

**Report of the Second Meeting of the
Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG)**
(hybrid, Porto, Portugal, 11 June 2024)

1. Opening of the meeting and meeting arrangements

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel, welcomed everyone to the Second Meeting of the Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG) informed on the list of participants. The Chair, Mr. Neil Ansell, also welcomed everyone and proceeded to open the meeting.

2. Nomination of Rapporteur

Mr Michael Peel (United Kingdom) was nominated to serve as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair recalled that the Standing CDS Working Group, adopted during last year's Special Meeting of the Commission, underwent the approval of the transition from an ad hoc group to a standing group. This transition, in accordance with para 6 of *Recommendation by ICCAT on establishment of a standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG) (Rec. 23-22)*, involves taking up the role of discussing technical issues related to the eBCD as well as the potential expansion of CDS to other species in ICCAT. The previous meeting in March focused on eBCD technical issues and the primary focus of this meeting would be the expansion of CDS.

The Chair briefly outlined the agenda and asked CPCs to raise any other matters to be included.

Japan suggested that agenda items 4 and 5 be taken together. The Chair agreed with this approach.

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

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

4. Determination of which species and product types should be covered by CDS and

5. Consideration of the operational and technical aspects of CDS

In its paper on the potential expansion of CDS to other species, "Discussion Paper from Japan" (**Appendix 3**), Japan informed that they had applied the criteria specified in *Recommendation by ICCAT on a process towards the establishment of a Catch Certification Scheme for tuna and tuna-like species (Rec. 12-09)* to each major ICCAT species. Based on the findings of the *Report for Biennial Period, 2022-23 Part II (2023), Vol. 2*, Japan highlighted that all five major ICCAT species have issues of underreporting and/or data reporting shortcomings and argued that there is room for the CDS to assist in addressing this. Furthermore, Japan stressed that an expanded CDS would complement existing control measures and that special consideration should be given to developing CPCs who are already implementing CDS schemes such as the EU illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) catch certificate (CC).

Japan suggested that point vii) of *Rec. 12-09*, operational issues, capacity requirements, and costs, contains numerous points that would best be addressed in future meetings of the CDS Working Group and chose to focus on three elements of *Rec. 23-22* to help guide discussion, these being:

5) With a view to facilitating the implementation of any expanded CDS by CPCs, a phased/step-by-step approach should be considered.

6) The CDS WG shall also deal with technical issues related to the eBCD and possible expansion of the eBCD to other species if considered the appropriate tool.

7) The CDS WG shall, as far as possible, identify the key components to facilitate the implementation of any expanded CDS, including taking into account the special needs and requirements of developing CPCs, in both the design and implementation of such schemes, among others.

Additionally, Japan noted that another important consideration is interoperability with the EU's IUU catch certification (CC) scheme.

Japan concluded that the following three elements should have priority in determining the target species covered by CDS: a) The species is overfished and/or subject to overfishing; b) The risk of IUU fishing; c) The species subject to international trade, noting the existing traceability scheme. Based on these elements, as well as the feasibility considering the fishing pattern, Japan evaluated each species and proposed bigeye tuna and swordfish as the most suitable candidates for CDS.

Canada thanked Japan for its presentation and sought clarification on the overarching objectives that CDS is trying to fulfil. Japan explained that there are two general objectives of CDS: 1) To improve traceability and transparency within the system to address the issue of underreporting of all major ICCAT species and the possibility of underreported or illegal products entering the supply chain; 2) To collect additional catch data to improve recording. Japan noted that the objectives of CDS will differ from species to species and invited discussion on this point.

The EU expressed two comments: 1) Due to their existing IUU CC scheme, the ICCAT statistical document programme (SDP) represents a doubling of reporting that increases the burden for Contracting Parties exporting to the EU without bringing any additional value; 2) The EU views pursuing a stepwise approach as sensible as it is in line with past discussions and agree with examining bigeye tuna and swordfish as potential candidates but also see's merit in looking at yellowfin tuna in addition to, or as an alternative to, swordfish.

The Chair suggested that Japan continue to walk the Working Group through the various points one by one point by point in order to promote further discussions and deliberation starting with factor i) conservation status of ICCAT species/stocks.

The United States sought to better understand how stock status feeds into the prioritisation process undertaken by Japan. For example, the United States noted that in Japan's summary table, found in the final slide of the presentation, albacore's stock status risk is labelled "medium" despite the fact that the Mediterranean stock is in the red. Similarly, the stock status risk of swordfish in the summary table is labelled "high" even though the North Atlantic stock is in the green, and the South Atlantic stock is in the red. The United States concluded its intervention by asking if there is a role for CDS in the management of albacore.

Japan clarified that they gave higher priority to swordfish because two out of three stocks have been in the red for several years, whilst albacore only has one stock in the red.

Brazil pointed out the dynamic nature of the stock status and asked how it would be reflected in the final summary table.

Japan agreed that the point raised by Brazil is an important one that should be explored but they do not have a graph to demonstrate the stock status over years.

El Salvador noted that a limitation of the current SDP is the lack of ability to compare quantities caught versus quantities traded. They suggested that this limitation could be addressed by connecting CDS systems to market information to see how the data overlaps and confirms for a better understanding of the stock status of these species.

The SCRS Chairman, Dr. Craig Brown, suggested that the criteria of stock status or some measure of the difficulties in assessing a stock due to insufficient or inaccurate information or the potential biases in catch should be taken into consideration. He continued, pointing out that there are some species for which the stock status estimations are highly uncertain and that CDS may improve indices if catch reporting is improved.

Morocco stated that dedicating one day to examining these important documents may be insufficient and suggested that the Working Group should focus the priority now on swordfish and bigeye tuna as they have been established as a priority since 2022. The Group could then discuss other species and operational issues in the future.

Japan agreed with Morocco that, even though having one day to decide a specific species may be too short, the timeline in [Rec. 23-22](#) specifies that narrowing down the candidates would be beneficial.

Senegal asked how an expanded CDS would be integrated or made operable with existing catch documents, namely the EU's IUU catch certificate (CC) scheme. Moreover, Senegal expressed its preference for using the EU's CC scheme or the fields, as a base for an expanded CDS in ICCAT.

The Chair took note of the importance of interoperability and the relevance of the EU's IUU CC scheme and the need to prevent undue burden on CPCs that trade with the EU.

Japan moved onto factor ii) of [Rec. 12-09](#) para 1: "Monitoring and control measures currently in place, including catch and trade tracking programs, and their effectiveness and utility."

The EU underlined the importance of the catch certificate by informing that the coverage of the statistical document for bigeye tuna is limited (< 52%) and as such prevents useful cross-checking with Task 1 data. Such limited coverage also means that Task 1 data needs to be checked to ensure that the catch has been reported properly so that it can be validated, and a CC issued. Therefore, this additional need to check other data sources represents a burden.

Japan moved onto factor iii) of [Rec. 12-09](#) para 1, "which species, stocks, ocean areas, and/or fisheries would benefit most from additional monitoring and control measures".

The United States asked if, due to the issues associated with species differentiation, it would be more effective to only have a CDS for bigeye tuna rather than yellowfin tuna. However, they noted that this may create a loophole rather than improve catch composition estimates, an issue that may be addressed by eventually expanding CDS to cover all three tropical tuna species. Furthermore, the United States underlined the importance for the CDS WG to coordinate with the SCRS, STACFAD, and with other relevant panels for any species for which ICCAT decides to advance CDS and for input and expertise.

Japan presented the remaining factors in [Rec. 12-09](#) para 1, which drew no comments from the Parties.

Japan moved onto the final slide of the presentation "Discussion Paper from Japan for Tentative Agenda - points 4 and 5" (**Appendix 3**) and reiterated the importance of pursuing a step-wise approach, noting that in their view applying CDS to all tropical tuna species may represent a significant burden to some parties and that an expansion of CDS should begin with either one or two priority species, with further expansions taking into consideration capacity limitations of CPCs and CDS interoperability.

Some CPCs supported the idea of consulting the relevant panels before deciding on additional species for CDS. Pew commented that whilst it is helpful to have input and advice from the panels, in their view it should not prevent the Working Group from continuing the discussion of species selection and the expansion of CDS.

Following further discussions, several CPCs voiced their support for recommending bigeye tuna and swordfish as potential priority candidates for an expanded CDS. A few CPCs mentioned that such recommendation should not preclude the selection of additional or alternative species. Following a summary from the Chair, the Working Group agreed on this recommendation for consideration by IMM and PWG.

6. Identification of key components required to facilitate the implementation of any expanded CDS

The EU presented “Changes to the EU IUU Regulation catch certification scheme”, alongside a supporting document “Background Information in support of EU Presentation on EU Catch Certificate (Agenda Item 6) (Appendix 4), to provide an overview of the changes to the catch certificate document, the processing statement, the introduction of a non-manipulation document and information on the IT system currently in development, the CATCH software.

The changes to the catch certificate document include: CPCs may use a unique vessel identifier as an alternative to the IMO number (this is also the case for transshipment declarations), fishing gear has been added, catch areas are now more specific, weight boxes have been amended to “Estimated weight to be landed in kg”, the fishing licence holder can now sign the certificate instead of the master of the vessel, transport details now require point of departure/destination, and the transshipment box has been expanded to include landings. The EU explained that the objectives for these amendments are to a) to address loopholes in key data elements relevant for traceability, b) to ensure consistency of data collected, c) to ensure same traceability data requirements for all products imported into the EU. These changes will come into effect on the 10 January 2026 and that all exporting countries will need to switch to this new document. However, certificates created before and used after that date will still be admissible until 2028.

From the 10 January 2026 the catch certificate must also be accompanied by a processing statement even in cases where the processing of the product takes place in the same country of the flag of the fishing vessel, and a unique processing number will be required to ensure the link between the processing statement and the catch certificate. The EU emphasised that the objectives of these changes are to a) ensure traceability along the supply chain, b) to align the scheme with data elements internationally recognised as important to ensure traceability and controls for the purpose of fighting IUU fishing, c) to collect reliable and comparable data for controls.

The EU informed the Working Group that due to the requirements under Article 14(1), relating to indirect imports without processing, operators will be able to submit, alongside the other required documents, either a single transport document or a non-manipulation document which is currently being drafted by the European Commission which will be available at the end of this year. The reasons provided for this change are to ensure harmonisation of the traceability data required in relation to transport of fishery products from the point of export to the EU, and so that the data can be stored on CATCH.

The EU then provided an overview of CATCH, a computerised integrated management system for the Catch Certification Scheme, that will be used to handle, store, and exchange information and documents related to importation. From the 10 January 2026 it will be obligatory for EU importers to use CATCH to submit the required documentation and from the same date competent authorities in EU Member States must carry out checks and verification of information received through CATCH and provide feedback to EU customs and the importer. Non-EU countries operators may use CATCH on a voluntary basis to create and validate catch certificates and related documents to the EU importer via CATCH. The EU expressed that this was its preferred option to ensure a digital document flow through the entire supply chain. The objectives of CATCH are a) to improve the reliability of data, b) reduce the risk of fraudulent certificates c) facilitate controls and risk management, d) harmonise procedures, e) speed up administrative procedures and facilitate the submission of data.

CATCH is currently only available to Member States. Access can be requested via TRACES NT, and access will only be granted to notified central competent authorities of Member States and non-EU countries. CATCH testing could be opened to non-EU countries and operators in 2025, and the EU is hosting several regional seminars in the autumn for EU Member States however non-EU countries are invited to attend.

Japan asked if the EU’s CDS includes or excludes canned products as, if ICCAT decides to introduce CDS to tropical tunas, they are likely to be traded as canned products and Senegal asked which authorities should notify to sign the catch certificate.

The EU explained that the products covered haven’t been changed, canned products are part of the scope of the IUU regulations so they will need CCs. In response to Senegal, the EU stated that the decision on which authorities should notify is not for the European Commission to decide rather it would be authority that controls and monitors the vessel which varies from country to country.

Japan presented its paper “Discussion paper for compatibility of new Catch Document Scheme (CDS) with existing Catch Documentation Schemes” (**Appendix 5**). Japan noted that in previous meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Catch Documentation Schemes and in responses to the CDS questionnaire, numerous CPCs raised the same point on reducing administrative burdens, as such the issue of interoperability with the EU’s IUU CC scheme is a key requirement for the ICCAT CDS. Furthermore, ICCAT has implemented a Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD) Scheme for some years, and CPCs exporting bluefin tuna with a BCD to the EU are not required to attach an EU CC. Therefore, a new ICCAT CDS should have the same function as the BCD for the EU CC.

Japan suggested that one approach towards implementing a new CDS would be to utilise the EU CC or eBCD and simplify it, with adjustments for tropical tunas or swordfish. Moreover, Japan noted that in the previous discussion there was a split between CPCs who preferred a catch-based system, that ensures traceability and allows catch data collection, whilst others preferred a trade-based system as it is less burdensome and less costly. Japan concluded that a stepwise expansion is another option but stressed that interoperability with the EU IUU CC scheme ought to be the primary objective.

The EU expressed its concern that with bigeye tuna and swordfish which, unlike bluefin tuna where the ICCAT CC complies with EU regulations, there is a duplication as when they arrive to the EU market they need to be accompanied by the EU’s CC and the statistical document. The EU suggested that since the new elements of its CC further align with ICCAT measures, and it is already used by numerous CPCs exporting into the EU, it could be used as standard for the expansion of CDS based on the CATCH system.

There was consensus amongst CPCs on the importance of interoperability, rather than only mutual recognition of documents, with particular emphasis placed on interoperability with eBCD and the EU’s IUU CC scheme. Several CPCs expressed their desire to continue this discussion both intersessionally and in future meetings.

Furthermore, there was agreement amongst most CPCs that a catch-based system is preferable to a trade-based system due to the current limitations of the SDP, however many CPCs noted that such an approach is associated with an increased administrative burden for port-authorities and higher costs.

