

**REPORT OF THE 10th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP
ON INTEGRATED MONITORING MEASURES**
(Madrid, Spain – 25-27 February 2015)

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Taoufik El Ktiri, opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates to the tenth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM).

2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements

The Agenda was adopted [IMM-001] and is attached as **Appendix 1**.

The Executive Secretary listed the Contracting Parties that attended the meeting: Algeria, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, European Union, Guinea Equatorial, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Liberia, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Senegal, Tunisia, Turkey and the United States.

The Executive Secretary also introduced the following participants to the meeting: Chinese Taipei as Cooperating non-Cooperating Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity and the Union of the Comoros and Seychelles as observer countries.

The non-governmental organization Pew Charitable Trusts was admitted as an observer.

The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2**.

3. Nomination of rapporteur

The Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur.

4. Consideration of the role of observers deployed by national and regional programmes

The Chair recalled that, as agreed at the PWG in November 2014, it was decided to consider the role and the tasks of observers under several ICCAT Recommendations. As a basis for discussion, the Secretariat had prepared the ICCAT Recommendations relating to Observer Programmes and Duties of Observers [IMM-003].

The European Union (EU) stated that the ICCAT Recommendations relating to Observer Programmes and Duties of Observers [IMM-003] correctly illustrated the complexity of the problem listing 15 different ICCAT Recommendations containing provisions concerning the role of the observer. This delegation presented a draft recommendation by ICCAT establishing an ICCAT observer programme of fishing activities within the ICCAT Convention Area [IMM-008] based on the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs* [Rec. 10-10] (concerning the role of the national observers) and Annex 4 of *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Program for Tropical Tunas* [Rec. 14-01] (related to the TROP observer programme). The main point of the proposal is that the ICCAT observer would be mandated by its national authority to collect scientific information based on the scientific criteria established by the SCRS. To ensure the efficiency of the programme the EU proposal also refers to the selection of the observers, his-her mutual recognition by CPCs and the report of the observer data with due consideration to confidentiality.

Japan welcomed the proposal of the European Union as a good document to start the discussion on the role of the observers. This delegation also stated that the compliance tasks of the observer should be clearly defined and should be differentiated from scientific tasks. The importance of examining the confidentiality of the data collected by the observer was also raised as a point to be further discussed.

The United States also welcomed the document tabled noting the importance of this discussion given the need for high quality data to inform the scientific advice underpinning fisheries management decisions. The US shared some of the concerns expressed by Japan and considered that while there were some worthy ideas in the proposal there should be further discussion on using the existing framework of Recommendation 10-10, including the feedback of the SCRS on its implementation. The US encouraged CPCs to include in their 2015 Annual Reports information on their domestic observer programmes, including coverage levels by vessel type as required in Rec.10-10, to inform the SCRS's review.

Côte d'Ivoire considered that the EU proposal should better reflect the different roles of the scientist and the fisheries managers. This delegation also requested clarification about the funds available to support developing countries in the framework of the implementation of this proposal.

Morocco welcomed the proposal and indicated that resorting to control tasks by the observer involves applying or respecting procedures and criteria that come under control. Therefore, the qualification or the designation of observers must not depend exclusively on the scientific body, including on guidelines.

Algeria considered the EU proposal as interesting since the mandated observer should be responsible towards its Contracting Party and towards ICCAT. This delegation recalled that currently for the eastern bluefin tuna fisheries, the national observer has a double role: monitoring compliance and collecting data.

Canada considered that the EU proposal is important but expressed concern relative to the separation of the science and the compliance tasks. This delegation also noted that the title of the proposal covered a wider scope than the text itself that mainly covered the tasks of the TROP observers.

Tunisia informed that it would submit some technical questions to the EU before the Permanent Working Group meeting (PWG) in November 2015.

Namibia expressed its concern that such a proposal could entail the need for two observers on board: one to cover compliance issues and another to collect scientific data. Furthermore, Namibia wanted to know if ICCAT has a programme in place to assist developing CPCs to be able to comply with such a Recommendation, if adopted.

Iceland expressed its support for implementing an observer programme in ICCAT in line with what is practiced in other RFMOs in the N-Atlantic. It also informed that in Iceland the Directorate of Fisheries and Marine Research Institute collaborated closely and there had never been problems in having the observers covering both compliance and scientific tasks. Norway informed that there is close cooperation between its Directorate of Fisheries and the Institute of Marine Research with regard to observers.

To reply to the concerns expressed, the EU delegate explained that the main role of the observer is to collect scientific data and not to inspect the fisheries. The observer, designated by a Contracting Party, and recognised by all CPCs would be in charge of collecting scientific data in line with the SCRS criteria. Compliance tasks that could be requested to the observer in addition to his-her scientific tasks would have to be determined on a case by case basis for the concerned fisheries. To respect the confidentiality of data, the scientific institutions would process the data and these data would anonymously be transmitted to the Contracting Party who shall send them to the ICCAT Secretariat for transmission to the SCRS. Concerning the support for developing countries, the EU delegate informed that the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration should explain the availability of funds for developing countries

The Chair concluded that the Working Group had agreed to annex the proposal of the EU to the report of the meeting, as **Appendix 3**, with a view to further discuss it at the forthcoming PWG meeting in November 2015. The Chair also invited Contracting Parties to work inter-sessionally on that proposal and to submit comments to the EU. This would allow the EU to collect the comments and to table an amended version of its proposal at the Commission meeting.

5. Consideration of a high seas boarding and inspection scheme

The Chair introduced the working document of a draft resolution by ICCAT for a model joint international inspection scheme [IMM-010] as a follow up of the discussion at the PWG in November 2014 on a joint high seas inspection and boarding. He then gave the floor to the delegate of the United States to present the proposal co-sponsored with the EU. The delegate expressed the view that it is important for ICCAT to adopt a modern scheme for joint international inspection. He explained that the proposal was substantially similar to that tabled by the US, Canada and the EU at the IMM in 2014 and again at the 19th Special meeting of the Commission, but that further to the concerns heard at the 19th Special meeting of the Commission, the proposal is currently tabled as a draft resolution instead of as a draft recommendation. He explained that the proposed scheme was for a model that could be adopted on a fishery by fishery or other basis, as agreed by the Commission.

A few delegations noted concerns with technical aspects and domestic jurisdiction aspects of the proposal and noted the importance of adopting a scheme that could be applied in areas of high risk for IUU activity. Several delegations expressed their concern that the document should be submitted as a meeting document with enough time for CPCs to prepare for consideration of the proposal, but one delegation noted its willingness to work informally to improve the text. The US, Canada, and the EU noted that this issue has been considered by the IMM Working Group at its last several meetings and that the text, which has never been discussed in detail, is largely unchanged. He welcomed receiving any technical comments either on the margins of the meeting or before the 24th Regular meeting of the Commission.

The Chair concluded that the Working Group had agreed to annex the USA-EU proposal (**Appendix 4**) to the report of the meeting with a view to further discussing it at the forthcoming PWG meeting in November 2015. The Chair also invited Contracting Parties to work inter-sessionally on the proposal and to submit comments to the co-sponsors of the proposal.

6. Review of progress on eBCD and consideration of future actions

The Chair of the eBCD Working Group presented a Summary Report of the Meeting of the Technical eBCD Working Group (eBCD-TWG) held in the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) in Vigo (Spain), 21-22 January 2015 [IMM-005]. He also presented an outline of the three annexes of the meeting report containing pending technical and policy issues. He reminded the delegates that the consortium (TRAGSA and the ServerLabs) needed clear guidance to develop solutions for pending technical issues for the eBCD system to move forward. The Chair of the eBCD Working Group proposed to focus the discussion on the 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 [IMM-005A, Annex B] containing policy issues.

The Chair of the IMM invited delegates to express their general comments on the eBCD Report and to also take into consideration the draft recommendation by ICCAT supplementing the recommendation for an electronic bluefin tuna catch document (eBCD) System [IMM-004] tabled by Japan (**Appendix 8**). This proposal is an amendment to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the Recommendation for an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) System* [Rec. 13-17].

The USA delegate stated that it would be necessary to have the eBCD system implemented with a date to phase out the paper BCD. He also considered that the eBCD system should ensure reliable trade. This delegation also stated that requests made by the eBCD Working Group to the Consortium should be clear. He then requested information concerning the current contract with the Consortium as well as a possible extension of the contract after December 2015. Concerning this last issue, the Chair of the eBCD Working Group reminded the participants that back in 2011 three options to finance the eBCD system were tabled: self-financing with a certificate fee by BCD; an ongoing funding by the ICCAT Capital Fund or a distribution based on the bluefin tuna quota allocation.

The Executive Secretary informed that, at the request of the Commission, the contract with the consortium was extended until December 2015. Then, the Assistant Executive Secretary explained that the maintenance of the eBCD system is in the cloud including e-assistance to CPCs, and that this would entail an annual cost in the ICCAT budget. She also informed that the current contract with the Consortium includes training sessions.

Algeria expressed its willingness to have the eBCD system implemented as soon as possible, however keeping the option to return to the paper BCD in case of "*force majeure*".

Tunisia informed the participants that they are already working in the eBCD production system and that they would like to encourage all the CPCs to use the eBCD system as soon as possible.

At the request of certain CPCs and the Chairman, the Secretariat invited TRAGSA to attend the meeting. TRAGSA attended the 10th IMM meeting, on behalf of the Consortium. It was invited to respond to certain questions, in particular, of a technical nature, as well as to those already posed at the ICCAT Annual meeting (November 2014) or those raised following the last TWG eBCD meeting (January 2015).

The Chairman wished to know the reasons, in particular technical ones, as to why the eBCD system still does not appear to be 100% operational, given that the solution would depend on the Consortium. The IMM Group also wished to know the precise level of the state of development of the system and the problems which are hampering progress.

In response to these questions, TRAGSA reassured that the eBCD System is currently operational and that of the eBCDs which may need to be issued, 70-80% could currently be entered in the eBCD system. They recalled the BCD completion problems observed in 2014 which led to validation problems, as well as issues related to fish dead at the time of transfer. For this case, it was necessary to adapt the System so that it was homogeneous while respecting the recommendations governing it. At a certain stage, the development of the System experienced advances then setbacks.

In response to the observation of situations of overload of the System during testing, TRAGSA responded that in terms of security, the initial tests were not sized well because of the load of the information used compared to what had been initially envisaged.

The Consortium has however reassured the Working Group that the next test will be conducted in better conditions taking into account the flexible environment of the “cloud” system, as provided in the current contract.

In summary, the Consortium mainly insisted on the need that the Commission establish priorities in a clear and definite way to allow the full development and operability of the system, taking into account that if there are any new requests, its implementation could be delayed.

After this general discussion on the progress made on the eBCD since November 2014, Japan was requested by the Chair of the IMM to present its draft recommendation by ICCAT supplementing the recommendation for an electronic bluefin tuna catch document (eBCD) System [IMM-004] in which, even if encouraging the use of the eBCD, the use of paper BCD would still be allowed and in which it is proposed that all the provisions of Rec. 11-20 apply *mutatis mutandis* to the eBCD. Japan proposed to first discuss in depth the 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 [IMM-005A, Annex B] of the report and after its proposal for amending Rec. 13-17 so as to try merging the two texts.

