

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE eBCD TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (eBCD TWG)
(Online, 8-9 June 2021)

1. Welcome and adoption of agenda and nomination of rapporteur

The Executive Secretary, Camille Manel, welcomed all attendees and asked for a minute of silence in memory of Fabio Hazin (Head Delegate of Brazil and Chair of Panel 4).

The eBCD TWG Chair, Mr. Neil Ansell, asked the Secretariat to appoint a rapporteur for this meeting.

The Chair briefly outlined the agenda and asked CPCs to present any matters to be included in item 7 of the agenda "Any other business". The Chair indicated that the document proposed by Morocco ("Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 18-13 Replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program") would be included in this item.

The agenda was adopted and is contained in **Appendix 1**.

The list of participants is contained in **Appendix 2**.

2. System overall state of play

2.1 Annual Report of User Support Service

Tragsa presented their report, noting that statistics on the processing of requests and incidents from eBCD users in 2020 were very similar to the previous year. They informed that further information was available in the graphs and tables in points 1.1 and 1.2 of the report from Tragsa, which is contained in **Appendix 3**.

2.2 Status of issues discussed at "September 2019" eBCD TWG meeting

Tragsa gave a brief description of all the outstanding issues, budgeted and non-budgeted, contained in their report (**Appendix 3**) as a prior presentation to the more detailed treatment by the various CPCs.

2.2.1 Issues cost estimated but not requested

2.2.1.1 Reference 2019-4B: print functions: other presentations

When "Other" products are recorded in a trade section, the system will add a new line in the printed version, which will include the "Other" subtype presentation selected, with the kilos reflected in the electronic version.

The TWG Chair reminded those in attendance that, although this proposal had been included in the budget, no agreement had been reached to initiate the development at that time.

The TWG Chair asked if there were any objections to taking this development forward. No one objected and the development was approved.

Final Decision: Approved for development.

2.2.1.2 Reference 2019-8 (35): Trades companies of other countries adapt the system to allow access to NCP

This development consists of creating the profiles necessary to allow users from non-CPC companies to have access the eBCD System.

The TWG Chair pointed out that two cost estimates were provided for this development: a more expensive one and a more economical one; the latter with reduced functionality.

The US recalled that this functionality was considered important but not urgent at the time and that trade of Pacific BFT would be earmarked for development. Given that no progress has been made on the development of a CDS for Pacific BFT, they believed that this development was not a priority at this stage.

The EU agreed with the US on the low priority of development regarding this issue and noted that an estimate of the volume of transactions with non-CPCs was requested at the time to assess the priority. The Secretariat indicated that there has been a low volume of such transactions during the past season.

Given the low priority expressed by the CPCs in attendance, it was decided not to go ahead with the development.

Final Decision: To keep it open for further discussion by the TWG.

2.2.1.3 Parallel transfers from live trade. Adapt parallel transfers functionality to take into consideration parallel live trades

Tragsa explained that this problem arises when the same catch could be sold at two different times to the same farm. This possibility was not considered in the algorithms that check traceability when this option is used. As a result, the eBCD System does not properly calculate the quantities of live fish recorded in two parallel transfers and creates erroneous inconsistencies. Therefore, it considers that it is important to address the resolution of this problem through a development to deal with these situations.

The TWG Chair emphasized that this was a recurrent and major problem as it affects the way eBCDs are created.

The EU asked Tragsa for an assessment of the impact of not carrying out this development and Tragsa indicated that it would affect traceability in the cases where it occurs, the data on weight and number of fish found in the Transfer eBCDs must be left blank. Tragsa also explained how this is currently being solved and recalled the importance of this functionality because very useful information may be missed.

The US recalled the conclusions of the March 2019 TWG meeting regarding this proposal: although there were no budgetary constraints, such a development was not possible at that time because the BFT fishing season was too close. It was therefore postponed to 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic it was omitted once again.

Tunisia also noted that the TWG has already agreed on this development, but it had been postponed to 2020 with a view to the functionality being operational in 2021. They also considered that this task is a high priority to maintain traceability in the system and to avoid problems and inconsistencies that users must deal with.

The EU agrees that the development of this proposal should be taken forward.

Tunisia also asked Tragsa how this problem had been solved when it arose. Tragsa replied that in these cases it was necessary to delete the data on weight and number of fish in the affected transfer sections. However, these data are filled out in the subsequent caging section. By doing so, the eBCD system recalculates the sections using the data from the eBCDs preceding the transfers (live trade) and the inconsistencies disappear.

It was decided to go ahead without opposition from any CPC.

Final Decision: Approved for development.

2.2.1.4 JFO synchronization

The current synchronization from the eBCD System to the ICCAT databases, which includes all information concerning JFOs, should be "reversed" so that the information is entered directly into the ICCAT databases and subsequently synchronized to the eBCD System.

The TWG Chair clarified that this proposal was the same as the one presented in the document Issues for possible discussion by the eBCD Technical Working Group, which is contained in **Appendix 4**.

The Secretariat informed the TWG that information from JFOs is the only remaining information necessary to reverse the synchronization. Once this development is completed, JFO information will be incorporated into the ICCAT databases and synchronized from these databases to the eBCD System.

The TWG Chair outlined the cost of this development (€5,405.84) before asking the CPCs for their opinion: no CPC objected, and the proposal was approved for development.

Final Decision: Approved for development.

2.2.2 Issues pending cost-estimation due to the lack of requirements

2.2.2.1 Reference 2019-7: Develop a read-only profile for ICCAT inspectors under JIS

The proposal focuses on how to provide international inspectors with limited access to the eBCD System so that they can carry out their work by accessing the eBCDs related to the entities under inspection in read-only mode.

The TWG Chair initiated the discussion among CPCs by outlining that the main problem to be solved is how to provide inspectors with access to the eBCD system while safeguarding system confidentiality. It also recalled that inspection work can be carried out on a vessel without ICCAT numbers.

Following an in-depth discussion, the following solutions were proposed:

- The master/operator of the vessel to be inspected temporarily cedes his/her user to the inspector so that he/she can carry out his/her work.
- Access to the eBCD system is replaced by providing a paper copy of the required eBCDs to the inspector.
- The inspector accesses the eBCD system under his/her own profile with limited access.
- The CPC authorities (Administrators) temporarily authorize inspectors to access the eBCD system.
- Access is provided by the master/operator of the entity under inspection by generating a code that provides the inspector with temporary access.
- The code is provided directly by the eBCD system based on the entities/inspections to be performed by the inspector.

The US stressed that an automated solution would be desirable as the use of paper ends up causing problems. The options of providing temporary access to the inspector and the option of generating a code both seemed to be adequate to the US.

The EU pointed out that consideration should be given to which paper copies are to be held by each master/operator of the inspected entities, noting that this may not only be limited to eBCD aspects.

Considering this intervention, the TWG Chair recalled that there are provisions in Recommendations (18-12, para 6 and 18-13, para 3) that were relevant in this regard. It might therefore be necessary to make a prior assessment of the means available to each entity to provide the necessary information to the inspectors before embarking on an IT development. If necessary, this issue could be referred to the IMM for clarification as regards which information the inspected entities should have access to in hard copy.

The US recalled that in the past, IMM and PWG discussions had led to an agreement to request cost/time estimates, but this had not yet been done as the parameters for such a request had not been agreed.

Tunisia stated that the ideal solution could be for CPC authorities to provide temporary access to inspectors at their request, recalling that these should be totally independent and do not normally have to go through the operators.

The EU noted, however, that it should be borne in mind that inspections are often carried out "on the spot", and that the need for prior approval for an inspection could delay the process. The TWG Chair reminded participants that, under the provisions of other ICCAT Recommendations (19-04), the CPC should provide the lists of their inspectors.

In relation to the codes to be shared with operators, Tunisia pointed out that it may be necessary for these codes to provide inspectors with broader permissions than those held by the operator of the entity. Tunisia noted that access to eBCD information should be based on the ownership of fish, pointing out that the availability of the eBCD validating team, particularly Administrators, should be considered during the short period of the BFT fishing season.

The TWG Chair put forward two further reflections to be considered regarding the codes: connectivity problems in some areas where the inspection takes place and the way the code is transmitted/shared by the operator of the entity.

As the discussion was very broad and there are more items on the agenda, the TWG Chair proposed that Tragsa summarize the solutions discussed.

Tragsa presented a preliminary analysis of how a development concerning this issue could be approached, with the following main lines of this analysis:

- The inspector will have a user profile active in the system. Permissions as inspector would have to be given for a specific period of time (TBD).
- Once the inspector has accessed the system, on a screen he/she will have to choose the CPC, the Flag and the Entity to be inspected.
- Once these parameters have been chosen, temporary read-only permissions would be established to allow the inspector to review the eBCDs of the chosen entity (the period allowed remains to be specified: 6 hours, 1 day, etc.).
- Simultaneously, the system would send a message to the CPC vessel manager informing that inspector 'XXXX' has acted on the vessel 'YYYYY' in the system to be inspected.
- The screen will show the inspector the vessel information and the eBCDs belonging to this vessel. The inspector will be able to see the full eBCDs with their sections (access cannot be restricted by sections).
- Limiting access to the actual fishing campaign may be considered, i.e. if the inspection is being carried out in 2021, the inspector could only see eBCDs from 2021.
- Once the inspector clicks on the eBCD, this would be displayed on the screen or the information regarding the eBCD may be downloaded in an Excel file.

The TWG Chair noted that, although further debate and analysis is needed on this issue, the exchange of ideas has been very useful in establishing a basis on this issue.

Final Decision: More discussion by TWG needed in light of IMM discussion (Defer to IMM).

2.2.3 Issues pending a decision of IMM

2.2.3.1 Bycatch (para 38 Rec. 18-02)

Rec. 18-02 recommends that CPCs establish a specific quota for bycatch of bluefin tuna. It also indicates that the percentage of bycatch in relation to the total catch on board (in weight or number of fish) should not exceed 20% of the total catch on board at the end of each fishing trip.

