

Report of the Second Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG)

(hybrid / Osaka, Japan, 5 June 2023)

1. Opening of the meeting

The Executive Secretary, Mr Camille Jean Pierre Manel, welcomed all the attendees to the Second Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG), which was opened by the eBCD TWG Chair, Mr Neil Ansell.

2. Nomination of rapporteur

The eBCD TWG Chair requested a volunteer to act as rapporteur and as result a member of the ICCAT Secretariat agreed to take on this responsibility.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The eBCD TWG Chair briefly outlined the agenda and asked CPCs to present any matters to be included. The Agenda was adopted and is contained in **Appendix 1**.

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

4. Updates on ongoing developments since previous meeting (January 2023)

Descriptions and details associated with the following proposals contained in this item/section are attached in **Appendix 3**.

4.1 Reference 5.4.1: Reference 2019-7: Develop a read-only profile for ICCAT inspectors under the Joint Inspection Scheme (JIS)

The development envisages the inclusion of the JIS ICCAT Inspector profile taking into account the integrity of the system, the confidentiality of the data and the operational specificities of accessing the system in the field. This functionality was requested and uploaded to the system in May 2023.

The eBCD TWG Chair recalled that this development had been considered a priority and, as informed by TRAGSA, is now developed and available in the system production environment.

The ICCAT Secretariat added that a Circular would be sent out shortly to obtain the details of the ICCAT inspectors seeking access. They explained that the identifiers of these inspectors required in the system should have a maximum size of 15 characters and should not contain spaces.

The United States noted that it would like to be informed in the future about the use of this functionality by inspectors and how connection challenges were addressed.

Final decision: The development is in production. Circulars will be issued to inform CPCs of the use of this functionality and CPCs should respect the limitations in defining the identifiers of JIS ICCAT Inspectors.

4.2 Reference 2019-8 (35): Trades companies of other countries adapt the system to allow access to non-Contracting Parties (NCPs)

The requirements for the creation of the different profiles for non-CPC countries to access the system. Development was requested on 12 April 2023.

On this proposal, the eBCD TWG Chair summarized that this development was deemed a low priority due to its high cost. During the [First Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group](#) in January, the eBCD TWG approved its development but maintained its status as a low-priority item for implementation.

Final decision: While approved for development, it will be the last proposal to be published following the completion of the other approved items.

4.3 Reference 92: Transshipments linked with the electronic bluefin tuna catch document (eBCD) (Rec. 21-08, para 92)

Paragraph 92 of the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean \(Rec. 21-08\)](#) establishes that transshipment declaration shall be linked to the electronic bluefin tuna catch document (eBCD) system to facilitate data cross-checking. Development was requested on 12 April 2023.

The eBCD TWG Chair outlined that the development is scheduled for completion in September/October, although it will be submitted to the 16th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) for discussion before proceeding, in particular the nature of the link foreseen under paragraph 92 of the measure.

Japan noted that if this development involves the introduction of new information into the system, the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation program \(Rec. 18-13\)](#) should be amended accordingly (as this Recommendation defines the format).

The eBCD TWG Chair explained that if only the number of the transshipment declaration was included in the notes field of the section, the amendment of [Rec. 18-13](#) would not be necessary. However, he found that the requirements of the development include the uploading of the transshipment document; it is therefore necessary to define the specific way that this information will be added to make it clear to TRAGSA how to specify the development in the case that only the reference in the notes field is necessary.

The United States confirmed that the eBCD TWG's approach was to include a specific field to store the transshipment number.

The EU expressed that it was unclear whether the development foresees an alert/inconsistency if this information is not filled in, as it is mandatory, and expressed concern about the fact that the transshipment number is included in the notes field as this would prevent its correct validation both in its format and mandatory nature.

TRAGSA confirmed that the development had been estimated with the uploading of the document file (transshipment declaration), but given that the development of the proposal has not started, it could still be changed based on the needs of the eBCD TWG to include a specific field for the transshipment number.

Morocco proposed the possibility of adding the eBCD number to the transshipment declaration in order to avoid eBCD development.

Final decision: The IMM will discuss the nature of the link foreseen by paragraph 92 of the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean \(Rec. 22-08\)](#) before advising the eBCD TWG on specific system development.

4.4 Reference 5.5.4: Inclusion of stereo camera results in the caging section of the printed eBCD

On Annex 9 of the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 18-02 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean \(Rec. 19-04\)](#) and Annex 3 of the [Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation program \(Rec. 18-13\)](#), Morocco presented a proposal to include the weight and number of fish results from the stereoscopic camera control in the caging section of the printed eBCD. Development was requested on 12 April 2023.

The eBCD TWG Chair recalled that this proposal was put forward by Morocco and approved at the [First Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group](#) in January. It was prioritized for development in August.

Final decision: No action needed. Expected to be developed by August.

4.5 Reference 5.5.5: Development of functionality to allow grouping of fish from the same flag origin/same joint fishing operation (JFO) (First phase: Cage registration)

It was noted that Panel 2 (paragraph 100 of [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 18-02 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean \(Rec. 19-04\)](#)) requested that the eBCD TWG study the consideration of the regrouping of fish, in intra-farm transfers, in a new cage by assigning this operation a new eBCD with its own code. Such a grouping would be within the same flag origin/same joint fishing operation (JFO). To address this proposal, the first phase should be to make a record of cages, as the cage field is currently a free text field. Japan also noted that this development would be important for the development of growth rates, as it is necessary to have a register of cages. This first phase, "Cage registration", was approved for development at the [First Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group](#) in January 2023. The development was requested in April 2023.

The eBCD TWG Chair recalled that this development had been divided into two phases, the first of which (Cage Register) was ongoing. After the development of this phase, the eBCD TWG will have to undertake further discussion on how to deal with the second phase concerning grouping. Development is scheduled to be completed in July 2023.

TRAGSA expressed that there is a series of questions that the eBCD TWG should clear up before it can continue with the development: the information that must accompany the registration of each cage to define its characteristics (cage identifier, end date, location?, etc.) and which of these information fields would be mandatory. They also needed to know if the cages to be registered are only those of the farms or if it was also necessary to register the transport cages. On this last question, the eBCD TWG Chair clarified that the cages to be registered are farm cages.

Final decision: The ICCAT Secretariat will circulate the additional questions from TRAGSA in "Questions from TRAGSA on cage registry" (**Appendix 4**) so that the development can proceed.

4.6 Reference 6.1: Farming capacity (Rec. 21-08, para 26)

It was recalled that under paragraph 26 of the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean \(Rec. 21-08\)](#), the ICCAT Secretariat compiles statistics on the annual amount of caging (input of wild caught fish), harvesting, and export, by farm CPC, using the data in the eBCD system. The eBCD TWG is required to consider the development of such a data extraction functionality, and until such a functionality becomes available, each farm CPC reports these statistics to the ICCAT Secretariat. These statistics shall be made available on the ICCAT website subject to confidentiality requirements. Development was requested in April 2023.

The EU asked when this functionality would be available, so the ICCAT Secretariat can automatically have at its disposal the statistical data that farm CPCs sent annually on harvesting and export operations. Hence once developed it will no longer be necessary to send such data.

The ICCAT Secretariat responded that it is still too early to give a precise answer to this question, but the development is scheduled for release later this year so it would not be possible to have this functionality in place before then.

Final decision: The development of the proposal is estimated to take place around the end of this year.

4.7 Reference 5.5.3: Transport area within trade section to be mandatory and include dates of departure and arrival

Paper copies of the eBCD are used during transportation and in marketing places, with the risk that some eBCDs are duplicated. The EU proposed considering 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 whether to add the dates of departure and arrival. The possibility is to be discussed of accessing the eBCD system on the basis of further explanations from the EU about the scope of the enlarged access proposed. A cost estimation was requested and requirements were sent in September 2022.

The eBCD TWG Chair reminded that Türkiye had doubts/concerns about this development and since this CPC did not attend the meeting, the discussion on this proposal is to be postponed until they are consulted.

Morocco sought clarification regarding the process of discussing the implementation of new functionalities in the eBCD system, prior to an agreement by the respective subsidiary body of the Commission. This practice could potentially lead to the inclusion of functionalities in the eBCD system that do not align with current Recommendations. The EU agreed with Morocco's stance and approach.

Japan stated that it agrees with Morocco that there should be a clear political decision before technical implementation, but noted that on some issues there is a need or in some case requests for prior technical discussion by the eBCD TWG before submission to the relevant Commission body.

Final Decision: Open, the discussion of this proposal is postponed.

4.8 ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP) (Rec. 21-08, para 102)

In accordance with paragraph 102 of [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean \(Rec. 21-08\)](#), by way of derogation from paragraph 101, harvesting from farms up to 1,000 kg per day and up to a maximum of 50 t per farm per year to supply the fresh bluefin tuna market, may be authorized by the relevant CPC provided that an authorized inspector from the farm CPC is onsite for 100% of such harvests, and controls the entire operation. The authorized inspector shall also validate the harvested quantities in the eBCD system. In this case, the regional observer's signature should not be required in the harvest section of the eBCD. Cost/time estimates were requested and requirements were sent on 27 September 2022.

The eBCD TWG Chair recalled that at the [First Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group](#) in January, CPCs had been asked if there was any interest in implementing this derogation and the eBCD TWG had not given it a high priority, so the IMM would be consulted on it.

Final decision: Open, deferred to IMM to discuss the level of CPC implementation of this derogation prior to any development.

4.9 Reference 5.5.6: Mortality during towing voyage

Some CPCs reminded the eBCD TWG of the difficulties faced declaring mortality during the towing voyage. TRAGSA noted that a procedure existed, although some CPCs explained that this mortality should be reflected in chronological order and not in the caging section. TRAGSA explained that this could be done with a new section that could allow declaring dead fishes chronologically.

The EU presented the document "Reporting of mortalities in the eBCD – Annex 11 [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean \(Rec. 22-08\)](#)", which underlines the following points:

- It defines the recording of mortality in four different scenarios: Catch and first transfer, Further transfers and transport to the destination farm, Caging and Farming.

- The eBCD system only has a specific functionality for recording mortality in the first scenario (Catch and first transfer) and this document aims to define how mortality should be recorded in the other three scenarios.
- The mortalities during transport and further transfers are reported in the eBCD by the farm operator at the beginning of the caging (farming) section of the eBCD. The farm operator must report the quantities reflected by the master(s) of the towing vessel(s) arriving at the farm with the towing vessel that will cage the fish by means of a template set out in Annex 11.
- For the recording of cage mortality, it would be necessary to add a new entry in the “cage description” field in the rearing section of the eBCD, where the farm operator can report mortalities occurring during the caging operation.
- For the reporting of fish killed or lost during farming activities, a functionality would be added in the harvesting section of the eBCD, similar to the existing functionality for natural mortality, where lost, stolen, escaped, etc. fish can also be included. In addition, it should be possible to attach the supporting documents mentioned in Annex 11, point 14.

Japan made two comments regarding the recording of mortality under the scenario of further transfers and transport to the destination farm:

- Based on the provisions of Annex 11, it should be considered that mortalities should be recorded by the master of the towing vessel rather than the farm operator.
- With regard to fish that die during transport in the event of multiple transfers, for practical reasons and in order to be in line with [Rec. 22-08](#), the system should provide a section that allows this mortality to be recorded separately.