The IMM Working Group then decided to focus its work on the Annex B since the proposal covered policy issues that needed to be resolved. A small Working Group was set up and proposed to the participants of the IMM an amended Annex B (version B as revised) which was adopted and is attached in **Appendix 6**. The EU reiterated that it could leave the reference to validation on the understanding that the TWG would instruct the consortium to undertake the necessary developments to include the options of validation or no validation for trade between member States of the EU, pending the final decision to be made at the Annual Meeting. Japan expressed its intention to prepare a combined text with the Japanese proposal (IMM-004) and **Appendix 6** for consideration at future meetings.

The United States commented that the most important outcome of this intersessional meeting is clear direction for the TWG moving forward. It clarified that any adoption of a Recommendation resulting from this work will occur at the Annual Meeting in Malta in November. The United States noted that CPCs may have additional text edits to the proposal, after a thorough legal review, primarily to ensure consistency throughout the document and consistency with other ICCAT Recommendations.

The report of the Meeting of the Technical eBCD Working Group was adopted by the IMM Working Group with the deletion of the second paragraph of the section “State of play of GEF/FAO support” as attached in **Appendix 5** [IMM-005A], which does not include Annex B (attached as **Appendix 6**).

The IMM Working Group instructed the eBCD TWG to use **Appendix 7** to give instructions to the Consortium on issues pending in the development of the eBCD system.

7. Other matters

The Secretariat was invited by the Chair to present a Request for Clarification on Carrier Vessels [IMM-007] and a Request for Clarification Regarding Vessel Length [IMM-009]. Both documents are based on requests made by Contracting Parties for clarification.

Regarding the listing of carrier vessels [IMM-007], the Working Group generally agreed that only carrier vessels which were authorised to receive transshipments at sea should be included on the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels. Notwithstanding, it was agreed that carrier vessels authorised to receive transshipment in port could be included on the ICCAT Record of Vessels of 20 metres or greater if this was requested by a CPC. The Working Group recommended that the Commission consider whether amendments to 13-13 may help clarify the issue. The Working Group generally agreed that the Secretariat could operate on this understanding, pending any possible changes to relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures at the Commission in November 2015.

In the Request for Clarification Regarding Vessel Length [IMM-009], the Secretariat also requested an interpretation on behalf of a Contracting Party, on the meaning of “length between perpendiculars” as used in the context of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 03-14 by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 14-09]. The Working Group generally agreed that the most relevant interpretation would be informed by definitions in the International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, i.e.:

5. "The length (L)" shall be taken as 96 per cent of the total length on a waterline at 85 per cent of the least depth measured from the keel line, or as the length from the foreside of the stern to the axis of the rudder stock on that waterline, if that be greater. In vessels designed with rake of keel the waterline on which this length is measured shall be parallel to the designed waterline.

6. "The forward and after perpendiculars" shall be taken at the forward and after ends of the length (L). The forward perpendiculars shall be coincident with the foreside of the stem on the waterline on which the length is measured.

8. Adoption of Report and Adjournment

The Report of the Tenth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures was adopted.

Appendix 1

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Consideration of the role of observers deployed by national and regional programmes
5. Consideration of a high seas boarding and inspection scheme
6. Review of progress on eBCD and consideration of future actions
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of report and adjournment

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DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING AN ICCAT OBSERVER PROGRAMME OF FISHING ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE ICCAT CONVENTION AREA [IMM-008]

(Presented by the EU)

RECALLING that Article IX of the Convention requires Contracting Parties to furnish, on the request of the Commission, any available statistical, biological and other scientific information needed for the purposes of the Convention;

FURTHER RECALLING the 2001 *Resolution by ICCAT on the Deadlines and Procedures for Data Submission* [Res. 01-16], in which the Commission established clear guidelines for the submission of Task I and Task II data;

ACKNOWLEDGING that poor quality data impacts the ability of the SCRS to complete robust stock assessments and provide management advice as well as the ability of the Commission to adopt effective conservation and management measures;

DETERMINED to ensure the collection of data accounting for all sources of mortality in ICCAT fisheries, for both target species and by-catch, to improve the certainty of future scientific advice while taking into account ecosystem considerations;

RECOGNIZING that, in relation with the protection of juveniles, a specific focus should be given to surface fishing of tropical tuna species in association with fish aggregating objects, including FADs, where area/time closures are implemented by ICCAT;

REITERATING the responsibilities of the flag CPC to ensure that their vessels conduct their fishing activities in a responsible manner, fully respecting the ICCAT Recommendations in force;

RECOGNIZING that observer programmes are used successfully at both the national and Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) level for the purposes of collecting scientific data;

CONSIDERING that regrouping the observer requirements from existing ICCAT Recommendations into a single ICCAT Observer Programme will favor clarity;

RECOGNIZING the international nature of the fishing activity on ICCAT species and the consequent need to embark well-trained and mandated observers to improve the collection of relevant data, in terms of continuity, coherence and quality;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the needs of developing States with regard to capacity building;

RECOGNIZING the United Nations General Assembly Sustainable Fisheries Resolution 63/112, that encourages the development of observer programmes by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and arrangements to improve data collection;

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

An ICCAT Observer Programme is established as follows:

Definitions

1. For the purpose of the ICCAT Observer Programme:

- a) "*ICCAT mandated observer*" means a person, hereafter referred to as the "*observer*", designated by the national authority of a flag CPC and recognized by ICCAT to collect scientific data in the ICCAT Convention area and observe compliance by fishing vessels with the provisions of the ICCAT Conservation and Management measures in force;

- b) “**Fishing activity**” means fishing and any other activity in preparation for, in support of, or related to fishing, including storage, processing, transporting, transshipment of fish or fish products and fishing for, or supported activities to fish for ICCAT species in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs);
- c) “**Fishing vessel**” means any powered vessel, hereafter referred to as “**vessel**”, used for, intended to be used for, or equipped for use for the purpose of commercial exploitation of fishery resources covered by the ICCAT Convention, including catching vessels, support vessels, fish processing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment and transport of fishery resources, vessels equipped for the transportation of fishery products and auxiliary vessels, but does not include container vessels;
- d) “**Flag CPC**” means the CPC flagging the vessel subject to observation under the ICCAT Observer programme;
- e) “**National authority**” means the authority of a CPC that, directly or through an independent observer provider, appoints and mandates an observer to participate in the ICCAT Observer Programme;
- f) “**Scientific institute**” means the scientific body that defines the mission order of the observer and in charge of the validation of the scientific data collected by the observer;
- g) “**Field sampler**” means a person who collects information on land during the landing of fishing vessels;
- h) “**Observed data**” means the raw data collected by the observer during its assignment on the vessel observed;
- i) “**Observer report**” means the report summarizing the data collected by the observer;
- j) “**Programme**” means the ICCAT Observer Programme established by this Recommendation.

Scope of the Programme

2. The scope of this Programme is to collect scientific data related to fishing activities on ICCAT species in the ICCAT Convention area, including quantifying species and catch composition, by-catch, discards and the collection of tags, and to observe compliance in accordance with the observer tasks referred to in paragraph 14.

ICCAT Observer Programme

General Provisions

3. Notwithstanding additional observer programme requirements that may be in place or adopted by ICCAT for specific fishing activities, each CPC shall take the measures as may be necessary to ensure that fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag, their Masters and the observers it has assigned to the Programme fulfil their respective tasks and requirements under the Programme.
4. CPCs shall assign observers to the Programme in accordance with a selection criteria proposed by the SCRS and adopted by the Commission. Only observers designated according to this selection procedure shall be recognized as ICCAT mandated observers.

List of ICCAT Mandated Observers

5. Each CPC shall notify the Executive Secretary:
 - a) its national authority in charge of selecting, appointing and mandating the national observers, and receiving the observer reports, as well as the name and contact details for a point of contact within that authority (including telephone, fax numbers and e-mail address);
 - b) before the beginning of each calendar year, the list of observers it has assigned to the Programme for the following year, providing for each observer:
 - i. name, sex, date of birth, nationality and passport number;

- ii. the scientific institute or the national authority that will define and deliver the mission order to the observer;
 - iii. the date the qualification of scientific observer has been obtained, the training organization and the date of entry into the list of ICCAT mandated observers;
 - iv. the name of the scientific institute that will collect and validate the observed data;
- c) any changes to the information as soon as possible, but no more than 14 days after the effective date of the change.

Qualifications of ICCAT Mandated Observers

6. Without prejudice to any training or technical qualifications recommended by the SCRS, CPCs shall ensure that their observers have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
- a) sufficient knowledge and experience to identify species and fishing gear configurations, and be capable of performing the tasks set forth in paragraph 14;
 - b) satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures in force, assessed by a certificate provided by the CPCs and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
 - c) the ability to observe and record accurately the data to be collected under the Programme;
 - d) the ability to collect biological samples;
 - e) the ability to visualize images collected by the on board camera;
 - f) not be a crew member of the vessel being observed;
 - g) be independent of the vessel owner, the Master of the vessel and any crew member, or of an NGO;
 - h) for security reasons, a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed; and
 - i) be trained in safety and sea survival.

Mutual Recognition of ICCAT Mandated Observers

7. Observers active under this Programme shall automatically be recognized by all CPCs.
8. Such recognition shall allow the observer to continue the collection of data throughout the EEZ visited by the vessel observed, either in the context of this Programme, in the framework of a domestic observer programme or according to an observer programme organized jointly by several CPCs.
9. CPCs that do not accept that their national observer may collect data in the EEZ of another CPC, or that do not recognize as valid the data collected in their EEZ by an observer of another CPC, must inform the Executive Secretary, for immediate transmission to the SCRS and the Compliance Committee, of their refusal within three months after the entry into force of this Recommendation or their accession to ICCAT. By such refusal, the CPC concerned shall refrain to require the deployment of its national observer on vessels of another CPC.

Observer Coverage

10. Each CPC shall ensure the following with respect to its domestic observer programs:
- a) A minimum of 5% observer coverage of fishing effort in each of the pelagic longline, purse seine, and, as defined in the ICCAT glossary, baitboat, traps and fixed gillnet fisheries, as measured:
 - a) for purse seine fisheries, in number of sets or trips;
 - b) for pelagic longline fisheries, in fishing days, number of sets, hooks or trips;
 - c) for baitboat and trap fisheries, in fishing days;
 - d) for fixed gillnet fisheries, in net length;

- b) A 100% observer coverage for all surface vessels fishing for tropical tuna species in association with fish aggregating objects, including FADs, where an area/time closure is in force;
- c) Notwithstanding paragraph 1a), for vessels less than 15 meters, where an extraordinary safety concern may exist that precludes deployment of an onboard observer, a CPC may employ an alternative scientific monitoring approach (sampling plan) that will collect data equivalent to that specified in this recommendation in a manner that ensures comparable coverage. In any such cases, the CPC wishing to avail itself of an alternative approach must present the details of the approach to the SCRS for evaluation. The SCRS will advise the Commission on the suitability of the alternative approach for carrying out the data collection obligations set forth in this Recommendation.

