

Original: English

**PROGRESS REPORT ON EBCD IMPLEMENTATION**

*(ICCAT Secretariat)*

Given the current global pandemic, no meeting of the technical working group was held in 2020, so there is little to report.

Some pending developments were completed by TRAGSA, while others are still in progress but TRAGSA have confirmed that these will be completed before the end of the year. See Annex 1 for State of Play of eBCD submitted by TRAGSA.

In accordance with the budget adopted by STACFAD in 2019, the Secretariat hired a Full Stack Developer, Mr. Javier Martinez, who joined the Secretariat in June 2020. Mr. Martinez is currently familiarising himself with the eBCD data base, as well as helping to resolve some user support issues.

For the coming year, TRAGSA is currently examining the safest options for sharing access to the data base and to promoting more fluid channels of communication between the technical staff of the two organisations, with a view to a gradual assimilation of some tasks by ICCAT and does not need the direct intervention by TRAGSA. In this regard, a very minor reduction in the user support has been agreed with TRAGSA for 2021, as some of the tasks currently being carried out can now be done by the Secretariat. This reduction will only be effective nine months of the year, in order to ensure full service during the coming fishing year until such time this arrangement can be evaluated, and possibly reassessed for 2022.