

Original: English

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO CLARIFY AND AMEND ASPECTS  
OF ICCAT'S BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENTATION PROGRAM  
TO FACILITATE THE APPLICATION OF THE eBCD SYSTEM**

(Appendix 6 to Report of the 10th Meeting of IMM Working Group, Madrid 2015)

*(Submitted by eBCD Technical Working Group)*

*RECALLING Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program [Rec. 11-20];*

*ALSO RECALLING Recommendation by ICCAT on an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) Programme [Rec. 10-11] and Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the Recommendation for an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) System [Rec.13-17];*

*RECOGNIZING* the need to clarify the scope of application and certain limited provisions of Recommendation 11-20 to ensure appropriate development and implementation of the eBCD system;

*CONSIDERING* the discussions of the eBCD Technical Working Group, Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures, and Permanent Working Group on these matters; and

*DESIRING* to enhance the effectiveness of the bluefin tuna catch documentation program overall, including through electronic application;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RECOMMENDS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. 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.
2. Bluefin tunas harvested in sport and recreational fisheries for which sale is prohibited need not be recorded in the eBCD system.
3. The provisions of paragraph 13 of Rec. 11-20 for waiving government validation of tagged fish only apply when the domestic commercial tagging programs of the flag CPC for the vessel or trap that harvested the bluefin tuna under which the fish are tagged meet the following criteria:
  - a) All bluefin tuna in the eBCD/BCD concerned are individually tagged;
  - b) Minimum information relating to the tag includes:
    - *Identifying information on the catching vessel or trap*
    - *Date of capture or landing*
    - *The area of harvest of the fish in the shipment*
    - *The gear utilized to catch the fish*

- [The type of product and weight of the individually tagged bluefin tuna, [which may be done through the appending of an Annex for those fisheries concerned by the derogations to minimum size under the Multi annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean]]
  - [Overall weight and number of tagged fish in each eBCD/BCD]
  - Information on the exporter and importer (where applicable)
  - The point of export (where applicable)
- c) Information on tagged fish is compiled by the responsible CPC.
4. [Government validation requirements set forth in paragraph 13 of Recommendation 11-20 may be waived when a tagged bluefin tuna imported by a CPC is re-exported by that CPC in the same form (i.e. both product type and weight) in which it was imported. Change in form will be detected by the eBCD system.]
  5. Bluefin tuna which die in purse seine fisheries may be traded by the purse seine vessel, auxiliary/support vessel(s) and/or farm representatives where applicable, only when accompanied by a valid eBCD/BCD.
  6. Consistent with 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.
  7. 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 following data elements:

**Annex 1**

## **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***

8. 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.
9. [The ability to group BCDs at the time of first export for catches [less than 1 ton and or by vessels less than 15m LOA] shall apply to catching vessels, including vessels which may catch bluefin tuna as by-catch].
10. 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 program documents and submission to the ICCAT Secretariat for entry into the eBCD system.
11. 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.
12. Following the full implementation of the eBCD system in accordance with the provisions of Rec.[13-17], annual reporting requirement on the implementation of the BCD program 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 program in their Annual Reports.
13. 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].

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.

- 14. 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.