

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNASCOMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUECOMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Madrid, 29 October 2025

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 10654 / 2025**SUBJECT: FEASIBILITY STUDY ON TECHNOLOGICAL MIGRATION OF THE eBCD SYSTEM AND OPTIONS FOR MULTI-SPECIES EXTENSION (DRAFT CALL FOR TENDERS)**

During the 18th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM), held in Brussels (Belgium) from 17 to 20 June 2025, the group requested the ICCAT Secretariat to prepare a draft Call for Tenders for a feasibility study on the technological migration of the eBCD system and options for its multi-species extension. This draft was agreed to be circulated among CPCs for their review, with a view to presenting it for consideration by the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) during the 29th Regular Meeting of the Commission, to be held in Seville (Spain) in November 2025.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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Attachment: Draft Call for Tenders prepared by the ICCAT Secretariat and referenced annexes.

Call for Tenders – Terms of Reference
Feasibility study on technological migration of
the electronic catch document (eBCD) system and options for multi-species extension

1. Background and Objectives

ICCAT adopted in 2007 a paper-based Catch Documentation Programme (BCD) to ensure traceability of Atlantic bluefin tuna from capture to end-market distribution. The BCD consisted of separate sections (Catch, Transfer, Farming, Harvesting and Trade), to be completed by operators and validated by the relevant Flag, Trap or Farm State. Validation by Flag State authorities certified that the products recorded in each section had been caught and transferred in accordance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.

In light of the above, ICCAT has implemented the eBCD system for Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, replacing the former paper-based scheme pursuant to the [Recommendation by ICCAT on an electronic bluefin tuna catch document programme \(EBCD\) \(Rec. 10-11\)](#) (Annex 1). The eBCD allows traceability of bluefin tuna from capture to the final trade transaction, improving reliability, monitoring and control.

The current application runs on a legacy .NET framework which has reached end-of-support by Microsoft. A migration to a modern, sustainable technology (to be proposed by the Contractor) is therefore required. The selected technology shall allow straightforward updating and ensure the longest possible operational lifetime. Consequently, the ICCAT Secretariat is launching this Call for Tenders to commission a feasibility study on the technological migration of the electronic Catch Documentation (eBCD) system.

Additionally, the [Recommendation by ICCAT on establishment of a Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group \(CDS WG\) \(Rec. 23-22\)](#) (Annex 2) has established a mandate to extend the CDS beyond bluefin tuna to other species. In light of this, this Call addresses two sequential objectives: (i) a feasibility study recommending the most appropriate migration path and available options for the current eBCD, ensuring continuity of its existing functionalities; and (ii) a feasibility study evaluating the options for a multi-species CDS, namely whether to extend the migrated eBCD or to develop a new system.

Note: For the purpose of this Call, the term “offeror” is used to designate any entity submitting an offer. This term is equivalent to “bidder” or “contractor” as may appear in ICCAT Recommendations referenced in the Annexes (e.g. [Rec. 10-11](#) and [Rec. 23-22](#)).

2. Deliverables

No deliverables are foreseen under Phase 1 (Expression of Interest). Deliverables apply exclusively to shortlisted offerors under Phase 2.

2.1 Technical Feasibility Study Report

Each shortlisted offeror shall prepare and submit a **Technical Feasibility Study Report**, as part of their complete offer, setting out the detailed methodology, assumptions, workplan and timetable for the project. The report shall also cover the tasks, requirements and functionality described in **Annex 3** and **Annex 4¹**, and shall include, at a minimum:

I. The technical report, containing:

- a) A **Technical Due Diligence Report**, which shall provide a full review of the current eBCD system, including source code, architecture, database schema, integrations, deployment processes and security.

- b) A **Migration Options Report**, which shall present a comparative analysis of possible migration strategies (upgrade, re-platform, refactor or rebuild), with the associated risks, costs and indicative timelines.
- c) A **Target Architecture and Migration Roadmap**, which shall set out the recommended technological pathway, including scalability, maintainability and long-term sustainability measures.
- d) A **Security and Compliance Assessment**, which shall demonstrate alignment with recognised standards and with ICCAT requirements.
- e) An **Options Report for a multi-species CDS**, which shall evaluate whether to extend the migrated eBCD or develop a new system for other species.
- f) An **Executive Summary**, not exceeding ten pages, which shall provide a concise overview of the main findings of the Technical Report.

II. A PowerPoint presentation of the main findings

2.2 Final Feasibility Study Report

From among the **complete offers** submitted under Phase 2, ICCAT will select the successful offeror and award the contract. Upon contract signature, the contractor shall prepare and submit a **Final Feasibility Study Report**, incorporating the comments and revisions requested by the Steering Committee in consultation with the ICCAT Secretariat.

The final report shall consolidate and refine the contents of the Technical Feasibility Study Report included in the offer, taking into account the feedback provided. Acceptance of this final report by the Commission will constitute the basis for the completion of the project and the release of the final payment.

3. Contractor Minimum Qualifications

Offerors must provide evidence of compliance with the following minimum qualifications:

- **Proven multi-year expertise in modernising and migrating enterprise applications** from legacy .NET or equivalent frameworks, with evidence of successful delivery of projects of similar size and complexity.
- **Demonstrated experience in the design and operation of secure, high-availability transactional systems**, including practical knowledge of large-scale data migration, system integration, and resilience planning.
- **Documented experience in preparing and delivering feasibility studies** or technical assessments for international or public sector organisations, ideally within the fisheries, compliance or resource management domains.
- **Excellent working knowledge of English**. Sound knowledge of the two other ICCAT official languages (French and Spanish) is highly desirable.

In addition, the following elements will also be positively evaluated:

- **Evidence of relevant past projects**, particularly those carried out for intergovernmental organisations or within highly regulated international environments.
- **Demonstrated reliability of proposed tools, methodologies and procedures**, showing that these are practical, tested and suitable for the project at hand.
- **Provision of in-kind contributions by the bidding entity(ies)**, such as access to proprietary technologies, technical expertise or additional resources that would support the successful implementation of the contract.

4. Submission of offers

4.1 Phase 1 – Expression of interest

Companies, consortiums, and public or private scientific/research institutes interested shall submit an initial expression of interest only to the attention of the Executive Secretary of ICCAT, [Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel](#), and copying [Ms. Ana Martinez](#) by [yyyy-mm-dd] (18:00h Madrid time) at the latest.

This initial submission must include the following documentation, sufficient to allow ICCAT to verify compliance with the **minimum qualifications set out in Section 3**:

- a) **Detailed curricula vitae** of the tenderer(s), partners and subcontractors, evidencing relevant references and documented experience, including recent and comparable projects, in order to demonstrate compliance with the minimum qualifications required under this Call
- b) **The name, address and contact details** (including telephone and email) of the tendering body.
- c) **The institutional and administrative background** of the tendering body, if applicable (e.g. statutes, type of institution, budget, budget control procedures, etc.).
- d) **A declaration that all staff, including subcontracted personnel, are covered by full insurance** for all tasks to be carried out under this Call for Tenders, thereby excluding ICCAT from any responsibility concerning the work performed by each offering institution.
- e) **Acknowledgement of this Call for Tenders** in its entirety.
- f) **A statement specifying the extent of agreement** with all the terms, conditions and provisions included in this Call.

Based on this documentation, ICCAT will assess whether the offerors meet the minimum qualifications described in Section 3 and will establish a shortlist of candidates deemed technically and administratively suitable.

Expressions of interest submitted after the deadline or failing to provide the required documentation or information, or that reject the terms and conditions of this Call for Tenders, shall not be considered.

4.2 Phase 2 – Complete offers

Only those entities shortlisted by ICCAT after the evaluation of Phase 1 will be invited to submit their complete technical and financial offers. These must be submitted by [yyyy-mm-dd] (18:00 Madrid time) to



COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

the attention of the Executive Secretary of ICCAT, [Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel](#), and copying [Ms. Ana Martinez](#).

4.2.1 Familiarisation period

Prior to the submission of their complete offers, shortlisted offerors will be granted a **familiarisation period** to review the application, the source code, manuals, and the full set of technical documentation, and to become fully acquainted with the business context and operational logic of the system. ICCAT will provide access to test environments and, where strictly necessary and feasible, to the production environment, under appropriate confidentiality arrangements.

This period shall encompass:

- a) **Access provisioning and documentation handover:** during which ICCAT will grant access to all necessary materials (application, source code, manuals, technical and functional documentation, and test environments, and, where strictly necessary and feasible, the production environment) and respond to initial data requests.
- b) **Due diligence and system familiarisation:** during this period, shortlisted offerors shall analyse the delivered materials in depth, perform exploratory testing, review manuals and documentation, consult with ICCAT where necessary, and, if required, interview key stakeholders in order to map functional modules and identify potential migration challenges.

This familiarization period forms part of the overall timeframe leading to the submission deadline of complete offers.

4.2.2 Submission of complete offers

The complete offers must include the following documentation, in sufficient detail to allow a full evaluation of compliance with the requirements of this Call for Tenders:

- a) **A detailed technical offer**, covering the **tasks (Section 1)** and **technical requirements (Section 2)** described in **Annex 3** of this Call, as well as the functionalities outlined in **Annex 4**¹. The offer must include the proposed methodology and workplan, together with a timetable aligned with the indicative durations foreseen. It shall also provide a structured feasibility study addressing the technological migration of the current eBCD system and assessing options for its extension to a multi-species Catch Documentation Scheme.
- b) **A preliminary estimated budget**, expressed in EUR and including all applicable taxes (e.g. VAT). The budget must provide a clear breakdown by deliverable, indicating personnel costs (including estimated number of workdays), overhead, travel and subsistence, consumables, equipment, system setting and maintenance, and subcontracts, if any.
- c) **Updated curricula vitae**, if applicable, of the offeror(s), partners and subcontractors, including relevant references and documented experience, with particular emphasis on projects comparable in scope and complexity to the present Call.
- d) **A detailed list of any subcontracting activities**, specifying the tasks to be performed and the entity(ies) responsible.

¹ Only those entities shortlisted by ICCAT following the evaluation of Phase 1 will be provided with Annex 4 in order to submit their complete technical and financial offers.



COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

ICCAT will evaluate the complete offers received under Phase 2 in accordance with the selection criteria set out in Section 7. The contract will be awarded to the successful offeror whose offer best meets the technical, administrative and financial requirements of this Call.

Complete offers submitted after the deadline, or failing to provide the required documentation or information, or that reject the terms and conditions of this Call for Tenders, shall not be considered.

Offerors should be available, if requested, to attend and report to meetings convened by ICCAT during both the pre-selection and evaluation phases. Online attendance will be accepted.