The proposal is that if a specific bycatch quota is set for each CPC, the eBCD system will be able to make the relevant calculations to display an alert when the CPC's by-catch quota is exceeded.

The TWG Chair recalled that the IMM had already suggested that this proposal should not be pursued because of the following reasons:

- Other instruments already exist to control bycatch.
- Bycatch not only affects the weight but also the species fished, so the inclusion of the latter would make the development unviable.
- It is not feasible since the total weight of all the fish caught with the BFT on board of a vessel cannot be known; hence the percentage of bycatch cannot be calculated as stipulated by para 38 of Rec. 18-02/19-04.

It was agreed that this proposal should be rejected.

Final Decision: Deleted, no more discussion by TWG needed.

2.2.3.2 Transshipments linked with eBCD (para 80 Rec. 18-02)

Paragraph 80 of Rec. 18-02 states that the transshipment declaration shall be linked to the eBCD system to facilitate data crossing: this link would be created by including a function in the eBCD system to load documents in the transshipment section (that documentation would be in this case the transshipment declaration).

The US first noted that it may be sufficient for this link to note the eBCD code in the transshipment declaration and that this option would be at a minimum to fulfil the link between eBCDs and transshipments. It was considered that it would be important to establish this link to reinforce ICCAT's control of transshipments (traceability): the question is what priority should be given to this issue and how this should be done.

The TWG Chair proposed taking this proposal forward to the next IMM meeting next week, which could provide important guidance to the TWG on this issue and also give other CPCs the opportunity to participate, particularly those involved in BFT transshipments that do not present at the 2021 intersessional meeting of the eBCD TWG.

Final Decision: More discussion by TWG needed in light of IMM discussion (defer to IMM).

2.2.4 *Issues discussed in previous WG meeting which are still pending*

2.2.4.1 Issues specific to the W-BFT fishery/WG members

The WG requested in the September 2014 meeting to include only 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections. This also applies to the transshipment section in the E-BFT. (i.e., 'guttled and gilled' cannot be followed by 'whole').

The main problem in making this proposal feasible is that there is still no defined list of plausible product transformations.

The US delegation indicated that it did not remember the exact terms in which this proposal had been specified in previous meetings, but volunteered to start a draft a list of transformations intersessionally. It also recalled that although the title of the proposal refers to the W-BFT fishery, this was applicable to all fisheries.

The TWG Chair asked the Secretariat if there was already an outline document outlining a list of transformations. The Secretariat noted the existence of a document which contained a presentation/guide but which did not correspond to the list of transformations needed to develop this proposal.

Final Decision: More discussion by TWG needed (the US will try to make a document of the transformations and circulate it later this year).

2.2.4.2 When a traceability alert is generated due to an inconsistency in a split BCD, the alert is shown in all the branches (splits) of that catch (05/07/2016).

Inconsistencies that occur in a particular eBCD cause an alert message to be displayed throughout the source eBCD tree. It is difficult for both users and administrators to determine which eBCD is responsible for the alert and creates confusion in those branches of the eBCD tree that are not responsible for the inconsistency.

The TWG Chair recalled that this issue was discussed at a previous meeting, and it was concluded that it was not possible to solve this issue and Tragsa was asked to explain whether this situation was continuing.

Tragsa made the following points about these inconsistencies:

- There are alerts that affect the entire eBCD due to their nature and nothing can be done in these cases.
- The problem is encountered when an inconsistency has originated from one of the "children/descendants" of a "parent/original" eBCD. In these cases, the eBCD system points to the "parent" eBCD from which the inconsistency originated, but it is not possible to determine which "child/descendant" originated the inconsistency.
- The eBCD system was updated (December 2018) to prevent a user from creating inconsistencies when creating a trade that exceeds the available BFT weight. This reduces the number of alerts to be displayed.

The EU delegation clarified that the problem is when the inconsistency is transmitted to all branches of the eBCD.

The US delegation indicated that what it finds most worrying is that, although alerts appear in the right branches, it is very difficult for administrators to interpret these situations.

The TWG Chair, to delimit the solution to this problem, asked Tragsa again: "Can a development be made in the eBCD system that limits the alert to the specific branch and eBCD that has triggered the alert?"

Tragsa, in response to the TWG Chair's question, pointed out that alerts occurring at the level of the entire eBCD tree cannot be corrected to appear in a specific eBCD, but those that arise in a specific branch could be limited to the "parent" eBCD of the "child" eBCD that originated it.

Tunisia reflected, to understand the problem, that errors affecting the recommendation should not allow further editing and those affecting a specific section should show the alert only at that point.

The TWG Chair asked Tragsa to analyze how to narrow down the origin of such an inconsistency as much as possible to display the alert only at that particular point (branch/section) in the eBCD tree.

Final Decision: More discussion by TWG needed (Tragsa is requested to consider restricting the alert to the affected branches/sections only).

2.2.5 Other issues considered "Open" at March 2019

2.2.5.1 Cross-checks the total catch's average weight and the samplings average weight-4. Tagging:

In September 2016, the US asked if the system cross-checks the average weight of the total catch and the samplings. The option of reporting to Administrators when these figures exceed a certain % of tolerance was discussed. An email will be sent to administrators, but no inconsistency will be shown in the system (no specific percentage was set).

In January 2018, the US asked the EU why sampling average weight figures do not match up with average weight calculated by the system for the total catch. Spain explained that the sampling average weight can be less or equal to the one obtained by the system depending on the product presentation of BFT sampled.

No CPCs have made any specific statements on this proposal except the US, which proposed leaving discussions on this issue open and deferring any decisions in this regard.

Final Decision: More discussion by TWG needed (US requests to leave it OPEN).

2.2.5.2 Include a “Start date” to role’s permissions. Issue raised by Tunisia (January 2018)

When the management permissions function was developed, it was decided to establish only an end date on permissions, but not a start date. The idea was that if you now work for a certain farm or vessel, you might need to have access to all historic data/BCDs of that entity. Tunisia considers that giving permissions for the historic information of an entity may become a confidentiality issue.

No CPCs have made any specific statements on this proposal and the TWG Chair asked Tragsa to make a proposal for cost/time estimates to carry out the development of this issue.

Final decision: Request for budget to be proposed for development.

3. Proposals for system development

As reported in **Appendix 4**, there were three kinds of proposals: those made by ICCAT subsidiary bodies, mainly Panel 2 and the BFT Control and Traceability Measures Technical Working Group (WG BFTCT), by Tragsa, and by the ICCAT Secretariat.

3.1 From ICCAT subsidiary bodies

3.1.1 Mandatory inclusion of means of transport documentation in trade eBCDs

The proposal considers whether to use, on a mandatory basis, the section for transport means in the trade section of the eBCD to add information on the transport means used as well as to consider adding the associated departure and arrival dates.

The EU explained the proposal and asked Tragsa as regards its technical feasibility. Tragsa stated that, although a more exhaustive analysis would be necessary, in principle the development would be technically feasible, considering that the obligatory nature would prevent the closing of a trade eBCD if transport data were not completed.

Although it sees no problems using this, Tunisia warned that the binding nature of this proposal could be inflexible with respect to real life situations: departure and arrival dates/times can change for fret-flights and this can lead to complications in getting goods through customs if the eBCD data does not match what has happened as there may be changes in this sections before a given BFT consignment reaches Customs”). Tunisia suggested that this field be dynamic. Tragsa indicated that they would need some time to carry out analysis of this. Tunisia then suggested to simply indicate the means of transport (by land, by air or by sea) linked to their departure/arrival dates. The EU, in support of Tunisia’s suggestion, added that they would prefer additional information by providing, for example, the registration numbers of transport vehicle trucks in order to make sure that the fish to be inspected is the real intended/targeted fish.

In a later intervention from Tunisia, it reaffirmed this idea and stated that it might be sufficient to indicate the type of transport used in the eBCD, and that the date of entry and exit data should be optional. To this intervention, the EU explained that it is important to detail the transport identification data and not only the type, because this is the best way to facilitate the work of the inspectors to correctly establish traceability.

The US argued that, as far as possible, with exceptions that cannot be circumvented, the inclusion of paper documentation handled by human beings should be avoided: automated digital records should be preferred to paper (same remark made also by the US regarding the issue of ICCAT inspectors under JIS).

The TWG Chair proposed that Tragsa carry out such a technical analysis of the proposal to serve as a basis for future meetings, emphasizing that this issue should be linked to the one of ICCAT inspectors under JIS and that Tragsa has perfectly understood what is needed.

Final Decision: More discussion by TWG needed in light of IMM discussion (Defer to IMM).

The document proposed by Morocco (“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 18-13 Replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program”) requests the development of a functionality to allow grouping of fish from the same Flag origin/same JFO

Panel 2 (paragraph 100 of Rec. 19-04) requested that the working group develop a functionality allowing the regrouping of fish from the same flag origin/same JFO, in intra-farm transfers. Panel 2 also requested the IMM Working Group to reflect the regrouping of relevant eBCDs in Rec. 18-12/18-13 (page 159 of the Intersessional meeting of Panel 2 in March 2020).

The US put forward the following considerations:

- There is already a functionality that allows grouping of fish from JFOs. How would it affect traceability when you want to group fish that were previously grouped?
- The current grouping provisions of Rec. 18-13 require fish to be caged on the same day, from the same JFO and, according to its understanding of the Moroccan proposal, these would be fish that are caged at different times/days. Would this be compatible with the traceability defined by current Recommendations?
- Panel 2 only suggested that these proposals be studied given the doubts that existed.

Morocco would like to clarify those two different cases were raised in Panel 2:

- Regrouping of fish of the same Flag origin/same JFO: For this case, Panel 2 requested to develop the functionality to allow this regrouping, from the time it complies with the degree of traceability established in para 5 of Rec. 18-13 which provides the distribution of fish in the farming cages based on the flag origin.
- Aggregation of fish of different Flag/JFO origins. For this case, Panel 2 requested to continue the discussion.

