
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, 27 MARCH 2023**

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), and the Working Groups on Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).

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) derives its mandate from [IOTC Resolution 17/02](#).

The Sixth Session of the WPICMM was held hybrid format (in person and by video-conference), from 15 to 17 February 2023, and it was chaired by Mr Benedict Kiilu (Kenya). A total of 50 participants attended the Session. In all, the meeting made 13 recommendations, which require the consideration of the CoC20. The report of the Sixth meeting of the WPICMM is available as a resource document in the CoC20 meeting page, section “*Reports from other meetings*”, [IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-R](#). The consolidated set of recommendations of the WPICMM05 is available in its Appendix 5.

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 Group 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 eight meetings, the last one being on 13 February 2023. The report of the 8th meeting of the CDS Working Group is available in the CoC20 meeting page, section “*Reports from Other meetings*”, [IOTC-2023-CDSWG](#). At its last meeting, the CDS Working Group made significant progress

in relation to the topics defined within its ToR, most importantly its primary objective, the CDS Strategy, supported by a companion volume [IOTC-2023-CDSWG08-03](#). Deliberations from members of the CDS Working Group were integrated and distributed to CPCs for comments before submission to CoC20 of its V2.0 [IOTC-2023-CoC20-12 Add1 – IOTC CDS Strategy](#). The following recommendation was put forward through the WPICMM06 for the consideration of CoC20:

The WPICMM06 **RECOMMENDED** that Compliance Committee 20 consider endorsing the CDS Strategy, as amended by the Eighth meeting of the CDS Working Group.

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 six meetings, the last one being on 14 February 2023. The reports of all meetings of the VMS Working Group are available in the CoC20 meeting page, section “Reports from Other meetings”, [IOTC-2023-VMSWG](#). Given the necessity to continue discussions, a seventh meeting is scheduled for the 26 September 2023, and one recommendation was put forward through the WPICMM06 for the consideration of the CoC20:

The WPICMM06 **NOTED** meeting document IOTC-2023-WPICMM06-08 as well as progress of the recent Sixth VMSWG and **RECOMMENDED** Compliance Committee 20 consider recommendations arising from the VMS Working Group.

The recommendations and items for consideration of the CoC20, arising from the VMSWG06 are:

The VMSWG06 **RECOMMENDED** that the Compliance Committee consider whether the IOTC should enter in an agreement with GFCM to join their pilot project, or whether IOTC should enter into a pilot project on its own, or whether IOTC doesn't need a pilot project.

The VMSWG06 **AGREED** that the revisions to the draft Resolution as discussed by the VMSWG06 in [IOTC-2023-VMSWG06-03 Rev1](#) (highlighted in yellow in the document) be presented to the Compliance Committee for information pending decision on the form of a pilot project, if any, and the work of the VMS consultant.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- That the CoC20 **NOTE** paper IOTC-2023-CoC20-12, 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 CoC20 considers the consolidated set of recommendations arising from the WPICMM06 meeting and, as appropriate, **ENDORSE** the recommendations.
- That the CoC20 **NOTE** the progress of the CDS Working Group and **ENDORSE** the CDS Strategy.
- That the CoC20 **NOTE** the progress of the VMS Working Group and **CONSIDER** pilot project options and next steps regarding a draft Resolution and the recruitment of a VMS consultant.