5. Duration of the contract

The work under this contract shall be concluded by [yyyy-mm-dd] at the latest.

6. Payment details

Disbursements will be made according to the following schedule:

- 30% of the total contract amount upon signature of the contract and after receiving a regular invoice, which may be submitted within a maximum of 30 days following the contract signature.
- 70% of the total contract amount after the provision and acceptance by the Commission of the **Final Feasibility Study Report**. This report shall consolidate and refine the Technical Feasibility Study Report included in the successful offer, incorporating comments and revisions requested by the Steering Committee in consultation with the ICCAT Secretariat (if applicable). Payment will be subject to the approval of the administrative documents, together with the regular invoice, within 10 days after the notification of acceptance of the final report.

7. Selection of offers

All offers will be subject to review by the ICCAT Secretariat. The evaluation will follow a two-phase process, in accordance with Section 4 of this Call.

7.1 Phase 1 – Expression of Interest

Expressions of interest received under Section 4.1 will be reviewed by the ICCAT Secretariat to verify compliance with the minimum qualifications established in Section 3. Based on this assessment, ICCAT will establish a shortlist of offerors deemed technically and administratively suitable to proceed to Phase 2.

7.2 Phase 2 – Complete Offers

Only shortlisted offerors will be invited to submit complete technical and financial offers as described in Section 4.2. These offers will be evaluated competitively, objectively and consistently, without bias towards any supplier.

The contract will be awarded to the successful offeror whose complete offer is considered the most advantageous overall, taking into account both technical and financial criteria.

Complete offers will be evaluated against the following weighted criteria:



COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

- a) **Technical merit**, including the adequacy of the methodology, assumptions, workplan and timetable, and the quality of the Technical Feasibility Study Report (30%).
- b) **Expertise and proven track record** of the offeror, partners and subcontractors in comparable projects (25%).
- c) **Cost-effectiveness**, based on the proposed budget breakdown and overall value for money (25%).
- d) **Flexibility to accommodate future changes in requirements** (10%).
- e) **Provision of in-kind contributions** to the project budget, if any (10%).

The ICCAT Executive Secretary will notify the successful offeror as soon as the selection process is completed.

8. Logistics

Deliverables must be in MS Office compatible format. All documents must be in English. The contractor should be available to attend (online participation possible) meetings convened by ICCAT.

9. Confidentiality

The contractor must sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA). Information and materials made available by ICCAT must be kept strictly confidential and used only for this contract.

10. Conflict of interest

Impartiality, objectivity, and integrity will be ensured in the management and provision of services, avoiding any situation in which employees, family members, friends, or other companies or individuals with a relationship of interest outside the professional relationship could be favored.

11. Copyright

All material produced by the Contractor shall remain the property of ICCAT. Any software developed by the Contractor under this contract shall be licensed under a Community Licence, granted exclusively to ICCAT Contracting Parties, relevant regional organisations, or their duly accredited contractors.

For additional information concerning this Call for Tenders, please contact [Mr. Miguel Neves dos Santos](#) and [Mr. Alberto Parrilla](#) at the ICCAT Secretariat.

10-11

SDP

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON AN ELECTRONIC
BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT PROGRAMME (eBCD)**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the multi-annual recovery plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna.

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 and the creation of automated links between Parties including exporting and importing authorities.

RECOGNIZING the necessity to develop and strengthen the implementation of the bluefin tuna catch documentation by the implementation of an electronic document system.

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

An electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation System (eBCD) shall be developed and maintained at the ICCAT Secretariat covering all bluefin tuna caught, farmed, harvested and traded.

The technical specifications of the eBCD system along the lines of the concepts presented in the enclosed document together with full details of its implementation shall be developed by the Secretariat in collaboration with CPCs through the formation of an eBCD Working Group.

This Working Group shall meet throughout 2011 and discuss in detail which elements shall be developed by the Secretariat, based on their experience and management of other databases such as the ICCAT Record of Vessels, and those that will need to be undertaken by outsourced technical services.

On this basis the development and testing of the system will proceed under the guidance of the Working Group so as to be completed prior to the 2011 annual meeting.

The *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 08-12 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program* [Rec. 09-11] shall then be amended at the 2011 annual meeting so that the eBCD system is fully operational by 1 March 2012.

The Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation (BCD) Programme – The way forward through the development of an electronic BCD system (eBCD)

1. Background

As part of the measures to sustainably manage eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, improve the quality and reliability of statistical data and prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, ICCAT adopted in 2007 a catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna entitled the blue-fin catch document (BCD) which must accompany bluefin tuna products from catch to trade.

Each BCD is composed of different sections (catch, transfer, farming, harvesting, trade) which must each be completed by concerned operators and subsequently validated by their flag and/or farm States. By validating, flag State authorities confirm that the products referred to each section of the BCD have been caught and transferred in accordance with appropriate conservation and management measures.

The programme has, however, suffered from a number of shortcomings which have been discussed during the 2009 ICCAT annual meeting as well as the 2010 intersessional Compliance Committee, which if not improved could weaken the management of E-BFT particularly within the purse seine and farming sectors.

In light of the discussions at the Second Joint Meeting of Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations in San Sebastian, Spain, in 2009 which concluded that minimum standards or best practices for catch document systems should be adopted, and in the context of the draft recommendation for an electronic catch document pilot programme proposed by the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures in Madrid, Spain in February 2010, the framework in ICCAT for technological developments to the BCD programme are well founded.

2. Current situation

The BCD programme is currently 100% paper based with validation authorities, seals, signatures and numbers provided by flag CPC authorities and registered with ICCAT.

A number of sections must be completed by operators while others by the competent validating authorities. The provisions of ICCAT Recommendation [09-11] require a copy of a BCD to be sent to the ICCAT Secretariat by the CPC authorities within five days of validation.

The EU considers the main problems associated with the programme to date include, but are not limited to:

(1) Delays in validation

Issues have been observed in the validation procedures associated with the relevant sections of the BCD. This concerns both delays in validation as well as the order in which the validations have taken place.

(2) Traceability

This specifically relates to where there have been variations in the numbers of individual eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna throughout the supply chain, particularly the case in live trade and split shipments (lots).

(3) Security / confidentiality of information

The lack of real-time centralisation of information cannot safeguard its integrity and confidentiality.

(4) Errors and unreadable entries

There are also cases, often due to faxed or scanned copies, where the entries have become unreadable and impossible to verify. Alternatively, there are cases where data has been entered incorrectly and/or in the wrong field.

3. The way forward

In light of recent developments in electronic information exchange, processing and management it is clear that electronic systems can improve the BCD Programme through the treatment of shipments (lots), the ability to detect fraud and deter IUU shipments and the facilitation of automated links between the various actors involved including exporting and importing authorities.

Alongside the deficiencies in the Programme, there is therefore the need through technological advances to strengthen and further develop the BCD Programme.

An electronic BCD system should be developed and maintained at the ICCAT Secretariat to ensure the legitimacy of actions and data related to the programme which will also facilitate enhanced monitoring and control at the critical control points.

4. Technical overview of the eBCD system

An electronic BCD system (eBCD) should involve a central database at the ICCAT Secretariat that can only be accessed by secure web-based technology by each respective 'actor'¹ involved in the catching, farming, harvesting and trading of bluefin tuna.

The online BCD form used by each actor will have the same appearance and be completed in the same way as the paper version.

The rights and obligations of each actor will be strictly related to their role in the BCD Programme by way of secured access or administrative rights, i.e. such that a validating authority can only validate, while a fisherman can only enter catch data.

The access to the system will be based on standard technology and users need only have an internet connection (with the required security installed). Alternatively, the system should be able to receive data automatically provided by catch information systems in the CPCs, for example systems managing electronic logbook data.

The system will be progressive in accordance with the known traceability of bluefin tuna, so for example the farming section cannot be filled in before the catch section is completed and subsequently validated. See **Figure 1**, which represents the basic flow of information and involvement of the different 'actors' within the BCD Programme.

The system can be customised for error and/or non-compliance prevention, so for example catch can only be recorded weighing between 8 and 500 kgs can be entered or catch can not be validated in a closed season / area.

The system should be linked with other ICCAT information sources such as the Record of Vessels, so that only those vessels authorised and active can report a catch. Likewise, other sources like the VMS Registry or the list of Joint Fishing Operation repartition keys could be linked to the eBCD system.

As there is a requirement for the BCD to follow the fish, it can be envisaged for a user to print out and display the BCD number and/or barcode on a shipment/lot. This BCD number barcode identifier could then be cross-checked by an inspector, who need only log onto to the secure ICCAT website. The compliance aspects / features should be further discussed between CPCs (e.g. prior authorisations could be dealt with by the system).

An important element of the system will be dedicated to managing the user accounts with the login name, password, contact details and/or security certificate. Every actor should receive one or more user accounts associated to their rights in the eBCD system. Every CPC shall manage the user accounts dedicated to them.

For the actors themselves, they will obtain the necessary information and/or security certificate from the system in order to start using the eBCD system simply with a default internet connection and web browser.

Account details and security certificates will also need to be implemented for automatic data exchange, for which the uniform data exchange format needs to be developed.

¹ 'Actors' refer to operators (fisherman, farms) and/or their representatives and validating authorities.