The EU also noted doubts about the traceability of this proposal, pointing out that the growth rates of fish introduced at different times need to be considered too.

Tragsa expressed its concerns due to the complex nature of this issue as it would need to deal with grouping fish from the same sources (same JFOs, same Flag) with fish from different sources; this would need detailed information on the origins of the fish before being able to ensure that traceability would be met. Once the necessary information and guidance were received, and after making the relevant enquiries, an analysis could be carried out in order to be able to give an answer regarding traceability.

Final Decision: More discussion by TWG needed in light of IMM discussions (Defer to IMM through the proposal from Morocco “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 18-13 Replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program”).

3.1.2 Inclusion of stereo camera results in the caging section of the printed eBCD

In Annex 3 of Rec. 18-13, Morocco presented a proposal to reflect the two points of section 6 of the eBCD system in the printed eBCD, to include the weight and number of fish results from the stereoscopic camera control in the caging section of the printed eBCD.

The EU wanted to clarify whether this inclusion would affect overall traceability in any way and Morocco replied that it would not affect it, it would simply provide information that is not currently displayed.

Tragsa clarified that the eBCD System does not include or distinguish the weight data and the number of fish before and after the stereoscopic camera check in the printed eBCD, because when this check is passed, the System already considers the output data as valid and the only data used to continue with the calculations in the rest of the eBCD sections, as it regards them to be more accurate. It was noted that the data before this check are also recorded in the BCD.

When there are significant differences between the input and output data of the stereoscopic camera control, the corresponding inconsistency is generated.

Final Decision: More discussion by TWG needed (Defer to IMM through the proposal from Morocco "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 18-13 Replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program").

3.2 From Tragsa

3.2.1 Mortality during towing voyage

Some Flags have highlighted the difficulties of declaring mortality during the towing voyage. There is a procedure to declare this, but some Flags explain that this mortality should be reflected in chronological order and not in the caging section. It has been observed that the transfer section is used in some eBCDs to declare this mortality during the towing voyage. The transfer section does not keep the records of changes made and it does not need validation. Therefore, if the declaration of fish is made in the transfer section instead of the caging section, tracking traceability and problems that may arise become complicated to solve.

Firstly Tragsa, at the request of the TWG Chair, explained the current procedure for recording fish that die during the transfer operation in the eBCD System using the chart in **Appendix 4**:

- Dead fish are only recorded in the transfer section when they are marketable: a trade section is then created with them.
- In case they are not marketable, the entry is made in a harvesting section (by ticking the natural death box), which in turn starts from a caging section where live fish are entered together with dead fish.
- Proceeding in this way allows for validation of the sections involved.

Tunisia stated that the current procedure may be sufficient, although it may be necessary to add a field in the transfer section indicating non-marketable dead fish due to the need to justify these cases to the different authorities.

For the EU, the current procedure raises many questions regarding traceability and how this procedure is reconciled with the control results of the stereoscopic camera. It determined that the most appropriate way would be to record these non-marketable dead fish in the transfer section.

Tunisia explained its procedure for accounting for fish and complying with traceability when such cases occur after the control of the fishery.

Morocco agreed with the EU's position and supported the need to have fields in the Transfer section for such cases. Morocco noted that the procedure for the treatment of dead fish should be improved.

Algeria asked for clarification as to who would be responsible for completing this information if the catch is made by one CPC and the farm belongs to another one; it was confirmed that the responsibility would correspond to the owner of the fish, i.e. of the farm.

The TWG Chair asked Tragsa if and how the option of recording mortality in the transfer section would be feasible. Tragsa indicated that it would be feasible in the following way: as a trade can currently be created from the dead fish recorded in the transfer section, in this case there would also be the option to create a section called "Dead in transit", where it would be possible to record the fish that have died in these circumstances.

The TWG Chair requested that Tragsa prepare a proposal in this regard, to which Tragsa agreed. Morocco pointed out that this issue would have to consider the opinion of the Panel 2. Both the US and Japan supported this statement.

Final Decision: More discussion by TWG needed based on what Tragsa would propose (Defer to IMM).

3.2.2 Natural mortality field in harvesting

Once the harvesting has been recorded, the natural death box cannot be activated, and incidents have been received regarding this issue due to weather conditions where the individuals were dying. The possibility of modifying the field in the harvesting section if it has not yet been signed by the observer was proposed. If the observer has signed the harvesting, this field could not be modified.

Tragsa describes the reasons for considering this functionality during the last season (of 2020): sea storms killed a number of fish and a number of harvesting sections were incorrectly created with the "Natural Mortality" box unchecked. As it was impossible to edit it, the problem had to be fixed directly in the database.

Tunisia considered that it may be reasonable to include this flexibility in the edition after hearing clarifications from Tragsa.

The EU did not see sufficient interest in relaxing the system in this respect for the reasons given, as the cases described are exceptional.

The TWG Chair concluded that there was no need to request a cost-time estimate for this issue.

Final Decision: No need to ask for a cost/time estimate; not accepted.

3.2.3 Campaign set-up using a form

The proposal is to create a form in the system in order for ICCAT Secretariat users to be able to set up each campaign. The form will allow for the inclusion of the necessary information to activate the campaign. This information could be to link the campaign to the appropriate CPCs, associate the quotas for each CPC or link Recommendations applicable to the campaign.

Final Decision: The TWG Chair asks Tragsa to prepare a cost/time estimate.

3.3 From the ICCAT Secretariat

3.3.1 Search for eBCDs in the system

Through the option "BCD and BFTRC registry/search BCD", the search for a single eBCD by its code is performed relatively quickly. However, if you do not know the eBCD code and you try to find one or more eBCDs through the other filters, the search becomes impossible in most cases (probably due to the high volume of data already in the database). It would be convenient to reformulate this functionality or to try to find solutions to this type of searches so that they can be useful.

The Secretariat reported that when it performs bulk searches for eBCDs using the filters of the search functionality, it repeatedly encounters a Timeout error. They also indicated that with the assistance of Tragsa, a re-analysis of the filters involved in this functionality could result in improved guidelines for use that would allow searches to be carried out more successfully.

The EU noted that they, too, have had some problems with this functionality because their CPC groups numerous Flags, but that their main problem is in generating reports.

3.3.2 Edit /change/add a farm in a JFO once it already has BCDs

A repeated problem is that, once the farms involved in a JFO have been defined and included and are already in an eBCD, the only way to change them is to delete all the eBCDs in which they are included and recreate them with the consequent disruption. As this is a recurrent problem and very tedious to solve for all parties involved, it would be necessary to look for a solution that could alleviate or prevent these situations.

The Secretariat presented the impossibility of editing the information relating to farms associated with JFOs when there are already associated eBCDs, it is currently necessary to delete and recreate all these eBCDs to be able to perform the editing.

It was noted that as the reversal of the JFO Synchronization has been approved, the analysis and development of this issue should be linked to the possibility of editing the information of the farms associated to the JFOs.

Nonetheless, the EU had doubts that changing farm information after the campaign had started was compatible with current Recommendations: when the BFT fishing activities start, preferably no changes should be made to BFT farms of destination which were communicated for JFOs, to avoid deleting and recreating eBCDs. The TWG Chair agrees with the EU that, before any development begins, any policy issues associated with changing farm information once the BFT fishing campaign is underway must be resolved.

The TWG Chair summarized that all the necessary improvements improvement and/or developments of the eBCD functionalities concerning the ICCAT ISSUES reported in **Appendix 4** should be made, except the JFO synchronization which was treated/agreed separately, and that the TWG agreed to go ahead for any cost/time estimates needed.

Final Decision: Request cost/time estimates.

4. System messages

4.1 Proposed changes

4.1.1 Improved messages from the eBCD system to the user

Currently, the eBCD system uses a series of messages (modal windows) to signal certain circumstances to the user resulting from his/her actions, which can be confusing for the user. Modifying these messages would make it easier for the user to determine the nature of the messages, and in a greater percentage of situations, the user would be able to resolve the circumstance giving rise to the message.

The Secretariat described the proposed modifications in the messages displayed to the user, and in the credential retrieval procedures, that would improve user interaction and understanding of certain situations occurring in the eBCD system.

Tragsa pointed out that these modifications could be made under maintenance except in the case of the "Permit expiry message" section of the document, as this required the development of a functionality to send emails to the user before the expiry of the user's account permissions. In this case it is necessary to increase the daily quota of messages allowed in the eBCD system, which would have an additional cost.

The US noted that in the first message proposed to be modified, "Message for incorrect credentials", including the link ("I forgot my password") would facilitate the user experience when accessing this functionality. The US also reminded the TWG of its continued interest in adding web services to the eBCD system in the future.

Final Decision: Request cost/time estimate.

4.2 Review of system alerts and inconsistencies

The set of inconsistency messages currently displayed by the eBCD system were presented.

No questions were raised about the current messages in the system.

5. Contractual state of play and financial aspects

The Secretariat outlined the key points of the budget documents, namely the explanatory note on the eBCD System budget for the years 2020 and 2021 and its five Tables, as adopted by the Commission at its 26th Regular Meeting (Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 18-25 November 2019) and contained in Appendix 6 to ANNEX 7 to the *Report for Biennial Period 2018-2019, Part II (2019), Vol. 1*.

Reference was also made to the document adopted through the 2020 ICCAT decision-making process, which presents the eBCD System budget for the financial year 2021 and is contained in Table 1 to ANNEX 7 to *Report for Biennial Period 2020-2021, Part I (2020), Vol. 1*.

The Secretariat informed the TWG that there were more than sufficient funds to cover the developments currently being requested but that there would be no need to spend it all this year; the unused portion can be carried over to 2022.

The US requested clarification regarding the upgrades of the security services proposed by Server Labs, whether the figures of cost/time estimates proposed would be included in the development budget line, and clarity on the differences between the line items.

In its response, the Secretariat indicated that this item was not initially included in the budget, but that there were sufficient funds in the flexible allotment budget in the event the TWG agreed that development should go ahead.

