

**Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending and replacing Recommendation 18-13  
on an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation program**

*Submitted by IMM Working Group*

Explanatory Note

In 2007, the Commission adopted a Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation (BCD) Scheme, originally a paper based system which was converted to an electronic system through [Rec. 10-11](#). The original Recommendations and the BCD document format have undergone a variety of modifications over the years. The current basic Recommendation is [Rec. 18-13](#), but this was amended through [Rec. 21-19](#), which contains a modification to only one paragraph. Given that the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) agreed on further proposals during its meeting in June 2023, the Secretariat, in consultation with the PWG Chair, has incorporated the changes already adopted through [Rec. 21-19](#), and therefore requiring no further discussion (see para 13b), as well as the proposed changes from the IMM Working Group, which do require discussion and adoption by the PWG/Commission.

The text adopted by IMM Working Group is as follows:

**Annex 2** of [Rec. 18-13](#) be amended as follows:

- A. The following column should be inserted between '7. HARVEST INFORMATION' and '8. TRADE INFORMATION' in **Annex 2**:

<b>8. PROCESSING INFORMATION</b>						
PROCESSING FACILITY (PF) DESCRIPTION						
NAME PF	FLAG			ICCAT REC. No.		
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION						
F	RD (kg)	GG (kg)	DR (kg)	FL (kg)	OT (kg)	TOTAL WEIGHT (kg)
FR	RD (kg)	GG (kg)	DR (kg)	FL (kg)	OT (kg)	TOTAL WEIGHT (kg)

- B. The following new section should be added before "8. TRADE INFORMATION" in **Annex 3**:

**"8. PROCESSING INFORMATION**

(1) Completion

(a) General principles:

This section is only applicable to dead farmed tunas and dead tunas caught by traps destined for processing.

The domestic seller or exporter or their authorized representative or an authorized representative of the CPC of the seller/exporter or the captain of the processing vessel, where applicable, shall be responsible for completion.

The PROCESSING INFORMATION section shall be completed within 48 hours after the completion of the processing operation for each farm or trap.

(b) Specific instructions:

"NAME": list the name of the processing vessel/facility.

"FLAG/STATE": indicate the flag CPC.

"ICCAT RECORD NO.": indicate the ICCAT number of the processing vessel.

"PRODUCT DESCRIPTION": indicate processed weight in kg for each type of processed product.

(2) Validation

The validation of this section is not required.”

C. First sentence in “8. TRADE INFORMATION (2) Validation” should be amended as follows:

“The CPC of the seller/exporter shall be responsible for validation of the TRADE INFORMATION section, after reviewing the PROCESSING INFORMATION, as appropriate, unless bluefin tuna are tagged in accordance with Paragraph 21 of the Recommendation.”

These changes have been incorporated into the draft Recommendation which is being put forward for consideration.

**Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending and replacing  
Recommendation 18-13 on an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation program**

*Submitted by IMM Working Group*

*RECOGNIZING* the situation of Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks and the impact that market factors have on the fishery;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the rebuilding plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and the recovery plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna that ICCAT has adopted, including the need for complementary market related measures;

*RECOGNIZING* the necessity to clarify and improve the implementation of the bluefin tuna catch documentation scheme, providing detailed instructions for the issuance, numbering, completion and the validation of the bluefin tuna catch document;

*NOTING* that, in 2021, the Commission adopted an amendment to paragraph 13b) through the adoption of Rec. 18-13;

*CONSIDERING* the absence of information in the electronic bluefin catch documentation (eBCD) systems relating to the processing of fish from farms and traps on board processing vessels;

*BEARING IN MIND* the deliberations on the technical aspects by the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM);

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

**PART I  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Each Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall take the necessary steps to implement an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme for the purpose of identifying the origin of any bluefin tuna in order to support the implementation of conservation and management measures.
2. For the purpose of this Program:
  - a) "Domestic trade" means:
    - trade of bluefin tuna harvested in the ICCAT Convention area by a vessel or trap, which is landed in the territory of the CPC where the vessel is flagged or where the trap is established, and
    - trade of farmed bluefin tuna products originating from bluefin tuna harvested in the ICCAT Convention area by a vessel which is flagged to the same CPC where the farm is established, which is supplied to any entity in this CPC, and
    - trade between the Member States of the European Union of bluefin tuna harvested in the ICCAT Convention area by vessels flagged to one Member State or by a trap established in one Member State.
  - b) "Export" means:

Any movement of bluefin tuna in its harvested or processed form (including farmed) from the territory of the CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged or where the trap or farm is established to the territory of another CPC or non-Contracting Party, or from the fishing grounds to the territory of a CPC which is not the flag CPC of the fishing vessel or to the territory of a non-Contracting Party.

c) "Import" means:

Any introduction of bluefin tuna in its harvested or processed form (including farmed) into the territory of a CPC, which is not the CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged or where the trap or the farm is established.

d) "Re-export" means: Any movement of bluefin tuna in its harvested or processed form (including farmed) from the territory of a CPC where it has been previously imported.

e) "flag CPC" means the CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged; "trap CPC" means the CPC where the trap is established; and "farm CPC" means the CPC where the farm is established.

