Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)

Introduction

This document is divided into two parts. Part One incudes the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Concept Paper that includes an overall description and design of the IOTC CDS. Part Two includes the draft *Resolution on an Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)*.

The development of this document takes into consideration a range of materials with particular attention given to the *IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme Strategy (Version 4.0)*, the *IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme Strategy Companion (Version 1.0)*, the *Developing a comprehensive MCS system and an electronic Catch Documentation Scheme for IOTC Consultant Report (2018)*, the *Terms of Reference for the Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group (CDSWG)* and the meeting reports of the CDSWG.

The development of this document also draws on the experiences of CDS development and implementation of the Commission of the Conservation Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the development of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Regional CDS Framework and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (VGCDS).

The IOTC Concept Paper is the result of an assessment of the relevant material and provides a clarified, cohesive and logical approach to the IOTC CDS that responds to the intent of the IOTC CDS expressed over the last several years. The functional specifications proposed will ensure that the Objective and Goals of the IOTC CDS are achieved. Significant deviations from the design of the IOTC CDS risk creating a CDS that does not serve its intended purpose, is costly and creates undue burdens on IOTC Contracting Parties (CPs), Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs) (CPCs) and the IOTC Secretariat.

Part One - IOTC CDS Concept Paper

Overall Description

Objective

The Objective of the IOTC CDS is to ensure that species covered by the Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC Species), fished, landed and traded by IOTC CPCs are caught in a manner consistent with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

Goals

To support the overall Objective of the IOTC CDS has several Goals including to:

- reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and trade in illegally caught products by preventing IUU fish and fish products entering markets;
- improve the quality and availability of catch-related data and information including to support fisheries management;
- identify the origins of IOTC species entering markets and to ensure the traceability of fish and fish products;

- promote cooperation between IOTC CPCs and with non-Contracting Parties (NCPs) that trade in IOTC Species; and
- promote cooperation between IOTC and other tuna regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) that implement CDS.

Principles

The IOTC CDS had been designed to:

- be in conformity with the provisions of relevant international law;
- not create unnecessary barriers to trade;
- recognise equivalence;
- be risk-based;
- be reliable, simple, clear and transparent; and
- be electronic.

Scope

The IOTC CDS applies to all species covered by the IOTC Agreement (IOTC Species) in all product forms, fished by CPCs within the IOTC area of competence, and subsequently landed and traded.

Implementation

Given the encompassing Scope of the IOTC CDS, a phased approach to implementation has been agreed:

- In the first phase, the IOTC CDS will apply to:
 - Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) caught and landed by CPC-flagged vessels included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels and exported from the port of landing.
 - O Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) caught by chartered vessels included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels and landed in a port State outside the charter party's jurisdiction.
- In the second phase, the IOTC CDS will apply to:
 - Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) caught and landed by CPC-flagged vessels not included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels and exported from the port of landing.
- In the third phase, the IOTC CDS will apply to:
 - o Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) caught and landed by CPC-flagged vessels included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels; and
 - Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) caught and landed by CPC-flagged vessels not included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels.
- In the fourth phase, the IOTC CDS will be extended to all IOTC Species caught and landed by CPC-flagged vessels included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels.

• In the fifth phase, the IOTC CDS will be extended to all IOTC Species caught and landed by CPC-flagged vessels not included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels.

For vessels included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels, an IOTC Catch Document (ICD) will be required. For vessels not included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels, a Simplified IOTC Catch Document (sICD) will be required.

The IOTC CDS may be implemented by CPCs on a voluntary basis ahead of the phased approach. For those CPCs that implement the IOTC CDS, including on a voluntary basis, reporting under the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical document programme will no longer be required.

The IOTC CDS be designed to cover the entire Scope included in this document. This will offer a costeffective and strategic approach to electronic CDS (e-CDS) development that can then be implemented in a phased approach with the opportunity for earlier voluntary implementation.

Integration

The design of the IOTC CDS aligns and integrates with IOTC's current monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) systems. This alignment and integration supports user access, the issuing and completion of IOTC catch documents and the validation and verification of data and information included in IOTC catch documents in the electronic CDS (e-CDS).

The e-CDS must be built in an application to supports communication and/or integration with other application that support CDS to facilitate the integration of e-CDS implemented by RFMOs.

Application

The IOTC CDS e-CDS will be a web-based application with secure user access rights based on the role of the user (Table 1). The e-CDS will be developed to issue, complete, validate, manage and share IOTC CDS documents (ICD, sICD and the IOTC Export Document (IED) and IOTC Re-Export Document (IRED))¹.

The IOTC currently implements web-based applications to support the management and use of vessel-related data and information (Record of Authorised Vessels (RAV)) and to manage IOTC reporting requirements (e-MARIS). These applications use a range of enterprise software solutions, reference tools, enabling technologies and information exchange protocols. The e-CDS can be developed using a similar approach and CPCs should consider the most cost-effective options through the required procurement process. It is however, worth noting that Drupal offers a comprehensive and cost-effective option for e-CDS development. Drupal is a free and open-source web content management system (CMS) or web application framework written in PHP² and distributed under the GNU General Public License. Drupal features include user account registration and maintenance, menu management, RSS feeds, taxonomy, page layout customization, and system administration. The Drupal core installation can serve as a simple website, a single- or multi-user blog, an Internet forum, or a community website providing for user-generated content.

Roles and Responsibilities

The e-CDS will be a web-based application with a single sign-on solution developed for access. Secure user access rights will be based on the role of the user. The roles and associated user management and an overview of roles is provided in Table 1. The details of the roles is provided in the Functional Specifications.

¹The term "IOTC catch documents" encompasses all documents generated by the IOTC CDS and include the IOTC Catch Document (ICD), the Simplified IOTC Catch Document (SICD), the IOTC Export Document (IED) and the IOTC Re-Export Document (IRED).

