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CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME – PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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Dr. Glenn Hurry
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Subject: Proposal to Develop a Catch Documentation Scheme for Western and Central Pacific Tuna Fisheries

Dear Dr. Hurry,

During WCPFC2, Japan raised a proposal for the consideration of WCPFC to develop a regional Statistical Documentation Scheme (SDS) to monitor tuna stocks of concern, especially bigeye and yellowfin tuna. SDS was proposed to capture relevant scientific and trade information for use by the fishing industry, regulatory authorities, the markets and non-state actors to assist in the effort to conserve yellowfin and bigeye tunas. The concept was discussed but Japan's proposal for the development of an SDS was rejected as it had limitations hence the recommendation for the development of a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS).

The Papua New Guinea (PNG) Delegation submits to the Secretariat of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) to consider and deliberate on PNG's Proposal for the development of a CDS for the WCPFC compatible to the requirements of the new EC Regulation No. 1005/2008. on IUU Fishing currently being implemented by PNG under its FVFODF and other complementary protocols of certifying and verifying catch and tracing the origin of fish products from PNG to destined markets.

Yours sincerely,

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Terry Ward (Mr.)

Acting Managing Director
PNG National Fisheries Authority

PNG CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME PROPOSAL

A. INTRODUCTION

This paper introduces the underlying rationales of Papua New Guinea National Fisheries Authority's proposal for the development of a Regional Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) under the auspices of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) for consideration for further pursuit in developing it in the Sixth Technical Compliance Committee (TCC6) Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Papua New Guinea (PNG) proposes the concept of WCPFC adopting the PNG NFA Freezer Vessels and Fish Origin Declaration Form (FVFODF) which was recently designed and approved for use by the Board as a National Protocol for the "traceability of the Origin of fish and Fishing and/or Freezer Vessels engaged in fishing, storage processing and transportation of fish and fishery products from the fishing ground to the market" following the requirements of the new European Commission Regulation No. 1005/2008 on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Practices around the world.

B. OVERVIEW

1. What is CDS?

Mary Lack from the WWF South Pacific Programme jointly coordinated together with Traffic International (Lack 2008) defines CDS as a "tool" to verify catch, monitor catch and discourage marketing of illegally caught and processed fish and fishery products. It is based on the provision of all relevant data that can be used to trace the origin of a fish and fishery product from the fishing ground to the market. In a nutshell, a CDS is designed to trace the origin of a fish from where it was caught, by who, how it was caught, stored and processed before it was sent to the market for consumption. In the name of competition, developed nations competing with the third world markets use trade measures to delimit illicit (i.e. IUU) fishing practices. This is based on the assumption that third world countries are vulnerable to fish laundering in the high seas.

The European Union (EU) has capitalized on the use of these trade measures to set up more stringent "market entry requirements" for access by third world countries. Amidst issues of competition at the industry level are those of sustainability as well as Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

However, issues of reliability of the data provided has emerged over the years as some fishing fleets or vessels using deceptive information began to be implicated or sanctioned by the trade measures used to discipline their illicit fishing activities.

A CDS (the Scheme) is a reporting protocol consisting set of forms that are used to collect key data and other relevant information required to give clues to trace the origin of a fish from the fishing ground (to the market). It really depends on when the information is required on where the fish was caught, by what vessel, using what fishing gear or technology, how the fish is stored and processed before it is prepared ready to be exported for the destined market.

C. BACKGROUND

During the 2nd WCPFC 2 in 2005, the Japanese delegation raised a proposal for the implementation of a Statistical Documentation Scheme (SDS) which was intended for monitoring the BET and YFT catches in the region. Though there were concerns as well as support by members to work inter-sessionally with Japan to develop a more comprehensive scheme, very little was achieved in the way of action or commitment undertaken until the recent implementation of the EU IUU Regulation 1005/2008 on catch certification in January 2010. EU when submitting their proposal for CDS during the TCC5; recommended that “any other proposals for a CDS ought to be developed with an awareness of the data requirement of catch certificates associated with the EU IUU fishing regulation and the new FAO Port State Measures Agreement”.

1. PNG’s Proposal for the Development of a WCPFC CDS.

WCPFC6 agreed in principle for the need of a CDS for the WCPFC and called for a proposal to be brought forward for discussion in TCC6. It was based on this undertaking, that PNG is now submitting a proposal for the development of a WCPFC regional CDS, based on its current collection and support systems. PNG essentially proposes that this WCPFC-wide regional CDS originates from the National Catch Declaration and Certification/Verification protocols of the individual member countries which would simply be Standardized at the WCPFC level. This does not nullify the national catch documentation systems currently in place. It is suppose to integrate the national systems into a regional information database that can be easily accessible to trace products in future by member countries.