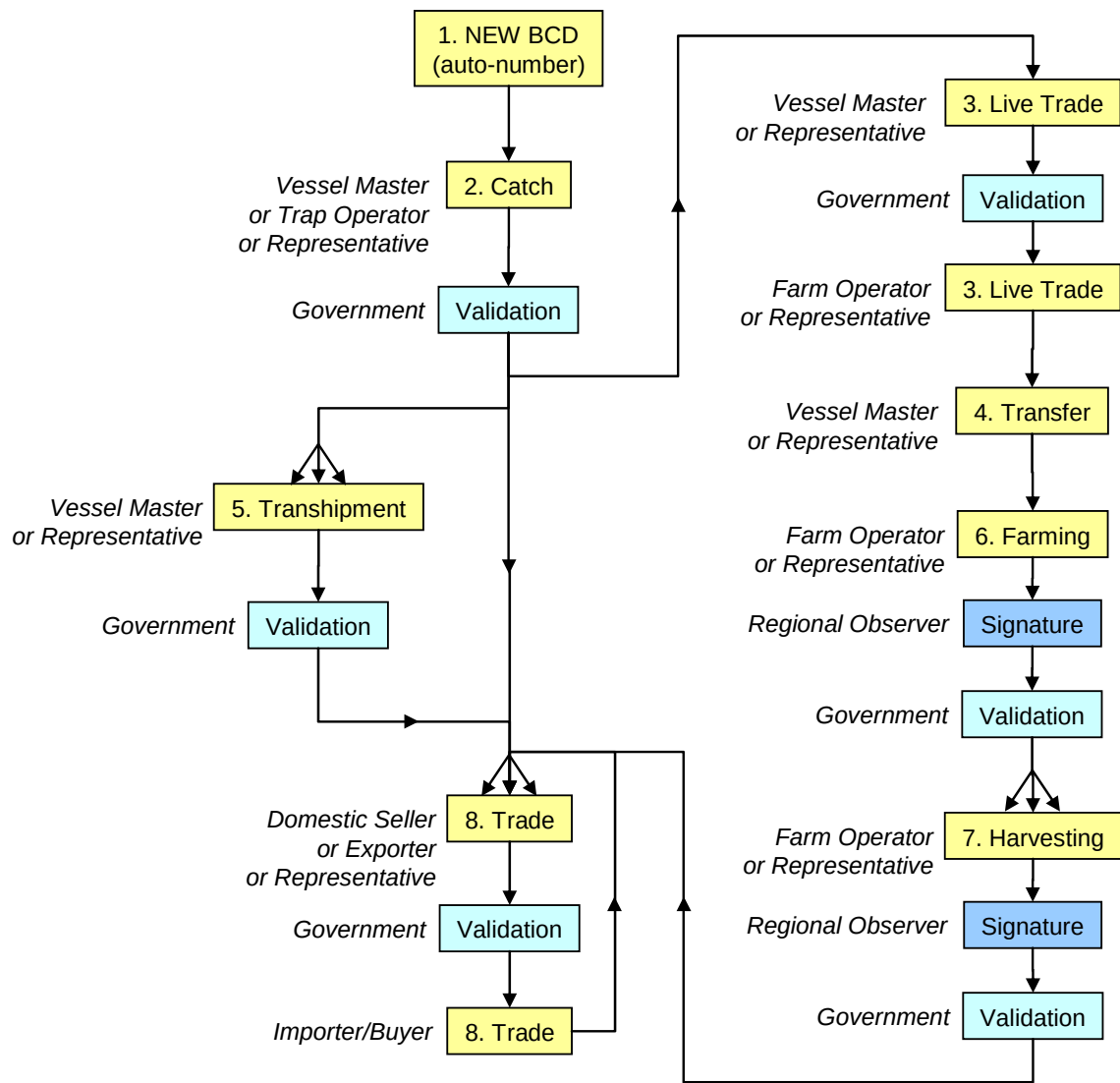


Figure 1. Basic flowchart of BCD sections with related actors.

5. Example actions and related actors:

Each 'action' in the system has different applications, each of which has its own actor's specific to it. Below are a number of example actions:

- **Validating:** after the completion of the catching, farming, trading and harvesting sections, a validating authority must validate the content before the eBCD can pass to the next actor.
- **Inserting** a new quantity into the system: can only be done by fishermen or trap owners which by doing so generates a new BCD and unique BCD ID number.
- **Transmitting:** actors like transfer vessels or transport companies cannot amend the entries relating to the quantities of bluefin tuna reported caught, but only complete transmit them to the next actor. Farming is a specific case as the number of individuals will remain equal while the weight increases.
- **Splitting:** Includes fish processing so the catch is split in different products, also splitting of shipments for different trade destinations.
- **Combining:** contrary to splitting, several batches of tuna could be combined into one before continuing the trade.
- **Exiting:** usually when the fish is sold on the market, it exits from the eBCD chain and becomes inactive nonetheless the data remains on the eBCD database.

The system should also have an 'alerting' function, such that each actor is alerted by means of an email which will direct them (URL link) to the eBCD system.

6. Advantages of the eBCD system

The electronic system will manage all aspect of the eBCD programme, also the printed BCD numbers which accompany the fish.

In general the eBCD system will look to improve the following:

- Copying, scanning, emailing etc.
- Delays in sending BCDs for validation
- Errors and poor quality entries
- Encoding of BCD data (within CPCs or by Secretariat)
- Non-compliance
- Administrative burden.

As mentioned, the system could be further expanded for control purposes and allow connections with other systems.

7. Way forward

The EU proposes that a system be discussed and agreed with a view to developing system specification and/or minimum standards, which could assist the Secretariat in the development of the system. External technical services may also be needed for some aspects of system development.

Following the agreement of the Commission, the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 08-12 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program* [Rec. 09-11] will then be revisited at the 2011 annual meeting with a view to incorporating the eBCD system.

Given the time required for the development and testing it is realistic to envisage the system being operational in 2012.

It would be more appropriate to have a instantaneous switch-over as opposed to a phased approach, consequently 1 March 2012 would be a suitable date for the system to go online as this date in the context of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna Recovery Plan this represents the beginning of the campaign (submission date for authorised vessel lists, annual fishing plans).

The ICCAT Secretariat shall therefore establish an ICCAT eBCD system so as to be fully operational by 1 March 2012.

23-22

TOR

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A
STANDING CATCH DOCUMENT SCHEME WORKING GROUP (CDS WG)**

RECALLING that ICCAT agreed at the 2019 Annual Commission meeting that detailed discussion should be continued without prejudging the future course of development of Catch Document Schemes (CDS);

FURTHER RECALLING that the Ad Hoc Working Group on CDS, established by the *Resolution by ICCAT Establishing an ICCAT Working Group on a Catch Document Scheme* (Res. 21-21), exchanged views among CPCs on the expansion of CDS to other ICCAT species;

RECOGNIZING the ever-increasing market demand for fishery products whose legality are verified;

NOTING the successful development and implementation of an electronic bluefin tuna Catch Documentation Scheme in ICCAT;

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a process towards the establishment of a catch certification scheme for tuna and tuna-like species* (Rec. 12-09);

EMPHASIZING the need to implement a risk-based approach with respect to CDS;

MINDFUL of the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes adopted by FAO in 2017, which set out guidance to States, RFMOs, regional economic integration organizations, and other intergovernmental organizations when developing and implementing new CDS, or harmonizing or reviewing existing CDS;

RECOGNISING that the Convention amendment process consisted of two parts, *i.e.*, the first part focused on the review of the Convention and the second part focused on developing specific amendments, and a similar two-step approach could be a good way to proceed with the discussion on this issue;

NOTING the concern that the number of Working Groups has been increasing and the need to streamline the work of the Commission;

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

1. A Standing Catch Document Scheme Working Group (CDS WG) shall be established. The CDS WG shall also incorporate the function of and replace the eBCD Technical Working Group, which includes review of the technical specifications of eBCD and possible improvements.
2. The CDS WG is open to all CPCs and accredited observers.
3. The CDS WG will elect its own Chair.
4. Simultaneous interpretation in the three ICCAT languages (English, French, Spanish) will be provided during the meetings of the CDS WG.
5. The CDS WG shall first consider which species and the product types should be covered by any CDS, taking into account the factors specified in paragraph 1 of Rec. 12-09. With a view to facilitating the implementation of any expanded CDS by CPCs, a phased/step-by-step approach should be considered, including technical approach. The CDS WG will then decide on details of the operational and technical aspects of the CDS, based on the information/views provided by CPCs, particularly regarding practical and technical considerations with respect to the design and implementation of any CDS, including the following:

- a) What practical and technical difficulties exist with respect to the design and implementation of CDS and how they might be overcome;
 - b) Whether it is feasible and appropriate to expand the eBCD system to other species, or if developing a separate electronic system is more appropriate;
 - c) What capacity development programmes for developing CPCs may be needed to support their implementation of any expanded CDS;
 - d) How to avoid duplication with existing national and international schemes and reducing the workload of exporting CPCs, if possible; and
 - e) How to ensure compatibility between CDS being developed or implemented in other tuna RFMOs.
6. The CDS WG shall also deal with technical issues related to the eBCD and possible expansion of the eBCD to other species if considered the appropriate tool.
 7. The CDS WG shall, as far as possible, identify the key components to facilitate the implementation of any expanded CDS, including taking into account the special needs and requirements of developing CPCs, in both the design and implementation of such schemes, among others.
 8. From 2024 to 2026, the CDS WG shall hold a meeting at least once a year unless otherwise decided by the Commission. If the CDS WG is held in-person, it should preferably be held in conjunction with an intersessional meeting, particularly the IMM Working Group, so that the Meeting Participation Fund can be efficiently utilized to support the participation of developing CPCs. If the CDS WG is held in conjunction with an IMM Working Group meeting, the total duration of these two meetings should be no more than five days, unless otherwise decided by the Commission. The CDS WG may meet to discuss technical issues related to the eBCD whenever the Chair of the CDS WG considers it necessary and logistically feasible.
 9. The CDS WG will, if appropriate, develop and submit a draft recommendation on any expanded CDS to the 2026 Commission meeting or earlier, if possible. If the CDS WG cannot submit the draft recommendation in 2026, it shall propose a new workplan to the Commission for approval.
 10. This Recommendation shall repeal and replace the *Resolution by ICCAT establishing an ICCAT Working Group on a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)* (Res. 21-21).

Minimum Tasks and Technical Requirements for the eBCD Technological Migration Feasibility Study and Multi-Species Extension Options

1. Minimum Tasks to be covered in the offers

The following tasks shall be addressed by all offerors in their complete offer:

- **Conduct a comprehensive technical due diligence** of the current eBCD application, including a full review of the source code, system architecture, database schema, integration points, build and deployment processes, and the security model in place.
- **Review in detail all existing functionalities**, ensuring that each of the current modules - such as registrations, validations, trade flows, reporting, certificates, authorisations, observer and inspector data, and user and entity management, will be fully preserved following the migration process.
- **Analyse the different migration strategies available** (upgrade, re-platform, refactor or rebuild), and provide a thorough assessment of the respective risks, anticipated costs and likely implementation timelines associated with each option.
- **Propose a clear target architecture and migration roadmap** that guarantees the future system remains scalable, maintainable, compliant with ICCAT standards and resilient under operational conditions.
- **Assess the evolution of the database design and structure** required to enable a multi-species CDS, while at the same time safeguarding the continuity of all existing bluefin tuna-related processes and records.
- **Prepare a comparative cost-benefit analysis** of the proposed migration options, presenting the advantages, disadvantages and long-term implications of each alternative.
- **Identify the human and technical resources necessary** for both the migration phase and for subsequent operation, maintenance and technical support of the system.
- **Develop and maintain a comprehensive risk register**, identifying potential threats to the success of the project and proposing concrete mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate these risks.
- **Prepare a detailed options analysis for the extension of the CDS**, comparing the approach of adapting the migrated eBCD system to cover multiple species with the alternative of developing a new, dedicated application.