3. A Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD) shall be completed for each bluefin tuna in accordance with **Annex 3**.

Each consignment of bluefin tuna domestically traded, imported into or exported or re-exported from its territories shall be accompanied by a validated BCD, except in cases where paragraph 13(c) applies and, as applicable, an ICCAT transfer declaration or a validated Bluefin Tuna Reexport Certificate (BFTRC). Any such landing, transfer, delivery, harvest, domestic trade, import, export or re-export of bluefin tuna without a completed and validated BCD or a BFTRC shall be prohibited.

4. In order to support an effective BCD, CPCs shall not place bluefin tuna into a farm not authorized by the CPC or listed in the ICCAT record.

5. Farm CPCs shall ensure that bluefin tuna catches are placed in separate cages or series of cages and partitioned on the basis of flag CPC origin. By derogation, if the bluefin tuna are caught in the context of a joint fishing operation (JFO) between different CPCs, farm CPCs shall ensure that bluefin tuna are placed in separate cages or series of cages and partitioned on the basis of joint fishing operations.

6. At the time of caging, relevant BCDs may be grouped as a "Grouped BCD" with a new BCD number in the following cases, provided that caging of all the fish is conducted on the same day and all the fish is caged in the same farming cage:

a) Multiple catches made by the same vessel

b) Catches made by JFO

The Grouped BCD shall replace all the related original BCDs and be accompanied by the list of all the associated BCD numbers. The copies of such associated BCDs shall be made available upon request of CPCs.

7. Farm CPCs shall ensure that bluefin tuna are harvested from farms in the same year in which they were caught, or before the beginning of the purse seiners fishing period, if harvested in the following year. In the case where harvesting operations are not completed before this date, farm CPCs shall complete and transmit an annual carry-over declaration to the ICCAT Secretariat within 15 days after this date. Such declaration shall include:

- Quantities (expressed in kg) and number of fish intended to be carried over,
- Year of catch,
- Average weight,
- Flag CPC,
- References of the BCD corresponding to the catches carried over,
- Name and ICCAT number of the farm,
- Cage number, and
- Information on harvested quantities (expressed in kg), when completed.

8. Quantities carried over in accordance with paragraph 7 shall be placed in separate cages or series of cages in the farm on the basis of the catch year.
9. Each CPC shall provide BCD forms only to catching vessels and traps authorized to fish bluefin tuna in the Convention area, including as by-catch. Such forms are not transferable. Each BCD form shall have a unique document identification number. Document numbers shall be specific to the flag or trap CPC and assigned to the catching vessel or trap.
10. Domestic trade, export, import and re-export of fish parts other than the meat (i.e., heads, eyes, roes, guts and tails) shall be exempted from the requirements of this Recommendation.

## PART II VALIDATION OF BCDs

11. The catching vessel master or trap operator, or its authorized representative, or the operator of farms, or the authorized representative of the flag, farm, or trap CPC, shall complete the BCD by providing the required information in appropriate sections and request validation in accordance with paragraph 13 for a BCD for catch landed, transferred to cages, harvested, transhipped, domestically traded or exported on each occasion that it lands, transfers, harvests, transships, domestically trades or exports bluefin tuna.
12. A validated BCD shall include, as appropriate, the information identified in **Annex 1** attached. A BCD format is attached as **Annex 2**. In cases where a section of the BCD format does not provide enough room to completely track movement of BFT from catch to market, the needed information section of the BCD maybe expanded as necessary and attached as an annex using the original BCD format and number. The authorized representative of the CPC shall validate the annex as soon as possible but not later than the next movement of BFT.
13. a) The BCD must be validated by an authorized government official, or other authorized individual or institution, of the flag CPC of the catching vessel, the CPC of the seller/exporter, or the trap or farm CPC that caught, harvested, domestically traded or exported the bluefin tuna.  
b) The CPCs shall validate the BCD for all bluefin tuna products only when all the information contained in the BCD has been established to be accurate as a result of the verification of the consignment, and only when the accumulated validated amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year, including, where appropriate, individual quotas allocated to catching vessels or traps, and when those products comply with other relevant ICCAT provisions of the conservation and management measures.

The requirement that CPCs shall only validate BCDs when the accumulated validated amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year, does not apply to CPCs with a domestic legislation introduced before 2013 requiring that all dead or dying fish be landed, provided that the value of the catch is subject to confiscation in order to prevent the fishermen from drawing any commercial profit from such fish. The CPCs shall take necessary measures to prevent catch, which is over its national quota from being exported to other CPCs. The weight of each consignment related to catches exceeding the vessel quotas shall be reported to the ICCAT Secretariat without delay and will be examined by the Compliance Committee during each annual meeting.

- c) Validation under 13(a) shall not be required in the event that all bluefin tuna available for sale are tagged by the flag CPC of the catching vessel or the trap CPC that fished the bluefin tuna.
- d) Where the bluefin tuna quantities caught and landed are less than 1 metric ton or three fish, the logbook or the sales note may be used as a temporary BCD, pending the validation of the BCD within seven days and prior to export.