Japan also made observations on the following paragraph of the document, which corresponds to the penultimate paragraph of point (b):

“As the quota uptake takes into account the quantities caged (except in cases under investigation as per paragraph 174 and 181), mortalities must be added to the catches that will be deducted from the quota taking into account the stereoscopic camera results for that caging.”

Japan emphasised that the key point to focus on in this scenario is that the sum of caged fish and mortalities up to that point is equal to the number of fish caught. However, Japan considered that the wording of this paragraph does not clearly define this premise and should be amended.

The EU responded that they ruled out the possibility of recording mortalities in the way described by Japan in the additional transfers as this would require the addition of multiple transfer sections, which would make the system much more complex to operate. The choice of the farm operator to record mortality is due to the fact that when all transfers are finalized, all the mortality data are transmitted to the operator by the vessel masters, and furthermore TRAGSA advised that there is no validation process in the transfer section to control these entries.

Japan recalled that in the event that the farm operators should be responsible for recording mortality, [Rec. 22-08](#) Annex 11 paragraph 9 should be amended because it currently states that the master of the towing vessel shall be responsible for recording mortalities.

Morocco generally agreed with the EU's position in its paper; however, it was unconvinced by the idea of uploading documentation, considering it redundant since the system already displayed the necessary information. Moreover, Morocco emphasized that the digital nature of the system is specifically designed to prevent the need to download and manipulate paper documentation. On the other hand, Morocco also noted that if the proposal is finally adopted, it would require amendments to Annex 11 and other related paragraphs in the measure. Therefore, this aspect should be considered during the 16th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM).

The EU informed that it would modify the document by creating a new version to accommodate the considerations of Morocco and Japan which is attached as **Appendix 5**.

TRAGSA considered the implementation of the first two points described in the document (points b) and c)) feasible, but have doubts about the last point d) because fish registered by natural death can be marketed, but fish that have escaped, been stolen, etc., cannot. To register the latter cases, it would be necessary to create a new final eBCD section (i.e., to which no new eBCD sections can be added). In addition, the paragraph stating that the system must deduct the quota of the specimens declared would need to be further evaluated and analysed, e.g., in the case of groupings it would complicate its implementation considerably.

Final decision: New time/cost analysis requested on the basis of the document submitted by the EU (**Appendix 5**).

4.10 Cross-checks the total catch's average weight and the samplings average weight

The United States asked if the system cross-checks the total catch's average weight and the samplings average weight. TRAGSA confirmed that the system does not undertake or report on any differences. The option of reporting to Administrators when these figures exceed a certain % of tolerance was discussed (e.g., an email sent to administrators, but no inconsistency shown in the system).

The eBCD TWG Chair recalled that at the [First Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group](#) in January, this issue was identified by the eBCD TWG as a low priority, but it was nevertheless decided to keep it open for further discussion and to ask for a time/cost estimate from TRAGSA and on possible options as regards how this can be implemented in the system.

Final decision: Open. TRAGSA to propose possible options and time/cost estimate.

4.11 Button for deleting active user sessions/cookies

The United States asked whether it would be possible to have a functionality that would solve the problem of duplicate sessions. The United States explained that this problem has been reported to them by users on more occasions since the [First Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group](#) so they still consider it a relevant issue. They would like to know if there are other possibilities than deleting cookies manually in the browser.

TRAGSA commented that it would be important to receive specific cases in order to study them with a view to finding a solution. The main problem is that each browser manages cookies in a different way and therefore it is not possible to find a unified solution; it would have to be customized for each browser. On the other hand, as also reported at the [First Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group](#), the support team is receiving hardly any incidents from users related to this issue.

Morocco asked whether there is a security issue behind this problem.

The United States clarified that this proposal was not about security; the reason is that some users are locked out of duplicate sessions and must wait for the session to end or manually clear browser cookies to continue operating the eBCD system.

Final decision: The United States should send specific case examples to enable TRAGSA to study possible solutions.

4.12 Modification of a term in the JFO form of the printed BCD

At the [First Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group](#) in January, the United States expressed some confusion over the terminology used in the printed version of the eBCD related to JFOs and that further discussion on this terminology would be useful.

The United States informed that it has bilaterally discussed this issue with TRAGSA to bring the terminology displayed on the web version of the JFO catch BCDs in line with the printed version.

TRAGSA showed the eBCD TWG the changes made to the printed version, explaining the differences between the printed version when the printed catch corresponds to a single vessel or when operating in a JFO.

Following TRAGSA's intervention, the United States announced that it would continue to work with TRAGSA to present an alternative wording.

Final decision: The United States will continue to collaborate with TRAGSA to establish a definitive printed wording of the JFO catch in the eBCD.

5. Review/progress of system developments and received cost/time estimates

5.1 Question from Japan on obtaining the necessary data for the calculation of growth rates

There are two issues related to growth rates: first, 1.1.9 (Question from Japan on obtaining the necessary data for the calculation of growth rates), requirements of a report that meet the criteria explained were sent in September 2022; and second, 1.2.4. Reference No. 27: Growth rates (paragraph 27 of Rec. 21-08), where Japan explained how a report with the growth rates calculations can be included in the system. The cost estimation of this report was requested in April 2023.

Japan recalled the reasons for the request by explaining that importing countries need to collate the farming weight of all bluefin tuna in an Excel table. In order to perform the correct growth rate calculation, this needs to include the data related to all tunas in farming cages, including those which are exported to countries other than Japan. If this function was installed into the eBCD system, the current voluntary provision of information by exporting countries would no longer be necessary.

The EU supported this development insofar as it removes the administrative burden, but remains concerned about data confidentiality. They also considered that the Excel tables with the calculations should be evaluated by the SCRS. They also considered that this item should be merged with Reference No. 27: Growth rates proposal (Rec. 21-08, para 27) to avoid redundancies.

Morocco noted that during the discussion of this same proposal at the [First Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group](#) in January, it was specified that there would be certain aggregations with respect to harvest data and growth rates that are not reflected in the TRAGSA proposal, and therefore also supports a review by the SCRS. As regards confidentiality, only the users directly involved in the eBCD should have access, both from the exporting CPC and the importing CPC, including those involved in validation.

Japan agreed with Morocco that only directly involved exporting/importing CPCs should have access to the data and stressed that if importing CPCs did not have such access, there would be no point in the proposed development.

TRAGSA explained that in its requirements it initially submitted the profiles corresponding to the CPC of the exporting farm, but given Japan's needs it has also submitted additional profiles that would allow it to access the data as an importing CPC.

Japan proposed that for the sake of confidentiality, the system should detect cases of abnormal growth rates and alert the CPC involved in the import, and emphasized the importance of checking the growth rate for each cage at the time of export.

TRAGSA replied that the functionality has been designed to allow CPCs to obtain the data, but in no case would the system perform an analysis of deviations in growth rates which would be very complex to address.

The EU proposed, along the same lines as Japan, that only a subset of the data should be sent to the importing CPC in case any anomaly in the data is detected.

TRAGSA explained that the reporting functionality, which is where the requirements are framed, does not include alerting users who utilize these reports, as these reports are generated based on user requests.

Japan, in view of this response, asked whether it is possible for these data to be obtained by the importing CPC upon request. The eBCD TWG Chair urged TRAGSA to study this proposal adding all the elements that have been discussed in this meeting.

Final decision: TRAGSA will explore further possibilities based on the requests proposed by the eBCD TWG.

5.2 Report section No. 5.3.5.: After an inspection at sea or an investigation, the number of fish is found to be more than 10% different to that declared in the ITD and eBCD, the eBCD shall be amended by the CPC competent authority (Rec. 21-08, para 138)

This measure notes that if following an inspection at sea or an investigation, the number of fish is found to be more than 10% different to that declared in the ITD and eBCD, the eBCD shall be amended by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator to reflect the result of the investigation. Cost estimation was requested in April 2023.

The EU was of the opinion that this functionality should in any case be informative and at no time block the eBCD. Furthermore, it would not be dependent on an automatic validation of the system but would manually tick the box in the requirements after an inspection at sea. Furthermore, it would not be dependent on an automatic validation of the system, but following an inspection at sea where a 10% difference is detected, the data would be amended by the catch CPC flag.

Morocco noted that the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean \(Rec. 22-08\)](#) stated that it was the competent authority – which is referred to in this Recommendation as the CPC of the donor operator – that should make the amendment to the data in the catch section but in the catch section the CPC/Flag of the vessel is responsible. This authority is currently able to make these changes in the system so no further development would be necessary.

The EU concurred with the comment made by Morocco that it is the vessel's CPC/Flag that should act in such cases.

The eBCD TWG Chair, taking into account all the comments made by the eBCD TWG, concluded that the inclusion of the checkbox is unnecessary given that the current user profiles (associated with the CPC catching authorities) already possess the capability to make the required data changes in the system if needed (these changes are duly recorded in the change audit). Therefore, the current functionality of the system adequately fulfills the needs described in the recommendation.

Final decision: The inclusion of the proposed checkbox in the requirements is discarded.

5.3 Report section no. 5.4.1.: Inclusion of tool tips and available conversion factors in plausible transformations

The eBCD TWG Chair introduced these requirements by recalling the plausible transformations agreed at the [First Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group](#) in January and which have now been introduced in the test environment pending a decision by the eBCD TWG to upgrade them into the production environment. In addition, Japan, at the same meeting, proposed to also include conversion factors as an additional and complementary validation on products included in the eBCD.

The United States noted that it would be useful for TRAGSA to carry out a demonstration of the system as they have not been able to contrast what is set out in document “Flexible allotment - Requirements for the TWG Requests 2023”. Nonetheless, they acknowledged that the contextual help provided in this document could be valuable. Additionally, they suggested evaluating the implementation complexity and associated costs of introducing conversion factors.

Japan agreed that it would be useful for TRAGSA to present a demonstration as requested by the United States, but considered that validation by conversion factors should necessarily accompany validation by plausible transformations as they are closely related.

Morocco expressed its interest to include conversion factors into the system, however the table of conversion factors should first be endorsed by the SCRS and Panel 2.

The EU considered it premature to address the discussion on conversion factors before validation by plausible transformations was assessed through their implementation in the production environment.

TRAGSA attempted to carry out a demonstration of the validation of plausible transformations, but due to technical problems was unable to do so.

The eBCD TWG Chair concluded that interest in validation by conversion factors should be conveyed to IMM, informing them that if this proposal were to go ahead, the SCRS and the Commission would be responsible for elaborating and approving the conversion factors to be used.

Final decision: CPCs must test the functionality of plausible transformations in the CPC environment before being loaded into the production environment. Inclusion of conversion factors will be deferred to IMM.

6. Initial discussion of reflecting 'Processing on Board' in the eBCD system

Japan explained that the processing of bluefin tuna on vessels dedicated to this mission decreases the weight of the tuna, which makes it difficult to track in Japan's controls for commercial registration.

Therefore, it is proposed to add a number of additional fields in the harvesting section to allow information on processing to be recorded (details of this new information can be found in the document "Discussion paper on bluefin tuna (BFT) processing on board (proposal to amend Rec. 18-13 to record BFT processing activity)").

