



# Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group

Held by video-conference, 14-15 February 2022

#### **DISTRIBUTION:**

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

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY**

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#### **Acronyms**

CDS catch documentation scheme

CMM Conservation and Management Measure (of the IOTC; Resolutions and

Recommendations)

CoC Compliance Committee

CPC contracting Party (Member) or cooperating non-contracting Party

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
SDP statistical document programme

TBD to be determined

VMS vessel monitoring system

WP work plan

WPICMM Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures

WWF World Wide Fund for Nature

### HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

This report has been written using the following terms and associated definitions so as to removeambiguity 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 subsidiarybody 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-ContractingParty (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 shouldbe 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 nextlevel in the Commission's structure.

**NOTED/NOTING**: Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be important enough torecord 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 hierarchythan 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-PRIOTC01-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—PRIOTCO2—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, six Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group (CDSWG) meetings have been held. In response to recommendation from the third meeting of the CDSWG, its Terms of Reference 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 Terms of Reference. This report provides a record of the CDSWG06, as agreed to by the members of the CDSWG06.

#### 1. OPFNING OF THE MEETING

- 1. The meeting was held online, via Zoom, from 14 to 15 February 2022.
- 2. The List of Participants is presented in <u>Appendix 1</u>. A total of 55 participants (12 Member States, two Observers and Invited Experts) attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Dr Indra Jaya (IDN).
- 3. CDSWG06 **NOTED** the presence of each participant.

#### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING

4. CDSWG06 **ADOPTED** the agenda provided in Appendix 2.

#### 3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

4. CDSWG06 **NOTED** the admission of observers from Sustainable Fisheries and Community Trust (SFACT) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and **FURTHER NOTED** that there was no objection to their attendance.

#### 4. REVIEW OF STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE CDS WG

CDSWG06 NOTED the review of the status of the membership presented by the IOTC
 Secretariat and FURTHER NOTED that the attendance at the CDSWG had increased significantly for this meeting.

# 5. COMPARISON OF STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAMME AND CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME

- 6. CDSWG06 NOTED Meeting Document <u>IOTC-2022-CDSWG06-04</u> prepared by Japan providing a rough comparison of the existing IOTC Statistical Document Programme (SDP) for bigeye tuna and a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) and FURTHER NOTED that a catch document is more extensive in scope and requires more information than a statistical document.
- 7. CDSWG06 **NOTED** administrative and practical challenges in implementing a CDS, including: that fresh products require timely and expeditious action; that the coverage of domestically-traded products would increase the number of catch documents (CD) to be issued; and that fishermen might encounter difficulties if required to fill catch information.
- 8. CDSWG06 **NOTED** certain solutions to these challenges, such as: where quantities are small the logbook or sales note may be accepted as a CD (e.g. ICCAT Bluefin tuna CDS); CDs can be validated not only by government officials (e.g. ICCAT Bluefin tuna CDS); additional validations may not be necessary if fish are tagged at landing (ICCAT Bluefin tuna CDS); exporter or seller can fill catch information on behalf of fishermen (EU CDS); and validation and verification can be assisted by electronic CDS linking catches to vessels and quotas (ICCAT Bluefin tuna CDS).
- CDSWG06 NOTED that there can be a vast number of individual fish of different species and FURTHER NOTED that discussions should be held to clarify if a CDS should be established for different species, individual fish, or otherwise.
- 10. CDSWG06 NOTED that the practices in the ICCAT CDS can give insight to potential solutions.

- 11. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that it was almost 20 years since the industry was faced with issues of complexity leading to, for example, confining the statistical document programme to frozen products, but since then methods have been developed for estimating catch by species.
- 12. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that in some CPCs, many artisanal fishermen sell their products on the local market directly to the final consumer without issuing a sale note or a bill of sale.
- 13. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that in at least one CPC government officials are scarce and not available for completing forms at the moment of landing and **FURTHER NOTED** landings are only summarised at set intervals, so it would be difficult to apply a CDS for domestic trade.
- 14. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that government delegating responsibility is not so problematic where fish is landed in port or directly to a processor, and **FURTHER NOTED** where it is landed outside the port, there may be a shortage of staff to assist.
- 15. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that if authorisation to validate CDs was delegated to other individuals or institutions distinct from government officials, a verification system would have to be instituted to preserve authenticity.
- 16. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that for artisanal landings and large numbers of fish species, tagging would not be practical.
- 17. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that though an electronic CDS might have potential, low levels of access to technology and literacy in some CPCs would cause difficulties.
- 18. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that the CDS scheme could cover imports of product re-exported from processing countries unless the product was caught outside IOTC area.
- 19. CDSWG06 **RECALLED** the Terms of Reference of the CDSWG where the objectives of a CDS include (i) certification, verification and validation of products' legality with a view of eliminating illegally caught products' trade and ensure products' traceability to final market destination and (ii) the provision of scientific information for fisheries management.
- 20. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that if artisanal fleet catches and domestic trade were excluded the objectives established by the Commission would not be achieved.
- 21. CDSWG06 **RECALLED** the request that the IOTC 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 <u>Appendix 3</u> of Report <u>IOTC-2021-CDSWG05-R</u>.
- 22. CDSWG06 **NOTED** the effort of the IOTC Secretariat to reach out the CPCs and **FURTHER NOTED** that the majority of CPCs did not provide a response.
- 23. CDSWG06 **NOTED** the information provided in Meeting Document <u>IOTC-2022-CDSWG06-02</u> from the Maldives and the Seychelles on the scope of application of the CDS, with specific reference to artisanal fisheries.
- 24. CDSWG06 **REQUESTED** CPCs to provide information in writing to the IOTC Secretariat as to the situation regarding potential coverage of the artisanal sector and **FURTHER REQUESTED** that reference be made to the potential solutions in paper <u>IOTC-2022-CDSWG06-04</u>, that an explanation be provided as to how the objectives established by the Commission might still be achieved, that it include specifically why or how it would be difficult to apply a CDS and that reference be made to the potential to cover domestic trade (can point of first sale be covered)..