**PART III  
VALIDATION OF BFTRCs**

14. Each CPC shall ensure that each bluefin tuna consignment which is re-exported from its territory be accompanied by a validated Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate (BFTRC). In cases where bluefin tuna is imported live, the BFTRC shall not apply.
15. The operator who is responsible for the re-export shall complete the BFTRC by providing the required information in its appropriate sections and request its validation for the bluefin tuna consignment to be re-exported. The completed BFTRC shall be accompanied by a copy of the validated BCD(s) relating to the bluefin tuna products previously imported.
16. The BFTRC shall be validated by an authorized government official or authority.
17. The CPC shall validate the BFTRC for all bluefin tuna product only when:
  - a) all the information contained in the BFTRC has been established to be accurate,
  - b) the validated BCD(s) submitted in support to the BFTRC had been accepted for the importation of the products declared on the BFTRC and
  - c) the products to be re-exported are wholly or partly the same product on the validated BCD(s),
  - d) a copy of the BCD(s) shall be attached to the validated BFTRC.
18. The validated BFTRC shall include the information identified in **Annex 4** and **Annex 5** attached.

**PART IV  
VERIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION**

19. Each CPC shall communicate a copy of all validated BCDs or BFTRCs, except in cases where paragraph 13(c) applies, within five working days following the date of validation, or without delay where the expected duration of the transportation should not take more than five working days, to the following:
  - a) the competent authorities of the country where the bluefin tuna will be domestically traded, or transferred into a cage or imported, and
  - b) the ICCAT Secretariat.
20. The ICCAT Secretariat shall extract from the validated BCDs or BFTRCs communicated under paragraph 19 above the information marked with an asterisk (\*) in **Annex 1** or **Annex 4** and enter this information in a database on a password protected section of its website, as soon as practicable.

At its request, the SCRS shall have access to the catch information contained in the database, except the vessel or trap names.

**PART V  
TAGGING**

21. CPCs may require their catching vessels or traps to affix a tag to each bluefin tuna preferably at the time of kill, but no later than the time of landing. Tags shall have unique country specific numbers and be tamper proof. The tag numbers shall be linked to the BCD and a summary of the implementation of the tagging program shall be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat by the CPC. The use of such tags shall only be authorized when the accumulated catch amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year, including, where appropriate, individual quotas allocated to vessels or traps.

**PART VI  
VERIFICATION**

22. Each CPC shall ensure that its competent authorities, or other authorized individual or institution, take steps to identify each consignment of bluefin tuna landed in, domestically traded in, imported into or exported or re-exported from its territory and request and examine the validated BCD(s) and related documentation of each consignment of bluefin tuna. These competent authorities, or authorized individuals or institutions, may also examine the content of the consignment to verify the information contained in the BCD and in related documents and, where necessary, shall carry out verifications with the operators concerned.
23. If, as a result of examinations or verifications carried out pursuant to paragraph 22 above, a doubt arises regarding the information contained in a BCD, the final importing State/CPC and the CPC whose competent authorities validated the BCD(s) or BFTRCs shall cooperate to resolve such doubts.
24. If a CPC involved in trade of bluefin tuna identifies a consignment with no BCD, it shall notify the findings to the exporting CPC and, where known, the flag CPC.
25. Pending the examinations or verifications under paragraph 22 to confirm compliance of the bluefin tuna consignment with the requirements in the present Recommendation and any other relevant Recommendations, the CPCs shall not grant its release for domestic trade, import or export, nor, in the case of live bluefin tuna destined to farms, accept the transfer declaration.
26. Where a CPC, as a result of examination or verifications under paragraph 22 above and in cooperation with the validating authorities concerned, determines that a BCD or BFTRC is invalid, the domestic trade, import, export or re-export of the bluefin tuna concerned shall be prohibited.
27. The Commission shall request the non-Contracting Parties that are involved in domestic trade, import, export or re-export of bluefin tuna to cooperate with the implementation of the Program and to provide to the Commission data obtained from such implementation.

**PART VII  
NOTIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION**

28. Each CPC that validates BCDs in respect of its flag catching vessels, traps or farms in accordance with paragraph 13(a), shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of the government authorities, or other authorized individuals or institutions (name and full address of the organization(s) and, where appropriate, name and title of the validating officials who are individually empowered, sample form of document, sample impression of stamp or seal, and as appropriate tag samples) responsible for validating and verifying BCDs or BFTRCs. This notification shall indicate the date at which this entitlement comes into force. A copy of the provisions adopted in national law for the purpose of implementing the bluefin tuna catch documentation program shall be communicated with the initial notification, including procedures to authorize nongovernmental individuals or institutions. Updated details on validating authorities and national provisions shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat in a timely fashion.
29. The information on validating authorities transmitted by notifications to the ICCAT Secretariat shall be placed on the password protected page of the database on validation held by the ICCAT Secretariat. The list of the CPCs having notified their validating authorities and the notified dates of entry into force of the validation shall be placed on a publicly accessible website held by the ICCAT Secretariat. CPCs are encouraged to access this information to help verify the validation of BCDs and BFTRCs.
30. Each CPC shall notify to the ICCAT Secretariat the points of contact (name and full address of the organization(s)) that should be notified when there are questions related to BCDs or BFTRCs.
31. Copies of validated BCDs and notification pursuant to paragraphs 28, 29 and 30 shall be sent by CPCs to the ICCAT Secretariat, by electronic means, whenever possible.
32. Copies of BCDs shall follow each part of split shipments or processed product, using the unique document number of the BCD to link them.

