

**Draft Resolution on establishment of a  
Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG)**  
*(submitted by Japan)*

*Explanatory note*

The Ad Hoc Working Group on a Catch Document Scheme (CDS WG) held in April 2022 developed a draft workplan for 2022 and 2023. This workplan was endorsed at the PWG during the Commission Meeting held in November 2022. According to the workplan, the PWG/Commission is supposed to decide on whether expansion of the Catch Document Scheme (CDS) is valid and necessary in 2023.

At the CDS WG and the 16th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) held in June 2023, there was broad support to put this matter forward. Accordingly, Japan would like to present this draft resolution to facilitate the decision by the Commission that the CDS expansion is valid and necessary.

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Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG)**  
*(proposed 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);

*FURTHER RECALLING* that the Ad Hoc Working Group on CDS, established by the *Resolution by ICCAT Establishing an ICCAT Working Group on a Catch Document Scheme* (Res. 21-21), exchanged views among CPCs on the expansion of CDS to other ICCAT species;

*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 organizations 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 AS FOLLOWS:

1. A Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG) be established.
2. The CDS WG is open to all CPCs and accredited observers.
3. The CDS WG will elect its own Chair.
4. Simultaneous interpretation in the three ICCAT languages (English, French, Spanish) will be provided during the meetings of the CDS WG.
5. The CDS WG will first decide on which species and the product types should be covered by the Catch Document Scheme (CDS), taking into account the factors specified in paragraph 1 of Rec. 12-09. With a view to facilitating the implementation of any expanded CDS in each CPC, a phased/step-by-step approach should be considered, including technical approach.

6. The CDS WG will then decide on details of the operational and technical aspects of the CDS, based on the information/views provided by CPCs, particularly regarding practical and technical considerations with respect to the design and implementation of the CDS, including the following:
  - a) What practical and technical difficulties exist with respect to the design and implementation of CDS and how they may be overcome;
  - b) Whether it is feasible and appropriate to expand the eBCD system to other species, or developing a separate electronic system is more appropriate;
  - c) What capacity development programmes for developing CPCs may be needed to support their implementation of any expanded CDS;
  - d) How to avoid duplication with existing national and international schemes while possibly also reducing the workload of exporting CPCs; and
  - e) How to ensure compatibility between CDS being developed or implemented in other tuna RFMOs.
7. From 2024 to 2026, the CDS WG should hold a meeting at least once a year unless otherwise decided by the Commission. In-person meetings should preferably be held in conjunction with an intersessional meeting, particularly the IMM, so that the Meeting Participation Fund can be efficiently utilized to support the participation of developing CPCs. If the CDS WG is held in conjunction with an IMM meeting, the total duration of these two meetings should be no more than five days, unless otherwise decided by the Commission.
8. The CDS WG will, if appropriate, submit a draft recommendation on any expanded CDS to the 2026 Commission meeting. If the CDS WG cannot submit the draft recommendation, it should propose a new workplan to the Commission for approval.
9. If the CDS WG finds any possibility of improving the eBCD in the course of the discussion, it should send its suggestions to the eBCD Technical Working Group and Commission for further consideration.
10. This Resolution repeals and replaces the *Resolution by ICCAT Establishing an ICCAT Working Group on a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)* (Res. 21-21).