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IOTC-2021-CDSWG05-R[E]

Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group

Held by video-conference,
20-21 October 2021

DISTRIBUTION:

Participants in the Meeting
IOTC CPCs
Chairperson IOTC
Chairperson IOTC Compliance
Committee
Chairperson IOTC Scientific
Committee

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Contact details:

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Le Chantier Mall
PO Box 1011
Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles
Ph: +248 422 5494
Email: IOTC-secretariat@fao.org
Website: <http://www.iotc.org>

Acronyms

CDS	Catch documentation scheme
CMM	Conservation and Management Measure (of the IOTC; Resolutions and Recommendations)
CoC	Compliance Committee
CPCs	Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties
EU	European Union
EEZ	Exclusive economic zone
FAD	Fish aggregating device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
LSTLV	Large-scale tuna longline vessel
MCS	Monitoring, control and surveillance
TBD	To be determined
VMS	Vessel monitoring system
WP	Work plan
WPICMM	Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures

HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

The WPICMM Report has been written using the following terms and associated definitions so as to remove ambiguity surrounding how particular paragraphs should be interpreted.

Level 1: *From a subsidiary body of the Commission to the next level in the structure of the Commission:*

RECOMMENDED, RECOMMENDATION: Any conclusion or request for an action to be undertaken, from a subsidiary body of the Commission (Committee or Working Party), which is to be formally provided to the next level in the structure of the Commission for its consideration/endorsement (e.g., from a Working Party to the Scientific Committee; from a Committee to the Commission). The intention is that the higher body will consider the recommended action for endorsement under its own mandate, if the subsidiary body does not already have the required mandate. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for completion.

Level 2: *From a subsidiary body of the Commission to a Contracting Party or Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CPC), the IOTC Secretariat, or other body (not the Commission) to carry out a specified task:*

REQUESTED: This term should only be used by a subsidiary body of the Commission if it does not wish to have the request formally adopted/endorsed by the next level in the structure of the Commission. For example, if a Committee wishes to seek additional input from a CPC on a particular topic, but does not wish to formalize the request beyond the mandate of the Committee, it may request that a set action be undertaken. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for the completion.

Level 3: *General terms to be used for consistency:*

AGREED: Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 or level 2 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be considered/adopted by the next level in the Commission's structure.

NOTED/NOTING: Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference.

Any other term: Any other term may be used in addition to the Level 3 terms to highlight to the reader of the IOTC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. However, other terms used are considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3, described above (e.g., **CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED**).

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Background information

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Performance Reviews (2009 and 2015) contained recommendations that the IOTC should develop a comprehensive monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) system, including a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS). In particular:

- i. IOTC should develop a comprehensive monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) system through the implementation of the measures already in force, and through the adoption of new measures and tools such as possible on-board regional observers' scheme, a possible catch documentation scheme as well as a possible system on boarding and inspection. *Recommendation 51, [IOTC-2009-PR/OTC01-R](#) - 56 pp.*
- ii. the IOTC should continue to develop a comprehensive MCS system through the implementation of the measures already in force, and through the adoption of new measures and tools such as a possible catch documentation scheme, noting the process currently being undertaken within the FAO. *Paragraph 149 (a), [IOTC–2016–PR/OTC02–R](#): 86 pp.*

These recommendations were adopted by the Commission and were the basis for an in-depth appraisal for the development of an electronic CDS (e-CDS) for the IOTC, and the results of the appraisal were presented at a workshop in Maputo, Mozambique, on 12 February 2019. This workshop recommended that a Working Group be constituted to guide the development of a CDS. The recommendation was subsequently endorsed by the second meeting of the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM02), the Compliance Committee (CoC16) and the Commission (S23).

