

Electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (e-ACDS) as a Tool to Prevent the Entry of IUU Fish and Fishery Products into the Supply Chains

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Executive Summary

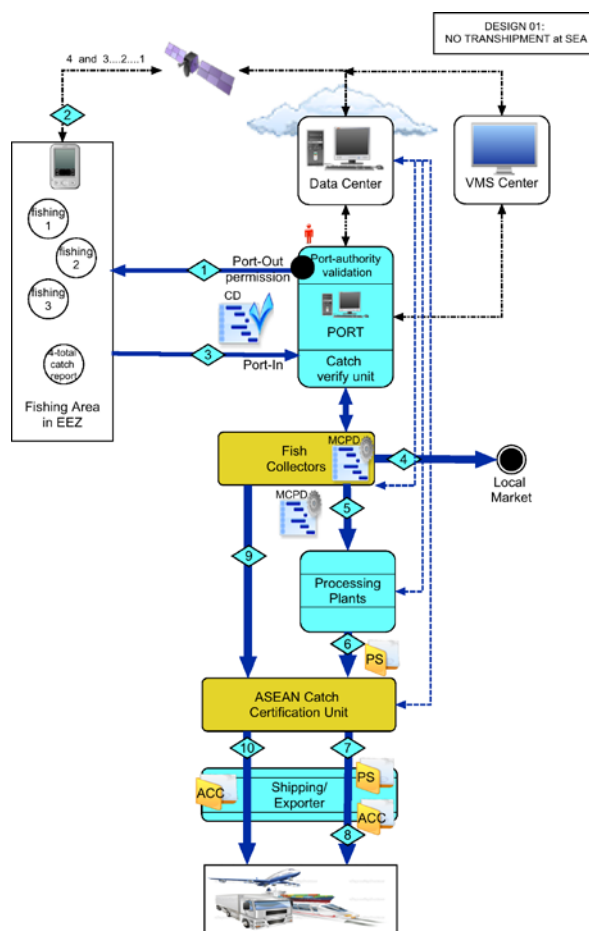
Market driven measures on trading of fish and fishery products has impacted not only to the exporting but also to the importing countries particularly on how to ensure that fishes and fishery products are not come from the IUU fishing activities. Accordingly, many Regional Fisheries Management Organizations have worked toward the introduction of Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS) since the past decade. In addition, EU proposed the implementation of the European Commission Regulation 1005/2008 by countries that exporting their products to the EU but also to some countries that do not export their fish directly to the EU since 2010 which aims to improve the traceability system for capture fisheries and combating IUU fishing. Taking the opportunity from its impacts on ASEAN sustainable fisheries as well as enhancing the intra-regional and international trade of fish and fishery products in long-term, SEAFDEC Member Countries, therefore expressed their support on improvement of the traceability for capture fisheries toward the development of common regional catch documentation scheme/system herein after called “ASEAN Catch Documentation System/Scheme (ACDS) for Marine Capture Fisheries to ensure the sustainability of fisheries for food security toward 2020 within the ASEAN Region.

A concept of the ACDS was discussed and drafted by small group of experts from some SEAFDEC Member Countries on 14-16 October 2014, before consulting with all SEAFDEC Member Countries in December of 2014, and May 2015. The final draft of ACDS concept including the Info-graphic on usages of ACDS in various scenarios catch flows of fish and fishery products into the ASEAN Region are therefore developed for consideration at 48th Meeting of the Council (48CM) in April 2016 and for pilot testing in AMS. The main objectives of ACDS are: 1) provide unified framework that will enhance traceability of fish and fishery products for effective management, 2) enhance the credibility of fish and fishery products for intra-regional and international trade, and 3) prevent entry of fish and fishery products from IUU fishing activities into the supply chains. Moreover, many stakeholders also appealed their concerns at the SEAFDEC Stakeholders Consultation in March 2016 on requirement of the electronic system for ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (e-ACDS) which would support the implementation of ACDS and enhance acceptability of ACDS by major importing markets.

The electronic system for ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (e-ACDS) has being developed by SEAFDEC in collaboration with the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO) of Thailand who have experiences on development of the electronic system for Movement Catch Purchasing Document (MPCD). Taking into consideration the suggestions made by 48CM on the format, standard and information requirements should be aligned with the importing countries requirements, but maybe simplified for small-scale fisheries in the ASEAN region that enhance its applicability to access the intra-regional and international market. The e-ACDS is integrated the lessons learnt on existing CDSs from the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM/Sweden), the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MAFF/Indonesia) and Department of Fisheries (DOF/Thailand). The e-CDS

consists of 3 main documents namely Catch Declaration (CD), Movement Catch Purchasing Document (MCPD), ASEAN Catch Certification (ACC). Figure 1 shows the flow-chart of the e-ACDS. The system is a Web-based application, run on any computer system and tablet for those fishing vessels that could access to internet via any mode of communication system at sea or land. For those vessels that do not access internet, the initiated Catch Declaration document will be provided before departure to the sea.

The e-ACDS is designed not to link directly with the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in case of some country have VMS in place. However, the inspector at field or at the landing site could able to check or monitor the fishing vessel via the existing VMS. But in case the country do not have VMS, validation of vessel location could be cross-checked from Logbook at the landing site. Port-in and port-out validation by port authority are one of the important steps for implementation of the e-ACDS. Meaning that all fishing vessel is required approval from port Authority before going out for fishing. At Sea, fishing master must report their catch amount and species via internet application every time after fishing operation. All catch report will be recorded in the data center, where authorized inspector could access and monitor any time together with VMS tracking information. But in case, fishing vessel do not access internet application, the fishing master must report using the Catch Declaration (CD) form received from port authority before leaving for fishing.



At the port, the CD form particularly fish in quantity by species will be verified and approved. For auction or selling, the MCPD will be created but always refers to the CD unique number. The country need to set up the competent authority to provide the Catch Certification, for fish and /or fishery products for exporting to international market or within ASEAN region. With the purpose of increase effectiveness of e-ACDS, the system requires database of basic information such as list of fishing vessels, fishing master/owners, processing plants, importers/exporters, etc.

The e-ACDS is one of the effective management tools to support the government officer/inspector by preventing the entry of fish and fishery products from IUU fishing activities into the supply chains. The e-ACDS could also enhance the intra-regional and international trade taking into consideration the high demand of non-IUU fish and fishery product by consumers, and importing countries. The e-ACDS is designed to match the requirement of all ASEAN Member States, the system is not created unnecessary burden, cost or lengthy process for importers/exporters. In addition, the AMS can implement via their own server or cloud without any security risk.