

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEROGATION TO VALIDATE BCDS  
FOR TRADES OF BFT BETWEEN MEMBER STATES OF THE EU IN 2020  
(Paragraph 5b and 5d of ICCAT Recommendation [18-12])**

*Submitted by the EU*

## 1. Introduction

As other ICCAT CPCs, the European Union (EU) has implemented the eBCD system 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.

Paragraph 5b of Recommendation [18-12] provides a derogation to validate BCDS for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU. Para 5d of Recommendation [18-12] offers an alternative approach for providing weight of tagged fish. Both provisions are up for review in 2021, and in the meantime, the EU is required to provide the Commission with a report on its implementation.

## 2. Derogation under paragraph 5b of ICCAT Recommendation [18-12]

The data presented hereunder corresponds to the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and has been partially extracted through the functionality in the eBCD system.

The scope of this report has been restricted to the trade events for Bluefin tuna from seller EU Member States, in order to avoid duplication, and because the selling Member State is responsible of the validation of the trade in eBCD.

In 2020, the EU Member States recorded 118,860 trade events in the eBCD system involving 38,728.77 t. Regulation (EU) 640/2010<sup>1</sup> provides the obligation to register trade events inside of the EU-Member states, consequently, 81% of the trades recorded in the eBCD by the EU are internal trades inside EU Member States territories (96,205 trades). The remaining trades include 5,220 exports to other CPCs (4%), and 17,443 trades between EU Member States (15%).

The quantities involved amounted to 9,869.26 t (25%) for internal trades, and 26,166.13 t (68%) for exports. Trades between EU Member States amounted to 3,505.81 t, which only represents 9% of the total weight traded (**Figure 1**).

42% (49,485) of the total trades were validated, and 58% (69,376) were exempted of validation, for a quantity of 33,525.20 t (87%) and 6,634.44 t (17%) respectively (**Figure 2**). The exemption was related to both the derogation under paragraph 5b of Recommendation [18-12] and exemption for tagged fish according to para 13c of Recommendation [18-13].

Regarding the trade events exempted of validation, 5,302 concerned trades between EU Member States (derogation para 5b) (8%), and 25,562 involved tagged fish (26%) for a quantity of 615.36 (9%) and 1,724.30 t (26%) respectively (**Figure 4**). The remaining exempted events are related to internal trades (**Figure 3**). Tagged fish concerned both trades between EU Member States and internal trades.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 640/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2010 establishing a catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna *Thunnus thynnus*.

The average quantity by trade was 116.06 kg for trades exempted of validation because the derogation 5b, and 67.46 kg for trades of tagged fish (**Figure 5**).

Additional details by EU-Member state are provided in the **Annex**.

### **3. Use of the Alternative in Para 5d of Recommendation 18-12**

The European Union no longer use the alternative given to CPCs in para 5d of Recommendation 18-12 to indicate an approximate weight estimated by sampling. For tagged fish, the actual weight of every specimen is recorded and linked to a tag number in the eBCD.

### **4. Verifications**

In terms of verifications of the information in the eBCD, as part of the standard procedure for validation, the control authorities perform verifications and crosschecks of all relevant documents including logbook data, landing declarations, sales notes, ICCAT authorizations, etc. Consistent with the EU legislation, the control authorities perform physical verifications and inspections at landing, in the market inside and at the entry in EU Member States based on risk assessment, and all catches are officially weighed at landing. At the point of exit and entry from and into EU, verifications include crosschecks of eBCDs with airbills and sales notes, as well as physical verifications. Imports into the European Union follow customs procedures.

In 2020, Member States of the European Union performed 70,790 crosschecks and verifications and 103 trades were rejected due to inconsistencies.

All eBCD subject to validation were crosschecked. Even when validation is not required, the control authorities perform crosschecks with catch declarations and the eBCDs information in conjunction with other Member States concerned, which enables efficient monitoring of operations exempted from validation. In addition, the control authorities 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.

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 crosscheck and verification.

### **5. Conclusion**

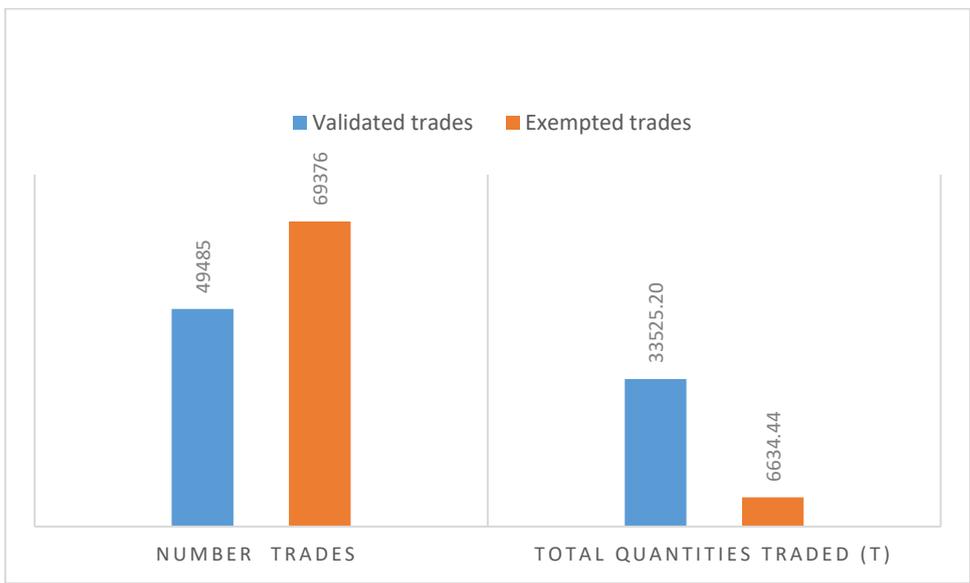
The number of trades concerned by the derogation in para 5b of Recommendation [18-12] is significant but generally involves small quantities of Bluefin tuna as it involves fillet (FL) and other (OT) presentations. Additionally, 81% of the trades recorded by EU are internal trades within EU Member States contributing to the traceability of the fish through the chain.

