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Technical Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment

Rome, 30 May to 3 June 2022

REPORT OF THE EXPERT CONSULTATION ON VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR TRANSSHIPMENT



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

NFIF/R1363 (En)

**FAO
Fisheries and
Aquaculture Report**

ISSN 2070-6987

Report of the

**EXPERT CONSULTATION ON VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR
TRANSSHIPMENT**

Virtual meeting, 11–15 October 2021

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Required citation:

Camilleri, M. 2021. *Report of the Expert Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment – Virtual meeting, 11–15 October 2021*.
FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1363. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7783en>

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ISSN 2070-6987 [Print]
ISSN 2707-546X [Online]

ISBN 978-92-5-135367-7
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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the adopted version of the report of the Expert Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment held from 11 to 15 October 2021.

ABSTRACT

This document contains the report of the Expert Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment that was held virtually from 11 to 15 October and reconvened on 3 November 2021 to adopt this report. FAO has undertaken an in-depth global study on transshipment which confirmed that a lack of regulation, monitoring and control increases the risk of fish caught through illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing entering the seafood supply chain, undermining sustainable and socially responsible fisheries. The study was published in 2020 and a summary of the findings was presented to the Thirty-fourth Session of COFI in February 2021. COFI welcomed the study and called upon FAO to proceed with developing draft voluntary guidelines for the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment. It also called upon FAO to convene an Expert Consultation to review the preliminary draft to be prepared by the FAO Secretariat. On the basis of that initial draft, the Expert Consultation elaborated a draft of the voluntary guidelines for transshipment that will be submitted for consideration and review by a Technical Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment to be held from 7 to 11 March 2022.

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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Mr Dongyu Qu, convened an Expert Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment. The Expert Consultation was held virtually from 11 to 15 October and reconvened on 3 November 2021 to adopt the report.
2. The Consultation was attended by 12 Experts in their personal capacities, four Resource Persons and 7 members of the FAO Secretariat. A list of the Experts and Resource Persons is attached as Appendix B. The documents placed before the Expert Consultation are listed in Appendix C.
3. Mr Matthew Camilleri, Senior Fishery Officer and Team Leader, NFIFP, welcomed all participants to the Expert Consultation and invited Mr Manuel Barange, Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO, Rome, to make an opening statement. Mr Barange, recalling the decision of the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) that met in February 2021, pointed out that participants would review systematically and methodically the structure, form and contents of draft voluntary guidelines for transshipment that would be submitted to an FAO Technical Consultation in March 2022. The outcome of that Consultation would be forwarded to the Thirty-fifth Session of COFI in September 2022 for its endorsement. Mr Barange's Statement is attached as Appendix D.
4. The FAO Secretariat provided a summary of the findings of an in-depth study on transshipment undertaken by FAO in 2018/2019, which confirmed that a lack of regulation, monitoring and control increases the risk of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) caught fish entering the seafood supply chain, undermining sustainable and socially responsible fisheries.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

5. Mr Osvaldo Urrutia, Director, Centro de Derecho del Mar, Faculty of Law P. Universidad Católica de Valparaíso and Adviser, Legal Division, Undersecretariat for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Government of Chile, was elected Chairperson. He expressed his gratitude to the Experts for their confidence in electing him to the Chair. He outlined arrangements for the Consultation noting that its role was to provide advice to FAO on the elaboration of draft Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment that would be used as the basic document for negotiations at the FAO Technical Consultation to be held in March 2022. The FAO Secretariat had prepared a preliminary draft of guidelines for the Expert Consultation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

6. The Expert Consultation adopted the Agenda attached as Appendix A. The Chairperson then outlined the timetable of work for the Expert Consultation.

CONSIDERATION OF A PRELIMINARY DRAFT TEXT FOR VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR THE REGULATION, MONITORING, AND CONTROL OF TRANSSHIPMENT

7. The Expert Consultation addressed the preliminary draft of the voluntary guidelines in a systematic and comprehensive manner. The Expert Consultation also considered other relevant drafting suggestions put forward by the Experts, Resource Persons and FAO Secretariat.
8. The draft Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment elaborated by the Expert Consultation is attached as Appendix E.
9. In-depth technical debate took place during the course of the Expert Consultation on various issues, with experts seeking to reach consensus on the draft text of the voluntary guidelines.

