**Summary of New Zealand’s implementation of CDS related initiatives for the WCPFC Secretariat**

**Background**

WCPFC members have been asked to provide to the WCPFC Secretariat any *background documents and reports on implementation of current CDS-related initiatives*, such as domestic tracking schemes, as well as certification schemes for product in the WCPFC Convention Area. The Secretariat has requested that these reports also include information on *operational issues* and *capacity requirements****[[1]](#footnote-1).***

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**Summary**

In New Zealand fisheries we have the following domestic tracking schemes, CDS related initiatives, and certification schemes for product in the WCPFC Convention Area:

1. New Zealand domestic catch landing reporting
2. EU Certificate of Origin (EU IUU certificate)
3. CCAMLR[[2]](#footnote-2) CDS
4. CCSBT[[3]](#footnote-3) CDS
5. New Zealand fish export statistical document (for compliance with ICCAT[[4]](#footnote-4) and IATTC[[5]](#footnote-5) reporting requirements)
6. MSC[[6]](#footnote-6) certification of the New Zealand south Pacific albacore troll fishery

New Zealand has a comprehensive domestic catch reporting process. Existing food safety standards, and product traceability through the food processing chain is also of a high standard. These existing systems provide much of the expertise and infrastructure needed for the implementation or development of other types of CDS.

In the New Zealand context, the implementation and operation of CDS for Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) is more resource intensive than for the EU IUU certificate. The EU IUU CDS allows New Zealand to use verifiable domestic catch reporting processes for certification. The RFMO based CDS (in New Zealand’s case CCAMLR and CCSBT) require more intensive resourcing to meet the documentation and validation requirements of the RFMOs.

Transhipment in the Pacific region has increased the complexity of data verification and export certification for WCPFC product from New Zealand flagged vessels.

**New Zealand domestic Catch Landing Reporting**

All vessels landing fish in New Zealand ports, or New Zealand flagged vessels landing or transhipping fish outside of the New Zealand EEZ must complete a catch landing return.

New Zealand commercial fishing data is recorded on a variety of return types, which allows data specific to a particular type of fishing method to be collected. Prior to March 2001 data from effort performed outside New Zealand’s exclusive economic zone (EEZ) was recorded on the same form types as fishing within the EEZ. After this date high seas versions of these returns were steadily introduced to distinguish activity on the high seas.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) contracts FishServe to data-enter and validate Catch Effort information from fisher returns. The Ministry operates the Catch Effort database system and sets standards and specifications for data entry (including writing new error checks) and validation.

The processing of New Zealand's Catch Effort information is centralised (ie. there are not different computer systems for different regions or fisheries). Fishers send approximately 150,000 Catch Effort returns to FishServe each year.

When a Catch Effort return arrives at FishServe, it is scanned and manually data entered to the Catch Effort database. The Catch Effort computer system runs over 1000 types of checks across all the different types of Catch Effort returns.

The catch and effort reporting system is comprehensive and more information is available on request.

**EU IUU Fishing Regulation**

From 1 January 2010 the EU required imported fish products to be accompanied by a catch certificate, issued by the flag State of the vessel, demonstrating that the fish were legally caught. Although New Zealand exercises effective control over its vessels, both within and beyond our waters, we were required to establish a catch certification system to maintain access to the EU market. Currently 10% of all New Zealand seafood exports by value go to the EU – with a value of approximately NZ$146 million per annum.

A simplified consignment based catch certificate for catches by vessels registered and landed in New Zealand was agreed with the EU based on the integrity of New Zealand’s fisheries management regime and catch reporting systems. New Zealand food safety standards and our documentation system for traceability of product through food processing chain meet the EU SPS (food safety) requirements.

No fish caught in the New Zealand EEZ by charter vessels is able to be certified by New Zealand authorities for entry into the EU market. This fish is required to be certified by the flag State.

*Operational issues and capacity requirements*

The EU IUU certification process is largely fulfilled by New Zealand’s existing catch reporting and verification system. This means reporting is far less onerous on officials and industry than would be the case if the New Zealand catch reporting system was not already in place and operating effectively.

The additional time requirements for EU IUU certification were higher for the New Zealand government in the set up phase as this is when the bilateral process was negotiated and there were some bedding down issues.

On an ongoing basis, the EU IUU certificate requires additional time over and above the domestic reporting requirements from the MPI data management team who verify the catch reported for the EU IUU certificates. This is usually a fairly straightforward process, largely because the people who do this job are skilled in catch verification processes. Transhipment in the WCPFC area complicates the process for EU IUU certification and increases the time taken to validate catch data. It is difficult to quantify the amount of additional time spent on EU IUU catch certification.