The derogation under para 5b of Recommendation [18-12] removes a significant administrative burden related to validation, and contributes towards achieving a more level playing field between the EU and the other ICCAT CPCs, and is also consistent with the principle of free market inside of the EU. It is important to note that at this stage no information is available in relation to a possible negative impact of these measures on the traceability of BFT products.

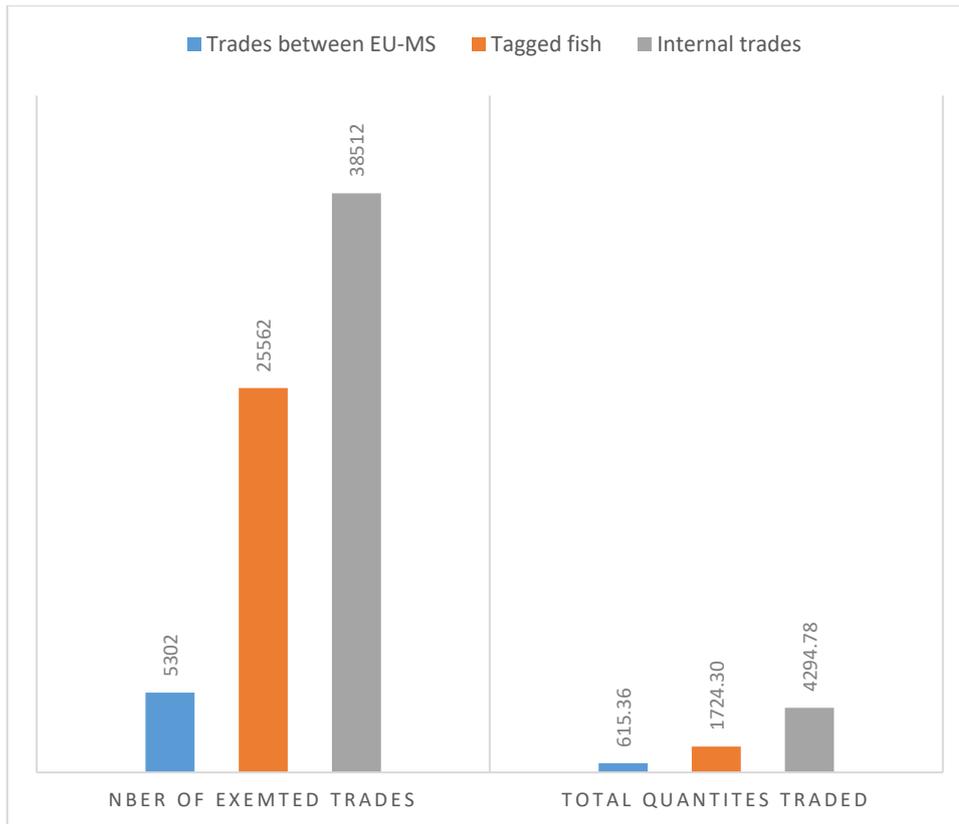


**Figure 1.** Number and quantities (t) of trades from EU Member states.

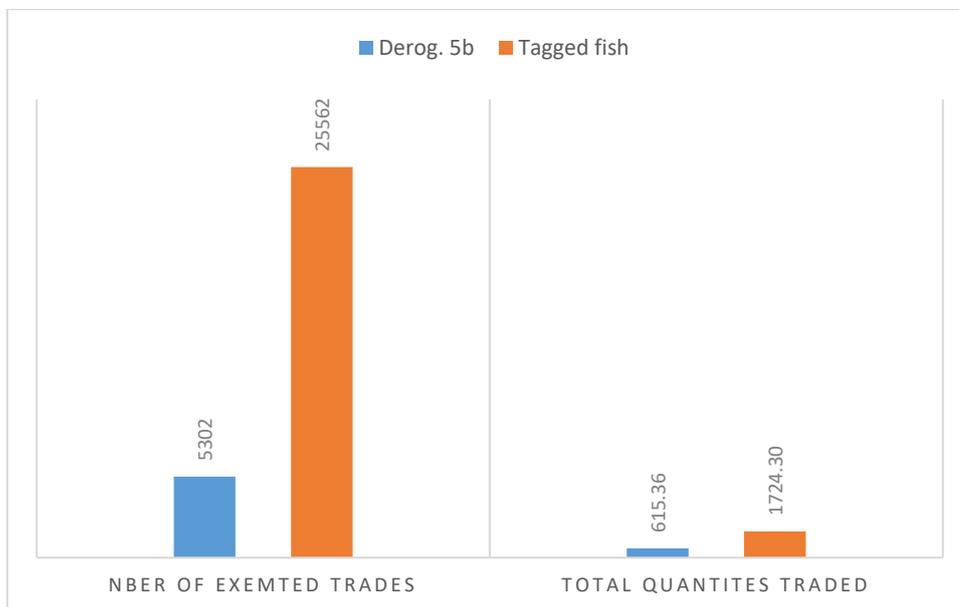
*Exports: trades from the EU to other CPCs. Trades between EU-MS: trades between EU Member states. Internal trades: trades inside EU Member States territories.*



**Figure 2.** Proportion of validated and exempted trades.

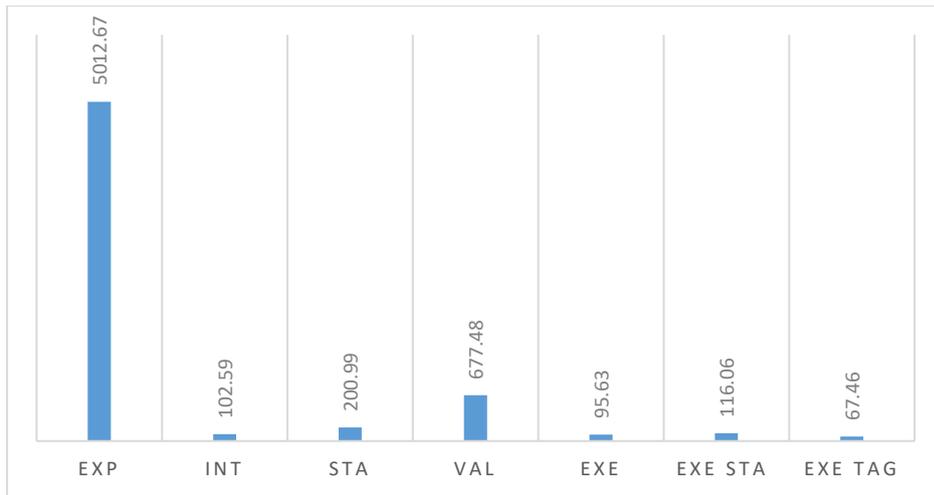


**Figure 3.** Comparison between the number of trades between EU Member States validated and those subject to derogation.



**Figure 4.** Proportion of trades exempted of validation due to derogation in para 5b or tagged fish.

*Note: trades exempted of validation due to derogation 5b do not include trades with tagged fish. Trades with tagged fish concern both trades between EU Member States and internal trades inside an EU Member State.*



**Figure 5.** Average quantity (kg).

*EXP (trades from the EU to other CPCs), STA (trades between EU Member states), INT (internal trades inside EU Member States territories), VAL (trades validated), EXE (trades exempted of validation), EXE STA (trades between EU Member states exempted of validation – derogation 5b), EXE TAG (exempted trades of tagged fish).*