The EU noted that moving immediately to a catch-based system would be challenging and proposed that, in line with a stepwise approach, the CDS could be initially applied to segments of the fleets and then further expanded. This suggestion received support from several CPCs.

The United States asked whether a trade-based system would be sufficient to meet the system requirements of the EU IUU CC. The EU clarified that the IUU CC system is a trade-based system, however if the ICCAT employs a catch-based system in which the CC contains the required information of the EU’s IUU CC system then it would be interoperable.

The Chair summarised that the Working Group had expressed a clear preference towards moving to an electronic catch-based system. Furthermore, CPCs recalled the advantages that exist within the eBCD such as the derogate for small scale vessels, the use of temporary catch certificates at shore for small catches and, improvements to validating checks prior to export, which could all be applied to an expansion of CDS to avoid overburdening CPC authorities.

7. Consideration of any issues arising from the First Meeting of the CDS WG in relation to eBCD

Japan presented document “A New Functionality in the eBCD System to obtain the Growth Rate for a Cage” (**Appendix 6**). Japan stated that the new functionality intended to calculate the growth rate from a cage and display the deviation of growth rate from the SCRS growth table in the Harvesting Information section of the eBCD to prevent illegal products from entering the market. Furthermore, Japan emphasised three important elements of the new functionality, 1) that export data is confidential, 2) that the growth rate should be calculated on a cage-by-cage basis rather than a harvesting-by-harvesting basis, and 3) that the growth rate for a cage will be calculated cumulatively and updated after each harvest. Japan explained that the intention behind the paper was to clarify the idea of this new functionality which was introduced orally at the first CDS WG and, if the Working Group considers it appropriate, to request a time/cost estimate from TRAGSA.

TRAGSA explained that to calculate the growth rate via the cage it would require access to confidential information owned by the cage company, and that the Working Group would need to decide whether this data can be accessed to all importing CPCs or not. TRAGSA also explained that, while the growth rate calculation is feasible, a realistic approach is to obtain the figure via a report functionality.

The EU questioned the benefit of calculating the growth rates every time a cage is harvested as it would be highly resource intensive and could be a confounding variable. The EU also sought clarification from TRAGSA on the confidentiality issues.

Morocco suggested that the growth rate should only be entered into the eBCD at the end of the harvest to keep trade information confidential, and in the interim a provisional weight should be provided.

Japan explained that, regarding the timing of calculating the growth rate, their intention is to calculate and update the growth rate following each harvesting because from an importing CPC's perspective they need to know the growth rate at the time of importing even if some fish relating to the BCD in question, remain unharvested.

Morocco agreed that the growth rate should be made available to the importer by the exporter. However, para 26 of *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)* states the entire cage, therefore, the requirement to make the information available to the importer implies that the entire cage was harvested, when in practice it is usually larger fish that are harvested first thus the data may be biased. To address this Morocco suggested that at the end of harvesting the final growth rate should be included in all eBCDs.

Türkiye sought clarification on Table 1 on the methodology used to calculate the growth rate via email correspondence.

The SCRS Chair emphasised that to be able to make a comparison to the cage growth table provided by the SCRS the data on the total weight, number of fish and the date needed to be recorded at every harvest.

Japan clarified that in respect to the growth rate deviation, the expected growth rate is based on the SCRS growth rate table, and the methodology of growth rate calculation is described in the document "A New Functionality in the eBCD System to obtain the Growth Rate for a Cage" (**Appendix 6**). In response to the EU and Morocco, from the importing CPCs perspective they need to know the growth rates at the time of importation and if the eBCD will generate the growth rate only after the entire cage is fully harvested the growth rate will not be available to importing CPCs at the time of import. They concluded by informing that they will continue to work intersessionally with CPCs and TRAGSA to address the concerns raised.

With reference to document "Questions on new functionality released for NCP access to eBCD system" (**Appendix 7**) the ICCAT Secretariat highlighted that despite the new functionalities being operational there are no NCP administrators in the system, as such the ICCAT Secretariat sought the view of the Working Group to determine whether NCPs should be contacted. Furthermore, until such indication the approval of company requests from NCPs shall continue.

Japan asked how to export bluefin tuna to NCPs and how to access the eBCD system for companies in NCPs and the United States asked if the ICCAT Secretariat had any update on the number of NCPs with companies requesting registration. In response to Japan, the United States explained that, with the help of the ICCAT Secretariat, companies can use the system to record re-export certificates and other functionalities within the system rather than paper copies. The ICCAT Secretariat informed the United States that they would provide the figures in due course.

The Working Group approved of the ICCAT Secretariat continuing to handle the approval of company registration requests from NCPs without an administrator.

TRAGSA outlined the proposed changes to the eBCD system contained within ICCAT Circular #05507/2024. TRAGSA proposed including processing information within the eBCD in the trade section of *Recommendation by ICCAT amending and replacing Recommendation 18-13 on an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation programme (Rec. 23-21)* alongside the name of the processing vessel, the description of the

product processed, the gross weight of the product prior to processing, and the content and weight of the products following processing. Additionally, the master of the vessel and an administrator from a CPC in charge of marketing or selling the item are to be included. Whenever the harvesting of a farm or catching occurs, a new sale should be entered and then they will identify the vessel that is processing it.

TRAGSA continued and highlighted two important aspects for consideration. 1) If they identify the processing vessel then the representative of the processing vessel will be in charge of the processing and should complete the information. 2) If this section includes the previous information, then they do not have to input the gross weight but if it does not happen then they will need to indicate the gross weight. TRAGSA concluded by informing the Working Group that the information on processing needs to be completed on board and once it is completed the individual in charge of the trade will receive an email that can validate the trade.

Morocco supported the new functionalities outlined by TRAGSA, however they stated that this new information on processing should be separated into a new section and not in the trade section. This is because the trade information will be validated, and [Rec. 23-21](#) stipulates that the new information on processing does not need to be validated.

The EU highlighted a further incompatibility of the approach suggested by TRAGSA. In Annex 3.8 of [Rec. 23-21](#) it stipulates that it shall be the master or representative of the processing vessel who is responsible for completing the BCD whilst in the new approach it will be the seller or the farm operator responsible, as such if the Working Group was to adopt this approach then Annex 3.8 would have to be amended.

Japan presented document “Japan’s comments on “Requirements for the CDS WG Requests 2024 - 2”; Rev. 1 - May 2024” ([Appendix 8](#)) which contains a number of comments and questions on the time/cost estimates provided by TRAGSA.

Morocco reiterated its stance that based on [Rec. 23-21](#) the processing information section does not need to be validated and should be separate to the trade section.

TRAGSA clarified that the way that the subsection on processing is recorded is not the way it appears in the printed form which has two separate sections, whilst on the electronic version it looks like a separate subsection under trade. TRAGSA stated that they are mindful that the processing information does not need to be validated but included it in this section because it needs to be the administrator from the CPC that validates the trade after examining the processing information. In response to the EU, TRAGSA stated that in addition to the skipper and the individual in charge of processing it could also be the exporter completing the BCD, to ensure flexibility. Japan pointed out that, while TRAGSA explains that the processing vessel will become part of the entities associated with the farming/trade section, processing vessels usually have a different flag from the farm CPC. Replying to Japan’s intervention, TRAGSA explained that they could only access the trade section, there is no reason to associate the farmed CPCs.

The EU agreed with Morocco that the Working Group should align with [Rec. 23-21](#) and have a separate section in the BCD that would be completed by the master or representative of the processing vessel. The Working Group agreed on this approach.

The United States noted that in the time-cost estimate 3.1 in ICCAT Circular #05507/2024 related to the Regional Observer Programme (ROP) derogation in para 102 of [Rec. 22-08](#) that allows for harvesting from farms up to a thousand kilograms per day and up to a maximum of fifty tons per year. This paragraph is targeted at CPCs seeking to supply a fresh bluefin tuna market, and under these conditions a signature by the ROP can be exempt in these harvests. In this regard they were interested to hear from TRAGSA or others their views, they understand that its TRAGSA’s intention to add a check box under the harvesting section, that check box indicates if exempt from ROP. From a practical perspective this check box is rather simple and doesn’t carry with it all the details of the very specific and tailored derogation. They asked if it would be possible if that checkbox could be made accessible only when the weight and tonnage is filled out. Other data fields are valid. Also more text or a pop up which describes the ROP exemption, so it is clear.

The EU asked TRAGSA why it included a condition under point B of section 3.1.2 that states that in some circumstances additional harvesting in the same day can be treated as “natural mortality”.

TRAGSA clarified that the condition referenced by the EU was included for when you do not need an observer's signature as this section will not specify it either. In response to the United States' intervention, in January 2023 TRAGSA provided a cost estimate of €21,000 to take out an evaluation that would be automatically updated, but the EU proposed that the CPC authorities could do it manually. Morocco proposed that to do it the way the EU proposed that the eBCD should have two boxes in the harvesting section so the competent authority could decide whether it is in the section or not, so they added an additional box so that the person carrying out the harvesting could know if it was an exemption or not.

The EU accepted TRAGSA's explanation of natural mortality in point B. The EU suggested that the national authorities would be the ones to certify that the harvesting has met the conditions of the derogation. The US accepted the clarifications offered by TRAGSA.

The Chair summarised, that there were no questions from CPCs on the changes made to the first time/cost estimate "to allow grouping of fish from the same flag origin/same joint fishing operation (JFO)". In relation to the issue of processing the Working Group has asked TRAGSA to make the adjustment proposed by the EU and Morocco.

It was agreed that TRAGSA will make the adjustments requested via correspondence and the ICCAT Secretariat shall circulate an amended time/cost estimates.

8. Next steps and future intersessional work

Based on the target dates specified in para 9 of [Rec. 23-22](#), Japan presented the document "Draft workplan of the Standing Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group (CDS WG) (Agenda item 8)" (**Appendix 9**) which outlined a workplan for developing and submitting a draft recommendation for an expanded CDS.

The workplan contained the following four elements: 1) Identify species and product type covered by any expansion of CDS. 2) Discuss details of the operational and technical aspects of the CDS, including the elements listed in para 5. a)-e) of [Rec. 23-22](#). 3) Review any input from the ICCAT Secretariat regarding budget and resource capabilities to support any expanded CDS. 4) If possible, begin developing a draft recommendation for an expanded CDS. These elements are to be repeated and built upon from 2024 until the 2026 IMM Working Group wherein the Working Group shall refine and endorse a draft recommendation or create a new workplan to be submitted to the commission.

The United States and Canada voiced their support for a discussion to take place in the 2025 CDS Working Group focusing on the budgetary and staffing implications for the development of an expanded CDS. The United States suggested that this could be based upon a paper developed by the ICCAT Secretariat.

The EU expressed its interest in examining the budgetary and staffing implications of several potential solutions, namely the EU's CATCH software, the eBCD system, and the interoperability of CPCs with their own systems to transfer data to ICCAT.

Referring to the first bullet point under 2025, Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew) informed the Working Group that they had published a comprehensive study in 2021 mapping and comparing the different Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) CD schemes based upon Pew's recommended key data elements. Pew offered to share this paper with the Working Group if it felt it would aid discussions. Additionally, Pew shared the view of some CPCs that felt that the timeline could be more ambitious.

Japan explained that the budgetary implications change a lot depending on the species and product type covered, as well as the operational and technical aspects of CDS, which is why Japan did not specify this point in the workplan.

The Chair proposed that the suggestion of consulting with the panels/STACFAD and seeking input from the ICCAT Secretariat could be incorporated intersessionally throughout 2024.

The UK asked whether the Working Group would be making a recommendation to the panels, and if it would be all panels. The EU noted that in [Rec. 23-22](#) there is no mandate for the Working Group to refer to the panels. Instead, the EU proposed that some information be shared with the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) and that be reflected in the workplan.

Pew agreed with the EU's perspective based on the concern of overburdening the panels and recommended that the SCRS be invited for input but emphasised importance of respecting the timeline set out in [Rec. 23-22](#).

Morocco shared its view that before the Working Group considers elements such as costs and gathering input from the relevant panels the Working Group must first decide upon the candidates for an expanded CDS to recommend to IMM, otherwise it will be delayed to 2025. Senegal stressed the importance of tropical tuna species when expanding CDS as there have been significant issues in developing the quotas for yellowfin tuna, albacore, and swordfish.

It was agreed that Japan will develop an amended version of the workplan to present to IMM.

9. Any other matters

Japan presented document "Information paper on the Japan Capacity-Building Assistance Fund to adapt to a new catch documentation scheme (Agenda item 9)" (**Appendix 10**) and reminded the Working Group that [Rec. 23-22](#) emphasises the importance of taking into account the special needs and requirements of developing CPCs, in both the design and implementation of new catch document schemes and recognises the need for capacity development activities to support the implementation of any new CDS by developing CPCs. In light of this, Japan has provided a capacity-building fund since 1999, known as "ICCAT-Japan Capacity-building Assistance Project" (JCAP) to assist developing CPCs improve their capacity for data collection and reporting. Japan announced that they are continuing the programme for 2024, for which the call for applications will be circulated to CPCs soon.

The ICCAT Secretariat thanked Japan for making the capacity building fund available and requested CPCs to provide feedback on the circulars once they have been sent.

10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report would be adopted by correspondence. The Chair thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.

