

Original: English

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT SUPPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATION  
FOR AN ELECTRONIC BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT (eBCD) SYSTEM**

*(Proposed by Japan)*

*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 (eBCD) 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, expedite the validation/verification process of bluefin tuna catch documents (BCDs), prevent erroneous information entry, reduce pragmatic workloads and create automated links between Parties including exporting and importing authorities;

*RECOGNIZING* the necessity to implement the eBCD programme to strengthen the implementation of the bluefin tuna catch documentation programme;

*FOLLOWING* the work of the eBCD Technical Working Group from and the system design and cost estimates presented in the feasibility study;

*CONSIDERING* the commitments previously made in Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the recommendation for an electronic bluefin tuna catch document (eBCD) system requested “The eBCD programme shall be fully implemented as soon as feasible and no later than 1 March 2015,”

*RECOGNIZING* that the 19th Special meeting had determined that the full implementation of the eBCD would not be possible to be achieved by the 1 March 2015 deadline, and that it had therefore been decided that paper versions of the BCD could continue to be accepted until such time that all functionalities of the electronic system has been completed;

*FURTHER RECOGNIZING* the technical complexity of the system and the need for ongoing development and resolution of outstanding technical issues;

*COMMITTED* to the successful implementation of the eBCD system and desiring to complete the transition to the system as expeditiously as possible while ensuring trade is not disrupted;

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

1. Prior to [1 May 2017] both eBCDs and paper BCDs issued pursuant to Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme Rec. 11-20 shall continue to be accepted. Validated paper BCDs submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 19 of Recommendation 11-20 shall be entered into the eBCD system by the Secretariat. Even before the date, each CPC is encouraged to use eBCD system voluntarily if the system is functional enough for the CPC.

2. All CPCs concerned shall, as soon as possible for eBCD system implementation, at the latest [May 2016], submit to the Secretariat the data necessary to ensure the registration of their users in the eBCD system. Access to and use of the system cannot be ensured for those who fail to provide the necessary data as defined by the ICCAT Secretariat and endorsed by the eBCD Technical Working Group.
3. By the end of March 2016, the Working Group will examine the status of eBCD system based on the results of an international test and fix the functions as much as possible, if necessary. Subject to the results of examination by the Working Group, CPCs shall use eBCD system from [1 May 2016] while paper BCD can be used as back-up of an eBCD by [the end of April 2017].
4. CPCs shall communicate to the Secretariat and the Working Group their experiences on technical aspects of system implementation and report those experiences at the [2016] Annual meeting. The report may include a list of new functions which are necessary for eBCD implementation. In 2016, the Commission may consider the list and necessary financial support to develop the system.
5. By the end of March 2017, the Working Group will examine the status of eBCD system based on the results of international test and fix the functions, if necessary. Unless serious defects are founded by the Working Group and cannot be fixed, CPCs shall fully use the eBCD system from [1 May 2017].
6. The substantive provisions of Recommendation 11-20 will be applied *mutatis mutandis* to the electronic BCDs.
7. Notwithstanding paragraph 6 of this recommendation, the following provisions should be applied for eBCD:

[a] Following the catch and first trade, the recording of information on internal sales of bluefin tuna in the eBCD (i.e. sales occurring within one Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (CPC) or, in the case of the European Union, within one of its Member States) is not required and such transactions need not be recorded in the eBCD system. However, the trade between EU Member States must be recorded by the buyer [with validation by importing EU Member States] in the eBCD system [within [30] [15] days of the trade and before any subsequent trade with other Member States or exports from the European Union]. The trade of farmed bluefin tuna including all trade events to and from bluefin farms must be recorded and validated in the eBCD system.]

