



THIRD REGULAR SESSION

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**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE TO ESTABLISH A CATCH
DOCUMENTATION SCHEME**

**WCPFC3-2006/DP07 Rev. 1
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Prepared by FFA Members

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific:

Concerned that illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing for highly migratory species, particularly bigeye tuna, in the Convention Area threatens the long term sustainability of the stock;

Noting the importance of Catch Documentation Schemes as a tool to support the principles and measures for the conservation and management of highly migratory species, particularly bigeye tuna, in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of these stocks;

Further noting that the adoption of a comprehensive and effective Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) to monitor catch, landings and trade of highly migratory species, particularly bigeye tuna, would improve compliance with the conservation and management measures of the Commission;

Recalling Article 5 of the Convention that provides for the collecting and sharing of complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities on, inter alia, vessel position, catch of target and non-target species and fishing effort; and Article 10(1) of this Convention that provides for the adoption of standards for collection, verification, exchange and reporting of data on fisheries for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area;

Further recalling the decision of the Second Session of the Commission to develop a more comprehensive scheme covering all catch for consideration at the Third Regular Session of the Commission;

Recognising the special requirements of developing States as set out in Article 30 of the Convention;

Hereby adopts the following process relating to the implementation of the WCPFC CDS:

1. The Commission shall develop and implement a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) to record agreed species caught by Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories (CCMs), taking into account:
 - (i) The principles of a CDS as attached at Annex 1;
 - (ii) The elements of a Conservation and Management Measure establishing a CDS identified in Annex 2;
 - (iii) The need to coordinate with other tuna regional fisheries management organizations;
2. The CDS shall apply to the catch, landing and trade of agreed species by CCMs, including during transshipment, import, export, re-export, and landings of domestic production.
3. The Commission shall establish an intersessional working group to develop the CDS. The terms of reference for the intersessional working group are attached as Annex 3. The intersessional working group shall finalise a proposal building on Annex 1 and 2 for the CDS, to be presented to the Third Annual Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee in [September 2007] for endorsement to the Fourth Annual Session of the Commission in [December 2007]. The Commission Secretariat shall provide support to the intersessional working group, as required.
4. The purpose of the CDS is to verify landings of highly migratory species in the Convention Area and to verify the nation/ocean/vessel of origin for all trade (including import/export/re-export).
5. The CDS shall be implemented by [1 January 2009] but with an appropriate phase-in period to allow small island developing States to trial arrangements.
6. The development of the CDS shall include the following elements:
 - (i) A list of agreed species and their processed form to be covered in the Convention Area.
 - (ii) Each shipment of listed species caught in the Convention Area imported, exported, re-exported or domestically landed shall be accompanied by a catch document that has been verified by the CCM as being complete and valid.
 - (iii) An ability to track the catch, landings and trade flows, including transfer, transshipment, import, export, re-export, and landings of domestic production, of listed species caught in the Convention Area. This may incorporate existing mechanisms in place such as trade schemes.
 - (iv) The CDS shall include specification of what information is to be provided to the Secretariat for independent collation and analysis.
 - (v) The CDS will include standards for CCMs to verify documentation of landings and domestic consumption and a system to verify the nation/ocean/vessel of origin for all trade (including import/export/re-export).
 - (vi) Shipments of listed highly migratory species caught in the Convention Area without completed and validated catch documents shall be considered as catch taken in contravention of the WCPFC conservation and management measures and shall not be permitted to be imported, exported, re-exported or landed to the domestic market. The CDS will be linked to other relevant conservation measures for listed species, to be determined by the working group.
 - (vii) The CDS shall be complementary with the schemes of other regional fisheries management organisations.

- (viii) Appropriate training and capacity building shall be provided for small island developing States to aid implementation of the CDS.
- (ix) The CDS should take account of small island developing State domestic fisheries with small total annual catches.

Annex 1

Key principles to underpin the CDS include:

- Efficiency
- Cost-effectiveness/ ability to implement
- Accuracy
- Transparency
- Security
- Complete and accurate data

Annex 2

Possible components of a conservation and management measure:

- Definition of terms
- Scope
- Species to be covered
- Implementation
- Structure
- Standards
- Rules and Procedures
- Specific Considerations
- Role definition
- Cooperation/coordinate with other RFMOs
- Audit

Annex 3

Terms of reference for the intersessional working group