



DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES

Global Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS)

Hilde Ognedal
Senior Legal Adviser
The Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries



Foto: Rolf Vik



Why global guidelines?

- Prevent IUU fish from entering markets
- A number of different systems and requirements
- For Norway: European Union, China, Ukraine, Japan and others
- Various RFMO systems:
 - CCAMLR
 - ICCAT
 - CCSBT
 - IOTC
 - ASEAN?



Ongoing process

- **UN General Assembly Fisheries Resolution December 2013 called upon UN Member States to initiate work within FAO on elaboration of guidelines and other relevant criteria for CDS**
- **FAO Fisheries Committee (COFI) June 2014 proposed that FAO undertake elaboration of guidelines and criteria for CDS**
- **FAO Expert Consultation on establishing guidelines for CDS July 2015**
- **COFI Sub Committee on Fish Trade February 2016: review draft from Expert Consultation as well as alternative draft guidelines**
- **Alternative draft guidelines submitted to FAO Technical Consultations**
- **FAO Technical Consultations on CDS in April 2016**
- **Resumed before COFI July 2016**



Draft Guidelines

- **Scope:**

- **voluntary**
- **wild capture fish, whether processed or not**
- **caught for commercial purposes**
- **marine or inland**

- **Objective:**

- **prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing**
- **provide assistance to states and intergovernmental organisations when developing, implementing, harmonising or reviewing CDS**
- **recognition of special requirements of developing states, encouraging assistance and capacity building**



Definitions

“Catch Documentation Scheme” means a system with the primary purpose of helping determine throughout the supply chain whether fish originate from catches taken consistent with applicable national, regional and international conservation and management measures, established in accordance with relevant international obligations”

“Catch Certificate” means an official document accompanying a consignment and validated by the competent authority, allowing accurate and verifiable information concerning fish passing through the supply chain.

“Supply chain” means a sequence of processes involved in the production and distribution of fish from catch to the point of import in the end market, including events such as landing, transshipments, re-export, processing, and transport.



Basic principles

The Guidelines are based on the principles that CDS should

- a) Be in conformity with the provisions of relevant international law;
- b) Not create unnecessary barriers to trade;
- c) Recognize equivalence;
- d) Be risk-based;
- e) Be reliable, simple, clear and transparent; and
- f) Be electronic, if possible.