33. CPCs shall keep copies of documents issued or received for at least two years.
34. CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat a report each year by September 15 for the period from January 1 to December 31 of the preceding year to provide the information described in **Annex 6**.

The ICCAT Secretariat shall post these reports on the password protected section of the ICCAT website, as soon as practicable.

At its request, the SCRS shall have access to the reports received by the ICCAT Secretariat.

35. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the Rec. 18-13 and the Rec. 21-19

**Data to be Included in Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD)**

**1. ICCAT Bluefin tuna catch document number\***

**2. Catch Information**

Name of the Catching Vessel or Trap name\*  
Name of the Other Vessels (in case of JFO)  
Flag\*  
ICCAT Record No.  
Individual Quota  
Quota used for this BCD  
Date, area of catch and gear used\*  
Number of fish, total weight, and average weight\*<sup>1</sup>  
ICCAT Record number of Joint Fishing Operation (if applicable)\*  
Tag No. (if applicable)  
*Government validation*  
Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

**3. Trade Information for live fish trade**

*Product description*  
*Exporter/Seller information*  
*Transportation description*  
*Government validation*  
Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date  
*Importer/buyer*

**4. Transfer information**

*Towing vessel description*  
ICCAT Transfer Declaration No.  
Vessel name, flag  
ICCAT Record No.  
Number of fish dead during transfer  
Total weight of dead fish (kg)  
*Towing cage description*  
Cage number

**5. Transshipment information**

*Carrier vessel description*  
Name, Flag, ICCAT Record No., Date, Port name, Port state, position  
*Product description*  
(F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)  
Total weight (NET)  
*Government validation*  
Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

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\* Information to be entered by the Secretariat in the BCD database (see paragraph 20).

<sup>1</sup> Weight shall be reported by round weight where available. If round weight is not used, specify the type of product (e.g. GG) in the "Total Weight" and "Average Weight" section of the form.

## **6. Farming information**

### *Farming facility description*

Name, CPC\*, ICCAT FFB No.\* and location of farm

Participation in national sampling program (yes or no)

### *Cage description*

Date of caging\*

Cage number\*

### *Fish description*

Estimates of number of fish, total weight, and average weight\*<sup>1</sup>

### *ICCAT Regional observer information*

Name, ICCAT No., signature

Estimated size composition (<8 kg, 8-30 kg, >30 kg)

### *Government validation*

Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

## **7. Harvesting information**

### *Harvesting description*

Date of harvest\*

Number of fish, total (round) weight, and average weight\*

Tag numbers (if applicable)

### *ICCAT regional observer information*

Name, ICCAT No., signature

### *Government validation*

Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

## **8. Trade information**

### *Product description*

(F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)<sup>2</sup>

Total weight (NET)\*

### *Exporter/Seller information*

Point of export or departure\*

Export company name, address, signature and date

State of destination\*

Description of transportation (relevant documentation to be attached)

### *Government validation*

Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

### *Importer/buyer information*

Point of import or destination\*

Import company name, address, signature and date<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> When different types of products are recorded in this section, the weight shall be recorded by each product type.

<sup>3</sup> DATE to be filled by IMPORTER/BUYER in this section is the date of signature.

1. ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT (BCD)										No:		1/2				
2. CATCH INFORMATION																
VESSEL/TRAP INFORMATION																
NAME OF CATCHING VESSEL/TRAP			FLAG/CPC		ICCAT RECORD NO.		INDIVIDUAL QUOTA			CATCH						
NAME OF THE OTHER FISHING VESSEL			FLAG		ICCAT RECORD NO.		INDIVIDUAL QUOTA			CATCH						
CATCH DESCRIPTION																
DATE (dd/mm/yy)			AREA		GEAR		No. of FISH			TOTAL WEIGHT (kg)		AVERAGE WEIGHT (kg)				
ICCAT RECORD No. of Joint Fishing Operation			TAG Numbers (if applicable)													
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION																
NAME OF AUTHORITY			TITLE		SIGNATURE		DATE (dd/mm/yy)			SEAL						
3. TRADE INFORMATION																
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION																
LIVE WEIGHT (kg)			No. of FISH		ZONE											
EXPORTER/SELLER																
POINT OF EXPORT/ DEPARTURE			COMPANY				ADDRESS									
FARM OF DESTINATION			CPC		ICCAT FFB No.											
SIGNATURE			DATE (dd/mm/yy)													
TRANSPORTATION DESCRIPTION (Relevant documentation to be attached)																
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION																
NAME OF AUTHORITY			TITLE		SIGNATURE		DATE (dd/mm/yy)			SEAL						
IMPORTER/BUYER																
COMPANY			ADDRESS				POINT IMPORTATION/DESTINATION (city, country, State)									
DATE OF SIGNATURE (dd/mm/yy)			SIGNATURE													
ANNEX(ES): YES / NO (circle one)																
4. TRANSFER INFORMATION																
TOWING VESSEL DESCRIPTION																
ICCAT TRANSFER DECLARATION No.			NAME		FLAG		ICCAT RECORD No.									
No. of FISH DEAD DURING TRANSFER			TOTAL WEIGHT OF DEAD FISH (kg)													
TOWING CAGE DESCRIPTION			CAGE No.													
ANNEX(ES): YES / NO (circle one)																
5. TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION																
CARRIER VESSEL DESCRIPTION																
NAME			DATE (dd/mm/yy)		FLAG		PORT NAME			ICCAT RECORD No.			PORT STATE			
POSITION (Lat/Long)																
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION (Indicate net weight in kg for each type of product)																
F	RD (kg)		GG (kg)		DR (kg)		FL (kg)		OT(kg)		TOTAL WEIGHT "F" (kg)					
FR	RD (kg)		GG (kg)		DR (kg)		FL (kg)		OT(kg)		TOTAL WEIGHT "FR" (kg)					
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION																
NAME OF AUTHORITY			TITLE		SIGNATURE		DATE (dd/mm/yy)			SEAL						
ANNEX(ES): YES / NO (circle one)																

ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT (BCD)						No.		2/2		
<b>6. FARMING INFORMATION</b>										
FARMING FACILITY DESCRIPTION	NAME			CPC	ICCAT FFB No.					
CAGE DESCRIPTION	NATIONAL SAMPLING PROGRAM ? Yes or No (circle one)				LOCATION					
FISH DESCRIPTION	DATE (dd/mm/yy)			CAGE No.						
ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER INFO.	No. of Fish			TOTAL WEIGHT (kg)		AVERAGE WEIGHT (kg)				
	NAME			TITLE		SIGNATURE				
	SIZE COMPOSITION			< 8 Kg		8-30 Kg		> 30 Kg		
<b>GOVERNMENT VALIDATION</b>										
	NAME OF AUTHORITY					SEAL				
	TITLE									
	SIGNATURE									
	DATE (dd/mm/yy)									
	ANNEX(ES): YES / NO (circle one)									
<b>7. HARVESTING INFORMATION</b>										
<b>HARVESTING DESCRIPTION</b>										
	DATE (dd/mm/yy)			No. of Fish		TOTAL ROUND WEIGHT (kg)				
	AVERAGE WEIGHT (kg)			TAG No. (if applicable)						
ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER INFO.	NAME			TITLE		SIGNATURE				
<b>GOVERNMENT VALIDATION</b>										
	NAME OF AUTHORITY					SEAL				
	TITLE									
	SIGNATURE									
	DATE (dd/mm/yy)									
<b>8. PROCESSING INFORMATION</b>										
<b>PROCESSING FACILITY (PF) DESCRIPTION</b>										
PF NAME										
FLAG										
ICCAT RECORD NUMBER										
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION (Indicate net weight in kg for each type of product)										
<b>F</b>	RD (kg)		GG (kg)		DR (kg)		FL (kg)		OT (kg)	TOTAL WT "F" (kg)
<b>FR</b>	RD (kg)		GG (kg)		DR (kg)		FL (kg)		OT (kg)	TOTAL WT "FR" (kg)
<b>9. TRADE INFORMATION</b>										
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION (Indicate net weight in kg for each type of product)										
<b>F</b>	RD (kg)		GG (kg)		DR (kg)		FL (kg)		OT(kg)	TOTAL WT "F" (kg)
<b>FR</b>	RD (kg)		GG (kg)		DR (kg)		FL (kg)		OT(kg)	TOTAL WT "FR" (kg)
<b>EXPORTER/SELLER</b>										
	POINT EXPORTATION/ DEPARTURE			COMPANY			ADDRESS			
	STATE OF DESTINATION									
	SIGNATURE									
	DATE (dd/mm/yy)									
<b>TRANSPORTATION DESCRIPTION</b> (Relevant documentation to be attached)										
<b>GOVERNMENT VALIDATION</b>										
	NAME OF AUTHORITY					SEAL				
	TITLE									
	SIGNATURE									
	DATE (dd/mm/yy)									
<b>IMPORTER/BUYER</b>										
	COMPANY			POINT IMPORTATION / DESTINATION (city, country, State)						
	ADDRESS									
	DATE (dd/mm/yy)			SIGNATURE						
	ANNEX(ES): YES / NO (circle one)									

## **Instructions for the Issuance, Numbering, Completion and Validation of the Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD)**

### **1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

#### **(1) Language**

An official ICCAT language (English, French and Spanish) shall be used in completing the BCD.

#### **(2) Numbering**

CPCs shall develop unique numbering system for BCDs using their ICCAT country code or ISO code in combination with an 8-digit number, of which two digits shall indicate the year of catch.

Example: CA-09-123456 (*CA stands for Canada*)

In case of split shipments, or processed products, copies of the original BCD shall be numbered by supplementing the number of the original BCD with a 2-digit number.

Example: CA-09-123456-01, CA-09-123456-02, CA-09-123456-03.