#### 6. PRESENTATION BY WWF AND QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- 25. CDSWG06 NOTED Information Paper IOTC-2022-CDSWG06-INFO1 presented by WWF
- 26. CDSWG06 **NOTED** the threats to robust CDS caused by limited scope of geographic coverage, additional administrative burdens produced by too many different CDS formats, lack of capacity and expertise, and too many different rules.
- 27. CDSWG06 **NOTED** opportunities with respect to consistency between unilateral and multilateral CDS and with respect to key data elements.
- 28. CDSWG06 **NOTED** ways forward including coverage, electronic systems, interoperability and generic alignment between CDS systems.
- 29. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that the Kobe process is at present not progressing and would need to be relaunched if individual RFMOs do not advance their own systems and **FURTHER NOTED** an inter-RFMO working group might be a possibility.
- 30. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that ICCAT do include artisanal catches for local consumption in their CDS.
- 31. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that the profile of countries in IOTC is different to that of ICCAT countries and **FURTHER NOTED** that IOTC's CDSWG might learn from some elements of ICCAT's practices.
- 32. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that though IOTC would develop its own system, alignment with the information in other RFMOs' systems is still important.
- 33. CDSWG06 **REQUESTED** WWF keep the CDSWG informed on how ICCAT deals with artisanal fisheries.

#### 7. DISCUSSIONS ON OPTIONS FOR AN IOTC CDS DESIGN

- 34. CDSWG06 **NOTED** Meeting Document regarding an update of the IOTC-CDSWG Discussion Paper <u>IOTC-2022-CDSWG06-03</u> where slides 9 to 13 recalled the status of basic design options, the species to be covered, the design of an electronic system, special considerations for artisanal fleets and operational issues.
- 35. CDSWG06 **RECALLED** the contents previously agreed of the strategy proposal to be presented to the IOTC in 2022 (slide 7).
- 36. CDSWG06 **RECALLED** the two retained options: **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.
- 37. CDSWG06 **RECALLED** (slide 9) that the CDSWG had already agreed that Option 2 or 3, or a hybrid, is the way forward and **AGREED** that there is no need to be restricted to any single option at this stage.
- 38. CDSWG06 **NOTED** (slides 15 to 42) the update of information on the following factors: stock status; IUU risk; level of international trade; and the difficulty of implementation.
- 39. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that the challenges and drawbacks of Option 2 were potentially data confidentiality and platform compatibility and **FURTHER NOTED** Option 3's challenges or drawbacks may be a less effective CDS in curbing IUU fishing and ensuring international coordination.
- 40. CDSWG06 **REAFFIRMED** the agreement that IOTC would develop its own system with potential for data exchange

41. CDSWG06 **AGREED** that under Option 3 stand-alone IOTC CDS, IOTC would take into account that international cooperation might be desirable in the future when developing technical requirements for the IOTC CDS.

#### 8. DISCUSSIONS ON SPECIES TO BE COVERED BY A CDS

- 42. CDSWG06 **RECALLED** (slide 10) that CDSWG05 had already agreed on including Bigeye, Skipjack and Yellowfin tuna for a first CDS, with a possibility of expansion later after evaluating the results of its implementation.
- 43. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that there may be potential for gradual introduction of one or two out of the three species, subject to further discussion.