Canada asked about the origin of the figures used in the budget tables to estimate the 2021 contributions to the eBCD System for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna (euros). In its response, the Secretariat confirmed that basic information to calculate such annual contributions to the eBCD Budget is obtained from the eBCD System itself, and this will be done in a few weeks in order to send out the Circular for contributions (by July 2021).

5.1 Security Upgrade

Server Labs, the company contracted to manage the hosting service of the eBCD system, has submitted a proposal to improve the security of the various system environments (Production and Test). Among the documentation provided are the diagrams that model this improvement and the development costs.

The Secretariat made a brief technical presentation on what the security enhancement would involve.

The US sought clarification on the budget figures: the Secretariat clarified that the budget figures for the security upgrade are not included in the development budget for 2021, as this had been adopted prior to the proposal from The Server Labs. However, as this would fall under the flexible allotments there are sufficient funds currently to cover this now that the eBCD TWG agreed that the security upgrade should go ahead. There was no objection to the proposal.

6. Reporting to Commission/PWG

The TWG Chair indicated that there would be an official report on this meeting which will be sent to participants for comments and adoption.

In the meantime, and to facilitate relevant discussions in the forthcoming IMM meeting, a short preliminary summary report will be made by the Chair summarizing the discussions on the relevant topics.

7. Any other business

7.1 Request for clarification of operator field in Annex 5 of Rec. 19-04

The Secretariat sought clarification on the completion of information on vessels involved in a JFO concerning the vessel operators:

- a) Should this field mean Identify of the Vessel operators and, if so, must this be the same as the information on Vessel operators submitted for inclusion in the ICCAT Record of Vessels?
- b) Is it acceptable for CPCs to send information which differs or whether there was any intention of submitting information which conflicts with the ICCAT Record of Vessels?

The Secretariat clarified that a formal form is used to receive the information from CPCs regarding their JFOs. This form contains a field for the name of the operator that is not currently used because JFOs are entered through the eBCD System, and this data is already predetermined for each vessel selected to be part of the JFO.

The TWG agreed that the information should be the same as in the ICCAT Record of Vessels.

8. Next steps, adoption of the report and closure of the meeting

It was agreed that the report would be adopted by correspondence. The meeting was adjourned.

Agenda

1. Welcome and adoption of agenda and nomination of rapporteur
2. System overall state of play
3. Proposals for system development [coming from]:
 - a) ICCAT Subsidiary bodies
 - b) TRAGSA
 - c) ICCAT Secretariat
4. System messages:
 - a) Proposed changes
 - b) Review of system alerts and inconsistencies
5. Contractual state of play and financial aspects
6. Reporting to Commission/PWG
7. Any other business
8. Next steps, adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.

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Implementation of the eBCD System



State of play of eBCD project (September 2020 – April 2021)



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1. Annual Report of User Support Service

All data provided in this report considers 1st January 2020 as start date and 31st December 2020 as end date.

1.1. Statistics about User Support Service

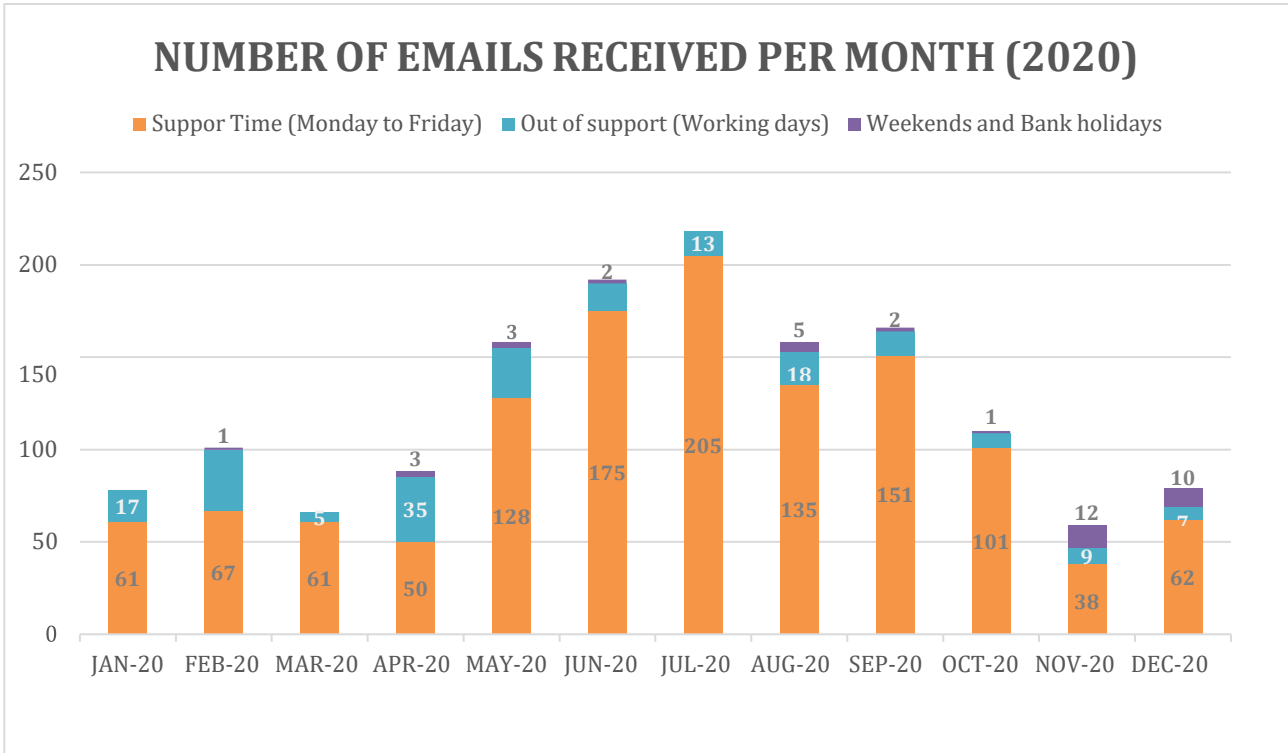
From January 1st to December 31st 2020 (366 calendar days), Tragsa carried out a 7.5 hours 5 days user support service.

From January 1st to December 31st 2020, 37 CPCs or Flags have contacted the user support service, 1,473 emails were received and a total of 2,593 emails were exchanged. Per each day of this 366 calendar days, were received an average of 4,0 emails.

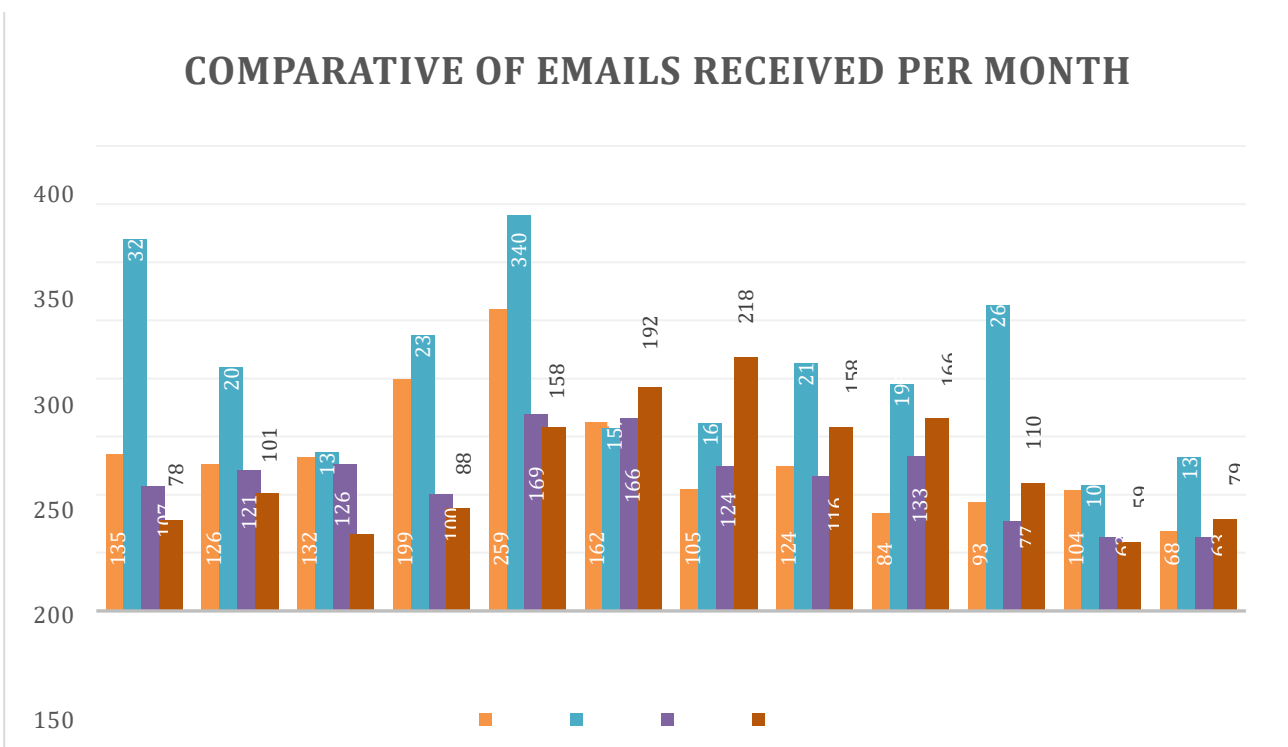
January 1 st to December 31 st 2020							
Type day	Received from 1 st January to 31 st December	Nº of CPCs/Flags that contacted the support team	Emails received	Emails exchanged	Nº of days	Average emails received per day of this period	Average emails exchanged per day of this period
Total		37	1473	2593	366	4	7
Working days	Within 8x5 Schedule	35	1234	2276	248	4,9	9,2
	Out of 8x5 Schedule	21	200	317		0,8	1,3
Weekends and Bank holidays		10	39		118	0,33	

122,7 is the average of emails received per month, being July the month with the highest number of emails received (205 emails), with an average of 6,6 emails/per day.

