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para la
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Alimentación

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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE

Ninth Session

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Agenda Item 10

HARMONIZATION OF CATCH DOCUMENTATION

Table of Contents

	Paragraphs
INTRODUCTION	1 - 2
SUGGESTED MEASURES RELATED TO HARMONIZATION OF CATCH DOCUMENTATION IN IPOA-IUU	3
EXPERT CONSULTATION ON THE HARMONIZATION OF CATCH CERTIFICATION	4 - 5
RECOMMENDATIONS	6 - 7
ACTIONS REQUIRED OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE	

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INTRODUCTION

1. The issue of catch certification has been discussed in many venues over the last few years, including in the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI). The wording of the COFI Report in February 2001 reflects this continuing concern in the following manner.

“51. It was agreed that the agenda for the Eighth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade should also include an item on the feasibility and practicality of harmonizing catch certification used by some regional fisheries management bodies. It was pointed out that, with the aim to prepare suitable recommendations to the Sub-Committee, this issue should be considered by an expert consultation in conjunction with the regional fishery bodies concerned and taking into account the objectives of these certification schemes. Some Members expressed the view that when any recommendation was developed, it should not result in greater costs for countries or their industries.”

2. The issues of catch certification and catch documentation are also addressed in the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU). The IPOA-IUU was adopted by consensus at the Twenty-fourth Session of COFI on 2 March 2001 and endorsed by the Hundred and Twentieth Session of the FAO Council on 23 June 2001. The relevant sections of the IPOA-IUU state that:

“68. States should cooperate, including through relevant global and regional fisheries management organizations, to adopt appropriate multilaterally agreed trade-related measures, consistent with the WTO, that may be necessary to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing for specific fish stocks or species. Multilateral trade related measures envisaged in regional fisheries management organizations may be used to support cooperative efforts to ensure that trade in specific fish and fish products does not in any way encourage IUU fishing or otherwise undermine the effectiveness of conservation and management measures which are consistent with the 1982 UN Convention.

69. Trade-related measures to reduce or eliminate trade in fish and fish products derived from IUU fishing could include the adoption of multilateral catch documentation and certification requirements, as well as other appropriate multilaterally-agreed measures such as import and export controls or prohibitions. Such measures should be adopted in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner. When such measures are adopted, States should support their consistent and effective implementation.”

SUGGESTED MEASURES RELATED TO HARMONIZATION OF CATCH DOCUMENTATION IN IPOA-IUU

3. The IPOA-IUU contains a number of suggested measures related to the harmonization of catch documentation. These include:

“75. States should work towards using the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System for fish and fishery products in order to help promote the implementation of the IPOA.

76. Certification and documentation requirements should be standardized to the extent feasible, and electronic schemes developed where possible, to ensure their effectiveness, reduce opportunities for fraud, and avoid unnecessary burdens on trade.

91. FAO should convene an Expert Consultation on the implementation of paragraph 76 of the IPOA.

EXPERT CONSULTATION ON THE HARMONIZATION OF CATCH CERTIFICATION

4. In response to the instructions of COFI and to the IPOA-IUU, the FAO Secretariat collaborated with the Chairperson of the Meeting of Regional Fishery Bodies, to convene an Expert Consultation of Regional Fishery Management Bodies on the Harmonization of Catch Certification. The Expert Consultation was held in La Jolla, California, from 9 - 11 January 2002. The meeting was attended by experts nominated by the regional fishery bodies with management functions, experts in catch certification and trade, and those directly involved in catch certification. There were also a limited number of experts nominated by FAO. The Report was subsequently submitted to this Sub-Committee at its meeting in Bremen, Germany 12-16 February 2002 (Fisheries Report No. 697 – available at the documents' desk).

