

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

Held in person and by video-conference,
13 February 2023

DISTRIBUTION:

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

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Contact details:

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
PO Box 1011
Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles
Ph: +248 422 5494
Email: IOTC-secretariat@fao.org
Website: <http://www.iotc.org>

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, seven 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 Eighth CDSWG (CDSWG08), as agreed to by the participants of that meeting.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The meeting was held in person and online, via Zoom, on 13 February 2023.
2. The List of Participants is presented in [Appendix 1](#). A total of 48 participants 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 CDSWG08 **ADOPTED** the agenda provided in [Appendix 2](#).

3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

4. The CDSWG08 **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.

4. REVIEW OF STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE CDS WG

5. The CDSWG08 **NOTED** 106 nominees of the CDS Working Group as follows:
 - 24 CPCs with 94 nominees;
 - Four observers with nine nominees; and
 - Three Invited Experts.

5. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT CDS STRATEGY DOCUMENTS

6. The CDSWG08 **NOTED** paper [IOTC-2023-CDSWG08-02](#), the draft IOTC Catch Documentation Strategy and **FURTHER NOTED** paper [IOTC-2023-CDSWG08-03](#), the IOTC CDS Strategy Companion, which provides background and justification for the different elements of the strategy proper.
7. The CDSWG08 **NOTED** that for artisanal fishermen who do not have the means of communication or literacy to operate a CDS system, the operators or buyers could fill in the estimated catch certificate for validation by the Coastal State.
8. The CDSWG08 **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.
9. The CDSWG08 **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.
10. The CDSWG08 **AGREED** that the introduction of the three tropical species and swordfish, and of different product types should be gradual.
11. The CDSWG08 **AGREED** that the Commission should consider whether the CDS should be expanded to all 16 species on risk basis.

12. The CDSWG08 **AGREED** that Expected Result 0 in the draft CDS Strategy should be renamed Overall Expected Result.
13. The CDSWG08 **NOTED** that the same species are imported by IOTC CPCs from countries that are not members of IOTC, and therefore might require the trade CDS to be satisfied that the product is not from IOTC.
14. CDSWG08 **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.
15. The CDSWG08 **AGREED** that the outcome of the pilot trials should lead to consideration of stepwise introduction of species.
16. The CDSWG08 **AGREED** that the transition from trade-based to fishery-based CDS for artisanal fisheries be included in Result 2 activities.
17. The CDSWG08 **NOTED** that the MCS CDS consultant's report had recommended that all IOTC species be covered.
18. The CDSWG08 **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.
19. The CDSWG08 **AGREED** that the timeline (and the logical framework) should be synchronised with the text where changes have been made by the CDSWG08.
20. The CDSWG08 **REQUESTED** the Secretariat adopt the text that has been agreed in the CDSWG08, and leave in track changes those additions that the Secretariat has been asked to draft, and then to distribute a v2.0 to participants before presentation to the Compliance Committee.

6. DATES OF THE NEXT CDSWG MEETINGS

21. The CDSWG08 **AGREED** that the next meeting be held from 11h00 to 15h00 Seychelles time (UTC+4) in the fourth week of September and **FURTHER AGREED** that the meeting will be virtual.

7. ANY OTHER MATTERS

22. The Report of the meeting was adopted by correspondence on 07 March 2023.

APPENDIX 1 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CHAIRPERSON

Mr Indra JAYA
Head of National
Committee on Fish Stock
Assessment
Indonesia
indrajaya123@gmail.com

Mr Shoukot Kabir CHOWDHURY
Department of Fisheries
Bangladesh
Shoukot1977@yahoo.com

Mr Moghaddam KHANEH ZAEI
Iran Fisheries Organisation
Iran
kalatkot@gmail.com

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Mr Ansuman DAS
Department of Fisheries
India
ansuman@fsi.gov.in

Mr Devanand BOLAKY
Fisheries Division
Mauritius
[kربولaky@yahoo.com](mailto:krbolaky@yahoo.com)

Mr Benedict KIILU
Assistant Director of Fisheries
Kenya Fisheries Service
Kenya
kiilub@yahoo.com

PARTICIPANTS

Mr Mohamed ABDULLAHI
Ministry of Fisheries and
Marine Resources
Somalia
dg@mfmr.gov.so

Mr António Kechane CUAMBE
National Fisheries Administration
Mozambique
kechane@gmail.com

Ms Ummu KULSOOM
Ministry of Fisheries, Marine
Resources and Agriculture
Maldives
ummu.kulsoom@fishagri.gov.mv

Mr Roddy ALLISOP
Seychelles Fishing
Authority
Seychelles
rallisop@sfa.sc

Ms Randa ELTAYEB
Ministry of Animal Resources
General Directorate of Fisheries
Sudan
randah1@live.com

Ms Chonticha KUMYOO
Department of Fisheries
Thailand
chonticha_khamyu@hotmail.com

Mr Mapalagama Manage
ARIYARATHNA
Department of Fisheries
and Aquatic Resources
Sri Lanka
mma_fi@yahoo.com