 $^{^{2}}$ PHP a general-purpose scripting language developed for web development.

Role	User management and overview
IOTC CDS Contact Officer	An IOTC CDS Contact Officer is designated by a CPC in accordance with the draft <i>Resolution on an Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)</i> .
	The IOTC CDS Contact Officer role can be assigned in the IOTC CDS by the Secretariat on request from a CPC.
	A list of IOTC CDS Contact Officers will be made available in the e-CDS to support communication and information exchange between CPCs.
	An IOTC CDS Contact Officer can issue IOTC CDS documents on behalf of their CPC.
	An IOTC CDS Contact Officer can assign Flag Official, Port Official and Export Official roles to other users of their CPC.
	An IOTC CDS Contact Officer can complete and edit all IOTC CDS documents issued by their own CPC.
	An IOTC CDS Contact Officer can view, issue, complete and edit information in IOTC export documents when the landing/arrival port is a port of their CPC.
Flag Official	The role of Flag Official can be assigned by an IOTC CDS Contact Officer for their CPC.
	Flag Officials can issue IOTC catch documents on behalf of their CPC for their flagged vessels or chartered vessels.
	Flag Officials can complete relevant sections in IOTC catch documents for their flagged vessels.
Port Official	The role of Port Official can be assigned by an IOTC CDS Contact Officer for their CPC.
	Port Officials can complete relevant sections in IOTC CDS documents where a landing port is a port of their CPC.
Vessel Representative	A CDS Contact Officer or Flag Official may invite electronically, through the e-CDS, a Vessel Representative to complete relevant sections in IOTC catch documents (ICD or sICD).
	A user access account is not required for a Vessel Representative and they are not assigned a username or password for the e-CDS.
	The Vessel Representative will be notified via email if invited to complete an IOTC catch document (ICD or sICD) and will receive a link granting access to complete the relevant sections in the IOTC catch document (ICD or sICD) via the e-CDS.
	Once the relevant sections have been completed and confirmed by the flag State, access to the ICD or sICD will no longer be available.
	The Vessel Representative will not have access to the e-CDS, only the IOTC catch document (ICD or sICD) that they have been invited to complete and only until they have completed their relevant sections.

Role	User management and overview
Export Official	The role of Export Official can be assigned by an IOTC CDS Contact Officer for their CPC.
	Export Officials can issue and complete IOTC export documents (IED and IRED) for landing ports or importing ports of their CPC.
Exporter	A CDS Contact Officer Export Official may invite electronically, through the e-CDS, an Exporter to complete relevant sections in IOTC export documents (IED or IRED).
	A user access account is not required for an Exporter and they are not assigned a username or password for the e-CDS.
	The Exporter will be notified via email if invited to complete an IOTC export document (IED or IRED) and will receive a link granting access to complete the relevant sections in the IOTC export document (IED or IRED) via the e-CDS.
	Once the relevant sections have been completed, access to the IED or IRED will no longer be available.
	The Exporter will not have access to the e-CDS, only the IOTC export document (IED or IRED) that they have been invited to complete and only until they have completed their relevant sections.

Table 1: e-CDS user roles and responsibilities

Functional Description

e-CDS user interface

the e-CDS user interface log-in page will provide the point of access to the e-CDS for users. Access to the e-CDS will require the establishment of an access account and this will be managed by the relevant CPC IOTC CDS Contact Officer. Once logged-in, a user will be taken to the e-CDS Home Page that support a range of functions based on the rights for a user. The e-CDS Home Page will include the following:

- Issue new IOTC catch document (ICD or sICD)
- View previously issued and in progress IOTC catch documents (ICD and sICD)
- View previously issued and completed IOTC catch documents (ICD and sICD) and associated IOTC export documents (IED and IRED).
- Search for previously issued IOTC catch documents (ICD and sICD)
- A list of CDS Contact Officers

IOTC Catch Document (ICD)

The ICD applies for vessels included in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels. The e-CDS will first ask users to "Issue a new IOTC catch document". This will take the user to a question, "Is the vessel to which this IOTC catch document relates, included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels?". If yes is selected, the user will be taken to issue and complete an ICD.

An IOTC CDS Contact Officer or Flag Official can issue an ICD.

1. Issue an ICD

Data Element	Description
1a. Issuing Competent Authority	The details of the national agency responsible for issuing IOTC documents on behalf of its flagged vessels or chartered vessels. The details of the national agency are linked to the user log-in details and are thus linked with CDS specific data to automatically populate the Issuing Competent Authority details in the ICD from an e-CDS database.
1b. ICD Number	The e-CDS will automatically create a unique ICD Number that cannot be changed or removed from the ICD. The ICD number is a unique identifier for the ICD, facilitating its search and editing by relevant users, as well as ensuring its linkage to associated IED and IRED.

1c. Vessel	The details of the fishing vessel for which the ICD relates. Linked to the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels to automatically populate the vessel details included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels for that vessel including:
	 Vessel name IOTC Number Flag IMO IRCS Type Vessel Owner Vessel Operator
1d. Vessel Representative	The name of the Vessel Representative and their email contact details may be added in the IOTC CDS for an ICD. This will not be visible on the ICD, only in the e-CDS user interface and will be used to facilitate the invitation for the Vessel Representative to complete the relevant sections in the ICD. A tick box will be provided that the Issuing Competent Authority may use to invite the Vessel Representative to complete 2a to 2e in the ICD.

2. Complete an ICD

Data Element	Description	User Access	Prerequisite
2a. Fishing Dates	Fishing trip details including: Port Departure Date Fishing Start Date Fishing End Date Port Entry Date	The Fishing Dates can be entered by a Vessel Representative or by an IOTC CDS Contact Officer or by a Flag Official. The Fishing Dates can be edited by a Vessel Representative or by an IOTC CDS Contact	The ICD must have been issued by an IOTC CDS Contact Officer or Flag Official before the Fishing dates to be entered.