5. The Sub-Committee on Fish Trade felt that the outcome of the Expert Consultation was a step in the right direction for the harmonization of catch documentation for trade purposes, but there was a need for further work. Some delegations cautioned against subjecting commercially exploited species to both CITES listing and trade documentation and expressed preference for the latter as a regulating mechanism. It was decided that the matter of Catch Documentation be referred to COFI for further consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. At the Twenty-fifth Session of COFI in February 2003, the Committee indicated that FAO should continue the work on harmonization of catch certification schemes, and this should be put on the agenda of the next COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade. However, the need was noted for careful consideration of differences of fisheries covered by the schemes so as not to hinder normal trade of fish products legally caught (paragraph 43 of the Report of the Session).

7. FAO Fisheries Circular 986 - Recent Developments in Catch Certification and Trade Documentation (available on the documents' desk) contains the work that has been carried out since the Expert Consultation on the Harmonization of Catch Certification.

The document

- a) reviews all the existing trade documents and the instructions to complete the documents used by the regional fisheries management bodies (The forms and instructions are contained in the Annexes).
- b) compares the information requested by the regional fisheries management bodies in the trade documents with the information recommended by the Expert Consultation.
- c) describes several of the difficulties encountered in the implementation of catch documentation schemes.
- d) addresses the major problem of species identification within the wider group of tuna species and the identification of processed fish in general (including tunas). It highlights the difficulties experienced by untrained personnel in the identification of fish species and predicts the future use of genetic kits to overcome this problem.
- e) recommends a harmonized trade document and outlines the information to be included in the instructions. This takes into account the existing trade documentation schemes used by the regional fisheries management bodies.

The recommended Harmonized Trade Document and Instructions for completion are attached to this paper as Annexes 1 and 2. It should be noted that one of the requirements specified for the Trade Document was that it should be one page only, so that transmission by fax could be accommodated.

ACTIONS REQUIRED OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

1. The Sub-Committee is requested to review and approve the Harmonized Trade Document and Instructions for Completion contained in Annexes 1 and 2.

2. The Sub-Committee is requested to report to COFI on any other work on Trade Documentation that they consider necessary.

ANNEX 1 – HARMONIZED STATISTICAL DOCUMENT

ISSUING AGENCY NUMBER –	DOCUMENT	COMMISSION	SPECIES
STATISTICAL DOCUMENT :			
EXPORT SECTION			
1.FLAG OF COUNTRY/ENTITY/FISHING ENTITY:			
2.NAME OF VESSEL AND REGISTRATION NUMBER (when available)			
3. FARMED?		TRAPPED ?	
4.POINT OF LANDING (City, State / Province, Country / Entity / Fishing Entity):			
POINT OF EXPORT (City, State / Province, Country / Entity / Fishing Entity):			
5.TIME & AREA OF CATCH: WHEN		WHERE	
6. DESCRIPTION OF FISH			
Product Type ¹	Gear Code ²	Vessel name and registration	Net Weight(Kg) (No. of fish)
LV/F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/OT			
*1= F=Fresh, FR=Frozen, RD=Round, GG=Gilled and Gutted, DR=Dressed, FL=Fillet OT=Other, describe the type of product			
*2= When the Gear Code is OT, describe the type of gear,_____.			
7.EXPORTER CERTIFICATION			
Conditions attached to product (e.g. minimum size):			
I certify that the above information is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.			
Name	Company name	Address	Signature Date License Number (if applicable)
8.GOVERNMENT VALIDATION I validate that information listed above is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.			
Total weight of the shipment _____ Kg			
Name & Title	Company name	Address	Signature Date Government Seal
IMPORT SECTION:			
IMPORTER CERTIFICATION I certify that the above information is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.			
Importer Certification (Intermediate Country / Entity / Fishing Entity)			
Name & title	Company	Address	Signature Date License # (if applicable)
Importer Certification (Intermediate Country / Entity / Fishing Entity)			
Name & title	Company	Address	Signature Date License # (if applicable)
Final Point of Import			
Name & title	Company	Address	Signature Date License # (if applicable)

NOTE: If a language other than English is used in completing this form. Please add the English translation on this document.