The numbering shall be sequential and preferably printed. The serial numbers of blank BCDs issued shall be recorded by the name of the recipient.

In case of producing a "Grouped BCD", the farm operator or his authorized representative shall request a new BCD number from the farm CPC. The number for Grouped BCDs shall contain "G" as in "CA-09-123456-G".

### **2. CATCH INFORMATION**

#### **(1) Completion**

##### **(a) General principles:**

This section is applicable to all catches of bluefin tunas.

The master of the catching vessel or the trap operator or their authorised representative or the authorised representative of the flag or trap CPC shall be responsible for the completion and the request for validation of the CATCH INFORMATION section.

CATCH INFORMATION section shall be completed no later than the end of transfer, transhipment or landing operation.

Remark: in case of JFO between different flags, one BCD for each flag shall be produced. In this case, each BCD shall indicate the same information in VESSEL/TRAP INFORMATION concerning the vessel which actually made the catch and all the other fishing vessels involved in that JFO, whereas CATCH DESCRIPTION shall indicate the catch information attributed to each flag based on the allocation key of the JFO.

In case of catches originating from one JFO comprising vessels of the same flag, the master of the catching vessel which actually made such catches, or its authorized representative or the authorized representative of the flag, shall complete the BCD form on behalf of all the vessels participating in such JFO.

(b) *Specific instructions:*

"NAME OF THE CATCHING VESSEL/TRAP": list the name of the catching vessel which actually made the catches.

"NAME OF THE OTHER FISHING VESSELS": only applicable to JFOs and list the other participating fishing vessels.

"FLAG": indicate the flag or trap CPC.

"ICCAT Record No": indicate the ICCAT number of the catching vessel or trap authorised to fish bluefin tuna in the ICCAT Convention area. This information is not applicable to catching vessels which fish bluefin tuna as by-catch. In case of JFO, list the ICCAT Record Numbers of the vessel which actually made the catch as well as other vessels participating in that JFO.

"INDIVIDUAL QUOTA": indicate the amount of individual quota given to each vessel.

"QUOTA USED FOR THIS BCD": indicate the amount of catch attributed to this BCD.

"GEAR": indicate the fishing gear using the following codes:

BB	Baitboat
GILL	Gillnet
HAND	Handline
HARP	Harpoon
LL	Longline
MWT	Mid-water trawl
PS	Purse seine
RR	Rod and reel
SPHL	Sport handline
SPOR	Sport fisheries unclassified
SURF	Surface fisheries unclassified
TL	Tended line
TRAP	Trap
TROL	Troll
UNCL	Unspecified methods
OT	Other type

"No. of FISH": in case of JFO comprising vessels of the same flag, indicate the total number of fish caught in such operation. In case of JFO between different flags, indicate the number of fish attributed to each flag in accordance with the allocation key.

"TOTAL WEIGHT": indicate the total round weight in kilograms. If round weight is not used at the time of catch, indicate the type of product (e.g. GG). In case of JFO between different flags, indicate the round weight attributed to that flag in accordance with the allocation key.

"AREA": indicate Mediterranean, western Atlantic, eastern Atlantic or Pacific.

"TAGS No (if applicable)": additional lines may be added to allow the listing of each tag number by individual fish.

## (2) Validation

The flag or trap CPC shall be responsible for the validation of the CATCH INFORMATION section unless bluefin tuna are tagged in accordance with Paragraph 21 of the Recommendation.

### **3. TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE**

#### **(1) Completion**

##### *(a) General principles:*

This section is only applicable to export of live bluefin tunas.

The master of the catching vessel or his authorised representative or the authorised representative of the flag CPC shall be responsible for the completion and the request for validation of the TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE section.

The TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE section shall be completed before the first transfer operation, i.e. the transfer of fish from the catching vessel net to the transport cage.

Remark: in case that a quantity of fish dies during the transfer operation and is domestically traded or exported, the original BCD (CATCH INFORMATION section completed shall be copied for the fish, and TRADE INFORMATION section of the copied BCD shall be completed by the master of the catching vessel or his authorised representative or the authorised representative of the flag CPC and transmitted to the domestic buyer/importer. Government validation of this copy shall guarantee that it is a valid copy and has been recorded by authorities of the CPC. Without the government validation, any BCD copy is null and void.

In case of JFO comprising vessels of the same CPC, the master of the catching vessel which actually made the catches, or its authorized representative or the authorized representative of the flag, shall be responsible for the completion.

##### *(b) Specific instructions:*

"ZONE": indicate the area of transfer, Mediterranean, western Atlantic, eastern Atlantic or Pacific. "POINT OF EXPORT/DEPARTURE": indicate the CPC name of the fishery zone where the bluefin tuna were transferred or indicate "high seas" otherwise.

"TRANSPORTATION DESCRIPTION": attach any relevant document certifying the trade.

#### **(2) Validation**

The flag CPC shall not validate documents where the CATCH INFORMATION section is not completed.

### **4. TRANSFER INFORMATION**

#### **(1) Completion**

##### *(a) General principles:*

This section is only applicable to live bluefin tunas.