It adds that bluefin tuna caught in a trap and subsequently processed on board vessels should also be included in this proposal.

Canada asked about the number of processing vessels engaged in this activity and which countries are involved.

The EU replied that there were 8 processing vessels and Panama and Japan were the countries involved. With regard to the paper submitted by Japan to IMM, he made the following comments:

- Point 8 reads: "This section is only applicable to dead farmed tunas and dead tunas caught by traps destined for processing", the EU considered that "and the BFT for processing vessels" should be added to this paragraph.
- Point 8 also reads: "The PROCESSING INFORMATION section shall be completed at the end of the processing operation", the EU pointed out that it would have to be specified when such completion would have to take place.

Japan considered it appropriate, with respect to the EU's first comment, to include in the paragraph an addition such as "destined for processing". With regard to the second comment, it specified that this should be done at the end of all processing operations on board the vessel within 48 hours in the same manner as the processing declaration.

Although Morocco supports this proposal, it highlighted certain challenges related to the administrative and control aspects of the traps. The problem arises when the bluefin tuna is caught and then sent to the processing vessels, as the vessel owner is in charge of this operation. This situation poses difficulties for the authorities of the exporting CPC in completing the information and carrying out the validation. It is therefore important to have a prior discussion within IMM to determine the specific authorities responsible for completing the information and carrying out the validation process.

Japan agreed with Morocco that this proposal needs a political assessment, the current discussion is only a technical assessment prior to sending the issue to IMM and other instances. However, this new processing information does not require validation or fulfilment by the authorities, it is to be completed only by the exporter/seller of the bluefin tuna.

Final decision: deferred to IMM.

7. Future intersessional work as required

None raised.

8. Other matters

8.1 “Discussion paper on the application of electronic bluefin catch documentation (eBCD) in the pilot project for the short-term live storage of bluefin tuna” (submitted by Norway)

It was recalled that at the 23rd Special Meeting of ICCAT in 2022, the [Resolution by ICCAT on a pilot project for the short-term live storage of bluefin tuna \(Res. 22-07\)](#) was adopted for a pilot project on the short-term live storage of bluefin tuna. The Norwegian fishing plan, endorsed in March 2023, outlines the allocation of 18 t of bluefin tuna for a scientific pilot study in Norway. The study aims to explore the feasibility of storing bluefin tuna in cages while ensuring fish quality. A single research vessel will be assigned to the study, with comprehensive control coverage provided by inspectors and personnel from Norway’s Directorate of Fisheries and the Institute of Marine Research. The success of the pilot study in capturing and storing bluefin tuna, while prioritizing fish welfare, remains uncertain. Should the pilot study achieve these objectives and the bluefin tuna become ready for harvest in 2023, the catch will be incorporated into the eBCD system.

Norway went on to present its “Discussion paper on the application of electronic bluefin catch documentation (eBCD) in the pilot project for the short-term live storage of bluefin tuna” (**Appendix 6**), highlighting the following points:

- The purpose of the document is to define a way to register tuna specimens in the eBCD system by adapting the different phases of the pilot project to the existing sections of the system.
- In the Catch section it would be observed in its note field “Catch in relation to the scientific pilot study on live storage of bluefin tuna”. The same text would accompany the validation notes.
- In the Live trade section, the owner of the storage cage would be registered as a farm company (this fact would be recorded in the notes field of the section).
- In the Transfer section, the catching vessel would also be recorded as a towing vessel.
- With regard to the Farming section, to explicitly indicate that the fish is not farmed, a concise description shall be introduced in both in the notes field and in the government validation notes.

Following this presentation, Norway raised three questions:

1. Is it possible to enter the owner of the storage cage as a “farm operator”?
2. Would it be sufficient to enter the trade information immediately after the transfer information, without a prior harvest section?
3. Know the opinion of the eBCD TWG on the feasibility and practicality of this proposed approach.

The EU expressed doubts on point 4, Transfer information, as the document indicates that the storage cage would be the transport cage itself, where the harvesting operation would also take place.

Japan commented that the Live trade section is only required if there is a trade export between countries which is not the case in this project, so this section is not necessary. Japan also sought clarification on the use of purse seiners operating as towing vessels.

Morocco stated that there should be some kind of differentiation in the eBCD system between the farm profiles and the one used by this project for short-term storage. Morocco was also concerned about purse seiners operating as a towing vessel as the two types of vessel have a different level of regulatory status in the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean \(Rec. 22-08\)](#) (“catching vessel” vs “other vessel”), and hence this issue should be discussed at IMM level.

Japan also asked about the timing for the implementation of the pilot project, as it would need to be discussed beforehand in IMM and this could pose some problems in terms of the expected timeframe of the project.

Norway confirmed that it needed to market bluefin tuna directly from transport cages, which when anchored would also be considered storage cages. As there would be no physical transfer between cages, there would be no need to record transfer information and thus the cage would be treated as if it were a farm. In addition, they confirmed that the transport cage would be towed by the catching purse seiner itself and Japan's comment on the lack of need for completion of the Live trade section.

Morocco asked whether the use of stereoscopic cameras for the caging operation as required by the [Resolution by ICCAT on a pilot project for the short-term live storage of bluefin tuna \(Res. 22-07\)](#) was planned for this project.

Norway replied that, although it is not stated in the document, the stereoscopic camera is an essential control measure of the pilot project.

TRAGSA, on all these issues raised by the CPCs, stated that, although it needs to study the Norwegian proposal in more depth, it did find that what was being proposed by Norway was feasible in the system and associated current profiles. The attributes and permits of purse seine vessels could be adapted to be towing vessels and also for the farm.

The EU pointed out that they were still unclear on some points of the document, including that there is no mention of stereoscopic cameras as well as on the use of transport cages as farming cages neither of which are provided in the [Resolution by ICCAT on a pilot project for the short-term live storage of bluefin tuna \(Res. 22-07\)](#).

Final decision: deferred to IMM.

8.2 "EU proposal for the development of three new functionalities in the eBCD system"

8.2.1 Block of eBCDs when the bluefin tuna is exhausted in a cage

The EU requested to develop a functionality allowing authorities to block an eBCD when all the tuna in the cage have already been harvested.

Japan asked for specific cases where this problem occurs in order to understand exactly what the problem is.

The EU stated that 5% of individuals in the cage could be a tolerance threshold for blocking BCDs.

Morocco wondered where the EU's 5% tolerance value comes from, and whether it is based on a Recommendation.

The EU clarified that the 5% tolerance is provided in the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean \(Rec. 22-08\)](#), and occurrence of bluefin tuna in cages above that percentage would require an investigation and potential release operation.

TRAGSA indicated that the explanation of the percentage was not entirely clear to them and recalled that when all available fish have been culled in a BCD, it is currently no longer possible to add a new BCD section.

The EU explained that the current functionality present in the system as presented by TRAGSA is not sufficient to block a BCD as the proposal intends that a BCD can be manually blocked in cases where it is found that there are no fish in the "physical" cages even if the system shows otherwise.

TRAGSA requested further explanation of the circumstances in which these cases occur and whether they had to do with incorrect recording of the stereoscopic cameras.

The EU clarified that the analysis of the stereoscopic camera footage is not entirely accurate and that this leads to errors in the recording of the number of fish.

Japan considered that the simplest solution would be for the authority not to validate the harvesting BCD in cases where it finds that the cage is empty.

The EU agreed with Japan but would prefer an automatic block in the eBCD system.

Japan concluded that as it is not an essential development, since there is a manual alternative, the approval of this development should depend on its time and cost.

TRAGSA indicated that the proposal would need to be analyzed and that this would require a specific case to be referred to them by the EU.

Final decision: Time/cost estimate requested.

8.2.2 Protect the privacy of authorities in the eBCDs

The EU considers that it is important to know internally (for the validating CPC authorities) who has validated the eBCD however for reasons of data confidentiality does not want the agent's name to be visible in a document. As an alternative they proposed using the agents or validators number.

Morocco agreed with the proposal, although they considered that in order to comply with the proposal it is only necessary to modify the current presentation of information data in the validation section. The EU considered the solution put forward by Morocco to be useful, pending a feasible assessment by TRAGSA.

The United States supported the proposal of only displaying the inspector/validator's number.

TRAGSA advised that if a Validator/Inspector number was to be included they would need to analyse further the development of a Validator registry as currently it does not exist. They also suggested that the alternative could be for the name to simply be hidden. In whichever alternative the eBCD TWG chooses, it should be specified whether the changes are to be applied only in the printed BCD, in the "online" BCD or in both cases.

The EU clarified that the changes would need to be present in both the printed and "online" versions of the BCD.

Morocco proposed to keep the name in the validation section and put its number in the rest of the associated fields. The United States seconded this alternative.

Final decision: Time/cost estimate requested from TRAGSA.

8.2.3 Interannual comparison of tag codes

It was recalled, that the eBCD system must make the comparison of the tag codes not only for a particular year but also for the preceding years.

Japan asked for more information on specific cases where duplicate tags have been discovered.

Morocco considered that the proposal is useful in cases where the entire quota of the fishery has not been consumed and the campaign has ended, but as requested by Japan, it would like to know the specific cases that have prompted the proposal.

The EU explained that there have already been cases in successive years of repeated tag numbers due to errors in the manual input of such tags, which could lead to subsequent difficulties in control.

Canada asked what problems could be caused by and what would be the impact, of repeating tags over successive years.

The EU reiterated that the aim of the proposal is to detect duplicate tags belonging to different campaigns and thus avoid control problems.

TRAGSA reported that this would involve a cost estimate to carry it out.

Final decision: Time/cost needed.

9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The eBCD TWG Chair noted that a short meeting of the eBCD TWG would be held to discuss the function of the processing information, if necessary.

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

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and meeting arrangements
2. Nomination of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Updates on ongoing developments since previous meeting (January 2023)
5. Consideration of any available new cost time estimates and any clarifications required
6. Initial discussion of reflecting 'Processing on Board' in the eBCD system
7. Intersessional work and date of next meeting(s)
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of report and closure

List of participants¹**CONTRACTING PARTIES****ALGERIA****Tamourt, Amira** ¹

Ministère de la Pêche & des Ressources Halieutiques, 16100 Alger

BRAZIL**Bispo Oliveira, André Luiz** ¹

International Negotiations Coordinator, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, International Advisory, 702974-00 Brasilia D.F.

