

Progress of work and plan for 2024 of the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Working Group (WG)

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PURPOSE

To provide participants at the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM) an update on the progress of work and plan for 2024 of the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Working Group (WG).

BACKGROUND

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 Intersessional 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.

The CDS Working Group has held nine meetings:

- 1st meeting - 18 December 2019, [IOTC-2019-CDSWG01](#),
- 2nd meeting - 23 January 2020, [IOTC-2020-CDSWG02](#),
- 3rd Meeting - 10-11 February 2020, [IOTC-2020-CDSWG03 R](#)
- 4th Meeting - 26-28 April 2021, [IOTC-2021-CDSWG04 R](#)
- 5th Meeting - 20-21 October 2021, [IOTC-2021-CDSWG05 R](#)
- 6th Meeting - 14 February 2022, [IOTC-2022-CDSWG06-R_Rev1](#)
- 7th Meeting – 29 September 2022, [IOTC-2022-CDSWG07-R](#)
- 8th Meeting – 13 February 2023, [IOTC-2023-CDSWG08 R](#)
- 9th Meeting - 28 September 2023, [IOTC-2023-CDSWG09 R](#)

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A [tenth meeting of the CDS WG](#) was scheduled for first quarter of 2024. However, the meeting has been postponed to later in 2024, possibly in the third quarter, due to delays in securing funding to conduct work that would be crucial to inform on some of the objectives, which have the status “ongoing”. The rescheduling of the CDS WG meeting in 2024 will be conducted in consultation with the Chair and communicated to all [designated-nominated](#) participants.

The reports of the previous meetings of the CDS Working Group are available as resource documents through the above links.

The 3rd meeting of the CDS Working Group made seven recommendations, which were endorsed by the Compliance Committee at its 17th Session. The consolidated set of recommendations of the CDSWG03 is reproduced below:

CONSOLIDATED LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CDSWG03 MEETING

STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE CDSWG

The WG AGREED that the membership of the CDSWG be expanded to include all CPCs. Recognising that virtual meetings posed a challenge for the current WG, the WG also agreed that an expanded membership might require physical meetings in the future, in addition to virtual meetings.

PREFERRED CDS OPTION FROM CDS STUDY

Options 1 and 3 received similar levels of support. The WG recommended that this matter be further addressed in a CDSWG TOR.

SPECIES AND COVERAGE

The WG noted a range of factors that should be considered when identifying species. These include stock status, IUU risk, level of international trade and the difficulty of implementation. The WG agreed that, in the first instance, the CDS could cover tropical tunas (bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, skipjack tuna), then other IOTC species step by step.

The WG agreed that both industrial and artisanal fleets should be included in the CDS. Some WG participants indicated the need for special consideration for artisanal fleet. such as extending the CDS gradually to the artisanal fleets.

The WG recommended that this matter be further addressed in a CDSWG ToR.

MEDIUM OF IOTC CDS

The WG noted that mechanisms of international trade of tunas are increasingly moving towards electronic systems, and that ICCAT has e-CDSs and CCSBT is in the process of potential introduction of one. The WG agreed that the IOTC CDS should therefore, be an electronic system. However, some WG participants indicated that when the CDS is applied to the artisanal fleets, other approaches may be required in the short-term.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EU IUU REGULATION

The WG noted that the EU CDS allows for recognition of a CDS developed by a RFMO. The WG agreed that an IOTC CDS should accommodate the requirements of the EU market .

The WG recommended that this matter of recognition be further addressed in a CDSWG ToR, and include other market States.

OTHER MATTERS

The WG noted that financial considerations and objectives of IOTC CDS will be important in the design, development and implementation of a CDS, and agreed that this matter be further addressed in a CDSWG ToR.

The 4th meeting of the CDS Working Group made five recommendations, which were endorsed by the Compliance Committee at its 18th Session. The consolidated set of recommendations of the CDSWG04 is reproduced below:

CONSOLIDATED LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CDSWG04 MEETING

CDSWG04 (Para. 5) CDSWG04 **RECOMMENDED** the Secretariat develop a dedicated webpage for future CDSWG meetings at the earliest stage possible, so that wider IOTC members, cooperating non-members, invited experts and observers are informed of the planned meeting.

CDSWG04 (Para. 6) CDSWG04 **RECOMMENDED** the Compliance Committee (CoC) and the Commission encourage those members who have not yet nominated their participants to the CDSWG to do so at the earliest possible date.

