



**COMMISSION**  
**THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
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**UPDATE ON PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING WCPFC DRAFT CDS STANDARDS**

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**WCPFC13-2016-29**  
**6<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

**Prepared by the FFA Secretariat**

## **An update on progress in developing the WCPFC draft CDS standards**

Prepared by the FFA Secretariat

The second iteration of the draft WCPFC CDS standards<sup>1</sup> was considered by the third meeting of the CDS-IWG<sup>2</sup> in advance of TCC12. The CDS-IWG meeting ran over one day, rather than the scheduled two days. A short informal session was held on the second day at WCPFC headquarters to provide CCMs additional time to raise further questions and general discussion.

The level of engagement and constructive feedback provided by many CCMs was useful in further guiding the development of the standards. General themes emerged from the feedback during the CDS-IWG3 as follows:

- a. The standards should take in to account the nature of WCPFC fisheries, but avoid the need for complicated systems. Ensure standards are achievable and practical.
- b. Maintain consistency with Commission regulatory and policy framework – Convention, CMMs, Commission Decisions and policies
- c. Develop a Commission strategy and mechanisms for non-CCM engagement
- d. Further work is required to develop the ‘trade’ component of the standards, as it is largely focused on the catch sector
- e. Refinement of the glossary, include additional terms, and aligning definitions with those used in international agreements e.g. for export/import, customs and trade sector
- f. Provide specific definitions for key terms i.e. certification, validation, verification
- g. Better define the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and the WCPFC Secretariat
- h. Review the phased approach – use of low/high risk classification, or:
  - i. Suggested single approach for IUU risk classification across all species
  - ii. Suggested delayed implementation until all CCMs are ready to operationalise CDS
- i. Compliance requirements – how to incorporate coastal state national laws
- j. Ensure certification process does not hinder trade

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<sup>1</sup> WCPFC-2016-CDSIWG03-03 Development of WCPFC CDS Standards (Version 2)

<sup>2</sup> Catch Documentation Scheme Intersessional Working Group

- k. Note parallel process to develop electronic reporting standards and need to implement the use of electronic reporting in the region
- l. Further development needed for mechanisms and procedures to deal with disputes between CCMs

CCMs requested additional time to consider the draft standards and reflected this in a recommendation from the CDS-IWG3:

*“CCMs should provide comments on CDS-IWG03-03 paper to FFA Secretariat by 31 October 2016 .... The FFA Secretariat undertook to provide an update on progress of developing Version 3 of the draft CDS data standards to WCPFC13.”*

Several CCMs requested additional time to provide written comments beyond the agreed timeframe, with the last of the expected comments received mid-November.

The comments are comprehensive and detailed, and the work to incorporate comments into a revised paper is considerable. While a revised draft will require significant work it reflects well on the level of interest from CCMs.

#### *Process*

The CDS-IWG meeting was useful for the FFA Secretariat to receive guidance from CCMs on further development of the standards, however given the detailed nature of the work the FFA Secretariat proposes that an iterative electronic process be used to advance further developments. It is proposed that:

- A revised draft be submitted to WCPFC by April 2017 and include a timeline for comments to be received from CCMs. Further consultation with relevant CCMs will also be required between now and then.
- Another draft will be developed for circulation prior to TCC13 for CCMs consideration.