2. Technical Requirements

The complete offer must specifically address the technical specifications of the eBCD system. Access management (profiles/roles), together with the system's main functionalities, are outlined in Annex 4.

The following specifications shall be taken into consideration:

2.1 Software application development

2.1.1 Unique eBCD number and grouping/splitting

Each eBCD shall have a unique number (code number) following a format that identifies year, country code and sequential number of BCD by Contracting Party or Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing

Entity (CPC). This number shall be the main index for access, input and verification purposes. The unique eBCD number, however, must allow possibly combining and creating a “group BCD” from different eBCDs, or to split a BCD in the case of split catch disposition. An example of combining BCDs is related to Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs): A unique eBCD number should be generated for each vessel participating in JFOs but the system should allow for those BCDs to be combined into one group BCD. Another special case involves the allocation of a partial catch originating from a single BCD in a farm harvest. In this case, the BCD must be split to enable a BCD to accurately represent the partial catch. Based on recent records, the system handles over 25,000 eBCDs and more than 23,000 BFTRCs annually (e.g. in 2024: 25,437 eBCDs and 23,442 BFTRCs), with volumes expected to continue increasing year by year.

2.1.2 Roles and rights (users and permissions)

Define roles/rights for user groups including, at least: vessel master; trap operator; vessel representative; port authority; CPC validator; importer/buyer; exporter/seller; regional observer; CPC administrator; farm operator; and master administrator. Access is restricted to registered users with credentials. The roles and rights of some users may require being modified depending on the function or the stage of process of the eBCD. For example, initial catch can be input by a vessel operator initially, but once verified by a CPC official, it will be not possible to make any changes to the catch information.

2.1.3 Regional Observer Programme (ROP) data

Allow digital input of Regional Observer Programme data verification for each fishing operation, as established by [*Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 22-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean \(Rec. 24-05\)*](#). Certain fields shall be accessible based on user rights; privileged verifications shall require secondary authentication.

2.1.4 Interoperability with ICCAT databases via API-based data exchange

The eBCD system shall interoperate with ICCAT systems through secure APIs, if possible, ensuring synchronization of relevant datasets (e.g., Record of vessels, authorised farms list, CPC validator lists, importers/exporters, compliance items). In case of inconsistencies, the system shall issue warnings or block actions as appropriate. The eBCD shall also allow data exchange with other eBCD systems (e.g., CPC platforms) via secure API-based interfaces.

2.1.5 Web front-end and languages

The front-end shall be web-based with translation in ICCAT’s three official languages (English, French and Spanish), with standard display across machines and multiple browsers.

2.1.6 Security model

Login and user rights grouped by roles; permissions mapped to data objects enforcing the security policy. Access shall be via secure channels (https).

2.1.7 Traceability and audit

Record and retain the traceability of operations on each eBCD: user, timestamp, access level, and changes made.

2.1.8 Validation layers

Provide multiple levels of validation for each BCD generated, including: email notifications to designated recipients on defined actions (e.g., alert CPC validators when a new eBCD is created); internal data validation; ensuring UTC-based dates, quantities aligned with ICCAT Recommendations, and consistent units of measure.

2.1.9 Reporting

Generate reports by user role and allow users to create, print and save summaries, consolidation and monitoring reports (e.g., total catch per week per CPC).

2.2 Infrastructure considerations and Contractor involvement

2.2.1 Web access capacity

The hosting provider must ensure 24/7 web access for multiple users (historically up to 100 simultaneous users). The Contractor will notify the hosting provider in case access problems are detected.

2.2.2 Backup and redundancy

The hosting provider is expected to guarantee backup and redundancy. In case of failure, a mirror system will remain operational until the main system is restored. The Contractor should request from the hosting provider the recovery of backups that the ICCAT Secretariat considers necessary.

2.2.3 Hosting and traffic management

The hosting provider needs to supply infrastructure capable of supporting multiple simultaneous users, with load balancing and acceleration under high demand. The Contractor will inform the hosting provider of performance issues so that appropriate actions can be taken.

2.2.4 ICCAT Secretariat connectivity

The hosting provider is to provide secure high-speed connectivity with the ICCAT database/network. The Contractor will coordinate with the ICCAT Secretariat and the provider whenever connectivity problems arise.

2.3 Human resources and technical support requirements

2.3.1 Training and support

Provide comprehensive training and user support for both ICCAT Secretariat staff and CPCs, covering all aspects of the eBCD system, including its various functionalities and data entry requirements. The provider should also demonstrate the capacity to deliver ongoing user support once the application is deployed in production.

2.3.2 Technical documentation

Provide detailed description of database, software algorithms and structure, including formats and relations with ICCAT auxiliary databases; supply help materials and procedures manual.

2.3.3 HR assessment

Review and report on human resources required for proper operation of the eBCD: to run the system, produce summaries, provide technical support, and respond to enquiries and reporting needs.

2.3.4 User guidelines

Develop user guidelines (in multiple languages) with example models for operability and information on minimum computer and browser requirements.

eBCD Functionality

Index

1. Access Management for eBCD	4
1.1. eBCD Profiles	4
1.2. eBCD Roles: Each eBCD profile can have multiple associated roles, depending on the different tasks each user can perform.....	5
1.3. Functionality of Each Profile: Each eBCD profile has access to the following system functionalities, which are identified in the application menu.....	6
1.4. Functionalities for access without credentials in eBCD.....	9
2. eBCD Functionalities	10
2.1. Home.....	10
2.2. New BFTRC.....	11
2.3. Group BCDs	11
2.4. New BCD.....	11
2.5. BCD and BFTRC Registration — Convert BCD.....	12
2.6. BCD and BFTRC Registration — BCD Query	13
2.7. BCD and BFTRC Registration — Convert BFTRC	13
2.8. BCD and BFTRC Registration — BFTRC Query.....	13
2.9. BCD and BFTRC Registration — Search by Label.....	13
2.10. BCD and BFTRC Registration — Search by Batch	14
2.11. BCD and BFTRC Registration — Convert Grouped BCDs.....	14
2.12. BCD and BFTRC Registration — Change Audit.....	14
2.13. BCD and BFTRC Registration — Upload Captures and Initial Trades	14
2.14. User Administration — New!.....	15
2.15. User Administration — Query.....	15
2.16. User Account Modification.....	15
2.17. User Administration — Request Management.....	15
2.18. Change Signature Password.....	15
2.19. Certificate Management — Requests	15
2.20. Certificate Management — Certificate Query	16
2.21. Certificate Management — Change Password.....	16
2.22. Certificate Management — Email Sending.....	16
2.23. Current Authorizations (JIS)	17
2.24. Capture Reports — Weekly Capture Report	17
2.25. Capture Reports — Monthly Capture Report.....	17
2.26. Capture Reports — Annual BCD Report.....	17
2.27. Trade Reports — Query Total Imported Kg	17
2.28. Trade Reports — Query Total Exported Kg.....	18
2.29. Trade Reports — Query Total Re-exported Kg	18
2.30. Trade Reports — Basic Trade Statistics.....	18
2.31. Trade Reports — PAR 1 Rec 06-13 — Imported Products	18
2.32. Raw Data by Section — Raw Data by Flag.....	19
2.33. Raw Data by Section — Raw Data by BCD.....	19
2.34. Raw Data by Section — Traceability Help.....	19
2.35. Raw data by section--Carry-Over Report.....	19
2.36. Raw data by section--Entities and users	20
2.37. Raw data by section--Authorized validators	20

2.38.	Raw data by section--BCDs and BFTRCs issued.....	20
2.39.	Raw data by section--Fattening capacity report.....	20
2.40.	Raw data by section--Results of the Requested Reports.....	20
2.41.	Vessels with ICCAT No.—Query.....	20
2.42.	Vessels without ICCAT Number—New.....	21
2.43.	Vessels without ICCAT N ^o —Query	21
2.44.	Traps— Query	21
2.45.	Farms— Query.....	21
2.46.	Authorized Ports—Query.....	21
2.47.	Company—New.....	22
2.48.	Company— Query	22
2.49.	Validating Entities—New	22
2.50.	Validating entities—Consultation.....	22
2.51.	Agencies—New	22
2.52.	Agencies—Query.....	22
2.53.	ICCAT Regional Observers—New	22
2.54.	ICCAT Regional Observers—Query	23
2.55.	JIS ICCAT Inspectors—New	23
2.56.	JIS ICCAT Inspectors—Consultation	23
2.57.	JIS ICCAT Inspectors--Renew Authorization	23
2.58.	JIS ICCAT Inspectors--Results Synchronization	23
2.59.	Campaign—New.....	23
2.60.	Campaign—Query	23
2.61.	JFO--JFO Query	23
2.62.	Help--Help Videos.....	24
2.63.	Help--Documents and Manuals.....	24
2.64.	Help—Templates	24
2.65.	Help--Safety Tips.....	24
2.66.	Help--Process Management.....	25

Document Objective

The objective of this document is to describe the functionality of the existing eBCD as of the date of the document and the processes managed within this information system.

1. Access Management for eBCD

1.1. eBCD Profiles

Currently, the eBCD has the following system access profiles.

Code	Name
ADCPC	CPC Administration Responsible
ADFLAG	Country Administration Responsible
ADMNCP	NCP Administration Responsible
ADREAD	Query Administrator
ICCAT	ICCAT Secretariat
JIS	JIS Inspectors
OBSERV	Observer
RCATCH	Capture Responsible
RCONV	BCD/BFTRC Conversion Responsible
RFARM	Farm Responsible
RPORT	Port Responsible
RTRAD	Trade Responsible
RTRANS	Transport Responsible
RTRNCP	NCP Transport Vessel Representative
RVALID	CPC Validation Responsible
RWBFT	WBFT Trade Responsible

1.2. eBCD Roles: Each eBCD profile can have multiple associated roles, depending on the different tasks each user can perform

[illegible]

1.3. Functionality of Each Profile: Each eBCD profile has access to the following system functionalities, which are identified in the application menu.