Agenda

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Discussion Paper from Japan for Tentative Agenda - points 4 and 5

**Discussion Paper from Japan
for
Tentative agenda**

4. Determination of which species and product types should be covered by CDS
5. Consideration of the operational and technical aspects of CDS

Recommendation 23-22

Paragraph 5

The CDS WG shall first consider which species and the product types that should be covered by any CDS, taking into account the factors specified in paragraph 1 of Rec. 12 -09. With a view to facilitating the implementation of any expanded CDS by CPCs, a phased/step -by-step approach should be considered, including technical approach. The CDS WG will then decide on details of the operational and technical aspects of the CDS, based on the information/views provided by CPCs, particularly regarding practical and technical considerations with respect to the design and implementation of any CDS, including the following:

Recommendation 12-09

1. The next meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures in 2013 shall address technical and practical issues associated with the development of a Catch Certificate Scheme for tuna and tuna-like species, taking into consideration Appendix 3 of the Report on the 7th IMM WG and taking into account the following factors:
 - i) The conservation status of ICCAT species/stocks;
 - ii) Monitoring and control measures currently in place, including catch and trade tracking programs, and their effectiveness and utility;
 - iii) Which species, stocks, ocean areas, and/or fisheries would most benefit from additional monitoring and control measures, and which approaches or tools, including catch certification schemes, could best be used to enhance the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures;
 - iv) How ICCAT fisheries are conducted (e.g., fishing grounds, gear types, transshipment activities, harvesting CPCs, etc);
 - v) The ways in which products from ICCAT fisheries are processed, transported, and traded;
 - vi) The overall level of trade by species and product type as well as the CPCs and non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (NCPs) involved;
 - vii) Operational issues, capacity requirements, and costs associated with various monitoring and control approaches, including data collection, submission, handling, analysis, reconciliation and dissemination associated with catch certification schemes and options for addressing the costs; and
 - viii) Any other relevant issues or information.

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i) The conservation status of ICCAT species/stocks;

The stock status of ICCAT major species other than bluefin tuna

		Stock status
Bigeye		Overfished
Yellowfin		
Skipjack	East Atlantic	
	West Atlantic	
Albacore	North Atlantic	
	South Atlantic	
	Mediterranean	
Swordfish	North Atlantic	
	South Atlantic	
	Mediterranean	Overfished

(2023 SCRS report)

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- ii) Monitoring and control measures currently in place, including catch and trade tracking programs, and their effectiveness and utility;

Statistical Document Program (SDP)

	Start Year	Scope	Coverage
Bigeye	2002	Frozen only PS and BB excluded	< 52% ¹
Swordfish	2002	All	100% ²

¹ Catches by longlines, primary source of frozen products, consist of 52% of total bigeye catch in 2022. This percentage declines further when catches by small-scale longlines, which primarily produce fresh products, is excluded.

² This is not necessarily the case as discussed at the 2023 COC meeting.

- iii) Which species, stocks, ocean areas, and/or fisheries would most benefit from additional monitoring and control measures, and which approaches or tools, including catch certification schemes, could best be used to enhance the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures;

Bigeye:

The 2023 SCRS report says, “Small bigeye tuna continues to be diverted to local West African markets, predominantly in Abidjan, and sold as fauxpoissons in ways that make their monitoring and official reporting challenging. Monitoring of such catches has recently progressed through a coordinated approach that allows ICCAT to properly account for these catches and thus increase the quality of the basic catch and size data available for assessments. Currently those catches are included with those from the main purse seine fleet in the ICCAT Task 1 data used for the assessments. The 2020-2022 catch for faux poissons was estimated by the Group to be 4% of the total purse seine BET catch.”

Besides, the total catch has periodically exceeded the TAC in recent years (*), which amplifies the conservation concern on the stock and underscores the need for timely catch monitoring.

* The sum of catch limits of CPCs is bigger than the TAC.

Yellowfin:

The 2023 SCRS report says, *“Nominal purse seine effort, expressed in terms of carrying capacity, decreased regularly from the mid-1990s until 2006. Since that time, several European Union purse seiners have transferred their effort to the eastern Atlantic due to piracy in the Indian Ocean, and a fleet of new purse seiners has started operating from Tema (Ghana), whose catches are probably underestimated.”*

The total catch has exceeded the TAC since 2024 (*).

* There is no catch limits or quota for each CPC for this species.

Skipjack:

The 2023 SCRS report says, *“Estimates of “faux poisson” catches for the purse seine fleets targeting tropical tunas in the eastern Atlantic were provided by the majority of the CPCs as indicated in SKJ-Table 1. For the 2022 Stock Assessment, the Group estimated “fauxpoisson” catches based on a methodology presented and adopted by the Group at the Data Preparatory Meeting and were included under the “NEI_mixed flags” code for the Stock Assessment.”*

Albacore:

The 2023 SCRS Report says, *“The Committee recommends an increase in effort to complete the Task 1 data for Mediterranean albacore, this being one of the main uncertainties not quantified in the assessment. The Committee recommends that CPCs and the Secretariat work together to complete the Task 1 data in the ICCAT database before the next assessment, and to consider methods developed by the Working Group on Stock Assessment (WGSAM) to estimate unreported catches.”*

(Regarding Mediterranean stock) *“It is known that the catch series of some ICCAT CPCs are still incomplete, and efforts are being made to recover those catches to complete Task 1 estimations.”*

The total catch has exceeded the TAC in 2019 for northern stock and in 2021 for southern stock.

Swordfish:

The 2023 SCRS report says, *“Catch reports are considered to be nearly complete for 2022, however, few countries, which typically represent a small portion of the catch, have not yet reported their 2022 catches and because of unknown unreported catches, this value should be considered provisional and subject to further revision.”*

(Regarding Northern stock) *“Task 1 and 2 data coverage is generally good, however the Committee noted the sparse discarding data for most CPCs as well as gaps in the catch and effort data for some CPCs.”*

Overall, all major species have issues of underreporting and there is room for the CDS to assist data collection of such missing information.

The CDS will also improve the timely catch monitoring and prevent the distribution of unreported catches when such catches occur.

iii) Which species, stocks, ocean areas, and/or fisheries would most benefit from additional monitoring and control measures, and which approaches or tools, including catch certification schemes, could best be used to enhance the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures;

Control measures other than CDS

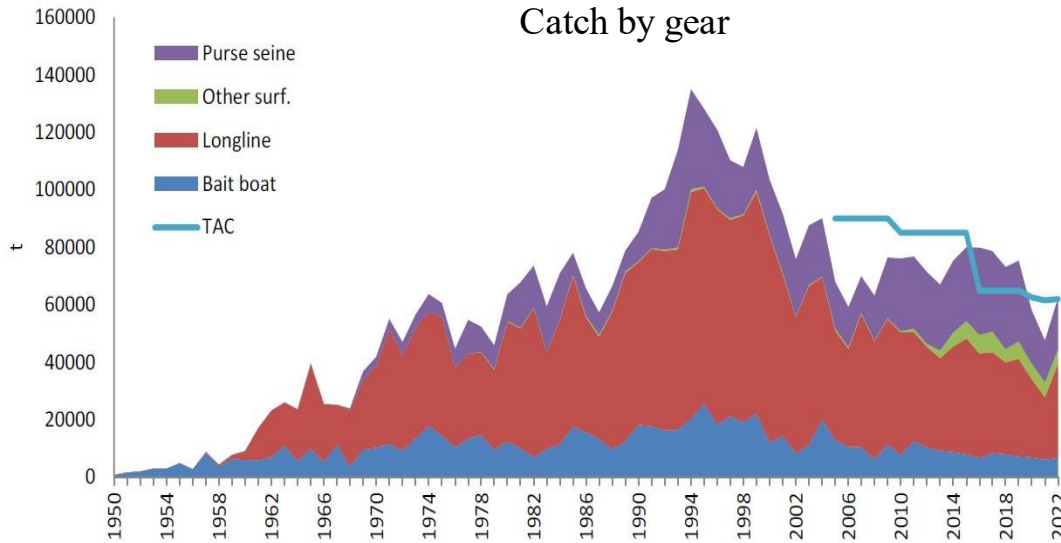
	Purpose	Limitation against IUU
VMS	Monitoring vessel positions	This works only for the enforcement of area-based management measures.
On-board observer	Monitoring fishing activities	This does not give accurate data on catch amount by species for purse seiners.
Transshipment observer	Monitoring transshipment activities	This works only for vessels conducting transshipment.
Port inspection	Monitoring in-port activities as well as catches on board	Coverage is usually low.
At-sea inspection	Monitoring fishing activities as well as catches on board	Coverage is very low. This does not give accurate data on catch amount by species.

iv) How ICCAT fisheries are conducted (e.g., fishing grounds, gear types, transshipment activities, harvesting CPCs, etc);

Fishing grounds	This does not matter because the CDS is applied to on a species -by-species basis.
Gear types	This depends on species and is further examined in the next slide.
Transshipment	All major species are involved in transshipment. At -sea transshipment is implemented for large -scale longline vessels, under the Regional Observer Program, and by harpoon vessels transshipping fresh swordfish. This will not prevent the implementation of CDS as the statistical document program has been operated with transshipment activities.
Harvesting CPCs	This depends on species and is further examined in the next slide. Special consideration should be given to developing countries, with a note that developing countries have already implemented catch certificate schemes under the EU IUU Regulation's catch certification scheme.

iv) How ICCAT fisheries are conducted (e.g., fishing grounds, gear types, transshipment activities, harvesting CPCs, etc);

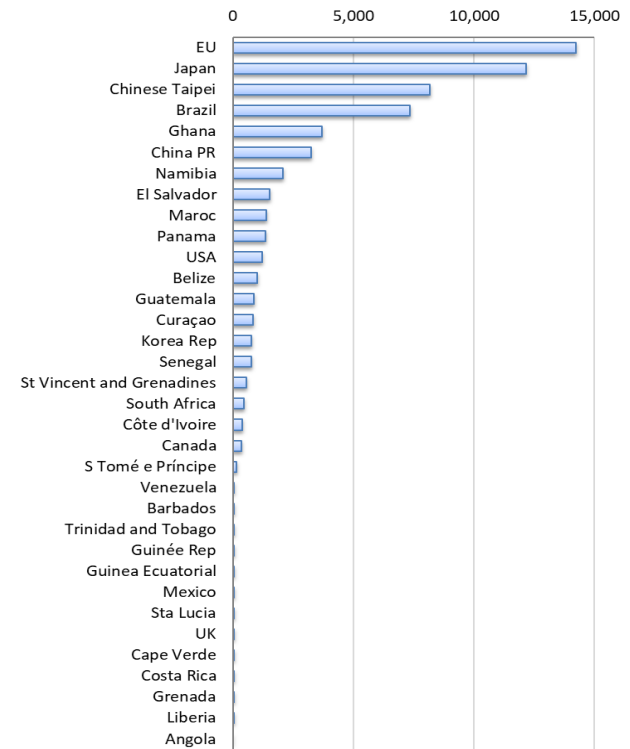
Bigeye



(2023 SCRS report, Task 1 data)

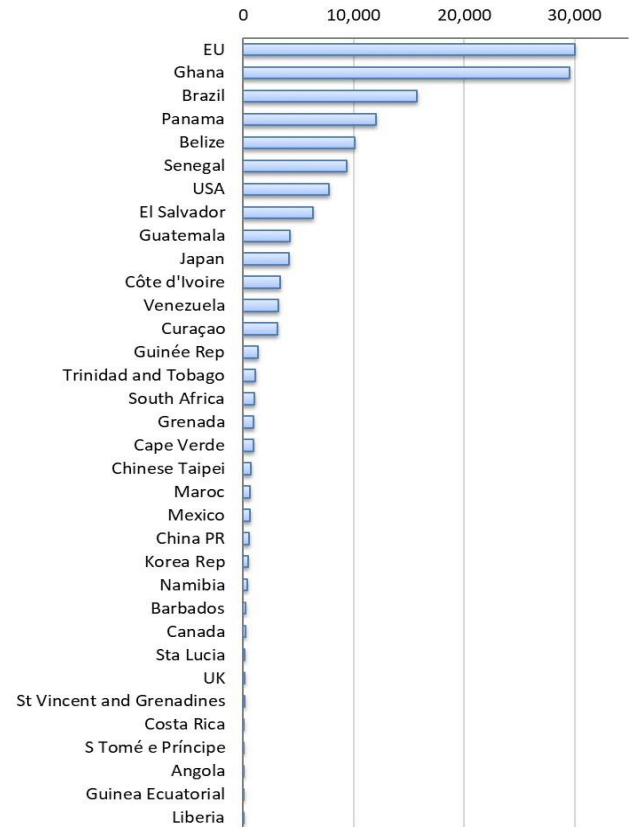
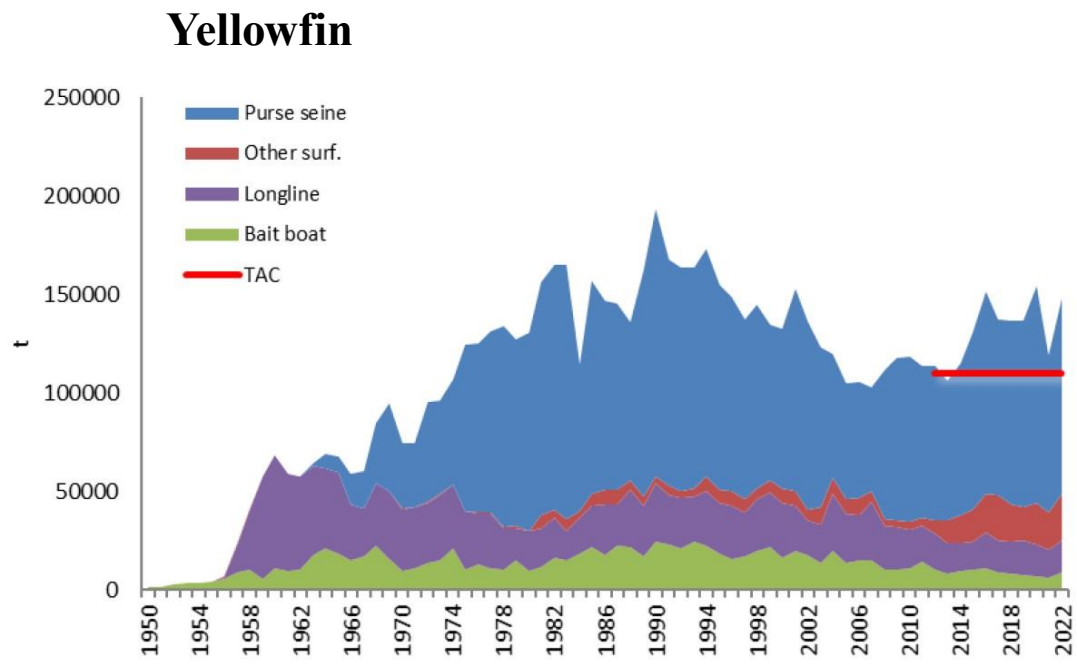
- 62,513 t in 2022
- 52% from longliners, mainly with freezing capacity
- 27% from purse seiners which catch tropical tunas simultaneously
- Significant number of developing countries involved in this fishery
- 1,249 vessels registered on the Record of TROP Vessels ($20m \leq LOA$)