³ The numbering used in this Functional Specification is not the same as the numbering used in the draft CDS documents included in the draft Resolution on an Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS).

Data Element	Description	User Access	Prerequisite
		Officer or by a Flag Official until the element has been confirmed. An IOTC CDS Contact Officer can edit Fishing Dates at any time.	
2b. Fish Caught	 The details of Fish Caught include: Species (selected from a prepopulated dropdown list of IOTC Species codes) Type (selected from a prepopulated dropdown list of IOTC Types of Fish Processing codes) Area caught EEZ (select from prepopulated dropdown list of Indian Ocean National Jurisdiction Areas codes) IOTC Area (select from prepopulated dropdown list of Indian Ocean Areas codes) Estimated weight (kgs) 	The details of Fish Caught should be entered by the Vessel Representative but may be entered by an IOTC CDS Contact Officer or by a Flag Official. The details of Fish Caught can be edited by a Vessel Representative or by an IOTC CDS Contact Officer or by a Flag Official until the element has been confirmed. An IOTC CDS Contact Officer can edit the details of Fish Caught at any time.	The details of Fish Caught cannot be completed until the Fishing Dates have been entered and confirmed.
2c. Transhipment ⁴	 The details of Transhipment include: Date of Transhipment Receiving Vessel Details (select from prepopulated dropdown list from the 	The details of Transhipment should be entered by the Vessel Representative but may be entered by the IOTC CDS Contact Officer or by a Flag Official.	The details of Transhipment cannot be completed until the details Fish Caught have been entered and confirmed.

⁴ The e-CDS may be designed so that this section is only available to complete if relevant to the vessel type identified in 1c. i.e.. The section can be shaded out in the ICD if not relevant.

Data Element	Description	User Access	Prerequisite
	 IOTC Record of Carrier Vessels (name, flag and IMO)) Transhipment location (longitude and latitude) Estimated Weight (kgs) to be transhipped. 	The details of Transhipment can be edited by a Vessel Representative or by an IOTC CDS Contact Officer or by a Flag Official until the element has been confirmed. An IOTC CDS Contact Officer can edit the details of Transhipment at any time.	
2d. Landing	 The details of Landing include: Date of Landing Port of Landing (selected from a prepopulated dropdown list of ports)⁵ 	The details of Landing should be entered by the Vessel Representative but may be entered by the IOTC CDS Contact Officer or by a Flag Official. The details of Landing can be edited by a Vessel Representative or by an IOTC CDS Contact Officer or by a Flag Official until the element has been confirmed. An IOTC CDS Contact Officer can edit the details of Landing at any time.	The details of Landing cannot be completed until the details Fish Caught have been entered and confirmed.
2e. Vessel Representative Confirmation	The Vessel Representative Confirmation text states: I confirm that the information included in this IOTC Catch Document is complete, true and correct and that the IOTC Species included in this IOTC Catch Document were caught in a manner consistent with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.	A Vessel Representative Confirmation (check box against the Confirmation text) must be provided by the Vessel Representative but may also be provided by an IOTC CDS Contact Officer or Flag Official.	The Vessel Representative Confirmation cannot be completed until the details of Landing have been entered and confirmed.

⁵ The port of landing details and the completion of the Flag State Confirmation can trigger an automatic notification to the relevant Port Official for the completion of 2g and 2h.

Data Element	Description	User Access	Prerequisite
	Vessel Representative Confirmation details include: • Name • Date		
2f. Flag State Confirmation	A Flag State must be satisfied that the information included in an ICD has been accurately recorded (2a to 2d) and confirmed (2e). Using VMS data, a Flag State must check the details included in Fish Caught (2b). The Flag State Confirmation text states: I have confirmed the vessel's authorisation to fish, verified that the species and quantities reported comply with the established limits and regulations and checked the Vessel Monitoring System data and I am satisfied that the information included in this IOTC Catch Document has been accurately reported. Note: this text does not show up on the ICD. It is only in the e-CDS and results in the issuing of the Flag State Confirmation Number that is included in the ICD.	The Flag State Confirmation (check box against the Confirmation text) must be provided by an IOTC CDS Contact Officer or Flag Official. Once completed, a unique Flag State Confirmation Number will be issued and included in the ICD.	The Flag State Confirmation cannot be completed until the Vessel Representative Confirmation has been completed.
2g. Verified Weight	Verified weight is recorded against the estimated weight provided in Fish Caught (2b).	The port of landing details and the completion of the Flag State Confirmation can trigger an automatic notification to the	The Verified Weight details cannot be completed until the Flag State Confirmation has been completed.

Data Element	Description	User Access	Prerequisite
	The verification of weight, where appropriate, may be confirmed as part of a port inspection.	relevant IOTC CDS Contact Officer or by a Port Official of the CPC responsible for the port of landing, for the completion of 2g and 2h.	
		The details of Verified Weight should be entered by the IOTC CDS Contact Officer or by a Port Official of the CPC responsible for the port of landing.	
		The details of Verified Weight can be edited by an IOTC CDS Contact Officer or by a Port Official of the CPC responsible for the port of landing, until the element has been confirmed.	
		An IOTC CDS Contact Officer of the CPC responsible for the port of landing, can edit the details of Verified Weight at any time.	
2h. Landing Confirmation	The Port Official of the port of landing needs to provide confirmation of the landing and verification of the weights landed and provide: Name Authority Date The Port State Confirmation text states: I am satisfied that the information included in this IOTC Catch Document has been accurately reported and I have	The Port State Confirmation (check box against the Confirmation text) is completed by the IOTC CDS Contact Officer or by a Port Official of the CPC responsible for the port of landing. In instances where a IOTC CDS Contact Officer or a Port Official does not exist (i.e., non-Contracting Party ports), the Landing Confirmation can be completed by the IOTC CDS Contact Officer or Flag Official of the CPC of the vessel.	The Landing Confirmation cannot be completed until the Verified Weight details have been completed. It is recommended that the ICD be accompanied with Offloading Monitoring Forms.

