

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING AN ICCAT WORKING GROUP
ON A CATCH DOCUMENT SCHEME**

RECALLING that ICCAT agreed at the 2019 annual Commission meeting that detailed discussion should be continued without prejudging the future course of development of Catch Document Schemes (CDS);

RECOGNIZING the ever-increasing market demand for fishery products whose legality are verified;

NOTING the successful development and implementation of an electronic bluefin tuna Catch Documentation Scheme in ICCAT;

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Process Towards the Establishment of a Catch Certification Scheme for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species* (Rec. 12-09);

EMPHASIZING the need to implement a risk-based approach with respect to CDS;

MINDFUL of the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes adopted by FAO in 2017, which set out guidance to States, RFMOs, regional economic integration organizations, and other intergovernmental organisations when developing and implementing new CDS, or harmonizing or reviewing existing CDS;

RECOGNISING that the Convention amendment process consisted of two parts, i.e., the first part focused on the review of the Convention and the second part focused on developing specific amendments, and a similar two-step approach could be a good way to proceed with the discussion on this issue;

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

1. An ad hoc Working Group (WG) on CDS is established with the objective of considering whether to establish an electronic CDS for any additional ICCAT stocks/species.
2. In 2022 and 2023, the WG should hold a meeting at least once a year, preferably in conjunction with an intersessional meeting, particularly the IMM Working Group, so that the Meeting Participation Fund can be efficiently utilized to support the participation of developing CPCs. If the WG is held in conjunction with an IMM Working Group meeting, the total duration of these two meetings should be no more than five days.
3. The ICCAT Secretariat will provide simultaneous interpretation in the three ICCAT languages (English, French and Spanish) during all Working Group meetings.
4. The WG is open to all CPCs and accredited observers.
5. The WG will elect its own Chair.
6. Without prejudging the conclusion on possible establishment of the CDS and taking into account the factors specified in paragraph 1 of Rec. 12-09 and the provisions of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes, the WG should discuss, *inter alia*:
 - a) Which species might be covered.
 - b) What practical and technical difficulties exist with respect to the design and implementation of CDS and how they may be overcome.

- c) Whether it is feasible and appropriate to utilize the eBCD system for other species and what modifications would be needed.
 - d) What enhancements to the capacity of developing CPCs may be needed to support their CDS implementation and how to meet them.
 - e) How to avoid duplication with existing schemes while possibly also reducing the workload of exporting CPCs.
 - f) How to ensure compatibility between CDS being developed or implemented in other tuna RFMOs.
7. If the WG finds any possibility of improving the eBCD in the course of the discussion on the items listed in paragraph 6 above, it should send it to the eBCD WG for further consideration.
8. The Chair of the WG should report on the progress of its work to the PWG during the annual meetings of the Commission in 2022 and 2023. In 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter, the Commission should decide on whether to start work on expansion of CDS to one or more ICCAT stocks/species.