Catch by harvesting CPC in 2022



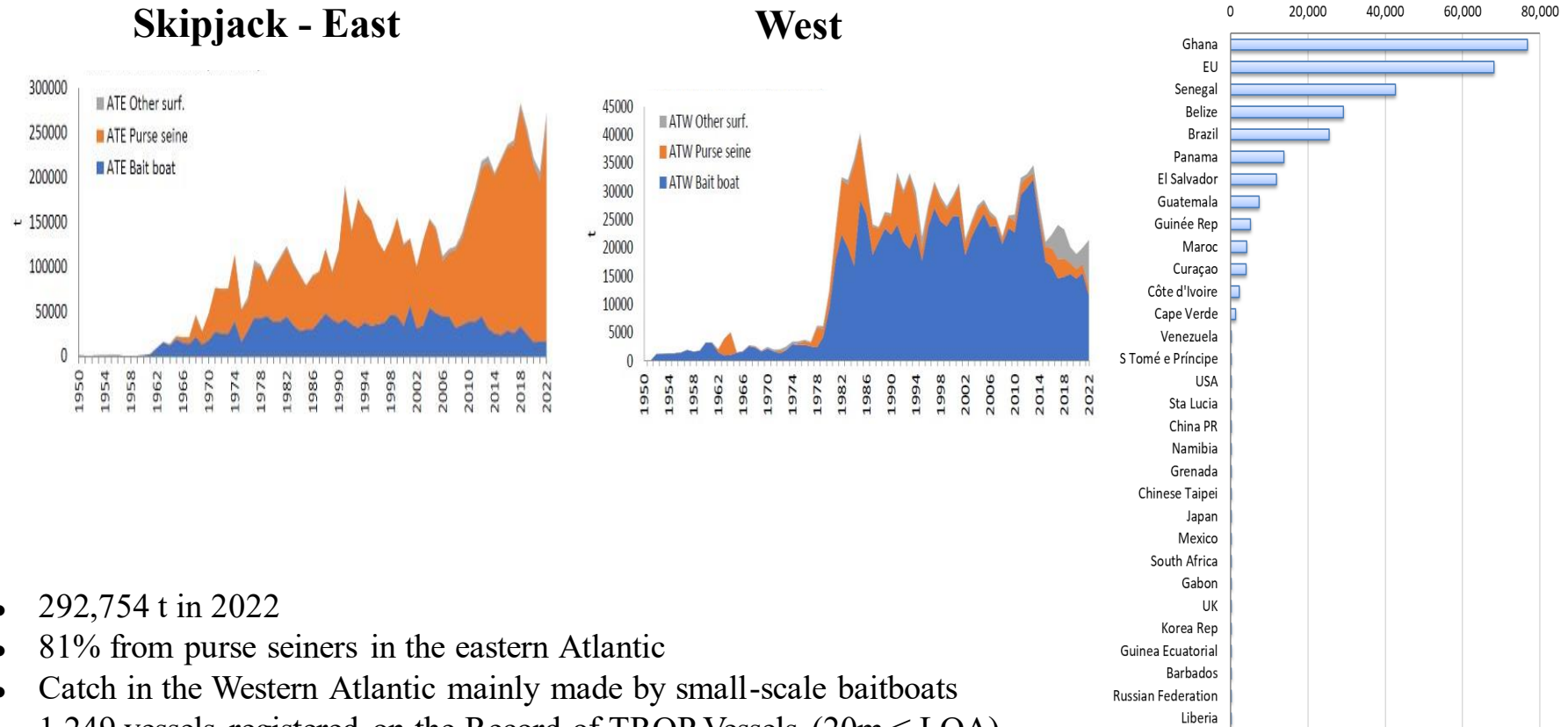
iv) How ICCAT fisheries are conducted (e.g., fishing grounds, gear types, transshipment activities, harvesting CPCs, etc);

Yellowfin



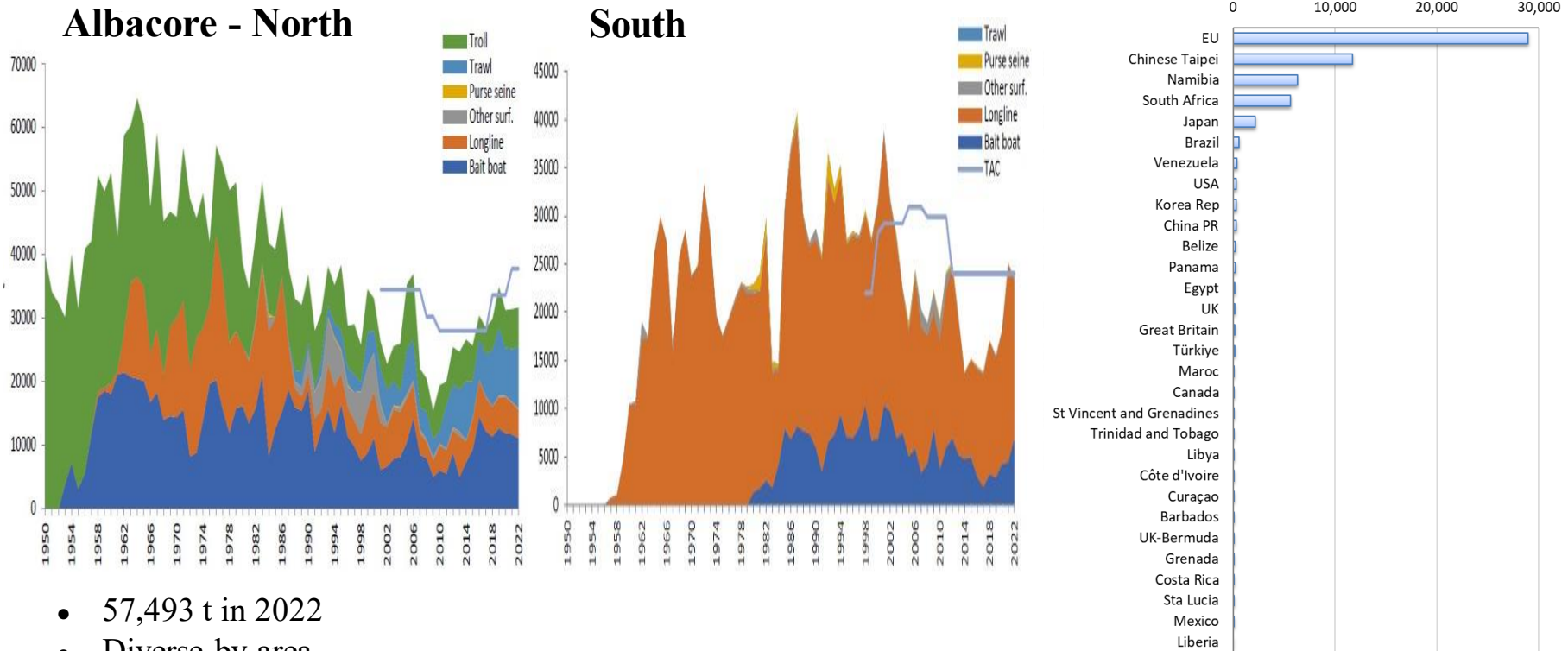
- 148,211 t in 2022
- 67% from purse seiners which catch tropical tunas simultaneously
- Significant number of developing countries involved in this fishery
- 1,249 vessels registered on the Record of TROP Vessels (20m ≤ LOA)

iv) How ICCAT fisheries are conducted (e.g., fishing grounds, gear types, transshipment activities, harvesting CPCs, etc);



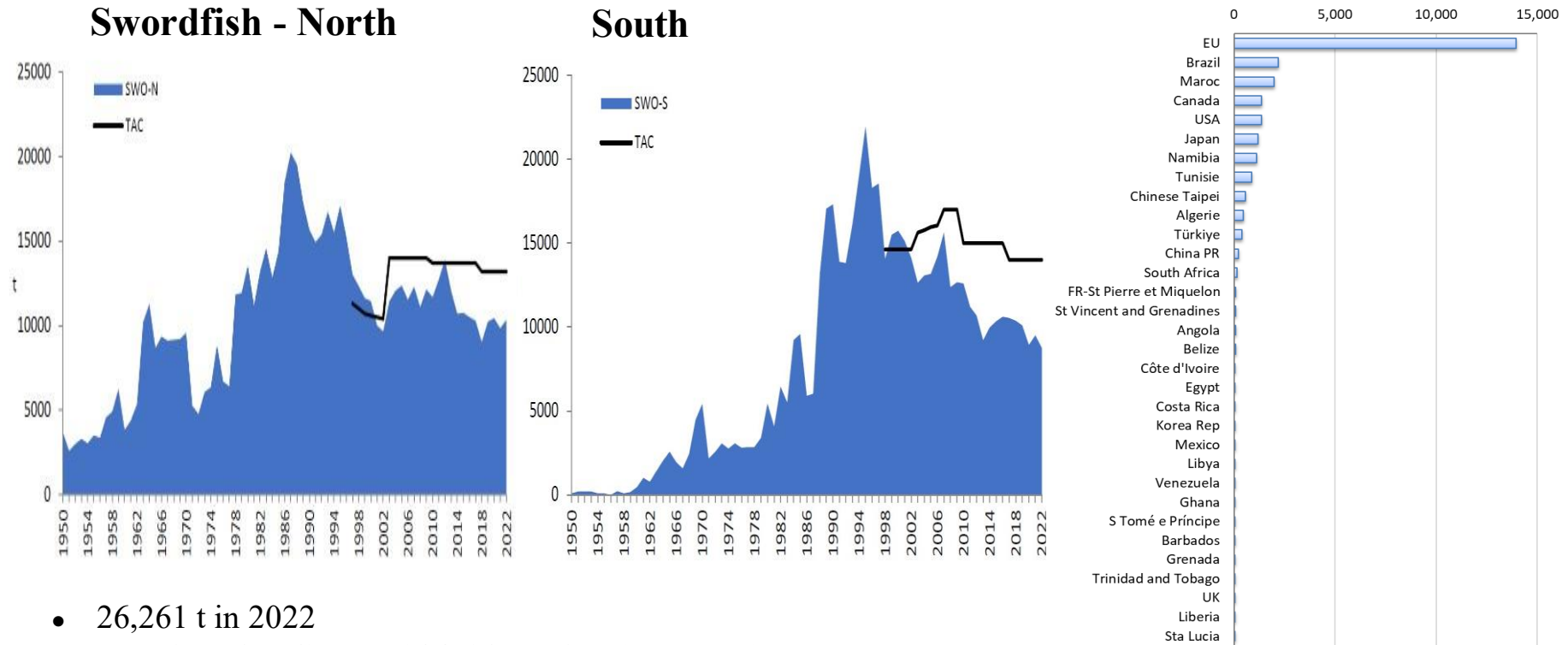
- 292,754 t in 2022
- 81% from purse seiners in the eastern Atlantic
- Catch in the Western Atlantic mainly made by small-scale baitboats
- 1,249 vessels registered on the Record of TROP Vessels (20m ≤ LOA)

iv) How ICCAT fisheries are conducted (e.g., fishing grounds, gear types, transshipment activities, harvesting CPCs, etc);



- 57,493 t in 2022
- Diverse by area
- 7,010 vessels registered on the Record of ALB Vessels (Mostly small vessels in the Mediterranean)

iv) How ICCAT fisheries are conducted (e.g., fishing grounds, gear types, transshipment activities, harvesting CPCs, etc);



v) The ways in which products from ICCAT fisheries are processed, transported, and traded;

The example of bigeye, caught by two major fishing gear (i.e., longline and purse seine)

Process	Transport	Trade
Bigeye caught by longliners are usually chilled or frozen and landed. Bigeye caught by purse seiners are usually frozen and brought to canneries and processed to canned products.	Bigeye caught by longliners are directly landed or transported to carrier vessels. Bigeye caught by purse seiners are directly landed and brought to canneries.	This will be examined in the next item.

- vi) The overall level of trade by species and product type as well as the CPCs and non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (NCPs) involved;

Degree of international trade in 2021

	<i>Catch(MT)</i>	<i>Trade(MT)</i>	<i>% of Trade</i>
Bigeye	352,600	119,613	34%
Yellowfin	1,545,096	549,759	36%
Swordfish	96,410	74,998	78%
Albacore	206,012	152,975	74%
Skipjack	2,788,714	1,646,450	59%

(FAO Fishstat.J)

Swordfish and albacore have the highest percentage directed to trade.

vii) Operational issues, capacity requirements, and costs associated with various monitoring and control approaches, including data collection, submission, handling, analysis, reconciliation and dissemination associated with catch certification schemes and options for addressing the costs; and

The above elements should be discussed in future meetings of this WG, and at this time, the following parts of Recommendation 23 -22 are highlighted:

5. ... With a view to facilitating the implementation of any expanded CDS by CPCs, a phased/step - by-step approach should be considered, including technical approach. ...
6. The CDS WG shall also deal with technical issues related to the eBCD and possible expansion of the eBCD to other species if considered the appropriate tool.
7. The CDS WG shall, as far as possible, identify the key components to facilitate the implementation of any expanded CDS, including taking into account the special needs and requirements of developing CPCs, in both the design and implementation of such schemes, among others.