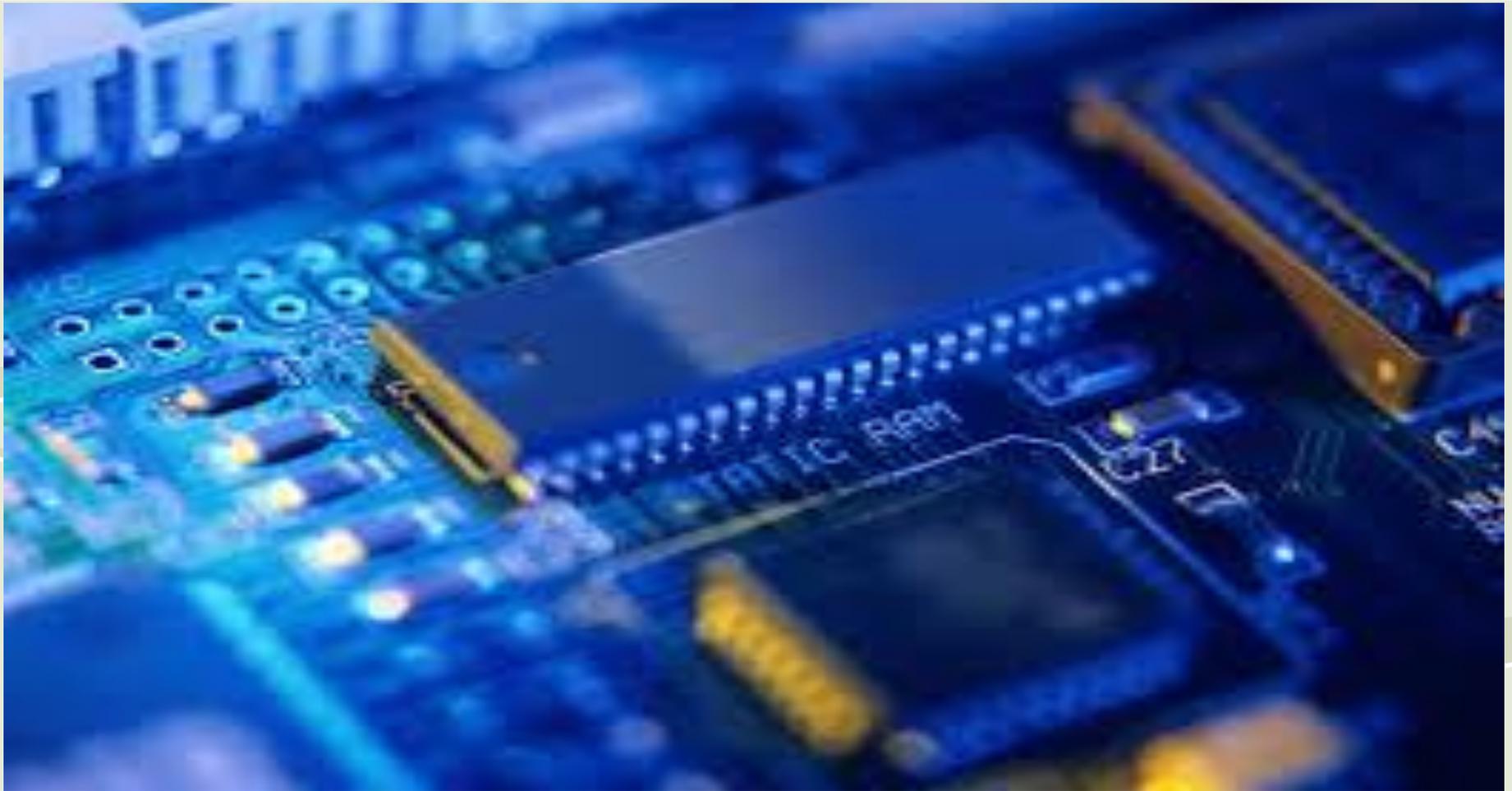


DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES

Reliable, simple, clear and transparent



Electronic





Cooperation and notification

- Regional or multilateral CDS preferred over unilateral measures
- States should cooperate in design, implementation and administration of CDS
- Catch certificates should only be accepted when validating state has:
 - notified that has in place necessary measures for the implementation, control and enforcement of law, regulations and conservation and management measures
 - designated competent authority empowered to attest veracity of catch certificate and carry out verifications
- No agreement on:
 - Should existing multilateral schemes take precedence over equivalent unilateral scheme



Recommended functions and standards

- **CDS should:**
 - have clearly defined objective
 - enable determination of level of traceability and functions required
 - be designed to meet objective
 - minimize burden on users
 - clearly specify species, stocks, product types and exemptions
 - define at which levels of supply chain validation is required
- **But which states should be able to validate the catch certificates?**
 - Flag States!
 - Coastal State for vessels fishing in waters under its jurisdiction?
 - Coastal State for chartered vessels authorised for fishing in areas under its jurisdiction?
 - Coastal State for chartered vessels authorised for fishing in areas under its jurisdiction and on high seas?



CORE INFORMATION ELEMENTS FOR CATCH CERTIFICATES

- Unique and secure identification of document
- Information on catch and landing (fishing vessel or vessel group(SSF), species, catch area, landing information etc.)
- Transshipment at sea or in port, as appropriate (donor and receiving vessel, area, date)
- Description of exported product(s) (product type, weight)
- Issuing Authority validating the catch certificate, including contact details
- Exporter identity and contact details
- Importer identity and contact details
- Export and transport details

- In addition to the core elements, elements unique to re-export and processing:
 - Link to originating catch certificate
 - Description of imported products(s)
 - Description of re-exported or processed product(s)
 - Issuing Authority validating the re-export or processing statement, as appropriate, including contact details



Developing States

- States should give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States, in particular the least-developed among them and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), to ensure the ability to implement these Guidelines.
- States may provide assistance to developing States to enhance their ability to:
 - develop, implement and improve practical and effective CDS;
 - develop an adequate legal and regulatory framework for CDS;
 - strengthen institutional organization and infrastructure needed to ensure effective implementation of CDS;
 - build capacity including for monitoring and control purposes and for training, and
 - participate in international organizations.
- States may, either directly or through FAO:
 - assess the special requirements of developing States to implement these guidelines,
 - cooperate to establish appropriate funding mechanisms to assist developing States to implement these guidelines,
 - establish an ad hoc working group to periodically report and make recommendations on the establishment of funding mechanisms.
- Cooperation with and among developing States for the purposes set out in these guidelines may include the provision of technical and financial assistance, including South-South Cooperation (SSC).



Thanks