FUNCTIONALITY	PROFILE															
	ADCPC	ADFLAG	ADMNCP	ADREAD	ICCAT	JIS	OBSERV	RCATCH	RCONV	RFARM	RPORT	RTRAD	RTRANS	RTRNCP	RVALID	RWBFT
Home	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
BCD and BFTRC Registration																
New BCD	X	X						X			X					X
Convert BCD					X			X								
BCD Query	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
New BFTRC	X	X	X									X				X
Convert BFTRC					X				X							
BFTRC Query	X	X	X	X	X				X			X			X	X
Search by Label	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Search by Batch	X	X	X	X	X				X			X				X
Group BCDs	X	X								X						
Convert Grouped BCDs					X				X							
Change Audit	X	X	X	X	X											
Upload Captures and Initial Trades	X	X			X											
User Registration																
User Administration																
New!	X	X	X		X											
Query	X	X	X	X	X											
Request Management	X	X	X		X											
Certificate Management																
Requests					X											
Certificate Query	X	X	X	X	X											
User Account Modification							X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Change Password	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Change Signature Password							X									
Email Sending					X											
Reports																
Capture Reports																
Weekly Capture Report	X	X		X	X											
Monthly Capture Report	X	X		X	X											
Annual BCD Report	X	X		X	X											
Trade Reports																
Query Total Imported Kg	X	X	X	X	X											
Query Total Exported Kg	X	X	X	X	X											
Query Total Re-Exported Kg	X	X	X	X	X											
Basic Trade Statistics	X	X		X	X											
PAR 1 Rec 06-13 — Imported Products	X	X		X	X											

FUNCTIONALITY	PROFILE															
	ADCPC	ADFLAG	ADMNCP	ADREAD	ICCAT	JIS	OBSERV	RCATCH	RCONV	RFARM	RPORT	RTRAD	RTRANS	RTRNCP	RVALID	RWBFT
Raw Data by Section																
Raw Data by Flag	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Raw Data by BCD	X	X		X	X			X	X	X		X			X	X
Traceability Help	X	X		X	X					X		X			X	X
Carry-Over Report	X	X		X	X					X						
Entities and Users	X	X	X	X	X											
Authorized Validators	X	X		X	X											
Issued BCDs and BFTRCs					X											
Farm Report					X											
Results of Requested Reports	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Records																
Vessels with ICCAT No.																
Query	X	X		X	X			X	X		X					
Vessels without ICCAT No.																
New	X	X			X				X		X					
Query	X	X		X	X			X	X		X					
Traps																
Query	X	X		X	X			X	X							
Farms																
Query	X	X		X	X		X		X	X						
Authorized Ports																
Query	X	X		X	X				X	X						X
Companies																
New	X	X	X		X				X							
Query	X	X	X	X	X				X			X				X
Validating Entities																
New	X	X	X		X											
Query	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Agencies																
New	X	X			X											
Query	X	X		X	X				X							
ICCAT Regional Observers																
New					X											
Query	X	X		X	X				X							
ICCAT JIS Inspectors																
New					X											
Query					X											
Renew Authorization	X	X	X		X											
Synchronization Results					X											
Campaign																
New					X											
Query					X											

FUNCTIONALITY	PROFILE															
	ADCPC	ADFLAG	ADMNCP	ADREAD	ICCAT	JIS	OBSERV	RCATCH	RCONV	RFARM	RPORT	RTRAD	RTRANS	RTRNCP	RVALID	RWBFT
Current Authorizations (JIS)						X										
Current Authorizations (OBSERV)							X									
JFO																
JFO Query	X	X		X	X				X							
Help																
Help Videos	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Documents and Manuals	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Templates	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Security Tips	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Process Administration					X											

1.4. Functionalities for access without credentials in eBCD

There are some functionalities that do not require credentials for access. These are public functionalities:

FUNCTIONALITY	PROFILE
Security Tips: Reduce the Risk of Phishing	ALL
Request an Account	ALL
Account Request Status	ALL
Password Recovery	ALL

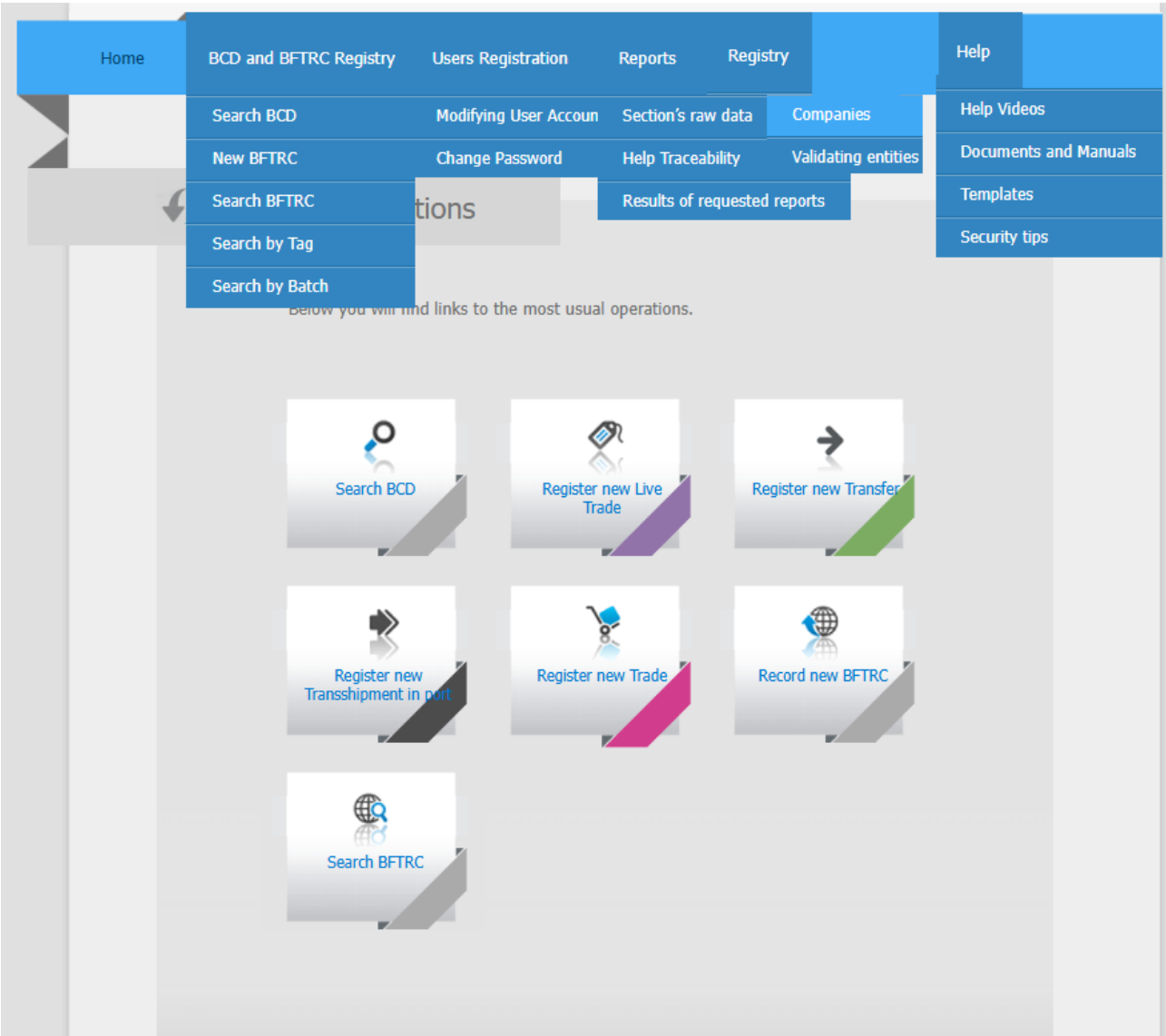
2. eBCD Functionalities

2.1. Home

The eBCD home screen appears differently depending on the profile accessing the system. Not all profiles have access to all system functions; therefore, the home page is different for each profile.

The description of the functions available for each profile can be found in the table included in section 2.3 of this document.

As an example, the home screen for a Trade Responsible profile is shown below:



2.2. New BFTRC

This functionality allows the registration of a bluefin tuna re-export in the system.

The following roles have access to this functionality: CPC Administrator, Flag Administrator, Non-CPC Administrator, Trade Responsible, and WBFT Trade Responsible.

In this function, the following information is recorded:

- Re-export details: date, country, and re-export location.
- Re-exporting company: name, address, signature, and date of signature.
- Description of imported bluefin tuna: three options are available — use a previously re-exported BCD/BFTRC, create a new batch for re-export, or re-export a single BCD/BFTRC using its eBCD number or trade identifier.
- Description of bluefin tuna for re-export: product type, product form, weight, destination status, and a space for observations up to 4,000 characters.
- Transportation details: files related to the transportation of the bluefin tuna during re-export can be attached.
- Importer/buyer information: company, address, and place of import.

2.3. Group BCDs

According to ICCAT Recommendation 23-21, at the time of introduction into cages, the relevant BCDs may be grouped as a Grouped BCD with a new BCD number in the following cases, provided that the fish are introduced into cages on the same day and all fish are placed in the same fattening cage:

- a) Multiple catches made by the same vessel, and
- b) Catches made within the framework of a JFO.

The Grouped BCD will replace all original BCDs related to it and will be accompanied by a list of all associated BCD numbers.

This function is available for the following profiles: CPC Administrator, Flag Administrator, and Fattening Facility Responsible.

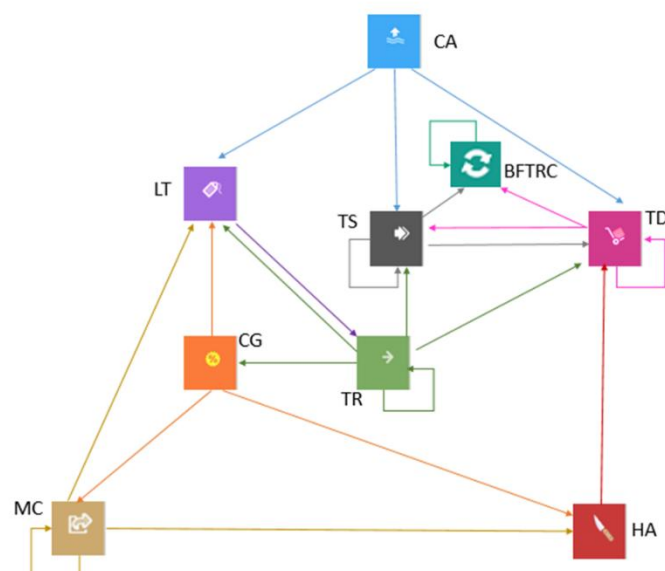
The system allows searches by BCD code, and only those that meet the criteria to generate a Grouped BCD will appear in the search. After selecting the BCDs to be grouped and assigning the new code that will replace the grouped BCDs, it is necessary to complete the fattening information.

2.4. New BCD

The image shows all the sections that can be generated from an electronic bluefin tuna catch document.

The initial section of the eBCD system is the **catch**, which is how new tuna are entered into the system. In the image, it is shown at the top with a blue box. The acronym identifying the bluefin tuna catch is CA.