The compatibility with the EU IUU Regulation's catch certification scheme is also essential (agenda item 6).

Conclusion

Japan considers that the following elements have priority in determining the target species of CDS:

- a) the species overfished and/or subject to overfishing
- b) the risk of IUU fishing
- c) the species subject to international trade, noting the existing traceability scheme

The need for CDS in each element, as well as the feasibility given the fishing pattern, is evaluated as follows:

	Stock Status	IUU Risk	Trade	Feasibility
Bigeye	High (overfished)	High	Medium*	Medium
Yellowfin	Low	Medium	Low	Medium
Skipjack	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium
Albacore	Medium	Medium	High (highly likely to trade)	Medium
Swordfish	High (overfished/overfishing)	Medium	High (highly likely to trade)	High (less volume)

* The coverage of BET SDP is less than 52%.

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Background Information in support of EU Presentation on EU Catch Certificate (Agenda Item 6)
(submitted by the EU)

In support of the CDS WG discussion under Agenda Item 6, the EU will introduce to the Group the most recent changes implemented in the EU Catch Certificate. This presentation will provide an overview of important changes to the certificate and related processes, as well as information on the IT system currently being developed, the CATCH software.

Complementary to the presentation, which will be shared with the CDS WG ahead of the meeting, the EU would like to draw the attention of CPCs to additional information accessible through the links detailed below and the annex “European Union Catch Certificate and Re-export Certificate” attached to this document:

1. [FAQ on Changes to the IUU Regulation](#)
2. [The Consolidated Revised IUU Regulation](#)
3. [The IUU Webpage of the European Commission](#)

ANNEX II
European Union Catch Certificate and Re-export Certificate

(i) EUROPEAN UNION COMMUNITY CATCH CERTIFICATE										
Document number					Validating Authority					
1. Name			Address			Telephone- Fax				
2. Fishing vessel name			Flag - home port and registration number			Call sign		IMO /Lloyd's Number or, if not applicable, other unique vessel identifier (if applicable) (if issued)		
Fishing licence no. – Valid to until					Inmarsat-Mobile satellite service no Telefax no Telephone no. E-mail address (if issued)					
Fishing gear (1)										
3. Description of product			Type of processing authorised on board			4. References to applicable conservation and management measures				
Species		Product code	Catch area(s) and catch date(s) (from – to) (2)	Estimated live-weight to be landed in kg (kg)		Estimated weight to be landed (Net catch weight in kg)		Verified weight landed (net catch weight in kg) (3) where appropriate		
5. Name of master of fishing vessel or of fishing licence holder - Signature- Seal :										
6. Declaration of transhipment at sea Name of master of fishing vessel			Signature and date			Transhipment date/area/position		Estimated weight (kg)		
Master of receiving vessel			Signature		Vessel name		Call sign	IMO/Lloyd's Number (if issued) or, if not applicable, other unique vessel identifier (if applicable)		
7. Transhipment and/or landing authorisation within a port area:										
Name		Autho rity	S i g n a t u r e	Address	T e l e p h o n e	Port of landing (as appropriate)	Date of landing (as appropriate)	Seal (stamp)		
						Port of transhipment (as appropriate)	Date of transhipment (as appropriate)	Name and registration number of receiving vessel	Seal (stamp)	
								IMO number or, if not applicable, other unique vessel identifier (if applicable) of receiving vessel		

8. Name and address of exporter	Signature	Date	Seal	
9. Flag State authority validation:				
Name/Title	Signature	Date	Seal (stamp)	
10. Transport details: <i>See Appendix</i>				
11. Importer declaration:				
Name and address of importer Company, name, address, EORI (4) number and contact details of importer (specify details)	Signature	Date	Seal	
Company, name, address, EORI (4) number and contact details of representative of the importer (specify details)	Signature	Date	Seal	
Product description	Product CN code	Net weight in kg	Net fishery product weight in kg	
Document under Article 14(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008	Yes / no (as appropriate)	References		
Document under Article 14(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008:	Yes / no (as appropriate)	References (Processing statement document number(s)):		
Member State and office of import				
Means of transport upon arrival (airplane, vehicle, ship, train)	Transport document reference	Estimated time of arrival (if submission under Article 12(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008)		
Customs declaration number (if issued)	CHED (5) number (if available)			
12. Import control: Authority	Place	Importation authorised (6*)	Importation suspended (*6)	Verification requested - date
Customs declaration (if issued)	Number		Date	Place
13. Refusal of catch certificate	Catch certificate refused on the basis of the following provision of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008:			(6*)
	Article 18 (1), point (a)			
	Article 18 (1), point (b)			
	Article 18 (1), point (c)			
	Article 18 (1), point (d)			
	Article 18 (1), point (e)			
	Article 18 (1), point (f)			
	Article 18 (1), point (g)			
	Article 18 (2), point (a)			
	Article 18 (2), point (b)			
Article 18 (2), point (c)				
Article 18 (2), point (d)				
(*) Tick as appropriate				

(1) Code to be used in accordance with International standard statistical classification of fishing gear.

(2) Catch area:

- FAO area(s);

- exclusive economic zone(s) and/or high seas; and
- relevant regional fisheries management convention area(s).

(3) To be filled in only if verified in the context of an official inspection.

(4) Economic Operators Registration and Identification.

(5) Common Health Entry Document.

(6) Tick as appropriate.

(ii) EUROPEAN COMMUNITY UNION RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE			
Certificate number	Date	Member State	
1. Description of re-exported product		Weight (kg)	
Species	Product code	Balance from total quantity declared in the catch certificate	
2. Name of re-exporter	Address	Signature	Date
3. Authority			
Name/Title	Signature	Date	Seal/Stamp
4. Re-export control			
Place	Re-export authorised(*)	Verification requested(*)	Re-export declaration number and date

(*) Tick as appropriate

Appendix

Transport details⁽¹⁾

1. Country of exportation Port/airport/other place point of departure	2. Exporter signature		3. Point of destination	
	Container number(s)	Name	Address	Signature
Vessel name and flag Flight number/ airway bill number Truck nationality and registration number Railway bill number Freight bill number Other transport documents (e.g. bill of lading, CMR ⁽²⁾ , air waybill)	list attached			

(1) In case of use of multiple modes of transport or multiple shipments, the information related to the transport has to be provided for each mode of transport used for each shipment.

(2) Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road

ANNEX IV

Statement under Article 14(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Union system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

DOCUMENT NUMBER* :.....

I confirm that the processed fishery products: ... (product description and Combined Nomenclature code) have been obtained from catches ~~imported~~ under the following catch certificate(s):

Catch certificate number	Vessel name(s) and flag(s)	Validation date(s)	Catch description	Total landed weight (kg)	Catch processed (kg)	Processed fishery product (kg)

Name and address of the processing plant:

...
...
...

Name and address of the exporter (if different from the processing plant):

...
...
...

Approval number of the processing plant:

...

Health certificate number and date:

...

Responsible person of the processing plant	Signature:	Date:	Place:
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Endorsement by the competent authority:...

Official:	Signature and seal:	Date:	Place:
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*Insert document number

**Discussion paper for compatibility of new Catch Document Scheme (CDS)
with existing Catch Documentation Schemes
(Agenda item 6)
(submitted by Japan)**

1. ICCAT once discussed the possibility of expanding the Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS) to species other than bluefin tuna from 2012 to 2014. There was a strong view from CPCs that a key component required in any expanded CDS is the compatibility or interoperability with the existing documentation schemes, and duplication should be avoided, especially noting the EU IUU Regulation's Catch Certification (CC) Scheme¹.
2. During discussions in the Ad Hoc Working Group on Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS WG) over the past two years and in responses to the CDS questionnaire, several CPCs raised the same point with the intention of reducing administrative burdens. Given that the EU is a major market for ICCAT species and that many CPCs already have a system to issue EU CCs, **interoperability with the EU CC Scheme is the key requirement or condition for the new ICCAT CDS**. ICCAT has established a Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD) Scheme, and countries exporting bluefin tuna with a BCD attached to the EU market do not need to attach an EU CC. **A new ICCAT CDS should have the same function as the BCD for the EU CC**. Although discussions in the Standing CDS WG have just begun, this point can be agreeable regardless of the target species.
3. ICCAT has implemented the bigeye and swordfish statistical document programs (SDPs), however, they are insufficient in interoperating the EU CC. According to information provided by the EU in the previous discussion, their incompleteness includes:
 - i. Requirements for Flag State validation differ: ICCAT SDP allows the chartering State to validate the SD, while in the EU CC, flag State responsibility and validation is key;
 - ii. No information is included on the Master of the fishing vessel in SDP;
 - iii. No transshipments details are required in SD;
 - iv. No transport details are required in SD;
 - v. There are several weight boxes in the EU CC;
 - vi. The EU CC covers most species. The SD bigeye does not have the same scope as canned and fresh products are not covered, while these presentation forms are covered by the EU catch certificate.
4. One approach towards a new CDS would be to utilize the EU CC or BCD and simplify it as much as possible, with adjustments for the tropical tunas or swordfish in ICCAT fisheries (e.g., excluding farming information, adding FAD information). Another key point is whether a new CDS will be a catch-based system (i.e., documentation is generally created at the time of catch, the same as BCD) or a trade-based system (i.e., documentation is created at the time of international trade with information on the catch and subsequent flow, the same as SDP). In the previous discussion, some CPCs preferred the catch-based system, which ensures comprehensive traceability and allows catch data collection, while the trade-based system is less burdensome and less costly. A stepwise expansion of the system is one option, but interoperability with the EU CC should be ultimately a primary objective.

¹ Report on the Seventh Meeting of the IMM Working Group (2012) *"Most of the participants noted the benefit of establishing a broader ICCAT scheme. They also noted that duplication should be avoided with the existing documentation schemes."*

Report on the Eight Meeting of the IMM Working Group (2013) *"Another CPC stated any potential new certification schemes should ensure consideration for workload and prevent multiple documentation requirements. The Chair noted that duplications of CDS-related documents should be avoided for a given species."*

Report on the Ninth Meeting of the IMM Working Group (2014) *"Japan noted that a number of CPCs generally wished to avoid duplication of other trade documentation schemes. Several CPCs expanded on this point, emphasizing the need for harmonized documentation schemes."*

**A New Functionality in the eBCD System to obtain the Growth Rate for a Cage
(Agenda item 7)
(submitted by Japan)**

1. In accordance with *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)* para 27, Japan requests the Standing Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group (CDS WG) to consider a functionality within the eBCD system that allows the monitoring of growth rates of harvested bluefin tuna easier. Japan initially explored the feasibility of a functionality sending email alerts from the eBCD system to import CPC officials when discrepancies are found between the observed growth rates derived from an eBCD and the expected growth rates calculated using the SCRS growth rate tables (Reference No. 1.1.8). Tragsa has assessed this functionality as possibly not feasible. Then, during the First Meeting of the CDS WG (4 March 2024), Japan suggested having a field in the Harvesting Information section of the eBCD that displays the deviation of the growth rate from the SCRS growth table. After the meeting, Japan worked with Tragsa, concluding that this new functionality could be feasible. *This discussion paper is to clarify the idea of this new functionality and, if the WG considers it appropriate, to call for the cost estimate by Tragsa.*

2. This functionality is to have a field in the Harvesting Information section of the eBCD that displays the deviation between the growth rate for a given cage and the SCRS growth table (**Figure 1**). Given that the growth rate changes each time a harvest occurs, the section also displays the harvest rate of the cage, showing what proportion of fish has been harvested from the cage. The calculation on how to obtain these values is shown in the **Table**. This functionality is expected to reduce the administrative workloads for both farming and import CPCs, as both of them currently have to calculate the growth rate.

3. Given that fish harvested from one cage can be exported to multiple CPCs, data confidentiality is important. An import CPC has access to the growth rate and harvest rate of the cage from which the imported bluefin was harvested but would not be allowed access to the trade information of other import CPCs that import bluefin tuna harvested from the same cage (**Figure 2**).

Table

Caging		Harvest 1			Harvest 2			Harvest 3 ...	Total Harvests				Ave. weight expected from the SCRS growth table	Deviation from the SCRS growth table
No. fish	Ave. weight	No. fish	Total weight	Farming period	No. fish	Total weight	Farming period		No. fish	Ave. weight	Harvest rate of the cage	Ave. farming period		
A0	B0	A1	C1	D1	A2	C2	D2		$A = A1+A2$	$E = (C1+C2)/A$	$A/A0$	$F = (A1*D1+A2*D2)/A$	$G = \text{function}(B0, F)$	$E/G - 1$
fish	kg	fish	kg	days	fish	kg	days		fish	kg	%	days	kg	%

Harvesting Information

Init Date 4/9/2014 5:22 PM

End Date 4/9/2014 3:22 PM Time GMT

No. of Fish 3

Total Weight 330 , Kg

AVG. Weight(Kg) 110 , 0

Notes

Add Tags (if applicable) +

Growth Rate Deviation %

Harvest Rate of the cage %

Save

Figure 1

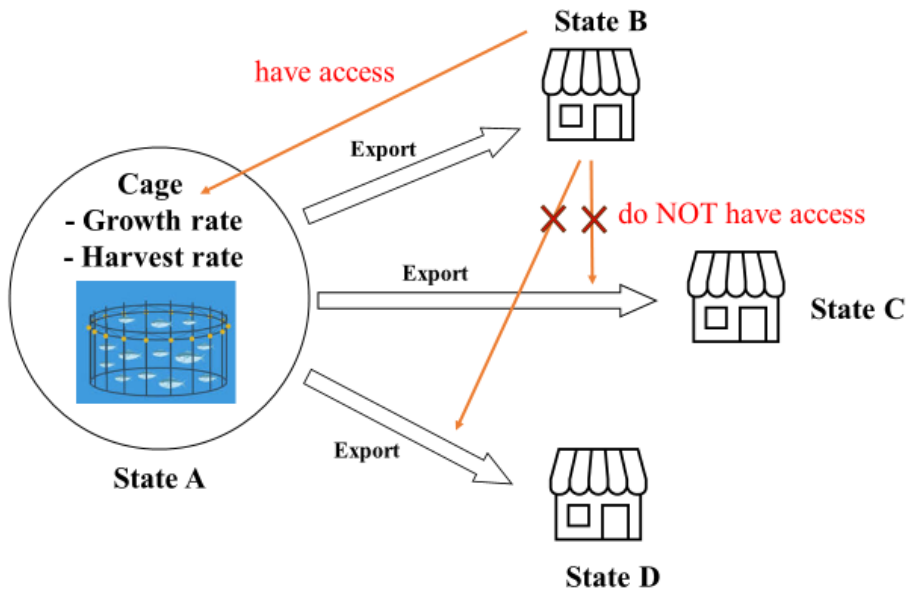


Figure 2

Questions on new functionality released for NCP access to eBCD system
(submitted by the ICCAT Secretariat)

In April of this year, a new functionality was deployed in production that allows Non-Contracting Parties (NCPs) to have specific roles created in the system and to access and perform certain actions within it.

