



3rd MEETING OF CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP

FSM-China Gymnasium, Palikir,
Pohnpei, FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

16-17 September 2016

REVIEW OF WCPFC CDS-IWG ACTIVITIES 2015/16

WCPFC-2016-CDSIWG03-02

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Paper by the WCPFC Secretariat

Purpose

1. This paper overviews the progress made by the WCPFC Catch Documentation Scheme Intersessional Working Group (CDS-IWG) since its establishment. It reviews, in particular, the progress on activities in 2015/16 as contained in the WCPFC12 approved CDS-IWG workplan.

Background

2. The WCPFC began discussing approaches to catch documentation schemes from as early as 2006. Discussions at that time were primarily focused on whether the WCPFC should adopt a *statistical document program*, to track international trade of a fishery product like bigeye for consistency with other tuna RFMOs, or whether WCPFC should instead develop a more comprehensive *catch documentation system* to track movement of fishery products from the point of capture through to market.¹ Presently, ICCAT, IATTC and ICCAT have implemented statistical documentation programmes for bigeye tuna, ICCAT has implemented a statistical documentation programme for atlantic swordfish, and catch documentation schemes are being implemented by CCSBT for Southern Bluefin tuna and by ICCAT for atlantic Bluefin.
3. In 2010, WCPFC agreed in principle to the development of a catch documentation scheme as follow:
WCPFC7 agreed to form an intersessional CDS Working Group, to be coordinated by PNG, to progress work on an inclusive WCPFC CDS that includes flag, coastal and market States, and enables certification and export. It was agreed that the first consultation would involve the development of Terms of

¹ From Rahleigh Workshop on Harmonisation and Improvement of the trade tracking programs and development of catch documentation schemes (2010) "A Statistical Document Program (SDP) traces the international trade of a fishery product: Export -> Import/market. A Catch Documentation System (CDS) traces movement of the product from capture to market: Catch -> Landing -> Export -> Import/market & Catch -> Landing -> Domestic/market."

Reference (TORs) for the CDS Working Group. (WCPFC7 Summary Report, para 223)

4. The terms of reference for the CDS-IWG were agreed in December 2012 (WCPFC9 Summary Report, Attachment S), and Mr Alois Kinol (Papua New Guinea) was appointed to be the CDS-IWG Chair. The principal task of the CDS-IWG is “to develop and propose a strategy for a CDS to document catches taken in the WCPO for key target and bycatch species.” Through its work the CDS-IWG is to:
 - a. “be mindful” of the key principles contained in Attachment 1 to the CDS-IWG terms of reference;
 - b. “take into account” MCS and information collection systems of members; and
 - c. give “explicit consideration of” the list of items contained in paragraph 3 of the CDS-IWG terms of reference

The indicative timeframe outlined in the terms of reference envisaged the development of a provisional CDS proposal for consideration at WCPFC10 or WCPFC11, and trial introduction during 2014-15. A copy of the CDS-IWG terms of reference is provided as a reference document for CDS-IWG (2016).

5. The first CDS-IWG meeting was held on October 1 2013 in Pohnpei, it was a half-day meeting which commenced immediately following TCC9. Later that year, WCPFC10 received the report of CDS-IWG and endorsed the plan for the Secretariat to produce an analysis of existing CDS-related initiatives for discussion at a meeting of the CDS-IWG prior to TCC10.

2014 activities – review of existing CDS-related Member initiatives

6. In 2014, a workshop was held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia on 24th September - and the main document considered was a consultancy report (2014-CDS-IWG-02) that among others reviewed member submissions related to existing CDS-related initiatives. The gap analysis of CDS-data fields by the Consultants found that:
 - a. There are regional systems in place that meet virtually all of the CDS data field requirements, specifically that many systems meet most catch form requirements (documentation details, vessel data, catch information, description of fish sold, transshipment (at sea or in port) and certification of landing), and some systems meet most export form requirements (documentation details, export information, transport details, exporter certification, export governmental authority validation and import information); and
 - b. A move to a CDS will not require much change to the data already collected, but system rigor and processes will need to be improved.
7. The agreed output was a CDS-IWG workplan for 2015 (WCPFC11 Summary Report, Attachment O). This was attached in the report by the CDS-IWG chair to TCC10 (WCPFC-TCC10-2014-17). Both were provided as a reference documents for CDS-IWG (2015).

2015 and 2016 activities - developing the key elements of a WCPFC CDS

8. There were two agreed steps in the 2015 CDS-IWG workplan:
 - a. circulation by the Secretariat of a list of topics considered to be key elements for consideration by the CDS-IWG (draws on the consultant's report (2014-CDS-IWG-02) and the FFA delegation paper (2014-CDS-IWG-DP01); and
 - b. a meeting of the CDS-IWG immediately prior to TCC11, to consider discussion papers based on the intersessional comments submitted.

9. Circular 2015/16 was sent to CCMs on 24 March 2015 and through this circular CCMs were requested to provide comments on the five intersessional topics from the 2015 workplan: the five intersessional topics were proposed by the CDS-IWG to comprise the key elements of a CDS. The Secretariat received comments from two CCMs, and four papers from the FFA Secretariat were provided to CDS-IWG02 meeting.