Data Element	Description	User Access	Prerequisite
	verified the species and weight of fish or fish products landed.		
2i. Recipient	The details of the recipient (buyer, processor, exporter) (selected from a prepopulated dropdown list in the e-CDS) including: Name Address Email The Received Weight of Fish Caught is included against the verified weight landed.	The Recipient's details may be added by the IOTC CDS Contact Officer or the Port Official of the party responsible for the port of landing. Multiple recipients can be added. An IOTC CDS Contact Officer of the party responsible for the port of landing can edit these details at any time.	The Landing Confirmation details must be completed before the Recipient details can be completed. It is not possible to enter a Received Weight greater that the verified weight of fish landed.
Documentation	As required	Additional documentation can be uploaded in PDF format to the e-CDS for a particular ICD and can be accessed by any user with access to the ICD.	The ICD must be completed before documents can be uploaded.

Simplified IOTC Catch Document (sICD)

The e-CDS will first ask users to "Issue a new IOTC catch document". This will take the user to a question, "Is the vessel to which this IOTC catch document relates, included on the IOTC Record of Vessels?". If no is selected, the user will be taken to issue and complete a sICD.

An IOTC CDS Contact Officer or Flag Official can issue a sICD.

1. Issue a sICD

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1a. Issuing Competent Authority	The details of the national agency responsible for issuing IOTC documents on behalf of its flagged or chartered vessels. The details of the national agency are linked to the user log-in details and are thus linked with CDS specific data to automatically populate the Issuing Competent Authority details in the sICD from an e-CDS database.	
1b. sICD Number	The CDS will automatically create a unique sICD Number that cannot be changed or removed from the sICD	
1c. Vessel	The details of the fishing vessel for which the sICD relates. These details will need to be entered manually by the IOTC CDS Contact Officer of Flag Official and will include: • Vessel name • Flag • Registration number • Call sign • Home port • Type The flag, home port and type data elements can be included in dropdown lists to be selected by the user.	
1d. Vessel Master or Vessel Operator	The name of the Vessel Representative and their email contact details may be added in the IOTC CDS for a sICD. This will not be visible on the sICD, only in the user interface and will be used to facilitate the invitation for the Vessel Representative to complete the relevant sections in the sICD. A tick box will be provided that the Issuing Competent Authority may use to invite the Vessel Representative to complete 2a to 2e in the sICD. ⁶	

2. Complete a sICD

⁶ The numbering used in this Functional Specification is not the same as the numbering used in the draft CDS documents included in the draft Resolution on an Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS).

Data Element	Description	User Access	Prerequisite
2a. Fishing Dates	Fishing trip details including: Port Departure Date Fishing Start Date Fishing End Date Port Entry Date	The Fishing Dates can be entered by a Vessel Representative or by a Vessel Representative or by the IOTC CDS Contact Officer or by a Flag Official. The Fishing Dates can be edited by a Vessel Representative or by an IOTC CDS Contact Officer or by a Flag Official until the element has been confirmed. An IOTC CDS Contact Officer can edit Fishing Dates at any time.	The sICD must have been issued by a CDS Contact Officer or Flag Official for the Fishing dates to be entered.
2b. Fish Caught	 The details of Fish Caught including: Species (select from prepopulated dropdown list of IOTC Species codes) Type (select from prepopulated dropdown list of IOTC Types of Fish Processing codes) Estimated weight (kgs) 	The details of Fish Caught should be entered by the Vessel Representative but may be entered by the IOTC CDS Contact Officer or by a Flag Official. The details of Fish Caught details can be edited by a Vessel Representative or by an IOTC CDS Contact Officer or by a Flag Official until the element has been confirmed. An IOTC CDS Contact Officer can edit the details of Fish Caught at any time.	The details of Fish Caught cannot be completed until the Fishing Dates have been entered and confirmed.
2c. Landing	The details of Landing include: • Date of Landing	The details of Landing should be entered by the Vessel Representative but may be entered by the IOTC CDS Contact Officer or by a Flag Official.	The details of Landing cannot be completed until the details Fish Caught have been entered and confirmed.
		The details of Landing can be edited by a Vessel Representative or by an IOTC CDS	

Data Element	Description	User Access	Prerequisite
	Port of Landing (selected from a prepopulated dropdown list of ports)	Contact Officer or by a Flag Official until the element has been confirmed. A CDS Contact Officer can edit the details of Landing at any time.	
2d. Flag State Confirmation	A Flag State must be satisfied that the information included in the IOTC Catch Document has been accurately recorded (2a to 2c).	The Flag State Confirmation (check box against the Confirmation text) must be provided by an IOTC CDS Contact Officer or by a Flag Official.	The Flag State Confirmation cannot be completed until the Landing details have been completed.
	The Flag State Confirmation text states: I have confirmed the vessel's authorisation to fish, verified that the species and quantities reported comply with the established limits and regulations and checked available data and information and am satisfied that the information included in this Simplified IOTC Catch Document has been accurately reported.	Once completed, a unique Flag State Confirmation Number will be issued and included in the sICD.	
2e. Landing Confirmation	The Port Official of the port of landing needs to provide confirmation of the landing and verification of the weights landed. The Port State Confirmation text states: I am satisfied that the information included in this Simplified IOTC Catch	The Port State Confirmation (check box against the Confirmation text) is completed by the Port Official or the IOTC CDS Contact Officer or Flag Official of the CPC of the vessel.	The Landing Confirmation cannot be completed until the Flag State Verification has been completed.