On the rare occasions where there is a problem with product being held up in EU ports of entry on the way to market, skilled resource is required to:

* Communicate with the EU port in question to understand and resolve the problem;
* Resolve the problems at the New Zealand end (if one exists); and
* Work with industry and officials internationally to get product moving again as quickly as possible

MPI estimate that around 24 hours per year is spent on problem resolution.

EU SPS requirements are largely met through New Zealand’s comprehensive food safety system.

**CCAMLR**

The CCAMLR catch certification system is a web based system that tracks toothfish from the point of catching the fish and throughout the trade cycle. The CCAMLR CDS is required to be used by all members for the catching, landing and / or trade of all toothfish, whether caught inside or outside of the Convention Area. The primary objective for the CCAMLR CDS is to reduce the incidence of IUU fishing.

*Operational issues and capacity requirements*

The following activities are currently undertaken by the Ministry for Primary Industries for the CCAMLR Catch Documentation System. These are estimates based on anecdotal information:

* Issuing catch documents (DCDs) to vessels in Ross Sea and SGSSI – 2 hours / year
* Receiving estimated weights for landing and issuing flag State confirmation numbers – 3 hours / year
* Checking the landing details and issuing the Landing Certificate (NZ and foreign) including correspondence with industry about discrepancies etc. – 30 hours / year
* Setting up the cross checking folders for each DCD – 5 hours / year
* Issuing blank export documents (DED) – 62 hours / year
* Issuing completed DEDs – 125 hours / year
* Follow up re mistakes with Secretariat – 20 hours / year

Total time for MPI administering the CCAMLR CDS is estimated to be 247 hours / yearfor approximately 1,000 tonnes of fish / year.

**CCSBT**

The CCSBT catch certification system is a paper based system that tracks Southern Bluefin Tuna from the point of landing throughout the trade cycle. It involves tagging of individual fish along with reporting requirements in addition to existing domestic forms. The CCSBT CDS is a requirement for all members and cooperating non-members that land and / or trade Southern Bluefin Tuna. The primary objective for the CCSBT CDS is to reduce the incidence of IUU fishing.

*Operational issues and capacity requirements*

The following activities currently are undertaken by the Ministry for Primary Industries for the CCSBT Catch Documentation System (the hours involved are estimated):

* Physical management of returns and tags including initial mail-outs, dealing with printers, storage, and ad-hoc requests throughout year for additional forms or tags – 50 hours/year.
* Processing of returns
  + Initial validation of forms, follow-up and corrective actions with fishers and fish receivers – 140 hours/year
  + Data entry – 100 hours/year
  + Further follow-up and corrective actions following reconciliation of data entry – 50 hours/year
  + Photocopying and mailing of CMFs for secretariat – 20 hours/year
* Quarterly Reporting – 10 hours/year

Total administration time for MPI is estimated to be 370 hours/year for approximately 830 tonnes of Southern Bluefin Tuna

In addition to the time spent by government administrators, New Zealand has also estimated that the total administration time required for commercial operators to meet their obligations under the CCSBT CDS is approximately 540 hours/year. This estimate is based on feedback from operators and may vary substantially throughout the year.

**NZ Fish Export Statistical Document**

New Zealand has implemented a NZ Fish Export Statistical Document to comply with resolutions of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) for bigeye tuna, swordfish, northern Pacific bluefin tuna and northern Atlantic bluefin tuna caught by New Zealand flagged vessels.

Exports of bigeye tuna, swordfish, northern pacific bluefin tuna and northern Atlantic bluefin tuna must be accompanied by a NZ Fish Export Statistical Document, regardless of where the fish was caught. The Statistical Document replaces four previous documents that were unique to each of the species. The Statistical Document becomes species specific by circling a species at the top of the Statistical Document.

MPI receives around 100-150 forms per month and usually the administration of this systems requires 2-3 days data entry two times each year and all information is stored on an access database.

**MSC**

New Zealand’s domestic south Pacific albacore troll fishery is MSC certified. The input from government agencies is primarily through our existing fisheries management system (the Quota Management System) and catch reporting system. The annual certification audit generally takes half a day. Input into the MSC process is high level from experienced fisheries managers.

1. This specifically refers to CDS-IWG TOR, paragraphs 3 c, d, e, h [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (www.ccamlr.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (www.ccsbt.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Marine Stewardship Council (www.msc.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)