The overall aim of developing CDS is to prevent tuna and tuna-like species caught through IUU means of fishing from entering ports and subsequently the markets. Essentially, PNG envisages all landings into ports and or transshipments of tuna in port will be required to be accompanied by a “Completed Catch Document”. PNG envisages an achievable paper trailing scheme which is consistent with the objectives of the National Tuna Fishery Management Plan and other Fishery Management Plans, the RFMO convention and management measures and the EU IUU Regulation No. 1005/2008. Special recognition is also given to the new FAO Port State Measures Agreement in developing this CDS.

2. Objectives

The key objectives of the CDS are to:

- i. authenticate the origin of the fish caught in compliance with market requirements and relevant rules for responsible fishing through the product traceability system¹;
- ii. collect information required by MCS programmes designed to combat, deter and eliminate IUU fishing activities to warrant and safeguard the conservation and sustainable development and management of tuna stocks; and
- iii. provide accurate data for stock assessments, economic forecasts and market trend analysis.

¹ The Rules of Origin (ROOs) as contained under the Lome Convention (1975) and the succeeding agreements of CPA (20001) and the EPAs (2003).

D. JUSTIFICATION

CDS serves two key interests of the information user. It is either designed to capture scientific information for scientific purposes or capture market information for economic reasons. As a result, there are CDS for the documentation of Catch as well as TDS for the documentation of Trade information. Once gathered and issued with a certificate, an export documentation together with market information automatically becomes a trade document.

1) *Necessary Condition*

Traceability of fish and fishery products have increasingly captured the attention of a wide client base stretching from competitors to consumers across sectors and industries. Similarly, trans-boundary or highly migratory resources such as fish and fishery products are now being questioned on their origins. As such, rules have now being devised based on consumer demands and expectations on how such resources can be traced from where they are harvested, processed and exported for consumption.

In response to such consumer demand, markets have incorporated consumer tastes and preferences as access conditions which become mandatory for suppliers to comply with. The more information there is for consumers to make a choice on the type of products they are consuming in the market, the better the world will become in its efforts to promulgate awareness on sustainable natural resources and environmental management and development for inter-generational equity. Information from CDS is required by scientists and economists in modeling resource capacities to sustain the demands of the present generation without compromising the ability of the future generation in meeting their own needs.

Having members of the WCPC devise their own national Catch Documentation Schemes and providing their information for adoption and pursuit to Standardize a CDS at the regional level is a necessary condition for the collective effort of the region towards the fight against IUU fishing for mutual benefits.

2) *Sufficient Condition*

Harmonizing CDS between tRFMOs for cross-monitoring, control and surveillance activities within and between the tRFMOs in the fight against IUU fishing is a complementary tool to warrant the conservation and sustainable development and management of tuna stocks is a sufficient condition. Once this is integrated with trade documentation across tRFMOs, it serves as a very useful tool in informing market regulators to develop trade policies that will promote sustainable resource use through the adoption of standardized and harmonized resource conservation and management measures designed to fight against deceptive and illicit harvesting and trade practices.

E. WCPFC CDS PROPOSAL BY PNG

PNG proposes WCPFC to consider detailed discussion of the possibility of developing a regional CDS for the WCPFC. In essence, PNG proposes this meeting (TCC6) to consider the establishment of a Technical Working Group (TWG) for the development of a Catch Documentation Scheme for the WCPFC. This meeting must also decide on the composition of the WCPFC CDS TWG and set timelines and milestones for the TWG to meet and execute its tasks towards developing the regional catch documentation.

1. Data Gaps from the Analysis of Existing Catch Declaration Forms

Based on the assessment of the existing forms and information gaps that could be addressed to achieve the key objectives of the CDS, the following matrix of these gaps has been developed.