Data Element	Description	User Access	Prerequisite
	Document has been accurately reported.		
2f. Recipient	The details of the recipient (buyer, processor, exporter) (selected from a prepopulated dropdown list in the IOTC CDS) including: Name Address Email The Received Weight of Fish Caught is included against the verified weigh landed.	The Recipient's details may be added by the IOTC CDS Contact Officer or the Port Official of the party responsible for the port of landing. Multiple recipients can be added. An IOTC CDS Contact Officer can edit these details at any time.	The Landing Confirmation details must be completed before the Recipient details can be completed. It is not possible to enter a Received Weight greater that the verified weight of fish landed.

IOTC Export Document (IED)

The IED applies for vessels included in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels and for vessels not included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels and is generated from the relevant ICD or sICD. An IED can only be generated once the related ICD or sICD have been completed. The IED is created by selecting the relevant ICD or sICD from the e-CDS.

An IOTC CDS Contact Officer or an Export Official can issue an IED.

1. Issue an IED

Data Element	Description
1a. IED Number	The IED will include the related ICD or sICD Number and the ICD or sICD Flag State Confirmation Number.
	The e-CDS will also automatically generate a unique IED Number that cannot be changed or removed from the IED.

1b. Issuing Competent Authority	The details of the national agency responsible for issuing IOTC CDS documents on behalf of its CPC. The details of the national agency are linked to the user log-in and are thus linked with CDS specific data to prepopulate Issui Competent Authority details.	
1c. Vessel Details	The name and flag of the fishing vessel for which the IED relates, will automatically populate from relevant ICD or sICD.	
1c. Exporter	The name of the Exporter and their email contact details may be added in the IOTC CDS for an IED. This will not be visible on the IED, only in the user interface and will be used to facilitate the invitation for the Exporter to complete the relevant sections in the IED. A tick box will be provided that the Issuing Competent Authority may use to invite the Exporter to complete 2a to 2e in the IED.	

2. Complete an IED

Data Element	Description	User Access	Prerequisite
2a. Fish Exported	 A description of the fish exported including: Species (select from prepopulated dropdown list of IOTC Species codes linked to the related ICD or sICD) Type (select from prepopulated list of IOTC Types of Fish Processing codes) Weight (kgs) 	The details of Fish Exported may be entered by the Exporter or can be entered by an IOTC CDS Contact Officer or an Export Official. The details of Fish Exported can be edited by the Exporter or an IOTC Contact Officer or an Export Official until the element has been confirmed. An IOTC CDS Contact Officer can edit the Fish Exported details at any time.	The IED must have been issued by a CDS Contact Officer or Export Official for the Fish Exported details to be entered. A user cannot select Species that were not included in the related ICD or sICD. A user cannot select illogical Type from what is in the related ICD or sICD. For example, a user cannot select whole fish from fillets. A user cannot export more weight of fish than what was landed (Verified Wight). When two or more exporters exist, the e-CDS will be developed so that the existing information from previous IEDs and ICD/sICD to ensure that the

⁷ The numbering used in this Functional Specification is not the same as the numbering used in the draft CDS documents included in the draft Resolution on an Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS).

Data Element	Description	User Access	Prerequisite	
			quantities exported do not exceed the verified weight at landing.	
2b. Export Details	 The Export Details will include: Expected date of export Port or place of export Transport method (prepopulate list including sea, air, road or rail). 	The Export Details may be entered by the Exporter or can be entered by an IOTC CDS Contact Officer or an Export Official. The Export Details can be edited by the Exporter or an IOTC Contact Officer or an Export Official until the element has been confirmed. An IOTC CDS Contact Officer can edit the Export Details at any time.	The Fish Exported details must be entered and confirmed for the Export Details to be entered.	
2c. Import Details	Import Details include: Importer Name (company) Address (company) Expected date of import Port or place of importation	The Import Details may be entered by the Exporter or can be entered by an IOTC CDS Contact Officer or an Export Official. The Import Details can be edited by the Exporter or an IOTC Contact Officer or an Export Official until the element has been confirmed. An IOTC CDS Contact Officer can edit the Export Details at any time.	The Export Details must be entered and confirmed for the Import Details to be entered.	
2d. Exporter Confirmation	Exporter Confirmation details include: • Exporter Name (company) • Address (company) • Date	The Exporter Confirmation should be completed by the Exporter but may be completed by the IOTC CDS Contact Officer or an Export Official.	The Exporter Confirmation cannot not be completed until the Export Details and Import Details are entered and confirmed.	

Data Element	Description	User Access	Prerequisite
	The Exporter Confirmation text states:		
	I confirm that the information included in this IOTC Export Document is complete, true and correct.		
2e. Export Certification	The Export Certification details include:		
	AuthorityNameDate		
	The Export Certification text states: I certify that the information included in this IOTC Export Document has been accurately reported.		

IOTC Re-Export Document (IRED)

The IRED applies for vessels included in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels and for vessels not included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels and is generated from the relevant IED. An IRED can only be generated once the related IED has been completed. The IRED is created by selecting the relevant IED from the e-CDS.

An IOTC CDS Contact Officer or an Export Official can issue an IRED.

1. Issue an IRED

Data Element	Description
1	

1a. IRED Number	The IRED will include the related ICD or sICD Number, the ICD or sICD Flag State Confirmation Number and the Original IED Number. The e-CDS will also automatically generate a unique IRED Number that cannot be changed or removed from the IRED.
1b. Issuing Competent Authority	The details of the national agency responsible for issuing IOTC CDS documents on behalf of its CPC. The details of the national agency are linked to the user log-in and are thus linked with CDS specific data to prepopulate Issuing Competent Authority details.
1c. Vessel Details	The name and flag of the fishing vessel for which the IRED relates, will automatically populate from relevant IRSED.
1c. Exporter	The name of the Exporter and their email contact details may be added in the IOTC CDS for an IRED. This will not be visible on the IRED, only in the user interface and will be used to facilitate the invitation for the Exporter to complete the relevant sections in the IRED. A tick box will be provided that the Issuing Competent Authority may use to invite the Exporter to complete 2a to 2d in the IRED. ⁸

The process to complete an IRED is the same as that for the IED.

