ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS): Overview, development and current status

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Definition

The ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) is an integrated online data reporting system designed to centralize and manage the data reporting requirements of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), with the exception of the electronic Bluefin tuna Catch Document system (eBCD), which operates as a stand-alone system.

History

The development of IOMS was initiated under the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Development of an Online Reporting System* (Rec. 16-19), adopted in 2016, which established the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT) and provided for the development of an online reporting system, initially focused on Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPC) Annual Reports. The project was subsequently extended under *Recommendation by ICCAT to continue the development of an integrated online reporting system* (Rec. 19-12) (2019), which was repealed and replaced by *Recommendation by ICCAT to continue the development of an integrated online reporting system* (Rec. 21-20) (2021). The latter, which supplements Rec. 16-19, provides for the continued operation of the WG-ORT and the progressive development of additional IOMS modules to cover ICCAT reporting requirements.

IOMS is a long-term project aimed at centrally managing structured information reported by ICCAT Contracting Parties in accordance with the reporting requirements established under ICCAT regulatory measures, including those arising from Article IX of the Convention. The system supports the online submission, compilation, validation, storage and publication of this information.

The initial development of IOMS was funded (2019–2020) through voluntary contributions from the European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United States of America, Canada and Chinese Taipei. In 2020, the Commission approved the inclusion of dedicated funding for IOMS in the regular budget. The European Union has continued to provide voluntary contributions since 2021 to support its further development.

Development

The development of IOMS was planned through a phased design approach, subject to the different approved budgets. The current phases of the project are:

Phase	*Start*	*End*	*Months*	*COM*	*Budget Type*
Phase 1	2019-06-01	2020-05-31	12	2018	Extraordinary
Phase 2	2020-06-01	2022-05-31	24	2019	Regular
Phase 3	2022-06-01	2024-05-31	24	2021	Regular
Phase 4	2024-06-01	2026-05-31	24	2023	Regular
Phase 5	2026-06-01	2028-05-31	24	2025	Regular

Phase details

Phase 1 (June 2019 – May 2020) – Status: Completed

Phase 1 focused on establishing the core functionality of IOMS. This phase included the development of essential system components such as user and party management, loggers, requirements handling, and core databases. During this period, the Annual Report Manager was implemented, covering Section 3 of the ICCAT Annual Report, including both statistical (Part 1) and management (Part 2) reporting requirements. An initial IOMS prototype was also deployed and subjected to extensive testing.

Phase 2 (June 2020 – May 2022) – Status: Completed

Phase 2 concentrated on transitioning IOMS towards full operational use. Development of the Vessel Manager module was initiated, including functionalities related to vessels and authorizations, alongside the implementation of the first version of the Dynamic Help System. Significant effort was devoted to enhancements, bug corrections, and testing in preparation for production deployment. This work culminated in the release of IOMS version 1.0.0 into production on 1 August 2021, which included the management of the system's core components as well as the Annual Report Manager. This phase also included intensive training activities for CPCs and the Secretariat, delivered by the IOMS team, as well as technical work related to Vessel Manager integration with UN/FLUX, carried out through a series of EU-ICCAT joint meetings.

Phase 3 (June 2022 – May 2024) – Status: Completed

Phase 3 focused on consolidation and functional expansion. The Dynamic Help System was enhanced, with help content placed under continuous update. Additional submodules were developed within the Vessel Manager, notably for transhipments and chartering, together with broader refinements supporting online and offline completion and further UN/FLUX alignment.

Work on UN/FLUX-based automatic data exchange advanced across two domains – vessel registration and authorizations (FLAP) – resulting in two implementation documents developed through extensive EU-ICCAT joint meetings and further progress in the implementation of the corresponding IOMS components.

Phase 4 (June 2024 – May 2026) – Status: Completed

Phase 4 focused on expanding and consolidating IOMS functionalities and deploying key modules into production. Significant enhancements were made to the Form Manager and Vessel Manager modules, including support for multiple form uploads and online and offline data submission. Both modules were released into production on 1 August 2025.

As of 1 November 2025, the Form Manager became the mandatory and exclusive channel for CPCs to submit standardized statistical (ST) and tagging (TG) forms, as well as forms CP01, CP46 and CP53.

During this phase, development of the Port Manager reached its final testing stage, while work progressed on the Task 1 nominal catches (T1NC) Manager, Compliance Tables (COCT) Manager, and Billfish/Shark Check Sheets Manager. In parallel, the IOMS code required to process UN/FLUX messages from the European Union was completed, with its integration into the Vessel Manager remaining subject to large-scale testing with the European Union.

Phase 5 (June 2026 – May 2028) – Status: Ongoing

Year 1 (June 2026 – May 2027)

During the first months of Phase 5, development activities focused on the deployment of new functionalities and further improvements to the IOMS architecture and existing components. The Port Manager module was released into production on 1 August 2026, together with the integration of the standardized port registration form (CP24) into the Form Manager.

Additional development activities include the redesign of the IOMS user interface, improvements to system architecture and security, and the redesign and redevelopment of the notification component.

Work continues on the T1NC Manager, COCT Manager, and Billfish/Shark Check Sheets Manager, alongside preparations for large-scale UN/FLUX testing with the European Union.

In parallel, the ICCAT Secretariat is conducting a pilot project on the translation of IOMS Annual Reports and assessing options for future management of port inspection information. These activities remain under review, and their outcomes will be presented to the Commission.

Continuous activities (all phases)

Throughout all phases of the project, continuous work has been carried out to ensure the stability and effective use of IOMS. This includes ongoing maintenance of the existing codebase, encompassing bug corrections and minor functional improvements. These activities also include the maintenance and optimization of the underlying infrastructure to ensure system performance, security and scalability. In parallel, continuous user support has been provided to both the Secretariat and CPCs through WG-ORT workshops and individual CPC training sessions.