



FACTSHEET

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WWF-South Pacific

# Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)

Monitoring of catch is important to ensure compliance to management measures



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## Catch Documentation Scheme

Annually, the loss incurred from illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities is estimated to reach at least \$US23 billion. Recognizing this as a threat to the sustainable and effective management of marine resources and food security, existing control measures are continually modified while in some cases new ones are introduced to address this global issue. One such control method set up by regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) is a trade-based measure called the catch documentation scheme (CDS). Introduced in 2000 the tracking system monitors the fish from point of catch through to its final destination preventing the entry of IUU fish products into the market and supporting fish stock assessments. It replaced the trade documentation scheme (TDS), which only accounted for fish that entered international trade.

**\$US23  
BILLION**

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## Catch Documentation Scheme in RFMOs

Three RFMOs have successfully implemented the catch documentation scheme:

- The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, CCAMLR Toothfish (*Dissostichus spp*) CDS has undergone several developments since its inception in May 2000. The introduction of the mandatory electronic or e-CDS in June 2010 was the first of its kind among the RFMOs.
- The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) bluefin tuna catch documentation programme (CDP) became effective in June 2008, a year after its establishment.
- The most recent CDS was implemented by the Commission on the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) in January 2010.

While the tuna RFMOs (ICCAT and CCSBT) have measures consistent with the CCAMLR CDS both have additional provisions that cover catch and fish products related to tuna farming. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) or the Tuna Commission is currently in the process of developing its catch documentation scheme for bigeye tuna.

## How Catch Documentation Scheme works

The catch documentation scheme requires fishing and trading nations to ensure that fish entering the market are harvested with accordance to conservation and management measures. To guarantee compliance the following sets of documents are required:

- Copies of all validated catch documents issued to fishing vessels, for example, DCD or Dissostichus catch document under the CCAMLR CDS and a BCD or Bluefin catch document under the ICCAT CDP.
- Copies of all export or re-export documents issued or received.

## Limitations of a Catch Documentation Scheme

The lack of multilateral cooperation between nations is the major limitation to the CDS. The weakness is generally attributed to:

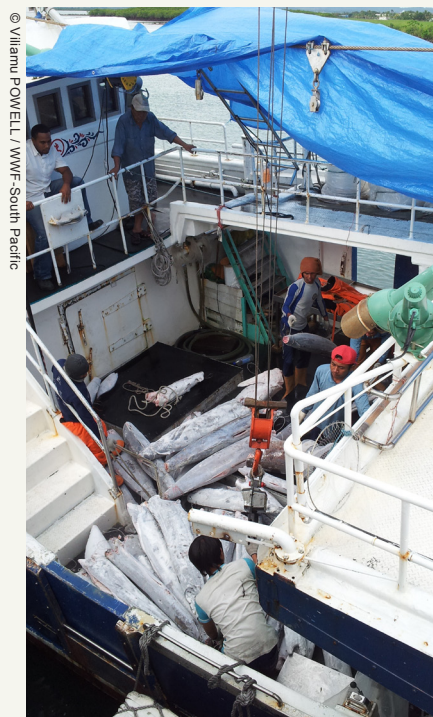
- The high cost of implementation.
- The unwillingness of flag, port or trade states to participate at all, or failure to apply every aspect of the scheme in a rigorous manner.

Source: MRAG, Marine Resource Assessment Group Ltd & FAO (2010)

## Knowing Your Terms

**Export:** Using the definition used under the CCAMLR CDS, an export is the first international movement of toothfish (or any fish) after total catch is brought ashore or transferred from the fishing vessel.

**Re-export:** Further movement of fish after initial export.



### For more information

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