b) Consistent with the existing provisions, vessels which are not authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna may trade bluefin tuna when the consignment concerned is accompanied by a valid eBCD/BCDs. In order to improve the functioning of the eBCD system access to the system by CPC authorities, port authorities and/or through authorised self-registration shall be facilitated, including by way of their national registration number. Such registration only permits access to the eBCD system and does not represent an authorisation by ICCAT, hence no ICCAT number will be issued. CPCs concerned are not required to submit a list of such vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat.

c) Paper BCDs shall continue to be used for traded Pacific bluefin tuna until such time as the functionality for such tracking is developed within the eBCD system. Such functionality will include the [data elements listed in Annex I and II].

d) The trade section of an eBCD/BCD shall be validated prior to export. The buyer information in the trade section must be entered into the eBCD system as soon as available. The information may be entered post export but must be entered prior to re-export.

e) Access to the eBCD system shall be granted to ICCAT non-CPCs when trading bluefin tuna with ICCAT CPCs. [However, at least initially, this shall be accomplished through completion by the non-CPC of paper BCD programme documents and submission to the ICCAT Secretariat for entry into the eBCD system.][However, this shall be accomplished through completion by the non-CPC of paper BCD programme documents and submission to the ICCAT Secretariat for entry into the eBCD system until the scope of the information accessible by that CPC is defined by the Commission.]

f) Without prejudice to existing reporting procedures in ICCAT conservation and management measures, following a request of the eBCD Working Group new data forms and submission procedures shall be developed by the Secretariat in order to enhance the optimal functioning of the eBCD system.

g) Following the full implementation of the eBCD system in accordance with the provisions of [Rec.[13-17]][this recommendation], annual reporting requirement on the implementation of the BCD programme specified in paragraph 34 of Recommendation 11-20, shall be replaced by reports generated from the eBCD system. The format and content of any additional reports will be determined by the Commission taking into account appropriate confidentiality rules and considerations. At a minimum, reports shall include catch and trade data by the CPCs that are appropriately aggregated. CPCs shall continue to report on their implementation of the eBCD programme in their Annual Reports.

8. Paper BCDs may be used in the following cases:

- a) Landings of quantities of fish less than one metric ton or three fish by an artisanal vessel. Notwithstanding this derogation, such paper BCDs shall be converted to eBCDs within a period of seven working days or prior to export, whichever is first.
- b) Bluefin tuna caught prior to the full implementation of the eBCD system [as referred to in Recommendation 13-17].
- c) Where access to the eBCD system is not possible due to system failure [as confirmed by the ICCAT Secretariat and duly notified to CPCs].

[In above cases, rules applied to the paper BCDs shall be subject to the provision of Recommendation 11-20]

The use of a paper BCD in such cases shall not be used by importing CPCs as a reason to delay or deny import of a bluefin tuna shipment provided it complies with the existing provisions of Recommendation 11-20.

Conversion of paper BCDs to eBCDs shall be facilitated by the ICCAT Secretariat or through the creation in the eBCD system of user profiles for CPC authorities at their request for this purpose, as appropriate.

9. The Technical Working Group shall be mandated to instruct the developing consortium on all required developments and system adjustments including the above mentioned provisions, without delay.

10. This recommendation repeals and replaces Recommendations 13-17.

**ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Document**

Section 1: Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Number

Section 2: Catch information

Name of catching vessel/trap

Flag/CPC

Area

Total weight (kg)

Section 8: Trade information

Product description

· (F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)

· Total weight (NET\*)

Exporter/seller information

· Company name

· Point of export/departure

· State of destination

Transportation description

Government validation

Importer/buyer

· Company name, license number

· Point of import or destination

**ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-Export Certificate**

Section 1. Bluefin Tuna Re-Export Certificate Number

Section 2: Re-export section

Re-export country/entity/fishing entity

Point of re-export

Section 3: Description of imported bluefin tuna

Net weight (kg)

BCD (or eBCD) number and date(s) of importation

Section 4: Description of bluefin tuna for re-export

Net weight (kg)

Corresponding BCD (or eBCD) number

State of destination

Section 6: Government validation