

**Report on the implementation of the derogation to validate
BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU in 2018**

(Paragraph 5b of ICCAT Recommendation [18-12])

Presented by EU

1. Introduction

As other ICCAT CPCs, EU has since 26 May 2016 implemented the eBCD system 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 [18-12] 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 [18-12] the EU is required to provide the Commission with a report on its implementation.

2. Derogation Under Paragraph 5b of ICCAT Recommendation [18-12]

For the year 2018, the data presented below corresponds to the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018 and has been extracted through the relevant 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 State is responsible for the possible validation of the trade in eBCD.

1. From 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018, the EU Member States recorded 74.394 trade events, of which 12,454 took place between Member States for a quantity of 1,778.06 t.
2. Amongst these 12,454 trade events between EU Member States, 28% (3,447) were validated and 72% (9,005) were exempted from validation. This exemption was related to both the derogation under paragraph 5b of Recommendation [18-12] and tagged fish.
3. In terms of verifications of the information in the eBCD, all catches are officially weighed. In addition, before validation, all relevant documents are crosschecked, including against logbook data, landing declarations, sales notes, ICCAT authorizations, etc. At the points 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 analyse the coherence of the timing of the validation messages as well as the possible alert messages in eBCD. In 2018, among the 74.394 trade events 98 were rejected before validation due to inconsistencies.

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