



TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS AND PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES

Circular No.: 2015/16
Date: 24 March 2015
No. pages: 6

Catch Documentation Scheme – Intersessional Working Group: Workplan for 2015

Dear All,

At the WCPFC11, the Commission approved the 2015 Work Plan for the Catch Documentation Scheme – Inter-sessional Working Group (CDS-IWG) as may be found in *Attachment O of the WCPFC11 Summary Report*. In accordance with the Work Plan, the Secretariat is circulating for members' comments the five topics that seek to address the key elements of the future discussions by the CDS-IWG. The five topics are as follow:

1. Identify roles and responsibilities for: vessel operators; coastal States; flag States; WCPFC Secretariat; market states; and other stakeholders;
2. Commence the development of standards, specifications and procedures, including verification;
3. DP01 –FFA paper: comments to be provided to FFA Secretariat, Ms Pamela Maru (pam.maru@ffa.int) on the said paper which may be found on-

WCPFC-2014-CDSIWG-DP01: CDS development discussion paper – by FFA members
<https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/wcpfc-2014-cdsiwg-dp01/ffa-members-cds-development-discussion-paper>

4. Objectives: use sub-elements of consultant's recommendation 1 as a basis for further discussion (note may need to revisit as roles and responsibilities are clarified)

Consultants Recommendation 1:

The following objectives for a WCPFC CDS be adopted:

- Identify, quantify and/or validate the catch of WCPFC CCMs to confirm compliance with CMMs and facilitate market access through catch traceability;
- Provide a mechanism to identify and account for IUU fish caught in the WCPFC-CA and provide a means of preventing such product from entering markets; and,
- Supplement and reinforce catch reporting to strengthen scientific stock assessment activities

5. Scope: use consultant's recommendation 2 as a basis for further discussion

Consultants Recommendation 2:

The WCPFC CDS should be designed to be as inclusive as possible:

- applied to all major gear types (purse seine, longline, pole and line and troll);*
- initially established to include all main tuna target species (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye and albacore tuna) during implementation;*
- include all landed catches, regardless of disposition (domestic or export), with the possible exception of artisanal catches that are not exported;*
- include all major product forms and processes (whole, headed and gutted, loins, steaks...chilled, frozen, canned, fishmeal) but offal (heads, eyes roes guts and tails) may be exempted; and,*
- once a CDS is established, it should have the capacity to be expanded to include swordfish, sharks and other priority species.*

Comments on Topics 1, 2, 4 and 5 can be sent directly to the CDS-IWG Chair Mr Alois Kinol, (AKinol@fisheries.gov.pg), with a copy to the Secretariat Compliance Manager, Dr Lara Manarangi-Trott (lara.manarangi-trott@wcpfc.int).

Comments on **Topic 3 (FFA DP paper)** can be sent directly to the FFA Secretariat, attention of Ms Pamela Maru (pamela.maru@ffa.int).

The Secretariat will request that comments from CCMs are provided by not later than **Friday May, 29 2015**.

The views from CCMs on the topics 1, 2, 3 and 5 would be collated by the Secretariat and form the basis of papers for the next meeting of the CDS-IWG. The FFA will reflect on the comments on its delegation paper *CDS-IWG2014-DP01* and account for them in a paper that it may submit for the next meeting of CDS-IWG.

The next meeting of the CDS-IWG is to be scheduled prior to TCC11 and the dates of 21 – 22 September, 2015 have been tentatively reserved for it.

For ease of reference a copy of the agreed 2015 Work Plan and the terms of reference for CDS-IWG are enclosed.

Sincerely,



Feleti P Teo OBE
Executive Director



CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME WORKSHOP

Wednesday 24 September 2014

FSM- China Gymnasium, Palikir,
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

2015 CDS-IWG WORK PLAN

Resource documents to be carried forward: 2014-CDS-IWG-02 (consultancy report) and 2014-CDS-IWG-DP01 – FFA paper

1. What would be the key elements of future discussions by the CDS-IWG?

(Secretariat to circulate topics and request members to provide views intersessionally. The views collated/considered in papers would be prepared for the next meeting of CDS-IWG)

