

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.