Alternative scientific monitoring approaches may consist in monitoring at the landing place by field samplers, providing these field samplers do collect information during the landing of the vessels concerned.

- d) Representative temporal and spatial coverage of the operation of the fleet to ensure the collection of adequate and appropriate data as required under this Recommendation and any additional domestic CPC observer programme requirements, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;
 - e) Data collection on all aspects of the fishing operation, including catch and fishing effort.
11. Each flag CPC may deploy either national or non-national observers on vessels flying its flag.
 12. CPCs may conclude bilateral arrangements whereby one CPC places national observers on vessels flying the flag of another CPC, until the flag CPC provides a replacement, or the target coverage level is met.
 13. CPC shall endeavour to ensure that observers alternate vessels between their assignments.

Tasks of the Observer

14. CPCs shall require observers to:
 - a) record and report upon the fishing activity, which shall include at least the following:
 - i. data collection, that includes quantifying total target catch and by-catch (including sharks, sea turtles, marine mammals, and seabirds), size composition, disposition status (i.e., retained, discarded dead, released alive), the collection of biological samples for life history studies (e.g., gonads, otoliths, spines, scales), and the collection of tag markings;
 - ii. fishing operation information, including:
 - area of catch by latitude and longitude;
 - fishing effort information (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.);
 - date of each fishing operation, including, as appropriate, the start and stop times of the fishing activity;
 - use of and prohibited actions related to fish aggregation objects, including FADs, where an area/time closure is in force;
 - reasons for discarding, and general state of catch released animals;
 - iii. exercise any other scientific work as recommended by SCRS and agreed by the Commission;
 - b) observe and record the use of by-catch mitigation measures and other relevant information;
 - c) visualize images collected by the on board cameras, in support of the data collection referred to in (a) and (b) above;
 - d) monitor the catches of tropical tunas at landing, with the view to identify the catch composition.

However, this is not applicable:

- i. to flag CPCs that use a sampling scheme, as referred to in paragraph 10 (c), and
 - ii. to artisanal fisheries, providing that the port CPCs use field samplers at the landing places to estimate catch-at-size by type of vessel, gear and species.
- e) monitor compliance with the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures for fishing vessels' fishing for tropical tuna species in association with fish aggregating objects, including FADs, where an area/time closure is in force. In particular the observers shall:
- i. verify entries made in the logbook;
 - ii. sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures in force;
 - iii. verify the position of the vessel when engaged in catching activity;
- f) present to their CPC, as feasible and appropriate, any proposals the observer considers appropriate to improve the efficiency of conservation measures and scientific monitoring;
- g) report without delay, with due regard to the safety of the observer, any fishing activity by surface vessels fishing for tropical tuna species in association with fish aggregating objects, including FADs, where an area/time closure is in force.

Obligations of the Observer

15. CPCs shall ensure that the observers:

- a) do not interfere with the electronic equipment of the vessel;
- b) be familiar with the emergency procedures aboard the vessel, including the location of life rafts, fire extinguishers and first aid kits;
- c) communicate regularly with the Master on relevant observer issues and tasks;
- d) do not hinder or interfere with the fishing activities and the normal operations of the vessel;
- e) minimize endangering situations for the observer or a discomfort for the Master and crew when performing their fishing activity;
- f) participate in a debriefing session with the Master, and possibly a delegate of the scientific institute or the national authority which appointed it;
- g) treat as confidential all the observed data and information with respect to the fishing activities of the vessel, and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer;
- h) comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag CPC which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned;
- i) respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the tasks of the observer under this Programme, and with the obligations of the Master set forth in paragraph 16;
- j) report without delay to its scientific institute, or to the national authority which appointed it, for immediate information of the vessel owner, any incident that may have occurred during the deployment.

Obligations of the Master

16. CPCs shall ensure that the Master of the vessels to which the observer is assigned shall:

- a) permit appropriate access to the vessel and its operations;
- b) allow the observer to carry out its responsibilities in an effective way, by
 - i. having access to the vessel's crew and gears;
 - ii. authorize the observer on request, to have access to the following equipment, if present on the vessel on which the observer is assigned, and to facilitate the fulfilment of its duty:
 - Satellite navigation equipment;
 - Radar display screens during utilisation;
 - Electronic means of communication.
- c) Provide accommodation to observers, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
- d) provide the observer adequate space on the bridge or pilot house to perform its tasks, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observers tasks;
- e) participate in a debriefing session with the observer, and possibly a delegate of the scientific institute or the national authority which appointed the observer.

Observer Report

17. CPC shall ensure that observers:

- a) establish observer reports, if possible in electronic format, using the template defined by the SCRS, compiling the information collected in accordance with this Programme, sign the observer report and offer the Master the opportunity to include therein any relevant observation; and
- b) within [10] days after the fishing trip, submit the observer report and the observed data to the scientific institute, the national authority which appointed the observer and to the Master.

Duties of the CPCs

18. Each CPC shall:

- a) require its vessels, when conducting fishing activities on ICCAT species in the ICCAT Convention area, to carry an observer in accordance with the provisions of this Programme. No vessel shall be required to carry more than one observer at any time;
- b) ensure that the selection of observers follows the SCRS guidelines endorsed by the Commission in accordance with paragraph 21;
- c) ensure that a signed mission order is provided to the observer by the scientific institute who employs it, or by the national authority;
- d) ensure that the observers meet the qualification standards referred to in paragraph 6;
- e) ensure that the timeframe for boarding and reporting procedures set out in Annex 1 are complied with;
- f) provide in its Annual report to the Commission:
 - i. the number of vessels monitored and the coverage achieved by gear type;
 - ii. information on how vessels are selected for coverage to achieve the target level of observer coverage;
 - iii. the coverage level achieved within their respective fisheries, and details on how coverage levels were calculated.

19. The CPC that appoints the observer shall meet the cost of the boarding, including the salary, the equipment and the insurance coverage of the observer, with the possibility to charge all or part of the costs to the vessel owners.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

20. The Executive Secretary shall:

- a) establish, maintain and post on the secure part of the ICCAT website a register of national authorities and ICCAT mandated observers as referred to in paragraph 5, in a manner consistent with the confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs;
- b) report to the SCRS and to the Compliance Committee the CPCs that do not accept their national observers to be deployed in foreign EEZ, as referred to in paragraph 9;
- c) with due consideration to the confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs, transmit immediately the observer reports and observed data referred to in Annex 1 to the SCRS, to the Compliance Committee and to the point of contact of the CPCs under whose jurisdiction the vessel fished;
- d) facilitate the required exchange of information between each CPC concerned and the SCRS and the implementation of any other aspects of this Programme as necessary and appropriate.

Duties of the SCRS

21. The SCRS shall:

- a) establish guidelines to be used for the selection of observers (minimum standards in terms of qualifications and skills), including, for the purpose of standardization, minimum technical content of training for observers and technical prerequisites for training institutions. These guidelines shall be endorsed by the Commission at its annual session in [2016];
- b) elaborate an observer working manual, including standardized data collection sheets and procedures, taking into account the experience acquired in ICCAT and in other tuna RFMOs;
- c) elaborate a template for reporting to be used by the observer;
- d) report to the Commission at the Annual meeting on the coverage level achieved by each CPC and by fishery;
- e) provide the Commission with a summary of the scientific data and information collected and reported pursuant to this Programme, and any relevant findings associated with that data and information;
- f) make recommendations as necessary and appropriate on how to improve the effectiveness of the Programme in order to meet the data needs of the Commission, including possible revisions to this Recommendation and/or with respect to implementation of these minimum standards by CPCs.

Support to Developing States

22. The Commission shall take due regard of the special requirements of developing States in the implementation of the provisions of this Recommendation.

23. The ICCAT funds available may be used to support the implementation of this Programme in developing States, notably the training of observers and of field samplers.

Final provision

24. Rec [10-10] and Annex 4 of Rec [14-01] are repealed and replaced by this Recommendation. Reference to Annex 4 of Rec [14-01] is equal to a reference to this Recommendation.

**Timeframe for the boarding and reporting
Procedures related to the observer boarding**

<i>Timing</i>	<i>Action</i>
45 days in advance of the fishing trip	Request for the boarding of an ICCAT mandated observer addressed to the vessel owner by the scientific institute or the national authority
30 days in advance of the fishing trip	Validation of the boarding planning by the vessel owner and the national authority
Before the fishing trip	Support by the vessel owner of the transport of the observer to the boarding port
During the fishing trip	Collection of observed data
At the end of fishing trip	Debriefing between the observer, the Master and, if possible, the national authority
[10] days after the fishing trip	Transmission of the observer report, the observed data and the supporting material to the scientific institute. Delivery of the observer report to the Master
[30] days after the fishing trip	Validation of the observer report and the observed data made anonymous by the scientific institute (inclusion of daily totals of catch by species and EEZ). The validation may use the images recorded by the on board cameras
[45] days after the fishing trip	Transmission of the observer report and the observed data made anonymous by the scientific institute to the national authority
[60] days after the fishing trip	Transmission of the observer report and observed data made anonymous to the Executive Secretary, for immediate transmission to the SCRS, to the Compliance Committee and to the point of contact of the CPCs under whose jurisdiction the vessel has fished

**DRAFT RESOLUTION BY ICCAT
FOR A MODEL JOINT INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION SCHEME [IMM-010]**

(Proposed by the European Union and the United States)

RECALLING Recommendation 75-02 for a Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Annex 7 of Recommendation 14-04 establishing a joint international inspection scheme for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery;

FURTHER RECALLING Resolution 94-09 on Compliance with the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures, Recommendation 97-11 on Transshipments and Vessel Sightings, and Recommendation 98-11 Concerning the Ban on Landings and Transshipments of Vessels from Non-Contracting Parties Identifies *sic* as Having Committed a Serious Infringement;

RECALLING ALSO the General Outline of Integrated Monitoring Measures adopted at the 13th Special Meeting of the Commission (Doc. 02-31);

DESIRING to collaborate in the adoption of a system of joint international enforcement as provided in paragraph 3 of Article IX of the ICCAT Convention;

INTENDING to strengthen ICCAT's monitoring, control, and surveillance regime to promote compliance with the ICCAT Convention and the Recommendations of the Commission;

RECOGNIZING the value of establishing a Model Scheme of Joint International Inspection that reflects current international standards and is available for activation in fisheries under the jurisdiction of ICCAT; and

NOTING that this Model Scheme is intended to replace Recommendation 75-02, which no longer reflects current international standards for joint international inspections.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES THAT:

Where a Scheme of Joint International Inspection is adopted in a fishery managed under the ICCAT Convention, such Scheme should be established based upon the following provisions, recognizing that additional elements may be needed to adapt the model scheme to a specific fishery:

Section I: Definitions

For the purpose of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection:

1. "Fishing" means the catching, taking, or harvesting of fishery resources under the competence of ICCAT; the attempted catching, taking, or harvesting of such resources; or any other activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking, or harvesting of such resources;
2. "Fishing activities" means fishing and any other activity in preparation for, in support of, or related to fishing, including storage, processing, transporting, transferring fish to or from cages, and transshipment of fish or fish products;
3. "Fishing vessel" means any powered vessel used for, intended to be used for, or equipped for use for fishing activities including catching vessels, support vessels, fish processing vessels, towing vessels, transport vessels and any other vessel directly engaged in fishing activities;
4. "Inspection vessel" means any vessel authorized by a Contracting Party and assigned to the ICCAT register of inspection vessels under the Joint International Inspection Scheme;

5. “Inspector” means an official authorized by a Contracting Party and assigned to conduct boarding and inspections in the ICCAT Convention area under the Joint International Inspection Scheme;
6. “Scheme” means the Joint International Inspection Scheme established by this Recommendation.