Scheme	Objective	Existing Form/System	Rational	Short fall	Check
IUU	- Origin of the catch	- VMS & log-sheet - Freezer Vessels and Fish Origin Declaration Form - Fish origin form/transshipment	- Info in the log sheets are verified and sign-off by the observer or fishery officer on board or in port	- Accuracy of catch record - Responsibility of flag state	- 100% observer coverage on all fishing vessels will verify and sign off transshipment forms
	- Catch caught in a manner consistent with the rules	- Licensing Req. - Observer report - SPS -food safety std-compliance - Port sampling	- Compliance – to condition of license which are verified – at random/or upon renewal of license - Ongoing sampling in major landing port	- Responsibility of flag state - Responsibility of port state	- Compulsory Inspection - announced and unannounced audits/ inspections
	- To meet Regulatory and Market information and documentation requirements	- Certificate of Fitness - EU health Certificate - PNG Bank form - Customs form - Commercial Invoice - Catch Certificate - Export Approval & Certification Protocol	- Certified by CA. - Certified by PNGBANK - Certified by Customs - Certified by Approved Authority.	- Lack of feedback from market	- 100% Export Certification Number
Scientific Data	- Address the uncertainty in the catch of BET/YFT	- Retention of by catch - Tagging - Port Sampling - Observer sampling	- BET is been overfished and any expansion in the fisheries need to consider the status of the BET	- Catch by artisanal fish for domestic	- 100% Observer sampling, Port sampling and others including landing data.
	- Improve the reliability of stat infor on catch of BET & YFT	- Tagging Program - Port sampling - Retention of by-catch - measures by the commission - Observer sampling - logsheets	- Both BET & YFT are fully exploited, SKJ catch can still be increased, however increase in catch of skj should not further deplete BET & YFT stocks.	- Program such as tagging & port sampling are expensive and may not be consistent.	- 100% Observer sampling, port sampling, landings data.

2. PNG's Proposed CDS Format

Papua New Guinea proposes the adoption of the PNG Freezer Vessels Fish Origin Declaration Form (PNG FVFODF) Catch Declaration Form as the basis from which commission members could suggest additional elements to develop a WCPFC CDS.

PNG has established a number of management tools compatible with revolving these measures and other international measures in particular combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities through.

2.2 National Observer Program

The National Observer Program is designed to collect, verify and validate scientific and compliance data. The information collected can be useful for the following

- The verification and validation of the Tuna Log sheets
- The verification of the Transshipment activity
- The validation of the FVFODF
- IUU reporting

2.3 Port Sampling Program

The Port Sampling program is a progressive national activity to assess the size and species composition, including other factors associated with the fishing activities.

- Port Sampling activities in Wewak, Madang and Lae with the possibility to include other ports.

2.4 Vessel Monitoring System

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) is a very useful tool in providing additional information to compliment and enhancing the CDS. Some of the relevant information that can be generated from the VMS include

- Vessel position and speed
- Vessel Identity or
- Transmission of electronic catch data

2.5 Export Certification and Validation

The Certification and Validation is the important component of the CDS process. This process provides checks at the point of trade and also ensures that all relevant national and international markets, trade tax and health rules are complied with The Certification and Validation function verifies the following

- Catch Certificate
- Health Certificate
- Certificate of Fitness to Export Fish and Fishery Products and
- FVFODF

F. CHALLENGE

Challenges to the implementation of the regional CDS for WCPFC will be enormous due to monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) capacity constraints in the WCPFC member states coupled with the very large sea area that is sometimes too rough to cover. Observer

Programme and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) will require electronic means of reporting and information transmission from the fishing ground through the processing facility or freezer vessel to the competent authority of the flag state. This requires e-forms for such electronic data transmission. Assistance for technical support from development partners of the WCPFC member countries will be required for the smooth implementation of this CDS.

G. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Based on the challenges anticipated from the development and implementation of the CDS, technical assistance required will come in two stages:

1. CDS Development Technical Assistance Requirement:

During the development and establishment phase of the project, technical assistance is required for all member countries to upgrade their reporting protocols to a standard one that is compatible with the regional CDS. Once this is achieved, data collection and collation mediums need to be established through Observer Programmes and VMS installation onboard all vessels operating within the WCPFC Commission waters. However, this does not apply to the vessels fishing in the waters regarded under the national jurisdiction of the member countries.

2. CDS Implementation Technical Assistance Requirement

Implementation of the CDS will require more technical assistance for the sustenance of the systems and programmes established to support the Scheme. Development partners and markets buying fish and fishery products from the WCPO will be required to support Corporate, Environmental and Social Responsibility in their Development Component of Market Access.

