

Original: English

Discussion Paper on BFT processing vessel*(Submitted by Japan)*

Most of farmed BFT are harvested to processing vessels that lie alongside farming cages. BFT are processed to fillet and/or loin, and frozen on processing vessels. Then the processed BFT are directed to marketing states via that processing vessels or containers. Processing activities are monitored by Regional Observers who are dispatched to monitor harvesting operations.

Notwithstanding processing of BFT is a common practice, the current eBCD does not include processing information. In most cases, the last section of eBCD, i.e., Trade Information, records “Fresh” and “Round” weight even though BFT are actually frozen and fillet/loin.

This inconsistency of product description between eBCD and actual consignment cause difficulties for importing CPCs to examine whether the consignment is accompanied by appropriate eBCDs. This is concerning because the amount recorded in eBCD (round weight) is larger than the actual weight of consignment, thus there is a risk that illegal BFT are smuggled into the consignment.

When BFT is imported to Japan, Japan requests importers to provide information on processing (e.g., name of the processing vessel, product type and weight after processing), and check consistency between the processed weight and eBCD using conversion factor established by the SCRS (i.e., $RWT=1.67 \times FIL$). Where necessary, Japan requests the importer to provide processing logbook of the processing vessel.

While processed BFT being imported to Japan is subject to rigorous monitoring, it is not certain whether BFT destined to other markets are also subject to the same level of import monitoring. Japan believes that consistent approach to monitor processing activities is beneficial.

For the reasons above, Japan proposes to insert “8. PROCESSING INFORMATION” next to “7. HARVESTING INFORMATION” in eBCD (see below) in order to ensure transparency of processing activities and close a loophole, if any, associated with processing.

8. PROCESSING INFORMATION										
PROCESSING VESSEL DESCRIPTION										
NAME		FLAG		ICCAT RECORD						
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION (indicate net weight n kg. for each type of product)										
F	RD		GG		DR		FL		OT	TOTALWEIGHT
FR	RD		GG		DR		FL		OT	TOTALWEIGHT

Note: While Processing Information does not require validation, exporting CPCs (i.e., farming CPCs) shall validate ‘Trade Information’ after reviewing information related to processing.

Note: It is worthwhile to consider developing eBCD function that denies implausible processing (e.g., transformation from Fillet to GG, excess product weight that cannot be explained by the conversion factor).