However, diverging views remained on the independent verification of transshipments, through human observers, electronic monitoring or equivalent sensor technologies (paragraph 39). Most experts were of the view that these should be required on both donor and receiving vessels involved in transshipments. One expert expressed the view that one hundred percent of independent verification on receiving vessels was sufficient and that independent verification on fishing vessels was outside of the scope of the management of transshipment, and hence of these guidelines. The current draft reflects the latter view.

10. There was a non-conclusive discussion about including in the Annexes the IMO company and registered owner number scheme (Resolution MSC.160(78)).

ANY OTHER MATTERS

11. There were no other matters.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

12. The report of the Expert Consultation was adopted by the Experts on 3 November 2021.

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Expert Consultation
 - Address by Manuel Barange, Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - Presentation of in-depth transshipment study
2. Election of Chairperson
3. Adoption of the agenda and arrangements for the Expert Consultation
4. Consideration of a preliminary draft text of voluntary guidelines for the regulation, monitoring, and control of transshipment
5. Any other matters
6. Adoption of the report

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

ECVGT/2021/1	Provisional Agenda and Timetable
ECVGT/2021/2	Preliminary draft Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment
ECVGT/2021/Inf.1	Provisional list of documents
ECVGT/2021/Inf.2	Provisional list of participants
ECVGT/2021/Inf.3	Transshipment: a closer look. An in-depth study in support of the development of international guidelines
ECVGT/2021/Inf.4	Report of the Thirty-fourth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, 1-5 February 2021
ECVGT/2021/Inf.5	Transshipment: Summary of the findings of the in-depth study

OPENING STATEMENT
by
MR MANUEL BARANGE, DIRECTOR NFI

Dear experts, colleagues, welcome to this virtual expert consultation on the preparation of Voluntary Guidelines on Transshipment.

As you all know Transshipment, the transfer of catch from one fishing vessel to either another fishing vessel or to a vessel used solely for the carriage of cargo, is a widely practiced activity in all world regions, and in various fisheries, to reduce operating costs and to maximize fishing opportunities.

The international community has for some time expressed concerns about the risks that transshipment could represent in relation to supporting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and associated criminal activities.

An FAO In-depth Study on Transshipment, called for by the FAO Committee of Fisheries in 2018, and presented to COFI in February 2021, concluded that transshipment, if insufficiently regulated, monitored and controlled, can increase the risk of IUU caught fish entering the food supply chain, thus undermining sustainable and responsible fisheries. The analysis of transshipment practices shows that significant risks remain that transshipment could contribute to laundering IUU-caught fish into the market.

In welcoming the study COFI called upon FAO to proceed with developing draft Voluntary Guidelines for the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment through an Expert Consultation, followed by a Technical Consultation, with a view to submitting these to COFI for endorsement in 2022.

The objectives of these guidelines are (1) to provide assistance to develop transshipment regulations or to review existing ones, to integrating these within the broader regulatory framework, and (2) to ensure compliance with existing regulations through minimum standards for effective monitoring, control and surveillance.

The current draft introduces minimum standards for transshipment and landing declarations, and thereby close a current gap as any transfer of fish should then be regarded as either a landing or a transshipment.

The draft has been elaborated by FAO in a manner that recognizes all available means in accordance with international law and other international instruments, and builds on the primary responsibility of the flag State to implement transshipment regulations. The Guidelines will also constitute a valuable supplement to international instruments to combat IUU fishing, in particular to the Agreement on Port State Measures.

The Expert Consultation brings together the best technical, operational and legal expertise from all across the world to assist the FAO Secretariat in preparing the best possible draft to be presented at the Technical Consultation, scheduled for March 2022. The technical consultation is the process through which FAO Members will negotiate the final text of the Guidelines, so that it can be presented to COFI for their consideration and endorsement.

I very much appreciate that you, the experts, contribute time, knowledge and experience to this process, especially as this Expert Consultation has been called on short notice.