Pontes Matos, Vitor Luis

Chief of Division, Fisheries and Aquaculture Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, Endereço Edifício Siderbrás - Secretaria da Aquicultura e Pesca do MAPA Reitoria IFB Asa Sul, A empresa está localizada no bairro DF - Asa Sul e no endereço Setor de Autarquias Sul Q. 2, 70297400 Brasilia

Tel: +55 619 815 80931, E-Mail: vitor.matos@agro.gov.br

CANADA**Browne, Dion**

Senior Compliance Officer, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 80 East White Hills Road, St. John's, NL A1C5X1

Tel: +1 709 772 2152; +1 709 685 1531, E-Mail: dion.browne@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Cossette, Frédéric

200 Kent St., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6

Tel: +1 343 541 6921, E-Mail: frederic.cossette@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Kerwin, Jessica

Large Pelagic Resource Manager, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6

Tel: +1 613 291 7480, E-Mail: jessica.kerwin@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

CHINA (P.R.)**Fang, Lianyong**

Director assistant, China Overseas Fisheries Association, Room 1216, Jingchao Massion, Nongzhanguannan Road, Cahoyang District, 100126 Beijing

Tel: +86 10 65853488, Fax: +86 10 65850551, E-Mail: fanglianyong@cofa.net.cn

Feng, Ji

Shanghai Ocean University, 999 Hucheng Huan Rd, 201306 Shanghai

Tel: +86 159 215 36810, E-Mail: fengji_shou@163.com; fji13_shou@yeah.net; 276828719@qq.com; f52e@qq.com

Li, Tinglin

Room 1216, Jingchao Massion, Nongzhanguannan Road, Chaoyang District, 100125 Beijing

Tel: +86 1 065 850 683, Fax: +86 1 065 850 551, E-Mail: litinglin@cofa.net.cn; 962146246@QQ.COM

Zhang, Fan

Shanghai Ocean University, 999 Hucheng Huan Rd, 201306 Shanghai

Tel: +86 131 220 70231, E-Mail: f-zhang@shou.edu.cn

Zhu, Jiangfeng

Professor, Shanghai Ocean University, 999 Hucheng Huan Rd., 201306 Shanghai

Tel: +86 21 619 00554; +86 156 921 65061, Fax: +86 21 61900000, E-Mail: jfzhu@shou.edu.cn

EGYPT**Abdou Mahmoud Tawfeek Hammam, Doaa**

Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency, 210, area B - City, 5th District Road 90, 11311 New Cairo

Tel: +201 117 507 513, Fax: +202 281 17007, E-Mail: gafrd_EG@hotmail.com

* Head Delegate

¹ Some delegate contact details have not been included following their request for data protection.

Elsawy, Walid Mohamed

Associate Professor, National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, 210, area B - City, 5th District Road 90, 11311 New Cairo

Tel: +201 004 401 399, Fax: +202 281 117 007, E-Mail: walid.soton@gmail.com

EUROPEAN UNION**Broche, Jerome**

Deputy Head of unit D.4, European Commission DG MARE, Fisheries Control and Inspections, Rue Joseph II 99 01/081, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 229 86128, E-Mail: jerome.broche@ec.europa.eu

Castro Ribeiro, Cristina

Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Unit B.2 – Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, Rue Joseph II, J99 03/57, 1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 470 529 103; +32 229 81663, E-Mail: cristina-ribeiro@ec.europa.eu

Miranda, Fernando

Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries - DG MARE, Fisheries Control and Inspections, Rue Joseph II St, 99 01/090, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +322 299 3922, E-Mail: fernando.miranda@ec.europa.eu

Ansell, Neil

European Fisheries Control Agency, Avenida García Barbón 4, 36201 Vigo, Spain

Tel: +34 986 120 658; +34 698 122 046, E-Mail: neil.ansell@efca.europa.eu

Callus, Bjorn

Director General Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Animal Rights Agriculture Research & Innovation Hub, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ghammieri Ingiered Road, MRS 3303 Marsa, Malta

Tel: +356 229 26841; +356 994 28597, E-Mail: bjorn.a.callus@gov.mt

Fernández Despiau, Estrella

Inspectora de Pesca, Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación, Secretaría General de Pesca, S.G. Vigilancia Pesquera y Lucha contra la pesca ilegal, C/ Velázquez, 147 - 3ª planta, 28002 Madrid, Spain

Tel: +34 91 347 84 40; +34 638 248 496, E-Mail: efdespiau@mapa.es

Seguna, Marvin

Chief Fisheries Protection Officer, Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Animal Rights Fort San Lucjan, Triq il-Qajjenza, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ghammieri Ingiered Road, MRS 3303 Marsa, Malta

Tel: +356 229 26918; +356 797 09426, E-Mail: marvin.seguna@gov.mt

GABON**Boupana Bola, Bernice Carol**

BP: 9498, Libreville Estuaire

Tel: +241 0775 39220, E-Mail: carolboupana@gmail.com

GUINEA (REP.)**Kolié, Lansana**

Chef de Division Aménagement, Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Economie Maritime, 234, Avenue KA 042 - Commune de Kaloum BP: 307, Conakry

Tel: +224 624 901 068, E-Mail: klansana74@gmail.com

JAPAN**Ota, Shingo ***

Special Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907

Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: shingo_ota810@maff.go.jp

Hinata, Jumpei

Technical Officer, International Affairs Division, Fishery Agency, Government of Japan, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907

Tel: +81 335 028 204; +81 335 028 460, Fax: +81 335 042 649, E-Mail: jumpei_hinata320@maff.go.jp

Kawashima, Tetsuya

Counsellor, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency of Japan, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 1008907

Tel: +81 335 028 460, E-Mail: tetsuya_kawashima610@maff.go.jp

Kenmochi, Saori

Deputy Director, Agricultural and Marine Products Office, Trade Control Department, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, 1-3-1, Kasumigaseki, Tokyo Chiyoda-ku 100-8901

Tel: +81 3 3501 0532, Fax: +81 3 3501 6006, E-Mail: kenmochi-saori@meti.go.jp; skenmochi0724@gmail.com

Kumamoto, Jumpei

Technical Official, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, International Affairs Division, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907

Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: jumpei_kumamoto270@maff.go.jp

Sato, Katsuya

Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 1008907

Tel: +81 335 028 460, E-Mail: katsuya_sato770@maff.go.jp

KOREA (REP.)**Kim, Min Kyung**

Deputy Director, National Fishery Products Quality Management Service, 337, Haeyang-ro, Yeongdo-gu, 49111 Busan

Tel: +82 10 5474 4078, E-Mail: kyung91206@korea.kr

Yang, Jae-geol

Policy Analyst, Korea Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Center, 6th FL, S Building, 253, Hannuri-daero, 30127 Sejong

Tel: +82 44 868 7364, Fax: +82 44 868 7840, E-Mail: jg718@kofci.org

MAURITANIA**Taleb Moussa, Ahmed**

Directeur Adjoint de l'Aménagement, des Ressources et des Études, Ministère des Pêches et de l'Économie, Direction de l'Aménagement des Ressources, BP 137, Nouakchott

Tel: +222 452 952 141; +222 464 79842, E-Mail: talebmoussaa@yahoo.fr

MOROCCO**Ben Bari, Mohamed**

Directeur du Contrôle des Activités de la Pêche Maritime (DCAPM), Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Pêche Maritime, du Développement Rural et des Eaux et Forêts, Département de la Pêche Maritime, Nouveau Quartier Administratif, BP 476, 10090 Haut Agdal Rabat

Tel: +212 537 688 196, Fax: +212 537 688 382, E-Mail: benbari@mpm.gov.ma

Hmidane, Abdellatif

Chef du Service de la Coordination de la Lutte contre la Pêche INN / DCAPM, Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Pêche Maritime, du Développement Rural et des Eaux et Forêts / Département de la Pêche Maritime, Nouveau Quartier Administratif, BP 476, 10090 Haut Agdal Rabat

Tel: +212 537 688 356, Fax: +212 537 688 382, E-Mail: hmidane@mpm.gov.ma

Sabbane, Kamal

Chef du Service du Suivi et du Contrôle par Outil Informatique / DCAPM, Ministère de l'Agriculture de la Pêche Maritime, du Développement Rural et des Eaux et Forêts, Département de la Pêche Maritime, Nouveau Quartier Administratif, BP 476, 10090 Haut Agdal, Rabat

Tel: +212 537 688 528, Fax: +212 537 688 382, E-Mail: sabbane@mpm.gov.ma

NORWAY**Sørdahl, Elisabeth * 1**

Senior Adviser, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Department for Fisheries, 0032 Oslo

Lysnes, Guro Kristoffersen

Adviser, Directorate of Fisheries, Resource Management Department, Strandgaten 229, 5004 Bergen (P.O. Box 185 Sentrum), 5804 Bergen

Tel: +47 46 89 66 44, E-Mail: gulys@fiskeridir.no

Mjorlund, Rune

Senior Adviser, Directorate of Fisheries, Department of Coastal Management, Environment and Statistics, Strandgaten 229, 5004 Bergen (P.O. Box 185 Sentrum), 5804 Bergen

Tel: +47 95 25 94 48, E-Mail: rune.mjorlund@fiskeridir.no

PANAMA**Torres, Modesta**

Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá, Calle 45 Bella Vista, Edificio La Riviera, 7096

Tel: +507 511 6000, E-Mail: mtorres@arap.gob.pa

PHILIPPINES**Demo-os, Marlo**

PFDA Fishport Complex, North Bay Boulevard North BFAR MCS Station and Fishing Tech Lab., 1411 Navotas NCR

Tel: +63 918 964 0454, E-Mail: mbdemoos@gmail.com

Escobar Jr., Severino

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources - BFAR Central Office, Fisheries Building Complex, BPI Compound, Visayas Avenue, BRGY. Vasra, 1101 Quezon City

Tel: +639 178 017 237, Fax: +632 842 66532, E-Mail: jojo_escobar@yahoo.com; slejr@yahoo.com

Mabanglo, Maria Joy

BPI Compound Brgy. Vasra Quezon City, 1128 Quezon City Metro Manila

Tel: +63 917 846 8050, E-Mail: mj.mabanglo@gmail.com

San Juan, Beverly

Fisheries Building Complex, BPI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Brgy. Vasra, 1128 Quezon City Metro Manila

Tel: +632 426 6532, Fax: +632 426 6532, E-Mail: beyesajuan@gmail.com

Viron, Jennifer

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Central Office, Department of Agriculture, PCA Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, 1103 Quezon City Metro Manila

Tel: +639 294 296; +63 929 95 97; +63 929 80 74, E-Mail: jennyviron@bfar.da.gov.ph; jennyviron@gmail.com

SENEGAL**Gueye, Assane**

Conseiller Technique auprès du Directeur, Direction de la Protection et de la Surveillance des Pêches (DPSP), Cité Fenêtres Mermoz – Dakar – Corniche Ouest, BP: 3656

Tel: +221 776 342 953; +221 338 602 465, E-Mail: assaneg@hotmail.fr

TUNISIA**Hayouni ep Habbassi, Dhekra**

Ingénieur principal, Direction de la Préservation des Ressources Halieutiques, Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, Ministère d'Agriculture, des Ressources Hydrauliques et de la Pêche

Tel: +216 718 90784; +216 201 08565, Fax: +216 717 99401, E-Mail: hayouni.dhekra@gmail.com;

hayouni.dhekra1@gmail.com

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**May, Stefan**

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2nd Floor, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX

Tel: +44 208 026 7627, E-Mail: stefan.may@defra.gov.uk

UNITED STATES**King, Melanie Diamond**

Foreign Affairs Specialist, Office of International Affairs Trade, and Commerce (F/IATC), NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring Maryland 20910

Tel: +1 301 427 3087, E-Mail: melanie.king@noaa.gov

Harris, Madison

Foreign Affairs Specialist, Office of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce (F/IATC), NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Tel: +1 202 480 4592, E-Mail: madison.harris@noaa.gov

Miller, Alexander

NOAA Fisheries, National Seafood Inspection Lab, 3209 Frederic Street Pascagoula, Mississippi 39567

