

Progress of work of the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Working Group (WG)

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT¹, 28 JANUARY 2025

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 Common Oceans Program (ABNJ) Tuna Project, 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](#)
- 10th Meeting - 5 November 2024, [IOTC-2024-CDSWG10 R](#)

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

An [eleventh meeting of the CDS WG \(CDSWG11\)](#) is scheduled for 25 February 2025..

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 reached seven agreements, which were noted 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 reached two agreements and one reaffirmation, which were noted 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 reached four agreements, which were noted 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 reached nine agreements, which were noted 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 reached six agreements, which were noted by the Compliance Committee at its 21st Session, and 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 10th meeting of the CDS Working Group made no recommendations but reached agreement on the following points:

CONSOLIDATED LIST OF AGREEMENTS FROM THE CDSWG10 MEETING

IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme Concept Paper:

The CDSWG10 (Para.15) **AGREED** on the value of an e-CDS application that incorporates data referential (drop-down lists), which enables direct communication with relevant users will minimize e-mails exchanges and streamline data processing.

The CDSWG10 (Para.19) **AGREED** that an analysis be carried out to determine the staffing requirements and associated operational costs at national level.

The participants in the CDSWG10 (Para.22) **AGREED** to provide their comments on the proposed CDS Resolution within four weeks after this meeting, through an online document.

Resolution on an IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme:

The participants in the CDSWG10 (Para.37) **AGREED** to provide their comments on the proposed CDS Resolution within four weeks after this meeting, through an online document.

DISCUSSION

The Catch Documentation System Working Group was established with the principal task of guiding the development and 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.

The progress status of each responsibility outlined in the ToRs of the CDSWG is presented below, based on discussions documented in the CDSWG meeting reports.

Basic design

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

CDSWG04 (Para. 25) **NOTED** that both Options 2 and 3 had received favourable opinions from members, so both of these should still be open for consideration.

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.

CDSWG06 (Para. 36) **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 (Para. 37) **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 (Para. 39) **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 (Para. 40) **REAFFIRMED** the agreement that IOTC would develop its own system with potential for data exchange.

CDSWG06 (Para. 41) **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. 16) **AGREED** to commission the development of the e-CDS Concept Paper to a consultant.

The CDSWG10 **NOTED** paper [IOTC-2024-CDSWG10-02](#) on IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) and the proposal for a Resolution on an IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS), which introduces the IOTC CDS Concept Paper.

The CDSWG10 (Para.8) **NOTED** that the e-CDS presented is a comprehensive concept, which aims to minimize manual data entry and transcription error, and alleviate the burden on CPCs and the IOTC Secretariat through its integration with other existing IOTC applications, such as the e-RAV.

The CDSWG10 (Para.10) **EXPRESSED** concerns that the design of the e-CDS places a disproportionate amount of responsibility for the issuance and completion of catch documents on government officials, rather than the fishing industry.

The CDSWG10 (Para.13) **NOTED** that the roles and responsibilities for issuing ICD or sICD vary across other RFMOs' e-CDS, involving users from flag States, coastal States, buyers or the fishing industry and **FURTHER NOTED** that assigning this responsibility to the fishing industry is perfectly feasible but may pose challenges for user accessibility and require mechanisms for data and user identity validation and verification, potentially resulting in a less robust system.

The CDSWG10 (Para.14) **NOTED** that the increased role of the fishing industry in issuing sICDs would help reduce the burden on government authorities.

The CDSWG10 (Para.15) **AGREED** on the value of an e-CDS application that incorporates data referential (drop-down lists), which enables direct communication with relevant users will minimize e-mails exchanges and streamline data processing.

The CDSWG10 (Para.17) **NOTED** that, due to their artisanal nature, some fisheries may produce comparatively less yield per trip, resulting in the catches across several vessels and trips being pooled to form one viable export consignment, thus requiring further consideration on how the e-CDS may be applied in such contexts.

The CDSWG10 (Para.21) **NOTED** the need to take a decision on how far along the trade chain the e-CDS should apply.

Status

Ongoing. Further discussions to take place during the 2025 meeting(s).

v) Need for special consideration to artisanal fleets

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. 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. 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. 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.

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

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.

Status
Completed. Elements incorporated in draft Strategy and its companion

Operational and administrative issues

- 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.
- Operational issues of data collection, submission, handling, analysis, reconciliation and dissemination, taking into account practical feasibility of relevant stakeholders (e.g. fishing vessels)
- 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.
- Opportunities to utilize emerging technology to increase efficiency and decrease costs, with particular reference to electronic transmission of data and required forms.
- 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.

CDSWG03 **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.

CDSWG05 (Para.33) **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 (Para.36) **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 (Para.37) **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 (Para.38) **NOTED** the need for integration of CDS with other MCS measures of the IOTC and national or regional programmes.

CDSWG05 (Para.39) **NOTED** that an IOTC CDS would serve as a substitute for the European Union’s Catch Certification Scheme [...].

CDSWG05 (Para.42) **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 (Para.58) **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 (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 CDSWG07 (Para.24) **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 (Para.25) **NOTED** the importance of considering funding mechanisms to implement CDS systems in developing coastal States.

The CDSWG07 (Para.27) **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.

The CDSWG10 (Para.19) **AGREED** that an analysis be carried out to determine the staffing requirements and associated operational costs at national level.

The CDSWG10 (Para.25) **NOTED** that data elements, user roles and responsibilities, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and functional specifications of the system would be covered and specified in the e-CDS application User Manual.

The CDSWG10 (Para.34) **NOTED** that the development of a full-fledge e-CDS would be more cost effective.

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. 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. The CDS Strategy was revised by the Compliance Committee (CoC20), and endorsed by the Commission (S27).

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.

The CDSWG10 (Para.24) **NOTED** the proposal for a Resolution on an Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) presented in paper [IOTC-2024-CDSWG10-02](#).

The CDSWG10 (Para.30) **NOTED** that an exemption to the Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) should be explicitly mentioned in the proposal, since it is being managed by CCSBT and subject to its CDS.

The CDSWG10 (Para.31) **EXPRESSED CONCERNS** on the complexity of implementing an e-CDS and **NOTED** the need to revisit the proposed timeframes for the implementation of the different phases.

Status
Ongoing. Further discussions to take place during the 2025 meeting(s).

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the WPICMM08:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2025–WPICMM08–10 on the progress of work and plan for 2025 of the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Working Group (WG).
- 2) **NOTE** the progress made by the CDS Working Group with respect to the IOTC CDS Concept Note and proposal for an IOTC Resolution on CDS.