CDSWG04 (Para. 11) CDSWG04 **RECOMMENDED** the CoC and the Commission provide clearer guidance on interpretation and application of the “quorum rule” for subsidiary-bodies’ meetings, especially for Working Group (WG) meetings, under the IOTC Rules of Procedure taking into account above precedents.

CDSWG04 (Para. 12) CDSWG04 also **RECOMMENDED** the CoC and the Commission to encourage members to explicitly confirm their participation in response to invitations and to attend the meetings, for efficient organization of future meetings.

CDSWG04 (Para. 24) CDSWG04 **RECOMMENDED** the CoC and the Commission request the Secretariat to contact the Secretariats of ICCAT, IATTC and WCPFC and seek information on their (i) current situation of discussion for development of a CDS for tropical tunas and (ii) if any, agreed target timeframe for development, with a view to obtaining such information, by the end of August 2021. CDSWG04 **NOTED** that in this process the Secretariats of ICCAT, IATTC and WCPFC are not expected to seek their Members' views for their responses.

The 5th meeting of the CDS Working Group made no recommendations but seven agreements, which were endorsed by the Compliance Committee at its 19th Session, and which are reproduced below:

CONSOLIDATED LIST OF AGREEMENTS FROM THE CDSWG05 MEETING

CDSWG05 (Para. 23) **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.

CDSWG05 (Para. 24) **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.

CDSWG05 (Para. 25) **AGREED** that the nature of the fisheries (whether they catch all three tropical tuna species) is a factor that should also be included.

CDSWG05 (Para. 26) **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.

CDSWG05 (Para. 27) **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.

CDSWG05 (Para. 28) **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.

CDSWG05 (Para. 31) **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.

The 6th meeting of the CDS Working Group made no recommendations but two agreements and one reaffirmation, which were endorsed by the Compliance Committee at its 19th Session, and which are reproduced below:

CONSOLIDATED LIST OF AGREEMENTS FROM THE CDSWG06 MEETING

CDSWG06 (Para. 40) **REAFFIRMED** the agreement that IOTC would develop its own system with potential for data exchange.

CDSWG06 (Para. 55) **AGREED** that all fish exported, irrespective of vessel size, must be covered by the CDS, albeit in a simplified form.

CDSWG06 (Para. 61) **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.

The 7th meeting of the CDS Working Group made no recommendations but four agreements, which were endorsed by the Compliance Committee at its 20th Session, and which are reproduced below:

CONSOLIDATED LIST OF AGREEMENTS FROM THE CDSWG07 MEETING

The CDSWG07 (Para. 16) **AGREED** that although the primary focus for a CDS should be the tropical tunas (bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin), there was merit to consider to include swordfish within the scope of the CDS and **FURTHER AGREED** to follow a stepwise approach for the inclusion of this species.

The CDSWG07 (Para. 20) **AGREED** that the CDS should cover, initially, all vessels harvesting and trading tropical tunas in the international market.

The CDSWG07 (Para. 22) **AGREED** to follow a two-stage approach, starting with a trade-based CDS that is later upgraded into a fisheries-based CDS.

The CDSWG07 (Para. 32) **AGREED** that the draft of the IOTC CDS Strategy will be reviewed by the CDSWG at its next meeting with the aim of proposing the Draft IOTC CDS Strategy to the next Compliance Committee (CoC20) in 2023.

The 8th meeting of the CDS Working Group made no recommendations but nine agreements, which were endorsed by the Compliance Committee at its 20th Session, and which are reproduced below:

CONSOLIDATED LIST OF AGREEMENTS FROM THE CDSWG08 MEETING

The CDSWG08 (Para. 9) **AGREED** that the implementation schedule of the transition from trade-based CDS to fishery-based CDS for artisanal fisheries should be subject to further decision by the Commission.

The CDSWG08 (Para. 10) **AGREED** that the introduction of the three tropical species and swordfish, and of different product types should be gradual.

The CDSWG08 (Para. 11) **AGREED** that the Commission should consider whether the CDS should be expanded to all 16 species on risk basis.

The CDSWG08 (Para. 12) **AGREED** that Expected Result 0 in the draft CDS Strategy should be renamed Overall Expected Result.

CDSWG08 (Para. 14) **AGREED** to add text for imports from non-CPCs to paragraph 0.1 of the draft CDS Strategy, to reflect the need for consultation with other RFMOs and non-members of IOTC.