The master of the catching vessel or his authorised representative or the authorised representative of the flag CPC shall be responsible for the completion of the TRANSFER INFORMATION section. In case of JFO comprising vessels of the same CPC, the master of the catching vessel which actually made the catches, or its authorized representative or the authorized representative of the flag, shall be responsible for the completion.

The TRANSFER INFORMATION section shall be completed no later than the end of the first transfer operation, i.e. the transfer of fish from the catching vessel net to the transport cage.

At the end of the transfer operation, the master of the catching vessel (or the master of the catching vessel which actually made the catches in case of JFO comprising vessels of the same CPC) shall provide the BCD (CATCH INFORMATION, TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE and TRANSFER INFORMATION sections completed and, where applicable, validated) to the master of the tug vessel.

The completed BCD shall accompany the transfer of fish during transport to farm, including transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage or transfer of dead bluefin tuna from the transport cage to an auxiliary vessel.

Remark: in case that some fish die during the transfer operation, the original BCD (CATCH INFORMATION, TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE and TRANSFER INFORMATION sections completed and, where applicable, validated) shall be copied, and TRADE INFORMATION section of the copied BCD shall be completed by the domestic seller/exporter or his authorised representative or the authorised representative of the flag CPC and transmitted to the domestic buyer/importer. Government validation of this copy shall guarantee that it is a valid copy and has been recorded by authorities of the CPC. Without the authorized government validation, any BCD copy is null and void.

*(b) Specific instructions:*

"NO. OF FISH DEAD DURING TRANSFER" and "TOTAL WEIGHT OF DEAD FISH": information completed (if applicable) by the master of the tug vessel.

"CAGE No.": indicate each number of cages in the case of a tug vessel having more than one cage.

(2) Validation

Validation of this section is not required.

## **5. TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION**

(1) Completion

*(a) General principles:*

This section is only applicable to dead bluefin tunas.

The master of the transshipping fishing vessel or his authorized representative or the authorized representative of the flag CPC shall be responsible for the completion and the request for validation of the TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION section.

The TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION section shall be completed at the end of the transshipment operation.

*(b) Specific instructions:*

"DATE": indicate the date of the transshipment.

"PORT NAME": indicate the designated port of transshipment.

"PORT STATE": indicate the CPC of the designated port of transshipment.

(2) Validation

The flag CPC shall not validate documents where the CATCH INFORMATION section is not completed and validated.

## **6. FARMING INFORMATION**

### (1) Completion

#### *(a) General principles:*

This section is only applicable to live caged tunas.

The master of the tug vessel shall provide the BCD (CATCH INFORMATION, TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE and TRANSFER INFORMATION sections completed and, where applicable, validated) to the farm operator at the time of caging.

The farm operator or his authorized representative or an authorized representative of the farm CPC shall be responsible for the completion and the request for validation of the FARM INFORMATION section.

The FARM INFORMATION section shall be completed at the end of the caging operation.

#### *(b) Specific instructions:*

"CAGE No": indicate each number of cage.

"ICCAT Regional Observer Information": indicate name, ICCAT # and signature.

### (2) Validation

The farm CPC shall be responsible for the validation of the FARM INFORMATION section.

The farm CPC shall not validate BCDs where the CATCH INFORMATION, TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE and TRANSFER INFORMATION sections are not completed and, where applicable, validated.

## **7. HARVESTING INFORMATION**

### (1) Completion

#### *(a) General principles:*

This section is only applicable to dead farmed tunas.

The farm operator or his authorized representative or an authorized representative of the farm CPC shall be responsible for the completion and the request for validation of the HARVESTING INFORMATION section.

The HARVESTING INFORMATION section shall be completed at the end of the harvesting operations.

#### *(b) Specific instructions:*

"TAGS No (if applicable)": additional lines may be added to allow the listing of each tag number by individual fish.

"ICCAT Regional Observer Information": indicate name, ICCAT # and signature.

### (2) Validation

The farm CPC shall be responsible for the validation of the HARVESTING INFORMATION section.

The farm CPC shall not validate BCDs where the CATCH INFORMATION, TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE, TRANSFER INFORMATION and FARMING INFORMATION sections are not completed and, where applicable, validated.

## **8. PROCESSING INFORMATION**

### (1) Completion

#### *(a) General principles:*

This section is only applicable to dead farmed tunas and dead tunas caught by traps destined for processing.

The domestic seller or exporter or their authorized representative or an authorized representative of the CPC of the seller/exporter or the captain of the processing vessel, where applicable, shall be responsible for completion.

The PROCESSING INFORMATION section shall be completed within 48 hours after the completion of the processing operation for each farm or trap.

#### *(b) Specific instructions:*

"NAME": list the name of the processing vessel/facility.

"FLAG/STATE": indicate the flag CPC.

"ICCAT RECORD NO.": indicate the ICCAT number of the processing vessel.

"PRODUCT DESCRIPTION": indicate processed weight in kg for each type of processed product.

### (2) Validation

The validation of this section is not required.

## **9. TRADE INFORMATION**

### (1) Completion

#### *(a) General principles:*

This section is applicable to dead bluefin tunas.

The domestic seller or exporter or their authorized representative or an authorized representative of the CPC of the seller/exporter shall be responsible for the completion and the request for validation of the TRADE INFORMATION section.