Details by EU-Member state

(1) Total number and weight of trades:

	<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
Total trades	108	43009	19295	3959	3148	44725	2645	1971
Weight (t)	53	12922	1494	359	3307	3680	16686	228

(2) Number of trades and amount of tonnage for which an exemption from validation (EXE)<sup>2</sup> was used:

	<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>	
EXE	Trades	100	33717	19293	3959	567	11262	0	478
	(t)	53	4184	1493	359	9	499	0	39

(3) Number and amount of tonnage of trades exempted of validation subject to derogation in para 5b (STA) and trades involving tagged fish (TAG):

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
EXE STA	Trades	31	9630	1891	2469	705	1246	776	695
	(t)	50	658	281	243	60	1207	965	43
EXE TAG <sup>3</sup>	Trades	37	2904	1568	0	33	282	0	478
	(t)	98	203	257	0	1	18	0	39

(4) Exports from the EU to other CPCs (EXP):

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
EXP	Trades	0	2985	28	694	289	35	1104	85
	(t)	0	6613	812	58	3132	1	15545	5

(5) Total volume of trades between EU Member States not including internal trades (STA):

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
STA	Trades	31	9630	1891	2469	705	1246	776	695
	(t)	50	658	281	243	60	1207	965	43

(6) Internal trades inside Member States territories (INT):

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
INT	Trades	77	30394	17378	796	2156	43446	767	1191
	(t)	3	5652	1212	59	115	2472	175	181

<sup>2</sup> Include trades between EU Member States, trades of tagged fish and internal trades of non-tagged fish.

<sup>3</sup> Tagged fish may concern both trades between EU Member States and internal trades inside an EU Member State.