The figure below desegregates the number of emails received during the working days in the user support working hours, out of these working hours and on weekends and bank holidays.



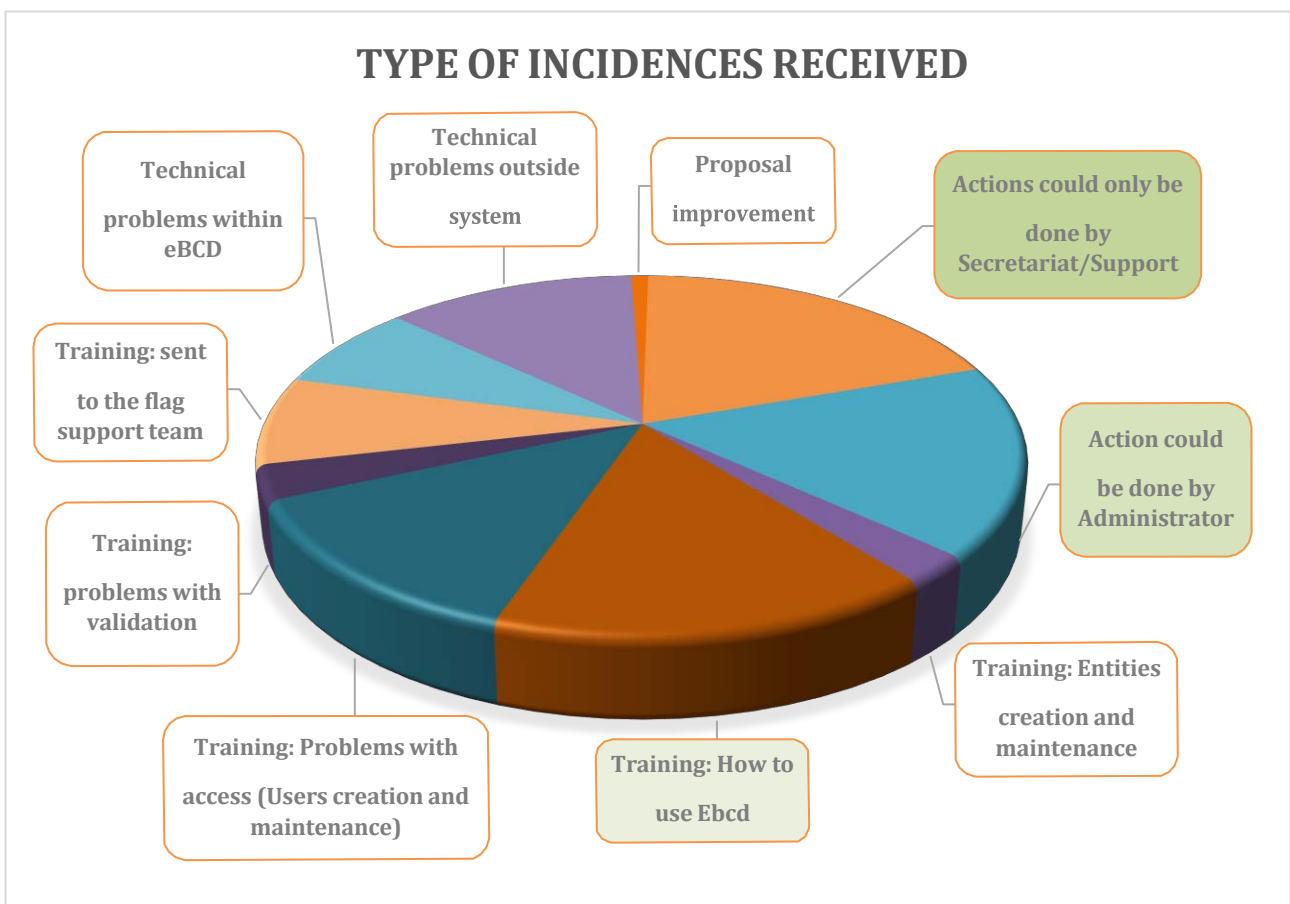
The total emails received per each month in 2017, 2018 and 2019 in comparison to the ones received in 2020, can be seen in the chart below.



1.2. Main difficulties found from 1st January 2020

The figure below illustrates the main categories on which incidences received could be included.

Most of the incidents received are related to actions that only Support and/or ICCAT Secretariat can do (19%). Many others are involved with actions that could be done by Flag/CPC administrators (17%). Besides, incidents related of how to use the eBCD (16%) are common. Furthermore, problems related to user's access (users creation and maintenance) represent 13% of incidents received.



Among the emails classified as "**Actions could only be done by Secretariat/Support**", the following issues may be highlighted:

- *Request from a country / user to write other flag requesting an action.*
- *Creation, maintenance and consult, of Non CPC companies.*
- *Check/Update permits or data of observers.*

- Request to *delete or change a registry* in the Database.

Within the emails classified as **'Actions that could be done by administrators'**, include actions such as:

- Edit *companies' permits or information*.
- Information of *pending account requested*
- Actions related to *section's edition*
- Edit *user's permits or information*

Main problems included in **"Training"** category can be grouped in:

- General doubts regarding *'how to use the eBCD'*: i.e. how create new sections in the system (related to new functionalities), how can be modified an information in the system or how BCDs are codified.
- Problems due to doubts regarding the *creation and maintenance of users*: i.e. Username and password misplaced, users were not familiar with self-registration or use of an incorrect password.
- Mails related to problems that *can be solved by the Flag Technical Support* and it was sent to them.
- Problems related to *validation process*: i.e. most of the due to certificate misplace or expired.
- Problems when trying to *use entities with expired permissions*.

Among the emails classified as **'Technical problems within eBCD'**, it can be underline the following:

- *Errors found in the system*: i.e the same date an hour in following sections that prevent from save changes when editing a section or an alert displayed when the data is included in the transfers section after an movement between cages.
- Problems *related to synchronization of inactive vessels*.

Within classified as **'Technical problems outside system'**, we can find problems accessing the system or problems receiving emails sent by the system.

2. Status of issues discussed at September 2019 WG meeting.

At the last WG meeting in September 2019, the Group decided to address in first place all the issues whose cost estimation were requested. The cost estimated issues requested by the ICCAT Secretariat on 2019 are already implemented in the eBCD system. Then, issues pending a decision from IMM or the Group were discussed. Finally, CPCs and Tragsa had also the chance to explain to the Group the new issues detected since last meeting.

Below can be found five summary tables. The first one includes the status of all those issues whose cost estimation has been requested; the second one contains issues pending cost-estimation due to the lack of requirements, the third one includes issues pending a decision of IMM, fourth one contains issues discussed in previous WG meeting which are still pending. At last, it is included other issues considered “open” to continue the discussion.

For a more in depth explanation of what was discussed in the meeting, go to sections 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5.

Summary tables regarding the pending issues:

ISSUES WHERE A COST ESTIMATION WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE GROUP	ISSUE	STATUS (OPEN / CLOSED)
ISSUES COST ESTIMATED BUT NOT REQUESTED	REFERENCE 2019-4B: PRINT FUNCTIONS: OTHER PRESENTATIONS	Requirements sent on May 31 st 2019
	REFERENCE 2019-8 (35): TRADES COMPANIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES ADAPT THE SYSTEM TO ALLOW ACCESS TO NCP	Requirements sent on May 31 st 2019
	PARALLEL TRANSFERS FROM LIVE TRADE. ADAPT PARALLEL TRANSFERS FUNCTIONALITY TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION PARALLEL LIVE TRADES	Requirements sent on October 18 th 2018
	JFO SINCHRONIZATION	Requirements sent on December 1 st 2020

Table 1 - List of issues on which cost estimation was considered necessary by the group

ISSUES WHERE A COST ESTIMATION WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE GROUP	ISSUE	STATUS (OPEN / CLOSED)
ISSUES PENDING COST-ESTIMATION DUE TO THE LACK OF REQUIREMENTS	REFERENCE 2019-7: DEVELOP A READ-ONLY PROFILE FOR ICCAT INSPECTORS UNDER JIS	Pending Requirements

Table 2 - List of issues pending cost-estimation due to the lack of requirements.

ISSUES PENDING AN ACTION FROM WG OR IMM	TOPIC	STATUS (OPEN/ CLOSED)
Discuss The Necessity Of Adapting The System In Order To Monitor Catches Under Minimum Size	Minimum size (Para 35 Rec 18-02)	Pending IMM
Discuss if CPCs bycatch quota should be added to the system	Bycatch (Para 38 Rec 18-02):	Pending IMM
Discuss if adding BCD code to ICCAT transfer declaration will link both documents	Transshipments linked with Ebcd (Para 80 Rec 18-02)	Pending IMM

Table 3 - List of issues pending a decision of IMM.

ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Include the 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections	Include the 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections	Pending receiving plausible transformations
When a traceability alert is generated due to an inconsistency in a split BCD, the alert is shown in all the branches (splits) of that catch	Show traceability alert in all branches added from the section that triggers the inconsistency	Cost estimation not requested

Table 4 - List of issues discussed in previous WG meeting which are still pending.

ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Cross-checks the total catch's average weight and the samplings average weight-4. Tagging	Cross-checks the total catch's average weight and the samplings average weight-	Open
Include a "Start date" to role's permissions	Show traceability alert in all branches added from the section that triggers the inconsistency	Cost estimation not requested

Table 5 - Other issues considered "Open" at March 2019.