Section II: Purpose and area of application

7. Boarding and inspection conducted pursuant to this Scheme is intended to monitor compliance with the ICCAT Convention and related Recommendations in force.
8. This Scheme applies in the ICCAT Convention area beyond areas under national jurisdiction.

Section III: General provisions



Duties of the Contracting Parties

9. Each Contracting Party shall take such measures as may be necessary to ensure that fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag, their Masters, its inspection vessels, and inspectors it has assigned to the Scheme, fulfil their respective duties and requirements under the Scheme.
10. Within 30 days of entry into force of this Scheme, each Contracting Party shall advise the Executive Secretary of a point of contact for the purposes of receiving notifications, inspection reports and immediate notification of infringements pursuant to this Scheme. It shall notify any changes to this information to the Executive Secretary as soon as possible, but no more than 14 days after the effective date of the change.
11. Boarding and inspections shall be carried out by inspectors and inspection vessels assigned to the Scheme by a Contracting Party.

Notification requirements

12. A Contracting Party that intends to conduct boarding and inspection under the Scheme, including by deploying inspectors on board the inspection vessel of another Contracting Party pursuant to an agreement under paragraph 13, shall:
 - a) so notify the Executive Secretary, no later than 30 days in advance of the inspection vessel or inspector’s deployment, providing the following particulars:
 - (i) its national authority responsible for at-sea inspection, as well as the name and contact details (including telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address) for a point of contact within that authority;
 - (ii) the names of the individual inspectors designated by the national authority referred to in subparagraph (i) above, where required by a Recommendation;
 - (iii) an example of the credentials issued to inspectors by the national authority referred to in subparagraph (i) above, except where a Recommendation requires the following ICCAT-approved credential:

Dimensions: Width 10.4cm, Height 7cm

<p style="text-align: center;">INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>ICCAT</p> <p>Inspector Identity Card</p> </div> </div> <p>Contracting Party:</p> <p>Inspector Name:</p> <p>Card n°:</p> <p>Issue Date: Valid five years</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; width: 80px; height: 60px; margin-top: 10px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <p style="font-size: 8px;">Photograph</p> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <p>ICCAT</p> </div> <p style="font-size: 8px;">The holder of this document is an ICCAT inspector duly appointed under the terms of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Surveillance of the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna and has the authority to act under the provision of the ICCAT Control and Enforcement measures.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <p style="font-size: 8px;">..... ICCAT Executive Secretary Issuing Authority</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">..... Inspector</p> </div>
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and

- (iv) for each inspection vessel designated by a national authority referred to in subparagraph (i) above, its name, description, image, registration number, port of registry and, if different from the port of registry, the name of the port as marked on the hull, international radio call sign and particulars of any other communication capabilities.
- b) notify the Executive Secretary of any changes to the information it has provided pursuant to subparagraph (a) above as soon as possible and, in all cases, before a new inspection vessel, inspector or national authority participates in the Scheme;
- c) ensure that each inspection vessel it authorizes to participate in the Scheme is clearly marked and identifiable as being on government service, and displays the ICCAT inspection flag or pennant depicted in **Annex 1**;
- d) ensure that the inspectors and crew of any inspection vessel authorized and assigned to participate in the Scheme are competent to conduct inspection at-sea consistent with generally accepted international standards and are conversant with and have access to the ICCAT Recommendations in force; and
- e) ensure that any inspector it authorizes to participate in the Scheme remains under its operational control, is fully familiar with the fishing activities being inspected and has been issued the credentials notified pursuant to this paragraph.

Exchange of Inspectors

- 13. Contracting Parties are encouraged to enter into standing or *ad hoc* arrangements to allow for an inspector, authorized by a Contracting Party, to be deployed on inspection vessels of another Contracting Party to facilitate communication and coordination for the purpose of implementing the Scheme.
 - a) Such arrangements should establish a process for the timely identification of the authorized inspection vessels involved and include provisions for the cooperative deployment of personnel and the use of vessels, aircraft or other equipment for fisheries surveillance and law enforcement purposes.
 - b) In addition to the notification requirements of paragraph 12, the Contracting Parties involved shall notify the Executive Secretary of any arrangement reached under this paragraph.
 - c) Contracting Parties deploying inspection vessels should, subject to having an agreement as outlined in this paragraph, embark authorized inspectors from another Contracting Party if available. Foreign inspectors may participate in all inspections conducted by the inspection vessel under this Scheme as agreed upon by the two Contracting Parties prior to deployment.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

- 14. The Executive Secretary shall,
 - a) establish, maintain and post to the secure part of the ICCAT website accessible to all Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities:
 - i) a register, including the information notified by the Contracting Parties under subparagraph 12.a; and
 - ii) information on the arrangements referred to in paragraph 13.
 - b) issue the ICCAT inspection flag or pennant depicted at **Annex 1** to Contracting Parties deploying inspection vessels pursuant to the Scheme;
 - c) maintain and post to the secure part of the ICCAT website a standardized multi-language questionnaire developed by Contracting Parties for use in contacting fishing vessels and conducting boarding and inspection activities pursuant to the Scheme.

Section IV: Inspections***Transparency and equitable treatment***

15. Inspection shall be conducted in a transparent, non-discriminatory manner taking into account, *inter alia*, vessel fishing patterns and compliance records, the presence of observers, the frequency and results of prior inspections, and the full range of measures available to monitor compliance with ICCAT Recommendations.

Priorities for inspections

16. The inspecting Contracting Party should give priority to inspecting a fishing vessel:
- a) entitled to fly the flag of a Contracting Party that is eligible for inclusion in the ICCAT Record of Fishing Vessels, but is not included;
 - b) where there are reasonable grounds to suspect the fishing vessel is, or has been, engaged in IUU fishing or in any activity in contravention of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
 - c) included in the list of vessels that have engaged in IUU fishing adopted by a regional or sub-regional fisheries management organization; or
 - d) pursuant to a request by a Contracting Party or a regional or sub-regional fisheries management organization supported by evidence of IUU fishing by the vessel in question.

Optimal use of inspection resources

17. Contracting Parties shall direct their inspection vessels to seek to establish regular contact with other inspection vessels operating in the same area for the purpose of sharing information on sightings, inspections and other operational elements relevant to their activities under the Scheme.

Non-Contracting Party Fishing Vessels and Vessels of Undetermined Flag

18. Notwithstanding the notification requirements of *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipments and Vessel Sightings* [Rec. 97-11], an inspecting Contracting Party that sights a fishing vessel without nationality or of indeterminate flag, engaged in fishing activities in the Convention area, shall report the sighting to the Executive Secretary, who shall forward the reports to all Contracting Parties. Consistent with *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipments and Vessel Sightings* [Rec. 97-11], where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that such a fishing vessel is targeting ICCAT species and is stateless, the inspecting Contracting Party may take such action as may be appropriate in accordance with international law.
19. In accordance with paragraph 4 of *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipments and Vessel Sightings* [Rec. 97-11], an inspection vessel that sights a non-Contracting Party vessel that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation and management measures shall immediately report such sighting to the authorities of the inspecting Contracting Party who shall notify the flag State of the fishing vessel and the Executive Secretary of such sighting. The Executive Secretary shall forward the reports to all Contracting Parties.
20. The inspection vessel shall, if possible, advise the Master of the sighted vessel that they are operating within the ICCAT Convention area and may be fishing contrary to conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT. Where practicable, the inspecting Contracting Party shall request permission from the flag State of the fishing vessel to board and inspect the fishing vessel. A report of the encounter and of any ensuing inspection shall be transmitted to the flag State of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary, who shall, in turn, forward the reports to all Contracting Parties.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

21. The Executive Secretary shall,
- a) upon receipt, immediately distribute to the Contracting Parties the reports received pursuant to paragraphs 18, 19, and 20; and

- b) compile, maintain, and post to the secure part of the ICCAT website a list of vessels reported pursuant to paragraph 18 and encounters and inspections reported pursuant to paragraph 20.

Section V: Boarding and inspection procedures

Conduct of inspections

22. An inspection vessel that intends to undertake boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel entitled to fly the flag of a Contracting Party pursuant to the Scheme shall:
 - a) seek to establish contact with the fishing vessel by radio, using the appropriate International Code of Signals or other internationally accepted means of alerting the vessel;
 - b) identify itself as an inspection vessel by communicating its name, registration number, international radio call sign and frequency;
 - c) advise the vessel of its intention to board and inspect the vessel pursuant to the Scheme;
 - d) initiate notice through its authorities to the point of contact of the fishing vessel; and
 - e) display the ICCAT inspection flag or pennant depicted in Annex 1 in a clearly visible fashion.
23. The inspection vessel and the inspectors shall make best efforts to communicate with the Master of the fishing vessel in a language that the Master can understand using the standardized multi-language questionnaire referred to in paragraph 14.c.
24. The number of inspectors assigned to an inspection party by the inspecting Contracting Party shall be determined by the commanding officer of the inspection vessel taking into account relevant circumstances. The inspection party should be as small as possible to conduct an effective inspection safely and securely.
25. Boarding and inspection shall be conducted:
 - a) in accordance with generally accepted international standards, regulations, procedures and practices relating to the safety of the fishing vessel and its crew; and
 - b) to the extent possible, in a manner that avoids:
 - i) undue interference with the lawful activity of the fishing vessel;
 - ii) actions that would adversely affect the quality of the catch; and
 - iii) harassment of the fishing vessel, its officers or crew.
26. In conducting an inspection pursuant to this Scheme, the inspectors shall:
 - a) upon boarding, present their credentials to the Master;
 - b) avoid interfering with the Master's ability to communicate with the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel;
 - c) inspect and record such images of the fishing vessel's license, gear, equipment, facilities, fish and fish products on board, and logbooks, records and documents as may be necessary to verify compliance with, or establish any suspected infringements of, the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
 - d) collect, and clearly document in the inspection report, any evidence of an infringement of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
 - e) record the inspection and any suspected infringement in the fishing vessel's logbook or, where the vessel's logbook is electronic, provide a written record of the inspection and any suspected infringement;
 - f) provide the Master with a copy of the inspection report;

- g) complete the inspection within four 4 hours unless evidence of a serious infringement is found, or where a longer time period is required to monitor ongoing fishing operations and obtain related documentation issued by the Master; and
 - h) except where they have reasonable grounds to believe that the fishing vessel has committed a serious infringement and other action is authorized pursuant to paragraph 41, promptly leave the vessel following completion of the inspection.
27. Where the inspectors have reasonable grounds to believe that the fishing vessel has committed an infringement of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations, they shall seek to so advise, without delay, any inspection vessel of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel that may be present in the vicinity.

