

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 10-11  
ON AN ELECTRONIC BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT PROGRAMME (eBCD)**

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the multi-annual recovery plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and the commitment to develop an electronic bluefin tuna catch document programme;

*RECOGNIZING* the developments in electronic information exchange and the benefits of rapid communication with regard to the processing and management of catch information;

*NOTING* the ability of electronic catch documentation systems to detect fraud and deter IUU shipments and the creation of automated links between Parties including exporting and importing authorities;

*RECOGNIZING* the necessity to develop and strengthen the implementation of the bluefin tuna catch documentation by the implementation of an electronic document system;

*FOLLOWING* the work of the eBCD Technical Working Group throughout 2011 and the system design and costs estimates presented in the feasibility study, technical options and their associated costs have been explored in terms of functionality, work loads and existing systems of the Secretariat and user simplicity, data security and cost efficiency;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF  
ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. On the basis of the specifications and cost estimates provided in the feasibility report, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with interested CPCs, formulate the Terms of Reference for an open tender for a system development before the end of January 2012, or as soon as possible thereafter.
2. Tenders shall be assessed technically and financially by an evaluation Committee comprising interested CPCs and the ICCAT Secretariat and the results shall be reported to all CPCs.
3. Following a period of initial software development estimated to be around 4 months, and in parallel with further system development over a period of up to two years, a pilot testing phase will be undertaken throughout 2012 and early 2013.

Pilot testing will be with CPCs on a voluntary basis across the range of actions required in the programme. All CPCs concerned shall submit concerned data sets in electronic formats to enhance this phase.

4. The full implementation of the eBCD system shall be foreseen before the 2013 purse seine fishing season; however, a level of flexibility will be maintained based on the results of the pilot phase.
5. All existing requirements under the BCD programme shall remain in force until the full implementation of the eBCD.
6. This eBCD Technical Working Group shall meet as and when required throughout 2012 and report the progress on the system to the Commission at its 2012 annual meeting.