⁸ The numbering used in this Functional Specification is not the same as the numbering used in the draft CDS documents included in the draft Resolution on an Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS).

Auditing

The e-CDS will be developed to include automated audit logs that track changes made to IOTC CDS documents. These audit logs will list the relevant CDS document numbers, identify the changes made and include the details of the user that made the change, the date and time of the change. The audit log will be available to any user that has access to the relevant IOTC CDS document.

Staffing

IOTC Secretariat

The IOTC CDS needs to be supported by one full-time position in the IOTC Secretariat, a CDS Officer. This position should be filled soon after the functional description and draft resolution have been agreed and prior to development of the e-CDS. The CDS Officer will and be responsible for overseeing development, testing and implementation of the e-CDS. Given the unique and technical nature of e-CDS development and the need to develop and deliver associated e-CDS training, it is recommended at a United Nations (UN) P-3 Staff Position should be supported.

CPC

For CPCs, the IOTC CDS staffing needs has been assessed based on:

- the number of vessels to which the IOTC CDS will apply and thus the volume of IOTC catch documents that will be issued and completed;
- the number and volume of landings to which the IOTC CDS will apply and thus the volume of IOTC catch documents that will be completed; and
- the volume of IOTC species imported and exported thus the volume of IOTC export (both issuing export documents and managing these as they relate to imports) documents that will be issued and completed.

Training

The effective implementation of the IOTC will depend on adequate training and the development of effective resources to support the use of the e-CDS.

It is recommended that an IOTC e-CDS User Manual, an IOTC CDS Helpdesk and IOTC CDS Support Forum be developed. These resources would be created by the developer and reviewed by the IOTC Secretariat and made available on the e-CDS.

The e-CDS developer should be engaged to provide comprehensive training to IOTC Secretariat staff and to create relevant training resources.

Face-to-Face training in the form of workshops could be facilitated by the IOTC Secretariat or consultant services, particularly in the early stages of implementation or when a new stage of implementation commences or when changes are made to the e-CDS.

It is recommended that a strategic approach to engage non-Contracting Parties (NCPs) that trade in IOTC Species be developed. This strategy would include socialisation and training work to support the voluntary implementation by NCPs that trade in IOTC Species. IOTC may benefit from considering establishing a new role for NCPs that trade in IOTC species but are not party to IOTC – NCP cooperating with IOTC in the voluntary implementation of the IOTC CDS. This may be an easier approach that an NCP seeking CP or CNCP status, at least in the short term, and will enhance the implementation of the IOTC CDS.

It is recommended that a comprehensive trade data analysis, using all available trade data and information, be undertaken to identify priority NCPs to engage with.

Part Two - Draft Resolution

Resolution on an Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)

RECOGNIZING the importance of ensuring that IOTC Species are fished in a manner consistent with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs);

CONCERNED by the impact that illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing has in the IOTC Area of Competence;

AWARE that IUU fishing involves significant by-catch of endangered species such as sharks and seabirds;

REITERATING the responsibilities of flag States to ensure that their vessels conduct fishing activities in accordance with IOTC CMMs;

MINDFUL of the right and obligations of coastal and port States to promote the effectiveness of regional fishery CMMS;

EMPHASIZING the right and duties of market States to promote effective regional fishery CMMs;

COMMITTED to taking steps consistent with international law to identify the origins of IOTC Species entering the markets of Contracting Parties (CPs) and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCP) (collectively referred to as CPCs) and to determine whether species harvested in the IOTC Area of Competence that are landed, imported and traded through their territories is caught in a manner consistent with IOTC CMMs;

RECOGNIZING that the implementation of an IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for IOTC species will provide the Commission with the information necessary to promote the management objectives of the Agreement and to combat IUU fishing;

NOTING the need for cooperation and information exchange between flag, port and market States to effectively implement the IOTC CDS;

AWARE of the need to promote cooperation with non-Contracting Parties (NCPs) to ensure the effective implementation of the IOTC CDS.

HEREBY ADOPTS, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 1, of the Agreement establishing the IOTC, the following Resolution:

Definitions

- 1. IOTC CDS means the CDS adopted and implemented by the IOTC to identify the origins of fish and fish products and to track them through the supply chain;
- 2. e-CDS means the web-based, electronic platform that is used to issue, complete, certify, store, manage and share IOTC CDS documents;
- 3. e-CDS User Manual means the document developed and maintained by the IOTC Secretariat that describes functionality and use of the e-CDS, including detailed user roles and responsibilities;
- 4. IOTC CDS Contact Officer means an individual appointed by a CPC who is responsible for the operation of the e-CDS on behalf of that CPC whose function includes: to issue, complete, certify, store, manage and share IOTC CDS documents and to manage e-CDS user accounts of other individuals of their CPC as required in accordance with this Resolution;