Below, an image displays the general eBCD scheme, showing each section that can be recorded in the system and how they relate to one another:



The acronyms corresponding to each section are as follows:

CA: Catch

LT: Live tradre

TS: Transhipment

TR: Transfer

CG Caging

MC: Movement between cages

HA: Harversting

TD: Trade

BFTRC: Re-exportación

2.5. BCD and BFTRC Registration — Convert BCD

This function can be performed by both ICCAT and the Capture Responsible. It is intended for paper BCDs that need to be converted into an electronic BCD within the eBCD system.

First, the converter must select the fishing campaign to which the catch belongs. For this, they should refer to the YEAR indicated in the BCD code and the capture date.

Second, they must select the time zone in which the catch occurred and the date, as well as the vessel's flag. The user must enter the vessel name, captured kilograms, number of fish, total and average weight, fishing area, and gear used, along with the name of the trading company.

Depending on the type of catch, the converted BCD may need to be sent for validation or not, depending on the characteristics of the original BCD.

2.6. BCD and BFTRC Registration — BCD Query

This function can be performed by all eBCD profile types: CPC Administration Responsible, Country Administration Responsible, NCP Administration Responsible, Query Administrator, ICCAT Secretariat, JIS Inspectors, Observer, Capture Responsible, BCD/BFTRC Conversion Responsible, Fattening Facility Responsible, Port Responsible, Trade Responsible, Transport Responsible, NCP Transport Vessel Representative, CPC Validation Responsible, and WBFT Trade Responsible.

This functionality allows users to search for a specific BCD in the system. It is sufficient to enter the information requested by the system for the search: BCD code, stock, type of catch, CPC, and capture start and end dates. Additionally, the system allows searches for validated BCDs, BCDs pending validation, or grouped BCDs.

Once the BCD to be queried is found, all the information included in the BCD can be viewed, such as catch information, vessel information, catch description, and the list of trading companies associated with that BCD.

2.7. BCD and BFTRC Registration — Convert BFTRC

This function can be performed by both the ICCAT Secretariat and the BFTRC Conversion Responsible. It is intended for paper BFTRCs that need to be converted into electronic BFTRCs within the eBCD system.

The operator responsible for the re-export will complete the BFTRC by providing the required information in the appropriate sections and will request its validation so that the bluefin tuna shipment can be re-exported. The completed BFTRC must be accompanied by a copy of the validated BCD(s) related to the previously imported bluefin tuna products.

2.8. BCD and BFTRC Registration — BFTRC Query

This function can be performed by the following profile types: CPC Administration Responsible, Country Administration Responsible, NCP Administration Responsible, Query Administrator, ICCAT Secretariat, BCD/BFTRC Conversion Responsible, Trade Responsible, CPC Validation Responsible, and WBFT Trade Responsible.

This functionality allows users to search for a specific BFTRC or BCD in the system. It is sufficient to enter the information requested by the system for the search: BFTRC or BCD code, trade identifier, start and end date of the re-exported catch, re-exporting country, and importing country. Additionally, the system allows searches for BFTRCs/BCDs pending validation.

Once the BFTRC/BCD to be queried is found, all information included in the BFTRC/BCD can be viewed, such as: export/re-export section, export/re-export declaration, description of imported bluefin tuna, description of bluefin tuna for export/re-export, transportation details (if applicable), importer information, and validating entity section.

2.9. BCD and BFTRC Registration — Search by Label

The eBCD system allows searches for a BCD using the label code. It is sufficient to enter the label of a marked specimen to find the BCD to which it belongs.

In addition to the BCD and its information, users can obtain details about the vessel, the catch (number of fish, average weight, total weight, etc.), and, if applicable, the other labels. The system also shows the weight of each labeled specimen, product type, product form, and the internal trading companies associated with the BCD containing the searched labels.

2.10. BCD and BFTRC Registration — Search by Batch

This function can be performed by the following profiles: CPC Administration Responsible, Country Administration Responsible, NCP Administration Responsible, Query Administrator, ICCAT Secretariat, BCD/BFTRC Conversion Responsible, Trade Responsible, and WBFT Trade Responsible.

In the Re-export section of the eBCD, a BFTRC can be found using the batch for re-export. This batch is a grouping of BCDs created during a re-export. Each batch contains the following information: trading company, re-exporting country, imported kilograms, available kilograms, re-exported kilograms, BCDs included in the batch, and the generated BFTRC code.

2.11. BCD and BFTRC Registration — Convert Grouped BCDs

This function can be performed by the following profiles: ICCAT Secretariat and Conversion Responsible.

In the ICCAT eBCD system, the Convert Grouped BCDs function refers to the action of grouping or transforming a set of BCDs. Sometimes, a group of BCDs (e.g., several batches of tuna from different catches or lots moving together in the same trade operation) is managed under a single Grouped BCD.

The Convert Grouped BCDs option allows this group to be split or converted into separate BCDs (or vice versa, depending on the operator's role), so that traceability can be properly maintained within the electronic system.

2.12. BCD and BFTRC Registration — Change Audit

This function can be performed by the following profiles: CPC Administration Responsible, Country Administration Responsible, NCP Administration Responsible, Query Administrator, and ICCAT Secretariat.

The eBCD system allows recording previous values or data if any modifications have been made to previously entered information. In other words, the BCD allows correcting data that was entered incorrectly and updating it. All changes are recorded in the system, including information about who made the modification, on what date, and a brief note indicating the old/ corrected values and the new values.

2.13. BCD and BFTRC Registration — Upload Captures and Initial Trades

This function can be performed by the following profiles: CPC Administration Responsible, Country Administration Responsible, and ICCAT Secretariat.

This function is used to upload captures into the eBCD system from an Excel file. That is, capture or trade information can be uploaded directly and in bulk if all the data is available in a template (Excel) containing the following details: unique capture ID, BCD, capture date, vessel name, vessel ICCAT number, vessel national registration number, number of fish, capture weight (kg), fishing area, fishing gear, landing date, tag/label codes, product type, product presentation, national registration number of the trading company, notes, results, and errors.

It is sufficient to select the file with the contained information and import it into the eBCD. The data is automatically loaded into the system and recorded without the need to enter the information manually, one by one.

2.14. User Administration — New!

This functionality can be used by the following profiles: CPC Administration Responsible, Country Administration Responsible, NCP Administration Responsible, and ICCAT Secretariat.

This functionality allows users to register in the eBCD system and acquire specific roles based on how they intend to use the system. Subsequently, either the ICCAT Secretariat or the administrators of the corresponding country will validate the user's registration request and the role(s) requested. The request can be accepted, denied, or, if required by the country administrators, modified to ensure proper registration in the eBCD system.

2.15. User Administration — Query

This function can be used by the following profiles: CPC Administration Responsible, Country Administration Responsible, NCP Administration Responsible, Query Administrator, and ICCAT Secretariat.

The purpose of this functionality is to search for a user registered in the eBCD to check or record any incidents that may have occurred while entering data into the system. Users can be searched using the following fields: Name, Email, Profile, Role, CPC, and Status (active or inactive).

The system displays the following results for the searched user: user name, registration date in the eBCD, number of roles assigned to the user, and whether the user is currently active or inactive.

2.16. User Account Modification

Individuals with the profiles of CPC Administration Responsible, Country Administration Responsible, NCP Administration Responsible, and ICCAT Secretariat can modify a user's account information when requested through official channels and for necessary reasons. This includes extending or restricting activity periods, changing the company name, updating company owner information, modifying roles, and other relevant data.

2.17. User Administration — Request Management

This function can be used by the following profiles: CPC Administration Responsible, Country Administration Responsible, NCP Administration Responsible, and ICCAT Secretariat.

Each of these profiles can search for information regarding the status of a user's registration request in the eBCD. When a user submits a registration request, it can have different statuses until one of the responsible profiles responds. The possible statuses are: Pending/Modified, Accepted, Denied, or Cancelled by New Request.

The profiles mentioned above can search for the request status to inform the user. This can be done by providing the following fields: Date (when the user submitted the request), the user's Email, and/or the Name of the Entity that submitted the request.

2.18. Change Signature Password

This function can only be used by the Observer profile. Observers are responsible for monitoring and reviewing the harvesting activities carried out at fattening farms for subsequent sale.

2.19. Certificate Management — Requests

This function can be managed and reviewed only by the ICCAT Secretariat.

Most catches and trades, with some exceptions such as catches with labeled fish, must be validated. A user with the CPC Validator profile must have a personal digital certificate to validate a BCD. The digital certificate request procedure for validators has been integrated into the eBCD system. This allows better control over the request and issuance of certificates.

For each validator, a certificate request record is created, and the expiration dates are stored in the database. The Certificate Management functionality is a process involving multiple profiles and consecutive actions, including the request, issuance, and delivery of the digital certificate to the validator.

The profiles involved in Certificate Management and their respective roles for this specific functionality are:

- CPC/Country Administrator — Requests the new digital certificate.
- ICCAT Administrator — Reviews the request submitted by the administrator and requests the issuance of the digital certificate.
- Infrastructure service provider — Generates and sends the digital certificate.

2.20. Certificate Management — Certificate Query

This function can be used by the following profiles: CPC Administration Responsible, Country Administration Responsible, NCP Administration Responsible, Query Administrator, and ICCAT Secretariat.

An ICCAT Administrator can download an Excel file containing the record of all requested certificates, including the issue date and expiration date. Additionally, they can download a file containing the records of certificates that meet the specified search criteria.

The search fields are: Requesting CPC, Flag, Validating Entity, Request Date, and Issue Date.

2.21. Certificate Management — Change Password

All profiles in the eBCD system have the option to change their password whenever needed. To do so, users must complete the Change Password fields by entering their username, current password, and new password, pass a security filter to prevent bots, and submit the password change. The new password will be sent to the email address of the user who requested the change.

2.22. Certificate Management — Email Sending

This function is only available to the ICCAT Secretariat profile.

It allows sending a mass email to all active users in the system. To do this, the text of the email is entered along with the subject. Once the text has been entered, the Add to Pending Email Queue button is pressed. The message will be sent to the email addresses of users who are active in the system. The sending occurs after the system synchronization, which happens twice a day.

Mass emailing consumes system resources, so it is recommended not to overuse this function. If the system's maximum number of emails is exceeded, no further messages will be sent, which could prevent notifications about pending eBCDs from being delivered or alerts to traders that a new trade involving their company has been registered.

It is recommended to send no more than one mass email per day.

2.23. Current Authorizations (JIS)

This function can only be used by the JIS Inspectors profile.

A user with the ICCAT JIS Inspector profile can view the authorizations they currently hold to perform inspections by accessing their account. To do this, they must go to the eBCD system's main page, navigate to Records, and click on Current Authorizations. This section will display the authorizations that are active at that moment.

