

Original: English

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEROGATION  
TO VALIDATE BCDs FOR TRADES OF BFT BETWEEN MEMBER STATES OF THE EU**

**(Paragraph 5b of ICCAT Recommendation [17-09])**

*Submitted by the European Union (EU)*

ICCAT CPCs have implemented the eBCD since 26 May 2016 for the bluefin tuna (BFT) caught by the purse seine vessels and traps, and since 1 July 2016 for the fish caught by other gears. All operators fully implement the system as from January 2017.

Recommendation [17-09] provides a derogation to validate BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU. This derogation is however restricted to specific cases. EU considers this derogation important because it removes a significant administrative burden related to the validation of trades for small quantities of BFT. It also contributes towards achieving a more level playing field between the EU and the other ICCAT CPCs.

This derogation is up for review in 2020 and in the meantime, under paragraph 5b of Recommendation [17-09] the EU is required to provide the Commission with a report on its implementation.

For the year 2017, the data presented hereunder corresponds to the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017 and has been provided by EU-Member States by extracting relevant data through the functionality in the eBCD system.

The scope of this report has been restricted to Member States of the EU actively engaged in the fishery, since the trade originating from other Member States and documented in eBCD is for the time being negligible. In addition, we also concentrate on the trade events for BFT sold from a Member States to another, in order to avoid duplication and also because the selling Member States is responsible for the possible validation of the trade in eBCD.

1. From 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017, the EU Member States recorded 17,549 trade events, of which 11,915 took place between Member States for a quantity of 1,580 t.
2. Amongst these 11,915 trade events between EU Member States, 19% (2,294) were validated and 81% (9,621) were exempted from validation. It is important to note that 80% of the cases (7,682) were exempted for validation due to the fish having been tagged, and 20% (1,939) to the use of the derogation under paragraph 5b of Recommendation [17-09].
3. In terms of verifications of the information in the eBCD, generally, 100% of the landings are being inspected, and all catches are officially weighed.

In addition, before validation, all relevant documents are crosschecked including logbook data, landing declarations, sales notes, ICCAT authorizations, etc. At the point of exit and entry from and into Member States, verifications include crosschecks with airbills and sales notes, as well as physical verifications. Even when validation is not required, many Member States verify the validation of catch or tags details, and analyze the coherence of the timing of the validation messages as well as the possible alert messages in eBCD.

To date, there has been no detection of irregular activities resulting from the verification process undertaken by Member States.

Data extraction functionalities, crosschecks and verifications through the eBCD system itself enable MS to establish improved risk assessment procedures to specifically target trades events for verification.