Use of force

28. The use of force shall be avoided except when and to the degree necessary to ensure the safety of the inspectors and where the inspectors are obstructed in the execution of their duties. The degree of force used shall not exceed that reasonably required in the circumstances.
29. The inspectors shall promptly report any incident involving the use of force to their national authorities responsible for at-sea inspection, who shall advise the contact point of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel, and to the Executive Secretary.

Duties of the Master of the fishing vessel

30. Each Contracting Party shall require that the Master of every fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag:
- a) when signaled to do so by an inspection vessel displaying the ICCAT flag or pennant, using the International Code of Signals, accepts and, to the extent compatible with good seamanship, facilitates boarding by the inspectors, unless the vessel is directly engaged in fishing activities, in which case the Master shall manoeuvre to safely facilitate boarding as soon as possible;
 - b) provides a standardized boarding ladder that meets the requirements of IMO Resolution A.889(21) and ensures safety measures are in place to prevent and respond as required to an accident during boarding;
 - c) cooperates with and assists in the inspection;
 - d) facilitates the inspection of such equipment, catch, gear and documents as the inspectors may consider necessary to verify compliance with the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
 - e) ensures that the crew avoids interfering with, or obstructing the inspectors in the performance of their duties;
 - f) makes available the use of the vessel's communication equipment and operator, to the extent required by the inspectors;
 - g) facilitates communication by the inspectors with the crew and the flag Contracting Party of the inspection vessel;
 - h) provides the inspectors with reasonable facilities, including, where appropriate, food and accommodation;
 - i) takes such action as may be necessary to preserve the integrity of any seal affixed by an inspector and of any evidence remaining on board;
 - j) where the inspectors have made an entry in the logbooks, provides the inspectors with a copy of each page where such entry appears and, at the request of the inspector, signs each page to confirm that it is a true copy;
 - k) refrains from resuming fishing activity until the inspectors have completed the inspection and, in the case of a serious infringement, secured the evidence; and

- l) facilitates the safe disembarkation of the inspectors.

Refusal of boarding and inspection

31. Where the Master of a fishing vessel refuses to allow boarding and inspection pursuant to this Scheme, the inspecting Contracting Party shall immediately so advise the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and the Executive Secretary.
32. Upon receiving notification under paragraph 31, the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel shall:
 - a) except where generally accepted international regulations, procedures or practices relating to safety at sea make it necessary to delay the inspection, direct the Master to accept the inspection forthwith; and
 - b) where the Master does not comply with such direction:
 - i) order the Master to justify the refusal;
 - ii) where appropriate, take action in accordance with subparagraphs 40.a. and b; and
 - iii) promptly notify the Executive Secretary and the inspecting Contracting Party of the action it has taken.

Section VI: Inspection report and follow-up

Inspection reports

33. Each Contracting Party shall require that its inspectors:
 - a) upon completion of an inspection, complete an inspection report in the form set out in **Annex 2**;
 - b) sign the inspection report in the presence of the Master, who shall be given the opportunity to add or have added to the report any observations;
 - c) request the Master to sign the report only as an acknowledgement of receipt; and
 - d) before disembarking, provide a copy of the report to the Master, duly noting any refusal by the Master to acknowledge receipt.

Transmission and dissemination of inspection reports

34. Upon completion of the inspection, the inspecting Contracting Party shall transmit the inspection report, if possible within 30 days, to the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary.
35. Notwithstanding paragraph 34, where inspectors have noted an infringement in the inspection report, the inspecting Contracting Party shall transmit, within 10 days, a copy of the inspection report and all supporting documents, images or audio recordings, to the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

36. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, post the inspection report to the secure part of the ICCAT website.

Section VII: Procedures relating to serious infringements

Serious infringements

37. Each of the following constitutes a serious infringement:

- a) fishing without a valid license, permit or authorization;
- b) significant failure to maintain accurate records of catch or catch-related data in contravention of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations, or significant misreporting of catch or catch-related data;
- c) fishing in a closed area;
- d) fishing during a closed season;
- e) intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations;
- f) significantly exceeding applicable catch limits or quotas;
- g) using prohibited fishing gear;
- h) falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel or its gear, or failing to mark fishing gear;
- i) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence related to an inspection or investigation of an infringement, including the breaking or tampering of marks or seals, or accessing sealed areas;
- j) committing multiple infringements which, taken together, constitute a serious disregard of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
- k) assaulting, resisting, intimidating, harassing, interfering with, obstructing or unduly delaying inspectors or observers in the performance of their duties;
- l) tampering with, disabling, or interfering with the vessel monitoring system (VMS) of the fishing vessel where VMS is required by ICCAT Recommendations;
- m) operating a fishing vessel without VMS in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations;
- n) presenting falsified documents or providing false information to an inspector so as to prevent a serious infringement from being detected;
- o) fishing with the assistance of spotter planes in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations;
- p) failure to submit to an inspection;
- q) transshipping at sea in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations;
- r) operating a fishing vessel without an observer in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations; and
- s) such other violations identified as a serious infringement in future ICCAT Recommendations.

Duties of the Inspectors

38. Each Contracting Party shall require that, where its inspectors have noted a serious infringement in the inspection report, they:
- a) immediately notify their national authority responsible for at-sea inspection of all relevant particulars;
 - b) take all such measures as may be required to ensure the security and continuity of the evidence, including, as appropriate, marking or sealing the vessel's hold or gear for further investigation; and
 - c) where feasible, advise any inspection vessel of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel they know to be in the vicinity of the serious infringement and of the action they have taken.

Duties of the inspecting Contracting Party

39. Where notified by its inspectors of a serious infringement, the inspecting Contracting Party shall immediately transmit written notification of the serious infringement and a description of the supporting evidence to the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary.

Duties of the Flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel

40. Upon receiving notification pursuant to paragraph 39, the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel shall:

- a) acknowledge receipt of the notification without delay;
- b) require that the fishing vessel concerned:
 - i) ceases all fishing activity until it is satisfied that the infringement will not continue or be repeated and has so notified the Master;
 - ii) where appropriate to the conduct of a full and thorough investigation, to proceed immediately to a port or other location it designates for investigation under its authority; and
 - iii) report to the Executive Secretary the measures it has taken pursuant to its laws in relation to the infringement.

41. The flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel may authorize the inspecting Contracting Party to take such enforcement action as it may specify with respect to the vessel. It may also authorize an inspector from another Contracting Party to board or remain on board the vessel as it proceeds to port and to participate in the port inspection.

Failure of the flag Contracting Party to respond

42. Where the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel fails to take action as required pursuant to paragraph 40, the inspectors shall immediately so advise their national authority responsible for at-sea inspection and record the failure in the inspection report.

43. The inspecting Contracting Party shall notify the Executive Secretary of the flag Contracting Party's failure to respond.

44. The flag Contracting Party shall, without delay, provide to the Executive Secretary a written explanation of its failure to respond.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

45. The Executive Secretary shall,

- a) upon receipt, post any notifications received pursuant to paragraphs 39 or 42, and any explanation received pursuant to paragraph 44, to the secure part of the ICCAT website;
- b) transmit, upon receipt, the justification received pursuant to paragraph 44 to the inspecting Contracting Party; and
- c) maintain a record of actions reported by the flag Contracting Party pursuant to paragraph 40, post such record to the secure part of the ICCAT website, and refer the information to the Commission for its consideration.

Section VIII: Follow-up enforcement action

Cooperation

46. Contracting Parties shall cooperate to facilitate judicial or other proceedings initiated as follow-up to a report submitted by an inspector pursuant to the Scheme.

National treatment

47. Each Contracting Party shall:

- a) without prejudice to their national legislation, treat interference by its fishing vessels, their Masters or crew with an inspector or an inspection vessel of another Contracting Party in the same manner as interference with its own inspectors within areas under its national jurisdiction; and
- b) accord treatment to reports of inspections conducted by inspectors of another Contracting Party consistent with that accorded to reports of their own inspectors.

Duties of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel

48. A Contracting Party that has been notified of an infringement committed by a fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag shall:

- a) investigate immediately and fully, including as appropriate, by physically inspecting the fishing vessel at the earliest opportunity or, authorize the inspecting Contracting Party to take enforcement action as appropriate under the circumstances;
- b) cooperate with the inspecting Contracting Party to preserve the evidence in a form that will facilitate proceedings in accordance with its laws;
- c) if the evidence so warrants, take judicial or administrative action, as appropriate; and
- d) ensure that any sanctions applied are adequate in severity to be effective in securing compliance, deterring further infringements and, to the extent possible, depriving the offenders of the benefits accruing from the infringement, including, *inter alia*:
 - i) fines;
 - ii) seizure of the fishing vessel, illegal fishing gear and/or catches;
 - iii) suspension or withdrawal of authorization to fish; and
 - iv) reduction or cancellation of any fishing allocations.
- e) notify the Executive Secretary of the measures taken pursuant to this paragraph as soon as possible.

Section IX: Annual compliance report

Reports by the Contracting Parties

49. Each Contracting Party shall for the period ending on September 30 of that year, include in its annual report to the Commission, a summary of:

- a) the boarding and inspection activities it has conducted pursuant to the Scheme;
- b) the action it has taken in response to reported infringements by its fishing vessels, including any enforcement procedures and the sanctions it may have applied; and
- c) an explanation regarding every reported infringement concerning which it has taken no action.

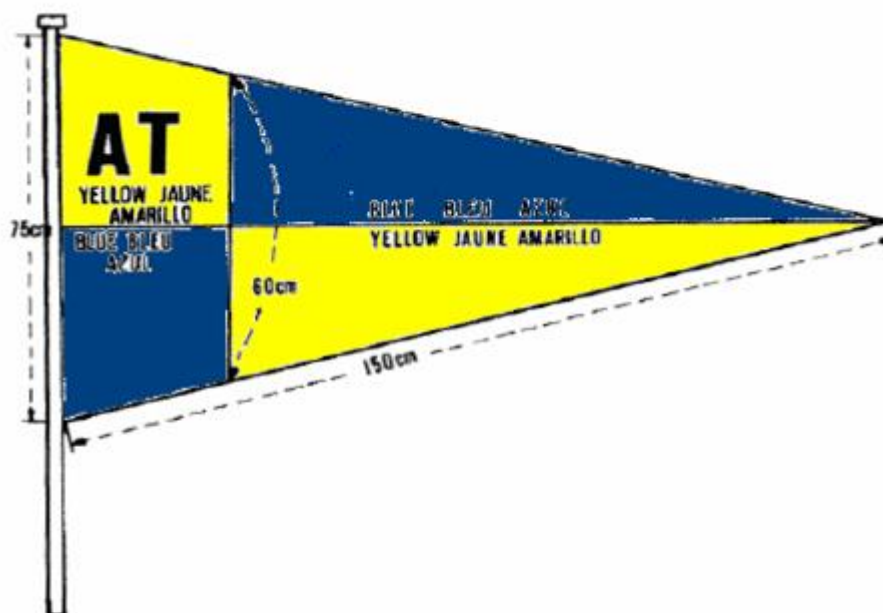
Report of the Executive Secretary

50. The Executive Secretary shall submit to the ICCAT Commission before each annual meeting a report setting out a description of:
- a) the boarding and inspection activities and follow-up actions taken, as reported by each Contracting Party, for the period ending September 30;
 - b) the instances where boarding and inspection was refused by a fishing vessel of a Contracting Party, and any follow-up action taken by that Contracting Party in respect of such fishing vessel; and
 - c) the cases where force was used including the reported circumstances thereof.