10. The CDS-IWG held its second meeting immediately prior to TCC11. The meeting received a presentation from independent expert and consultant with the Secretariat, Mr Gilles Hosch, on CDS principles underpinning the FAO/ABNJ work on Best Practice Guidelines for Tuna CDS Development (WCPFC-2015-CDSIWG02-03). Four FFA Secretariat papers were presented, two were substantive proposals on the concept of Mass Balance Reconciliation (WCPFC-2015-CDSIWG02-DP03) and CDS standards development (WCPFC-2015-CDSIWG02-DP04). The Secretariat paper WCPFC-2015-CDSIWG02-02 was a reference paper during the discussions on key elements of future CDS.

11. WCPFC12 adopted the report of CDS-IWG02 and an amended 2016 CDS-IWG workplan (WCPFC12 Summary Report paragraph 532 and Attachment T).

12. The 2016 CDS-IWG workplan consists of two substantive tasks:
 - a. CDS standards development – to be led by FFA Secretariat, based on CCM comments submitted in response to WCPFC-2015-CDSIWG02-DP04
 - b. Mass Balance Reconciliation trial – based on a compilation of available CCM 2016 Annual Report Part 1 submissions related to MBR reporting for the 2013 calendar year.

The consideration of progress related to these two tasks, as well as a general review and reaffirmation of progress to date on key elements for a WCPFC CDS, are expected to be the basis of discussions during this years CDS-IWG03 meeting.

13. A summary of the progress to date by the CDS-IWG on the development of the four key elements of a WCPFC CDS is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Recommendation

14. CDS-IWG03 is invited to note the paper and to consider the comments that have been provided as a basis to further develop the key elements of a WCPFC CDS.

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Attachment 1: Summary of progress by CDS-IWG on the four key elements for WCPFC CDS

Roles and Responsibilities for vessel operators; coastal States; flag States; WCPFC Secretariat; market states; other stakeholders in a WCPFC CDS

1. At CDS-IWG02 the below list was noted to be a non-exhaustive list of stakeholders whose roles and responsibilities would need to be defined in a WCPFC CDS:
 - vessel operators
 - Coastal states
 - Flag States
 - WCPFC Secretariat
 - Market states
 - Other stakeholders eg port states, and processing states, processors and traders
2. **CDS-IWG02 agreed these roles and responsibilities do need to be defined, but the discussions at this meeting didn't touch on the specifics of all these roles. All the parties listed above are recognized as having a role in CDS.**
3. From the discussions in CDS-IWG the key points were:
 - a. The role of the flag State should be to verify that the vessels are appropriately authorized, and that the vessel operated in accordance with its authorization and all applicable WCPFC CMMs and other obligations, based on available information, including that obtained from coastal States and MCS tools;
 - b. Agreement that coastal States and port States also should have a critical role to play in the verification process;
 - c. The role of the Coastal States should be to verify that vessels have complied with relevant coastal State requirements (laws, regulations, license conditions etc);
 - d. Agreement that all States that encounter product should have an equal and cooperative role in the certification process, and necessary communication lines need to be established and maintained between respective parties;
 - e. WCPFC Secretariat should have an oversight role, and data repository / data acquisition and data management functions;
 - f. Recognition that the further development of standards, specification and procedures will influence the definition of roles and responsibilities, and terminology.
4. **The CDS-IWG02 has also acknowledged that the roles and responsibilities would continue to evolve as the CDS-IWG's work moves forward.**

Objectives of a WCPFC CDS

5. **The CDS-IWG02 has agreed that**
The primary objective for a WCPFC CDS should be to combat IUU fishing in the WCPFC-CA by providing a means of preventing fish and fish products identified as caught by or originating from IUU activities from moving through the commodity chain and ultimately entering markets.

Scope of a WCPFC CDS

6. **The CDS-IWG02 continues to support the following scope...**
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.**

7. **The key points from the CDS-IWG02 discussions was agreement that in terms of the scope of a WCPFC CDS:**
 - **the CDS should be designed to be as inclusive (gear, species and products) as possible;**
 - **it is likely that a phased-approach to implementation or prioritization would be the best way for the Commission to proceed, and perhaps a IUU risk-based process might provide a basis for prioritization;**
 - **the species to be covered by the CDS should initially be [Pacific Bluefin tuna], Bigeye tuna, Skipjack, Yellowfin and Albacore tuna;**
 - **the CDS-IWG should commence a process to define the scope of the WCPFC-CDS as a matter of priority, and the way forward and list of species to be covered (point 3 above) should be finalised during TCC11.**

8. **The inclusion of Pacific Bluefin tuna in the scope of a WCPFC CDS has not been agreed.**

Standards for a WCPFC CDS

9. **The CDS-IWG02 discussed DP04, which included a detailed Attachment A providing a starting point for the development of CDS draft standards. The CDS-IWG02 expressed appreciation for the work by FFA leading to the development of the paper, noting it to be a good starting point for progressing work on a WCPFC CDS and the importance of all CCMs providing input to the further development of the CDS standards.**

10. **The CDS-IWG02 encouraged the FFA Secretariat to continue to lead the development of CDS draft standards using Attachment A of DP04 as a basis, and taking note of comments and questions provided by CCMs during the discussions at CDS-IWG02 and the Guiding Principles in the CDS-IWG TOR (Attachment 1). CCMs (which includes Cooperating Non-Members) and other interested parties were requested to provide comments on DP04 to FFA Secretariat, via WCPFC Secretariat, to further improve the paper.**

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