



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes

Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) is a system to determine throughout the supply chain whether fish originate from catches consistent with applicable national, regional and international conservation and management measures, established in accordance with relevant international obligations.

As a trade-related measure to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, CDS could function most effectively in synergy with other international instruments including Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels.

Six Principles of CDS



The FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes is the first international policy document with comprehensive elaboration about CDS.

The objective of the Guidelines is to provide assistance to states, regional fisheries management organisations, regional economic integration organizations and other intergovernmental organisations when developing and implementing new CDS, or harmonising or reviewing existing CDS.

Achieving Blue Growth through implementation of
the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

Further information:

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