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## IOTC CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME

### PROGRESS REPORT AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKING GROUP

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Prepared by IOTC Secretariat, 31 July 2020

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#### PURPOSE

To provide the Compliance Committee with an update of the work undertaken by Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group (CDSWG) since the Commission approved for the establishment of this Working Group, and for the Compliance Committee to recommend a Terms of Reference for the CDSWG to the Commission.

#### BACKGROUND

The Second meeting of the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM02), which took place in early 2019, recommended that a Working Group be constituted to guide the development of a CDS, for the IOTC. This recommendation was endorsed by the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the Compliance Committee and approved by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission, in June 2019.

#### DISCUSSIONS

An initial call for CPCs to nominate their representatives to the CDSWG was made via IOTC Circular 2019-50. Currently 20 CPCs and Invited Experts have nominated their representatives to the CDSWG. To date, no observers or external experts with relevant expertise in this field has requested to participate in the work of the CDSWG. The IOTC Secretariat has facilitated two virtual meetings of the CDSWG, which took place in December 2019 and January 2020. At the second virtual meeting, Members of the CDSWG agreed to hold a third, in person meeting in Nairobi, in the two days preceding the meeting of the WPICMM03, which was been planned for February 2020. The third meeting was chaired by the IOTC Executive Secretary, Dr Chris O'Brien, at the request of the members present and who were unable to elect a Chairperson among the participants.

At its 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting, the Members of the CDSWG made the following points, which they felt were fundamental issues and required to be resolved to assist it in its tasks.

#### **CDSWG Recommendation/s**

The CDSWG agreed on the following matters to be addressed prior to the Compliance Committee in 2020:

- A CDSWG Chairperson be elected (by electronic, the process to be facilitated by the Secretariat).
- A draft CDSWG Terms of Reference (ToR) be developed (by email).

The report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the CDSWG is available [here](#).

A call for nominations for Chairperson of the CDSWG was made by the IOTC Executive Secretary through a message addressed to the CDSWG Members and Heads of Delegations of those IOTC Members who, as of 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020, were not Members of the CDSWG. In the absence of any nomination, by the set deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020, Mr Yuki Morita, Japan, volunteered to assume this role. A notification to that effect was addressed to CPCs on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020, by the IOTC Executive Secretary.

In line with a commitment made to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the CDSWG, the European Union provided the initial draft of the ToR, which was subsequently circulated by the Chairperson of the Working Group to launch the email

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consultation process. A second draft ToR was produced and circulated to the Members of the CDSWG to seek further comments and agreement on the ToR.

The ToR, which has been agreed at the level of the CDSWG, is presented in Appendix I for the consideration of the 2020 session of the Compliance Committee.

**Recommendation/s**

- That the CoC17 **NOTE** the progress of work undertaken by the CDSWG during the intersessional period.
- That the CoC17 **CONSIDER** and, as appropriate, amend the ToR of the CDSWG, in Appendix I.
- That the CoC17 **RECOMMENDS** a ToR for the CDSWG to the Commission.

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## Appendix I

### IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme

#### Terms of Reference for the Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group

##### Purpose

1. The Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group (CDSWG) will be open to all Commission members and cooperating non-members, as well as observers and external experts with relevant expertise. The Catch Documentation Working Group (CDSWG) was established with the principal task of guiding the development/proposing a blueprint and timeline (strategy) for IOTC CDS (IOTC CDS strategy).

##### Objective

2. The objectives of the IOTC CDS strategy are, through introduction of CDS, to contribute to following:
  - a. Certification, verification and validation of products legality with a view of eliminating illegally caught products trade and ensure products traceability to final market destination.
  - b. Provision of scientific information for fisheries management.

##### Principle Responsibilities

3. In devising the strategy, the CDSWG shall consider the following:

##### (I) Reference documents and schemes

- a. The *Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes* developed by the FAO in 2017 and the report *Developing a comprehensive MCS system and an electronic Catch Documentation Scheme for IOTC* developed by a consultant in 2018 (consultant report).
- b. Existing and proposed catch documentation schemes in other RFMOs/Organisations (including ICCAT, CCSBT and CCAMLR) and in Commission members.

##### (II) Basic design

- a. Core components of CDS in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the CDSWG Report (10-11 February 2020) to be further addressed in CDSWG ToRs:
  - i) Basic CDS design options 1-3 (as described in p82-86 of the consultant report)
  - ii) Species to be covered by IOTC CDS, taking into account stock status, IUU risk, level of international trade and the difficulty of implementation
  - iii) In the first instance, the CDS could cover tropical tunas (bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna and skipjack tuna), then other IOTC species step by step.
  - iv) Design of an electronic system
  - v) Need for special consideration to artisanal fleets

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### (III) Operational and administrative issues

- a. The resources that would be required to implement and operate a CDS. This will necessarily include consideration of financial aspects of the IOTC, of capacity building, training programs and associated costs.
- b. Operational issues of data collection, submission, handling, analysis, reconciliation and dissemination, taking into account practical feasibility of relevant stakeholders (e.g. fishing vessels)
- c. The roles and responsibilities for certification and verification of all appropriate stakeholders (e.g. flag State authority, the IOTC Secretariat), within the framework of existing international law.
- d. Opportunities to utilize emerging technology to increase efficiency and decrease costs, with particular reference to electronic transmission of data and required forms.
- e. The integration of CDS with the overall monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) and management framework of the IOTC, including other data reporting obligations and national/regional programs (e.g. EU IUU Regulation) and avoiding duplication of work.

### (IV) Timeline

- a. Possible timeline for implementation, with prioritization and/or step-by-step approach as necessary

### Reporting

4. The CDSWG shall report progress to the CoC with a view to presenting the IOTC CDS strategy proposal to IOTC in 2022 that would be considered for adoption by the Commission. Once the strategy is adopted by the Commission, the CDSWG shall consider further specifics of CDS documentation and process including the preparation of draft CDS Resolution and associated forms, in accordance with the strategy as adopted.
5. The CDSWG may present relevant recommendations as it deems necessary to achieve the objectives of the IOTC CDS strategy, to the Commission and relevant subsidiary bodies.

### Meetings

6. The CDSWG shall operate, to the extent possible, electronically. Face to face meetings, where necessary, should take place back-to-back with other meetings.