We are all still working under the difficult circumstances of the COVID pandemic. This is the first ever Expert Consultation in the FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Division that is being held virtually. While this comes with the advantage of not having to travel, it comes with a range of disadvantages: Some of the experts will have to join very early in the morning (in the Americas) or during the night (in the Pacific). There is no room for conversations on the side, or during lunch breaks, conversations that are always extremely useful and relevant for a group of experts. It is also a particularly challenging task for the Chair – and it means not seeing you all here in Rome.

But life goes on, and our job is to allow it to go on as much as possible.

I thank you very much for your time and effort, and I hope you will also find the experience rewarding and inspiring for you personally as well as professionally. Needless to say, a good draft from the expert consultation will facilitate the work of the technical consultation and thus will prepare for a smoother passage through COFI. You will become key to the success of this endeavour.

I wish you all the best in your discussions, and I am sure you will find the FAO staff assisting you helpful in guiding your way forward. I look forward to reading the draft you will provide.

Thank you, and back to you, moderator.

DRAFT VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR TRANSSHIPMENT**Scope and objective**

1. These Guidelines are voluntary and address the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment of fish, which have not been previously landed, whether processed or not. They are elaborated recognizing that all available means in accordance with international law and other international instruments, should be used to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and fishing related activities in support of IUU fishing. They build on the primary responsibility of the flag State to implement transshipment regulations. They also constitute a valuable supplement to conservation and management measures in particular to port State measures and traceability schemes.
2. The objective of these Guidelines is to provide assistance to States, regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements (RFMO/As), regional economic integration organizations and other intergovernmental organizations when developing new transshipment regulations, revising existing regulations and integrating these within the broader regulatory framework.
3. These Guidelines are to be interpreted and applied in conformity with the relevant rules of international law. Nothing in these Guidelines prejudices the rights, jurisdiction or duties of States under international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982. In particular, nothing in these Guidelines is to be construed to affect the right of States to adopt and implement more stringent requirements for the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment than those provided for in these Guidelines, including any measures adopted pursuant to a decision of an RFMO/A.

Definitions

4. For the purpose of these Guidelines:
 - (a) “fish” means all species of living marine resources, whether processed or not;
 - (b) “regional fisheries management organization or arrangement” means an intergovernmental fisheries organization or arrangement, as appropriate, that has the competence to establish conservation and management measures, including measures concerning transshipment;
 - (c) “trip” means the voyage from port exit to the next port entry; and
 - (d) “vessel” means any vessel, ship of another type or boat, or any floating platform used for, or intended to be used for, fishing or fishing related activities, including transshipment of fish.

Principles

5. These Guidelines are based on the principles that the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment should:
 - (a) be in conformity with the relevant rules of international law;
 - (b) ensure that all relevant movement of fish as transshipment and other related activities indicated in these Guidelines are sufficiently documented;
 - (c) ensure that donor and receiving vessels involved in transshipments are appropriately authorized;
 - (d) include reporting procedures to facilitate pre-event and post-event verification of authorizations and transshipment data;

- (e) ensure a risk-based approach;
- (f) require electronic reporting, if possible; and
- (g) ensure that transshipment events are adequately regulated, monitored, and complemented by port State measures or flag State actions related to landing of transshipped fish, and support traceability, where possible.

Application

6. These Guidelines apply to the direct transfer of fish from one vessel to another vessel, regardless of location of the event, hereinafter referred to as transshipment. Transshipped fish should be accompanied by a declaration containing the information as detailed in Annex I.
7. All transfers of fish not covered by paragraph 6, including transfers of fish to a port facility, transfers of fish from one vessel to another through a port facility or other means of transportation, and transfers of fish from a vessel to a container, truck, train, aircraft or other means of transportation, are considered landings for the purposes of these Guidelines and are subject to port State measures as well as applicable flag and coastal State requirements. These landings should be accompanied by declarations containing the information detailed in Annex II. Such declarations should be required for the exemption referred to in Article 3(1)(b) of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA).