Annex 1

ICCAT Inspection Flag or Pennant

ICCAT Pennant



**Inspection Report
ICCAT Boarding and Inspection Report Form**

1. Inspection report No.		2. Inspection Vessel			
3. Inspecting authority					
4. Name of principal inspector		ID			
5. Location of inspection (as determined by inspecting vessel)	Lat.	Long.			
6. Location of inspection (as determined by fishing vessel)	Lat.	Long.			
7. Commencement of inspection	YYYY	MM	DD	HH	
8. Completion of inspection	YYYY	MM	DD	HH	
9. Last port and date of last port call			YYYY	MM	DD
10. Vessel name					
11. Flag State					
12. Type of vessel					
13. International Radio Call Sign					
14. Certificate of registry ID					
15. IMO ship ID, if available					
16. External ID, if available					
17. Port of registry					
18. Vessel owner(s) and address					
19. Vessel beneficial owner(s), (if known and different from vessel owner) and address					
20. Vessel operator(s), if different from vessel owner					
21. Vessel master name and nationality					
22. Fishing master name and nationality					
23. Vessel agent					
24. VMS	Type:				

25. Status in ICCAT and other RFMOs, including any IUU vessel listing					
Vessel identifier	RFMO	Flag State status	Vessel on authorized vessel list	Vessel on IUU vessel list	
26. Relevant fishing authorization(s)					
Identifier	Issued by	Validity	Fishing area(s)	Species	Gear
27. Catch retained onboard (quantity)					
Species	Product form	Catch area(s)	Quantity declared	Quantity retained (based on inspection)	
28. Examination of logbook(s) and other documentation			Yes	No	Comments
29. Compliance with applicable catch documentation scheme(s)			Yes	No	Comments
30. Compliance with applicable statistical document scheme(s)			Yes	No	Comments
31. Type of gear used					
32. Gear examined		Yes	No	Comments	
33. Findings by inspector(s)					

34. Apparent infringement(s) noted including reference to relevant legal instrument(s)
35. Comments by the Master
36. Action taken
37. Master's signature*
38. Inspector's signature

* The Master's signature serves only as acknowledgment of receipt of a copy of the inspection report.

**MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL eBCD WORKING GROUP (eBCD-TWG) [IMM-005A]
(EFCA, Vigo, Spain 21-22 January 2015)**

Summary Report

Introduction

This report serves as a summary of the above mentioned meeting and general report to the Commission on the overall status of eBCD system development and associated tasks and activities.

As in previous meetings, the majority of technical/policy items are presented in past reports including IMM-004/i2014 and PWG-407/2014, although a summary of new issues discussed in this meeting is included where appropriate.

This report is composed of a summary report and three annexes, as detailed:

- Summary report [this document];
- State of play of technical/policy issues, description and agreement (where applicable) (**Annex A**);
- Draft recommendation (**Annex B**) (this Annex B which was revised during the Tenth IMM meeting is not attached to the eBCD-TWG and the final version is attached as **Appendix 6** to the IMM Report.
- Initial list of possible system reports (**Annex C**).

The meeting was attended by representatives of Algeria, Canada, EU, Japan, Morocco, Tunisia, United States, the ICCAT Secretariat and TRAGSA.

Overall system development

As reported by the eBCD-TWG to the Commission in their 2014 Annual session, the system is operational; nonetheless, there are a number of issues, including the development and testing of certain core functionalities, still being addressed on different levels, by different actors including TRAGSA, and at different stages of implementation. As such the system's ability for it to be fully implemented depends on the CPC/user/fishing sector and the associated functionality required.

The recent contract extension with TRAGSA agreed by the Commission and signed in December 2014 has ensured the continuation of development, support and system infrastructure services. In general, outstanding development not pending a decision of the Commission is well on the way to being completed by TRAGSA although some further discussion/precision is required. Technical issues requiring additional clarification from the Technical Working Group will be addressed either through this report or forthcoming meetings of the Technical Working Group (tentatively scheduled a few weeks after the February Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group meeting).

As previously noted, some system development also requires direct inputs from CPCs or indeed the Commission itself. In general, those related to the Commission are referred to as policy issues and considered by the Technical Working Group to be issues which imply a variable interpretation, clarification, and/or amendment to existing ICCAT measures. Some issues are relatively minor and administrative while others relate to more substantive management and conservation issues.

The Group noted that the majority of the policy issues referred to the Commission from their January 2014 meeting still require a decision of the Commission. Without guidance from the Commission the eBCD Technical Working Group is unable to discuss and translate these into technical specifications for TRAGSA. Hence, in order to move forward and avoid development and implementation delays, the Technical Working Group stressed the importance of the next steps and where possible to make progress on these issues intersessionally including at the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group meeting. Nonetheless, the Technical Working Group made some constructive progress on all points during the meeting and provided options where possible (**Annex A**). In addition and in order to consolidate these issues and assist the discussions in the forthcoming Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group a draft proposal from the Chair is annexed (**Annex B**).

State of play on technical/policy issues

With the support of TRAGSA, the Technical Working Group performed a detailed examination of all pending issues reported by the TWG in previous meetings in particular those listed in PWG-407/2014, with a view to updating the current status of each and, if not completed, establishing a framework and specifications for resolving it.

Priority was given to the core issue of ‘E-BFT by-catch/W-BFT Trader’-a development item previously classified as urgent by the Technical Working Group in their September 2014 meeting.

This full list, together with the background, discussions and agreement (where applicable) is appended in **Annex A**. In order to make the list as clear as possible it has not been separated into technical and policy issues like was done in previous reports, but rather kept in the order they were treated (points 1-36 from doc IMM-007/14). New issues, such as those coming from the recent international test and/or raised by CPCs in the January 2015 Technical Working Group meeting are included at the end of the list (after point 36). The state of play, including who is responsible for the next step and follow-up action (i.e. CPCs, TRAGSA, IMM/COM etc.), is included in the last column together with an indication from TRAGSA on whether they consider any of the actions listed to require new development work or not.

As mentioned, in an effort to facilitate the discussions/decisions of IMM and the Commission and package the issues more efficiently, policy issues marked ‘Pending IMM/COM’ have been included in a draft recommendation (**Annex B**).

With reference to point 16 of **Annex A**, CPCs were encouraged to include/exclude their requested data reports in **Annex C** for onward transmission to the Technical Working Group and TRAGSA for discussion.

In addition, the Technical Working Group discussed the ability of the eBCD system to track quota consumption, and it was recognized that, to do this as accurately as possible, annual/seasonal quota limits for each CPC/vessels need to be entered into the system. It was noted that there can be adjustments to the quota limits established in ICCAT's allocation keys for some Parties and for various reasons (e.g., requirements to pay back over harvests; the possibility, in some instances, to carry over underharvests; the ability to transfer quota between Parties). In light of this, the Technical Working Group underscored the importance of having the latest information in the eBCD system. The Secretariat confirmed that the process of incorporating quota information was straightforward and could be undertaken at any time. The Technical Working Group noted that this matter could be considered further by the IMM Working Group.

Financial and contractual issues

State of play of contract extension with TRAGSA

Following the approval of the extension by the Commission to retain TRAGSA and ensure the continuation of system development in accordance with Rec.[13-07], the Secretariat informed the Technical Working Group that due to a lack of response and timeline from FAO/GEF on the date of a possible agreement, the Secretariat decided to go ahead with the contract extension in mid-December 2014 in order to ensure the continuity of the system infrastructure, hosting and user support.

The Technical Working Group were reminded of the procedure in the contract extension that applies to all new development work, summarised as follows:

- Technical specifications approved by the Working Group are sent to the Secretariat.
- The Secretariat requests from the Consortium a time/cost.
- TRAGSA evaluates the cost of analysis and development (hours/profile) and sends to the Secretariat.
- The Executive Secretary, following the final approval of the Technical Working Group, approves the expenditure and requests the Consortium to implement.

State of play of GEF/FAO support

The Technical Working Group recalled the decision taken in their September 2014 meeting that support from the GEF/FAO initiative would continue to be sought but not at the expense of a fully functional eBCD system. The Secretariat informed the Technical Working Group that consultations with FAO were ongoing concerning the development of an amended agreement in light of the contract extension with TRAGSA, funding requirements of GEF and contractual procedures of FAO.

Proposal for ‘International testing’

In light of the positive outcome of the last international test carried out in October 2014, it was agreed to plan another test. This shall be discussed and planned at the next meeting of the Technical Working Group for implementation in the 2nd quarter of 2015.

Training

It was agreed that a training schedule for 2015 in accordance with the provisions included in the contract extension would be discussed in the next meeting of the Technical Working Group.

AOB – Next meeting

It was agreed that another meeting(s) of the Working Group after the IMM meeting would be necessary in order to:

- transform decisions of the Commission into technical specifications under the ‘flexible component’ of the project extension with TRAGSA;
- plan another international test;
- organise the training programme, and,
- report on the overall implementation of the programme.

TRAGSA and the Secretariat were thanked for their active contribution and technical assistance.