#### DISCUSSIONS ON THE SCOPE OF APPLICATION OF THE CDS – ARTISANAL FISHERIES

- 44. CDSWG06 **NOTED** the difficulties some CPCs would have in applying a CDS to the artisanal sectors in different countries, and specifically to catches that are consumed locally and **FURTHER NOTED** that the variability of the characteristics of those sectors would pose difficulties to its implementation.
- 45. CDSWG06 **NOTED** the potential for aligning the CDS to the requirements of other IOTC Resolutions, such as the criteria for the Record of Authorised Vessels with further inclusion of those vessels that export their products into international markets.
- 46. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that some countries had a documentation system in place for export of products from the artisanal sector to the EU (its catch certification scheme) but not for locally-consumed products and **FURTHER NOTED** the potential to align with those sectors covered by the EU catch certification scheme.
- 47. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that Yellowfin and Skipjack had high proportion of artisanal catches and **FURTHER NOTED** that if artisanal fisheries were excluded entirely, the CDS would be partial.
- 48. CDSWG06 **NOTED** significant proportion of catches not traded internationally and **FURTHER NOTED** that if only international trade were included then coverage would be partial.
- 49. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that a CDS is one of a series of tools for fisheries management and against IUU fishing, and **FURTHER NOTED** that there exist other tools to monitor artisanal vessels that sell their products for domestic consumption.
- 50. CDSWG06 **NOTED** the position of some CPCs to exclude small-scale vessels that sell their products into the domestic market from the CDS.
- 51. CDSWG06 **NOTED** the preference of some CPCs to focus on international trade and **FURTHER NOTED** their preference that domestic trade may be included through a recommendation leading to a resolution at a later stage.
- 52. CDSWG06 **RECALLED** (slide 11) that CDSWG03 had agreed that there should be an electronic system but when applied to artisanal fleets other approaches may be required in the short term, subject to further discussion.
- 53. CDSWG06 **RECALLED** from Discussion Paper <u>IOTC-2021-CDSWG04-01</u> that the factors to be considered for a CDS for artisanal fisheries included four options, and **FURTHER RECALLED** the addition of a fifth option (<u>IOTC-2021-CDSWG04-R-E</u> para. 35), namely a "simplified electronic" CDS.

- 54. CDSWG06 **NOTED** FAO document <u>IOTC-2022-CDSWG06-INFO1</u> that describes different types of CDS, including for the domestic market, and **ENCOURAGED** CPCs to familiarise themselves with it with a view to further discussion.
- 55. CDSWG06 **AGREED** that all fish exported, irrespective of vessel size, must be covered by the CDS, albeit in a simplified form.
- 56. CDSWG06 **REQUESTED** the IOTC Secretariat update the information in paper <u>IOTC-2022-CDSWG06-02</u> taking into consideration the verbal and chat contributions of CPCs during the meeting and also the written contributions that CPCs might submit after the meeting (see para 24 above).

#### 10. OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

- 57. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that introducing tagging for artisanal fisheries would imply high costs and **FURTHER NOTED** that applying both an electronic and paper system in parallel for the artisanal sector might also cost more.
- 58. CDSWG06 **NOTED** that most if not all CPCs have a data recording system in place and also implement the EU Catch Certification Scheme for exported products, so additional costs involved in applying a CDS would not necessarily be very high and would not need to be outsourced.
- 59. CDSWG06 **NOTED** the costs presented for the CDSs of CCAMLR, CCSBT and ICCAT and **FURTHER NOTED** that the CCAMLR CDS system only covers about 20 vessels so the costs of IOTC CDS
  would be far superior.
- 60. CDSWG06 **REQUESTED** the IOTC Secretariat collect additional information on operational and administrative issues other than costs from other RFMOs' secretariats.
- 61. CDSWG06 **AGREED** to estimate costs of the CDS once the information had been received from CPCs regarding the application of a CDS to the artisanal sector as well as from other RFMOs' secretariats regarding additional information on operational and administrative issues.

#### DATES OF THE NEXT CDSWG MEETINGS

62. CDSWG06 **AGREED** that the next meeting be held during the week of 18 July 2022 and **FURTHER AGREED** that the mode of the meeting (virtual or in person) be kept open, depending on the situation.

#### 12. ELECTION OF A CDSWG VICE CHAIR

63. CDSWG06 ELECTED Dr Ansuman Das (IND) to be the Vice Chair of the CDSWG.

#### 13. ANY OTHER MATTERS

- 64. Members did not raise any other business and the meeting was called to a close.
- 65. The Report of the meeting was adopted by correspondence on 15 March 2022.

## APPENDIX 1 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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# APPENDIX 2 AGENDA OF THE MEETING

# CONFIRMED AGENDA: SIXTH MEETING OF THE CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME WORKING GROUP

Date: 14-15 February 2022

Location: Online

Platform: Zoom

Time: 11:00–15:00 Seychelles time, daily

Chair: Dr Indra Jaya (Indonesia) 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. COMPARISON OF STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAMME (SD) AND CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME (CDS) (Chair/Japan/Plenary)
- **6. PRESENTATION BY WWF AND Q&A** (Chair/WWF/Plenary)
- 7. DISCUSSIONS ON OPTIONS FOR AN IOTC CDS DESIGN (Chair/Plenary)
- 8. DISCUSSIONS ON SPECIES TO BE COVERED BY A CDS (Chair/Plenary)
- 9. DISCUSSIONS ON THE SCOPE OF APPLICATION OF THE CDS ARTISANAL FISHERIES (Chair/ Plenary)
- 10. OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES (Chair/Plenary)
- 11. DATES OF NEXT CDSWG MEETINGS (Plenary)
- 12. ELECTION OF A CDSWG VICE CHAIR (Plenary)
- 13. ANY OTHER MATTERS (Plenary)