Tel: +1 228 369 1699; +1 228 217 4188, Fax: +1 228 762 7144, E-Mail: alexander.miller@noaa.gov

VENEZUELA

Novas, María Inés

Directora General de la Oficina de Integración y Asuntos Internacionales, Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura - MINPESCA

Tel: +58 412 456 3403, E-Mail: oai.minpesca@gmail.com; asesoriasminv@gmail.com

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

TRAGSA

Cuadra García, Manuel Francisco

TRAGSA, C/ Julián Camarillo 6B, 28037 Madrid, Spain

Tel: +34 91 322 5209, E-Mail: mcuadra@tragsa.es

Fernández Sanjuán, María José

TRAGSA, C/ Julián Camarillo 6B, 28037 Madrid, Spain

Tel: +34 91 322 5242, E-Mail: mferna10@tragsa.es

Rodríguez Sánchez, Mercedes

TRAGSA, C/ Julián Camarillo 6B, 28037 Madrid, Spain

Tel: +34 91 322 5455, E-Mail: ebcd@tragsa.es; mrodr125@tragsa.es

ICCAT Secretariat

C/ Corazón de María 8 – 6th floor, 28002 Madrid – Spain

Tel: +34 91 416 56 00; Fax: +34 91 415 26 12; E-mail: info@iccat.int

Manel, Camille Jean Pierre

Neves dos Santos, Miguel

Cheatle, Jenny

Parrilla Moruno, Alberto Thais

Idrissi, M'Hamed

Donovan, Karen

García-Orad, María José

Pinet, Dorothée

Fiz, Jesús

Martínez Herranz, Javier

Peña, Esther

Samedy, Valérie

Vieito, Aldana

ICCAT INTERPRETERS

Baena Jiménez, Eva J.

Calmels, Ellie

Hof, Michelle Renée

Liberas, Christine

Linaae, Cristina

Pinzon, Aurélie

Implementation of the eBCD System - State of play of eBCD project (January - June 2023)

Implementation of the eBCD System



State of play of eBCD project (January — June 2023)

Index

1. Status of issues discussed at January 2023 WG meeting.....	22
1.1. Issues which requirements have been sent.....	24
1.2. Issues which cost estimation has been requested	32
1.3. Issues discussed in previous WG meetings considered 'Open'	34

1. Status of issues discussed at January 2023 WG meeting

At the last WG meeting in January 2023, the TWG decided to address in first place all the issues whose cost estimation were requested. Then, issues pending of answers for addressing requirements' cost estimation and at the end, the issues considered 'Open' from last TWG were discussed. After discussed these issues, it was proposed a priority of developments in order to be addressing them by what it was considered more urgently to be updated in the system.

Below can be found three summary tables. The first one includes the issues which requirements have been sent. Within these, there are some that have been requested for development. The second one includes issues which cost estimation have been requested. Finally, the third one contains issues considered "Open" to continue the discussion. For a more depth explanation of what was discussed in the meeting, go to sections 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3.

Summary tables regarding the pending issues:

ISSUES WHERE A COST ESTIMATION WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE GROUP	ISSUE	STATUS
ISSUES COST ESTIMATED BUT NOT REQUESTED	REFERENCE N° 5.4.1: REFERENCE 2019-7: DEVELOP A READ-ONLY PROFILE FOR ICCAT INSPECTORS UNDER JIS	IN PRODUCTION ENVIRONMENT
	REFERENCE 2019-8 (35): TRADES COMPANIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES ADAPT THE SYSTEM TO ALLOW ACCESS TO NCP	UNDER DEVELOPMENT
	REFERENCE 92: TRANSSHIPMENTS LINKED WITH EBCD (Para 92 Rec. 21-08)	UNDER DEVELOPMENT
	REFERENCE 5.5.4: INCLUSION OF STEREO CAMERA RESULTS IN THE CAGING SECTION OF THE PRINTED EBCD	UNDER DEVELOPMENT
	REFERENCE N° 5.5.5: DEVELOPMENT OF FUNCTIONALITY TO ALLOW GROUPING OF FISH FROM THE SAME FLAG ORIGIN/SAME JFO. FIRST PHASE: CAGE REGISTRY	UNDER DEVELOPMENT
	REFERENCE N° 6.1.: PARAGRAPH 26 OF REC. 21-08: FARMING CAPACITY	UNDER DEVELOPMENT
	REFERENCE 5.5.3: TRANSPORT AREA WITHIN TD SECTION TO BE MANDATORY AND INCLUDE DATES OF DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL	Requirements sent on September 8 th 2022
	PARAGRAPH 102 OF REC. 21-08: ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME (ROP)	Requirements sent on September 27 th 2022
	QUESTION FROM JAPAN ON OBTAINING THE NECESSARY DATA FOR THE CALCULATION OF GROWTH RATES.	Requirements sent on September 27 th 2022

Table 1 - List of issues which requirements have been sent

ISSUES PENDING	TOPIC	STATUS
Include the 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections	Include the 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections	Cost estimation was requested on April 2023
Reference n° 27: growth rates (Paragraph 27 of Rec. 21-08)	Farm CPCs shall endeavor to ensure that the growth rates derived from the eBCDs are coherent with the growth rates published by the SCRS	Cost estimation was requested on April 2023
Reference n° 138: Amendments to ITDs and eBCDs following inspections at sea or investigations (Paragraph 138 of Rec. 21-08)	After an inspection at sea or an investigation, the number of fish is found to be more than 10% different to that declared in the ITD and eBCD, the eBCD shall be amended by the CPC competent authority	Cost estimation was requested on April 2023

Table 2 - Issues which cost estimation has been requested

ISSUES PENDING AN ACTION FROM TWG OR IMM	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Reference n° 5.5.6.: Mortality during towing voyage	Reflect mortality during towing vessel in chronological order	Referred to IMM
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
Button for deleting active user sessions/cookies.	Functionality that would solve duplicate sessions through a single action by the user	Open

Table 3 - List of issues considered "Open"

1.1 Issues which requirements have been sent

ISSUES WHERE A COST ESTIMATION WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE GROUP	ISSUE	STATUS
ISSUES COST ESTIMATED BUT NOT REQUESTED	REFERENCE N° 5.4.1: REFERENCE 2019-7: DEVELOP A READ-ONLY PROFILE FOR ICCAT INSPECTORS UNDER JIS	IN PRODUCTION ENVIRONMENT
	REFERENCE 2019-8 (35): TRADES COMPANIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES ADAPT THE SYSTEM TO ALLOW ACCESS TO NCP	UNDER DEVELOPMENT
	REFERENCE 92: TRANSSHIPMENTS LINKED WITH EBCD (Para 92 Rec. 21-08)	UNDER DEVELOPMENT
	REFERENCE 5.5.4: INCLUSION OF STEREO CAMERA RESULTS IN THE CAGING SECTION OF THE PRINTED EBCD	UNDER DEVELOPMENT
	REFERENCE N° 5.5.5: DEVELOPMENT OF FUNCTIONALITY TO ALLOW GROUPING OF FISH FROM THE SAME FLAG ORIGIN/SAME JFO. FIRST PHASE: CAGE REGISTRY	UNDER DEVELOPMENT
	REFERENCE N° 6.1.: PARAGRAPH 26 OF REC. 21-08: FARMING CAPACITY	UNDER DEVELOPMENT
	REFERENCE 5.5.3: TRANSPORT AREA WITHIN TD SECTION TO BE MANDATORY AND INCLUDE DATES OF DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL	Requirements sent on September 8 th 2022
	PARAGRAPH 102 OF REC. 21-08: ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME (ROP)	Requirements sent on September 27 th 2022
	QUESTION FROM JAPAN ON OBTAINING THE NECESSARY DATA FOR THE CALCULATION OF GROWTH RATES.	Requirements sent on September 27 th 2022

1.1.1 REFERENCE 5.4.1: 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.

TRAGSA June 2021: It was deeply discussed the different approaches of this profile. Important point for WG participants were that inspector has permit to do their inspection only when it is needed, moreover that CPC administrator were notified when the entity is going to have an inspection. Tragsa present a first draft of how these features could be combined in a profile in order to have a first approach. Further discussion need to be done for deciding how this profile should work within the eBCD system.

TRAGSA April 2022: It was decided to keep it open for more discussion, however it is considered an important issue to achieve shortly. It was deferred to IMM with priority and to continue the discussion in the following WG. *Cost estimation was requested and requirements were sent on September 27th* (Requirements can be found in the document 'eBCD_04/i2023').

TRAGSA January 2023: Diverse CPCs think this development must be prioritize because of the importance of the JIS profile, and the new profile propose in the requirements similar to the 'Observer' profile seems to meet the criteria of TWG. *This functionality was requested and uploaded to the system on May 2023.*

1.1.2 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
<i>Access to record transshipment data of the tuna transshipped by his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to record export/selling data of dead fis from his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to record of the signature and date of signature in the purchase/import of dead fish of the purchases of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to modification of the buyer/importer Company of the dead fish products) of the purchases of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to record re-exportation data from his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to record re-exporter declaration of the re-exports from his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to record importer declaration of the purchases (re-exports) of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to record and edit companies) of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to check companies of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to check vessels of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to check authorized ports of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to massive renewal of companies authorizations of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to check entities from his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to check agencies from his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to record and edit users data associated with the entities of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to check users associated with the entities of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to users requests and/or roles upon entities of his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to modify users data</i>
<i>Access to change users password</i>
<i>Access to check Query Total Kg Imported by his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to check Query Total Kg Exported by his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to check Query Total Kg Re-exported by his NCPC</i>
<i>Access to Help section</i>
<i>Access to Audit Changes</i>

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.

TRAGSA June 2021: It was discussed the importance of this development regarding the transactions record in the eBCD system with No CPCs. It was considered a non-urgent development to be undertaken immediately. Development has not been officially requested yet.

TRAGSA April 2022: It was decided to keep it open for more discussion in the following TWG.

TRAGSA January 2023: ICCAT Secretariat specifies that 17 Non-Contracting Parties countries have active companies in the system. However, there is no trace of the quantity of their re-exports as the Secretariat does not receive paper BCD from them. The WG estimates that it is a big number of countries and the development must be taken into account in order to continue traceability in the system. *Development was requested on April 12th, 2023.*

1.1.3 REFERENCE 92: TRANSSHIPMENTS LINKED WITH EBCD (PARA 92 REC. 21-08)

Paragraph 92 of Rec. 21-08 establishes that transshipment declaration shall be linked to eBCD system to facilitate data cross-checking. The masters of fishing vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag CPC the ICCAT transshipment declaration no later than 15 days after the date of transshipment in port as per Recommendation 16-15. The masters of the transshipping fishing vessels shall complete the ICCAT transshipment declaration in accordance with the format set out in Annex 3. The transshipment declaration shall be linked with the eBCD to facilitate crosschecking of data contained thereof.

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.

TRAGSA June 2021: After further discussed of the different ways of facing this issue it was decided to be addressed to IMM.

TRAGSA April 2022: It was discussed if this could be done by adding a code number of the transshipment declaration in the eBCD. Tragsa explains that this could be done in the 'Observations' field but it would not be easily cross reference, as 'Observation' field is a free text field in the section. A new field could be added if it is considered necessary. It was decided to defer it to IMM. *Cost estimation was requested and requirements were sent on September 8th* (Requirements can be found in the document 'eBCD_03/i2023').