Subsequently, five CDS Working Group Meetings have been held. In response to recommendation from the 3rd CDSWG meeting, Terms of Reference for the Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group were drafted and endorsed by the Commission in November 2020. The fourth meeting of the CDSWG (CDSWG04) was the first meeting after the endorsement of the ToR. This report provides a record of the CDSWG05, as agreed to, by the members of the CDSWG05.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The meeting was held online, via Zoom, from 20 to 21 October 2021.
2. The List of Participants is presented in [Appendix 1](#). A total of 23 participants (12 Member States and three Observers) attended the meeting. The Fifth meeting of the Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group (CDSWG) was chaired *ad interim* by Dr Indra Jaya (IDN).
3. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that there had been no nomination in response to the Secretariat's written invitation for nominations to the Chair of the CDSWG and **AGREED** that the agenda item be moved towards the end of the current meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING

4. CDSWG05 **ADOPTED** the agenda in [Appendix 2](#).
5. CDSWG05 **NOTED** arrangements for the meeting, in particular that credentials are not required for meetings of working groups and that as such members participate in their personal capacity, with technical contributions.

3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

4. CDSWG **NOTED** the admission of observers from International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF), Sustainable Fisheries and Community Trust (SFACT), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

4. REVIEW OF STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE CDS WG

5. CDSWG05 **NOTED** the presence of few members on the first day of the meeting.
6. CDSWG05 **REQUESTED** the Secretariat to send a reminder to members of the CDSWG on the first day of the CDSWG05 meeting, to urge them to participate in the remainder of the meeting.

5. REVIEW AND PROGRESS OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF CDSWG04

7. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that the meeting page for the Fifth meeting of the CDSWG was created two weeks in advance of the meeting and relevant documents were uploaded to the meeting page as and when they became available.
8. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that the Secretariat sent the meeting link by email to all members of the Working Group in advance of the meeting and **FURTHER NOTED** that for the few that were initially not delivered, subsequent transmissions were successful, so all addressees apparently received invitations with the meeting link.
9. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that the CDSWG meeting was not reflected in the list of meetings endorsed by the Commission and **FURTHER NOTED** the explanation provided by the Secretariat as to why it was not included in the list of meetings endorsed by the Commission.
10. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that the report of the Twenty-fifth Session of the Commission was only adopted recently, and therefore no communication on the recommendation had been sent out to remind CPCs who had not yet nominated their participants to the CDSWG to do so at the earliest possible date.
11. CDSWG05 **NOTED** the contents of [IOTC–2021–CoC18–R](#), Para 128: “The CoC RECALLS that the

quorum only applies to meetings requiring Letters of Credentials, which excludes most of the working groups and that the absence of quorum does not provide grounds for suspending the meeting.”

12. CDSWG05 **AGREED** that since the quorum rule does not apply, there was no reason to suspend the meeting.
13. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that the Compliance Committee and the Commission endorsed the recommendation for members to explicitly confirm their participation in meetings with a response to invitations for future meetings and **FURTHER NOTED** that the newly elected Chair of the CDSWG, with the support of the IOTC Secretariat, will follow up with members for future meetings of the Working Group.
14. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that the IOTC Secretariat had contacted the Secretariats of the IATTC, ICCAT and WCPFC with a view to seeking information on their current situation on discussions for the development of a CDS for tropical tunas, in their respective RFMOs.
15. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that document IMM-05 was submitted to a recent meeting of ICCAT’s Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures and **FURTHER NOTED** that there was no agreed timeframe for the adoption of a CDS for tropical tunas.
16. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that both the IATTC and WCPFC do not currently have any initiative to develop a CDS for tropical tunas.