The CDSWG08 (Para. 15) **AGREED** that the outcome of the pilot trials should lead to consideration of stepwise introduction of species.

The CDSWG08 (Para. 16) **AGREED** that the transition from trade-based to fishery-based CDS for artisanal fisheries be included in Result 2 activities.

The CDSWG08 (Para. 18) **AGREED** to include Compliance as an assessment criterion in the CDS Strategy, which would indicate the level of implementation of the CDS by different CPCs and identify reasons for non-compliance and their possible solutions.

The CDSWG08 (Para. 19) **AGREED** that the timeline (and the logical framework) should be synchronised with the text where changes have been made by the CDSWG08.

The 9th meeting of the CDS Working Group made no recommendations but six agreements, which are reproduced below:

CONSOLIDATED LIST OF AGREEMENTS FROM THE CDSWG09 MEETING

The CDSWG09 (Para. 10) **NOTED** the challenges that transitioning from a trade-based CDS to a fisheries-based CDS may pose and **AGREED** not to determine a date for implementing the transition, but to initiate discussion in 2026-2029 as indicated in the Timeline Table of the CDS Strategy.

The CDSWG09 (Para. 12) **AGREED** that discussions on section 4, on the implications of a port State or importing State not being party to the IOTC, be discussed and implemented at the time/year indicated in the Timeline Table of the CDS Strategy.

The CDSWG09 (Para. 13) **AGREED** to present the IOTC CDS Strategy v4 for the information of the Commission.

The CDSWG09 (Para. 16) **AGREED** to commission the development of the e-CDS Concept Paper to a consultant.

The CDSWG09 (Para. 18) **AGREED** that any comments concerning the drafting of an IOTC Resolution on CDS be communicated to the IOTC Secretariat with the Chair in copy.

The CDSWG09 (Para. 21) **DISCUSSED** the possibility of combining both the VMSWG and CDSWG into a one single group with the objectives of attracting wider participation, save resources and reduce the number of meetings. The CDSWG09 **AGREED** that a proposal will need to be made to the Compliance Committee and Commission for that.

DISCUSSION

The Catch Documentation System Working Group was established with the principal task of guiding the development/proposing a blueprint and timeline (strategy) for an IOTC CDS (IOTC CDS strategy). The work plan of the CDS Working Group is guided by the responsibilities given in its ToRs. They are presented below with the status of the discussions on the IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme by the CDS Working Group.

Basic design

- i) Basic CDS design options 1-3 (as described in p82-86 of the consultant report)

CDSWG04 **NOTED** that both Options 2 and 3 had received favourable opinions from members, so both of these should still be open for consideration.

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.

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.

CDSWG06 **RECALLED** 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.

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.

CDSWG06 **REAFFIRMED** the agreement that IOTC would develop its own system with potential for data exchange.

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.

Status

Completed.

- 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.

CDSWG06 (Para. 42) **RECALLED** 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.

CDSWG06 (Para. 43) **NOTED** that there may be potential for gradual introduction of one or two out of the three species, subject to further discussion.

The CDSWG07 (Para. 16) **AGREED** that although the primary focus for a CDS should be the tropical tunas (bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin), there was merit to consider to include swordfish within the scope of the CDS and **FURTHER AGREED** to follow a stepwise approach for the inclusion of this species

The CDSWG07 (Para. 20) **AGREED** that the CDS should cover, initially, all vessels harvesting and trading tropical tunas in the international market.

The CDSWG07 (Para. 22) **AGREED** to follow a two-stage approach, starting with a trade-based CDS that is later upgraded into a fisheries-based CDS.

The CDSWG08 (Para. 8) **NOTED** that it may be impractical to introduce the three tropical species and swordfish at once, and **FURTHER NOTED** that introduction immediately of fresh tuna and processed products would be challenging.

The CDSWG08 (Para. 9) **AGREED** that the implementation schedule of the transition from trade-based CDS to fishery-based CDS for artisanal fisheries should be subject to further decision by the Commission.

The CDSWG08 (Para. 10) **AGREED** that the introduction of the three tropical species and swordfish, and of different product types should be gradual.

The CDSWG08 (Para. 11) **AGREED** that the Commission should consider whether the CDS should be expanded to all 16 species on risk basis.