- 5. Flag Official means an individual appointed by a CDS Contact Officer to access the e-CDS to issue and complete relevant data and information in an IOTC Catch Document or Simplified IOTC Catch Document;
- 6. Port Official means an individual appointed by a CDS Contact Officer to access the e-CDS to complete relevant data and information in an IOTC Catch Document or Simplified IOTC Catch Document;
- 7. Export Official means an individual appointed by a CDS Contact Officer to access the e-CDS to complete relevant data and information in an IOTC Export Document or IOTC Re-Export Document;
- 8. Vessel Representative means any person acting on behalf of a vessel including an Agent, Vessel Master, Vessel Operator or Vessel Owner;
- 9. IOTC Catch Document means a document generated by the e-CDS that includes data and information regarding the catch, transhipment and landing of IOTC species for vessels included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels (Annex I);
- 10. Simplified IOTC Catch Document means a document generated by the e-CDS that includes data and information regarding the catch and landing of IOTC species for vessels not included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels (Annex II);
- 11. IOTC Export Document means a document generated by the e-CDS that includes data and information regarding the initial export of fish and fish products that were included on an IOTC Catch Document or a Simplified IOTC Catch Document (Annex III);
- 12. IOTC Re-Export Document means a document generated by the e-CDS that includes data and information regarding the re-export of fish and fish products that were included on an IOTC Export Document (Annex IV);
- 13. Fishing vessel means any vessel of any size used for, equipped for use for, or intended for use for the purposes of fishing or fishing-related activities, including support vessels, fish-processing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment and carrier vessels equipped for the transportation of fishery products, except container vessels;
- 14. Transhipment means the transfer of fish or fish products that have not previously been landed, from one vessel directly to another, either at sea or in port. The offload or transfer in port of IOTC Species from a vessel to a container is considered a landing consistent with the definition in this Resolution;
- 15. Landing means the offloading of fish or fish products from a vessel to a port or free-trade zone, even if subsequently transferred to another vessel. The offload or transfer in port of fish from a vessel to a container is a landing for the purpose of this Resolution;
- 16. Export means any movement of fish or fish products from a territory under the control of the State or free-trade zone of landing, or, where that State or free-trade zone forms part of a customs union, to any other member State of that customs union;
- 17. Re-Export means any movement of fish or fish products in any form from a territory under the control of a State, free-trade zone, or member State of a customs union of import unless that State, free-trade zone, or any member State of that customs union of import is the first place of import, in which case the movement is an export within the definition of export in this Resolution.

Objective

18. The Objective of the IOTC CDS is to ensure that species covered by the Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, fished, landed and traded by IOTC Contracting Parties (CPs), Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs) (CPCs) are caught in a manner consistent with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

Goals

- 19. The Goals of the IOTC CDS include:
 - a. reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and trade in illegally caught products by preventing IUU fish and fish products entering markets;
 - b. improve the quality and availability of catch-related data and information including to support fisheries management;
 - c. identify the origins of IOTC species entering markets and to ensure the traceability of fish and fish products;
 - d. promote cooperation between IOTC CPCs and with non-Contracting Parties (NCPs) that trade in IOTC species; and
 - e. promote cooperation between IOTC and other tuna RFMOs that implement CDS.

Scope

- 20. The IOTC CDS applies to all species covered by the Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission fished, landed and traded by CPCs.
- 21. The IOTC CDS will be implemented in several phases:
 - a. In the first phase, the IOTC CDS will apply by 1 May 2026 to:
 - i. Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) caught by vessels included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels that are landed and exported from the port of landing.
 - ii. Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) caught by chartered vessels and landed in a port State outside the charter party's jurisdiction.
 - b. In the second phase, the IOTC CDS will apply by 1 May 2027 to:
 - i. Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) caught by vessels not included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels that are landed and exported from the port of landing.
 - c. In the third phase, the IOTC CDS will apply by 1 May 2028 to:
 - i. Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) caught by vessels included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels that are landed.
 - ii. Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) caught by vessels not included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels that are landed.
 - d. In the fourth phase, the IOTC CDS will be extended to all IOTC Species caught and landed by vessels included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels by 1 May 2029.
 - e. In the fifth phase, the IOTC CDS will be extended to all IOTC Species caught and landed by vessels not included on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels by 1 May 2029.

e-CDS

- 22. The Secretariat shall develop and maintain the e-CDS for to issue, complete, certify, store, manage and share IOTC CDS documents in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution. The e-CDS shall be a web-based application.
- 23. The Secretariat shall provide training and capacity-building activities for all CPCs to facilitate the effective use of the e-CDS at each phase of its development.

Implementation

- 24. The IOTC CDS may be implemented by CPCs in accordance with this Resolution, ahead of the phased implementation on a voluntary basis.
- 25. For those CPCs that implement the IOTC CDS for Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), reporting under the IOTC Bigeye Tuna Statistical document programme will no longer be required.
- 26. CPCs shall take steps to identify the origins of IOTC Species landed in, imported into, or exported or re-exported from its territories and determine whether the IOTC Species were fished in a manner consistent with IOTC CMMs.
- 27. CPCs shall require that each landing of IOTC Species at its ports and each transhipment of IOTC Species from, or to, its vessels to have a completed IOTC Catch Document or Simplified IOTC Catch Document.
- 28. The landing or transhipment of IOTC Species that does not have a completed IOTC Catch Document or Simplified IOTC Catch Document is prohibited noting the phased approach to implementation described in paragraph 21.
- 29. CPCs shall require IOTC Species imported into, or exported or re-exported from its territory to have an IOTC Export Document or an IOTC Re-Export Document.
- 30. The import, export or re-export of IOTC Species without an IOTC Export Document or IOTC Re-Export Document is prohibited
- 31. CDS documents must include the data and information described in Annex I, Annex II, Annex III or Annex IV.
- 32. The use of the e-CDS to issue, complete, share and manage IOTC CDS documents is mandatory.
- 33. Once issued and completed in e-CDS, IOTC catch documents will be available to the Secretariat and any CPC that had a role in the completion of the documents.

e-CDS User Manual

- 34. The Secretariat will be responsible for developing, maintaining and sharing an e-CDS User Manual.
- 35. The e-CDS User Manual will include the details for issuing, completing, editing, managing and sharing IOTC CDS documents, managing e-CDS user access, and e-CDS user roles and responsibilities.
- 36. The e-CDS User Manual must be consistent with this Resolution.

