



**2nd MEETING OF CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME INTERSESSIONAL WORKING
GROUP**

FSM-China Gymnasium, Palikir,
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OVERVIEW OF CDS DEVELOPMENTS BY FFA MEMBERS

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Paper by FFA Secretariat

*This paper is submitted by the FFA Secretariat, and is without prejudice to the views and positions of FFA
Members, individually or collectively.*

Working Paper1: Overview of CDS developments by FFA Members

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Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a brief overview of CDS developments considered by FFA members since the meeting of the last CDS-IWG in 2014. This includes:
 - A brief description of the outcomes of the FFA Technical Consultation which occurred in May 2015 (expanded in working paper 2)
 - Introduce the concept of Mass Balance Reconciliation (expanded in Working Paper 3)
 - Present draft CDS Standards (expanded in Working Paper 4)

FFA CDS Technical Consultation

2. In May 2015 FFA members held a CDS Technical Consultation that looked at traceability requirements and developments globally, regionally and nationally.

3. The FFA technical consultation acknowledged that key to these developments will be creating policy and technical interoperability and cooperation to ensure that only legitimate WCPFC product enters the commodity chain. It noted the existing high degree of cooperation within the FFA membership will be strengthened and widened with the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement (NTSA) recently coming into force. The NTSA has very detailed and broad information sharing provisions for validation and certification of catch.

4. The FFA Technical Consultation was mindful that a streamlined CDS requires cooperation from the market, processing and distribution States, and that WCPFC is the most appropriate forum to do this. A unilateral approach would run the highly probable scenario of unnecessary trade barriers and displacement of IUU product to flags, ports, and markets that are not covered.

5. A key role for WCPFC would be to develop indicators to identify those parts of the commodity chain where vulnerabilities exist for the entry of IUU product. To do this WCPFC attention should be placed on monitoring the distribution and imports of WCPFC catch and associated trade volumes. This would assist to identify where in the commodity chain CDS standards are in most need and would serve as a performance indicator for implementation of a comprehensive CDS.

Mass Balance Reconciliation

6. *Working Paper 3* introduces the concept of Mass Balance Reconciliation (MBR). It notes that WCPFC has in place a mechanism for CCMs to declare catch¹, that this should be compared to the amount of CCMs product landed, entering the domestic market or exported and imported.

7. WP3 notes that CCMs have an expectation to report destination of catch², there is however no requirement for processing States to report input and output, or market States to report total amount of WCPFC product imported. Addressing this short fall would assist WCPFC understand the scale and nature of the commodity chain, act as an indicator of CCMs' existing trade reporting requirements, and gauge WCPFCs' CDS implementation.

¹ WCPFC Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission

² Annual Report Part 1

CDS Standards

8. *Working Paper 4* introduces the concept of CDS Standards from an RFMO perspective. A series of possible standards are introduced which can guide development of a WCPFC CDS.

9. They can be broadly grouped into three categories:

- Traceability - Tracking of products through the supply chain, which ensures that seafood products have met the standards that they lay claim to.
- Accreditation - Recognition by an impartial authority, such as the WCPFC, that certain bodies are qualified to carry out the task of certification
- Certification - process of verifying that products, processes and services meet certain standards.

10. The WCPFC CDS design should, to the maximum extent possible, avoid duplication and be compatible for integration with existing mechanisms of data acquisition and exchange. The standards have been developed in context with, and seek to achieve interoperability between; Business, Consumers, Government, CCMs, WCPFC and other RFMOs (refer to Figure 1).

11. WP3 poses fundamental policy questions; once these policy questions are answered the traceability requirements to get there will follow:

- Traceability Unit for High Risk Species – such as individual level at point of unload or point of capture, which species?
- Traceability Unit for Low Risk Species – such as trip level with a unique unloading authorisation, which species?
- Accreditation of each CCM to undertake Certification – A Commission decision, based on self- assessment or WCPFC Secretariat audit?
- Certification – only if the CCM has the ability to access any or all information relating to the product while under the CCMs jurisdiction? How much of this information is reported to WCPFC and when?

Figure 1: WCPFC CDS in context with existing data flows and requirements.