One of the key features of this functionality is the ability for companies from NCP countries to create registration requests in the system, which can then be approved by NCP administrators (a new role introduced with this functionality).

Prior to the release of this functionality, the Secretariat was responsible for registering these companies, enabling companies from CPC countries to conduct trade with companies from NCP countries.

Given that there are currently no NCP administrators registered in the system, and recognizing that some of them may face difficulties in handling requests due to their status as Non-Contracting Parties, the Secretariat seeks to confirm the following:

1. The Secretariat will continue to handle the approval of company requests from those NCPs that do not yet have an administrator.
2. In cases where an NCP does have an administrator, the Secretariat may still proceed with the approval, provided that the designated NCP administrators are informed via email.

This approach ensures a streamlined and efficient process while supporting NCPs in their use of the system.

**Japan's comments on "Requirements for the CDS WG Requests 2024 - 2"; Rev. 1 - May 2024"
(ICCAT Circular # 05507 See Appendix)**

Reference 6: Initial discussion of reflecting 'processing on board' in the eBCD System

(Overall)

As Japan suggested at the [First Meeting of the Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group \(CDS WG\)](#) (4 March 2024), flexibility between trade and processing sections is necessary given the actual trade flow. The sequence of creating both sections in the eBCD system is described below:

Case 1

Harvesting information (with round weight) → Validation → Processing information (processed weight) → Trade information (processed weight) → Validation

For this initial case, there would be no way to know in advance whether a trade, with or without processing, will be made from a harvesting (HA).

For a processing vessel representative to access an ICCAT Bluefin Catch Document (BCD), they must be listed as part of the section. Therefore, our proposal is to indicate the vessel that will carry out the processing in the trade section (TD).

Case 2

Harvesting information (round weight) → Validation → Trade information (round weight) → Processing information (processed weight) → Validation

Our proposal is more akin to Option 2.

It is necessary for the tuna seller (the farm company that slaughters or the trap net company that fishes) to indicate that a trade (trade section) with on-board processing will be carried out, specifying which vessel will handle the processing.

It is essential to select the processing vessel so that it becomes part of the entities in the trade section, because only users who have one of their entities associated with a specific section have access to that section.

From this point forward, the processing vessel's responsible party will be able to include the product descriptions.

How would the information be recorded in the eBCD?

From a Harvesting (HA) section or a trap net capture (CA) (validated or exempt):

1. The representative of the farm company (seller) records a new trade (TD), indicating that it is a trade (TD) with onboard processing, and selects the vessel that will be responsible for carrying out said processing. As in any trade (TD), they must provide the buyer's information.

If it is assumed that this type of section takes the **total available from the previous section**, there is no need to indicate the gross weight.

2. The processing vessel's responsible party accesses the trade (TD) and fills in the processed product information.

3. The representative of the farm company (seller) submits the trade section (TD) for validation.
4. The country validator validates the trade section (TD).

(page 13)

"In addition to this information outlined in the Recommendation, we believe it is appropriate to include a field reflecting the gross weight of the sale prior to processing."

Given that the gross (round) weight prior to processing is the same as the weight entered in the harvesting section, the suggested field should not be necessary.

It will not be necessary to indicate this gross weight as long as **in all cases** this type of section takes the total from the previous section, either from the harvesting (HA) or from the trap net capture (CA), which are the possible preceding sections according to the Recommendation.

In the event that there might be a case that does not comply, it will be necessary to use a field to indicate gross weight.

(page 15)

"f) The description of the processed products according to the Recommendation shall be completed by the master or representative of the processing vessel. It may also be filled out by whoever is recording the trade, for example, a user from the exporting company or an administrator of the CPC/Country responsible for the trade."

During the discussion on the draft recommendation of processing information, some CPCs raised concerns that exporting companies/authorities should not be given the responsibility of filling out processing information, therefore the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending and replacing Recommendation 18-13 on an ICCAT Bluefin tuna catch documentation programme \(Rec. 23-21\)](#) gives the role of filling out the processing information solely to the master/representative of the processing vessels. It would rather be better to initially develop the functionality only with the master/representatives of the processing vessels.

This condition poses a limitation because if, for any reason, this user could not complete the information in the eBCD, they would not be able to continue recording the information.

(page 15)

"k) The processing vessel will become part of the entities associated with the section."

We need to know more about what this means, but processing vessels are likely to have a different Flag from the farming/exporting CPC.

This is due to the functioning of the eBCD system, as access to the eBCD sections is only permitted to users who have entities (vessels, companies, etc.) involved in those sections. For this reason, we have to associate the processing vessel with the trade section.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Madrid, 31 May 2024

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 05507 / 2024

SUBJECT: COST/TIME ANALYSES AND ESTIMATES OF THREE FUNCTIONALITIES IN THE ICCAT eBCD SYSTEM

I would like to inform you that, on 24 May 2024, the ICCAT Secretariat received, three of the cost/time estimates referred to in the *Report of the First Meeting of the Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG)*, as adopted on 9 May 2024 (ICCAT Circular #04380/24). These analyses/estimates are set out in the attached TRAGSA document entitled "Requirements for the CDS WG Requests 2024 - 2"; Rev. 1 – May 2024. The three eBCD System functionalities are as follows:

- **Reference 5.5.5.: Development of functionality to allow grouping of fish from the same Flag origin/same joint fishing operation (JFO).** (See Section 4.5 of the Report of the Second Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG), held on 5 June 2023).
- **Reference 6.: Initial discussion of reflecting 'processing on board' in the eBCD System.** (See Section 6 of the Report of the Second Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG), held on 5 June 2023).
- **Reference 4.8.: ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP) (Rec. 21-08, para 102).** (See Section 4.8 of the Report of the Second Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG), held on 5 June 2023).

If any CPC has any objections to these developments or specific comments on the proposals, they are requested to inform the ICCAT Secretariat by **10 June 2024**.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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- **Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities**

Attachment: Cost/time estimates [ICCAT Entrada E24-05946 of 24 May 2024].

GRUPO TRAGSA

**Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation
System**

Flexible allotment

***“Requirements for the CDS-WG
Requests 2024 - 2”***

Rev. 1 – May 2024

Document information

Requirements for the CDS-WG Requests 2024, Rev. 1

Made by: María José Fernández Sanjuán

Date: May,
2024

Change log

Date	Revision	Author	Description
24/05/2024	1	María José Fernández Sanjuán	Original version

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1. REQUIRIMENTS TO IMPROVE THE EBCD SYSTEM

1.1 REFERENCE 5.5.5: DEVELOPMENT OF FUNCTIONALITY TO ALLOW GROUPING OF FISH FROM THE SAME FLAG ORIGIN/SAME JOINT FISHING OPERATION (JFO). (REF. TO REPORT/SECTION 4.5 OF THE 2ND "EBCD TWG"- INTERSESSION MEETING OF 5 JUNE 2023).

1.1.1 Background

In accordance with paragraph 197 of Recommendation 21-08: "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."

The request for this requirement was received on March 8, 2024.

Objective

Once the first phase of this section has been implemented, which involved enabling a registry of cages so that they can be uniquely identified in the eBCD System, the second phase can be addressed. This phase consists of allowing the grouping of BFT caged in different cages into a single cage.

Additionally, due to the CDS-WG's keen interest in addressing traceability challenges related to cage movements between BFT farms (FFBs), and recognizing the crucial nature of resolving these issues for the successful implementation of the proposal's second phase:

- A "Cost/Time" estimate is required to enable the Secretariat Profile to reactivate the cages of FFBs that have been previously deactivated.
- Technical support is required to define a new "Cage Identifier" format to include a reference to the farm to which the cage(s) belong(s).

Current situation

CAGE REGISTRATION

The cage registration for each farm is carried out by users with the ICCAT Secretariat profile, using the form found on the eBCD farm registration page.

► Jaulas asociadas

Código de jaula

Guardar

Código de jaula		
TEST 2		
TEST 3		
TEST 5		

This registry allows users to edit the cage name and deactivate it, as shown in the image below:

Código de jaula		
TEST 2		
TEST 3	Editar	Desactivar
TEST 5		

Currently, in the cage sections (CG) and cage movements (MC), cage information is selected from a dropdown menu that displays all active cages on the farm on the date of the section. Since they are uniquely identified in the eBCD system, it is easy to locate which cages the specimens of each BCD are in.

► Descripción de la jaula

Jaula de destino

Nº peces

Peso total KG

Información de las cámaras estereoscópicas

Nº peces enjaulados (SC)

Peso total enjaulado (SC) KG

Nº peces liberados

Nº peces perdidos

Observaciones (max. 4.000 caracteres)

REGROUPING

Currently, the eBCD system allows regrouping fish at various stages of the bluefin tuna's life:

- 1) At the time of the **initial caging**, provided it meets the conditions outlined in Recommendation 18-13 (paragraph 6).

At that moment, a new BCD code is generated, which will be used thereafter for those fish.

- 2) Once the specimens are in the **farming phase** of the farms.

The regrouping of fish that occurs during the farming process can be recorded using the "Movements between cages" sections, selecting the same destination cage for fish from different BCDs, without the need to create a new BCD code. This ensures complete traceability.

If a new BCD code were generated, traceability, as indicated in the Recommendation, could not be guaranteed, as relevant information such as the date of the initial caging, which is essential for calculating the growth rate of the sacrificed specimens, would be lost.

Proposal

Initially, the purpose of this point was to allow for regrouping once the specimens are already in the farming phase of the farms. However, these physical regroupings that occur in the cages of the farm facilities are already reflected in the eBCD System using the "Movements between cages" section.

Instead of creating a new BCD code, we propose providing tools that allow for easily locating the eBCDs that have available fish in each cage.

This ensures the traceability of each of the BCDs, regardless of the movements that have occurred within the farm.

1.1.2 *Technical specifications and Specific requirements*

New functionality will allow users of the farming facilities to locate the BCDs that still have available fish in each cage. This will enable them to access these BCDs directly to record the sections they need for a particular cage, either to move them to another cage (MC) or to sacrifice them (HA).

Specific requirements

This functionality would be available for the profiles:

- Person responsible for farming facility
- Person responsible for administration CPC/Country
- ICCAT Secretary

In the "Cages associated" section of the farm registry, two new columns will be added to the results table, to indicate the number of available fish in the cage. If there are any, a button will appear that opens a page with the cage information and the list of BCDs that, at the time of the query, have fish in that cage.

Cages associated

Código de jaula	Peces disponibles	
CCC3		
ESP-23-002-BLF	84	[→]
ESP-23-004-BLF	127	[→]
ESP-23-PRUEBA2		
PRUEBA		
PRUEBA-457	16	[→]

Code
Fish Available
More info

From this list, users will be able to directly access these sections, thus enabling quick creation of subsequent sections, whether they are cage movements or harvestings (MC or HA).

Cages associated

Código de jaula	Peces disponibles	
0001		
ESP-23-000-BLF	84	[+]
ESP-23-004-BLF	137	[+]
ESP-23-FRUEBA2		
FRUEBA		
FRUEBA-437	16	[+]

Code Fish Available More info

Selected Cage Information

Información de jaula

Código de jaula: ← Code

Peces disponibles: ← Fish Available

Granja

Nombre:

Nº IEAR ICCAT:

Nº registro Nacional:

Localización:

País: ← Farm information

BCDs con peces disponibles

Código	Fecha	Peces disponibles	
ES16900003-LT02	24/nov./2016 12:45:19	10	[+]
AL16897987-CG01-MC02	14/sep./2016 11:48:00	35	[+]
AL16897987-CG01-MC01	12/sep./2016 11:13:00	10	[+]
AL16897987-CG02	06/sep./2016 11:11:00	35	[+]
AL16897987-CG01	06/sep./2016 11:10:00	10	[+]
AL16000011-LT01-LT02	15/jul./2016 10:03:00	35	[+]
PT16900003-LT01-CG02	15/jul./2016 06:13:00	10	[+]
PT16900003-LT01-CG01	13/jul./2016 06:08:00	35	[+]
PT16900003-LT01	13/jul./2016 06:07:00	10	[+]
PT16900003-LT01	13/jun./2016 06:07:00	35	[+]

Code Date Fish available ← BCDs with fish available

1.1.3 Reactivate the Cages

It is proposed to add a button in the table of deactivated cages, allowing them to be reactivated, similar to the one existing in active cages to deactivate them.