The ICCAT JIS Inspector profile is a read-only profile, allowing the inspector to access the eBCDs of the entities they are authorized to inspect. Inspectors must be previously authorized to view those entities and their eBCDs. Users with the ICCAT JIS Inspector profile can only be created by the ICCAT Secretariat.

The entities an ICCAT JIS inspector can inspect are: vessels without an ICCAT number, vessels with an ICCAT number, traps, and farms, along with their respective BCDs associated with these entities.

2.24. Capture Reports — Weekly Capture Report

This function can only be used by the following four profiles: CPC Administration Responsible, Country Administration Responsible, Query Administrator, and ICCAT Secretariat.

Reports can be generated for the CPC and flag of interest. It is sufficient to fill in the search fields: CPC, Flag, ICCAT registration number and start and end date of the requested report. The report provides us with the following information: Vessel name, Report duration (days), Capture date, Weight in kilograms captured, Number of fish, Weight assigned in case of JFO, Average weight per captured specimen, and JFO number. The eBCD system automatically generates the requested report.

2.25. Capture Reports — Monthly Capture Report

This function can only be used by the following four profiles: CPC Administration Responsible, Country Administration Responsible, Query Administrator, and ICCAT Secretariat.

Reports can be generated for the CPC and flag of interest. It is sufficient to fill in the search fields: CPC, Flag, Monthly Period, and Year. The eBCD system automatically generates the requested report with the following variables: Fishing Flag, Month, Fishing Gear, Zone, Type of Catch, and Kilograms Captured.

2.26. Capture Reports — Annual BCD Report

This function can only be used by the following four profiles: CPC Administration Responsible, Country Administration Responsible, Query Administrator, and ICCAT Secretariat.

For this annual BCD report, it is sufficient to specify the campaign year and the stock type: Eastern and Mediterranean Tuna or Western Bluefin Tuna. The generated report will provide the tons captured per month and year for each of the contracting CPCs.

2.27. Trade Reports — Query Total Imported Kg

This function can only be used by the following five profiles: CPC Administration Responsible, Country Administration Responsible, NCP Administration Responsible, Query Administrator, and ICCAT Secretariat.

To generate the requested report, the following fields must be completed: Importing CPC, Importing Country, Exporting/Re-exporting Country, Import Date, and Importing Company. Additionally, the eBCD system allows the requested information to be grouped in various ways: by importing country, by exporting/re-exporting country, by importing company, or by country of harvesting.

2.28. Trade Reports — Query Total Exported Kg

This function can only be used by the following five profiles: CPC Administration Responsible, Country Administration Responsible, NCP Administration Responsible, Query Administrator, and ICCAT Secretariat.

To generate the requested report, the following fields must be completed: Exporting CPC, Exporting Country, Importing Country, Export Date From–To, Exporting Company, and Capture Vessel / Farm. Similar to the previous report, the eBCD system provides options to group the information by Exporting Country, Exporting Company, Destination Country, and/or Capture Vessel/Farm.

2.29. Trade Reports — Query Total Re-exported Kg

This function can only be used by the following five profiles: CPC Administration Responsible, Country Administration Responsible, NCP Administration Responsible, Query Administrator, and ICCAT Secretariat.

To generate the requested report, the following fields must be completed: Re-exporting CPC, Re-exporting Country, Re-export Date From/To, and Re-exporting Company. Similar to the previous report, the eBCD system provides options to group the information by Re-exporting Country, Re-exporting Company, and Destination Country.

2.30. Trade Reports — Basic Trade Statistics

This function can only be used by the following four profiles: CPC Administration Responsible, Country Administration Responsible, Query Administrator, and ICCAT Secretariat.

The figures in this report represent the quantities imported by the importing country during the time period specified in the report. Therefore, these figures do not represent the total amount caught during that period by the fishing country.

2.31. Trade Reports — PAR 1 Rec 06-13 — Imported Products

This function can only be used by the following five profiles: CPC Administration Responsible, Country Administration Responsible, Query Administrator, and ICCAT Secretariat.

From the eBCD system, it is possible to generate reports showing the information for each CPC, Flag, and a specific date. The data provided by this type of report includes: Responsible Flag, Vessel or Trap Name, Vessel/ Trap Owner Name, Owner Address, Registration Number, Vessel ICCAT Registration Number, JFO Number, Fattening Facility (Farm), IEAR ICCAT Number, Location, Species, Fishing Area, Product Type, Product Presentation, Exported Weight (kg), Exporting Country, and Export/Departure Point.

PAR 1 Rec. 06-13 is the ICCAT regulation that requires all bluefin tuna imports to be backed by a BCD.

2.32. Raw Data by Section — Raw Data by Flag

This section of the eBCD is accessible to the following profiles: CPC Administrator, Country Administrator, NCP Administration Responsible, Query Administrator, ICCAT Secretariat, Catch Responsible, BCD/BFTRC Conversion Responsible, Fattening Facility Responsible, Port Responsible, Trade Responsible, Transport Responsible, Validation Responsible, and WBFT Trade Responsible.

The raw data by flag report returns information for all BCDs of the selected flag, meaning it displays the information from the sections of BCDs or BFTRCs for which the user has permissions. The report can be downloaded in Excel format and includes multiple tabs detailing information on catches, live trade, transfer, transshipment, penning, cage movements, harvesting, trade, BFTRC (Re-export), over-all summary, and tags.

2.33. Raw Data by Section — Raw Data by BCD

This section of the eBCD is accessible to the following profiles: CPC Administrator, Country Administrator, Query Administrator, ICCAT Secretariat, Catch Responsible, BCD/BFTRC Conversion Responsible, Fattening Facility Responsible, Trade Responsible, Validation Responsible, and WBFT Trade Responsible.

This report displays all eBCDs for which the user has permissions, as well as all previous sections of these eBCDs (regardless of the responsible country for each section). If any of the previous sections fall outside the date range specified for the report, their information will also be included. The document can be downloaded in Excel format and includes the following information tabs: catches, live trade, transfers, transshipments, penning, cage movements, harvesting, trade, BFTRC (Re-exports), and over-all summary.

2.34. Raw Data by Section — Traceability Help

The Traceability Aid report is available for the following profiles: CPC Administrator, Country Administrator, Query Administrator, ICCAT Secretariat, Farm Facility Responsible, Trade Responsible, Validation Responsible, W-BFT Trade Responsible.

The report is downloaded in Excel format and includes information from all previous sections of a BCD for which the user has permissions, regardless of the country responsible for the query. If the sections are outside the date range established for the report, this information will also be displayed.

The Excel file includes the following information tabs: Catch + Transshipment + 1st Trade; Catch + Live Trade + Transfer + Caging + Cage Movement; Caging + Cage Movement + Harvesting; Harvesting + 1st Trade; Catch + Caging + Cage Movement + Harvesting + Trade.

2.35. Raw data by section--Carry-Over Report

The following profiles have the option to generate a Carry-Over report in the eBCD: CPC Administrator, Flag Administrator, Query Administrator, ICCAT Secretariat, and Farm Facility Responsible.

This type of report displays, for a given country or CPC, the following data related to operations involving farms at a given time. The fields displayed in the report are: Farm Facility Name, ICCAT IEAR N^o, BCD N^o with caged tuna available on the date the report is generated, date of farm section, section type (farming – CG), Cage of Origin, Cage of Destination, Number of fish caged or moved from cage, Weight of fish caged or moved, Number of fish lost, Number of fish available, and Observations included in each operation (if applicable).

2.36. Raw data by section--Entities and users

This eBCD feature is available for the CPC Administrator, Flag Administrator, Non-CPC Administrator, Query Administrator, and ICCAT Secretariat profiles

Upon completing the fields requested in this query, the application returns an Excel table with all the data for the entities and users of the country for which the query is being made.

The Excel table displays a separate tab to show the information of the administrators of that CPC in question, Converters, Validators, Port Authorities, Companies (registered importing and exporting companies), Catching Vessels, Traps, Farms, Other Vessels, and finally, vessels without an ICCAT number registered within the CPC for which the query is being made.

2.37. Raw data by section--Authorized validators

This function is accessible for the following profiles: CPC Administrator, Flag Administrator, Query Administrator, and ICCAT Secretariat.

In this function, the system returns a list (which can be viewed on screen or downloaded in Excel format) of validating entities and validators assigned to each of those validating entities for a given CPC.

2.38. Raw data by section--BCDs and BFTRCs issued

This feature can only be used by the ICCAT Secretariat profile.

By completing the CPC and date fields, the system returns all eBCDs and BFTRCs issued by that CPC within the period selected.

2.39. Raw data by section--Fattening capacity report

This section is only accessible to ICCAT Secretariat users.

It returns the caging and Harvesting information contained in the eBCD between two specific dates. The information can be downloaded in Excel format and is aggregated by the CPC responsible for the farm.

2.40. Raw data by section--Results of the Requested Reports

This eBCD feature is accessible to the following profiles: CPC Administrator, Flag Administrator, Non-CPC Administrator, Query Administrator, ICCAT Secretariat, Catch Responsible, Conversion Responsible, Farm Responsible, Port Responsible, Trade Responsible, Transport Responsible, CPC Validation Responsible, and WBFT Trade Responsible

This section of the eBCD displays reports that have been requested for download. A list of all reports requested by the user in the last few days is displayed, as well as other reports requested by other users but which the user has permission to view.

2.41. Vessels with ICCAT No.—Query

Function available for the following profiles: CPC Administrator, Flag Administrator, Query Administrator, ICCAT Secretariat, Catch Responsible, Conversion Responsible, and Port Responsible.

It allows you to consult the data of vessels included in the eBCD system by entering the vessel name, ICCAT number, or national registration number. You can also search for all vessels with an ICCAT number from a specific country by entering the country you are searching for and leaving the vessel number/name field blank.

Vessels with ICCAT numbers in the eBCD system are synchronized directly with vessels registered in the ICCAT database. This data is synchronized twice daily.

2.42. Vessels without ICCAT Number—New

This feature is available for the following profiles: CPC Administrator, Flag Administrator, ICCAT Secretariat, Conversion Officer, and Port Officer.

This feature allows a vessel to be registered in the eBCD application without an ICCAT number. These vessels may be those that engage in bluefin tuna bycatch by vessels not authorized to actively fish.

ICCAT allows these vessels to be registered in the eBCD without an ICCAT number, using their name, registration, and national flag instead. These types of vessels typically belong to smaller, artisanal, or auxiliary fleets, which are not required to be listed on the official ICCAT register, but must still be reported if they engage in bluefin tuna bycatch. In short, these are vessels that are not authorized to actively fish, but catch bluefin tuna as bycatch.

2.43. Vessels without ICCAT N°—Query

Function available for the following profiles: CPC Administrator, Flag Administrator, Query Administrator, ICCAT Secretariat, Catch Responsible, Conversion Responsible, and Port Responsible.