Authorizations

8. The flag State should not authorize vessels entitled to fly its flag to act as both donor and receiver vessels on the same trip.
9. The flag State should only authorize vessels entitled to fly its flag to conduct transshipment if they have an operational vessel monitoring system (VMS) onboard.
10. Donor and receiving vessels should be included in all vessel authorization records of relevant RFMO/As and, where applicable, the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels.
11. Only donor and receiver vessels entitled to fly the flag of a contracting party or a cooperating non-contracting party of specific RFMO/A should be authorized to conduct transshipment of fish under the area of competence of that RFMO/A.
12. The flag State should authorize vessels entitled to fly its flag prior to carrying out transshipment in areas beyond national jurisdiction of the flag State, and should require vessels entitled to fly its flag to obtain authorizations from a coastal State if the transshipment is intended to take place within areas under national jurisdiction of that coastal State.
13. Transshipment should only take place between donor and receiver vessels that have been notified to the relevant RFMO/A by their respective flag States as vessels authorized to take part in transshipment.
14. All donor and receiver vessels eligible to receive an IMO number should be required to have one in order to be authorized by their flag State to transship, regardless of the location of the event. The number should be made readily available to all relevant States and relevant international organizations.
15. Measures controlling transshipment should be implemented to include specific criteria for how vessels receive authorizations to transship, including:
 - (a) the circumstances under which a flag State authorizes vessels entitled to fly its flag to transship;

- (b) the circumstances under which a coastal State or port State authorizes vessels to transship in areas under its national jurisdiction;
 - (c) the monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures that must be in place for transshipment to occur;
 - (d) data collection and reporting requirements; and
 - (e) ensuring that transshipment is conducted consistent with the management regime of the relevant RFMO/A and the flag State, relevant coastal State and port State.
16. The flag State should only authorize vessels entitled to fly its flag to be involved in transshipment when its competent MCS authorities have the capacity to monitor and control the transshipment, including by applying risk assessments separately for transshipments in port and at sea.
17. Where fish is to be landed or transhipped in port, flag States should encourage vessels entitled to fly their flag to use ports of States that are acting in accordance with or in a manner consistent with the PSMA.

Standardized notification and reporting

18. Information relating to transshipment events such as notifications and authorizations, transshipment and landing declarations and observer reports should be reported in a standardized format.

Pre-event notification and verification

19. States should ensure that all donor and receiver vessels intending to carry out transshipments provide advance notifications of the specific transshipment event within a suitable and published timeframe to all competent authorities and consistent with relevant RFMO/A requirements.
20. Donor vessel should report quantities of fish on board prior to the transshipment event, as well as quantities to be transhipped. The receiving vessel should report the quantities of fish on board prior to the transshipment event. Quantities of transhipped fish should be reported by species and product form.
21. The advance notification from donor and receiving vessels should also include the date and time and estimated or proposed location of transshipment event.
22. Upon receipt of an advance notification of transshipment from a donor vessel and prior to acknowledging or confirming that the same could proceed, the flag State should verify the vessel's compliance with near real-time VMS reporting, and other electronic monitoring and observer coverage requirements.
23. The flag State of the donor vessel should verify that such vessel has provided regular reporting about fishing during its current trip, including catch and effort, and will meet other conditions that may be issued by relevant authorities, including the authorities of relevant port and coastal States, for the specific transshipment event to proceed.
24. The flag State should require vessels entitled to fly its flag that receive fish from more than one donor vessel to store the fish and related documentation from each donor vessel separately.
25. All donor and receiver vessels intending to conduct transshipment of fish in the area of competence of an RFMO/A should be required to notify that particular RFMO/A when they enter and exit the RFMO/A area of competence.

26. Nothing in this section supersedes port State responsibility in instances where transshipment is carried out in port.

Post-event reporting

27. All donor and receiver vessels involved in transshipment should be required to log the event and maintain declarations of such transshipments, which should be submitted to all concerned competent authorities and the relevant RFMO/A, ideally immediately, but in any case, without undue delay to avoid undermining MCS requirements.
28. Where transshipment observers are required, post-transshipment observer reports should be required as an independent means of verification and be provided to all competent authorities and the relevant RFMO/As for all transshipment events, regardless of location of the event, without undue delay to avoid undermining MCS requirements.
29. Both the donor and receiving vessel should report the quantities of fish transshipped as well as the quantities of fish on board following the transshipment. Quantities of transshipped fish should be reported by species, product form and area.
30. Landings and transshipments of fish harvested in the area of competence of an RFMO/A should be reported to that specific RFMO/A regardless of where the fish is transshipped or landed.
31. The pre-notification and post-event reporting procedures for transshipment should be electronic where possible.