2.1. Issues cost estimated but not requested

ISSUES WHERE A COST ESTIMATION WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE GROUP	ISSUE	STATUS (OPEN / CLOSED)
ISSUES COST ESTIMATED BUT NOT REQUESTED	REFERENCE 2019-4B: PRINT FUNCTIONS: OTHER PRESENTATIONS	Requirements sent on May 31 st 2019
	REFERENCE 2019-8 (35): TRADES COMPANIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES ADAPT THE SYSTEM TO ALLOW ACCESS TO NCP	Requirements sent on May 31 st 2019
	PARALLEL TRANSFERS FROM LIVE TRADE. ADAPT PARALLEL TRANSFERS FUNCTIONALITY TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION PARALLEL LIVE TRADES	Requirements sent on October 18 th 2018
	JFO SYNCHRONIZATION	Requirements sent on December 1 st 2020

2.1.1. REFERENCE 2019-4B: PRINT FUNCTIONS: OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Japan requests to show in the printed version of the eBCD the totals of the subtypes included in “Other” reflected in the electronic version of the BCD. Tragsa reminds that this will imply a modification of the eBCD format included in Rec 11-20. Nevertheless, the TWG decides that when “Other” products are recorded in a trade section, the system will add a new line in the printed version, where will be included the “Other” subtype presentation selected with the kilos reflected in the electronic version. Tragsa asks if this is also necessary for transshipment section, but the TWG confirms that this action is only necessary for Trade section.

TRAGSA March 2019: Japan considers that this issue should be developed. *Time cost analysis needs to be officially requested by ICCAT Secretariat.*

TRAGSA September 2019: This activity was cost-estimated on 31st May 2019 and the development *has not been officially requested yet.*

2.1.2. REFERENCE 2019-8 (35): TRADES COMPANIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES ADAPT THE SYSTEM TO ALLOW ACCESS TO NCP

Issue is discussed at March 2017 WG Meeting and it is decided that in order to meet Rec 15-10, access to non CPC member should be facilitated. Tragsa explains that opening the current roles to non CPCs could be addressed under maintenance allotment. In case new roles must to be created, resorting to flexible allotment will be necessary. In the meeting it is agreed that:

- *Importer/Exporter and validator roles* will be opened to Non CPCs. Modifications **under maintenance allotment**. Tragsa propose not to start this modification until it is decided to re-adapt the system to allow the access to non CPCs (development of new roles and profiles, see comments below)

- *Representative of BFT ICCAT vessel; Representative of non BFT ICCAT vessel, Representative of a trap and Representative of a farm* are types of roles that are not going to be available for NCPs.
- Create two new roles under flexible allotment.
 - o *“Representative of NCP carrier vessel”*: This type of user will only have “read-only” permissions over BCDs in which he is involved.
 - o *NCP Administrator*: This type of role will have different permissions than CPC/Flag administrators. The requirements were decided during the meeting and are listed below.

Time cost analysis needs to be officially requested by ICCAT Secretariat.

Possible requirements for the role Person Responsible of non CPC Administration
Access to record transshipment data of the tuna transshipped by his NCPC
Access to record export/selling data of dead fish from his NCPC
Access to record of the signature and date of signature in the purchase/import of dead fish of the purchases of his NCPC
Access to modification of the buyer/importer Company of the dead fish products) of the purchases of his NCPC
Access to record re-exportation data from his NCPC
Access to record re-exporter declaration of the re-exports from his NCPC
Access to record importer declaration of the purchases (re-exports) of his NCPC
Access to record and edit companies) of his NCPC
Access to check companies of his NCPC
Access to check vessels of his NCPC
Access to check authorized ports of his NCPC
Access to massive renewal of companies authorizations of his NCPC
Access to check entities from his NCPC
Access to check agencies from his NCPC
Access to record and edit users data associated with the entities of his NCPC
Access to check users associated with the entities of his NCPC
Access to users requests and/or roles upon entities of his NCPC
Access to modify users data
Access to change users password
Access to check Query Total Kg Imported by his NCPC
Access to check Query Total Kg Exported by his NCPC
Access to check Query Total Kg Re-exported by his NCPC
Access to Help section
Access to Audit Changes

TRAGSA March 2019: This activity was cost-estimated on 18th October 2018 and *has not been officially requested yet*. The budget presented by Tragsa was considered too expensive, so Tragsa proposes to re-calculate the budget including less functionality so the group can decide which option should be developed.

TRAGSA September 2019: This activity was cost-estimated again on 31st May 2019 and the development *has not been officially requested yet*

Tragsa explains the impact of deciding the development or not of the items cost estimated:

- Not having **NCP Administrators**. In that case the ICCAT Secretariat profile should be responsible of accepting new users/roles and new companies.
- Not having **Representatives of NCP Carrier vessels**. This seems to be the activity less important as a representative of carrier vessel is not necessary for recording transfers or transshipments.
- Adapting the **Registers** record will allow creating NCPC validation entities and Agencies.
- Adapting the **Users Registration** functionality will allow the search and creation and edition of NCPC users.
- Adapting the **Self-Registration** functionality will allow the self-registration of importers and exporters from NCPCs
- Adapting the **BCD Registry** allows the addition of trades from NCPCs to existing BCDs
- Adapting the **BFTRC Registry** allows the creation of BFTRCs from NCPC exporting companies.
- Adapting **Reports** functionality allows NCPCs to download info concerning the BCDs on which they are involved.

2.1.3. PARALLEL TRANSFERS FROM LIVE TRADE. ADAPT PARALLEL TRANSFERS FUNCTIONALITY TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION PARALLEL LIVE TRADES

Issue was addressed to the WG on June 2016, after some CPCs communicated to Tragsa that one catch could be sold in two different moments to the same farm. That possibility was not considered in the algorithms that checks traceability when using this option. Time cost analysis was decided at January 2018 meeting.

TRAGSA September 2019: This issue was not included in the list of activities to be cost estimated sent April 10th 2019, but **Tragsa considers it one of the most important developments as several incidences are received each year regarding this issue. This issue concerns all catches on which live tuna is split in more than one section (more than one live trade, more than one caging or live trade and caging)**. The activity was originally cost-estimated on 18th October 2018 and the development *has not been officially requested yet*.

2.1.4. JFO SINCHRONIZATION

This issue is related to the development 'REFERENCE 2018-1: REQUEST OF CHANGE OF LOCATION OF REGISTRIES MAINTAINED BY ICCAT SECRETARIAT' that was updated in the system on January 2021.

While ‘REFERENCE 2018-1’ development was demanded only farms, traps and ports were costed estimated and required. Once the development was being accomplished, it arose the necessity of including also the JFOs as part of the registries to be synchronize and its cost estimate.

The activity was originally cost-estimated on December 1st 2020 and the development *has not been officially requested yet*

2.2. Issues pending cost-estimation due to the lack of requirements

ISSUES WHERE A COST ESTIMATION WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE GROUP	ISSUE	STATUS (OPEN / CLOSED)
ISSUES PENDING COST-ESTIMATION DUE TO THE LACK OF REQUIREMENTS	REFERENCE 2019-7: DEVELOP A READ-ONLY PROFILE FOR ICCAT INSPECTORS UNDER JIS	Pending Requirements

2.2.1. 2.1 REFERENCE 2019-7: DEVELOP A READ-ONLY PROFILE FOR ICCAT INSPECTORS UNDER JIS

These users will have permissions to access any eBCD under inspection.

TRAGSA March 2019: At TWG meeting it is discussed how access of international inspectors to BCDs could be managed in the system. Tragsa informs that a list of inspectors will be necessary and someone should establish periods of authorizations to let them access all BCDs generated on that period of time. Another option could be giving permissions over certain vessels on a certain period of time, so they could check all BCDs recorded for that vessel at that time. Constrains on this option will be that someone should maintain the observers list and give permissions to the international inspectors. Finally it was decided that this should be addressed to **IMM**.

TRAGSA September 2019: This functionality has not been cost estimated yet as some doubts have not been solved. The list of doubts sent by Tragsa and answer provided are:

- 1. Who would create and maintain these users in the system:** ANSWER: The Secretariat would provide a list, or enter them similar to the ROPs
- 2. Should all these users have access to all BCDs in the system or only to those from vessels inspected?** ANSWER: All relevant ones (i.e catches and live trades for that year and hence ‘enroute’ (e.g. not harvests) – is this possible?
- 3. Would these users have an “activity period”, so they would only have access to the documents during that period** ANSWER: perhaps the period they are designated as inspectors

Tragsa gives some option to limit the access of these inspectors only to BCDs inspected or vessels inspected. At the end the group decides that the following three options will be considered:

1. The operator will give temporary access to the inspectors by sharing with him his account.
2. The inspector will not have access to the system. Nevertheless, the operator provides a copy of the document to the inspector.
3. The inspector will have access to the system and will search inspected BCDs using a functionality that will let him search BCDs from a vessel searched.

Tragsa will not be able to advance with the cost-estimation until the Group communicates the development team how the system should work.

2.3. Issues pending a decision of IMM

ISSUES PENDING AN ACTION FROM WG OR IMM	TOPIC	STATUS (OPEN/ CLOSED)
Discuss if CPCs bycatch quota should be added to the system	Bycatch (Para 38 Rec 18-02):	Pending IMM
Discuss if adding BCD code to ICCAT transfer declaration will link both documents	Transshipments linked with Ebcd (Para 80 Rec 18-02)	Pending IMM

2.3.1. Bycatch (Para 38 Rec 18-02):

Rec 18-02 recommends that CPCs should establish a specific quota for bycatch of Bluefin tuna. Also indicates that the percentage of bycatches in relation with the total catches on board (in weight or number of fish) shall not exceed the 20% of total catches on board at the end of each fishing trip.

If a specific by-catch quota is established for each CPC, the system will be able to show an **alert when the CPC's bycatch quota is exceeded**. However, as in the eBCD systems only are recorded BFT catches, it is impossible to calculate the percentage of BFT from the total catches on board. The group decides to address this issue to **IMM**

TRAGSA September 2019: We are not aware if the **IMM** has decided that bycatch quotas need to be established in the system for each CPC, so an alert could be displayed when quota is exceeded.

2.3.2. Transshipments linked with eBCD (Para 80 Rec 18-02)

Paragraph 80 of Rec 18-02 establishes that transshipment declaration shall be linked to eBCD system to facilitate data cross-checking.

In the meeting is discussed the option of including again a functionality that will allow uploading documents in transshipment section. This functionality will need to be cost estimated. At the end it was decided to address the issue to **IMM** to see if this paragraph could be met if eBCD code is included in transshipment declaration.