Annex A

<i>TWG Agenda</i>	<i>Id. IMM 004/i2014</i>	<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS</i>	<i>STATUS</i>	<i>IMM or WG decisions imply new development?</i>
3	1	Interface with other domestic Electronic Reporting Systems	WG members will consult their national IT services and confirm if the Web Service already developed by TRAGSA meets their needs. It was agreed that members interested in using the Web service shall contact TRAGSA who will then liaise with their IT staff to define further needs. USA, EU, MAR, JPN and CAN already expressed their interest.	Pending TRAGSA/CPCs	Maybe
	2	Sport and recreational fisheries	Not discussed. Out of scope. Refer to Annex B.	Out of scope but IMM/COM discussion needed	No; Out of scope
	3	Domestic trade	Following on from the September 2014 eBCD TWG meeting, the 2014 Commission Annual Session and IMM, the EU indicated that discussions on this issue were ongoing. Linked with item 3.10. Refer to Annex B.	Pending IMM/COM	Maybe
	4	Tagging	As discussed in September 2014, a field to accommodate the 'range' of tag numbers for E-BFT was requested. Although developed, discussions by IMM/COM is needed to confirm if this is in accordance with tagging requirements for exemption from validation Rec.[11-20].	Closed but IMM/COM discussion needed	NO
	Further requirements may be needed following general discussions on ICCAT tagging programmes as referred to in the January and September 2014 eBCD TWG meetings. Refer to Annex B. (Note: CPCs with commercial tagging programs agreed to provide relevant information on those programs to facilitate discussion of this issue at the 2015 IMM WG meeting.)		Pending IMM/COM	Maybe	

	5	Treatment of dead fish [in purse seine fisheries]	<p>As discussed in the 2014 eBCD TWG meetings, E-BFT which have died in the set operation and/or transfer operations need to be entered into the system in accordance with the provisions of Rec.[11-20]. TRAGSA proposed three alternatives to accommodate this in the system although the first was discounted due to the requirement under Rec.[11-20] of 'one BCD per catch per flag'. It was therefore decided that, of the two remaining options, each CPC will choose their preferred option and train users accordingly, these being: * If the dead BFT is sold by the PS (retained on board until landing), then a trade is created directly from catch and these individuals need not be declared as dead tuna in the first transfer.* If the BFT is taken onboard auxiliary/support vessels and the dead BFT is included in the First Transfer section, all BFT caught must be live traded. The representative of the farm however may then trade BFT directly from the transfer section. Refer to Annex B.</p>	Pending IMM/COM	NO
	6	Joint Fisheries Operations	<p>This issue relates to the percentages used for the allocation key in JFOs, especially when the number of vessels is an odd number. It was decided that the CPCs will include in the key as many decimal places as necessary to achieve 100%. For BCDs already generated from previous operations for which there is a discrepancy in the totals (e.g. Croatia in 2014) it was agreed that TRAGSA will follow-up directly with the CPCs concerned and correct the errors. It was recalled that the JFO authorisation procedure is contained in the eastern plan (Annex 5 of Rec.[13-07/14-04]) hence a confirmation of this approach and/or amendment to this provision may be required. The previous request of the Group to also allocate number of pieces (only weight is now allocated by the system) was not discussed although it is recalled that this would require an amendment to [Rec. 11-20]. Refer to Annex B.</p>	Pending TRAGSA/IMM/COM	*

			With reference to W-BFT, the following improvements were requested/agreed:- Add a pop-up when the Catch is recorded and no tags are included. - To show in blue letters the text "Add tags" in the Catch section of WBFT, to indicate an interactive link- Modify the RS0030 requirement (Importer role functions WBFT) indicating that the role also can import BCDs of eastern Catches	Pending development	*
			With reference to E-BFT, the following improvements were requested/agreed with reference to the 'Non-listed vessels Registry': - Remove the individual quota field - Remove the functionality of monitoring by-catch quota of CPCs - Include a statement indicating that fields in italics are mandatory - Correct the error detected by DZA when editing the vessel's start date created by default by the system	Pending development	*
			Regarding the listing of vessels which catch BFT as by-catch as 'BFT-Other' vessels by MAR. Without prejudice to the decisions of IMM/COM and in order to facilitate system implementation by MAR, it was agreed that such vessels would not be authorised as 'BFT-Other' vessels in the future. In the meantime however the system shall facilitate catch entries by these vessels through a free text box and the generation of eBCDs. TRAGSA were requested to remove the current system block, however they did note that this was an important change in the requirements for the 'bycatch functionality' hence there will be a delay in this functionality (originally scheduled for January 26, 2015). Refer to Annex B.	Pending development, IMM/COM	*
	7	By-catch			
	8	Carry-over in farms	It was decided that all BCDs generated on paper before full implementation of the EBCD system shall continue to be completed on paper. If however the catch is recorded in the eBCD system, all following steps must be completed in eBCD.	Closed	NO

9	Inclusion of Pacific BFT and access by non-member CPCs	Although TRAGSA was made aware of some fields that may need to be incorporated into the eBCD system (as detailed in Appendix 4 of IMM 2014 Report), it was noted that a decision was needed from the Commission. TRAGSA were asked for the potential system implications. Although further analysis would be needed they informed the group that a new 'Stock' would be needed and also the creation of new users / entities. Tragsa stated the development could likely be a significant undertaking. This issue was discussed in September 2014 and is linked to the final decision on access by non-members and ICCAT Cooperating non-members (link with item 16). The TWG agreed that eventually the Pacific module should be developed but that this was not the highest priority with regard to ongoing system development. Refer to Annex B.	Pending IMM/COM	YES
10	Trade of <3/1 ton fish	The Group informed TRAGSA of the possible changes in light of Appendix 4 of the 2014 IMM report and the potential use of paper for some catches for up to 7 days. There were discussions on the codes currently used to differentiate paper BCDs from eBCDs. It was recalled that currently only the ICCAT Secretariat is able to convert paper codes to eBCDs (at a later date). Hence, in addition to final specifications following a decision of IMM/COM, the creation of permissions to other users may be needed (e.g. CPC Administrators). Refer to Annex B.	Pending IMM/COM	Maybe
11	Grouping, splitting and numbering	Not discussed	Closed	Closed
12	Document annexing	Not discussed	Closed	Closed
13	JFO 'multi-flag/trade' functionality	Not discussed	Closed	Closed
14	Multi-live trade	Not discussed	Closed	Closed
15	System capacity	TRAGSA informed the Group that they are working on improving server efficiency and the application itself and the results will be visible gradually	Pending Tragsa	*

16	Data extraction tool and general security/confidentiality requirements	It was noted in September 2014 meeting that such 'reports' have been developed but currently only following requests from the ICCAT Secretariat. It was therefore agreed that as the US had already created a draft list of their requested reports these would be distributed to the group in order that other CPCs may add their own requirements/requests (see Annex C).	Pending Request under flexibility allotment	YES
		It was agreed that CPC Administrators shall be able to view the information of CPC Validators authorized in other CPCs (Validators Report).	Pending development	*
		Given the need to ensure security and confidentiality of some data, which is also related to the question of overall access by non-members and ICCAT Cooperating non-members, there was no decision on what kind or even whether CPCs should be able to generate reports relating to other CPCs (e.g. quota consumption). Currently the system does permit quota consumption reports to be generated. Link with point 9. Refer to Annex B.	Pending IMM/COM	Maybe
17	Importer/Buyer field in Trade Section	It was agreed that the Trade section shall be validated prior to export, however not necessarily with the buyer information completed. There shall be no time limit in the system for the buyer information to be entered. The buyer information must however be entered before the fish covered by the BCD concerned can be re-exported. For this reason TRAGSA proposed the addition of a system alert when attempting to re-export a BCD for which the buyer information is empty. Refer to Annex B.	Pending development/ IMM/COM	*
18	User functionality	It was noted that further work was needed to improve user functionality including the removal of unnecessary fields, poor Spanish to English translation in several areas, allowing CPC Admin to correct minor errors on behalf of user registrations, more user friendly searches within databases for vessels, dealers, etc. In general, members were encouraged to check the lists (ports, gears, species, areas) and notify these to the TWG so TRAGSA could be instructed to make the improvements/deletions.	Pending TRAGSA/ CPCs	NO

	19	Requirement for additional/corrections to 'alert' functions	The alert when the 5% limit of minimum size (8 to 30 kg) is exceeded is only related to E-BFT, hence this shall be removed for W-BFT (RF0113.7). With reference to E-BFT it was recalled that this alert is not possible as the weight of each BFT to calculate the 5% is not a requirement. Furthermore, for tagged BFT, weight is not currently a mandatory field (only the tag code).	Pending development	*
			It was agreed that the system shall send a communication to the CPC / Flag Admin when a vessel exceeds its individual quota (but not a system block).	Pending Request under flexibility allotment	YES
	20	Conversion factors and biological parameters	It was noted that functionality related to this item is developed and hence any new conversion factors can be included in the system as and when agreed by the Commission. However, there were some basic logic checks that were identified with regard to total weight and product form in the catch section vs. total weight and product form in the export/re-export section. (see also item 32).	Pending COM	Maybe
	21	Editing functionality	<p>As discussed in September 2014 the TWG requested a number of functionalities related to editing in case of rejection, system logging of changes, who has access to that log and the possibility to choose a different validation entity. TRAGSA recalled that following a specific request it would be possible to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enable the system so that the user responsible for a section can edit it should it be rejected at validation. Following the amendment, 'send to validation' would be possible. Users can also select other validating entities to the one previously chosen. The changes made by these users will be reflected in the existing "Audit Changes" functionality (change log). 2. Enable the validator to audit changes so they can check the changes made by Admin or other users. 	Pending Request under flexibility allotment	YES

22	Regional Observer Programme	It was requested in September 2014 for the automatic sending of an email to the Regional Observer deployed on the farm when farming or harvesting is recorded. Not discussed - pending.	Pending WG	*
23	Farm user view of trade section	Closed	Closed	*
24	Format of eBCD printed version	As discussed in the September 2014 meeting, the possibility of include the option to "print one side" was requested, but not as a priority, also to reduce the number of pages by not requiring each section to be printed on separate pages, finally the 'optional' facility for printing annexes.	Pending Request under flexibility allotment	YES
25	Translation of eBCD system (comments ENG version)	The following requests/changes were agreed but may not be comprehensive:- Replace "novelties" for "new developments"- Replace "organisms" for "organizations"- Rewrite the "Notice" area to make it more clear- Replace "catch responsible" for "catch representative" - Replace "Accidental Vessels" for "Non-Listed Vessels" - Replace "Trade Responsible" with "Trade Representative" - Remove language on the CPC User welcome page that references "Such as: overcoming the CPC fee or a specific ship, revocation of permits, etc."	Pending development	*
26	Registry of trade agents	Closed	Closed	*
27	Role of CPC administrator	Closed	Closed	*
28	Other general improvement issues	Closed	Closed	*
29	Transshipments	Closed	Closed	*
30	General issues associated with traders and registrations	Closed	Closed	*

31	Re-export certificate	It was noted that when 'batches' are generated from more than one BCD (without using all the BFT from each BCD) the system cannot create alerts to indicate when the quantities in the BCDs have been exceeded. It was noted that the problem could be solved if 'kgs' of BFT re-exported from each Trade is indicated. Also when the BFT in one BCD is used in more than one 'batch', the re-exporter can keep re-exporting the fish from the same BCD (if each time he uses a new batch). There was however no agreement/solution on this point given the existing requirements of Rec.[11-20]. Pending.	Pending WG	YES
		The WG requested that the system permits the re-export of only one BCD without the need for a 'batch'.	Pending Request under flexibility allotment	YES
		The WG requested a free text field when the type of product re-exported is 'Other'	Pending development	*
32	Issues specific to the W-BFT fishery/WG members	The WG requested in the September 2014 meeting to limit the trade of more fresh products than those indicated in the previous section. Pending: see also item 20.	Pending Request under flexibility allotment	YES
		The WG requested in the September 2014 meeting to only include the 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections. This also applies to the transshipment section in the E-BFT. (i.e. 'gutted and gilled' cannot be followed by 'whole'). Not discussed - pending.	Pending WG	Maybe
33	Non-traded BFT	Closed	Closed	Closed
34	Trade before validation	The CPC concerned indicated that these situations will not be repeated and hence no system development is needed.	Closed	Closed
35	Trade companies of other country	Item included in Appendix 4 of the report of IMM May 2014. Refer to Annex B.	Pending IMM/COM	Maybe