The eBCD application allows you to consult catches made, vessel names, flags, associated companies, period of activity, users and roles of the vessel, as well as any BCDs/BFTRCs that may be associated with the vessel without an ICCAT number.

2.44. Traps— Query

Available roles for the following profiles: CPC Responsible, Flag Responsible, Query Responsible, ICCAT Secretariat, Catch Responsible, and Conversion Responsible

Allows you to consult data on traps included in the eBCD system by entering the trap name, the trap's ICCAT number, or the national registration number. You can also search for all traps in a specific country by entering the country you are searching for and leaving the trap number/name field blank.

The traps in the eBCD system are synchronized directly with those active in the ICCAT database. This data is synchronized twice a day.

2.45. Farms— Query

Function available for the following profiles: CPC Administrator, Flag Administrator, Query Administrator, ICCAT Secretariat, Observer, Conversion Responsible, and Farm Facility Responsible.

Allows you to consult data on farms included in the eBCD system by entering the farm name, the farm's ICCAT number, or the national registration number. You can also search for all farms in a specific country by entering the country you are searching for and leaving the farm number/name field blank.

The farms in the eBCD system are synchronized directly with those active in the ICCAT database. This data is synchronized twice a day.

2.46. Authorized Ports—Query

Function available for the profiles: CPC Administrator, Flag Administrator, Query Administrator, ICCAT Secretariat, Conversion Responsible, Farm Facility Responsible and W-BFT Trade Responsible.

Allows you to query data for ports included in the eBCD system by entering the port name or the port's ICCAT code. You can also search for all ports in a specific country by entering the country you're searching for and leaving the port number/name field blank.

The eBCD system ports are synchronized directly with those active in the ICCAT database. This data is synchronized twice a day.

2.47. Company—New

Function Available for the following profiles: CPC Administrator, Flag Administrator, Non-CPC Administrator, ICCAT Secretariat, Conversion Responsible

Allows users to register a private company in the eBCD system. The following fields are displayed for registering a company in the system: - Company registration with tax information (company name, address, national registration number, telephone number, email address, and country of origin). Registration of a company in the system is carried out by ICCAT, following a user's prior request. ICCAT also determines the start and end dates of activity and the type of role users will have in the system (export or import).

2.48. Company— Query

Function available for the following profiles: CPC Administrator, Flag Administrator, Non-CPC Administrator, Query Administrator, ICCAT Secretariat, Conversion Responsible, Farm Responsible, and W-BFT Trade Responsible.

Allows you to view the data of companies included in the eBCD system, indicating the company name, tax address, national registration number, telephone number, email address, and country of origin, as well as the company's status (active or inactive in the system). You can also view whether the company has associated farms or vessels, its period of activity (start date and expected end date), the users with permission to operate in the eBCD associated with a company, and the BCDs associated with that company since its registration in the system.

2.49. Validating Entities—New

Function accessible to CPC Administrator, Flag Administrator, Non-CPC Administrator, and ICCAT Secretariat, and allows to register in the eBCD a new validating entity including all its data.

2.50. Validating entities—Consultation

This function is available to users of type CPC Administrator, Country Administrator, NCP Administrator, Query Administrator, IC-CAT Secretariat, Catch Responsible, BCD/BFTRC Conversion Responsible, Farm Facility Responsible, Port Responsible, Trade Responsible, CPC Validation Responsible, and WBFT Trade Responsible. It returns the validator entities registered in the eBCD of a given CPC.

2.51. Agencies—New

This feature is available to the CPC Administrator, Country Administrator, and ICCAT Secretariat profiles. It allows a new validation agency and all its data, as well as the users belonging to that agency, to be added to the eBCD system.

2.52. Agencies—Query

Accessible to the following profiles: CPC Administrator, Country Administrator, Reading Administrator, ICCAT Secretariat, and BCD/BFTRC Conversion Responsible. Allows you to view the agencies registered in the eBCD for a given country

2.53. ICCAT Regional Observers—New

This feature is only available to ICCAT Secretariat users. It allows you to add a regional observer to the system, along with the farm to which it is associated.

2.54. ICCAT Regional Observers—Query

This feature is accessible to users with the following profiles: CPC Administrator, Country Administrator, Query Administrator, ICCAT Secretariat, or BCD/BFTRC Conversion Responsible. It allows users to query a specific observer, and the system indicates the farm to which the observer is assigned. It also allows users to search by farm for observers assigned and their periods.

2.55. JIS ICCAT Inspectors—New

This feature can only be used by the ICCAT Secretariat profile. A user with an ICCAT Secretary profile can register a user with an 'ICCAT JIS Inspector' profile in the system. To register an ICCAT inspector profile, the secretary must first complete the JIS inspector's personal data, add the authorization periods (with start and end dates), and finally add the relevant authorizations to inspect the following entities: vessels without ICCAT numbers, vessels with ICCAT numbers, traps, and farms, as well as their respective BCDs associated with these entities.

2.56. JIS ICCAT Inspectors—Consultation

This feature can only be used by the ICCAT Secretariat. A profile with this permission can check the activity status (active/inactive) of each JIS inspector registered in the system. To do so, simply enter the name of the inspector in question and then review and consult the type of authorizations and the validity periods of those authorizations for each inspector.

2.57. JIS ICCAT Inspectors--Renew Authorization

This feature can only be used by the ICCAT Secretariat. Only a profile with an ICCAT secretary can renew the authorizations of a JIS inspector whose authorizations have previously expired. As a Secretary, you would need to search for/select the JIS Inspector profile user and then edit their status and add the inspection authorizations they have requested, along with their start and end dates..

2.58. JIS ICCAT Inspectors--Results Synchronization

This is an eBCD feature only accessible to the ICCAT Secretariat profile. By including a date and entity type (farm, JFO, port, trap, or vessel), the system tells us whether or not there were errors during synchronization with the ICCAT database for that entity.

2.59. Campaign—New

This feature is only available for the ICCAT Secretary profile. In this section of the eBCD, you can enter each country's quota for the year in which the campaign is being registered. Campaign codes indicate the year of the campaign.

2.60. Campaign—Query

This feature is only available for the ICCAT Secretary profile. In this section of the eBCD, an ICCAT Secretary profile can compare and edit the following data if necessary: CPC, stock (BFT or W-BFT), initial quota, adjusted country quota, and remaining quota. This information tells us how much they are authorized to fish and how much they have left to fish.

2.61. JFO--JFO Query

This feature is available for the following profiles: CPC Administrator, Flag Administrator, Query Administrator, ICCAT Secretariat, and BCD/BFTRC Conversion Responsible.

A JFO (Joint Fishing Operation) means that two or more authorized vessels work together to fish for bluefin tuna under the same operating plan. When creating a catch document, if you mark the fishing as a JFO, the system will prompt you to add the list of participating vessels, even if the vessels are from different countries. The total catch is distributed among them (the participating vessels) according to the official notification from the flag State. This allows traceability and prevents the same tuna from being attributed twice. The eBCD system allows you to consult the information recorded by a JFO. The

data set we will receive will be: Start and end date of the joint fishing operation, vessels included in the JFO, countries involved in the JFO, fattening farms, if any, associated with the JFO, and associated BCDs/BFTRCs.

2.62. Help--Help Videos

This feature is available for all profiles in the eBCD, except for the Non-CPC Administrator Profile, JIS Inspectors, and NCP Carrier Vessel Representative.

This feature allows you to view video examples of the eBCD activity log. The main activities can be found on the help video options screen, such as Add a Live Trade, Add a Transshipment, Add a Trade Section, Add a Caging Section, Add a Harvesting Section, Add a Transfer Section, BCD of a Flagged JFO, How to Add Tags to a Western Catch, Create a New Western Catch by a Vessel Representative, Create a New Western Catch and Trade by a Western Exporter, Create a New Directed Catch, Create an Accidental Catch BCD by a Vessel Representative, Create an Accidental Catch BCD by a Port Authority, Create a Western Catch BCD by a CPC Administrator, Reject a Section, or Validate a Section.

2.63. Help--Documents and Manuals

This feature is available for all profiles in the eBCD.

As in the previous Help Videos section, in this section of the eBCD, we find downloadable files in PPT (Microsoft PowerPoint) format. For example WBFT_1 Training: Introduction to the eBCD system for Western Fisheries, WBFT_2 Training: Profiles and Permits for Western Fisheries, WBFT_3 Training: User Management in Western Fisheries, WBFT_4 Training: Entities and Reports in Western Fisheries, WBFT_5 Training: How to create a Western Catch, Training_1: Introduction to the eBCD system for Eastern and Mediterranean Fisheries, Training_2: Profiles and Permits for Eastern and Mediterranean Fisheries, Training_3: User Management in Eastern and Mediterranean Fisheries, Training_4: Entities and Reports in Eastern and Mediterranean Fisheries, Training_5: How to create an Eastern or Mediterranean Catch, Digital Certificate Management Guide, Cage Movement Management Guide, Guide to uploading WBFT catches and first trades to Excel, Printer Configuration Guide, Report Obtaining Guide asynchronous, NCP Administrator Manual, BCDs/BFTRCs Converter Manual, Training Course Manual, JIS ICCAT Inspectors Manual, Regional Observer Manual, Commercial Responsible Manual, WBFT Commercial Responsible Manual, Eastern Catch Responsible Manual, Western Catch Responsible Manual, Farming Facility Responsible Manual, Validation Responsible Manual, New Features and Main Product Forms in the eBCD.

2.64. Help—Templates

This feature is available for all profiles in the eBCD, except for the Non-CPC Administrator Profile, JIS Inspectors, and NCP Carrier Vessel Representative.

The eBCD system allows users with permission for this feature to download Excel templates for automatically uploading catches and first trades of western bluefin tuna (WBFT), as well as CSV files with templates for uploading tags of tuna caught in the west.

2.65. Help--Safety Tips

This feature is available for all profiles in the eBCD.

This feature is intended to advise users about the risk of phishing (known as identity theft). Advice such as: Do not respond or provide sensitive information about your account or activity in the eBCD to any email, except those sent by the Support team or the ICCAT Secretariat, or Change your password if you believe you may have provided sensitive information about your account or activity to individuals outside the eBCD. In this way, ICCAT attempts to easily reduce potential phishing attacks and reduce the risk of loss and/or confidentiality of information.

2.66. Help--Process Management

This feature is only accessible to ICCAT Secretariat users.

In this section, you can manually activate scheduled processes in the eBCD system, such as entity synchronization, directory and file cleanup, and other unscheduled processes necessary for the system to function, such as campaign activation.