

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

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Held by video-conference,  
28 September 2023

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

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

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## Acronyms

CDS	catch documentation scheme
CMM	Conservation and Management Measure (of the IOTC; Resolutions and Recommendations)
CoC	Compliance Committee
CPC	contracting Party (Member) or cooperating non-contracting Party
EU	European Union
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
FAD	fish aggregating device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
LSTLV	large-scale tuna longline vessel
MCS	monitoring, control and surveillance
SDP	statistical document programme
TBD	to be determined
VMS	vessel monitoring system
WP	work plan
WPICMM	Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

## HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

This report has been written using the following terms and associated definitions so as to remove ambiguity surrounding how particular paragraphs should be interpreted.

**Level 1:** *From a subsidiary body of the Commission to the next level in the structure of the Commission:*

**RECOMMENDED, RECOMMENDATION:** Any conclusion or request for an action to be undertaken, from a subsidiary body of the Commission (Committee or Working Party), which is to be formally provided to the next level in the structure of the Commission for its consideration/endorsement (e.g., from a Working Party to the Scientific Committee; from a Committee to the Commission). The intention is that the higher body will consider the recommended action for endorsement under its own mandate, if the subsidiary body does not already have the required mandate. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for completion.

**Level 2:** *From a subsidiary body of the Commission to a Contracting Party or Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CPC), the IOTC Secretariat, or other body (not the Commission) to carry out a specified task:*

**REQUESTED:** This term should only be used by a subsidiary body of the Commission if it does not wish to have the request formally adopted/endorsed by the next level in the structure of the Commission. For example, if a Committee wishes to seek additional input from a CPC on a particular topic, but does not wish to formalize the request beyond the mandate of the Committee, it may request that a set action be undertaken. Ideally this should be task specific and contain a timeframe for the completion.

**Level 3:** *General terms to be used for consistency:*

**AGREED:** Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 or level 2 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be considered/adopted by the next level in the Commission's structure.

**NOTED/NOTING:** Any point of discussion from a meeting which the IOTC body considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference.

**Any other term:** Any other term may be used in addition to the Level 3 terms to highlight to the reader of the IOTC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. However, other terms used are considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3, described above (e.g., **CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED**).

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## Background information

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Performance Reviews (2009 and 2015) contained recommendations that the IOTC should develop a comprehensive monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) system, including a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS). In particular:

- i. IOTC should develop a comprehensive monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) system through the implementation of the measures already in force, and through the adoption of new measures and tools such as possible on-board regional observers' scheme, a possible catch documentation scheme as well as a possible system on boarding and inspection. *Recommendation 51, [IOTC-2009-PRIO TC01-R](#) - 56 pp.*
- ii. the IOTC should continue to develop a comprehensive MCS system through the implementation of the measures already in force, and through the adoption of new measures and tools such as a possible catch documentation scheme, noting the process currently being undertaken within the FAO. *Paragraph 149 (a), [IOTC-2016-PRIO TC02-R](#): 86 pp.*

These recommendations were adopted by the Commission and were the basis for an in-depth appraisal for the development of an electronic CDS (e-CDS) for the IOTC, and the results of the appraisal were presented at a workshop in Maputo, Mozambique, on 12 February 2019. This workshop recommended that a Working Group be constituted to guide the development of a CDS Strategy. The recommendation was subsequently endorsed by the second meeting of the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM02), the Compliance Committee (CoC16) and the Commission (S23).

Subsequently, eight Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group (CDSWG) meetings have been held. In response to a recommendation from the third meeting of the CDSWG, the Commission endorsed the Terms of Reference in November 2020. The fourth meeting of the CDSWG (CDSWG04) was the first meeting after the endorsement of the Terms of Reference. This report provides a record of the Ninth CDSWG (CDSWG09), as agreed to by the participants of that meeting.

## 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The meeting was held online, via Zoom, on 28 September 2023.
2. The List of Participants is presented in [Appendix 1](#). A total of 34 participants attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Dr Indra Jaya (IDN).

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

- i. The CDSWG09 **ADOPTED** the agenda provided in [Appendix 2](#).

## 3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

4. The CDSWG09 **NOTED** the admission of observers from Sustainable Fisheries and Community Trust (SFACT), PEW Charitable Trusts (PEW), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Invited Experts and **FURTHER NOTED** that there was no objection to their attendance.
5. The CDSWG09 **NOTED** the presence of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through the Team Leader of the Tuna Project of the Common Oceans Program.

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

6. The CDSWG09 **NOTED** that there are 109 nominees to the CDS Working Group, comprising as follows:
  - 24 CPCs with 96 nominees;
  - Four observers with ten nominees; and
  - Three Invited Experts.

## 5. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE CDS STRATEGY DOCUMENTS

7. The CDSWG09 **NOTED** paper [IOTC-2023-CDSWG09-02b](#) on IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme Strategy (v3) and paper [IOTC-2023-CDSWG09-03](#) on IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme - IOTC CDS Strategy Companion (v1).
8. The CDSWG09 **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.
9. The CDSWG09 **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.
10. The CDSWG09 **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.

11. The CDSWG09 **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.
12. The CDSWG09 **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.
13. The CDSWG09 **AGREED** to present the [IOTC CDS Strategy v4](#) for the information of the Commission.
14. The CDSWG09 **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.
15. The CDSWG09 **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.
16. The CDSWG09 **AGREED** to commission the development of the e-CDS Concept Paper to a consultant.
17. The CDSWG09 **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.
18. The CDSWG09 **AGREED** that any comments concerning the drafting of an IOTC Resolution on CDS be communicated to the IOTC Secretariat with the Chair in copy.

## 6. DATES OF THE NEXT CDSWG MEETINGS

19. The CDSWG09 **NOTED** that the next meeting of the CDSWG had been set by the Commission for 12 February 2024, back-to-back with the meetings of the VMSWG and the Seventh Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM07).
20. The CDSWG09 **AGREED** that the next CDSWG meeting be held virtually, if no CPC offers to host the WPICMM07.

## 7. ANY OTHER MATTERS

21. The CDSWG09 **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.
22. The Report of the meeting was adopted by correspondence on 20 October 2023.

## APPENDIX 1 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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**APPENDIX 2**  
**AGENDA OF THE MEETING**

**ADOPTED AGENDA: NINTH MEETING OF THE CATCH DOCUMENTATION**  
**SCHEME WORKING GROUP**

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**Date:** 28 September 2023

**Location:** Online

**Platform:** Zoom

**Time:** 1100–1500 hrs Seychelles time

**Chair:** Dr Indra Jaya (Indonesia)

**Vice-chair:** Dr Ansuman Das (India)

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING** (Chair)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING** (Chair/Plenary)
3. **ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS** (Chair)
4. **REVIEW OF STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE CDSWG** (Chair/Secretariat)
5. **REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE IOTC CDS STRATEGY DOCUMENTS, AS AMENDED BY CoC20** (Chair/Secretariat)
6. **DATE OF NEXT CDSWG MEETING** (Plenary)
7. **ANY OTHER MATTERS** (Plenary)