Disable cage

Código de jaula		Peces disponibles	
CCC3	<input type="checkbox"/>		
ESP-23-002-BLF		84	
ESP-23-004-BLF		127	
ESP-23-PRUEBA2	<input type="checkbox"/>		
PRUEBA	<input type="checkbox"/>		
PRUEBA-457		16	

1 2

Jaulas inactivas

Código de jaula	Válido hasta	
AA	18/oct./2023	<input type="checkbox"/>
AAA2	18/oct./2023	<input type="checkbox"/>
AAA2	19/oct./2023	<input type="checkbox"/>
BBBB	10/oct./2023	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reactivate cage

By allowing this reactivation, it is necessary to modify the current conditions in the eBCD system that must be met to create/change the name of a cage.

The cage names must be unique within each farm, regardless of whether the cages are activated or deactivated.

As clarified in the previous WG meeting, cages can only belong to one farm, whether they are active or not.

If a physical movement of a cage from one farm to another occurs, the following steps would be necessary to follow:

1. Deactivate the cage in the donor farm.
This action can only be taken if the cage is empty.
Ej. TUR-001-CAGE01
2. Register the cage in the receiving farm.

To identify it correctly, the code could be established with the identifier of the receiving farm as a prefix, and the complete code of the cage from the donor farm as the cage number. This way, it will be documented as a loan.

Ej: TUN-001- TUR-001-CAGE01

When the return occurs, the reverse process will need to be undertaken:

1. Deactivate the cage in the receiving farm.
This action can only be taken if the cage is empty.

Ej:TUN-001- TUR-001-CAGE01

2. Reactivate the cage in the donor farm.

Ej: TUR-001-CAGE01

If in addition to the cages, the fish are also moved, as it involves a movement of live fish between farms, the way to register it in the eBCD will be by recording new sections:

- 1º. "Live Trade" indicating the destination farm. At this point, if the cage no longer has fish, it can be deactivated in the donor farm
- 2º. "Transfer"
- 3º. "Caging" in the cage of the destination farm

1.1.4 Define a new "Cage Identifier" format

The technical support team has been requested to define a new format for the cage identifier, which includes a reference to the farm to which the cage belongs.

Currently, the cage code field in the database allows storing a text of up to 50 characters. Therefore, one possibility for naming could be:

- 3 characters to identify the country (ISO-A3)
- 1 separator character
- 3 characters to identify the farm in ICCAT, which would correspond to the farm serial numbers (the first digits are zeros)
- 1 separator character
- Remaining characters to identify the cage (the determined number)

For example. If it is a farm in Spain with ICCAT number “ATEU1ESP00005”, its cages would be identified as: ESP-005-xxxxxxx

1.1.5 Cost estimation

1.1 REFERENCE 5.5.5: DEVELOPMENT OF FUNCTIONALITY TO ALLOW GROUPING OF FISH FROM THE SAME FLAG ORIGIN/SMA JOINT FISHING OPERATION (JFO). (REF. TO REPORT/SECTION 4.5 OF THE 2ND “EBCD TWG”- INTERSESSION MEETING OF 5 JUNE 2023).			
Profile	Total Hours	Cost	Budget
Consultant	8	56,69 €	453,52 €
Project Manager	10	50,75 €	507,50 €
Business Analyst	20	39,05 €	781,00 €
Programmer Analyst	40	37,02 €	1.480,80 €
Business Expert	50	34,24 €	1.712,00 €
1.1 REFERENCE 5.5.5: DEVELOPMENT OF FUNCTIONALITY TO ALLOW GROUPING OF FISH FROM THE SAME FLAG ORIGIN/SMA JOINT FISHING OPERATION (JFO). (REF. TO REPORT/SECTION 4.5 OF THE 2ND “EBCD TWG”- INTERSESSION MEETING OF 5 JUNE 2023).			4.934,82 €

1.1.4.- Activate/Deactivate cages (maintenance budget item)			
Profile	Total Hours	Cost	Budget
Consultant	2	- €	- €
Project Manager	4	- €	- €
Business Analyst	8	- €	- €
Programmer Analyst	20	- €	- €
Business Expert	20	- €	- €
1.1.4.- Activate/Deactivate cages → MAINTENANCE BUDGET ITEM			

2.

2.1 *REFERENCE 6.: INITIAL DISCUSSION OF REFLECTING 'PROCESSING ON BOARD' IN THE EBCD SYSTEM. (REF. TO REPORT/ SECTION 6. OF THE 2ND "EBCD TWG" – INTERSESSION MEETING OF 5 JUNE 2023).*

2.1.1 **Background**

At the eBCD TWG in June 2023, Japan proposed adding a series of additional fields to allow for the recording of information on the processing of bluefin tuna onboard processing vessels.

In accordance with paragraph 35 of Recommendation 23-21: "The compliance with the processing information section shall be subject to the development of the necessary functionality in the eBCD system".

In accordance with this paragraph, ICCAT requests a cost/time analyses on March 8, 2024.

2.1.2 **Proposal**

The "Processing information" section, referred to in Recommendation 23-21, applies only to dead farmed tunas and dead tunas caught by traps intended for processing vessels.

To reflect this information in the eBCD, it seems appropriate to create a section within the "Trade information" section where all the required information according to Recommendation 23-21 is detailed:

"PV NAME": list the name of the processing vessel.

"FLAG": indicate the flag CPC.

"ICCAT RECORD NO.": indicate the ICCAT number of the processing vessel.

"PRODUCT DESCRIPTION OF PROCESSED FISH": indicate processed weight in kg for each type of processed product.

In addition to this information outlined in the Recommendation, we believe it is appropriate to include a field reflecting the **gross weight of the sale** prior to processing. And finally, the presentations obtained after processing and the corresponding kilograms of each resulting presentation.

The master or representative of the processing vessel, corresponding to the user profile "Person responsible for transport," will be responsible for completing the data on onboard processing in the eBCD. However, we find it appropriate that it can also be completed by whoever is registering the trade, for example, a user from the exporting company or a CPC/Country administrator responsible for the trade.

The "Processing information" section shall be completed within 48 hours after the completion of the processing operation for each farm or trap.

The "Processing information" section does not require validation, as specified in Recommendation 23-21. However, the following is foreseen:

"The CPC of the seller/exporter shall be responsible for validation of the TRADE INFORMATION section, after reviewing the PROCESSING INFORMATION, as appropriate, unless bluefin tuna are tagged in accordance with Paragraph 21 of the Recommendation."

For this purpose, the following is proposed:

1. The trade is recorded indicating that it is an "on-board processing."
2. The information related to on-board processing (processing vessel information and gross weight of the trade) is completed.
3. The person responsible for the processing vessel receives a notification (email) indicating that a trade with on-board processing has been recorded, and that they must complete the information regarding the processed products (presentations) and their corresponding weights.
4. Once the on-board processing information has been completed, the person responsible for recording the trade in the eBCD can submit the trade section for validation, which now includes all the on-board processing data.
5. The validators from the CPC/Country responsible for the trade can validate the trade after confirming that all the on-board processing information is included in the section.

2.1.3 Technical specifications and Specific requirements

- a) It is not necessary to create a new section in the eBCD, although it will be included in the printed version of the BCDs.
- b) It will be a variant of the trade section that will allow storing the on-board processing information.
- c) An additional section will be added within the trade section to facilitate the input of transformation information in applicable trades.
- d) Information on transformation will only be allowed to be added to trades whose preceding sections are:
 - a. Catches made by traps
 - b. Harvesting (farmed tuna)
- e) The person responsible for checking the "Processing information" box will be the one recording that trade, who must also indicate the basic data of the trade:
 - a) Selection of the processing vessel
 - b) Gross weight of the trade

- f) The description of the processed products according to the Recommendation shall be completed by the master or representative of the processing vessel. It may also be filled out by whoever is recording the trade, for example, a user from the exporting company or an administrator of the CPC/Country responsible for the trade.
- g) Allow access for modifying a trade section to users with the profile "Person responsible for transport" so that they can complete the description of the transformed fish product.
- h) The "Product description of processed fish" will also be displayed as the "Product description" in the "Trade information" section on the printed BCD.
- i) The system will establish the initial weight of the trade as declared in the "Processing information" section information as the gross weight of the trade, and therefore, these will be the kilograms deducted from the available weight of the previous section.
- j) The system will calculate the available weight of the "Trade information" section as the sum of the kilograms of the processed fish.
- k) The processing vessel will become part of the entities associated with the section.
- l) The "Trade information" section cannot be validated until the description of the processed fish has been filled in.
- m) Include a new type of email that the person responsible for transport will receive upon the creation of a trade with Transformation Information from their vessel.
- n) Include a new type of email that will be received by the person responsible for the exporting company and the administrators of their flag when a user responsible for transport of the processing vessel completes the trade with Processing Information.
- o) Add the fields of section "8. PROCESSING INFORMATION" to the printed BCD.
- p) Modify the header of the "Trade information" section in the printed BCD from "8. PROCESSING INFORMATION" to "9. TRADE INFORMATION".

2.1.4 Cost estimation

1.2 REFERENCE 6.: INITIAL DISCUSSION OF REFLECTING 'PROCESSING ON BOARD' IN THE EBCD SYSTEM. (REF. TO REPORT/ SECTION 6. OF THE 2ND "EBCD TWG" – INTERSESSION MEETING OF 5 JUNE 2023).			
Profile	Total Hours	Cost	Budget
Consultant	10	56,69 €	566,90 €
Project Manager	18	50,75 €	913,50 €
Business Analyst	42	39,05 €	1.640,10 €
Programmer Analyst	75	37,02 €	2.776,50 €
Business Expert	75	34,24 €	2.568,00 €
1.2 REFERENCE 6.: INITIAL DISCUSSION OF REFLECTING 'PROCESSING ON BOARD' IN THE EBCD SYSTEM. (REF. TO REPORT/ SECTION 6. OF THE 2ND "EBCD TWG" – INTERSESSION MEETING OF 5 JUNE 2023).			8.465,00 €

3.1 REFERENCE 4.8.: ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME (ROP) (REC. 21-08, PARA 102). (REF. TO REPORT/SECTION 4.8. OF THE 2ND "EBCD TWG"- INTERSESSION MEETING OF 5 JUNE 2023).

3.1.1 Background

As specified in paragraph 102 of Recommendation 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".

A "Cost/Time" estimate of 21.408,42 Euros was provided by TRAGSA in January 2023 (see "eBCD_04/i2023"-document) to carry out the assessment of such an exemption/ a derogation to be implemented automatically; but the EU proposed that perhaps it could be the authorities of each CPC that could manually carry out its application. Morocco proposed to do what the EU proposed, the eBCD System should have two boxes in the "Harvesting" section so that the competent authority can indicate whether or not the section meets the exemption criteria. This new proposal would imply a reduction in the initially estimated cost. As decided at PA2 morning session of March the 6th 2024, the response/analyses to be provided by TRAGSA should go through the CDS-WG 2nd I/S meeting (11 June 2024), which means that such a functionality would not be ready for 2024 BFT fishing season, hoping to get it for the following BFT season (of 2025) as concluded by PA2 Chair on TÜRKIYE's request for derogation to Para. 101 by Para. 102 of Rec. 22-08.

As alternative approach, TRAGSA is now requested to provide a 2nd "Cost/Time" estimate that only includes the ability for the Farm CPC authorities to enter the eBCD System and select whether each harvesting meets the derogation criteria and therefore does not require the signature of ROP.

This request was received on March 8, 2024.

3.1.2 Technical specifications and Specific requirements

- a) A check field will be added in the “Harvesting” section to indicate that the harvesting is recorded taking into account the exemption from the regional observer’s signature.

- b) When recording, it will only be verified that the harvesting does not exceed 1,000 kg, without considering the possibility of other harvestings on the same date, which would require a regional observer's signature. In this case, it will be treated as actual “Natural mortality”.
- c) No verifications will be conducted with the rest of the recorded harvestings to determine if they meet all the conditions of paragraph 102 of Recommendation 21-08.
- d) It will not be checked whether the farm is subject to this exemption or not.
- e) It will be the responsibility of the users of the farming facilities to record these harvestings, indicating that they are exempt from ROP.
- f) Inspectors must verify the information before validating the section.

3.1.3 Cost estimation

3.1 REFERENCE 4.8.: ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME (ROP) (REC. 21-08, PARA 102). (REF. TO REPORT/SECTION 4.8. OF THE 2ND "EBCD TWG"- INTERSESSION MEETING OF 5 JUNE 2023).			
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3.1 REFERENCE 4.8.: ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME (ROP) (REC. 21-08, PARA 102). (REF. TO REPORT/SECTION 4.8. OF THE 2ND "EBCD TWG"- INTERSESSION MEETING OF 5 JUNE 2023).			4.934,82 €

Draft workplan of the Standing Catch Documentation Scheme Working Group (CDS WG)
(Agenda item 8)
(presented by Japan)

With a view to provide a clear path of the CDS WG, Japan would like to suggest the following workplan for the next three years to reach a recommendation on any expanded CDS, for the approval by the CDS WG.

Draft workplan to reach a recommendation on any expanded CDS

2024

IMM WG (June)

- Review the outputs from the CDS WG.
- Further consider which species and the product types should be covered by any CDS.

PWG/COM (November)

- Review the progress of the CDS WG and IMM WG.
- Present Working Group progress to relevant species Panels and STACFAD.
- Provide input on potential species covered by any future CDS.

2025

CDS WG (TBD, at least once a year, possibly in conjunction with the IMM Meeting)

- Identify species and the product types covered by any new CDS.
- Discuss details of the operational and technical aspects of the CDS, including the elements listed in paragraph 5. a)-e) of *Recommendation by ICCAT on establishment of a Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG) (Rec. 23-22)*.
- Review any input from the Secretariat regarding budget and resource capabilities to support any expanded CDS.
- If possible, begin developing a draft recommendation on any expanded CDS.

IMM WG (TBD)

- Review the outputs of the CDS WG, including related to the species/product types covered.
- Further consider details of the operational and technical aspects of the CDS.

PWG/COM (TBD)

- Review the progress of the CDS WG and IMM WG, including related to the species/product types covered.
- Further consider details of the operational and technical aspects of the CDS.