Follow-up procedures

32. Procedures should be established to verify all reported transshipment data from vessels, flag States, coastal States, port States and observers. This auditing process may be completed in accordance with the laws of the flag State, a coastal State or port State for transshipments that occur within areas under its national jurisdiction and relevant RFMO/As, as appropriate.
33. Specific reporting procedures should be established to collect and cross-reference data and information on the quantity of fish landed, by species, product form and area against the corresponding transshipment data and information.
34. Procedures should be established to report, and follow-up on enforcement against infractions by vessels involved in transshipment, including prosecution and the levying of penalties or other sanctions, and where appropriate vessels should be placed on lists of vessels involved in IUU fishing.
35. RFMO/A compliance review processes should assess all obligations related to transshipments, including vessel authorizations, transshipment notifications and reporting.

Monitoring

36. All donor and receiver vessels authorized to conduct transshipment should be required to have and use an operational VMS onboard.
37. Procedures should be developed to allow VMS data to be reported to, all competent authorities and RFMO/A(s) in near real time in particular when the vessel is present within the relevant area of competence of such RFMO/A(s).
38. Vessel reporting requirements and procedures in case of VMS malfunction or failure should be established.

39. Independent verification of transshipment such as human observers or electronic monitoring or equivalent sensor technologies, or a combination of these, should be required for all transshipment events. A one hundred percent coverage rate should be required on receiver vessels involved in transshipment.
40. Independent collection of information and data by observers on transshipment events should be authorized for use for both scientific and compliance purposes.
41. The flag State of the harvesting vessel should confirm within a reasonable period of time, if requested by a port or coastal State, that the donated fish was taken in accordance with the applicable requirements of a relevant coastal State or a relevant RFMO/A.
42. Port State measures should be in place and implemented consistent with Articles 12, 13 and 17 of the PSMA for all ports where receiver vessels land their transshipped fish, and collected data should be cross-referenced against all available transshipment information.
43. The flag State should ensure that for vessels entitled to fly its flag and ineligible for IMO numbers under the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme ¹ or exempted from VMS requirements due to their characteristics, any conduct of transshipment should be regulated, monitored and controlled in a manner as effective as the relevant provisions of these Guidelines, including through alternative means of near real time positional reporting.

Data exchange and information-sharing

44. Procedures for sharing transshipment data such as authorized vessel lists, transshipment notifications, authorizations and declarations, reported fish, landing declarations, observer reports, inspection reports, infractions and sanctions should be established among all relevant States and RFMO/As.
45. Formal procedures for sharing transshipment data between RFMO/As should be established, especially between RFMO/As with overlapping areas of competence, and where the same receiver vessels are authorized to be involved in transshipment in more than one RFMO/A area of competence.
46. Information related to transshipment such as number of events, locations, quantities of fish (by species, product form and catch area) transshipped and landed, and vessels involved should be made publicly available on an annual basis with due regard for appropriate confidentiality requirements.
47. The flag State should make publicly available updated lists with detailed information of all donor and receiver vessels authorized to transship.

Recognition of the special requirements of developing States

48. States should give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States, to ensure that they have the capacity to implement these Guidelines.
49. In this regard, States may, either directly or through international organizations, including RFMO/As, provide assistance to developing States in order for them to enhance their ability to, *inter alia*,
 - (a) develop an adequate legal and regulatory framework for transshipments and landings;

¹ Resolution A.1117(30), as may be amended

- (b) strengthen the institutional organization and infrastructure needed to ensure effective implementation of transshipment regulations;
 - (c) build institutional and human resource and capacity including for monitoring and control purposes and for training, at the national and regional levels; and
 - (d) strengthen the development and implementation of their port State measures.
50. Where fish is to be landed or transhipped, flag States, to the extent practicable, should encourage vessels entitled to fly their flag to use ports of developing States, in order to increase their capacity and opportunity to undertake inspections and foster economic development.

