**US Catch Documentation Scheme Programs**

The United States has two programs related to highly migratory species with catch documentation scheme (CDS) components, and the following has been compiled to provide information to the WCPFC CDS-IWG on those programs. These programs include regulations promulgated under the Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act (16 U.S.C. §1385) and regulations concerning International Trade Documentation and Tracking Programs for Highly Migratory Species.

*Dolphin Safe Tuna Labeling*

The [Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/dolphinsafe/docs/dolphin_protection_act_16_usc_1385.pdf) (16 U.S.C. §1385) describes the conditions in which tuna product may be labeled dolphin-safe in the United States and regulations implementing this Act can be found at [50 CFR 216, subpart H](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?c=ecfr&SID=754280d44e0f0266e933462abfee4f99&rgn=div5&view=text&node=50:10.0.1.3.1&idno=50#50:10.0.1.3.1.8).

NOAA Fisheries has established a national [tuna tracking and verification program](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/dolphinsafe/) (TTVP) to monitor domestic production and importation of frozen and processed tuna products (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/dolphinsafe/tunaHTScodes.htm>) and the importation of certain fishery products (see <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/dolphinsafe/italy.htm>) from nations determined to have high-seas driftnet vessels. This program authenticates dolphin-safe claims on the tuna products and certifies that fishery products were not harvested by a high-seas driftnet vessel. This program primarily applies to frozen and processed tunas of the genus *Thunnus* and to skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*). Detailed information on permitting and reporting requirements associated with the importation of tunas can be found in an online [compliance guide](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ITP/12-23-11_sba_compliance_guide.pdfhttp:/www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/dolphinsafe/importation_2.htm). Document requirements vary depending on the location of tuna caught, species, product type, and fishing gear type used, and verification documents that may be required include a Fisheries Certificate of Origin (Attachment A) and a Captain’s statement.[[1]](#footnote-1) The TTVP also monitors domestic tuna cannery operations, via monthly reports, which includes information from the harvesting vessel for the tuna received at the plant for canning.

*International Trade Documentation and Tracking Programs*

The United States has domestic regulations located at [50 CFR Part 300 Subpart M](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=992d54233d8117c641d40a4de6e11788&node=50:11.0.2.11.1.13&rgn=div6) on International Trade Documentation and Tracking Programs for Highly Migratory Species (hereafter refered to as HMS ITP regulations). These regulations, promulgated under the authorities of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801), the Atlantic Tunas Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 971) and the Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 951-961), apply to the importing, exporting and re-exporting of Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*), Pacific bluefin tuna (*T. orientalis*), Southern bluefin tuna (*T. maccoyyii*), swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) frozen bigeye tuna (*T. obesus*) and shark fins. Information on the permitting and reporting requirements associated with these domestic regulations can be found at the Highly Migratory Species International Trade Program [website](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/ITP/) as well as in the compliance guide (Attachment B).

HMS ITP regulations require importers, exporters and re-exporters of any of the above listed products to hold an HMS International Trade Permit, which is issued for one year and must be renewed annually.

Reporting requirements vary by species, but in general include a catch document or a statistical document, biweekly reports, (with or without landings information) and re-export certificates. For bluefin tuna, a bluefin tuna catch document (BCD) is required for imports, exports and re-exports. BCDs may be filled out and completed by hand (Attachments C-E), or for exports of bluefin tuna, may be completed via a secure online reporting system. Statistical documents are required for import, export or re-export of swordfish (Attachment F) and for frozen bigeye tuna (Attachments G and H). Other documents that may be required are biweekly dealer reports (Attachments I and J) and re-export certificates (Attachments K-O).

1. Sample templates may be found at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/dolphinsafe/cst.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)