- * identify roles and responsibilities for: vessel operators; coastal States; flag States; WCPFC Secretariat; market states; other stakeholders
- * commence the development of standards, specifications and procedures, including verification
- * DP01 –FFA paper – comments could be provided to FFA, and with a view to consider at the next CDS-IWG
- * objectives: use sub-elements of consultant’s recommendation 1 as a basis for further discussion (note may need to revisit as roles and responsibilities are clarified)
- * scope: use consultant’s recommendation 2 as a basis for further discussion

2. How should the next meeting of the CDS-IWG be structured?

- * review discussion papers that are prepared based on the intersessional discussions on the key elements
- * involvement of market states as participants in discussions during next workshop is important
- * CDS-IWG meeting will occur immediately prior to TCC11

WCPFC Catch Documentation Scheme

Proposed Intercessional Working Group Operations and Terms of Reference

Operations and Terms of Reference

1. The working group will be open to all Commission members and Participating Territories. The principal task of the working group is to develop and propose a strategy for a CDS to document catches taken in the WCPO for key target and by catch species for WCPFC adoption.
2. This strategy shall take account of representations to date within the WCPFC and be mindful of the key principles in **Attachment 1**. In particular, the strategy and recommendations shall take into account MCS and information collection systems already introduced by WCPFC members.
3. This will include but not be limited to all matters of relevance to the design and operation of a WCPFC CDS including explicit consideration of the following:
 - a. The Recommendation to Tuna RFMOs on Harmonization and Improvement of Catch Tracking Programs (Raleigh 2007) and the broader consensus on CDS reached at the 2010 Kobe MCS meeting in Barcelona and Kobe 3.
 - b. Existing and proposed catch documentation schemes in other RFMOs (including ICCAT, CCSBT and CCAMLR) and in Commission members and Participating territories, noting the particular areas of uniqueness within the WCPFC, such as the prevalence of coastal states and Small Island developing states and territories.
 - c. Existing national and sub-regional catch tracking programs..
 - d. Operational issues and capacity requirements of data collection, submission, handling, analysis, reconciliation and dissemination.
 - e. The resources that would be required within CCMs (and particularly small island developing states and territories) to implement and operate a CDS. This will necessarily include consideration of capacity building, training programs and associated costs.
 - f. The roles and responsibilities for certification and verification of all appropriate stakeholders, within the framework of existing international law
 - g. the contribution of chartered vessels to sustainable fisheries development and the need to ensure that charter arrangements do not promote IUU fishing activities.
 - h. Opportunities to utilize emerging technology to increase efficiency and decrease cost. with particular reference to electronic transmission of data and required forms.

- i. The integration of CDS within the monitoring, control and surveillance framework of WCPFC.
- j. The integration of CDS with the overall management framework of the WCPFC including other data reporting obligations.
- k. The specifics of proposed CDS documentation and process including the preparation of draft CDS forms/data reporting options.

Timeframe

The working group shall commence in 2013.

The working group shall report progress to the TCC with a view to presenting a Provisional CDS proposal to WCPFC 10 or 11 (depending on development progress) that would be considered for adoption on a trial basis in the period 2014 – 2015. The trial may focus on certain species.

Pending the trial introduction, WCPFC would then consider incremental adoption of the scheme on a wider basis, by including additional species.

Attachment 1 – WCPFC Catch Documentation Scheme Guiding Principles

1. In establishing the CWG, the group should be guided by the following principles.
2. The objectives of a WCPFC CDS need to be clearly defined and address the following at a minimum:
 - a. Traceability to final market destination;
 - b. Catch verification and validation and,
 - c. Provision of scientific and fisheries management information;
3. CDS should not be viewed as a system in its own right, but rather as a component of an overall fisheries monitoring system.
4. A WCPFC CDS shall take into account the legitimate roles of all appropriate stakeholders, within the framework of existing international law
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5. A WCPFC CDS needs to integrate and build on existing systems with the role of the Commission in CDS clearly defined and cost effective.
6. The WCPFC CDS will take into account existing monitoring and reporting systems such as national and sub-regional catch tracking programs including those implemented and being developed by WCPFC members
7. The WCPFC CDS should cater for a range of responses to market requirements and include comprehensive verification of catches in the WCPO.
8. The development of a CDS system needs to take account specific characteristics of the fisheries within the Pacific Islands region, and the special requirements of developing states, particularly small island developing states, in whose waters most of the fishing takes place.
9. A phased approach to CDS introduction, with provision for prioritizing system testing, operational trials and review and an initial focus on key species, should be considered.