The CDSWG08 (Para. 15) **AGREED** that the outcome of the pilot trials should lead to consideration of stepwise introduction of species

Status

Completed. Elements incorporated in draft Strategy and its companion

iv) Design of an electronic system

CDSWG03 The WG **NOTED** that mechanisms of international trade of tunas are increasingly moving towards electronic systems, and that ICCAT has an e-CDS and CCSBT is in the process of potential introduction of one.

CDSWG03 The WG **AGREED** that the IOTC CDS should therefore, be an electronic system. However, some WG participants indicated that when the CDS is applied to the artisanal fleets, other approaches may be required in the short-term.

The CDSWG09 (Para. 8) **NOTED** the presentation from the Chair on the mandate of the Working Group, the progress made to date and its agreed timeline of work and **FURTHER NOTED** the following three points for discussions:

- i. Revision of the IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme Strategy (v3): in order to resolve the outstanding issues highlighted by the Compliance Committee (CoC20) and incorporate any additional edits from the Working Group;
- ii. Elaboration of the e-CDS Concept paper;
- iii. Drafting of a proposal for an IOTC Resolution on Catch Documentation Scheme

The CDSWG09 (Para. 9) **NOTED** that the e-CDS Concept paper will be commissioned to a consultant due to its technical nature and **FURTHER NOTED** that the e-CDS Concept paper may not be ready for the next CDSWG meeting of February 2024.

The CDSWG09 (Para. 16) **AGREED** to commission the development of the e-CDS Concept Paper to a consultant.

Status

Ongoing. Further discussions to take place during the 2024 meeting(s).

v) Need for special consideration to artisanal fleets

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.

CDSWG06 (Para. 44) **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.

CDSWG06 (Para. 45) **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.

CDSWG06 (Para. 46) **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.

CDSWG06 (Para. 47) **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.

CDSWG06 (Para. 48) **NOTED** significant proportion of catches not traded internationally and **FURTHER NOTED** that if only international trade were included then coverage would be partial.

CDSWG06 (Para. 49) **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.

CDSWG06 (Para. 50) **NOTED** the position of some CPCs to exclude small-scale vessels that sell their products into the domestic market from the CDS.

CDSWG06 (Para. 51) **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.

CDSWG06 (Para. 52) **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.

CDSWG06 (Para. 53) **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](#), para. 35), namely a “simplified electronic” CDS.

CDSWG06 (Para. 54) **NOTED** FAO document [IOTC-2022-CDSWG06-INFO1](#) 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.

CDSWG06 (Para. 55) **AGREED** that all fish exported, irrespective of vessel size, must be covered by the CDS, albeit in a simplified form.

CDSWG06 (Para. 56) **REQUESTED** the IOTC Secretariat update the information in paper [IOTC-2022- CDSWG06-02](#) 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).

The CDSWG07 (Para. 17) **NOTED** the different approaches for implementing a CDS in the FAO document “Understanding and Implementing Catch Documentation Schemes - A guide for national authorities” (FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 14):

- fishery-based CDS that covers all domestic and international trade;
- trade-based CDS, which only covers species internationally traded, and
- market-based CDS, which cover all species but only those products destined for a given single market.

The CDSWG07 (Para. 18) **NOTED** that a fishery-based CDS could be used to support science and combat IUU fishing, in line with IOTC CDS objectives.

The CDSWG07 **NOTED** the current lack of means, infrastructures and capacity of developing coastal States to implement a fully-fledged fisheries-based CDS.

The CDSWG07 **AGREED** that the CDS should cover, initially, all vessels harvesting and trading tropical tunas in the international market.

The CDSWG07 **NOTED** that since many CPCs are already implementing the EU Catch Certificate Scheme a trade-based CDS would be simpler to implement.

The CDSWG07 **AGREED** to follow a two-stage approach, starting with a trade-based CDS that is later upgraded into a fisheries-based CDS.

Status

Completed. Elements incorporated in draft Strategy and its companion

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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).

CDSWG05 **NOTED** the need for integration of CDS with other MCS measures of the IOTC and national or regional programmes.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

CDSWG06 **REQUESTED** the IOTC Secretariat collect additional information on operational and administrative issues other than costs from other RFMOs’ secretariats.

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.

The CDSWG07 **NOTED** that applying both electronic and paper systems in parallel might be costly and **FURTHER NOTED** the need to discuss how current SD systems in use could be upgraded to trade-based CDS.

The CDSWG07 **NOTED** the lack of facilities and infrastructure for some developing CPCs and **FURTHER NOTED** the need to consider exceptions or special provisions to reflect their realities.

