



# Implementation of Catch Documentation Scheme and Traceability of Fish and Fishery Products by International and Regional Organizations

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# About IOTC

- Inter-governmental organisation which is an Article XIV body of the FAO
- *Est.* 1996 and became operational in 1998
- **Mandate:** To sustainably manage tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas.
- One of five tuna RFMOs
- Secretariat is headquartered in the Seychelles
- Currently has 30 Contracting Parties & one Cooperating non-Contracting Party



# The current status of implementation of Traceability and Catch Documentation Schemes in the IOTC

- Currently no Traceability/CDS in the IOTC
- 2009 – First IOTC Performance Review Panel recommended adoption of a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)
- 2013 – Proposal to adopt a CDS system for tropical tunas – Not Approved
- 2013 – Commission approved for an intersessional working group to progress on a catch documentation scheme for tropical tunas
- Since 2001 trade documentation scheme for bigeye tuna caught by LSTLVs



# The current status of implementation of Traceability and Catch Documentation Schemes in the IOTC

- 2013 – 2014 - Intersessional Working Group (IWG) worked on a ToR
- Initially only two members
- Quarter 1 2015 – four members
- Quarter 2 2015 – IWG advised to suspend its work and wait for the outcome of an FAO project on developing a Guideline for Tuna Traceability & CDS Best Practices





# The current status of implementation of Traceability and Catch Documentation Schemes in the IOTC

- November 2019 - formation of a Working Group (CDSWG) to guide the development of a catch documentation scheme for IOTC
- December 2019 – 1<sup>st</sup> meeting (Virtual)
- January 2020 – 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting (Virtual)
- February 2020 – 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting (In person)
- April 2021 – 4<sup>th</sup> meeting (Virtual)
- October 2021 – 5<sup>th</sup> meeting (Virtual)
- February 2022 – 6<sup>th</sup> meeting (Virtual)
- September 2022 – 7<sup>th</sup> meeting (Virtual)



# Key decisions by the IOTC CDSWG

- IOTC builds its own electronic CDS platform, and allows other – future systems – to access some of its data, and *vice versa*
- Cover the industrial fisheries & artisanal fisheries if catch traded internationally
- Tropical tunas and SWO
- Trade based system evolve into fisheries based system



# An IOTC CDS ... a work in progress

- An IOTC Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)
  - Intended to replace the current Statistical Document Programme
  - Working Group constituted to discuss technical and financial details
  - Engagement of CPCs in general has been poor, which stalls progress
  - Level of participation in the Working Group has been low
  - Some important stakeholders not part of the current discussion
  - Agreed points may be contested at the level of the Commission





# The IOTC Bigeye tuna Statistical Document Programme

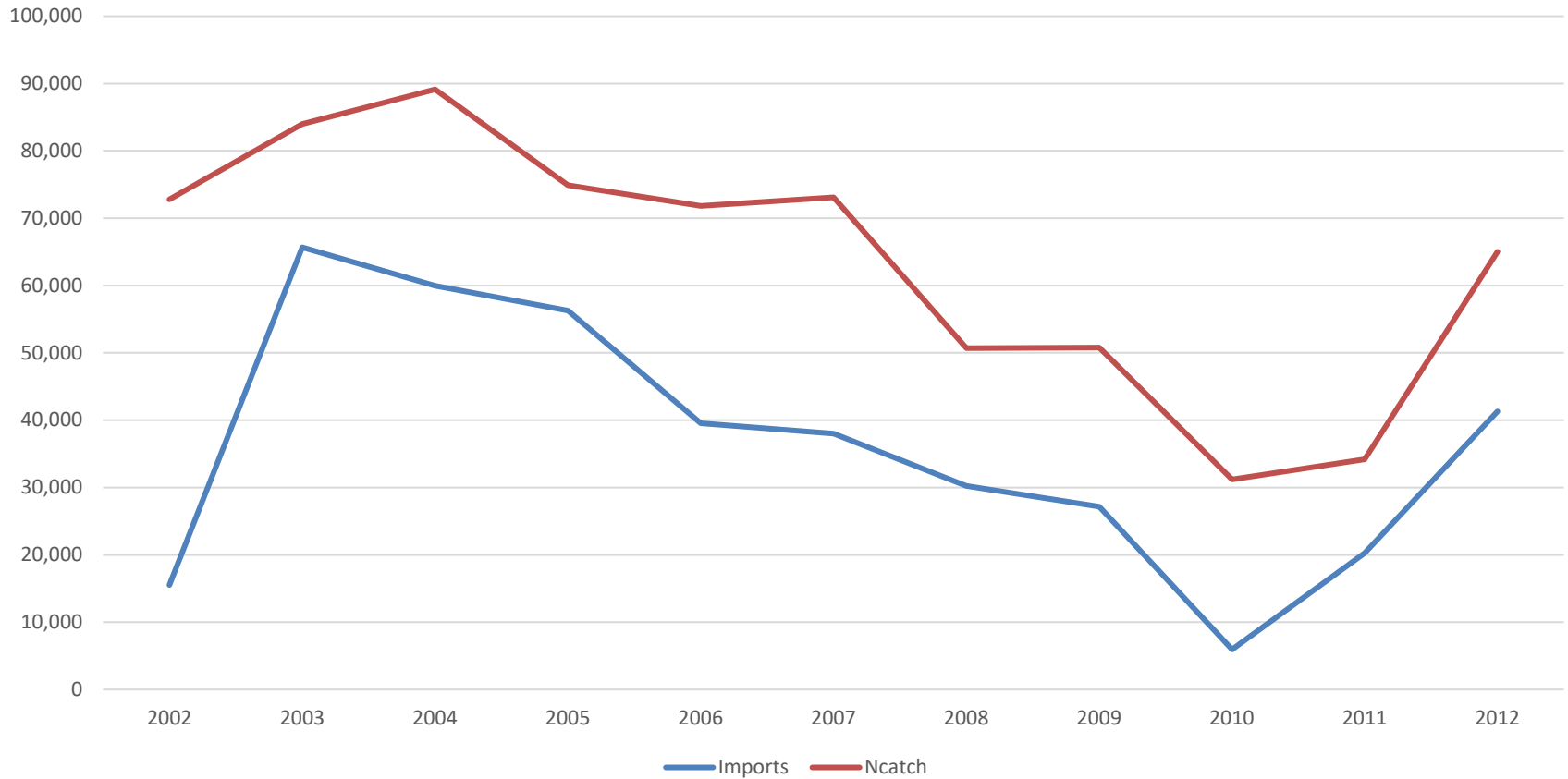
- Adopted in 2001, came into effect in July 2002
- Currently:
  - 178 authorised institutions from 29 countries
  - 863 authorised individuals
- Consist of an Import and export components
- Semester reports provided by importers
- Annual reports provided by exporters
- Analyses to account for significant differences between export and imports ( $\approx$  last five years)





# The IOTC Bigeye tuna Statistical Document Programme

Imports of BET and Nominal catch





Thank you!

[www.iotc.org](http://www.iotc.org)