	36	Parallel transfers from a live trade	<p>It was discussed in the September 2014 meeting that following a single transfer, the user should be able to include more than one tug and ITD. To accommodate this practice two additional fields were proposed (kilos and number of kilos transferred) for each towing cage. It was noted however that this would impact on the current provisions of Rec.[11-20]. Also this would potentially impact the systems ability to calculate the amount of BFT that may be caged after catch / live trade and the options to record and trade the dead BFT (see item 5 above). It was agreed that this functionality is needed, although following decisions of the Commission further specifications/analysis may be needed before it is developed. Refer to Annex B.</p>	Pending IMM/COM	YES
3.1	Use of Production environment in 2015		<p>Following a specific request from TRAGSA the following CPCs expressed their interest in using the production environment in May 2015: EU, TUN and JPN. Some others indicated an interest to begin using the production system at some point in 2015. TRAGSA reminded members that to do so they must receive an updated version of excels with users and entities. Following an issue of some test BCDs being found in the production version, the WG requested TRAGSA to investigate such cases and report to the Secretariat/WG. Members were also urged to check with TRAGSA to report/remove such BCDs.</p>	Pending Tragsa and CPCs	*
3.2	BFT dead in caging		<p>In the caging section of the current version it is possible to enter the number and weight of dead BFT, however this cannot be traded. TUN reported this in the production version for an imported JPN eBCD in which dead tuna in caging was recorded. JPN noted that they would accept BCDs in which not all the BFT caged is traded, however there would be a possible issue concerning the inconsistency of numbers/weights between catching, caging and trading. TRAGSA proposed three potential solutions for this issue :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Include the dead BFT on the last transfer and trade them from that section. 2. Create a harvesting and a trade after the caging. (This raised an issue about the need for an ROP observer to be present as they are required at harvest from cages.) 3. Modify the system to allow adding a Trade section of dead fish just after the caging section. Refer to Annex B. 	Pending IMM/COM	Maybe

3.3	Requirements of 'Port Authority'	The WG agreed that the role of 'port authority' shall have permits to create new non-listed vessels in the system. This profile however does not need to have permits to create trades and transshipments. It was noted, this was only relevant for the E-BFT stock.	Pending development	*
3.4	Ports Registry- Use of ports in transshipment section	TRAGSA explained that the lists of ports currently in the system is the same for both E-BFT and W-BFT as published on the ICCAT website, although in principle this list only affects E-BFT. It was discussed how likely transshipments would occur of W-BFT in ports not included in the list. It was decided that for transshipments of W-BFT, a free text field for the port name shall be included.	Pending Request under flexibility allotment	YES
3.5	Access to BCDs by CPC Administrators of towing vessel's flags	TRAGSA recalled an issue raised by MAR following the international testing. MAR noted that a CPC Administrator of the CPC of a tug boat can access BCDs of other CPCs when a tug boat of his CPC is selected in transfer section. TRAGSA explained that this was possible as Rec. 11-20 states that the master of the transport vessel must have access to transfer section to add the dead fish during transfer. It was decided that access permits to towing vessels CPC Administrators are removed.	Pending development	*
3.6	Modifications for new users/roles profiles by the CPC Administrator	Following requests from US and CAN it was agreed that the system shall allow CPC Administrators to modify the data of a user/role application to correct possible errors.	Pending Request under flexibility allotment	YES
3.7	Correct problems with Internet Explorer	JPN indicated that their users have found various problems when using the system with some versions of IE. TRAGSA requested further details in order to investigate/correct.	Pending development	*
3.8	Joint validation of Catch, Live trade and Caging when vessels and farms belong to the same CPC.	EU requested the possibility to delay the requirement to validate the CA and LT sections until after the Caging in cases where the flag of the vessel and the farm is the same. Further requirements and consideration are needed. Refer to Annex B.	Pending IMM/COM	YES

3.9	Joint validation of Harvesting and Trade	EU requested that the system allow the harvesting and trade sections to be entered/sent at the same time; thus, following the ROP signature at harvesting, the system sends both sections to validation. Further requirements and consideration are needed. Refer to Annex B.	Pending IMM/COM	YES
3.10	Trade between Member States of a CPC	Following a request from EU, the TWG discussed the system implications on a 'control' (rather than 'validation') for trades of dead fish (i.e., excluding live trades events to and from farms) between member states of the EU. Further consideration and requirements are needed. Linked with item 3. Refer to Annex B.	Pending IMM/COM	YES
3.11	Grouping BCDs in Trade section	MAR requested the development of a functionality that allows the 'grouping' of BCDs for small-scale fishery catches from the trade section (when traded together). Further requirements and consideration are needed, although TRAGSA did state that the functionality may be similar to that currently used in caging (once the original BCDs are grouped, new sections can only be added to the new grouped BCD). Still, TRAGSA indicated that this could be a substantial development. Refer to Annex B.	Pending IMM/COM	YES
3.12	BFTRCs exempted of validation	Following a request from US, the TWG discussed the removal of the obligation to validate BFTRCs when the bluefin tuna is tagged and is to be re-exported in the same form (product type and weight). Further requirements and consideration are needed. Refer to Annex B.	Pending IMM/COM	YES
3.13	Multi-trade following export	TUN requested guidance on who/how will have responsibility of system access and validation when there are further trade(s) which take place outside the CPC territory.	Pending IMM/COM	Maybe

eBCD System Data Queries Suggested by USA

It is suggested that capabilities be developed in the eBCD system that will allow CPCs to run at least the following queries of the eBCD system. These queries would be run by CPCs for information purposes and viewed only by the CPC making the query (those CPC(s) involved in the trade(s)/events concerned). Distribution of query results beyond the CPC in question should not be allowed unless specifically authorized by the CPC conducting the query. Note that a query is not a report. CPCs, however, could develop the results of queries into reports as considered necessary and appropriate by that CPC.

1. Date Range / Specific Importer(s) / Total kgs
2. Date Range / Specific Importer(s) / by Country of Harvest / Total kgs
3. Date Range / Imports / by Country of Harvest / Total kgs
4. Date Range / Specific Exporter(s) / Total kgs
5. Date Range / Specific Exporter(s) / by Country of Destination / Total kgs
6. Date Range / Exports / by Country of Destination / Total kgs
7. Date Range / Exports / by vessel (of the CPC running the query) / Total kgs
8. Date Range / Re-exports / Total kgs
9. Date Range / Re-exports / Country of Destination / Total kgs
10. Carryover of farmed fish
11. BFT farming report
12. eBCD annual report
13. Summary of caging information

**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 [Annex B IMM-005B]**

(Submitted by Chair of 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.

Appendix 7

MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL eBCD WORKING GROUP (eBCD-TWG) [IMM-011] (Madrid, 26 February 2015)

Summary Report

Introduction

The eBCD-TWG met on the margins of the Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) to discuss the Chairs proposal (IMM-005/i2015, Annex B).

Discussions (by paragraph):

1. In light of their internal provisions and treaty for free trade the EU explained the importance of avoiding barriers for bluefin tuna traded between EU Member States. They recalled that existing domestic trade provisions were requested by the EU and introduced into the BCD programme at a time of increased control requirements from the live trade/farming sector; control requirements which no longer exist following the introduction of a number of provisions directed to this sector in the eastern bluefin tuna plan in recent years, in particular the use of stereoscopic cameras at the time of caging.

It was agreed that such a regime would not apply to farmed fish and hence the reference to farmed products should be removed.

There was a general consensus on the objectives being sought and members agreed to further discuss as well as identify and specify exactly what information would be required to be entered into the system and under what time delays.

The need to retain 'validation' in the eBCD system was considered necessary by some members although there could be flexibility on whether this would be required prior or post trade. The additional control benefit of this however in light of other control provisions and existing verification procedures was questioned.

2. No discussion
3. It was explained that some eastern bluefin tuna fleet sectors in particular baitboats, fish under the minimum size derogation of Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the *Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 14-04] and hence the requirement to enter individual weights and presentation for each tagged bluefin tuna was not practical, especially for larger catches. It was recalled that this was not an existing requirement of *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program* [Rec. 11-20].

The original specifications for domestic tagging programmes introduced alongside the bluefin tuna statistical document programme were recalled. The importance of such standards was noted to ensure validation was derogated only when all such requirements were fully respected. It was agreed to further reflect and discuss on the overall objectives of tagging programmes and, if necessary, adapt these standards to the specificities of some fleets.

It was confirmed that such a regime would not apply to farmed fish and hence this reference should be removed.

4. There were concerns raised on the control obligations and associated difficulties this would bring to re-exporting CPC authorities when confirming if there has been changes in the product form/weight prior to re-export.
5. General agreement.
6. No substantive discussions, although the need to correctly refer to ‘non-authorised vessels’ as ‘vessels not fishing actively’.
7. Given the lower property associated to the inclusion of Pacific bluefin tuna into the eBCD system as previously agreed, it was proposed to simply refer to the ongoing use of paper BCDs for trades of Pacific BFT until such time as the functionality would be developed to fully accommodate Pacific BFT into the eBCD system.
8. No substantive discussions, although there was a preference to group all the paragraphs and situations that permit the ongoing use of paper BCDs, namely paragraphs 8, 12 and 14.

It was recalled that currently only the ICCAT Secretariat is able to convert paper BCDs into eBCD hence further user CPCs authority profile(s) may be needed to also carry out this task to avoid administrative burdens for the Secretariat.

9. No substantive discussions, although additional time was needed for reflection in light of the current provisions of Rec.[11-20].
10. Considered more appropriate to move to the recitals.
11. As previously discussed this provided the possibility to ‘group’ multiple catches of relatively small quantities by artisanal fisheries at the time of export. It did not derogate the need for validation of the catch section and would be similar in functionality to the current provisions provided for farming in paragraph 6 of Rec. [11-20]. Given that such catches could be undertaken by vessels fishing ‘actively’ and ‘non-actively’, some minor drafting would be needed.
12. No substantive discussions - linked with point 8.
13. No discussion.
14. No substantive discussions - linked with point 8 and 12.
15. No discussion.
16. It was considered necessary to accommodate the initial list provided under Annex C of IMM-005/i2015 and existing confidentiality considerations of CPCs concerned and ICCAT.

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT SUPPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATION
FOR AN ELECTRONIC BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT (eBCD) SYSTEM [IMM-004]**

(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* [Rec. 13-17] which stated that “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 March 2016] 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.
2. All CPCs concerned shall, as soon as possible for full eBCD system implementation referenced in paragraph 1, 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. 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.

4. The eBCD programme shall be fully implemented as soon as feasible and no later than [1 March 2016], unless the Commission determines otherwise based on demonstration of significant problems with the design or functionality of the system. Even before the date, each CPC is encouraged to use eBCD system voluntarily if the system is functional enough for the CPC.
5. The substantive provisions of Recommendation 11-20 will be applied *mutatis mutandis* to the electronic BCDs.
6. This recommendation repeals and replaces Recommendation 13-17.