

Original: English

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A
WORKING GROUP ON CATCH DOCUMENT SCHEME**

(Submitted by Japan)

Background

1. Based on the discussion at the 13th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) in Madrid, Spain on 2-4 April 2019, Japan submitted to the 2019 Annual Commission meeting an Informal Discussion paper on possible amendments to Bigeye tuna and Swordfish Statistical Document Programmes (SDP), including development of Catch Document Scheme (CDS) to facilitate further discussion.
2. The 2019 Annual Commission meeting agreed that more detailed discussion should be continued at the 2020 IMM meeting without prejudging the future course on this issue.
3. Since the 2020 IMM meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Japan submitted a paper "A proposed way forward for discussion on catch document schemes" (**Appendix 1**- IMM-05A/21,) to the 2021 IMM meeting in order to facilitate further discussion and show a possible direction. This paper included a draft resolution to establish a Working Group on CDS.
4. At the IMM meeting, Japan's proposal to establish the WG received a general support and several suggestions on its TOR. Japan circulated a revised draft resolution for comments from all CPCs (#7084/2021 dated 17 September 2021) and received comments from the US (**Annex 1**). Taking into account these comments, Japan hereby submits the proposed resolution for consideration and adoption by the Commission at the 2021 annual meeting.
5. Several years have passed since the Commission noted the possible expansion of CDS. While there has been no progress in ICCAT, the market demand on fishery product whose legality is certificated has been ever increasing. It should be noted that even if the Commission starts discussion now, it may take several years to complete all the necessary work. The Commission should be proactive and start discussion now.

**DRAFT RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING
AN ICCAT WORKING GROUP ON CATCH DOCUMENT SCHEME**

(Submitted by Japan)

RECALLING that ICCAT agreed at the 2019 annual Commission meeting that detailed discussion should be continued without prejudging the future course of development of Catch Document Schemes (CDS);

RECOGNIZING the ever-increasing market demand for fishery products whose legality are verified;

NOTING the successful development and implementation of an electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation scheme in ICCAT;

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Process Towards the Establishment of a Catch Certification Scheme for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species* (Rec. 12-09);

EMPHASIZING the need to implement a risk-based approach with respect to CDS;

MINDFUL of the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes adopted by FAO in 2017, which set out guidance to States, RFMOs, regional economic integration organizations, and other intergovernmental organisations when developing and implementing new CDS, or harmonizing or reviewing existing CDS;

RECOGNISING that the Convention amendment process consisted of two parts, i.e., the first part focused on the review of the Convention and the second part focused on developing specific amendments, and a similar two-step approach could be a good way to proceed with the discussion on this issue;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:

1. An ad hoc Working Group (WG) on CDS is established with the objective of considering whether to establish an electronic CDS for any additional ICCAT stocks/species.
2. In [2022 and 2023], the WG should hold a meeting at least once a year, preferably in conjunction with a intersessional meeting, particularly the IMM Working Group, so that the Meeting Participation Fund can be efficiently utilized to support the participation of developing CPCs. If the WG is held in conjunction with an IMM Working Group meeting, the total duration of these two meetings should be no more than five days.
3. The WG is open to all CPCs and accredited observers.
4. The WG will elect its own Chair.
5. Without prejudging the conclusion on possible establishment of the CDS and taking into account the factors specified in paragraph 1 of Rec. 12-09 and the provisions of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes, the WG should discuss, *inter alia*:
 - a) Which species might be covered.
 - b) What practical and technical difficulties exist with respect to the design and implementation of CDS and how they may be overcome.
 - c) Whether it is feasible and appropriate to utilize the eBCD system for other species and what modifications would be needed.

- d) What enhancements to the capacity of developing CPCs may be needed to support their CDS implementation and how to meet them.
 - e) How to avoid duplication with existing schemes while possibly also reducing the workload of exporting CPCs.
 - f) How to ensure compatibility between CDS being developed or implemented in other tuna RFMOs.
6. If the WG finds any possibility of improving the eBCD in the course of the discussion on the items listed in paragraph 5 above, it should send it to the eBCD WG for further consideration.
7. The Chair of the WG should report on the progress of its work to the PWG during the annual meetings of the Commission in [2022 and 2023]. In [2023], or as soon as possible thereafter, the Commission should decide on whether to start work on expansion of CDS to one or more ICCAT stocks/species.