6. DISCUSSIONS ON OPTIONS FOR AN IOTC CDS DESIGN

17. CDSWG05 **RECALLED** the three options: **Option 1** IOTC, together with ICCAT, IATTC and WCPFC, launch a Kobe-type round of negotiations, focusing on the development of a Tuna Super-CDS, which is to serve all four RFMOs; **Option 2** IOTC builds its own platform, and allows other – future systems – to access some of its data, and vice versa; **Option 3** Forge ahead and develop a stand-alone IOTC CDS.
18. CDSWG05 **WELCOMED** the presentation of [Doc. No. PWG 410 /2021](#) (revised IMM-05 referred in paragraph 15), by Japan, which describes their proposal to establish a Working Group on CDS in ICCAT.
19. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that the proposal is not for a scheme that will cover both ICCAT and IOTC but that the IOTC’s scheme should be compatible with ICCAT’s.
20. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that ICCAT would in 2023 decide whether CDS would be expanded to cover other species than Bluefin Tuna.
21. CDSWG05 **NOTED** the concerns that implementation of a CDS would have on developing States, the need to avoid duplication with existing schemes and also the application of technologies that will help to reduce the workload of exporting CPCs.
22. CDSWG05 **NOTED** concerns of some members regarding data confidentiality and **FURTHER NOTED** the difficulties some countries would have in applying a CDS to their artisanal fleets.
23. CDSWG05 **AGREED** to drop design Option 1, in view of the current situation in the three RFMOs. While agreeing to continue to pursue options Option 2 and 3, members **AGREED** that a future IOTC CDS should be forward looking and be able to accommodate information/data exchange with other information/data management systems both internal and external to the IOTC.

7. DISCUSSIONS ON SPECIES TO BE COVERED BY A CDS

24. CDSWG05 **AGREED** that the factors to be considered for selecting species may be Stock Status, IUU Risk, Level of International Trade, Difficulty of Implementation and Any Other Factor.
25. CDSWG05 **AGREED** that the nature of the fisheries (whether they catch all three tropical tuna species) is a factor that should also be included.
26. CDSWG05 **AGREED** that the three tropical tuna species (BET, SKJ and YFT) be included, taking into consideration the criteria identified, namely Stock Status, IUU Risk, Level of International Trade, Difficulty of Implementation, the Nature of the Fisheries (what species it catches) and Any Other Factor.
27. CDSWG05 **AGREED** that that the table in Slide 10 of Discussion Paper [IOTC-2021-2021-CDSWG04-01](#) be completed, in order to help the Commission to agree or not with the recommendations of the CDSWG.
28. CDSWG05 **AGREED** that Total Allowable Catch or Harvest Control Rules can incentivise underreporting so other species (in addition to BET, SKJ and YFT) may be included later, once the CDS has started.

8. DISCUSSIONS ON THE SCOPE OF APPLICATION OF THE CDS – ARTISANAL FISHERIES

29. CDSWG05 **RECALLED** from Discussion Paper [IOTC-2021-CDSWG04-01](#) that the factors to be considered for a CDS for artisanal fisheries, included four options, and **FURTHER RECALLED** the addition of a fifth option ([IOTC-2021-CDSWG04-R-E](#) para. 35), namely a “simplified electronic” CDS.
30. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that the Secretariat had not received any communication from Members with respect to sharing written comments intersessionally.
31. CDSWG05 **AGREED** that there is in fact no need to define artisanal fisheries but there is a need to define the segments of those fleets that might need special consideration.
32. CDSWG05 **REQUESTED** the Secretariat to write to CPCs to seek information on which segments of their fleets would find difficulty in implementing a CDS, if it is assumed that all fisheries involved in the species covered by the CDS are included, using the text reproduced in [Appendix 3](#).

9. OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

33. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that development of the software to support a CDS would be outsourced, and the long-term management and maintenance of the scheme and software would imply an increase in IOTC budget, irrespective of whether it is outsourced or not.
34. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that operational issues were highly technical and would have to be compatible with paper-based information gathering as this information would have to feed into the electronic system and **FURTHER NOTED** that any paper element causes difficulties for fishers, for national administrations and for the IOTC Secretariat.
35. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that there would be operational difficulties for small-scale or artisanal fisheries generally and in particular for implementing an electronic system, so a paper-based system could gradually move to an electronic system.
36. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that if it was decided not to have a tagging requirement, due to the volume of fish that will be subject to the scheme, costs would be reduced.

37. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that the roles and responsibilities for a segment of fishers can be reduced by declaration at landing sites, to local government offices or to processors/exporters and **FURTHER NOTED** that central government can delegate its role of validation to local structures (e.g., cooperatives/associations).
38. CDSWG05 **NOTED** the need for integration of CDS with other MCS measures of the IOTC and national or regional programmes.
39. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that an IOTC CDS would serve as a substitute for the European Union's Catch Certification Scheme and **FURTHER NOTED** that Japan's import certification system, which will be introduced in 2022, does not at this stage envisage covering tunas, thus, there will be no duplication between domestic trade measures and those of RFMOs.
40. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that in the ICCAT the Bluefin Tuna CDS is linked to their record of authorised vessels and to their record of total allowable catches, this being an advantage of an electronic system.
41. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that different traceability requirements of some schemes (e.g., area fished, information on fishing vessel) will have implications on confidentiality and what information would be visible or displayed in the system.
42. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that the information to be shared (with markets or with IOTC's other systems) would depend on the information that will be included in the CDS.

10. DATES OF THE NEXT CDSWG MEETINGS

43. CDSWG05 **AGREED** that the next meeting be held back-to-back with the Fifth meeting of the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures, in mid-February 2022.
44. The actual dates will be communicated to members of the Working Group, by the IOTC Secretariat, well in advance of the meeting.

11. ELECTION OF A CDSWG CHAIR

45. CDSWG05 **CONSIDERED** Agenda item, Election of a CDSWG Chair, and **ELECTED** Dr Indra Jaya (IDN) to be the Chair of the CDSWG.
46. CDSWG05 **NOTED** that Dr Indra Jaya needed a few days to consider whether his current workload will permit him to take up the post and would advise the IOTC Secretariat accordingly.
47. CDSWG05 **AGREED** that the IOTC Secretariat will consult members of the Working Group for further nominations, if Dr Indra Jaya is unable to accept the nomination.

12. ANY OTHER MATTERS

48. Members did not raise any other business and the meeting was called to a close.
49. The Report of the meeting was adopted by correspondence on 08 November 2021.

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Ad-Interim Chairperson

Dr Indra **JAYA**
Head of National
Committee on Fish Stock
Assessment
Indonesia
indrajaya123@gmail.com

Participants

Mr Haji Bashir Ismail
ABDIAZIZ
Ministry of Fisheries and
Marine Resources
Somalia
fishmcs@mfmr.gov.so

Mr. Roddy **ALLISOP**
Seychelles Fishing
Authority
Seychelles
rallisop@sfa.sc

Mr Shoukot Kabir
CHOWDHURY
Ministry of Fisheries and
Livestock
Bangladesh
shoukot2014@gmail.com

Mr. Antonio Kechane
CUAMBE
Ministry of Sea, Inland
Waters & Fisheries
Mozambique
kechane@gmail.com

Mrs. Riana **HANDAYANI**
Ministry of Marine Affairs
and Fisheries
Indonesia
daya139@yahoo.co.id

Mr Senevirathna
HATHURUSINGHE
Department of Fisheries
Sri Lanka
hathurusinghehs@gmail.com

Ms. Saori **KENMOCHI**
Ministry of Economy, Trade and
Industry
Japan
kenmochi-saori@meti.go.jp

Mr Satya **MARDI**
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Indonesia
satyamardi18@gmail.com

Ms Laura **MAROT**
European Union - DG MARE
Laura.MAROT@ec.europa.eu

Mr. Hiroyuki **MORITA**
Fisheries Agency of Japan
Japan
hiroyuki_morita970@maff.go.jp

Mr. Ilkang **NA**
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
Korea, Rep. of
ikna@korea.kr

Ms. Maiko **NAKASU**
Fisheries Agency of Japan
Japan
maiko_nakasu100@maff.go.jp

Ms Sri **PATMIARSIH**
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Indonesia
sripatmiarsih@gmail.com

M Fariborz **RAJAEI**
Iran Fisheries Organization
Iran (Islamic Rep of)
rajaeif@gmail.com