Annex I

Information to be included in a transshipment declaration

Element	Donor vessel	Receiving vessel
1. Vessel name		
2. Flag State		
3. Vessel type (ISSCFV)		
4. IMO number, if eligible		
5. External ID, if available		
6. Registration ID if different to 5		
6. International radio call sign, if available		
7. MMSI number, if available		
8. Vessel owner/company information		
<i>Name</i>		
<i>Address</i>		
<i>Contact information (email and phone number)</i>		
9. Vessel contact information		
<i>Name of master</i>		
<i>Nationality</i>		
<i>Phone number</i>		
<i>E-mail</i>		
10. Transshipment authorization identifier, if any		
11. Transshipment authorization issued by		
12. Transshipment authorization period of validity		
13. Time and date of the transshipment		
<i>Start (hour/day/month/year)</i>		
<i>End (hour/day/month/year)</i>		
14. Transshipment location Port/position at sea (lat./long.)		
15. Quantities onboard prior to transshipment	Donor vessel	Receiving vessel
<i>Catch area(s)</i>		
<i>Species (FAO/ASFIS codes)</i>		
<i>Product form (preservation and presentation type)</i>		
<i>Quantity (weight)</i>		
16. Transshipped fish	Donor vessel	Receiving vessel
<i>Catch area(s)</i>		
<i>Species (FAO/ASFIS codes)</i>		
<i>Product form (preservation and presentation type)</i>		
<i>Quantity (weight)</i>		
17. Signature	Donor vessel	Receiving vessel
<i>Master's signature</i>		

Note: International codes as per PSMA Annex D, d), as applicable.

Annex II

Information to be included in a landing declaration

1. Vessel name	
2. Flag State	
3. Vessel type (ISSCFV)	
4. IMO number, if eligible	
5. External ID, if available	
6. Registration ID if different to 5	
7. International radio call sign, if available	
8. MMSI number, if available	
9. Vessel contact information	
<i>Master or vessel's representative</i>	
<i>Phone number</i>	
<i>Email</i>	
10. Vessel master name & nationality	
11. Vessel owner/company information	
<i>Name</i>	
<i>Address</i>	
<i>Contact information (email and phone number)</i>	
12. Port State	
13. Port of landing	
14. Date and time of landing	
15. Landed fish (including transfers covered by para 7 of the Guidelines)	
<i>Catch area(s)</i>	
<i>Species (FAO/ASFIS Codes)</i>	
<i>Product form (presentation and preservation type)</i>	
<i>Quantity (weight)</i>	
<i>Next destination, if applicable/available</i>	
<i>Next mode of transport and transport ID, if applicable/available</i>	
16. Fish retained onboard (not landed)	
<i>Catch area(s)</i>	
<i>Species (FAO/ASFIS Codes)</i>	
<i>Product form (presentation and preservation type)</i>	
<i>Quantity (weight)</i>	
16. Competent port authority	
17. Date of inspection if any	
18. Signature	
<i>Signature vessel master</i>	

Note: International codes as per PSMA Annex D, d), as applicable.

This document contains the report of the Expert Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment that was held virtually from 11 to 15 October and reconvened on 3 November 2021 to adopt this report. FAO has undertaken an in-depth global study on transshipment which confirmed that a lack of regulation, monitoring and control increases the risk of fish caught through illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing entering the seafood supply chain, undermining sustainable and socially responsible fisheries. The study was published in 2020 and a summary of the findings was presented to the Thirty-fourth Session of COFI in February 2021. COFI welcomed the study and called upon FAO to proceed with developing draft voluntary guidelines for the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment. It also called upon FAO to convene an Expert Consultation to review the preliminary draft to be prepared by the FAO Secretariat. On the basis of that initial draft, the Expert Consultation elaborated a draft of the voluntary guidelines for transshipment that will be submitted for consideration and review by a Technical Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment to be held from 7 to 11 March 2022.

ISBN 978-92-5-135367-7 ISSN 2070-6987



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CB7783EN/1/11.21