Ms Riana HANDAYANI
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Indonesia
daya139.rh@gmail.com

Mr Abdiaziz Haji Bashir ISMAIL
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine
Resources
Somalia
fishmcs@mfmr.gov.so

Ms Karysse AUGUSTE
Seychelles Fishing
Authority
kauguste@sfa.sc

Ms Kalyani HEWAPATHIRANA
Department of Fisheries and
Aquatic Resources
Sri Lanka
hewakal2012@gmail.com

Mr Shakeel Sen MAHADDOO
Fisheries Division
Mauritius
smahadoo@hotmail.com

Mr Isaac BARASA
Kenya Fisheries Service
Kenya
barasawafula71@gmail.com

Dr Thabiti Soudjay KAMAL
Direction générale des ressources
halieutiques
Comoros
thabitik@yahoo.fr

Mr Stefan MAY
Department for Environment, Food
and Rural Affairs
United Kingdom
Stefan.May@defra.gov.uk

Ms. Saori KENMOCHI
Ministry of Economy, Trade and
Industry
Japan
kenmochi-saori@meti.go.jp

Mr Ranwel Nelson MBUKWAH
Deep Sea Fisheries Authority
Tanzania
ranwel.mbukwah@dsfa.go.tz

Ms Abda MOHAMED
Ministry of Animal
Resources
General Directorate of
Fisheries
Sudan
fish999999999@hotmail.com

Mr Hiroyuki MORITA
Fisheries Agency
Japan
hiroyuki_morita970@maff.go.jp

Ms Maiko NAKASU
Fisheries Agency
Japan
maiko_nakasu100@maff.go.jp

Mr Donald OBIERO
Kenya Fisheries Service
Kenya
donaldwell6@gmail.com

Mr Marolova Antoine
RASOLOMAMPIONONA
Direction générale de la
pêche et de l'aquaculture
Madagascar
lovastat.mrhp@gmail.com

Mr Alza RENDIAN
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Indonesia
alzarendian@gmail.com

Ms SARASWATI
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Indonesia
cacasaras@gmail.com

Ms. Soobin SHIM
Korea Overseas Fisheries
Cooperation Centre (KOFCC)
Republic of Korea
soominkim@kofci.org

Ms Clivy Lim SHUNG
Fisheries Division
Mauritius
clivilim@yahoo.com

Ms Chutima SITTIWONG
Department of Fisheries
Thailand
chusittiwong@gmail.com

Mr Arthur Besther SUJANG
Department of Fisheries
Malaysia
arthur@dof.gov.my

Ms Ririk K SULISTYANINGSIH
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries
Indonesia
rk.sulistyaningsih11@gmail.com

Mr S SURYA
Central Marine Fisheries
Research Institute
India
revandasurya@gmail.com

Ms Nada VADIATI
Iran Fisheries Organisation
Iran
shirinvad@gmail.com

Mr Marco VALLETTA
Directorate-General for Maritime
Affairs and Fisheries
European Union
marco.valletta@ec.europa.eu

Ms Sirikan YEAMUBON
Department of Fisheries
Thailand
june_div@hotmail.com

Mr Adam ZIYAD
Ministry of Fisheries, Marine
Resources and Agriculture
Maldives
adam.ziyad@fishagri.gov.mv

INVITED EXPERTS

Ms Ilu LAI
Fisheries Agency
lu@ms1.f.gov.tw

Mr Lee Yi KUN
Fisheries Agency
davidlee@ofdc.org.tw

Mr Ken Chien-Nan
LIN
Fisheries Agency
chiennan@ms1.f.gov.tw

Mr Jason Chia-Chun
WU
Fisheries Agency
jjachun@ms1.f.gov.tw

OBSERVERS

Mr Nikolas EVANGELIDES
Pew Charitable Trusts
nevangelides@pewtrusts.org

Ms Beatrice KINYUA
Sustainable Fisheries and
Communities Trust
beatrice.kinyua@sfact.org

Ms Antonia LEROY
World Wide Fund for Nature
aleroy@wwf.eu

Mr Umair SHAHID
World Wide Fund for Nature
ushahid@wwf.org.pk

IOTC SECRETARIAT

Mr José Antonio ACUÑA
BARROS
Jose.Acuna@fao.org

Mr Gerard DOMINGUE
Gerard.Domingue@fao.org

Mr Florian GIROUX
florian.giroux@fao.org

Mr Carlos PALIN
MCS Expert
Compliance.expert@iotc.org

APPENDIX 2
AGENDA OF THE MEETING

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

Date: 13 February 2023

Location: Safari Park Hotel & Casino, Nairobi, Kenya / Hybrid Zoom

Time: 0900–1700 Kenya time

Chair: Dr Indra Jaya (Indonesia) **Vice-chair:** Dr Ansuman Das (India)

- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING**
- 3. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS**
- 4. REVIEW OF STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE CDSWG**
- 5. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT OF IOTC CDS STRATEGY DOCUMENTS**
- 6. DATES OF NEXT CDSWG MEETINGS**
- 7. ANY OTHER MATTERS**