CDS Contact Officer

- 37. Each CPC will designate a CDS Contact Officer and provide the details of the CDS Contact Officer to the IOTC Secretariat.
- 38. The details of CDS Contact Officers will be made available on the e-CDS and CDS Contact Officers will be responsible for their CPC's user management and access in the e-CDS.

Role of the IOTC Executive Secretary

- 39. The IOTC Executive Secretary shall report annually to the Compliance Committee on the progress of the development, testing and implementation of the IOTC CDS including to report on identified compliance issues.
- 40. The IOTC Executive Secretary shall support CPCs in the implementation of the IOTC CDS including to provide timely notifications regarding the operation of the e-CDS.
- 41. The IOTC Executive Secretary shall monitor the implementation and operation of the e-CDS and ensuring its continuous functionality at all times.
- 42. The IOTC Executive Secretary shall have full access to the e-CDS but may not share or distribute CDS data with any party other than the party to which the data belongs without the permission of that party.

Role of the Commission

- 43. CPCs are encouraged to request the cooperation of NCPs that trade in IOTC Species to support the voluntary implementation of the IOTC CDS and or, to encourage relevant NCPs to become CP or CNCP to the IOTC.
- 44. CPCs are encouraged to annually report to the Commission on their efforts to cooperate with NCPs that trade in IOTC Species.
- 45. The Commission shall annually review information on CDS implementation and compliance presented by the Secretariat.
- 46. The Commission shall evaluate the transition to the third phase considering, inter alia, the implementation of the previous phases and development of other means to improve data collection.
- 47. The Commission will discuss proposals and take decisions with regard to improving implementation of the e-CDS, expanding its coverage or improving its effectiveness.
- 48. The Commission should invite other tuna Commissions to join the e-CDS.

			IOTC Catch	Document			
IOTC Catch Document Number:		Flag State Confirmation Number:					
1. Issuing Com	petent Aut	hority					
Name:			Address:		Email:		
2. Vessel Detai	ls						
Vessel Name:			Flag:		IMO:		
IOTC Number:			IRCS:		Type:		
Vessel Owner:			Vessel Oper	ator:			
3. Fishing Date	S						
Port Departure	e Date:	Fishing Sta	art Date:	Fishing End	Date:	Port Entry Date:	
4: Fish Caught		1		1		l	
Species	Туре	Area Caug	ht	Estimated V	Veight	Verified Weight (kgs)	Received Weight (kgs)
5. Transhipment					T		
Date: Receiving \		Vessel Name:		Receiving Vessel Flag:			
Receiving Vessel IMO: Transhipm		nent Area:		Estimated	Weight (kgs):	

6. Landing						
Date of landing:		Port of Landing:				
7. Vessel Representative (Confirmation					
I confirm that the information included in this IOTC Catch Document is complete, true and correct and that the IOTC Species included in this IOTC Catch Document were caught in a manner consistent with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).						
Name:			Date:			
8. Landing Confirmation						
I am satisfied that the inforn have verified the species and			nt has been accurately reported and I			
Name:	Authority:		Date:			
9: Recipient	9: Recipient					
Name:	Address:		Email:			

Simplified IOTC Catch Document							
IOTC Simplified Catch Document Number:			Flag State Confirmation Number:				
1. Issuing Con	npetent Au	thority					
Name:		Address:		Email:			
2. Vessel Details							
Vessel Name:			Flag:		Registration Number:		
Call Sign			Home Port:		Type:		
Vessel Owner:		Vessel Operator:					
3. Fishing Dates							
Port Departure Date: Fishing St		art Date: Fishing End Da		Date:	Port Entry Date:		
4: Fish Caugh	t						
Species	Туре		Area Caught		Estimated Weight	Verified Weight (kgs)	Received Weight (kgs)

5. Landing					
Date of landing:		Port of Landing:			
6. Landing Confirmation I am satisfied that the information included in this Simplified IOTC Catch Document has been accurately reported.					
Name:	Authority		Date:		
7: Recipient					
Name:	Address:		Email:		

IOTC Export Document

IOTC Export Document				
IOTC Catch Document Number:		Flag State Confirmation Number:		
IOTC Export Document Number:				
1. Issuing Competent Authority				
Name:	Address:		Email:	
2. Vessel Details				
Vessel Name:		Vessel Flag:		
3. Fish Exported				
Species	ecies Type		Weight (kgs)	
4. Export Details				
xpected date of export: Port or Place		ce of export:	Transport method:	
5. Import Details				
Importer Name:	Address:			

Expected date of import:	Port or place of importation:				
6: Exporter Confirmation					
I confirm that the information included in this IOTC Export Document is complete, true and correct.					
Name:	Address:	Date:			
7. Export Certification					
I certify that the information included in this IOTC Export Document has been accurately reported.					
Authority:	Name:	Date:			

IOTC Re-Export Document				
IOTC Catch Document Number:		Flag State Confirmation Number:		
IOTC Re-Export Document Number:		Original IOTC Export Document Number:		
1. Issuing Competent Authority				
Name:	Address:		Email:	
2. Vessel Details				
Vessel Name:		Vessel Flag:		
3. Fish Exported				
Species	Туре		Weight (kgs)	
4. Export Details				
Expected date of export:	Port or Place	ce of export:	Transport method:	
5. Import Details				
Importer Name:	Address:			

Expected date of import:	Port or place of importation:				
6. Exporter Confirmation					
I confirm that the information included in this IOTC Re-Export Document is complete, true and correct.					
Name:	Address:	Date:			
7. Export Certification					
I certify that the information included in this IOTC Re-Export Document has been accurately reported.					
Authority:	Name:	Date:			