TRAGSA January 2023: Last TWG was discussed that including the eBCD code number could be a possibility for the link between the transshipment and the eBCD. In the requirements presented by Tragsa, it was considered a space in the section to include the transshipment document. TWG agree this could be a good way of linked it. It was approved to be developed. *Development was requested on April 12th, 2023.*

1.1.4 REFERENCE 5.5.4: INCLUSION OF STEREOSCOPIC CAMERA RESULTS IN THE CAGING SECTION OF THE PRINTED EBCD

On Annex 9 of Rec. 19-04 and Annex 3 of Rec. 18-13, Morocco presented a proposal to include the weight and number of fish results from the stereoscopic camera control in the caging section of the printed eBCD.

TRAGSA June 2021: It was explained that once the stereoscopic cameras fields in the caging sections are fill in, the data valid by the system are those ones. Therefore, once these fields are completed the data showing in the print BCD are the one from the stereoscopic cameras excluding the data first included in the caging section.

TRAGSA April 2022: Tragsa explained that this modification is feasible and can be done in the print eBCD version. After a discussion including different opinions regarding the necessity of change the printed eBCD version, and when the printed eBCD version should be used. It was decided to defer to the IMM to consult these questions and keep it open for more discussion in TWG. *Cost estimation was requested and requirements were sent on September 8th* (Requirements can be found in the document 'eBCD_03/i2023').

TRAGSA January 2023: TWG agree in the inclusion of these areas in the printed version of the BCD. *Development was requested on April 12th, 2023.*

1.1.5 REFERENCE 5.5.5: DEVELOPMENT OF FUNCTIONALITY TO ALLOW GROUPING OF FISH FROM THE SAME FLAG ORIGIN/SAME JFO (FIRST PHASE: CAGE REGISTRATION)

The Sub-Commission 2 (Paragraph 100 of Rec. 19-04) requested the working group to study the consideration of the regrouping of fish, in intra-farm transfers, in a new cage by assigning this operation a new eBCD with its own code. All this grouping would be within same flag origin/same JFO. An eventual amendment to para. 6 of Rec. 18-13 would be needed by adding a new one: Para. 6bis.

This issue was also discussed as a proposal arisen during TWG due to Rec. 21-08 (2.7). As it is reflected in the paragraph 197: 'During intra-farm transfers, regrouping fish of the same flag origin and the same JFO, may be authorised by the farm CPC competent authority, providing that traceability, as established in paragraph 5 of Recommendation 18-13, and the applicability of SCRS's growth rates, are maintained'.

TRAGSA June 2021: Discussion over the regrouping of fish assigning a new code were made however seeing the complexity of the issue it was decided to leave it for further discussion in future TWG.

TRAGSA April 2022: It was decided that more discussion is needed in this matter and also to defer to IMM group. Time cost estimation would be requested in order to analyse the implications for traceability of this development. *Cost estimation was requested and requirements were sent on September 27th* (Requirements can be found in the document 'eBCD_04/i2023').

TRAGSA January 2023: In the requirements' file is noted that for attending this proposal, first phase must be to do a registration of cages, as right now the cage field is a free text field. Japan also implies that this development would be important for growth rates development, as it is necessary to have a registration of the cages. This first phase: Cage registration is approved for development. *Development was requested on April 12th, 2023.*

1.1.6 REFERENCE 6.1: FARMING CAPACITY (PARAGRAPH 26 OF REC. 21-08)

The ICCAT Secretariat shall compile statistics on the annual amount of caging (input of wild caught fish), harvesting, and export, by farm CPC, using the data in the eBCD system. The eBCD-TWG shall consider the development of such a data extraction functionality, and until such functionality becomes available each farm CPC shall report these statistics to the ICCAT Secretariat. These statistics shall be made available on the ICCAT website subject to confidentiality requirements.

TRAGSA April 2022: Tragsa explains that these data can be obtain by the reports in the eBCD system, but right now it should be done CPC/Flag by CPC/Flag and it would be a complicated issue to compile all the data. A new report can be done that compile and simplify the extraction of the data needed, but it would require a new development. It was decided to ask for a time cost analysis of this development. *Cost estimation was requested and requirements were sent on September 27th* (Requirements can be found in the document 'eBCD_04/i2023').

TRAGSA January 2023: There was a discussion related to if this report could be extracted not only for 'ICCAT Secretariat' profile but also for Administrator's profile. It was explained that this report was planned for meeting the criteria specifies in the Para. 26 of the Rec. 21-08, that ICCAT Secretariat must compile an annual statistics, in order to obtain in an easier way all this information for the CPCs, and it was only cost estimated for ICCAT Secretariat profiles. It was approved for development. *Development was requested on April 12th, 2023.*

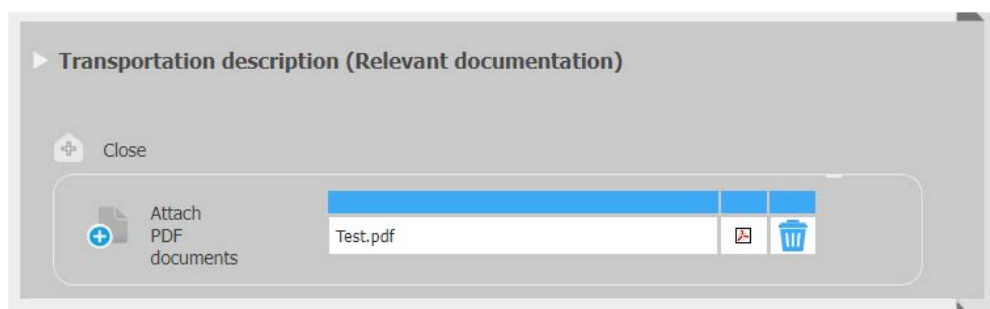
1.1.7 REFERENCE 5.5.3: TRANSPORT AREA WITHIN TD SECTION TO BE MANDATORY AND INCLUDE DATES OF DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL

Paper copies of the eBCD are used during transportation and in marketing places with the risk that same eBCD is duplicated. EU propose 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.

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.

TRAGSA June 2021: Discussion over the obligation of including the transport document were held, besides the possibility of including the date of departure and arrival, or the type of transportation in the trade section within the area of transportation. It was asked to Tragsa to see this viability of this obligation and the inclusion of new fields in this area of the TD section.

NOTE: The area in the TD section on the eBCD system for including the transport document, is the following:



In this area, it is possible to include the fields the WG consider necessarily (ie. Date of departure and arrival, type of transportation, etc). Tragsa have a list of specific doubts regarding this issue in case it is decided to include these fields in the 'Transportation description' area:

- Which would be the fields that need to be included?
- What would be the profile type in charge of filling in this information?
- Would be these fields editable in the following cases? TD exented/TD validated/TD signed by the importer.
- If the fields were editable, which would be the profile type able to modify them?
- If the fields were editable and the TD was validated, would the changes need to be audited?
- Would these fields need to be included in the print version?

TRAGSA April 2022: It was decided to defer to IMM group, in order to find out whether this information might be mandatory or optional. It was decided that more discussion is needed by TWG regarding this issue. *Cost estimation was requested and requirements were sent on September 8th* (Requirements can be found in the document 'eBCD_03/i2023').

TRAGSA January 2023: Referring to this issue, there is one CPC that is not present in the meeting who has doubts regarding this development. Because of this absent, the Chair decides to wait until next TWG to debate this issue. There was a question related to the not mandatory requirement include in the cost estimation document. Tragsa explains that it is because if the fields of the proposal are considered mandatory, the section cannot be 'Save' with any field left blank, and this could create difficulties to the users. It was decided that further discussion is needed.

1.1.8 ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME (ROP) (PARAGRAPH 102 OF REC. 21-08)

By way of derogation from paragraph 101, harvesting from farms up to 1000 kg per day and up to a maximum of 50 tons per farm per year to supply, the fresh bluefin tuna market, may be authorized by the relevant CPC provided that an authorized inspector from the farm CPC is onsite for 100% of such harvests, and controls the entire operation. The authorized inspector shall also validate the harvested quantities in the eBCD system. In this case, the regional observer's signature should not be required in the harvest section of the eBCD. This derogation shall be reviewed, as appropriate, by the PWG, possibly through its IMM Working Group, by 2023 at the latest.

TRAGSA April 2022: It was discussed the better option to approach this exception to the observer signing in the harvesting. A checkbox similar as the one used in 'Natural deaths' in the harvesting section is proposed. However, Tragsa explained that as the conditions of the exception needs to be accomplished in this new 'Checkbox' option, it would be a big change in the harvesting section. It was decided to ask for a time cost analysis studying the different possibilities. *Cost estimation was requested and requirements were sent on September 27th* (Requirements can be found in the document 'eBCD_04/i2023').

TRAGSA January 2023: Seeing the complexity of the development itself, it was decided that more discussion is needed in order to face this issue and it was deferred to IMM for further discussion also. It was asked if the CPCs attending the TWG were using at the moment this derogation, and they were not. The issue was kept open and deferred to IMM.

1.1.9 QUESTION FROM JAPAN ON OBTAINING THE NECESSARY DATA FOR THE CALCULATION OF GROWTH RATES

Japan was exploring the possibility for the eBCD System to allow officials of importing CPCs to know the data related to the calculation of the growth rate handled by exporting CPCs. This information is currently provided to Japan by these CPCs on a voluntary basis on request.

TRAGSA April 2022: Tragsa explained that actually it is not possible to obtain this information in the 'Raw data' reports until there is a trade, which involved the CPCs mentioned. It is decided to refer this issue to the Panel 2, in order to consider confidentiality issues. *Cost estimation was requested and requirements were sent on September 27th* (Requirements can be found in the document 'eBCD_04/i2023').

TRAGSA January 2023: Japan presents a document describing how to calculate growth rates. There were a discussion about this document and how could be this integrate in the eBCD system. It was considered important and cost analysis would be requested on the basis of the document submitted by Japan. *Cost estimation was requested on April 2023.*

NOTE: There are two issues related to 'Growth rates'. First one 1.1.9 (QUESTION FROM JAPAN ON OBTAINING THE NECESSARY DATA FOR THE CALCULATION OF GROWTH RATES), requirements of a report that meet the criteria explained, were sent on September 2022. The issue 1.2.4. (REFERENCE N° 27: GROWTH RATES (PARAGRAPH 27 OF REC. 21-08)) were Japan explained how a report with the growth rates calculations can be included in the system. The cost estimation of this report was requested on April 2023.

1.2 Issues which cost estimation has been requested

ISSUES PENDING	TOPIC	STATUS
Include the 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections	Include the 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections	Cost estimation was requested on April 2023
Reference n° 27: growth rates (Paragraph 27 of Rec. 21-08)	Farm CPCs shall endeavor to ensure that the growth rates derived from the eBCDs are coherent with the growth rates published by the SCRS	Cost estimation was requested on April 2023
Reference n° 138: Amendments to ITDs and eBCDs following inspections at sea or investigations (Paragraph 138 of Rec. 21-08)	After an inspection at sea or an investigation, the number of fish is found to be more than 10% different to that declared in the ITD and eBCD, the eBCD shall be amended by the CPC competent authority	Cost estimation was requested on April 2023

1.2.1 INCLUDE THE 'PLAUSIBLE' TRANSFORMATIONS OF DECLARED PRODUCTS BETWEEN DIFFERENT SECTIONS

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.

