an IOTC CDS in the absence of CDS covering the same species in the other three tuna RFMOs (ICCAT, IATTC and WCPFC) is of limited benefit. CDS are trade measures, whose effect comes to bear primarily along the supply chain and throughout international trade. If only a fraction of given species are covered by mandatory certificates, global gaps and loopholes of enormous proportions remain, that would allow all illegally harvested Indian Ocean tuna to enter trade regardless of the existence of the IOTC CDS.

Chapter III provides a blueprint for a project approach to developing a CDS, estimating a total project cost of USD 1.75 million, and some 4.5 years to go from the decision to develop the system to full and final implementation.

Outlook

Should the Commission find solace in the proposals made in this document, and the decision is taken to move in the direction proposed, the launching of a Kobe-type process amongst the four interested tuna RFMOs (IOTC, ICCAT, IATTC and WCPFC) must be launched by IOTC – with the view of securing buy-in for a single CDS-platform. During these consultations, the topics of platform hosting and funding have to be discussed and agreed upon.

If this approach does not find support, IOTC remains with the option of developing a CDS platform into which other t-RFMOs may buy into at a later date. However, as indicated above, the impact of such a CDS will fall short of expectations. IOTC would therefore be well-advised to

ponder the benefits of continuing to pursue the agenda of an all t-RFMO system vigorously, rather than moving forward to developing a stand-alone CDS system.

It is hoped that the arguments clarifying why a consistent and integrated global t-RFMO CDS approach – based on a shared electronic platform – is the one option poised to effectively eliminate the most damaging forms of IUU fishing – globally.

RECOMMENDATION

That the WPICMM02:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2019–WPICMM02–05c and the consultant’s report IOTC-2019-WPICMM02-MCS CDS Study,
- 2) Make **RECOMMENDATIONS** on the CDS study report and propose to the Compliance Committee a way forward for IOTC to develop an eCDS.