TRAGSA September 2019: We are not aware if the **IMM** has decided that it is enough if BCD code is included in transshipment declaration.

2.4. Issues discussed in previous WG meeting which are still pending

ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Include the 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections	Include the 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections	Pending receiving plausible transformations
When a traceability alert is generated due to an inconsistency in a split BCD, the alert is shown in all the branches (splits) of that catch	Show traceability alert in all branches added from the section that triggers the inconsistency	Cost estimation not requested

2.4.1. 32. Issues specific to the W-BFT fishery/WG members

The WG requested in the September 2014 meeting to include only ***the 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections***. This also applies to the transshipment section in the E-BFT. (i.e. 'gutted and gilled' cannot be followed by 'whole'). Any modification will be considered new developments under flexibility allotment.

Tragsa is now working on including BFTRC in these cross-checks. When re-exporting parts of a batch of BCDs, the system will consider all the plausible options included in the whole batch. This is the only valid solution as when using batches in BFTRCs, the BFT re-exported is not assigned to a specific BCD.

USA March 2019: USA recalls that the group needs to send to Tragsa the plausible transformations.

TRAGSA September 2019: This functionality was requested on June 2018 after its cost-estimation. In product presentation drop-down menu, the system will only display the plausible options compatible with the products selected in previous section. *Tragsa is waiting for receiving from the Group the list of plausible transformations, but the functionality was uploaded to the system on December 2018.*

2.4.2. When a traceability alert is generated due to an inconsistency in a split BCD, the alert is shown in all the branches (splits) of that catch (05/07/2016).

At March 2017 it is discussed the possibility of **Showing alerts only in concerned branches**. Tragsa informs that how to prevent an alert being displayed in all the branches of a BCD can be studied. However, detecting in which specific section the error was performed is impossible. Consequently, the alert needs at least to be displayed in all branches added from the section that triggers the traceability alert. The alert is also shown in the section that triggers the alert. I.e. *if we have a harvesting of 300 kgs, and afterwards two trade sections adding up 301 kgs are added to that harvesting, the traceability alert is displayed in the harvesting and in both trade sections. The system cannot know which trade section is wrong. Time cost analysis needs to be officially requested by ICCAT Secretariat.*

TRAGSA March 2019: Issue not discussed and *Cost estimation of this issue has never been requested.*

TRAGSA September 2019: Tragsa explains again that if a trade has an alert, the alert will be displayed in all the trades (branches) of that BCD. Importers will find the message but they will not be able to detect that the problem is in a different trade operation. The Group must decide if this development is necessary or not.

2.5. Other issues considered “Open” at March 2019

ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Cross-checks the total catch’s average weight and the samplings average weight-4. Tagging	Cross-checks the total catch’s average weight and the samplings average weight-	Open
Include a “Start date” to role’s permissions	Show traceability alert in all branches added from the section that triggers the inconsistency	Cost estimation not requested

2.5.1. Cross-checks the total catch’s average weight and the samplings average weight-4. Tagging:

TRAGSA September 2016: US asks if the system cross-checks the total catch’s average weight and the samplings average weight. Tragsa confirms that the system does not inform about differences. **The option of reporting Administrators when these figures exceed a certain % of tolerance is discussed.** An email will be sent to administrators but no inconsistency will be shown in the system. While Tragsa was present no % of tolerance was established. Modifications need to be done under Flexibility allotment

TRAGSA March 2017: The issue is addressed again but no conclusion was obtained. At the end it is decided to leave the issue open and could be discussed in future meetings if Commission decides an action like this is necessary.

TRAGSA January 2018: US asks EU why the figures of sampling average weight does not match with average weight calculated by the system for the total catch. Spain explains that sampling average weigh can be less or equal to the one obtained by the system depending on the product

presentation of BFT sampled. The issue is left **Open** as the TWG considered necessary further discussion.

2.5.2. Include a “Start date” to role’s permissions. Issue raised by Tunisia (JAN 2018)

When the management permissions function was developed, it was decided to establish only an end date on permissions, but not a start date. The idea was that if you now work for certain farm or vessel, you might need to have access to all historic data/BCDs of that entity. Tunisia considers that giving permissions over the historic information of an entity may become a confidentiality issue.

TRAGSA January 2018: The TWG accepts the proposal of Tunisia, so Tragsa will cost estimate including a “Start date” to all the users permissions. This start date field will be optional, but when filled out, the user will not have access to BCDs and BFTRCs linked to that entity issued prior the start date of the user. *Time cost analysis needs to be officially requested by ICCAT Secretariat.*

TRAGSA January 2019: *Cost estimation of this issue has never been requested.*

3. New issues

In this chapter it has been included some highlight issues that have arisen through incidents this year. If it is deemed properly these issues might be considered for further discussion.

3.1. Mortality during towing voyage

Some flags have highlighted the difficulties of declaring mortality during the towing voyage. There is a procedure in order to declare this, but some Flags explain that this mortality should be reflected in chronological order and not in the caging section. It has been observed that transfer section is used in some eBCDs to declare this mortality occurred during the towing voyage. The transfer section does not keep the records of changes done and it does not need validation. Therefore if declaration of fish is made in the transfer section instead of the caging section, tracking traceability and problems that may arise becomes complicated to solve.

3.2. JFO without associated farm

The system works with the JFOs associated to farms. At the moment of JFO creation in each campaign, it is mandatory to include at least one farm. This year the possibility of JFOs without associated farm included in it have arisen, due to the possibility of creating the JFO for domestic trade only and not for life trade. This change is not simple due to the complexity of the JFO and the links with other parts of the system.

3.3. Natural mortality field in harvesting

Once the harvesting has been recorded, the natural death box cannot be activated. Incidents have been received regarding this issue due to weather conditions where the individuals were dying. It was proposed the possibility of modifying the field in the harvesting section as long as the observer has not signed it yet. If the observer has signed the harvesting this field could not be modified.

3.4. Campaign setup using a form

The proposal is to create a form in the system in order to be able to setup each fishing campaign for users with ICCAT Secretariat profile.

The form will allow including the necessary information for activating the fishing campaign. Within this information it could be included, linking the campaign to the appropriate CPCs, associate the quotas for each CPC or link recommendations applicable to the campaign.

Issues for possible discussion by the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG)**TRAGSA ISSUES****- Mortality during towing voyage**

Some flags have highlighted the difficulties of declaring mortality during the towing voyage. There is a procedure in order to declare this, but some flags explain that this mortality should be reflected in chronological order and not in the caging section. It has been observed that the transfer section is used in some eBCDs to declare this mortality occurred during the towing voyage. The transfer section does not keep the records of changes made and it does not need validation. Therefore if declaration of fish is done in the transfer section instead of the caging section, tracking traceability and problems that may arise become complicated to solve.

One CPC flag considers the "chronologically" appropriate place to record fish killed during towing is the transfer section. However, the registration of dead fish in this section is only enabled if the fish were marketable: it would later be registered in a trade section. Currently, if dead non-marketable fish are recorded in a transfer section, as the transfer section does not receive any validation, these fish would be excluded from all traceability and would not be recorded in the eBCD system's "audit of changes".

The procedure to declare dead BFT during towing (not marketable BFT) is to cage the live and dead fish and later on to register a harvesting with the individual dead fish and its weight clicking in the field 'Natural Mortality' (validation is required in this case). This is the procedure for BFT which die after the live trade and / or caging, it would include fishes which died in the first transfer, during the towing voyage, in the second transfer (if there are any) and even while caging is being done. When dead BFT are registered in the Transfer, this registration will 'open' the opportunity to add a new section from the transfer section for trading the dead BFT. One flag CPC is using this field in the transfer section to declare the dead fish during the towing voyage, but they are not creating the trade section from transfer as this fish is not marketable. In this situation, the only possibility to declare dead fish is after the caging section, with the harvesting and with the validation required.

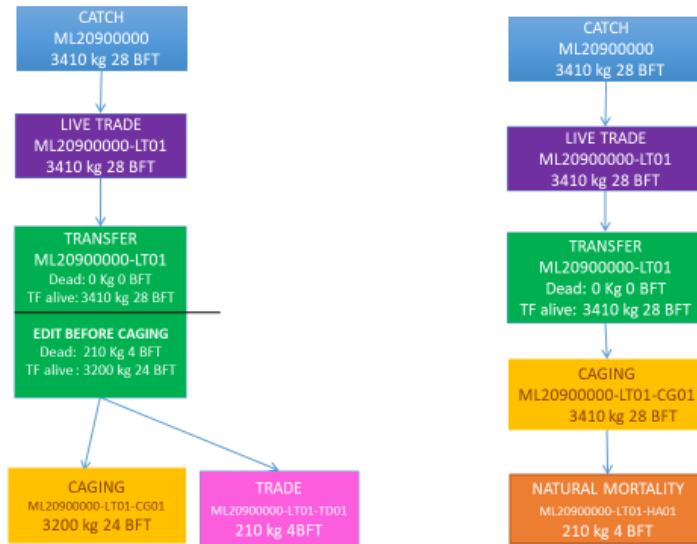
The main problem that we see with this practice is that the transfer did not leave any entry in the "audit of changes", and there is no need for validation, therefore anything can be filled in this section or change without leaving any trail.

In order to better understand these two situations, see the diagrams below:

Example: CA: 3410 kg 28 BFT (Dead fish 210 kg, 4 BFT)

Scenario A: When the fish dead can be sold.

Scenario B: When the dead fish cannot be sold.



At least one flag is using transfer sections to record mortality. As the transfer section does not leave any trail in the audit of changes in the system, if something has changed in a transfer due to a change in dead BFT or any other field, it cannot be tracked. This is because there is no entry in the database with these changes. Besides, this section does not need any validation, so the control of the changes in this section by the authorities is less than in other sections. If this section is being used to declare dead BFT the control above this number is minor.