The TRADE INFORMATION section shall be completed prior to the fish being domestically traded or exported.

#### *(b) Specific instructions:*

"TRANSPORTATION DESCRIPTION": attach any relevant document certifying the trade.

### (2) Validation

The CPC of the seller/exporter shall be responsible for validation of the TRADE INFORMATION section, after reviewing the PROCESSING INFORMATION, as appropriate, unless bluefin tuna are tagged in accordance with Paragraph 21 of the Recommendation.

Remark: in cases where more than one domestic trade or export results from a single BCD, a copy of the original BCD shall be validated by the CPC of the domestic seller or exporter and shall be used and accepted as an original BCD. Government validation of this copy shall guarantee that it is a valid copy and has been recorded by authorities of the concerned CPC. Without the authorized government validation, any BCD copy is null and void.

In cases of re-export, the RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE (**Annex 5**) shall be used to track further movements, which shall be related to the catch information of the original BCD of the catch via the original BCD number.

When bluefin tuna is caught by a CPC using the tagging system, exported dead to a country, and re-exported to another country, the BCD accompanying the re-exported certificate does not have to be validated. However, the re-exported certificate shall be validated.

After import, a bluefin tuna may be divided into several pieces, which then may be subsequently exported. The re-exporting CPC shall confirm that the re-exported piece is part of the original fish accompanied by the BCD.

**Data to be Included in the Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate (BFTRC)**

**1. Document number of the BFTRC\***

**2. Re-export section**

Re-exporting Country/Entity/Fishing Entity  
Point of re-export\*

**3. Description of imported bluefin tuna**

Product type F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/OT<sup>4</sup>  
Net weight (kg)\*  
BCD number(s) and date(s) of importation\*  
Flag CPC (s) of fishing vessel(s) or CPC of establishment of the trap, where appropriate

**4. Description of bluefin tuna to be re-exported**

Product type F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/OT\*<sup>1</sup>  
Net weight (kg)\*  
Corresponding BCD number(s) from section 3  
State of destination

**5. Statement of re-exporter**

Name  
Address  
Signature  
Date

**6. Validation by governmental authorities**

Name and address of the authority  
Name and position of the official  
Signature  
Date  
Government seal

**7. Import section**

Statement by the importer in the CPC of import of the bluefin tuna consignment  
Name and address of the importer  
Name and signature of the importer's representative and date  
Point of import: City and CPC\*

Note: Copies of the BCD(s) and Transport document(s) shall be attached.

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\* Information to be entered by the Secretariat in the BCD database (see paragraph 20).

<sup>4</sup> When different types of products are recorded in this section, the weight shall be recorded by each product type.

1. DOCUMENT NUMBER	ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE			
2. RE-EXPORT SECTION: RE-EXPORTING COUNTRY/ENTITY/FISHING ENTITY  POINT OF RE-EXPORT				
3. DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTED BLUEFIN TUNA				
Product Type <i>F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/OT</i>	Net Weight (kg)	Flag CPC	Date of import	BCD No.
4. DESCRIPTION OF BLUEFIN TUNA FOR RE-EXPORT				
Product Type <i>F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/OT</i>	Net Weight (kg)	Corresponding BCD number		
F=Fresh, FR=Frozen, RD=Round, GG=Gilled & Gutted, DR=Dressed, FL=Fillet, OT=Others (Describe the type of product: )				
STATE OF DESTINATION:				
5. RE-EXPORTER STATEMENT: I certify that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.				
Name	Address	Signature	Date	
6. GOVERNMENT VALIDATION: I validate that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.				
Name & Title	Signature	Date	Government Seal	
7. IMPORT SECTION IMPORTER STATEMENT: I certify that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.				
Importer Certification				
Name	Address	Signature	Date	
Final Point of Import: City                      State/Province                      CPC                      .				

NOTE: IF A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH IS USED IN COMPLETING THIS FORM, PLEASE ADD THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION ON THIS DOCUMENT.

Note: Valid transport document and copies of the BCDs shall be attached.

**Report on the Implementation of the  
ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme**

Reporting CPC:

Period of reference: 1 January to 31 December [2XXX]

1. Information extracted from BCDs

- Number of BCDs validated
- Number of validated BCDs received
- Total amount of bluefin tuna products traded domestically, with breakdown by fishing areas and fishing gears
- Total amount of bluefin tuna products imported, exported, transferred to farms, re-exported with breakdown by CPC of origin, re-export or destination, fishing areas and fishing gears
- Number of verifications of BCDs requested to other CPCs and summary results
- Number of requests for verifications of BCDs received from other CPCs and summary results
- Total amount of bluefin tuna consignments subject to a prohibition decision with breakdown by products, nature of operation (domestic trade, import, export, re-export, transfer to farms), reasons for prohibition and CPCs and/or non-Contracting Parties of origin or destination

2. Information on cases under Part VI paragraph 22.

- Number of cases
- Total amount of bluefin tuna with breakdown by products, nature of operation (domestic trade, import, export, re-export, transfer to farms), CPCs or other countries referred to in Part VI paragraph 22.