Mr. Marolova A.
RASALOMANPIONONA
Ministère de l'Agriculture, de
l'élevage et de la pêche
Madagascar
lovastat.mrhp@gmail.com

Saraswati
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Indonesia
cacasaras@gmail.com

Mr. Ahmed **SHIFAZ**
Ministry of Fisheries, Marine
Resources and Agriculture
Maldives
ahmed.shifaz@fishagri.gov.mv

Mrs. Sepalika **WICKRAMASINGHE**
Department of Fisheries and Aquatic
Resources
Sri Lanka
sepalikawic@gmail.com

OBSERVERS (OBS)

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
Mrs Agnieszka **KORBEL**
akorbel@wwf.eu

International Pole & Line Foundation
(IPNLF)
Dr M. Shiham **ADAM**
shiham.adam@ipnlf.org

Sustainable Fisheries and
Community Trust (SFACT)
Ms Beatrice **KINYUA**
beatrice.kinyua@sfact.org

IOTC SECRETARIAT

Mr Gerard **DOMINGUE**
Compliance Manager
Gerard.Domingue@fao.org

Mr Florian **GIROUX**
Compliance Coordinator
Florian.Giroux@fao.org

Mr Carlos **PALIN**
MCS Expert
SWIOFish2
compliance.expert@iotc.org

APPENDIX 2
AGENDA OF THE MEETING

**CONFIRMED AGENDA: MEETING OF THE CATCH DOCUMENTATION
SCHEMEWORKING GROUP**

Date: 20-21 October 2021

Location: Online

Platform: Zoom

Time: 1100–1500 Seychelles time, daily

Chair: Vacant/Dr Indra Jaya (Indonesia) (*ad interim*) **Vice-chair:** Vacant

- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING** (Secretariat)
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING** (Chair/Plenary)
- 3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS** (Chair)
- 4. REVIEW OF STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE CDSWG** (Chair/Secretariat)
- 5. REVIEW AND PROGRESS OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF CDSWG04** (Chair/Secretariat)
- 6. DISCUSSIONS ON OPTIONS FOR AN IOTC CDS DESIGN** (Chair/Plenary)
- 7. DISCUSSIONS ON SPECIES TO BE COVERED BY A CDS** (Chair/Plenary)
- 8. DISCUSSIONS ON THE SCOPE OF APPLICATION OF THE CDS – ARTISANAL FISHERIES**
(Chair/ Plenary)
- 9. OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES** (Chair/Plenary)
- 10. ELECTION OF A CDSWG CHAIR** (Secretariat/Plenary)
- 11. DATES OF NEXT CDSWG MEETINGS** (Plenary)
- 12. ANY OTHER MATTERS** (Plenary)

APPENDIX 3

SCOPE OF APPLICATION – LETTER FROM SECRETARIAT TO CPCs

In its deliberations during the fifth meeting of the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Working Group, members indicated that some fleets may need to be given special consideration. To progress their work on defining the scope of application of the CDS in relation to CPCs' fishing fleets, a better understanding of difficulties would be required.

In this regard, CPCs are invited to inform the Executive Secretary which segment(s) of their fleet would find difficulty in implementing a CDS, if it is assumed that the CDS will be managed electronically and will initially apply to tropical tunas (Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack), with the possibility of the scheme being extending in the future to include some of the other IOTC species.

It would be desirable if CPCs can also provide some level of characterisation (e.g., typical vessel size/capacity (LOA/GT), range of operation (territorial waters, whole extent of the EEZ and/or beyond the EEZ), means of communication available onboard or to fishers after the fishing operation for the segment(s) of their fleet that might encounter difficulties in implementing a CDS.

Any views that CPCs may have on the application of the CDS with regards to trade (domestically caught and traded or internationally/domestically caught and internationally traded) would be useful for the CDS Working Group.

Any views on difficulties that CPCs may have in implementing CDS, not only for fish which are internationally traded but also for fish which are domestically consumed would also be useful.