ANNEX 2 – INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING THE STATISTICAL DOCUMENT

(Author's notes are in Italic)

DOCUMENT NUMBER: Block for the issuing Country and Agent to designate a country coded Document Number. Issuing agency should be identifiable.

(1) FLAG COUNTRY/ENTITIES/FISHING ENTITIES: Fill in the name of the country of the vessel that harvested the fish in the shipment. Only the flag state of the vessel that harvested the fish in the shipment or, if the vessel is operating under a charter arrangement, the exporting state can issue this Document. There are some exceptions for this rule, which should be referred to the guide.

(2) NAME OF VESSEL AND REGISTRATION NUMBER (when available): Fill in the name and registration number of the vessel that harvested the fish in the shipment. If the products came from various harvests, the name of the vessels can be provided in the box for "6. DESCRIPTION OFFISH "

(3) FARMED? TRAPPED? If fish are landed from farming or harvested by trap, give the name of the farming company or trap name.

(4) POINTS OF LANDING AND EXPORT: Identify the City, State or Province, and Country where the fish are first landed and from which the fish were exported.

(5) TIME & AREA OF CATCH: Specify the time and area of the catch (*This can be variable depending on the circumstances. For example, ICCAT requires only ocean and also note is added that if the fish are from outside Convention area, 6, and 7 are not required. CCSBT requires more detailed areas. So the box can be adjusted according to the need*)

(6) DESCRIPTION OF FISH: The exporter must provide, to the highest degree of accuracy, the following information. **NOTE:** One row should describe one product type

(1) Product Type: Identify the type of product being shipped as if LIVE, FRESH or FROZEN, and in ROUND, GILLED AND GUTTED, DRESSED, FILLET or OTHER form. For OTHER, describe the type of products in the shipment. (*The product codes and type should be according to the needs. Possibly coding table can be added at the bottom of this instruction, rather than in the form*)

(2) Gear Code: Identify the gear type which was used to harvest the fish using the list below. For OTHER TYPE, describe the type of gear, including farming.

(3) If all the products come from one vessel's catch, vessel name can be only entered in box 2 and leave this field blank.

(4) Net product weight in kilograms. (If number of fish is available, add in parentheses)

(7) EXPORTER CERTIFICATION: (If the certification is on an condition, such as the fish are certified above the legal size, then that condition can be added to this box) The person company exporting the fish shipment must provide his/her name, company name, address, signature, date the shipment was exported, and dealer license number (if applicable).

(8) GOVERNMENT VALIDATION: Fill in the name and full title of the official signing the Document. The official must be employed by a competent authority of the flag state government of the vessel that harvested the fish appearing on the Document or other individual or institution authorized by the flag state. When appropriate, this requirement is waived according validation of the document by a government official, or if the vessel is operating under a charter arrangement, by a government official or other authorized individual or institution of the exporting state. The total weight of the shipment shall also be specified in this block.

(9) IMPORTER CERTIFICATION: The person or company that imports fish must provide his/her name, company name, address, signature, date the fish was imported, license number (if applicable), and final point of import. This includes imports into intermediate countries. For fresh and chilled products, the signature of the importer may be substituted by a person of a customs clearance company when the authority for signature is properly accredited to it by the importer.

GEAR CODE	GEAR TYPE	GEAR CODE	GEAR TYPE
BB	BAITBOAT	SPHL	SPORT HANDLINE
GILL	GILLNET	SPOR	SPORT FISHERIES UNCLASSIFIED
HAND	HANDLINE	SURF	SURFACE FISHERIES UNCLASSIFIED
HARP	HARPOON	TL	TENDED LINE
LL	LONGLINE	TRAP	TRAP
MWT	MID-WATER TRAWL	TROL	TROLL
PS	PURSE SEINE	UNCL	UNSPECIFIED METHODS
RR	ROD AND REEL	OT	OTHER TYPE

RETURN A COPY OF COMPLETED DOCUMENT TO: (the name of the office of the competent authority of the flag state).