

Original: English

**DRAFT PROPOSED ADDITION TO ICCAT FINANCIAL REGULATION 4 FOR AN
EBCD SYSTEM¹ FUNDING SCHEME**

Working Draft

1bis. In addition to paragraph 1 above, appropriations for a financial period to meet the anticipated costs associated with support, maintenance, and functionality development of the electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation (eBCD) system shall be financed by additional annual contributions made by those members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna. These contributions shall be calculated consistent with the principles in paragraph 1 above and shall consist of the following:

- a) A basic fee of [XX] and;
- b) A variable fee that finances the remaining eBCD system costs, after subtracting the amount collected pursuant to para a) above. Consistent with paragraph 1(b) above, this remaining amount shall be assigned to each of the four groups (A-D) according to the formula specified in paragraph 1(b)(ii). Within each group, the contribution for each of the relevant members of the Commission shall take into account (i) the total round weight of bluefin tuna catch²; (ii) the total number of transactions in the eBCD system, and (iii) the overall volume of Atlantic bluefin tuna traded, including internal trades, exports, imports and re-exports³ in the following way: [].

¹ At the 2016 ICCAT Annual meeting, STACFAD recommended and the Commission agreed to ask the eBCD TWG to explore and advise on possible long-term funding mechanism for the eBCD system. At its April 2017 meeting, the eBCD TWG considered this matter and, after discussing a variety of options, determined that the most feasible approach was to include funding for the system in the ICCAT budget through development of a new funding scheme that would utilize as much as possible ICCAT's current approach for calculating budgetary contributions. In particular, there was agreement that bluefin tuna catch should be a funding scheme component. Rather than considering canning data, however, the group considered that a trade element should be included linked to the use of the system. The TWG recognized that implementing a trade component was new and could be complex, but the group also stressed the need to find an approach that would have a fair and equitable outcome. Further, the TWG agreed that application of the provisions of the Madrid Protocol should apply in determining contributions to support the eBCD system. In addition, while recognizing the value of the eBCD system to ICCAT as a whole, the TWG considered it would be appropriate for most if not all of the financial support for the eBCD system to come from that subset of ICCAT members who catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna. Taking all of this into account, the Chair of the TWG developed possible amendments to ICCAT Financial Regulation 4 for consideration by STACFAD this fall. Consideration of this text should be informed by development of calculation scenarios so that final language and a formula for calculating contributions can be agreed at the 2017 ICCAT Annual meeting.

² Provision of bluefin tuna catch information is already required for calculating budgetary contributions per Article X of the Convention so members would not need to provide anything more than what they do already. Currently, an average of the most recent three-year period where complete data are available is used as the basis for this calculation. For calculating the 2018-2019 budget contributions, for instance, the three-year period used was 2013-2015.

³ These data can be retrieved from the eBCD system. As with catch data, an average over the most recent three-year period for which complete calendar year data are available could be used. Such data will not be available until 2020, however, as the first full year of mandatory use of the system was 2017. If contributions are to be assessed in the near term, an interim approach is needed. A good alternative is to identify 12 month periods where the eBCD has been in full use so the activities relative to all fisheries are available before data are extracted from the system and calculations made. Toward that end, data from August 2016 - July 2017 could be used to determine contributions for the 2018-2019 biennial period. For the 2020-2021 biennial period, data from August 2016-July 2019 could be used. For the 2022-2023 biennial period, complete calendar year data should be available for the years 2018-2020.