TRAGSA June 2021: It was discussed which would be the plausible transformations. It was decided that a document will be done and share within the CPC WG participants in order to agree in these transformations.

TRAGSA April 2022: Tragsa explained that to determine which transformation will be follow by each of the product types, is what it is needed to update in the eBCD system. It was proposed to have a volunteer group to look into this issue and prepare a draft document in order to continue the discussion.

TRAGSA January 2023: USA presents a document with the plausible transformations. Tragsa explain how it would work this transformations in the system, as once the transformations are updated it would block the non-plausible ones. It was decided to first try this option in the test environment (CPC), and to check the results in the next TWG. Besides it was discussed the possibility of including a tool tips in order for the user to have helped choosing the product, and also the conversion factors as these ones are not included in the system. In case that tooltips and conversion factors need to be included in the system, it would be necessary to do a time cost analysis of the development. *Cost estimation was requested on April 2023.*

1.2.2 REFERENCE N° 27: GROWTH RATES (PARAGRAPH 27 OF REC. 21-08)

Farm CPCs shall endeavor to ensure that the growth rates derived from the eBCDs are coherent with the growth rates published by the SCRS. If significant discrepancies are found between the SCRS tables and growth rates observed, that information should be sent to the SCRS for analysis.

TRAGSA April 2022: It was discussed the necessity of a development that do a calculation of the growth rates in the system, not as a short term development but as long term one, in order to use a consistent methodology in the calculation of growth rates for all CPCs. It is decided to keep it open for TWG discussion in the future. *Cost estimation was requested*. In order to send the requirements and cost it is needed to discuss some doubts/questions. Questions sent on October 6th can be found in the document 'eBCD_02/i2023'.

TRAGSA January 2023: This issue was discussed in the point 1.1.9. (QUESTION FROM JAPAN ON OBTAINING THE NECESSARY DATA FOR THE CALCULATION OF GROWTH RATES) where Japan presented the document of calculations of the growth rates. *Cost estimation was requested on April 2023*.

NOTE: There are two issues related to 'Growth rates'. First one 1.1.9 (QUESTION FROM JAPAN ON OBTAINING THE NECESSARY DATA FOR THE CALCULATION OF GROWTH RATES), requirements of a report that meet the criteria explained, were sent on September 2022. The issue 1.2.4. (REFERENCE N° 27: GROWTH RATES (PARAGRAPH 27 OF REC. 21-08)) were Japan explained how a report with the growth rates calculations can be included in the system. The cost estimation of this report was requested on April 2023.

1.2.3 REFERENCE N° 138: AMENDMENTS TO ITDS AND EBCDS FOLLOWING INSPECTIONS AT SEA OR INVESTIGATIONS (PARAGRAPH 138 OF REC. 21-08)

If following an inspection at sea or an investigation, the number of fish is found to be more than 10% different to that declared in the ITD and eBCD, the eBCD shall be amended by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator to reflect the result of the investigation.

TRAGSA April 2022: After the discussion of this issue it was decided it should be deferred to IMM. Besides, it was decided to defer it to Panel 2 for further discussion in order to examine this issue and its implications. *Cost estimation was requested*. In order to send the requirements and cost it is needed to discuss some doubts/questions. Questions sent on October 6th can be found in the document 'eBCD_02/i2023'.

TRAGSA January 2023: Tragsa ask if an inconsistency alerting of this 10% would be enough. It is explain that may be a field for recording the quantity found by the inspector would probably be necessary besides the inconsistency. It was decided to proceed with the time cost analysis. *Cost estimation was requested on April 2023*.

1.3 Issues discussed in previous WG meetings considered 'Open'

ISSUES PENDING AN ACTION FROM TWG OR IMM	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Reference n° 5.5.6.: Mortality during towing voyage	Reflect mortality during towing vessel in chronological order	Referred to IMM
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
Button for deleting active user sessions/cookies.	Functionality that would solve duplicate sessions through a single action by the user	Open

1.3.1 REFERENCE 5.5.6: 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.

Besides, Annex 11 of Rec. 21-08: 'Treatment of dead and/or lost fish' also includes how the die/lost fishes have to be treated. From TWG of January 2023 these issues have been treated together.

TRAGSA June 2021: Discussion over the possibility of the system in order to declare the BFT mortality in chronological order was held. It was asked to Tragsa to see this viability and propose how this could be done in the system.

TRAGSA April 2022: Adding to this discussion Annex 11 of Rec. 21-08 also includes how to treat dead or lost fish. Tragsa explained that this could be done with a new section that could allow declaring dead fishes chronologically. This 'new section' could be added from the Transfer section and would be a final section (this section would not allow to add any other section in the system). It was decided that more discussion is needed regarding this issue and to defer it to IMM group. *Cost estimation was requested.* In order to send the requirements and cost it is needed to discuss some doubts/questions. Questions sent on October 6th can be found in the document 'eBCD_02/i2023'.

TRAGSA January 2023: This issue and the issue: 'ANNEX 11 OF REC. 21-08: TREATMENT OF DEAD AND/OR LOST FISH' is decided to be treated together as it is all related to the treatment of dead fishes. Tragsa explained that the way the system is counting mortalities right now does not meet the criteria of the para. 5 of Annex 11, Rec. 21-08. Besides this, it was discussed the possibility of adding a new section were all the mortalities reflected in the Annex 11 could be taken into account in chronological order. It was decided to keep it open for further discussions.

1.3.2 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 weight 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.

TRAGSA June 2021: Issue not discussed in the WG, however USA asks to be remained 'Open' for further discussion in next meetings.

TRAGSA April 2022: It was decided to keep it open for more discussion in the IMM and the following WG. *Cost estimation was requested.* In order to send the requirements and cost it is needed to discuss some doubts/questions. Questions sent on October 6th can be found in the document 'eBCD_02/i2023'.

TRAGSA January 2023: In order to do a cost estimation analysis is necessary to know the details of the type of cross checks that are needed. The proposal is not considered a priority and it was proposed to postpone this issue to future discussions. It was decided to keep it open for further discussions.

1.3.3 BUTTON FOR DELETING ACTIVE USER SESSIONS/COOKIES

The US asked whether it would be possible to have a functionality that would solve the problem of duplicate sessions through a single action by the user.

TRAGSA April 2022: Tragsa explained that currently in production there is already a message that adequately describes what is happening and how to solve this issue. This solution is already implemented by the browsers. However, Tragsa could do an analysis of the development of a button for this purpose. It was decided to request a time cost estimation for this development. *Cost estimation was requested.* In order to send the requirements and cost it is needed to discuss some doubts/questions. Questions sent on October 6th can be found in the document 'eBCD_02/i2023'.

TRAGSA January 2023: Tragsa explained that it would be useful to know in which circumstances this is causing problems to the users as well as if any other CPCs are having the same issues with this. USA explained that last year there were some incidents related to this, and they will see if this year this will continue to be a problem with users. It was decided to keep it open in order to evaluate if this problem remains.

Questions from TRAGSA on cage registry

Before going through the development of the functionality 'REFERENCE N° 5.5.5: CAGE REGISTRY' sent in the document: "Requirements of the TWG Requests 2022 Part II", in September 2022, we would like to comment a few things needed for this development.

Within the specifications of the requirements' development, this information is included:

"In order to be able to plan this development, it would be necessary first to establish a cage declaration for each farm. It will be necessary to have a cage registry such as those that currently exist for vessels, traps, farms or companies. It will be necessary to determine which data will have to be registered for each cage in order to identify specifically each of the cages in which the caging or subsequent movements between cages will be carried out.

The information on these cages, as it is something specific to each farm, would have to be provided together with the rest of the farm information by ICCAT, so that it is incorporated into the eBCD system through the twice-daily farm synchronization process."

Based on this information as well as that the registration of the cages will be done as a synchronization process, we will need to know the cage information that is needed to be registered in the system. We think mandatory data must be, at least, the cage number and an end date (in case the cage is not operational temporary or permanently), but it might be interesting to include also other data such as localization or capacity of the cage. We would be grateful if you could specify which data will be needed to be included in the system.

Reporting of mortalities in the eBCD – Annex 11***Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 22-08)***

(Document presented by the European Union)

ICCAT [Recommendation 22-08](#) requires the reporting of dead bluefin tuna under four different scenarios:

- a) Catch and first transfer
- b) Further transfers and transport to the destination farm
- c) Caging
- d) Farming

However, currently, there is no functionality in the electronic Bluefin Catch Documentation (eBCD) system to report the mortalities referred to in points b), c) and d) above.

This paper outlines possible solutions for reporting mortalities in the eBCD under the three scenarios identified in the paragraph above.

b) Reporting of mortalities during further transfers and transport

After the first transfer from the purse seiner net or trap to the transport cage, the transport cage is towed by towing vessels to the destination farm. At this stage, between the first transfer and caging, there may be further transfers to join or split the contents of the transport cages, so it is common that, for a particular catch, more than one towing vessel be involved.

Annex 11, point 9, requires that mortalities during transport or further transfers are reported in the template of this Annex by the master of the towing vessel on which these mortalities occur. The template is then signed and passed on to the subsequent towing vessels (if any) and handed over to the authorities on arrival at the farm destination.

Proposed solution: the mortalities during transport and further transfers are reported in the eBCD *by the farm operator at the beginning of the caging (farming) section of the eBCD*. The farm operator should report the quantities reflected by the towing vessel(s)' master(s) in the above-mentioned template that arrive at the farm with the towing vessel that will cage the fish.

A new field 'Mortalities during transport and further transfers' would be created where the mortalities are inserted by the farm operator before the caging quantities.

As the quota uptake takes into account the quantities caged (except in cases under investigation as per paragraph 174 and 181), mortalities must be added to the quantities that will be deducted from the quota taking into account the stereoscopic camera results for that caging.

Note: the possibility of reporting these types of mortalities in the transfer section of the eBCD has not been contemplated because 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". Any changes in this section will leave no track.

c) Reporting of mortalities at caging

Proposed solution: to add in the "cage description" field of the farming section of the eBCD, a new entry to report by the farm operator, mortalities occurring during the caging operation.

d) Reporting of dead or lost fish during farming activities

In accordance with Annex 11, dead fish in farms or those that disappear from farms, including allegedly stolen or escaped fish, shall be reported by the farm operator to the farm CPC competent authority immediately after the event has been detected. The farm CPC competent authority shall apply the necessary changes or the cancellation of the eBCD concerned and prevent the use of that eBCD to justify harvesting of that number of individuals.

Proposed solution: to use the existing *functionality for natural mortality*, in which lost, stolen, escaped, etc. fish can also be included (reported).

- There should be a field to specify the specific cause (natural mortality, theft, escaped fish, other);
- Validation by farm authorities. No validation of the ICCAT observer needed.
- The system must automatically deduct the number of specimens reported from the "balance" of specimens available in the eBCD so that it cannot be used to justify harvesting of that number of individuals.