- **JFO without associated farm**

The system works with the JFOs associated to farms. At the moment of JFO creation in each campaign, it is mandatory to include at least one farm. This year the possibility of JFOs without an associated farm included in it has arisen, due to the possibility of creating the JFO for domestic trade only and not for live trade. This change is not simple due to the complexity of the JFO and the links with other parts of the system.

The entire logic governing JFOs has been implemented in the eBCD system around the premise that the fishery resulting from a JFO was to be destined for live trade. Therefore, all the internal processes of the application as well as the configuration of the database tables have also been built on that premise.

The appearance of the possibility that the fish from a JFO will be destined for domestic trade disrupts all that logic, since the JFO farm was the central axis on which it was built: all the tables and relationships between them must change as well as the forms destined for the JFO: not only adding all the logic involved in domestic trade but also disabling all the logic that made a farm indispensable.

JFO for domestic trade only means that the vessels in the group want to be able to share the catch, but they do not want the BFT to go into a farm. They want the BFT catch to be sold domestically, this means that after registering the catch (CA) in the system, the section that follows will be a trade (TD) and not a live trade (LT) (as usually happens with JFOs).

The complexity within the JFO in the system is due to the JFO being a different kind of catch, it takes into account not only the number of vessels involved but also the percentage each vessel has for every catch. Apart from that, JFOs also allow vessels to be of different flags, include farms from other countries and even

include a farm from one country and another from another country, regardless of the vessel flags that are included in the JFO. Besides if the JFO is from two different flags it has to be established who is the principal catch flag and create as many BCDs as flags are involved in the JFO catch. All this implies that the system has to be looking into authorizations from vessels, farms and associated companies, flag's quotas, vessel percentage catch and much more, and therein lies the complexity of changing the JFOs functionality in the system.

- **Natural mortality field in harvesting**

Once the harvesting has been recorded, the natural death box cannot be activated, and incidents have been received regarding this issue due to weather conditions where the individuals were dying. It was proposed the possibility of modifying the field in the harvesting section as long as the observer has not yet signed it. If the observer has signed the harvesting, this field could not be modified.

Once a harvesting eBCD has been created, the "natural mortality" box cannot be edited under ANY circumstances (regardless of whether the eBCD has been validated by any national authority or regional observer). But sometimes, events happen that make this behavior too restrictive:

- After the creation of the section, fish may die (e.g. as a consequence of storms).
- The person entering the data may be too hasty or make a mistake and leave the box checked or unchecked incorrectly.

Since paragraph 7 of Recommendation 18-13 requires that there is correspondence between the fish that exist in this section and those that are released at the end of the year, it is important that the figures in these eBCD documents match the fish release data.

The rigidity of this behavior means that sometimes the section must be recreated; with the consequent upset for all those involved: Farm Operators and Flag Authorities (currently, the only way to avoid recreating the sections is to correct the situation directly in the database).

The eBCD Team proposes to make this behavior more flexible to avoid these problems: as long as a regional observer has not signed, the box could be edited by the flag authorities (if the eBCD document was already signed by them) or by the farm operator himself in case the document had not passed any validation.

The problem in editing the box occurs when the section has been recorded and before validation. The normal procedure in this case is to register the harvesting when the fish have died (in this case the natural mortality box will be selected) or when it is going to be sacrificed (the natural mortality box will not be selected). In this last case, once registered, the observer will enter the system and agree or not with this harvesting and later on the authorities that will validate the harvesting.

Last year during a big storm, a farm decided to register the harvestings of the tuna before the tuna died or were sacrificed, in these harvestings the notes field were completed with the information that they were waiting to see if the individuals died 'naturally' or whether it had to be sacrificed. Some of them died as a consequence of the injuries caused by the storm. Therefore, as the harvestings were already registered in the system, the natural mortality box could not be selected at that moment. There were two ways of solving the issue, one was to delete the harvestings and create them again (the operator did not want this to happen because they were losing the eBCD code sequence) or to change it directly in the database. In the end the changes were made in the database by TRAGSA.

We have seen that changing this field into an editable one is not complicated and in cases like this, the flag authorities could solve this if the observer has not signed the harvesting. We recommend only the administrator profile be authorised do this change in order for the flag authority to control in which cases this is being applied, but access to this editable field could be allowed to suitable profiles.

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Harvesting Information

Start Date 13/Oct/2020 9:20 *Time GMT*
End Date 13/Oct/2020 9:21 *Time GMT*
No. of Fish 76
Total Weight 18936 , KG
AVG. Weight(Kg) 249 , 158

Notes (max 4.000 characters) BAJA CORRESPONDIENTE A DÍA 31/08/2020. Nº DTS UE-ESP-2020/006/DTS, UE-ESP-2020/007/DTS Y UE-ESP-2020/008/DTS

Natural Mortality ✓

Validating entity selection

Validating Entity AAP-MURCIA

Government validation

Name of Authority RUTH HERRADOR BENITO
Title INSPECTORA DE PESCA

- **Campaign setup using a form**

The proposal is to create a form in the system in order for the ICCAT Secretariat users to be able to setup each campaign.

The form will allow including the necessary information for the activation of the campaign. This information could be to link the campaign to the appropriate CPCs, associate the quotas for each CPC or link recommendations applicable to the campaign.

Currently, the campaign configurations are carried out through an exchange of emails between ICCAT and TRAGSA, the latter having to manually enter each campaign parameter (such as quotas) directly into the database from the information they receive in each email. If these parameters are established in a form in the eBCD system, this would avoid the annual exchange of mails and the ICCAT Secretariat could directly establish the parameters for each campaign through the eBCD system.

Fishing campaign, as shown in the example below, is the 2021 fishing year starting January 1 and finishing December 31 (for most CPCs). The "campaign field" here appears as editable because the screenshot was made by an ICCAT Secretariat user that has a converter profile.

Catch Information

Time zone (UTC+02:00) Amman

Date 07/Apr/2021 12:20

Flag EU.ESTONIA (EU-EST)

Campaign 01/JAN/2021 - 31/DEC/2021

The form will allow including the necessary information for the activation of the campaign. This information could be to link the campaign to the appropriate CPCs, associate the quotas for each CPC or link recommendations applicable to the campaign.

ICCAT ISSUES

- Synchronization of databases between ICCATDB and eBCD: JFO

Once the "inversion" of the synchronization of the entity tables (except for companies) has been completed, the inversion of the tables related to the JFOs remains to be done.

It would be useful to address both the technical and budgetary details of this pending development.

TRAGSA:

The resources required to perform the synchronization of the JFO are indicated in the following table:

1.1.- JFO Synchronization						
Profile	%	Months	Hours/Month	Total hours	Cost	Budget
Consultant	1	1	4	4	€50.99	€203.96
Project Manager	1	1	18	18	€45.65	€ 821.70
Business Analyst	1	1	37	37	€35.16	€1,300.92
Programmer Analyst	1	1	74	74	€33.29	€2,463.46
Business Expert	1	1	20	20	€30.79	€615.80
Total						€5,405.84

- **Search for eBCDs in the system**

Through the option “BCD and BFTRC registry/search BCD”, the search for a single eBCD by its code is performed relatively quickly. However, if you do not know the eBCD code and you try to find one or more eBCDs through the other filters, the search becomes impossible in most cases (probably due to the high volume of data already in the database).

It would be convenient to reformulate this functionality or to try to find solutions to this type of searches so that they can be useful.

TRAGSA: An analysis must be performed in order to see how can be improved.

- **Improved messages from the eBCD system to the user**

Among the topics to be discussed in the next TWG meeting we are considering including the modification of some messages that the system now displays and that may be somewhat confusing for the user.

This in turn causes the user not to know how to act on these messages and ends up going to the eBCD User Support (with the consequent loss of time for us and for the user himself).

A document has been created detailing some of the messages proposed for modification, as well as changes that could be made to improve them.

TRAGSA: Comments on the specific document.

- **Edit /change/add a farm in a JFO once it already has BCDs**

A repeated problem is that, once the farms involved in a JFO have been defined and included and are already in some eBCD, the only way to change them is to delete all the eBCDs in which they are included and recreate them with the consequent disruption.

As this is a recurrent problem and very tedious to solve for all parties involved, it would be necessary to look for some kind of solution that could alleviate or prevent these situations.

TRAGSA: If JFO synchronization is going to be required, this issue can be taken into account in the analysis phase in order to include this condition in the process. Therefore, regardless whether catches have already been recorded for that JFO it would be allowed to add new farms to the JFO. If finally the JFO synchronization is not required, an analysis must be performed in order to see the changes that will be required in the eBCD system within the JFOs registries, in order to allow adding farms to the JFOs, regardless whether or not they have associated BCDs.

WORKING GROUP ON BLUEFIN TUNA CONTROL AND TRACEABILITY MEASURES (WG BFTCT) ISSUES

Conclusions of the Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures to be referred to the eBCD TWG:

103	<p>Intra-farms transfers and random controls A traceability system in farms must be implemented, and include the video-recording of intra-farm transfers.</p> <p>Based on a risk analysis, random controls must be conducted by the farm CPC between the time of</p>	<p>To develop an Annex to outline procedures for random controls, including cooperation of operators, and to follow up in case of discrepancies.</p> <p>To request the eBCD TWG/IMM to look into data extraction including intra-farm data.</p>
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	<p>completion of caging operations and the first caging of the following year.</p> <p>The farm CPC must fix a minimum % of fish to be controlled. This percentage shall be reflected in their inspection plan transmitted under paragraph 14. Results of those checks shall be communicated to ICCAT.</p>	
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eBCD	Proposal of the EU	
	<p>Paper copies of the eBCD are used during transportation and in marketing places with the risk that same eBCD is duplicated.</p>	<p>To consider whether to use, on a mandatory basis, the section for transport means in the trade section of the eBCD to add information on transport mean used as well as to consider adding the dates for departure and arrival. [Turkey reserves position.]</p> <p>To discuss the possibility to access the eBCD system on the basis of further explanations from the EU about the scope of the enlarged access proposed.</p>