

Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group

Held by video-conference,
29 September 2022

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-PRIOTC01-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–PRIOTC02–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, six Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group (CDSWG) meetings have been held. In response to recommendation from the third meeting of the CDSWG, its Terms of Reference were drafted and endorsed by the Commission 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 CDSWG07, as agreed to by the members of the CDSWG07.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The meeting was held online, via Zoom, on 29 September 2022.
2. The List of Participants is presented in [Appendix 1](#). A total of 45 participants (17 Member States, three Observers and one Invited Expert) attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Dr Indra Jaya (IDN).
3. The Chair **INVITED** participants to introduce themselves.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING

4. The CDSWG07 **NOTED** that the WWF will not provide information at agenda item 6 and **AGREED** to remove item 6 of the provisional Agenda, on “Information from WWF on how ICCAT deals with artisanal fisheries”.
5. The CDSWG07 **ADOPTED** the agenda provided in [Appendix 2](#).

3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

4. The CDSWG07 **NOTED** the admission of observers from Sustainable Fisheries and Community Trust (SFACT), PEW Charitable Trusts (PEW), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Invited Expert and **FURTHER NOTED** that there was no objection to their attendance.

4. REVIEW OF STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE CDS WG

5. The CDSWG07 **NOTED** the review of the status of the membership presented by the IOTC Secretariat and **FURTHER NOTED** that despite the high number of nominated participants to the CDSWG the actual number of nominees participating in the meetings remain repeatedly low.
6. The CDSWG07 **NOTED** that the postponements of the meeting, its lack of announcement and a late communication of the meeting invitation may be the reasons behind the low level of participation.
7. The CDSWG07 **REQUESTED** the IOTC Secretariat to send meeting invitations with sufficient time in advance of future meetings of the CDSWG.

5. UPDATE ON PROGRESS

8. The Chair **UPDATED** the CDSWG on the outstanding issues from the last meeting, particularly on topics related to the artisanal fishery, and **URGED** the CDSWG to advance its work to report back to the Compliance Committee (CoC20) and the Commission (S27) meetings in 2023.
9. The CDSWG07 **NOTED** the low number of responses received from CPCs, to the requests inform on which segments of their fleets would find difficulty in implementing a CDS.
10. The Chair **RECALLED** that the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes include mechanisms and recommendations to assist CPCs with small-scale fisheries in implementing a CDS.
11. The CDSWG07 **STRESSED** the importance of understanding CPCs’ difficulties to consider them within the CDS design and implementation strategy.
12. The CDSWG07 **NOTED** the feedback provided by the European Union highlighting that no

segment of its fleet would find any difficulty in implementing a CDS and **FURTHER NOTED** the updated meeting document, [IOTC-2022-CDSWG07-02](#), presenting the responses provided by seven (7) CPCs as of 29 September 2022.

6. DISCUSSIONS ON SPECIES TO BE COVERED BY A CDS

13. The CDSWG07 **NOTED** the value of CDS in cross-checking data on catches declared and exported.
14. The CDSWG07 **NOTED** the intervention from Japan on the existence of mismatching data on quantities of swordfish exported and declared for some CPCs.
15. The CDSWG07 **NOTED** that tagging individual tropical tuna species is not required.
16. The CDSWG07 **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.

7. DISCUSSIONS ON THE SCOPE OF APPLICATION OF THE CDS – ARTISANAL FISHERIES

17. The CDSWG07 **NOTED** the different approaches for implementing a CDS in the FAO document [“Understanding and Implementing Catch Documentation Schemes - A guide for national authorities” \(FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 14\)](#):
 - fishery-based CDS that covers all domestic and international trade;
 - trade-based CDS, which only covers species internationally traded, and
 - market-based CDS, which cover all species but only those products destined for a given single market.
18. The CDSWG07 **NOTED** that a fishery-based CDS could be used to support science and combat IUU fishing, in line with IOTC CDS objectives.
19. The CDSWG07 **NOTED** the current lack of means, infrastructures and capacity of developing coastal States to implement a fully-fledged fisheries-based CDS.
20. The CDSWG07 **AGREED** that the CDS should cover, initially, all vessels harvesting and trading tropical tunas in the international market.
21. The CDSWG07 **NOTED** that since many CPCs are already implementing the EU Catch Certificate Scheme a trade-based CDS would be simpler to implement.
22. The CDSWG07 **AGREED** to follow a two-stage approach, starting with a trade-based CDS that is later upgraded into a fisheries-based CDS.

8. OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

23. The CDSWG07 **NOTED** that applying both electronic and paper systems in parallel might be costly and **FURTHER NOTED** the need to discuss how current SD systems in use could be upgraded to trade-based CDS.
24. The CDSWG07 **NOTED** the lack of facilities and infrastructure for some developing CPCs and **FURTHER NOTED** the need to consider exceptions or special provisions to reflect their realities.
25. The CDSWG07 **NOTED** the importance of considering funding mechanisms to implement CDS

systems in developing coastal States.

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

9. DATES OF THE NEXT CDSWG MEETINGS

28. The CDSWG07 **AGREED** that the next meeting be held on the 13 February 2023 and **FURTHER AGREED** that the meeting will be virtual.

10. ANY OTHER MATTERS

29. The Chair **RECALLED** that the primary task of the CDSWG was to develop an IOTC CDS Strategy.
30. The CDSWG07 **NOTED** the need to make progress on the drafting of the IOTC CDS strategy.
31. The CDSWG07 **NOTED** the offer of the Chair to work jointly with the IOTC Secretariat on a first draft of the IOTC CDS Strategy, which will be circulated to members of the Working Group before the end of the year.
32. The CDSWG07 **AGREED** that the draft document 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.
33. The Report of the meeting was adopted by correspondence on 17 October 2022.

APPENDIX 1 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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APPENDIX 2
AGENDA OF THE MEETING

ADOPTED AGENDA: SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CATCH DOCUMENTATION
SCHEME WORKING GROUP

Date: 29 September 2022

Location: Online

Platform: Zoom

Time: 11:00–15:00 Seychelles time, daily

Chair: Dr Indra Jaya (Indonesia)

Vice-chair: Dr Ansuman Das (India)

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING** (Secretariat)
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. **UPDATE ON PROGRESS** (Chair/Secretariat)
6. **DISCUSSIONS ON SPECIES TO BE COVERED BY A CDS** (Chair/Plenary)
7. **DISCUSSIONS ON THE SCOPE OF APPLICATION OF THE CDS – ARTISANAL FISHERIES**
(Chair/ Plenary)
8. **OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES** (Chair/Plenary)
9. **DATES OF NEXT CDSWG MEETINGS** (Plenary)
10. **ANY OTHER MATTERS** (Plenary)