The CDSWG07 **NOTED** the importance of considering funding mechanisms to implement CDS systems in developing coastal States.

The CDSWG07 **NOTED** the potential use of existing monitoring tools for the purpose of integrating with the CDS.

The CDSWG07 **NOTED** that small-scale fishing vessels under certain size and tonnage are not equipped with communication tools to transmit data in real time and **FURTHER NOTED** the challenges for certain CPCs to comply with an e-CDS.

Status

Completed. Elements incorporated in draft Strategy and its companion

Timeline

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

The CDSWG09 (Para. 8) **NOTED** the presentation from the Chair on the mandate of the Working Group, the progress made to date and its agreed timeline of work [...].

Status

Completed. Elements incorporated in draft Strategy and its companion

IOTC CDS Strategy

The CDSWG09 (Para. 8) **NOTED** the presentation from the Chair on the mandate of the Working Group, the progress made to date and its agreed timeline of work and **FURTHER NOTED** the following three points for discussions:

- i. Revision of the IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme Strategy (v3): in order to resolve the outstanding issues highlighted by the Compliance Committee (CoC20) and incorporate any additional edits from the Working Group;
- ii. Elaboration of the e-CDS Concept paper;
- iii. Drafting of a proposal for an IOTC Resolution on Catch Documentation Scheme

The CDSWG09 (Para. 11) **NOTED** changes to the IOTC CDS Strategy (v3) proposed by members during the meeting relating to:

- i. Deleted paragraph 2.9 on “Monitor and evaluate as per 0.7”, in V2 to be reinstated and renumbered as 2.8;
- ii. Ensure that the Timeline table activity numbers are aligned with the content of the narrative in the body of the document.

The CDSWG09 (Para. 12) **AGREED** that discussions on section 4, on the implications of a port State or importing State not being party to the IOTC, be discussed and implemented at the time/year indicated in the Timeline Table of the CDS Strategy.

The CDSWG09 (Para. 13) **AGREED** to present the IOTC CDS Strategy v4 for the information of the Commission

Status
Completed

IOTC Resolution on Catch Documentation Scheme

CDSWG03 The WG **NOTED** that mechanisms of international trade of tunas are increasingly moving towards electronic systems, and that ICCAT has an e-CDS and CCSBT is in the process of potential introduction of one.

CDSWG03 The WG **AGREED** that the IOTC CDS should therefore, be an electronic system. However, some WG participants indicated that when the CDS is applied to the artisanal fleets, other approaches may be required in the short-term.

The CDSWG09 (Para. 8) **NOTED** the presentation from the Chair on the mandate of the Working Group, the progress made to date and its agreed timeline of work and **FURTHER NOTED** the following three points for discussions:

- iv. Revision of the IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme Strategy (v3): in order to resolve the outstanding issues highlighted by the Compliance Committee (CoC20) and incorporate any additional edits from the Working Group;
- v. Elaboration of the e-CDS Concept paper;
- vi. Drafting of a proposal for an IOTC Resolution on Catch Documentation Scheme

The CDSWG09 (Para. 14) **NOTED** that a proposal for an IOTC Resolution on CDS, extracted from the consultant report on “Developing a comprehensive MCS system and an electronic Catch Documentation Scheme for IOTC” of December 2018, is available at Annex IV of the Strategy Companion.

The CDSWG09 (Para. 15) **NOTED** that the proposal for an IOTC Resolution on CDS needs to be aligned with the IOTC CDS Strategy documents and **FURTHER NOTED** that other RFMOs have already adopted CMMs on CDS that could be used as reference for the proposal of an IOTC Resolution on CDS.

The CDSWG09 (Para. 17) **REQUESTED** the IOTC Secretariat to work with the consultant and the Chair on updating the proposal for an IOTC Resolution on CDS with due consideration to other existing CMMs on CDS adopted by other RFMOs.

The CDSWG09 (Para. 18) **AGREED** that any comments concerning the drafting of an IOTC Resolution on CDS be communicated to the IOTC Secretariat with the Chair in copy.

Status
Ongoing. Further discussions to take place during the 2024 meeting(s).

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the WPICMM07:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC-2024-WPICMM07-07 on the progress of work and plan for 2024 of the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Working Group (WG).
- 2) **NOTE** the progress made by the VMS Working Group with respect to the IOTC CDS strategy v.4.