
PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES (WPICMM), THE CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME (CDS) AND THE VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEMS (VMS) WORKING GROUPS (WG)

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 23 APRIL 2022

PURPOSE

To provide the Compliance Committee with a summary of the progress made during the intersessional period, in relation to the work of the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and management measures (WPICMM), the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) and the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Working Groups.

BACKGROUND AND PROGRESS

Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and management measures

The Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and management measures (WPICMM) derive its mandate from [IOTC Resolution 17/02](#).

The Fifth Session of the WPICMM was held by video-conference, from 16 to 18 February 2022, and it was chaired by Mr Benedict Kiilu (Kenya). A total of 89 participants attended the Session. In all, the meeting made 13 recommendations, which requires the consideration of the CoC19. The report of the 5th meeting of the WPICMM is available as a resource document in the CoC19 meeting page, section “*Reports from other meetings*”, [IOTC-2022-WPICMM05-R_Rev1](#). The consolidated set of recommendations of the WPICMM05 is available at its Appendix 6.

CDS Working Group

Proposals for a Resolution to introduce a catch documentation scheme, especially for the major IOTC species, were unsuccessfully put forward by CPCs at the Commission’s 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th (2009 – 2013) annual Sessions. As a way forward, the Commission agreed at the 17th (2013) Session to set up an IOTC Working Party to make progress on a catch documentation scheme. An *ad hoc* Working Group, with only three active CPCs, worked to further develop a terms of reference (ToR) for a Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group, based on an outline that was presented at the Commission’s 17th Session. Little progress was made after that and work on the ToR was suspended after the 19th (2015) Session of the Commission, to await the outcome of a project under the ABNJ Programme, on Tuna Traceability and CDS Best Practices.

In 2018, following the conclusion of the ABNJ’s project, the IOTC Secretariat commissioned a study for the implementation of a CDS for the five major commercial species of the IOTC, including an implementation road map with associated estimated budget. The results of the study were presented in a workshop in February 2019, which preceded the WPICMM02. In its consideration of the CDS workshop report, the WPICMM02 recommended that a Working Group be constituted to guide the development of an IOTC CDS. The recommendation was endorsed by the CoC16 and S23, in 2019.

To date, the CDS Working Group has held six meetings, the last one being from 12 to 15 February 2022. The report of the 6th meeting of the CDS Working Group is available in the CoC19 meeting page, section “*Reports from Other meetings*”, [IOTC-2022-CDSWG](#). Although at its last meeting, the CDS Working Group made significant progress in relation to the topics defined within its ToR, further discussions are needed to propose an IOTC CDS strategy. Consequently, a seventh meeting was scheduled for the week of 18 July 2022, and the following two recommendations were put forward through the WPICMM05 for the consideration of the CoC19:

The WPICMM05 **RECOMMENDED** that the Compliance Committee consider that the submission of a proposal for an IOTC CDS strategy be postponed to 2023.

The WPICMM05 **RECOMMENDED** that the Compliance Committee and the Commission provide feedback to the CDSWG.

VMS Working Group

The CoC16 noted paper [IOTC-2019-WPICMM02-VMS Study](#), which provided options for strengthening the IOTC VMS and further noted paper [IOTC-2019-CoC16-05a](#), which summarised the work of the Steering Group, and subsequently recommended the formation of a VMS Working Group (VMSWG). CoC16 (CoC16.33 Para 109) recommended the establishment of a VMS Working Group, chaired by Mr Stephen Ndegwa (Kenya), to progress the work associated with strengthening the IOTC VMS, as per the ToR in Appendix 8 of [IOTC-2019-CoC16-R](#). This was subsequently endorsed by S23 ([IOTC-2019-S23-RE Rev1 FINAL](#)).

To date, the VMS Working Group has held four meetings, the last one being on 25 January 2022. At the time of preparation of this document, the adoption of the report of the last meeting remains pending; over two and half months since the Secretariat made available a draft report for the consideration of the Chairperson and participants. The reports of other meetings of the VMS Working Group are available in the CoC19 meeting page, section “*Reports from Other meetings*”, [IOTC-2022-VMSWG](#). Given the necessity to continue discussions, a fifth meeting was scheduled for the 12 July 2022, and a recommendation was put forward through the WPICMM05 for the consideration of the CoC19:

WPICMM05 **RECOMMENDED** that the Compliance Committee and the Commission provide feedback to the VMSWG.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- That the CoC19 **NOTE** paper IOTC-2022-CoC19-12, presenting the progress of the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures, the Catch Documentation Scheme and the Vessel Monitoring Systems Working Groups.
- That the CoC19 considers the consolidated set of recommendations arising from the WPICMM05 meeting and, as appropriate, **ENDORSE** the recommendations.
- That the CoC19 **NOTE** the slow progress of the CDS Working Group and invite the Chair and the Members of the CDSWG to commit more efforts to the tasks that the Commission has conferred to it.
- That the CoC19 **NOTE** the slow progress of the VMS Working Group and invite the Chair and the Members of the VMSWG to commit more efforts to the tasks that the Commission has conferred to it.