In the three cases, b), c) and d), a field to add comments/notes would be convenient.

Below are screenshots of the farming and harvesting sections of the eBCD with the places in the eBCD where the proposed options could be reported.

Farming Information

Option b.1)

Date Time GMT

Farming Facility Description

Name

CPC

ICCAT FBB No.

National Sampling Program

Location

Notes (max 4,000 characters)

Cage Description

Cage Code

No. of Fish

Total Weight ,

Size Composition (number of pieces)

<6.4 Kg	<input type="text" value="0"/>
6.4-30 Kg	<input type="text" value="96"/>
>30 Kg	<input type="text" value="1834"/>

Option c.1)

Final caging results on the basis of the results of the SC cameras (if applicable)

Date of results Time GMT

No. fish farmed

Total weight farmed ,

Size composition according results

<6.4 Kg	<input type="text" value="0"/>
6.4-30 Kg	<input type="text" value="59"/>
>30 Kg	<input type="text" value="1132"/>

Notes (max 4,000 characters)

Harvesting Information

Start Date Time GMT

End Date Time GMT

No. of Fish

Total Weight , KG

AVG. Weight(Kg) ,

Notes (max 4.000 characters)

Natural Mortality

Option d.1)

Validating entity selection

Validating Entity

Government validation

Name of Authority

Title

Date Time GMT

Validator notes (max 400 characters)

Screenshot of a harvesting section created for a natural mortality.

▶ Harvesting Information

Start Date Time GMT

End Date Time GMT

No. of Fish

Total Weight , KG

AVG. Weight(Kg) ,

Notes (max 4.000 characters)

Natural Mortality

▶ ICCAT Regional Observer Information

Name

Title

ICCAT Code

Date Time GMT

Signed

Notes (max 400 characters)

PNC

▶ Validating entity selection

Validating Entity

▶ Government validation

Name of Authority

Title

Date Time GMT

Validator notes (max 400 characters)

Screenshot of a harvesting section created for a harvesting operation.

Discussion paper on the application of electronic bluefin catch documentation (eBCD) in the pilot project for the short-term live storage of bluefin tuna

This discussion paper presents how Norway intends to record the catch caught in relation to the pilot study into the eBCD system. We would like to seek guidance from the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG) regarding the viability and practicability of this proposed approach.

Background:

At the 23rd Special Meeting of the Commission in 2022, a [Resolution by ICCAT on a pilot project for the short-term live storage of bluefin tuna \(Res. 22-07\)](#) was adopted. The Resolution stipulates that CPCs whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna North of 56°N, may conduct short-term live storage of bluefin tuna.

The Norwegian fishing plan, which was endorsed by Panel 2 at the [Intersessional meeting of Panel 2](#) held in March 2023, outlines the allocation of eighteen tonnes of bluefin tuna in 2023 for a scientific pilot study in line with [Res. 22-07](#). The objective of this study is to explore the feasibility of future short-term live storage of bluefin tuna in cages in Norway, while ensuring the preservation of the fish's high quality during and after purse seine catch operations. The designated quota will be assigned to a single research vessel, with the utilization of *only one storage cage*. Comprehensive control coverage will be maintained throughout the pilot study, as both inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries and personnel from the Institute of Marine Research will be present on board the vessel at all times.

The success of the pilot study in capturing bluefin tuna, confining them within cages, and ensuring their survival under conditions that prioritize fish welfare remains uncertain. The primary focus for the current year will be on capturing and transferring the bluefin tuna to the transport cage and, ideally, to a storage cage. Should the pilot study achieve these objectives and the bluefin tuna become ready for harvest in 2023, the catch will be incorporated into the eBCD system.

During transfer and caging operations, and during the period the bluefin tuna is stored in the storage cages, sick, injured, dead and dying fish will be removed and those not yet dead will be killed (harvested?). These fish will also be entered into the eBCD system and may be traded.

Suggested approach:

The pilot study consists of five stages, visualised below:



In order to properly record these stages into the eBCD system, Norway intends to enter the following information under the different sections in the eBCD system:

2. Catch information

The catch operation will be recorded in the eBCD system as an ordinary catch by the purse seine vessel in Section 2. To denote that the capture is associated with the pilot study, we will utilize the "Notes" field located under the "Capture Description" section (see example below). Additionally, or as an alternative, we will also indicate this during the validation of the eBCD by including "Validator Notes".

► **Catch Description**

No. of Fish

Total Weight ,

AVG. Weight(Kg) ,

ICCAT Transfer Authorization Number

Notes (max 4.000 characters)

Area

Gear

Landing date *Time GMT*

Add Tags (if applicable)

3. Trade information for live fish trade

The next step will be to register the necessary information under Section 3: "Trade information for live fish trade".

Based on our understanding, we will need to provide a farm company in the eBCD system to properly document the transfer of tuna from the seine to the transport cage and subsequently to the storage cage. The caged fish are not fed, and Norway has provided clarification that short-term live storage differs from farming. Consequently, there are no Norwegian tuna farm companies. However, in order to accurately fill out the relevant sections of the eBCD system, our intention is to register the owner of the storage cage as a farm company. We will clarify in the notes field that the owner of the storage cage is not a farm company, see example below.

► **Exporter/Seller**

Point of Exportation/Departure High Seas

Company

Farm of Destination

CPC

ICCAT FFB No.

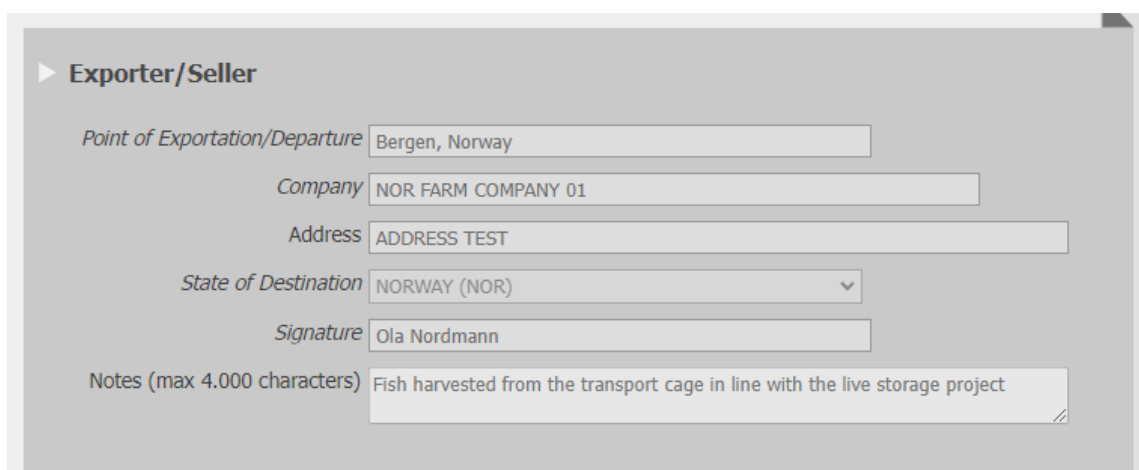
Signature

Notes (max 4.000 characters)

4. Transfer information

The catching vessel involved in the pilot study will be used to tow the transport cage to the storage cage. This will imply that this vessel will need to be registered as both a catching vessel and a towing vessel.

Note: It is possible that no transfer will take place from the transport cage to the storage cage this year. In such an event, some of the trials will be conducted while the bluefin tuna is in the transport cage. This will also include harvesting of bluefin tuna from the transport cage, with the possibility of subsequent commercialization. From our current understanding, it is not possible to directly conduct a harvest operation from the transport cage in the eBCD system.



► Exporter/Seller

Point of Exportation/Departure

Company

Address

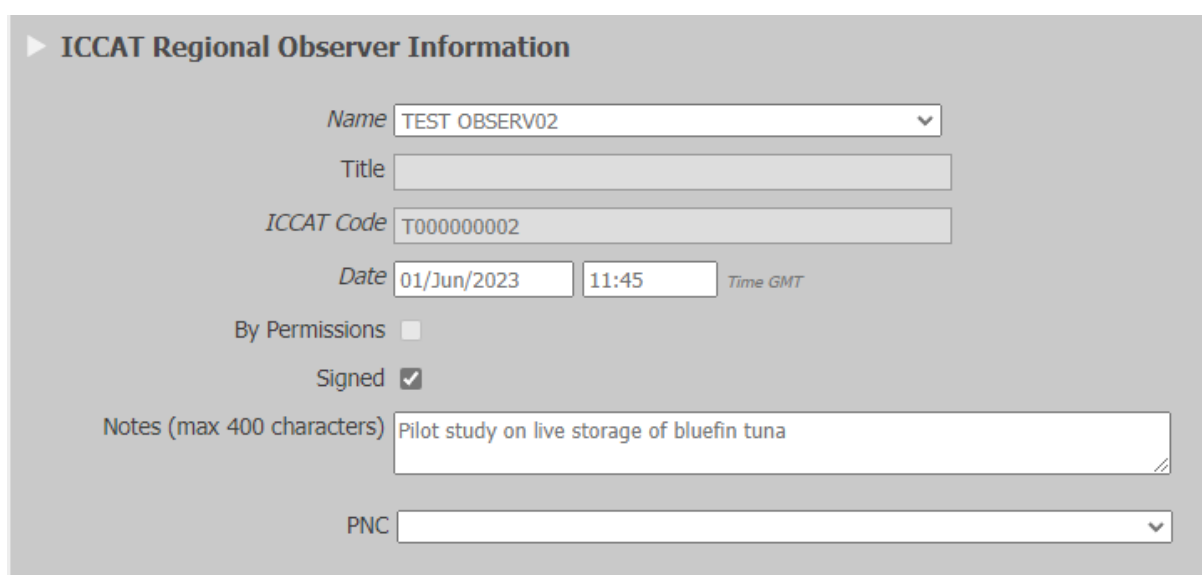
State of Destination

Signature

Notes (max 4.000 characters)

6. Farming information

As stated earlier, short term live storage of bluefin tuna differs from farming. However, to adequately document the storage procedures, from our understanding it is essential to utilize the "Farming Information" section within the eBCD system. Consequently, we must designate the owner of the storage cage as a farming facility, despite there being only one storage cage employed in the pilot project this year. In order to explicitly denote that the fish is not subject to farming, a concise description will be entered in both the notes field and the government validation notes. The regional observer should also describe this in the observer notes:



► ICCAT Regional Observer Information

Name

Title

ICCAT Code

Date Time GMT

By Permissions

Signed

Notes (max 400 characters)

PNC

7. Harvesting information

To properly document the harvesting of bluefin tuna from the storage cage, any harvest from the storage cage will be recorded in Section 7 “Harvesting information”. Consistent with our previously proposed methodology, we will indicate in both the notes field and the validator notes field that the harvesting is being carried out from a live storage cage, as opposed to a farm.

Questions to the Working Group

Is it possible to enter the owner of the storage cage as a “farm operator”?

We kindly request the eBCD TWG to confirm whether entering trade information immediately after the transfer information, without a preceding harvest report, would suffice.

And lastly, we would like the view from the eBCD TWG regarding the viability and practicability of this proposed approach, keeping in mind that the pilot project on the live storage of bluefin tuna is on a limited scale.