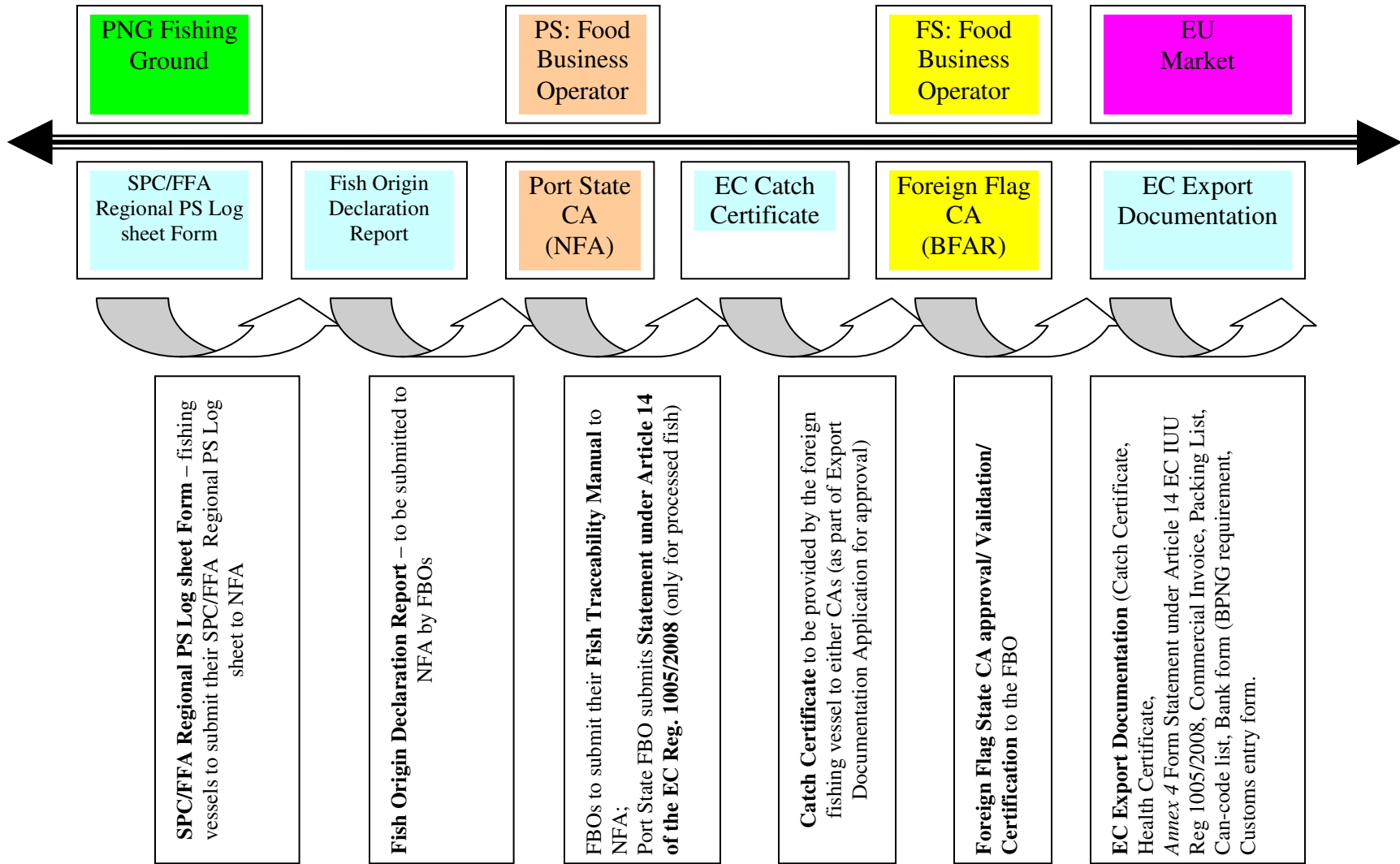
H. CONCLUSION

Once completed, it is anticipated that the new look WCPFC CDS must be seen as over and above the EU CDS. This implies that the multi-species WCPFC CDS will be more informative and easy to trace regardless of having the EU CDS part a partial of the whole WCPFC CDS. It is hoped that sufficient resources will be made available to the WCPFC CDS TWG in developing the forms of the CDS to be reflective of the reporting protocols of the WCPFC member countries. As this has been a requirement of the markets, markets will be given a larger chunk of the responsibility to provide technical assistance to develop and implement the proposed WCPFC CDS. With a dedicated team of experts from all Competent Authorities of the member countries, the industry, market, NGOs and other regional and international bodies, the WCPFC CDS Proposal is a doable task that can be achieved by the WCPFC CDS TWG.