2026

CDS WG (TBD, at least once a year, possibly in conjunction with the IMM Meeting)

- Develop and submit a draft Recommendation on any expanded CDS, or propose a new workplan to the Commission.

IMM WG (TBD)

- Refine and endorse a draft Recommendation on any expanded CDS or new workplan.

PWG/COM (TBD)

- Decision on a draft Recommendation on any expanded CDS or on new workplan.

**Information paper on the Japan Capacity-Building Assistance Fund
to adapt to a new catch documentation scheme**

(Agenda item 9)

(submitted by Japan)

The *Recommendation by ICCAT on establishment of a Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG) (Rec. 23-22)* emphasizes the importance of taking into account the special needs and requirements of developing CPCs, in both the design and implementation of new catch documentation schemes, and recognizes the need for capacity development activities to support the implementation of any expanded CDS by developing CPCs.

Recommendation 23-22

5. ... *The CDS WG will then decide on details of the operational and technical aspects of the CDS, based on the information/views provided by CPCs, particularly regarding practical and technical considerations with respect to the design and implementation of any CDS, including the following:*

...

- c) *What capacity development programmes for developing CPCs may be needed to support their implementation of any expanded CDS;*

...

7. *The CDS WG shall, as far as possible, identify the key components to facilitate the implementation of any expanded CDS, including taking into account the special needs and requirements of developing CPCs, in both the design and implementation of such schemes, among others.*

Japan has provided a capacity-building fund since 1999, the so-called "ICCAT-Japan Capacity-building Assistance Project (JCAP)", to assist developing CPCs in improving their capacity for data collection, reporting and effective implementation of ICCAT measures. This fund can be utilized by coastal developing States to reinforce data collection and monitoring of tuna fisheries to prepare for and adapt to a new catch documentation scheme¹. **Annex** is the call for application of JCAP last year. Japan is pleased to announce the continuation of this program this year, for which the call for application will be circulated to CPCs soon.

¹ Funding is subject to approval by the Steering Committee chaired by the Executive Secretary, the SCRS Chair, the Convener of the Subcommittee on Statistics and representatives of Japan, with coordination by the ICCAT Secretariat.

ICCAT-SALIDA
2023-06-29
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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Madrid, 29 June 2023

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 6769 / 2023

SUBJECT: ICCAT/JAPAN CAPACITY-BUILDING ASSISTANCE PROJECT (JCAP-2) - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

In 2019 the ICCAT Secretariat announced during the SCRS plenary meeting the launch of the new ICCAT/Japan Capacity-Building Assistance Project (JCAP-2), which corresponds to the second phase of this 5-year Project.

Despite the pandemic, it was possible to implement new actions throughout 2021 and 2023. Therefore, interested CPCs are invited to apply for possible funding for **activities to be developed between December 2023 and 30 November 2024**, within the following work packages:

- a) *Organization of workshops and learning materials for full implementation of conservation and management measures and data improvement*
- b) *Reinforcement of data collection, monitoring for tuna fisheries, and adaptation to new catch document scheme*
- c) *Enhance scientific capacity building through Masters degrees and/or long-term training in research laboratories*
- d) *Enhanced use of data for effective management and improved stock assessment*

A description of the above JCAP-2 packages is provided in the attachment to this circular (see details in item 2 of the attachment).

Applications should be submitted to the Executive Secretary (camille.manel@iccat.int) and the Assistant Executive Secretary (miguel.santos@iccat.int) by the Head Delegates and include details on the following aspects: framework/needs, objective(s), brief description of the action, timeframe, associated cost and in-kind contribution (if applicable). The deadline for the submission of applications is **31 August 2023**. The JCAP-2 Steering Committee is expected to make final decisions before the end of October 2023.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

DISTRIBUTION:

- Commission Officers:

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Chairs Panels 1-4			
SCRS Chair:	G. Melvin	SCRS Vice Chair	H. Arrizabalaga

- Head delegates

- Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities

Attachment: ICCAT-JAPAN Capacity-Building Assistance Project (JCAP-2): Project principle and Work Plan.

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ICCAT-JAPAN Capacity-building Assistance Project (JCAP-2) Project principle and Work Plan (phase 2)

1. Background and objectives of the Project

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) has established various conservation and management measures to attain its objectives of maintaining the populations of tuna stocks at levels that will permit the maximum sustainable catch for food and other purposes, as provided in the ICCAT Convention.

In order for ICCAT to establish appropriate measures based on scientific evidence, the Contracting Parties have basic obligations and responsibilities to provide ICCAT with any available statistical, biological and other scientific information. Furthermore, in order to obtain the projected outcomes from the measures established by ICCAT, the Contracting Parties shall take all the necessary actions to ensure compliance with these measures.

However, some Contracting Parties have difficulties in fulfilling their obligations to collect and report the required data as well as to fully implement the measures which have become more numerous and complex in recent years. In addition, ICCAT has initiated the process for Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for some key ICCAT species, and developing CPCs may need special assistance to fully participate in the discussions.

In view of this situation, Japan decided to contribute to ICCAT for the establishment of a project to assist developing Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) to improve their capacity of data collection, reporting and effective implementation of ICCAT measures.

The Project called ICCAT-Japan Capacity-building Assistance Project (Phase 2) (JCAP-2) consists of the following activities:

2. Project Work Plan

The estimated duration of this project is five years, starting in December 2019. The following is a description of the work packages.

a) *Organization of workshops and learning materials for full implementation of conservation and management measures and data improvement*

The Project will provide technical and logistical assistance to developing CPCs by organizing workshops/training courses, producing learning material, and/or developing e-training material, in order to improve data collection and reporting on various types of tuna fishery data and to fully implement conservation and management measures, including those developed through the MSE process. The project will also provide assistance to developing CPCs' representatives for their involvement in the ICCAT activities through participation in the ICCAT meetings in order for them to seek solutions to their difficulties and challenges in implementing the measures.

b) *Reinforcement of data collection, monitoring for tuna fisheries, and adaptation to new catch documentation scheme*

Contracting Parties are required to implement data collection and specific measures for monitoring in order to comply with the ICCAT conservation and management measures.

The Project will provide assistance to developing CPCs to establish and operate national and regional programmes for data collection and for the implementation of ICCAT management measures.

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Such programmes include observer programmes, port sampling, biological data collection in accordance with SCRS recommendations, and implementation of VMS. Other types of activities may be approved in consultation with the Steering Committee, depending on the objectives.

Also, recognizing recent developments in electronic information exchange and the benefits of rapid communication with regard to the processing and management of catch information, the introduction of new electronic catch documentation systems has been actively discussed. The eBCD system has been fully implemented since July 2016. Additional ICCAT schemes could be developed in the near future. Participation of developing CPCs is vital for the successful functioning of these schemes. In order to facilitate the adaptation to any newly-introduced/developed catch documentation systems by developing CPCs, the Project will provide assistance such as practical training, evaluation, provision of necessary equipment and publication of manuals.

c) Enhance scientific capacity building through Masters degrees and/or long-term training in research laboratories

It has been often noted that short-term workshops might not be enough for participants to properly develop their scientific expertise due to the short-term nature of such capacity building activities. Therefore, it has been recognized that other forms of improving the scientific expertise of young researchers from developing States is to provide them with the means to become engaged in long-term activities, such as receiving additional academic knowledge and/or training on the development of scientific research.

The objective is to provide young researchers with the knowledge and/or training required for the assessment, management, conservation and sustainable exploitation of ICCAT species or marine living resources bycaught in association with ICCAT fisheries. Provide skills that enable lifelong learning in a self-oriented and/or autonomous manner. Create the competencies to enable progress to a higher level of specialization at MSc and PhD levels. Provide training to improve to communicate their knowledge to both scientific and non-scientific people.

For this purpose, the project (through the ICCAT Secretariat) will establish the necessary contacts with Universities and/or Laboratories that can host young researchers from developing CPCs and the duration of these activities can range from 2 to maximum of 12 months (any request possible extension would be subject to a thorough assessment).

d) Enhanced use of data for effective management and improved stock assessment

The information obtained through the previous mentioned activities should be acknowledged and utilized in ICCAT scientific work, as well as in future improvements to the monitoring and control activities employed by CPCs. Scientific data and information should be duly characterized through SCRS documents and incorporated into the ICCAT databases. This work package covers activities for data mining to improve the catch statistics, species composition, effort and spatial distribution of tuna fisheries, which are essential for effective and efficient management of tuna fishing activities by CPCs.

Also, during the past ten years, a large quantity of scientific data has been accumulated through former JDIP, JDMIP and JCAP. The Project should provide the necessary financial resources and in coordination with the ICCAT Secretariat, establishing the digital archives and/or databases required to store and manage the information collected from all Japanese-funded projects, including JCAP-2. This will facilitate conducting scientific and external analyses so that data and information obtained from projects deliverables can be fully utilized. The ICCAT Secretariat shall enhance the cooperation with local scientist, namely through the provision of guidance for the presentation of results to the SCRS and/or assistance in the preparation of SCRS documents.

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e) *Improvement of scientific knowledge and statistical data on Atlantic bluefin tuna*

As a contribution to the ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (GBYP), the Project will finance scientific activities in Africa, such as a biological sampling, otolith and genetic analysis and development of tagging expertise for bluefin tuna, for the improvement of scientific knowledge as well as statistical data on Atlantic bluefin tuna, which will result in more accurate and reliable stock assessment and subsequently more effective conservation and management measures on the stock.

3. **Project management and coordination**

A Steering Committee chaired by the Executive Secretary was established to provide orientation for the Project and follow-up on its implementation. The Steering Committee is composed of the SCRS Chair, the Convener of the Subcommittee on Statistics and a representative of Japan. The Steering Committee meets at least once a year or more frequently if required.

The Project will be coordinated by the ICCAT Secretariat under the supervision of the Executive Secretary and Japan.

Each year and prior to the SCRS meeting, the ICCAT Secretariat will report a summary of activities carried out during the year, a workplan for the following year and the budget. The project activities report will be submitted to the SCRS.

An external audit of the accounts for the previous year shall be conducted annually. The Auditor's Report will be submitted to Japan within 6 months after the end of financial year.

4. **Budget**

For the 5th year of the Project, a total budget of €116.269 (P) will be dedicated. This trust fund, in euros and US\$, will be established by the ICCAT Secretariat to manage the budget. Japan may change the amount of budget after the end of the first year.

The Project fund will be managed in conformity with the ICCAT Financial Regulations.

Table 1 shows the proposed budget (euros) by chapter. Figures may be adjusted by the Steering Committee, depending on priorities.

	1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year	5th year
1) Coordination & admin.					
2) Travel & meeting					
3) Equipment					
4) Project activities					
5) Financial expenses					
SUB-TOTAL	116,632	147,682	147,682	134,292	116,269
TOTAL			662,557		

*The financial year runs from December to November. The fifth year runs from December 2023 to November 2024.

4.1 *Coordination and administration*

This chapter includes an annual external audit of the funds. The auditor will be selected according to the ICCAT rules and procedure. It also includes a 10% overhead on the total budget to help offset the ICCAT Secretariat's involvement in the Project.

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4.2 Travel and meeting

This chapter includes the travel expense of the ICCAT Secretariat staff to attend the ICCAT meetings/workshops that are of high importance in terms of the Project implementation.

4.3 Equipment

This chapter includes office equipment such as hardware, software, and any other supplies required for execution of the Project.

4.4 Project activities

This chapter includes funds which are to be provided for various project activities and any other related expenses, including scientific expert advice and consultancy. Detailed terms of payment of project expenses are outlined in **Appendix 1**.

4.5 Financial expenses

This chapter includes contingencies such as fluctuations in exchange rates and bank charges.

5. Exploitation and dissemination activities

All data delivered from the Project activities will be incorporated into the ICCAT database and will be made available as soon as possible to the SCRS and the Commission. Any highly disaggregated datasets of a confidential nature will be treated in accordance with the ICCAT information security policy or the terms of the Agreement with the data provider on a temporary basis.

All major activities, including consultancies by experts, will be documented. These documents will be made available to the Executive Secretary and Japan.

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Appendix 1

Rules for payment of project expenses

1. Financial contribution

- a) A request for financial support of the Project can be made by submitting an official and detailed proposal to ICCAT.
- b) For financial contribution to a Contracting Party's activity, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) should be established between the ICCAT Secretariat and an organization/institute/individual responsible for the implementation of the activity in the recipient country.
- c) The MOU should include: objective, description of activities, responsibilities including deadline and report, modalities of payment and the name of the person who will be responsible for the activity.
- d) The recipient should submit to ICCAT a report dealing with the activities and findings obtained in relation to the activity, the data collected through the activity or a proof of the conclusion of the MSc or training, and a statement of accounts.
- e) The recipient should keep documents concerning any expenditure for the activity and submit a set of copies to the ICCAT Secretariat.

2. Experts

- a) For some activities, the Project will finance the travel expenses for experts. This will cover a round-trip airfare, accommodation and per diem, in accordance with Article 30 of the ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules.
- b) In the majority of cases, experts will travel in the economy class, unless the Executive Secretary decides otherwise and, subject to this decision, a higher class could be used.
- c) In conformity with the usual practices, the expert could be provided honoraria.

3. Travel assistance

- a) The minimum qualification of the invitee to the ICCAT meetings is as follows:
 - Responsible for management or scientific study related to ICCAT currently and hereafter; and,
 - Recommended by the Head Delegate, Head Scientist or appropriate representative of the Contracting Party in question.
- b) Travel expenses for the invitee will be financed by the Project, including a round-trip airfare, accommodation and per diem, in accordance with Article 30 of the ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules.
- c) Economy class will be used for air travel by invitees.
- d) Where the available budget for travel assistance is limited, it will be allocated in priority to a Contracting Party that is reasonably likely to conduct projects in cooperation with JCAP-2.