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Attachment A: PNG NFA IUU Control Plan



Attachment B: PNG NFA Freezer Vessel and Fish Origin Declaration Form



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FREEZER VESSELS FISH ORIGIN DECLARATION FORM

1.0 Catcher Name / License No:						2.0 Carrier Name/ License:			3.0 Port of Unloading:								
1.1 Transfer Position: Latitude Longitude			1.2 Est. Catch before Transfer:			2.1 Est. Total Qty Remaining MT			3.1 Est. Quantity after Unload to: Cold Storage/Cannery: _____ Vessel(Name) : _____								
1.3 Est. Quantity after Transferred (MT)						2.2 Date of Transfer/ and Position	2.3 Hold # to/from	2.4 Estimated Quantity MT	3.2 Date of Unload					3.3 Est. Quantity MT	3.4 Delivered To	3.5 Lot #	3.6 Catchers FODF Serial NO
1.4 Year/Date	1.5 Hold #	1.6 Skipjack	1.7 Yellow fin	1.8 Big Eye	1.9 Est. Total MT												
						2.5 Est. Total Quantity Received: MT											

1.10 Transferred by: _____ 1.11 Checked by: _____ 2.6 Received by: _____ 3.7 Note by _____ 3.8 Verified/Certified by: _____
 Catcher Vessel Master NFA Officer Onboard Carrier Vessel Master Port Captain/ Manager National Fisheries Officer (At Port)

Note: Affix signature above name and date/ Attach to stowage plan

Serial Number: PNG IUU00001

PNG NFA FVFODF Procedure Explanatory Notes

1. Catcher Vessel

The vessel master/representative will record / declare all actual data's incurred during transfer at high sea or in port. The declaration report includes the following:

- 1.0 Catcher Vessel name and license- The name of the Purse Seine/Long line
- 1.1 Transshipment position(s). This information shall be the reading on the GPS at the time of the activity.
- 1.2 Estimated catch onboard before Transfer:
- 1.3. Estimated Quantity of Fish left on board after transfer or unloading.
- 1.4. Year/Date: Year and date of Transfer/Transshipment/Unloading

- 1.5. Catcher hatch/fish hold number where the fish is being taken for transfer/Transshipment
- 1.6 Estimated Quantity of Skipjacks transferred
- 1.7 Estimated Quantity of Yellow Fin transferred
- 1.8 Estimated Quantity of Big eye transferred
- 1.9 Total Estimated Quantity transferred.
- 1.10 Affix signature of the Catcher Captain or Representative
- 1.11 Affix signature of the Approved NFA Officer on Board the Vessel validating the activity.

2.0 Freezer Carrier Vessel name and License number

- 2.1 The Estimated Total Quantity of Fish remaining on board the vessels after any transfer or Transshipment
- 2.2 Date of Transfer and position. –Date of the transfer activity and the position as indicated on the GPS.
- 2.3 Hold Number: - Carrier hatch or Fish hold number where the fish is being transferred to or from
- 2.4 Estimated Quantity;- The estimated total Quantity of fish in the hatch/fish hold
- 2.5 Estimated Total Quantity Received;- The Total Estimated Quantity of Fish received from the catcher vessel.
- 2.6 Received By; Affix signature of the master/representative of the carrier vessel

Port Activity

- 3.0. Port of Unloading; Name of port where the carrier/ catcher is unloading her fish.
- 3.1 The Estimated Quantity left on Board after unloading in Port to applicable facility/vessel
- 3.2 Date of unload
- 3.3 Estimated quantity unloaded
- 3.4 Delivered to: Fish delivery to cold storage or direct to cannery
- 3.5 Lot number; The lot number assigned by the Food Business Operator
- 3.6 Catcher Fish Origin Declaration Form Serial Number (FODF): Serial Number of the Catchers Fish Origin Declaration Form.
- 3.7. Noted by; validation by Port captain or the Cold store manager of the Activity
- 3.8 Verified/ Certified By; National Fisheries Authority Approved Officer in Port
- 3.9 Approved stamp from NFA.

Distribution Copy
Original (white Copy) – For the Fish Recipient
Yellow Copy – For the Authorized NFA Officer
Green Copy – Book Copy stays with the Freezer Vessel of origin